



**Canal &  
River Trust**

Making life better by water

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November 2019

**Together, we are creating living  
waterways that transform places and enrich  
lives, delivering greater wellbeing to millions.**

Dear David,

Welcome to your Winter issue of Waterfront. With the Canal & River Trust in its eighth year, there is so much to celebrate in all that we have achieved together.

Since we formed in 2012, the renaissance of our canals and river navigations has gone from strength to strength. With your help, the Trust cares for, and brings to life inland waterways across England and Wales, used and valued by more people and in better health than ever.

**You're playing a crucial part in bringing to life 2,000 miles of waterways.**

Maintaining 2,000 miles of canal and river navigations, reservoirs, docks and all the associated historic structures, many of which are over 200 years old, is a vital part of our work. So, thank you for continuing to be part of this amazing community of Friends, who cares so deeply for the wonderful diverse waterways network that brings wellbeing to the nation.

**We believe life is better by water.**

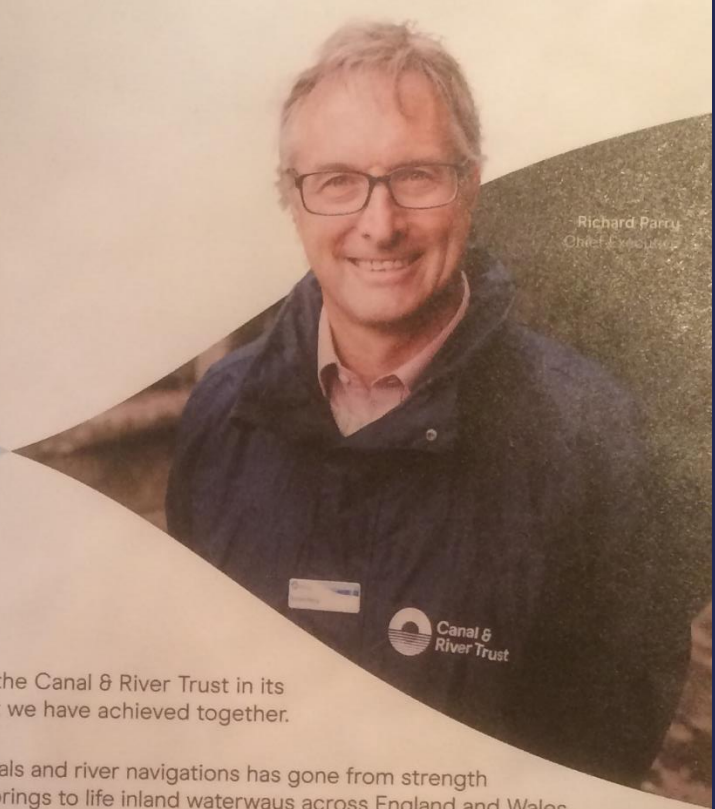
We know that our waterways are a crucial part of numerous communities, rural and urban alike. They offer many different things to different people – a historic network to explore by boat or on foot; a route to work, school or college; somewhere to exercise or spend our leisure time; a place nearby to enjoy nature and see the wildlife with family and friends; or somewhere tranquil to escape for a few moments away from the stresses and strains of modern life.

Furthermore, our waterways can be part of the solution to key problems facing society – from reducing obesity to tackling loneliness; improving mental health to developing new skills; and bringing communities together to create a renewed sense of purpose and belonging.

**Our historic waterways deserve to be passed on to future generations.**

I always look forward to celebrating the incredible things we have achieved together and your latest Waterfront magazine enclosed gives a wonderful insight into how vital your support is.

Continued overleaf



Richard Parry  
Chief Executive

In this issue, you can find how your kind donations are helping projects like the Idle Women, a social justice programme, to create a physic garden, beside the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, where medicinal plants will be cultivated for women by women.

You can also read about the innovative approach taken by the Ikon Gallery's Youth Programme, supported by the Canal & River Trust. This Programme introduces young adults to a variety of creative activities on the water through artist-led workshops with sessions taking place on a dedicated floating space, the Slow Boat.

On page 24 we introduce you to Well-B, our little friend, who is helping encourage even more of us to make use of our waterway network as a space to recharge and get away from the pressure of every day.

**We've already achieved so much together. But there is still much to do!**

As we approach the end of the year, I cannot thank you enough for being one our most passionate and most committed supporters. Your regular gifts are helping us to care for the waterways and to deliver our vision of bringing them to life for everyone.

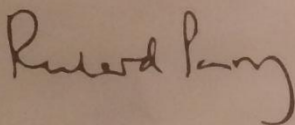
Managing and conserving the historic environment of the waterways to ensure their long-term survival for future generations is an ongoing task. With new risks linked to climate change putting more strain than ever on our ageing infrastructure, we need you by our side more than ever before.

**Please help us with an extra gift this Christmas to enable us continue to work tirelessly to protect our precious heritage. Our historic waterways deserve to be passed on to future generations.**

As we look towards the 2020s, we know that together, we can continue to transform places and make a lasting difference to the physical and mental wellbeing of so many communities, enriching people's lives and their health now and in the future.

Thank you again for your support and generosity as a committed Friend of our waterways.

Yours sincerely,



**Richard Parry**  
Chief Executive

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PS. We are proud to say Waterfront is printed without water or chemicals, using sustainable resources. Please do pass your issue on to a friend to read, or recycle it, once you have finished.

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