



SHEPPERTON  
MARINA  
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September 2026



# NEWSLETTER

We can hardly believe that the boating season is nearly drawing to a close—and what a fantastic summer it has been!

This month's highlights have included our flotillas to St Katharine Docks and Windsor, as well as welcoming the Linssen Rally. Rally participants also joined us for our biggest Berth Holders' Party yet, with an incredible 350 guests helping us raise more than £4,300!

There is still plenty to look forward to, beginning with today's opening of the Southampton International Boat Show. If you are visiting, be sure to say hello to Boat Showrooms on Stand MO16 and visit the Lindon Lewis team, who will also be exhibiting. To celebrate the occasion, we have included a fascinating look back at the history of the show.

Elsewhere in this edition, you will find an introduction to robotic hull cleaning, a photo collage from our Berth Holders' Party and details of our upcoming training courses. These include the highly requested Day Skipper Theory course—the perfect follow-up to our popular Tidal Thames Course for anyone looking to expand their boating knowledge and skills.

Our regular features also return, including Steve's Naturalist Bits, Isla's Cruise Control and The Log Book. You will also find an invitation to Blaiklocks' Macmillan Coffee Morning, a comprehensive guide to GR Pro Clean's winter services and, most excitingly, details of a book written by one of our very own berth holders.

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## The Southampton International Boat Show

*From a borrowed Army pontoon to one of Europe's leading on-water boating events*

For more than half a century, the Southampton International Boat Show has brought together boat builders, marine businesses and boating enthusiasts from across Britain and beyond. What began as a small local event in Mayflower Park has developed into one of the best-known dates in the UK boating calendar.



### Humble beginnings

The first Southampton Boat Show was created by Norman Kemish and Arthur Gale and ran for six days, from 29 September to 4 October 1969. Around 50 exhibitors took part and the entire event was contained within Mayflower Park. Its first marina was especially modest: the Army at nearby Marchwood Military Port supplied a small pontoon on which just a handful of boats could be displayed.

Even at that first show, its potential was clear. Southampton sat at the heart of Britain's leisure-marine industry, with many boat builders and suppliers based nearby. The combination of shoreside displays and boats afloat gave visitors the opportunity to see new craft where they belonged - on the water.

| YEAR | A MOMENT IN THE SHOW'S HISTORY                                                   |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1970 | Actor Warren Mitchell became the first in a long line of celebrity show openers. |
| 1980 | A replica of Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hinde was the star attraction.           |
| 1981 | Gale-force winds of up to 55 mph flattened Ocean Hall on the final day.          |
| 1988 | The on-water display expanded dramatically, with 254 boats showcased afloat.     |
| 1997 | Parliament approved an extension from nine days to the familiar ten-day format.  |
| 2017 | A record 15,000 visitors enjoyed an experience out on the water during the show. |

### A showcase for changing times

As boating changed, the show changed with it. Over the years, visitors have encountered early hovercraft, experimental hydrofoils, sailing yachts, motor cruisers, watersports equipment and increasingly advanced navigation and safety technology. Famous attractions have included Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Challenger in 1986 and a replica of Captain Cook's Endeavour in 2002.

The event has also become more hands-on, offering visitors opportunities to try boats and watersports, meet experts and discover new ways to enjoy life afloat. Although the 2020 show was postponed during the pandemic, it returned in 2021 and once again reunited the boating community. Today, hundreds of boats and marine brands fill Mayflower Park and its purpose-built marina each September.

Did you know? Admission to the opening day of the first show cost ten shillings - the equivalent of 50p in decimal currency - while tickets for the remaining days cost just three shillings, or 15p!



BOAT SHOWROOMS



## ENKHUIZEN 744 LOUNGE

Length overall: 7.44 meters

Width: 2.50 meters

Draft: 0.55 meters

Vertical Clearance: approx. 1.15 meters

Weight: approx. 1700 kg

CE category: C

Maximum number of people: 8

Propulsion: Diesel | Electric

**ON DISPLAY AT SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW 2026**

**STAND M016**

**USE CODE 'BOTSHOW' FOR DISCOUNTED TICKETS AT A PRICE  
OF £19.99!**

ENKHUIZENSLOEP – TENDER LOUNGE





## A Party to Remember

Shepperton Marina's recent Country and Western Berth Holder Party welcomed more than 350 guests for an afternoon filled with fantastic entertainment, great food and plenty of refreshments.

From energetic line dancing to brave attempts on the rodeo bull, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Thousands of photographs were taken throughout the day, and we are still busy curating a special highlights video to capture all the best moments but we have included a number of the highlights here.

Most importantly, the incredible generosity of our berth holders and guests helped raise more than £4,300. The proceeds will be split between our chosen marina charities, Momentum Children's Charity and Thames Sailability, supporting the invaluable work they carry out within our wider community as well as a donation to the RNLI.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered or helped to make the event possible. The wonderful atmosphere demonstrated once again what makes the Shepperton Marina community so special. We look forward to sharing the full highlights video very soon!







## UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

### RYA TRAINING

## RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance

The RYA Diesel Engine Course is a one-day, classroom-based introduction to marine diesel engines, designed for beginners with no previous mechanical experience. It explains how a diesel engine works and teaches the basic checks and maintenance needed to keep it reliable.

Topics include the four-stroke cycle, fuel, cooling and air systems, engine electrics, servicing, winterisation, and the essential tools and spare parts to carry aboard.

The course also covers common causes of engine failure and practical steps that can help identify problems and restart an engine following a breakdown.

- One-day course
- 9.30am to 5pm
- Thursday 22 October 2026
- £160 per person
- Tea and coffee throughout, breakfast pastries and a light lunch included
- RYA handbook and certificate upon successful completion included

### RYA TRAINING

## RYA Day Skipper Theory

Following the success of our popular Tidal Thames course, and in response to numerous requests from berth holders, we are delighted to offer the RYA Day Skipper Shorebased Theory Course as the ideal next step in developing your boating knowledge and confidence.

Delivered over five days, this comprehensive course is designed for aspiring skippers and less-experienced boaters. It covers the essential knowledge required to make safe and informed decisions when skippering a small vessel in familiar waters.

Topics include seamanship, chartwork, coastal navigation and pilotage, electronic charts, position fixing, plotting a course to steer, tides, weather forecasting and meteorology, and collision regulations.

Some practical boating experience is helpful but not essential. The course also provides an excellent foundation for anyone considering progressing to the RYA Day Skipper Practical Course.

- Five-day course, 9am to 5pm daily
- 20–22 and 28–29 November 2026
- £525 per person; tea and coffee available throughout
- RYA course pack and certificate upon successful completion included
- Bring your own Portland plotter and single-handed dividers

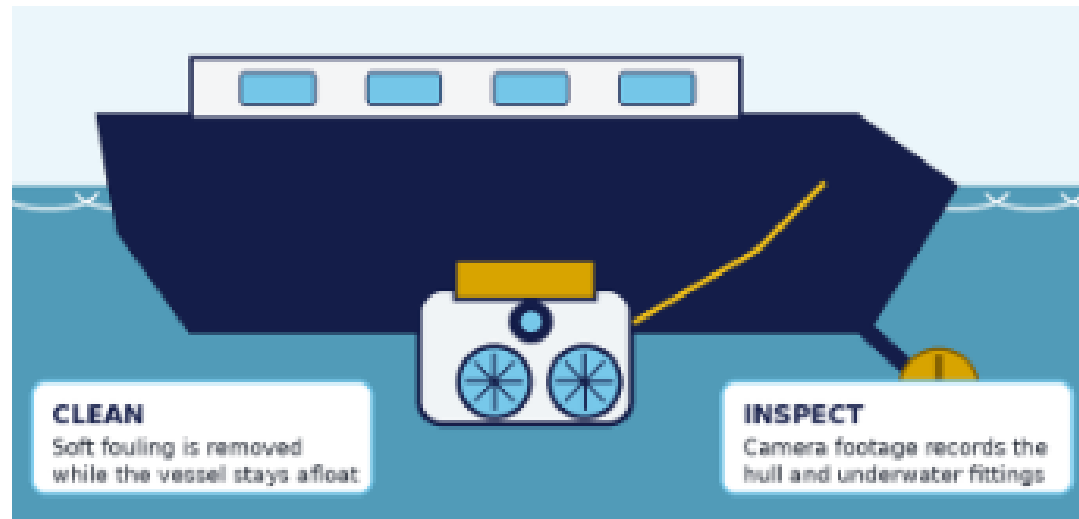
READY TO BOOK?

**Reserve your place online**

<https://thames.glueup.com/event/>



## Robotic Hull Cleaning for Larger Vessels: A practical in-water option



Keeping a hull clean is an important part of routine vessel maintenance. Slime, weed and other organic growth increase drag and can affect handling, engine load and fuel efficiency. For larger vessels on the Thames that cannot easily be moved or lifted, robotic hull cleaning offers a convenient way to maintain submerged surfaces while the boat remains safely afloat.

### How the technology works

A remotely operated underwater unit uses cameras and specialist cleaning equipment to travel across compatible sections of the hull. Suitable fouling can be removed without arranging a crane lift, transport or hardstanding, considerably reducing disruption for owners of larger steel vessels, barges and other difficult-to-lift craft.

### The benefits

The vessel remains afloat and in its berth

No crane, transport or hardstanding is required

Reduced drag may improve handling and efficiency

Useful for vessels that have remained stationary

Maintenance can be planned before a longer journey

A suitability check is essential

This service is not recommended for GRP vessels. GRP hulls, gelcoat finishes and some antifouling systems may be vulnerable to unsuitable pressure or cleaning equipment. The method is generally better suited to compatible steel-hulled vessels, but every boat and coating must be assessed individually before work begins.

### Cleaning and surveying together

A valuable advantage of robotic cleaning is that an underwater visual survey can often be completed during the same visit. The robot's cameras can record the hull, propellers, rudders, anodes, stern gear, skin fittings and other accessible underwater components.

The footage can help identify visible corrosion, damaged coatings, fouling, impact marks, worn anodes or objects caught around the propeller. Where required, the recording may also be reviewed by a suitably qualified marine surveyor.

An underwater visual inspection is useful for maintenance planning, but it may not replace a full out-of-water survey when one is required by an insurer, lender or purchaser.

### A practical Thames solution

When used on a suitable vessel by an experienced operator, robotic cleaning provides a practical way to maintain the hull, collect useful inspection footage and identify potential concerns without taking the boat out of the water.

# HullScrub Thames

## ROBOTIC HULL CLEANING For Houseboats, Barges & Narrowboats

**NO LIFTING. NO DRY DOCKING.**

*Bring your hull back to life – safely, cleanly and without lifting your boat.*

### WHY CHOOSE ROBOTIC HULL CLEANING?

- ✓ No lifting or dry docking required
- ✓ Safe for steel hulls & long term moored vessels
- ✓ Improves fuel efficiency & reduces drag
- ✓ Protects your hull coating – gentle brush technology
- ✓ Environmentally friendly – no chemicals, no disturbance
- ✓ Fast, clean & cost effective

### BELOW the WATERLINE

Specially designed brushes remove algae, marine growth and early-stage fouling

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& All Thames Marinas



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VISIT: [www.hullscrubthames.co.uk](http://www.hullscrubthames.co.uk)

***Cleaner Hull. Better Performance. Longer Life.***



# Steve's Naturalist Bits: Avian botulism & Simultaneous Feather Loss



## Simultaneous Feather Loss

Unlike most garden birds, which lose and replace their feathers gradually, waterfowl shed all their primary wing feathers at once during their annual moult. This temporarily leaves them unable to fly.

At the same time, male ducks—known as drakes—lose their bright breeding colours and develop a duller, camouflaged “eclipse” plumage resembling that of females. This helps protect them while they are flightless.

Because flightless waterfowl are more vulnerable to predators, they gather in groups and seek safe, undisturbed areas with reliable food and shelter, such as the marina. This flightless period usually lasts four to five weeks and commonly occurs during July and August.



## Avian Botulism

Avian botulism is a disease that mainly affects waterfowl, including ducks, geese and swans. Its toxin blocks normal nerve function, leaving affected birds unable to walk, fly or hold up their heads. Sadly, this can cause them to drown.

The bacteria responsible thrive in warm, oxygen-depleted environments. Outbreaks are therefore more common during hot summer weather, when water temperatures rise and water levels may fall. Poor water quality and decaying organic matter can create low-oxygen areas in the riverbed mud, allowing the bacteria to multiply and produce toxins. Rotting vegetation, dead fish and animal carcasses can all contribute to these conditions.

Although pets are rarely affected, it is advisable to keep dogs and cats away from sick or dead birds.

You can help by not feeding ducks or swans. Feeding encourages birds to gather closely together, which may contribute to the spread of disease. Uneaten food can also sink, decay and further reduce oxygen levels in the water.

Please report sick or dead birds and fish to the marina office. Do not touch or move them.



# Cruise Control: Isla's Boating Playlist

Now that the boating season is drawing to a close and we look ahead to the cooler months, Isla's playlist will serve as a reminder of a wonderful summer spent on the water. She has also added some perfect tracks to accompany those all-important days spent maintaining and preparing the boat. Isla's selections capture the laid-back spirit of the 2026 boating season and bring a little extra atmosphere to every moment—both on the water and while getting ready for the adventures ahead.



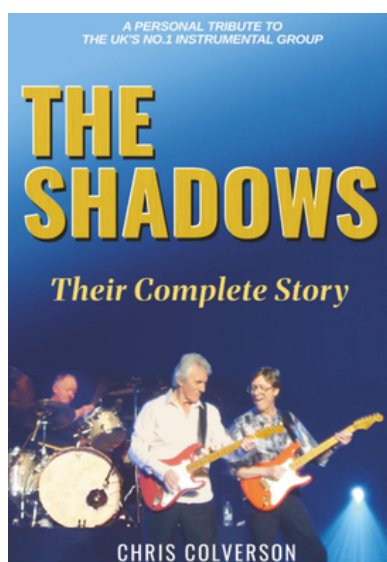
This month's song of the month is 'Another Sunny Day' by Belle and Sebastian. Belle and Sebastian are always a fitting band for the autumn months, and I think this is a great song to kick off the season. If you enjoy this song, the album 'If You're Feeling Sinister' is an excellent starting point for the rest of the band's discography.



## Berth Holder News : Chris Colverson (Vessel, Kay)

Last summer I told you about an article I'd written in Practical Boat Owner. This summer I have published a book! But it's nothing at all to do with boats. It is a biography of The Shadows (pop musicians), named in my article as amongst the author's other interests. Because quite a few boat owners are of a certain age, the subject might just interest some berth holders. To my surprise, more than one lock keeper was interested to learn about this as we cruised through this month.

Anyway, the book is available on Amazon as an ebook and paperback [here](#), if you should feel like mentioning it.



The Shadows: Their Complete Story by lifelong fan Chris Colverson is a detailed celebration of one of Britain's most influential bands. The book traces the group's remarkable journey, exploring their music, changing line-up and the lives and careers of every member—from Hank Marvin and Bruce Welch to Jet Harris and Tony Meehan. Packed with fascinating stories and fond memories, it offers both devoted fans and new readers an engaging insight into the people behind The Shadows' unmistakable sound and enduring legacy.

# The Log Book

## ★ Best customer photo



## 🚤 Boating Tip of the Month

Visit the Southampton International Boat Show to explore the latest boats, equipment and marine innovations—and be sure to stop by Boat Showrooms on stand M016 to meet the team and discover what they have on display!

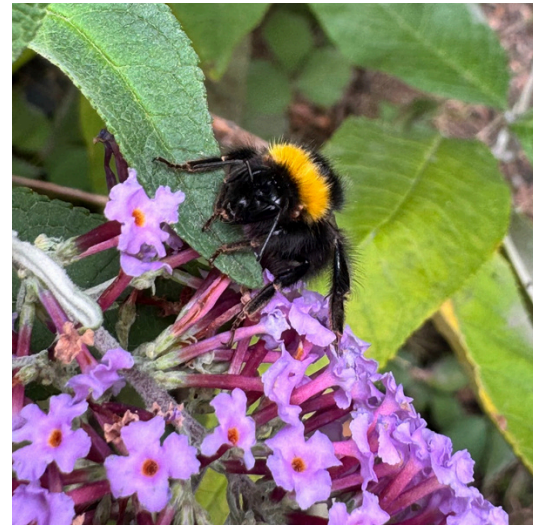
## 🍹 Next Event

23 October – RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance Course

30 October – Pumpkin Carving Competition

Please contact the Marina Office for further information, booking details and how to take part.

## 🦆 Wildlife Spotting of the month



## 📍 Where is this spot?



## 🚚 Safety Reminder of the Month

Always keep a proper lookout. The Thames can be busy with narrowboats, rowing crews, paddleboarders and wildlife. Maintain a safe speed, check carefully before changing course and never assume another river user has seen you. Slow down early and give everyone plenty of room.



# Let's do Coffee Morning

**Do your bit for better cancer care**

Come along and help us do whatever it takes  
to support people living with cancer.

Place: BLAIKLOCK OFFICE  
Date: THURS 24<sup>th</sup> SEPT  
Time: 11 AM

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_



Simply scan this QR code with your  
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Coffee Morning.

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### **Be our guest At Southampton Boat Show**

The UK's flagship boating and watersports festival takes place from 18th to 27th September.

Find us at the Whaly stand: A56, Explore Boating, The Lake Club, where we are exhibiting with the UK Whaly boat distributor Zegomarine.

Use our exhibitor guest code **ZEGOMARINE** to save on advance day tickets!

See our boat show Whaly offers

\_\_\_\_\_



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[www.grpro-clean.co.uk](http://www.grpro-clean.co.uk)

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## HULL CLEAN & MACHINE POLISH

Winter is ideal when many boats are lifted or easier to access. We can remove grime, waterline staining and oxidation, then machine polish the gelcoat to restore gloss and help protect the finish before the new season. **Best done while access is easy — and before spring**

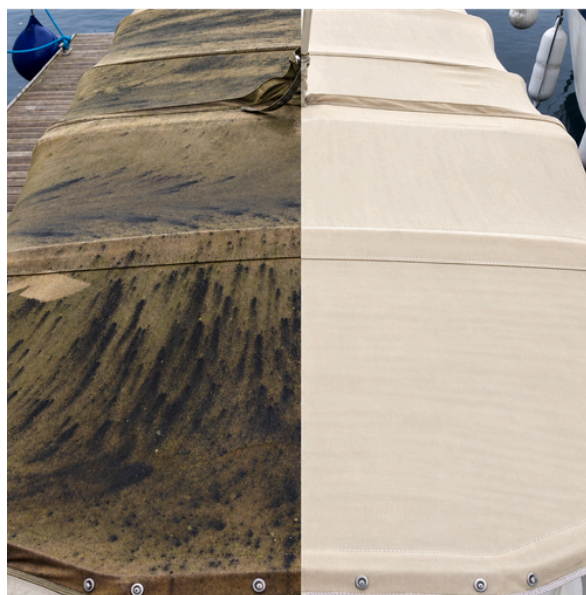
**schedules fill up.**



## CANOPY CLEANING & REPROOFING

Canopies take a beating from rain, algae, traffic film and winter weather. A professional clean followed by reproofing helps refresh the appearance and restore water repellency.

**Clean and protect it before months of wet weather do more damage.**



## RUST STAIN REMOVAL

Specialist, non-abrasive rust stain removal for decks, hulls and exterior surfaces.

**Remove unsightly staining before it becomes more established. Our specialist non-abrasive treatment targets staining without the need for aggressive compounding, helping restore a clean, well-maintained appearance ready for the new season.**



*Use the quieter months to protect your boat, tackle the jobs that are easier out of season, and avoid the spring rush!*

### **MONTHLY WASH-DOWNS**

Winter does not stop green growth, bird mess, dirt and atmospheric fallout. Regular wash-downs stop grime building up and make sure small issues are not left unnoticed for months.

**A little maintenance through winter can prevent a much bigger clean in spring.**



### **INTERNAL VALETING**

A full winter interior valet removes the dirt, damp residue and general build-up left after a busy season. Cabins, heads, galley and living areas can be cleaned thoroughly while the boat is being used less.

**Start spring with a fresh, clean interior instead of a long list of jobs.**



### **BOOK YOUR WINTER WORK NOW**

Secure a convenient winter slot and have your boat clean, protected and ready to enjoy when the better weather returns.

[enquiries@grpro-clean.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@grpro-clean.co.uk)

[www.grpro-clean.co.uk](http://www.grpro-clean.co.uk)

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- Hull Cleaning & Stain Removal
- Interior Boat Cleaning

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