



PRESS RELEASE

10 July

Gloucestershire College students receive awards for canal volunteering

A group of 27 students from Gloucestershire College have been recognised for their efforts on local canals, which saw each person complete over 15 hours of volunteering.

The Canal & River Trust – the charity that looks after the region’s waterways – presented the team with their awards. The students’ efforts also saw them pick up the John Muir Discovery Award: an environmental award helping people enjoy and care for wild places.

The students – all aged between 16-24 years old – completed a range of tasks on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, at Sharpness Port, on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal at Diglis Basin and Upper Lode Lock Island on the River Severn. Work included painting lock beams and railings, weeding, and building bug hotels to help improve biodiversity.

Staff from the Trust and tutors from the college also joined in the activities. A presentation ceremony was held at the Trust’s Gloucester office to celebrate their achievements.

Caroline Kendall, Canal & River Trust volunteer development co-ordinator, says: “It’s been fantastic working with the students and we’re extremely grateful for all the hard work they’ve put in. It’s a win-win, the students get to learn about conservation and the engineering required on the waterways, whilst their efforts help us improve the canals for everyone who visits them.

“The canals in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire are arguably more popular than ever before, with people boating, cycling, angling or just visiting them as a great place to relax. As a charity we get a huge amount of support from the local community, and this is a great example of the type of work people are helping us with. We’ve plenty more opportunities available, so I’d encourage anyone looking to learn and enjoy working in the outdoors to get in touch.”

Jan Robbins, Employability Development Coordinator from Gloucestershire College added: “This is a fantastic, mutually beneficial opportunity for students, the Trust and the wider community. Students are able to develop and consolidate independent living and employability skills; take ownership and responsibility for conservation of the waterways, which in turn offers a place of beauty, nature and learning for the wider community to enjoy. Learning that works!”

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how you can volunteer with the Trust’s, teams visit canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

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