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I am writing to you as the Chair of the Oxford Canal Festival Committee to give you advance information about the Festival to be held on Aristotle Lane Recreation Ground on Saturday, 25th June. <http://www.oxfordcanalheritage.org/>, the Oxford Canal Heritage website, has some information about the event, but every house in North Oxford will receive flyers closer to the date. We are looking for volunteers to help to deliver these flyers to minimise our costs. I hope that you can assist with this.

Oxford City Council, St Margaret's Institute, the Waterside Management Company and the St Margaret's Area Society have already kindly agreed to sponsor the Festival, and Penny & Sinclair is the generous lead commercial sponsor.

The Festival will occur between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., with activities for all the family. A dog show and the Canal Olympics will take place in the main arena. Nearby, there will be a sound stage where bands and choirs will perform. A children's fun area will operate through the afternoon, including soft play, a range of crafts, a bouncy castle, face painting and fairground rides from St Giles Fair. Food and drink will be available from local suppliers, alongside community stalls and traders, some on canal boats. Local schoolchildren are taking part in a writing contest with a canal theme, with the prizes awarded on the day. A guided walk along the canal towpath is offered by Mark Davies, and tours are being offered of the Trap Grounds, while options for murals, as an alternative to graffiti, will be displayed on canal boats by Frenchay Road bridge.

The area around the Rec will obviously be busy before and after the Festival, but we aim to keep disruption to a minimum, with Phil & Jim School offering parking for the vehicles associated with the Festival. There will be noise during the afternoon, but we hope it will not cause offence and hope, indeed, that much of it will emanate from you and your families enjoying the afternoon. We are keen to have help on the afternoon and want as many entrants as possible to the dog show. So, please contact me at the address on the top of this letter if you would like to participate. It should be fun.



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