

PRESS RELEASE

14 August

BOOKSHELF PUT ON BRENTFORD CANAL

Brentford's first ever book exchange has been launched this week, thanks to a group of volunteers working with the Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Grand Union Canal.

It has been installed on the waterside at Brentford Gauging lock. The bookshelf, which was supplied by nearby MSO Marine boat yard, encourages people to leave books for one another to borrow and read. Titles currently range from cooking books to Tolkien.

It comes at a time when research from the Trust shows that people are happier and healthier when they are next to water, yet only 30 per cent of people who live near a waterway come for a visit.

Darren Starling, Canal & River Trust towpath ranger, said: "The Grand Union Canal in Brentford is a brilliant place to spend some time. Typically people will boat, or walk, run or cycle. It can also be a great place to sit and read, so hopefully the book shelf goes a little way to encouraging people to do just that. Our research tells us that people relax more and are generally happier when they're by water, so it's a great space to escape the busy streets. A big thanks to our volunteers and MSO Marine for their help getting it installed."

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how to volunteer or donate to the charity, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk 020 3204 4410

Ends

Notes to editors

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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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The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people's lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk