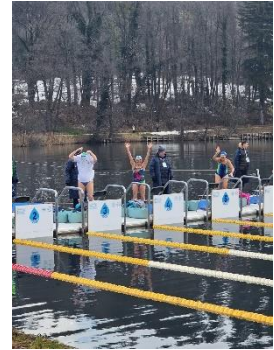


HAC Masters Open Water Swimming achievements 2023

This year was another packed calendar for our open water swimmers, with events and trips running all the way from January through to November!

Briony Fane kicked things off in January with the 4x61 metre relay at [PHISH!](#) (Parliament Hill Ice Swim Hootenanny) before jetting off to Slovenia for the [World Winter Swimming Championships](#) at the end of the month. Briony competed in two 25-metre events and two 50-metre events, bringing home two silver medals. Go Briony!



With water temperatures slowly creeping up, the summer season began in earnest in June with a trip to Paris for the [Open Water Swim Stars](#) meet. **Axel Niklasson** and **Berengère Sim** took third place in the 4x200m relay, while **Amy Henderson** and **Emma McGibbon** took on the 5km swim from Pantin to La Villette. Swimming the canal wasn't as grim as it sounds!

There was a record turnout for the Longest Day Swim, a self-organised event that started in 2021 as we were emerging from a long, dry lockdown. This year, **Amy, Briony, Cressida Sparrow, Eleanor Schooling, Emma, Jenny Morgan, Jose Escudero, Karly Louie, Kath McClinton, Sarah Cull** and friends ventured out to Taplow for a 5-kilometre out-and-back sunrise swim along the Jubilee River. The post-swim camping stove fry-up is becoming more elaborate every year!



Briony was back in the water the following weekend with another dawn swim, the [Henley Classic](#), a 1.6km swim upstream in the dark, following a big green laser. Then, on 1 July, **Dorothy Whyte** took part in the 2km [Lee Swim](#) over in Cork, Ireland. Meanwhile, **Bridget Atherton** and **Kath** were over in Greece, swimming 30km over five days on [Strel's Greek Symi Swimming Odyssey](#).



From Greek islands to wild Welsh waters – next on the calendar in July was a swim adventure in Snowdonia for **Amy, Bree Morrison, Briony, Emma** and **Jenny**. The girls, headed to North Wales for a weekend of guided estuary swims with [WeSwimRun](#). First, the 8km “Tafol Tumble” on Saturday, followed by the 10km “Hurly Burly” on the Sunday. Both tide-assisted swims, conditions were not looking good as the weekend approached, but the first swim went without a hitch and our swimmers had a choppy 8km under their belts before breakfast. Sunday was a different story, with the worst conditions their guide had ever seen out on the Mawddach estuary and the tide turning much too soon! Despite heroically battling the flooded river, just two swimmers (**Amy** and Judith) were able to complete the full route by water. The others had their own land-based adventure, wading through swamp, mud and marshland, and climbing over barbed wire fences to safety! (Some of the group are returning in 2024 to conquer the full course!)



August began with the [OW Lions Swim](#) in Lechlade, Gloucestershire, where **Chris Kaethner** took part in the 3km event. The Welsh waters called **Amy** back and she completed WeSwimRun's The Bridge 20km tide-assisted swim in the Dyfi estuary. **Dorothy** was also back in the water for the [Traversée du Lac d'Annecy](#) in the French Alps.



At the end of the month, **Amy, Briony** and **Emily Fahey** swam 1.4 km from Hurst Castle in the New Forest to Colwell Bay on the Isle of Wight, crossing the channel in this year's [Solent Swim](#) and raising money for the West Wight Sports & Community Centre.

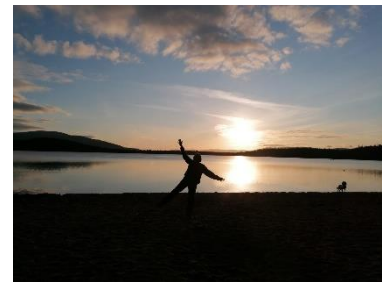
Meanwhile in Austria, **Giorgio Spiegelfeld** and **Chris** swam 3km along the Attersee, in search of BBQ'd fish.



September was our busiest month for open water swimming, with 18 Masters swimming across six different events. **Angus Mulready Jones, Chloe Cane** and **Nick Oakes** were among the top 10 swimmers in the [Dart 10k](#) Saturday event, with **Jose** coming in first place (!). **Amy, Briony** and **Emma** also swam the Dart, and Emma was interviewed on the local news! The Dart 10k is run by Level Water, who provide swimming lessons for children with disabilities across the UK.



The following weekend was the [Dock2Dock](#) at the London Royal Docks, where **James Edwards** swam the 10km event in scorchio conditions. On the Sunday, **Amy, Bridget, Briony, Camilla Allwood, Eleanor, Karly** and **Kath** were in West Wittering for The Big Bathe 1.5-km / 750-metre sea swim, raising money for Bowel Cancer UK and St Wilfrid's Hospice in Chichester.



Meanwhile, **Emma** was up in the Highlands at [Go Swim's 5km Loch Morlich](#) swim.



The September swimming continued as **Angus, Ashley, Bridget, Dorothy, Eleanor** and **Jenny** jetted off to Cadaqués in Spain for the [Marnaton eDreams](#) events. Wild conditions curtailed the longest distances but everyone got a swim.



Back in London, **Briony**'s final event of the summer was the [Serpentine Swim](#), where she took part in the 1.5km event and managed to avoid the duck mites!

Finally, **Briony** enjoyed the swim trip of a lifetime on the [Oman Fjords Swimtrek](#) in November, covering 35km in five days in 30-degree water, accompanied by turtles and dolphins. Talk about ending the season on a high!



Some swimmers have already signed up for events in 2024, including the [Bantham Boomerang](#) and the [Gaelforce Great Fjord Swim](#). We hope you feel inspired to join them!