



The Great River Race

London's River Marathon
20th September, 2025



Welcome to the 2025 Great River Race



It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 37th year of the Great River Race, the 3rd organised by volunteers through the Great River Race Trust.

London's river marathon has become a tradition of the River Thames that, every year, is looked forward to by so many of us who work or play on the water.

It is lovely to welcome back so many returning crews, who, alongside our new entrants, create such a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. If you're planning on watching this year, do cheer on our crews from one of the bridges along the

course, or join us at the finish in Richmond for food, drink and a celebration of all those taking part!

We are excited to see the range of boats taking part this year and the equally diverse crews, with entries from many countries, including some of our regular supporters from the Netherlands and the USA.

We wish you all a happy and successful race.

*Admiral the Rt Hon Alan Lord West of Spithead, GCB DSC PC
President, GRR*



*Jeremy 'Rass' Randall
Chairman, GRR*



Hello All!

And welcome to GRR 2025. Approximately 2500 competitors will take part this year, supported by volunteers at every point of the journey, from setting up entry forms before anyone even arrives, to looking after our campsite, marshalling on the day, timing, safety, and making sure everyone gets home after the race.

This community of volunteers and rowers is what makes the Great River Race so special, and such an exciting event to be part of, and I'd like to thank everyone for giving up their time so generously.

I also want to thank the Port of London Authority and all our partners for helping to ensure the event runs smoothly, and everyone involved can have a good day.

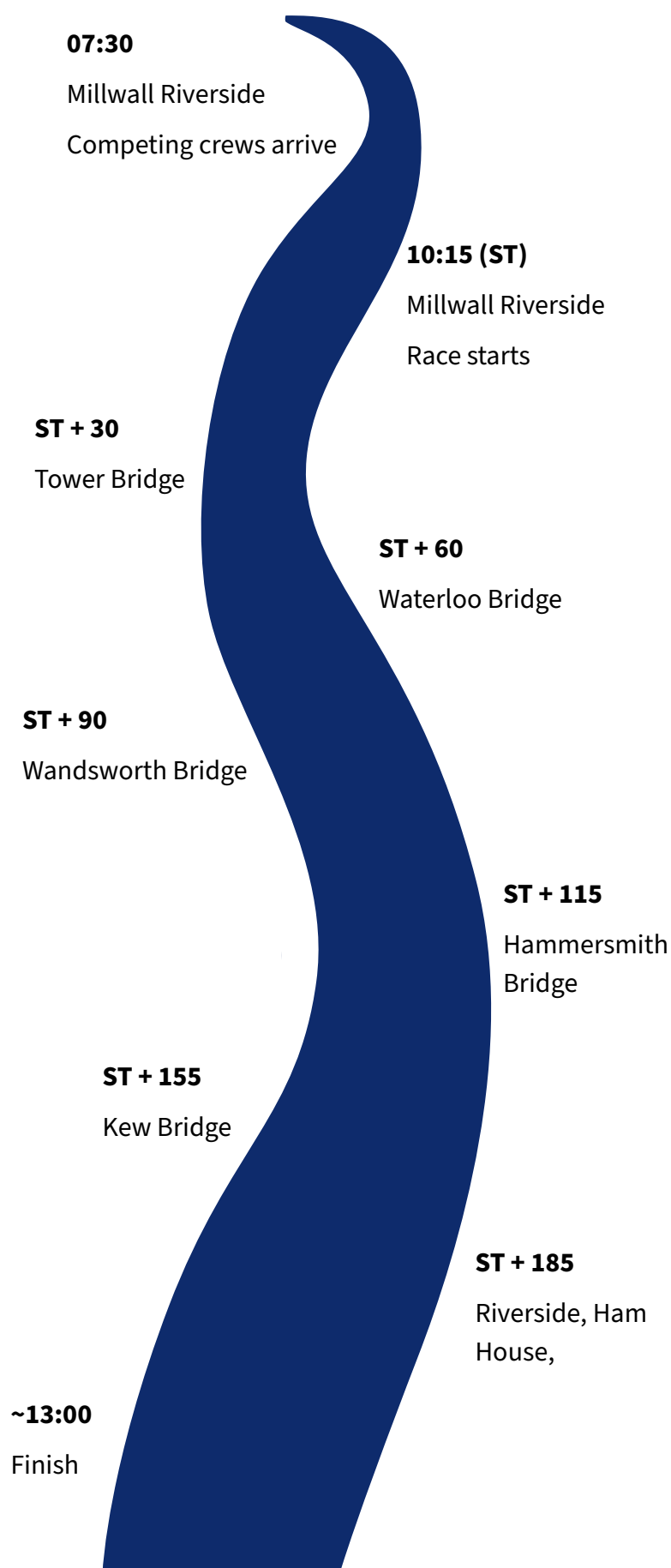
So whether you are taking part in a crew, as a volunteer, or as a spectator, I want to wish you all a good day.

Have fun!

*Richard Turk
Race Director*

The 2025 event

The below is an estimated timeline for the 2025 event. Please visit the GRR [website](#) for more information.



Racing for glory...& fun!

The Great River Race is an event for traditional and traditional-style boats, powered by a minimum of four oars or paddles; sliding seats and riggers are not allowed. Each boat must be coxed and, in keeping with the Watermen's role as the taxi drivers of the River Thames, must carry a passenger.

Each boat is awarded a handicap with the slowest boat having the lowest handicap and the fastest, the greatest handicap. The theory is that all boats should arrive at the finish at the same time, but expertise and enthusiasm ensure that this never happens! The handicaps are based on the type of boat taking part and the number of crew rowing. The slowest boats have places nearest the start if the race.

There are 37 trophies to complete for, and the fastest boat overall wins the Challenge Trophy of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames.

The Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames

our heartfelt congratulations to everyone participating in the

Great River Race 2025



Ahoy river lovers!

The Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames, a venerable ancient guild established in 1514, is thrilled to continue our long affiliation with the Great River Race.

We've been part of the river's history for over five centuries and are excited to continue that tradition with you today. Our mission is to keep the Thames alive and thriving, honouring our historic roots while embracing the challenges and opportunities of the modern era.

We provide fellowship among our Freemen, guide apprentices to become qualified Watermen and/or Lightermen, and act as the trustee for our charitable endeavours.

If these values resonate with you, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Let's make waves together with our shared passion for the River Thames.



*Join the tradition, celebrate the Thames with the Company of
Watermen & Lovhtermen of the River Thames*

www.watermenscompany.com

CREW Spotlight: Let's Hope it Floats

“Let's hope it FLOATs?’ is a boat with a big story and an even bigger team!

Neil Wittridge, our boat owner and chief architect to building this elite group (of athletes?!) contacted me a few months ago with the idea we submit a boat to the GRR and I naturally jumped at the chance. To give a bit of history around how we all came together I have to take you back to 2013.

November 2013 and I'm a really terrible pub landlord. The business is flagging, my relationship with my partner Lucy is struggling and I'm a functioning alcoholic as well as a stay at home (pub) Father. I catch a common cold, feel terrible for a couple of weeks until I deteriorated rapidly and I was rushed to Winchester ICU. I was diagnosed with Septicaemia and given less than a 1% chance of survival. Enter crew member Dr Geoff Watson, consultant intensivist anaesthetist. He very kindly saved my life so it's only fitting that he's the medic on our boat!

Unfortunately I was to have all four limbs amputated and I had severe facial disfigurement as a result of the Septicaemia. Enter crew member Chris Bagley, my best friend since I was a teenager and the man who gave up his job in Courchevel to move in with me, Lucy, my son Sam and our Labrador 'Holly' to give us the best chance to try and rebuild and fashion a new life. It's only fitting that he's my wingman on all our adventures.

Over the last 10 years Chris, Geoff and I have traveled, kayaked, cycled, climbed mountains all over the world but we were yet to tackle something in the sea. Over copious amounts of wine through lockdown I had a great idea. There had never been a quadruple amputee off shore rower so let's give that a go! I reached out to Rannoch Adventure and spoke to Charlie Pitcher who suggested we find an old Flying 15 sail boat and adapt it in to the world's first quad amputee/able bodied rowing boat. That was phase 1, phase 2 was involving Bath and King's College London in developing rowing attachments for my prosthetics that meant if I fell in the water I was able to independently detach from the oar safely.

Phase 3 was realising that we didn't actually know any rowers to take part in the event which had evolved into The Pig 2 Pig, a 350 mile offshore row and a 649 mile bike ride from Harlyn Bay to Dover and back again. In December 2023 we put out a social media Hail Mary 'please sign up to this event' post. Enter crew members Ellis Haggar and Andy Kyte who signed up so it's only fitting



that these two engines take part (Ellis rowed a surf boat around the UK and Andy is a multiple world champion gig rower). For all the rowers who took part it meant giving up time at work and at home to enable me to achieve something that was a pipe dream. When I got into the adapted boat in Falmouth I had never offshore rowed. I had 6hrs of river training and then I was literally in at the deep end. And...I loved every second of it! The physicality, the sea shanty's sung by Andy, the coaching by Ellis, the stories of rowing the Atlantic from Neil and the incredible views from the sea of the South of England. My passion for rowing was cemented.



So the GRR is next for us all and all being well this incredible group of people will join me next June to take on the might of the North Atlantic. I've been given a once in a lifetime opportunity with Rannoch Adventure to row their 12 crew boat, Roxy, from St John in Newfoundland all the way home to Falmouth Harbour.

I founded a charity last year, The Alex Lewis FLOAT Foundation, that looks to make assistive technology affordable and accessible to everyone through a number of initiatives focusing around education and innovation. I've come from being unable to feed myself post injury to putting together a transatlantic row with the GRR in between and much more in the future. The key to that success is great people and I'm privileged to be in a boat with the very best of them.

Alex Lewis

GRR would like to thank this year's sponsors:



Great River Race Course: The Landmark Series



About 40 minutes into your row, look to your left, as you pass under the Jubilee Bridge, and you will see the Tate Modern, celebrating its 25th year in the converted former Bankside Power Station.

Tate Modern is the world's most popular museum of modern and contemporary art. It is free to visit and open to all, welcoming millions of people each year.

The building was originally designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the architect of Battersea Power Station, and built in two stages between 1947 and 1963. It closed as a power station in 1981, and was at risk of being demolished before Tate announced in 1994 it would become the new home for the Tate Modern. An international competition was launched to select an architect for the new gallery, won by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron of Herzog & de Meuron, and the £134 million conversion started in June 1995. The new gallery was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2000.

The museum's collection displays span 100 years of art by renowned artists from around the world, presented alongside a diverse and international programme of exhibitions, commissions and events.

Tate Modern is part of a family of four Tate galleries around the UK alongside Tate Britain, Tate Liverpool and Tate St Ives, which together care for a growing national collection of over 78,000 works of art.

For more information, visit [tate.org.uk](https://www.tate.org.uk)

Crew Spotlight: DAPPERTJE joins DIKKERTJE in the great river race

As an attempt to stop the growth of Royal IHC's employees and promote a healthy lifestyle, in 2008, Royal IHC started with various sport activities. At that time a lifeboat having over 60 seats could be obtained. Referring to the size of the first group of rowers, the boat was named DIKKERTJE. This can be translated as LITTLE FAT ONE. The nickname of the rowers is the same, Dikkertjes. Due to the success and the fun, boat race society Dikkertje was founded in 2009. The location of the marina is in Krimpen aan de Lek, close to Royal IHC's premises and Rotterdam.

The success continued and soon one boat was not enough and in 2014, we were able to obtain a second boat. A name for this boat needed to be found. The most famous Dikkertje in the Netherlands is from a nursery rhyme: Dikkertje Dap. So the name of the second boat became DAPPERTJE that can be translated as LITTLE BRAVE ONE.

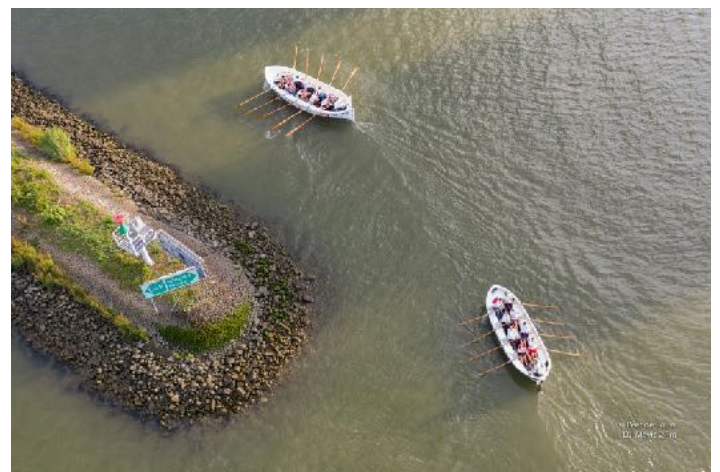
Dikkertje and Dappertje became active in the Dutch boat racing environment and in 2017, we started looking for new experiences and a brave group of 10 rowers, one cox and one passenger took the ferry to England to row the great river race. This really was one of the highlights in the history of Dikkertje. Therefore, we decided to participate also in 2019 and 2023.

One of the most striking features of boat rowing is friendship; Friendship within the boat, and also the friendship between the various teams. At various occasions during the rowing season, Dikkertje teams up with other teams. Examples are the race between Harlingen and Terschelling over the Waddensea and the festivities of season closing at Muiden. During these events we invite other teams to join us at the legendary clipper KOREVAER.

This year we thought, wouldn't it be nice to row the Great River Race with both Dikkertje and Dappertje and ask our rowing friends from around the Netherlands to join. It was not difficult to fill the two boats and now we have two teams from the southwest to the northeast of the Netherlands.

And as we say: Haal op, gelijk!

Have a good one from the Dikkertje and Dappertje crew.



CREW Spotlight: Bermudan Pilot Gig

The Bermuda Pilot Gig Club (BPGC) was founded in 2015 to reintroduce and foster the tradition of pilot gig rowing in Bermuda. In just a few short years, it has grown into a vibrant, volunteer-led community offering recreational and competitive rowing for all ages and skill levels. The club promotes fitness, camaraderie, maritime heritage, and equal participation.

BPGC's inaugural appearance at the Great River Race was in 2017, just two years after its founding. Since then, the club has continued to thrive, building international friendships and deepening local ties.

2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Bermuda Pilot Gig Club. From its modest beginnings in 2015 with just three gigs and a handful of passionate rowers and mariners, the club has grown into a thriving community that celebrates teamwork, tradition, and the joy of being on the water.

In its first five years, BPGC crews travelled to compete in Massachusetts, USA (2015), the IOS World Championships (2016, 2019), the Great River Race (2017), and the Lyme Regis Masters (2019). As part of this year's celebrations, several members completed a social UK tour earlier this summer and this all-female crew is thrilled to represent our little archipelago in London for the 2025 Great River Race. Over the years, BPGC has also proudly hosted visiting crews from the UK at our Bermuda International Gig (BIG) Regattas in 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2024.

We look forward to continuing to build lasting bonds across the Atlantic through the shared spirit of gig rowing.

This year's crew of Alexandra (Alex) Amat, Karen Carlington, Lee-Anne Cox, Elizabeth (Liz) Christopher, Brenda Dale, Anne (Annie) Glasspool, Joanne (Jo) Rogers, and Julia Cox (Passenger) embody the ethos of the BPGC: strength through community, respect for the sea, and pride in Bermuda's maritime heritage. Notably, one of the crew members traces her family lineage back to James "Jemmy" Darrell, the first Black Bermudian to be granted his freedom for exemplary service as a Royal Navy pilot in the late 18th century.



<https://bermudapilotgigclub.com>

Thames Festival Trust

Celebrating the River Thames' past, present and future, Totally Thames festival announces an incredible season of events for 2025

Monday 1st – Tuesday 30th September 2025

Returning for another phenomenal year, Totally Thames offers an awe-inspiring festival of music, dance, film, installations, walks, river clean-ups and more. This month-long programme invites Londoners to connect with and enjoy the capital's multi-faceted river.

Curated and managed by Thames Festival Trust, the team works collaboratively with artists and communities to celebrate the river's past, present and future.

With the river facing mounting environmental pressures, from pollution to habitat loss, this year's festival places a renewed focus on ecology and care. Artists across a variety of disciplines will respond to the river's challenges, using creative expression to spark awareness, inspire dialogue, and imagine more sustainable futures.

Composer Narotam Horn will kickstart the festival as he presents River Recital 2025 Summer Concert on 7th September at The Arts Ark, Tower Bridge Moorings. This unique river stage is set against the backdrop of Tower Bridge on London's only floating gardens.

On 13th September at Crossness Pumping Station, Conduit will see five femme artists from across the London jazz scene use improvisation, repertoire, loops and synthesis to explore elemental change and collective care. Led by Bridget Walsh, the performance draws from lived experiences and environmental research, inviting audiences to cohabit and collaborate alongside. With water as both theme and medium.

Choreographer Samara Langham's SKYE ZONE Burial transforms the Brunel Museum into a dream-like aquatic world, where dancers embody water's dual nature: nurturing and unpredictable. Set in a primordial, imagined world, through movement and original sound design, the piece reflects on transformation, fragility and our shared interdependence with the natural world — an urgent reminder for audiences.

At St Katharine Docks on 6th and 7th September, the 16th Classic Boat Festival will offer visitors a close-up view of over 50 vintage vessels, including Dunkirk Little Ships and heritage tugs. Alongside these incredible events, will be a programme of talks, music, family activities and nautical antiques invites reflection on how London's stories of the past can guide more sustainable stewardship of the river's future.

For more information visit <https://thamesfestivaltrust.org/>



Crew Spotlight: Brink

This crew's rowing experience amounts to many summers oaring about off the coast of North Norfolk. To this may be added (and I speak for myself here) a fortnight at university in Bristol when an erg landed mysteriously in our garden and (I speak for my brother Kit here) a stint as school cox that was brought to an untimely end one Thursday afternoon when he drove the vessel into the banks of The Thames, a vigorous collision that proved terminal for the eight. Come the 20th, we'll be glad to have him behind the oars and not the tiller.

We are a crew of four brothers and this year (our first GRR) we will be rowing our Grandfather's skiff, prosaically named *Mr. Heffer's Blue Skiff*. Given he sails a boat called *Avocet*, his reluctance to name the skiff is hard to explain. To suggest some nomenclative superstition acquired during his seafaring past doesn't hold water; he is not a superstitious man. Perhaps the unusual acquisition of the craft for some reason precluded naming... I am no expert, and the acquisition itself wasn't inauspicious in the least, but, by the same token, was not a straightforward business.



She was found by my Grandfather some years ago, on the Cam in Cambridge. She was a near-wreck; floating yes, but only just and yet her fine form was there for all to see. In an effort to find the neglectful owner, he posted a notice in *Classic Boat* magazine with a picture and some text to the effect of: 'Boat in need of attention. I ask that the owner of this craft claim her before it is too late.'

Over the following weeks, inquiries were made through various channels to the appropriate bodies and, upon realising no one was taking any notice, she was out the water and on a pair of trestles in no time. After much hard work, she returned to the water and, to this day, lives a saltier sort of life in Norfolk. I put this down in an attempt to explain my grandfather's reluctance to name the craft. Though she had a hard time of it on the Cam, at least towards the end, she may well have had a name, and one might well ask who are we to give her a new one.

Having sketched the known history of the vessel we will be rowing, I will now describe the crew. Kit is the youngest crew member at eighteen. He is a capable oarsman and has green, far-seeing eyes set beneath a serious brow. Then there is Hugo Heffer, a student at St. Andrew's University of dark complexion, broad backed, laconic. Then Otto Heffer, fair-haired, knowledgeable about knots and equipped with plaintive lines of verse. For myself, I am of normal build and was once a cross-country runner of some repute (within my school at least). My running has fallen by the wayside over the years, but I am sure I'll be able to come up with a display of grit and brotherly endeavour on the day.

Yet I do not deceive myself. I am aware that morale mustering would be nothing without the charitable intent. Between us, we aim to raise £5,000 for the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (RWT) which campaigns for nature in Mid Wales and manages just under 1,000 acres of nature reserve. RWT is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the UK and one of 5 within Wales.

But why the RWT?

Because the charity works to protect what is left of a wild Britain. It has three main objectives: to allow natural processes to develop; to create space for wildlife and to address the climate crisis. Through extensive work on eighteen nature reserves and collaborative efforts with local landowners and farmers, RWT is driving these objectives forward and creating a wilder, healthier and ecologically richer landscape for all that live there, the bats and otters as well as the people.



Giflach Nature Reserve

Our Mother works tirelessly for this charity, so we are exposed to the day to day working of a small charity with an ambitious and vital agenda. Over the last twenty years, my family and I have come to know this part of the country well and to love the hills, woods and rivers that define it. We will therefore be rowing to ensure that the rivers, hills and woods of Radnorshire and beyond are healthy and thriving.

To find out more about the RWT, please visit their [website](#).

Freddie Heffer

To see more crew stories, click on the links below

[Great River Race 2024: Girls In The Boat](#)

[Great River Race 2024: Ditton's Skiff and Punting Club](#)

2025 Feature - The River Ouse: First UK River to Gain Rights



Richard Humphrey / The River Ouse at Huntingdon

On 24 February 2025, Lewes District Council approved the Rights for the River Ouse Charter, making the River Ouse in Sussex the first river in England to be recognised as a living entity with its own intrinsic right to exist.

The River Ouse runs 35 miles through West and East Sussex, and is fed by numerous tributaries which, like the River, have their source in the chalk aquifers of the South Downs. The rights enshrined in the Charter are intended to protect the river and its catchment area.

Whilst not legally binding, the Charter, based on the Universal Declaration of River Rights developed in 2017 by the Earth Law Centre, establishes a renewed relationship between people and nature, recognising the river's rights, alongside our duty of care and responsibility to uphold these rights. It sets out the following rights: to exist in its natural state; to flow; to perform essential natural functions within the river catchment; to feed and be fed from sustainable aquifers; to be free from pollution; to native biodiversity; to regeneration and restoration; to an active and influential voice.

The River Ouse's rights, while the first in the UK, are part of a new movement to recognise the importance of nature, starting in 2008 when Ecuador enshrined the rights of nature, or Pachamama, in its constitution. New Zealand was the first country to recognise the rights of a specific river when in 2017 it granted the Whanganui River legal personhood through the Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act, settling one of the longest-running disputes in New Zealand's colonial relations history. And since the River Ouse was granted rights, the River Test in Hampshire has also now had rights recognised.

Crew Spotlight: The Green Haven Journey

Our journey with The AHOY Centre began over a decade ago, with a boat on the Thames and a belief that we could help change lives. Back then, we were tradespeople, building dreams brick by brick and giving up weekends to row for a cause that resonated deeply with us. We didn't just row to cross the finish line we rowed because we believed in what AHOY stood for.

Today, that spirit is very much alive, but it has evolved into something even more meaningful: Green Haven Retreat, a not-for-profit sanctuary in the Welsh countryside, that will be built to provide respite, development, and joy to disabled and disadvantaged young people and their families.

Over the years, we've taken part in countless Great River Races, sometimes fielding five boats in a single race. all organised and powered by volunteers we pulled together. Together, we've raised over £40,000 for The AHOY Centre. That effort wasn't just about rowing; it was about solidarity. About shared values. And most of all, about showing up for young people who often face life's hardest challenges with the least support.

Our founders' motivation comes from lived experience. Darren Jordan and Farida Begum, the couple behind Green Haven, know firsthand how hard it is to find trusted respite care. Their son Keelan was born with a rare condition called Citrullinemia, which led to severe complications and a lifelong need for support. Navigating a system that felt isolating and under-resourced, they saw the gap and decided to build a solution.

That solution is Green Haven Retreat: a 40-acre eco-rural haven nestled in the Mid Wales hills. Every detail is designed to be inclusive, therapeutic, and empowering. From solar-powered, fully accessible cabins to animal-assisted therapy and vocational skill-building, we're creating a place where guests don't just get a break they grow.

What started as a deeply personal mission has grown into a full-fledged social enterprise thanks to a team of like-minded directors:

Darren Jordan, an MEP Manager with 23 years in construction and the drive to build more than just buildings he's building legacy.

Farida Begum, a care professional and mother with unmatched empathy and resilience, who knows how critical support is for families like hers.

Mike Parsonage, a Royal Navy veteran and property services expert who brings global experience, discipline, and a lifelong passion for water sports and charity challenges.

Mark Williams, a former Welsh country rugby player and experienced Construction Manager, who specialises in health, safety, and mechanical installations.



Andrei Makovei, a logistics manager and first-class honours graduate in cybersecurity, driven by a personal commitment to helping children overcome trauma and rebuild confidence.

Together, we're not just building a respite centre we're building a movement rooted in compassion, inclusion, and empowerment.

The reason we keep rowing with The AHOY Centre isn't just nostalgia its alignment. We believe in what they do. Using the water to build confidence, connection, and courage in young people echoes exactly what we're doing on land. The AHOY Centre fosters community through the river. Green Haven Retreat fosters it through nature, skill-building, and safe, inclusive care.

This year, under our new name, Green Haven Retreat, we take to the Thames once more. Our paddles may push water, but our purpose pushes us further: to raise awareness, build something lasting, and support vulnerable young people in every way we can.

Together with AHOY, we row forward united by compassion, powered by purpose, and stronger with every stroke.

Darren Jordan
Green Haven Retreat Team

GRR 2025 Supported Charities

1st Cuddington (Warspite) Sea
Scouts

Alex Lewis FLOAT Trust

Ajax Sea Scouts

Bensham Manor Special Needs
School

BOSP

Cancer Research

Cornwall air ambulance

CRASH

Deer Park School

Dougie Mac Hospice

Euan's Guide

Exeter Leukaemia Fund

Island Haven

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scouts

Maritime Gloucester (US)

Médecins Sans Frontières

Mesothelioma.UK

Middlesbrough Sea Cadets

Moly Ollys wishes

Multiple Sclerosis society

National Autistic Society

Parkinson's UK

Penzance and Newlyn Pilot gig
club CIO

Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts

Porthleven Pilot Gig Club CIO

Prostate Cancer UK

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust

RNRMC

RNLI, Borth RNLI, RNLI Mersey

Roko20

Royal Marines

S4S

Sea Ranger Association

Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity
Centre

Skerries4Schools

Societi

St. Luke's

Stichting Help Ghana

Sunbury Skiff and Punting Club

Supporting Wounded Veterans

The Ahoy Centre

Underfall Yard

WCIT Charity

Wm Riley Historic Lifeboat Trust

Wye and Usk Foundation

GRR 2025 Crew Stories

E0002

Straight from 'De Kagerplassen' Leiden, The Netherlands we enter the GRR with our Pilot Gig.

KWV 'De Kaag' has approximately 200 rowers and our rowing fleet consists of 3 Kromhout Whalers and 4 Pilot Gigs.

Leiden is the city where Rembrandt saw the light.

E0003

Delfzijl is a seaport in the north of the Netherlands and the home port of the sloop rowing club. The club owns two sloops 'Aludux' and 'Nou-En', and is about to invest in a brand new, so-called 'Kuiken' sloop.

Originally, the club was part of Aldel, a huge aluminium smelter located in the port. Thus our whale sloop 'Aludux' is made of aluminium. An independent association was formed in the 1990s. With a permanent membership of about 25-30 people, both women and men.

The association actively participates in the Dutch (FSN) sloop rowing competition and the annual HT (Harlingen-Terschelling) sloop race.

For the first time, we are participating in the GRR. Hopefully many more will follow!

E0007

The Royal Navy's Portsmouth Gig Rowing Club based out of Whale Island, Portsmouth, use the Great River Race as the highlight of the calendar every year. It represents some of the the core foundations of life in the Service – teamwork, discipline, and commitment. The club has a mixture of Service, Reserve and Civilian members who come

together to train and compete under the white ensign each year.

We train on the Solent weekly, taking regular trips out of the harbour using the sea conditions to simulate the chopping waters in the earlier part of the race! The club is open to Serving, Reservist and civilian members who work within the Royal Navy of any gender or age (over 18).

E0008

Hailing from America's oldest seaport, "The Other Gloucester" is a hearty crew spanning more than 2 decades; ages 55 to 78. We are one of 3 boats participating in the race this year from our home club Gloucester Gig Rowers. Gloucester Gig Rowers is the largest gig club (190 rowing members) and the oldest (established in 1985) in the US. Yes, it is our 40th anniversary.

Gloucester Gig Rowers is a program of Maritime Gloucester—a working waterfront, maritime museum, maritime science education centre and sea-pocket aquarium all rolled into one. Our harbour is a very active commercial fishing port, and also home to schooners, dories, Seine boats, and our gig club. We've hosted lots of fixed seat rowers from the UK and elsewhere over the years. Come row with us – we'll take you out to dodge the lobster boats, scallopers, row around a lighthouse, and catch a glimpse of the occasional seal, porpoise and if you are very lucky a minke whale.

E0015

Felixstowe Rowing Club (FXRC) is a young club formed in 2021. At 50+ members it is a vibrant club that enjoys rows most days combined with a fun social side.

With two replica Cornish Pilot Gigs, St Felix and St Etheldreda, FXRC regularly

rows both in the Sea off the East Coast and in the Deben River.

As the club has matured, we have taken on more touring; rowing the gigs to other local clubs such as Orford Sailing Club and Orwell Yacht Club, mooring up for a few days, exploring the local waters and hospitality venues, whilst spreading the word about Gig rowing.

This spirit of adventure has led to FXRC entering one of our gigs in the GRR challenge. Our mixed crew of experienced and "newbie" rowers has been in training since April (weather permitting and it has been a very windy start!) and are looking forward to representing our Club in this incredible event.

Possibly the crew are looking forward even more to the post-achievement after party in Richmond Park.

E0018

I was walking along the Thames towpath in Kew last year with my wife and children, and stopped to watch the incredible sight of the GRR, and couldn't resist doing some research. Found 7 (vaguely willing) friends, most of us who met at antenatal class or nursery in Richmond, who enjoy lots of different activities but have never rowed before. We've got a couple of marathons, cycling challenges, and hiking events between us this year. So thought we'd give it a go! Monthly training sessions this summer, to try and avoid capsizing, and knowing our competitive streak we'll be going all out on the day.

E0020

We are a crew of friendly retirees from Wormit Boating Club given a new lease of life from rowing and are more or less

obsessive about it! We will be rowing in 'The Flying Boat', a St Ayles Skiff assembled from an available kit, and using sitka spruce and oak oars made by club members with the help of Frank Wood at North Queensferry Rowing club. We row between the two Tay Bridges and also further afield--upstream to Newburgh and beyond, or downstream to Tentsmuir Point at the Tay estuary. This is a lovely peaceful stretch of water where seals and a variety of marine birds can be seen on most of our outings. Rowing enables us to bond in physical activity, and time on the water typically allows us just to be present in the moment, putting daily cares to one side.

We have decided to fundraise for Medicine San Frontières because they do vital and necessary humanitarian medical care in conflict zones.

E0021

Sprite's rowers are from Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club, and they'll be rowing in a community-built St Ayles skiff. Eastern will be 10 years old this year, and one of the rowers will also be celebrating a zero birthday on race day! For a club with adventure as a specific aim, taking part in this race seemed obvious.

One of the Eastern crew was a close friend of Euan McDonald MBE, who founded the charity Euan's Guide. The website gathers and shares information about accessibility, drawing from the real life experiences of people with disabilities. Euan sadly passed away in 2024, a few days after his 50th birthday. The Guide, and the wider work of the charity, are a fitting legacy for an individual with a healthy attitude to adventure. Euan's Guide is Edinburgh based and has a UK-wide reach.

With medal-winning rowers and cox, and a crew-wide love of London, Eastern are excited to take on this new adventure for themselves, for each other, and for Euan's Guide.

E0022

We are from Devoran PGC, a small Gig club nestled on the River Fal between Truro and Falmouth in Cornwall. Around four years ago Janet Wiegold began the rejuvenation of the Club's junior section - her encouragement and enthusiasm launched the then U16 crew to win the mixed crew category in the CPGA's County Championship in July last year, and to place 2nd in the mixed category at the International Junior Championship in October (2024) - their excitement and euphoria was so heartwarming and so amazing to see.

Barbara is one the crew members; Barbara and her Mum, Maryna, left their homeland of Ukraine when the conflict with Russia began and rowing has become a huge part of their life. The flag that we will be flying is printed with the Ukrainian flag to one side, the Cornish flag to the other.

An off the cuff comment on our WhatsApp group towards the end of last year, commenting on how spectacular the sight the GRR looked on TV, was all Janet needed to fuel the desire to take part!

So here we are...

E0028

The Bristol Channel Social Rowers are taking part in the Great River Race for the first time, with the Joli Rouge crew piled into Jolly Roger (JR), named after our club's founder. We have not yet been able to find out exactly what kind of boat 4-oared JR actually is...She has a mysterious plate which says 'Giglet no. 002', and we are hoping to one day meet some other Giglets (there must be at least one!) - perhaps at the Great River Race??

We are an inclusive, non-competitive rowing club, with members ranging from 30s to 80s, rowing all year round in the beautiful Bristol Harbour for fun and exercise. We are raising money to support the rebuilding of Underfall Yard, a historic Bristol boatyard, home

to a thriving community of local maritime craftspeople and water-related clubs and organisations, which was ravaged by a devastating fire.

Looking forward to the adventure and wishing all participants a brilliant day!

E0031

In compiling the team I have drawn from friends, and maybe family as time unfolds, who have been part of my successive trips up to Scotland to take part in the Great Glen Raid, sail and oar event from Fort William to Inverness. Elsie has been quite successful at this, winning a number of the trophies. However, she is very much a "sail AND oar" boat designed as a modern interpretation of the Orkney Yoles that rowed against the wind to fishing grounds and sailed as fast as possible back to get the best market price for the catch. I lengthened the original design by 11%, with approval, and built the boat myself using modern techniques to produce a traditional look and feel. She was first launched in 2011 just weeks before the first Raid event. It will be interesting to row the Great River Race because the St Ayles Skiffs are not dissimilar and a later model from the same designer, but designed solely for rowing.

E0032

Shiplake Outloars is a small club based at Shiplake, near Henley-on-Thames.

Established in 2013 by Guy Fisher, the club purchased our boat, Zachery, from a charity near Oxford, which had been built by some young people under the supervision of Mark Edwards.

Over the years, the boat has been rowed down the entire length of the Thames four times to date, and we have attended the Great River Race many times. The boat has travelled to Ireland for the Ocean to City and other coastal races.

The boat and club has brought many people together, and has been a

wonderful conduit to allow people to access the Thames, get some exercise and have a whole lot of fun.

E0041

The Buzzards Bay Rowing Club has joined the Great River Race from Fairhaven, Massachusetts in the USA. Our 10 person coed team ranges in age from 31-77 years old. While we are rowing an 8 person skerry in this race, we typically row in replica beetle whaleboats that were once used on whale ships during the whaling era. Our harbour, New Bedford/Fairhaven, is the #1 fishing port in the United States. We navigate rowing in this working waterfront through ferries trekking to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, fishing boats including scallopers, and plenty of pleasure boats.

E0043

We are a Cornish Pilot Gig Club from beautiful West Dorset and row on the Jurassic Coast. As a club, this will be our fourth GRR.

Blaez (pronounced Blaze) is our oldest wooden gig and although people assume the name is a misspelling, it's actually Cornish for 'wolf'.

E0049

We are part of a group of 3 crews from the Buzzards Bay area of Massachusetts, USA about 60 miles south of Boston. We are thrilled to be participating again this year and look forward to enjoying the event and making new friends.

E0052

The Burra Rowing Club return to London this year having competed at the Great River Race in 2024, winning the Alan Spong Open Mixed Category. We return with our locally built Shetland 6 oared yoal 'Haad At' and our team comprising of all of last years rowers, our distinguished passenger 'the Burra Baroness' Joanna as well as an additional member of our club, Laura Hughes. We are hoping to push

ourselves even further this year, avoid colliding with any submerged trees at any point and to try and take in a few more of the sights along the way.

We were overwhelmed by the support we received from Shetlanders waving our island's flag along the course in 2024, and look forward to seeing them all this year. As always we aim to do our level best in the rowing race and to win the beer tent afterwards! Thank you to all of those in the isles who have supported us in training and preparation, and to those who have sponsored us to return to the Capital and take on the GRR!

E0055

For one member of the Castle Inn crew, this year will be one of a great achievement. Just after taking part in the GRR 2024 they were diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma, a blood cancer, so 2025 has been a challenging year of dealing with hospital visits and chemotherapy, as well as getting fit for GRR 2025.

Therefore our chosen charity this year will be ELF, (Exeter Leukaemia Fund) which provides support for patients and funding projects for the Haematology wards.

In 2024 we beat our previous years time, if we could better that this year that would truly be the icing on the cake!!

Castle Inn Rowing was started to get people on the water and fitter. It's evolved into a group of friends and an amazing support group. That's an achievement.

E0061

Our rowing boat finds its origin in Japan, where it was built in the Shiara Dockyard in 1981. During the first lag of its existence it served as a rescue boat on the MS 'Aya', an auto carrier. In 1993 the 'Aya' was involved in a collision on the Westerschelde, which was so severe that she was towed to a drydock and

was scrapped. If our boat was used in a rescue operation is unclear. Nevertheless, it was her way to enter the Netherlands.

In the nineties the now disused rescue boat was bought by the rowing club 'Tréwes' and modified to be used as a rowing boat. The boat was baptized and named 'Tréwes 2' (=Twa, two in 'Frisian').

Ever since the 'Tréwes 2' was used as a rowing boat by our rowing club it competed on the highest level in the Dutch competition. After some close misses, our team won the national title in 2012 and came close to winning the Harlingen-Terschelling rowing race (toughest, and most famous Dutch rowing race).

Our current team is highly diverse and consists of people ranging from their mid-twenties to their late fifties with all kinds of professions. We have a farmer, a mariner, a butcher and even an firefighter.

E0076, E0077, E0078

Burnham Pilot Gig Club is entering the Great River Race for the 3rd year running now and this year we are bringing 3 gigs.

Burnham is a relatively small Pilot gig club with around 50 members so to fill 3 crews plus passengers and coxes means over half are joining us for a wonderful day on the Thames.

We are bringing 2 GRP's Jane Campbell and Avocet and a new acquisition, our 2nd wooden gig Morgan. We have 2 ladies crews and 1 mens all working hard on endurance training over the summer. For some of our members it's their first time participating and they are looking forward to ticking off the landmarks as we head to Richmond.

Chosen charity yet to be decided but we have raised over £8,000 for Love Musgrove, Burnham Memorial Hospital and the Farming Community Network.

This really is one of our favourite events on the rowing calendar.

E0082

Our club, Club de Remo Ciudad De Santander, is the only one club in Santander city. Our crew is mostly between 50 to 60 years old, with some younger and older exceptions.

Last year, most of our crew were new in The Great River Race, also our patron, that's why we needed to stop at almost 0 km/h! This year we will bring a long experience patron. If we combine this with some new members in the crew that row hard, we could be one of the surprises and mark a good position!

E0085

The crew is representing City of Sheffield rowing club. We normally row on a 2km reservoir with seats that move and out-riggers. We are a group of friends who met in Sheffield and now live all over the U.K.

After our first experience of the GRR in 2024 was such fun, we have come back in 2025! Our tiny double salter skiff has some modifications this year to reduce the Thames water getting over our low sax boards and improved drainage!

E0093

We are four brothers that have grown up rowing off the North Norfolk coast, through creeks, over the marsh on a high tide and out to sea on a flat day. We hope that this experience will pay off. We have rowed around Scolt Head Island a number of times in the boat which is always fun.

We will be raising money for a charity called Radnorshire Wildlife Trust which does fantastic work in mid Wales.

E0100

Mike Jervis was an accomplished athlete. A veteran of 40 Marathons, played football into his late 50's and had rowed the Great River Race for the last 3 years and was due to row it again this year.

He was sadly diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, a brain tumour and several other complications all related to this. 7 weeks after the diagnosis he lost his brave battle and passed away, peacefully.

We will be undertaking this challenge in his memory. R.I.P. Michael John Jervis.

E0102

Five of the 6 crew competed last year, the three ladies in this mixed crew were part of the victorious Beaumaris lifeboat crew in 2025 (winners of the Tamar trophy for service crews) that raised over £10,000 for the Lifeboats. This year competing with other Beaumaris rowing club members just for fun.

E0107

We're a social crew comprised of juniors, competition and social squads. Happily training together on the River Tamar we are excited to be joining the excitement of the Great River Race and look forward to successfully completing.

E0108

We're a competitive group of ladies, who love to spend as much time as possible rowing on our beautiful River Tamar. The team comprises ladies from our competitive, social and junior squads.

E0113, E0139

This year we thought, wouldn't it be nice to row the Great River Race with both Dikkertje and Dappertje and ask our rowing friends from around the Netherlands to join. It was not difficult to fill the two boats and now we have two teams from the southwest to the northeast of the Netherlands. The crew of Dappertje has a large difference in age from 20 to 69.

And as we say: Haal op, gelijk!

Have a good one from the Dikkertje and Dappertje crew.

E0114

WE have entered a restored gig called Waterwitch and we are members of the Sea Ranger Association.

E0116

The Langstone Cutters Rowing Club is 25 years old and Gladys was our first boat. She has entered the GRR every year since the club started competing and has won the Claydon Trophy a number of times. This year's crew will be hoping to continue this tradition!

E0117

The Langstone Cutters Rowing Club is 25 years old and Mabel was one of our first two boats. The club has a long tradition of entering the GRR and this ladies crew are entering to compete for the new ladies over 60's trophy. The Claydon Skiffs are heavy boats for a ladies crew so this will be a tough row!

E0118

In 2016 Steve Woods from the Langstone Cutters Rowing Club met Roy English from the Beaumaris Rowing Club on the slipway at the start of the Great River Race. LCRC were invited to Anglesey to row in a Celtic Longboat and in 2019 we bought SWeare Deep. News spread and there are now eight Celtic Longboats spread around Chichester Harbour and a thriving Celtic Winter racing league, an excellent legacy for both men. This year's SWeare Deep crew has four first time GRR rowers, one second timer and a captain who is an experienced GRR trophy winner.

E0119

Langstone Lady is a beautiful clinker built wooden Solent Galley built in the 1950s who has done the Great River Race many times before. The same is true her crew whose ages total 426 years and who have completed over 30 GRRs.

E0124

The first time we entered the Great River Race our rudder broke on the start line and we rowed the entire race rudderless! This time we're hoping for no disasters.

E0125

This crew is made up of: Matthew Farrant, 67, is Bargemaster for the Worshipful Company of Founders. This is, he thinks, his 20th GRR.

Ed Condry, 72, is a retired Church of England bishop. He previously rowed with Bradford on Avon BC, and this is his 12th GRR. He won a silver medal at the British Indoor Rowing Championships.

Don Gray, 79, rows regularly with Goring Gap BC. He earlier rowed for Kingston, winning the Britannia Cup at Henley in 1969, and an international vest a couple of years later.

Graham Watling, 66, is club captain of Ross on Wye RC, and a regular and three times winner in the Vets national championships.

Paul Taylor, 72, a retired archdeacon, coxes the Belle Founder. He coxed his college boat at Cambridge.

Clive Allport, 76, rows with Upton on Severn BC. He first rowed the GRR in at least 2002.

Andrew Scott, 71, rows with Clive at Upton.

Georgina Burdon is our passenger. She was ladies captain at Staines BC, and was their 1stVIII stroke.

E0129

The crew of Mrs Mallard have rowed / coxed for the Master Glaziers (Thames cutter) for over 20 years but due to work commitments the crew have sadly disbanded. Three of the original crew will be rowing Mrs Mallard, a 13 foot fibre glass rowing boat, in remembrance of Gerry Courtney, who tragically passed away in 2023 to the rare incurable disease Mesothelioma caused by asbestos exposure. We are

raising money for the charity mesothelioma UK.

Gerry's passion was the water. she spent 40 years teaching in East London displaying a dynamic approach to the pushing of boundaries, initiating numerous developments to improve the learning and lives of young people within school and on the water. A community spirited woman, chairperson of the Maldon regatta for 20 years transforming it into a vibrant celebration that brought joy to visitors and locals alike, also chairing the Harbour commissioners improvement committee shaping the future of its cherished port. Gerry was a true adventurer taking her boat to Iceland and the Baltic states and navigating in the 2007 Fastnet race.

E0141

Our boat is Nessie -a plastic gig from the River Teign Rowing Club in south Devon, in the club colours of blue and white. It's very much a working boat; used 6 times a week in the summer months going out to sea or up river (depending on wind and tide).

Our skipper and cox is Michael Chatt-who we have named the crew after. Michael is an extraordinary person and the life blood of our rowing club.

No, is a word that isn't in his vocabulary. If you ask him to do something it's usually "I'm up for that!". He is also a good and keen rower too. His passion for rowing is infectious and he brings out the best in other rowers too.

E0142, E0143, E0264

3 of Salcombe Estuary Rowing Club's gigs have the privilege of entering this years fantastic Great Rive Race:

Wolf is our oldest wooden gig, but don't let that deceive you, she hosts a ladies crew of some of the club's top racing squad. These girls have grit and determination and can often be found in their matching kit sipping gin and

tonic. Led by one of our most competitive and experienced race coxes they are excited to see what they can achieve in this years race.

Cadmus, another of our wooden gigs, is rowed by a mixed crew. Combining the talents of the sexes this dream team takes the best of both worlds. Coxed by one of our longest serving members and club stalwart Chris, his wealth of experience and knowledge cannot be surpassed!

In Good Company our GRP gig is a stalwart in her own right. Coxed by one of the newer coxing recruits, Julian, an accomplished boatman in his own right. On board are a mix of experienced rowers alongside some of our newer members. We are so excited to bring them to the capital for such a spectacle. A highlight for all the rowing community.

E0144

Discharged Seamen have been competing almost every year in the GRR since 2002! Three of the six in the boat this year rowed that very first time, so are getting on a bit now! In fact two of us are in our seventies! We hope to be upstanding for many years to come! And this year we have a lady in the crew!

E0149

We are all members of Looe pilot gig rowing club down in South East Cornwall. Looe are the pilot gig world champions. Within our crew we are a mixture of gig rowing experiences from 1 year to 16 years. Two rowers recently rowed the transatlantic race. One crew member has rowed the GRR twice and convinced the other it was a great thing to do. Hopefully they will all agree.

E0150, E0151, E0152, E0153, E0214

Whitby Fishermens Amateur Rowing Club is a thriving community, volunteer run rowing club formed in 1937 set in

the beautiful North Sea coastal town of Whitby rowing traditional 4 oared wooden racing gigs, we competitively race against our local rival clubs in Whitby and Scarborough and further afield we participate in events held in Scotland, Ireland and London.

Our rowing membership ages from 10 to 90 meeting 3 times a week during the summer months to train on the beautiful River Esk and the North Sea coast.

We are an inclusive club where adults share their experience, train and row alongside junior members to develop and nurture their love of rowing ensuring this experience can be shared with generations to come.

E0155

Called Bench Blisters for understandable reasons, it is entirely possible we have become known for causing mayhem on the polite waters of the Thames and especially during the Great River Race.

If you have ever been 'cut up' near a bridge or struggled to overtake a veering boatload of unathletic rowers, we have to confess it was probably us. We really should know better: after all, we deal with careless driving cases every day in the courts as our club is made up judicial and court staff from South West London! Since our first appearance in 2006, we continue to enjoy our association with this unique London event. As far as we know, we are still the only 'judicial' fixed-seat rowing club on the water and we continue in the hope of seeing other legal crews one day!

Apart from generally getting in the way of faster boats and abler crews, we have enjoyed some success over the years. We have raised over £130,000 for local charities concerned with access to justice and diversion from crime. Our objectives have remained the same since our first GRR: raise our profile in a positive and light-hearted

way; support a good cause or two and hopefully attract some of our colleagues into the pleasures of traditional rowing. Without hitting too many boats on the way!

We are crewing a Skerry called the Fanmaker.

E0175

Team 1 Crew from the Portishead Stable! Looking forward to a long hot row down the river, taking in the sights whilst rowing hard to the end of the race!

E0176

The second Portishead crew looking forward to rowing down the river and busting some overtaking manoeuvres through the bridges at the end.

E0177

All four rowers in the Friendship Crew this year are members of one family (Mum, Dad, Son and Daughter). Whilst some of us have rowed in the GRR before none of us have rowed together, and this is David's first time. We are excited to be rowing together, although getting to the start line has been a bit of a challenge as two of the rowers are recovery from injury with John (dad) breaking his arm at the end of June, and Chloe (daughter) breaking her foot just two days later. Despite this setback we are determined to row the race as a family crew, and are pleased to be seeking sponsorship for our chosen charity. Come on Team Elson!

E0183

Poole Gig Rowing Club will compete in Isabelle, a traditional Cornish gig. Rowers, Mike, Adele, Elise, Jamie, Jo, and Henry will be expertly steered along the course by cox Matt. Isabelle is distinctive in back with a yellow stripe, and the team will be recognisable from our club kit. They are looking forward to hearing the cheering crowds as they pass under historic bridges!

E0186

Based in the stunning coastal village of Portreath on the North Cornwall coast, our gig club is more than just a sports team - it's a community. It's a place where people of all ages come together to share love for the sea, fitness, teamwork and camaraderie! Whether it's training on the water, racing in regattas or simply supporting each other through life's ups and downs, the club plays a pivotal role in so many peoples lives.

Portreath has some of the most deprived surrounding areas of not only Cornwall, but the UK - our club is about offering gig rowing to anyone, ensuring it's accessible to all, everyone have a chance to get on the water for both physical and mental health benefits.

Our membership is currently around 70 people - varying ages and abilities - but all love the same thing - being on the water with a great bunch of people!

Taking part for our first time in the Great River Race 2025 - we're just going to soak up the challenge, enjoy every minute, and hope we can get more members over to take part each year from now!

E0204

Wexford's finest (and funniest) rowing crew, where power meets personality: Hazel - "The General", Ingrid - "The Silent Assassin", Mark - "The Tinkerer", John - "The Sage", Adam - "The Rocket", and Richard - "The Wildcard".

E0205

A mixed bag of muscle, madness, and mid-race motivation: John H - "The Sage", Becci - "The Boss", Clare - "The Silent Storm", Áine - "The Engine", Áed - "The Prodigy", Adam - "The Future".

Strokes of Genius: Rowing for glory, craic, and maybe a pint after.

E0210

Brading Haven Gig Rowers - three years ago, members of the Yarmouth Gig Rowing Club shared photos of their

experience at the Great River Race. Inspired by their story, we set ourselves a goal: one day, Brading Haven would enter too.

Since then, we've established a gig rowing section within Brading Haven Yacht Club here on the Isle of Wight, and this year we're thrilled to say we're making that dream a reality — we're competing in the Great River Race!

As part of this challenge, we're fundraising for Mountbatten Isle of Wight. Many of us, along with our families and friends, have experienced firsthand the extraordinary care, compassion, and support Mountbatten provides during some of life's most difficult times.

This race is our way of giving back. Every donation, large or small, will help ensure Mountbatten can continue their vital work, supporting patients, families, and staff across the island.

E0218

Let's Hope it Floats is rowing in aid of The Alex Lewis FLOAT Foundation, that looks to make assistive technology affordable and accessible to everyone through a number of initiatives focusing around education and innovation. I've come from being unable to feed myself post injury to putting together a transatlantic row with the GRR in between and much more in the future. The key to that success is great people and I'm privileged to be in a boat with the very best of them.

E0219

A mixed crew of adventurous and lovely young people setting out to show what they are made of. All from a couple of clubs in the Bristol area. Looking forward to the blisters.

E0220

Social crew rowing in one of Bristol Gig Club's oldest plastic gigs 'Brigstowe'.

E0229

We return to the GRR for third successive year. A change in crew from GRR24, where we were the fastest crew on the day. Not bad for a bunch of old men! We've promised to take care of the newbies in our crew - they really don't know what's about to hit them! But I'm sure they'll be like the rest of us and say what an experience it is.

Once again, we are raising funds for Molly Ollys - a fantastic charity that supports children with life-threatening illnesses and their families, where they fulfil wishes by providing gifts to individual children; funding a Paediatric Palliative Care Consultant, and the furnishing of the Magnolia House palliative care facility, at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Here's to another memorable 2025 GRR!

E0230

Our journey with The AHOY Centre began over a decade ago, with a boat on the Thames and a belief that we could help change lives. Back then, we were tradespeople, building dreams brick by brick and giving up weekends to row for a cause that resonated deeply with us. We didn't just row to cross the finish line we rowed because we believed in what AHOY stood for.

This year, under our new name, Green Haven Retreat, we take to the Thames once more. Our paddles may push water, but our purpose pushes us further: to raise awareness, build something lasting, and support vulnerable young people in every way we can. Together with AHOY, we row forward united by compassion, powered by purpose, and stronger with every stroke.

E0247

Nirvana's crew is entering the Great River Race as all the team has a love for racing and for a new adventure. The crew all belong to the University Community Sailing Club (UCSC) rowing club based in Brightlingsea, Essex. UCSC, based on the east coast is

renowned for its passion for racing and social rowing, and is a friendly, all-inclusive group of people who want to have fun. The Great River Race is the next big thing on their 2025 calendar.

Our traditional wooden Cornish gig Nirvana was built in the year 2000 and has been well-loved, rowed and raced by Devon's River Teign Rowing Club ever since. She has achieved notable success in both county and world championship events for the River Teign Rowing Club, but in June this year UCSC rowing club acquired her after she was put up for sale.

UCSC rowing club has worked hard to restore her and needed to rename her after the River Teign Rowing Club retained her name to use for their new gig. The name Nirvana is a tongue-in-cheek reference to the song 'Teen Spirit,' but also has a deeper meaning of 'an ideal or idyllic state or place' which appealed to the group.

E0257

This all female crew and passengers all train at the Sunbury Skiff and Punting Club. They are really happy to be rowing the Master Glazier on behalf of the Worshipful Co of Glaziers and Painters of Glass. Their training has been up to 4 hour rows upstream and down stream from Sunbury.

The Master Glazier is being looked after at the SS&PC and Desborough Sailing Club complex.

The crew come from all walks of life and the experience of rowing a Thames Cutter on fixed seats has extended their knowledge of self propelled craft. They are hoping for good weather and a good and helpful flood tide!

E0259

Clwb Rhwyfo Caergybi/Holyhead Rowing Club was set up this year by a group of local rowing enthusiasts with connections to Holyhead. Despite it's rich maritime heritage, the port town had no existing rowing club and so was a great place to set up a new club. Members of the club have previously

rowed across the Irish sea and been involved in rowing for many years. We've grown rapidly over the last six months and are excited to have the iconic Great River Race as our first formal race!

Emma has rowed in Celtics for 8 years and is an experienced coastal sculler. This is her 3rd GRR. Simon a sailor, now enjoys rowing and this is his 2nd GRR. Dawn and Sheridan are married, rowing for 3 years this is their first GRR. Catrin is a former international rugby player converted to rowing and this is her 1st GRR. Gail has 5 years rowing experience in both Celtics and fine boats. This is her 3rd GRR.

E0260

Sunbury Skiff and Punting Club colleagues who love the Thames, traditional boats and everything water related.

We are a friendly club that encourage each other to share our happiness on the water.

E0271

We are St Goran Rowing Club, from Gorran Haven, Cornwall, we are a small club from a small village but are very excited to row the Great river Race again. We're a mixed crew, rowing in 'Vault' our Cornish Pilot Gig built by Louis Hunkin in 2016. Hopefully, in our beautiful purple boat, we'll be easily identified as we race down the Thames!

E0276

We're excited that our club, The Bermuda Pilot Gig Club, is able to return to this great event this year; the first time we had a crew participate was in 2017, just two years after our club was founded.

Our 2025 all- female crew includes some of the women who have been involved since our early days, and others are more recent additions, but all share a strong commitment to gig rowing and to representing Bermuda with pride. One member even traces

her lineage to James "Jemmy" Darrell, a renowned Black Bermudian Pilot whose legacy still inspires us.

E0280

The Brynhild is a recent addition to our fleet and was rescued from obscurity at Thames Young Mariners where she was out of the water slowing rotting away. She is a Fire Gig, used by the River Fire Brigade to drag hoses to shore, and consequently of a very "robust" design. Mark Edwards and his team restored her to health in the winter of 2013, so she's now back in the water and ready for rowing. She can be rowed by either a four or an eight and needs a cox.

E0296

MadSat Raft Team will be entering the GRR for our 5th time, but on a 6 person raft rather than the usual 10.

Of this years crew, 4 have raced the GRR before (Anthony, James, Katie & Nick) whilst Ashley and Doreen will be competing for the first time.

MadSat were formed in 1989 from a group of ex apprentices at BT MADley SATellite Station near Hereford, hence the name (or perhaps more aptly, you've got to be Mad, Sat on a raft). Our first race was the 1989 CHAR 100-miler and we've raced every year since, on rivers and canals around the UK and even on the sea. It's estimated that in races and training, we've covered over 10,000 miles since our inception with over £20,000 raised for charity.

Nowadays the crew is made up of people from all walks of life. Everyone is encouraged to give raft racing a go, irrespective of age, experience or fitness levels.

We are the reigning National Raft Race League Champions, which we've held now for 4 years.

GRR would like to thank the race partners:



The Company of Watermen &
Lightermen of the River Thames



And finally...
good luck to all 2025 crews from

