



PRESS RELEASE

7 December

Scout group 'adopt' local river

The 1st Hertford Scout Group has this week formally 'adopted' an 800 metre stretch of the River Lee in Hertford. They will support the Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the waterway – to improve the river and towpath for the thousands of people who use it each year.

The Scouts will work at least once a month to litter pick, cutback vegetation, paint locks and plant wildflowers. The Canal & River Trust's adoption scheme is a nationwide initiative that sees local volunteer groups take responsibility for improvements and events along a chosen stretch of waterway.

The Scouts, aged between 10 and 14, will look after a section from Hertford Lock to the end of the navigation at Folly Bridge in Hertford. Their involvement comes as part of the Million Hands Initiative, a national partnership programme lead by The Scout Association which aims to get half a million young people in social action projects.

Sandile Mthiyane, Canal & River Trust volunteer leader, said: "We are delighted that the scouts have 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."

Helen Miller, from the 1st Hertford Scout Group, said: "The scouts always love being out on the water, kayaking, raft building or sometimes just swimming and paddling around so it is great for them to understand how to care for and look after this environment. They are really looking forward to taking ownership of this area and helping to keep it an amazing place for all the community to enjoy."

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

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Notes to editors

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