

Where Are They Now?

Following the big send-off from the Fort St George in September, here's an update from Camboater, PK (nb Hornblower), on his intrepid cycle from Cambridge to Kenya to raise money for Kenyan Schools. You can follow the whole journey and the growth of his beard at www.downrightkenya.org

Dear Friends and Family,

A very warm hello from Istanbul, where we are resting weary legs and planning the next stage of our epic cycle ride to Kenya. With beds for the first time in two months, this preparation has majored in Turkish-delight-gorging and the search for a mythical map projection that makes Sudan look a bit smaller. But tonight we pack our panniers and head for Syria, and thence to Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

Also an enormous **thanks for your overwhelming generosity**; we are already 2/3 of the way towards our total fundraising target. During school visits we talk about this huge ground base of support with enormous pride - and it nearly makes up for my incompetence at answering their geography questions.

These **school visits have been a revelation**; gasps of delight when the stove-lighting demo goes wrong and results in the trial-beard becoming even scaggier, and children who really do connect with the charity's work in Kenya. Their response has been with imaginative fundraising, pen-pal and other reciprocal links, and the most amazing onward contacts.

This has made us think how we can spread the word to an even wider audience. Our **website** continues to evolve and we've had over 50,000 hits: you can track our daily progress on a Google Map, send in recipes to keep us fit and healthy, buy a t-shirt that will immediately double your sex appeal, and read about our exploits on and off the bike. **Have you recently had a good look round?**

I can promise you this: that for the children we present to, for the Kenyans we are cycling towards, and to inspire us when we are tired, every extra person who shows an interest is a huge lift. So, aware that you have already done much, **can I ask for your help in forwarding this message to your friends**. Some of those people browsing at the site may like to donate or offer ideas for other fundraising, but we are most interested in just getting them to have a look.

I'll write again soon. With love and best wishes.

PK



Free buffet & Charity raffle

In the back room at the Fort St George
Wednesday 10th December 7pm onwards
Come and join us...

Come and celebrate Christmas with your fellow boaties. 'Tis the season to be jolly and all that and we've got so many new folk in our community it'd be good for us all to get to know each other. More importantly, we will be donating any raffle money raised to a local charity. So un-baton the hatches, get down the pub, have a laugh and catch up with friends and neighbours who you haven't seen for an age. They may even buy you a drink!

Competition Time....

Have you got a love of tinsel?

Does your boat need a bit of sparkle in its life?

Then get into the festive spirit and enter our

**'Decorate Your Boat'
Competition.**



Prizes will be awarded for:

- ❖ Most imaginative decorations
- ❖ Most festive boat
- ❖ Simply the Best



Judging will take place on Wednesday 10th Dec and prizes will be awarded at the Christmas Do in the evening. 'Simply the Best' wins a bottle of Champagne with other fabulous prizes for the rest.

City Council Mooring Report

A report on updates to the River Moorings Policy for 2009/10 will be made to the Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation, Councillor Julie Smith, in January 2009. The report will contain updates on progress made regarding mooring rings and mooring issues at Riverside. It will also contain recommendations to;

- Amend the Mooring Licence Agreement, with reference to the notice period given for determination of a licence extending this to 7 days from 3 days.
- To change the policy for waiting list management in relation to wide beam vessels as discussed with Camboaters.
- To implement a series of terms and conditions to be adhered to by those wishing to remain on the waiting list for a River Mooring Licence.

Safety Ropes/Grab Chains

It is a requirement of the River Mooring Licence Agreement that boats ensure the provision of grab chains or safety ropes on the riverside of the moored vessel. Not all boats currently have the provision of a grab chain or safety rope. Therefore, please ensure you have a safety rope or grab chain on the riverside of your boat, as this is a safety issue for yourselves as well as other river users. Below are a couple of links you can use for ideas for suitable safety ropes:

<http://www.force4.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/292/groupID/12/category>
<http://www.purplemarine.com/Product.aspx?ProductCode=29008>

Theresa White, Cambridge City Council

MISCELLANEOUS

"Available for rental - 44ft houseboat in Cambridge; basic but cosy; suit one person or a couple - call Mike 07980 707076"

A BIG THANKS to the guys who gave up their time on Friday evening to host the 'Boaties Christmas Party' on the Georgina. It was a fun evening and much appreciated by all.

Congratulations to Sally and Arvind on their new arrival.



News from the Cam Conservancy

Events on the River

The diary of approved events on the River Cam is close to being finalised for 2009. There remain a number of events up until the end of the year, and Camboaters are asked to make a note of the times when the river will be used for rowing races and fishing matches.

If an event is over-running on its official time 'window', please bear with the organisers and allow them to finish their activity before setting off from your moorings.

2008

Thu 4 Dec 08:15 to 16:15	Fairbairn Cup Races	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Fri 5 Dec 08:15 to 16:15	Fairbairn Cup Races	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Sun 7 Dec 10:00 to 15:00	Winter League Match	Penny Ferry	CFPAS
Sat 13 Dec 10:30 to 14:30	Christmas Head	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	City RC

2009 (provisional, up to March)

Sun 4 Jan 10:00 to 15:00	Winter League Match	Baits Bite to Clayhithe (Cam B)	CFPAS
Sun 11 Jan 08:30 to 14:30	Winter League 1st Leg	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	X-Press BC/City RC
Sat 24 Jan 09:15 to 13:15	Cambridge Head to Head	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	City RC
Sat 31 Jan 12:00 to 17:00	Newnham Short Course	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	TBC
Thu 1 Feb 10:00 to 15:00	Winter League Match	Baits Bite to Clayhithe (Cam B)	CFPAS
Fri 6 Feb TBC	Robinson Head	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	Robinson College
Sat 14 Feb 08:00 to 17:00	Pembroke Regatta	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	Pembroke College
Fri 20 Feb 13:00 to dusk	Lents Getting On Race	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Sun 22 Feb 08:30 to 14:30	Winter League 2nd Leg	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	X-Press BC/City RC
Tue 24 Feb 13:00 to dusk	University Lent Bumps	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Wed 25 Feb 13:00 to dusk	University Lent Bumps	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Thu 26 Feb 13:00 to dusk	University Lent Bumps	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Fri 27 Feb 13:00 to dusk	University Lent Bumps	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Sat 28 Feb 12:00 to dusk	University Lent Bumps	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	CUCBC
Sun 1 Mar 10:00 to 15:00	Winter League Match	Baits Bite to Clayhithe (Cam B)	CFPAS
Sun 8 Mar 08:30 to 14:30	Winter League 3rd Leg	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	X-Press BC/City RC
Thu 12 Mar TBC	St Catherine's Cardinals	Baits Bite to Chesterton Footbridge	St Catherine's
Sun 15 Mar 12:00 onwards	Junior Sculling Head	Plough Reach to Penny Ferry	Champ. Thames RC
Sun 15 Mar All day	Turing Trail Relay	Waterbeach to City (towpath)	Ely Runners

If you should like to host an event on the river, or if you have any comments or complaints in relation to any of these events, please contact the River Manager (river.manager@camconservators.org.uk, telephone 01223 863785 office hours).

River water quality

The population of Cambridge should be proud that the river running through it is of good water quality, supporting healthy fish stocks so close to the City. This comes down to sympathetic management of the river plus the enforcement of numerous regulations by the Environment Agency (water abstraction, pollution control etc.). The Conservators also have byelaw powers to enforce the illegal disposal of waste into the river.

It is a criminal offence to discharge sewage directly into the river. A leaflet, jointly issued by the EA and Conservancy, is in draft form and this will be circulated to all boat owners in the Conservancy Area in the near future to remind everyone of their environmental duties. In short, please use the sanitary station at Jesus Green or at Ely. Don't get caught-out with your pants down!

There have been a number of oil pollution events over the last few months in the Chesterton area and the source of this oil has yet to be identified. If you see oil on the water, please report it to the EA immediately via their incidents' reporting hotline (0800 80 70 60). Oil can have a catastrophic effect on fish and wildfowl populations, and dispersing it further with washing-up liquid is not the answer. EA Environment Officers are trained in responding to these type of emergencies and have the appropriate equipment to deal with oil spills. The EA recommends that vessel owners should invest in a small oil- absorbent pad for emergency oil leaks. It is possible that these might be available to Camboaters from the EA at a discounted rate (negotiations in progress, more about this soon).

Works at Jesus Sluices

The EA is to commence a programme of repairs at Jesus Sluices in the New Year, including the installation of an elver pass to assist in eel migration up the river.

Registration 2009/10

The EA has announced that its registration fees for the Anglian Region are set to increase by 7.8 % next year. The Conservators will review their scale of fees at their meeting in January (see below). Renewal forms from both authorities will be posted out in February. Vessel owners are reminded that the annual fee is due on 1 April for the year in advance (i.e. up to 31 March 2010). If you have changed address over the last year, please provide these details to the EA or Conservancy to smooth the process along.

Conservators' meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Conservators' is to be held on Thursday 15 January 2009, commencing 9.30am. This meeting is open to members of the public. Note the meeting is to be held at Queens' College, not the Guildhall, on this occasion. An Agenda will be published on the Conservators' website in the New Year.

Since this is the last newsletter before Christmas the Conservancy staff would like to wish everyone on the River Cam a Happy Christmas.

Dr. Pip Noon
River Manager, Cam Conservators

Nautical but Nice

After the knock-out success of Nautical But Nice in September, volunteers are called to contribute to next year's events. Kicking off with the long-awaited portraits of boaters taken by Italian photographer Alice Fiorilli at the Museum of Technology in late March 09, there will be another exhibition planned for later in the year with a Nautical Erotica theme.

The event at the Museum of Technology in September was attended by over 200 people, and was a huge success, with art sold yet again, and very positive feedback from the larger Cambridge community who enjoyed the range of art, music, photography and film on show.

Volunteers very welcome to get involved and liaise with this thriving community of artists inspired by all things nautical, and the River Cam! Particularly keen to show the artwork of resident boaters on the river, and to develop the boat-gallery ideas for next Summer. Watch this space for details of Alice Fiorilli's fab portraits of the community - a positive celebration of diversity and a challenge to cultural stereotypes on the River Cam.

NB Alice is interested in photographing more boaters for the series of portraits, if interested please do get in touch.

Contact Nautical But Nice curator, Ruthie Collins

ruthiecolbird@yahoo.co.uk

BOATIES NIGHT CRUISE

Date tba

8pm til Midnight

Jesus Lock

All Welcome

**Admittance fee – what you can afford
towards staff costs**

**Bar open – Music
(and bring your own instruments)**

Dear everyone

2008 saw a busy productive year for Camboaters, thanks to you all especially the previous committee members who gave up their time and energy to represent our community at the City Council & Cam Conservancy meetings and to assist with the organisation of all our annual events. Well done for the successes you have achieved over the past year.

Following a rather lively AGM, we now have a new committee: *Chair:* Mark Rogers, *Treasurer:* Roz Conygham, *Secretary:* Clare Laidler, *Social Secretary:* Toni Rogers, *Projects:* Ryan Howe, Rod Downie, Ben Phalan, Andy Rankin, Clare Rosscornes, Jared and Luther. Thanks to Lisa B for a great job on the website: www.camboaters.co.uk.

Next year promises to be equally as lively and exciting, probably more so, as we tackle issues such as recycling, composting, mooring rings, waiting lists, dredging, river bank improvements, mooring ban reviews for Midsummer Common & the Railings on Riverside. On a lighter more enjoyable note, there are socials to organise and attend; a Boat Open Day, The Great Cam CleanUp and the Wacky Barge Races!!!

So do come along to the Christmas Do at the Fort St George on the 10th where you can meet the committee and fellow boaters for an evening of Fun & Frolic.

Thanks for taking the time to read Camboaters Xmas News 2008.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2009.

May all your dreams come true, live long, prosper and be safe on the water.

Luther Phillips
For and on behalf of Camboaters