

GT GREENWICH TIME

Greenwich Council

It's fish 'n' tips at a day out by the lake - p8



No walk in the park on Green Chain - p19

FREE

Produced by Greenwich Council for the community for over 25 years

Now online at www.greenwich.gov.uk/greenwichtime

No.159 August 2 2011



GREENER GREENWICH ISSUE

Blooming marvellous

River boat gets green makeover - p6

All aboard for green voyage

Thames commuter boat goes potty for plants



by Rod Kitson

FLOWER power was at full throttle when speedy river boats got a green makeover last week.

A pair of Thames Clippers were done up with over 3,000 plants and flowers to promote clean air across the capital. The vessels became 'Fresh Air Zones' for two days, and all passengers were given a Peace Lily to take home with them. The idea was commissioned by the Flower Council of Holland.

Ian Drummond, the arranger responsible for the displays told GT: "The idea is to show that plants can thrive in any location, and to raise awareness of house plants and the air purifying qualities they have."

He'd worked long into the previous night to set up the thousands of planters.

"The reaction has been great, everyone has loved it," Ian added. "All the regular commuters this morning grabbed a lily for their desks."

The plants were a welcome novelty to the passengers on deck.

Ten-year-old Hannah Downard and her mum Alison were on a day trip to the capital from Maidstone.

Hannah said: "The plants look and smell really lovely - I'm going to take my lily home and put it in my bedroom."

Mum Alison added: "It's a great idea, the plants make a really nice environment." Species on board included Orchids, Ivy, Hibiscus and Fig trees.

Holidayer Marcus Murray said: "It's great, it feels as if you're on a boat in Thailand or somewhere tropical like

that. It gives the boat a nice ambience." Girlfriend Egiarte Aldube added: "I'd love to have some of these in my house back in Bilbao - I'm a big fan of plants." Even the ship's captain Dave East got in on the act. "It definitely made the commuters more cheery," he said - "none of us like getting up for work in the morning, but it was all smiles as they climbed on today. It's worked well, we've had loads of punters well chuffed."



GREEN MACHINE: happy commuters Alison Downard and daughter Hannah (top), and couple Marcus and Egiarte, above.



MAKING A FRESH START: commuters get a nice surprise when they climb aboard for their morning trip to work



THIS IS THE CAPTAIN SPEAKING: skipper Dave East (above) and steward Joy (right) get to grips with their new habitat