



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

18 December

Massive lock gates replaced on River Lee in Great Amwell

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the River Lee, has this week completed a major operation to replace two sets of lock gates near Great Amwell.

The gates at Hardmead Lock weighed between 1.5 and 2.6 tonnes – more than a black cab – so required a crane to lift them out.

At more than 20-years old each gate needed replacing as they had become susceptible to leaking. They were then replaced with brand new, solid oak gates made by the Trust's teams.

Work began in November, when more than one tonne of fish were rehomed from the lock prior to it being drained ahead of the repairs. The presence of species such as roach, bream and perch are an indication of the good health of the river.

The project cost £125,000 in total, and is part of the Trust's £38million programme to help repair the nation's 200-year old waterways this winter. Works include lock gate replacements, restoring historic brick work and draining large sections of water to mend leaking waterway walls.

Graham Smith, Canal & River Trust construction supervisor, said: "The River Lee is a hugely popular waterway, enjoyed by thousands of people whether they are using the water or the towpath. As a charity this is the kind of work that we have to do to maintain the waterway. If we didn't carry out gate replacements such as this then boats couldn't visit the area and local people wouldn't have a safe, fully functioning river to visit. It's a big job, fitting massive lock gates it is never easy, but we are delighted to have got it done, and ahead of schedule too."

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how to volunteer or donate, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

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