

New to the Cam

(Well I have never seen it before)



Sagittaria sagittifolia (also called **arrowhead** due to the shape of its leaves) is a **flowering plant** in the family **Alismataceae**, native to **wetlands** throughout the temperate regions of **Europe** and **Asia**; in Britain it is the only native *Sagittaria*.

It is a **herbaceous perennial plant**, growing in water from 10-50 cm deep. The **leaves** above water are arrowhead-shaped, the leaf blade 15-25 cm long and 10-22 cm broad, on a long petiole holding the leaf up to 45 cm above water level on erect stems. The plant also has narrow linear submerged leaves, up to 80 cm long and 2 cm broad. The striking flower panicles are 2-2.5 cm broad, with three small sepals and three white petals, and numerous purple stamens. Flowers are produced during mid summer that are saucer-shaped and white and purple in colour. This will spread indefinitely. It is a marginal aquatic for still water to a depth of about 15cm.

Cultivation and uses

The round **tuber** is edible. In China, it is known as *cígū* (慈菇; lit. "benevolent mushroom"), and its tuber is eaten particularly on the **Chinese New Year**. It tastes bland, with a starchy texture, similar to a **potato** but somewhat crunchier, even when cooked.

This unusual and elegant aquatic plant has surprisingly sharp, arrow-shaped, deciduous, aerial leaves. The submerged leaves are narrower and translucent. The papery white flowers have dark violet centres and are arranged in terminal spikes. The flowers open from early afternoon to early evening and attract late-flying water insects.

Like some other pond plants, arrowhead is useful for emergent dragonflies. Some leaf beetles are specific to this species, which also attracts hoverflies. This is a splendid plant for a largish pond. It is susceptible to and should be protected from aphids.

Have you seen anything new or would like to share odd trivia with the river community, please forward to me at address below:

Luther Phillips
For and on behalf of Camboaters
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newsletter@camboaters.co.uk
www.camboaters.co.uk

From the Seat of the Chair
Riverside Mooring Saved!!!

Mooring on riverside is to continue! Thanks to a healthy dose of common sense by the Conservators for not following the river manager's recommendation to ban Mooring and for the efforts of boaters on riverside gathering evidence and writing reports. The proposal that was voted through at the meeting was to rearrange the boats on riverside into two zones, a wide beam zone and narrow beam zone. We will have to see how they are planning to accomplish this.

The reason for the recommended ban was on the grounds of health and safety of the rowers using this stretch. Their concern was based on evidence gathered on 3 mornings, this evidence was only gathered on riverside so does not show if there are more clashes on riverside than elsewhere. We have to prove that there is little risk of serious injury to rowers on this stretch of the river, a threat to mooring is not going to go away until we do!

There are a lot of boats turning green out there, Luther you have done a great job getting Boats in Bloom going, encouraging everyone and distributing seeds pots and plants donated by Nick. The river has never looked so floral!

There have been a lot of new faces on the river in the last few years and the Camboaters Committee reflects this, we are a mixture of seasoned cynical old boaters and fresh new blood. We are open to all boaters, if you to come along to the **next committee meeting it is on Narrowboat Lee 7.30 on 14th of August** you can phone me on 07930 272896 to find out where we are.

Camboaters should be important to boaters, we need a united voice to represent the interests of boaters. Camboaters was born from the fight to save mooring on Midsummer Common in 2004, since winning that first battle we have worked with the council to establish the mooring policy, successfully fought off an attempt by the council to remove the single persons discount and safeguarded mooring on riverside. The new committee is to be voted on at the AGM in October, we will need new faces so please consider getting involved, and we have wine at meetings!

See you all at the Quiz Night.

Mark Rogers
Camboaters Chairman

Updates & Downtdates

River bank improvements due to commence on Monday 20th July. Works will commence on Midsummer Common opposite Goldie Boathouse, working downstream. The plan is to repair a 20 meter stretch of bank at a time, which will take roughly one week to complete. Boats along this stretch of Midsummer Common are kindly asked to move, while the repairs take place.

Notice Board on Stourbridge Common is due to be erected sometime soon!



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Dates for your diary!

Hi Everyone - stick this in your diary and tell all your friends

Camboaters Fundraiser for Boat Open Day Pub Quiz

Wednesday 22nd July, 7.30 start - Fort St George, Midsummer Common

Bring your brainy friends and bursting wallets ready to bid on some awesome prizes.

You won't be disappointed!

Medicinal Plant Walk – Stourbridge Common

Meet Nessa & Jude outside the Green Dragon on 12th September 3:00pm, approx 2 hour walk. Wear sturdy footwear and practical clothing - £5.00.

Other dates available.

BOATY DVD/BOOK LIBRARY

We are trying to set up a community DVD/ BOOK lending scheme. If you are interested, the first thing you have to do is sign up by emailing the committee. Put DVD as your subject and tell us your name, boat name and a contact number. The emails go to committee members only and your information will not be shared with anyone outside the scheme. As soon as I hear from you, I will add you to a mailing list and any further information will be emailed to you.

So how does it work? Basically everybody who wants to join gives us a list of the BOOKS and DVDs they are prepared to lend out. We'll list them all on the website, you browse the list and when you see something you like you simply get in touch with the person whose BOOK/DVD you want to borrow and make arrangements from there. Look forward to hearing from you.

Toni N/B Lee - committee@camboaters.co.uk

River Events July – August

21/07/2009 CRA Bumping Races (Town Bumps) Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton CRA 17:30 to dusk (Start 17:30, due to finish 21:30 hr)
22/07/2009 CRA Bumping Races (Town Bumps) Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton CRA 17:30 to dusk (Start 17:30, due to finish 21:30 hr)
23/07/2009 CRA Bumping Races (Town Bumps) Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton CRA 17:30 to dusk (Start 17:30, due to finish 21:30 hr)
24/07/2009 CRA Bumping Races (Town Bumps) Baits Bite to Green Dragon Bridge, Chesterton CRA 17:30 to dusk (Start 17:30, due to finish 21:30 hr)
16/08/2009 Funky Flamingo Sponsored Walk Mill Lane and Byron's Pool along the towpath Funky Flamingo - For more information or to register your interest please telephone 01223 864515 or email nicky@inspire.org.uk 11:00 hrs onwards
23/08/2009 Model Boats on The Cam – Jesus Lock, Jesus Green - Cambridge Museum of Technology 10.00 - 17.00 hrs



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REMINDERS

This is a reminder to navigators about standard sound signals which can be used, and may be heard, on the River Cam (in accordance with international collision avoidance regulations).

- One short blast*: I am altering my course to STARBOARD (to the right)
- Two short blasts: I am altering my course to PORT (to the left)
- Three short blasts: My engines are going ASTERN (reversing)
- — Four short blasts, one long blast **: I am turning around with my bow swinging to STARBOARD (to the right, clockwise turn)
- — — Four short blasts, two long blasts *: I am turning around with my bow swinging to PORT (to the left, anticlockwise turn)
- Five blasts: your intentions aren't clear (what are you doing?)

* a short blast is about one second's duration

** a prolonged blast lasts from 4 to 6 seconds duration

There is a reticence for people to use their bicycle bells for fear of receiving an unwelcome reaction on behalf of the recipient. On the river, with greater distances involved and more background noise, the chances of your voice being heard is diluted significantly. So, do not be afraid to use your horn! If you don't have one, why not buy a portable air-horn, available from chandleries for around £12 apiece, or a whistle. Either would be more effective than shouting, which can be misinterpreted as an aggressive action.

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 types 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).