

ATYC NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023

This is the ATYC Newsletter which will be sent out to Clubs on a regular basis for onward publication to all club members. It can be used as an ATYC Club Noticeboard and can carry such items as a Club's major event or a short news story. Contributions should be sent to me. Happy reading and stay safe.

Mike Chambers

The ATYC Chairmen and Committee wish all members a Happy Christmas and a safe boating New Year. We send our congratulations to past chairman Tony Riley who recently married partner Maggie. We also send Tony our very best wishes following the treatment he is receiving for a serious illness.

Maidenhead Sunken Boats to be Raised. The local council are planning to go out to tender for a contract to raised 5 sunken boats on the Maidenhead riverside between the bridge and Boulter's lock. As the boats do not represent a navigation or flood hazard the EA are unwilling to raise these boats themselves. The project will be expensive costing between £3000 and £3500 per boat.

Insurance Cover Concerns over Lithium Batteries. Boat owners are being urged to contact their insurers before switching to lithium batteries to check their insurance will still be valid. Some insurers have produced helpful guides to help boat owners understand the risks associated with these and help them make informed choices. They would always recommend customers contact their insurer or insurance broker to discuss any changes before starting any work so they can ensure they have the appropriate cover in place.

RIB Driver Jailed. A RIB driver is now starting a three-year jail term after he killed a passenger when the RIB he was piloting collided with a buoy in Poole Harbour. Morgan George Smith, 21, of Northampton, was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident and was driving the RIB at nearly 30 knots, approximately three times the acceptable speed limit. On 20 July 2023, Smith pleaded guilty to gross negligence manslaughter at Bournemouth Crown Court. He was sentenced to three years in prison on 21 November at Winchester Crown Court. The accident happened at night and none of the personnel on board were wearing lifejackets.

Thames boater Fined. A boat owner moored at Abingdon has been convicted of failing to register his boat for use on the River Thames. Environment Agency officers discovered Peter Bristow had no valid registration for his narrow boat vessel, Ladybird, moored in meadows opposite Wilsham Road during routine checks in July. At the Oxford Magistrates Court, he was fined £40 and ordered to pay costs of £250 and his outstanding boat registration fee of £378.72 for 2023.

Slum Barges Removed. Slum barges Hope IV and Kupe have been removed from the non-tidal Thames and towed downriver for scrapping in Erith. However, the two barges owned or controlled by Mr A Trotman, RoR and Hui, remain moored against Hurst Park though lots of efforts from various quarters are campaigning tirelessly for their very overdue removal. A small group of squatters moored against 'The Old Wharf' above Cherry Orchard Gardens continue to defy planning enforcement orders issued to remove their vessels. A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPo) proposed by Elmbridge Council as a solution to the problem of unconsented mooring along the riverbank above the Molesey Lock failed to gain sufficient votes but another vote is being planned.

IWA in Trouble. At their AGM in September the Inland Waterways Association failed to elect a chairman and at the same time revealed a £450,000 deficit. This in turn sparked a subscription increase from £36 to £51 per year.

Diary Dates

Spring Ball, Saturday 24th February 2024 at The Richmond Hill Hotel, book now vis the ATYC website.

Summer Rally 24 - 26 August 2024 at West India Dock, London booking details to be announced but see website for details.