



## ATYC NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2025

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**

### **Message from the Co-Chairman – Andrew Bernstein**

Dear Rally 2025 Attendees,

Firstly, thanks to everyone who came along by boat or indeed, by car. we can now say how nervous we were at bringing the rally to a commercial marina, it's never been done before and we tend to find ourselves generally all moored together on a bank or a wall so this was a huge change. Creating the programme was challenging but, we hope, well delivered and the messages the ATYC officers have received seem to point to a great success enjoyed by all.

Our special thanks to the marina staff, each and every one, but also singling out Lisa, the marina manager and Kelly, the Assistant Manager whose vision for the weekend helped bring it all together - and what a drinks party.....The mooring plan was a great success with each club being moored with all its attending members together.

And after the Marina's drinks party the hog roast and the band ticked all the boxes and we were thrilled that the weather didn't cause us a problem - someone in attendance must be righteous - must be our event manager, the incredible Pam Chart..... Pam organised the hog roast and sourced the fabulous band.

Many were grateful for the bacon roll breakfast and the all-day tea stall prepared by you know who - Pam with some assistance from Theresa and Peter Scrutton.

The walking treasure hunt seemed to get people on their feet and wondering almost aimlessly around the marina. I hope it wasn't too challenging and it seemed to create a banter among attendees from the various clubs.

The boating activities went well with Ian Weston on Flying Colours demonstrating how to (and how not to) make use of spring lines to depart from a restricted mooring and thanks to John Trowler of Penton hook for taking (well borrowing) Rob and Ellie's Alana 2 for the crew helming experience.

We had a meadow full of games sourced and run by Dennis Nissen which were well utilised by many. Many thanks also to Penny Phelps for her help with the raffle.

Then, once again, Pam and her team's afternoon tea - No dinner required after that experience.

It's also important to note the quality of the prizes you all donated - thank you. Let's hope for more of the same for the Dinner Dance. You all have the date but, just to remind you, it's 28th February.

If you attended and enjoyed the rally, please tell your club members and, if you have any improvements to offer, please let the association officers know.

So, we will be looking at venues for the 2026 rally which we hope to talk about at the open meeting on October 27th at Penton Hook but might have to postpone the announcement until the Dinner Dance where Chris and I look forward to seeing you all - and more.

Please make sure that your club's members are kept aware of their Associations activities. This monthly newsletter is sent to all the club representatives we have recorded and is available via the website.

We're also going to start using the Facebook Page a bit more.

ATYC - Association of Thames Yacht Clubs.

Best wishes to all the clubs and all their members.

**ATYC Dates. Open meeting Mon 27th October** starting at 1930hrs at Penton Hook YC to include an illustrated talk on the History of the Thames Police by Alan Hertz followed by a social evening with food and drinks from the club bar. Please let the ATYC Secretary know of your club attendance. [hon.sec@atyc.org.uk](mailto:hon.sec@atyc.org.uk)

**Annual Ball** - Sat 28th February Richmond Hill Hotel - full details and booking will be available via the website shortly.

**2026 Rally** will be held over the August bank holiday with the venue to be published **soon**.

### **Oxford Ditch Cruising Club Closes.**

We are sad to announce that ODCC have decided to close. Formed in 1953 and named after the Swift Ditch in the Oxford area they became members shortly after forming and have supported ATYC at many rallies and functions over the past 70+ years. They competed in our competitions and were successful in winning many trophies. 2 of their member boats attended this year's rally for the last time. They will be missed by us all.

**Temple Bridge Closure.** The EA are planning to remove the centre span of the bridge in late September 2025. This is a complex and high-risk activity partly because the work involves mobilising a working platform in the river. Work needs to be completed when the river is not fast flowing or in flood conditions. Currently, the bridge will be closed to navigation between 29 Sep

– 6 Oct. The side sections of the bridge will remain in place and fenced off to pedestrians once the central section is removed.

**Penton Hook Island Closed.** The EA have had to close Penton Hook Island temporarily to the public. They apologised for any disruption this closure may be causing. They know the importance of this site to the local community and they are committed to keeping everyone updated on their progress. Keeping the public safe is one of their priorities. Unfortunately, they have had to close Penton Hook Island to the public because a survey identified trees that present a safety hazard, some with ash dieback disease.

These trees pose a high risk of injury to people from falling branches, collapsing trees and branches on the ground causing trip hazards.

**EA Remove Boats.** More than 20 boats have been removed, as part of a multi-day operation in Surrey and stored in the Sunbury Dry Dock. Maria Herlihy, waterways manager and harbourmaster for the River Thames at the EA said: “We want to make the river a beautiful place for all river users. The boats are a safety risk when they're wrecked and abandoned. Clearing them off the river is going to allow us to have more and more moorings for our customers who are paying their licenses to be able to more. There is an element of antisocial behaviour on the river from some of these boats as well and we need to address that to make sure that the whole river is an enjoyable place for people.

