



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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CHARITY ASKS: 'WHICH BLOOMING BOAT GETS YOUR VOTE?'

The Canal & River Trust is calling on people to vote for their favourite flower-filled boats as part of the charity's first-ever 'Boats in Bloom' awards which celebrate green-fingered boaters and waterside gardeners.

Over the summer waterway lovers across the nation have been nominating blooming boats and glorious gardens for special prizes. The top three in each category are now being put up for public vote.

The categories include: most edible boat; most flower-filled boat; most inventive use of space; best towpath garden or open space; best towpath business in bloom; and best wildlife friendly towpath gardening initiative.

People can cast their vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/voteboatsinbloom> or on the Trust's Facebook page.

Matthew Symonds, boating manager at the Canal & River Trust, said: "Our Boats in Bloom awards are a way of saying thank you to all our boaters and towpath gardeners who are putting a smile on people's faces with their green fingers.

"The Canal & River Trust works hard to keep the canals open for people to enjoy and it's fantastic to see how boaters have been turning their vessels into mini oases, while many waterside businesses are festooned in flowers. We've had entries from London to Yorkshire and it's clear that the gardening bug is alive and well on our waterways. Please take a look and vote for your favourite from our shortlist!

"Every blooming boat – from those that keep a pot of herbs or daffodils on deck to those that are covered in plants – brings a little bit of joy to the towpath. Well done and thank you to every boater and waterside gardener – you really make a difference."

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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 charity's lock keepers and other staff and volunteers, who look after 2,000 miles of waterways across England and Wales, have also been presenting colourful certificates to anyone whose boat or waterside planting is putting a smile on the faces of passers-by.

To find out more about Boats in Bloom please visit: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/boatsinbloom

Twitter: #boatsinbloom

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For further media requests please contact:

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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 @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

Timeline

- Giving out Boats in Bloom certificates (1 May – 31 July)
- Nominations for Special Awards open (1 May – 31 July)
- Special Awards shortlist published – public vote open (7 August – 29 August)
- Special awards winners announced (31 August)

Special prize categories

Boats in Bloom

- Most flower filled boat
- Most edible growing boat
- Most imaginative use of space

Towpaths in Bloom

- Best towpath garden or open space
- Best towpath business in bloom
- Best wildlife friendly towpath gardening initiative

A judging panel of boating and gardening experts decided on the top three nominees in each category.