



Community Waterway Adoptions

Telling the story of Waterway Community Adoptions

Group Name:

SUMBA (Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters)

Where is your adoption?

Middlewich Branch Canal - 5 1/2 miles from Barbridge Junction to Morris Bridge 15 at Church Minshull



Why did your group adopt?

SUMBA is a group of enthusiastic boaters and non boaters, who wish to put something back into the canal system. We all want to maintain and visually improve the canal's environment for the benefit of everyone: walkers, fishermen, visitors, boaters and local community

Biggest achievement to date?

On March 5 2016 thirty five SUMBA volunteers litter picked 12 miles from Calvary to Middlewich in support of the 'Clean For The Queen' campaign. Split into five teams, supported by theme decorated boats, each group litter picked between two and three and a half miles. Over 50 bags of litter were collected, including a boat's bath, bags of cement, bicycles, work surfaces, cupboard door, garden furniture and, much to the amusement of the Nantwich cubs who were helping us, a large pair of white pants.



During Autumn/Winter 2015/6 we cut back and removed all overhanging vegetation and trees from the towpath and offside along our 5 1/2 miles of adopted canal.

What are your plans for the future with your adoption?

We annually paint and maintain all lock beams and the lock side infrastructure (bollards, paddles etc.), canal side fences, totem posts, benches, picnic tables, BBQ tables and signage etc.

We maintain wash walls and towpath in a satisfactory and safe condition.

We expand the provision of leisure facilities at mooring sites and viewpoints and plant further fruit trees, fruit bushes and insect attracting plants at suitable locations.

We continue our Autumn/Winter programme of cutting back overhanging vegetation and trees from the offside and towpath. This includes hedge laying hedges at suitable locations.

We work in partnership with the Trust to promote the benefits and attraction of the canal system.



How long has it been going?

Since April 2014

Would you recommend it to a group thinking about adopting?

Absolutely. When our volunteers are asked why they volunteer for SUMBA the answer is "because we enjoy it - and it's very sociable".

Is your groups open to new members?

Yes - All adult ages and abilities

Work Parties are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month throughout the year.

During Spring/Summer 2/3 hour Work Parties are held mid week.

Contact details:

Facebook: Sumba Canal Adoption

Twitter - [@sumbacanal](https://twitter.com/sumbacanal)

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