



Canal &
River Trust

ISSUE 3, March 2014

BOATING BULLETIN *London*

Hi,

Welcome to the March edition of the Boating Bulletin London, our round-up of what's happening on the London waterways, with information and links to other news from the Trust.

There's been lots going on this month, with a new community garden shaping up at City Road Basin, mooring re-instated temporarily at Kings Cross, volunteer lock-keeping team recruited, and much more.

We're pleased with the feedback on the Bulletin so far, and hope it's useful in spreading the word about boating in London. Please do share this email with your friends and contacts – we're happy to add people to the mailing list, so please contact me. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any suggestions for items in the next edition.

We'd welcome your feedback and ideas about how to keep improving what we do. If you'd like to get involved with us, or have ideas and comments to share, please contact me at sorwar.ahmed@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Sorwar Ahmed

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London User Forum

The London Waterways User Forum meeting (formerly known as User Group) is set for 7-9pm on 26 March 2014, at the London Canal Museum, N1 9RT. Places will be limited, so let us know if you're planning to come and if there are any topics you would like to be discussed, by emailing enquiries.london@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Chief Executive's Open Boater Meeting

Our chief executive, Richard Parry, will be holding an Open Boater Meeting in London on 16 April as part of his commitment to hearing first hand from our boating users and customers. The meeting will be held at Greenside Community Centre, NW8 8SR from 6pm. If you'd like to come, book your place at <http://crtopenmeetinglondon.eventbrite.co.uk>. Please note that space will be limited.

News

Increasing mooring capacity

We're currently reviewing parts of the Regent's canal for stretches of towpath where new moorings could be installed to help ease congestion. An initial assessment of a couple of sites has been completed, which could potentially accommodate up to 40 casual towpath moorings. We hope to undertake a technical feasibility shortly before commissioning installation of mooring rings. This will be part of a rolling programme of reviews to identify new locations, which we hope to work on with boaters.

Lighting at Hackney Wick

Tower Hamlets Council and the London Legacy Development Corporation are planning to install lighting along the towpath at Hackney Wick, from the Roach Road footbridge to White Post Lane. We welcome the investment by these partners to help make this area safer for everyone. We are working with the Council to agree suitable designs that respect environmental and heritage factors, as well as long-term maintenance arrangements.

Hanover School Towpath Garden Event

Just in case you missed it in the recent press, Hanover Primary School has been busy on the towpath at City Road lock in Islington.

As part of their towpath adoption they have built a community garden thanks to a grant from the Mayor of London and GLA as part of the Transform Pocket Parks Scheme, as well as £5,000 in donations from Friends of the Canal & River Trust and one of our launch appeals.

Work on the construction of the garden started in February with the installation of wooden planters and bike planters, the wood for the planters has kindly been donated by Jonathan West of Whitelands Wood. The garden is expected to be completed in April.

On Saturday 8 March 16 tonnes of soil were brought to City Road Lock by canal boat from west London and over 80 volunteers – some of which were boaters in the area, helped the parents and pupils from Hanover school unload it, making the day a real success.

Suzy Fogg, from the Hanover School Association, said, "Whilst it might be called the Hanover School Garden, just like all towpaths it's there for everyone to share, so we were really grateful when boaters moved their boats to make way for the soil barge, then came back to help us unload. Seeing everyone muck in was really inspiring to the pupils. A huge thank you from us to everyone who helped out on the day."



Better Towpaths for Everyone

With the support of the Mayor's Cycling Commissioner and endorsed by the London Waterways Partnership, The Trust published '*Better Towpaths for Everyone*'. This document sets out our response and commitment to the Mayor's Vision for Cycling in London. We continue to promote safe, considerate towpath sharing and with continued investment we can deliver better towpaths for everyone.

Please visit [this page](#) to find out more.

Community Boat moorings

Community Boats provide great opportunities for young people to enjoy the canals and learn about boating and the environment. Last year we agreed three spots on the Regent's/Little Venice where berths would be marked up to provide community boats with safe access to the towpath. The markings have since weathered away, but if you see mysterious white markings re-appearing at Little Venice, City Road Basin and Victoria Park, these are the berths we will be stencilling shortly to mark them as reserved for Community Boats use. Please keep these berths free for community boats to use.

Kings Cross – Granary Square moorings re-opened temporarily

Following a delay with building works alongside the towpath between Granary Square Bridge and Maiden Lane Bridge (York Way), we have re-instated towpath moorings until the towpath closure is required (probably around mid-April). Please be prepared to move off from this location when required.

New 'No Mooring' stretches at Hornmead Wharf

Two 40m (approx.) 'No Mooring' areas have been created opposite the layby moorings of Hornmead Wharf, between Little Venice and Kensal Green. Following increased popularity of this area for casual towpath mooring this has created an issue for craft on the long term moorings, as vessels on the towpath are reducing the space available for craft to safely manoeuvre in/out the laybys. Boats already moored at this location may stay for the remainder of their permitted 14 days. Boat owners approaching this area should note the 'No Mooring' areas designated by signage on the back wall of the towpath.



Towpath Use Consultation and Survey

The Trust is currently consulting on towpath use in order to put together a National Towpath Use policy. Our Sharing towpaths document sets out our key principles and a draft code which will be familiar to London boaters, having been piloted in London along with our [Share the Space Drop your Pace](#) campaign.

Please read more about the consultation and complete the short survey about towpath use by visiting [this page](#).

UPDATES

Maintenance update

- The operations team have had another busy month dealing with waterway repairs and planning future works. We've successfully completed lock repairs at City Road and Hampstead Road Lock – both jobs were identified by our engineers as essential works, and were planned and delivered at short notice, with both completed on time. We've also replaced one paddle at Mile End Lock.
- We've had feedback that we need to improve on the way we communicate about unplanned works, so we will spread the word in future through social media (including our new boating community communications volunteers), improved local signage and better communication with commercial boating operators.
- CCTV has now been installed at the Victoria Park facilities station, and is being monitored to ensure that no further criminal damage takes place. A more secure water tap installation is due to go in shortly too.
- As a result of the storms, we have had to undertake £40,000 worth of reactive tree works across the London waterways.
- During April we will be repairing a towpath slippage at Coppermill Lock on the Grand Union, which was caused by excessive flooding.

London Volunteering Update

We're delighted by the great response we've had to the Volunteer Lock Keeper campaign, and are expecting to recruit around 24 new volunteers, taking the London team to over 65! You'll see returning and new Volunteer Lock Keepers on site from early April with increased coverage at Camden, Old Ford (Regent's), Hanwell and Cowley. As well as helping boaters to operate the locks, our Volunteer Lock Keepers also keep an eye on the local area, help towpath users and keep their patches looking clean and tidy. We know that most of you appreciate a break but if you meet a Volunteer Lock Keeper at a lock and would rather operate it yourself just let them know.

This month Towpath Taskforce teams have been out hedge laying at Springwell Lock near Rickmansworth, collecting litter at Stonebridge Lock and sprucing up the River Lee towpath between Three Mills and the Bow Interchange. In April we'll be litter picking at Southall, painting and planting at Ponders End on the River Lee and holding an Easter themed two day event at Little Venice to prepare the area for the IWA's Cavalcade Festival. As well as our usual event, some of our volunteers have also been hard at work at our dock in Southall, painting one of our rubbish hoppers. Look out for an immaculate looking hopper returning to Little Venice soon!

For more details about these volunteering opportunities, and plenty more, please visit the volunteering pages on our website <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteering> or contact Debbie Vidler, Volunteer Coordinator for London deborah.vidler@canalrivertrust.org.uk.



Winter Moorings Review Survey

Following some significant changes to winter moorings in 2013/14, we're now after some feedback and would really appreciate your input.

So, whether you booked a winter mooring this year or not, we're really keen to hear what you think of the new arrangements and how you think they could be improved for next year. We've created a survey which is live now and running until midday 31 March 2014, so please do take a few minutes to complete this at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WinterMoorings2013>

And remember, if you have a winter permit that is due to expire at the end of March, you will need to move off of your winter mooring by April 1st!