# The Nauticalia Raft Race 2016

Organised by Nauticalia and supported by Desborough Sailing Club

## Saturday 11 June 2016, Start 12:30

## This year's theme – Colourful Carnival!

### It is nearly Raft Race time again!



Inspired by the forthcoming Olympic Games in Rio this summer, we are embracing the theme of ***Colourful Carnival*** for this year's Nauticalia Raft Race – bringing a touch of Latin American festivity to our corner of the Thames.

Of course your raft (and costumes!) can be anything you want them to be – the more colourful and outlandish the better. The scope to let your imagination run wild is huge and we wouldn't be surprised to see giant animals, mythical characters, and fantastic buildings parading down the mile-long course to the crowds of spectators lining the river bank at the finish line.

Teams put in a great deal of time and effort to create imaginative and spectacular crowd-pleasing rafts. Outright speed is not important - prizes are awarded according to the whim of the judges and may include "best dressed crew", "most imaginative design", "best business entry", or "most elaborate raft".

An entry form is attached, and further forms can be downloaded from **www.nauticalia.com/raftrace** or **www.shepperton-fair.org**, or collected from Nauticalia on Ferry Lane. Please send in your completed form with your entry fee, to secure your place.

### How to Enter

**Please send in your entry form as soon as possible.** The entry fee – which includes your Environment Agency licence - is £10.00 per raft. Cheques should be made payable to Nauticalia and sent together with the attached entry form to:

**Nauticalia, Ferry Lane, Shepperton, TW17 9LQ.**
**Tel: 01932 221094  e-mail: raftrace@nauticalia.com**

If you already know the names of your team members and/or the theme of your raft, please write the details on the back of your entry form. Add as much information as possible about your team and design so that the commentator can describe your raft for the benefit of the crowd as you cross the finish line. Don't worry – these details will be kept top secret until the big day!

## Rules and General Information

***(Please ensure all team members read this page!)***

The race is organised and sponsored by Nauticalia, and supported by Desborough Sailing Club. It will take place on **Saturday 11 June 2016, starting at 12:30** a little downstream from Shepperton Lock, and finishing at the fair.

The race is a fun event, but in the interests of fairness, safety and enjoyment, the following rules apply:

- Rafts must be home-made and constructed mainly from second-hand materials (i.e. no ready-made floats, boats, canoes etc).
- Crews should consist of four persons only.
- Propulsion is by paddles, which must not exceed 5ft (1.5m) in length.
- Rafts must have sufficient buoyancy to ensure that all crew members are clear of the water.
- Rudders and mechanical propulsion are NOT allowed
- Materials used must be clean, to prevent water pollution. Polystyrene must be completely sealed for the same reason.
- Your ENTRY NUMBERS (available from Nauticalia) must be displayed so that they can be seen from the front and both sides by the commentator and judges. Numbers will not be issued until the entry form has been completed and signed by at least one member of the crew, or if it is for an U/16 raft, then it must be signed by a parent.
- Competitors must all be able to swim at least 100 metres and must wear buoyancy aids or life jackets.
- Please do not splash other rafts as this spoils their decoration before spectators have a chance to see them.
- Pay attention to the instructions of the marshals – they are there to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment.

**REGISTRATION**

Rafts should be off-loaded at the launch point (the Nauticalia slipway in Ferry Lane). Cars and trailers may be parked in the Nauticalia car park and by the Lock, but please respect our neighbours and other road-users. Please report to the registration marshals on the slipway **by 11:30** - earlier if you need extra time to adjust your raft. Once registered, and you have been given your licence, then launch your raft and paddle forwards until you can catch hold of one of the grab ropes to prevent being swept further down river. Please remain close to the left-hand bank as there will be other boats in the area.

There is always a fair amount of confusion at the launch point as rafts are put into the water, and the spectators are cheering, and everyone is in high spirits, so **please allow yourselves plenty of time.**

**STARTING INSTRUCTIONS**

From the mooring area, rafts will be called forward to the start line individually. So please listen carefully for instructions so you are ready for your turn. Please do not jostle other rafts at the start, remember it is really more of a parade than a race.



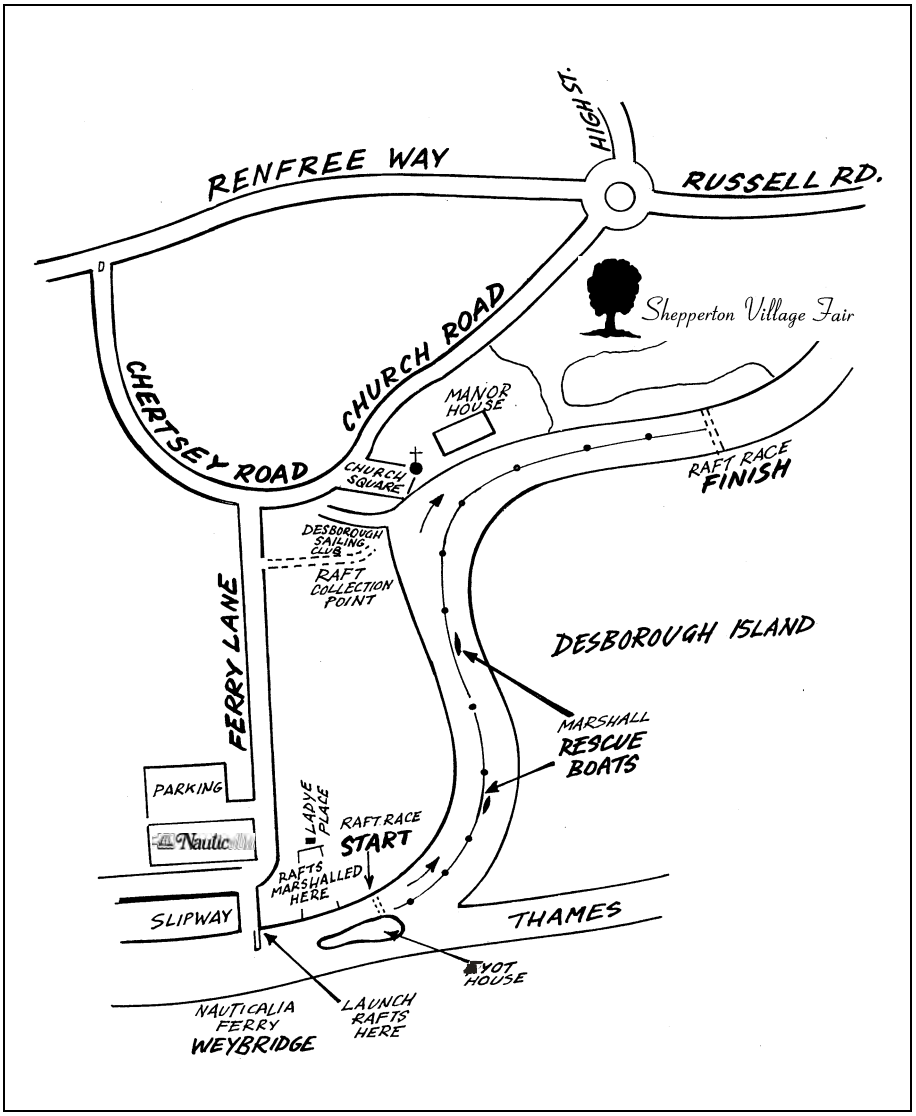
**DURING THE RACE**
There are yellow buoys all along the course. Keep to the Shepperton (left) side of the buoys and do not cut the corners.

Try to avoid collisions at all times and carry out the instructions of the race officials. Safety boats patrol the course in case there are any difficulties.

Please do not splash other rafts as this can spoil their decoration before spectators have a chance to see them.

**FINISHING THE RACE**
(We hope you all do!)
The finish line is marked by a balloon arch between Lady Lindsay's Lawn, beside the Manor House, and a boat that will be moored in the middle of the river.

**You can only be checked in at the finish if the judge can see your entry number** - hence the need for it to be prominently displayed. After you have crossed the line, DO NOT STOP. Paddle on a few metres to the landing pontoon to clear the river. Then come up onto the bank to collect your "Survival Certificates".




**AFTER THE RACE**
Remove your raft to Desborough Sailing Club and collect it from there that afternoon. Rafts that are not retrieved and float down river are considered marine hazards by the Environment Agency, and you will be liable for any damage caused.

**PRIZES**
Prizes will be awarded to those displaying the greatest amount of effort, originality and creativity, at the discretion of the judges.
**The prize giving will take place in the main arena at 4.15**. This should give you plenty of time to remove your raft, change your wet clothes, and return to the Fair Ground.

## Do you want to enter the race, but struggle to find raft-building materials or a construction site?

The Raft Race Organisers appreciate that it can be difficult for some people to find raft-building materials, and the means to construct and transport a raft. If you want to enter, but are having difficulty with building or transport, let us know and we'll do what we can to help. Space to construct or finish your raft will be available in the Nauticalia boatyard on the evenings of 8, 9, and 10 June.

We have a limited number of buoyancy drums and pallets available on a first-come-first-served basis to those who have submitted an entry form. A deposit of £20 is required – fully refundable upon return.

We also have a limited number of buoyancy aids available on a first-come-first-served basis to those who have submitted an entry form. A deposit of £20 is required – fully refundable upon return.

**Please call Nauticalia on 01932 221094 to enquire about any of the above.**

# The *Nauticalia* Raft Race 2016

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## Saturday 11 June 2016, Start 12:30

## This year's theme – Carnival!

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of team (organisation/club) | |
| Theme/Title of raft | |
| Name & address of contact including postcode | |
| E-mail address | |
| Telephone and/or Mob. Nos. | |

**Class (please tick): FUN [ ] UNDER 16 [ ]**

We would like to participate in the 2016 Shepperton Raft Race for which we enclose our entry fee of £10.00 Cheques should be made payable to Shepperton Raft Race.

All participants in this event do so on the understanding that the race organisers and sponsors will not be liable for any loss, damage, death, or personal injury howsoever caused to the owners/competitors as a result of their taking part in the race. Additionally, all owners/participants warrant the suitability of their raft, and agree to dispose of it responsibly after the race. U/16 rafts must have their application form signed by a parent.

All participants must be able to swim at least 100 metres and must wear personal buoyancy aids.

SIGNED.....
*I agree to all the above conditions and take responsibility for the others in my team.*

PRINT NAME.....DATE.....

*NOTE: All forms must be signed by a representative aged 18 or over. Additional forms can be downloaded from* ***www.nauticalia.com/raftrace*** *or* ***www.shepperton-fair.org****, or collected from Nauticalia on Ferry Lane.*

Cheques should be made payable to Nauticalia and should be sent with the entry form to
**Nauticalia, Ferry Lane, Shepperton, TW17 9LQ. Tel: 01932 221094**
who will then get in touch to give you your raft's entry number.

If you already know the names of your team members and/or the theme of your raft, please write them on the back of this form. Add as much information as possible about your team and design so that the commentator can describe your raft for the benefit of the crowd as you cross the finish line.