



National
Trust

River Wey Navigations

NEWS FROM THE ST CATHERINE'S LENGTHSMAN – MARCH 2019

The beginning of February started with a busy time for me operating weirs. I also needed to suspend navigation on my section on two occasions due to high flow rates. It appears that March is also starting off rather wet as we experience the tail end of a storm.

All this in contrast to the unseasonably hot weather we were treated to at the end of February. Locally a flurry of Brimstone butterflies appeared as well as bumblebees. Chiff chaffs have also been heard.

The warm weather meant that I had a window of opportunity to get a bit of lock painting done before the weather broke. I managed to get the lock gates at St Catherine's blacked with bitumastic and I was even able to black gloss the jackheads (the winding gear for the paddles). This is definitely the earliest in the year I have managed to get any painting done.

A very pleasant job during February was distributing and erecting bird nesting boxes to locations along the navigation. So far I have put boxes up in the Colonel Grounds on the Godalming length and around Walsham Gates near Ripley. There are still some boxes to go up in the Papercourt lock area. I am looking forward to returning and monitoring the boxes for new residents.

See you by the river.

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