



PRESS RELEASE

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APPEAL LAUNCHED FOR NEW LOCK KEEPERS FOR KENNET & AVON CANAL

The charity that looks after the Kennet & Avon Canal is searching for new volunteers to take-up arguably the most iconic waterway role – the lock keeper.

The Canal & River Trust is on the lookout for people interested in volunteering at Bath Locks, located in the heart of the city, to help passing boaters, welcome visitors and give a hand to the Trust's teams in maintaining the canal.

The volunteers will help to keep the historic tradition of lock-keeping alive along the canal, where lock keepers have been part of waterway life for hundreds of years.

Full training is provided and people of all ages (over 18) and experiences are encouraged to apply. Volunteer lock keepers work on a shift basis between April-October, while many stay on over the winter months to help the Trust with other work.

David Spencer, one of the volunteer lock keepers along the canal said: "I've been a lock keeper along the Kennet & Avon Canal for the last few years and really love being out in the fresh air along the canal.

"There's not really a typical day, if we're not helping people through the locks, then we can be litter picking, talking to visitors or even giving directions to the nearest restaurant. Time flies when I'm working on the canal-side and it's a great way to stay fit too. I'd definitely recommend the role to anyone interested in getting outdoors and helping people visiting or living in the community."

Steve Manzi, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "Our lock keepers are the face of the canal, safely seeing boats through the locks, as well as helping people with directions or information about the area. It's a great role for anyone keen to work outdoors and meet new people. You'll learn new skills and provide a huge amount of help for the thousands of visitors we get to the canal each year."

Applications for the role are open until now, with training and induction beginning in March. For more information, visit <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer-lock-keepers>

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Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

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