



Heritage | Environment | Community

Newsletter - Spring 2025

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. In this edition we're updating you on some organisational changes, announcing new partnerships and events, and providing a roundup of our activities over the last few months.

New organisation for the Project!

We're delighted to announce that our founder, Paul Dadford, has re-joined the Project. Paul will chair our Trustees meetings and also head up the Operations Team. Paul Cundy and Jamie Mulvany have stepped down as Trustees, but remain with the Project managing our volunteers and delivering our operational activities. Max Devere-Summers has also stepped down as a Trustee and will be leaving us at the end of the year, although he will continue to run our popular Bat Walks and Nature Walks for the remainder of the year.

New partnerships

You may have seen from our Facebook posts that we have formed two new working relationships. Firstly with Karly O'Sullivan at MindEmbodiment. Karly offers a range of mindfulness and wellbeing therapies and runs Wellbeing Walks along the canal.



You can find out more, or book on a Wellbeing Walk, at www.mindembody.co.uk

We are also working with George Smith of Root and Wing. George was formerly an Information Officer with the Rutland Osprey Project and has established Root and Wing as an environmental engagement initiative, dedicated to helping people of all ages discover and connect with the natural world. Root and Wing have a number of events planned at the canal this year including Family Nature Walks, Birdwatching for Beginners and Family Events over the Easter holidays. George will also be providing ecological support to the Project and will be undertaking a range of environmental monitoring throughout the year.



You can find out more, or book on one of Root and Wing's events, at www.rootandwing.co.uk

Section round up

Springfield	North of the bypass
<p>At Springfield we have continued to work with Rutland County Council to address ownership and maintenance issues. We'll be out soon doing a tidy up with Oakham School students and we'll also try to fix the fencing as best we can on a temporary basis. Once the ownership position is resolved, we plan to work with the owner and residents to develop a long term maintenance strategy for this section. Please do get in touch if you want to help or have a view.</p>	<p>We'll soon be giving the milepost a bit of a spruce up and we continue to look at ways we can gain access to the woodland and canal north of here. Our new permissive footpath continues to be well used and has held up well over the winter. The path further north became very boggy over the winter and we will continue to work with the landowner to see what can be done here.</p>
	
North of the spillway bridge	Former angling section
<p>The recently repaired spillway bridge has received some new anti-slip mesh and the stream has been cleared to improve water flow. It's really looking lovely at the moment. Rutland Natural History Society report that there are still water voles here.</p>	<p>We are currently working to create a new informal upper bank path through the woodland starting at the car park on Burley Road. Just a reminder that fishing is no longer permitted here, but the landowner is open to applications from interested groups.</p>
	
Northern section	Western banks
<p>The layby on Ashwell Road, adjacent to Kimball Close, forms part of the public highway and is frequently waterlogged. The Project, and local residents, would love to see improvements here. It would be great to hear your views on what you'd like to see.</p>	<p>We have recently installed new fencing and gates at the request of the landowner, and we have continued to lay bark chippings over the winter to improve the footpath. We think it's having a real impact on keeping this section usable all year round.</p>
	

Young people's project

We're excited to announce that we will shortly be launching our young people's project. One of our aims has been to engage more with the local community, telling the history of the canal and getting more young people involved in maintaining and monitoring the environment. Through our links with MindEmbodly we recently held a work party for some youngsters who are home educated. We have also been strengthening our links with Oakham School, and we'll soon be welcoming students on regular work parties. But that's just the start, we'll soon be looking to engage with schools and youth groups and together with Root and Wing, hope to bring an educational programme alive. If you are a teacher in the local area, or leader of a youth group, we'd love to hear from you.

Events

Together with MindEmbodly and Root and Wing we have almost 50 events planned at the canal this year. There's something to suit everyone! Our Events Diary is on the last page of this newsletter with details of how to book.

Get involved

The Oakham Canal Green Corridor Project has always been a project for the local community, delivered by the local community. There are many ways that you can help us:

- Become a volunteer. There's no big commitment and a range of jobs to suit most abilities. If you'd like to help, email us at info@oakhamcanal.org or respond to our events on Facebook.
- Come along to our events. To book one of our events go to www.buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject or visit the MindEmbodly or Root and Wing websites.
- Follow us on Facebook. This shows your support for the Project and we'll keep you up-to-date with all the latest news. Please share our posts which helps get others involved.
- Make a donation. You can do that through the links on our website or Facebook pages. Alternatively, send as a cheque to our office at **10c Mill Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6EA**.

We want to hear from you

...and lastly, it's really important that we deliver what the community wants, so please do get in touch if you have any views about our work. We'd love to hear from you.

Email us at info@oakhamcanal.org

Stop Press

Root and Wing's first Beginner's Birdwatching event on 6th April identified 26 different species along the canal corridor!

You can find out more about the Oakham Canal Green Corridor project at www.oakhamcanal.org.



Oakham Canal Events 2025



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Date	Day	Start	End	Event	Start Location	Price	More Information / Tickets
12 April 2025	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Wild Wellbeing Walk	Kimball Close Layby, Ashwell Road	Free	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/
13 April 2025	Sunday	09:00	12:30	Work Party - New volunteers welcome!	Oakham Canal, Burley Road	Free	Email info@oakhamcanal.org
19 April 2025	Saturday	10:00	12:30	Family Easter Trail	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
20 April 2025	Sunday	10:00	12:30	Family Easter Trail	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
03 May 2025	Saturday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
03 May 2025	Saturday	20:15	21:45	Guided Bat Walk at the Oakham Canal	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
04 May 2025	Sunday	09:30	11:30	Beginner Birdwatching Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
10 May 2025	Saturday	04:30	06:00	Dawn Chorus	Oakham Enterprise Park	Free	Email clarecaro@rootandbranchout.co.uk
15 May 2025	Thursday	09:00	12:30	Work Party - New volunteers welcome!	Oakham Canal, Burley Road	Free	Email info@oakhamcanal.org
17 May 2025	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Wild Wellbeing Walk	Kimball Close Layby, Ashwell Road	Free	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/
24 May 2025	Saturday	21:00	22:30	Guided Bat Walk at the Oakham Canal	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
25 May 2025	Sunday	10:00	13:00	Guided History Walk at the Oakham Canal	Church Street Car Park, Oakham	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
28 May 2025	Wednesday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
30 May 2025	Friday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
31 May 2025	Saturday	09:30	11:30	Beginner Birdwatching Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
01 June 2025	Sunday	09:30	11:30	Beginner Birdwatching Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
07 June 2025	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Wild Wellbeing Walk	Kimball Close Layby, Ashwell Road	Free	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/
08 June 2025	Sunday	09:30	11:30	Beginner Birdwatching Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
14 June 2025	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Guided Nature Walk at the Oakham Canal	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
21 June 2025	Saturday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
22 June 2025	Sunday	10:00	13:00	Guided History Walk at the Oakham Canal	Church Street Car Park, Oakham	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
28 June 2025	Saturday	TBC	TBC	Forest Bathing	TBC	£	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/
29 June 2025	Sunday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
05 July 2025	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Guided Nature Walk at the Oakham Canal	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
06 July 2025	Sunday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
12 July 2024	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Wild Wellbeing Walk	Kimball Close Layby, Ashwell Road	Free	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/
13 July 2025	Sunday	10:00	13:00	Guided History Walk at the Oakham Canal	Church Street Car Park, Oakham	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
27 July 2025	Sunday	09:30	11:30	Beginner Birdwatching Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
29 July 2025	Tuesday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
31 July 2025	Thursday	10:00	12:00	Family Nature Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
02 August 2024	Saturday	09:30	11:30	Beginner Birdwatching Walk	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://www.rootandwing.co.uk/events
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20 September 2025	Saturday	20:00	21:30	Guided Bat Walk at the Oakham Canal	Oakham Enterprise Park	£	https://buytickets.at/oakhamcanalgreencorridorproject
18 October 2025	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Wild Wellbeing Walk	Kimball Close Layby, Ashwell Road	Free	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/
15 November 2025	Saturday	TBC	TBC	Making Mandalas with Autumn Leaves	TBC	TBC	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/
13 December 2025	Saturday	10:00	11:30	Wild Wellbeing Walk	Kimball Close Layby, Ashwell Road	Free	https://mindembody.co.uk/booking/

All events must be booked in advance. Restrictions and terms and conditions apply.