



PRESS RELEASE

7 March 2007

RETFORD'S CANAL GETS SET FOR A SPRING CLEAN

Waterway users of all types and sizes who enjoy the Chesterfield Canal are being asked to spare a couple of hours to help spring clean their local waterway on Thursday 29 March. The event will bring important wildlife benefits as well as improving the appearance of the Chesterfield Canal and is part of a week long national *Towpath Tidy* campaign being led by British Waterways and voluntary groups.

Rubbish and litter left behind by the 300 million visitors each year to British Waterways' canals and rivers is harmful to a wonderful array of waterway wildlife. During *Towpath Tidy*, volunteers join forces with British Waterways staff to clear litter and remove shopping trolleys, prams, traffic cones and other unusual objects that are sometimes left in the waterways.

The important contribution made by volunteers during *Towpath Tidy* will be on top of more than £100 million that British Waterways spends each year maintaining and improving the nation's waterways. British Waterways' work includes dredging the channel of the canal, repairs to heritage buildings and bridges, lock gate renewals, cutting back trees and maintaining towpaths.

Caroline Killeavy from British Waterways comments: "The waterways are a valuable community resource that we must all look after. The support we get from volunteers will provide a real boost for the waterways before the start of the main visitor season at Easter. Last year volunteers helped us remove an astonishing 147 tonnes of litter and 337 shopping trolleys from the waterways in just a single week".

"We want to encourage as many people who use the waterways and want to 'give' something back to volunteer to take part in this year's *Towpath Tidy*. It doesn't matter if you are aged eight or eighty. Everyone is welcome."

Media Enquiries

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The impact of the *Towpath Tidy* on the Chesterfield Canal and town of Retford will be further complimented by Retford Civic Society who successfully achieved funding for heritage improvements from Nottinghamshire County Council, through the Building Better Communities fund, and Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, through the Alliance SSP. The grant will enable the installation of replacement interpretation panels, new seating and litter bins, and bridge name plates.

For further details on how to take part, please contact Rachel Harris 01636 704481 or visit www.waterscape.com/towpathtidy. To ensure that the event is both fun and safe, volunteers must register with British Waterways in advance.

Ends

For more press information contact: Katherine Wilson 07789 982152 or Stephen Hardy 07920 077190

Notes to Editors

British Waterways cares for and maintains the nation's 2,200 mile network of canals and inland waterways, working in partnership with private companies, local authorities, voluntary groups and other government agencies to protect and enhance the waterways and benefit the communities through which they run.

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