



Canal &
River Trust

Hello Yaz

Yes, I remember you, the good work that you were involved in at the Bristol Wood Recycling project in Bristol and the brief time we met outside the Southville Centre when you and my former colleagues were attending the training session there, but that's where our memories start to differ I'm afraid.

I'm sure I would have mentioned that my new job was challenging and rewarding - but as I have already stated, the words attributed to me are not ones that I said - it's not even a term I generally use. I've said many times, publicly and privately, that living on the canals can be a great lifestyle - but it's important to be aware what is involved. We're also obligated to fairly apply the rules as set down in the Act of Parliament to all boaters.

I agree that a constructive dialogue with continuous cruiser boaters is important. I can assure you that I, and colleagues, remain committed to that process. In the past few weeks alone I have had around ten hours of meetings with continuous cruiser boaters. I'm eager to continue those conversations to find agreement where we can, although I accept that we are unlikely to agree on everything.

Understandably in some of the work I'm involved with feelings can run high. I know this from some of the less polite messages I have received in relation to my work. However, I personally always believe that polite and civilised engagement is the best way forward.

Although we can't (and wouldn't want to) give prescriptive or individual guidance on how boats should move to meet our guidance for boaters without a home mooring, we have given more details of what we expect movement to be as a minimum over a year. Alongside this are details of the continuous cruiser monitoring process and an online map so boaters can see the kilometre lengths that we record boat sightings against. This information can help live aboard boaters to plan their movements in line with the guidance.

You don't mention whether you did take up residency on the water - if you did, I hope you're enjoying it and maybe I'll see you on the towpath. If not I might bump into you on the canal or somewhere else.

Best wishes,

Matthew