



PRESS RELEASE

5 December

People in Bishop's Stortford urged to help improve the River Stort

Bishop's Stortford residents are being encouraged to roll up their sleeves and help improve their local river this December.

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the River Stort, is on the lookout for volunteers to join its staff to spruce up the waterway so it's in top condition for the thousands of boaters, walkers, runners and cyclists who use it.

They are holding a towpath tidy-up event from 10am-2pm on Tuesday, 12 December, the meeting point is Station Road bridge.

Sandile Mthiyane, Canal & River Trust volunteer leader, says: "The River Stort is a lovely stretch of waterway and we want to keep improving it. We've had reports of litter on this stretch so we want to get out there and give it a blitz. As a charity our teams get a real boost from the help volunteers give. It's a simple case of the more people help us, the more we can get done. The event is a great way to get outdoors and meet new people. I'd encourage anyone interested to get involved."

No experience is required to join the event, you just need to be willing to get stuck in. Please wear old clothes appropriate for the weather conditions (e.g. waterproof jacket, warm layers) and sturdy footwear or wellies.

The River Stort runs for 14 miles from Hoddesdon to Bishop's Stortford, passing watermills and country houses, mills and maltings, through the Hertfordshire countryside. The rural surroundings make this river a haven for nature, with wild flowers growing along the banks and many species of water and wetland birds in the area.

For more information about the Canal & River Trust visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or contact volunteer@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Ends

Notes to editors

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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 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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