



PRESS RELEASE

5th March 2018

CANAL & RIVER TRUST LAUNCHES MIKE CARTER AWARD TO RECOGNISE NORTH WEST'S YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Canal & River Trust, the charity that looks after 2,000 miles of waterways across the nation, has launched the Mike Carter Award to recognise the passion and dedication of young volunteers across the north west.

Mike Carter, who died in February 2017, enjoyed and supported the canals and rivers for many decades, giving his time and expertise in various volunteering roles for the Trust and the Inland Waterways Association. He was particularly passionate about encouraging younger generations to enjoy and maintain the waterways. In recent years Mike was deeply involved with the Explorers group working out of the Trust's Wigan office, and helped with school assemblies and towpath activities in the Liverpool area particularly. He had also run athletics events for young people with disabilities of various kinds for many years.

In his memory, the Mike Carter Award will recognise one individual plus a group for their inspirational volunteering work in the Trust's North West and North Wales and Borders waterway regions.

Tony Entwistle, development engagement manager at Canal & River Trust, said: "Mike devoted his free time to educate and encourage young people in the area to engage with the waterways and his passion and knowledge shone through, so we're really proud to launch the Mike Carter Award in his memory.

"We know there are many wonderful volunteers across the region, so we expect to have a really tough time choosing the winners."

Anyone can make a nomination online at: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/mikecarteraward. Nominees must be under 25 and either currently volunteering or have volunteered in the last three years on any of the waterways in the area: Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Lancaster Canal, Sankey Canal, Ribble Link, Llangollen Canal, Shropshire Union Canal, Weaver Navigation, Montgomery Canal, Shrewsbury & Newport Canals.

Canal & River Trust, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK91BB

T: 0203 204 4514 E: press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

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 individual winner will receive a trophy and the winning group will receive £100 towards their project. Entries close on 30th July 2018 and the winners will be announced at the Annual Partnership Meeting in autumn 2018.

To find out about volunteering opportunities with Canal & River Trust, visit:
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer

ENDS

Images show Mike Carter helping youngsters learn about wildlife.

Credit: Canal & River Trust

Larger versions available on request.

For further information, images, and interviews, please contact:

Gemma Rathbone, National Press Officer

07757 256482

gemma.rathbone@canalrivertrust.org.uk

[@CRTcomms](#)

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.

Find out more about our work at: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

The Inland Waterways Association is a membership charity that works to protect and restore the country's 6,500 miles of canals and rivers. IWA is a national organisation with a network of volunteers and branches who deploy their expertise and knowledge to work constructively with navigation authorities, government and other organisations. The Association also provides practical and technical support to restoration projects through its expert Waterway Recovery Group.

IWA - Keeping our waterways alive. www.waterways.org.uk