



CONSULTATION NOTICE – MARCH 2014

RENAMING BUGSBY'S REACH AS WATERMAN'S REACH

Proposal

In commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the 1514 Act of Parliament for regulating watermen, wherryman and bargemen when King Henry VIII granted Royal Assent, the Port of London Authority intends to rename Bugsby's Reach as 'Waterman's Reach' at a ceremony on 18 September 2014.

As far as is known, Bugsby's Reach was so named originally, because Mr Bugsby, believed to be a market gardener in the mid 1800s, owned land which touched the river bank where the stream turns to the northwest. What does seem clear is that other than the coincidence of owning land adjacent to the river, Bugsby's overall contribution to the River Thames since the mid-1800s is markedly less than that given by watermen, wherryman and bargemen over the past 500 years and more. Accordingly, the proposed name change to 'Waterman's Reach' is entirely apposite; it embraces much more closely both the ancient historical traditions and the contemporary practices of the River Thames and is supported warmly by the PLA.

Name changes on this river abound, with names of buoys, quays, piers and places changing with change of owner, at whim or in commemoration of significant events such as the millennium or diamond jubilee. More famously the following inscription may be found on the Arch of the King George V Silver Jubilee Monument sited just astern of HQS WELLINGTON:

In commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King George V this reach of the river between London Bridge and Westminster Bridge was with His Majesty's gracious permission named by the Port of London Authority King's Reach.

Chairman - The Right Honourable Lord Ritchie of Dundee - May 1935

This change of name has very little impact in terms of cost; it will simply require charts to be amended, which is an entirely routine practice. River users will take no time at all to become accustomed to the new name; particularly as most Boat Skippers on the Thames continue to be watermen, wherryman and bargemen plying their trade as they have over the past 500 years.

Have your say

Any members of the public or representatives of bodies or organisations with interests on the River Thames who wish to make any observations/representations on this proposal please do so by Monday, 21 April 2014.

Please send your comments by:

- email to: alistair.gale@pla.co.uk ; or
- letter to: Alistair Gale
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