



National
Trust

River Wey Navigations

NEWS FROM THE ST CATHERINES LENGTHSMAN - APRIL 2017

As winter moves into spring, I've spent time finishing off the hedge cutting and strimming of bramble at Stonebridge Wharf. A little late with nesting season in mind but by checking thoroughly I was able to ensure no birds were disturbed. Also at the wharf there was an Alder tree which came down during the high winds to be cleared. Fortunately it had fallen away from the river causing no damage and was relatively easy to clear.

With the grass growing in earnest now, I gave the lockside at Millmead and the visitors' moorings along the towpath their first cut of the season - the first of many more to come.

During the coming month, with Easter approaching, the focus will be on getting the locks and bridges painted - always a challenge with the seasonal April showers to contend with. Also there is the vegetation to keep on top of which puts on vigorous growth at this time of year.

Along the river banks now, there are an abundance of Lady's smocks in flower to be enjoyed. In the boggy areas, especially near St. Catherine's Hill, the Mash Marigolds are also in flower with their bright yellow flowers. As for birds the Chiff Chaffs are now with us, also the Little Owls are back in the area, hopefully to stay and breed this time. There was much excitement in the St. Catherine's area recently when pair of Garganey ducks was sighted. They winter in central Africa and visit Europe during the summer months. This scarce duck is rarely seen and is the only duck to breed in Britain but overwinter elsewhere.

See you by the river.

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