



The Editor's Excretions

The darkness is coming again, like the closing in of the hours at the end of November. After an iffish Summer of on-off rain, Olympic closures and a Pyrates' Regatta. Some rather fraught battles were fought, water was brought to the thirsting excluded crews, and a café was born.

Listen to my tale now, my little floaters.

Once there was a disorganisation, we called it London Boaters, it lifted like a Phoenix from the flames, called into being, a humble email list became a fierce force to face, in meetings, on the towpaths, we fought for our cause and won. A Moorings Policy was defeated, a union bought, with Locality, of the Big Society, friends were made and lost cats were found, lost bicycles returned.

But while these gains were made, in higher halls – the House of Lords. no less –

another cause was fought and won – a thing called the Canal and River Trust had begun. An awkward creature, child of three parents, a Quasi-Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisation (British Waterways), and an MP – Richard Benyon, and a Charity, CaRT, that looked familiarly and peculiarly alike to the formerly mentioned BW's board.

At the last minute a group named 'Liveaboard Boaters Without a Home Mooring' had their interest declared, but time ran out on the Bill – democracy in action – and the canals were handed over, lock, stock and barrel, to the managers of BW, a competent crew, at filling their pockets, and sod the rest of you.

Please excuse me.

The Editor.

Local News

Vicky Park Police Meeting

PCs Sergeant and Hook, of the Supermarine Metropolitan Police Force, have been engaged by boaters to tackle reports of crime along the Regents Canal and Lower Lee. You should still call 999 in emergencies, but please report any incidents or concerns to their database at:

project.kraken@met.police.uk

One More Meeting To Go?

London Boaters have, after a summer's sabbatical, but one meeting more with Locality. Reports attest that much has been gained, but there may be more to do. Please join the email list at:

Londonboaters@lists.aktivix.org

Opening Ceremony Surprise

A bad-tempered and sweaty Mayor attended an unofficial opening ceremony of the recently restored padlock on the gates of the visitor moorings at the Angel, Islington. Arriving shortly before 7.30am the esteemed local resident and keen jogger is reported to have said 'this is ridiculous'. Efforts to hand a Key to The Canals to the Mayor continue, while the gate above the entrance to King's Cross Tunnel has been renamed 'Borisgate' in his honour.

For Help, Support, or Information Look no Further Than:

<http://www.lilo.org.uk/>

<http://www.londonboaters.org/>

<http://www.narrowboatworld.com/>

<http://kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk/wordpress/>

The Canals Where You Come From

An occasional section in which we allow The Floater's younger readers to have a word.

The Canal

Somewhere in dream there is an evil place

Where tall, deserted buildings crowd along

A deep, black, narrow channel, reeking strong

Of frightful things whence oily currents race.

Lanes with old walls half meeting overhead

Wind off to streets one may or may not know,

And feeble moonlight sheds a spectral glow

Over long rows of windows, dark and dead.

There are no footfalls, and the one soft sound

Is of the oily water as it glides

Under stone bridges, and along the sides

Of its deep flume, to some vague ocean bound,

None lives to tell when that stream washed away

Its dream-lost region from the world of clay.

This sonnet was sent in to us all the way from Innsmouth, USA by young canal enthusiast H.P. Lovecraft. He didn't tell us his first name! Do get back in touch with The Floater, young H.P. and let us know more about the canals where you come from.

Words From The Wise

A regular column in which a few inches are dedicated to sharing the wisdom of The Floater's betters:

Compliance is Futile.

Some – or maybe many – of these do not see themselves as 'boaters' in the navigational sense – they have chosen to live on a boat not in order to navigate but to stay in the particular locality where their family, work and support arrangements are. Demanding they follow mooring guidance at this stage would be futile.

From Non-Compliant Continuous Cruisers Briefing, Canal and River Trust.

Free Ads! Your bad ideas here!

BOATERS!
Feeling Breathless?
Lifeless?
Got that sinking feeling?

Is it all getting too much?
Fed up with all the New rules,
the New regulations and
the endless Price Increases?
Then blame CRT
Remember you
CANTREALLYTRUSTEM.

WARNING : CRT Can Seriously Damage Your Boating CRT.. The new waterways charity thats short on charity

THE LAW SAYS...

You can moor in any one place
for 14 days or such longer additional time,
as is reasonable, in the circumstances.

Who decides when mooring is unreasonable?

- 1 CONTINUOUS MOANERS?**
- 2 CANAL AND RIVER TRUST?**
- 3 Tom Rolt with 1800 days in 1 place?**
- 4 Captain Bligh?**



Cressy,
my beauty,
I'm afraid CRT
seems to have
got off on the
wrong foot

CRT
THE CHARITYLESS CHARITY

Small News

SCENT, a community group, have opened a Café at Stonebridge Lock. Make new friends! Drink coffee!

Private Eye, a satirical magazine, are covering the C&RT legal(ish) campaign against boaters critical of the charity. Buy a copy! Read it! Lend it to your new friends!

Carbon Monoxide, a noxious gas, has seen boaters staggering out of their boats at night with visions of impending doom. Buy a monitor! Put batteries in it! Clean your chimney! Live long and prosper!

Floaters, a boaters' newsheet, has just been launched. Read it! Redistribute it! Don't blame the Editor!