



PRESS RELEASE

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GO WILD WITH FAMILY NATURE DAY AT FRADLEY JUNCTION

The Canal & River Trust is inviting families to celebrate all the wild wonders living on their doorstep with a day of nature-themed activities at Fradley Junction.

On Sunday 19th November the charity, which cares for 2,000 miles of the nation's historic waterways, is inviting families to the junction to enjoy a day getting closer to nature.

Visitors will be able to follow a Bug Trail around the canalside nature reserve, looking out for hidden minibeasts. They will also be able to get creative and make their own spiders and snails or have a go at building a bird feeder to put up in their gardens over the winter.

The activities will take place in the beautiful surroundings of Fradley Junction with its nature reserve and historic canalside buildings. Fradley Pool Nature Reserve is surrounded by native trees. It provides a circular walk in addition to a wooded canalside walk and is a haven for birds and aquatic wildlife.

The event, which runs from 11am until 2pm on Sunday 19 November, is being organised by the Trust's 'Explorers' education programme aimed at teaching kids all about the wildlife of their local canals as well as how to enjoy them safely. The event is run by volunteers and is part of the charity's monthly programme of things to do at Fradley Junction.

Sarah Bicknell, education coordinator for the Canal & River Trust said; "Even at this time of year Fradley Junction is such a special place for getting closer to nature and escaping the pressures of everyday life.

"This event will be a good opportunity to get out into the great outdoors and learn more about the natural world around us. Wrap the family up warm and come down to Fradley Junction for what should be a really enjoyable day."

The junction marks the meeting point of the Trent & Mersey and Coventry Canals and has supported a hive of activity on the canal over the past two centuries. Nowadays, with Fradley Pool, it has become a haven for wildlife and a popular visitor destination.

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All activities on the day are free although parking is pay and display. The meeting point is the Welcome Station in the courtyard area.

The Fradley Education Volunteers lead visits where children can learn all about their local canal and the wildlife which lives around it. The volunteers can also provide cub-scout and brownie visits to Fradley in the Spring/Summer months. For more information on school or event activities, please email sarah.cook@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

For further resources and activities for schools, group leaders and children go to www.canalriverexplorers.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. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms