

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of *Flow*, the newsletter for **FoMW** members and supporters. It has been a busy summer and with the nesting season out of the way, attention is now turning more to channel maintenance.

Fun Day - Waterways Fun Day on Saturday 13th September was a huge success, attracting thousands of residents into town despite a shower at the end. The High Street was closed to traffic, allowing stalls, an entertainment stage and displays on the road between The Bear and Coppa Club, inside Waterside Quarter, by the Library and in the refurbished amphitheatre. Visitors enjoyed live music, displays and entertainment all day on and off the water, sponsored by Waterside Quarter, the Louis Baylis Trust and Maidenhead Thames Rotary.



Magic by Patrick Ashe, music from Alexander Devine Buskers, Elaine Skillen, The Courtlands Stories, Glen Stevenson, Charis Anne Luke and Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band, entertained the crowds, while roaming artists including a pirate stilt walker, balloonist and bubble fairy, all adding to the festival atmosphere.

We welcomed Basil's Mobile Farm by the Library, Pedal Planes and a Flight Simulator from White Waltham, Berkshire Fire with a tender plus their rescue boat, while displays on the water included the popular 'Crazy' Flamingo Chase, Black Park model boats and demonstrations by >80 Scouts and Claires Court canoeists. Our new Canoe Club provided 45 free canoe try-outs, including for local MP Joshua Reynolds (...!!), while our work boats Yorkie and Marmalade provided 106 free boat rides during the day.



See our short video of the day at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdXnod6CxdE>

Pipe bridge - Our campaign, supported by Patron Baroness Theresa May and local MP Josh Reynolds, has led to a shift in Thames Water's (TW) position on removal of the redundant low sewer pipe that crosses the channel just south of the GWR. The project has been reassigned from Developer Services - who routinely charge all costs for network changes to the party

requesting them - and is now being reviewed and managed instead by its Critical Assets team. It is not yet clear how much of a change this will mean on the funding issue, but we are urging TW to take responsibility and act to remove their own redundant assets.

Channel clearances - With the nesting season behind us, volunteers are now needed for the winter season of channel clearances, keeping the restored waterway safe, presentable and usable by canoeists and small craft. If you are on the volunteer list. please join us when you can. It is great fun and very satisfying to see the impact our hard work can make.

BITM & Bray Cut - We recently welcomed back a super team from the Inland Waterways' Waterway Recovery Group (BITM), to continue their clearance of the large fallen trees that block navigation along Bray Cut.

Using chain saws and tirlor winches, fallen trees are being pulled to the banks and/or cut up and stacked as habitat piles. Our canoe club members are also now making occasional forays down the channel to clear debris and minor overgrowth.



AGM - The 2025 AGM has been fixed for 7pm on Thursday 6th November, at Desborough Bowls Club off Green Lane. Please diary the date and look out for the formal notices which follow this newsletter. All are welcome to join us, but only paid-up members may vote.

Grant funding - Thanks to Tim Waggett and Dominic Hurst we have been awarded £5,000 from Maidenhead based specialist watch maker Christopher Ward, plus a further £1,500 from Foresters, nominated by Phoebe Alexander. We have also been included in the next round of Tesco community grants - look out for the blue buttons in store. The new funding will enable us to add to our maintenance kit, to plant more waterside trees and run more community events.

Subs due - If you have not already paid your members subs for 2025/26, please do so now at the set rate of £20 per member or family. While recent grants are allowing us to expand the group's activities, we still need subs income to help cover our standing costs. Please pay online to Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group (our legal name) at **a/c 00015476; Sort Code 40-52-40**; CAF Bank, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QJ. You can also pay by cheque via our registered office at Ground Floor, Arena Court, Crown Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8QZ, using the Membership form on the web site.

Best regards,

Richard Davenport

Chair of the Trustees

October 2025