

ATYC Rally 2026

Report by
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MTYC Member

Members' Stories

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We arrived at the MTYC on Thursday 27th August. Had a chat with Dennis, then off to the pub for an evening meal. Friday was spent cleaning the boat and dashing off to Basingstoke to help our daughter drop her car into the garage, dump 2 prams in our car, to get to our grandchildren from the nursery, as no car seats, Wayne drops Katie and I off, and we get to the nursery bang on 5.30pm phew! We do a 15 minute walk back to Katie's home, and I realise its not just the roads with pot holes, but also very uneven un-made walk ways, making it difficult to push a pram!!!

So Saturday we wake up to rain, and leave our mooring in the rain, set off to the ATYC Rally - well not a rally really just one lock to go through to get to TMYC at Hampton Court and we were the only boat going from our club.

Now this is what I call great service On Thursday I received the boat plan for mooring up for the weekend, and I quickly see that our 42 ft long, steel hull, 17 tonne boat is to moor against a 36 ft fibre glass boat. I nicely ask if we can be swapped and on-route to the moorings I get a new plan, and we are to moor against the pontoon. Happy days.

The rain stops as we arrive, and the sun comes out, there are plenty of of members of the TMYC who help us to moor in the correct space. Fantastic. Boats were rafted up with their clubs on the outside moorings and in some cases 5 boats deep, no accidents, everyone happy, what an achievement!. We go into the club house and collect a welcome pack and have a cup of tea. I make sure I say a huge thank you to Andrew Bernstein for arranging our new mooring.



ATYC Rally (Continued)

Our programme was:

Saturday 29 August

18.00 - 19.00 - Chairmen's drinks Reception
19.00 - 23.00 - Hog Roast Meal and live music

Sunday 30 August

09.00 - 10.00 TMYC Breakfast
10.15 - 12.15 1st Hampton Court Guided Tour & Food Festival
11.45 - 13.45 2nd Hampton Court Guided Tour & Food Festival
12.00 - 16.30 Inter-club Challenge - Games on Lawn
19.00 - 22.00 Evening supper and Quiz

Monday 31 August

09.00 - 15.00 - Departure

On Saturday afternoon Wayne and I decide to walk into town. A lot of eateries, antique shops and artisan shops to see. I buy 6 crystal antique wine glasses and when washed they sure do sparkle!

Saturday night we sit with the Upper Thames Club, as we know the Commodore and his partner, and several members remembered us from when we have moored at their club. We were made very welcome. We suddenly see Roger and Jenny Haile what a lovely surprise (they were there to give their support to the ATYC committee. We sit and chat.



ATYC Rally (Continued)

Later on, we go and introduce ourselves to the Thames Vintage Boat Club (BVTC) which we have joined recently as they have changed their criteria for membership and as our boat is over 60 years old, has a steel hull and Mahogany super structure we fit their specifications. What a lovely welcome and on Sunday Wayne is given a club burgee. Please be assured we are not leaving MTYC! Although we got offered membership of several clubs over the weekend!!!!!!

On Sunday we want to go to Hampton Court Palace but had not booked. Andrew told us we were welcome to join the tour and buy tickets on arrival. Wayne and I agree to do the 11.45 tour and walk across to Hampton Court Palace to buy our tickets. What a fantastic afternoon, the sun shone, our guide Steven was a journalist for the Sunday Mirror Newspaper and then a freelancer journalist. He made the tour super interesting and funny. When the tour finished we started to walk round the food festival and the rain started, ran inside and found ourselves outside the original indoor tennis courts where the ball can bounce off the wall as part of the game (like squash).

The rain stops, and we walk back to the boat.

So a few facts below you may remember from school lessons, or in Jenny's case, she used to do tours around Hampton Court.

King Henry wives

The Six Wives of King Henry VIII

Henry VIII was King of England from 1509 to 1547. He is famous for having six wives, remembered by the rhyme: "Divorced, beheaded, died; divorced, beheaded, survived."

- 1. Catherine of Aragon (1509–1533)— Henry's first wife. They had one surviving child, Mary I. Henry wanted a male heir and sought to end the marriage when Catherine could not provide one. His attempt to annul the marriage contributed to England's break with the Roman Catholic Church.
- 2. Anne Boleyn (1533–1536) — Henry's second wife and mother of Elizabeth I. She failed to produce the son Henry wanted and was accused of adultery and treason. She was beheaded in 1536.
- 3. Jane Seymour (1536–1537) — Henry's third wife. She gave birth to his long-awaited son, Edward VI, but died shortly afterwards from complications following childbirth.
- 4. Anne of Cleves (1540) — Henry married her for political reasons, but he was unhappy with the match. The marriage was annulled after about six months, and Anne lived comfortably in England afterwards.
- 5. Catherine Howard (1540–1542) — Henry's fifth wife was much younger than him. She was accused of having relationships before and during her marriage to Henry and was beheaded in 1542.
- 6. Catherine Parr (1543–1547) — Henry's sixth and final wife. She survived Henry and helped maintain good relationships between Henry and his children. She later remarried after his death.

Henry's marriages were largely shaped by his desire for a male heir, as well as political and religious changes. His marriages to Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn played an especially important role in England's English Reformation.



Sunday evening we go to the evening supper which was delicious. Chicken in a herb sauce with a medley of vegetables, Super tasty, and afterwards a chocolate brownie with ice cream. We were delighted to be on a table Jenny & Roger, a couple from Weybridge Mariners, and a couple from the London River Yacht Club based at Surbiton. A very lively conversation was enjoyed, and then a collaborative quiz with all of us adding answers.

We end up not losing and not winning however we ended up in the middle! Had we been on the TVBC table we would have won!!!!

Monday morning it's cloudy, chilly and windy. Wayne fastens up our new TVBC burgee. Of course the MTYC burgee remains on top! Around 11.15 we leave our mooring and join the BVTV in the lock. We are back at MTYC by midday and the sun is shining again.

What a lovely weekend. Given we were a little worried to be on our own, it turned out not only did we know quite a few people, we met so many members that were very happy to chat to us and a few who wanted to know about our boat.

Next year the ATYC Rally is likely to be confirmed at Ting Deane Marina, Caversham. Why not think of coming along? We thoroughly recommend it and so nice to represent our club. A huge shout out to the ATYC Committee who worked so hard to make this event so successful and of course to the TMYC Team who were so kind and accommodating to us all.