



**Your Award
Winning**

PUNNET

**The magazine of Strawberry Island
Boat Club in Doncaster**

SPRING 2024

THE GHOST SHIPS OF DONCASTER

HALLOWEEN

ILLUMINATED CHARITY BOAT REGATTA

SATURDAY LONG SANDALL
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OCTOBER 2024 BRAMWITH LOCK
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In your Spring 2024 edition of Punnet

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Front cover - Witham Navigation - The "Glory Hole", Lincoln



EDITORIAL



Welcome to the Spring edition of Punnet

With Christmas a distant memory and all of the shenanigans that go with it, we march on into Spring; one of my favourite times of year. Hopefully this year promises perfect boating with fantastic weather and good company ...well we can all dream.

In this edition of Punnet we say goodbye to Hazel as Commodore and ring in the new with Chris Drayton taking the helm and his new committee. A list of the new committee can be found on page 7.

Look out for Selby on the cut this year as he will readily jump ship and join you on your adventure. Remember to post his adventures with you on our Facebook page if he does. One of our readers suggested that we should take Punnet with us wherever we travel and post this too on Facebook, just to see how far we can get it to travel. I believe this was originally introduced by John Burke when he edited Punnet. As usual John cannot resist sending his adventures in Ireland to us (they seem to involve plenty of pubs) so the latest from Sharron and John is on page 24. We also have Alan and Carole's adventures en-route to Boston (not USA) on page 30.

The Awards Night was fabulous this year, if you missed it then read all about it on page 16.

The Punnet Team are also extremely proud to announce after many years of entering the AWCC competition for 'Best Club Magazine' that we are the trophy winners of this competition for 2023. This means that we hold the trophy for one year, have a lovely plaque to keep as a memento and also have the honour of judging this year's competition. So, keep up the hard work sending in your articles, poems, recipes, tips and travel logs (plus anything else you fancy) as you are responsible for winning the competition. Well done all.

If you have something we can include in the Summer edition please send to punnet@sibc.club. I will be producing the next edition on the boat so please do not post anything into the posting box.

From your Award Winning Punnet it is tatty bye for now.

See you all soon,

Donna Ward



<p>In your Summer 2024 edition of Punnet:</p>	<p>Trip-Islander — Your SIBC canal review. Next edition — The Tidal Trent. Submit your review now to punnet@sibc.club</p>
	<p>Caledonian Capers with Ellen and Duncan</p>
	<p>Your cruise logs, disasters, funny stories. It's your stories that make your Punnet so submit your articles now to punnet@sibc.club</p>



Past Commodore's Column

Commodore's Report for AGM 2024

Since the last AGM, much work has been undertaken by members at SIBC. All the moorings have been renumbered to incorporate the new (well not so new) moorings.

A team have designed and started to install new moorings on the main canal, they have quickly got a process in place and are progressing faster than anticipated. Work will cease during the summer but will continue next winter.

Thanks to Malc and Ken's organisation of the work parties, we continue to identify and complete work around the island. With Anne and her team on a Wednesday and the Saturday snacks team, keeping them all sustained.

The Galley has recently undergone a facelift having been painted and a new floor covering laid. The floor had to be replaced due to wear and tear (but had lasted 17 years) as it was coming away from the walls. It could have been fixed but the consensus was that it would have failed elsewhere so needed to be replaced at that point.

Thank you to all the members that give up time to get all these jobs completed and to the teams that continue to work hard to get the moorings done and the galley team who completed the work in record time.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Commodore and thank the committee and members for the support they have given me over the last two years.

As I have become very involved in Fund Britain's Waterways a cause that is endeavouring to lobby parliament for adequate funding to keep our waterways in a navigable state, it's time for me to hand over to Chris, who I'm sure will do a great job with the support of the new committee and all members.

F Hazel

S.I.B.C. CRESTED CLOTHING

If you would like to order garments, please call my mobile 07505 787722 or e-mail me on elaineab@btinternet.com

The garments come in various colours and sizes from children to adult sizes up to XXL. Kid's garments are cheaper.

Cheques or cash only please with cheques made payable to E A Chambers. Please note I have to order 8 garments at a time therefore, you might be waiting a while for your garments. I normally order about three times a year and your cash/cheques will not be banked until your garment arrives.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any queries. Please note that all prices are subject to change in January.

Sweats crew neck - unisex	£13.95
Sweats V neck - unisex	£14.40
Cardigans - unisex	£15.50
Hooded tops - unisex	£14.00
100% cotton V neck jumper - unisex	£19.20
Fleeces - unisex	£17.15
Reversible shower proof jackets - unisex	£24.65
Heavyweight Storm reversible jacket - unisex	£28.30
Polo shirts - unisex	£9.10
Polo shirts -ladies fit	£11.05
Tipped polo shirts -unisex	£12.75
T Shirts	£ 5.95

Baseball caps and acrylic ski hats can be purchased from Sarah at the bar.



Commodore's Welcome

Wow ... How on earth did I get here!

Becoming the Commodore to me is not merely a title but an honour. I find myself stepping into a role that I need big boots to fill and I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to navigate our cherished club into the next chapter, hopefully filled with fun and camaraderie.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who believed in me and supported and helped me get to where I am today. Strawberry Island Boat Club will be a beacon of fun, friendship and fantastic sailing experiences. I believe in a club where every member feels involved where we can share laughs, swap stories and support each other both on and off the water.

However, this journey isn't just mine, it's ours. I want to hear from you, especially your ideas for our club or what we could do better.

I look forward to hearing boating stories from those going off for the summer and hope that the obstacles currently in place will be resolved. I will endeavour to work with the social team to put events and cruises on throughout the summer for those that are staying at home.

Special thanks go to our retiring president and his wife Michael and Pat Oakes for all their input and laughs they have given us along the way. Also, congratulations are in order as we welcome Steve Marshall and his wife Barbara on the next step of their journey as our new president.

Happy sailing for those that are and happy partying to us that are still.

Big love to all,

Chris

STRAWBERRY ISLAND BOAT CLUB

Milethorn Lane, Doncaster, DN1 2SU

Telephone – 01302 364954

www.sibc.club

PRESIDENT

STEVE MARSHALL

VICE PRESIDENT

Currently vacant

FLAG OFFICERS

COMMODORE

CHRIS DRAYTON

VICE COMMODORE

DON MUSGRAVE

REAR COMMODORE

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COMMITTEE OFFICIALS

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SEAN CARROLL

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JOHN CLARK

JOHN SOUTHCOMBE

ANNE CLARKE

CAROLE THOMAS

MALCOLM DAWSON

DEREK WILDSMITH

PUNNET TEAM

DONNA WARD & MICK HIRST

CONTACT US AT
punnet@sibc.club

TRUSTEES

MARTYN WALSHAM

JOHN FOSTER

PETER HARBON

JOHN ROBINSON



Licence YOUR Boat through the Club

You should *all* know that SIBC gets 5% commission on your Boat Licence if you renew through the club.

Unfortunately, 40% of members do not use the club to renew their licence. This means we are losing out on a considerable sum of money each year, which could help to keep our mooring fees down!

This year we have 'lost' around £2000.

It is unfair on the Members who do use the Club to renew their licence as they are contributing to Club funds and the others are not.

You are probably already aware that when you licence your boat, the Canal and River Trust give an early payment discount of 2.5%. Another 2.5% discount is available if the licence is purchased online.

If you license your boat through the Club, you will still get the 2.5% discount for purchasing on line as we license your boat via an agency website i.e. online.

It is easy to renew your Licence:

I will license your boat at the club or you can ring me on 07831 169880 and I will do it over the phone. All you need is your boat index number and your up-to-date insurance details. Payment is by credit or debit card only.

Please license your boat at SIBC as we earn 5% commission on each licence, which helps to keep your mooring fees down.

Just a note of caution. CRT will automatically renew your licence when it is due if you have registered your card details with them and the Club will lose out on the commission! You need to log in to CRT and uncheck the automatic renewal box. Ring me if you need any help with this!

Peter Harbon Treasurer & Trustee

A Message From The Other Side...



Firstly, myself and Jim would like to thank everyone who took part in the Ghost Ships 2023 from Strawberry Island and helping make it the success it was. The effort and enthusiasm by all involved was truly remarkable with the event raising just shy of £2000.

We are in the early stages of planning the 2024 parade and we're really excited by the thought of entertaining more boats this time around. We have evaluated last years event and will implement some changes in regards to planning. We will publish marketing and plans throughout the year building up to the event.

THE PARADE WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26TH WITH TIMES TBC.

For the second instalment we will be adding the Canal & River Trust alongside the Air Ambulance as the chosen charities. Both will be invited to the event to collect along the tow path as we expect a much bigger turn out this year.

We will be raising money for the Ghost Ships throughout the build-up to help with costs for marketing and insurance of the event.

After some feedback and comments from people attending, we will be taking out a public liability insurance policy, whilst the boats are all insured, the expected large crowds will need to be addressed with a full revision of the risk assessment and safety planning moving forward.

We look forward to seeing you all this year, thanks once again.

Dave, Jim & Charlotte



Selby's Travels

Who the heck is Selby? Well, if you have not met this character you need to keep your eyes open especially if you are cruising the cut this coming season as he turns up in the most unusual of places.

A trip into B&M with intrepid explorers Sarah, Carole and Helen resulted in the first sightings of Selby who was hiding on the shelves amongst household products. This seemed peculiar as he was nowhere near soft toys. Sarah got hold of him and chased Helen around the aisles. Carole said that as they were being watched by Security, they decided to put him back on the shelf with the soft toys.

On a visit to Nottingham and another B&M Selby was yet again discovered sat on a deckchair in the garden and outdoor aisle. It was at this point that Helen and Carole decided to adopt him. As Security were watching and Selby had been reduced in price

(because nobody wanted to take him on) they felt sorry for him so decided to buy him, knowing that he was not adverse to an adventure or two.

Selby's first adventure was a trip to Heck for the rally. As he had to have his own pocket money, Sarah provided him with £2.50 to buy what he needed. Selby enjoyed his weekend at Heck but had picked up some bad habits as he was partial to the odd cigarette and a pint. It's not the first time that his excesses have caused him a few problems as very recently he had to be taken in an



ambulance for treatment as he was very dehydrated and worse for wear after another night out with Bev and Pete.

His next adventure was on the boat with Carole and Richard tackling the Trent (he was a little nervous here) but he managed to read the Trent map. Unfortunately, he was a little river sick due to inclement weather. Selby also went to the Arboretum at Alrewas to pay his respects to those remembered there.

Selby has also tackled Harecastle Tunnel which he enjoyed immensely. At Bugsworth Basin Carole accosted a volunteer on the railway and asked him if he minded having a photo with her friend. When the volunteer agreed she whipped Selby out of her bag. I don't think he was expecting that.

Selby was originally named by Sarah who said that it was 'one of the names off the top of her head'. At the time she was driving to Morrisons and saw a sign for Selby and thought that will do.



Selby will be on the cut again this year and regular updates will be posted on Facebook. He is looking for more adventures on different boats so if you can offer him different experiences remember to take him on and pass him on later to another SIBC member. If he is in your care please post Selby's adventures on Facebook so other SIBC members know where he is and what he's getting up to.

Get Involved With Your Club

Work Party Dates

Saturday 26th October 2024
Saturday 23rd November 2024
Saturday 21st December 2024
Saturday 18th January 2025
Saturday 22nd February 2025
Saturday 29th March 2025

Wednesday Work Parties

Wednesday Work Parties are currently running each week.
All members are invited to help with various tasks around the island.

See Malcolm Dawson or Ken Shaw if you require more information.

SOCIAL 2024



Hello Everyone,

We have had some successful and well supported events at the Island in 2023.

We started in October, when Mikron brought another professional theatre performance into our clubhouse. We will be supporting Mikron again in September this year. This was soon followed by a fun packed Speedquiz evening.

The laying up supper had a decades theme and we had a superb meal from Ally, Ian and their team in the galley.

We had our Macmillan Coffee morning in November and thank you to all the members who supported us in raising more cash than ever. A superb meal was had on Ladies' Night thanks to Brian Clarke, Brian Sharples, Simon and the rest of their galley team. Last year we had Elvis and this year we had Robbie Williams to entertain us.

December is always action packed with social events happening on a weekly basis. We kicked the Festive season off this time with the Christmas Market. Once again, we had a good variety of stalls and food available. Santa paid us a visit arriving on his sleigh aboard the illuminated good ship Rum-a- Gin and I think all the children were pleased with their presents he brought them. The photo booth looked tremendous almost everyone managed a selfie in there and the children kept the elves busy in the craft centre and the grotto all day.

We had some fabulous prizes for The Christmas Draw night followed by the adults' party and a superb Christmas lunch. We all ate and drank far too much but appreciated our well-deserved break back home over Christmas.

The New Year's Eve party went with its usual bang, literally! Our entertainer for the evening was Michelle Montuori and how she fitted us in her busy life I have no idea! When I spoke to Michelle on the 29th December she was just leaving Abu Dhabi for a gig at Strawberry Island she said. By the 3rd January she was in San Diego, then a week later she sent me photos of Christmas Island. What a Life!

We started 2024 with a Cheese and Wine tasting evening. We now know that the better the wine the longer the legs! I think that's what Charlotte said. The members entertained us in February. We have some wonderful and talented members at the club. The Awards Team took us to the circus for the awards presentation evening with popcorn, posh dogs and even ice cream in a tub. One of the highlights of the evening had to be Madame Sambuca in her fortune teller's booth, what more can I say?

Having just enjoyed our Mother's Day lunch and the Annual Dinner at the Golf Club we have just our Fitting Out Supper to enjoy.

When the social season starts again in September you can look forward to another fun packed Christmas season, a Casino evening in

October and a return to the Race Night in January.

Many thanks to all of you for supporting us and to the many volunteers who help to put these events in place. When I joined the Social Team back in 2019 I never imagined I would be still standing here in 2024. I think now is the time for a change though and therefore both myself and Anne Mitchie have decided to stand down as Social Chair and Vice. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time on social. There have been many highs and lows. One of the biggest low points was back in 2020 when Covid struck! Lesley and I found ourselves sitting in the bar refunding over £1000 in ticket money sold for Mother's Day and Fitting Out Supper. By 2021 when we thought times were improving Covid hit the club and once again I found myself refunding ticket money, this time for the Laying Up supper!

In 2021 Anne and I (joined by Anne Clarke) decided to start the Christmas Market. We also wanted to do something for the children/grandchildren having missed out on a Christmas party for a couple of years. Although still restricted by Covid and heavy rain on the day, we pulled off what we thought was a pretty good market. We invited Santa along who gave presents to all the children. In 2022 and 2023 the Christmas market has proved to be bigger and better.

Thanks to Santa's busy elves, his grotto looks better every year! Their crafty work going on in the conservatory takes a lot of planning, and this year we even had a grotto themed photo booth.

We regularly ask for volunteers sometimes at short notice and members never let us down but it's a big ask when asking for volunteers to be outside in freezing conditions in December. You never let us down. Many thanks to Malc and Ken and team for the tents and to every member (too many to mention) who ran a stall for us. Thank you Strawberry Island!

A new Social Team will take over now and Anne and I wish them all the best.

In the meantime, with this year's cruising season looming I hope you all enjoy your Summer Cruising and maybe we will see some of you out on the network somewhere.

Barbara and Team

Dates for your Diary

(All may be subject to additions or change)



2024	
13 th - 15 th September	SIBC Rally Weekend
24 th September	Mikron Theatre
12 th October	Casino Night
2 nd November	Laying Up Supper
9 th November	Macmillan Coffee Morning
16 th November	Ladies' Night
30 th November	Christmas Market
7 th December	Christmas Sing-along
14 th December	Christmas Draw Night
15 th December	Christmas Lunch
21 st December	Adult Christmas Party
31 st December	New Year's Eve Party
2025	
1 st January	New Year's Day Cruise
18 th January	Race Night
15 th February	Valentine's Night
22 nd February	Awards Night
15 th March	SIBC Annual Dinner
16 th March	Annual General Meeting
30 th March	Mothers' Day
5 th April	Fitting Out Supper

Awards 2024

The Awards Team certainly pulled off an amazing night full of fun and laughter. With the clubhouse transformed into a circus big top, what could possibly go wrong? Members went to great efforts to dress for the occasion too and characters appeared such as bearded ladies, jugglers, fortune tellers, lions and lion tamers, clowns to name just a few.



There was a fancy dress competition later on in the evening where members were encouraged to parade in their costumes. The winners of this were Van and Shirley dressed in Stars and Stripes, the American dream.

One of the highlights was being able to have your fortune told by our very own clairvoyant Madam Sambuca. Madam Sambuca could be seen making her way through the room complete with clairvoyant's booth. Some places were a bit of a squeeze, but she ploughed her way through as there was work to be done. My fortune was 'Your path to success will be paved with Lego - watch your step and keep your socks on!'. I'm not sure whether I should be worried or not.

More photographs of the fun and frolics are printed on the inner back cover.

The awards for the evening were as follows:

Jean Skelland (Female Personality)

Winner: Claudia Jacklin

John Southcombe contacted Claudia via Facetime (as she was in Germany) to give her the good news. It was just like the Oscars!

Phil Hancock (Male Personality)

Winner: Ken Shaw

The Commodore Hart (Couple)

Frank Beevers announced the nominations for this reward with an entertaining low down on all the couples' attributes.

Lesley and Chris Drayton
Heather Benson and Mick McMurray
Ian and Ally Marr
Simon and Anne Mitchie
Garry and Dawn Morgan

Winners of this award were Garry and Dawn Morgan.

The Longest Tow (Towing Boat) and The Frosty Cup (Being Towed)

Brian Sharples (Longest tow)
James Palmer (Frosty Cup)
Ken Millward and Mick Pattison (Longest tow)
Mick Marshall (Frosty Cup)

Winners of this award:

Ken Millward and Mick Pattison (Longest tow)
Mick Marshall (Frosty Cup)

The Brightside Trophy (Boating Mishaps) - Pam Bowley Speech (aka Madam Sambuca)

This award was given by Bill Piece. It is an award for when those unexpected things happen like when you've just painted your boat and you step back to have a look and splash you're in the water. Not funny at the time, but usually funny when you come to talk about them later, the kind of stuff we need to hear more about for our future awards.

This year we only had two nominations for the Brightside Award, Steve Marshall and Garry Morgan.



To begin with, here's a little tale of Garry and Dawn's rather eventful journey on the Rochdale Canal. As many of you will know this isn't a canal for the faint hearted. They were happily tootling along on their narrowboat Bagpuss when sadly their trip was halted due to a breakdown at the guillotine lock at Todmorden or Turdmorden as it

will now be forever known. They had to make a decision, water tap or elsan point. Unfortunately, they chose water tap which was probably not a good idea. Fast forward a few days and as you can imagine Dawn was now in full relaxation mode, the wine was flowing and of course the toilet cassette was filling up fast. 'Oh no', thought Gazza 'what am I to do now? I can't stop my darling wife while she's in full flow so I better find a way to make more room'. He'd already spotted the full wine rack that Dawn had previously filled with Jack Rabbit so there was nothing for it but for this brave little guy to load up his bag for life with the now very swishy toilet cassette. As he is a sensitive fella, he triple wrapped it in three bin bags, and crossed his fingers that the bus driver had no sense of smell. Luckily, for our brave hero he managed to complete the bus journey with no suspicious leaks or smelly accidents and made it back to Dawn with a triumphant smile and an empty bag for life. Thankfully, he was saved a return journey as the next day they were joined by friends on another narrowboat. Sadly, for them they had a much bigger problem as they arrived with a full pump out, but that's another story and one you can read in the Winter 2023 Punnet if you want to laugh.

Steve and Barbara along with their sprocker spaniel Bella, had set off on their annual summer cruise on their boat Rioja, along with Malc and Ange on Trent Weaver. They had already turned back from Huddersfield due to lack of water then managed to get to Hebden Bridge on the Rochdale, but again had to turn back for the same reason. They finally settled on a trip to York. What else could possibly go wrong they thought? Surely it will be plain sailing now. Imagine a peaceful day with the sun shining and the birds singing and Bella sitting contentedly by Steve's feet. Steve had his AirPods in happily singing along to his favourite band. Barbara told me later it was Bay City Rollers. Steve glanced behind to check that Malc was keeping up on Trent Weaver, as he was liable to dawdle a bit. Steve thought that he was probably practising his air guitar again as he often does whilst Ange steers the boat, when would you believe it? He saw a little brown and white dog bobbing around in the fast-flowing river Ouse, 'Wow' he thought, 'what kind of idiot would let their dog swim in this stretch of river it's fast flowing, tidal and dangerous?' Then to his complete horror he realised it was his dog Bella and he'd not heard the splash as he was singing along and probably doing the dance moves to Shang A Lang. Then suddenly (and thank goodness) the hero of the hour appeared. Barbara came up from below, boxed Steve's ears and rescued Bella from the fast-flowing Ouse. After giving Steve a withering look, she went back down into the boat to

carry on with her Sudoku. Steve said from now on Bella would be going on a lead on rivers and that he'll work on his taste in music.

The winner of the trophy was Garry Morgan.

Madam Sambuca also presented Garry with a Captain Morgan t-shirt.

The Tetley Trophy (Special Act)

Anne Mitchie introduced the groups for this category.

The Summer Gang – Chris and Lesley Drayton, Phil and Sheila Jefferson

Wednesday Galley Work Party

Christmas Market Team

John Clark and Mick Marshall (Fire Safety)

The winners were John Clark and Mick Marshall for putting our safety first.



The proceedings ceased temporarily to fill up beer glasses and to eat rather tasty 'posh dogs'. These were cooked by our very capable chefs Simon Mitchie and Mick McMurray (Anne Mitchie did the shopping!) and then without further ado John Southcombe introduced the second half. He congratulated all members for being wonderful, he also congratulated the Awards Team for putting on an amazing show and for working so hard.

Outstanding Achievement Award

Gill Watkin Drury was winner of this award for her continued commitment to the club for the flower baskets. Always ensuring that the area around the clubhouse looks its best.

White Heather Award (Longest Inland Cruise)

This was very close this year with three boats in the running for the longest inland cruise. They were:

Duncan and Ellen 794 miles
Anne and Simon 798 miles
Hazel and Richard. 798 miles

Diane gave a very animated account about the Manchester Ship Canal and Simon and Richard (who were captains on their ships that day) taking a wrong turn and becoming beached on a sand bank. The girls apparently then took over and the cruise was saved. Diane sported a pair of enormous pink knickers which she presented to Richard as she said he needed to have big boy pants for such an adventure. Richard commented later that it wasn't him who needed them but Simon!

Gutteridge (Best Ship's Log)

Duncan Wright and Ellen Boon-Wright
John and Sharron Burke
Richard and Hazel Owen

This year's winner was Duncan and Ellen

Klinkenberg Trophy (Best Kept Mooring)

Neal and Julie Harrison
Paul and Jenny Addison
Steve and Barbara Marshall

Winners: Paul and Jenny Addison

Danum Salver (Most promising new member)

Bev Porteous and Pete Wheeldon
Mandy Langsford and Bill Phillott
Van Hinchliffe and Shirley Sefton

As it was so difficult to choose it was decided that all nominees for this award were winners.

Bracken Award (Contribution by Associate member)

It was agreed that Philip Lamb was one of our unsung heroes and is always willing to help with anything that needs doing. Frank told the tale of being rescued by Philip when he nearly ended up in the cut. Philip pulled him back ensuring that Frank did not go for a dip.

Myra Shay (Momentous offshore journey)

Ian explained that this award will be reinstated next year and that any members completing this type of journey should enter.

Donna Ward and Mick Hirst were pleased to get a mention for their journey on the Ribble Link last year and were awarded with a key ring.

Rioja Award (Photography)

Nominations were chosen by an independent judge and their photographs will appear in the 2025 SIBC calendar.

Ally Marr
Brian Clarke
Pam Bowley
Judy Southcombe
John Burke
Tracey Crompton
Ian Danby



Winner – Pam Bowley

The Award ceremony came to a close with the Special Prize draw and raffle. Dawn Morgan won a very 'expensive' undersea world clock affair (to be honest I am not really sure what it was!) and Alan Neech was luckier as he won the bar voucher. The music continued until late and was provided by Lauren and Adam. Lauren and Adam were also responsible for ensuring that the evening ran smoothly as they operated and ran the PowerPoint of the whole evening. Thank you guys you did a great job.

The Awards night is only successful due to the nominations put forward by members. When you see something that you think should be rewarded, remember to fill in one of the nomination slips or enter your nomination via the website. This will ensure that we have another amazing occasion in 2025.

Rally 2024 News

Following on from the runaway success of this year's rally, the members decided at the Social meeting that they would like to do it all again next year. A committee of volunteers met and decided that a rally next year would be viable... And so the planning has started! The first decision was to book Razor Holler for the Saturday night and the band have confirmed that they will be joining us.

The rally will run from the evening of Friday 13th, through Saturday 14th and will end on Sunday 15th September 2024 and will provide a great mixture of the very best of the traditional rally features with some new ideas, just to liven things up.

The success of this year's rally was only possible because of all the hard work of the committee members, volunteers, the generous support of the Management Committee and all the members and their families who attended. Thank you all.

We are open to ideas and suggestions from all members and will be keeping everyone updated regularly via Punnet, Facebook, the SIBC website and Members Meetings. We shall be looking for volunteers for the weekend, as well as for preparing and clearing away too. We are determined to ensure that everyone has the chance to enjoy the rally so volunteering sessions will only ever last two hours. I hope that this will reassure everyone from the outset.

Mandy Langsford, Rally Committee Chair

Harbourmaster Matters

To ensure that we keep our records up to date will all members please ensure that any changes of boat or personal contact details, including email addresses, are notified to the Harbourmaster.

These can be sent by email to: harbourmaster@sibc.club

Ken Collier is your new Harbourmaster

From The Archives.



This photograph takes us back to 1982 when Peter and Carol Harbon were Commodore and Lady.

If you have any old articles, photographs or stories of your memories of the early years of Strawberry Island Boat Club which you think would be suitable for 'From The Archives', email them to your editor at punnet@sibc.club.



Liveabouts On Tour 2023

So, I was just sat thinking, which is normally not a good thing, and I thought I ought to update you on our travels during 2023. So here it is:

2023 is our 13th year cruising in Ireland, and for those people new to the delights of Strawberry Island who may not know Sharron and me. We commissioned our barge in the early 2000's and launched it at 'the Island' in 2008 before transporting it to Ireland where we have been happily cruising the River Shannon and its lakes.

This year will be a little different because we have given up our permanent marina mooring for a more 'liveabout' lifestyle. We will have a fixed berth for the winter but that is yet to be arranged, although I have a plan.

The term 'liveabout' is one that I have stolen from a friend of ours who uses it when referring to the itinerant folk who travel and reside on boats through the summer months but do not 'live aboard' in one place permanently. It actually fits us to a tee.

So, we arrive in Ireland in early March and travel to Cloondavaun Marina which is situated on Lough Derg in County Galway. I've paid our mooring fees till the end of March, so we have plenty of time to get the boat sorted for the season. We have many friends in the area, so 'all work and no play as they say' tempts us to pop around the Portumna area visiting friends and calling for the odd glass of porter or two.

We have a plan for our season of cruising but only the most naïve amongst us would actually believe the plan would come to fruition. Without spoiling anything it doesn't.

Once the boat is sorted to our satisfaction, and the weather is favourable, we set off across the lake, and our first trip of the season takes us a good 40 minutes across the lake to the village of Terryglass. We will actually visit this area a number of times during the season. The Rugby world cup is on, we don't have a TV on board, so initially we will be visiting bars that will be showing all the games.

After a few days in Terryglass we travel across the lake to Castle Marina in Portumna. Not a mammoth journey as it only takes us thirty minutes, but it's a place we like to visit and where we have many friends.

Next, we travel north visiting Portumna Bridge, where we moor for a few days and have a catch up with two of my old work colleagues.

From here we're off up the river, through Victoria Lock and onto Banagher, before continuing north to Shannonbridge and then Athlone, where we will stay for a few days. We leave the boat in the council town marina for a week while we return to the UK for a civic function in Rotherham.



On our return it would appear that a number of 'hire boats' have collided with our front fender and almost destroyed it. We remain in Athlone for a few more days. Whilst here we arrange a 'winter' mooring in Lakeside marina which is just off Lough Ree in what are termed the inner lakes.

We continue our onward travel to Ballyleague, in County Longford. This is our longest sailing day. We cross Lough Ree which takes us around four hours in total; it's an open lake so making sure the weather is fine is key. It was and we travel across without any problems.

We are now at the beginning of June, we have fitted new solar panels and they seem to be working a treat. I take advantage of the good weather and repair our front fender. A nylon washing line and some duct tape, although rather Heath Robinson, works a treat.

We continue our journey north to Roosky, I'm not sure if it's in County Longford or Leitrim, but it doesn't matter to us we just call into the pub and have a Chinese.

Our next port of call is the village of Dromod, now this is in County Leitrim; it's a very small village with three exceptional pubs. One in particular is Cox's Steakhouse where I had the best fillet steak I have ever had in my life. I offered to give the Chef a hug but for some reason, it was declined.

After savouring the delights of the steakhouse we travel on intending to go to Carrick on Shannon. The weather however has a different idea and we encounter a storm so decide to spend the night at the end of the Jamestown canal, a rather tranquil and peaceful place, once the rain and wind ceased.

The following day we travel into Carrick on Shannon. In my younger days I spent quite a bit of time in Carrick. Our new 'plan' was to continue to travel north into Leitrim and beyond but the weather is mixed at best. Our eldest Granddaughter is coming to spend a couple of weeks with us, she will fly into Dublin and we will pick her up at the airport. The car is in Athlone so we will return to collect it, albeit slowly.

Our few days in Carrick are over so it's back down the river intending to stop in Roosky again. En route, we have a burst diesel pipe but I don't notice this until we actually moor up in the pouring rain. I did notice the all too familiar diesel smell in one of the locks, but thought it was another boat with the problem. Anyway, on checking the bilge the burst has deposited 30 litres of our precious diesel into the engine room, doing what I always do in times of minor crisis; we toddle off to the pub. The clean up will start tomorrow.

The next day I manage to decant most of the diesel into an empty drum and locate the damaged diesel pipe. There is a small split in the return pipe which I manage to cut and repair. Our onward journey will entail travelling over several small lakes and I'm not sure my repair will hold. I contact a mechanic and he is willing to bring me some new pipes, but that will be in four days time. So, feet up, we will stay in Roosky for a little longer.

Once the pipes are repaired, we travel back along the river and again stop in Ballyleague, this time on the wall along the main river. We stay for a couple of days waiting for a break in the weather so that we can travel across Lough Ree and into Athlone.

We allow a few windy and rainy days to pass us by and on checking the 'Windfinder' app, on my phone, the only break in the weather seems to be in the early morning.

We are up early, get all the usual checks completed and around 6.30am we are on our way. The weather is fine and dry and we have a lovely sail across the lake and



arrive in Athlone around 10am, it's quite busy, so we moor on the wall adjacent to The Strand, in the centre of the town.

My plan of remaining in Athlone and celebrating my birthday quietly is thwarted as our close family descend upon us to celebrating my birthday, and that of my youngest daughter.

After a few rather boisterous but very enjoyable days its time for the family to make their way home, and together with my now crew of three we set sail south. The weather forecast is not good so we decide to give Lough Ree a miss for the immediate future.

Travelling south we again visit Banagher, Shannonbridge and Portumna introducing our Granddaughter and her boyfriend to the delights of rural Ireland.



Two weeks later we are back in Athlone, our teenage crew have been returned to the airport and it's time for us to quietly relax. The weather has not been the best, with all the rain the river is in flood and there is a heavy flow. This causes problems for us; we are not the most manoeuvrable boat and have a top speed of around 6 knots. The river is flowing around 5 knots so to travel against it will take an age to get anywhere, going north across the large expanse of Lough Ree, is not an option so, were off back down south.

Going with the flow is not easy, although we don't use much fuel we have very little steering and stopping is rather tricky to say the least. We travel to Banagher and rest up for a few days. The rain is relentless and eventually it will all end up in the river, it's now difficult to see where the river is as most of the callows are flooded. All the farmers are up in arms; they can't get the cattle into the fields and are unable to harvest the hay. There are protests and farmers block to road to bring publicity to their plight.

We decide to travel further south (back to Shannonbridge is our plan) however, all the floating moorings are full and the wall outside Lukers bar is completely flooded and not safe to moor against. We decide to travel a little further onto the River Suck and the town of Ballinasloe. An hour later we are on the 'Suck' but because of the flooded river we are unable to get under the first bridge, the air draft is low and we are

too high. We head back onto the river and travel north to Clonmacnoise where there is plenty of room for us to moor. This is an ancient monastic site and is very popular however, it's not a place to moor in bad weather, wind and rain can batter the moorings making it rather unpleasant. Also, there is nothing here, no shops, no pubs and no facilities. We remain here for three days or so.

We are informed that there is room in Shannonbridge so we travel back down the river. There is a strong westerly wind so mooring up is a little lumpy, but with the help of a few friends we do it safely. We are well into August now and there is no break in the weather, heavy rain and strong winds are the norm. The hire boats are still out and about and we help them to moor safely. A number of them breast up to us, some causing minor damage and scratching the paintwork. I speak to a mechanic from one of the hire boat companies and ask what the river is like further north. His reply: 'Athlone is a death trap, we have stopped our boats mooring there the flow is so bad, we have had 15 boats damaged'.

Our minds are made up we stay put. We manage to get groceries delivered to us from a supermarket; although there are two pubs in the village their menus are repetitive.

We are 'trapped' for around two weeks or so, although to me it seemed far longer, at some stage we will need to travel north but for now we believe its safer to go south.

Onto Lough Derg and Portumna and Terryglass are yet again our ports of call, but after a couple of weeks we start to travel back 'up north'.

We travel slowly stopping and saying our farewells to all our friends and acquaintances and before long we're back in Athlone, and then into the inner lakes stopping at Coosan Point for a couple of nights before heading into the marina and our reserved mooring.

After a couple of days 'winterising' the boat we're off to return home, after a brief over night stop in Dublin to attend a concert.

It's now the end of October and we have spent the best part of eight months on the river, we will return in early March in time for St. Patrick's day and do it all over again, hopefully without the bad weather.

Slainte.

John and Sharron Burke. Replica Dutch Barge Mister Jingles.

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BOSTON

1630 was an interesting year for Bostonians. Fleeing religious persecution, a group of citizens boarded a ship and embarked on the hazardous two month voyage to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, surviving many perils on the way before finding, by strange coincidence, a place called Boston on the Eastern coast of North America.

Carol and me, on our narrowboat Great Western and Mick Pattison on his cruiser Amoureuse, recently had a not completely dissimilar experience on our trip to Boston (Lincolnshire).

I had to be at Woodhall Spa for a two day course which started on 31st July. Owing to other commitments we couldn't leave the safety of the Island until the 27th July but I thought we could do this comfortably with a day to spare, to allow for contingencies. As all boaters know, it's always a good idea to allow a day or two spare, or in the case of Brian and Jo Sharples, a month or two.

I had been told by the lockie when booking Keadby that we would be penned out at 12.30pm; Mick was told 2pm. Besides us two, there were two narrowboats also waiting to go and neither of their crews had been on the Trent before, and were a bit nervous. 'Don't worry', we said, 'just follow Great Western and Mick will shepherd you along from the rear'. When we were finally penned out at 2.30pm, the lockie told us that because of being late, the very small neap tide and the large amount of fresh coming down, we had no chance of getting to Torksey.

Plodding along at our usual 1600 revs to make sure the other two narrowboats kept with us, turned out to be a waste of time. Mick soon got fed up with them and hurried to catch up with us before we disappeared out of sight altogether. It was very slow going. As we passed West Stockwith we waved to the lockie and radioed that we were going on to Gainsborough. He said he'd just been talking to the other two boats and they were forty minutes behind and would be stopping at West Stockwith.

We were down to a crawl by the time we moored on the empty pontoons at Gainsborough. Had we stopped at West Stockwith we wouldn't have been penned out until late and would therefore arrive at Torksey too late to be penned up. Our contingency time was almost gone already. We set off at ten the next morning with the river running strongly against us. I reckoned that if we could make 2.5 mph we'd be

OK. Mick thought I was daft. Our boat just managed the speed at 1900 revs, so we arrived at Torksey at 3pm. A boat was just leaving the lock so we sailed straight in. The lockie said we were expecting you yesterday!

We carried on to Saxilby where we met with a strange sight. We had planned to go to the pub just across the canal from the moorings, for a well earned meal and drink. 'We just go across the bridge,' said Mick. 'What bridge?' said I, 'that bridge,' said Mick, and lo and behold, there was no bridge, it had been taken away two days before for refurbishment. So, no pub.

Next day things were going smoothly. At least as far as Stamp End lock which is the start of the Witham Navigation. There was a narrowboat moored and a couple of guys wandering about, poking things. Apparently, the guillotine wouldn't work, CRT said they didn't know when they could send someone to look at it. So, I punched a few buttons and poked a few things, because that's what you do when you already know something doesn't work. However, a cheerful guy in dreads and facial ironmongery turned up after an hour. So, narrowboats away.

Quite a while later, there was no sign of Mick catching up and we were considering waiting or turning back. Anyway, moving on, we were approaching Bardney lock (Mick had just caught up, apparently there had been another hitch with the guillotine) and I was wondering how to get to the lock as there appeared to be a field in the way. This turned out to be weed, bank to bank, solid. We charged through, Mick following close behind, easy peasey, though Mick did have to clean out his filter.

There was a boat in the lock when we got there and the boater was called Dave or John and he was heading for Boston so off he went. We carried on, eventually arriving at the empty pontoons near Woodhall Spa.

The course finished a bit early on the Tuesday, so we left the mooring and continued to Dogdyke, arriving at 6pm to another empty pontoon. There were some people leaning over the wall at the back of the pub, we all waved at each other and said hello. I went to investigate the pub but it was closed, visions of a nice meal and good beer fading away. I mentioned the closed pub to the gongoozlers. The landlady said. 'I'll go and open the door'. We had a lovely meal in the conservatory overlooking the river. Good beer as well.

Onward the next day, just a short hop to Anton's Gowt and more empty pontoons. Anton's Gowt lock is the entrance to the famous Boston navigable drains. A little bit of history here as on our only previous trip to Boston, the three of us (boats) decided to do the drains. The one that goes to the middle of Boston was straightforward so we headed for more distant drains, becoming stuck one by one. We got furthest, being shallower draught, but not by far. Our son and his wife were in the area and said they would visit us and bring us some essential supplies we needed, but as we couldn't get near the bank, we carried on a conversation while they were on a bridge above us. He commandeered a couple of dog leads from local dog walkers and used them to lower the carrier bag with the bottles of wine. Almost like the Relief of Mafeking. Anyway, to get to the point, I was determined on this trip to paddle some of the drains in an inflatable kayak. Unfortunately, because I'd been a bit busy I'd not had a chance to buy one before we left. As luck would have it, however, whilst we were waiting at Keadby, Carol noticed a bit of paper on one of the nervous narrowboats advertising an inflatable kayak for sale. Carol did the deal and I became the proud owner of the very model I had intended buying, only twice used, at a very good price. Carol and Mick let me through the lock and I paddled away. But not very far, weed and a head wind stopped me after about half a mile. It was still nice though, a new perspective.

We moved on the next day, perhaps we would have stayed longer, but there was an Incident with our dog Penny and some chickens. We found a very pleasant mooring in Boston. Dave or John was also there and one of the nervous narrowboats. They were planning on heading East the next day.

I've always wanted to "do" the Wash, out from Boston, in at Wisbech. We nearly did one year, a long time ago, when we moored at Bluewater in Thorne. There were others also wanting to go so a convoy of six boats met at Bluewater for the trip. Our own Ken Shaw was one of them and Steve and Dee with Classy Lady. The weather was forecast to be good, a pilot booked, tides organised, what could go wrong? I've always liked lift bridges, I find it amazing that we're allowed to play with these things. They always feel like a gateway, a bit like an archway to another world. So, through the lift bridge near Bluewater Marina we went, to the swing bridge a bit further on... the one with the blown hydraulics. End of trip!

Mick and I watched the two narrowboats heading through the lock next morning, a bit of an anticlimax really as they looked just like two narrowboats heading through a lock.

Leaving Boston, we didn't stop at Anton's Gowt (the chicken Incident) but proceeded to Dogdyke and another nice meal and beer. Through Bardney Lock and onwards to moor in Lincoln, where I made two exciting discoveries. The first was the Cheese Society shop and cafe which has a very cheesy menu. They also sell artisan cheeses online. The second discovery was a shop which sold old electrical bits, including instruments from old aircraft. You could buy a Lancaster bomber altimeter for a mere 200 quid. The cathedral was worth a look round as well.

I phoned Torksey to let them know we would be arriving the next day to be penned down en route to Keadby. 'No chance', I was told. 'The floodgates are shut, don't know when they'll be opened'. We arrived at Torksey basin to be told to clear off back to the visitor moorings. They still didn't know when we'd be able to go. I went for a walk but couldn't get access to the castle. Had a chat to the EA guys opening the floodgates. Contacted Keadby Lock and was told to leave Torksey at half past three the next day, so we penned down the next morning and waited on the pontoons until three.

It was an uneventful trip. As is usual, Mick radioed Keadby when we passed the motorway bridge. As there was no reply he continued calling. Carol rang the Lockie's mobile number, no reply. We arrived at Keadby, lock gates closed, no lockie. Whilst we were swanning around outside, I was looking to see where would be best bit to tie up, when Carol said is that the lockie? A woman was approaching the cabin, she said, 'What are you doing here?' Carol said, 'We've booked'. Woman said, 'No you haven't'. Carol said, 'Get those gates open NOW!'

Woman opened gates, we went in and eventually managed to get sort of secured to dangly chains as no-one there to take our ropes or see whether we were OK. We were penned up. The lockie was yacking away on her phone and didn't so much as look at us as she went to open the bridge to let us through so we could moor up for the night.

The next day, Carol and I stopped at Kirk Bramwith for the night, while Mick escaped back to the safety of the Island.

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Dear Agatha,

I am at my wits end. My beloved has just bought an instrument of torture from some dodgy looking guy at our local. He says that it will be a great project to renovate it and be an investment.

So far he's spent hours puffing up his bellows followed by a rapid fingering of his buttons. The sound he emits whilst doing this can only be described as a cats' chorus.

To be quite honest he's pushing my buttons because these shenanigans are taking him away from important jobs such as decorating the hall.

Please advise what I should do to restore calm to my home.

Regards,

D of Denaby

Dear D of Denaby

Oh my goodness, I really have every sympathy with your predicament. I remember only too well when my dear hubby decided to learn to play the bagpipes. It was only after several visits from the police, the Council and the RSPCA that he was finally persuaded to give up. The bagpipes are now mouldering in the shed, along with his drone, dongles and the rest of his failed hobbies (men!)

It sounds from your description that your beloved is renovating a concertina with a view to playing it. This is bad news, as such behaviour can only lead to worse habits such as wearing aran jumpers and singing sea shanties.

What to do? What about engineering a little accident (to the concertina, not your beloved)? Perhaps something involving a flamethrower or a garden shredder? If that is too extreme, try 'losing' a small but vital part which should give you at least a few days of peace.

As always, I ask my correspondents to look at their own behaviour. Are you spending too much time at knit and natter or jazzercise? Why not find some fun activity you could do together? Obviously, your beloved hopes you will play with him! My mind goes back to a popular ditty by 60's songsters The Who. I think it goes 'Mama's got a squeeze box; Daddy never sleeps at night'. Evidently this is about a devoted couple who both finger their respective instruments well into the evening, playing jolly tunes for their own amusement. At least I think that's what it's about, perhaps I'd better listen again...

Good Luck, *Agatha*

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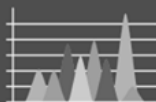
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This month we have extended the locations with what3words references, with information provided by Cherryl Holliday of Thorne Cruising Club, who also had the following kind words to say about your Punnet.

“I thoroughly enjoyed reading the Spring 2023 edition of the Punnet that had been left in the Thorne Cruising Club office”.



Sykehouse Bridge	DN14 9AW	clerk.prune.hidden
Kirk Lane Bridge	DN14 9AN	magic.rips.scoping
Sykehouse Lock	DN14 9AL	they.complies.laws
Kirkhouse Green Bridge	DN7 5TE	diner.luncging.pull
Top Lane Bridge	DN7 5SX	headings.owned.rounds
Low Lane Bridge	DN7 5SR	deposits.hike.fists
Barnby Dun Bridge	DN3 1EP	initiated.sorry.relatives
Long Sandall Lock	DN2 4QY	hungry.mouse.ally
Strawberry Island	DN1 2SU	frogs.today.rise

The Boater's Kitchen



The aim of the Boater's Kitchen is to provide you with tasty meals that can be mainly cooked on the stove top. Here is a tasty recipe from Brian Clarke which he has made for the delight of our members at Strawberry Island. You too can now have a go.

Mushroom Wellington - Feeds four

Ingredients:

- 1 medium red onion (150g) peeled, cut in half lengthways and sliced
- 1 ½ tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 280 g chestnut/brown mushrooms (sliced)
- 4 cloves of garlic (minced)
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped tarragon (adjust depending on your taste)
- 1 tablespoon red wine optional
- 100 g cooked chestnuts
- 100 g baby spinach
- 3 tablespoon fine breadcrumbs
- 1 x 320g sheet of puff pastry
- 1 medium egg beaten

Method:

- Preheat the oven to 190C/ 374F and line a baking tray with parchment paper.

- Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan. Add the onions with $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of sea salt and cook over medium heat until soft.
- Once soft add 1 tablespoon of balsamic vinegar and stir well until the liquid evaporates. Remove to a large mixing bowl and leave to cool.
- Heat 1 tablespoon of butter in a large pan. Add the mushrooms and cook until they are soft and they have released their juices.
- Add 4 minced cloves of garlic and 1 tablespoon of chopped tarragon. Stir well and cook for a minute or two.
- Turn up the heat then add 1 tablespoon of red wine and stir well. Cook until all the liquid has evaporated.
- Crumble the chestnuts into the pan and mix well. Remove this mixture to the mixing bowl with the red onions and leave to cool.
- Heat $\frac{1}{2}$ a tablespoon of olive oil in a pan, add the spinach and cook until wilted.
- Drain and squeeze as much liquid out of the spinach as you can. Transfer to a chopping board then roughly chop. Add the chopped spinach to the mixing bowl with the mushrooms.
- Add 3 tablespoons of fine breadcrumbs along with $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of freshly cracked black pepper to the mixing bowl. Mix everything together well.
- Roll out the puff pastry. Add the mushroom filling along the centre of the pastry and using clean hands shape into a sausage shape.
- Turn one side of the pastry over the mushroom mixture, brush the egg wash then turn the other side over. Use a fork to seal the pastry. Fold up the ends of the wellington and again use a fork to seal them.
- Carefully turn the wellington over so the seal is on the bottom. Using a very sharp knife score diamonds in your pastry. Start by scoring diagonal line in one direction along the whole wellington then repeat in the opposite direction.
- Brush the whole wellington in egg wash, remembering to do the sides too.
- Bake in the oven for 30 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown and the pastry is completely cooked. Then leave to rest before serving.

If you have a recipe that works well on your boat let the Boater's Kitchen know and it will be included in future editions of Punnet.

Fire Safety On The Island

I want to ensure you're familiar with important safety measures we've put in place, particularly our rotary fire alarm bells. Let's take a moment to familiarize ourselves with their locations and uses.

First, you'll find one of these vital alarms at the white toilet building near the main gate. This is a key location as it's often one of the first spots members visit upon arrival. In case of an emergency here, use this alarm to alert everyone on the premises immediately.

Moving on, there's another alarm situated outside the galley kitchen door, mounted on the wall. The kitchen, being a hub of activity, is a crucial spot for an alarm. This ensures quick action can be taken in case of a fire during meal preparations or gatherings.

Our third alarm is located on the wall of the brick electric station near the compound. This area, with its electrical equipment, is a potential risk for fire hazards. The alarm here is strategically placed to ensure rapid response to any incident that might arise.

Lastly, on the corner of the big green workshop on the main island, you'll find the fourth alarm. This workshop is a central point for many of our activities, and having an alarm here is essential for the safety of everyone involved in workshop activities.

Remember, these alarms are here for your safety and the safety of all club members. In an emergency, quickly rotate the handle to activate the alarm and alert others. Your prompt action can make a significant difference. Stay safe, and enjoy your time at the Strawberry Island Boat Club.

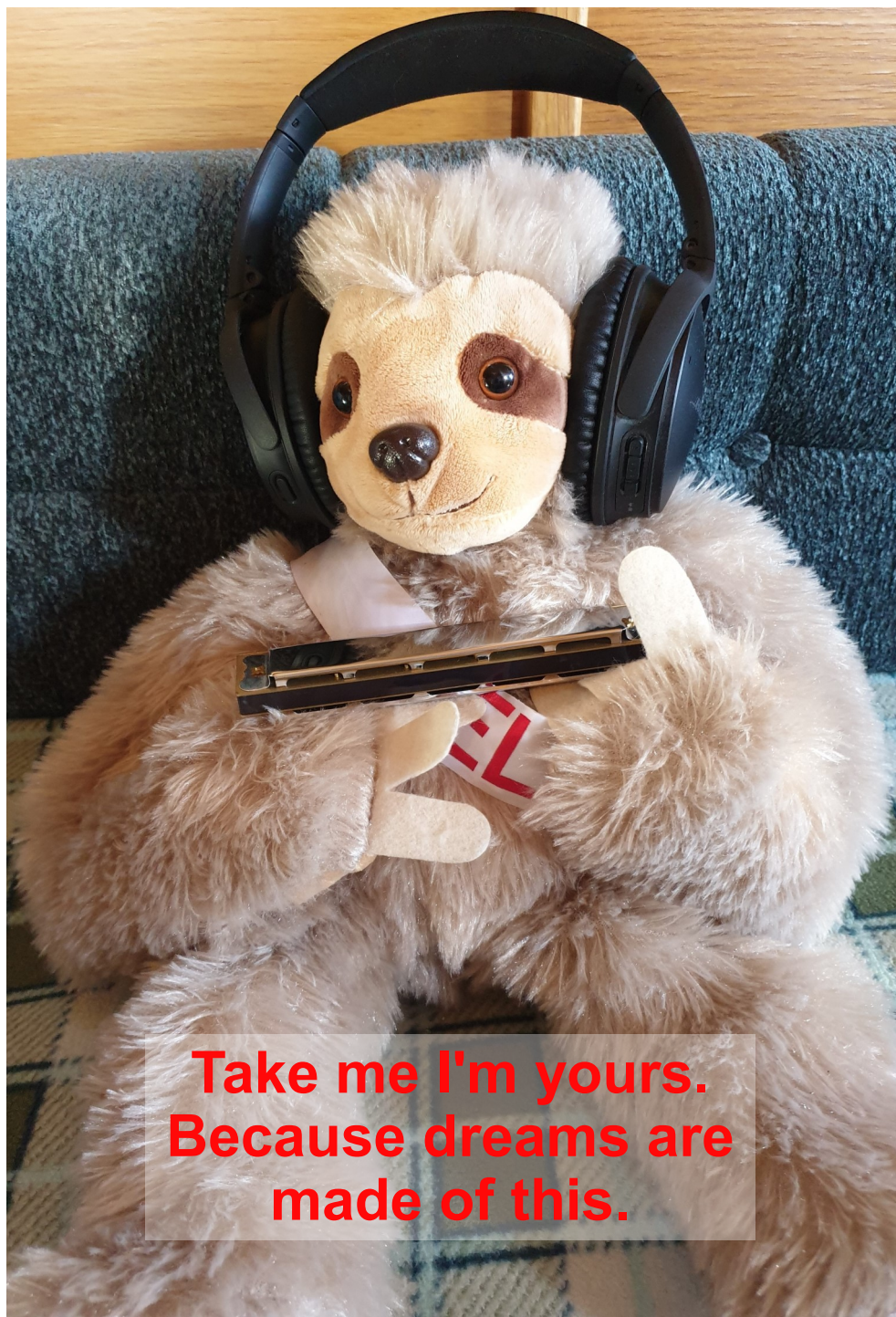
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