

ATYC NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2024

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

Calor to Restore Gas Bottles. Calor Gas has confirmed that it will continue to supply 3.9kg propane and 4.5kg butane cylinders after listening to the concerns of the boating community. Over the festive season, a message from the Calor Network Team was circulated on many boating and sailing social media sites, stating that following the recent modernisation of Calor Gas's filling centres, it could now increase the supply of 3.9kg propane and 4.5kg butane cylinders. The Calor Gas Press Office has now confirmed that it is returning 3.9kg propane and 4.5kg butane cylinders back into circulation and is "working hard to return supply to normal as soon as possible".

Dunkirk Boat in Need of Rescue. One of the brave Little Ships that took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk at the start of WWII is now in need of being saved herself...The 80ft gentleman's motoryacht *Conidaw* (now *Thomasine*) has been lying ashore in the South of France for the past 15 years and is said to be in desperate need of restoration. She was originally launched in spring 1939 at Scottish builder James A Silver in Rosneath, and is listed in that year's Lloyd's Register of Yachts. However, she was requisitioned by the Royal Navy almost immediately after the outbreak of war in September 1939. Her role in rescuing trapped allied servicemen from Dunkirk and Calais during May/June 1940 is well documented and her skipper at the time, Reginald Snelgrove, received a DSC for his service aboard. In 2020, with no immediate prospect of the refit work being given the go-ahead and the risk that she might have to be scrapped instead, the yard offered to take on the project themselves. It paid the owner a nominal fee for her title and now hopes to either restore her in-house with the help of sponsors or find a new owner willing to fund a full refit.

HVO Gets the Green Light. Last year, the RYA, alongside the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) and the Cruising Association (CA) came together to form the HVO Joint Working Group. The Group promoted the use of sustainably produced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) to Government as an interim decarbonisation solution for recreational boats with diesel engines. In November, representatives from each organisation met alongside Crown Oil, who distribute HVO in the UK, and the Department for Transport (DfT). The complexities of the support mechanisms for sustainable biofuels have previously meant that distributors were reluctant to supply the recreational boating

market. Currently, regulations focus on the use of fuel for propulsion alone. The key issue for inland boaters being that it is often used for both propulsion and heating.

Following the meeting, the DfT declared to the HVO supply industry that it will allow them to supply inland waterways vessels with HVO without violating excise regulations. This will open up supply to inland recreational boaters as they will not have to establish what proportions of the fuel will be used for domestic and propulsion purposes on the vessel

On 1st January 2024, the broadcast of the Shipping Forecast turned 100 years old. From 2024, the Shipping Forecast will no longer be broadcast on long wave (LW) due to the closure of the LW platform operated by Arqiva. The Shipping Forecast will continue to be broadcast on other channels, including by HM Coastguard and on BBC Radio 4 FM and BBC Sounds.

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.