

## From the seat of the Chair

Hello Everyone

Well it has been quite a month since the last newsletter, with the situation on riverside being thrown into the spotlight by the Cambridge Evening News writing their scandalous article. Camboaters committee have been very active in talking to the RARA (Riverside Residents Association) to find a way in which boaters can live in greater harmony with the house dwellers (housers), this action has been spearheaded by Committee Members Jared and Clare, ably assisted by Basil, well done guys! The upshot looks as if it may be a code of conduct devised the riverside boaters.

Relations between boaters and housers are not as vitriolic as the Cambridge Evening News would like everyone to believe!

However the immediate threat to the boats along Riverside is not from the housers, but from the powers that be in the rowing fraternity. The Conservators are considering the future of mooring on riverside on the 9th of July. The grounds for allowing or banning mooring is the old chestnut of whether we are to be considered an obstruction to navigation. The Committee are gathering evidence as I write to put our case forward, we need all the support we can get with this fight, the powers in the rowing lobby groups are going to be better prepared than ever given their previous failures to get rid of us. If any one has any suggestions, ideas or wants to help, then contact any of the committee members or e-mail [committee@camboaters.co.uk](mailto:committee@camboaters.co.uk).

I would ask everyone to remember that our fight is not with every rower on the river, a considerable number of rowers support our cause and should not be alienated, and they could well be our greatest allies.

As you all know we have made our membership free and permanent, this has reduced the annual administration nightmare of renewing everyone's membership but has also made us a bit shorter on cash. We intend to apply for a modest council grant to help cover our admin costs, however in order to get this we need to show that we are making efforts to raise our own funds.

If anyone wishes to donate some money to the cause please send a cheque made out to "Camboaters Community Association" to; Camboaters, The Treasurer, C/O Outspoken Delivery, unit 7 Ronald Rolph court, Wadloes Rd, Cambridge, CB5 8PX.

We are also intending to hold some fundraising events in the near future, all money raised and donations will go towards funding the newsletters, maintaining the website and paying for social events.

Mark Rogers  
Camboaters Chairman

**Date and location of next Camboaters Committee meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June – on Lee.**

### **A date for the diary!**

September 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 is **World Rivers Day** and to celebrate Camboaters are once again hosting the **Boat Open Day**. For those of you who have missed out in the past, it's a really great day when boaters open their doors to the public who come and have a look inside and ask all sorts of questions. This will be followed by a free bbq for all participants. You can view pictures of past years at [camboaters.co.uk](http://camboaters.co.uk).

We need you to help us and are looking for people to open their boats and show folks around, helpers to steward/assist on boats, people to blow up balloons/ hang bunting and banners etc. We are also in need of face painters, an ice cream fairy and someone to bake the birthday cake - yes, Camboaters turns 5 this year!

Please contact Toni or Clare at [Committee@camboaters.co.uk](mailto:Committee@camboaters.co.uk)

# camboaters News June 2009

## "Boats in Bloom"

Dear Friend,

The objective of **"Boats in Bloom"** is to beautify the Cam and green spaces along the river, which the public use recreationally and where our flourishing boating community resides. It also aims to dispel one of the commonly held myths about the boating community - that they are incapable of maintaining a sustainable lifestyle (never mind watering a few plants).

Please find with this Camboaters June Newsletter (hand delivered to your boat) the first in this season's series of **'Pots of Happiness'** containing Calendula, Nasturtium or a mix of herbs. Over the next couple of months, a variety of plants, flowers, crops and herbs will be donated to every residential boater along the river Cam, if you choose to participate in **"Boats in Bloom"**.

If you wish to receive the full collection of pots (free of charge) in the coming months, please text me your name, mobile number, name of your boat and an email address.

Many boats already have gorgeous roof gardens, **"Boats in Bloom"** is simply another source of community green fingered giving to enhance your boat as well as provide you with free produce and ultimately beautify our local environment.

I sincerely hope you will take part in this sustainable enjoyable project and we look forward to hearing from you.

This offer is on a 'first come first serve' basis, so please let me know as soon as you can. The pots will be delivered directly to your boat, all you have to do is nurture them, enjoy the beauty, and engage in the therapy whilst rewarding yourself with the satisfaction of growing the odd meal.

If you suffer from hay fever, or are allergic to bee stings, wasp stings or anythings please do let us know.

Do get in touch if you have any seed, seedlings or saplings you wish to supply, swap or transplant up or down the river, for future **'Pots of Happiness'**.

With any luck you may well win the 'The Best Cam Pumpkin Competition' ...

Kind regards,

Luther & Nick  
**"Boats in Bloom"**  
 07980 621 761



<p>Down the stream the swans all glide</p> <p>It's quite the cheapest way to ride</p> <p>Their legs get wet,</p> <p>Their tummies wetter</p> <p>I think after all</p> <p>The bus is better</p> <p>By Spike Milligan</p>	<p>ENJOY THE CAM CLEANUP OR JUST WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ONE OF THE UKs BIGGEST FREE FESTIVALS?</p> <p>Then the Strawberry Fair Environment Team Need You!!</p> <p>Help keep the Common looking clean and green before, during and after Strawberry Fair.</p> <p>It's FUN! - Honest</p> <p>It's REWARDING! - In a Did the Impossible sort of way</p> <p>AND you'll be able to LEAP buildings in a single bound, throw your voice</p> <p>AND see through walls with the special powers you'll receive!*</p> <p>PLUS we'll provide FREE food from the best vegan cook in the known universe if you can go the distance.</p> <p>Join the madness by emailing me, Ian, Chief Grime Lord at <a href="mailto:imr12003@yahoo.co.uk">imr12003@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> <p>See You There!</p> <p>* Note: Special powers are not guaranteed, the scope of your special powers may go up or down depending on you imagination and the prevailing wind</p>
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As part of the BBC's Poetry season, there is a TV programme on BBC this Friday, 29 May, at 9pm called 'My Life In Verse' with Sheila Hancock (radio/TV presenter). Some of the footage was filmed on the Cam near Waterbeach, with a poem read on a freezing cold January morning by Peter Carter, Fenman and eel fisherman. There is more information on this series at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00ksk44>

Has anyone got any unexpected passengers stowing away on board? BBC Springwatch is inviting its viewers to send them pictures of 'nests in strange places'. See [http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/springwatch/2009/05/tell\\_us\\_about\\_strange\\_nests.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/springwatch/2009/05/tell_us_about_strange_nests.html)

## Message from Cambs Police Baywatch

Please take note of these recent thefts near Cambridge, and ensure that any canoes and kayaks are secured to each mother vessel as securely as possible.

Between 2-3.30 on 9th May two kayaks were stolen from a site close to the Manderson Trust on Overcote Road in Over. They were chained up. It has been reported that a blue van was in the area around this time but no more details - it was stated that the van had not been seen before. There are no descriptions of the Kayaks on the crime I am afraid.

Can boat owners ensure that all expensive items should be photographed and registered in order to help police and insurance claims. There is a website at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) where items of value can be registered totally free of charge - this site is supported by every police force in the county and if items are stolen, the owner can update the site with a crime number so if items are recovered police can check to see if on Immobilise. If you want more information about crime prevention measures contact your local policing team in Cambridgeshire by phoning 0845 456 456 4. For boat owners from out of county all police forces have crime prevention/community safety officers who can offer help if required.

### A brief history of Stourbridge con't - 1211 Stourbridge Fair granted to Leper Hospital

The charter to hold Stourbridge Fair was given to the leper hospital by King John. It was held on Stourbridge Common, named after the Stour, a tributary to the Cam just to the East of the common. The spelling of "Stourbridge" in the name of the fair has also variously been "Sturbridge", "Stir-Bitch" and "Stirbitch" (a spelling now preserved in the domain name Stirbitch.com).

An important factor in its growth was its location next to the river where barges from King's Lynn and the Wash could unload. Also a major East-West road to Newmarket was served by a ferry at that point in the river Cam. Thus, the fair was accessible to the whole country. It was also close to the lively town of Cambridge, but no individual or authority could impose limitations or taxes. ©1998-2005 S Slatcher

#### Few things to look out for:

- The long awaited Notice board on Stourbridge Common
- Mooring Rings
- 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).
- COW PATS

This is dedicated to the ladies of the river who like sharing!

Hot and Cold

A woman who my mother knows  
Came in and took off all her clothes

Said I, not being very old,  
'By golly gosh, you must be cold!'

'No no!' she cried. 'Indeed I'm not!  
'I'm feeling devilishly hot!'

By Roald Dahl – Submitted by Toni Rodgers

WELCOME to Baby Isla and  
CONGRATULATIONS to Rob & Rachel  
(NB Hornblower), Isla made her way into our  
world on the 25th March 2009 x x x

Luther Phillips  
For and on behalf of Camboaters  
© May 2009  
[newsletter@camboaters.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@camboaters.co.uk)  
[www.camboaters.co.uk](http://www.camboaters.co.uk)

Thank you to everyone for your contributions especially Nick & Ness Neville for supplying the '**Pots of Happiness**'



# camboaters News June 2009

## Events on the river Cam

Date	Event	Location	Organiser	Time
05/06/2009	Mays Getting On Race	Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton	CUCBC	16:00 to 18:00 hr
08/06/2009	Neff Pharmaceuticals Dragon Boat Racing	Plough Reach and Long Reach	C'99 Rowing Club/Gable Events	10:30 to 16:00 hrs (races every 15 minutes)
10/06/2009	May Bumps	Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton	CUCBC	11:00 to dusk
11/06/2009	May Bumps	Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton	CUCBC	11:00 to dusk
12/06/2009	May Bumps	Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton	CUCBC	11:00 to dusk
13/06/2009	May Bumps	Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton	CUCBC	08:00 to 19:00 hr
14/06/2009	Padova vs Cambridge punt racing	Darwin College to Bridge of Sighs	Friends of the Cam	Afternoon
15/06/2009	X-Press Head	Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton	X-Press BC	18:00 to 20:30 hr (First race 19:45, last race 20:00 hr)
17/06/2009	Riverboat Georgina casino (May Ball)	Magdalene College gardens	Riverboat Georgina	18:30 to 07:30 hr
27/06/2009	Junior/OAP/Ladies Fishing Match	Penny Ferry	CFPAS	09:30 to 13:30 hr

### Wilshin's Wildlife World

So, as a seemingly interminable winter has come to an end and spring is in the air, it is not just us who are breathing a huge sigh of relief. After months of silence, our riversides are once again alive with the sounds of raucous birdsong. Already the Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs are making their voices heard from the tops of scrubland trees, whilst in the dykes and ditches, Little Grebes are calling out to potential suitors and in the fenland reed beds the booming voice of the resurgent Bittern will soon be heard.

Nothing symbolises the start of better things to come more than the sight of the first swallow or the sound of the first cuckoo and now is the time for the Terns to return from their arduous migration for the rich pickings of fish our rivers have to offer. Also, let us not overlook some of our resident birds, such as the Chaffinch, who is looking resplendent in his breeding colours, with bright orange breast and slate-grey crown.

Away from the skies, bright yellow Lesser Celandine cover the banks, whilst delicious Poplar and (if you're very lucky) Morel Mushrooms can litter riverside moorings. Blackthorn hedges are already in full bloom, with the beautiful Hawthorn blossom soon to follow.

Around this time of year we all think about opening the windows and side hatches, and going for a cruise to clear out the cobwebs, but please remember that we are immensely privileged to have a breeding population of perhaps the country's most beautiful bird, the Kingfisher. They are dependent on the riverbanks for nesting, so if your wake is touching the sides, SLOW DOWN!

Dave Wilshin