

PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA INVITE: MEET MARPLE'S CANAL VOLUNTEERS AS THEY REVIVE A CENTURIES-OLD TREE PLANTING TRADITION

2pm on Friday 24th August at Lock 7 and Marple Aqueduct, Peak Forest Canal, Marple

Volunteers for Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Peak Forest Canal, will be joined by a representative of People's Postcode Lottery to plant a black walnut tree - a tradition started by Samuel Oldknow, the man who made Marple, and is now being revived. It's part of the charity's efforts to enhance the waterway environment and provide wellbeing benefits for everyone by the water.

Interviews will be available with Canal & River Trust staff and volunteers.

Please confirm your attendance with:

Gemma Rathbone, National Press Officer on 07557 256482 or gemma.rathbone@canalrivertrust.org.uk

23rd August 2018

CANAL CHARITY VOLUNTEERS REVIVE 18th CENTURY TREE-PLANTING TRADITION IN MARPLE

Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Peak Forest Canal, is reviving a centuries-old tree-planting tradition that was started by the man who built Marple, Samuel Oldknow.

Volunteers for the charity are branching out from their recent tasks of painting lock gates and grouting wash walls to reinstate some black walnut trees. A number of specimens were planted by Oldknow around 1790 believed to be part of his efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of the industry he was building in the area, but only one now survives. As part of the charity's work to enhance the canal environment and provide wellbeing benefits for everyone who visits, it is tasking local volunteers with the job of planting a new specimen and taking cuttings from the 228-year-old tree, at Mellor Mill to be nurtured and re-planted.

Stuart Moodie, ecologist at the Canal & River Trust, said: "By planting this black walnut tree we are adding to the wildlife value of this wonderful area, and at the same time creating a link to the past and the pioneering work of Samuel Oldknow. The story goes that he had the foresight to see that even through rapid industrial development there was scope to improve the environment.

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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

“As a charity, Canal & River Trust is keen to continue that work, using seed from the original trees to grow new trees which will be planted in the area, improving the environment for wildlife and also for local people and visitors.”

Various projects have taken place along the Marple lock flight and aqueduct in the past year thanks to £1.7m funding from players of People’s Postcode Lottery. The stretch of canal has also been recognised with a Heritage Green Flag Award.

Find out how to get involved with caring for the canal in Marple at: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk
New volunteers are always welcome and there are a range of tasks to get involved in throughout the year.

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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 difference to people’s lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk