



PRESS RELEASE

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NEWBURY SCHOOL HELPS CANAL CHARITY TACKLE LITTER ON THE WATERWAYS

A group of primary school children from Newbury have been working with the charity, Canal & River Trust, to encourage visitors to the Kennet & Avon Canal to stop dropping litter along the waterway.

Working with volunteers from the Canal & River Trust's education team, Year 4 pupils from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School learned all about how the waterways work and how they are looked after, and took part in a competition to design a sign encouraging visitors to take their litter home.

The Canal & River Trust spends around £1million each year removing litter and fly-tipped rubbish from the nation's waterways. This money could be better spent caring for the waterways and improving habitats for wildlife.

The two winning designs by Madison Slattery, aged nine, and Bethany Howell, aged ten, have now been made into permanent signs which have been put up at various places along the section of canal near London Road.

Caroline Robson, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "Our canals are not immune to the problem of litter and plastic pollution and it's about time that, as a community, we started to tackle this problem. Our waterways are fantastic places to visit throughout the year but the sight of litter along the towpath and floating in the canal can really put visitors off, make the canals look unloved and harm local wildlife.

"People living in Newbury are really lucky to have a wonderful canal right on their doorstep and it's important we all work together to ensure our waterways are welcoming places to come and relax and escape the hustle and bustle. With these lovely new signs, I hope it makes people think twice about dropping their litter and instead take it home or pop it in the bin so it can be recycled or disposed of properly."

Stephanie Kent, teacher at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, said: "All the school children had a lovely time learning all about our local canal and what we can do to help the Canal & River Trust

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look after it. The competition to design new signs really grabbed the imagination of the whole class and I'm delighted we were able to help in some way to help keep our waterways special places to visit."

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust including how you can volunteer and donated to support the work we do please visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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For further media requests please contact: Sarah Rudy, National Press Officer on 01908 302 584 / 07788 691 219 or email sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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