



**National
Trust**

River Wey Navigations

NEWS FROM THE ST CATHERINES LENGTHSMAN – MAY 2017

The unusually dry April this year meant that for once the conditions were ideal for me to get the locks on my length painted. So St. Catherine's and Millmead locks were painted without any showers coming along to spoil the finish - a first for me!

The beginning of April got off to a good start with a make your own nesting box event held at Dapdune Wharf. For this I had made thirty small nesting boxes in kit form which could then be assembled by those attending. They could be purchased and taken home for a small fee or donated to the Trust at no charge for use along the navigation. The weather was perfect on the day and the event was well attended with all the nesting boxes being assembled.

The following day the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford visited Artington parish on board the National Trust's electric launch Seeway. Again we were blessed with good weather on the day and the trip from Millmead lock upstream to Stonebridge in Shalford was very pleasant.

In addition to painting there has been the routine business of strimming and mowing - maintaining visitor moorings along the towpath, cutting locksides, as well as the moorings at Stonebridge Wharf.

For those interested in birds there have been some interesting sightings lately, namely a singing Nightingale on the railway line walk, Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats near St Catherines lock and also Redstart. The Redstart winters in Africa visiting Europe in the summer. It is most common in the north and west. The male has an orangy-red breast, rump and tail, with a black throat and face, white forehead, brown wings and a grey back.

See you by the river.

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