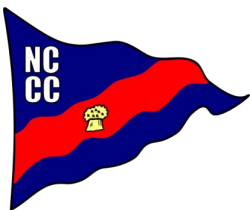


Ditchcrawler



The Start of the Easter Cruise

Sunset over Whiteley Green



**Spring/Summer Issue
Quarterly Newsletter for
North Cheshire Cruising Club**

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

Contact Us

General Email : info@nccc.org.uk

Editor : editor@nccc.org.uk

Website : www.nccc.org.uk

Social Media Platforms



TheNorthCheshireCruisingClub

Summer/Autumn Issue

Final Date for contributions 23 August 2024

Publication Date 7 September 2024

If you have a contribution for the next issue, please let the Editor have your article no later than 23 August 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 would like to extend a very warm welcome to all members of the North Cheshire Cruising Club and hope you all very much enjoy our Spring/Summer edition of the Ditchcrawler. As Commodore of this old and well established boating club, I am delighted to say that I continue to receive a lot of help and support from members who have a long history within our most brilliant club. I must admit that this is very much needed as I am relatively new to both the club and boating!

I am delighted to say that I am thoroughly enjoying my year as Commodore, especially the opportunity it affords me to meet lots of people I would otherwise not have met. I would therefore strongly encourage other members, who may be considering a greater level of involvement with the club, as I am sure you would find it equally rewarding.

I want to take this opportunity again to congratulate all those involved in creating a wonderful 'Fitting Out Supper' event which, for some especially, demanded a huge amount of planning, commitment and hard work. We were also all entertained by the fantastic live band, The Winston Smith Quartet. I have received many positive and supportive messages relating to all the events laid on this year and very much hope to continue in this vein for the rest of the coming year.

The Easter Cruise was particularly enjoyable for Ruth and I as this was the first time we have cruised and spent the evening on the cut with other club members. There was a wonderful sense of fellowship and camaraderie throughout the whole weekend. This was particularly evident in setting up the BBQ, gazebo and fires, gathering wood, providing a fine selection of music, helping Ruth and I with some gearbox issues etc. So enjoyable was the weekend that I have planned for another cruise and BBQ at Whitely Green, similar to the Easter Cruise, for the first May bank holiday weekend - please see separate email for details.

Continued on the next page

Commodores Message Continued

Congratulations have to be extended to all those who took part in our Easter Bonnet and Tie competitions, particularly the winners. George and Harriet Shaw created magnificent and spectacular Easter bonnets for the junior competition. The adult competitions were won by Jan Tattersall and Bill Jewsbury and his magnificent "danglies"!

All those interested in our Summer Cruise, the itinerary of which has been meticulously planned by the very experienced boater Ian Jewell, please remember to register your interest as soon as possible. The cruise starts on Friday 31 May, sailing to Chester and Ellesmere Port and returning on the weekend of 15/16 June.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Spring Bank Holiday BBQ on Sunday 5 May at Whiteley Green, whether you journey there by boat or car, start time will be around 6pm.

I extend my best wishes to all of you and hope we all get the opportunity to navigate our wonderful waterways and don't forget, as always, cruise it or lose it! And finally, try your very best to get involved with club events as I guarantee you will have a most enjoyable and rewarding time, spent with like minded people.

Tim

Slipway Bookings for Members

If you wish to take your boat out please book as soon as possible, as we will now be opening up the calendar to non members.

Available Dates are 16 May to 23 May, 1 August to 8 August, 8 August to 15 August, 15 August to 22 August, 10 October to 17 October, 17 October to 24 October, 24 October to 1 November, All of November, All of December

Here is a link to the online calendar - <http://www.nccc.org.uk/slipway-availability/> - Please contact Mike Robison either at the club or by phone on 07975 686707

Work party March 9

A couple of members took part in this month's work party at the club, laying more slabs and painting the clubhouse. Others helped out at Whiteley Green (see later).



New Members Night

Thank you to all the members that came along to the evening, to the Board for introducing themselves to the new members and to John Suggitt, your AWCC Rep, for explaining about the AWCC. Thank you to Jan and Martin Tattersall and Pam Russell for the lovely buffet.



Members' Gallery Corridor

There is still a little bit of work to be done on the corridor between the foyer and the workshop, including painting the doors in a royal blue to match the 'Burgee', but we thought you would like to see what we have done so far.



We have also put a few more pictures up in the foyer, and moved the Commodores' boards to their new home near the stairs.



NCCC Modern Jive Taster



Here is our experienced Jive Taster team (from left to right) Anne, Pauline, Nick, Fiona and Jimmy.

In support of the Commodore's efforts to give club members the opportunity to experience different activities, Nick Jackson and Pauline Nahapiet agreed to provide a Modern Jive Taster Session. Modern Jive is often referred to by the UK's main franchise name "Ceroc".

The event took place on the normal Friday night meeting on 1 March. Nick put together a play list of mellow modern music for the lesson. On the evening, we had six club members actively joining in with the dancing and Nick was able to get three of his dance friends to come along and support the dancers with their experience.

So what did the everyone learn? We started off with some basic moves, the "Catapult" followed by the "Basket", a "Man Spin" and finally the "Mambo". Having the experienced dancers on hand to support the guys was a real help, providing in many instances one-to-one tuition. The lesson lasted approximately ninety minutes with everyone making great progress and all were able to dance a short routine by the end of the session (the routine could then be repeated over again to fill the whole dance track). This was a real achievement as several hadn't danced in years.

For anyone interested in trying Modern Jive for themselves we have attached the following venue information for you to explore yourselves. All of which will give you a warm welcome at their beginners sessions. Nick is always available to give advice.

<https://mottramjiveclub.org.uk>

<https://www.revolutiondance.co.uk/Events/Freestyles/Stockport>

<http://www.uk-jive.co.uk/org-details.asp?OrgID=583>

March Work Party at Whiteley Green

Tim Smith would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you, firstly to Martin Tattersall for identifying a part of Whiteley Green that could be used for our Easter Cruise which is both dry and sound underfoot, unlike the area that we usually use which is waterlogged. There was a massive effort from Tim's Work Party Team on 9 March to clear the undergrowth, chop back branches, remove dead trees etc and make the area very useable for this upcoming Easter weekend. Big thanks to Graham, John, Nick, Alan, Mike and Terry – the attached photos speak for themselves.

Mike Hodgkinson brought a very delicious cake and Graham set up shop supplying us with plenty of tea and coffee from his boat.

Everyone's hard work was much appreciated by all those who attended the Easter Cruise, the area proved perfect for the social events and BBQ.





Weekly Events

- ◆ Friday Night Social in the clubhouse 8pm till late
- ◆ Sunday lunches start again in October

Monthly Events

- ◆ Monthly Work Party - Second Saturday of each month with Pie or Sausages and a pint from 1pm

Saturday 11 May

Saturday 8 June

Saturday 13 July

Saturday 10 August

Social Events

- ◆ May Day Weekend Cruise - Friday 3 May to Monday 6 May
- ◆ Cruise to Ellesmere Port and Chester - Provisional dates May 31 to June 16
- ◆ Sunday 25 August - Summer BBQ
- ◆ Saturday 14 September - MacMillan Coffee Morning

Dates to be confirmed

What a nice email : On the 11 March, the Postmaster received an email about the front cover of a previous Ditchcrawler. Here is the front cover and message we received.

My name is James Christopher Robey and I have seen a photograph of cruisers at Whitely Green in 1968/69.

I am sending this email to say that the boat with the large white bow fender at the front of the image is called Sunray.

The boat belonged to my father James Colston Robey who was Commodore at that time. I do believe the young boy on the right of the image is myself.

I am now seventy years of age.

I thought this info might be something you would like to know. If there is anything you feel I might be able to help information wise please get in touch.

I have seen the photograph in two places. Firstly on your Facebook page dated about August 2023 (I think. I am not on Facebook) and secondly, the front cover of the winter issue of the Ditchcrawler. There seemed to be a discussion as to when it was. I would think it was competition day, but not sure about that. Hope that helps.



Chris. R

Race Night March 16

It was time for the annual race night, and what a great night it was. Thanks to everyone involved - Sheila and Bob Barlow, Pam Russell, John Fenton, John and Pam Suggitt, Nigel Stanley and your compere for the evening Bill Jewsbury. Also not forgetting Pam and Jan in the kitchen, and David, Lyndsay and Rob on the bar, and the sponsors of the races. As you will see from the picture below Bet's table was all ready to go with the money for the bets.





Apologies for the quality of the images

Fitting Out Supper Room Set Up

Thanks to everyone involved in setting the room up. Your help is always appreciated. The tables looked lovely with the handmade boats and flags. I am sure the cargo in the boats went down well.

Pic from Ruth Smith



Fitting Out Supper

Thank you to our Chef for the day Dave Hood, along with his Sous Chef Lyndsay Hillman, and assistants Tim and Ruth



*Pics by
Lyndsay
Hillman*

Fitting out Supper

Fitting out Supper - What a brilliant evening everyone had, and congratulations to Tim, as Commodore, on organising such an enjoyable event. Everyone enjoyed the live music and hot food as you will see from the pictures from the night. Let's look forward to the next event in Summer.





Comments about the Fitting Out Supper

I would especially like to thank Dave and Lyndsay (along with their helpers) for spending 90% of the day in the kitchen cooking the superb food for the Fitting Out Supper as it enabled the rest of the kitchen staff to enjoy a night off. *Pam Russell*

Firstly I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those involved, in particular Chef Dave and Sous Chef Lyndsay and David and his team behind the bar, in making Saturday's Fitting Out Supper a brilliant and memorable occasion. The band, The Winston Smith Quartet, were thoroughly enjoyed by all and have contacted me to say that will send a video of their performance so watch this space... *Tim Smith*

We had a really good night last night. The band and food were great. *Helen and Paul NB Blackstar*

Thankyou for the photos. Thankyou to all who worked so hard to create a great evening! Really, really enjoyed it. *Gordon and Debbie Smith*

Looks like it was a really good night sorry to have to have missed it. But will be at the next one X *Nils and Elise Julin*

Thank you for a great night out, very enjoyable in every respect. All your hard work was very much appreciated and a credit to your organisational skills. *Sylvia & Terry Jordan and friend Patricia.*

I know Pam has already sent a thank you email but I also wanted to quickly to say thank you as well and also to those that helped Dave and I out in both the bar and the Kitchen. My local legends included Mike Robison, Tim & Ruth Smith, Adrian & Linda Hambleton, Nige & Heather Stanley, David Mason, Bill Jewsbury and Catherine Jackson . Thank you for working so hard and for making the event run fabulously smoothly and enjoyable by everyone! We look forward to the next club event. *Lyndsay Hillman*

80th Anniversary Interpretation Panel

The final work has been done to complete the 80th anniversary from last September. The pictures were picked by Heather Rowley and Pam Russell, and a designer put all the images together to create the 'Interpretation Panel - North Cheshire Cruising Club Social Events 1960 to 2013'. The panel has been received well, and a lot of memories for members. Thank you to Nigel for finalising the wall above the tram rail in the club room.



Share Your
Thoughts

Let us have your views on the Ditchcrawler. Is there anything you would like to see as a regular feature, would you like to hear other members cruising stories then send them into editor@nccc.org.uk.

We are also doing a little revamp of the website. Let us know if there is something else you would like us to add. Are we giving you enough information? Email postmaster@nccc.org.uk



The Commodore's Easter Cruise

The cruise started at 11.30am on Easter Friday, with your Commodore Tim leading the cruise.

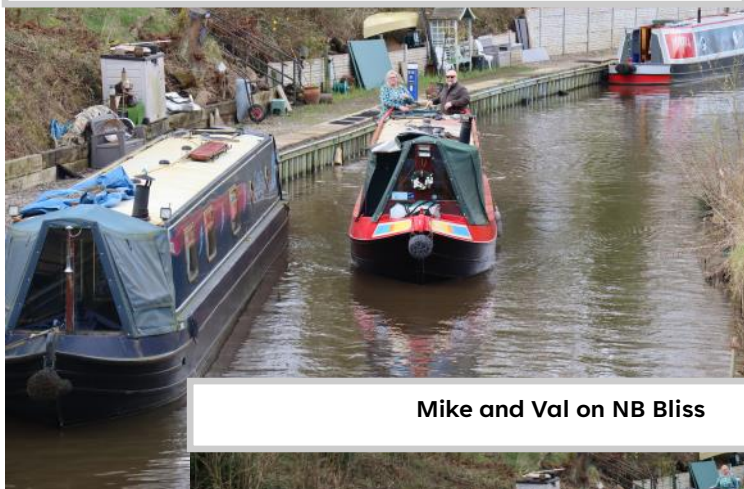
Tim and Ruth on NB Sunbeam



Mike, Jackie and friend on NB Meredith Rose



Bill and Gill on NB Polarlys



Mike and Val on NB Bliss



Adrian and Linda on NB Portia

Easter Weekend Cruise

Friday Night

Once we arrived at Whiteley Green, it didn't take long for us all to get stuck in and set up the BBQ and gazebo. We also dressed the area with lights and balloons to encourage the festive feeling. It was a little bit drizzly but we didn't let that dampen our spirits. Our BBQ food was delicious and, along with background music and good company, made for a smashing evening. The "reclaimed" area, cleared by Tim's team of volunteers in March, proved to be invaluable in providing a dry area to meet and host the weekend's events.



Pics from Jan Tattersall



Saturday - NCCC at Macclesfield Superbowl

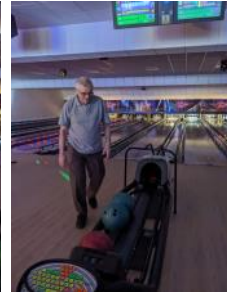
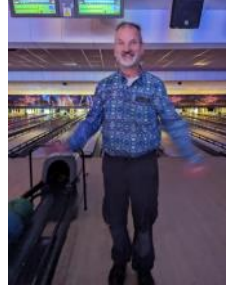
12 members turned up to battle the alleys at the Superbowl. Team 1 was Lorna and Phil Maloney, Val and Garry Dockety and Shirley and Geoff Taylor. Team 2 was Jan and Martin Tattersall and Heth and Nigel Stanley. The winner of Team 1 was Phil, with Nigel winning for Team 2. We all decided to have a second game, and team 2 was joined by Val and Mike Hodgkinson. Winners of Game 2 were Geoff from Team 1 and Martin from Team 2. Everyone agreed that they had a great afternoon, and look forward to another session soon.



*Pics from
Nigel Stanley*



More Pics from the Bowling



Sorry, couldn't resist

**Geoff and Martin looking
for their 'Easter Balls'**

All in good fun

Pics from Jan Tattersall

**Sunday - Easter Bonnet and Tie Competition
The Ladies**



**Ladies (l-r) Jackie Robison, Shirley Taylor, Marie Lamb
and Janet Tattersall**

Jackie and Marie model the winning bonnets created by George and Harriet Shaw who were unable to attend due to a family holiday. I am sure we will all agree that their bonnets are quite magnificent!



Sunday - Easter Bonnet and Tie Competition The Gents



Gents (l-r) Martin Tattersall, Geoff Taylor, and Bill Jewsbury

Winner Bill Jewsbury with his amazing danglies!!!

Quiz Night at Whiteley Green

Ruth Smith hosted the quiz on the Sunday evening. The winners were Martin and Jan Tattersall (in their Easter hats)



A fantastic weekend. Thank you to everyone who joined us either by boat, car or foot.



Mooring at Whiteley Green

Mooring your boat at Whiteley can always be a little dramatic with speeding boats and the amount of dayboats going by. We have for many years tried to avoid using chains and nappy pins to protect the piling as if that gives way it's a headache for the club so mooring pins are favoured.



A good tip is to use a spring where you tie off a pin at 90 degrees to the boat then tie another at 45 degrees creating less movement from passing boats and reducing the risk of pins coming out. There are I imagine variations to this and other proven ways to tie your boat, this is just one of them.

On the Easter weekend cruise our Chairman was very helpful showing the Commodore the best way to use his mooring pins, he then went to the pub leaving his boat tied with a front pin and a middle pin with another boat moored abreast!

I awoke from a nap and looking out of my front windows couldn't quite work out why I could see the back of Mikes

boat in the middle of the canal so I went out and with help we tied the boats back up adding a rear pin.

This was just the start of a great weekend of laughs to be had.

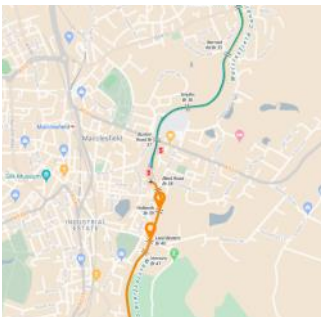
Bill Jewsbury

Canal and Riverris Trust Updates **(Information correct as at 18 April 2024)**

Marple Locks

During the refurbishment works at Lock 7, Marple, we encountered additional movement on the offside lock wall. To address this issue, we are implementing anchoring measures, extending our work beyond the initially projected end date of 24 May. We anticipate reopening the lock on the 14 June. Those involved with the repairs are working extended hours and weekend shifts to expedite the process and minimise disruption to boaters. The suspected movement was identified before Christmas, prompting us to commence investigations early in the new year. Following soil investigations and engineering designs, we have opted to install "platypus" anchors as the optimal solution. These anchors are discreet and will not protrude into the lock, ensuring both effectiveness and minimal visual impact. The Trust have considered and consulted on the risks and consequences of failure if we were to re-open the lock without the additional works. The consensus is that completing the repairs now will result in significant cost savings compared to remobilisation in the future. Moreover, it will prevent the need for further closures of the canal at a later stage and remove the risk of a significant failure of the wall and extensive costs and disruption later in the summer. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused and greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation throughout this process. A further update will be provided in May.

Navigation Restriction: Bridge 39, Hollands Bridge to Bridge 40, Lead Beaters Bridge, Macclesfield Canal



Please be advised navigation is restricted between Bridge 39 Hollands Bridge and Bridge 40, Lead Beaters Bridge on the Macclesfield Canal due to a sunken craft. Navigation will remain open, however we politely request all customers to navigate through the affected area with care. An update will be provided once the craft has been removed.



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

Slipway and Paint shed - 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 24 hours 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.

At 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

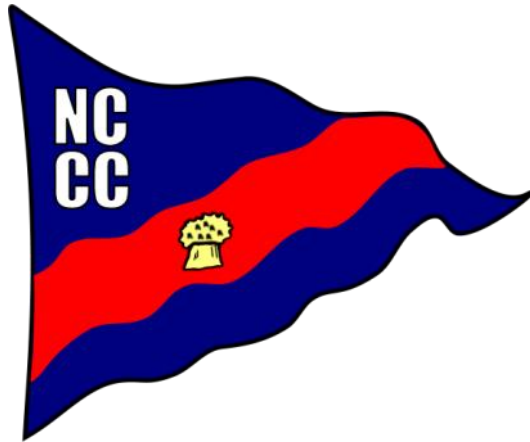
[http:// www.nccc.org.uk/membership/](http://www.nccc.org.uk/membership/)

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



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





Address

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

Telephone Number

01663 765581

Email

info@nccc.org.uk

Website

www.nccc.org.uk