The Canal and River Trust

“The Canal & River Trust is here so you have a place to escape. A place where you can step off the pavement, onto the towpath and breathe. We are a charity, and we are entrusted to care for 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales. On top of maintaining 2,000 miles of canals and rivers, which are often over 200 years old, we are responsible for an enormous network of bridges, embankments, towpaths, aqueducts, docks and reservoirs and more. From improving towpaths for cyclists and creating new wildlife habitats to maintaining our distinctive infrastructure, we are constantly working to make our canals and rivers the very best they can be. And thanks to our waterways millions of children have the chance to experience local wildlife - even to see a kingfisher or an otter close up. “

Our waterway network is a national treasure. It makes people’s lives better. We’re here to ensure that it is protected forever.

The Canal and River Trust would be delighted to welcome Federation Book Groups and other interested people for NSSM events. There is an Explorers map of the waterways on their website to find the nearest to your group. [https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers) It includes wonderful activity sheets, local guides and a number of useful ideas for family events.

They have explorer volunteers who act as education co-ordinators and can lead sessions for book groups if required. Each waterway has a dedicated co-ordinator and they will be very pleased to hear from you.

Please let us know about your NSSM events so we can share them on our websites. Have fun!

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There are lots of books to choose for National Share a Story Month. If you want to share one about a canal, the 'Muddy Waters' books by D. H Clacher tell lots of exciting stories about the waterways.

Others include 'Snowy' by Berlie Doherty and Keith Bowen or 'Splish Splash Splosh' by Mick Manning and there are several books about ‘Barney the Boat Dog’ by Linda Newbery.