



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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13 March 2017

### **CANAL CHARITY APPEALS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP LOOK AFTER HISTORIC PUMPING STATION**

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Kennet & Avon Canal, is on the lookout for volunteers to tell the story of Claverton Pumping Station, one of the oldest and most iconic pumping stations along the nation's waterways and the only working water wheel powered beam engine in the country.

Having helped keep the Kennet & Avon Canal supplied with water during the Industrial Revolution, the Station fell into decline before recently being restored.

The Canal & River Trust along with a team of volunteers from The Claverton Group, is now looking to attract further people to help maintain the Station as well as hosting tours to tell its unique story.

Powered by the force of water from the River Avon, the 24 ft. wide wooden water wheel, along with the beam engine, pumps water 48ft uphill (the height of three double decker buses) to the Kennet & Avon Canal. During the height of the industrial revolution the pumps played an important role in keeping the canal full of water and boats moving cargo along the canal.

Steve Manzi, from the Canal & River Trust said: "The volunteers at Claverton have done a remarkable job restoring the pumping station, with some of them making a lifelong commitment to seeing the water wheel and pump, up and running again.

"We are now need some additional 'hands to the pump' as it were, to help us tell the story of the pumping station to the public. You don't need to have any specialist skills or knowledge to join the volunteering team for this role, just a love for canals and a curious mind that wants to know how things work."

Peter Dunn, from The Claverton Group, said: "I've spent 25 years helping to maintain the inner workings of the pumping station and for me it really has been a labour of love. I'm really proud of what we have achieved and that we have the water wheel working again. We would love to be able to show the station to as many people as possible but we do need some extra help in order to do this. If anyone is interested in lending a hand, we would really love to hear from them."

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

If you would like to volunteer at Claverton Pumping Station, please contact Peter Dunn on 07719 911 421 or by email at [enquires@claverton.org](mailto:enquires@claverton.org)

A series of open days are planned monthly during the summer, on the following Sundays between 10am and 5pm:

- 27 May
- 24 June
- 29 July
- 26 August
- 30 September

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust or to volunteer along the waterways visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

## **ENDS**

For further media requests please contact: Sarah Rudy, National Press Officer, on 01908 302 584 / 07788 691 219 or email [sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

### **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.

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms