

CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM

8

8. River Manager's Report

Matters for Report

8.1 Administration

The annual subscription to FastHosts Internet has been paid. Barclaycard requested security information from the card holders (P Noon, J Wakefield) to comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. This is a series of measures being introduced by the Card Schemes (Visa and Mastercard) to help combat the increasing risks and costs associated with fraud through improvements to the security of card holder information.

The River Manager attended a meeting of the Regional Navigation Group at the EA's offices at Brampton, 8 June, representing the Conservancy whilst also providing a verbal report on behalf of the Anglian Paddlesports Group. RNG has expressed their willingness to allow four APG representatives to join future meetings. The River Manager has circulated the APG members with an invitation to meet and discuss their representation and their future ambitions ahead of the next RNG on 23rd November.

Mr Guthrie, RNLI, visited the offices on 28th April and emptied the collecting pots, recording £96-worth of donations (coins collected by the River Bailiff and the River Manager's speakers' fees for 2010/11).

8.1.1 Archiving: Loose copies of the Minutes, September 2000 to September 2006, have been bound into a hard volume by Brignell Bookbinders (cost £40). Mr Poore, donor of the unusual 'Fen Waders', has been in touch with the offices to learn of their repository (Ramsey Rural Museum).

Archive papers from the Guildhall (see Minutes, 14 April 2011) have brought to light old pontoon licences issued to George Reynolds for the Mill Pond, dated 19 September 1939, and Stanley Tyrell for Quayside, dated 8 April 1958. Digital copies of these licences have been provided to Scudamore's for their records.

8.1.2 Business Plan: Nothing to report.

8.1.3 AINA/BW: Circulars have been received regarding meetings of the All Parliamentary Waterways Group being convened in Westminster by the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP to discuss the transfer of British Waterways to a charitable status and the establishment of an appropriate model for the new charity's governance and management. Stakeholders have been given ample opportunity to contribute feedback at these meetings and they have also been given an opportunity to respond to the open Defra Consultation Document 'New Era for the Waterways', deadline 30th June. The River Manager submitted a Conservancy response. Regarding the transfer of the EA navigations to the New Waterways Charity, the Regional Navigation Group reported that this will only take place if all 3 of the following criteria are met: (i) if it is affordable; (ii) if the charity is a success; and (iii) if the charity's trustees are agreeable to the transfer taking place.

AINA's May e-newsletter reported on the publication of its report on volunteering, updated advice on residential use of the waterways, the appointment of John Gibson (Navigations Manager, National Trust River Wey and Godalming Navigations) as its Vice-Chairman, and the launch of the Defra consultation on the new waterways charity on 30th March. AINA has been seeking the early views of its members regarding its future role, strategy and work programme. The River Manager was unable to attend the meeting of the AINA Executive Committee in May (on annual leave).

The half-yearly (Jan-Jun) report outputs from the IRIS incidents' database have been submitted to the AINA office for uploading into the national master database.

8.1.4 Insurance: Towergate Insurance has provided a summary of policies renewed for 2011/12. All premiums, insurance taxes and broker's fees have been paid (£20,023.84). The Allianz Cornhill equipment inspector visited Clayhithe on 26th May to undertake safety checks on pressure stream cleaner and air receiver.

8.1.5 Office supplies: Nothing to report.

8.1.7 Staff: Barclays Payflow failed to acknowledge the Conservancy's payroll arrangements in April. The local Barclays Business Manager agreed to facilitate an emergency transfer of funds via the bank's Faster Payments Service.

The Deputy River Manager was taken suddenly ill in mid-May (non-work related) and received hospital treatment and required time off to recuperate (total 9 days' sick leave). This period partly overlapped with the River Manager's period of annual leave. There was no choice but to leave the office un-manned for 5 days. For the second consecutive month, the Barclays Business Manager arranged emergency payroll payments. The River Manager is in the process of negotiating emergency staff cover for instances such as this via Middle Fen & Mere Drainage Board. Mr Wakefield's predecessor, who is familiar with the Conservancy's accounting and payroll systems, works for the IDB and her Manager has agreed for her occasional release. This will tide the business over until the new administration support staff member is recruited and trained-up. Mr Wakefield will arrange training in the necessary procedures.

The River Bailiff was also signed off ill by his GP for 1 week in late June. He has also been granted Dependency Leave in line with his contract. As a consequence, there has been scant Conservancy presence along the Backs since mid-May, exacerbating punt enforcement efforts. The River Foreman was granted Special Leave in June following a close family bereavement. Upon the Chairman's instruction, corporate uniforms have been supplied by Simpers Ltd at a cost of £1,490.

The river crew are to attend a Lantra Basic Tree Inspection course at Bedford College, 15th July (total cost £450).

Volunteer gardener Jim Russell at Baits Bite (previously employed to undertake lock-keeping duties) has been unwell. The River Manager has asked for Mr & Mrs Russell to be recognised by Cambridge Newspapers as 'Community Champions' by for their contribution to the maintenance of the lock garden.

8.1.8 Licensing Act: A punt operator has been in contact with the offices regarding the selling of alcoholic beverages from a vending punt. He was advised to contact the City Council, as licensing authority.

8.1.9 Grant applications: the Big Lottery Fund has issued new guidelines for its Reaching Communities programme. The Heritage Lottery Fund has launched a consultation seeking views on how their funds will be delivered from 2013 onwards (see <http://www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/Pages/Consultationonourstrategicframeworkfor2013>). Cambridge City Council has issued guidance relating to changes in its administration and issue of Sustainable City Project Grants. Applications for up to £5,000 are being invited up to 31 March 2012 on a first-come-first-served basis. Council officers will consider grant applications for sums less than £2000.

The River Manager attended a meeting with City officers and representatives from the Jesus Green Association to discuss a revised project bid to the Heritage Lottery Bid under its Parks for People scheme. It was the group's intention to submit an Stage 1 bid by 31 August. The River Manager attended a subsequent meeting on 1 July and provided comments towards the funding application to the lead officer, Sarah Tovell, City Council.

8.1.10 Richard Hamersley (CUCBC): Mr Hamersley, Chairman of CUCBC, passed away at home over the Easter weekend.

8.2 Property management

8.2.1 Jesus Lock Keeper's House: Monthly rental has been forthcoming. As of June, the monthly rental has been adjusted upon the letting agents' recommendation to £1725 p.c.m. The tenants were asked to clear the accumulation of leaves in the property surrounds in May; in the dry weather this dry material was presenting a potential fire hazard. The tenants demanded tools in order to do this. Green bags, a broom and gloves were provided to them. The River Manager met with Anthony Bowen (Jesus Green Association) and Peter Pearce (Director, The Landmark Trust) on 13th May to discuss the Trust's managing of the property on a letting basis. The Trust has no similar properties in or around Cambridge. This could potentially, present an exciting future use for the building for consideration in the next 5-year Business Plan cycle (their management fees however, are around double those currently paid to Carter Jonas). Plans of the property's room layout have been sent to Mr Pearce for his consideration. A transfer of management under an agreement would almost certainly require an extensive re-fit of the interior. A Council Tax bill was received at the offices for the year 2011/12. Carter Jonas was instructed to remind the Council Tax department of the tenants' student exemption status. The gas cooker developed a leak on 20th June and the gas engineer made an emergency attendance to make it safe. The tenants were left to rely upon their microwave oven for food preparation the weekend 25/26 June. The engineer reported that the cooker, and the Cottage in general, was filthy. A joint inspection was undertaken with Carter Jonas on 27th June. The tenants had apparently made some effort to clear up in the interim. An action plan has been agreed with Carter Jonas and the tenants to attend to minor repair works and cleaning (e.g. toilet limescale). Another contractor paid a follow-up visit and fixed the cooker ignition but this failed again, possibly due to heavy handed use, a week later. The ignition has been isolated and the tenants will have to rely on a box of matches henceforth.

The River Manager wrote to the City Council's Trees Officer on 26th June seeking reduction of a large plane tree adjacent to the property. A large branch is pressing against the roof and may cause damage, for which the Council will be held liable.

The 6-monthly tenancy agreement expired 5th July; it will be renewed on a monthly statutory periodic basis until the 6th August when 5 tenants (2 existing, 3 new) will sign up for 6 months. Carter Jonas has been having difficulty encouraging the tenants to give formal notification of their intentions.

8.2.2 Baits Bite Cottages: Monthly rental has been forthcoming from both sets of tenants. Tenants in No. 1 Cottage were refunded the costs of purchasing a replacement toilet seat in May. The oil-fired boiler in No. 1 Cottage was serviced by M & M Heating in May (cost £101). Sygma Security has issued an invoice (£192) in respect of the intruder alarm annual maintenance for No. 1 Cottage. The Carter Jonas agent failed to secure the building adequately following a routine property inspection. The tenants expressed their concerns to the letting agents. The tenants kindly obliged the May Bumps race organisers for allowing the 'pole trolley' to be stored in their garden between daily races. The CUCBC gave the tenants a small gift of appreciation. B&T Mizon Thatchers had been in contact following their visit in December, wanting to know if the Conservators were likely to place an order for the re-ridging of the thatch (they require a year's notice). This expenditure will have to be balanced against other priorities. The roof does not, at present, leak. Mr & Mrs Clarke had renewed their tenancy at No. 2 Cottage from 8th April 2011 for another year (rental £960 p.c.m.).

8.2.3 Baits Bite Office: The DMS2 sewage treatment system received its annual service by Wendage Pollution Control in May (cost £192). SCDC has advised that under the Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009, the collective of properties at Baits Bite are classified as a 'small supply'. The supply will need to be sampled every 5 years at cost (this has previously been undertaken by SCDC free of charge).

A J Lee Drainage attended to a drainage problem in the parking area at the Lock at a cost of £1,560. An old well had been overflowing; either its capping stone had shifted or groundwater pressure had increased. A new, larger diameter drainage pipe has been connected to the well head and the pipework leads to a nearby field drain next to the Halingway.

8.2.4 Clayhithe House and Depot/Workshop: Gas-Elec has carried out remedial works to the electrics in the house at a cost of £1,026. The exterior security light near the kitchen door remains to be upgraded; Listed Building Consent may be required to drill into the brickwork. Their engineer has relocated the electrical supply for the workshop to outside the house at a cost of £424. An electrical installation work certificate of compliance has been issued. Lee Drainage attended to a problem with the septic tank and soak-away at a cost of £1,800. The hired porta-loo was removed from the yard once these works had been completed, being deemed no longer necessary. M & M Heating has serviced the boiler (cost £252). The water account serving both the Depot and House for the six months to 31/05/11 has been paid (£152). A fire blanket has been provided for the House kitchen.

Cambridge Canoe Club enquired about the possibility of an overnight camp stop at Clayhithe during a members' paddle between Cambridge and Ely on 19th June.

Cambridge Water Company has advised of the renewal of the water main at Clayhithe and its connection to properties in the area, requiring short periods of interruption to the water supply.

The River Foreman has asked if the carpet in the lounge can be lifted and removed. It is infested with moths and he claims that it exacerbates his wife's asthma. He has requested permission to

replace the carpet with laminate flooring. SCDC Building Conservation Officer said that a written application would have to be put to them for their consideration.

Drake Towage has invoiced their costs for the test piling exercise (£1,387); payment has been remitted. The company brought their welfare barge and tug to the Depot the week preceding the project start date for the refurbishment of the slipway and frontage. They commenced the works in accordance with the contract on 4th July. The working area has been fenced off in accordance with CDM Regulations. An information note about the project has been attached to the fencing.

The Police were called to the property in the early hours of Sunday 3 July. The family had been disturbed by men walking around the yard. Three squad cars attended. The men, all Eastern Europeans, had been fishing along the frontage and it was assumed that they had been looking for the toilet in the yard.

The Foreman has been given the task of arranging quotations for the repairs and exterior painting of the window frames (as agreed in the Business Plan to 2013).

8.2.5 Jesus Lock: Perennial plants have been purchased for the flower beds. These were planted out by the Jesus Green Association garden volunteers on 4th May. Ms Syngé (Camboaters/Transition Town Cambridge) was seeking 'Growing Spaces' for the cultivation of under-used areas for community fruit and vegetable gardens. She asked if the lock garden might be available for such a venture. The JGA volunteers were working to a planting design and possible alternative sites were suggested to Ms Syngé.

Scudamore's sought permission to take ferry punts through the lock to Fen Ditton to provide a ferry service between the towpath and Plough public house during the May Bumps.

The River Manager noted loose electrical cabling hanging at head height below the footbridge during a visual inspection survey on 7th July. The cabling supplies the EA's over-sluices lighting for use during emergency attendances. This was reported to the EA MEICA Team Leader, Rupert Wilson.

8.2.6 Baits Bite Lock: The lock was closed for precautionary reasons on 7 June. It had developed a serious clonk. R J Marriott Engineering paid an emergency visit. They discovered that the top gear box bearing had run dry and there were signs of oil leakage from the actuator drive at the bottom of the gearshaft. They returned on 8 June with an engineer from Rotork, suppliers of the actuator unit (bottom drive). Rotork inspected their unit and Marriott's lubricated the top gear box. The gate was brought back into satisfactory service. Marriott's made enquiries with the suppliers of the Reynolds gear box; their order had specified the fitting of a greasing point and they suspected that this had been omitted. The top gear box also required a weather cover to keep rainwater out. The lock was closed for further inspection, repairs and fitting of the gear box cover on 5 July (notice was advertised, but a number of boat owners had not read the notice and they had to wait). Rotork has agreed not to levy a charge for their engineer's visit. The top gear box bearings are now heavily worn and they will need to be replaced and this will be coordinated with the 6-monthly closure in the autumn.

8.2.7 The Halingway: The River Manager met with SCDC officers and Cllr Hazel Smith at Cambourne, 18 April, to discuss various means of resolving the foul smelling drainage issues at Grassy Corner. Officers were concerned about the health and safety risk (ditch of unknown depth filled with rubbish and putrid water). The drove linking the Halingway to Fen Road was unclaimed, believed to be under the County Council's remit. SCDC officers requested the

reinstatement of the ditch profile to the rear of the Halingway to improve drainage. The Conservancy has set aside no budget for this in 2011/12. It is possible that costs could be minimised by using in-house labour and a small excavator on hire. There is no scope in the work programme for tackling this until July, subject to other operational priorities. The group agreed to meet again in June to discuss progress (this meeting has not yet taken place). The ditch almost dried out in May owing to the drought, establishing that the feature is fairly shallow in depth (no greater than 2 feet). Mr Allen, Town Bumps Secretaries, has been pressing the various authorities for action to be taken in respect of the health hazards at Grassy Corner. A volunteer effort at cleaning the ditch took place on 12 June involving various local Councillors and officers and members of the public. The EA Environment Officer believes that the foul smells are the product of stagnant water rather than contamination by untreated sewage effluent. Milton Parishioners and others joined a litter-pick of Grassy Corner on 12 June. The EA took samples to confirm the compliance of the permitted package sewage treatment plants along Fen Road; some failings were found with the quality of effluent being discharged in particular, from Newfields Caravan Park. The EA, as Ombudsman, has produced its Dispute Determination report on the Dispute raised by Cllr Hazel Smith against the decision by Anglian Water regarding the duty to provide a public sewer at Fen Road, Chesterton under Section 101A of the Water Industry Act 1991. This was circulated to interested parties on 20 June by Cllr Smith. The EA has reached the decision that the caravans/mobile homes in the case do not have sufficient permanence to be classified as 'buildings' for the purposes of section 101A and they have determined the dispute in favour of Anglian Water (i.e. the duty to provide a public sewer does not apply to the premises in Fen Road, Chesterton and the Company is not under any duty to provide a public sewer). The EA recommended that the most appropriate solution to alleviate the adverse environmental and amenity effects is the provision of cesspools to replace the existing septic tanks serving the premises.

A house came up for sale at 26 Fen Road, Chesterton. A letter was sent to the estate agents asking that potential buyers be made aware of the need to enter into a formal easement agreement to gain access to the Halingway from the back garden.

The River Manager has asked the CUCBC and CRA if they would agree to the removal of the Gun Shed. It is in a derelict and dangerous state attracting anti-social behaviour and flytipping. It has been suggested that a tree could be planted to mark its site in perpetuity, in memoriam of Ian Thompson and Richard Hamersley (CUCBC).

The CE of Sustrans, John Grimshaw, was taken on a tour of the Cambridge Cycle Network by the County Council's Cycling Officer on 14 June. The group stopped briefly at Baits Bite to make introductions.

8.2.8 Lease of Fishing Rights: The invoice for the lease of the fishing rights for the period June-November has been issued to CFPAS Ltd (£1,065). Following an enquiry from a member of the public about fishing from a boat, the EA Fisheries team has confirmed that in most places, where the rights of the riverbank are leased, the rights apply to the adjacent waters as well. In addition to those sightings by Conservancy officers (see Note 6), the EA enforcement manager responded to a number of instances of illegal fishing during Close Season, the most favoured locations being near the A14 road bridge, Stourbridge Common and Grassy Corner (see Note 6). The CFPAS Ltd Bailiff, Mr Russell, was taken unwell in June, but has since returned to his duties.

8.2.9 Grazing 0.704 ha. (1.74 acres) Fen Road: See Matters for Decision.

8.2.10 Grazing 1.898 ha. (4.69 acres) Fen Road: A letter has been sent to Mr Moore reminding him that half-yearly rental payments are due in July and December by standing order. The Farm Business Tenancy is due to expire 30th June 2013.

8.2.11 Clayhithe Field 4.57 ha. (11.3 acres): See Matters for Decision.

8.3 Plant and equipment

8.3.1 Computer: The main office printer broke down in May. Repairs were arranged via Business Computer Supplies, St Ives. Parts were ordered and the job was turned around within 2 weeks. The River Manager's virus checking software has been renewed for another year.

A new workstation (PC, screen, printer) has been purchased for Baits Bite and AKM completed its installation on 17th June. The River Bailiff will receive a change of work instruction and he will report in future to Baits Bite instead of Clayhithe and Jesus Lock to work more closely with the Deputy Manager on byelaw enforcement matters. The office router was upgraded to a wireless system at the same time.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith has cancelled an old account hosted by zoneedit.com which referred to the old website.

8.3.2 Conservators' Boats: The Berky starter motor failed in June causing a temporary set-back to weed cutting operations on the Cam. The starter motor was repaired (cost £201) and the harvester was put back into commission in early July. A member of the public enquired as to whether the old Bailiff punt was up for sale. He was advised that the punt was being kept as a spare; replacing such an asset from scratch could be costly. In the last quarter (date unknown) fenders and fixing attachments have been stolen from the open boat 'Fred Young' whilst moored on the frontage at Clayhithe. The Chairman has agreed to the shot-blasting, welding repairs and priming of the 'digger' barge and small barge by Drake Towage Ltd (£2k + VAT). Both barges have been on the water for many years and their temporary relocation from Clayhithe frontage will assist the contractors whilst they undertake the refurbishment of the Depot frontage and slipway.

8.3.3 Vehicles: The annual road tax has been renewed for the ride-on mower (exp. 31/07/12) and Ford tipper truck (exp. 30/06/12). The Ford tipper is due its MOT in July. W Chipchase serviced and prepared the Mitsubishi 4x4 truck for its MOT in June. A damaged rear fog light was fixed.

8.3.4 Mobile phones: The River Manager had been receiving messages for the former Engineer, Mr Facer. He was advised of this and he contacted the third party to ensure that his contact details had been updated.

8.3.5 Portable Appliance Testing: Nothing to report.

8.3.6 Tools: Nothing to report.

8.4 River Work

8.4.1 Bishop's Mill SLA with Cambridge City Council: The invoice for staff attendances over the quarter ending 30/06/2011 will be issued shortly.

8.4.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): The invoice for the quarter ending 30/06/2011 will be issued shortly.

8.4.3 Towpath - grass cutting: CGM (Cambridge) Ltd attended to the cutting of grass along the verges of the towpath in May at a cost of £504.

8.4.4 Miscellaneous Applications: A gentleman enquired about setting up a business on the Cam operating transparent inflatable 'Zorb' balls for members of the public to enjoy the river in an alternative way from Jesus Green. He was advised to seek the views of the City Council as landowners. The nearby sluices and weir present a safety issue for the use of these erratically propelled 'craft'.

Pre-application comments were provided to the EA in respect of a hydropower scheme to be sited adjacent to Jesus Weir. The private client has commissioned Hallidays Hydropower to prepare the project plans and specification. Local authority stakeholders met with the project proponents at Jesus Green on 8 June.

Scudamore's arranged issue of the relevant film permit to the makers of Channel 4's Four in a Bed programme (10 May), Studio Lambert (same date), Darlow Smithson Productions on behalf of the Discovery Channel making a documentary on Stephen Hawking's Universe (27/28 June). The latter required the use of a filming pontoon, for which, a registration fee was applied. Maverick Television contacted the offices about filming an episode of 'Bizarre Crime' using punts on the upper river, 8 June. The Researcher was advised that a film permit was not required for the non-statutory navigation. Likewise, the BBC, filmmaking about the ice age, were advised that no permit was required to film near Fen Causeway.

Sveriges Television AB purchased a film permit from Scudamore's for the filming of an episode of a popular travel programme 'On Track', 29 June. Suitable scenes for their shoots.

Cambridge Judge Business School contacted the offices about the necessity for purchasing a film permit to shoot a short documentary about student life, 24 June.

Comments have been returned to the EA in respect of an application for flood defence consent for the installation of 3 new inlets to bring water to a new wetland upon Trumpington Farm Company lands, upper river (ref. L11/C/032).

City officers have been refining their design for a cattle ramp at Midsummer Common.

Geoff Beel, independent consultant, contacted the offices seeking information about flood levels in the City. He was referred on to the City Council's Sustainable Drainage Engineer.

Mr David had contacted the offices about setting up a 'nautical bicycle' hire business on the River Cam between Jesus Lock and the Mill Pond. The venture involved 10 such craft, to be stored inside a floating warehouse when not in use. He was asked to gain the necessary permissions from the City Council before returning to the River Manager with further details of his proposal.

Licence were issued to the organisers of Trinity May Ball to partially obstruct the navigation on 20/21 June with a water fountain display and to St John's College Punt Society for their partial

obstruction of the navigation for their water-based operatic production of HMS Pinafore, 24 June.

8.4.5 Rubbish Clearance (City): Donarbon Ltd has advised of its change of trading name to AmeyCespa (East) Ltd.

8.4.6 Third Party Rechargeable: A proposal of costings has been sent to EA Operations Delivery Team Leader, Mr Trumper, in regard to the summer weedcutting of Reach and Burwell Lodes.

8.4.7 Tree Pollarding: Acacia Tree Surgery arranged for the delivery and planting of an additional tree near Clayhithe under SCDC's Parish Planting Scheme in May. Funds have been transferred from Eversheds Charitable Trust in order to purchase trees to re-stock the avenue between Baits Bite and Fen Road, Milton, in the autumn. The River Manager received a Conservation Award from SCDC on 10th June. The Award has been granted in recognition of the Conservators' management of veteran willow trees and tree planting along the Halingway towpath. SCDC arranged for the publication of a media release; an article followed in the Cambridge News. Andrew Grimmer, SCDC Trees and Landscape Technician, has provided a brochure about Forestry Commission's community 'Big Tree Plant' campaign which will run from 2011-2015.

8.4.8 Weed cutting: The Deputy River Foreman has been undertaking weedcutting along the navigation between the City and Bottisham. The EA has warned that blanket weed will be an especial problem across the Region this year due to high temperatures and low flows.

8.4.9 Bank Maintenance: Salix has supplied chestnut stakes for the EA-funded programme of riverbank improvements between Baits bite and Clayhithe (cost of £5,149, offset against grant of £24k). EA officers conducted their visual survey of flood defence structures between Chesterton and Bottisham 7th & 8th July.

8.5 Acts / Byelaws

8.5.1 Breaches of mooring policy: Ms Sheehan, proprietor of hireboat 'Rosie' has been observed mooring alongside her residential barge near the Plough, Fen Ditton. She has been reminded that this is both dangerous owing to the limited channel constraints and an offence in terms of the Conservators' Mooring Policy. Strawberry Fair (4 June) caused the displacement of boats with usual moorings in the City. A narrowboat moored alongside another in Plough Reach, causing problems for rowing crews on 5 June. A warning notice was sent to the owner once the vessel had been identified. Many moorers seem unaware of the 'no double mooring' rule downstream of Victoria Bridge. Additional signage may serve as a reminder.

The River Bailiff has served notices against punt operators mooring along the Backs opposite Trinity Hall gardens in Clare College Cut (see Note 4).

8.5.2 Incidents: With the agreement of Fen Ditton Parish Council, brushwood screens attached to a wooden frame were emplaced at the entrance to the cut leading to Ditton Boathouse shortly after Easter. Natural England was advised of the measures being put in place to manage the issue

until later in the year when the adult breeding pair could be relocated. A member of the public has offered a possible site for relocation near Stratford Upon Avon. The River Manager and River Foreman met with local sculler, Mr Sues, on 19 April to discuss his needs for access rights to the boathouse. It was agreed that the entranceway would remain sufficiently wide for him to use the Cut. Mr Sues claimed that he has been subjected to a number of attacks by the swan, Mr Asbo. The swan made its nest much farther up the cut this year away from the main river. Four cygnets were hatched and three remain on the river. A blue and white speedboat has been causing a nuisance on the navigation in the Chesterton and Fen Ditton areas. The vessel has been located and a notice has been served upon it. PCSC John Coppard, Sawston Station (covering the Fen Ditton area), paid a courtesy visit to the offices, 22 June. He was taken out on the patrol boat to observe the CUCBC May Bumps. For other incidents, see Note 6a.

8.5.3 Overloading: A customer hiring punts from Scudamore's complained about a penalty surcharge applied by the company for loading 7 passengers into a self-hire punt for a trip to Grantchester instead of 6. She was told that the group should have been split between two hire punts and she was therefore charged for two hire craft. Scudamore's defended their actions, citing that craft overloading compromises safety and the loading limits are made quite clear in the Conditions of Hire which each customer signs before taking the punts out on the river.

A warning letter was sent to commercial operator Mr K Agius regarding the overloading of his single punt on 14th May (6 passengers instead of 5). His punt registration had not been renewed for 2011/12. He was reminded that he was committing a criminal offence. Mr J Agius, brother, has now completed registration.

A warning letter was sent to Trinity College Punt Scheme regarding the observed overloading of a single punt with 6 large adult passengers on 19 May. Registration fees for 2011/12 were outstanding at the time of this enforcement notice.

Mr Dale was sent a warning letter for the observed overloading of his single punt on 4 June (6 passengers instead of 5). He did not believe an apology was in order.

8.5.4 Prosecutions: Archer & Archer has issued invoices totalling £6,831 in respect of the prosecution of R Middleton for alleged breaches of the byelaws, as yet unresolved. The three cases are to be heard by the District Judge on 16th August at Cambridge Magistrates.

8.5.5 Navigation: Rivers users have been advised of events and suspensions of navigation taking place on the navigation by e-mail, including the charity duck race on 2nd June, emergency closure of Baits Bite Lock on 6th June (reopened 7th June) and partial obstructions of navigation for the Trinity May Ball fireworks and water fountain display (20th June), HMS Pinafore on punts at St John's College on 24th June and the CRA Time Race (5th July).

The office has received notification of closures and restrictions affecting the Rivers Great Ouse and Nene from the EA Waterways Team at Orton Lock (works to downstream landing stage), Eaton Socon Lock (repairs to slacker), Hemingford Parish Moorings and Offord Lock (provision of seasonal waste bins), Hemingfords Regatta (9th July), St Ives Lock downstream landing stage (May 2011), Hemingford Lock (repairs to guillotine gate, late June, and shoal removal July). See also Matters Arising.

8.5.6 Obstructions/overhanging trees: The River Manager wrote to the Clerk of Works for Trinity College warning of the condition of a large willow tree near the Wren Library. The College attended to some reduction works subsequently.

Dr Block advised of a young willow tree spread across the river near Paradise Island. The City Council's contractors were deployed to remove it. The City Council were also advised of a tree which had fallen following the Spring Bank Holiday's gusty weather at Byron's Pool.

8.5.7 Pontoon licences: The Finance sub-committee group will need to meet in the next quarter to discuss the future terms of issue of pontoon licences for the year commencing 1 April 2012. See also 8.1.1 Archiving, above.

8.5.8 Registration numbers: The River Manager has published a notice at Jesus, Baits Bite and Bottisham Locks reminding navigators that failure to display a valid registration number is a criminal offence. Identification of Cam boats remains poor, to the shame of other craft from the BW network which are always clearly marked.

8.5.9 Removal of Sunken/Abandoned Boats: An abandoned punt which had been moored, part-submerged, at Darwin College was reclaimed to Jesus Lock by the River Bailiff on 21st May. It was not a College punt; a third party had abandoned it there. Open concrete hull 'Tina', under refurbishment at Riverside, was part sunken in May. A notice was issued. The River Manager wrote to the owner asking if he could attend to its pumping out because its condition was causing concern to local residents; he duly obliged. Mr Boyd, owner of a punt reclaimed in 2010, and sold subsequently by sealed tender, contacted the offices querying the actions taken by the Conservancy, demanding that he should be compensated for his loss. The River Manager responded, confirming that official procedures had been followed. The punt had been moored to the boardwalk downstream of Quayside. His friends had failed to keep the punt baled-out during his absence from the country.

A tender has been accepted for reclaimed cruiser 'Mistral' and this was removed from the navigation for scrap (metal hull) on 23rd June.

8.5.10 Vehicles on the Halingway: URS Corp., acting on behalf of the Highways Agency, requested permission to access to towpath for further inspections of the A14 road bridge, 21/22 June. The contractors agreed to schedule their works around the various events taking place on the river. Permission was granted. The County Council Rights of Way Officer has signed over 2 keys to the offices for accessing the field gate at Grassy Corner. The padlock had been vandalised and replaced with a padlock of third-party origin. The new padlock will be expensive to replace.

Chain-link fencing has been broken down underneath the A14 road bridge allowing members of the public to access the towpath from the Fen. The security responsibility is uncertain.

Organisers of the X-Press BC Head Race (20 June) and Veterans' Head Race (25 June) were granted permission to access the towpath to park a safety vehicle beside the A14 road bridge.

8.5.11 Noise: Trinity Hall complained about a group of independent commercial punt operators, gathered opposite the College and causing a nuisance by playing a 'ghettoblaster' late morning, 19 May. The City Council enforcement officers and River Bailiff paid a joint visit at lunchtime and the City officer issued an enforcement notice to operator D Watkins under the

Environmental Protection Act 1990. The City Council officer advised of its 'loud noise service' telephone line for future complaints (office hours 01223 457890, out of hours 01223 457457) and indicated officers' willingness to deal with noise complaints from boats and from riverside premises including the boathouses.

Permission was granted for a small group of acoustic guitar players to perform informally along the river aboard a hire punt without an amplifier on 21 May. The group agreed to keep the noise to acceptable levels.

An unofficial 'rave' was held underneath the A14 road bridge during the night of the Strawberry Fair weekend. A local resident had been assaulted when he challenged the group. The emergency services attended. He was insulted that the Fair's organisers had claimed that the event had gone off peaceably and without incidents; the problems had simply been displaced outside the City limits.

Environmental Health Officer gave notification of an enforcement visit paid to two narrowboats moored at Ditton Meadows, 5 June (day after Strawberry Fair), playing loud music. Residents in Fen Ditton had complained. One of these narrowboats was subsequently involved in a collision incident with a rowing craft. Prosecution proceedings have been instituted against the narrowboat owner (see Note 6).

Mr Middleton has been taking further liberties with his rights to enjoy the public navigation. A Town Bumps Committee meeting on the evening of 4 July was disturbed by his barge passing the boathouses with loud music blaring.

8.5.12 Disposal of sewage: There have been allegations of direct sewage discharge from residential boats moored at the former Penny Ferry public house, Chesterton. The matter was discussed with EA officers. Letters have been hand-delivered to the vessels lying there accompanied by the EA/Conservancy leaflet on 'protecting our rivers: a guide to correctly disposing of sewage from boats on the River Cam'. It is possible that bags sometimes found floating in the river during rubbish collecting duties may contain either dog or human excrement.

8.5.13 Diving operations: nothing to report.

8.5.14 Swimming: See reference to Weil's disease, Note 6 (incidents and health and safety).

8.6 Environment and Planning

8.6.1 Biodiversity: Defra has launched their Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) Campaign based around the slogan 'clean, check, dry', seeking a commitment to biosecurity, particularly in relation to the 'killer shrimp' (*Dikerogammarus villosus*). The campaign release included a poster for public display: 'Stop the spread'. A copy was passed on to local clubs (Cam Sailing Club, Cambridge Canoe Club) and Milton Country Park. Boats and fishing gear are potential modes for transportation of killer shrimp.

The fish pass at Byron's Pool came into operation in April and 6 species of fish were recorded using the channel soon after its connection. Mr Wells recorded chub spawning in the channel in June.

The River Manager attended a meeting of the Cam Valley Forum in Grantchester on 27th April. Members received an update on the Cambridgeshire Chalk Rivers Project. The Forum was organising a public walk of the River Mel in May. Cambridgeshire Archaeology's guided walk

of Car Dyke, 11th May, was brought to the group's attention. The River Manager tendered apologies for the Forum's meeting on 15th June (required for the May Bumps).

Mr Schofield was continuing with his personal campaign against litter on the upper river, making regular collections from his canoe.

Budget cuts in the public sector have led to the loss of the full-time Biodiversity Partnership Officer, Fabiola Blum. Key Biodiversity Partnership work would continue under the part-time management of Wildlife Trust officers Laura Watson and Sian Williams.

Cambridge Property Management was managing a programme of external decoration to the apartments at Eights Marina and sought advice about a suitable 'water friendly' paint. The enquiry was referred on to the EA.

A graduate research student at Anglia Ruskin University elicited help with summer fieldwork tagging and recapturing American signal crayfish in Cambridgeshire watercourses.

The EA Fisheries Recreation and Biodiversity team promulgated a poster 'be prepared for a dry summer' warning of the potential problems associated with drought and low flows in the region.

National Dragonfly Week was announced in June. The NT Wicken Fen has been hosting a series of dragonfly workshops.

The Association of River Trusts has published a Habitat Improvement Strategy for the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) on its website.

A specimen of Giant Hogweed had been found in the ditch opposite the Botanical Gardens. The City Council's specialist contractor was due to remove it before it set seed.

Mr Crossley, Manager, Trumpington Farm Company, gave notification of the commencement of their Higher Level Stewardship project on the fen land at Trumpington Hall in late June.

Mr McKee, licensed bird nest inspector, visited the Conservancy Area on 1 July to check the occupancy of the Halingway barn owl boxes. One barn owl was found in the box at Clayhithe Field with 2 eggs. He will return at the end of July to check the box again. He believed that the birds took a 'knock' over the cold winter. Cam Sailing Club has also reported the loss of their breeding pair of great crested grebes for the same reason.

SOS (Save Our Green Spaces) Cambridge is due to host the second Green Forum at the Cambridge Union Society on 12 July. The guest speaker will be Dr David Brown, speaking on Trees in Urban Spaces.

8.6.2 Cambridge City Council Local Plan: In early May, the Friends of Midsummer Common sent out a plea for volunteers to assist them water the 50-odd trees that had been planted in the spring which were suffering from drought stress.

Mr Marks, Cambridge Chauffeur Punts, indicated concern about a negotiations taking place between the City Council and Granta Punts to lease a small section of riverbank near Darwin College which would impinge on his business activities.

Cambridge City Council is carrying out a review of the Riverside area of the Central Conservation Area. Boundary changes are being proposed. The public consultation will close 19 August.

8.6.3 Cambridge Sport Lakes: Seasonal weed growth remains a problem for the Trust's recreational plans for the lakes at Milton Country Park (triathlon training, rowing training). Mr Woolhouse had been in contact with the EA Operations Delivery team about hiring one of their weedboats to cut the weed. A weedboat being auctioned by Cheffins of Rugby in June (presumably a piece of ex-British Waterways plant) was brought to Mr Woolhouse's attention.

8.6.4 CamToo Project: The Guided Bus is due to start operating on 7th August, after which it will become evident as to whether the operation will be extended across the river Cam.

8.6.5 Planning Consultations: Gonville & Caius College has applied for permission to demolish its Victorian boathouse opposite the Fort St George Public House. Its intention is to reconstruct a larger facility of a modern architectural design.

The Department of Transport has communicated that the draft Orders for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement have been withdrawn as of July 2011 and the statutory protection of the route of the published scheme in the region's Development Plan will be removed.

Confirmation of the Conservancy's details have been provided to the City Council as it finalises the creation of its electronic Consultee Access for planning applications.

SCDC has commenced a review of its adopted Local Development Framework and it has announced a Call for Sites under its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). This is an opportunity for anyone to suggest sites for housing or housing-led development, deadline 29 July. A Call for Sites Questionnaire has been made available via the Council's website at www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf

8.6.6 SCDC Towpath: Nothing to report.

8.6.7 Water Framework Directive: David Whiles, Anglian River Basin Programme Manager, EA, circulated updates on progress in meeting targets at both the national and RBD scale for 2011/12.

On 13th April the Secretary of State announced that £92M will be provided over the next 4 years to remove non-native invasive weeds and animals, clear up pollution, and remove barriers to fish and eel migration. The funding is to be shared between the EA, Natural England and 'civil society' organisations such as the Association of River Trusts. There is potential for further river bank habitat restoration in the Conservancy Area under this programme in partnership with the EA. See also Bank Maintenance, above.

8.6.8 Waterspace Strategy: Discussions about the need for a Cam Waterspace Strategy took place with the EA Director Jonathan Robinson aboard the EA patrol boat on 23 June (see 8.8.2, EA Interchange Agreement). Mr Hartley, River Wensum Parkway Partnership, is to meet with the River Manager on 15 July to discuss the drawing up of a recreational policy for river and footpath use near Norwich between the Partnership, Norwich City Council and Norwich Heart. This process shares similarities with the waterspace strategy approach mentioned at previous meetings of the Conservators and already published for Spalding. The EA is making progress with project partners on a strategy for Bedford.

8.6.9 EA flood warning service: the EA has advised of the introduction of new community-based flood warning areas for the River Cam and Granta, including Bin Brook. Residents and businesses located within these Flood Warning Areas may register to receive messages from Flood Warnings Direct by calling Floodline (0854 988 1188). The quick-dial numbers covering the Cam Conservancy Area are:

River Cam and Tributaries – 03365

Grantchester, Newnham Croft and the Colleges – 0335141
Bin Brook at Newnham – 0335145
Chesterton, Riverside and the Commons – 0335142
Fen Ditton and Fen Road – 0335143
Clayhithe and Waterbeach - 0335144

8.7 Moorings

8.7.1 Camboaters: CUCBC advised Camboaters of the scheduling of the Small Boats Regatta; Easter being late had meant running one of the races on Easter Monday.

The River Manager reminded City Council officers that they needed to advise moorers to move from Midsummer Common for the annual Sprint Regatta on 8th May in accordance with the terms and conditions of their Mooring Licence Agreements. The City's notification, circulated 4th May, was met with a hostile response from Camboaters and criticisms of insufficient notice. The City officer tried to fob-off the late notice given upon the Conservancy office. Camboaters were made aware that the City Council was asked on 28th March to send out a reminder in good time for the event. The River Manager sent a message of thanks to the Midsummer moorers after the Regatta for obliging the request to clear the course.

The committee has been busy drumming-up support for its River Festival, to be held to mark World Rivers Day, on 25th September at Jesus Green. Various local groups have indicated that they will attend with displays. The committee's assistance was called-upon to locate the owner of a cruiser moored at Riverside in relation to a Police matter. The cruiser had changed ownership since the last licensing year. No response has been forthcoming.

8.7.2 Clayhithe 48 hour visitor's moorings: The River Foreman has been recording his monthly visual inspections. The grass is being cut at regular intervals to eliminate potential trip hazards. The River Bailiff has been recording, and serving notices upon, over-staying craft.

8.7.3 Mooring Arrangements with Cambridge City Council: Invoices have been issued on a monthly basis in respect of the weekly monitoring of boats alongside City lands by the River Bailiff. The reconvening of joint City/Conservancy/Camboaters'/Cam rowers' meetings has failed to take place since the last Conservators' meeting.

Residential vessels with no fixed abode ('continuous cruising') have been making use of the Visitor Moorings at Jubilee Gardens; City officers have been informed about this mis-use by both the Conservancy's officers and the manager of the Riverboat Georgina. The latter, who pays rent to the City Council for moorings, had been struggling to manoeuvre the passenger craft due to the congestion and he had been bearing the brunt of boater's complaints about the situation.

Mr Leader, a member of the boating public, submitted a complaint about his being unable to use the Visitor Moorings in the City because all of the berths had been taken up by over-stayers. Mr Leader was advised of the City's and Conservancy's respective enforcement roles and a copy of his e-mail was forwarded to Ms Ainley, the City portfolio holder for moorings.

The City Enforcement Officer was advised of a shopping trolley which had been sitting beside an unregistered narrowboat moored at Stourbridge Common for some months. A Conservancy notice had been posted on the vessel (breach of byelaw 13.4) and the vessel owner had failed to take action.

Ms Durrant has taken maternity leave as of 21st June. Sarah Tovell and Caius Nesvadba have been temporarily given the task of dealing with mooring enforcement issues. The Parks & Open Spaces department has been advising of the issue of new Mooring Licences. Mr Wilson, Green Spaces Manager, tendered apologies at short notice for a joint meeting scheduled for 29th June to discuss the revoking of certain Licences held by vessel owners who are on the navigation and failing to comply with Conservancy byelaws. A potted history of the two worst offenders – narrowboats ‘Pug’ and ‘Twentieth Century Fox’ – has been send to the collective of City officers with responsibility for moorings.

8.7.4 Conservators’ Mooring Policy: The office has been responding to the usual enquiries about the availability of residential moorings in the Conservancy Area. See also 8.5.1, breaches of mooring policy.

8.7.5 Moorings at Riverside: Simon Payne, City Head of Environment & Planning, convened an H&S meeting with Richard Preston (County Council) and the River Manager on 11 April to discuss safety issues relating to moorings along ‘the railings’. Key points arising from this meeting were that the Conservancy would look into the definition and application of its byelaws (especially byelaw 6.11), that the County Council would ensure that the gates are either padlocked or welded shut to prevent unauthorised access, that the City Council reinstates its Mooring Liaison meetings with Camboaters and Cam rowing representatives (formerly convened by Active Communities before the restructuring of the City’s departments in 2010); that refuse arrangements would be clarified; and for the City’s flood risk assessment to make consideration of the moored vessels. Regarding the latter, the City officer opinion was that this was a responsibility of the Conservators.

Rowers have reported that side-by-side mooring has become more frequent at Riverside over the last quarter. Active enforcement is required on an almost daily basis to ensure that the boats do not spread into the zones which are prohibited to mooring.

The River Bailiff issued a ‘useless/derelict’ notice against unregistered cruiser ‘Lazy Days’ on 15th May; he deemed that the structure was unsafe (protruding screws, broken window etc.). The vessel is due for reclaim by the river crew when opportunity presents itself in the work programme.

A meeting to be convened by the City Council on 16 May to discuss Riverside issues (Riverside Action Group Meeting) was postponed until the new Executive Councillors had been announced following the local Council elections. The meeting took place on 9 June. It was recognised that the ambiguity of the riparian ownership was a central issue to be resolved. The number of visits paid by Environmental Health officers did not provide any strong evidence of statutory noise nuisance being generated by the moored boats (on-board generators, engines and music). A Riverside Place resident has been pressing upon Conservancy officers to enforce the relocation of a particularly ugly vessel which usually moors in front of the property. The vessel has recently changed ownership. Most moorers are reluctant to move from their berths for fear of losing their space.

Conservator Clive Brown has provided opinion on the interpretation of byelaw 6.11 to City Heads of Department, S Pugh and S Payne.

Cllr Margaret Wright has paid visits to Baits Bite offices in the last quarter to look through the Conservancy’s files for evidence of ownership of Riverside. The absence of significant mention beggars the argument that the Conservancy has had no strong ties to this land over the last

Century. Simultaneously, Mr Davies (Riverside Area Residents' Association) has been making searches of archive papers held at Shire Hall. Mr Capps, Head of Transport Asset Management, has sent a copy of a document stored in the County Records Office to Simon Payne (City Council). The document shows that the freehold of Riverside rests with the City Council. The document, dated 26 October 1904 states clearly that 'the Corporation are the owners of the soil of the Halingway next the River Cam in the Borough of Cambridge'. Armed with this evidence, the City Council can proceed with its registration of land ownership for the benefit of the people of Cambridge.

Riverside Area Residents' Association (RARA) has expressed concerns about the length of time that residential vessels have been moored alongside the retaining wall, fearing that the owners may acquire lands by adverse possession. They have asked for historic mooring information from the Conservancy's offices.

In light of the evidence about ownership, RARA asserts that, should the City Council become responsible for licensing mooring, then consideration needs to be given beforehand to: (i) resident amenity issues (e.g. smoke pollution, generator and other noise, waste, parking); (ii) wider community and environment issues (e.g. sewage, risks for users of the public right of way, impact on rowers/river users, equity in that moorers should pay Council Tax); (iii) strategic/financial issues for the City or Conservators (e.g. liability for accident or injury given unsafe access/navigation, cost of providing safe access to moorings, risk of losing freehold through claim by adverse possession).

RARA has asked if a recent landmark case in Bristol Court in respect of a continuous cruising residential boat on the Kennet & Avon Canal could have repercussions for boaters on the Cam. British Waterways is the navigation authority for the K&A Canal and it uses different statutory powers. The test of BW's acts would seem unlikely to apply to Conservancy waters.

8.8 Registration

8.8.1 **Boat Standards:** Mr Embleton, whose paddle along the Cam in a boat made out of 10,000 milk bottle tops generated national media attention, received a letter following his maiden voyage reminding him of the need to register his craft. He had not approached the offices for permission beforehand.

A handful of independent punt operators claimed that they did not receive the consultation document in October 2010 seeking feedback on the proposed changes to Code of Practice for Commercial Punt Operators. All registered operators were included in the mailing list and the apparent breakdown of communications remains a mystery. The Code was also made available via the Conservators' webpages. Many of the operators take extended leave in the late autumn and winter overseas.

Three engineering undergraduates contacted the offices about their designing of an electric-powered hydrofoil personal watercraft – 'FoilFly' - which would be capable of travelling at 6 m/s. They queried the prohibition of personal watercraft ('PWCs') in the Conservancy byelaws (byelaw 4.4). They were put in contact with Mr Macnaghten who has interests in high-speed craft hull design development.

The Boat Safety Scheme office in Watford issued notification of a hazardous narrowboat moored on Cam waters following an inspection by one of its certified examiners. The boat had failed on account of a LPG leak. The item had been disconnected. The owner had agreed to a programme of repairs within an agreed timescale, upon which he would complete registration.

8.8.2 EA Interchange Agreement: The effect of government cut-backs has been manifest by loss of several posts in the EA's Anglian Waterways team over the last quarter. Some personnel have opted to take Voluntary Early Release and others have sought posts outside the organisation. The EA's boat licensing department has closed at Aqua House, Peterborough; Anglian Region registrations are being issued from the EA's Reading offices. The learning curve had caused some delays in licence processing for 2011/12. Jonathan Robinson, EA Board Member and Director of Legal Services, and a Defra Officer visited the Cam Conservancy Area aboard the EA patrol boat with Dr Brighty and members of the Anglian Waterways team on 23rd June. The Chairman, John Adams, joined the group at Jesus Lock for a lunchtime cruise downstream. Unfortunately, there were heavy rain showers during the visit. The River Manager has invited her EA equivalent, Mr Nathan, to agree a date for the annual boat count.

8.8.3 Non-registration prosecutions: The River Bailiff has issued offence notices against numerous unregistered craft since 01/04/2011. A number of these remain unregistered and prosecutions will follow.

8.8.4 Interchange agreement with Canoe England (British Canoe Union): The River Cam Navigation Benefits' Assessment study being undertaken by Ecorys will provide canoe users with an opportunity to comment on licensing fees. Mr Gurner, Fen Paddle Co., drew to the River Manager's attention a document on the Canoe England website, 'Exploring the River Cam', which stated that Canoe England membership covered the reaches from Byron's Pool to Bottisham Lock. The River Manager thanked Mr Gurner for his keen-sightedness, and sent a request to the organisation for the entry to be corrected with the proper licensing position.

8.8.5 Interchange agreement with British Rowing: Rowing representatives at the Anglian Paddlesports Group meeting noted the inequity of the new interchange agreement made between the EA and British Rowing; it was financially disadvantageous to clubs in the Anglian Region.

8.9 Events

8.9.1 Events: Fen Ditton Parish Council held a meeting on 1 June to discuss the organising of parking for the Town Bumps. The river crew attended to minor welding repairs of the Bumps trolley; the CUCBC agreed to pay towards the costs. Four rowing clubs had failed to complete registration in the lead up to the May Bumps (Anglia Ruskin, Clare, King's, Sidney Sussex). This was communicated to the CUCBC organisers and they club representatives were encouraged to come forwards with their payments before the races took place. Mr Middleton took the advice of other local residents and vacated his moorings at the Plough public house ahead of the event. Temporary toilets, provided by LattaHire at cost to the CUCBC, were put in place at Baits Bite for use by competitors with the River Manager's permission. They were well used. A local resident complained about crews and bankside parties using expletives to encourage their crews along in the races; the CUCBC sent out a missive to all Clubs reminding them of their duty to uphold standards. The River Manager undertook the role of 'swan patroller' during the May Bumps and with the assistance of Mr Austin, Green End, Fen Ditton, the birds were contained during the races. The Cambridge News published an article about these efforts.

Oar Raisers, ocean-crossing rowers, sought permission to undertake a publicity row on the Cam to raise attention of their fundraising activities for Parkinson UK. The Final Day of the May Bumps was suggested to them as a suitable showplace. Mr Pryce-Jones came to their assistance regarding launching from the Goldie boathouse.

The event folder for 2011 to date is now 5 cm thick with exchanged correspondence, an indication of the time spent by the River Manager on regulating this aspect of the Conservancy's duties. Some provisional bookings have already been taken for 2012. Events approved over the last quarter have been published in the catchment noticeboards and on the Conservancy website. A charity duck race was held downstream of Magdalene Bridge on 2 June by Tees Solicitors, raising funds for Headway Cambridgeshire.

A member of the public enquired about a suitable site along the banks of the upper river for a bouncy castle for a birthday party. Landowner contact details were given out.

Cambs Fire & Rescue (Parkside, Cambridge) has sought permission on a number of occasions over the last quarter to use the river and area around Bishop's Mill Sluice and Jesus Lock for water safety and rescue training.

Christ's College Boat Club organised a Cambridge to Hemingford veterans' endurance row on 9/10 June. Mr Lloyd was loaned a navigation cabinet key so that the crew could take the coxed four through the locks en route.

The River Manager attended a meeting about the Olympic Torch Relay on 13 June with City officers.

Fishing matches have recommenced with Open Season being declared. The River Manager has been sending reminders about specific matches to rowing clubs and hireboat operators on behalf of CFPAS Ltd seeking a general spirit of cooperation amongst the river users.

Trinity College Punt Society hosted an 'Orchestra on Punts' on 19 June. This was preceded by the Friends' of the Cam annual punt racing. An unusual production of HMS Pinafore using a stage mounted on punts was arranged for 24 June. A s15/16 licence was issued for the raft given its partial obstruction to navigation. A warning message was sent to all punt operators ahead of the Trinity College May Ball, 20 June, warning of the partial obstruction to navigation resulting from the positioning of water display fountains in the river. A licence was issued to the Ball Committee.

The Conservancy and rowing representatives joined for a meeting on 4 July at the Goldie boathouse to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The True Jesus Church contacted the offices about a water baptism at Grantchester Mill Pool, 10 July. The organisers were reminded of additional risks not contained in their assessment (e.g. Weil's disease, entanglement with submerged underwater objects) and the availability of river water level data on the EA's public website.

To prevent any potential disruption, a calendar of July 2011 events has been provided to Mr Middleton, barge 'Robin's Nest', for his personal attention.

The River Manager has tendered apologies to Mr Key, CRA, who had offered a ticket to the enclosure on 20 July to watch the races. Due to the large number of entries received, the CRA has requested permission for a Town Bumps Getting on Race on 15 July in order to streamline the divisions for the main races.

Horningsea residents have expressed an interest in hosting a local River Festival on 24th July which will include a boat procession. The River Foreman will attend in one of the workboats, undertaking litterpicking and Himalayan balsam clearance with volunteers ahead of the main event.

Rowan, a local charity, has approached the offices about a short sponsored walk along Midsummer Common for its students, 13/14/15 September. The organiser was asked to seek the City Council's permission.

Cambridge Alumni have cancelled their proposed rowing regatta 24-26 September.

Amgen has been in contact about organising a Volunteer Programme to clean up the waterways in Cambridge. Company representatives are due to meet with the River Manager on 19 July.

8.10 Publicity

8.10.1 Notice-boards: Notices have been displayed in accordance with the byelaws for suspensions of navigation at Baits Bite Lock (5th July) and adjacent to St John's College (18th July).

8.10.2 Publications: The offices had received copies of the GOBA Bulletins for May and June/July for display in the catchment noticeboards. Articles had been submitted to the GOBA News Editor for the Summer edition of their members' magazine (joint EA/Conservancy Water Framework Directive project of riverbank improvements, award of contract to Drake Towage for the capital works programme at Clayhithe and Baits Bite). The Conservancy was given the opportunity to submit a simple entry of support in the CUCBC 2011 May Bumps programme. Cambridge News published an erroneous item ahead of Strawberry Fair claiming that the river Cam was to be closed to traffic movements. The office was bombarded with calls from concerned boaters. GOBA demanded an explanation for the Conservancy's failure to announce a suspension of navigation in accordance with the statutes. The source of this mis-information could not be traced with certainty; the statement was apparently mentioned as a one-liner in a Police press release. The River Manager was interviewed at Baits Bite on 28th June by a journalist writing a piece on the Cam for the August edition of the Cambridgeshire Journal.

8.10.3 Presentations: the River Manager offered with regret the news to Melbourn & District U3A that she was unable to provide a presentation to the group as planned owing to a diary appointment with the licensing sub-committee group on 18th May. The presentation has been rescheduled for 17th October 2012.

8.10.4 Media: Following the 14th April meeting, the office was plagued by a spate of calls from various media people seeking feedback on the further delay in relocating the swan nick-named Mr Asbo and the river crew's fixing of temporary screens at Ditton Cut to shield the breeding pair from interference from members of the public. Cambridge News took the opportunity to seek Mr Middleton's ('Battleship Bob') opinion on this strategy, which he denounced as being ineffectual. A second item on 10th June showed Mr Middleton cradling a dead cygnet in his hands, claiming that it had been killed by rowers. To circumvent another media circus, the River Manager provided a staff presence in the patrol boat during the May Bumps and with the assistance of Mr Austin, resident at Fen Ditton, the swans were contained in his garden during the races. Cambridge News published an item following the Royal Wedding reporting that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were to be given their own punt courtesy of The Punting Company (operator Mr Matthews). Conservators might, perhaps, seek to make their own gesture towards the new Royal title.

For 14th July 2011

The River Manager attended the press launch of Scudamore's Bat Safaris on the upper river, 13th May, upon the kind invitation of the operator. Brian Eversham (CE Wildlife Trust) was amongst the groups providing his expert narrative on the creatures.

The River Manager gave a recorded interview on 30th June about Baits Bite guillotine gate and the Conservancy to BBC Radio Cambridgeshire for an afternoon broadcast in early July.

The Cambridge News published public notices, at cost, in respect of the suspensions of navigation at Baits Bite Lock (5th July) and tree works at St John's College (18th July).

8.10.5 Website: Arrangements for river lowering, 2011/12, have been uploaded onto the website for public reference. The webmaster has also been advised of new event entries for the summer period and has published suspensions of navigation. A Frequently Asked Question has been added to the website about swimming in the river following a media report about students contracting Weil's disease after swimming along the Backs during May Bay week.

8.11 The River Manager will raise any other matters which arise between the time of preparing this report and the meeting.

July 2011

River Manager