

Ditchcrawler

Festive Special



Festive Special
North Cheshire Cruising Club

Commodore's Message

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Ruth and I spent Christmas on the "sick boat" at Whitely Green, hiding from the elements and consuming a couple of pieces of toast each for our Christmas meal! However, we did enjoy the wonderful company and support of our friends and fellow members, Catherine and Steve from NB Aalin who also helped us travel back through Storm Gerritt!

Christmas got off to a great start with our 80th Anniversary Christmas Party. There are so many superlatives one could use and it would be very remiss of me not to applaud and congratulate those who volunteered their time, effort and enthusiasm to bring about what was a wonderfully entertaining Christmas party. It is not practical to mention everyone by name but I think it is worth saying that so much is done by so few for the benefit of so many. I personally thought, with many others agreeing, that our act for the evening Jean Pasquale provided a really enjoyable all round evening of entertainment, ably assisted by our very own Ian Hooper. And may he long remember that revenge is a dish best served cold!! The tremendous workload undertaken by Pam, Jan and Martin in particular was simply outstanding. Nigel and Heather Stanley's capacity for getting stuff done is awe-inspiring and thanks to Mr & Mrs Claus, Chief Elf Lyndsay and her apprentice Elf Dave behind the bar!

The Christmas party was all the more special as it saw the return of the first of our annual awards since 2019. Congratulations to all the winners:

Bert Spink Award for Outstanding Contribution - Pam Russell,
Canalware Award for Best Newcomer - Nick Jackson,
and a new award - The William Walker Community Spirit Award - Marie Lamb

The two raffles were a huge success - thank you to all the local businesses who provided prizes, in particular Steve and Nick at TW Marine, and watch out for an auction coming soon.

2024 got off to an absolutely fantastic start with our New Year's Day cruise, which will hopefully become an annual event. The weather gods blessed us with a beautiful sunny day and the cruise was extremely well attended by nine boats and upwards of 50 people in attendance at the clubhouse afterwards. As well as the sun coming out to play, boat owners and skippers brought along many friends, family and fellow members - Michelle and Rob brought their two little ones and Adrian and Linda brought Frank the parrot!

I think I can safely say that everyone involved thought it a wonderful short cruise and there was certainly a lot of interaction with those on the towpath.

Pam Russell and Ruth Sellars did a brilliant job preparing the delicious piping hot soup, sandwiches etc perfectly timed to warm us up on our arrival back at the club, thank you so much Pam and Ruth. I would also like to extend a massive thank you to all those boats that took part, especially those of you that went the extra mile (literally) to travel down from other marinas. Thank you all for representing the NCCC in such a positive and enthusiastic manner - NB Sunbeam, NB Royal Oscar, NB Hakuna Matata, NB Polarlys, Cruiser Fleur Denise, NB Bliss, NB Portia, NB Meredith Rose and Cruiser The Eagle has Landed.

I very much hope that this becomes a fixed entry in our cruising calendar, what better way to start the year! I will be circulating a full programme of events for 2024 shortly.

Tim

Your Editorial Team

Tim and Ruth Smith (NB Sunbeam)

Heather Stanley (NB Royal Oscar)

Catherine Jackson (NB Aalin)

Approval - The NCCC Board

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TheNorthCheshireCruisingClub

Christmas Wreath Making Evening Organised by Sheila Barlow

Few words are needed to show how successful the Christmas Wreath Making Evenings was. The evening was fully booked weeks in advance of the event and as you can see in the pictures, lots of happy faces, having fun making some fabulous wreaths. Book early for the 2024 event to ensure you have a place. Thank you Sheila Barlow and David Mason for organising the event.





Flower Demonstration Evening Organised by Sheila Barlow

As with the wreath making evening, Not many words needed to show how many people attend . The annual demonstration was a great success. We would like to thank the following members who assisted on one or both events. Sheila, Claire (Sheila's daughter), Pam Russell, Pam Suggitt, Bob Barlow, Nigel Stanley - apologies if anyone has been missed out, and not forgetting the very talented David Mason. Book early for the 2024 event to ensure you have a place .

Display 1



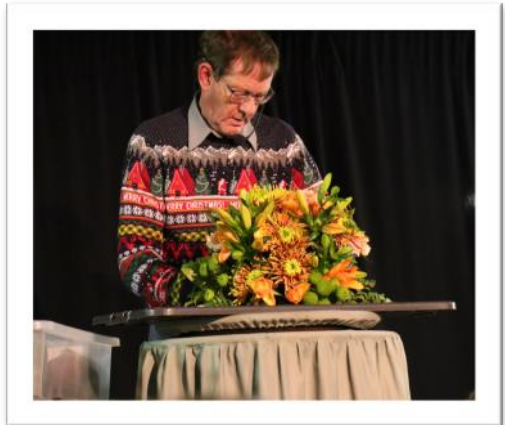
Display 2



Display 3



Display 4



Display 5



The Final Displays



**Book Early for our
2024 Flower
Display
Demonstration**

The Christmas Party - set up Saturday Morning

Thank you to all the members who helped set the room up on Saturday morning 9 December. The vibe around the room was really upbeat, with everyone getting into the festive spirit.



***We are ready to go
Let the celebrations begin***



Our 80th Christmas Party
Let the pictures do the talking!!!





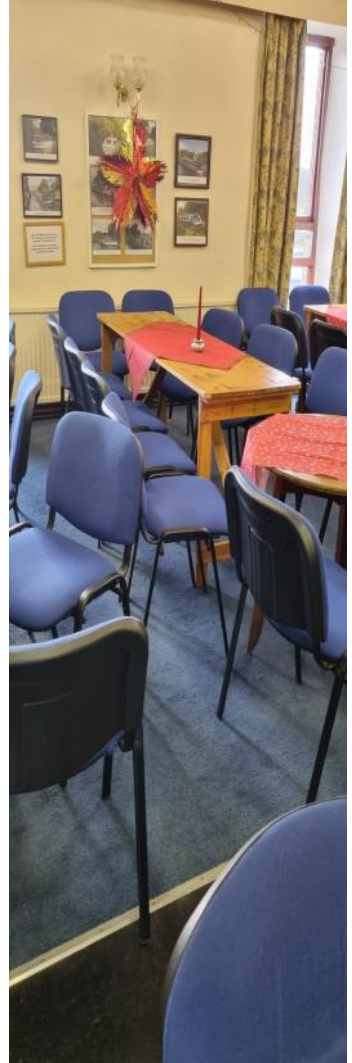
**Our Singer - Jean Pasquill
And members of NCCC**



***A Fantastic Night for our
80th Christmas Party !!***

Brass Band Set Up Morning

Thanks again for everyone who assisted with the set up for the brass band night on Sunday 17 December



Hawk Green Brass Band Sunday 17 December 2023

Hawk Green Brass Band have been coming to North Cheshire Cruising Club for many years to celebrate with us at Christmas, as with previous years they did not disappoint. A great night full of music, banter and lots of Christmas







The Commodore's New Year's Day Cruise

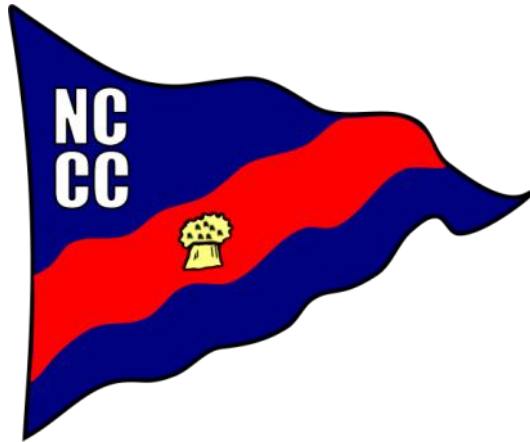
What a great way to start the year. Nine boats took to the cut for a cruise on the Macclesfield Canal to Poynton and back, then back to the clubhouse for soup, roll, and a drink. Thanks to the following boats that came with on the cruise, and to all the members involved in the day

NB Sunbeam, NB Royal Oscar, NB Hakuna Matata, NB Polarlys, Cruiser Fleur Denise, NB Bliss, NB Portia, Cruiser The Eagle has Landed and NB Meredith Rose









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