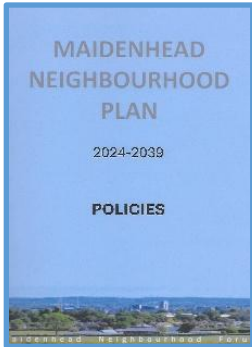


Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the April 2026 edition of *Flow*, the newsletter for *FoMW* members and supporters.



Neighbourhood Plan...approved! - We are delighted to report that the Referendum delivered a resounding (>90%) 'Yes' in the public vote on the Neighbourhood Plan for Maidenhead. The product of three years of hard work by a dedicated volunteer team (including *FoMW* and the Civic Society), the Plan will now be formally adopted by RBWM and become part of its official development plan, carrying equal weight in planning decisions to the borough-wide Local Plan. Detailed local policies on Design, Housing, Getting About, Climate, Built Heritage and Biodiversity are included, with specific policies to help protect and enhance the role of the waterway as a key public amenity and wildlife corridor through the heart of town.

Membership Subs - We are now in the new 2026/27 membership year, so subs are due for new or renewing members. With RBWM's finances under pressure, member subs are the only certain source of revenue that the charity can spend as we wish towards maintaining and improving the waterway.

Subs have been held at £20 for *FoMW* membership (single or family) with a further £20 per person applicable for the optional Canoe Club. Treasurer Mark Loader is currently migrating our membership records onto the online Membermojo system, but in the meantime please pay your subs via our bank as usual to Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group (our legal name) at a/c 00015476; Sort Code 40-52-40; CAF Bank, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QJ. Our thanks to those that pay by standing order/DD, especially those that already make an additional donation or can add Gift Aid.

Pigeons be gone! - We have completed installation of the new pigeon screen under the western Chapel Arch. Specially fabricated for us by MT Perry, the frame is bolted onto the modern concrete reinforcements, avoiding the need for fixings into the fragile c1825 bridge roof. The 'net curtains' slide aside for access. No pigeons, no mess...!!



Bray Cut Clearance - We recently welcomed back IWA Waterway Recovery Group (BITM branch) volunteers for another weekend long clearance session in lower Bray Cut. Working just south of the Causeway with the landowner's own team, and *FoMW's* floating platform, chain saws and winches, some huge fallen trees were removed to free up passage and flow.



Canoe Club News - Our Canoe Club members have teamed up with ranger Tom Hall from RBWM's Braywick Park nature team for a Bray Cut river clean. Working in canoes and on the banks, volunteers removed discarded bottles, beer cans, plastic and other rubbish from the water. River cleaning is now paused for the nesting season. Canoe club members continue to paddle regularly from town to reach the Thames. This month we had our

first sighting of an otter swimming across the channel. The canoe club continues to expand, with our first canoe and river skills course in April fully booked.

'Baby Yorkie' - Supported by a grant from Christopher Ward Watches we will shortly be taking delivery of a second flat bottomed heavy duty aluminium work boat to add to our maintenance fleet. Pictured in manufacturer Seastrike's workshop, the new boat is slightly smaller than Yorkie, so we are for now calling her 'Baby Yorkie' but would welcome suggestions for the final name. Our Boatmaster Robert Edmonds has started this year's skipper training for all of our powered craft, with familiarisation sessions held on the water. If you would like to train up as one of our approved skippers please Email boating@maidenheadwaterways.org.



Just Giving - *FoMW* is a volunteer, donation supported charity with limited financial support from RBWM. If you are not a paid-up member, but would like to make a donation to help us do more, please see our Just Giving page(s) at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/maidenheadwaterways> for general donations and <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/fomwaccessplatforms> which is aiming to fund four new safe escape/access platforms we want to add downstream of the GWR.

Richard Davenport

Chair of the Trustees

April 2026