



PRESS RELEASE

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CHARITY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP LOOK AFTER OXFORD CANAL

A team of local volunteers is on the look-out for some new recruits to come and help the Canal & River Trust, the charity that looks after the 200-year-old Oxford Canal.

The current team of volunteers carry out a wide variety of tasks each month which help the Canal & River Trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England & Wales, keep the waterways neat and tidy. The waterways in Oxford are always popular with visitors and boaters throughout the year and the Trust is looking for a few extra pairs of hands to help with the increasing variety of tasks needed to ensure the waterways are always a nice place to visit.

The volunteers will join the Trust's Towpath Taskforce, which encourages people to come out, get their hands dirty and help protect some of the region's most important wildlife habitats and public open space. The Taskforce provides regular volunteering opportunities for local communities which, as well as benefitting our canals and rivers, also create memorable and rewarding experiences for everyone who takes part.

The group meet once a month and aims to encourage more community ownership and pride in the local waterways. Projects include painting lock gates, improving access to the towpath, clearing overgrown vegetation, cleaning up litter and graffiti and helping wildlife.

The team meet at Aristotle Bridge/Lane postcode OX2 6TR at 10am for an enjoyable half-day's work and are next out on Saturday 19 August.

Sonny King, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "We're so grateful to all our volunteers who give up their time to help us improve the canal in Oxford. We want to make sure it is in the best condition and, as a charity, the more people we have, the more we can get done. It's really rewarding and you'll also get the chance to meet new friends, get out and about in the fresh air and make a difference to your local community.

"You don't need any special skills, just some enthusiasm and a can-do attitude and we welcome people young and old to our volunteering events so you can involve the entire family."

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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

To find out more please contact Sonny King on 07876 217 059 or email sonny.king@canalrivertrust.org.uk

For more information on the Canal & River Trust including how you can volunteer or donate money to support our work visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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For further media requests please contact: Sarah Rudy on 01908 302 584 / 07788 691 219 or email 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.

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