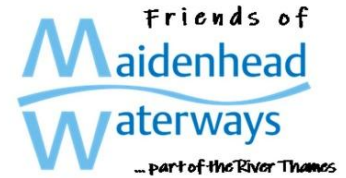


Dear Member/Supporter,



Welcome to the June 2026 edition of *Flow*, the newsletter for *FoMW* members and supporters. Apparently there is football on at the moment..!!



Neighbourhood Plan adopted - After overwhelming support in the public referendum, RBWM has formally adopted the Neighbourhood Plan for Maidenhead as part of its official development plan. The Plan will now carry equal weight in planning decisions to the borough-wide Local Plan. It includes 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.

Skippers needed - Our new 14ft powered work boat has been named 'Yorkie Loupe'... in a nod to sponsor Christopher Ward Watches. We now need to expand the pool of skippers authorised to drive our craft. Boatmaster Robert Edmonds is running occasional familiarisation sessions. If you would like to train up as one of our approved skippers, please Email boating@maidenheadwaterways.org.

Membership Subs - Subs are now due for the 2026/27 membership year and have again been held at £20 for *FoMW* membership (single or family) with a further £20 per person for optional Canoe Club membership. With RBWM's finances still stretched, income from member subs helps us to maintain and improve the waterway. Please check your payment status by Emailing our Treasurer Mark Loader at treasurer@maidenheadwaterways.org.

Gas works - Cadent are progressively renewing the gas mains that serve Maidenhead. In the spring they diverted the main that runs under the road by our main boating base at Chapel Arches. The redundant pipe at the rear of the arches is due to be cut out and removed in late summer, hopefully after the peak boating season. We await clarification on the exact timing and the degree of unavoidable disruption.

Events 2026 - Trustees have agreed to join two major events this year around the waterway... Paddlefest on 20th June (in partnership with Berkshire Scouts) and Waterside Quarter's Live and Local on 22nd August, when we will again be offering free boat rides in our service boats. We have reluctantly **decided to cancel the Waterways Fun Day** this year, which had been planned for 12th September, due to disruption expected from the next stage of works by Cadent.



Canoe Club News - Our new Canoe Club, continues to thrive. This month 6 new members completed their PaddleUK Discover award, learning kayak skills, river safety and nature awareness. Since the club was founded last July, some 45 people have taken the course, led by one of our qualified coaches. The courses bring in useful income for the group and recently enabled the purchase of 3 new kayaks. The Club now has a total of 11 kayaks and 6 double canoes.

We will host other courses this summer, including the Paddle UK Explore course for paddlers to build on their skills and move towards more independent paddling and longer trips. An external coach will also teach Paddlesport Safety and Rescue. The club's first trip on the Thames saw members paddling from Boulter's Lock to Cookham and back. Earlier 6 club members paddled from Maidenhead town centre to the Thames at Bray. It was an enjoyable paddle, but last month's heatwave and high winds have caused problems.



Three fallen trees are partially blocking Bray Cut. When the bird nesting season is finished, we will work with the IWA's Waterway Recovery Group to tackle the blockages and re-open this key link to the Thames.

As the club grows, it will need more space to store canoes and kayaks. We are in discussion with the council about a canoe store at Green Lane, in the pocket park near the weir. We have appointed Marlow architects Highway Associates to help draw up the plans. The property company Get Living (One Maidenhead) has already given us a valuable grant towards the new canoe store, for which we are very grateful.



Channel maintenance - Recent wet and warm weather saw a spurt in bankside growth and weed in the channel. An early visit from contractor Weedcutter helped the latter, but we are struggling to keep up due to a shortage of team leaders, low volunteer numbers and the constraints of the nesting season. If you can help and, better still, if you are willing to train as a team leader, please get in touch at contact@maidenheadwaterways.org.

FoMW has also been forced to pull back from trying to preserve all of the timber edgings along the restored channel. RBWM built these using treated soft wood to minimise the cost - a false economy, as they are prone to rot when covered with wet foliage. The council will now have to consider adding safety signage to warn of the danger of residents and waterway users standing on them.

A more positive development has been the repurposing of some of RBWM's disused roadside planters, to add some greenery to the hard channel edges inside Waterside Quarter. **FoMW** volunteers have planted the first 4 up to sit (...ready watered!!) on the submerged ledges, providing some welcome greenery, while steering boaters away from the hull hazard.



Best regards,

Richard Davenport

Chair of the Trustees

June 2026