

Well folks, here it is the long awaited and much anticipated first CamBoaters News of 2005. Just in case I have not had the opportunity - happy New Year, peace, harmony and prosperity to you all.

Life on the river seems tickety-boo, the now over populated riverbank comprising of a low impact live aboard community and the rather congested, almost navigable river negotiated by many a rowing crew and all of this observed by the odd bemused angler, dog walker, stroller and tourist. No need for alarm, they all seem to be coexisting in perfect harmony. Now why would anyone want to upset the balance? But change is in the wind...

Just in case you didn't know the deadline for completing and returning the Mooring Consultation Document to John Roebuck was the 11th of February 2005! The next step is for the Community Development and Leisure Scrutiny Committee to meet on the 24th March 2005, when they will examine the results of the consultation and prepare a report in order to recommend a future policy.

At this stage we hope and pray the local community will be considerate, kind and sensible with their responses. Our future on the river depends on their perception of our existence and their acceptance of our way of life.

They're all at it

Congratulations to Hazel & Dan (at the Fort ST. George) who tied the knot last month and honeymooned in Disney World with their two lovely children Harry and Charlotte.

Best wishes go out to Alix & Erik who were recently engaged and plan to marry shortly

Sponsorship

A BIG THANK YOU to all who sponsored last years CamBoaters News, (you know who you are, without your donations we'd be sunk) your contributions were gratefully received and greatly appreciated. Anyone wanting to sponsor, a future newsletter, advertise a product or service please do contact me, details below.

My Two Penneth'

I recently read newsletters I wrote over a year ago and I came across the following reasons I gave for being on the Cam Conservators Committee:

1. I would like to encourage and provide proactive solutions to the problems faced by boat owners on the river Cam.
2. Improve the quality of life and facilities available to boat owners on the river.
3. Change and dispel the myths widely held about live-aboards.
4. Establish and maintain good relationships between all river users, all relevant authorities, landlords/waterlords and skeptics of live-aboards.
5. As residential moorings or a residential mooring policy on the river Cam is inevitable, I would like us all to assist with the development of sensible proposals.
6. Investigate the feasibility of building a marina in Cambridge.
7. Contribute new ideas aimed at preserving the beauty and wildlife on the river.
8. Assist with the implementation of any new policies, which affects houseboat owners and promote a healthy way of life on the river.
9. Enjoy all aspects of the river from navigation to recreational activities.

Nothing has changed, I still feel the same! I would obviously like to see the major river authorities recognise and accept that the CamBoaters Community Association should be included in consultations and future objectives for life on the river.

Our criticism of these authorities is not welcome and serves no purpose, however the alternatives to just mooring on the City's commons have not been presented, or even the suggestion of improvement to the almost adequate facilities we currently use. So, I beg the question? Where will you moor if Cambridge's questioned few decide they don't want you here?

I started writing the Newsletter over a year ago in order to keep everyone up to date with the ongoing debate on river mooring and I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to unify a growing but disparate community. It appears we have been successful, which reminds me – please do join the Camboaters Community Association, with more members we have a better opportunity to achieve our goals. For more details go to www.camboaters.co.uk.

It's not easy to write the news without reminding you all of our obligation to the environment and our community, especially now that we have been under intense public scrutiny. However I would urge you to toe the line. Some of the points below have been raised before, I hope you won't be affronted having to read them again.

Oil Slick

There have been several reports and sightings of oil/diesel slicks on the River Cam. As you can well appreciate the local wildlife aren't in favour of it, local authorities are offended by it and the local residents would be more than happy to use it against you in the Mooring Policy time bomb!

Please dispose of any toxins sensibly and should you have an accidental spill in the river, oil absorbent materials are recommended. Spill Kits are available from marinas and other chandlery-type outlets. (Not the best solution - but a weak mix of washing up liquid squirted on an oil/diesel spill, will help to disperse it.)

Pollution prevention guidelines can be found on the Environment Agency website <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk> or brief notes are available on the Fort St. George CamBoaters Noticeboard.

Speed Limit!

There have been several complaints by the anonymous as to the haste of certain members of our community when travelling our waters. Please slow down when passing moored boats, the wash created is bound to unsettle a few ornaments on mantles, not forgetting those poor mooring pins which are easily yanked out, especially when it rains and the bank side earth is soggy. **SLOW DOWN!**

Security

Please note that a recent spate of bike thefts has left the bike owners feeling as though they have been deliberately targeted, they now have to walk that extra mile. However those feelings could be spared with a tad more sense when securing and locking up your bike. Please be alert.

The Future – Imagine a few light years away... Colourful residential and visiting boats moored along the beautified riverbanks of the Great River Cam. A marina providing all the facilities you could ever require. An exemplary mooring policy the Council took pride in devising with the assistance of The Cam Conservators and the guidance of The Camboaters Community Association, with the approval of other river users and local residents. Both

authorities would surely gain extra income, and the City Council would have created the reality of a vision it logically proposed for the future of the river Cam.

Just think of a community, which puts little strain on the city's already stretched resources, a low impact environmentally friendly, example of a new way of life, in effect, a success story.

Not forgetting a tourist attraction that compliments an already famous University City steeped in tradition. A charming addition and a brief reminder of our early transport system. History on show in our natural environment - what better way to enhance our river/city habitat?

Activities & Events

As so many of you have asked about it, here's the website for information on the archery group in Cambridge. People of all ages and abilities welcome <http://www.netherhallarchers.org> Beginners' sessions start in the spring (April/May) and run throughout the summer on Tuesday evenings at The Netherhall School & Sixth Form College, Queen Edith's Way, Cambridge, CB1 8NN. T: 01223 242931, F: 01223 712142. Reachable on the Citi2 bus, from Chesterton Road if you don't have a car. The cost is £20 for a six week beginners' course, all equipment provided. After that costs go up. Practice sessions (not for Beginners) take place various times during the week. Places on the beginner's course are limited, so if you are interested or have any queries, contact beginners@netherhallarchers.org. Before you ask, it is illegal to hunt with a bow and arrow in the UK (if you want to kill something, go to France or America). You may not even carry a strung bow down a footpath. So no taking pot shots at local 'wildlife' of any species please... Elisabeth – NB Sirius

Riverside News

The rowing club that some of you may know as Simoco or Pye has survived the demise of its parent works in Chesterton. Formed in the early 1930s the club has recently undergone massive changes. Not least of which was the forced sale of its boathouse, opposite Stourbridge Common, to a competing town club. Simoco RC is a friendly club now with open membership. It is now operating from other boathouses along the Cam and is experiencing a healthy growth in membership both male and female. Many of these new members are ordinary people who have never had the chance to try rowing before. Watch out for the navy blue strip and white oars with light-blue/dark-blue/yellow diagonal stripes. Simoco RC can be contacted by email: rowing.committee@seapura.com or via Alister on 01223 232777.

Great Cam Clean Up

It's that time again for us to show the local residents we do care about the river and to remind them that we as river licence payees, are the only ones who contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of the river Cam (and if they think that any of their Council tax or taxes goes towards its maintenance, they are sadly mistaken). Do contact me with your enthusiasm and preferred weekends of involvement, we hope to perform this civic duty on the last weekend in March or the first weekend of April.

Special Feature – On the Trail of Zander

Similar to the Vikings, zander arrived in the British Isles with the reputation of a ruthless killer. It has taken well over a century for it to be accepted as a sporting fish. Likened to a freshwater wolf, they hunt in large shoals covering great distances. These shoals usually contain fish of a similar size and age, as zander grow older and larger the shoal size decreases, big zander eventually leading a somewhat solitary existence for parts of its old age.

Zander have strict feeding times, they tend to spend long periods hanging around close to the bottom and mid water. At the arrival of dusk or dawn they commence the hunt usually moving into shallow water where much of their prey is found. Feeding can continue well into the night, especially if it is cold and starlit. During the day its habits are sporadic, unless the water is muddy from flooding or strong winds, then they will feed all day.

Their preference for living and feeding in murky conditions no doubt has to do with their excellent eyesight, their large glassy looking eyes incorporate a tapetum or reflective plate. This increases sensitivity in poor light and at night enabling them to find their small prey. Zander do eat a lot of small fish, which is what gives them such bad press, in truth, they eat no more than other predators.

More to come on zander in the next issue, including Dave and Nathan's special zander recipes...

Dear agony aunt Fanny Tucker

I've heard that some young lady on the river has been speed dating. Can you let me know who she is? I am an interested party. Hugh Knowho.

Dear Aunty

I am concerned that if I move my boat for water/pumpout, my mooring my not be there when I return, what do I do?

Aunt Fanny says –

One should never expect life to be so easy, if it were we would all be happy. However, if you should be the unfortunate victim of such a natural occurrence find another place to moor and think yourself lucky you have the opportunity to live on the river Cam.

I welcome letters for future publications, poems, ditties, any information you may wish to share with the community, rants, whinges, praises, suggestions, even next weeks winning Lotto numbers. Contact me, details below.

Fish and Duck

Sue and Andy welcome you to enjoy Wednesday to Saturday 12pm-2pm and 7pm-11pm opening times and on Sundays, an all day relaxing atmosphere with your better than good Carvery. The pub offers home-cooked meals, one huge open fire, which you can stoke yourself and a few hundred books to choose from as well as daily papers to browse.

Services on offer to boaters include: Diesel, Calor gas, Coal, Laundrette, Anti-fouling, Boat blacking Craneage (up to 25 tonnes), Wet/dry dock, Long & short term mooring facilities with a qualified boat engineer on site and coming soon – shower facilities. The Fish and Duck, Holt Fen, Little Thetford, Ely, Cambs. CB6 3HR. Should you have any queries do not hesitate to phone: 01353 649 580, Mob: 07984 904421. They are looking forward to providing you with a lovely experience you'll never forget.

KRAWDADDY – Frank NB Tumbling Water and his 5 piece stylish, original Rock & Roll band will appear live at The Locomotive, 44 Mill Road, Cambridge T: 01223 322190 on Friday 18th February. Be there, you will enjoy.

MEETINGS

- Social Gathering
8pm, Tuesday 8th March 2005 (Fort St. George, Midsummer Common)
- CCA Committee Meeting
7.30 pm, 15th March 2005 (Fort St. George, Midsummer Common)
- Cam Conservators Meeting
9.30am, 14th April 2005 (Cambridge Guildhall, Committee room 1)

Be safe on the water

Luther Phillips – NB Corn Dolly - Mob: 07980 621761
PO Box 223, Cambridge. CB4 3ZJ - lutherp1@orange.net

camboaters

NEWS ISSUE 12 February 2005

Diary of River Events 2005

DATE	TIME	EVENT	ORGANISER	COURSE
Sat 19 Feb	All day	Pembroke Regatta	Pembroke BC	Chesterton Footbridge to Baits Bite Lock
Sun 20 Feb	9:00-13:00	2nd Winter League	X-Press BC/City RC	Baits Bite Lock to Chesterton Footbridge
Sat 26 Feb	13:00 to dusk	Lent Bumps Getting on Races	CUCBC	Railway Bridge to Baits Bite Lock
Tues 1 – Sat 5 Mar	13:00 to dusk	Lent Bumps	CUCBC	Pike and Eel to Baits Bite Lock
Sun 6 Mar	10:00-15:00	Open	CFPAS	Pike and Eel to Baits Bite Lock
Tues 8 Mar	13:30- dusk	Second Trinity Challenge	First and Third Trinity BC	Pike and Eel to Baits Bite Lock
Sun 13 Mar	9:00-14:00	10th Club Points Match	CFPAS	Below Baits Bite Lock
Sun 13 Mar	9:00-13:00	3rd Winter League	CRA	Baits Bite Lock to Chesterton Footbridge
Sun 17 Apr	12:00-14:00	Canoe marathon	Cambridge Canoe Club	Grantchester to Baits Bite
Mon 25 - Wed 27 Apr	All day	Small Boats Regatta	CUCBC	Railway Bridge to Baits Bite Lock
Sun 1 May	12:00-16:00	Head of the Cam	CRA	Baits Bite Lock to Chesterton Footbridge

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**"If we don't have it, we can get
it"**

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