

# Thames Alliance

This electronic publication is one of three you will receive each year as a Member of the The River Thames Alliance.

The aim of our Executive Officer Michael Shefras MBE is to keep you informed of some of the factual and actual progress we are making on the seven major topics and associated “Action Points” as set out and agreed in the new Waterways Plan 2015/21 after consultation with Members and signed off at the December 2015 Conference and EGM.

1.16 |

## ACTION REPORT



**Parliamentary Group Now Formed  
Making Good Progress on Flooding**





Introduction from  
John Edmonds,  
Chair of RTA

## REPORT TO MEMBERS YEAR TWO: MARCH 2015 – MARCH 2016

We managed it. After 18 months of work and three rounds of consultation we now have a Thames Waterways Plan to cover the next five years. The Plan was strongly supported at our General Meeting in December and I would like to thank all those members and representatives who commented and improved the earlier drafts of the Plan. I would like to give an even bigger thank you to RTA members who have promised to help us in the arduous task of delivering the improvements that are set out in the Plan.

Full details of the Plan are on RTA’s website and that will include reports of the measures being taken to implement the sections of the Plan.

I said in my report last year that our aim is to make RTA into an organisation which can speak on behalf of our strong and diverse membership with unrivalled authority. That day came a little closer with the formation of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Thames that has now been set up.

To give RTA greater resilience and as promised, we are undertaking an ongoing review complete with taking legal advice\*, of our daily governance. A final copy of this detailed work will be circulated before our next General Meeting.

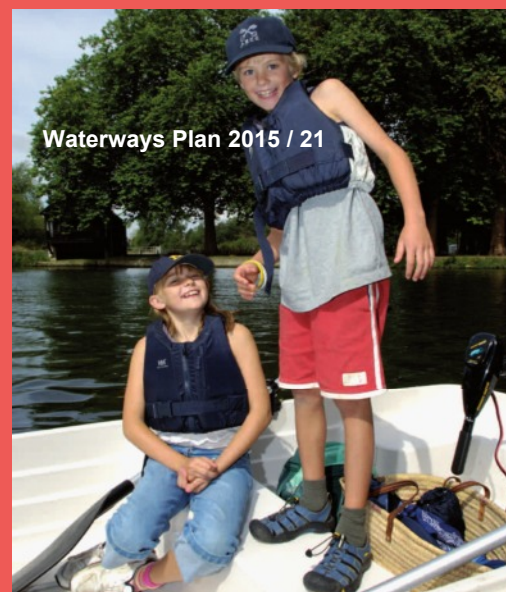
Target date: Mid July - early October 2016\*

At the RTA General Meeting in December 2015 authority was given to the RTA Management Committee to change the legal status of RTA so that it became a “not for profit” company. This change of legal status is now complete and is being accompanied by the review of governance arrangements for the RTA Managing Committee\*

### WATERWAYS PLAN

After extensive consultation with RTA members, the Waterways Plan for the period until 2021 was accepted by representatives meeting at a very well-attended General Meeting held in December 2015. The Waterways Plan focuses on the delivery of improvements in seven key areas:

- ✓ Flood Risk Management
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Planning Policy
- ✓ Tourism and Marketing
- ✓ Navigation and Moorings
- ✓ Sport and Recreation
- ✓ Education



The Plan contains 52 Action points. The Management Committee has begun the task of deciding priorities and action plans for each of the seven key areas of work





**Tania Mathias**  
Conservative, Twickenham

22 MP's and 3 Peers Registered to our new Thames All Party Parliamentary Group

RTA IN PARLIAMENT

“ I appreciate my Hon. Friend giving way. Does he agree that in his constituency, like mine, we know that the response to flooding may be good, but constituents in our areas are concerned about prevention and action on prevention? Tania Mathias MP for Twickenham ”

RTA's NEW Concept for low cost action on flood alleviation

**5 BIRDS 1 STONE**  
A concept discussion document from Steve Good  
Chair Thames Path National Trail  
Chair RTA Development  
Chair IWA Oxfordshire

River Thames  
All Party  
Parliamentary  
Group  
**appg**

**A possible solution to several problems**  
Work with multiple stakeholders across numerous planning authority boundaries to identify future strategic mineral extraction sites. To provide a 25 to 50 year program delivering self financing substantial flood water attenuation ponds designed to provide leisure boating facilities, off-line purpose built residential mooring facilities and associated services, whilst delivering an enhanced and sustainable riverside environment in line with planned bio-diversity landscape strategies, thereby improving flood control, producing a solution to unlawful on-line residential moorings, to provide farmers with additional new income generating diversification options, better water quality and water abstraction options, increased tourism attractions and more too!

Great places to see  
**Otters**  
A guide to our best places to go otter spotting

In January 2016 the Thames Riparian MPs agreed to register to set up an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the future benefit of the Thames.

The first business meeting was held in April, 2016 and focused on flood risk management.

RTA representatives and their guest speakers explained the views and concerns of RTA members.

The APPG discussed the possibility of new initiatives to reduce flood risk. In particular the new low cost multi-faceted idea from RTA with the working title “5 birds, one stone”.





appg  
River Thames

Most recently the RTA developed an agenda to move forward the topic of Flood Defence Management.

To identify new Flood Defence Options for consideration by our Parliamentarians.

To collaborate through the wide range of RTA Members to evolve a Cross Authority, Cross Agency **“joined up thinking”** feasibility study to hold increased volumes of Flood Water in the upstream areas of the Thames Catchment basin.

The RTA scheme is to be based on delivering improved rural farmer incomes, increasing bio-diversity landscapes, via a 25 to 50 year planned scheme to identify mineral extraction sites, giving an after use to enhance tourism and resolve much of the unlawful on line mooring difficulties currently being experienced by many authorities. And all at little of no cost to the Tax payer.

***“Its a miracle. Why has nobody thought of this solution before?”***

The answer is because never before has there been an organisation like the RTA that has such wide representation of varied expertise coming together for the good of the River Thames.

As a result the RTA are demonstrably delivering all new ideas and concepts that can never be borne by organisations working in isolation. Or perhaps Silo Working is a better expression.

By bringing all the varied interested parties from Environment, Navigation, Tourism, Local Authorities, Agencies, Farming, Business, River Users and more, only the RTA is able to deliver truly ***“Joined up Thinking for the whole of the River Thames”***



NOTABLE PROGRESS



Attending the 12<sup>th</sup> April RT APPG as part of the RTA Team of experts was Amanda Nobbs a former Cambridge graduate with much Non Executive Chairman and Chief Executive experience who enjoys enabling partners to achieve their goals and is motivated by making a difference.

Amanda is currently the Defra-appointed Chair of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (7 yrs), and has overseen several major infrastructure projects. Additionally Amanda Nobbs sits on the Mayor of London's Water Advisory Group, having previously served on National Tourism, Waterways, Environmental and Flood advisory committees.



**Amanda Nobbs**



Chris Poupard Chairman of the River Thames Trust and the RTA Chair on Environment

In attendance for RTA Team on the 12<sup>th</sup> April was Mike Cook former Chairman of British Marine

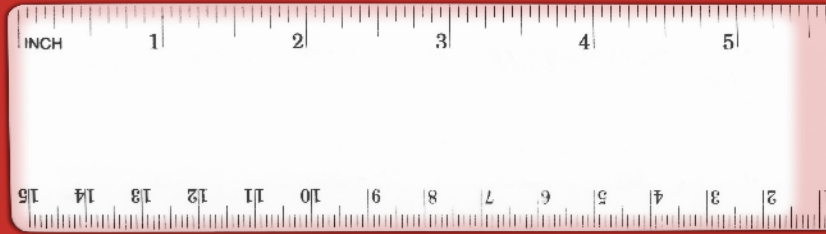


Tom Ormisher from the NFU the RTA member representing Farmers Interests

And



RTA ManCom Member Pat Fitzsimmons Director of the Thames Estuary Partnership



# MEASURED GROWTH

**Steve Good**

**RTA Chair of Development**

I am pleased to be able to report that our planned growth is holding up and the solid foundations we have built over recent years has now allowed us to complete the transition from an Unincorporated Association into an entirely new legal entity, that of a new NOT FOR PROFIT COMPANY Limited by Guarantee. Which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.



**My interest is in Management By Measurement - If we cant Measure it we cant Manage it**

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership **increased by 22** during the year.

Local Authorities      28

Associations/Clubs/    24

Sport/Regattas/Recreation 9

Community            10

Organisations      11

Personal Members    22

Trade                13

**Total**            **117**

## FINANCES

Our income from membership subscriptions increased during the year to £20,822. However, the year was very busy and we incurred significant costs as we built the website – a priority for RTA members - and developed the Waterways Plan. As a result,

our expenditure increased to £21,924 which meant that we had to draw £1,102 from our reserves. Although the reasons are sound, we are obviously not comfortable with this situation and are taking action to increase our income. A tight rein is of course kept on costs. Our detailed accounts are on the RTA website.





During the last four months a new Current Account and Deposit Account as well as a special on-line payment receipt account for new membership fees have all been set and made operational up with the excitingly different Metro Bank Plc.

Metro Bank branches in Reading and Staines on Thames are **OPEN 7 DAY A WEEK!** We believe this is the most modern and forward thinking bank in the UK today! **Try it yourself.**

#### A TRUE STORY

One of our management board recommended Metro Bank to us after we had tried for nearly four weeks to open new accounts with the traditional High Street Banks. It was nearly impossible despite our having banked with them for years. Oh NO SIR! This is a new legal entity and we must ask for proof of Identity and . . . . . in the end we gave up!

Cllr Vivienne Leighton suggested Metro Bank and four days later we went live. And free tea, coffee and lollipops too!

## CURRENT GROWTH 125% P.A.

“ Currently our Membership growth is increasing at approximately 125% per annum, which is good.

The downside is we only generate a little over £20,000 p.a. to run the entire operation, whilst we are managing we need grants.

Funding applications are being dealt with thanks to Pat Fitzsimmons and the help of academics at UCL London. Help and advice anyone?

”

# MORE FOLLOWERS

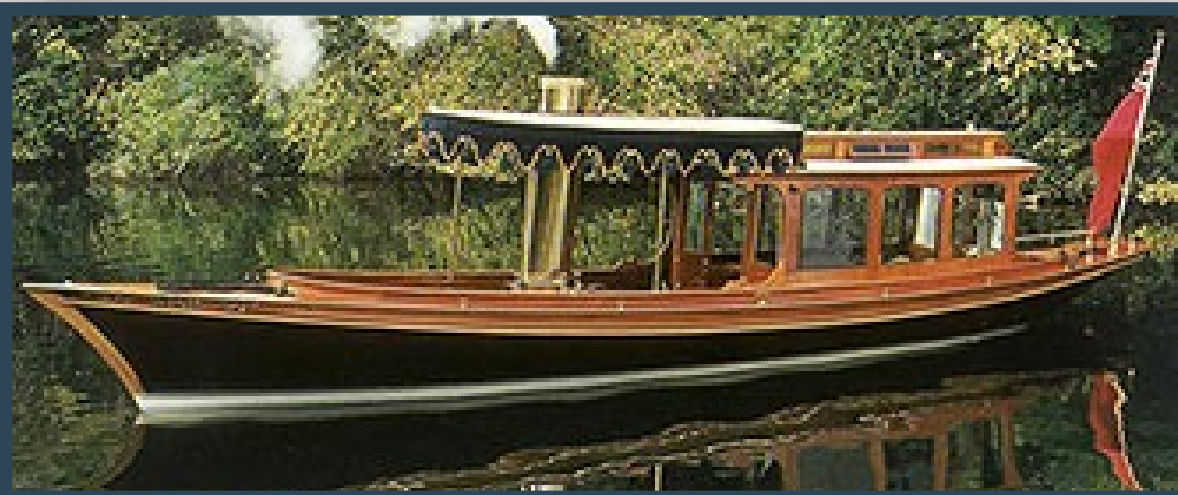


follow us on  
**twitter**



- ✓ Twitter Account has Tweeted every day for last 7 months
- ✓ RTA Twitter Account now has over 600 daily Followers
- ✓ Twitter account continues to grow every week new followers
- ✓ Lock Keepers remain regular followers of our Tweets
- ✓ Many of our Tweets are regularly Re-Tweeted & Loved too
- ✓ Numerous Media Organisations & Media Personalities follow

**@newRTA**



MICHAEL SHEFRAS MBE our invaluable Executive Officer  
Many of our daily Tweets are composed by Michael Shefras MBE who always has his finger on the pulse of what is happening up and down the River. You cannot beat his knowledge of the River Thames and his total commitment to the cause of the RTA.



# Welcome To Our Website

## Most images are LINKS



Click on Image to see river conditions

Founded in 2003  
The River Thames Alliance  
has these core objectives:



Follow @NEWRTA 568 followers

### Thames Waterway Plan 2015/21

**TO READ THE  
Official Final  
Document as  
approved at the  
Conference please  
CLICK HERE**

**Thank You**

### NOW our 121 Paying Members Include

- 29 County & District Councils
- The Environment Agency
- The Port of London Authority
- National Farmers Union
- British Marine Federation
- National Trails Thames Path
- Thames Estuary Partnership
- Visit Thames Marketing Group
- Hobbs of Henley
- Marina Developments Ltd
- MacDonald Compleat Angler
- The Runnymede Hotel
- The River Thames Society
- The Royal Yachting Association
- Canoe Clubs, Yacht Clubs
- Fishing Clubs
- and many more individuals too!



While the EA is the "competent authority" in delivering the River Basin Plan, large parts of the improvement programme will be delivered at a local level by RTA Member organisations



The Environment Agency are Management Board Members making the RTA the leading organisation in lobbying for better flood defenses. With 25 County, District and Borough Councils The RTA are a powerful



Working in alliance with over one hundred of the River Thames Alliance (RTA) Members. A NEW Waterways Plan has been evolved. Now approved by members following much

WWW.  
Thames-Alliance  
.co.uk

# ACTION REPORT



Much more work has been undertaken by RTA Members to overcome the unlawful moorings problem.

Great success in some areas too has led to prosecutions and the removal of unsightly and dangerous craft. **RTA Delivering Results**

The RTA 75 Page Website is updated constantly with news, views, river conditions, and much more, visit soon [www.thames-alliance.co.uk](http://www.thames-alliance.co.uk)

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