

Press Release

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Sir Samuel Whitbread KCVO

www.b-mkwaterway.co.uk

Waterway Trust Awarded Grant

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust has been awarded a grant of £8,300 by Central Bedfordshire Council Green Infrastructure Planning Obligations Fund to help fund its initiative to mark the route of the Waterway Park with thematic wood carvings and information points.

The award will help to fund 3 benches and a number of carved marker posts, depicting wildlife and waterway themes by local artist Carrie Yuen. Carrie will commence work in September and the sculptures will be installed to mark the route of the central section of the Waterway Park in the Millennium Country Park, at the heart of the Forest of Marston Vale. The Trust will also contribute to the project with funds raised by the John Bunyan boat.

Trust director Beryl Bennett said "The Trust is very excited about launching our Mark the Route initiative. We want to make sure that as many people as possible know about proposals for the Waterway Park and the benefits it can bring throughout the Marston Vale. This award gives us an opportunity to raise the profile of the Waterway Park and at the same time provide a unique artwork trail for visitors to the Millennium Country Park to experience."

James Russell, Forest Director with the Forest of Marston Vale said "As a fellow charity, we've been working closely with the B&MK Waterway Trust for many years to promote the Waterway Park through the Forest of Marston Vale. It's great to now help by allowing them to mark a section of the route where it comes through our Millennium Country Park. The new carvings will be an attractive addition to the Millennium Country Park and demonstrate the beautiful use that artists can make of timber as a natural resource."

Carrie Yuen said "This is an exciting opportunity to showcase my work in Central Bedfordshire. I have a personal interest in the subject area and therefore I am delighted to have been selected to work on this project."

- ENDS -

Notes to editor



Beryl Bennett (BMKWT), Carrie Yuen (Carrie Carving),
Anna Charles & James Russell (The Forest of Marston Vale Trust)
Recent meeting discussion the marking the route

Please credit the B&MK Waterway Trust, if you use the picture.

The B&MK Waterway Trust was established in 1995 to promote the development of a broad waterway park which will link the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes to the river Great Ouse in Bedford through a series of waterway parks. More detail can be found at: <http://www.b-mkwaterway.org.uk> 2009 saw the first section of the waterway actually dug when a wide tunnel designed for use by the Waterway, a footpath and cycleway, was constructed leading under the newly dualled A421. It joined the Marston Vale Millennium Country Park with Berry Wood, Wootton.

The Forest of Marston Vale (www.marstonvale.org) is a 61 square mile area and Community Forest, between Bedford and Milton Keynes. The project is entirely funded by charitable donations (Registered Charity No. 1069229) with all funds raised at the Forest Centre & Millennium Country Park going directly into the planting of trees and managing of woodlands.

Websites:

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust www.b-mkwaterway.org.uk

Central Bedfordshire - A great place to live and work – www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Forest of Marston Vale www.marstonvale.org

Carrie Yuen <https://carrieoncarving.co.uk>

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