

# The River Thames Alliance Co. Ltd.

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## Who said that nothing is happening? It certainly is as RTA power ahead!

### Recent Progresses

Now powering ahead into high summer the River Thames Alliance are moving forward in a very high gear!

As previously advised RTA Co Ltd works as a **not for profit** company developing strategies to deliver a sustainable River Thames for all of our future generations.

Unlike charities, as a not for profit company the RTA is free to be able to evolve political policies to build the prosperity of the entire catchment.

RTA Co Ltd is able to petition UK's political masters and work with them to develop strategies to build the **20/20 Vision of the River Thames**.

It is the only organisation that spans the entire length of the non-tidal Thames – it delivers the overarching holistic picture spanning Gloucester to Surrey.

We believe that it is important that both 'ends' and the middle are aware of what is happening that might not be obvious in their own patch!



RTA Care about our Lock Keepers and their Volunteers



The potential for the RTA to deliver good for the future of the Royal River Thames is now moving forward in a very high gear



As part of the 2020 Vision the RTA Co Ltd Board "Team Thames" were significantly augmented earlier in the year. Details can be seen on the RTA Co Ltd web site:

<http://www.thames-alliance.co.uk/boardresponsibilities.html>

It is important to advise all of our supporters that the new Board has as members several new specialist **advisors including those from the Environment Agency, Canal and River Trust, the National Farmers Union, the IWA & PLA.**

The RTA Co. Ltd held its **third board meeting of 2017** and this news letter updates you with just some examples of the ongoing work programme and what is being accomplished by our RTA Board, Advisors, Supporters, Sponsors and our ever growing band of unpaid Volunteers.

**Join us . . . . .Please !!**

In 2017 the RTA continues to be very heavily involved in organising and supporting the **River Thames All Party Parliamentary Group. APPG**

Most recently on Tuesday 4 July, there was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the group under the new government. The meeting at Portculliss House, Westminster had excellent speakers all contributing great new ideas, explanations and collaborations.



There is a fuller report by way of "**notes of the meeting**" on the RTA web site.

<http://www.thames-alliance.co.uk/parliament.html>

### **WORKING GROUP TEAM PLAYERS SOUGHT**

*RTA Co Ltd works through activity groups. Each group requires an enthusiastic leader who can attract those supporters who are involved in the many different challenges facing the Thames Basin. We are able to report growing support but as we grow we still seek persons who have the knowledge and ability to lead other groups.*

## RTA Co Ltd Mooring Group

This Working Group now has a new lead Mr. Rex Walden (Past Chair of RBOA).

Recently this group has held two meetings considering all aspect of mooring challenges and a further meeting is scheduled in September.

All mooring issues are considered, both residential and recreational. Lawful and Unlawful

A most important group working with all local authorities and landowners.

**RTA Co Ltd Planning Working Group** is being led by the highly qualified Spatial and Heritage Planner Jon Westerman ably supported by the highly experienced, extremely professional and once short listed for the RIBA Silver Medal Mr. Matt Allchurch.



**RTA Co Ltd Walking and Wellbeing Working Group** is now led by Dr. Richard (Dick) Mayon-White. Dick is a former Member of the River Thames Society and continues to be heavily involved in supporting and training Volunteers. We are delighted he has decided to join in helping to deliver the RTA's 2020 Vision for the Thames

**RTA Co Ltd Tourism** is led by Board Director (Designate) Jonathon Hobbs who also leads the RTA Marketing Group who ultimately deliver [www.visitthames.co.uk](http://www.visitthames.co.uk) web site.

**RTA Co Ltd Sport and Recreation** will be organising another meeting in September to include the regional governing bodies of all waterborne sport on the Thames, including Paddle Boarding which is showing massive year on year growth of over 500%

**RTA Co Ltd Environment and Flooding** – HOT NEWS Experienced former County Councillor and Deputy Leader of Oxfordshire County Council Mr. Rodney Rose having recently attended the RTA June Board Meeting and subsequently the RT APPG is currently considering working as an RTA Board specialist Advisor on Flooding whilst a Working Group team leader is still required. In the meantime RTA representatives make their presence known at the Flood Prevention programmes both the RTS and Oxford Relief Channel. We are leading in the programme to involve holding flood water further up the catchment. We attend Catchment Plan meetings to keep a watching brief on how Brexit might affect WFD plans.

## Mooring Group Team Leader Rex Walden



“When it comes to unlawful moorings and living afloat . . . Part of our role is very much about persuading people who think they want to live on a boat that really they don't. The realities of living aboard can be harsh, especially in the winter, and simply wanting cheap accommodation is not enough of a motivation”



## Strategic objective:

**We believe the RTA presents a unique forum for working together and encourage ALL Planning Authorities to work with us as the lead and only overarching conduit for truly joined up planning.**

Riparian Local Authorities should work together as required by the Localism Act 2011, the National Planning policy Framework (NPPF) and other planning legislation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters, consulting with other stakeholders, to establish a coordinated planning policy framework for the River Thames and its valley corridor.

## RIVER THAMES River User Groups

At its June Board Meeting RTA Co Ltd Navigation issues were discussed with several Board Advisors agreeing that there was much synergy between RTA and the work and interests covered by Thames User Group (Navigation) who on enquiry have advised that they will work with the RTA Board.

TUG members come from every boating organisation on the Thames including the trade and so are a force to be recognised that can only help protect the future of the River Thames as an important Navigation.

Many of the regional RUG organisations and their individual members are already subscribing Supporters of the RTA. More news will follow as discussions and possible arrangements progress in line with Vision 2020.

## RTA NEEDS YOUR BACKING! HELP US RECRUIT NEW SUPPORTERS

**NOTE: This is just a short resume of what is happening to keep supporters within the loop. It is a continuing task and it is managed by just two people who deliver the work at very little cost. The organisation has to grow significantly to a position where it can be funded to provide full time staff and office facilities. To that end we are seeking the ongoing cooperation of all our supporters in attracting new subscriptions. Personal membership starts at the cost of ten white coffees or five pints! Put this into context £25 is not much. Trade and Organisation membership commences at £100 moving up to £1,000 for those with significant interests on the well-being of the Thames. Join through the website: <http://www.thames-alliance.co.uk/joinasamember.html>**