

Dear Branch Member

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be the beginning of Autumn. There are three more branch events this year - the visit to the Ashmolean Museum in September, Fireworks at Rose Island in November and finally our Christmas Lunch at the George in Wallingford in December. Full details are on the back of the newsletter.

We are delighted to welcome four new members to the branch; Roger Redknapp, Christina Hardyment, Piers Young and Nigel Poole and hope to meet you at one of our events.

**Alix Horne, Editor**

## Sandford Lock Re-opens in record time

Following a routine maintenance inspection in May, cracks were revealed in the lock gates.

In order to empty the lock, a bespoke dam was made and craned into position. Around 1,000 young fish were removed from the lock before it was completely emptied of water, providing dry conditions for the specialist team to carry out further inspections on the massive 6 tonne steel gates. Metal plates and extra support sections were welded in place to strengthen the damaged sections. Once the temporary repairs were complete and thoroughly checked, the lock re-opened. Simon Hughes,



Drained lock



PHOTOS: MARGHERITA DAVIDSON

Work being carried out

Environment Agency area manager said "... I am very proud that our team was able to complete this staggering amount of work in less than 72 hours." He thanked boaters and local residents for their patience.

The Environment Agency are now investigating the cause of the cracks and the long term solution will be to install newly fabricated gates as part of their Winter Works Programme 2010/11.

Boaters can be kept informed by visiting: [www.visitthames.co.uk/restrictions](http://www.visitthames.co.uk/restrictions) and on the Environment Agency's information line 0845 9881188.

## RUG Report

Mary Coates reported that the Bablock Hythe Slipway Project has now been given consent and is expected to be completed by September.

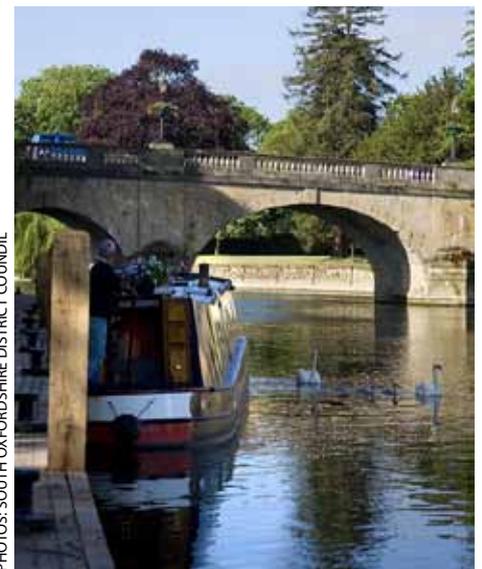
The Oxford Clean was a great success with a lot of rubbish being removed. The full report can be downloaded from our website [www.riverthamessociety.org.uk](http://www.riverthamessociety.org.uk)

Margherita Davidson (Upper Thames Branch Vice Chairman) is taking over as Chairman of the Group.

## New moorings at Wallingford

The £260,000 moorings at Wallingford were officially opened in July.

The River Thames Mooring Group reported that "Users and traders have hailed Wallingford's new moorings a great success, reporting an increase in business as day-trippers, holiday-makers, and other river users stop off at the 136-meter long moorings." John Dalton, a member of the RTS Upper Thames Branch played a key role in the scheme and kept the branch informed at all stages of the project.



PHOTOS: SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

New Moorings at Wallingford

# Summer Events

PHOTOS: MARGHERITA DAVIDSON



The Midsummer lunch at Rose Island hosted by Prue and Colin Reynolds and Victorian Tea Party hosted by Margherita Davidson and Robert Heavens were a great success. The Victorian Quiz was very challenging but we all did our best!



## Bonfire Night!

**Saturday 6 November**  
At Rose Island

Come and enjoy an evening of fireworks and fun at Rose Island.

Colin will be lighting the Bonfire at 6.00pm - let's hope for a fine evening! Fireworks and food will be provided for just £5 a head. All you will need to bring is a torch, a warm woolly hat and gloves.

If you wish to come along let Colin know on 01865 779241 by Wednesday 2 November to ensure there will be enough food!

## Ashmolean Museum

**Tour and lunch (optional)**  
Wednesday 29 September at 11.00

The Ashmolean Museum re-opened last November following its £61 million redevelopment. Award winning architect Rick Mather has created a new building that has doubled the Ashmolean's gallery space, incorporating full environmental control, a new Education centre, and state-of-the-art conservation facilities. To find out more see their website: [www.ashmolean.org](http://www.ashmolean.org).

Paul Cooper has organised a private tour lasting one hour but numbers are restricted to 20 so book early to ensure your place. Lunch is available in the new dining room. To book your place on the tour and/or lunch please contact Paul on: 01844 279517 or email: [coopers\\_byways@btopenworld.com](mailto:coopers_byways@btopenworld.com).



## Christmas Lunch

**Saturday 4 December 2010**



We will be at the George Hotel, Wallingford again this year for one of their wonderful Christmas Lunches.

Booking forms with the menu choices will be emailed to all on the list, however, if you are not on email and wish to come along, let Alix Horne know on 01491 410477 and she will put a form in the post.



The Upper Thames Branch Newsletter is edited by Alix Horne and issued three times a year, Spring, Summer and Autumn

Items for inclusion preferably supplied by email to:  
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