

PRESS RELEASE

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ANDERTON BOAT LIFT AND RIVER WEAVER NAVIGATION FLY NEW GREEN FLAG

Anderton Boat Lift, Cheshire's cathedral of the canals, and the River Weaver Navigation, both cared for by the Canal & River Trust waterways and well-being charity, have been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award, recognising them as 'well-managed green spaces'.

The Green Flag, awarded by Keep Britain Tidy, covers all the grounds around the famous 1875 boat lift and popular visitor attraction, as well as 20 miles of the River Weaver, from Runcorn to Winsford.

Jane Hargreaves, local volunteer team leader with the Canal & River Trust, applied for the award on behalf of the charity. She said: "We are thrilled that both the Anderton Boat Lift and the River Weaver have been assessed as achieving this gold environmental standard.

"Every year the Anderton Boat Lift attracts thousands of visitors to the area and the Weaver Navigation is a much-loved waterway, offering huge potential for walking, cycling, angling and boating. We know that spending time by water is good for health and wellbeing, and the Trust has seen record numbers of people enjoying their local waterway as a place to exercise and de-stress during the pandemic.

"We have a brilliant team of staff and volunteers who all work hard to maintain and improve the boat lift grounds and the riverside. And we would love to recruit more volunteers, groups or individuals, who would like to come and join our wonderful towpath task forces or adopt a stretch of waterway, like the fantastic Mid Cheshire Stand Up Paddle Boarders."

The Canal & River Trust, which manages 2,000 miles of the nation's waterways, holds Green Flags for 300 miles of its canals around the country and this year added a further 100 miles to this select group.



The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Commenting on our success, Keep Britain Tidy chief executive Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, said: “This year, more than ever, our parks and green spaces have been a lifeline and we know that millions of people have used them to relax, meet friends, exercise or simply escape for a short time.

“It is testament to the incredible dedication and hard work of staff and volunteers that, despite the challenges that went along with record numbers of visitors, the Canal & River Trust has achieved the highest international standards demanded by the Green Flag Award.”

If you would like to volunteer at Anderton or on the Weaver, please email: jane.hargreaves@canalrivertrust.org.uk or for more general information about the Canal & River Trust, including volunteering and donating, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Photo shows: Celebrating the Green Flag award at Anderton Boat Lift (Lto R) Canal & River Trust staff: Jason Watts, Jane Hargreaves, Alan Wrench, Elliot Wyatt, with Mid Cheshire Stand Up Paddle Boarders: Richard Jordan and Brian Cadwallader.

Notes to Editors

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people's lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk @CanalRiverTrust

Green Flag Awards

The scheme (<http://greenflagaward.org/>) is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, in partnership in the UK with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. The scheme also operates in an additional 14 countries including Portugal, New Zealand and USA. #GoGreenForParks

Any green space that is freely accessible to the public is eligible to enter for a Green Flag Award. Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag Award status. A Green Flag Community Award recognises quality sites managed by voluntary and community groups. Green Heritage Site Accreditation is judged on the treatment of the site's historic features and the standard of conservation. To find out more about Keep Britain Tidy visit www.keepbritaintidy.org.