



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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LET'S FISH! NEW MIDDLEPORT COMMUNITY ANGLING CLUB LAUNCHED WITH THREE FREE FAMILY FISHING DAYS

The Canal & River Trust charity has joined forces with Middleport Matters Community Trust to launch a new community fishing club on the banks of the Trent & Mersey Canal in Staffordshire.

The new club will mark its arrival with three free family fishing days on Friday 6, Saturday 7 and Wednesday 11 April, 10am – 4pm, at Middleport Park (Milvale Street entrance) in Stoke-on-Trent.

All young anglers signing up to join the club during the Easter holidays will receive a brand new fishing starter kit to get them going, courtesy of the Canal & River Trust.

The Trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of canals, actively promotes angling on its waterways with a wide variety of events and projects, including 'Let's Fish' family angling taster days.

A Let's Fish event in Middleport last autumn provoked so much interest that it spawned the new community club, which will have fishing rights along a one mile stretch of the Trent & Mersey Canal, from Bridge 123 – 125.

John Ellis, national angling and fisheries manager with the Canal & River Trust said: "Our canals are brimming with wildlife, even in urban areas. They're home to more than 20 native species of fish including pike, perch, roach, bream and dace. Fishing is really fun and it's cheap to get going. You don't need much to start - just a rod, some bait, angling licence, permit and a nice spot to fish.

"We are delighted to be working with Middleport Matters to create a permanent angling club in the area. Whether you are completely new to fishing or want get back into the

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sport, these three taster sessions are an ideal opportunity to come and try out the sport for free.

“We will provide everything you need for free on the day, such as tackle, bait, a rod licence and fishing permit, and expert coaching from professionally qualified Level Two fishing coaches.

“Fishing is fun! It’s good for your mind and body, and something the whole family can get involved with. You’ll always remember the first time you caught a fish!”

For more information about the Middleport Matters free family fishing days or other Let’s Fish events on waterways around the country, check out the Canal & River Trust website www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or ring 0303 040 4040.

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Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms