

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the latest issue of Flow, the newsletter for **MW** members and supporters of the Maidenhead waterways project. As 2018 gets underway, we look back with pride at **MW's** successes and the tangible and highly visible progress on the project. Looking forward, Trustees are reviewing the future role of the group as the Area Action Plan and emerging Borough Local Plan slowly unfold.

**Temporary Dam** - RBWM's contractor Greenford removed the temporary dam at Town Moor without warning last month, with some good and some not so good results. With the flow back in York Stream, the Moor Cut channel (...predictably) has drained, with some fish trapped in the shallows having to be rescued. Moor Cut will now stand empty once more, until the Green Lane weir is built to fill both channels and the shallow 60s weir at its Town Moor entrance is removed.



With flow back in York Stream, the enlarged channel near Town Moor has filled to approximately its final level, illustrating nicely the scale of the final waterway and the new closer relationship between banks/path and the water. Pictured are the reopened York Stream channel and draining Moor Cut.

Less successful, the 'flood proofed' Green Way path under the A4/St Cloud Way promptly flooded..! As this picture shows, the new flood wall under the road urgently needs to be extended at full height (per MW's planning consent) to join with the higher up-stream banks. Water is running around the low red brick wall, while the new pump that should drain the path is not yet working. It is unclear where responsibility lays for these oversights, but **MW** was not in the loop for the planned removal of the temporary dam.



**Chapel Arches** - Bridge repairs by Shanly Group are now complete, the scaffolding and temporary handrail removed, the low parapet raised and the bridge face restored in traditional lime rendering above the restored old brick arches. Timber cladding has been added to the

concrete walls recently built to support the fragile c1825 bridge. Demolition of the low level part of Hines Meadow car park got underway after Christmas and the 1930s Colonnade will also shortly be removed to make way for Shanly Group's Phase 3 development. Importantly, Phase 3 will include the 'missing link' of the York Stream arm of the waterway, joining with the already enlarged up and downstream sections of the waterway.

**Swans in York Stream** - It is great to see two pairs of swans in York Stream once more, after the flow was returned. This pair were exploring Chapel Arches basin, while customers in Bakedd enjoyed their coffee overlooking the water.



**Channel Maintenance/Boat Storage** - Planning consent has been agreed for an access ramp and boat loading platform by the western-most large arch at Chapel Arches (next to Bakedd). Thanks to the generous gift of a small boat from a member donor, we now have the potential to establish a service boat based in the centre of town, to be used by MW to help maintain the waterway.

**Channel Works** - Greenford still have significant snagging and finishing off work to do, including at the Library bridge, but have now cleared their site compound at St Ives Road which has been taken over (..for now) as council staff parking. The next stage of channel works, including the Green Lane weir, is currently being tendered and should get underway by mid-year. Once built, it will permanently lift water levels throughout York Stream and also fill the now empty Moor Cut channel.



**Countryside and JV sites** - RWBM's partner Countryside consulted in January on its emerging plans for the York Road area. They are aiming for a full planning application in April and hope to get construction underway by early 2019. The consulted plans would integrate the Town Hall and Library areas, include streamside apartments and create the new cultural quarter envisaged in the Area Action Plan. **MW** has submitted its own 'wish list' of features we would like to see incorporated into the development. Further JV sites are being lined up for West Street, Magnet (adjoins the waterway) and finally Reform Road (also adjoining the waterway).

**Other Volunteers** - We always need more volunteers to join our regular channel clearances. If you can offer just *a few hours a month* to help this or any other aspect of the group it would be appreciated, we can usually match interests to needs. Please get in touch at ***EMail:*** [contactus@maidenheadwaterways.org](mailto:contactus@maidenheadwaterways.org) or via the ***Web Site:*** [www.maidenheadwaterways.org](http://www.maidenheadwaterways.org)

Best regards,

*Richard Davenport*  
Chairman of the Trustees

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