

Ditchcrawler



North Cheshire Cruising Club's entry into the '12 Days of Christmas' at St Thomas Church High Lane



Autumn/Winter Issue
Quarterly Newsletter for
North Cheshire Cruising Club

North Cheshire Cruising Club

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TheNorthCheshireCruisingClub

Spring Issue

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If you have a contribution for the next issue, please let the Editor have your article no later than 26 February 2025 If you have any information that you would like to share with your fellow members please email me.

editor@nccc.org.uk

Commodore's Festive Cruise - Ian Jewell

Hi All - we are (weather permitting) having a short festive cruise on Sunday 29 December followed by Soup and a roll, a filled sandwich and a drink at the club. Setting off from High Lane at 10.30am to either Poynton or Marple, then back to the club for 12.30pm.

Looking forward to 2025 - planning for a week long cruise early May and a longer trip in June - more details will follow soon.

Also look out for the naturist evening, drop in if you have nothing on!!!

Chairman's Opening Speech from the Members Meeting held in October 2024

Where are we now - We are on a full repairing lease which means we have to fully maintain the premises without any long-term benefit to ourselves at our cost, benefitting Canal & River Trust. A total waste of our hard gained funds. Our Long term future is likely to require a large increase in cost of lease considering where C&RT are now with funding issues, meaning increases in charges for all aspects of the club just to maintain the status quo. ie slipway charges, mooring charges, membership costs etc all substantially increasing.

How can we manage this - We can't, but we can do something about it. The rent is likely to increase substantially on a regular basis every five years if not more frequently together with ongoing costs of repairs ad infinitum. We cannot control these costs in any way they are determined by C&RT and consequentially the costs of repairs are part of our lease and therefore must be maintained.

The Solution - Buy the premises, land, water and cottage.

Why now - This is a one off and unlikely to be repeated opportunity to secure the future of the club and over time to substantially improve the benefits to members. It may be a struggle but we are talking boating here, we can overcome any challenges or situations, as long as we work TOGETHER.

What are the costs involved - A handout was given to all attendees illustrating comparative costs comparisons of lease and purchase with projections based on past increases. It is important to understand that future lease increases may well be higher than those illustrated and projected.

By purchasing we reduce our costs substantially after the mortgage is cleared, which could be anywhere between 7 and 15 years (illustration was for 15 Years).

Year 1 is the difficult year as we have to use our contingency funds for the purchase deposit and associated costs, as illustrated on the comparison.

What if we don't buy it - Someone else will or we keep paying CART increased amounts. Either way our costs increase regularly either to cart or to the new owner.

We need additional funding to cover vat on the purchase and associated costs - Dave Hoods genius idea "pay for services, membership or mooring in advance at today's rate" - for up to five years

Raise money by way of an unsecured interest free loan by members.

There is No requirement for anyone to do any of these, and no extra benefits, shares or interest in the premises or club will be attained by those who do so. Loans and advance payments or donations will be only used for the purchase of the club.

Can be confidential

What are the risks involved? Is it affordable? Have we got the money? What if something goes wrong? Affordability and Risk? We are currently on a full lease which requires us to do all repairs to the arm, the premises and its structures. Therefore, there is little change however we will take over responsibility for the water and the cottage which is not in the current lease. The reward is reduced costs in future years once the mortgage is paid and no lease to pay. If we don't buy it Someone else will or we keep paying C&RT increased amounts, which increases our costs. Either way our costs increase regularly either to cart or to the new owner. The club will likely become impractical due to costs and cease to exist.

What about selling the arm in the future - All profits, from the club and its assets, cannot go to any of the board or members. If we cease to be the North Cheshire Cruising Club Limited and liquidate, all of the money goes to a similar fraternity to ours or a charity of our choice ie the members choice. This is part of the constitution of the club and explicitly detailed in the articles of association.

Mike Robison

How to Pledge funds - If you would be interested in pledging please email the Chairman and or Secretary with your pledge.

Can I also thank those members who have already offered to pledge funds towards the purchase of North Cheshire Cruising Club Limited. Could we ask that you follow the information below for your pledges

Prepay Moorings – please reference your payment **MOR-yourname (example only)** with the amount you wish to pay. You will have details of your moorings from your recent correspondence from Sheila.

Membership – please reference your payment **MEM-yourname (example only)** – membership costs are available on request:

Donations – please reference your payment **DON-yourname (example only)**

Hardstanding - please reference your payment **HDST-yourname (example only)**

Please note if the sale does NOT continue to completion for whatever reason your funds will be refunded in full.

Details of Account available on request

Please send an email to finance@nccc.org.uk, and we will follow up the payment by sending a receipt to you confirming receipt of the funds. If email is not possible then ring Mike Robison on 07975 686707 to ensure it gets cross referenced.

A receipt will be issued and our records updated with your next due payment date for your moorings, hardstanding or membership. It is important that you are aware that this payment infers no additional rights or benefits whether implied or assumed and this will be clearly documented upon the receipt.

The board of North Cheshire Cruising Club Limited thank you for your support and wish you all the very best going forward.

Recent Work Parties

Work continues on the arm In October and November, and Eric, your Land and Water Space Director would like to send out a thank you to everyone that has helped.

Whiteley Green Work Party September 2024 (Part 1)

The September work party brought together a team of about seven members who all met up at Whiteley Green to do a 'spot of gardening'. Nigel took his lawn motor and strimmer, and also a couple from the club in the van, whilst other members brought their own tools. Julian kindly made everyone brews from NB North Star. The team all worked extremely well and the pictures show what was achieved and how hard everyone worked.



Annual August Bank Holiday BBQ



The team setting up the event all met at NCCC early on the Saturday morning. Thankfully Mike, Ian and Eric had already set the marquees up. Our BBQ Kings Bill Wilkinson and Jim Ling set the BBQ up, Nigel took all the tables down to the triangle and the ladies from the kitchen (Pam Russell, Mo Spooner, Gill Ling and myself) got all the barm

cakes, sauces, etc together to take down to the triangle to be set up along with the sausages, burgers and onions.



It started off a bit overcast, but then the sun came out. Members started arriving just before 12 with their chairs, cool boxes with their favourite beverages, and those that had pets aswell. One of our members brought their grandchildren – they were so well behaved, we didn't even know they were there. We had about 30 members come

for the event, which was provided Free of Charge for the members.

Not long after the start of the BBQ, our Chairman Mike and his lovely wife Jackie arrived with lots of red wine and a platter of chicken pieces coated with a special sauce on skewers for the BBQ Kings to cook. We were spoilt with all the food. Drinks flowed all afternoon, with lots of laughter, and fun.

Around tea time, members started to slowly leave. A few of us stayed and enjoyed more drinks in the evening sun. One member (lightweight!!!!) went back to the boat for a sleep, to wake up later for more entertainment later in the evening at the pub. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and we look forward to another great BBQ next year. Thanks to all the members that came along.



Our First Function – Sally Wilkinson’s 40th Birthday.

It's been a long time since a function took place at North Cheshire Cruising Club. Earlier this year Nigel was contacted by one of our members Bill Wilkinson to see if he could have the function room for his daughters 40th birthday party.

Of course Nigel said yes, but approval was required by the board and more importantly by our previous Bar Director Lyndsay. Approval sought, Nigel let Bill know and plans were put into place for the party in September.

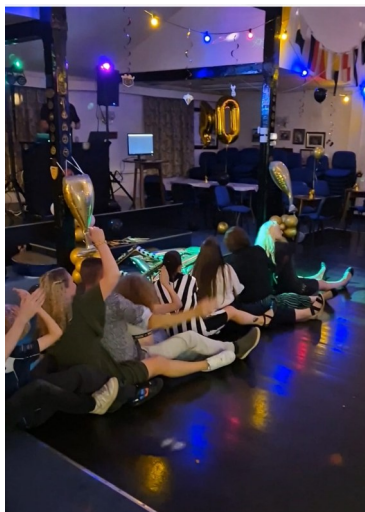
The month before Sally's party, we showed Sally around, along with her partner Rick and her dad. Sally had her 21st birthday party at NCCC. Not sure how much it had changed. Everything was sorted ready for her party.

The week prior to the party, the bar was restocked as the club had been closed for two months, Sally was sorting out all the catering, and also the decorating of the room which took place on the Friday before the event.

Sally asked if it was ok to come in on our first social night in September to decorate the room, blow up balloons etc. Of course this was not a problem. Nigel opened up on the Saturday to set the stage up for the DJ with Mike Sellars and also for Sally to finalise the room.

The evening was staffed by volunteers. The team consisted of David Mason and Pam Russell on the bar, and myself and Nigel Stanley on glass collecting, cleaning and keeping a check on the building and grounds.

The team worked well together and Sally's party was a great success.



My Handbag Dog by Ruth Sellars!!



Harry

About seven years ago, I made our members smile when I said that I wanted a 'handbag' dog.

As you all know that was not the case, and we got Harry a greyhound who was so lovely, he just wanted to eat and sleep, and go for walks with his dad, Mike.

Unfortunately we lost Harry a few months ago. We were heartbroken, and I said 'no more dogs – its just too upsetting, when they go.'

We have missed not having a dog, me for cuddles and Mike for his walks so we have got another greyhound called 'Rosie'.

I am sure she will be as good as Harry, but she has never been in a house before. This will all be new to her.

Mike and I will ensure that we give her the best life and have enjoyable times with him on Jaberger II.

All the best ruth and Mike Sellars.

Meet Rosie



Very Sad News - I had a message from Mo yesterday (11 Dec) to say that Rosie had collapsed in the park, and was taken to the vets, but unfortunately the vet advised she was very poorly and to let her go over the rainbow. We all send our love to Ruth and Mike on their loss.

Meet Your New Bar Manager

Firstly, the Board of North Cheshire Cruising Club would like to thank Lyndsay Hillman Bar Director 2022-2024 for her time on the bar.

Your new Bar Manager is David Mason. Many of you will know David from his many years of Wreath making workshops, and his beautiful flower demonstrations.

The Bar Manager's position is now responsible to the Premises Director Nigel.



David and Nigel after the AGM

If you can assist David on the bar at any event, or any Friday social night, please get in touch. Either speak to David on a social night or email him at bar@nccc.org.uk. If you have not worked on the bar before, but would like to have a good, David is happy to give you training.

A thank you to Ruth Sellars from Pam Russell

For many years my good friend Ruth Sellars has assisted myself and the other ladies in the kitchen. Due to Ruth not being well, Ruth can no longer work in the kitchen. We know she is very upset about this as she enjoyed helping us, and also the banter with other members.

On behalf of everyone who works in the kitchen, I would like to say Thank you and we will miss you.

Put your feet up now, and let us wait on you.

Pam





Weekly Events

- ◆ Friday Night Social in the clubhouse 8pm till late
- ◆ Sunday lunches from October 2024 to April

Monthly Events

Monthly Work Party - Second Saturday of each month with Pie or Sausages and a pint from 1pm (please make sure you sign in to the book in the workshop)

- ◆ Saturday 14 December 2024
- ◆ Saturday 10 January 2025
- ◆ Saturday 14 February 2025
- ◆ Saturday 15 March 2025
- ◆ Saturday 12 April 2025

Social Events

- ◆ Wednesday 4 December - Flower Demonstration with David Mason
- ◆ Saturday 7 December - Christmas Party
- ◆ Sunday 15 December - Brass Band Evening
- ◆ Sunday 29 December - Festive Cruise with your New Commodore Ian Jewell

The Annual McMillan Coffee Morning held at North Cheshire Cruising Club



This September saw the lovely Bill Wilkinson's annual coffee morning take place at the green outside the cottage at North Cheshire Cruising Club.

Bill started making arrangements well in advance of the event with lots of advertising on social media and around the area.

On the Friday prior to the event, Nigel, Eric, Bill and Bills Friend Ron, and myself started to move the large marquee from the triangle to the cottage. Luckily the other marquee had already been taken down and moved for us.

Bill and his team started assembling the marquees ready for the event, and I kept the team hydrated with tea and biscuits.

Saturday morning arrived, and Bill and his family started setting up the tables and bringing the chairs down from the function room. Bill got the geezer from the kitchen and also the table cloths and put them on the tables ready. The geezer needed filling so I got the two x 5 litre containers of NB Royal Oscar to fill the geezer and Mo and Ian Spooner were taking kettles of hot water to the geezer to speed up the boiling process.





Mo and I looked after the raffle table with help from Pam Russell selling strips of 5 tickets for £2 a strip. Bills daughters were on the cake and coffee stand, and Sally was on the sale stand along with Alexia selling bags, watches and accessories for dogs.

All the stands were very busy from when the event start to the close at 1pm.

After everyone had left, we went upstairs to have lunch as it was a work party, then afterwards a small group (Bill, Tom and Sue Sutton, Eric, Nigel and I) started to take the marquees down and put the away.



Bill was travelling to Australia the following day to see family, so a couple of members who won prizes on the raffle were put upstairs behind the bar awaiting their collection.

Bill raised £844.23 for MacMillan and a donation was also made from North Cheshire to round the figure upto £1000.

A big thank you to Bill and his helpers for making the event a success, and we look forward to another successful event in 2025.



Bills MacMillan Coffee Morning
Saturday 20 September 2025
10am to 1pm

Whiteley Green Work Party November 2024 (Part 2)

Tim Smith

As agreed with Mike and Eric, it was decided that Whiteley Green was in need of a thorough pre-winter tidy up. This involved pruning, strimming, grass cutting and tidying up over hanging trees.

I am delighted to say that we had a fantastic response from club members, most of whom had helped out on previous Whiteley Green work parties, resulting in 16 club members all pitching in and doing a cracking job. Myself and Mike H provided sustenance in the form of homemade fruit bread and banana cake, whilst Graham kept the cups of tea coming from his boat. The results can be seen for themselves and I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for all your hard work and brilliant company.





August Bank Holiday at Bugsworth Basin Bill Jewsbury Nb Polarlys



August bank holiday was looming and summer hadn't been the best, our original plan was a bit of boating plus events going on around the area but plans changed as a decent long weekend was much needed for Gill and I.

Bugsworth was in the frame for a long weekend with other club boats planning the same, we took Friday afternoon off to get ready setting off around 4pm not far behind NB's Sunbeam and Aalin.

Our plan was to stop at Marple, have a few drinks at the Con club and a chippy tea or so we thought! Typically Marple was full so we caught Sunbeam and Aalin at Strines mooring up, we tried to pull in but it was so shallow we got stuck. After a bit of help we got going so pressed on looking for a spot and some tea, on our 6th attempt we managed to get in without it being too shallow at Furness Vale, by now it was 7.30pm, we were hungry and a bit fed up! Tea was the smorgas board we had planned for Saturday



Having got this far it meant we had time in the morning to walk into New Mills and visit the excellent bakery and charity shops while the other boats caught us up. Fleur Denise was on route as well. Dog walked and shops done we headed into Bugsworth, put the kettle on and sat down just as the heavens opened and the others arrived. It was a light shower so not too bad, soon we were sat out with BBQ's lit and wine flowing.



George and Harriet Shaw plus all the dogs were keeping everyone busy with playing, kayaking, magnet fishing, walking and drinking (just the adults!)

Sunday arrived with another mixed bag of weather but mainly dry, George was determined to find some treasure with his magnet and had Tim helping him all over the basin, Tim managed to escape to his boat for a rest and a coffee only for George to

knock on his boat half an hour later asking if he was coming out to play!



We all visited the Navigation late afternoon for a meal sat outside which was nice with the added Basil Fawltly experience included. The evening was another camp fire, chat and music which is what makes boating so good. Monday arrived nice and sunny so we all sailed back in convoy to the Arm with a touch of overheating from Fleur but she made it.



Bugsworth basin was much improved from previous visits, very well kept and not as many geese. If you have seen the film Dirty Dancing we compared the weekend to being at Kellermans Summer Camp as so much went on.



To replicate the weekend we did it again at the end of September for the Bugsworth Steam rally, NB Bliss joined us with the Shaws coming by van

bringing a gazebo which was useful. BBQ's were had plus a decent fire, the rally was great to with some fine engines on show. Another great weekend was had. Thankfully we all got home before some major rain came down.

2026 NCCC Calendar - Send in your pics

Our 2024 and 2025 Calendars have been a great success, and many members have bought them.



We all have the ability to capture a moment in time through photography, so why not consider applying your artistic endeavours towards our 2026 NCCC calendar?

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. All the pictures that we received will be put on the website.

The rules are simple:

- ◆ This is a members only competition
- ◆ All pictures must be landscape
- ◆ Entries must feature a canal, river or boating theme
- ◆ All entries must be submitted by email to info@nccc.org.uk
- ◆ The closing date being 30 September
- ◆ The winning entries will be revealed when the calendar is produced next October.

We wish you all the very best in your artistic endeavours so let's all get snapping.

Thank You



Your New Board Members and Company Officials

At the recent Annual General Meeting, the following members were voted either onto the board or as a Company Official

Commodore
Finance Director
Membership Services Director
Land and Water Space Director
Director without Portfolio

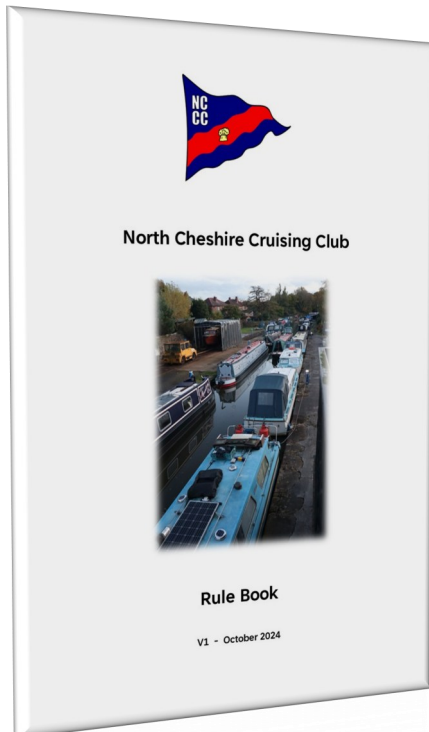
Ian Jewell
Ruth Smith (re-elected)
Pam Russell (re-elected)
Eric Roberts (re-elected)
John Fenton

Bar Manager
Health & Safety Officer (Advisory)

David Mason
James Wilson

Thank you.

Rule Book



The rule book was mentioned (and shown) at the AGM. Just to give you a quick update. The rule book has been rewritten and is currently in the process of being checked. Once this has been approved by the board, an email will be sent out to advise the members that it is now available to view on the website. A handful of copies will be printed.

It will be in a new format. It will be A5 in size and will have sections like Membership, The Arm, Whiteley Green etc.

Keep a watch on your emails for more information.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all the members of
North Cheshire Cruising Club

Notice Alert from C&RT

Peak Forest Canal

Location: Closure: Lock 1 to lock 16, Marple Flight, Peak Forest Canal

Starts At: Lock 1 **Ends At:** Lock 16

Type: Navigation Closure / **Reason:** Repair

The locks are currently out of order. Please keep an eye on your emails from further updates from C&RT.

Welcome to our New Members

- ◆ John Ghent NB Belle
- ◆ James Dean NB Lady Belle
- ◆ Peter Croucher NB Impala
- ◆ Malcolm Beresford NB Kate
- ◆ Sarah Richardson NB Meandering On

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 are you renovating your boat and would like to do a series, then send them into editor@nccc.org.uk.

Share Your
Thoughts



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 David 07748 073117. / 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





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