



March 2013

Hello

March is a busy month at the Pier. We've just had a lovely Mother's day cruise; there's an evening talk next Tuesday; and, of course, the most exciting event in the Thames calendar – The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race takes place on March 31st. You are warmly invited to the Pier for the best view in town.

1. TRUST EVENTS
2. OTHER EVENTS
3. OTHER NEWS
4. PAST EVENTS
5. CONTACT DETAILS & OPENING HOURS
6. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

1. TRUST EVENTS

Tuesday March 19th, 7.30pm, "The River Thames - Would you drink it?". A talk on the Pumping Station at Kew Bridge.

Have you just drunk a refreshing glass of water or had a cup of tea?

Do you know how clean tap water manages to gush unpolluted and on demand out of your tap and supply over 10 million other private users and businesses in the capital?

Come and hear the fascinating story of how our water supply has evolved and the history of the Pumping Station at Kew Bridge, declared in 1999 the most important historic site of the water supply industry. The talk will cover why it was built there, why it is still there and what is its future?

John Porter, from the Kew Bridge Steam Museum, will talk about the early history of The Grand Junction Water Works Company and how they came to build the works in 1838. Then he'll continue the story of its expansion, up to 1904 and the end of the private water companies.

It is an inspirational story of a world class collection of engines and how they have been brought back to life by enthusiasts working on a shoe-string. And we'll be brought right up to the minute with news of its promising future, thanks to a £2.2million grant.

Sunday March 31st, 4.30pm. The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. Bar and barbecue at the Pier House from 12.30pm.

This year marks the 159th Boat Race. Since the second race in 1836 the contest has taken place on the West London stretch of the Thames, starting at Putney and finishing at Chiswick Bridge, so, not only do you get a fantastic view from Chiswick Pier, but can usually predict who will win.

There will be something going on all afternoon – the Pier House opens at 12.30 where there will be freshly cooked food from the barbecue, including kebabs and wraps served with a selection of salads. And there will be light refreshments and a Fuller's Bar serving a range of drinks including draught London Pride. The Riverside Club will be painting young faces from 2.30pm. Then there is a Cutter Parade, featuring a group of cutters which will be moving up river from Dove Pier to Chiswick Bridge, clearing the course by 15.50. This is followed by two races, the Isis versus Goldie Race will start at 16.00 and then the Oxford versus Cambridge Race at 16.30.

At the Pier House you can watch the start and finish of the race in comfort on television then walk outside to watch see the crews as they power upstream passing Chiswick Eyot, the Pier and through to the final bend before Barnes Railway Bridge.

The course itself is four miles 374 yards (6.8Km) long and the race starts an hour before high tide so that the crews can row with the fastest current. There are two sides to the river; Fulham and Chiswick are known as the Middlesex side and Putney and Barnes are the Surrey side with each boat sticking to its own side.

How do you know who to shout for? Oxford have won 76 of the 158 races, Cambridge have won 81 times, while the 1877 race was classed as a dead heat.

Cambridge traditionally wear light blue, with light blue blades, though in the first race in 1829 their colour was pink. Oxford wear dark blue with dark blue blades.

The race has strong Chiswick connections including, in 2011, a Chiswick teenager who became the youngest cox for over 100 years. And last year the world's media showed Trenton Oldfield being arrested at Chiswick Pier after recklessly swimming in front of the rowers, a crime for which he was later jailed for six months. The organisers have said there will be extra security to avoid any similar disruptions, so hopefully all eyes will be firmly fixed where they should be this year - on the amazing athletes in this thrilling sporting event.

Saturday April 20th, 9.30am. Guided Bird Walk. Booking essential.

<http://www.chiswickpier.org.uk/index.php/news-and-events/latest-news/bird-walk/>

Friday June 14th. Evening Jazz Cruise with buffet.

2. OTHER EVENTS

Oxford & Cambridge University Pre-Boat Race Fixtures in March.

[http://www.pla.co.uk/notice2mariners/pdf/U2_of_2013 - Oxford Cambridge University Pre-Boat Race Fixtures.pdf](http://www.pla.co.uk/notice2mariners/pdf/U2_of_2013_-_Oxford_Cambridge_University_Pre-Boat_Race_Fixtures.pdf)

Saturday 30th March – Veterans' Race and BBC Rehearsal

The Veterans' Race will run from Putney to Hammersmith Bridge starting at about 14.45, accompanied by a number of launches. The race will end at Hammersmith Bridge, but the crews will continue along the racing line of the championship course to the finish post at Chiswick Bridge so the BBC can test their equipment along the full length of the championship course.

Wednesday 10th April 10-12 or Friday 31st May 1-3 pm. Discover the Thames with the Thames Explorer Trust at The Pier House.

Did you see Jason, Thames Explorer Trust's (TET) Director on ITV news on February 27th? He was filmed on the Pier explaining how the River Thames is the cleanest urban river in the world and a major wildlife corridor through our city?

TET helps people discover living things and how healthy the Thames is. At low-tide wonderful wildlife on the Thames foreshore is revealed amongst the pebbles. River dipping is great fun and involves using nets and spotter sheets to catch and identify river creatures such as crabs, shrimps, and leaches. Wading into the shallows of the Thames can result in the catching of fish such as Flounders, Eels and Sticklebacks; there are 125 species of fish in the Thames. There is plenty of bird life to spot along the Thames including Swans, Herons and Cormorants. Creatures of the deep can be viewed in our Thames aquarium in the Pier House. Thames wildlife is a good indicator of a healthy river particularly invertebrate species that are sensitive to pollution. Exploring the Thames riverside will provide a chance to find out about flooding and how people have used and changed the river both in the past and at present.

Cost is £5 per adult and £3 per child, payable on the day. All children must be accompanied by adults. These events will give people of all ages an opportunity to venture onto the Thames foreshore and learn how to identify river wildlife. To book a place call TET on 0208 742 0057.

3. OTHER NEWS

For up to the minute news at the Pier, follow us on our Twitter account @ChiswickPier.

Click on the links to read more news and facts about the Thames...

TfL aims to double the number of passengers on the Thames http://www.trl.co.uk/trl-news-hub/transport-news/latest-transport-news/tfl-aims-to-double-thames-passengers-with-10m-initiative_801546095.htm

4. PAST EVENTS

Tuesday 26th February, How new technology is saving more lives on the Thames - a talk by the RNLI.

Holly Phillips, the RNLI's Principal Naval Architect, who grew up near Chiswick but is now based in Poole, and Wayne Bellamy, who is currently managing both Chiswick and Tower station, gave a talk on 26th February at Chiswick Pier on how advances in technology are delivering quicker responses and helping to save lives on the Thames.

33 people died last year in the Thames. The Chiswick station is one of the busiest in the country, making 221 launches and rescuing 97 people last year. A good deal of call outs would have been preventable if people had planned their boat trips better.

A basic safety checklist should include:

- Check engines and equipment
- Always wear a lifejacket
- Get properly trained
- Carry some means of calling for help
- Check your engine and fuel
- Check the local weather and tide conditions

However as many as 60% incidents don't involve boats at all.

The RNLI are trying to reduce fatalities in these kind of situations through educational initiatives at hotspots along the Thames, such as pubs near Kingston University where there have been acute problems involving young men drinking.

Wayne also reminded us that it saves time if you see someone in trouble on or near the water to call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

The Thames RNLI crews have to respond to a great deal of diverse "shouts" and this has been reflected in the design of the new boats they use. In the planning stages of the new E-Class boats, the operational crew briefed the development team on specifications that were needed on the Thames, which were distinct from boats used at sea.

For instance, they had to be robust enough to survive regular collisions with tree trunks, able to withstand any weather conditions, create minimum wash at 40 knots and be able to navigate both in shallow conditions and under bridges at full tide.

Holly and her team used computer simulation, model testing and then full scale testing to trial and modify the new boats. Eventually, with the E-Class MK2 they have managed to exceed the desired specification and deliver a boat that can take 21 survivors and up to five crew, has a larger beam making it more stable and allowing greater access for maintenance; instead of a self-righting air bag, the new E-class has sufficient buoyancy to provide an inverted air pocket should any crew become trapped under the boat in the very unlikely event of a capsized. The ingenious addition of a folding mast that can be quickly dropped means the boat can go under a bridge at high tide.

Holly explained how she headed up a team which, in the main, provided technical support. However, thanks to volunteer crews and generous donors (the RNLI is entirely self-funded) they were constantly looking to improve the speed and efficiency of RNLI technology in their quest to save lives. One such example is the lifeboat moored at Chiswick - the Dougie and Donna B. The funding for this E-Class MK2 lifeboat came from London couple named Battam, who left the RNLI a sum in their will.

For more information on the Chiswick RNLI <http://www.chiswicklifeboat.org.uk>

5. CONTACT DETAILS AND OPENING HOURS

Chiswick Pier Trust
The Pier House,
Corney Reach Way,
London

Telephone 020 8742 2713

e-mail trust@chiswickpier.org.uk

Web-site <http://www.chiswickpier.org.uk/>

The Pier House office is open on Monday to Friday from 11am to 3pm.

6. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

We welcome new members to the Chiswick Pier Trust. Benefits include free entry to our talks, and getting a regular newsletter so you are kept up to date with events going on at the Pier and beyond.

Also, Pissarro's, the excellent restaurant next door will offer anyone who eats there and presents their CPT membership card on arrival a bottle of their house wine (red / white). This offer can be enjoyed as many times as you like during your membership. Please note that only one card can be used per table. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers or discount schemes.

And of course, your £10 will be supporting the work of the Trust!

Membership rates are:

Individual membership - £10

Family membership (same address) - £15

Concessions (receiving benefits) - £3

The newsletter is e-mailed to Chiswick Pier Trust members and those who have signed up for it. If you would prefer not to receive it, please reply to this message asking to be removed from the mailing list - and if you know of any members or users who would like to receive it, but don't, please reply telling us that too.