

Welcome to Summer at Oakham Canal. There's a lot going on!



Welcome to the latest Oakham Canal Green Corridor Project newsletter. We are really pleased to say there has been a huge amount of support for the project since our launch at the beginning of the year, and we have lots to share with you. Read on to find out what we've been up to, and how you can get involved.



Come help us step things up!

We recently received funding to replace the steps and fencing at the entrance to the canal north of Burley Road. These steps are extremely uneven and pose a danger to the public.

We will soon start work to clear the undergrowth, remove the current steps and put in place a temporary set, before resetting the stones and replacing the fencing. We would love support from anyone who has experience in landscaping, groundworks or fencing, or who is just happy to come along and get their hands dirty - please get in touch if that's you!

[Get in touch](#)

Volunteer trustee wanted

Create a volunteer database listing skills and general availability.

We have been honoured by the amount of people offering to volunteer with us - it's brilliant to see such support for the project.

With such a lot of interest, we urgently need someone who can join us as a trustee to help co-ordinate our volunteers.

The work would involve:

Help organise work parties and coordinate volunteers beforehand.

Devise ideas to keep volunteers engaged. Ideally you'd have experience of working with young people and children, bringing fresh ideas for their involvement in the project.

The role can be as little as a few hours a month, and is fully flexible. If you are interested, please get in touch for a chat.

[Get in touch](#)

Swans a-swimming

Lots of you have been asking after our resident swan family, who like to make their nest on the canal near Burley Road.

We are very pleased to say they are proud parents to four healthy cygnets, happily raising them just north of Burley Road.



BBC Escape To The Country

We were really pleased to be approached by BBC's Escape To The Country in May, who asked if we would like to be featured in one of their episodes. Of course, the answer was Yes!

Presenter Ginny Buckley and the team spent a morning filming down by the canal, and Project Manager Paul Dadford did a great job telling them all about what we hope to achieve.

The programme will be broadcast later in the Summer - we'll keep you posted when we have a firm date.

Below: presenter Ginny Buckley chats to volunteers Jane and Pauline during a gap in filming.



Oakham pupils clear Springfield

Enthusiastic pupils from Oakham School spent a day clearing the Springfield path in early June, cutting back overgrown shrubs and weeds and generally making the path easier to walk and cycle along. We'd like to say a big thank you for all your efforts!

We are making progress with Rutland County Council and the current landowner, Persimmon Homes, to be able to properly upgrade this footpath. It's a slow process, but we'll keep you updated on progress.



Can you join us as a volunteer Ranger?

We are currently looking for volunteer Rangers to help us monitor and care for the canal environment. The work will involve:

Litter picking.

- Identifying and reporting maintenance issues.
- Providing information about the project to the public.

- Minor trimming of vegetation to keep the footpaths clear.

Being a Ranger is a great way to stay fit and enjoy the countryside. There are no fixed hours - do what you can when you can. We will give you plenty of support and provide all the equipment and training you need. If you are interested in becoming a Ranger, please get in touch.

[Get in touch](#)

NEW: Guided Canal Walks

Great news! We have just launched a programme of guided canal walks over several weekends in August.

Learn some fascinating local history and our plans for the future in the company of Paul Dadford, our Project Manager and walking Oakham Canal encyclopaedia! Walks depart from Oakham Church Street car park, and take about 2-2.5 hours.

Walks are free but donations are welcome to help fund our work. Click [here](#) for more information and tickets.

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And finally...

We are featured in this month's Village Diary magazine... we will shortly be announcing the dates of our first volunteer work parties... and we have news of an exciting competition on the way. All will be announced shortly here and on our [Facebook](#) page... so please keep spreading the word and sharing the love for our local waterway as we bring it back to life.

Visit the Oakham Canal website 