

March 2026



NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FREYA

BOAT JUMBLE

FOOD TRUCK MENU

PRE-SEASON TRAINING

CRUISE CONTROL – ISLA'S
BOATING PLAYLIST

PRE-SEASON TO DO LIST

EASTER WEEKEND PLANS

LINDON LEWIS – BOAT
REFRESH

FLOTILLA INFORMATION &
2026 EVENTS

MARINA PHOTO OF THE
MONTH

STEVE'S NATURALIST BITS

NAUTICAL LANGUAGE

With the sun finally making an appearance, there's a real sense around the marina that the 2026 boating season is just beginning to get underway. The brighter weather has brought the Marina to life, with more people down on their boats, getting ready for the months ahead and enjoying the first signs of spring on the water.

In this edition of the newsletter, we have plenty to share as we look ahead to the new season. We're delighted to welcome Freya to the team, and we're excited for the Boat Jumble and the food truck arrival, both taking place this weekend and promising a fun atmosphere. There's also a feature on how we have been preparing for the season ahead with staff training, along with a helpful pre-season to-do list to help get your boat ready for the months ahead.

For something a little lighter, Isla has been putting together Cruise Control – Isla's Boating Playlist, the perfect soundtrack for your time on the water this year. We're also sharing details of Easter weekend plans, information about the upcoming flotillas, and a look ahead at our updated 2026 events calendar so you can start planning your boating season.

You'll also find a feature from Lindon Lewis on giving your boat a refresh, our Marina Photo of the Month, and the return of regular favourite – Steve's Naturalist Bits, offering a closer look at the wildlife around us. Lastly we enjoyed compiling an article on Nautical Language, exploring some of the fascinating terms and traditions of life on the water and how they are still in use today.

We hope you enjoy this edition and, like us, are looking forward to a fantastic season ahead on the river.



Polite Reminder
Lindon Lewis can only
exchange Calor Gas
canisters. Flo Gas must be
returned to the supplier.

🚢 Nautical Language in Everyday Life🚢: Why You Speak “Mariner” Without Even Realising It

If you’ve ever told someone to “batten down the hatches,” complained about being “under the weather,” or accused a coworker of being a “loose cannon,” congratulations—you’re already fluent in nautical English. Centuries of life at sea have quietly charted a course straight into our everyday speech. Sailors, merchants, navigators and the occasional rum-soaked rogue have left behind a treasure chest of expressions that we still use daily—often without knowing their maritime roots. Here are some of our favourites

🚢 Everyday Expressions We Owe to Sailors

Much of our modern vocabulary drifted in from the age of sail:

- All hands on deck – everyone pitches in
- Any port in a storm – take whatever help you can get
- Batten down the hatches – prepare for trouble
- By and large – generally speaking
- Deep six – get rid of something
- Give a wide berth – keep your distance
- In the same boat – facing the same situation
- On an even keel – stable and steady
- Shipshape – neat and orderly
- The coast is clear – no danger in sight
- Under the weather – feeling ill

These phrases once described literal actions aboard wooden ships; now they’ve become everyday shorthand for how we live, work, and talk.

🌪️ When Life Gets Stormy

Sailors faced danger constantly, so naturally they invented vocabulary for it:

- Between the devil and the deep blue sea – two bad choices
- Weather the storm – endure hardship
- All at sea – confused
- In dire straits – serious trouble
- Dead in the water – not progressing

If only handling life’s storms were as simple as reefing a sail...

🏴‍☠️ Old-School Saltiness That Survived

The classics never die:

- First-rate – top-quality ships in the Royal Navy
- Scuttlebutt – shipboard gossip
- Clean sweep – a ship cleaned entirely before inspection
- Pipe down – signal for sailors to be quiet

🏴‍☠️ Sailor Insults (Just for Fun!)

Mariners were creative—sometimes brutally so. Here are some family-friendly favourites you might jokingly throw at a mate:

- Scurvy dog – low character
- Bilge rat – sneaky, grimy type
- Landlubber – inexperienced ashore-folk
- Loose cannon – unpredictable troublemaker
- Barnacle – someone who clings on

Prefer something subtle? Try:

“He’s... not exactly shipshape.”

or

“Bold manoeuvre for someone with no compass.”

🚢 Leadership, Work & Power—All Afloat

No surprise that the language of command at sea shaped how we talk about leadership today:

- At the helm – in charge
- Call the shots – make decisions
- Hand over the reins – pass control
- Toe the line – follow rules precisely
- On board with – supportive or in agreement
- Take the helm – assume leadership

Even modern offices still “run a tight ship.” (Some more than others!)

🚢 Money, Trade & Survival

Maritime commerce shaped entire economies—and the language that came with it:

- Bottom line – final tally on a ship’s log
- On the rocks – ships (or relationships) in trouble
- Pay through the nose – overpay
- Show your true colors – reveal intentions
- Taken aback – wind suddenly knocking the sails back

🚢 Literal Terms That Turned Metaphorical

Some expressions still sound poetic:

- Aloof – once meant “to windward”
- Ballast – something that stabilises
- Buoyed – lifted up or encouraged
- Chart a course – plan ahead
- Navigate – find your way

These phrases keep one foot on deck even when we’re far from the water.

🚢 Hidden Nautical Origins

A few expressions that surprise even seasoned boaters:

- Turn a blind eye – Nelson pretending not to see orders
- Chew the fat – gnawing salted pork aboard ships
- Over a barrel – position used when cleaning a ship’s hull
- On your beam ends – nearly capsizing





Staff Pre-Season Training

Welcome Afloat

This month, Michelle, Isla, Harry and Jayde undertook the British Marine 'Welcome Afloat' Course. The course is designed specifically for the Marine Industry and focuses on providing world-class service to all customers and encourages participants to exceed expectations wherever possible. We are pleased to share that all of our fabulous team passed with flying colours.



Vitae Vi

Just last week, the marina team, along with our friends from GR Pro Clean and industry colleagues from Val Wyatt, took part in Cold Water Immersion Training led by the fantastic Dan from Vitae Vi.

The session began in the classroom with an insightful and engaging talk. Dan explained that the most effective way to avoid cold water shock is, quite simply, not to fall in. However, as anyone who works around water knows, accidents can happen. Dan guided us through the alarming statistics surrounding cold water immersion and the real risks it presents, as well as practical steps we can take to help ourselves if we ever find ourselves in the water alone. One key message from the day – “Breathe, Float, Plan” – made such an impact that many of the team have now written it inside their lifejackets as a daily reminder.

Once the theory was complete, it was time to put our learning into practice. Those brave enough jumped straight into the marina, while others needed a little encouragement – thankfully there was always a supportive teammate on hand to provide the occasional gentle nudge (Lisa Harris may have received one!). Once in the water, we practiced controlling our breathing for the first 60 seconds, allowing the body to recover from the initial shock. From there we floated to stabilise ourselves and took a moment to plan the easiest way to get out.

One of the biggest lessons we learned was that the closest exit isn't always the easiest. Dan showed us how everyday marina features can be used to help us climb out safely – including outboards, cleats, and swim ladders – things many of us wouldn't have previously considered.

After safely getting back onto the pontoon, those who were feeling particularly brave had the chance to try an ice bath, experiencing the coldest water conditions we're likely to face.

To round off the day, Dan also hosted an informative talk for the wonderful berth holders who joined us. We'll be circulating the slides from that session soon for anyone who would like to revisit the information.





Your Pre-Season Cruising To-Do List: Get Your Boat Ready for a Brilliant Year on the Water

The days are getting longer, the water's warming up (slowly!), and it's nearly time to cast off for another season of cruising. Before you untie those lines, here's a practical—and fun—checklist to make sure your boat is as ready as you are.

✓ Recommission Your Boat (If You Winterised It)

If your boat has been snoozing through the colder months, now's the moment to gently wake her up.

Reconnect batteries and electrical systems.

Check for any winter damage or leaks.

Restart and test the engine—listen for anything unusual.

Flush and reconnect water systems.

Inspect fuel lines and filters.

A little attention now saves big headaches later.

✓ Give Her a Top-to-Bottom Clean (Inside and Out)

There's nothing like that first sparkle of the season.

Wash the hull and deck to remove grime, mildew, or surprises left by winter wildlife.

Freshen up the interior—air it out, wipe down surfaces, and check for any damp patches.

Don't forget windows, hatches, and covers.

A clean boat feels happier. So will you.

✓ Check That All Systems Are Fully Operational

A safe boat is a confident boat. Examine:

Navigation equipment (GPS, lights, horn)

Engine & propulsion

Bilge pump (and test it!)

Anchoring gear

Electrical system – lights, chargers, fuses

Safety kit – lifejackets, extinguishers, first aid, flares (in date!), throw lines

If it switches, pumps, clicks, or beeps—make sure it's doing so properly.

✓ Review the River Conditions Before Setting Off

Even if you're raring to go, the river might not be.

Check current levels and flow rates.

Confirm any navigation notices, closures, or restrictions.

Look out for floating debris after storms or high water.

In short: wait for the river to give you the green light, not just the calendar.

✓ Make Sure Your Boat Still Fits Your Cruising Plans

Heading further afield this year? Planning longer trips, more guests, or different waterways?

This is the perfect moment to step back and consider whether your current boat still meets your needs—and if not, why not explore your options?

Boat Showrooms offer a range of models and expert guidance if you're thinking about upgrading, resizing, or simply refreshing your boating life.

A quick review now ensures you've got the right boat for the adventures ahead.

✓ Refill Supplies... Including the Bar!

A well-stocked galley (and bar) is essential for smooth cruising.

Top up water tanks, fuel, and cooking essentials.

Check your tea, coffee, biscuits, snacks—priorities!

Refresh your drinks cabinet for sunset moorings and visiting friends.

Responsibly prepared is responsibly enjoyed.

✓ Brush Up on Lock and Flag Etiquette

A considerate boater is a welcome boater.

Remind yourself how to approach and share locks politely.

Review signs, signals, and passing rules.

Make sure your flags are clean, correct, and properly flown.

A little etiquette goes a long way toward a peaceful and friendly river.

✓ Ready to Cast Off?

With these essentials ticked off, you're set for smooth sailing and a brilliant season ahead. Here's to calm waters, sunny days, and many happy cruising memories!

Celebrate Easter Weekend!



SHEPPERTON
MARINA



At Shepperton Marina

3rd -6th April 2026

Egg Hunts, Family Fun & Spring Treats



What's On and When

- Easter Party - Easter Saturday 12pm-2pm. £12 per child inc biscuit decorating, easter stories and egg hunt. ALL PROFITS TO MOMENTUM CHILDRENS CHARITY.
- Banging Bacon Baps - Easter Sunday 10am-12pm. Isla and Freya will be serving Baps on the quayside. FREE OF CHARGE.
- Izzy the Bunny - Sweet treat delivery, Izzy will be back again spreading easter joy on the pontoons throughout the weekend.

Welcome to Freya

Freya has joined the team as Dockmaster- please give Freya a friendly greeting as she makes her way around the Marina.



FREYA



MEET THE TEAM



WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO WORKING ON THE RIVER HERE AT SHEPPERTON MARINA?

I was drawn to Shepperton Marina for the tranquility of working by the river. The peace, the scenery — and let's be honest, you can't beat an 'office' that doesn't even have walls!

FAVOURITE MUSICIAN/BAND?

AC/DC

IF YOU COULD NAME A BOAT ANYTHING WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Jammy Dodger (like the boat in flushed away!)

DREAM JOB?

CEO - Of my own company of course

INTERESTING FACT

Outside of work, I love spending my time crafting — especially crocheting and baking.

WHEN THE WEATHER'S READY, WILL YOU BE?

Refresh your boat and avoid delays with five top tips

01

Check the seacocks are open and look for water flow before attempting to start your engine(s).

02

Inspect battery terminals. A quick clean and grease over the tops will protect and seal them. Charge batteries, and check your charger is working and batteries are healthy.

03

Put sanitiser through on board domestic water if you have drained the system. Expel all the air when recommissioning - this will stop your pressure pump pulsing.

04

Wash down your boat's exterior and look for signs of rust. Treat and convert rust with a self-priming product like Vactan - our top seller.

05

Check bilges are clean and free of water or debris following possible winter leaks. Eliminate splits or kinks in discharge hose/pipe and test bilge pump operates.

Pre-season engine check from £75 (single) or £125 (twin)

Includes oil and coolant inspection and leak detection

BOOK OR ENQUIRE TODAY: 01932 247 427



Serving This Saturday



Find Us Next To The Marina Office
To Enjoy on the Quayside or
aboard your vessel.

HAMPER OPTION MENU
BREAKFAST MENU
LUNCH MENU

Picnic Hampers also available to
preorder.



Cruise Control: Isla's Boating Playlist

As we prepare for the new season, Isla has been busy curating a collection of her favourite songs to build the perfect boating playlist for 2026. Carefully chosen to suit long days on the water, relaxed cruises along the river, and sunny afternoons moored up with friends, the playlist is designed to become the soundtrack to your time afloat this year. Whether you're setting off early in the morning, enjoying a gentle cruise, or winding down as the sun sets over the marina, Isla's selections aim to capture the laid-back spirit of the boating season and add a little extra atmosphere to every trip.



March Stand Out Song

'Island in the Sun' by Weezer is my pick of the month for your boating escapades! The song was originally released back in 2001, but it's still seen as a summer staple, proving its timelessness. We've not been blessed with the weather just yet, but I think this song brings the sunshine. You might not be getting very far on the river at the moment due to those troublesome red boards, but this tune is just as great from your berth as it would be cruising down the Thames. Enjoy!



+ FIRST AID ***AFLOAT*** **+** ***TRAINING***



SHEPPERTON
MARINA



**Limited
Availability**



£70 PER PERSON

This introductory session provides practical, hands-on first aid skills tailored for the afloat environment. Over the course of the morning, participants will learn how to respond to common onboard injuries and incidents, gaining confidence in delivering simple, effective first aid until professional help is available. Ideal for beginners or anyone looking to refresh basic skills



Saturday 16th May 2026 9.30–12.30

2026 Events Calendar



January

23 - Beat The Blues
Quiz Night
17- VHF Course

February

28- Introduction to the
Tidal Thames Course

March

11- Cold Water Shock
Seminar
15- Mothers Day Treats
21- Boat Jumble

April

3 - Easter Party
5 - Easter Sunday Treats
TBA - Flotilla to
Harleyford

May

3- Berth Holder Picnic
22- Flotilla to St Kats.

June

21- Fathers Day 'Boats
and Beer'
27 Shepperton Marina
Open Day

July

TBA- Gin Tasting In The
Meadow.

August

TBA- Flotilla to St Kats.

September

5 - Berth Holder Party
TBA- Flotilla to Windsor

October

31 Pumpkin Carving
Competition

November

TBA- Bonfire Night
Display

December

4-7 Christmas Market
5 Illuminated Marina
1-24 Mulled Wine at the
Marina



2026 Flotillas Booking Now

Harleyford Marina – 24/04/2026 to 27/04/2026

Welcome Drink and pastries in the Marina Office
One-night stay in Windsor (Boveney Lock Moorings) Friday Night
Dinner at Harleyford Golf Club (Saturday Night)
Flexible return date: Sunday 26th or Monday 27th for those wishing to explore the local area further.
£70 per vessel (based on 2 occupants) Additional Crew @ £30 per meal.

The Swan Hotel, Staines – 13/06/2026

Join us for a short trip up-river, mooring outside The Swan Hotel for an evening meal (you are welcome to join us by car if you wish)
Limited guaranteed moorings available but alternative options are available.
Spend as much or as little as you wish on food and drink
Free of charge to join, Time TBC

Booking Soon
Register your interest with the Marina Office.

St Katharine Docks – 17/07/2026 to 20/07/2026
St Katharine Docks – 28/08/2026 to 31/08/2026

Both trips will include
Welcome Drink and Pastries in The Marina Office
Personalised Welcome pack
Mooring at Teddington Lock (first night) with a table for drinks reserved at The Anglers
Mooring at St Kats remaining nights inc Access to electricity on Berth.
Welcome drink at St Katharine Docks
Time to explore central London
Buffet-style meal hosted on the St Katharine Docks Events Pontoon
Lock- in Times TBC

Windsor – 11/09/2026 to 13/09/2026

Guaranteed mooring with French Brothers (along the rocky wall) or option to select rafted mooring along the promenade (not guaranteed)
Reserved area for arrival drinks at Browns 11th September PM
Opportunity to explore Windsor Town Saturday day time.
Group Dinner at Browns – 12th September 7.30pm





Steve's Naturalist Bits:

Buds & Bulbs:

Nature's Springtime Clocks



Meet Steve, our dedicated Head Groundsman who ensures the Marina is always in top-notch condition. Steve's day is spent outside when he's not impressing us in the office with his facts.

Spring doesn't arrive all at once. Instead, it unfolds gently—first in the hedgerows and woodland edges, then across gardens and fields. If you look closely, you'll see that nature follows a remarkably consistent timetable, guided by age-old rhythms of light and warmth.

Two traditional sayings capture this seasonal dance perfectly:

"Oak before Ash – in for a splash,

Ash before Oak – in for a soak."

And another familiar one:

"Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out."

Both remind us that spring weather is unpredictable—and that plants have their own clever ways of deciding when it's safe to grow.



Trees and Nature's Clocks 🌳

Trees rely on two main natural "clocks" to know when winter is ending.

The Solar Clock – Day Length

Some trees track the changing length of daylight. As winter fades, the nights gradually shorten. Species such as ash, birch, and willow measure this shift in day length as a signal that spring is on the way.

The Temperature Clock – Accumulated Warmth

Other trees take a different approach. Rather than day length, they monitor the build-up of warmth over time—sometimes called growing degree days. Oak and elm trees wait until enough warm hours have accumulated before producing new leaves, ensuring conditions are safe for growth.

A Changing Rhythm 🌍

However, some natural clocks are beginning to shift. Research shows that oak trees now develop their leaves around two weeks earlier than they did 30 years ago, largely due to rising temperatures linked to climate change.

Nature's timetable is still reliable—but the pages are slowly turning sooner.

The First Signs: Spring Bulbs 🌷

While trees deliberate, bulbs are often the first to announce spring. Their order of appearance is surprisingly consistent each year.

Snowdrops, crocus and muscari: These are among the earliest flowers to appear. Their bulbs sit close to the soil surface, so they warm up quickly as temperatures rise.

Daffodils: Hardier than many bulbs, daffodils thrive in the cooler temperatures of early to mid-spring, bringing bright colour to gardens and roadsides.

Bluebells: These woodland specialists bloom from mid to late spring. They must emerge before the tree canopy fills out, making the most of the sunlight that reaches the forest floor in April and May.

Tulips: Prefer higher and more consistent temperatures, which is why they typically flower a little later in the season.

Fun fact: Despite yearly variations in weather, the order in which these bulbs bloom has remained remarkably consistent over time.

So next time you notice the first snowdrops pushing through the soil or the fresh green haze appearing in the trees, remember: you're watching one of nature's oldest and most intricate calendars quietly ticking into spring. 🌸🌱



BOAT OF THE MONTH

1994 LINSSSEN 360 AC - KAMINA



Introducing 'Kamina', a charming Linssen Classic Sturdy 360 AC cruiser, boasting an overall length of 35ft and 7in. This well-maintained vessel features a steel hull, enhancing the durability and stability on the water.

Equipped with a single Volvo Penta TMD41 B engine, Kamina allows for an efficient cruising experience, whilst being easy to handle on and off of moorings. With two generous cabins and two heads, this boat offers ample accommodation for family and friends, making it perfect for extended adventures afloat. The thoughtful design and spacious layout provide comfort and convenience for all onboard.

Its classic charm and practical features make it an excellent consideration for those seeking both adventure and relaxation on the water.



Marina Photo Album!

And February winner is



We'll contact the winner to collect their prize.

Now accepting March entries.

Click the link to join our shared Google album.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TSscVRvMUmX3rN4x8>

MARCH
OFFERS

Lindon
Lewis
MARINE

01932 247 427
info@pushtheboatout.com



Usecode
'LIGHTS26' online
or pop in to the
chandlery

Works as all these:

- TriColour Masthead
- BiColour
- Port
- Starboard
- Stern navigation light



MAGNETIC

For regular or
emergency use

**10%
OFF**

Navilight Tricolour 2NM

NAVISAFE



Battery powered and portable
Magnetic or screw
Super bright LEDs
Red, green & white combinations
Waterproof
Floats
Fits in your pocket
Consumes little power

Offer terms online. 10% off tricolour lights in March

Fire

Safety Afloat Course

This is a practical course where Berth Holders are invited to extinguish real fires in a controlled setting. Our trainer will provide a specialist rig, along with extinguishers and fire blankets, to help build confidence and skills in handling emergencies afloat.



SHEPPERTON
MARINA



Date: Saturday 16 May 2026 | Time: 1.00pm - 3.00pm
£80 per person

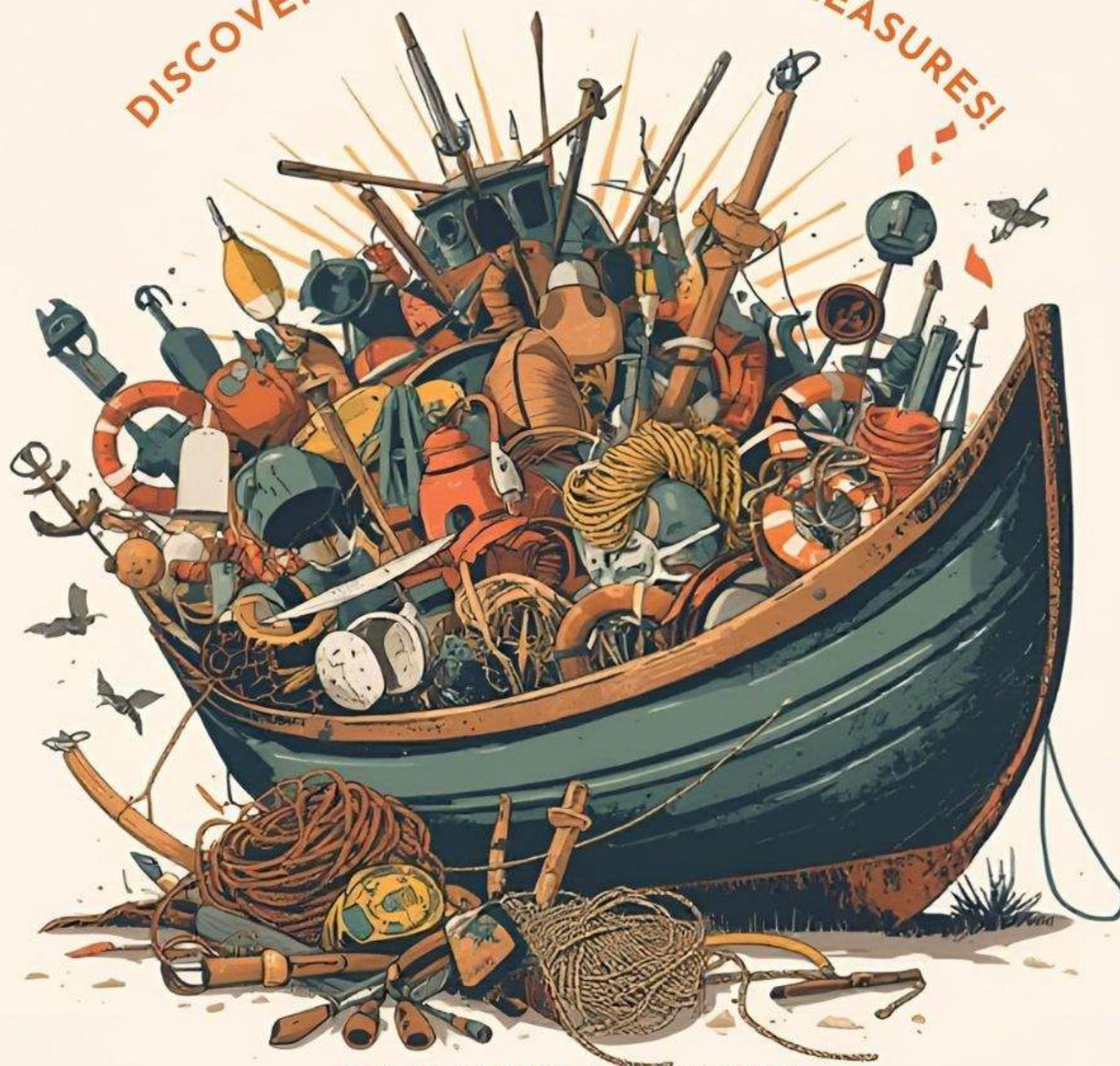
This weekend!!!!



**SHEPPERTON
MARINA**

BOAT JUMBLE

DISCOVER HIDDEN NAUTICAL TREASURES!



SAIL INTO SAVINGS!

To Reserve a table please contact the Marina Office

Pitch for Berth Holder - £15

Pitch for Non Berth Holder - £25

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026 10AM - 4PM

AT SHEPPERTON MARINA, FELIX LANE, TW17 8NS

GRP PRO-CLEAN

PROFESSIONAL BOAT VALETING SERVICES

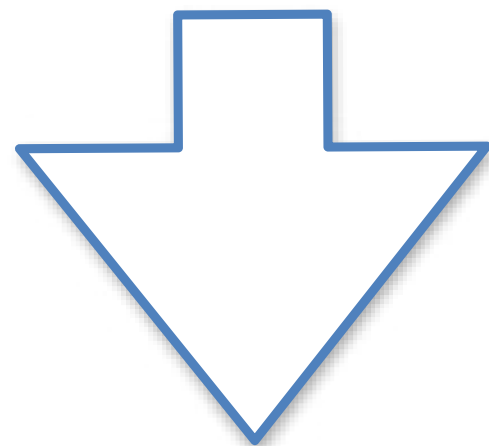
Keep Your Boat Looking It's Best — All Year Round



SERIVCES

- Regular Wash-downs
- Exterior Machine Polishing
- Canopy Cleaning & Reproofing
- Hull Cleaning & Stain Removal
- Interior Boat Cleaning

SCAN QR CODE FOR A
FREE QUOTATION



SCAN QR CODE

Or visit

www.grpro-clean.co.uk



More time enjoying your boat. Less time cleaning it.



VOTE FOR US INLAND MARINA OF THE YEAR 2026!

Voting has now opened for Marina of the Year 2026. Please take a moment to scan the QR code below and cast your vote. Remember to mention the team members who've made a difference to your experience this year — your words help shine a light on the people behind our success!



VOTING OPEN UNTIL: SEPTEMBER 2026