



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Hayes Canal Festival organisers call for local people to help boost this year's event

The Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the Grand Union Canal – is calling on local people and organisations to take centre stage at this year's Hayes Canal Festival, scheduled for Sunday 24 September (12noon-5pm).

The Trust is keen to hear from any local clubs, groups or business that would like to have a stall or provide entertainment. Anyone keen to volunteer – overseeing boat trips, water sports activities or bringing their own boat to the event – are also encouraged to get involved.

More than 2000 people attended last year's event and it's hoped record numbers are again achieved at the fourth staging of the Festival. It comes at a time when the canal network in Greater London is more popular than anytime in living memory, with increasing numbers of boaters, cyclists, runners and anglers out on the waterways.

The Hayes Canal Festival 2017, which is held on the Grand Union Canal by High Point Village adjacent to Station Road Bridge, is being run by the Canal & River Trust in partnership with the Hillingdon Canals Partnership.

Among the activities already confirmed are boat trips, canoes, fishing, live music, children's entertainment, displays and stalls.

Jeannette Brooks, Canal & River Trust development & engagement manager, says: "We're really excited to be planning this year's Festival. In the last few years the event has gone from strength to strength, and that's a real testament to everyone in the local community who has got behind it. If you or an organisation you work with are keen to take part it'd be great to hear from you. It's a chance to showcase everything you have to offer the community, in quite a unique setting.

"As a charity we see how much the canals are improved if people from the local area visit and help us look after them. The Festival is a great showcase for this and, more than anything else, a great day out where you can try new activities by the water."

David Brough, Chairman of Hillingdon Canal Partnership, said: "The Grand Union Canal runs through the centre of Hayes town centre but people could still be making more of it than they currently are. The Festival is all about raising awareness of the canal and encouraging more

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people to use and enjoy it in a variety of different ways – from walking to cycling, boating to fishing, watching wildlife to running or just simply relaxing and escaping the hustle and bustle of everyday life.”

For more information, or to register your interest in taking part or volunteering, contact [Chris@ucltd.co.uk](mailto:Chris@ucltd.co.uk)

The event is being supported by Hillingdon Community Trust and Access Self Storage.

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how to volunteer or donate to the charity, visit [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

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### **Notes to editors**

For more media information contact [joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk) 020 3204 4410

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.

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

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