

A VOICE ON THE RIVER

News for all living on the Cam

November 2005



Progress with the City Council

We're starting to make some progress on facilities, with the council. This is where we are so far (all this is subject to confirmation — council officers are drawing up plans, but councillors themselves still have to discuss them later this month).

Water

They are looking at adding two water points — one at the end of Midsummer Common (opposite Eights Marina), and one on Stourbridge Common. We'd like to get these put in places which wouldn't use up a mooring spot, like for instance near the Penny Ferry, rather than opposite the Green Dragon.

Refuse

Each boat will be issued with 60 refuse sacks to put into the bins. There will be more bins, and they will have secure lids so that livestock don't get into them. This will mean we'll actually be able to put rubbish in them. We're pushing for a refuse collection point to be put in at the pumpout.

Dredging

This is a problem for many boats even those with not-so-deep draughts. The council are willing to clear some areas, if we tell them where.

Rapid response

This is something that has come up often. The council have said there *will* be a phone number we can ring if we go away and come back to find a boat illegally moored. There will be signs all along the bank to let visiting boats know the score.

As far as the mooring permit goes, if you go off cruising long term and still pay the permit, you will still have space on the Cam. Permits won't be transferable to another person, but if you buy another boat you will still have it.

Events

Christmas meal — book now!

We've booked the snug in the Fort St George, for Friday 16th December. The cost will be £16.75 each, and we need a deposit of £10 by the middle of November. Please give Toni a call soon because places are limited and it's first come first served — 08701 737240. For a menu, see www.fortstgeorge.com. If you can't make it for the meal, why not come for a drink?

Children in Need

Last year's bucket-rattling event was a great success, so it's being repeated. Meet at the Fort on Friday 18th November, at 7.30 for an 8.00 start — the theme is Pirates of the Caribbean. For more info call Toni, number above.

And Mark is organising a Bike Clinic to take place on the towpath. The idea is that passers-by get their chain oiled and tyres inflated for a donation to Children in Need. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Mark on 07930 272896.

Nathan — friend and boater

Most readers will know by now that Nathan Barfoot was killed on October 11th, riding his bike on Gilbert Road. Nathan, Sally and Bosun the dog lived on a narrowboat for about three years. They recently sold it to buy a 105 year-old Dutch Barge which has only recently been transported over.

Most people knew Nathan — if you ever went in the Fort it was pretty much impossible *not* to know him. He was one of those people who manages to enjoy life and to be completely genuine, the whole time.

The funeral, in Huntingdon, was unsurprisingly well attended, so much so that people had to stand outside the chapel. Some scenes from Nathan's life were remembered (not including the story about the poo tank!) which can only make you feel lucky that you shared a tiny bit of his life. Sally asked for 'Here Comes the Sun' to be played, and the sun did indeed come out on a miserable day, and the wind blew a scattering of leaves over the cemetery.

As Sally said for the Cambridge Evening News, 'What we know is that Nathan would want his loved ones to carry on and remember the way he lived his life to the full, and I think that is what is keeping us going.'

RIP.

Riverside

For the Camboaters meeting in September, Alistair Frost (County Council) and Geoff Facer (Cam Conservators Engineer) very kindly gave up their time to answer questions. There was a big turn-out and a lot of people hopefully got a lot of information.

The railings don't form part of the new mooring policy because they're managed by the County Council, not the City Council. In fact the County Council don't even admit ownership of this wall. They just 'look after' the road as a highway structure, supplying no services to boaters.

It's possible that they'll discuss the railings some time in the future. Possible options are:

- To leave things as they are, allowing mooring on grounds of 'leisure activity'
- To charge for mooring in order to maintain the structure
- To look at an engineering solution in conjunction with the Cam Conservators.
- To ban mooring altogether. There is no plan to do this, although they accept there is a risk associated with mooring against a high wall leading directly onto a road.

Whatever happens, they can't change anything without consultation first.

When the new policy begins in April, people will continue to be able to moor on the railings for as long as the County Council and Cam Conservators let them. We've heard that they might ban mooring along very short stretches as the new cycle bridge is being built.

Floody Hell

The last major flood was in 2002. Poles came in useful — for those who were not above the weir, or on Riverside — to stop boats floating over the bank and being left high and dry when the river abates.

Obviously you can get galvanised steel poles from any scaffold company, but aluminium is more manageable. They need to be at least 10ft long, ideally.

SGB in Milton used to sell aluminium poles but it turns out they don't anymore. If you're desperate, they have a branch in Ipswich which will sell them for £40 for a 20ft length. They'll deliver to Cambridge for a whopping £40. Or you can pick them up yourself. Take a hacksaw! Their no. is 01473 271313. Any local sources will be gratefully received and passed on.



Captain's Logs

Wood for your stove is a more sustainable option than coal. Logs can be ordered from Peter, on 01223 845549. He has a mixture of hard and soft wood, well seasoned and dry.

He'll deliver to anywhere the road meets the river. You can get half a trailer-load for £20, or a trailer-load for £40.

Thanks to Suzie for that info.

PARTY!
on Brown's Field
Saturday November 12th
No Fireworks (think of the dogs!)

Small Ads

Electrolux RM212F Fridge

3 way (gas, 12v and 240v) in good condition. Comes with flue for the back and vent plate for the outside. Dimensions: Height 24 1/4" Width 19" Depth 19". £20. Call Paul on 07909 844666.

Single Mattress. Free to anyone who will pick it up. Call Mel on 01223 357341.

Meetings coming up

Camboaters Committee: 28 November, 7.30, Howard Mallet Centre, Sturton Street.

Cam Conservators: 12 January 2006, Guildhall, Market Square (see Luther if you want to raise something).

River events coming up

Date	Time	What	Who	Where
Sat 19 Nov	8:30 onwards	Cambridge Winter Head	Cantabs	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge
Thu 1 Dec	8:15 onwards	Fairbairn Cup Races - Novice	Jesus College BC	Jesus Boathouse to Baits Bite Lock
Fri 2 Dec	9:00 onwards	Fairbairn Cup Races - Senior	Jesus College BC	Jesus Boathouse to Baits Bite Lock
Sun 11 Dec	10:00-15:00	Winter League	CFPAS	Chesterton to Clayhithe
Sat 21 Jan	08:30-14:00	Cambridge Head to Head	City RC	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge
Sun 22 Jan	8:30-12:30	1st Winter League	X-Press BC/City RC	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge

This newsletter was sponsored by Liz and H on tour boat Rosie. Cheers!

Camboaters Community Association • www.camboaters.co.uk

Got something for the newsletter? Email mikeshoopshank@yahoo.co.uk


camboaters