



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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CANAL CHARITY'S NEW MARPLE WELCOME STATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

A new waterside welcome station has been opened by the Canal & River Trust charity in Marple, near Stockport, to offer tourist information and advice to visitors – and the charity is appealing for new volunteers to get involved with running it.

The mini visitor information centre has been created from a refurbished old stone canal toll house, at the top of Marple's famous lock flight on the Peak Forest Canal, near to the junction with the Macclesfield Canal.

The welcome station is equipped with leaflets and top tips about the local area and the national 2,000 mile canal network, cared for by the Trust. It will be open on an ad hoc basis over the main tourist season and staffed by Canal & River Trust volunteers.

Tracey Jackson, local operations supervisor with the Canal & River Trust, said: "The canal system around Marple is very popular with visitors, particularly in the summer months. Marple Aqueduct, England's highest aqueduct, is nearby, and the impressive flight of 16 locks is one of the steepest in the country.

"We are delighted to have been given this former toll house, right next to the canal, to use as a small visitor centre. The waterways offer a huge amount to enjoy in the local area and we're keen to help visitors make the most of their time here.

"Recruiting new volunteers will be vital if we are to open the welcome station as often as we would like. We're looking for enthusiastic, outgoing people who would enjoy engaging with visitors. A good knowledge of the local area would be a bonus and training will be given."

The Canal & River Trust will be hosting an open day at the new welcome station on Saturday 23 September, 10am – 2pm. Tea and cake will be available plus a chance to look around the new centre and find out about volunteering.

Anyone interested in getting involved should email Tracey Jackson from the Canal & River Trust, tracey.jackson@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

For more general information about how to volunteer or donate to the Trust, check out www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or call the customer services team on 0303 040 4040.

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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

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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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