



Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the December 2025 edition of ***Flow***, the newsletter for **FoMW** members and supporters. With Christmas fast approaching it was nice to see 'Maidy' getting into the swing of things, with this latest floating display at Chapel Arches

AGM - The charity's annual meeting on 6th November went very well, with members receiving a review of progress in the year, approving the 2024/25 annual accounts and renewing trustee appointments. Good progress has been made on maintenance of the restored waterway; the EA has reaffirmed the Public Right of Navigation after a year-long review; and new grant funding has enabled **FoMW** to set up its own Canoe Club, under the leadership of Dominic Hurst and Alasdair Pettigrew. The club is affiliated to PaddleUK.

The meeting approved the renewal of Mark Loader's appointment as Treasurer/trustee and elected two new trustees - Alasdair Turner (our new Secretary) and Alasdair Pettigrew. Special thanks were given to outgoing Secretary Jon Reekie, who has stood down after many years as a trustee.



Canoe Club News - Our new Canoe Club continues to expand and now has over 40 members. We currently have 6 double canoes and 6 single seat kayaks, but plan to further expand depending on funding applications. All new joiners complete a PaddleUK Discover course, learning key paddling and river skills, led by our two qualified coaches Dominic Hurst and Alasdair Pettigrew.

RBWM's contractors have finally removed eight large fallen trees that were blocking the channel at Braywick Park. Canoeists can now [...] paddle from Green Lane right through to the Thames, while also helping keep the channel open for navigation. **FoMW** has long sought to maintain a 5m clear channel along Bray Cut for navigation, leaving 5m of undisturbed habitat on either side.



Our next challenge is to find a permanent storage location for our canoes and kayaks, which are currently kept under Chapel Arches. We are looking at a number of sites and exploring funding options to allow the club to continue to grow.



Channel clearances - 2025 has been a busy year for **FoMW** volunteers. Ably led by Ian Caird, we have expanded our volunteer work parties from once a fortnight to twice a week for much of the year. The focus has been on clearing the West bank of overhanging brambles and branches, for the first time since completion of the York Stream arm of the waterway.

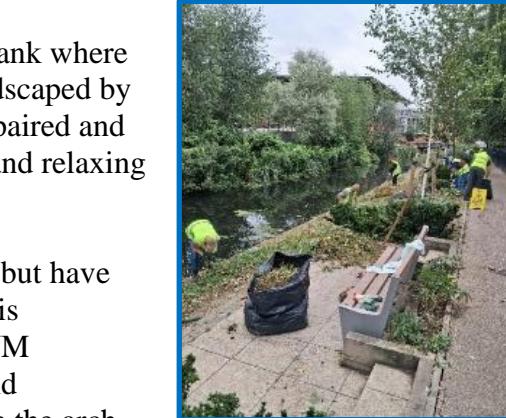
Considerable improvements have also been made to the East bank where we now maintain the bank opposite the library, which was landscaped by Shanly Homes 3 years ago. Bushes have been pruned, steps repaired and grass cut down to the water's edge. It is once more a pleasant and relaxing place for people to sit and watch the life on the water pass by.

We continue to store our boats under the western Chapel Arch but have increasingly competed with a flock of pigeons for the use of this important central space. To overcome this we have, with RBWM

agreement, commissioned the design and fabrication of a screen to be fitted inside the arch, allowing boats in for storage but excluding the pigeon population. The screen awaits fitting in January, after which we should have a much cleaner environment in which to store our boats and equipment.

Over the last five years our ongoing project has been the clearance of blockages in lower Bray Cut, to full open passage from Green Lane to the Thames by Bray Marina. We use a mixture of contractors, specialist boats, help from the Waterways Recovery Group and from our newly formed canoe club. Bray Cut is a never-ending task, with targeted clearance needed after every storm.

Barrian - Members may be aware that Barrian, our 100-year-old wooden boat, has been out of action since her hull was damaged in collision with a submerged ledge a few months ago. The repair required a large section of planking to be cut out and replaced with new timbers, but I am pleased to report that she is now watertight once more and should be back in action soon. The repair was carried out in situ, in the shallows at Town Moor, where she has been laid up.



RBWM Community Lottery - The RBWM run lottery supports over 60 different local community groups, with beneficiaries selected by the ticket buyer. **FoMW** is now receiving a small but useful stream of income from our share of ticket sales, which helps cover some of our fixed costs. If you fancy a flutter there is a draw every week, so this could be another way of supporting **FoMW** - especially if you are not a paid-up member of the group.

Please sign up online at <https://www.windsorandmaidenheadcommunitylottery.co.uk/>

On behalf of the entire trustee board, please accept my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Richard Davenport

Chair of the Trustees

December 2025