



PRESS RELEASE

30 October

Tottenham community group adopts local river

The Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for London’s waterways – is this week welcoming a new adoption group to help them care for the River Lee near Tottenham.

The Stonebridge Lock Coalition has formally ‘adopted’ a stretch of the waterway between Tottenham Lock, Stonebridge Lock and Chalk Bridge. The adoption will see them support the Trust to improve the river and towpath for everyone to enjoy. The Coalition will work twice a month to carry out litter picks, remove fly-tipping and Floating Pennywort - an invasive weed – as well as working with local school and user groups to explain the history and biodiversity of the river.

At their first event as part of the Great River Rescue Campaign 20 volunteers collected 40 bags of plastic and rubbish and recovered two mopeds, six lorry tyres and a 55” flat-screen TV out of the water.

The Canal & River Trust’s adoption scheme is a nationwide initiative that sees local volunteers adopt sections of waterways. There are currently over 120 adoptions.

Sandile Mthiyane, Canal & River Trust volunteer leader, said: “We are really pleased that the Stonebridge Lock Coalition has adopted this stretch of the River Lee. As a charity we rely on the local community to help us keep the waterway in top condition, so to have a regular group of volunteers out helping us is fantastic. It will really benefit everyone who knows and loves the river, as well as making things even better for wildlife in the area. We hope the volunteers get a lot out of it too, working outdoors, near nature, and in their local community.”

Frances Dismore from the Stonebridge Lock Coalition, said: “We are excited to be working with Canal & River Trust to improve the quality of the river habitat around the Stonebridge Lock for biodiversity. We provide opportunities for visitors and communities using the Waterside Centre and local user groups to engage with our amazing local wildlife, from birds such as Kingfisher and Little Grebe or important overwintering waterfowl like Gadwall and Goosander to insects such as Banded Demoiselle damselfly that have made the River Lee their home. Our activities also tackle the wider problem of plastic polluting our local waterways, the Thames Estuary and ultimately the North Sea.

“Our events are fun, social and provide opportunities to be active outdoors and have an adventure exploring the River Lee.”

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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

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how to adopt a waterway, volunteer or donate, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Notes to editors

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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