



DAAG Summer Event

Venue: Didcot Civic Hall

Date: 14 September 2026

Staff: Michelle Pugh-Roberts, Alyson Barnes, Tanya Ellis & Liz Roberts

The DAAG group holds an annual summer event, which is a very informal afternoon where members can come together, socialise, enjoy each other's company and simply relax. It is Soha's way of saying thank you to all our members for the time they give throughout the year and for the valuable feedback they provide on Soha's policies, strategies and service standards.

This year, we were also joined by Deborah Whelan from Wallingford Accessible Boats, who came along to talk to the group about the charity and the accessible boat trips they offer. This was a great way to kick off the afternoon, with members enjoying hearing about the service.

Wallingford Accessible Boats

The group were joined by Deborah Whelan, a volunteer with Wallingford Accessible Boats, who came along to tell members more about the charity and the accessible boat trips they provide on the River Thames.

Wallingford Accessible Boats uses a specially adapted, fully accessible Wheelyboat to give people of all ages, including wheelchair users and those who find getting around more difficult, the opportunity to enjoy the River Thames. The trips are run by a team of friendly, fully trained volunteers and are free for individuals, families, carers and community or care groups.

Members really enjoyed hearing about the charity and what they offer. The majority of the group said they would love to organise a DAAG trip along the Thames early next year. Michelle will keep in touch with Deborah to look at possible dates and arrangements.

Link to there website below

Wallingford Accessible Boat Club

Chair and Vice Chair – Term of Office

The group discussed the current term of office for the Chair and Vice Chair.

A vote was taken on whether the term should be changed to three years. The vote was **unanimous**, with members agreeing that the Chair and Vice Chair should remain in position for a three-year term.

SS will remain as Chair and RP will remain as Vice Chair.

DAAG Name Change

The group also discussed the possibility of changing the name of DAAG, which has been raised by members on several occasions.

A list of suggested names was provided for members to consider. Members were asked to tick the names they preferred, with the results to be used to help choose a new name for the group.

Michelle, Sarah and Russell will meet over the coming weeks to look at the suggestions and agree on a new name.

Once agreed, the new name will be shared with the Customer Service team so they are aware of the change and can correctly respond to any enquiries about the group or its events.

The Soha website will also be updated with the new name.

Summer Event Activities

The rest of the afternoon was spent socialising and enjoying the summer event.

A lovely buffet was provided by Creative Catering, which everyone enjoyed.

There were lots of activities for members to take part in, including crafts, bead bracelets, quizzes, games, word searches and decorating ceramic pots.

Members were also able to plant herb seeds, including mint, basil and chives.

One of the most popular activities was the Cricut machine, which was brought along by Tanya, the new ECO in the Resident Involvement team.

Tanya showed members how the Cricut could be used to create different designs on fabric. Members were able to personalise pencil cases, tote bags

and rosemary bead bags. This proved to be a big hit with the group, who really enjoyed creating their own designs.

A big thank you to Tanya for bringing the Cricut along and helping everyone get involved.

Group Photo

The group were also joined by Liz from the Communications team, who came along to take photographs of the group outside.

The weather was fine, so everyone was able to get outside for the photo. The photograph will be featured in the Soha Annual Report.

Overall

Everyone had a lovely afternoon and enjoyed the opportunity to catch up, socialise and take part in the different activities. There was lots of positive feedback from members, particularly about the Cricut activity and the visit from Wallingford Accessible Boats.

The group are looking forward to organising a possible accessible boat trip along the Thames early next year.





