

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the latest issue of *Flow*, the newsletter for members and supporters of the waterways project.



Channel Works - We now have *four sections* of the channel substantially completed, with the public footpaths reopened - Town Moor to the A4/St Cloud Way; alongside Hines Meadow Car Park; the new Chapel Arches water basin and the section between York Road and the GWR (completed last year). Channel works to the south of the GWR (pictured here) and below Stafferton Way to Green Lane are also making good progress and should be substantially completed by the autumn.

Construction of the foundations for the new Library footbridge (see below) has commenced and the bridge itself should now also be in place by the autumn. The partially completed section of channel alongside the Library can then be finished off and the remaining paths reopened.

Shanly Group is expected to commence demolition of the low level car park and part of the Colonnade before the end of the year. Its Phase 3 redevelopment there will incorporate the final linking section of the channel, allowing flow to be returned in late 2018 after the weir is added at Green Lane.



Borough Local Plan (BLP) - RBWM delayed the final (Regulation 19) version of the BLP until after the general election. Cabinet is shortly expected to endorse and then consult again on the final BLP in the next few months, which will include a supporting Infrastructure Plan. We await to see what changes to the draft BLP have been made by the council in response to the issues and concerns raised by *MW* and others during the (Regulation 18) consultation held over Christmas.

FoM Shop Re-opens - The Rotary-led Friends of Maidenhead group is this week opening another shop in Nicholson's centre (next to Starbucks) to share and showcase recent progress on the Area Action Plan for the town centre. *MW* will have updated displays along with other community and commercial groups, plus RBWM and its new Joint Venture partner Countryside. The shop is due to be open between 10 and 2, Thursday to Saturday, from 16th June to 21st July. If anyone else is able to take a turn manning our displays, *please get in touch* at the EMail below.

Clares Court - Volunteers are also needed to help supervise two special waterways community days being organised for Claires Court school on 10th and 12th July. A total of c100 Year 10 (15 year old) boys and girls are expected to be involved, working in groups to conduct litter picking and some channel clearance, focused - for safety reasons - on the still shallow Moor Cut channel at Town Moor. Please *get in touch* if you can spare a few hours on either day.



Channel Clearances - We continue our regular clearance events in the feeder channels to improve summer flows into the town centre waterway. Targeted channel clearances will be an ongoing requirement to keep up flows into the restored waterway 'Ring'.

Last month we welcomed this team from Taylor Woodrow and have some other corporates being lined up to help with future events. If you are reasonably fit and able to join an occasional clearance outing *please get in touch* at the EMail below.

2017/18 Subscriptions - While the major project costs continue to be funded via RBWM, subscription income from *MW* members is important to cover our running costs. If you haven't yet paid your subs please do so now, either directly into our bank account or by using the online form at <http://maidenheadwaterways.org/TopMenu/mwmembership.aspx>.

Contacting Local Businesses - One of the next crucial phases of development will be to get more local businesses actively involved in the project. This would mainly be in two forms:

- 1) getting stuck in, eg. helping us to clear the channels as part of team-building or CSR (Corporate Social responsibility) programmes
- 2) funding the "finishing touches" to the waterway – boat launching facilities, benches, bat-boxes, bird-boxes are just some of the first ideas.

But to make this happen we need to talk to the *right people* in local businesses, especially the larger ones. So do you have *any contacts* which we could follow up to help make the next stage happen?

Other Volunteers - We always need more volunteers to help free up others to focus on managing contractors, our links with RBWM and the EA. If you can offer *a few hours a month* to help it would be appreciated, we can usually match interests to needs. Please get in touch: **EMail:** contactus@maidenheadwaterways.org or via the **Web Site:** www.maidenheadwaterways.org

Best regards,

Richard Davenport
Chairman of the Trustees

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