

# PRESS RELEASE

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9 June 2021

## ‘LOVE YOUR CANAL’

### CANAL CHARITY LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY TO LOVE THE ROCHDALE CANAL

The waterways and wellbeing charity, Canal & River Trust is calling on help from the local community in Newton Heath to join forces to transform the Rochdale Canal into a green haven.

The Trust, which cares for 2,000 miles is kickstarting a project to encourage the local community to take more ownership of caring for the Rochdale Canal between locks 69 and 70 with a series of clean-up events and improvements to wildlife habitats over the next few months.

Working in partnership with residents, the Trust is asking local people to come along and get involved on Thursday 10 June and Saturday 12 June between 10am and 2pm. Meeting at the canal side, Old Church Street, Manchester M40 2JF, the volunteers will help transform the canal and community garden. Activities will involve litter clearance, vegetation maintenance, improving access and revitalising the community garden.

The campaign is part of a wider project to rejuvenate the Rochdale and Ashton Canal through the Green Recovery Challenge Project. This project will bring a new lease of life to the canal through managing and improving habitats for local wildlife while cleaning up the canal, engaging with local groups and residents, and the creation of pocket greenspaces which will act as steppingstones for nature to connect habitats together.

Sara Ponting, community engagement coordinator at the Canal & River Trust, said: “The Rochdale Canal runs right through the heart of Newton Heath and provides a vital blue/green space for local people to take their daily exercise or spend time by the water which helps with our wellbeing and mental health. Over the last year the canal has suffered, like everyone, from Covid-19 changes, so we are calling on the local community and businesses to help us transform the canal into a green haven and a space to be proud of.

“Being by the water makes you happier, and it’s satisfying to make a difference. If you want to do something amazing for the local community, get some fresh air, exercise, and make new

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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

friends, we would love to see you on 10th or 12th June. The more volunteers we have, the more improvements we can make for the benefit of everyone to enjoy.”

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust including how to volunteer or donate visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

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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](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)