

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the June 2021 issue of **Flow** the newsletter for **FoMW** members and supporters of the waterway project. With lockdown slowly easing, and the vaccination program going well, we are looking forward to everyone being able to fully enjoy the waterway once more.

**Donations** - We are delighted to report two major donations, totally **£13,600** - one from a private donor and long term supporter, the other from the Buchanan Programme, nominated by an employee Ben Skinner who lives locally. We are deeply appreciative of both donations, which will enable **FoMW** to fund enhancements to the waterway to improve its usability.

**Channel Maintenance** - Volunteers Tony Ward and Alasdair Pettigrew (pictured) recently worked chest high in dry suits to re-connect the dislodged boom by Green Lane weir. Other crews in chest waders or working from the banks used our special 4m extendable rakes, to gather up and drag out excess blanket weed from the weir basin and lower end of Moor Cut.



To limit the need for physical clearances, we continue to treat the waterway with a biological additive Byofix, which moderates weed growth that could starve the water of oxygen and threatens to smother underwater life. The treatment is being advised by the Environment Agency.

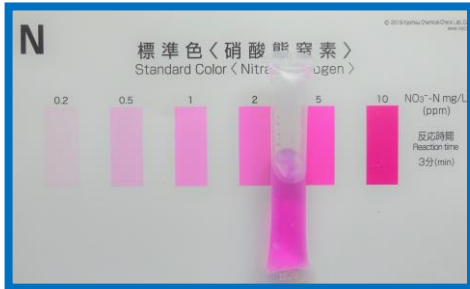
**Town Forum** - A presentation on the background to, progress to date and future options for the waterway was well received by councillors at RBWM's Maidenhead Town Forum on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Before and After images of the key areas (see below Chapel Arches - **2011 vs. 2021**) illustrated how the waterway and adjoining developments are already transforming large parts of the town centre.



**Vision and Charter** - RBWM's Cabinet has adopted the JTP developed Vision and Charter for Maidenhead town centre and proposes setting up a cross-party Town Team tasked with steering continuing regeneration. With an independent chair, the Town Team will include senior officers, councillors and key stakeholder representatives. The Vision and Charter seeks to underpin the

Borough Local Plan by, amongst other aims, strengthening the green and blue landscape, enhancing connections and the public realm, while activating the waterways for the benefit of the community.

**CA Ramp and pontoons** - Talks are underway to agree the details of the long awaited ramp and pontoon project at Chapel Arches, which would provide boat loading/unloading and storage for *FoMW's* use under the closed arch(es). Shanly Homes and RBWM are to co-fund the plans.



**WQ testing** - We took part in the 2021 Thames-wide Water Blitz water quality programme last month, assessing Nitrate and Phosphate levels along the waterway. Tests were undertaken at Widbrook Common; Ray Mill Road West; Moorbridge Road (Moor Cut); and Green Lane. The results show some improvement since the last time we joined Water Blitz in 2015, with both Nitrate and Phosphate levels pretty low, except downstream of the weir by the STW outfall.

**Wildlife** - The numbers and variety of wildlife on the waterways continue to grow. We now have a lovely swan family roaming the channels and have even seen Mandarin Ducks by the weir..!!



**2021/22 Subscriptions** - Subscription income is important to cover our running costs and improve facilities now the waterway is operational. Membership fees have again been held at just £10 per member and £15 for a family. Please pay by cheque via our registered office, using the form <http://maidenheadwaterways.org/TopMenu/mwmembership.doc>, or preferably online to our Account 00015476, Sort Code 40-52-40, at CAF Bank, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QJ

**More Volunteers needed...now!!** - With groundwater dipping, flow monitoring and channel clearance work all now resumed under pandemic guidelines, we still need more volunteers to share the burden of this essential work - both to ensure the water supply and to help maintain the newly restored town centre channels. If you are reasonably fit and able to assist, please get in touch using our **new Email:** [contact@maidenheadwaterways.org](mailto:contact@maidenheadwaterways.org).

Best regards,

*Richard Davenport*  
Chairman of the Trustees

June 2021