

## **St Denys Boat Club**

**How many members there are in your sailing club?** *275 Adults and about 190 children (we are a sailing, Rowing, Kayaking, and SUP club)*

**If known, where do you draw your membership from – Are most of them from Southampton?** *Most members are from Southampton, 96% and many are from within walking distance of the boat club*

**What are you doing to promote your activity to diverse communities in Southampton and to increase membership?** *We are working closely with SWAC with funding from the Sport England "Together fund" to promote and promote sailing and kayaking to local communities who would not otherwise get on the water. Our next sessions when things warm up in April are for ladies from Southampton's Afro-Caribbean community. We measure and track diversity at the boat club and are making good progress. 2023 we think will be the first year with more female members than males and we have a good age range across all social and economic backgrounds*

**Any expansion plans you may have?** *We are looking to improve access to the boat club over 2024 and 2025, giving people with all abilities the opportunities to get on the water. This includes new disabled changing and improved access to upstairs*

**Details about the wonderful All Aboard Festival and the numbers it attracts to enjoy the river.** *We take part in two festivals each year. Toes in the water, which is an open water swimming festival in February, and All Aboard. Both are unticketed so hard to measure but we estimate toes in the water attracts about 120 non-boat club members over the day and All Aboard about 250 non-boat club members. Both these drive engagement and interest among people who might only be occasional river users or new to getting on the water. All aboard is an Organic Music and arts festival that coalesces on the river. Join us on or by the river for a day of music, art ad storytelling. All aboard will return in June 2023*

**Issues/concerns that you have about sailing on the River Itchen in Southampton - It's been great to see ABP's clean-up of derelict boats on the river, we hope this will continue, our most common challenge in persuading new sailors or kayakers out on the water is persuading them that the river is safe and clean.**

**What developments/improvements you would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton?** *We would like to see waterside access improved and maintained wherever possible, Southampton has the lowest level of waterside access to its rivers of any city or town in the UK. We would also encourage continued pressure on Southern water to invest in sewerage works on the river to improve water quality, and indeed getting them to acknowledge they have a problem would be a good first step!*

**Any other comments that you would want to make about the River Itchen in Southampton?** *For all of us it's our favourite place to be we hope we can all collectively look after the river and access it better, and encourage everyone in the city to experience this fantastic place.*

James Wardle - St Denys Boat Club