

## CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM

# 11

### 11. River Manager's Report

#### Matters for Report

##### 11.1 Administration

11.1.1 Archiving: The Deputy River Manager is due to lodge originals of the Farm Business Tenancy Agreements for the 1.74 acres at Chesterton and the 4.69 acres at Clayhithe at Archer & Archer Solicitors for safe-keeping plus originals of s15/s16 licences issued over the course of 2011. A member of the Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society enquired about former RNLI boats lying on the Cam being used for residential purposes. Cllr H Smith has recommended a local firm in St Ives which can scan documents. Many of the Conservancy's deeds exist in paper form only.

11.1.2 Business Plan: The business plan sub-committee group will need to reconvene in 2012 to recommence the drafting of the next 5-year Business Plan (2013-2018).

11.1.3 AINA/BW: Apologies were tendered for the BW AGM, held in Birmingham on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Gibson, River Wey & Godalming Navigations, asked about stockists of traditional punts and skiffs. The NT was looking to provide some for the NT garden at Claremont, near Esher. Supplier details were provided to him. Mr Gibson provided details of the NT navigation's fee charging structure to assist with the Ecorys Ltd report. Avon Navigation Trust will be increasing its 2012 licences by 15% for private craft but only 2% for commercial craft. John Edmonds circulated the IWAC response to the Defra proposal to abolish the body which for which he acts as Chairman. British Waterways has announced its new name as a charitable organisation from 2012 onwards: The Canal and River Trust. AINA sought details from its members of navigation manager job profiles to assist one of its members with future recruitment. The River Manager attended a meeting of the AINA Executive Committee group on 6<sup>th</sup> December in London. AINA has guaranteed funding for one more year only. Its future remains undecided. An Action Plan has been drafted which includes priority projects. A members' AGM will be convened in the spring. An All Parliamentary Waterways Group hearing took place on 8<sup>th</sup> December, the purpose being to review the appropriate governance and financing of the Canal and River Trust. On 20<sup>th</sup> December, Government announced the publication of its Response on the detail of the Order to transfer the functions of BW to the new Trust, following a consultation which took place 12<sup>th</sup> September to 24<sup>th</sup> October. AINA canvassed its members about their tree management strategies so that a briefing note could be prepared for the Minister, Richard Benyon. Half-yearly Cam incident reports were submitted to the AINA Manager on 30<sup>th</sup> December as in previous years. These will be fed into a national database.

11.1.4 Anglian Region liaison: The Anglian Region Paddlesports Group met at Kingfisher House, Peterborough, 1<sup>st</sup> November. The group has revised its constitution following the withdrawal of the EA's Secretariat. The group is developing a working draft on design standards for portage platforms. Site visits were being undertaken to assess canoe users' requirements, and also looking for cost-savings by altering routes etc., ahead of any capital works being undertaken

by the Environment Agency. A hydro-power scheme was well advanced at Bedford and a canoe access agreement had been negotiated with the Borough Council.

A meeting of the Regional Navigation Group took place at Brampton, 23<sup>rd</sup> November. New Paddlesports representatives were introduced to the group.

11.1.5 Insurance: Mr Cooke, insurance broker with Towergate Risk Solutions, is due to pay his first pre-renewal visit to the offices to discuss next year's policies on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Insurance cover was arranged for the hire of the temporary pontoon for Baits Bite and the hired vibrating digger for trackway works at Clayhithe.

11.1.6 Office supplies: Racking has been purchased for the back room to store the Clerks and Engineer's papers. These are systematically being sorted into chronological order when time allows.

11.1.7 Staff: Peters Elworthy & Moore (accountants and auditors) have advised of changes which will take effect as a result of the Pensions Act 2008. This Act introduced measures aimed at encouraging greater private saving, including workplace pensions. The aim is to establish a compulsory pension scheme for all eligible employees, i.e. those who are not already in a scheme, and are (i) 22 years or older and (ii) earning over £7,475. Minimum contribution levels have been proposed for employees, tax relief and employer. The new pension scheme rules are to be introduced in stages and for employers with less than 50 employees the date of implementation is March 2014. One member of staff is currently opted-out of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The new 5-year Business Plan, 2013-2018, needs to take note of these changes.

11.1.8 Licensing Act: See Note 8, Other Matters for Decision.

11.1.9 Grant applications: Mr Bond, Old Chesterton Residents' Association, has offered to submit an application to the Cambridgeshire Community Trust to purchase new trees for the Halingway between the Penny Ferry and the railway bridge (see also 11.4.7 Tree Pollarding, below).

A new Community Chest, offering cash grants for community projects, has been launched by SCDC. Grants of up to £1000 are available to community or voluntary groups for projects relating to SCDC's priorities. The Conservators are not eligible under the application criteria but the funding details were passed on to Cam Sailing Club.

11.1.10 Lacy Anderson: Mr Anderson, a former Conservator, passed away in early December after a short illness, aged 83. Mr Sparkes attended the funeral on 1<sup>st</sup> December on behalf of the Conservancy.

## **11.2 Property management**

11.2.1 Jesus Lock Keeper's House: Paperwork associated with the new tenants has been exchanged with Carter Jonas including signed Deeds of Guarantee. Adjusted Council Tax Bills for September and October have been sent on to Carter Jonas for the tenants' attention (their student exemption status having lapsed). Some building movement was suspected since one of

the tenants doors (room no. 5, upper storey) could not be closed. The dry summer may be the cause. Remedial repairs have been undertaken to the bathroom tiling and ceiling in No. 2 bedroom on the ground floor. A foam fire extinguisher was released during a party in October. The tenant offered to pay for its replacement. A maintenance agreement has been put in place for the fire extinguishers (up to 30.11.2012). The hallway window was broken by vandals in November. Efforts to elicit a response from the City Council's Tree Officers regarding the branch which has been pressing against the roof of the House have met with nil success. At a meeting before Christmas, Mr Wilson, Green Spaces Manager, assured that emergency works would be undertaken to this plane tree. A standing charge for the water supply (Feb to Jul) had been received from the City Council in December, spanning two different tenancies. The tenants are liable for this bill. Carter Jonas will try to recover the monies from the previous set of tenants.

11.2.2 Baits Bite Cottages: Tenants were warned to keep an eye out for vermin in the autumn period since mouse droppings had been found inside Baits Bite plant room and scratching could be heard above the office ceiling in the evenings. The rats had been excavating the rear office foundations and piles of rubble were making it difficult for the tenants to open their storeroom door. Bait was put down and the tenants found one large rat dead on the garden lawn. Further traps were deemed necessary. A number of remedial repairs had been completed at No. 1 including a replacement bulb for the external security light and unblocking the kitchen wastepipe. The river crew repaired broken fencing panels late December. The sewage treatment plant stopped working in October. This receives grey and foul-water from the complex of properties. Wendage Pollution Control was called-in to prime the system with a new bacterial population; their visit was coordinated with another pump-out by Veolia Environmental Services (the second this year). Best practice guidance was issued to both sets of tenants since the contractors noted that the plant was blocked with fats. A contractor is due to repair loose tiling in the bathroom in No. 1 Cottage; there may be underlying damp problems affecting the wall adjoining the other cottage. A rent review is due at No. 1 from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The tenants of No. 1 Cottage have taken on a rescue cat. Their tenancy agreement will be amended with a pets clause.

Tenants in No. 2 Cottage are tied into an agreement until April 2012, but had indicated a desire to quit before the end of their term due to family circumstances. An Energy Performance Certificate has been issued for the property ahead of its re-marketing (£95 plus VAT, valid for 10 years). The Energy Efficiency Rating is currently E, i.e. not energy efficient, but has potential with remedial measures to meet band D). The Environmental Impact (CO2) rating is band 37, i.e. not environmentally friendly with higher CO2 emissions; its potential with remedial measures could be band D. An estimated £493 could be saved on energy and fuel costs per annum for this property. The toilet flushing mechanism was repaired in November.

11.2.3 Baits Bite Office: The office burglar alarm was activated on 30<sup>th</sup> September at approximately 10pm, possibly by a spider. Personnel attended and re-set the alarm. BT has written, advising of update to the Total Broadband service and assurance of faster speeds.

11.2.4 Clayhithe House and Depot/Workshop: A dinghy owner requested permission to launch his Mirror dinghy from the new slipway on 18<sup>th</sup> October to cruise onwards to Ely completing another section of his regional tour of the waterways by sail power alone. Piling works to the

frontage appear to have caused some structural movement of the Old Workshop. Cracks have developed in the walls and the doors no longer align. The building is a single concrete block structure. A professional opinion is recommended before any re-pointing works are undertaken. Advance Security Ltd paid a scheduled maintenance visit on 18<sup>th</sup> October to service the intruder alarms in both Workshops. There was a break-in at the Depot on 1<sup>st</sup> November; fuel cans were stolen from a locked compound. The Police were notified. A strange boat had been moored nearby overnight. The EA River Inspector was asked to keep a lookout for it. The Foreman has expressed his dissatisfaction at the height of the new plastic fendering fitted to the piled frontage. A J Lee Drainage has completed re-grading and resurfacing of the perimeter trackway with imported road planings (cost £1475 plus VAT) to complete the groundworks along the frontage. A lorry driven by Drake Towage became 'bogged' in the new planings when demobilising their equipment and it had to be towed out using the local farmer's tractor. The river crew subsequently hired a vibrating digger to compact the surface. Two service bollards have been ordered to house the water and electricity supply points to the frontage.

A new carpet has been fitted in the Conservators' House (lounge, hall, stairs and landing). With the Chairman's agreement, the Conservancy has paid £550 towards the total costs of refitting the carpet (£2210 inc VAT). The majority of the costs have been met by the Foreman's home contents insurers. The carpet had been damaged by a moth infestation and wear and tear. The Foreman's request for the Conservancy to meet his claim for paint and wallpaper was denied (his tenancy requires him to keep the interior décor in good order). There was a chimney fire at the House on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Cambs Fire & Rescue Services attended. The chimney construction hinders effective sweeping. The firemen pulled down a significant quantity of material even though the chimney had been swept in September (arranged by the Foreman under the terms of his tenancy). A new pump has been ordered for the heating system and the radiators, now 20 years old, are due to be power-flushed to improve their performance. See also Finance Report.

11.2.5 Jesus Lock: Various vessel owners had requested permission to access the 'middle' river since the seasonal prohibition was lifted on 1<sup>st</sup> October, including narrowboats Lucky Duck, Suzie Q and Theodora (9 Oct), cruiser Good Vibrations (19 Nov), narrowboat Stourbridge (26 Dec) and narrowboat Zinfandel (2 Jan).

More perennial bedding plants have been purchased for the lock garden volunteers. These were planted out in October. The River Manager tendered apologies for the Jesus Green Association AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The garden volunteers presented a progress report.

11.2.6 Baits Bite Lock: Capital works to rebuild the downstream landing stage commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> October and were completed on 5<sup>th</sup> December, overseen by George Shuttleworth Engineering Consultants and the River Manager (see also Finance Report). A temporary plastic pontoon was hired from D K Collins contractors so that rowers (principally CULRC) could continue to portage around the lock to use the lower reaches of the river. The contractors barges were tampered with overnight; they devised a way of mooring them mid-stream out of hours, access by boat only, the performance adding a half-hour to either side of their working day. This however, put a stop to further vandalism. Navigation was suspended on 18<sup>th</sup> October for the half-yearly maintenance and inspection of the lock by R J Marriott Engineering. A metal housing, fabricated by the same firm, has been affixed to the wall of the lock-keeper's cottage to cover hydraulic and electrical cables as a deterrent to theft. Personnel from the Environment Agency's M&E team have paid several visits to the sluices over the last quarter to fix a recurring fault with

No. 2 gate which has been causing problems with water level maintenance upstream. A boater noted a loose earth bonding in the guillotine gate control panel. Contracting electricians made repairs. Power supply interruptions following overnight gales 5<sup>th</sup> January led to the loss of power to the sluices for several hours and only a partial supply of power was available in the offices. Clayhithe was affected similarly.

11.2.7 The Halingway: The River Manager attended a meeting about Chesterton Fen, convened by the Old Chesterton Residents' Association, on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Parry, City Council, gave a presentation on emergency flood planning. An alder tree has been purchased with monies from CUCBC to mark the position of the Gun Shed. The site was cleared of debris in early January. Planting-out is to take place in the near future. However, Anglian Water Services are considering relocating their existing storm outfall on the River Cam to a new location upstream. The route appears to be underneath the site of the Gun Shed. Comments have been returned to the Client's consulting engineers, Mott MacDonald. At this stage, the proposed pipe is to be of much larger diameter (1100mm) than the present one and indicated to convey flow of 3.2 m/s. The River Manager has expressed concerns that the energy dissipation measures fitted to the pipe will be inadequate to prevent deflection of passing river craft by turbulent cross-currents.

The Highways Agency has been contacted about the breached chain-link fencing underneath the A14 road bridge. They have asserted that it is not theirs. The County Council was the maintaining agent when the Cambridge Northern Bypass was built by the Department of the Environment. All motorway and trunk roads are under Highways Agency jurisdiction. Cllr H Smith has been continuing her investigations of the various drainage arrangements pertaining to Chesterton Fen. The River Manager has been seeking quotations for the clearance of a section of the Halingway boundary ditch from its confluence with the Thirteenth Award Drain and southwards to the A14 road bridge. SCDC cleared their part of the Award Drain in August. The River Manager has written to the Senior Bursar of Jesus College asking if the College would assist in the clearance of the boundary ditch (the western half being theirs). Two fridge freezers and a freezer were fly-tipped into the field drain, Fen Road, Milton, on 17<sup>th</sup> November. This was reported to SCDC. Ms Hall, graduate student, was given the task of researching the Conservators' records to clarify ownership of the brick and concrete bridge which carries the Halingway and forms the outfall to the Thirteenth Award Drain, Fen Road, Milton. The bridge has suffered from vandalism and it is in a dangerous condition. Also, its loading limits are unknown. The track is not public highway so the County Council does not have a record for the structure. A conveyance of land took place in 1982 and a s15/16 licence was issued in 1985 (when the Conservancy was administered by the City Council). Mr Bunn, City Council, has offered to submit a search of records in the Guildhall. Foul smells continue to emanate from the lands to the west of the Halingway adjacent to Plough Reach.

11.2.8 Lease of Fishing Rights: Payment has been received from CFPAS Ltd for the half-yearly fishing rights of the Halingway. An unapproved fishing match took place on the Cam on 30<sup>th</sup> December. The Fishing Bailiff, Mr Russell, issued day tickets. Mr Tweed is investigating where the group came from.

11.2.9 Grazing 0.704 ha. (1.74 acres) Fen Road: The Farm Business Tenancy Agreement has been signed by Mrs Barton for a 3-year period from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (expiry 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014). The term is reduced as compared to Clayhithe Field because the tenant would not agree to

any annual adjustment of the fees by the RPI. Mr Thorogood of Archer & Archer therefore recommended that the agreement be renewed ahead of the other. Mrs Barton has been invoiced for the first year's fees and payment has been received.

11.2.10 Grazing 1.898 ha. (4.69 acres) Fen Road: nothing to report.

11.2.11 Clayhithe Field 4.57 ha. (11.3 acres): The Farm Business Tenancy Agreement has been signed by Mr Smart for a 5-year period from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 up to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (rent payable annually on 30<sup>th</sup> September). In addition to the charges applied by Cambridge Water for the supply of drinking water to the cattle trough, Mr Smart has volunteered to pay fees for the period when the tenancy was out of agreement (April to September 2011).

### **11.3 Plant and equipment**

11.3.1 Computer: E-mail account problems are ongoing, some incoming mail apparently becoming corrupted and then bouncing back to the sender. No-one has been able to identify why this is happening. The Foreman asked for the Conservancy to pay for his broadband access at Clayhithe House. This request was declined pending the site facilities upgrade. The office laser printer developed a power pack fault in December, causing the entire building to fuse and also affecting control of the sluices. The printer has been handed over to specialist engineers who have offered a part-exchange deal.

11.3.2 Conservators' Boats: Drake Towage Ltd moved the refurbished barges from the Depot Yard onto the slipway using their HIAB before Christmas ready for re-launching. Pete Maskell, Engineer, has fitted a manual lock to the Berky lifting arm as per our insurers' recommendations. A high pressure hydraulic hose failed on the Berky in November whilst moored up at Clayhithe Depot. The oil spill (approx. 10 litres) was contained within the engine bay. The river crew attended to the clean-up. Two new hoses were ordered, one for fitting and the other to be kept as a spare in case of breakdown on site.

11.3.3 Vehicles: The tax disc for the tractor has been received from the DVLA.

11.3.4 Mobile phones: New handset upgrades have been negotiated with providers O2. Protective cases have been ordered in addition.

11.3.5 Portable Appliance Testing: A maintenance agreement proposal has been returned to Elecheck. Items are due for re-testing in February 2012.

### **11.4 River Work**

11.4.1 Bishop's Mill SLA with Cambridge City Council: An invoice has been raised for the Conservancy's attendance under the terms of the Service Level Agreement (period Jul-Sep '11). Payment was received via BACS on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The City Council has arranged for lights to be fitted to illuminate the operating area when personnel attend night-time callouts. Mr Taylor, City Council, has been thanked for arranging this important H&S upgrade.

11.4.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): The Agency has been reviewing the roles and responsibilities of those who maintain privately owned, operated and maintained river structures and sluices. A questionnaire was received at the offices relating to arrangements for Jesus and Baits Bite Locks, weirs and sluices and Bishop's Mill Sluices. A response was given on 12<sup>th</sup> October. The EA MOU Supervisor, Mr Trumper, requested information to support his report about projects funded from the General Drainage Charge (GDC) showing costings associated with the main MOU activities. A report was provided to him on 8<sup>th</sup> December. A proposal of costings for 2012/13 has been submitted to Mr Trumper in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

11.4.3 Towpath - grass cutting: nothing to report.

11.4.4 Miscellaneous Applications: A film crew was spotted by the River Manager at Quayside, 28<sup>th</sup> October. The production company was filming Miss World Contestants on punts. Scudamore's issued the necessary permit. Cambs County Council engineers (Atkins) announced their intention to use the free one-day lowering of the middle river (College Backs) on 9<sup>th</sup> January to undertake inspections of various structural elements, including the wooden boardwalk downstream of Quayside and King's Mill Weir. No repair works have been indicated requiring a s15 licence. Trinity Hall has enquired about installing a water feature in the river for its 2012 May Ball following the success of the Trinity College display of 2011. Don Productions has contacted the offices about proposed filming dates for a current affairs programme 'World Watch' in 2012. Applications for flood defence consent have been received from the Environment Agency for projects at The Varsity Hotel/River Bar (ref. L11/C/136, see also Other Matters for Decision) and Queens' College (ref. L11/C/137, replacement of existing disabled ramps to the Mathematical Bridge). Comments have been returned to the EA.

11.4.5 Rubbish Clearance (City): Ms Mackender, Public Realm Manager, enquired about whom was responsible for clearing rubbish from the two backwaters adjacent to Garret Hostel Lane, west side of the River Cam. The Conservancy's arrangements for the City Council are limited to litterpicking the debris removal from the main river only. Land Drainage Byelaws apply to other watercourses (landowner's responsibility, in this case the relevant Colleges). She was advised to confirm ownership with the City's Sustainable Drainage Engineer, Mr Bunn. Unbeknown to Conservancy officers, Mr Kerry retired from the City Council's service on 31<sup>st</sup> December. The cost centre had been taken over by Bob Carter, Operations Manager, Streets & Open Spaces. Officers met to discuss the 2011 payment and future arrangements at Mill Road Depot on 28<sup>th</sup> October. A case was presented for the Conservancy's services continuing in 2012. Mr Carter has agreed to pay this year's invoice. A proposal of costings remains to be submitted for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April. This will take into account the employment rates of the new seasonal River Bailiff. Following this meeting, a visit was paid to the wooden walkway downstream of Quayside to substantiate claims of unsightly rubbish filling various punts. Letters were sent to eight owners asking them to remove the rubbish, which posed a public health hazard, at their earliest convenience. Two of these punts had already received notices for being part-sunken/derelict and were awaiting reclaim by the river crew. RiverCare is hosting its annual conference in January.

11.4.6 Third Party Rechargeable: Cambridge Motor Boat Club has made enquiries about the river crew's availability to repair their frontage. Mr Austin, Fen Ditton, has approached the offices for a quotation to repair the banks of his off-river cut. The river crew's visit to assess the costs of the job remains outstanding.

11.4.7 Tree Pollarding: Mr Crickmore has attended to the pollarding of six Conservancy willows to the rear of Fen View Court at his own cost. His contractors, Acacia Tree Surgery, provided adequate proof of insurance. There are several gaps to be filled along the Halingway between Peter's Posts and the railway bridge. County Cllr Manning has offered to investigate funding via a Transition Cambridge grant. Whilst assessing the winter pollarding programme trees on 20<sup>th</sup> October, a dangerous oak tree was noted on the County Council's side of the Halingway ditch near Clayhithe. This was reported to the County Council and their contractors removed the cracked branch which was overhanging the towpath on 17<sup>th</sup> November. An application has been submitted to SCDC Wildlife Enhancement Scheme for grant-assistance (£1k) towards this year's tree pollarding works. Barcham Trees have delivered 7 willow trees for planting downstream of Baits Bite Lock (funded by Eversheds Trust). A planting day is being arranged with Eversheds employees. A tree management report is in preparation for the H&S sub-committee group.

11.4.8 Weed cutting: Cam Sailing Club reported a number of patches of floating pennywort along the west bank of the Cam towards Bottisham Lock in late October. The EA's Operations Delivery Team visited the Cam late October to spray off patches of floating pennywort with herbicide, working their way upstream from Bottisham. Dr Block also passed on reports of patches infesting the upper river between Sheep's Green and Byron's Pool.

11.4.9 Bank Maintenance: Works to Logan's Way boathouse frontage were completed by Selwyn College in mid-October (a s15 licence was issued for these works). Cambs County Council agreed to pay the s15 licence fees for landscaping works at Riverside under the Environmental Improvements Project, a joint City/County initiative. The County would reclaim the fees paid from the Client (City Council). The River Foreman and his Deputy dedicated time in October and November to the installation of soft revetment in the reaches between Clayhithe and Horningsea (EA Water Framework Directive bank morphology project). The progress of work has been affected by staff sickness. Provisional visits had been made to assess works required to shore-up the frontage at Cambridge Motor Boat Club. By mid-December, it seemed unlikely that the river crew would be able to dedicate time to this project over the winter/spring period, so the Club officers were advised to seek quotations from specialist companies. J P Chick, acting on behalf of Trinity College, approached the offices about river lowering for bank repairs. They were advised of the lowering dates and fees (see also Matters for Decision).

11.4.10 River Lowering: The one-day river lowering scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> January has been advertised in accordance with the statutes (1851 Act). It has been an enormous drain on staff resources. Letters were hand-delivered to those Mooring Licence holders on the upstream side of Jesus Sluices after Christmas seeking their cooperation to move from their berths for a 24-hour period until the river levels are restored to normal. 48-hr notices were served on punts to move from the raised boardwalk as a precautionary measure. The Bailiff counted 31 craft moored there. The strain of their mooring lines when water levels were drained was deemed too much for the structure plus the County's engineers required unimpeded access to view the structure. The

river crew removed around 20 punts and relocated them to St John's College Punt Pool, by kind arrangement, and Jesus Lock Island on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January. This action elicited numerous angry telephone calls from independent operators who were expecting to offer tours over the weekend of 7/8 January. The EA's fisheries team was given advance notice.

Flows in Jesus Ditch had been abnormally low. The City's Sustainable Drainage Engineer had been trying to establish the causes (drought, blockage). He made a provisional request for using the Bailiff's punt to inspect the frontage at Jesus Green. The Ditch was cleared out by contractors on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## **11.5 Acts / Byelaws**

11.5.1 Breaches of mooring policy: Mr Mayo, barge 'Davy' has been double mooring on occasion outside Two Tees Boatyard, Chesterton, causing an obstruction to rowers as has another repeat offender, Ms Sheehan (liveaboard 'Resolute') at Brown's Field, Fen Ditton. The River Manager defended a critical letter from the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians, received 10<sup>th</sup> October, in respect of the double-mooring of seven craft on a garden mooring at Chesterton footbridge on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Eversheds Solicitors, acting on behalf of Mitchells & Butlers (pub management company), have been successful in defending a claim by adverse possession of land at the Plough public house by Mr Middleton (barge 'Robin's Nest'). The Order went to appeal but Mr Middleton, who received legal aid, lost because he could not prove sufficient length of occupancy. The possession order takes full effect on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Mr Middleton is expected to move of Bailiffs will be brought in to remove him. He has found alternative moorings near Upware.

11.5.2 Incidents: See Note 9, H&S / Incidents.

11.5.3 Overloading: A commercial punt operator submitted evidence of two commercial operators overloading their hire punts with customers. Witness statements have been prepared for approval and signing off but the operator has not responded to this invitation to provide testimony.

A letter was sent to an operator about the overloading of his single punt on 16<sup>th</sup> October. He claimed that the six passengers were friends from overseas and that he had been restricting it to 'personal use only due to it being on its last legs as a watertight vessel'. It has not been observed on the navigation subsequently. The owner's registration fees remain outstanding for 2011/12.

11.5.4 Prosecutions: Mr Middleton appealed the costs order and a hearing date was set for 21<sup>st</sup> October. Counsel was instructed to oppose the appeal. Mr Middleton lost this appeal in Cambridge Crown Court on a technicality (the County Court does not have the jurisdiction to overturn Magistrates Court costs). A fresh case assessing the costs has been taken to the Divisional Court. Mr Kerr has submitted an official complaint to Cambs Constabulary regarding their handling of the assault upon him on 4<sup>th</sup> July. A City Mooring Licence holder assaulted two rowing coaches on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The River Manager prepared witness statements and sent them on to Archer & Archer solicitors. They enquired as to why the Police had not apparently taken any action against the offender. The River Manager wrote to Cambs Constabulary on 15<sup>th</sup> November and they confirmed by return that the offender received a formal Caution. A narrowboat keeper was alleged to have deliberately rammed a stationary rowing eight on 13<sup>th</sup>

November. The hostility was reported to Cambs Police who believed there were sufficient grounds to interview the vessel keeper. The Police were advised to make contact with the CUCBC regarding the witness details.

11.5.5 Navigation: As of October, the region has remained in drought, with the River Cam only flowing at 42% of its normal flow. The EA has reported low to notably low groundwater levels, particularly at its Chalk monitoring stations and in the Ely Ouse sub-catchment.

The office has handled some enquiries from boat owners outside the Anglian Region about visiting arrangements for 2012 (licensing, moorings, access keys etc.). The permissive and statutory classifications of the upper river and navigation respectively have been explained to visiting canoeists.

Mr Kennard requested permission to equip his private punt with a small electric motor in December. He was advised that fees would apply and the motor could be used along the Backs up to 31<sup>st</sup> March before the recommencement of the seasonal prohibition for motorised craft along the Backs.

A member of the public enquired about their 10-year old son using a remote controlled boat (a Christmas present) on the river Cam. Various options were given in response including the contact details for the Cambridge Model Boat Club which makes use of a small lake at Impington.

Cam Sailing Club has requested that the Conservancy orders a new 'Slow Down' sign to replace the faded installation next to their starting box, west bank.

The EA closed Bottisham Lock in late November for repairs to the v-doors hydraulic system.

11.5.6 Obstructions/overhanging trees: The River Manager wrote to the Tivoli's publican, Chesterton Road, in September asking if the large willow tree to the rear of the property could be reduced for navigation and flood defence reasons. The Pub Manager responded quickly, sharing the frustration since the tree belongs to a neighbouring property owner, Mrs Bromley. A request was put to Mrs Bromley and she has agreed to employ contractors to submit the necessary tree permit and attend to reduction works. A quotation for Conservancy boat support has been provided to the tree work contractors.

A willow partly collapsed into Snob's Stream near the Bella Pasta Restaurant (non-navigable watercourse) on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The City Council was informed of this hazard.

Mr Wilson, Green Spaces Manager, has asked if the Conservancy can improve the depth for mooring its Playboat at the City Council's former commercial moorings on Chesterton Road (downstream of Magdalene Gardens) by removing some concrete blocks. It is believed that the structure forms part of a surface water outfall. Mr Wilson was referred on to the City's Sustainable Drainage Engineer.

Trinity College Porters reported a large free-floating tree trunk in the river to the River Bailiff on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Mr Crossley, Farm Manager, Trumpington Farm Company, left their employ late October. Mr Crossley had been particularly helpful in removing fallen trees from the upper river. He was thanked for his prompt attentions. Mr Knott has become the new point of contact for Farm-related enquiries. Dr Block reported a fallen tree across two thirds of the river width near Paradise Island LNR on 16<sup>th</sup> November. The City Council's Conservation Officer was alerted to this hazard.

Mr Brown reported a propane gas bottle floating in the river at Chesterton, a hazard to rowers. no staff were available to attend immediately. Mr Brown was able to retrieve the bottle himself and it was collected subsequently by the river crew and returned to Clayhithe Depot.

11.5.7 Pontoon licences: The Chairman and River Manager met with the Directors of Scudamore's on 27<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the future terms of pontoon licences and other punting related matters. The River Manager met with Mr Doggett (City Council) and punt operators at La Mimosa station to discuss the improvements to their facility ahead of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to achieve compliance with the new commercial registration regulations. Advice has been provided on a suitable pontoon-cum-kiosk design for the storage of equipment. Mr Godfrey, one of the operators, has been researching different types of pontoon installation to suit the operators' needs. The City Council may have some capital funds available to match-fund their licensed operators. The manager of the Varsity Hotel & Spa has submitted an application for a new pontoon licence (see Note 8, Other Matters for Decision).

11.5.8 Registration numbers: The EA's new serial numbers have been causing problems for enforcement officers because most craft owners are continuing to display the old EA serial numbers on their hulls. Only close-up inspection of the issued annual licence disc can confirm their status.

11.5.9 Removal of Sunken/Abandoned Boats: An unidentified dinghy reclaimed under the byelaws has been sold by sealed tender as of 11<sup>th</sup> October. Complaints have been received about a windsurfing board being used as a tender to a residential boat at Riverside, often lying part-submerged and obliquely obstructing the navigation fairway. Expressions of interest have been received for any reclaimed punts; there are none at Clayhithe at present. People have been referred to various boating classified advertising sites. Punt Blind Mouse sunk at quayside walkway in November. It was baled-out and reclaimed to Jesus Lock by the River Bailiff. The vessel was released on payment of a penalty fee; the owner provided written assurance that he would attend to repairs so that the punt did not sink again. Reclaimed dinghy 'Jubilee' has been sold by sealed tender and the new owner has removed it from the navigation. A narrowboat 'Bald Rick' was abandoned at Baits Bite by the rescue company which was allegedly acting on behalf of owners to repair it. Notice was served upon the vessel and it was towed to Clayhithe by the river crew before contractors mobilised to refurbish the landing stage at Baits Bite. The narrowboat remained at Clayhithe without any further attention for over a month. The company eventually moved the narrowboat and paid storage fees before it was released with the owner's consent. Cruiser Fine Wind IV, which had been on the Cam for a number of months, sank at the EA's 48 hour moorings at Little Thetford in November. The owner's contact details were passed on to the River Inspector. The offices have received a copy of the Winter e-News from National Historic Ships UK. Historic vessel 'Jester' remains at Clayhithe, now in a sorry state.

Scudamore's requested a partial lowering of the upper river to assist with the recovery of a sunken pontoon at the Boatyard. A date was agreed with them (30<sup>th</sup> December) and the River Foreman attended Bishop's Mill Sluices to adjust the gates. River users were given advance warning by e-mail.

11.5.10 Vehicles on the Halingway: Permission was granted to URS Corp to undertake under-bridge inspections of the A14 road bridge on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Their engineer was warned of the

activities of the Conservancy's contractors at Baits Bite landing stage. Organisers of the Clare Regatta requested permission to bring a camper van to the finishing line at Morley's Holt. They were asked to park the vehicle at Peter's Posts instead to minimise any conflict with pedestrians and cyclists.

11.5.11 Noise: Cambridge City Council's Environmental Health team had received complaints from local residents about noise coming from running generators of moored craft at the Penny Ferry public house over the Christmas and New Year period. Their officer is intending to send informal advisory notes about acceptable noise levels to the boat owners there.

11.5.12 Disposal of sewage: see 11.7.5, Moorings at Riverside.

11.5.13 Diving operations: nothing to report.

11.5.14 Swimming: Cambridge News reported on the traditional New Year's Day swim at Grantchester.

## **11.6 Environment and Planning**

11.6.1 Biodiversity: A local angler reported catching a large signal crayfish at Byron's Pool, downstream of the last fishing peg, in early December. At a meeting at Baits Bite on 8<sup>th</sup> December, preliminary discussions took place with Iain Webb of the Wildlife Trust about a signal crayfish trapping programme on the Cam amongst other conservation matters. The necessary licence application forms have been procured from the EA. A member of the public enquired about trapping the same crayfish between Stourbridge Common and Clayhithe. He had been advised by the EA that the local fishery owner needed to provide consent to support his licence application. A response was provided. Attention was also drawn to byelaw 6.6b which requires the consent of the Conservators for any temporary obstruction in the navigation, e.g. anchored traps. A member of the public reported what they believed to be a bloodied otter in Fen Road field drain. The River Bailiff investigated; it was in fact a disease-ridden rabbit. The office has received a copy of the Wicken Fen Vision October newsletter. The River Manager attended the 19<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November meetings of the Cam Valley Forum in Grantchester. Copies of the Cam Valley Forum's newsletter 'River Views' have been obtained for circulation from Baits Bite office. A copy was sent on to the EA. Mr Howard Slatter has been appointed as Chair of the Hobson's Conduit Trust as of 31<sup>st</sup> October. The River Manager has assisted Mr Sivell, Buglife, regarding potential sites for the expansion of the population of the rare eyed longhorn beetle (*Oberea oculata*). A site visit with Natural England and EA officers took place on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Selway, City Council Community Reserves Officer, was made redundant as of 15<sup>th</sup> November following an organisational restructuring. The River Bailiff has responded to the Wildlife Trust's call for volunteers to undertake an otter survey in Cambridgeshire (in his own time).

11.6.2 Cambridge City Council Local Plan: The combined Colleges have applied for planning permission to undertake a radical programme of tree reduction and replanting in the vicinity of the Backs. The Conservancy's access to the online Consultee Access has been activated. Late October, the City Council released a planning guidance document on the impact of building

height upon the City's skyline (closing date for comments 12<sup>th</sup> December). A summary of representations to the City Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 has been published at <http://cambridge.jdi-consult.net/ldf/> The Strategy (which supersedes the 2006 version) was adopted at the Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The consultation on the Riverside and Stourbridge Common Conservation Area Review has been reopened, deadline for comments 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012. Jesus Green Association held its AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The River Manager tendered apologies. The Cambridge Local Plan 2006 is being updated and the City Council has offered a workshop on 31<sup>st</sup> January and an opportunity for one-to-one meetings with officers. The Conservators have a provisional date of 8<sup>th</sup> February to meet with Sara Saunders, Planning Policy Manager. Cambridge Past Present and Future and partners are hosting a one-day workshop on 'Agriculture and green spaces' on 26<sup>th</sup> January under the banner of its 2030 Vision for the Cambridge sub-region.

11.6.3 Cambridge Sport Lakes: Milton Country Park had been subjected to various acts of criminal damage to trees and footbridges in November.

11.6.4 CamToo Project: nothing to report.

11.6.5 Planning Consultations: Cambridge United has released plans for the development of a new football stadium plus 400 houses by Grosvenor Developments at Trumpington Meadows. The government white paper on water was published in December (see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/legislation/whitepaper/> ) Cambridge Water has submitted an updated drought plan to the Secretary of State. A public consultation ends on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The draft plan, and accompanying statement, can be viewed at <http://www.cambridge-water.co.uk>

11.6.6 SCDC Towpath: An invoice has been submitted for the annual fees of clearing litter from the towpath. The River Foreman reported a large volume of fly-tipping in the County Council's field adjoining the fishermen's car park at Waterbeach (track leading to the Halingway). SCDC was alerted to this environmental hazard. Their officer asserted that responsibility rested with the landowner. The rubbish was cleared by the SCDC rubbish collecting team when they emptied the nearby dog waste bin.

11.6.7 Water Framework Directive: see bank maintenance, above. Professor Everson (Anglia Ruskin University) has asked if the Conservancy has any projects which might be suitable for an undergraduate dissertation. He was advised to make contact with the Anglian River Basin Programme Manager who might advise on some suitable WFD-related projects. Other Cam-based project ideas were tendered to him.

11.6.8 Waterspace Strategy: The River Manager attended the launch of the Bedford Waterspace Strategy on 30<sup>th</sup> September. The documents can be viewed on the Bedford Borough Council web pages at [http://www.bedford.gov.uk/business/strategies,\\_plans\\_and\\_research.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/business/strategies,_plans_and_research.aspx) Members of Cam Valley Forum were most encouraged to see a copy of the Bedford Waterspace Strategy tabled at their 30<sup>th</sup> November meeting (see 11.6.1 above) and have made an initial approach to either Richard Glen Associates or Ms Witcomb-Vos (EA) to provide a keynote presentation at the Forum's AGM in March 2012.

11.6.9 Sale of punt tours: see Matters Arising.

11.6.10 Conservators' Environmental Policy: this document was due for review in September 2009. Mike Barrett has been approached to quote for his services to re-draft the Policy in view of legislative changes.

11.6.11 Cambridge Canoe Clubhouse extension: The River Manager attended the opening of the new clubhouse extension by the Major of Cambridge, Cllr Nimmo-Smith, 15<sup>th</sup> October.

11.6.12 Application for title, Trinity College: An application for registration of title (CB366402) has been received from HM Land Registry in Peterborough, for 'The River' adjacent to Trinity College, response deadline 10<sup>th</sup> January. An objection will be lodged, citing the Conservators' acts and the public right of navigation.

## **10.7 Moorings**

11.7.1 Camboaters: The River Manager mediated a request from the Cam Valley Forum for Camboaters' photographs of the World Rivers Day Festival to be for passed over to the Forum for publication on their website. A date for the Great Cam Clean Up 2012 remains to be fixed; dates have been suggested to Camboaters, the 14<sup>th</sup> April being favoured by other groups. The Cleaner Cambridge Campaign may be able to provide volunteers to help with the organising. Cam Sailing Club will go ahead with its own litterpick as in previous years. The City Council requires a reasonable lead-in time in order to organise its staff roster. Camboaters held their AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> November. A Chairperson has yet to be elected. Ms Tillson is to remain as their Secretary and Ms Synge as their Treasurer.

11.7.2 Clayhithe 48 hour visitor's moorings: Some subsidence of the concrete capping has been noted in the river crew's monthly inspections.

11.7.3 Mooring Arrangements with Cambridge City Council: Some residential boaters had been storing items on the riverbank next to their vessels, including waste. The River Bailiff and City enforcement officers have been serving statutory notices as appropriate. City and Conservancy officers' meetings have re-commenced following a lapse brought about by the restructuring of City departments and job roles in 2010. A joint meeting took place on 31<sup>st</sup> October and officers discussed various actions required to uphold the Moorings' Policy and Conservancy byelaw requirements. Notices to quit have been served upon 'Pug' and 'Twentieth Century Fox'. Both are listed for Conservancy non-registration prosecution proceedings and neither have reconfirmed their Mooring Licence agreements or paid fees for 2011/12. The City Council has been invoiced for the River Bailiff's services; payment has been received. Ms Ainley, Head of Streets & Open Spaces, was informed about an assault which took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October involving a Licence Holder. The latter has subsequently sold his boat and moved on (address unknown). A follow-up meeting with City officers took place on 14<sup>th</sup> December. The City Council Tax Team is looking into payment arrangements from various boat owners which are deemed to be 'liveboards'.

11.7.4 Conservators' Mooring Policy: see Matters Arising. A planning enforcement officer from SCDC has been in contact with the offices about the length of time that residential boats have been moored in a private cut upstream of Bottisham sluices. The landowner only has planning consent for 2 residential berths. Historic observations made by the River Bailiff were passed on to the enforcement officer.

11.7.5 Moorings at Riverside: The City Council has indicated its intention to register the land at Riverside (Cambridge News 29<sup>th</sup> September 'Riverside ownership mystery set to be solved'). At times, the entire length of available moorings has been occupied, causing an overspill of craft onto Stourbridge Common or the Chesterton bank (Pye's Field), requiring enforcement notices to be issued by the River Bailiff. Riverside Area Residents' Association has continued to lobby the City Council on various environmental health matters (rubbish, noise, parking, sewage disposal). The County Council has made some modifications to the railings to improve access. The River Manager attended a Riverside Consultation Meeting convened by Simon Payne, Head of Environment & Planning, on 18<sup>th</sup> November. City officers are looking into costings for providing mooring improvements. British Waterways has published some useful guidelines on safe moorings and access which have been brought to officers' attention. A consultation on moorings is being developed. RARA is concerned that the lapse of planning enforcement may have left open the possibility of boat owners claiming the adjoining land by adverse possession. The County has cited a case of a caravan owner's attempt to claim the highway by adverse possession being quashed.

## **11.8 Registration**

11.8.1 Boat Standards: A letter has been received from Mr Macnaghten on behalf of the Punt Operators' Association dated 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Ms McKenzie of St John's College enquired as to how the changes to commercial registration (see Matters Arising) might affect the College Punt Scheme pending the re-issuing of their agreements for the mooring of private punts in their Punt Pool in 2012. A full response was given. On the basis of this information she prepared a briefing note for the Colleges' Tourism Sub-Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Visit Cambridge has been developing selection criteria for multiple numbers of punt operators to sell their tour tickets via the Tourist Information Centre in 2012. A formal application process will be offered in February 2012. Conservancy byelaw requirements have been confirmed with the lead officer, Ms Churms. Mr Milne, Guided Tours Manager, sought approval of records of three meetings involving the River Manager (15 May 2008, 12 August 2009, 31 August 2011) being released to a member(s) of the public under the Freedom of Information Act. Mr Milne was due to report on actions of officers to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in January 2012.

Two residential craft owners using moorings at the Penny Ferry, Chesterton, had hoisted projecting poles from the sides of their vessels to prevent contact by passing rowing craft. The Bailiff spoke to one owner who agreed to remove this dangerous item. The other owner was not on board at the time of this visit.

11.8.2 EA Interchange Agreement: The Environment Agency terminated the agreement on 30<sup>th</sup> September, giving six months notice. The River Cam Navigation Benefits Assessment

Consultation, which sought opinions about the agreement, closed on 7<sup>th</sup> October. The consultants, Ecorys Ltd, were informed of the termination as they reviewed the survey findings. The licensing sub-committee group has worked hard and swiftly over the last quarter to negotiate a new position with the EA. They met on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to review the Ecorys 'top-line' survey results, and subsequently, on 7<sup>th</sup> November they met with the EA Head of Anglian Waterways and officers to discuss future licensing options. The EA has announced its annual fee increases for 2012/13 (+6.4%). An estimate of boats visiting the Cam, and 'lost income', was prepared using observations made at Baits Bite Lock and by the River Bailiff. The Conservators were advised of the termination of the agreement on 18<sup>th</sup> November and a press release was issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> November following the Regional Navigation Group meeting. Ecorys Ltd met with the steering group on 17<sup>th</sup> November prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> December Special Meeting, agreeing final edits to their report. A stakeholder meeting took place in Peterborough on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The river users voiced their desire to see some form of reciprocal agreement being retained. The two respective authorities met again on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The EA's solicitor and Mr Brown have been drafting new Heads of Terms. The Chairman prepared an update note for Conservators on 19<sup>th</sup> December. See also Note 7b, Conservancy-Environment Agency Interchange Agreement. The River Bailiff and River Manager met with Ms Reed, Environment Agency, in Peterborough on 21<sup>st</sup> October to agree the final boat count for 2012. The Bailiff interrupted his week's annual leave to attend this meeting. Payment has been received as of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**11.8.3 Non-registration prosecutions:** Correspondence has been exchanged with the Secretary of Cam Sailing Club regarding some boats on river moorings which were apparently unregistered as of late October.

Hydrologists from Mouchel, acting on behalf of the EA, were observed taking flow velocity measurements at Bottisham Lock on 19<sup>th</sup> October. They had not approached the offices for permission to access Conservancy waters with their boat. Cross-channel measurements are apparently being made twice a year for the EA's flood modelling purposes.

British Waterways has introduced a helpful on-line licence checker for members of the public to use ('License It or Lose It'). Staff have been cross-referencing their checks with this web-based tool.

An unlicensed ice-cream vending punt was being operated on the navigation over the summer by Granta Punts. The company has been invoiced for the vessel fees.

Court Summonses were served on the following vessels on 23<sup>rd</sup> November: G12119 Pug, G17763 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, G20635 'Tumbling Water', G15137 'Another World', G17354 'Helena Knowsley'.

**11.8.4 Interchange agreement with Canoe England (British Canoe Union):** Licensing arrangements have been explained to non-Cam canoeists using the upper 'permissive' river and the statutory navigation. The general feeling is that the Conservancy's canoe licence is too expensive for occasional visits. Members of the public were advised to submit their viewpoint via the Ecorys questionnaire.

## **11.9 Events**

**11.9.1 2011 events:** There have been steady communications over the last quarter with organisers of events. Emergency contact numbers have been exchanged with organisers and

when practicable, event details have been circulated by e-mail to stakeholders informing them of the possible disruption to navigation. A national fishing competition on 23<sup>rd</sup> October was disrupted by rowers who showed a complete disregard to the competitors. Mr Key and Mr Tweed discussed the matter privately. Mr Key has asked if the Conservancy's e-mail notifications can be sent at least one week in advance. Mr Brown has queried whether CUCBC had provided adequate notice of events in accordance with the byelaws. CUCBC's provisional list arrived when the River Manager was on vacation, so the public notices were delayed. A Charity Duck Race in aid of 'Whizz-Kidz' took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October at Garret Hostel Bridge. The CUCBC Fours, Fairbairn Cup Races and Clare Novices' Regatta passed without incident. The Essex Canoe Association race on 27<sup>th</sup> October attracted over 160 entrants in spite of strong winds; half of the entrants were juniors. A suspension of navigation was advertised for the City fireworks display at Midsummer Common on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 7-8pm. Spartan Rescue were in attendance to marshal boats on the river. The City Council served notices on the residential boaters to move in advance; they duly obliged. One visiting boat owner refused to move until the Police spoke to him. Camboaters has set up a Google calendar of Cam events for users to receive event notifications.

11.9.2 2012 events: A provisional list of 2012 approved events is annexed. Receipt of Cam Sailing Club fixtures is pending. A half-yearly joint Conservancy-rowers' liaison meeting is due to take place in January. Slipstream Canoes have made contact about a sponsored canoe event between Cambridge and Ely, preceded by a one day canoe training day (dates to be arranged). The Cambridge University Science Festival Team has requested permission for a performance of sea shanties on punts by a songstress mermaid and protest singer Olly the Octopus to highlight the issues associated with sustainable fishing. Mr Emery (Friends of the Cam) has requested permission to host a mass punt race on 'Suicide Sunday 2012' for a duration of around 20 minutes between Silver Street and Magdalene Street bridges. A suspension of navigation would be advised, but the date in June will impact heavily on other users of the navigation, both commercial and private. The organisers of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay have contacted the offices about the route and times of the torch's progress through Cambridge in July 2012. The torch's arrival will coincide with the City's Big Weekend and a mass participation cycle event.

11.9.2 Event fees: See Note 7a, new charging arrangements for Conservancy-based boats.

## **11.10 Publicity**

11.10.1 Notice-boards: the GOBA Winter 2011/12 Bulletin has been affixed in the noticeboards. Other statutory notices have been displayed as applicable.

11.10.2 Publications: As an action arising from meetings with Riverside Area Residents' Association, the City Council has updated a multiple-agency leaflet for boaters about environmental health and pollution regulations. The River Bailiff will hand-deliver copies to the moored boats at Riverside in the near future. A news reporter asked for comment on fish poaching on the Cam. The Conservancy's details have been provided to the editor of Waterways World Annual.

11.10.3 Presentations: A presentation on managing the River Cam was delivered to the Gt Staughton & Perry WI on 11<sup>th</sup> October. The proceeds of the evening's raffle were donated to the RNLI. A new presentation on how the Conservancy balances the needs of river users and the environment was given to members of the Cambridge Natural History Society at Anglia Ruskin University on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Conservator Clive Brown and the River Manager gave a joint presentation to CUCBC novice coxes about river do's and don'ts at Robinson College, 27<sup>th</sup> October. The River Manager agreed to undertake a 'River Walk' with year 6 children from St Matthews Primary School, morning of 10<sup>th</sup> November. An annual report on Conservancy business was provided to the CRA at their AGM, evening of 30<sup>th</sup> November. Milton WI has asked if officers would be willing to arrange a guided walk along the Cam near Baits Bite Lock. A date remains to be fixed in spring 2012.

11.10.4 Media: A press release issued following the 29<sup>th</sup> September about new commercial punting regulations was published by the Cambridge News on 30<sup>th</sup> September entitled 'Cam bosses sink 'filthy' punt base'. A follow-up article on 3<sup>rd</sup> October cited the accident in July when a toddler's finger was crushed between two punts. David Mercer has taken on the role of Editor of GOBA News. There was insufficient time for officers to submit any copy for their 30<sup>th</sup> October deadline. The publishing of the City Council's public survey about punt touting generated articles in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October editions of the Cambridge News ('Calls to act against swarms of punt touts', 'Tighter punt tout controls floated to stop the hassle'). The News reported of the finding of Dr Julia Swindells in the river Cam, missing since 29<sup>th</sup> October. The Cambridge News published an 'interview' with swan Mr Asbo, 24<sup>th</sup> December.

11.10.5 Website: A schematic showing temporary landing arrangements at Baits Bite was published on the website during the period of refurbishment by Drake Towage. A member of the public noted a grammatical error in the byelaws section (6.6a). The transcription error was corrected by the webmaster. The office fax machine number has been removed from the contact section since it is no longer in use. Statutory notices for suspensions of navigation have been published on the webpages. Mr Litterick noted that past events were no longer being displayed on the website, presumably for data storage reasons. He had wanted to trace which organisers had been responsible for the littering of the towpath, mid-October. The webmaster has received all updates for year-end and 2012 rowing and fishing fixtures.

11.10.6 Other: A French civil engineering/town planning student asked for information about the River Cam. He was directed to a number of information sources. The River Manager was unable to attend the annual Mayor's Reception, 18<sup>th</sup> November, due to illness.

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

January 2012

River Manager