



PRESS RELEASE

11 May

Local organisations encouraged to join this year's Angel Canal Festival

The Canal & River Trust is calling on local people and organisations to join the celebrations at the 2018 Angel Canal Festival on Sunday, 2 September.

The annual event is held around City Road Lock and City Road Basin on the Regent's Canal and will feature boat trips, craft stalls and live music, offering a host of fun both on the water and the towpath. The organisers are interested to hear from anyone keen to run activities at the festival or anyone who would like to volunteer.

The festival was devised and has been run for over thirty years by a team of dedicated volunteers who together formed the Angel Canal Festival Management Group. This year's event is a milestone in the festival's history as the Management Group is handing over organising responsibilities to the Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the Regent's Canal. The Trust will be supported by Islington Boat Club, Angel Community Boat Trust and St Pancras Cruising Club and event volunteers amongst others, with funding also being provided by Islington Council.

Last year saw more than 8,000 people visit the festival, which featured 70 stalls arranged along the towpath and surrounding streets selling everything from canalware, crafts and books to clothes, bric-a-brac and a wide range of food and drinks. As well as businesses, many charities and local political parties took stalls to raise awareness, give advice and chat with the local community.

Jeannette Brooks, Canal & River Trust development & engagement manager, says: "The Angel Canal Festival has a community heart and has grown over the last three decades into something that attracts thousands of people to this beautiful corner of London. That's a huge credit to the volunteers who've put in so many hours of tireless hard work to make it such a success. It's a real honour to be leading the management of the festival for the first time this year, taking on their mantle. So many people and different organisations give up their time and expertise to make the event happen and we'll be working with them over the coming months so that the 2018 edition can try to emulate the huge success of previous years. We're also on the lookout for any local businesses or organisations who might be keen to join in the fun, so do get in touch if it's of interest."

Beryl Windsor from the Angel Canal Festival Management Group, says: "Neither Sasha Mears or I could have guessed, when we offered to assist Jim Lagden with the Festival, what we were letting ourselves in for. We'd heard his cry for help at a meeting at St Pancras Cruising Club in 1998. Little did we know that the skills we'd developed in our paid jobs as theatrical costumier and retired secretary respectively, would transform us into event

organisers. Yet here we are, 20 years later, handing over to a new Team, the Angel Canal Festival we have helped grow into the successful and much loved community event enjoyed by thousands each year. It has been a privilege to follow in the footsteps of the founder, the late Crystal Hale and Jim, and we couldn't be happier that the Canal & River Trust have offered to take it on. We know the Festival will be in good hands and wish the new Team well."

Cllr Martin Klute, said: "The Angel Canal Festival is probably the most strongly community-based festival in Islington, and St Peters Ward Councillors are particularly pleased that the festival is hosted in our ward. The festival takes place not only on the canal towpath, but also in the surrounding streets. The street closures help to create a festive atmosphere, and everyone who attends agrees it is a hugely positive community event. Beryl Windsor has been a tower of strength, organising the festival for so many years, and I am delighted that the Canal & River Trust have agreed to take this over, as otherwise the festival may not have been able to continue. I hope the festival will continue in the same vein - well organised, interesting, enjoyable, and very relaxed."

For more information, including how you can get involved in the event, contact Angel.Festival@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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

Ends

Notes to editors

For more media information contact joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk 020 3204 4410

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.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

@CanalRiverTrust @CRTComms

Angel Canal Festival Management Group 2017 was made up of:

- John Checkley
- Tony Haye
- Claire Littlewood
- John Freed
- Tim Metcalfe
- Michael Rosenbaum
- Beryl Windsor
- Steve Burt
- Sasha Mears

