**Canoe Slalom Course at Kingsland Basin**

This year ***CHUG*** (Canals In Hackney Users Group) are building a Canoe Slalom Course in Kingsland Basin !

* The slalom course is essentially a series of pairs of light poles suspended from overhead wires forming "gates" that the canoes have to negotiate. The paddler and the canoe(or kayak) have to travel through each of the gates (sometimes backwards) in a particular sequence - *in the shortest time possible !*
* The course is being built primarily for the use of the many local children and young people who attend the *Laburnum Boat Club* just along the canal. The Laburnum Boat Club (a small charity) is community-based watersports centre set up by local parents thirty years ago. The Club has an active *Canoe Slalom Team* that has been competing in events around the South East all year. They are led by one of the Club's senior members - 18 year old Vanessa Humphries. They are all very keen and work hard but at the moment **they have nowhere to practice !**
* This is where CHUG are coming to the rescue. CHUG are committed to protecting the waterways in the borough and enabling local people to get access to them and enjoy them. Using their own efforts and fund-raised resources they have designed, and are in process of building, a terrific new slalom course for the kids to train on. The course should be completed in the coming months, and will be a valuable asset for local children - encouraging them to take exercise, enjoy a constructive leisure time, and appreciate the canal and its environs.
* Canoe Slalom is a worldwide sport and Great Britain won two medals (one gold and one silver) at the Olympics twelve months ago (watched by the Boat Club's slalom team !).

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