

July 2017 London Volunteering Update from Canal & River Trust

Hello and welcome to the July volunteering bulletin for the London Waterway.

It's a bumper edition this month full of opportunities to get out and enjoy the sunshine whilst helping to care for your local waterway. As well as lots of practical events, we're also looking for volunteers to offer a friendly welcome at our visitor mooring and to help at the first East London Waterways Festival in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Read on for more information...

July Towpath Taskforce Events

Come and join us at Southall, Harlow, Ponders End or Tottenham to help get our canals and rivers looking their best for the busy summer season. More information on each of these events can be found by clicking the links below. All tools, equipment and instruction will be supplied, please wear old clothes and hard-soled footwear and don't forget your sun cream!

- [Saturday 8 July, 10am – 3.30pm](#) – Lock painting, vegetation cutback and litter collection at Picketts Lock on the River Lee. Meet by Picketts Lock, N9 0AT. Nearest station Ponder's End.
- [Saturday 15 July, 10am – 3.30pm](#) – Painting at Harlow Mill Lock on the River Stort. Meet by Harlow Mill Lock, CM20 2EP. Nearest station Harlow Mill.
- [Wednesday 19 July, 10am – 3.30pm](#) – Litter pick and vegetation cutback at Spike's Bridge, Southall on the Grand Union Canal Paddington Arm. Meet on the towpath by Spike's Bridge, UB1 1BJ. Nearest station Southall.
- [Wednesday 26 July, 10am – 3.30pm](#) – Lock painting, vegetation cutback and litter collection at Tottenham Lock on the River Lee. Meet by Tottenham Lock, N17 9NE. Nearest station Tottenham Hale.

New Opportunity - Volunteer Visitor Mooring Rangers

If you enjoy meeting people and are looking for a flexible volunteer experience on London's canals then this could be the one for you. We're introducing visitor mooring rangers at sites across central and west London, to provide a welcoming information service to mooring customers and record information about boats using the mooring. We're looking for volunteers who can give a minimum of one hour a week (this could be in the evening or weekend), with a friendly manner and enthusiasm for canals, boating and your local area. For more information please [visit our website](#).

Celebration Time for London's Volunteers!

What an exciting month for London's volunteers! First up and hot off the press, huge congratulations to the fantastic Brentford Archive Volunteer Team who last night were announced as winners in the 'Involvement

of Volunteers' category at Canal & River Trust's Waterways Alive Awards. The awards celebrate exemplar work by staff and volunteers across the Trust, and the Archive Project was up against a number of excellent projects from around the country. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Next up, huge congratulations also to [Lead Volunteer Towpath Ranger Richard Higginbottom](#), aka [The Regents Bowler](#) who was the winner in the 'ambassador' category in the recent Marsh Christian Trust Volunteer Awards for 2017. Richard was chosen for his fantastic work spreading the Canal & River Trust's voice to visitors through his regular guided walks. If you would like to see him in action he has two walks this month, on Saturday 8 and Saturday 16 July – [please visit our website for more information](#).

And there's more! Congratulations to Volunteer Lock Keepers Neville Reeves and Rob Hewitt who were recently awarded their 'Gold Badge' for volunteering over 2000 hours for the Trust. Neville and Rob (along with 40 other gold badge holders from around the country), were presented with their badges at a celebratory lunch in Birmingham hosted by Richard Parry.

Volunteers needed to help at the East London Waterways Festival in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Monday 28 August

On Monday 28 August, Canal & River Trust are hosting a new East London Waterways Festival to celebrate the restoration of Carpenters Road Lock, in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and we need about 30 volunteers to help out. The day promises to be a lot of fun with activities including live music, dragon boat racing, a market zone, food and drink and a family area. There will also be free boat trips travelling between Old Ford Lock (River Lee) and the newly restored Carpenters Road Lock, which has two radial gates and is the only lock of its kind in the UK. Volunteers are needed to help direct visitors, answer questions and welcome people to the festival. If you can spare a morning, 10am-2pm or afternoon, 2pm-6pm or perhaps want to be a complete star and volunteer all day, 10-6pm then please email enquiries.london@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Brentford Toll House Renovations

At the end of July we'll be starting work on the renovation of the windows at the Grade II listed Brentford Toll House. We're looking for volunteers to work alongside a carpenter to remove, strip back, repair, replace and paint the windows. The work will make a real difference to this fascinating building and is a great chance to learn new skills, or put existing skills to good use! Work will take place on weekdays from the start of August. If you would like to know more please contact Debbie Vidler – Deborah.vidler@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Keeping in touch

London's canals are booming and although life on the canal moves slowly it can be hard to keep up with all the goings on! If you'd like to keep up to date with what's going on then take a look at the [London Boating Bulletin](#), essential reading for anyone with an interest in London's canals. And, if you are on Facebook and want another way to keep up with all things volunteering, come and join the [Canal & River Trust London Volunteers](#) group.

Volunteer Lock Keeper Brian Rockell

We are very sad to report the passing of long time Cowley Volunteer Lock Keeper Brian Rockell. Brian joined the Trust as a Volunteer Lock Keeper back in 2011, one of the very first in London. As well as operating the lock at Cowley, Brian also put together a local guide for visiting boaters, gave talks to local groups and organised social events for the rest of the Cowley Volunteer Lock Keeper team. He was a hugely popular member of the team and was well known in the local canal community, he will be greatly missed.

Thank you for volunteering with the Canal & River Trust, we look forward to seeing you out on the waterways soon!

The London Volunteering Team

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