



National Trust

D  
A  
P  
D  
U  
N  
E  
I  
S  
L  
A  
N  
D  
W  
H  
A  
R  
F

# Volunteer Opportunities Dapdune Wharf & The River Wey Navigations

## Visitor Services

Dapdune Wharf is the visitor centre for the River Wey Navigations and is open from March until October. The site tells the story of the Navigations' history since opening in 1653, the cargoes the Wey barges carried, the age of barge building at Dapdune Wharf in the 20<sup>th</sup> century right up to the modern day and the many uses for which the Navigations can be enjoyed.



At Dapdune Wharf we welcome over 16,000 visitors a year and there are several volunteering opportunities where you can interact with the public and help them get the most from their visit. In the Tea Room we have a small servery where volunteers sell drinks, cakes, sandwiches and souvenirs. At the ticket hut you can welcome people to the site, sell entry and boat trip tickets and share your knowledge to enhance visitor experience.



We have *Reliance* on site which is one of the original Wey Barges and visitors can explore inside. There are exhibition rooms telling the history of the site through hands-on learning, including the Barge Building Shed where *Reliance* was constructed. Volunteering in the Barge Building Shed brings the whole site to life for our visitors. Inside we have a display of tools, archive images of the Navigations at work, dressing up clothes for the children and our second hand book stall.

## ***Training and support will be given for all our volunteer roles***

Most of the dressings-up clothes and event costumes have been produced by our Sewing Group volunteers. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Tea Room.



*Examples of the dressing-up clothes made by the volunteer sewing group*

## Maintenance

Although Dapdune Wharf and Dapdune Island are fairly small we do need help keeping them maintained. You can join us to keep it looking good helping with grass and hedge cutting, vegetation clearance, clearing weeds from the creek, sweeping & weeding the grounds, as well as painting and upkeep of the displays, buildings and boats.

Even though the site is closed at the end of the season, work continues throughout the winter as this is the time when both our trip boats, *Dapdune Belle* and *Seewey* are taken out of the water for their annual inspections and maintenance work.



*Volunteers helping with Seewey*



*Dapdune Belle*

I'm sure the unlimited tea and coffee is what keeps us going!

*Tory Stenning – Wharf Manager*

## Education & Events

We offer over 40 schools per season the opportunity for a great day out! Our fun and informative learning programme is aimed at mainly primary aged children. Working closely with the Learning Team you could help deliver workshops on river studies, artefact handling, bug hunting and pond dipping.



If you have a passion for helping develop young minds and creating special memories then why not join in.



In addition to the education groups we have a varied programme of events throughout the year. This is a fantastic opportunity to be creative and can involve helping our younger visitors to make crafts, follow trails around the site

and join in with themed activities which can be anything from pirate adventures to creating wild art. Easter activities are always a favourite, as well as discovering the mini-beasts on our island!



*Puffing -a -Wey event*



*Our Hidden Habitats event, where children got creative and made magical elf sticks, robin's nests and fairy gardens.*

***Training and support will be given for all volunteer roles***

## Guided Walks

We have a number of walks of varying length which cover all areas of the Navigations from Godalming to Thames Lock and the surrounding towns and villages. Our guided walk volunteers lead many of these walks and provide back up to walk leaders. You can also volunteer to research the background of the places we visit.



**NATIONAL TRUST**

**River Wey & Godalming Navigations**

**Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR**

**Tel: (01483) 561389/Fax: (01483) 531667**

### Wey Navigation Conservation Volunteers

The Wey Navigation Conservation Volunteers meet on the first Wednesday of each month at different locations along both the Wey and Godalming Navigations. The mixture of tasks accomplished and variety of locations has proved very popular with all those who volunteer with the group, helping to keep a real enthusiasm for what they are trying to achieve.



*Some of our volunteers enjoying a well earned break*

### Catteshall volunteer group



Every Wednesday, at 9.30 at Catteshall Lock, I meet and work with my volunteers; we mostly focus on general maintenance along the stretch of Navigation between Godalming Wharf and Broadford Bridge in Shalford. This length includes the towpath running along the Navigation, two locks and several meadows and a wooded area, all of which require care and work throughout the year.

Tasks include carrying out repairs to the bank using materials sourced on the property, the removal of invasive species including Ragwort and Himalayan Balsam from along the towpath, meadow areas and also in the Colonel grounds, clearing vegetation back from the towpath, cutting boundary hedges and cutting back trees, painting weirs and also carrying out running repairs on the walkways at Catteshall Mooring line. Occasionally we work on other sections with other lengthsman.

*Mandy Griffith—Lengthsman, Catteshall Lock*

### Volunteering on the Stoke Length



A steady stream of constant maintenance by individuals or pairs of volunteers helps keep the Stoke Length up to scratch, whilst also giving each volunteer a chance to feel like they are personally making a difference. The Stoke volunteers range from college students doing a morning a week to those who are retired doing a day or more each week. Duke of Edinburgh students also help me

when doing their volunteer service of two hours once a fortnight, showing that volunteering really can be for everyone. Volunteering is all about doing something positive, but it has to be enjoyable as well, which is why I always try to keep the tasks we carry out as varied as possible. Yes, every once in a while we will have to do the less glamorous jobs such as litter picking, but volunteers on the Stoke Length could be doing any number of practical tasks such as coppicing Hazel, cutting back overhanging branches, painting locks, mowing grass, making bird box kits, or even resurfacing the towpath. The list of tasks really is endless but whatever task a volunteer takes part in it really does make a difference.

*Richard Cant—Lengthsman, Stoke Lock*

## Team Walsham



The Walsham Length is managed by me and a few hard working volunteers. We meet every 4 weeks on a Sunday to carry out routine maintenance and special projects to improve the length further.

There are a variety of tasks that need to be done including the obligatory balsam pulling, towpath management, lock and mooring mowing and lock painting as well as lots of one-off projects such as hedge planting, coppicing and scrub clearing to improve habitats for wildlife and provide seating areas for walkers.



If you have time to spare and are suffering from nature deficit disorder or just can't get enough of the outdoors and would like to spend the odd Sunday doing something productive with like-minded people, then why not join Team Waltham.

*Emma Goodwin—Lengthsman, Walsham*

## New Haw volunteers



Volunteering on the New Haw length can be varied, it can range from tree clearance to bank repairs on the towpath to mowing /strimming the lock sides and mooring lines.

I tend to incorporate the volunteering for New Haw with the 1st Wednesday of the month group and Team Waltham. Having a large group on this length can make a great impact on a section in one day, especially if you are planting hedges, building fences, coppicing and pollarding trees.

We take along the Kelly kettle so tea/coffee is never far away and Sometimes even bring sausages or bacon butties for lunch!

Some of our group are boat-owners and some are local people, but they all enjoy working on the side of the Navigation, having fun, making a difference and learning new skills.

*Steve Valiant— Lengthsman, New Haw*



*Volunteers creating a "Dead Hedge" at the old water cross beds, at New Haw.*



## Become a Lock Keeper!



Thames Lock

Why not spend your afternoons at Thames Lock, helping the Lock Keeper to welcome visitors and put boats through the lock. Help is particularly needed during busy summer weekends and bank holidays, when there can be a steady stream of boats waiting for lockage. During the quieter periods try your hand at mowing the locksides or tending the gardens, to make sure it looks its best for our visitors.

If you would like any further information on the volunteer roles, please contact Fiona Exall at the Navigations Office on the number below or email [riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk)



**NATIONAL TRUST**  
River Wey & Godalming Navigations  
Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR  
Tel: (01483) 561389/Fax: (01483) 531667