



Canal & River Trust

BOATING BULLETIN *London*

ISSUE 4 - APRIL, 2014

This month's bulletin brings you all our news from a busy April, and is slightly later than usual due to the various Bank Holidays this month.

There's been lots going on this month, with dredging starting on the Slough Arm, a Towpath Taskforce working wonders at Little Venice, and boaters having a clean up on the Lower Lee.

Keep on sharing this Bulletin and pass on any details of people who'd like to go on the mailing list. If you'd like to be kept in the loop in between Bulletins, follow us on Twitter at @CRTLONDON and @SORZCRT.

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

Sorwar Ahmed

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Flotsam Flotilla on the Lee navigation

On April 5th, over 15 people got together in a boater-organised clean up. It was a hugely successful event, with boaters bringing along row boats to collect rubbish and other boaters joining in along the way when they saw what the team were up to. The Flotsam Flotilla travelled along the Lee navigation from Old Ford up to the A12, and just look at the results below!

Flotsam Flotilla organizer Ron Gooding said: "People in other areas are already planning to repeat the event which is the best endorsement we could hope for. I met some great, committed boaters who want to make a difference, and who wouldn't want to spend a few hours in a little boat with people like that?!"



IWA Canalway Cavalcade

The annual IWA Canal Cavalcade is coming up over the early May Bank Holiday weekend in Little Venice. There will be fun for all the family with a boaters' gathering, a pageant of boats, trade shows and stalls, bands, kids' activities, competitions, Morris Dancers, a real ale bar, a wide variety of snacks and food... And admission is free!

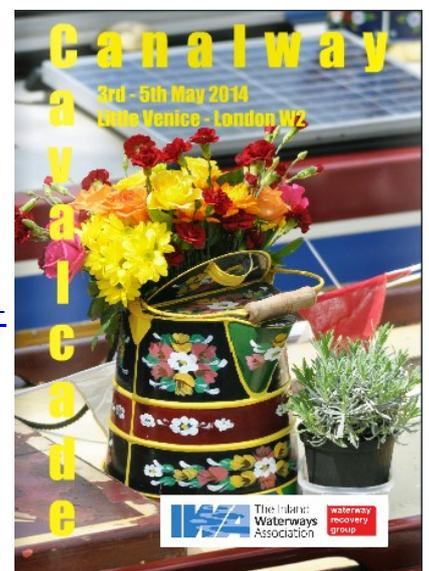
Check out the IWA website for full details:

https://www.waterways.org.uk/events_festivals/canalway_cavalcade_2014/canalway_cavalcade_2014

Cavalcade Mooring Restrictions

From 8am on April 28th until 5pm on May 6th, there will be a mooring restriction in place along the Paddington arm from Bridge 3, Harrow Road to Bridge 1A, St Mary's Footbridge. Full details of this restriction can be found here:

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notice/793/harrow-rd-bridge-to-westbourne-terrace-bridge-little-venice-pool-stone-wharf-and-all-moorings-up-to-paddington-basin>



London Towpath Taskforce

The fantastic Towpath Taskforce have been at it again in London last weekend, tidying up Little Venice ahead of the IWA Canalway Cavalcade 3-5 May. To see the kind of things the Towpath Taskforce do in London, take a look at this video from Easter last year:

If you're interested in getting involved in the future, check out the London Towpath Taskforce page on our website:

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer/ways-to-volunteer/towpath-taskforce/towpath-taskforce-london>



London Bike Hub in Brentford

Brentford Works is a new venture based on Brentford High Street providing a base for a wealth of community activities. Started in late 2013 to hire out cargo trikes to local traders and individuals, the programme soon evolved in to a shared space on the high street.



188 High Street provides an outlet for bike hire, bicycle servicing and the sale of new and used bikes. It also provides a space for a growing number of other traders, including; photography, coffee, fine quality cakes and soup. The unit is a stone's throw from the canal and the cargo trikes are ideal for transporting goods around the area. In fact, they've already been put to good use by our very own Towpath Ranger, Dick Vincent (left), to put new signage up along the tow path!

For more information, visit www.londonbikehub.com
Or follow [@londonbikehub](https://twitter.com/londonbikehub) on Twitter

Google Trekker now on the canals!

Google imagery of some of the nation's most iconic waterway locations, generated by Google Street View's latest piece of technology, the Trekker, is now live!

The Trust was the first organisation in the UK to take the Trekker on loan from Google. The Trekker – a four-foot, 40lbs backpack, fitted with a 15-angle lens camera, taking 360 degree pictures every 2.5 seconds – is designed to capture imagery in public locations that the Street View car and Trike can't typically reach.

20 staff and volunteers from the Trust trekked 130 miles across 72 locations around the country, including the some of the most idyllic, hidden and popular places on the 200-year network of canals and rivers.

The footage is available on Street View, on Google Streetview Gallery (<https://www.google.com/maps/views/streetview?gl=gb#!streetview?gl=gb>) and via the Trust's website canalrivertrust.org.uk

Can you find the canalside images that Google Trekker captured in London? Answers on a digital age postcard please!



London Open Boater meeting with Richard Parry

Despite it being a gloriously sunny evening, there was a great turn out for Richard Parry's first London 'open' boater meeting on 16 April.

There was a wide variety of questions asked and topics raised, including the demand for more mooring rings in London, the issue of rented boats and CRT's commercial moorings in London.

Many thanks to all those who attended. A full list of the Q&A session can be found here:

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/meetings/418/london-open-boater-meeting-with-richard-parry>



Cable Strike at Acton's Lock

A salutary tale — a boater recently ruptured a high voltage national grid cable whilst driving their mooring pin into the grass verge at an angle. The pin went under the towpath and penetrated the concrete trough in which the cables were buried, rupturing the cable and spilling oil out into the canal. By chance, the power had been switched off the day before.

Towpaths have many services in them, including electric cables, so use mooring pins **in grass only, and drive them in vertically**.

Do not put mooring pins into any hard surfaces as this can be extremely dangerous and causes considerable damage to our infrastructure, which can be very costly to repair. So, once again, a reminder to all — please moor sensibly and safely.



Lock landing signage initiative rolled out

The signage and temporary mooring initiative has now been rolled out to Old Ford Lock on the Regents, City Road Lock and the tunnel waiting stage at the western portal of the Islington tunnel (pictured).

The initiative reinforces the message that lock landings, service bollards near water points and facilities, and the waiting areas near tunnels are for temporary mooring only.

Please do not moor in these locations unless you are using the lock, tunnel, or facilities, as they cause inconvenience to other boaters. We will be monitoring inappropriate use, and providing formal warnings for anyone being inconsiderate.

Better Relationships Group

The Better Relationships Group on the Waterways in London Group, or BRG for short, was set up in the autumn of 2012 to help us improve communications between different user groups and to engage more effectively with boaters, in particular, in developing ideas and local policy with us. The Group is now actively engaged in policy discussions and has come forward with specific proposals for improving boating in London.

The Group has helped us develop the management plan for the Islington Visitor Moorings, the Caretaker Boater scheme, winter moorings proposals for London, and new management proposals for visitor moorings. It also has the potential to help provide information and support to boaters on a range of issues, from living aboard in London to living more sustainably on the waterways.

If you'd like to develop project ideas to improve boating in London in particular, and would like to know more about the work of the BRG, please contact me on Sorwar.ahmed@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Updates

Enforcement Update

Current open enforcement cases in London:

Licence enforcement cases	159
Continuous Cruising enforcement cases	206
Overstaying enforcement cases	30
Other cases (including Direct Debit defaulters, craft breaching T&Cs such as mooring on lock landings, railings, mooring pins etc.)	45

Maintenance Update

- Our contractors Land & Water have started a £750,000 dredging project on the Slough Arm.
- The secure water tap has now been installed at the Victoria Park facilities. We are trying to develop a long term, secure and functional design to prevent further vandalism and criminal damage that meets the needs of a wide range of users. We would welcome ideas for secure and innovative installations, so if you have any a design ideas please contact us at enquiries.london@canalrivertrust.org.uk
- In the last financial year our London team completed approximately 400 planned repairs, together with another 200 unplanned jobs on a reactive basis. The team achieved 75% of its target for planned works, which compares well with other Waterways across the Trust. We aim to complete another 368 repairs on defects this year, such as lock gate and towpath repairs, small piling and vegetation works.
- In mid-April we started locking Hampstead Rd. Lock on a trial basis at night due to excessive water loss. This has proved hugely successful in maintaining suitable water levels, enabling boaters to travel along the Paddington Arm safely. This will continue to ensure better navigation throughout the summer. We're sorry for any inconvenience this might cause to boaters wishing to travel at night. Local feedback, from both pleasure and commercial boaters, has been positive.
- The towpath slippage repairs have been completed at Coppermill Lock on the Grand Union, and the summer weed harvesting contracts are in place and will commence through May.
- The upcoming works in stoppages season will be on the Trust's website from May for consultation (<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices>). This will include major works to the Regent's Canal at Mile End, involving de-watering from October to December this year, and repairs to the lock gates at City Road Lock and Hawley Lock.
- 7 Day operation of the tidal lock at Thames Lock Brentford commenced on 1 April. The lock is open for 4 hours either side of high tide (local time). Opening times are available on our website. Please remember that a licence is required for cruising our waters above Brentford Lock, but please be aware that only short term licences can be purchased at the lock when boat safety and insurance is presented.