

Ditchcrawler



*Celebrating
the Past*

*Looking forward
to the Future*



**Winter Issue
Quarterly Newsletter for
North Cheshire Cruising Club**

North Cheshire Cruising Club

The Wharf, Buxton Road, High Lane, Stockport SK6 8AA

Your Editorial Team

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TheNorthCheshireCruisingClub



Northcheshirecruisingclub

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If you have an article you would like to send for the next issue, please let the Editor have you article no later than 21 February 2024. If you have any information that you would like to share with your fellow members please email me.

Editor@nccc.org.uk

Commodore's Message

I am delighted to have taken over the role of Commodore. It is my sincere hope that, with the enthusiastic help and assistance of other members, we can re-establish the kind of social activities that many members speak so fondly of.

I would very much like to increase membership participation for Sunday lunches, Friday club nights and all other future events. I also intend to organise cruises, starting with a new event - the New Year's Day cruise.

Longstanding members of the club often regale new members with their memories of shared experiences within the club. Now that the disastrous effects of Covid are well and truly behind us, it is time to look forward and develop the club and the sense of camaraderie that members speak so passionately about.

Small changes I have introduced so far include agreeing with Lyndsay to open the bar for Sunday lunches, buying a coffee machine for delicious frothy coffees and planning a Christmas Party Extravaganza!

I have formed a Social and Entertainments Committee to help the club achieve this. The first Committee meeting was held on 19 November and members were extremely positive and enthusiastic, culminating in a spontaneous round of applause.

The Social and Entertainments Committee discussed lots of ideas for future events including Friday Games Nights, Quiz Nights, Karaoke/ Curry-oke, Family Fun Day, Formal Evening, New Year's Eve Party and an Easter Cruise. We also decided to support a particular charity each year and MacMillan Cancer Support was chosen for 2024. Your Committee would very much welcome your suggestions for future events and it is not too late to join the Committee if you would like to be more involved, the next meeting is on Sunday 10 December at 1pm in the Clubhouse.

Tim Smith, Commodore

commodore@nccc.org.uk

Chairman's Message

I hope by now you have all got over the shock of me being appointed as chairman, and I would like to thank "The Gaffer" Mr Eric Roberts for all his help and guidance over the past few years training me up in the ways of the club. I also have to thank the formidable Roland Dotchin who was a deserving and capable joint candidate for the position, thanks to John Fenton our previous Chairman. Finally, I thank all the members who voted.

I aim to ensure that the trust you have placed in me is rewarded by the effort, commitment and dedication I will ensure is placed at your and the NCCCs disposal. I am honoured to be part of such an illustrious organisation with such a proud history.

Regarding the Board, I think I can speak for us all in stating that we are committed to streamlining the club and bringing it boldly into the 21st century without losing the traditions and foibles that we so love. Helping each other and fellow boaters, whenever we can is something so refreshing to see in today's "mile a minute world" (that's a dated phrase, now "faster than light speed world" with internet, social media etc).

This help and assistance along with openness and honesty in all our dealings will be the mainstay of what we would like to achieve. There will be hiccups and errors along the way as well as the improvements and advancements we make. If you have any suggestions or ideas for improving or enhancing the club, the premises, or the arm, please let us know.

We as a board with the kind help of all the members, hope to achieve a lot in the short and long term. Notable considerations are premises purchase, premises improvements such as a proper lift, upstairs toilet facilities, paint shed improvements, double up the slipway capacity, centralise all document storage for ease of access, and many more.

We do need your help as members, over the coming weeks and months we will be doing a large amount of decorating in the premises, updating the bar, cleaning up all areas, lifting and shifting, repairs and maintenance. Any assistance, any of you can give is of massive help and your contributions are essential to improve and enhance the club.

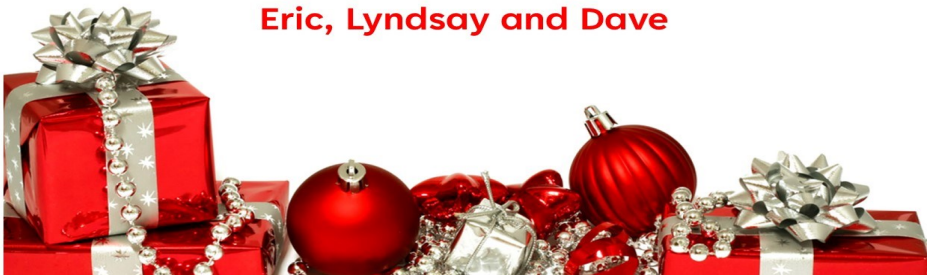
Come and get involved we have a good laugh and lots of tea. Ring me and talk or better still come to the arm and have a chat, help where and when you can, but most important of all, Enjoy It.

We have a great future be an active part of it.

Mike Robison, Chairman
chairman@nccc.org.uk
07975 686 707

**Merry Christmas and a very
happy, healthy and
prosperous New Year**

**From Tim, your Commodore, and the
Board - Mike, Ruth, Heather, Nigel, Pam,
Eric, Lyndsay and Dave**



**James Mattimore,
NB Cromittam No17**



On Sunday 5 November our annual AGM was held in the club house. On behalf of the board we would like to thank everyone who came along.

There have been some changes as you will see below. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring Directors for all their hard work on behalf of the club.

- ◆ John Fenton - Commodore and Chairman
- ◆ Pamela Suggitt - Company Secretary
- ◆ Martin Tattersall - Premises Director

Your new Board are:

- ◆ **Commodore** : **Tim Smith** : commodore@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Chairman** : **Mike Robison** : chairman@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Company Secretary** : **Heather Stanley** : secretary@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Finance Director** : **Ruth Smith** : finance@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Premises Director** : **Nigel Stanley** : premises@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Land and Water Space Director** : **Eric Roberts** : landandwater@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Membership Services Director** : **Pam Russell** : membership@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Bar Director** : **Lyndsay Hillman** : bar@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ **Director without Portfolio** : **Dave Hood** : dwp@nccc.org.uk

We also have Company Officials - these members take on roles to assist the Board with the running of the Club

- ◆ **Vice Commodore : Chris Potter**
- ◆ **Rear Commodore : Position Vacant**
- ◆ **Archivist/Funding : Heather Rowley : archivist@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **AWCC Rep : John Suggitt : awcc@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Ditchcrawler Team : Tim and Ruth Smith, Heather Stanley : editor@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Food Safety Officer : Pam Russell : membership@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Fund Raising Co-ordinator : Sheila Barlow : fundraising@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Kitchen Supervisor : Pam Russell : membership@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Licensing Officer : Jacqui Kilburn : licensing@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Moorings Officer : Dave Hood : moorings@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Quartermaster : Bill Jewsbury :**
- ◆ **Wharf Superintendent : Mike Robison : wharf@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Slipway Manager : Julian Swinden**
- ◆ **Postmaster : Heather Stanley : postmaster@nccc.org.uk**
- ◆ **Website : Heather Stanley : website@nccc.org.uk**

Your board would love to hear from you with your comments and suggestions - this is your Club so please do get involved.

Slipway Maintenance

Article by Mike Robison October 5, 2023

A few weeks ago the slipway team took a 70ft boat out of the water for a survey, unfortunately as we were drawing the narrowboat out of the water one of the trolleys jumped off the rails and the boat got stuck. We



then had to hire a crane to remove the boat from the trolleys, allowing us to realign the bottom trolley onto the rails. As a consequence of this we had some concerns regarding the state of the rails under the water.

This week we had a boat cancel its blacking week which has given us the opportunity to empty the slipway and inspect the rails. We hired a 4 inch 4 stroke water pump and pumped out the slipway after boarding the entrance. The team then cleared away a large amount of mud.

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I am happy to say after refilling the slipway and testing the viability of the repair we found that all was working as it should. Both of the trolleys were thoroughly inspected, cleaned and re greased. I can confirm the slipway is now In full operational use once again. We have however decided that the maximum length of a boat coming out of the water will be restricted to 65ft from now on



It was nice to see the return of the Land and Water Space Director Eric Roberts who supervised the Operation which was run by Julian Swinden the Slipway Manager, ably assisted by Ian Hooper and Mike Robison, With further assistance from Ian Jewel and new member John Longden.



The Crew of Narrowboat Portia (Linda and Adrian) would like to send to all the members of North Cheshire Cruising Club Seasons Greeting, for a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. Weather permitting we will join many of you on the New Year Day Cruise. We are looking forward to a good cruising season in the next year with plenty of water in the canals and not too many broken facilities!!

Chief Engineer Adrian and Captain Linda



The Board are extremely proud to announce that the very first **NCCC annual calendar** is now available to order. The calendar features photos from around the Arm and the local canals and by purchasing this little piece of history you will be supporting the Club and future events. This year's pictures have been chosen from a selection of members' photos and the NCCC archives.. Excitingly, future contributions will be selected by members in a photo and art competition organized by the Commodore. A draft copy of the calendar is available to see in the clubhouse. It is A3 size when hung up and the cost is £7.50 (plus £2.50 P&P if posting required).



A4 28pp
landscape
calendar

£7.50 each

There is only a limited number of calendars available this year so make sure you get your copy. They make great Christmas presents too!

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NCCC A4 28pp 2024 Calendar

Thumbnails of the pictures in the calendar and how the calendar will look when pinned on your wall



Weekly Events

- ◆ Friday Night Social in the clubhouse 8pm till late (Bar closed on Friday 22 December and reopens on Friday 5 January 2024)
- ◆ Sunday lunch in the clubhouse 12noon till 2pm (last Sunday lunch 3 December until Sunday 7 January 2024)

Monthly Events

- ◆ Monthly Work Party - Second Saturday of each month with Pie or Sausages and a pint from 1pm (Watch your emails for more information)

Social Events

- ◆ **Hawk Green Brass Band Christmas Concert** : Sunday 17 December 7.30pm (ticket only)
- ◆ **Quiz Night with Quizmaster Dave Hood** : Friday 22 December Bar opens at 7.30pm
- ◆ **Commodore's New Year Day Cruise** : Monday 1 January 2024
- ◆ **Race Night** : Saturday 16 March 2024
- ◆ **Fitting out Supper** : Saturday 23 March 2024

Dates to be confirmed

- ◆ Big Fat Quiz of the Year with Quizmaster Dave Hood

Our New Honorary Members

Congratulations to Sheila and Bob Barlow on becoming Honorary Members a decision which was unanimously approved by the NCCC Board.

Thank you for all the work you have both done for NCCC over the years, and your continued fund raising work.



Picture - Sheila and Bob relaxing with John Fenton at the 80th Barbecue

A thank you from Ian and Maureen Spooner



Congratulations to Maureen and Ian Spooner on your 60th Wedding Anniversary from everyone at NCCC



Thank you for the bottle of Champers for our 60th Wedding Anniversary, and for the many congratulations from NCCC members at the Laying Up Supper.

We were married at St Mary's Church in Cheadle, had a meal at the Plaza Stockport, and spent the evening at our local pub The Greyhound in Adsworth, Cheadle Hulme, a good sing song with lots of beer and cigs!!!

Our October WorkParty

We had a good turn out of volunteers to help move tonnes of soil and slabs to complete the far end of the arm, and make a walkway for the moorers. It was heavy work, but the volunteers all helped. Chris Potter was on hand to serve the volunteers with coffee, tea and biscuits at 11am, and then the ladies in the kitchen served sausage and chips for lunch.



Our November Work Party

21 volunteers turned up to help out work on the arm. A handful of volunteers worked on the far end of the arm moving soil and slabs to complete the balance of the work from the October work party. Others helped with building the roof between the two blue sheds for storing the wharf equipment. The roof had 8x4 ply board and roofing felt put on, and will be finished over the following week. We also had a team sorting out the wood and tree logs out, cutting them up and burning them in our new incinerator, saving money by creating space

in the skip. Pie, chips and gravy or curry sauce was served afterwards. Thanks to Pam and Linda in the kitchen, and Lyndsay on the bar, and not forgetting Chris Potter who does the brews for the volunteers.



The Club Library



Your library has had a bit of a tidy up.

Two of our members Maureen Spooner and Gill Ling and myself (Heth) sorted through all the books in the library on Remembrance Sunday and removed some books that were looking very tired.

There is still a large amount of books on the shelves, so please come and have a look.

Thank you Mo and Gill

Weekend Quartermaster Sale

Bill Jewsbury, your Quartermaster set up the Quartermaster stall from Friday 10 November to Sunday 12 November with help from Nigel Stanley.



There was plenty of bargains to be had and the sale raised £110 towards club funds. Thanks to everyone who attended, watch this space for more sales in the future?

Our Winter Clearout Part of the December Work Party

I'm sure it is normally a spring clean out, but at North Cheshire Cruising Club we do things different. Due to the inclement weather which hit us as our work party outside was due to take place, all our volunteers moved inside which was a great change for them. Two teams set were put to work on sorting out the work shop, and also the children's room.

Eric, Mike and the team of approximately 15 starting to sort, move, and I mean move — all the heavy duty shelving, and clear a lot of stuff that was no longer needs. See the pics from Saturday below.



The other team was only small, and consisted of Nigel Stanley, Heth Stanley, Mike Sellars and Nick Jackson. I think the before and after pics below show what was done. Watch this space for more news and pictures on your 'CORRIDOR of HISTORY'





North Cheshire Cruising Club have a number of facilities. Over the next couple of pages you will see lots of useful information.

Slipway and Paintshed - The slipway is always a popular facility so make sure you book early! Available dates are shown on the online calendar on our website. The calendar can also be used to book the paint shed or check the dates when the crane will be in the yard.

<http://www.nccc.org.uk/slipway-availability/>



Moorings - We have limited moorings at North Cheshire Cruising Club. If you are interested in mooring in the arm, and would like to go on our waiting list, then please contact our Moorings Officer Dave Hood.

<http://www.nccc.org.uk/facilities/>



Wharf Sales - We stock a variety of items that can be purchased from the Wharf Superintendent Mike Robison or Water Land and Space Director Eric Roberts - these items include diesel, gas, coal, kindling, logs, electricity cards for using on your moorings. We are also now stocking Interful blacking. Do you have suggestions for other items that we can stock?

<http://www.nccc.org.uk/wharf-sales/>



Bar Volunteers - can you spare a couple of hours to help out on our bar on a Friday night, or on social events. If you moor in the arm, you can also use the hours you work on the bar against your 24hrs volunteering work.

Interested, contact Lyndsay 07825 335146 / Email : bar@nccc.org.uk

<http://www.nccc.org.uk/club/bar/>



Membership of North Cheshire Cruising Club - The advantages of belonging to a well established active cruising club are many. Many members with a vast experience of cruising the rivers and waterways.

Members have exclusive use of the club facilities. The Club House is open on Friday nights for social gatherings and also Sunday lunch time during most of the year where a light lunch can be purchased.

There are two categories of membership; full and associate. New members are always welcome and application forms for either category are available to download from our website, or you can also sign up in person on a Friday night by coming along to the social night. See Pam Russell Membership Services Director

[http:// www.nccc.org.uk/membership/](http://www.nccc.org.uk/membership/)

More information is available on our website : www.nccc.org.uk



Would you like to contribute an article to the Ditchcrawler, then chat with the Editorial Team. If you are not sure about how to write an article, let us help you. Tell us about your boat renovation, your time with the club, maybe a profile about yourself and why you joined NCCC. Email editor@nccc.org.uk





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