



North Wales & Borders Volunteering Newsletter May 2017

With the summer months approaching fast we are promoting the Towpath Taskforce events we have across the waterway.

Would you like to meet new people, get your hands dirty and make a difference to your local canal? Our volunteer Towpath Taskforce teams could be just the thing you're looking for.

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Towpath Taskforce is ideal if you want to volunteer on your local canal or river, but need the flexibility to fit that volunteering around a busy lifestyle. This way you can come along whenever you're free, whether that's once a month or more regularly. And you'll be helping us to really make a difference.

What to expect from Towpath Taskforce

Tasks vary on a regular basis and can include painting, planting, weeding, litter clearance and general maintenance, depending on what's most needed in that area.

On arrival, you'll be greeted by the group leader who will run through what's to be done that day, assign tasks and demonstrate the safe use of any equipment. They'll help make sure the task is suited to your ability and be on hand throughout the session to provide help, advice and the all-important tea and biscuits

Be prepared

- Please wear suitable outdoor clothing you don't mind getting mucky or snagged!
- Sturdy shoes are a must
- For full day sessions bring a packed lunch, we will provide a hot drink but you may also want to bring your own
- Waterproof clothing or sunscreen - depending on weather
- Please do **not** bring any tools



Find your local Towpath Taskforce Event

Towpath Taskforce - Anderton Boat Lift

Meet: Anderton Boat Lift at 10am every first Wednesday in the month.

Tasks: **Light physical work, some manual handling.**

Within Anderton Boat Lift Grounds - Weeding of beds & borders, painting, litter picking, mowing/strimming, planting and shrub clearance, towpath clearance, customer enhancements

Ideal opportunity to meet new people whilst enhancing the Anderton Boat Lift grounds and surrounding area.

Please contact Carly Graham – carly.graham@canalrivertrust.org.uk



Towpath Taskforce - Audlem

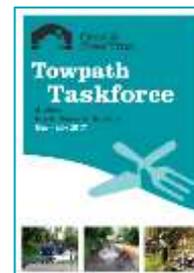
Meet: Outside Shroppie Fly, 10am every second Saturday in the month.

Tasks: **Light physical work, some manual handling.**

Litter picking, towpath clearance, customer enhancements, painting of lock flight, access improvements, vegetation management, etc...

Ideal opportunity to meet new people whilst enhancing the Audlem Lock flight and surrounding area.

Please contact Neville Preece – neville.preece@canalrivertrust.org.uk



Towpath Taskforce - Chester

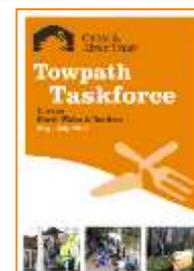
Meet: Northgate Locks at 10am every last Saturday in the month.

Tasks: **Light physical work, some manual handling.**

Litter picking, towpath clearance, customer enhancements, painting, access improvements, vegetation management, etc...

Ideal opportunity to meet new people whilst enhancing the Northgate Locks to Cambrian Road Bridge area.

Please contact Steve Maguire – stephen.maguire@canalrivertrust.org.uk



For further information about any of the above taskforce events please refer to our [Volunteering in North Wales & Borders](#) page and select the appropriate Diary for the event.

Or visit the Canal & River Trust website for details of all of our [Towpath Taskforce](#) events.



Safety within the Trust

At Canal & River Trust we are committed to the highest standards of Health and Safety at work for all our employees, volunteers, contractors, partners, customers, visitors and neighbours. Specifically, our goal is to minimise accidents and injuries, and their impacts, aiming to reduce and eliminate them.

As part of a safe system of work here at Canal & River Trust we have produced a 'Safety Policy' and an accompanying 'Safety Principles' booklet to outline our commitment to Health & Safety. The policy is viewable via the link on the 'Support Page for Active Volunteers' (see link to left)

Below are links to some of our safety videos via YouTube:



Click to follow the link
or type
<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/support-page-for-active-volunteers>



Canal & River Trust – Lone Working

www.youtube.com/watch?v=31-Ptb-H2_Q



Canal & River Trust – Safe Lock Operation

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEfneAZO7Ac&feature=youtu.be



Canal & River Trust – Acting Safely

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JAEsMI6n0&feature=youtu.be



Canal & River Trust – Manual Handling

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHM4sCSpL_Cg&feature=youtu.be



Canal & River Trust – Water Safety

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKnX2o8xazI&feature=youtu.be



Richmond Court – Family Gardening Day

On Sunday 7th May we held a gardening and canal revamp day through a partnership funding from CWAC facilitated by Foundation Enterprises (NW) at Richmond Court supported by Vineyards53 and around 100 volunteers.

We transformed the canal path, cut back over grown edging and added colour through planting on the grass verges and supplying and fitting 10 large baskets to the fence line, a great day as the sun was shining and the hotdog and burgers were flowing, with the result being a huge improvement to the area.

Sarah McGrady
Service Manager Richmond Court





Shropshire Canal reels in national angling championship

Hundreds of the nation's top anglers are set to descend on the Shropshire Union Canal this August for the Angling Trust Division One National Championship.



The Canal & River Trust charity, which cares for 2,000 miles of waterways, will be working alongside the Angling Trust and Hodnet Angling Club to host this major championship along “the Shroppie” in Market Drayton on Saturday 19 August – the largest single one day event in the angling calendar.

Up to 500 of the UK's best anglers will be congregating along a 15 mile stretch of towpath, hoping to hook success from the hidden depths of the beautiful rural waterway. It is the first time the competition has been hosted entirely on the Shropshire Union Canal and with some 50 teams, each fielding ten anglers, plus a number of advance practice matches, the contest promises to give a major boost to the local economy.

This August will be the pinnacle of the fishing year for Canal & River Trust national angling and fisheries manager John Ellis and his small team. Their work involves managing £40 million of fish stocks across the canal network, organising agreements with over 250 angling clubs and encouraging more people, especially youngsters, to take up the sport.

He said: “This 2017 competition promises to be a fantastic event both for the anglers and for Shropshire. There will be about a dozen practice events before the big day. If you factor in the money spent on accommodation, food, drink and fishing tackle, the payback for the county is considerable.

“Our canals are home to more than 20 native species of fish including pike, perch, roach, bream and dace. Fishing is a fun sport and it's cheap to get into. You don't need much to get going - just a rod, some bait, angling licence, permit and a nice spot to fish. It's a great way to spend a day. Once you get the angling bug, there are dozens of competitions up and down the country where you can test out your skills. This 102nd championship is the pinnacle of that competition world, with the nation's best anglers pitting their wits to be crowned national champions. We are all looking forward to a spirited and closely-fought competition.”

Andre Grandjean, Chairman of the Angling Trust's Coarse Competition Committee, added: “We are extremely excited to be working with Canal & River Trust and Hodnet AC for our blue riband event of the year. The ‘Shroppie’ is in very good form at the moment and we are looking forward to a very competitive match.”



Upcoming Events

June 2017

- Wednesday 7th **Towpath Taskforce Anderton** – Meet at 10am at Reception of Anderton Boat Lift. Working in and around the Anderton Boat Lift, duties to include painting, vegetation and planting, litter picking. Contact Carly Graham carly.graham@canalrivertrust.org.uk
- Saturday 10th **Towpath Taskforce Audlem** - Meet outside the Shroppie Fly pub at 10am every second Saturday in the month. General tidying and painting of locks and surrounding area. For details please contact Neville Preece – neville.preece@canalrivertrust.org.uk
- Fri 16th – Mon 19th **SUMBA** – Assisting with lock operation and trip boat for Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival. Several of SUMBA's volunteers will be at Wardle Lock and Kings Lock over the weekend. Why not pop along and show your support of this event.
- For further details for the Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival please see their website middlewich.org.uk/middlewich-fab-festival
- Saturday 24th **Towpath Taskforce Chester** - Meet at Northgate Lock Hut at 10am. Light physical work, litter picking, painting towpath clearance, vegetation management.... Please contact Steve Maguire – stephen.maguire@canalrivertrust.org.uk
- Sat 24th – Sun 25th **Chester Floating Market** - A family day out & fun for everyone when you come along & support The Roving Canal Traders Association, browse the vast array of goods & hand crafted items on sale from the boats of our very clever traders.
- Learn about how people live & work on the canals.
- For more information follow @canaltraders on Facebook & Twitter or visit the website www.rcta.org.uk

Monthly Ongoing...

Gnosall Parish Council Adoption - Meet on most Saturdays 10am at Navigation Inn, Gnosall. Carrying out light vegetation works, minor towpath repairs, litter picking and painting. Please contact Barry Witts barry.witts@gmail.com for further details.

Montgomery and Llangollen Canal Volunteer Group - Friday group meeting each week to complete a variety of tasks along the Llangollen and Montgomery Canals. Contact Roger Birch – roger.birch@canalrivertrust.org.uk for more details each week.

Welshpool Adoption Group – The Welshpool Adoption Group meets 9.30am every Thursday by the slipway at the bottom of the Church St Carpark in the centre of Welshpool. For further details, contact Pat Ward - patward@intonet.co.uk

This newsletter is also available via the [North Wales & Borders Volunteering Webpage](#)



Please follow us on Twitter @CRTNWalesBorders

If you wish to be added to the list to receive this newsletter and other volunteering information, please contact **Jason Watts – Volunteer Support Team Leader** – jason.watts@canalrivertrust.org.uk

North Wales & Borders Volunteering

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Charity number 1146792

Feedback:

Got any stories or suggestions for our next issue?
Please contact us