

Cheshire Canal Adoption 100 Not Out

Canal enthusiasts from the Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters celebrated their 100th volunteer canal work party, notching up 4,900 hours of volunteering, on Saturday 19 November with a special cake, followed by vegetation clearance at Aqueduct Marina, Church Minshull, Cheshire.

The group was formed in April 2014 and even at the start the Adopters entered the record books by adopting five and a half miles of the Shropshire Union Canal Middlewich Branch from Barbridge Junction to Church Minshull in South Cheshire – the longest adopted stretch of canal in England. Most adoption groups look after a mile or less. In just over two and half years, their numbers have grown to more than 50 volunteers, with around 25 men and women regularly turning out to help with each organised activity.

Work has included towpath and canalside maintenance, vegetation control, painting and repairing locks, helping boaters, litter picks, adding waterside picnic tables, benches and barbeques, and planting fruit trees and shrubs. Their 'Clean for the Queen' event in March resulted in a massive 12 mile litter pick from Calverley to Middlewich, involving 35 volunteers including Nantwich cubs. A major hedge-laying project near Venetian Marina was runner-up in the Trust's national Living Waterways Awards 2016.

