





**Why Not Join The NCCC  
Team in a Modern Jive  
(Ceroc) Taster Night  
Friday 1st March 2024**

**Nick and Pauline will be taking us through a number of Jive moves to give you a taster of the dance style and point you in the right direction should you wish to continue dancing.**

**No partner required as we will be changing partners as we learn (with an option to stay as fixed partners)**

**DOORS OPEN 8:00 PM**

**Dance tuition starts around 8:30 PM  
With time afterwards to practice your moves!**

## **North Cheshire Cruising Club**

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

### **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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Website : [www.nccc.org.uk](http://www.nccc.org.uk)

### **Social Media Platforms**



[TheNorthCheshireCruisingClub](#)



[Northcheshirecruisingclub](#)

**Spring Issue - Final Date 23 May 2024**

**Publication Date 7 June 2024**

**If you have an article you would like to send for the next issue, please let the Editor have you article no later than 23 May 2024. If you have any information that you would like to share with your fellow members please email me.**

**[Editor@nccc.org.uk](mailto:Editor@nccc.org.uk)**

**Commodore's Message** - 2024 got off to an amazing start with the New Year's Day cruise and I have been busy planning the rest of the year's exciting events. The first of these, and hopefully the first of a series of Friday Social Night events, is a Modern Jive (Ceroc) taster session with our very own Strictly dancers, Nick and Pauline. This is a free event on Friday 1 March and promises to be great fun, with plenty of opportunity to practice what you have learnt and laugh at my two left feet!

The Dance Taster session will give you a few new moves to strut on the dancefloor at the Laying Up Supper on Saturday 23 March as we have arranged for a fabulous live band, The Winston Smith Quartet, to entertain us all night. We will also be serving delicious hot food, with a choice of chicken curry, steak hash or vegetable pasta, courtesy of World-renowned chef Dave Hood. So remember to add your orders to the list in the Clubhouse when you book your tickets.

Before we know it, Easter will be upon us and I hope that as many of you as possible will join me on the Commodore's Easter Cruise. In view of the problems with Lift Bridge 24 on the Peak Forest Canal, we have decided it would be safer to cruise to Whiteley Green rather than Bugsworth. For anyone who would like to travel in convoy, we aim to leave the Arm at around 11.30am on Friday 29 March to make our way to Whiteley Green in time for a communal BBQ. Saturday sees us cruising to Lyme Green Superbowl for some friendly but competitive Ten Pin Bowling, returning to Whiteley Green on Sunday for the traditional Easter Bonnets and Ties competition followed by another BBQ. Then we will be homeward bound on Easter Monday after a most memorable weekend.

I am also in the process of planning the details of a cruise to Chester and Ellesmere Port in the first two weeks of June and a summer BBQ so watch this space for details of those events.

With all the work involved in planning these events, Ruth and I have not had as much opportunity as we would like to be involved in production of the Ditchcrawler and we would like to extend a massive thanks to the rest of the Editorial Team for all their sterling work in producing our newsletter. This is YOUR magazine so please do contribute, perhaps recounting stories from the past or reliving your own travels. If you do not feel confident writing an article yourself, just share your memories with us, we can help write the feature.

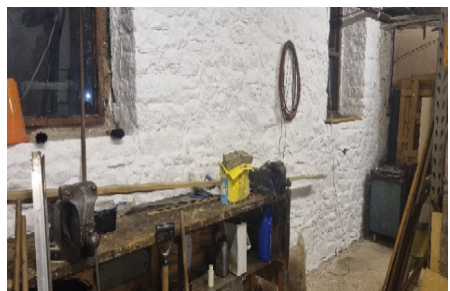
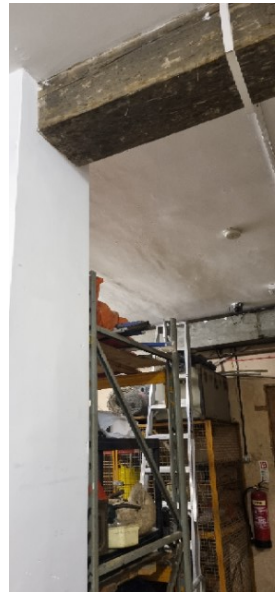
## January and February Work Parties (part 1)

Our work parties have been very busy in January and February continuing the work on the arm, laying flags, sorting out all the ferrous and non ferrous metal and sorting out the excess unusable wood. The workshop has undergone a makeover, see what's been done in the next section. Thank you to everyone involved in helping out.

### The latest flagging



**The Workshop** - The walls have been repointed where the mortar had come loose, the work bench has been moved, and the walls and ceiling painted. There is still lots more to do but you already need your sunglasses in there!



NORTH CHESHIRE CRUISING CLUB'S

# Big Screen Race Night

Saturday 16th, March 2024

First Race @ 7-30pm.

BAR OPEN FROM 7 PM

Refreshments available



*Have a Great Time!*

*Everybody is welcome, bring your friends*

*Dress up for the races in your  
derby day glad rags, or as a  
stable boy to look after and  
groom the horses.*

Entrance £3

Program included as ticket

## Boat being craned into the Arm

On 12 December 2023, a shell was craned into the arm on behalf of Braidbar Boats. Thanks to Mike Robison for the images showing how it was done.









## Weekly Events

- ◆ Friday Night Social in the clubhouse 8pm till late
- ◆ Sunday lunch in the clubhouse 12noon till 2pm (Last lunch is 17 March)

## 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

- ◆ **Modern Jive Taster Session** - Friday 1 March 2024
- ◆ **Race Night** : Saturday 16 March 2024
- ◆ **Fitting out Supper** : Saturday 23 March 2024
- ◆ **Easter Cruise** - Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April
- ◆ **Table Top Sale** - Saturday 13 April

## Dates to be confirmed

- ◆ Cruise to Ellesmere Port and Chester - Provisional dates June 1 to June 16.

(Full details to be confirmed)



## Steam Cleaning the Fire Exit Staircase

On Sunday 12 November, the fire exit staircase was steam cleaned to remove all the slippery moss that had accumulated overtime.

The top of the staircase outside the doors was also cleaned.

Nigel bought his steam cleaner from home and did a great job.

*Thank You*

Sometimes, I think we forget the people that we see on a regular basis in the kitchen. These volunteers give their time to ensure that work party lunches, Sunday lunches, and all the other big events that we do are covered. They take time out of their own schedules to purchase food and sundry items to ensure that we have lovely meals for our lunches and events.

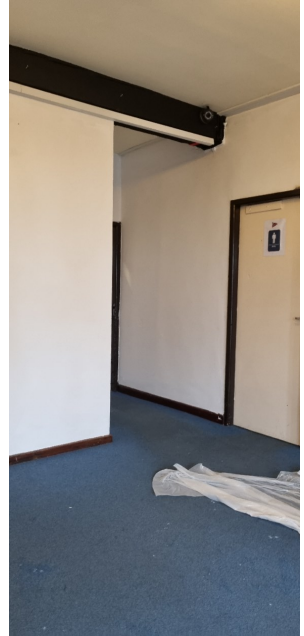
We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the volunteers below for your continued work in the kitchen.

Pam Russell  
Maureen and Ian Spooner  
Ruth and Mike Sellars  
John Fenton  
Linda Hambleton

Gill Ling  
Shirley and Steve Ashton  
Bill Wilkinson  
Janet and Martin Tattersall

## January and February Work Parties (part 2) The start of the building refurbishment

Continuing on from our article on pages 4 and 5, the refurbishment on the inside of the building has started. On the January work party, Nigel and his good friend Paul started to paint out the foyer.



### The New Display Unit

Nigel built the unit on a quiet Saturday morning, while Heather emptied, very carefully, the contents of the old unit, cleaned and displayed them in the new unit



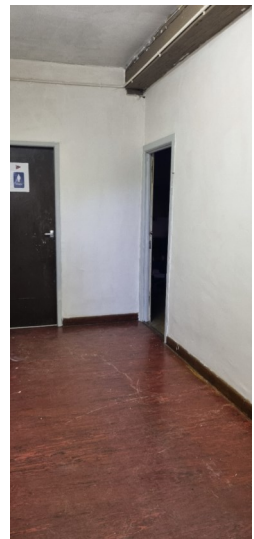
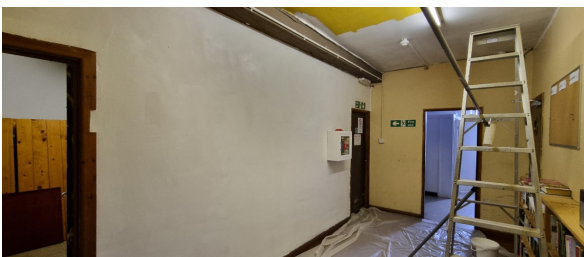
## Moving the wall mounted display unit

This unit has been moved from near the stairs into a new position in the foyer where we can store all the important documents that we are legally required to display



## The Start of the Corridor repainting

At the February work party Nigel and Adrian started the painting of the corridor. It's going to take a couple of coats. Once finished, this will become the 'gallery corridor' where pictures will be displayed. The corridor is between the workshop, foyer and toilets.



North Cheshire Cruising Club Ltd 

The Wharf, Canal Street, Buxton Road, High Lane, Stockport. SK6 8AA

# Fitting Out Supper

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Open 7-30pm for 8 0 Clock

Varied Menu

Entertainment by

WINSTON SMITH  
QUARTET

Entrance Fee

£12

For more information or to book in advance contact the Commodore:

Email: [commodore@nccc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@nccc.org.uk)

Phone No. Tim on: 07968 153542.

**Pancake Night**  
**Friday 16 February 2024**



What a great night was had at the annual pancake night. The pancakes were made to order by the usual 'Tossers' Jan and Martin.

(Don't be offended we have permission to call them this).

Orders came in very quickly and there was the chance of seconds, so it didn't take long for the pancakes to sell out.

Thank you to Jan and Martin Tattersall

*Welcome*  
to our  
**New Members**

- ◆ David Mason - Associate Member
- ◆ Nils and Elise Julin - Cruiser Yorkshire Penny
- ◆ Graham Rafferty - NB Wandering Star
- ◆ James Wilson - Cruiser Fleur D'or



Thank you Roland for your work on the lovely flower bed on the left hand side of the arm.

## **A Comment from Chris Potter and Marilyn Speechley on the New Year's Day Cruise**

'It was a great day in the history of the club. We were fortunate to have such good weather, the walkers on the towpath seem to have enjoyed our presence, particularly the children. Marilyn and I were invited to join the NB Royal Oscar, and we were looked after like royalty by Heather and Nigel, we were a little bit under the weather as we had been doing too much over the Christmas period. Back at the club we had some excellent hot food - Soup and a roll, and the bar was open, all in all a great day. Thanks to our Commodore for the overall organisation, we look forward to many more cruises in the coming year'. Chris Potter, Vice Commodore

## **Our Photo Archive**



At the work parties Chris Potter and Marilyn Speechley normally make all the brews for the volunteers working hard outside.

Just before the February work party Heather was chatting with Eric about all the loose photos that we had in the filing cabinet in the childrens room. Eric suggested asking Chris and Marilyn if they would like to go through them and sort then into various rallies, events, cruises, so we can do some montage panels for the corridor.

Chris and Marilyn were happy to take this task on, so we set tables up in the room upstairs, let them know what we wanted, and left them to it. It is not finished yet, but I am sure that they will continue on the next work party.

They both said that it brought back a lot of memories of events from the past.



**The Bar at NCCC** is an important part of all the social events that we have at the club, and without a Licencee, we would not have a bar. With the assistance of our volunteers, over the past year, we have had some very successful nights.

Lyndsay, your Bar Director, would like to thank a number of people who have helped her out during her time in this position.



Lyndsay and Mike Robison  
(Chairman) behind the bar at  
Christmas.  
  
Dressing up is not essential, but is  
just for fun!!!!

John Fenton, Pam Russell, Dave Hood, Bill Jewsbury, Mike and Jackie Robison, Linda Hambleton, Catherine Jackson, Ruth and Tim Smith, Tony Bowers, Susie Torkington, Rob Shaw and David Mason who has just done a training shift with Pam.

If I have missed anyone out my apologies. The reason for this message is that Lyndsay will be stepping down at the next AGM in November, and would like to put the word out about a new Licencee.

The Licencee will need to take an examination that is done with Stockport Council. If you are interested, then please contact Lyndsay on [bar@nccc.org.uk](mailto:bar@nccc.org.uk) who can advise what is involved, and put the details forward to the board for approval. This is a two year position.

## 2025 NCCC Calendar Competition



Commodore calling..... we all have the ability to capture a moment in time through photography, paint, sculpture and many other forms of art media so why not consider applying your artistic endeavours towards our 2025 NCCC calendar?

The Commodore and Social Committee would like to thank those who purchased this year's calendar, the first of its kind for the NCCC. To build on this success, we are organising a competition to choose the 12 pictures to represent each month of next year's calendar and an overall winner for the front cover. A selection of runners up will also be featured on the inside cover pages. The rules are simple:

- ◆ this is a members only competition
- ◆ entries must feature a canal, river or boating theme
- ◆ the Social Committee will select from the entries, which will be anonymised by the Commodore
- ◆ all entries must therefore be submitted to the Commodore by email to [commodore@nccc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@nccc.org.uk) or contact me to arrange a handover
- ◆ entries can be submitted at any time throughout the year, with the closing date being 30 September
- ◆ the winning entries will be revealed at the Laying Up Supper

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best in your artistic endeavours so let's all get snapping, painting, sculpting, knitting, modelling and generally creating. All artistic media will be considered.

Tim Smith  
Commodore

North Cheshire Cruising Club Ltd.   
The Wharf, Buxton Road, High Lane, Stockport SK6 8BU



**Table Top  
Sale**



**Saturday**

**13<sup>th</sup> April**

*10 am. until 1 pm.*



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*Pre-Booked Tables & Hanging Rails*

Telephone **Sheila: 01663 765 731.**

Limited Availability

Refreshments Available

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## From the Archives

### MV Fulmar - Bryan and Babs Roberts

This is the account of a trip from York to Derby Boat Club after buying a motor cruiser at Naburn Marina York, a distance of approximately 140 miles.

On a late September day in 1999 we took possession of NV Fulmar a 32ft Princess. The plan was to sail the boat from York to Derby via the Ouse to the Trent. We did give it a thought that we might go the full length of the Ouse via Trent Falls but this was counted out due to tide and having to find somewhere to moor overnight and not knowing the river this was discounted. The other alternative was taking the boat off the river at Selby lock and going through the canal system to join the Stainforth and Keadby Navigation and then onto Keadby Lock and on to the Trent. On a bright sunny morning after passing through Naburn Lock we were met with a great deal of rubbish floating down the river, calling up Cawood Swing Bridge on the VHF they had the bridge open for our passage, the bridge was negotiated without any problems. The next obstacle was the two swing bridges at Selby, for those who have not sailed this part of the river Ouse, its narrow between the two bridges and on a double bend. We called up the bridge keeper and asked for the bridge to be opened as it would be impossible to stop with the river running fast and it being narrow going round the last bend. We saw the bridges open for us and we made a swift exit through. Within a short distance, approximately half a mile, is Selby lock. On the right hand side of the water running fast we slowed right down. This was going to be rather difficult to turn against the flow of the river, so we decided to turn after the lock and head back into the flow which we did and after a little manoeuvring we did eventually get into the lock and was glad when the gates closed behind us. After having a break for lunch in Selby marina we headed off through various locks which we had to open and close ourselves. We arrived at our overnight stop at Bank Dole (by the tar works) and after a Chinese takeaway, stayed for the night.

After breakfast we moved on again through the locks and swing bridges. We made our way onto the Stainforth and Keadby canal and passing through marinas, we arrived at the rail swing bridge over the canal. After calling on the radio to the bridge keeper, we asked if he was able to swing the rail bridge. We had to wait as this line is very busy. We had to wait until he had a clear slot to open the bridge, so we moored up and had lunch eventually the bridge opened and we made a quick passage through. This was the final obstacle before reaching Keady lock. We stayed overnight and another boat narrowboat Cruiser joined us for tomorrow's passage up the Trent and on to Torksey Lock.

The following morning the wind was blowing rather strong and after looking down onto the river Trent, waves were forming with white tops and as we needed to get to Derby Boat Club we felt we had to go. On entering the lock the keeper advised us that it would be very choppy and to be careful. Entering into the main river the waves were strong, but Fulmar performed well with spray coming over the bow, we make steady progress towards Torksey, passing Gainsborough, the wind eased slightly and we were able to make better progress and arrived into Torksey lock for the night around 6pm

The other craft that departed Keadby was a narrowboat Cruiser heading for West Stockwith marina and she was rocking with the swell and making very slow headway. Morning dawned to a fine day with only a light breeze after making good progress we locked into Cromwell lock and off the tidal section eventually locking through Nether Lock (Newark) and Newark Town lock, feeling rather tired we moored up for the night. The rain and the wind that night was horrendous and this continued into the morning. We departed Newark and headed for Gunthorpe and the pontoon moorings. Progress was rather slow but eventually we arrived in Nottingham and locked through into the Beeston Canal. We know thought it should not take long to get to DMBC at Sawley (how wrong could you be)! We heard that the navigation on the river had been closed above Nottingham due to heavy rain further up the Trent and the river had gone into flood. What do you do next, well we decided to moor up at Castle marina who told us we could stay for a few days until the water subsided and the river water level dropped. We could then leave the Beeston Canal and continue on our journey towards Derby. In between times, we decided to return home for a few days. Fortunately I have a good friend in Nottingham who gave us a lift back to our car at Derby Boat Club. Three days later we returned to Castle Marina and continued our journey to Derby Motor Boat Club where a number of members were waiting to help us moor up. We did spend many happy years boating on the Trent.





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. A lot of our members have 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 October through to March, where a light lunch can be purchased.

There are two categories of membership: Full and Associate. New members are always welcome and applications forms for either category are available to download on our website, or you can also sign up in person on a Friday night by coming along to a 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](http://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 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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