

March News 2009

Dear All,

Good news... spring is almost here, longer days, warmer rays, more sunshine, April showers and pretty flowers.

Few things to report:

- The long awaited Notice board will now be erected on Stourbridge Common - watch this face.
- The Mooring Rings report has been sent to the City Council, hopefully they will understand the point we are trying to make and finally install them.
- Riverbank Improvements due to commence in May, if you have a problem with the embankment outside your boat report it to Julie Durrant 457532 (but not on Thurs or Fri).
- The funding application for "Boats in Bloom" has now been submitted. If the application is successful it means all residential boaters on the Cam, including Riverside will be provided with hanging baskets, pots, seeds and compost to grow plants, flowers, herbs, spices or crops. If the application is unsuccessful I am sure you will join me in adorning your boats with flora, greenery or herbage befitting the Cam in an attempt to beautify it. Do let me know if you wish to take part.
luther_p@hotmail.com
- Quarterly meeting with City Council - Weds 1st April 2009
- Cam Conservancy meeting - Thurs 16th April 2009

If you would like the committee to raise an issue at either of these meetings please email: committee@camboaters.co.uk

The Great Cam Cleanup - Saturday 25th April 2009

Do your bits for the environment while enjoying a day by our beautiful (soon to be cleaned) river! Join Camboaters in a clean up of the River Cam and surrounding areas. Gloves, litter pickers and bags provided – just bring lots of enthusiasm!

To register email: camcleanup@camboaters.co.uk

What to do, if someone leaves a present for you...

Don't put your foot in it, stick this in it instead, and then you will know where not to thread!!!



"Update from Camboater, PK, on the intrepid cycle from Cambridge to Kenya for charity: www.downrightkenya.org"

Is that a 'Phew!' I hear? Fear not - soon you will be spared these dull updates with details of saddle sores, border fiascos and other trivia. No, instead you will have something far worse: me boring you in person...

It has been a fun couple of months in which we have crossed the sweltering Sudan (luckily during their winter) and climbed to the Ethiopian High Plateau where we are now resting in Addis Ababa. On the way, Sarah has become the only person I know to fall down a long-drop; we have become mobile water bottles during long desert crossings; and we have pushed the bikes for days through merciless sand. We have all had bad stomachs, funny haircuts and been treated to wonderful hospitality throughout. And that is probably as succinct a round-up as I can manage, what with still having the bad stomach; but you can look at photos from the first leg (as far as Egypt)

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pksapper/DownRightKenya#>

Tomorrow we leave on our final fortnight of cycling, hoping to arrive at Gilgil in time to spend some time visiting the charity's schools, and to help arrange an official Arrival Party on the 24th, before flying home at the end of the month.

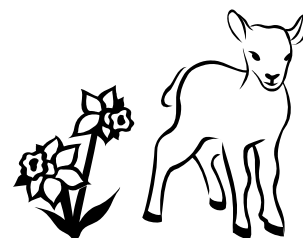
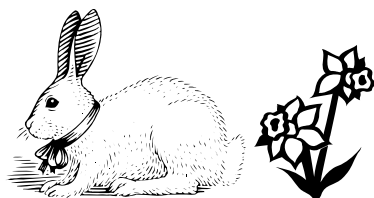
Oh and if you've sent a text message in the last couple of weeks - apologies, my mobile has not worked at all while here in Ethiopia. I promise I haven't been ignoring you!

Right; so here's your warning to get into hiding...

PK

(Still fundraising at <http://www.justgiving.com/pkdownrightkenya>)





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Recipe

Parsnip, Leek and Lemon Soup (Serves four)

1 oz butter
1lb parsnips, peeled and sliced,
3 medium leeks, washed and sliced,
1 litre vegetable stock,
grated rind of half a lemon
juice of half a lemon,
1 bay leaf,
quarter pint of single cream,

Melt the butter and cook the parsnips and leeks for 5 minutes in a covered saucepan without colouring.

Add the vegetable stock, grated lemon rind and bay leaf,

Bring to boil and simmer gently for about 15mins until the vegetables are tender.

Cool a little, remove the bay leaf and add the lemon juice.

Puree thoroughly in a liquidiser until very smooth.

Add cream, taste for seasoning and reheat but do not boil.

Don't forget you too can make contributions to the newsletter – share news, jokes, recipes, pictures, stories or your gripes or due rants to newsletter@camboaters.co.uk

Welcome back to our convalescents not - best wishes and swift recovery to Amanda & Mr C.

Luther Phillips
For and on behalf of Camboaters
March 2009
www.camboaters.co.uk

Frequently asked question

[http://www.waterways.org.uk/News/OtherCampaigns/Red Diesel](http://www.waterways.org.uk/News/OtherCampaigns/RedDiesel)

Q. What about residential boat owners where nearly all fuel is for domestic purposes - what can they declare?

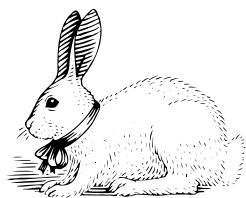
A. We have recognised the status of residential boat owners whose primary residence is their boat. Some of these will be at fixed moorings or move just a very short distance along the tow path from permanent moorings. If they live aboard the craft permanently and hold certain documentation, such as a Houseboat Licence, Residential Mooring Licence, Council Tax Bill in respect of the mooring, or other peripheral documentation, invoices or bills which provides proof of permanent residency, they may purchase all their fuel at the rebated rate (as if they were a commercial vessel). They will still be required to make and sign a declaration saying that 0% of the fuel is for propelling purposes. It will be the responsibility of the declarant to ensure that they hold the requisite documentation should HMRC wish to check the validity of the declaration made in these circumstances.

Boaters Tips

1. In a thunderstorm always keep one hand in your pocket. If both hands are touching metal, you stand a better chance of completing a circuit if you get hit by lightning. One hand in your pocket can help prevent this.
2. A red or purple sunrise without any clouds presages wind and rain. That old saying "Red sun in the morning, sailor take warning," has basis in meteorological fact.
3. Avoid towing your boat long distance with fuel in its tank; the added weight creates more stress on your tow vehicle's transmission.
4. Always have passengers step off your boat before refuelling at the dock to avoid static and to protect them in case of a fire.

The '**Centuries of Waste**' event will take place at the Cambridge Museum of Technology on Sunday 15th March from 11 am to 5 pm. Displays will illustrate waste processing past, present and future, recycling around the world and recycled art. Illustrated talks from 2pm will also cover the history and immediate future of waste processing in Cambridge, followed by an open forum involving the leading waste specialists in the UK. This event is part of the Cambridge Science Festival and the National Science and Engineering Week.

*Mark Palmer - miltonfen@tiscali.co.uk
Events Organiser*



camboaters

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A Brief History of Stourbridge

During 1199 King John granted the Leper Chapel at *Steresbrigge* in Cambridge dispensation to hold a three-day fair to raise money to support the lepers. The first such fair was held in 1211 around the Feast of the Holy Cross (14 September) on the open land of Stourbridge Common alongside the River Cam.

The name came from a Cam tributary, the Stour, at the eastern end of the common. The fair grew to become one of the most important in Europe by the 1390s, with the University controlling the weights and measures. During its history the fair was variously spelled "Stir-Bitch", "Stirbitch" and "Sturbridge", with its name derived from the "Steer Bridge" (i.e. a bridge for oxen), where the road to Newmarket crosses a small river that enters the Cam just to the east of the common (the name "Sture" or "Stour" now given to this river is a back-formation)

The town received a charter to administer the fair in 1589. Much of Sturbridge Field was enclosed in 1811, leaving Sturbridge Fair Green. The fair declined at the end of the Eighteenth Century and the town formally abolished it in 1934.

The fair's location, with the river allowing barges to travel up to the Cam from The Wash, and near an important road leading to Newmarket, meant that the fair was accessible to a large population. And despite its proximity to Cambridge, the charter prohibited anyone from imposing taxes on the commerce there.

ecops.abbey@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Just a quick update on some of the work your local team have been involved in during the past couple of weeks.

The top of our agenda at the moment is burglary and I'm pleased to say we have made a number of arrests. This work has been a good example of how you, the public, can help us to fight crime.

Other incidents of note include:

During the week two officers were on patrol in Cherry Hinton when they came across a man in his car. There were concerns for this man's welfare. PC Haynes and PC Adams stayed with the man offering him support while they waited for the ambulance which saved his life.

A man was arrested last Tuesday evening for drink driving. An officer on duty recognised the man and he was later charged with producing cannabis, supplying amphetamine and possessing and supplying cocaine.

A vehicle in Cambridge failed to stop for a traffic officer, resulting in a lengthy pursuit. With the assistance of the force helicopter the driver was eventually stopped and arrested.

Remember, you are the eyes and ears of your neighbourhood so keep us informed of any suspicious activity. All of these good, positive stories demonstrate that you can make a difference so if you have any information relating to criminal activity call us on 0845 456 456 4.

Regards

Jen and Tony

Abbey Neighbourhood Policing Team - PC Andy Badcock, PC Mitch Basford, PCSO Jenny Rouse & PCSO Anthony Marriott

Cambridge City Mooring Licence 2009-10

If for some bizarre reason you have been on Mars and have not returned your re-application form..! You may have missed the deadline, please contact Julie Durrant 01223 457532



News from the Cam Conservancy

Jesus Lock

There has been some confusion about the use of Jesus Lock recently. The Conservators have a byelaw (10.5) which states that 'the passage of all vessels through Jesus Lock shall be under the control of the Control Officer' (the Control Officer being the River Manager as of September 2006). The most recent set of byelaws date from 1996 and I believe that this arrangement had been in existence for a considerably longer period. This 'check' on the public right of navigation is for the purposes of maintaining public safety along the College Backs. I have never said 'no' to any request, but it is helpful for us to have prior notification of your intentions so that we can forewarn the punt operators and other river users, so reducing the potential for any incidents.

'New' slacker gear boxes have been fitted to the v-doors of Jesus Lock in February. The old units were reaching the end of their lives and bizarrely, had different-sized spindles. Winding the slackers was becoming a bind, sometimes literally! The new gear boxes have come from the River Nene where the EA has been fitting a different type of gear box. Rather than see them skipped, we made an offer to re-use them. A new tapered spindle has been fitted to the gear-boxes so that 'one size fits all', i.e. you may use a standard Great Ouse windlass or canal-type windlass.

The contract for the replacement of the leaking wooden lock gates is about to be awarded. More news in the next issue of this newsletter.

Off with their heads!

There have been a number of instances recently when people have not been opening the guillotine gate fully at Baits Bite Lock before continuing upstream. This is very dangerous! By reducing headroom clearance for others, a potentially nasty accident could happen, causing damage to a vessel's superstructure or a head injury to an unwary skipper, particularly at night or in strong flows.

Please let your finger on the button for that extra 20-30 seconds to ensure that the gate is open fully before you leave the site. Thank you.

Registration reminder

Vessel registration fees are due, for the year in advance, on 1 April.

Bushing works, Milton to Horningsea

The river crew have been busy this month clearing low-lying branches along the reaches of the Cam from Milton to Horningsea. The floods last month brought down a lot of rubbish which had become entrained in the river margins, making these rural reaches look particularly unsightly. The area is now looking much neater, but volunteer efforts during the Cam Clean Up Day would be a great help to us, particularly for those or you in smaller boats such as canoes who can get into those awkward spots.

Events on the river this month

Thursday 12 March: Cardinals Regatta (organisers St Catz BC), Long Reach, all afternoon. A colourful spectacle of crews competing in fancy dress.

Saturday 15 March: Cambs Champs Junior Sculling Head (organisers Champion of the Thames RC), Plough Reach to Penny Ferry, 12:00 hr onwards (expected to finish by dusk). Also, runners taking part in the Ely to Cambridge Turing Trail Relay will be using the towpath all day.

Sunday 29 March: RAF Regatta (organisers Cambridge University Air Squadron), Long Reach, times to be confirmed.

NB. Coarse fishing close season commences midnight 15 March until midnight 15 June. If you see anyone fishing they are doing so illegally! Please report this to the EA immediately using their hotline number 0800 80 70 60 (drop the first zero if calling from a mobile phone). Many thanks for your assistance in preserving our fish stocks in the River Cam.