



## North Wales & Borders Volunteering Newsletter August 2017

All change within the North Wales & Borders Volunteering Team as we have a reshuffle to gain more support for our volunteers. With Roger Birch moving over to fill in Howard Griffiths' shoes we have restructured our direct volunteering team to cater for the ever-increasing number of volunteers

Not only has Roger Birch changed roles, but due to the unfortunate ongoing absence of Glenn Young, volunteer development coordinator, Jason Watts will be covering his role for the time being until his return.

This has allowed the recruitment of 2 new volunteer team leaders to the team, Martin Watson and Angela Barnett, who will now be out on the ground working with our volunteers.

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#### ***I am Martin Watson,***

I have been with the Canal & River Trust for 3 years, working within the Length Inspection team inspecting assets around the patch. Previously to working within the Trust, I worked within the countryside conservation sector, and I hope to utilise these skills working with the volunteers within the waterway. I love the outdoors and look forward to helping volunteers to improve and enhance our waterway environment for everyone to enjoy.

*Areas covered; Llangollen Canal SUC, Montgomery Canal*



#### ***I am Angela Barnett,***

I am looking forward to my new role as a Volunteer Team Leader. I have now been working for the Canal & River Trust for 9 years, previously as an Enforcement Officer, so working on site with volunteer groups is going to be a change. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and getting involved in all the great work you have all been doing. In my spare time, I am a keen photographer and have recently been trying my hand at wildlife photography. Although this involves sitting quietly for hours and those of you who have already met me will know that sitting quietly is a challenge!!

*Areas covered; Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch SUC & Weaver Navigation*



### **Unfortunate news....**

I am sad to announce the unfortunate news that after a long battle with cancer Paul Mills sadly passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Paul will be sorely missed and, as I sure all those who have worked with Paul over the years would agree, his passion and enthusiasm within the volunteering community has been unrivalled and this has rubbed off on many. I will be featuring an article on Paul in next month's issue so if you have any stories, information or general comments or photos please pass these on to me directly.

Our condolences go out to all the family.





## Pant Embankment

On July 12th, 2017, the Shropshire Union Canal Society and the North-West Waterway Recovery Group with the support of the Canal and River Trust took on the project to remove Material of a former railway embankment crossing the Montgomery canal. The works were part of the project to reopen the dry section between the restored section at Maesbury and the Welsh border at Llanymynech for which an appeal has been lodged recently to raise the funds. More details at: - [www.restorethemontgomerycanal.uk](http://www.restorethemontgomerycanal.uk)

Planning permission was granted on 20th March 2017 with the provision that the works shall be overseen by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist, to ensure the protection of and enhancements for wildlife.

Two Excavators 12T & 21T & 3 x 6 T Dumpers, fuel bowser and welfare facilities arrived on site in preparation for the work to follow, along with members of the NWWRG and the Shropshire Union Canal Society, full site induction and planning meeting took place, with the works scheduled to take place over a 7-day period. Due to the Location of a disused sewer pipe that runs the length of the section a temporary road had to be laid using teram as a base

Dumper trucks transported the waste to Bridge 90 where a compound was set up so the other excavator could load the awaiting Lorries,with banksmen on hand to escort off and onto site. 308 tons was removed on the first full day.

Work was completed 1 day early with 1114.5 tons of waste removed and over 352 hours of volunteer hours recorded

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers involved for their assistance.





## Plastic Patrol

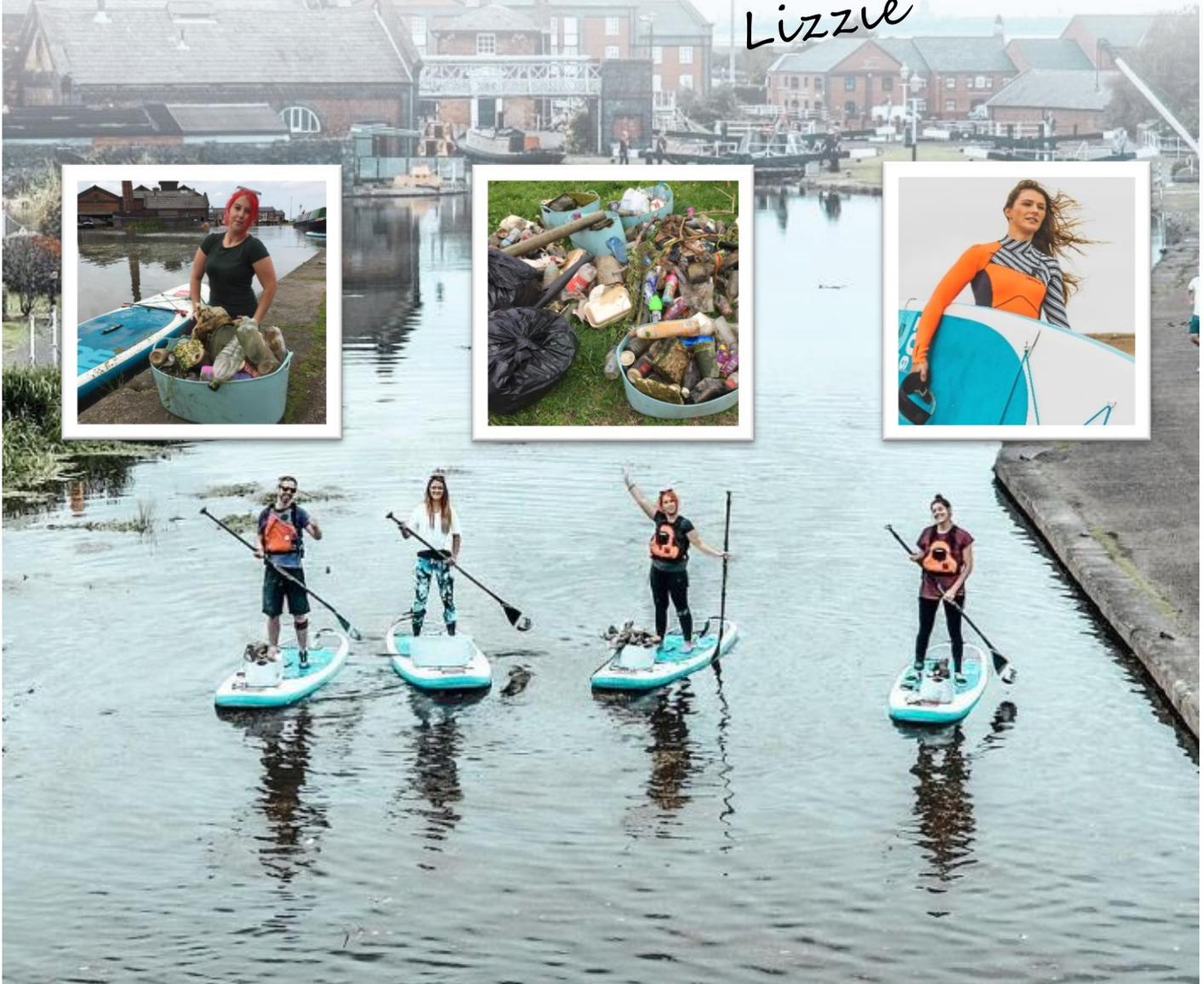
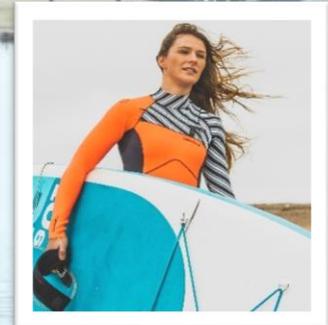
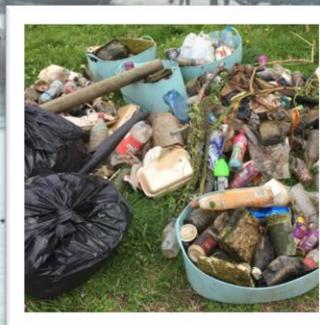


On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> we had the pleasure of welcoming Lizzie Carr, #Plastic Patrol to the waterways around the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port.

Lizzie Carr, aka Lizzie Outside, is a natural born adventurer. She has dedicated herself to exploring the UK, focusing on paddle boarding adventures whilst using her journey to highlight and educate on wider environmental issues affecting our waterways. Lizzie's most recent expedition in May 2016 saw her become the first person in history to paddle board the length of England's waterways, solo and unsupported. She completed the 400-mile journey in 22 days, plotting over 2000 photos of plastic pollution she encountered and earning her international recognition from both media and the general public for her efforts.

*"I was once asked whether I really thought picking up plastics from waterways was worthwhile and making any difference... A comment that has always stuck in my mind! Today [@plastic\\_patrol](#) hit Ellesmere Port and between us we collected the equivalent of 30 bin liners filled with rubbish in a stretch of water that spanned less than 1km!! We laughed a lot, we wretched and we definitely smelt but knowing we've cleared 160+ rubbish bags filled with all manner of crap over the last few weeks with more clean ups still planned, I can honestly say I do think we're making a difference. However small our efforts might seem, at least we are trying."*

Lizzie





## International Duck Race

On **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**, we are hosting an international duck race from Wales to England over Chirk Aqueduct and we are looking for volunteers to help on the day.

Set up for the day will start at **9.30am** at Chirk Basin and registration of ducks will take place from 10.30-11.15am with the races starting at 11.15am by Vinnie the Vole, the Trust mascot.

Ducks will be launched at the entrance of the tunnel in Chirk Basin and swim from 'Wales', across Chirk Aqueduct and the winner will be the first duck to reach the 'England' sign on the other side of the aqueduct.

The event is being organised between the waterway & the World Heritage Site Coordinator, and we need your help with any of the following:

- Approximately 10 volunteers are required to be on key parts of the event:
  - including 'set up',
  - registering ducks to owners,
  - collecting 'registered ducks' & preparing for launching,
  - available at 2 locations for share the space and possible water safety?
  - volunteer to be Vinnie the Vole for the launch & the prize giving
  - water-based volunteers to collect ducks in England.

If you are interested please register your interest via e-mail to **Ani Sutton** – [ani.sutton@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:ani.sutton@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

If you could register your interest by 12<sup>th</sup> October we would appreciate it.

## Anderton Fireworks Spectacular

This October, sees the return of Anderton's spectacular firework display. Fired from the River Weaver, the fireworks will light up the night sky over the amazing Anderton Boat lift - it's one of our favourite events of the year. With licenced bar and food available, as well as our new play area for children, it's a fun-filled evening for the whole family.

For ticket and more information please see the Canal & River Trust website or [click here](#)

They would like to put a call out for volunteers on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October** between **5:00 pm** and **9:30 pm** to assist at our fireworks event. We need help to staff the car parks, grounds stewards, sales and bar staff.

For more information or to express an interest in volunteering on the night please contact **Graham Wood** – [graham.wood@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:graham.wood@canalrivertrust.org.uk)



## Find your local Towpath Taskforce Event

### Towpath Taskforce - Anderton Boat Lift

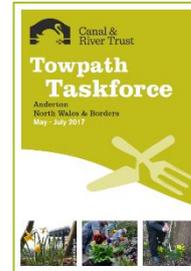
**Meet:** Anderton Boat Lift at 10am every first Wednesday in the month.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:neville.preece@canalrivertrust.org.uk)**



### Towpath Taskforce - Chester

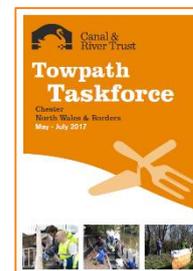
**Meet:** Northgate Locks at 10am every last Saturday in the month.

**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](mailto: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.



## Upcoming Events

### August 2017

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> **Towpath Taskforce Anderton** – Meet at Anderton Boat Lift Reception at 10am on the first Wednesday of the month. Working in and around the Anderton Boat Lift, duties to include painting, vegetation and planting, litter picking. Contact Carly Graham on [carly.graham@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:carly.graham@canalrivertrust.org.uk)
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> **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](mailto:neville.preece@canalrivertrust.org.uk)
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> **Merefest Festival** - Merefest Festival is back in Ellesmere, Shropshire on Saturday 16th, 2017! This fun-filled family festival celebrates the unique landscape of the Meres and Mosses. ***We have a Trust gazebo there on the day and if you would like to get involved please contact Roger Birch – [roger.birch@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:roger.birch@canalrivertrust.org.uk)***  
Get your entrance tickets here: <https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/merefest>
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> **SUMBA** - Meet at 9.30am at Venetian Marina Carpark. Finishing works at Sykes Hollow, including installation of disabled access and interpretation board. For further information, contact Graham Russell - [sumbacanal@btinternet.com](mailto:sumbacanal@btinternet.com)
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> **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](mailto:stephen.maguire@canalrivertrust.org.uk)
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> **Towpath Taskforce Audlem** - Meet outside the Shroppie Fly pub at 10am, carrying out towpath refurbishment works between Locks 11 & 12 on the Audlem flight. All welcome. For more information please contact Angela Barnett – [angela.barnett@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:angela.barnett@canalrivertrust.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jason.watts@canalrivertrust.org.uk)**

### North Wales & Borders Volunteering

T 0303 040 4040

E [enquiries.northwalesborders@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.northwalesborders@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Charity number 1146792

### Feedback:

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