

PRESS RELEASE

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CANAL & RIVER TRUST APPOINTS CHAIRS FOR NEW REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARDS

The Canal & River Trust has appointed four Chairs to the charity's new Regional Advisory Boards. They will use their local knowledge and contacts to connect the Trust's waterways, and all their wellbeing benefits, into the lives of the communities that surround them.

The appointments, which are voluntary and for an initial term of three years, include people who have had significant experience in the private and public sector and who are keen to support the Trust in making an impact in their regions with all the benefits which the canals and rivers can bring. The Chairs bring with them a wealth of experience across many different industry sectors and a passion for our waterways.

- London & South East – Sir William Atkinson. Knighted in 2008 for services to education and community relations, Sir William is a Trustee of a number of charities including The Royal Shakespeare Company. He has advised government at both national and local levels and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London in 2017.
- South West – David Hagg. As Chief Executive of Stroud District Council David's authority is leading the award-winning restoration of the Cotswold Canal. He has been a member of a wide range of regional and national bodies and was formerly Chair of the Trust's South Wales & Severn Waterway Partnership.
- East Midlands – Anil Majithia. With over 30 years of global business experience Anil is a Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership board member and Chair of Voluntary Action Leicestershire. He is a Governor at Coventry University, Trustee of DSU, Governor of North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College and a member of Governance Committee for Science Council.
- North West – Walter Menzies. The former Chief Executive at the Mersey Basin Campaign and a UK Sustainable Development Commissioner, Walter remains a sustainable development advocate and champion of the North West. He is a Visiting Professor in the department of civic design at the University of Liverpool, a Trustee of the Land Trust, and former Chair of the Trust's Manchester, Pennine & Potteries

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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

Waterway Partnership. Walter will be supporting the transition of this region for 12 months.

- Recruitment is continuing for the Chairs of the West Midlands and Yorkshire & North East Advisory Boards.

The new Chairs will now begin the process of establishing their Regional Advisory Boards, which will be initially formed with committed volunteers who previously served in our waterway partnerships.

Richard Parry, Chief Executive at Canal & River Trust, said: “I’m delighted to welcome our new Regional Advisory Board Chairs to the Trust. The new Advisory Boards are a vital part of our commitment to working at a local level to make sure our waterways are bound into the regional networks we are such a vital part of, and will deliver wellbeing benefits to the numerous local communities we serve and the customers who use them.

“The Regional Advisory Boards will also inform how we transpose our strategic thinking into action, and find new and innovative ways to achieve our ambitions. They will be key influencers, identifying and working with regional decision-makers across all sectors to champion our waterways and rally support for the Trust.

“The calibre of the appointments we’ve made so far demonstrates the powerful draw of the waterways. It’s fantastic that such a range of people want to be involved in securing the future of our wonderful canals and rivers, continuing to make life better by water for this generation and those to come.”

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For further media requests please contact:

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Notes to Editors

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a real difference to people’s lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to transform their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

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Chair – East Midlands Regional Advisory Board



Anil Majithia - Anil has over 30 years of global business experience. He is a Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership board member and Chair of Voluntary Action Leicestershire. He is a Governor at Coventry University, Trustee of DSU, Governor of North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College and a member of Governance Committee for Science Council. He is also a big fan of Cricket!

Chair – North West Regional Advisory Board



Walter Menzies – Walter is a sustainable development advocate and champion of England's North West region. He is a Visiting Professor in the department of civic design at the University of Liverpool and a Trustee of the Land Trust. Walter was the former Chief Executive Officer at the Mersey Basin Campaign and a UK Sustainable Development Commissioner. He recently co-edited "Partnership for Action - Groundwork the early years". Walter was formerly Chair of the Trust's Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Waterway Partnership.

Chair – London and South East Regional Advisory Board



Sir William Atkinson MA DL D(OPEN) FRSA - Sir William has a long and distinguished career as an educationalist. He was Knighted in 2008 for services to education and community relations. A graduate of King's College he also holds honorary doctorates from the Open University and London Metropolitan University. In March 2017 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

Sir William is a Trustee of a number of charities including The Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also advised government at both national and local levels.

Sir William has been featured widely in the media across a range of topics and is a very keen sportsman who enjoys a range of outdoor activities.

Chair – South West Regional Advisory Board



David Hagg - David is Chief Executive of Stroud District Council. His authority is leading the award-winning restoration of the Cotswold Canal in the Stroud Valleys. Recent awards include the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), the Living Waterways Awards and the Institution of Civil Engineers. He has been a member of a wide range of regional and national bodies including as a Commissioner on the Low Commission. David was formerly Chair of the Trust's South Wales & Severn Waterway Partnership.