

National Trust Press Release

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National Trust Penrose celebrates World Book Day with new pre-loved book area in support of the estate's walled garden

A second-hand books area has opened at National Trust Penrose, located in a new indoor seating space next to The Stables cafe, just in time to celebrate World Book Day.

The handcrafted bookcases, made by volunteers with Monterey pine from the Penrose estate, house a multitude of pre-loved books, from paperback fiction to cookery books, autobiographies and children's favourites. All funds raised from the sale of second-hand books goes towards the ongoing care of the eighteenth-century walled garden at Penrose, which is tended to by a team of volunteers who are gently bringing the space back to life for nature and the local community to enjoy.

Lydia Allt, Volunteering & Community Officer, says: 'Penrose is already a special place to many people and we're really fortunate to have the space in the walled garden where visitors can unwind and reconnect with nature.'

The walled garden is looked after by a team of volunteers who dedicate every Monday to its care, from clearing invasive species & brambles to sowing bee and butterfly-friendly plants and wild flowers to give nature a chance to thrive. Each year the team have experimented with different varieties of fruit & vegetables as an acknowledgement to its past as Victorian kitchen garden.

With the addition of second-hand books, visitors are welcome to enjoy the walled garden with a thrilling page turner, an inspirational cookbook or a children's fantasy adventure, while also supporting our cause.'

The recently added indoor seating area is the first indoor space for the cafe, meaning visitors can shelter from the elements throughout the colder seasons and sit & relax while enjoying a light lunch, hot drink or cake. Dogs are also welcome inside with their owner, so nobody is left out in the cold, and there are water bowls for canine refreshment and even free dog biscuits for all furry friends who visit.

Gianluca Floris, Food & Beverage Manager, says: 'The new indoor seating area at The Stables cafe extends our offer from just take-away drinks and light snacks to a place where people can sit and relax while enjoying a light lunch or tea and cake. We've been really pleased to hear from visitors about how much they appreciate having the space to take a break from a long walk with their dog, no matter the weather, come rain or shine. With the addition of second-hand books in the same space, people enjoy having a browse with their coffee.'

The Stables cafe is currently open 10am – 3pm every day of the week, and from Monday 18 March will be open 10am – 5pm, serving sandwiches, hot toasties, hot & cold drinks, cakes & scoop ice cream.

If you would like to donate books, the team welcome donations of good quality books, especially paperback fiction and children's books. Small quantities can be accepted on-site at the cafe but for any other donations, please call ahead on 01326 222170 or email penrose@nationaltrust.org.uk to arrange.

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Images:

Images can be downloaded [here](#). Only to be used in conjunction with this press release. Credit and caption as per file name.

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We care for more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline, 1 million collection items and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves. In 2022/23 we received 24 million visitors to our pay for entry sites. The National Trust is for everyone - we were founded for the benefit of the whole nation, and our 5.7 million members, funders and donors, and tens of thousands of volunteers support our work to care for nature, beauty, history for everyone, for ever.

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