



PRESS RELEASE

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ART MURAL PROJECT EXTENDED ALONG OXFORD CANAL

An art project aimed at complimenting the corridor of colour along the historic Oxford Canal has recently been extended to further help tackle the problem of graffiti along the waterway.

Working alongside the Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Oxford Canal, residents, the Friends of the Trap Grounds, and local artists Dan Wilson, Tom Webb and Richard Wilson, have designed and painted murals in the arches of Frenchay Road Bridge.

The murals took three days to complete and were designed by the community to depict the wide variety of animals, plants and insects that live along the canal.

The project has been made possible thanks to funding received by the Canal & River Trust from residents and leftover money from a previous Tesco's Bags for Help project which originally donated £8,000 towards phase one of the project.

Emily Nicholas, Canal & River Trust development and engagement manager, said: "These murals have made a huge difference to the canal in Oxford and have really brightened an area which has suffered from graffiti.

"As a charity, we work with local people and community groups to help us improve the canals and projects such as this one really do make a difference to the thousands of people who visit and use our towpaths every day."

Tom Cox, project organiser at the Oxford Canal Mural Project, said: "The murals have had a big impact along the canal, they have brightened up two bridges but also galvanized the communities that live along the canal and wider communities that use the canal corridor. Local people have raised money, volunteered time and contributed in many different ways to make the murals a success. Everyone feels really proud of what has been achieved and really keen to do more to improve the area."

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

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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.

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