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The Occasional Newsletter of the Cam Valley Forum
<http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/cam.valley.forum/>

Chair: Jean Perraton Editor: David Brooks

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Towards a strategy for the River Cam

Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF) is working with the *Cam Valley Forum*, the *Cam Conservancy*, local councils and the *Environment Agency* to develop a strategy to protect and improve the environment of the river and its tributaries. This ambitious plan will encompass the whole river basin, from the Cam's various sources to its confluence with the Great Ouse just south of Ely. The strategy will guide the policies of those that control the use of the river and the development of riverside land, helping to ensure that the valuable and vulnerable features are protected. It will identify potential projects for improvement and, we hope, unlock funds to make them happen. The working group held a workshop at the end of September, which brought together representatives of groups that have an interest in the river, and whose views will inform the developing strategy. For more

about this initiative and check its progress, see www.cambridgeppf.org and click on 'Cam Corridor'.



Pike under the Piece Inspection through a manhole of Hobson's Conduit running under the corner of Parker's Piece nearest the Catholic Church revealed a resident 18-inch pike seen in the photograph taken by Alan Wingfield, *City Council Drainage Engineer*.

Help for juvenile eels from the Bermuda Triangle The *Environment Agency* has installed an eel pass at Jesus Green lock to enable this endangered species to move up the river past the weir and sluice, a measure expected to increase population in the Cam.

A breach of River Cam bylaws In October a student was found guilty at Cambridge Magistrates' Court of using the Garret Hostel Lane slipway for commercial punt tours which were banned there in 2012 for safety reasons. Also,

though he had a private registration this did not allow him to collect for charity which he claimed to do. He was fined £150 for each of the two offences and ordered to pay £1,242 compensation plus £958 costs.

World Rivers Day, 29 September This was celebrated on their home ground by the *Whittlesford Society* which had the benefit for the day of access to private land beside the River Cam. A guided walk was organised, not to mention a picnic tea in the river meadow behind the Moat House. In addition to the River Cam's ecology a focus of interest was the search for the position of the original W(h)ittle's Ford by the *Thriplow Research Group* with their resistivity and magnetometry equipment. An archaeological dig into the history of the village was also conducted.

This international event, which evolved from concerns about the threats to the world waterways, is now celebrated in over 60 countries each year on the last Sunday in September. *The Cam Valley Forum* plans to join the *Cam Conservators* and other organisations in a river festival next year which, we hope, will embrace all those who value, enjoy and want to protect the river.