



NEWSLETTER

In this issue, we're featuring a helpful guide on how to prevent birds from nesting on your boat, helping you safeguard your vessel while being mindful of local wildlife. We've also included an important safety bulletin outlining what to do in the event of an accident or a fuel or oil spill.

Regular features return, including Steve's Naturalist Bits and Isla's Cruise Control, alongside details of upcoming events such as the Marina Picnic and our Open Day—perfect opportunities to enjoy some time with your fellow Berth holders. Plus, don't miss our spotlight on the highly desirable 'Gipsy' currently for sale through Boat Showrooms.

[NESTING BIRDS](#)

[MARINA PICNIC](#)

[BOAT SHOWROOMS](#)

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[STEVE'S NATURALIST BITS](#)

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[MOMENTUM DOG WALK](#)





Nesting Season at the Marina: An Important Reminder for All Boaters

Spring has arrived at Shepperton Marina, and with it comes the annual burst of activity from our birdlife. Ducks, moorhens, swans, geese — they're all searching for safe places to build their nests. They're clever, quick, and more than happy to turn your outboard, outdrive, or bathing platform into a floating nursery.

It's essential to understand the law — and your responsibilities.

The Law: What You Can and Cannot Do

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to:

Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

This means:

The moment a bird begins building — even with a single twig — the nest is legally protected.

You cannot remove the twigs, disturb the bird, or interfere with the nest structure in any way.

The only lawful window for action is before any nest-building behaviour begins.

Once a bird shows clear intent to build, you must leave the nest undisturbed until the breeding cycle is complete. This includes moving your boat. The law is stricter than many people realise, which is why prevention is absolutely essential for boat owners.

Why Birds Love Boats

To a nesting bird, your boat looks like:

- A stable, sheltered platform
- A predator-safe zone
- A quiet spot when you're away
- A structure full of nooks, crannies, and ledges

Birds, in particular, love:

- Outboards and outdrives — perfect little alcoves for wedging sticks
- Bathing platforms — flat, low, and close to the water
- Stern corners and fender baskets — ready-made nest frames
- Under canopies — sheltered from wind and rain

Once they settle in, you may face:

- Weeks of being unable to move your boat
- Mess, noise, and territorial behaviour
- Damage to covers, ropes, and fittings

How to Protect Your Boat's Most Vulnerable Areas

These deterrents are humane, legal, and effective only before nesting begins.

Outboards & Outdrives

- Wrapping netting around the leg or between the leg and bathing platform
- Adding flexible bird spikes on top of the outboard casing
- Hanging reflective tape or CDs from the cowling
- Using a full outboard cover when not in use

Bathing Platforms

- Stretch netting across the platform when you're away
- Adding spikes along the back edge
- Keep the area completely clear of ropes, buckets, and fenders
- Position bird of prey decoys nearby

Stern Rails, Corners & Fender Baskets

- Hanging reflective tape or CDs
- Use netting to block access to corners

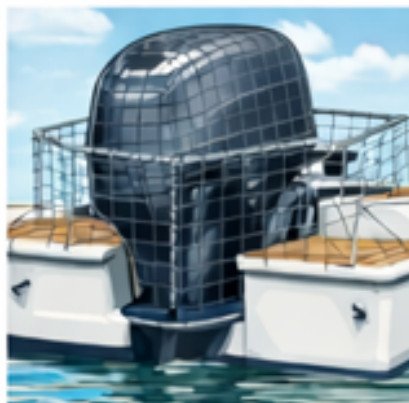
Canopies & Cockpit Covers

- Ensure covers are tight and fully secured
- Add temporary netting inside the cockpit if you're away for a while
- Checking for gaps where birds could enter

Prevent Birds from Nesting on Your Boat



USE BIRD SPIKES



INSTALL NETTING



BIRD OF PREY DECOYS



HANG CDs /
REFLECTIVE TAPE



PICNIC IN THE MEADOW

SUNDAY 3RD MAY | 12PM - 3PM

Bring your own picnic and join us for fun and games in the Meadow — a great chance to relax and enjoy time with your fellow berth holders.

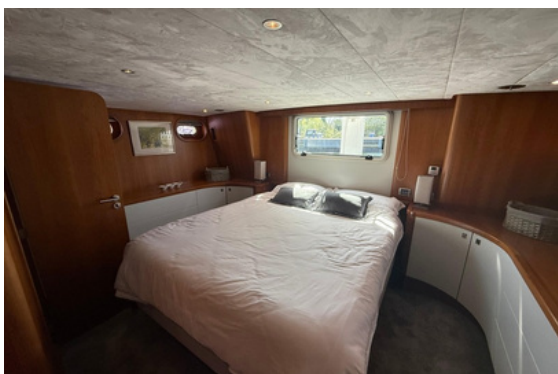
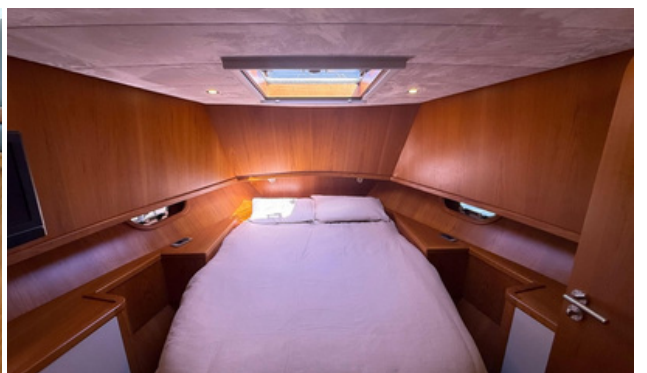
LAWN GAMES | LISA'S FAMOUS BINGO
PIMMS | KIDS GAMES |

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE IN THE MARINA OFFICE



NEW LISTING!

2011 Van Den Hoven 1700 Executive



Introducing the stunning 2011 Van den Hoven 1700 Executive, a remarkable twin engine motor cruiser that embodies elegance and exclusivity, a much desired asset that is rare and sought after. With an impressive overall length of 17.32 meters, this steel-hulled vessel is designed for displacement cruising, providing a smooth and stable ride on the water with economical fuel burn allowing for an excellent cruising range.

Powered by two Volvo Penta D4 180 inboard engines on shaft, each delivering 180 horsepower, remote controlled bow and stern thrusters and a comprehensive suite of navigation equipment, 'Gipsy' offers the ability to cruise at sea and handle on the inland waterways with confidence.

This beautifully maintained example is superbly equipped with two well-appointed cabins and two heads, generously proportioned light filled internal accommodation and plentiful storage, perfect for relaxing in comfort after a day of exploration or during long term periods of time aboard.

'Gipsy' would make an ideal choice for both seasoned sailors and newcomers alike who wish to experience the charm, sophistication and high specification of a steel Dutch built long range cruiser with a huge specification. Please do take the time to familiarise yourself with the full inventory, cruising history and comprehensive notes from the owner.



SHEPPERTON
MARINA



SHEPPERTON MARINA OPEN DAY



SHEPPERTON MARINA

FELIX LANE
TW17 8NS

OPEN 10AM | 27TH JUNE 2026

BOATS | CRAFT STALLS | FOOD | BAR
LIVE MUSIC | BOUNCY CASTLE | FAMILY FUN



Fuel or Oil Spills in the Marina

What to Do Immediately

1. Notify the Marina Office straight away: This is the most important step. Even small spills spread quickly and can cause environmental harm.
2. Stop the source of the spill if it is safe to do so: Turn off engines, pumps, or equipment to prevent further discharge from bilges or fuel lines.
3. Do not use household detergents, these can make the problem worse. Leave the clean-up to trained staff.
4. Contain the spill if possible: If you have absorbent pads or socks on board, place them around the affected area. Do not attempt to pump out contaminated bilges.
5. Review how the spill occurred: Common causes include; fuelling from cans – this is not permitted anywhere in the Marina except the designated fuel berth. Oil in bilges – automatic bilge pumps can expel oily water without warning. Overfilling tanks – always monitor the nozzle and listen for changes in tone.
6. Cooperate with the Marina Team: We're here to help, not to blame. Reporting quickly protects the environment, your vessel, and the wider community.

If Your Boat Hits Another Vessel

What to Do Immediately

1. Notify the Marina Office as soon as possible - Even minor bumps matter. Early reporting helps us connect boat owners, assess damage, and prevent misunderstandings.
2. Ensure everyone is safe - Check for injuries, water ingress, or hazards. If there is any risk to people or vessels, alert the office immediately along with any required emergency service.
3. Exchange details - If the other owner is present, swap names, boat names, and contact information. If they are not present, the Marina Office will assist.
4. Take photos of the incident - Capture the position of the boats, any marks or damage, and the surrounding area. This helps everyone involved.
5. Avoid assigning blame on the spot, accidents happen. The priority is accurate information and respectful communication.
6. Follow up with the Marina Office - We can help mediate, document the incident, and support both parties – even when the damage seems minor.

Emergency Contact Details - please ensure you save these in your phone.

Daytime contact: 01932 243722

Out-of-hours contact: 02476 998005

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.



April Stand Out Song.

This month's pick is 'Fun, Fun, Fun' by The Beach Boys. It's been almost a year since the passing of lead vocalist Brian Wilson, and only one of the original Beach Boys, Mike Love, is still performing under the Beach Boys name. Yet the band's songs remain as much of a playlist staple as they ever did – from their inception in 1961 to now, it's impossible to imagine a summer season without their music. Best listened to on a sunny day!



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



**+
£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**



Steve's Naturalist Bits:

Black Swans, A Fact File



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.

General Characteristics

Black swans (*Cygnus atratus*) are known for their proportionally long necks, elegant posture, and striking contrast to white swans.

They are more territorial and assertive than white swans, especially during breeding season. Their vocalisations include a soft, high-pitched bugle and a whistling sound, particularly when disturbed — often compared to The Clangers.

Social & Pairing Behaviour

Typically monogamous, forming strong pair bonds that often last for life.

Around 6% of pairs “divorce”, usually after unsuccessful breeding attempts.

If one partner dies, the surviving swan usually finds a new mate within six months.

Black swans are social and often bow when approached — a greeting or acknowledgement.

Breeding & Nesting

Reach maturity at 2 years old.

Nesting season usually runs April–September, though winter clutches can occur in mild years.

They may produce up to three clutches in a season, but if the first clutch is successful, they typically do not breed again until the next year.

Nests are large structures made from reeds and grasses, built at the water's edge.

Clutches contain 4–8 eggs, which are greenish in colour.

Incubation & Parental Roles

Both parents share incubation duties for 35–40 days.

Males usually take the day shift, while females incubate at night.

When swapping over, pairs may perform a triumph ceremony — a ritual that reinforces their bond.

If an egg rolls out of the nest, both parents use their long necks to carefully retrieve it.

Cygnets Development

Cygnets care is shared equally by both parents.

Young remain with their parents for around 9 months, learning feeding, flight, and social behaviours.

Movement & Flight

Black swans are more likely to fly at night and rest during the day — a behaviour that helps them avoid predators and conserve energy.

2026 Events Calendar



SHEPPERTON
MARINA



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

3-5 - Easter Treats Delivery
4 - Easter Party
24 - Flotilla to Harleyford

May

3- Berth Holder Picnic
16- Boating First Aid and
Fire Safety Afloat Course

June

13- Flotilla to The Swan
21- Fathers Day 'Boats and
Beer'
27 Shepperton Marina
Open Day

July

4- Gin Tasting In The
Meadow.
17-20- Flotilla to St Kats.

August

28-31- Flotilla to St Kats.

September

5 - Berth Holder Party
11-13 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

Berth Holder News

Discover Shepperton's Wildlife with the Merlin Bird Listening App

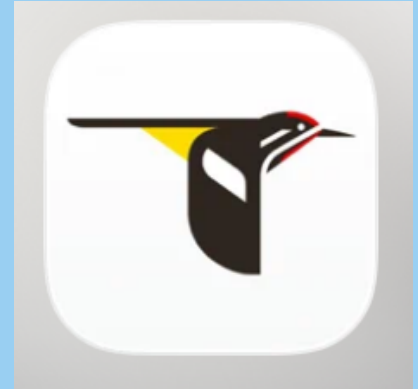
One of the joys of life at Shepperton Marina is the soundtrack – the chatter from the reedbeds, the whistles from the towpath trees, and the sudden flash of wings over the water. Recently, Bob from Marking Time introduced us to a brilliant tool that helps you put names to those familiar voices: the Merlin Bird Listening App. Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Merlin uses clever sound-recognition technology to identify birds simply by listening. Open the app, tap Sound ID, and it will tell you which species are singing around your boat in real time – even without mobile signal.

What You Might Hear Around Shepperton Marina

Our marina is a haven for birdlife thanks to the mix of open water, reedbeds, hedgerows, and riverside woodland. With Merlin running in your pocket, you might pick up:

- Cetti's Warbler – loud, explosive bursts from deep in the reeds
- Reed Warbler – rhythmic chattering from the margins in spring and summer
- Wren – tiny bird, huge voice, often heard along the pontoons
- Robin – clear, melodic song, especially at dawn and dusk
- Blackbird – rich, flute-like notes drifting across the basin
- Great Tit & Blue Tit – bright, repetitive calls from the trees around the car park
- Canada Geese & Greylag Geese – unmistakable honking overhead
- Kingfisher – a sharp, high whistle as it darts along the river
- Red Kite – thin, whistling calls as they circle above the fields
- Mallards, Moorhens & Coots – the everyday soundtrack of the water's edge

These are just a handful of the species Merlin can help you identify – and once you start listening, you'll be amazed at how many voices you recognise.



If you'd like to give it a go

You can download it by clicking on the link [here](#)

Just Giving - Berth Holder Daughter to Kayak from Shepperton Marina to Teddington

Christina Charnley will be fundraising for Edgware, Mill and Borehamwood Sea Cadets and the Hunt Family Fund. If you would like to donate, please follow the link [HERE](#) to read more.

Story

Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page.

I will be kayaking from Shepperton to Teddington, I am trying to raise money for my schools lenten fundraisng which in my year group we have chosen the hunt family fund. Aswell as I would like to raise money for my sea cadet unit. Which will be splitted 50/50

My names Christina and I have been going to TS barrosa for over 3 years and the amount of qualifications , experiences and friends I have gained is truly amazing. However though as a charity sea cadets depends on donations from generous people like yourselevs to help make all these adventures possible. Sea cadets also helps young people gain new skills aswell as life skills for when they are older.

The hunt family fund is a charity dedicated to helping stop violence against women and with the hope of inspiring others.It is in memory of John Hunts wife carol and their daughters Hannah and Louise. Him and Amy also his daughter started this charity as sadly his wife and daughters were murdered in July 2024

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.





2026 Flotillas Booking Now **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





Marina Photo Album!

And March winner is



We'll contact the winner to collect their prize.

Now accepting April entries.

Click the link to join our shared Google album.

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



Serving This Friday, Saturday & Sunday



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.



APRIL NEWS

Lindon
Lewis
MARINE

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LIMITED
OFFER

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GARMIN MARINE DEAL

Amazing deals on select
chartplotters, radars and stereo kits

SHOP

Time for an upgrade?
Save over £1,000 on selected
electronics

Free UK delivery or click & collect



GPSMAP 923
Chartplotter
9" Display

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



10th May

Meeting at
Miss Polly's Cafe
Hurst Park



Charity Dog Walk



Scan QR code
to register or
start your own
fundraiser

Join **Momentum
Children's Charity** for a
dog walk along the river.

- Social dog walk with **local owners**
- £10 entry with **treats and discounts**
- Raffle **prizes, dog wash and freebies**
- Raise £50 for a **free toy and rosette**


momentum
children's charity

£10 entry (up to 2 dogs)

www.momentumcharity.org
Registered charity no: 1195373



GRP PRO-CLEAN

PROFESSIONAL BOAT VALETING SERVICES

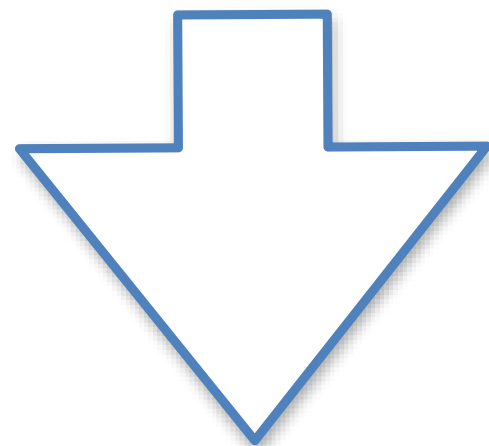
Keep Your Boat Looking It's Best — All Year Round



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!



SHEPPERTON
MARINA



VOTING OPEN UNTIL: SEPTEMBER 2026