

A novel idea for a railway station

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A community group is hoping rail visitors will go on an amazing journey – and not just thanks to the trains.

They are hoping to whisk people away to wonderful literary worlds thanks to a book swap, set up at Alderley Edge station.

Masterminded by the Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group, visitors to the waiting room will be able to snap up a book and be transported to fantastic fantasy realms, indulge themselves in an edge-of-the-seat thriller or shiver through a nail-biting horror.

And they can pass on their own fantastic voyage too – leaving a favourite book of their own behind for others to read.

The book exchange was opened by Tatton MP Ester McVey.

She said: "I was pleased to visit Alderley Edge station and see the innovative use the waiting room has been put to. It is also great to see the station, as a whole, being cared for and that is a huge credit to the hardworking Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group."

Children from nearby Ryleys School also attended the launch and donated books for passengers to enjoy.

Station group volunteer Kelvin Briggs said: “Reading can be a wonderful escape from the stress of everyday life. Reading on a train can be a great way of passing the journey time and is a great alternative to scrolling your phone. Simply pick up a book at the station and bring it back when you have finished reading it.”

Regional director at Northern, Chris Jackson, said: “This is a fantastic initiative that our volunteers have created that will make the station even more welcoming for our customers.

“Our community partners are the heartbeat of the railway and we’re extremely proud to work closely with them to deliver such a wide-ranging positive impact for the north of England.”