

Events on the river Cam

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|--|
| Sun 23 Aug | 10:00 to 17:00 | Model Boat rally | Jesus Green (above sluices) |
| Sun 23 Aug | 11:30 to 13:00 | CSC Cam Cannon Race 5 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 23 Aug | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC Cam Cannon Race 6 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sat 29 Aug | All day | Eagle Canoe Club tour | Cam |
| Sun 30 Aug | All day | Eagle Canoe Club tour | Cam |
| Sun 30 Aug | 11:30 to 13:00 | CSC RNLI Pennant pursuit race | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 30 Aug | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC RNLI Pennant pursuit race | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Mon 31 Aug | All day | Eagle Canoe Club tour | Cam |
| Mon 31 Aug | 11:30 to 13:00 | CSC Commodore's Trophies race | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Mon 31 Aug | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC Commodore's Trophies race | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Mon 31 Aug | 20:30 to 22:30 | 'Big River Man' showing | Spring Lane field, Grantchester |
| Sat 5 Sep | All day | CSC Macfarlane Trophy race | Waterbeach to Dimmocks' Cote, return |
| Sat 5 Sep | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC Munro Quaich race | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 6 Sep | 09:00 to 15:00 | CFPAS Club Match | Baits Bite to Clayhithe (Cam B) |
| Sun 6 Sep | 11:30 to 13:00 | CSC DSF's Pennant race 1 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 6 Sep | 11:35 to 13:00 | CSC YH Banham Trophy race 1 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 6 Sep | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC Piggott Cup race 1 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Thu 10 Sep | Evening | Cambridge Film Festival outdoor screening | Grantchester |
| Sat 12 Sep | 08:30 to 19:30 | Gable Events Dragon Boats Regatta | Long Reach |
| Sat 12 Sep | 09:30 to 13:30 | CFPAS Junior/OAP/Ladies Fishing Match | Penny Ferry |
| Sat 12 Sep | Evening | Cambridge Film Festival outdoor screening | Grantchester |
| Sun 13 Sep | 08:30 to 19:00 | C'99 RC Cambridge Autumn Regatta | Baits Bite to Chesterton footbridge |
| Sun 13 Sep | 11:00 to 13:00 | CSC Whitehead Memorial Trophy race 1 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 13 Sep | 13:30 to 15:30 | CSC Whitehead Memorial Trophy race 2 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 13 Sep | 15:30 to 17:00 | CSC Whitehead Memorial Trophy race 3 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Mon 14 Sep | Evening | Cambridge Film Festival outdoor screening | Grantchester |
| Sat 19 Sep | 10:30 to 17:00 | CSC Optimist Championship racing | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 20 Sep | 11:30 to 13:00 | CSC DSF's Pennant race 2 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 20 Sep | 11:35 to 13:00 | CSC YH Banham Trophy race 2 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 20 Sep | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC Piggott Cup race 2 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Tue 22 Sep | 18:00 to 20:30 | CBS Charity Duck Race | Victoria Road bridge opposite Boathouses |
| Thu 24 Sep | Evening | Cambridge Film Festival outdoor screening | Grantchester |
| Sat 26 Sep | 09:30 to 15:00 | Rob Roy BC Cambridge Autumn Head | Baits Bite to Chesterton footbridge |
| Sat 26 Sep | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC Munro Quaich race | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 27 Sep | All day | Camboaters Open Boat Day | Various |
| Sun 27 Sep | All day | The Bishop's Walk | Ely to Cambridge via towpath |
| Sun 27 Sep | 09.30 to 12:30 | University Alumni Weekend Regatta | Plough Public House to railway bridge |
| Sun 27 Sep | 11:30 to 13:00 | CSC DSF's Pennant race 3 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 27 Sep | 11:35 to 13:00 | CSC YH Banham Trophy race 3 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |
| Sun 27 Sep | 14:30 to 16:00 | CSC Piggott Cup race 3 | Waterbeach to Bottisham |

Swans on the Cam

As you will be aware we share the Cam with one of Britain's most elegant birds: Swans. The swans here are "Mute Swans", many people believe that they got their name because they don't appear to say much but anybody who owns a dog and allows it to get in close proximity to these swans will know differently, they hiss like snakes and can occasionally bark like a hungry hound when they are severely threatened.

Over recent years the Swan population has increased in the UK, the RSPB estimates that there are over 43,000 around the country, they prefer slow running rivers and lakes and feed off water plants, insects and snails, they should not be fed with bread or "human food". The increase in their numbers has been credited to less polluted waters and the ban of using lead weights in fishing.

Swans are fairly unique as they attempt to mate for life. However the RSPB notes that if a mate dies then the surviving swan soon finds another as an alternative. They build nests together with the Pen (female) doing the construction and the Cob (male) roaming the rivers scouting for material such as grasses, sticks, rushes and various other types of vegetation.

The Pen lays up to 7 eggs in late Spring but shares the incubation with the Cob equally. After 7 – 8 weeks the cygnets are born and stay in the nest or ride on their parents back until they are competent enough to face the river. They are nurtured by their parents for 4 – 5 months, when their wings start to get white they tend to flee the nest or get booted out.

Swans can generally look after themselves but occasionally get into trouble with unnatural hazards on the river such as fishing nets, plastic bags etc, they also fight amongst themselves as they are very territorial. If you see a Swan in distress then call the **RSPCA emergency number: 0300 1234 999**, this is a national line and not local, if you can find a postcode near to

where you are on the river it will be appreciated.

I recently contacted the RSPCA as we were concerned that one of the cygnets had a broken wing, luckily it didn't; a broken wing will be loosely connected to the body, dangling slightly and often show signs of blood. The unfortunate cygnet had a disease known as "Angel Wing" (it has various other names such as slipped wing, tilt wing among others). Angel wing is a deformity which is developed whilst the cygnet is growing and results in one of the wings, usually the left, to stick out from the body and leaves the bird unable to fly.

The cause of angel wing can be attributed to various factors, a high calorie diet, especially one high in proteins and/or low in vitamin D, vitamin E and manganese; excessive fast growth; incorrect incubation; unnatural mechanical interference or genetic inheritance. There is no cure for this disease in older cygnets and adults, however if it is discovered in the very young then vets can bandage the wing in and it will sometimes return to normal.

Hopefully the swan population will continue to grow on the Cam. Keep an eye out for them and call the RSPCA if you suspect any problems or injuries. Finally, if you are using the river please remember they are there and they share the river with you, several cygnets have been killed which causes enormous distress to the siblings and the parents.

Clare Laidler "Djovaki"

Herb Walk

No, not that kind of herb!

Nessa Neville (herbalist who lives on a boat above the lock is running some medicinal plant walks in Cambridge.....they last about 2 hours with tastings and recipes - £5 per person.

The dates are:

5th September morning at Wandlebury
12th September Afternoon walk along River Cam

For more details email Nessa:
bluebutterfly@zensearch.com

From the Seat of the Chair

Life on the Committee has settled back down concentrating on the day to day stuff. This usually means banging on to the council about the usual gripes, rubbish collection and lack of bins, transparency of the waiting list and mooring rings, to name a few. We do however have the boat open day to look forward to, on the 27th of September, just before we all disappear inside our boats for the winter again.

It is good to see the Council starting the bank repairs on Midsummer Common in earnest. Progress may have been slow up till now, but they are doing a good job and they think that they have enough money to work all the way to the railings! The Camboaters Committee do realise that the bank needs repair elsewhere too, we will not lose sight of this and will continue to seek a more permanent fix for the recurring holes especially on Stourbridge Common.

The Cam Conservators have also made a good job of servicing the Jesus Lock which is much easier to operate now and no longer leaks as badly, it is a shame that they didn't take the opportunity to install bollards as well, maybe next time?

Hopefully we can all enjoy the rest of the summer without any more threats to us like that on Riverside kick back a little sup beer and soak up some sunshine?

Mark Rogers
Camboaters Chairman

Love Cambridge Sparkle & Shine Ball

Building on the success of last year, Love Cambridge in partnership with John Lewis are hosting the 2009 Sparkle & Shine Ball on Friday 23rd October at The Brasserie, 10 Downing Street. A fabulous event awaits which will give you the opportunity to meet and mingle with members of the business community in this city.

An important part of the evening is the Charity auction, this year supporting Contact the Elderly. For a description of how Contact the Elderly works:

<http://www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk/>

Dear all,

As I write this newsletter I am once again thankful to everyone who has made contributions to Camboaters News (as well as our community initiatives) over the recent years. A successful newsletter comprises various contributions from many people, Camboaters Newsletters are indicative of a harmonious community. So I urge you to continue making your diverse contributions, which will continue to add to our newsletters' richness, furthermore empowering and enhancing our community.

With this in mind I ask for a few good pens to come together to carry on putting together the monthly newsletter and its delivery to all boats on the river Cam. As I approach fatherhood I intend to spend more time with my beloveds to provide them with the best opportunity for our future together.

The future of Camboaters is bright and there are still many successful outcomes to be achieved. Please look out for details of this year's Camboaters AGM.

Camboaters will also need representatives to sit on the following committees as I can no longer attend their meetings: Friends of Midsummer Common, Jesus Green Association and most importantly the Cam Conservators committee, as I plan to stand down after the 24th September meeting.

I believe it is vitally important Camboaters continue to have a noticeable proactive presence within Cambridge, especially on the river Cam, considering we live on it.

Please write to committee@camboaters.co.uk if you are interested in penning future newsletters or standing as committee member on next year's Camboaters committee, you could make all the difference...

'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'

Written by Luther Phillips
For and on behalf of Camboaters
© August 2009
newsletter@camboaters.co.uk
www.camboaters.co.uk

**Cambridge Past, Present & Future –
Transforming the Society**
7th September 2009 at 6pm, The Large
Hall, Guildhall, Cambridge



News from the Cam Conservators

The Environment Agency River Inspectors visited the Conservancy Area aboard patrol boat 'Ouse to Know' to conduct the annual boat count, 6 August. Under an agreement made some time ago with the Conservators, owners of motorised vessels are permitted to purchase an EA licence for the convenience of being able to navigate the waters managed by the two different authorities. The EA refunds some of these registration monies to the Conservators. The agreement does not apply to houseboats which must be registered with the Conservators.

The EA is moving closer towards its goal of harmonising vessel registration across its three regions (Southern, Thames and Anglian). Recommendations on the new charging regime will be taken to the EA Board in October 2009 with a view to implementing some, and perhaps all, of the changes on 1 April 2010.

Those vessel owners who have not paid their annual registration fees (due 1 April) are being issued final warning letters from the Conservators' solicitors. Failure to make payment on this demand will lead to prosecution proceedings being brought against those vessel owners for committing a civil offence.

The school holidays have brought a large number of visiting boats into Cambridge, a welcome sight. Visitors have included Steam Boat Association of Great Britain who steamed into the City on 26 July and members of the Ouse Valley River Club, St Neots, at the end of July. OVRC achieves 100 % licence compliance each year before the EA River Inspector has to pay an enforcement visit, and every boat is properly marked with its registration number on both sides of the hull in accordance to the EA's byelaws. A fine example to follow.

August is the only month in the year when there are no official rowing events on the Cam. Enjoy the break! The autumn list of events is given below. It is fitting that a diverse spread of events is taking place on this year's World Rivers Day, Sunday 27 September.

Minor snagging works to complete the new gates at Jesus Green will take place on 27 August. A one day suspension of navigation has been advertised (8am to 7pm). There will be no need for boats moored upstream of the lock to move on this occasion.

The EA is conducting its annual survey of the Cam fisheries this month. The survey method involves stretching two nets from bank to bank across the river for approximately 2-3 hours. The catch is measured by personnel in the water wearing drysuits. The sampling at Midsummer Common took place on 12 August and other dates are to be announced at the other sampling sites (A14 road bridge, Clayhithe, Upware) towards the end of the month.

A Cam boater suffered burns when his historic Banhams wooden cruiser 'Coleen' exploded at Upware on 4 August. The Boat Safety Scheme is investigating the causes of the explosion. The vessel had a petrol inboard engine. The Fire Advice Portal on the BSS website provides information on how to prevent fire and explosions (see http://www.boatsafetyscheme.com/site/FirePortal_216.asp).



FRIENDS OF
**STOURBRIDGE
COMMON**

Invite you to their Launch and first Public Meeting
7:30pm, Friday 11th September 2009
St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Road, Chesterton, Cambridge
Refreshments 7:15pm

- A brief history of Stourbridge Common by Honor Ridout
- Have your say on the future of Stourbridge

For more details please email: luther_p@hotmail.com