



PRESS RELEASE

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SCOUTS HELP CHARITY LOOK AFTER NORTHAMPTON CANAL

Scouts from the 1st Middleton Scout Group have been out on the towpath at Stoke Bruerne in Northamptonshire assisting the charity, Canal & River Trust, spruce up the Grand Union Canal to ensure that it is a great place for local people to visit .

Working with the Trust, the young people, who are aged between 10 and 14, have been busy painting lock gates and fences and cutting back overgrown bushes along the towpath as part of The Scout Association's A Million Hands initiative. This valuable work helps the Canal & River Trust care for the waterways and keep them looking neat and tidy for the thousands of visitors who enjoy a visit to the waterways in Northamptonshire every year.

Emily Nicolas, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "The Scouts have really made an improvement to this part of the canal and I hope local people notice the difference they've made. Together we've worked hard to ensure that local people have an amazing canal to visit. Being surrounded by greenery and nature can really make a difference and brighten up someone's day."

Samantha Bradford, from the 1st Middleton Scout group, said: "The Scouts love being out on the canal and getting stuck into a project and it's great to know that what we do can make a difference. The A Million Hands initiative is about making practical improvement to boost the wellbeing of local people, and with the work we're doing, I hope more local people visit the canals and escape, just for a few moments, the busyness of everyday life."

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust, visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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

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 @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

About A Million Hands campaign:

The Million Hands campaign is enlisting half a million Scouts to work with some of the UK's biggest charities – Mind, Alzheimer's Society, WaterAid, Guide Dogs and Leonard Cheshire Disability, and The Canal & River Trust – over the next three years.

The charities were chosen by Scouts themselves, reflecting what they care about.

Over the next three years each Scout group across the country will be encouraged to make a pledge on how they are going to support these charities and ultimately take action on:

- Improving the lives of those affected by dementia.
- Improving the lives of those disabled by society.
- Improving the mental wellbeing and resilience of families.
- Ensuring everyone everywhere has access to clean water and sanitation.