



PUNNET

SPRING 2026

The Magazine of Strawberry Island
Boat Club in Doncaster



In your Spring 2026 edition of Punnet

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Front cover - Jo Sharples' Rioja Award winning photograph of Houghton Mill on the River Great Ouse



EDITORIAL



Welcome to the Spring edition of Punnet

Hello All,

Well didn't we do well over the last few months with all our shenanigans at the Island. The Social team did us proud, the Wednesday Quiz team got resurrected and the meals on special days and Sundays (and other days too) have been spectacular.

Having just had a very successful Awards Evening you will be able to find out in this edition of Punnet which Members on our Island have been nominated for well-deserved mentions.

This is traditionally the time when we say thank you, as often after the AGM there are changes. Certainly you will find this in the Commodore's address and also in the Social and Maintenance reports.

My thank you goes out to my old faithfuls who send me their articles religiously for Punnet. Their funny boating stories and catastrophes, poetry, recipes and much more and to Agatha, who is the most amazing Agony Aunt with her sage advice. Not to forget John who proof reads each edition. Please keep sending the material in as it is you that makes this magazine. Why not be a new faithful and send something... Go on you know you can do it and become one of my new 'old faithfuls'. Email: punnet@sibc.club

My last thank you is to my 'Press Operator' Mick Hirst, as without him this simply would not exist. That he has to endure a grumpy wife whilst she is editing the content is bad enough but then what follows are many heated discussions about the layout and format. It is because of him and his patience that it gets published!

Happy safe boating to those who are out and about this year and if you are not, enjoy your Summer at Strawberry Island.

Donna Ward



Commodore's Column

Hello Everyone,

First of all, I'd like to thank all members for making 2025/2026 a successful and memorable season in the Strawberry Island calendar.

Some members will ask, what have the committee done this year? The social team have worked all year tirelessly to provide the members with entertainment food song and dance. A big thank you to Mandy, Lesley, Sheila and Shelley and all the helpers for their commitment they have shown to us the members and for all the hard work that they have put in this year. A special mention to Sara and Richard for the fantastic food they have also produced.

A thank you to the moorings team, led by Ken, for all the work they do making the moorings not only safe but tidy and up to date for all members.

Our facility maintenance team including the electrical specialists and general maintenance led by Malc and Ken. Also to those who keep our bellies full with tea, cake and great dinners so that these teams are all supported. All of this prepared by our very own galley team. All this to keep the Island clean and tidy and in top condition, something we've all grown to expect at Strawberry Island.

The committee are moving forward with a program of works which includes bridge repairs, water rescue safety ladders for easy exiting the water in case anyone were to fall in. We have up to date fire extinguishers, rescue throw lines, life rings, first aid kits, defibrillators ensuring that Health and safety issues are top of the agenda.

The IT department has updated our computer systems and are looking in to our CCTV, making upgrades as and when they are needed.

We now have a safeguarding team to deal with sensitive issues that need to be addressed and also two additional policies these being a Safeguarding Policy and Harassment and Bullying Policy.

A participation team look at what we as a club expect from members in terms of commitment. This is explained at interview before joining Strawberry Island. This past year four members lost their membership due to non-participation.

I would like to thank Hazel, Lesley, Mandy, Peter, Ken, Phil, Trevor, Carole, Sharron, Donna, Malc, Ken, Derek, John Clark, John Southcombe, Mick H, Keith, Colin, Steve, Paul, John R, Martyn, and John F for all their support and commitment this year.

Lastly, a special thank you to Don for being my first and probably biggest support after Lesley for the past 6 years.

Thank you all and best wishes for the boating season,

Chris Drayton

S P L

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Licence YOUR Boat through your 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

STRAWBERRY ISLAND BOAT CLUB

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www.sibc.club

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Committee Responsibilities

Chris Drayton	Commodore / Plant
Keith Brough	Estates / Grounds / Mowers / Pool table / Showers
Phil Jefferson	Estate Manager / Cruise Master
Lesley Drayton	Membership / Galley Compliance / Participation / Keys and Fobs
Ken Collier	Harbourmaster
Malcolm Dawson and Ken Shaw	Work Party Coordinators
John Southcombe	Maintenance / Awards / Health and Safety
Derek Wildsmith	Health and Safety
Paul Mellors	IT / GDPR
Carole Malpass	Administration / Club Compliance
John Clark	Fire Safety
Trevor Bailey	Bar Manager
Wayne Cramer	Assistant Bar Manager
Mandy Atkinson	Assistant to the Treasurer
Donna Ward	Punnet / AWCC / Safeguarding and Welfare
Sharron Lomas	Membership / Safeguarding and Welfare
Colin Whitworth	Assistant Harbourmaster
Don Musgrave and John Robinson	Slipway / Hardstanding

SOCIAL 2026



As I write my final report as Social Chair, it feels like the right moment to pause and reflect so before handing over to the new social team, let's take a look back at what has been a wonderfully busy festive season, followed by an equally enjoyable start to the new year here on the island.

Our festive calendar began with the Christmas Celebration and Singalong, a relaxed and cheerful evening debuting our very own Strawberry Jammers, who helped kick off the Christmas season in style.

The Christmas Party followed and once again proved to be one of the highlights of the season. Live music from Razor Holler kept the dance floor lively throughout the evening, while our very own DJ Johnny 2 Decks ensured the party atmosphere continued well into the night with a great mix of music.

Next came the ever-popular Christmas Lunch, which once again sold out quickly. Members enjoyed a delicious festive meal and got the chance to socialise with family and friends, a very enjoyable gathering in the countdown the Christmas.

The excitement continued with our Christmas Draw Night, always an eagerly anticipated evening in the club calendar. With some fantastic prizes on offer and appearance of Santa's sleigh and reindeers, members gathered to see if luck would be on their side. Many thanks to Ashley and Anne for selling all the tickets and helping make the evening run so smoothly.

We then rounded off the year in style with our New Year's Eve Party, welcoming 2026 with great music and great company. The rockabilly trio Tombstone Buzzards created a fantastic atmosphere and helped ensure a lively countdown to midnight and a memorable start to the new year.

The social calendar did not slow down once the decorations were packed away. Since the New Year we have already enjoyed several successful events. Race Night, always a popular fixture, once again

drew a great crowd and plenty of friendly competition. The 'What Fizzes Your Fancy' Sparkling Tasting Night proved to be a real hit, giving members the opportunity to sample a variety of sparkling wines paired with tasty nibbles in a relaxed and sociable setting. And of course Valentine's Night brought members together for an evening of great food, live entertainment and a wonderful atmosphere.

As I step down from the role of Social Chair, I would like to thank the social team for their continuing hard work and also everyone who has volunteered and supported the events over the 18 months and helped make them such a success. The Boat Club's social life thrives because of the enthusiasm and participation of its members, and it has been a real pleasure to be part of organising so many enjoyable occasions.

Looking ahead, I'm confident the new social team will bring fresh ideas, energy and plenty of exciting events to the calendar. I wish them every success and look forward to seeing the club continue to go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Mandy Atkinson

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Dates for your Diary

(All may be subject to additions or change)

Below is a list of events which are planned for the Spring and Summer of 2026. More dates will be added once plans are finalised. You can find out further details on the Members' Facebook group or by speaking to the Social team

2026	
28th March	Fitting Out Supper
3rd - 6th April	Easter Cruise
25th April	Ska and Reggae Band
9th May	Stroke Association Night
23rd - 25th May	Bank Holiday Cruise
6th June	Afternoon Tea
13th June	60th Birthday Party
20th June	Mediterranean Food
11th -13th September	Club Rally Weekend

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. Children's garments are cheaper. Please note I have to order no less than 6 garments at a time. As a consequence sometimes you may be waiting a while for your garments. Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any queries.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any queries. Please note that all prices are subject to change (March 2026 prices).

Sweats crew neck - unisex	£15.12
Sweats V neck - unisex	£15.24
Cardigans - unisex	£16.14
Hooded tops - unisex	£18.36
Zoodie full zip—unisex	£24.36
100% cotton V neck jumper - unisex	£24.60
Fleeces - unisex	£18.96
Mistral shower proof jackets - unisex	£31.56
Heavyweight Storm reversible jacket - unisex	£35.04
Polo shirts - unisex	£10.44
Polo shirts - ladies fit	£14.28
T Shirts	£ 7.32

Please note that ALL prices include VAT at 20%.

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

Island Maintenance



Talking Rubbish Again

The cost of waste disposal is going through the roof. We no longer have a permanent skip on site because it is too expensive as it costs the Club £260 just to get it emptied. If we keep one on site we also have to pay daily or weekly rental.

There is now a caged compound on the car park next to the allotments where items that are not easily disposed of can be put, once this is full we will hire a skip.

We CANNOT dispose of OLD TYRES or OIL. These must be taken away by members and disposed of properly.

The POO Bin is solely for disposal of ANIMAL WASTE. This is not for the disposal of ceramic plant pots which believe it or not we have found in this bin.

A carpet has also been dumped in the bins which again is not appropriate for the Club to be disposing of. We have a perfectly good tip which can be found at Armthorpe. This is only 3 miles from the Island and very easy to get to by car so if you cannot take your waste home, take it to the recycling centre there.

We have a scrap metal bay at the Island and this is useful to us as we can weigh the metal in. However, this becomes a difficult job as not just 100% metal has been placed here. Members have thrown in plastic chairs and paint rollers to name just a couple of items. Metal basically means just metal, not attached to anything else otherwise we are unable to weigh the item in.

It is really important to do our bit for recycling and as you all know rules are changing. A large bag of recyclables was removed from general waste recently and it does beg the question why? We have such a great set up at the Island for recycling and it does not take any extra time to separate your recyclables from your general waste. If

you are unsure what we recycle check on the list or speak to Malc Dawson.

Last thought...Strawberry Island Boat Club supplies bins for your refuse and from experience of visiting other boat clubs, not all do. Members are expected to take all their rubbish home.

So, let us use this facility properly as we are better than these clubs.

Malc Dawson and Ken Shaw

Type of Waste	Where to Stick It
Non-recyclable domestic waste that you generate whilst spending time on your boat	General Waste Bin
Cardboard (flatten), Paper, Tin Cans, Clean Aluminium Foil, Plastic Bottles, Recyclable Plastic Containers (clean)	Recycling Bin
Glass Bottles and Glass Jars	Bottle Bin
Large Items which are not recyclable	Skip Compound
Tree Branches	Compound
Tree Trunks	Compound
Engineered Wood	Compound
Metal including Empty paint tins	Behind Sanitary Station
Oil	Take Home or Dumpit Site
Paint and Blacking	Take Home
Tyres	Take Home or Dumpit Site
Clinical Waste	Take Home

If you're not sure what to do with your rubbish either take it home or ask Malc or Ken and they will tell you where to stick it! Alternatively, Armthorpe 'Dumpit' site is only three miles away and can be found at post code: DN2 5QB.

SIBC AWARDS

For all those who missed the Awards Night on 28th February 2026, what a brilliant night you missed. It was full of fun and laughter and all set to a 'space' theme. Many members dressed for the occasion in space themed fancy dress. Some were a little tenuous such as Duncan in his space hopper t-shirt and deely bopper headband but you have to love a tryer! The Award Team started the evening with a rendition of 'Star trekking across the universe' and then in they launched with the awards. These were as follows:

Jean Skelland Award for the lady in our midst who has demonstrated friendship and help.

There were many nominations for this award and in no particular order:

Angela Dawson, Anne Mitchie, Annette Wildsmith, Donna Ward, Fiona Cornell, Mandy Atkinson, Sara Richardson, Shelley Brough, Shirley Sefton, Sue Beevers and Sylvia Webb Murray

Winner: Sue Beevers



Phil Hancock Award for public spirit. For the man who has made the biggest contribution to the Island.

There were again many nominations and in no particular order:

Chris Drayton, John Lindsey, Mick Leonard, Mick McMurray, Mick Pattison and Mick Pearson

Winner: Mick McMurray



Commodore Hart Award for the couple greatly assisting SIBC. There were many couples nominated for this award and this was really great to see, they are as follows:

Alan and Carol Tharratt, Alan and Linda Neech, Brian and Jo Sharples, Chris and Ernie Painter, David and Claudia Jacklin, Frank and Sue Beevers, Ian and Allyson Marr,
John and Fiona Cornell, Mick Hirst and Donna Ward, Mick McMurray and Heather Benson,
Paul and Tracy Crompton, Richard and Hazel Owen, Richard Sims and Sara Richardson,
Simon and Anne Mitchie, Van Hinchliffe and Shirley Sefton



Winners: Sara Richardson and Richard Sims

Longest Tow Award for a helping hand by boat towing. Awarded to the boat giving the longest tow.
in conjunction with-

Frosty Cup given to the boat being towed the furthest.

Ally Marr presented this award and she said:
These two awards go stern to bow. 'The Longest Tow' is awarded to the boat doing the actual towing, whereas the 'Frosty Cup' is awarded to the boat being towed.

So for 'The Longest Tow' we have one nomination, Keith and Shelly Brough on Albion.
and for the "Frosty cup" we have their partners in dramas..... Brian on Betty

The story goes.....

Keith and Shelly were heading to Selby on Albion when between Bank Dole and Haddlesey they became stuck on a sandbank. Using every trick in the book, rocking_violently, chucking Keith's beer in the cut and Shelly's best 'rock chick' boots, the Albion remained perched on the sandbank for 3-4 hours. Shelly had lost the will and Keith was

fishing for cans of Carling, when suddenly a mirage of hope appeared on the horizon... Betty. Betty's crew, Brian and his granddaughter, duly came to the rescue and soon both craft were safely moored up at Haddlesey for the night.

Early next morning, Betty set off for Selby. The Albion crew needed a lie in after their traumatic afternoon and followed Betty several hours later.



On approaching the East Coast Mainline Railway Bridge, there sat Betty, still and stranded. So in the spirit of a true Strawberry Islander, Keith and Shelly roped up and for the second time in two days, Betty and Albion cruised along like old friends in need. Brian was towed into Selby and in the spirit of boaty folk, Keith also arranged to have Betty repaired. I call that Karma!

There was also a special mention given by Hazel for boaters who are not part of the Strawberry Island family. These being Stephen and Barbara on Paradigm Shift. They came to Richard and Hazel's rescue when their boat lost power half way through the Wash crossing. Rum 'a' Gin had to be towed all the way to Peterborough which was no mean feat.

White Heather Award for the longest inland cruise. For the furthest point reached or the longest route taken.

This was presented by Hazel Owen and all lock mileage was placed into sealed envelopes to open that very evening. No one knew who the winners were until the envelopes were opened.

There were three nominations:

Ally and Ian Marr (Purple Emperor), Jo and Brian Sharples (Thatsit), Hazel and Richard Owen (Rum 'a' Gin)

Winner: Jo and Brian Sharples (Thatsit)

If you would like to see Jo and Brian's adventures on Thatsit their eBook has been uploaded to the SIBC website. Open the pull down menu, click on boating and scroll down.

Brightside Trophy for boating mishaps. When the unexpected happens but you can laugh about it afterwards.

There were four nominations for this award:

Dave Gray, Hazel and Richard Owen, John and Judy Southcombe, Hazel Owen.

Ian Marr was responsible for telling their tales of woe and here is his view of the situations.

The first of just four nominations this year is David Gray. Dave cruised the Chesterfield with The Bowleys and the Southcombes. As per normal, it was shallow and Dave spent more time down the weed hatch than Bill and Ben. "Carry on, I'll catch you up," became his catchphrase. Having caught up with the moored boats he decided to check his engine bay. He came back up limping and looking sorry for himself. "I think I've burnt my calf".

The gathered masses huddle around. What a mess, It looked like an overcooked family sized jam tart on the back of his leg. Pam and Judy wrapped him in clingfilm, which I understand he enjoyed. With pain hitting in he was prescribed pain killers in the shape of a can...Two cans eight times a day.

Upon return to SIBC, the doctor confirmed a 3rd degree burn and dressings for a couple of weeks.

My second tale is from the same trip. This time I can highlight the seamanship of one John Southcombe. In his defence this was his first entry to West Stockwith Lock from the Trent.

The lock was busy on arrival and treading water was needed until it was made ready. At this moment, the wind picked up pushed Candolim flat against the outside wall. John tried to get it off the wall, but changed his approach to one of full throttle. With Judy at the bow and the lock keeper shouting "SLOW DOWN", there was an almighty thud and a large splash as a huge chunk of concrete from the wall fell in the water. With a line passed to the locky and a more sedate lock entry, Judy went back to check on John, passing through the boat. Had someone thrown a hand grenade? The TV and everything from the bookshelf was on the floor, all kitchen cupboards open with tins, plates, cups and cleaning products on the galley floor.

Once safely moored, John checked the engine bay. The battery cables had been pulled off. And the bow? Well let's just say it now

resembles Joe Bugner's nose.

The third is Richard and Hazel Owen, whose breakdown at sea resulted in a three week enforced stay at the high class Peterborough Embankment moorings. Having got to love the local boaters and resisted the temptation to buy a range 'yet to be stolen' goods from them, they eventually escaped. Don't mention Peterborough to Richard, it will set off his Chief Inspector Dreyfus blinking.

Our final nomination is to Hazel Owen. Hazel's hospitality extended to supplying bacon or sausage butties which in itself is a fairly ordinary, mundane but essential task, but on this occasion the butties were provided - Whilst cruising at sea, from the swan hatch, one at a time, to 13 boats. After ordering on the 'App', boats were invited to queue up for the 'sail through' service. Ian then played a video to show the audience what this entailed.

He finished his speech with: After more recounts than a Trump election and having to rely on our esteemed Chairman's casting vote, I can confirm Hazel Owen is an admirable winner and I would like to present her with the Brightside trophy.

Winner: Hazel & Richard Owen

Tetley Trophy in recognition of a special act or event by a group or single member. It is allocated by the Awards Committee.

It was fabulous to see so many groups nominated for this award. These were as follows:

Rally Team, Moorings Team, Wednesday Work Party and Galley Team, Slipway Team.



John Southcombe also wanted the Bar Cover Team recognising for all their hard work in keeping the bar open in what had been very difficult circumstances and keeping all members watered. He said that this was, "Truly appreciated".

Winner: Rally Team

Gutteridge Award for the best ship's log.

We have seen some fabulous ship's logs over the years and in many different formats. I take my hat off to anybody who after a hard day of cranking paddle gear is still able to find the inspiration and energy to write a log. You all need a medal!

This was the speech for this award; it tickled me as the alien that was reading it was very enthusiastic. I suppose you had to be there so I am just going to let you read yourself...

Greetings Earthlings, from the far side of the Milky Way. I have travelled many millions of light years, a significant journey, to be here to present the Gutteridge Award. This is to recognise the best log of an equally significant journey by Members.

Two logs have been submitted, both covering much the same journey; the Fund Britain's Waterways Cruise to the Houses of Parliament on the Thames followed by the sea crossing of The Wash and the long route back across the Fens before making it back to the Trent and home.

Both logs have tackled the subject in different ways but both made for fascinating reading.

They covered around 1300 miles of water, almost 500 locks, 85 aqueducts and 40 moveable bridges and represent some 106 days on the move. This is an astonishing feat of endurance and courage. They are in effect a guide book for anybody thinking of doing this journey. They are full of detail about everything that matters, such as moorings, places to eat and drink, difficult locks and entrances. There



are many funny and happy incidents, fallings-in of humans and dogs, meeting SIBC friends by chance on far-flung canals, and one piece of cool being displayed by Ian Marr. The night before The Wash crossing, when any sensible person might be rooted on the Elsan, he was casually installing a new fridge. Of course, there were difficult times; illnesses, breakdowns (I emphasise **mechanical**, although **nervous** would have been quite understandable) and serious bouts of stress caused by announcements of the imminent closure of waterways through lack of...water. Threats like in the Wild West; You've got two days to get out. So full speed ahead for hours.

As if all this was not enough stress, both logs record the quest for the Silver Propeller Awards. This is a challenge by the Inland Waterways Association to visit out of the way and threatened waterways to the ending of the cut. Not easy, at all because they are miles long, invariably weeded-up, shallow, overgrown, no winding holes and just, well, difficult. The weed is thick enough to confuse a dog to mistake it for a lovely lawn and jump down onto it. Of course, being gluttons for punishment, they did several of these Silver Propeller explorations.



So, on to the announcement of the winners and the presentation of the Award. I wish we could split the award, but sadly we can't.

Nominations this year were: Brian and Jo Sharples, Ian and Allyson Marr

Winners: Brian and Jo Sharples

Klinkenberg Trophy for the best maintained mooring.

I personally love this award especially as it rewards those members who really take a pride in their mooring. Moorings on the Island are different shapes and sizes and this makes for interesting areas which reflect the owners character, ingenuity and creativity. The nominations this year were:

Fiona and John Cornell - for a very colourful garden, it is a pleasure to look at when sailing by. Absolutely beautiful and a testament to the hard work and thought gone in to the area.



Steve and Barbara Marshall - for a total transformation, with new decking, steps reinstated and a lovely nautical themed picket fence.

Mandy Atkinson - has converted a small area from virtually nothing. It now has lights and plants and looks great.

Van and Shirley - have transformed their small mooring with lovely seating and a mosaic.

Winners: Steve and Barbara Marshall

Danum Salver for the most promising new member(s), awarded by the Commodore.

With so many new members this year and all being very dedicated to Strawberry Island, Chris found this a difficult decision to make. Nominations were as follows:

Amanda and Michael Jones, Ian and Val Ashworth, Jessica and Ian Davidson, Liza and Paul Allen, Mick and Tracey Leonard, Sarah and Derek Hughes, Steve and Joanne Loy.



Before presenting the award Chris presented all nominees with their own paper cup, he said, "At great expense, as I feel that you are all winners". I am sure everyone will treasure these Chris! There were two winners for this award as it was very difficult to decide who should win it over all.

Winners: Mick and Tracey Leonard, Steve and Joanne Loy

The Bracken Award for contribution to the Club by an Associate Member.

There were two nominations for this award:

Paul and Tracy Parker, Phil and Sue Eshelby

Winners: Phil and Sue Eshelby

Frank Beevers presented this award and this is what he had to say about Phil and Sue.

Sue and Phil Eshelby, have been on the Island for longer than anyone here has been a Full Member. They were here when the Club was founded as they were already working regularly on Sue's fathers allotment. That's over sixty years ago. They have witnessed many ups and downs yet have been solid and faithful attenders all that time. They knew the first Commodores, they knew the state of the Island when the Club started to establish itself. They were here when the old Clubhouse burned down and the



present building replaced it, and all that time they have kept up steady and quiet support. They attend regularly all Club events, dinners, and so on. Sue is a stalwart member of the Saturday Knit and Natter Club while Phil has regularly run stalls at the Rally and Macmillan coffee morning in support of this charity. He is an experienced wood-turner and his stall with its lathe allows people to have a go at this skill. He has already booked his stall for this year's events. Phil is also a valued member of the newly formed Beginners music group that meets on Sunday mornings, although he is far from being a beginner. He knows his music and is good with the ukulele. He is especially appreciated for the help he gives to the true beginners. To conclude, it's fair to say that over the years the Club has been through all sorts of ups and downs, yet Sue and Phil have always been there to support.

Myra Shay Award for the most meritorious voyage, given for an adventurous cruise from SIBC.

There were two nominations in this category:

Van Hinchcliffe and Shirley Sefton (September Sapphire) also Richard and Hazel Owen (Rum A Gin)

Ally Marr explained why these had been chosen. She said that both crews departed Strawberry Island on 30th March 2025, travelled to London as part of the FBW campaign cruise and then over several months navigated the network to eventually head north to Boston to join the brave crews for the wash crossing in June. However, one crew navigated the wash twice!

When Van and Shirley initially crossed the wash, their onward journey took them into the Fens. Unfortunately, they were unable to continue their planned route due to low water levels and maintenance issues and with time running out they took the decision to return back across the wash alone, with just a Pilate for guidance. Many boaters have never and will never cross the wash, but to do so twice, and one of those journeys alone, is quite something.

Ally also wished to mention that September Sapphire is actually a Tardis. If you happen to need a Vetus oil filter or a lemon squeezer .. Van is your man!

Ally followed this by saying that it was no surprise to announce that Van and Shirley were the worthy winners of the Myra Shay award.



Winners: Van Hinchcliffe and Shirley Sefton

Rioja Photography Award chosen by an independent judge.

I think this year our independent judge must have had a pretty tough time choosing a winning photograph. The nominations this year were:

Brian Sharples, Chris Drayton, Ian Marr, Jo Sharples, Judy Southcombe, Tracey Crompton

As you can see there was an opportunity for a bit of family rivalry, especially as the worthy winner was...



Winner: Jo Sharples

Jo's photo graces the front cover of this edition of Punnet

FBW Cruise and Crossing the Wash a special presentation.

These very worthy awards were presented by Hazel Owen. she said that the plaques were very special as it was unlikely that they would ever be repeated. They were for those boats who journeyed down to London (on the campaign cruise) to the Palace of Westminster and then came back North to Boston. These vessels were then joined by other boats from SIBC for the Wash crossing.

Two special guests were also welcomed and these were Ken and Stephen who joined the flotilla; they also received plaques in recognition of their commitment to the FBW cruise.

The following crews and boats completed the London and Wash crossing:

Brian and Jo on Thatsit
Claudia and David on Tonka II
Hazel and Richard on Rum'a'Gin
Ian and Ally on Purple Emperor
Linda and Alan on Aladdin
Van and Shirley on September Sapphire
Ken on Lady Kathleen
Stephen and Barbara on Paradigm Shift

Boats from SIBC who joined the flotilla at Boston for the Wash Crossing:

Mick and Donna on ArMutch

Mick and Pam with guests John and Judy on Drunken Duck

Duncan and Ellen on Ramble Gamble

Outstanding Achievement award for outstanding achievement and commitment to Strawberry Island, chosen by the Awards Committee.

John had the honour of presenting this award and explained that the Member who had been nominated joined SIBC in 2003 and therefore been a member for 23 years. He was always a polite, helpful member and nothing was ever too much trouble for him.

He was a very active member as he attended work parties and was also heavily involved with the moorings upgrade.

Our nominee had served on the committee and was now a trustee. He also held the trusted position as a member of the Safeguarding Team. He had proved time and time again that he always had the club at heart.



The audience was asked whether they had guessed who it was. This was not difficult as most had realised very early on that John was describing Martyn Walsham. Well done Martyn this award was very well deserved.

So to put the finishing touches to this very long report, I have to say that the fancy dress competition was won by a very convincing Alien... Ally Marr.

And that this was a fantastic awards evening and I am sure that everyone involved enjoyed the event immensely. Remember this cannot happen unless you put your nominations forward and now is the time to start. Before we know it the 2027 awards will be upon us.

The final praise, huge clap and big thank you goes to the Awards Team for doing such a great job!

First Aid At Strawberry Island

This article is by way of being a refresher for those who did the Emergency First Aid at Work course on 14th February, just in case you've forgotten everything already.

It's always handy to know a bit about first aid before you actually need to do any. I'm always amused by the instructions contained in most first aid kits in a two point font, as if anyone has the time to read them while your casualty is bleeding to death.

The first thing you have to remember about first aid is that you need permission from your casualty if you don't want to be charged with assault. It's a good idea to tell your victim that you're a competent first aider, in the hope that this will reassure him or her and they won't notice you trying to read the tiny instructions in the first aid kit.

We'll skip the boring bit about the H&S legislation and get straight on to the stuff about the potentially dead casualty who's not breathing. If you remember, there's absolutely nothing at all worse than not breathing, except for running out of blood, but we'll remember that bit later on. You all practised doing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation on Laerdal mannequins. The most interesting thing about these things, apart from the fact that they make a satisfying click when you push hard enough, is that the face is based on the death mask of a woman drowned in the river Seine around about 150 years ago. Apparently Mr Laerdal used a female model as he thought male trainees would be reluctant to kiss a man's face.

I think everyone would agree that CPR is hard work. As a part of some Swiftwater rescue training, I once had to swim twice across a river, through rapids, then climb a cliff to a ledge, then straight away do CPR on a mannequin. The instructor criticised me for not giving effective breaths. I had none left to give.

When someone goes into cardiac arrest, speed is vital. The chances of the patient surviving decreases 10% for every minute that goes by without good quality CPR and defibrillation. It was real fun for me watching the whole gang rushing about acting out the scenario, doing CPR, shouting for help, getting the defibs, and the pads on the patient, giving rescue breaths and so on. The best bit though was the defib trainer that Duncan and Ellen were using had

a malfunction so Duncan also had to pretend to be the defib, though he didn't get the voice quite right.

Choking can be quite serious, even fatal and the treatment always starts with backslaps which do need to be delivered forcefully. I noticed Amanda, Ellen and Linda practising on their partners, appeared to take more pleasure than strictly necessary in following instructions.

I mentioned loss of blood earlier, a serious or catastrophic bleed always trumps not breathing. Starting with about a gallon of blood, a severed artery can empty your body past survivable limits within three minutes. Your heart has a lot of work to do pumping blood around your body via your lungs. Do you remember how many



miles of blood vessels there are in your body? If you've forgotten, the answer is somewhere else in this magazine. A tourniquet is the go to bit of kit for a catastrophic bleed, excruciatingly painful, but it does the job. If the bleed is in the torso somewhere then the thing to do is stuff it with a haemostatic dressing, just keep ramming in a few yards of bandage impregnated with a clotting agent such as chitosan which is made from ground up crabs.

All ordinary bleeds are treated by applying pressure and ten minutes should do the trick, unless you are on blood thinners, then your guess is as good as mine. Your little blood platelets should be sticking together by then and you can apply a suitable dressing to mop up any blood and prevent infection. Apparently, infections from cuts and scratches are the second most common cause of death among indigenous jungle tribes so it's always worth bearing this in mind, especially if the satnav has made a minor route alteration and dumped you in a jungle instead of Milton Keynes.

You will remember that shock is very serious and can be a killer. Not the sort of shock you'd get from hearing England had won the

Eurovision song contest or the World Cup, but the shock to your system caused by a fall in blood volume. Fainting is a bit similar but is self-correcting in that the patient recovers once horizontal. For both shock and fainting raising the legs helps keep the blood where it's most needed.

First aid kits should have enough stuff in them to treat most injuries you are likely to come across. Most commercial first aid kits have lots of safety pins, I think these are to fasten the clothing back together after you've been a bit too enthusiastic with the tough cut scissors from the kit. The photo of the casualties should give an idea of the possible injuries you may have to deal with. Mick Pattison complained that the dressing was on the wrong eye.

Alan Tharratt

Congratulations to: Duncan, Ellen, Amanda, Michael, Mick P, Mick H, Linda N, Alan N, and Donna who all passed their First Aid course.

A huge thank you to Carole and Alan Tharratt who delivered a very informative, fun and enjoyable course. If you would like to learn more about first aid I would recommend that you join one of their courses in the future.

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The Boater's Kitchen



The aim of the Boater's Kitchen is to provide you with tasty food which can be easily made on your boat. This one I found whilst leafing through my own collection of recipes. It benefits from being left to marinate for a night in the fridge so you can prepare it the day before you want to use it.

Chicken Coriander

Ingredients:

500g skinned boned chicken breast
2 teaspoons coriander seed
½ teaspoon ground ginger (or fresh if you prefer)
2 garlic cloves
2 tablespoons tomato puree
Juice of 1 lemon
3 tablespoons oil
1 small head of celery sliced finely
150ml single cream
100g cashew nuts
Salt and black pepper

Method:

1. Cut the chicken into fairly thin slices.
2. Grind the coriander seeds in a pestle and mortar and peel and finely chop the garlic. Place in a mixing bowl.
3. Into the mixing bowl add tomato puree, lemon juice and 2 tablespoons of oil. Season with salt and pepper and stir.
4. Add the chicken and celery to the bowl, stir, cover and leave to marinate in the Fridge (preferably overnight).
5. Remove from the fridge and transfer to a casserole dish and allow to come to room temperature (about 30 minutes). Preheat your oven to gas mark 4/180°C/160°C fan.
6. Cover and cook in the centre of the oven for 50-60 minutes.
7. Stir in the cream and return to the over for 5-10 minutes.
8. Finally toast the cashew nuts or fry in the oil that is left until they are just golden. Scatter on top of the chicken before serving.

This tasty dish can be served with rice, new potatoes, a green salad or in my husband's case... Chips!

Poetry Corner

I've been poetrying again today. Here's my latest haiku offering, it's about the sacrifices of boater life:

Tiny fridge again
Dreams of frozen pizza die
Milk claims all the space

Showers are a myth
Calorifier says 'no'
Cold builds character

Water, gas, coal, wood
Military scale planning
No easy plumbed life

Every object weighed
Earns its right to stay aboard
Wardrobe shrinks in size

Laundry once a week
Two shirts, one towel, rancid socks
Marina judges

Land friends say "just drive"
Check Pearson, nearest station
Three knots is plenty

Nothing is level
Coffee seeks adventure first
Lap learns the lesson

Privacy is slight
Living museum on view
Ducks know all my plans

Worth it every time
Golden sunsets, scenery
Floating house is home

Duncan Wright

Haikus originated in Japan and when written in English contain a total of 17 syllables shared between three lines that are typically arranged in a pattern of 5-7-5.



Ask Agatha

Our Resident Agony Aunt - Always there to help with your boating conundrums and worries.



Dear Aggie,

Can I call you that? I've got to admit to being a bit breathless with the speed I felt I needed to write in response to that rather dishy sounding bloke, Reg, who wrote to you in the last edition of the Punnet. I'm a regular follower of your page and up until now I've not really felt brave enough to ask for help myself, but after reading the letter from Reg, I've got to say it's left me all of a quiver. He really does sound like quite a catch if I'm honest.

I'm actually quite what you might call a swanky upmarket type of lady, but I've got to admit that Reg does sound like ... well dare I say a 'tasty bit of rough'! A bit about myself anyway, I'm actually terribly posh, I've been told my laugh is rather engaging ... I think Black Beauty was once mentioned... I've no idea what they meant. Anyway, Daddy always told me it was a beautiful sound, a bit like breaking glass, I think he meant the way a chandelier tinkles in the wind. Sorry I digress, the thing is since reading the rather interesting letter from Reg it's got me hoping that at this boat club you often recommend, as well as the swanky upmarket blazer-wearing gents that usually frequent these places, there may also be a few of the more disreputable types, you know the ones with oily hands who think nothing of wiping their hands on their boiler suits in a rather racy manner!

Blimey I'm perspiring just thinking about it! Could you advise what I should do? Especially, if Reg is off the market now (which I can fully imagine he is with him being such a catch). How might I go about getting an invite to this boat club? And more to the point, how could I arrange to bump into a Carling swilling dreamboat when I get there?

Yours in anticipation,

The Right Honourable Philippa Bouquet

Dear Miss Bouquet

At last, some correspondence from a lady of quality! Of course I have always aspired to be a counsellor to the gentry. I even dream of a Royal Warrant as I'm sure I could help a certain someone with his black sheep brother, not to mention his wayward son. Sadly, all too often my letters come from the great unwashed who can barely string a coherent sentence together.

Speaking of riffraff, you mention my previous correspondent, Reg. Funnily enough I have just received a very unpleasant email from him. As you know, I advised him to raise his sights, smarten himself up and apply to a reputable boat club. Unfortunately, he tells me he failed his interview after he made a most improper suggestion to their Membership Secretary. Not only that, he has been blacklisted by every boat club in the area.

It is quite natural to admire a lusty young chap who is physically built for manual work. I, too, get quite a thrill when I see my dear hubby taking out the bins or cleaning the budgie's cage. I calm myself down with a cold shower and several episodes of Emmerdale. I wonder if perhaps you see yourself as Lady Chatterley and Reg as the gamekeeper? Believe me, such liaisons never end well. Eventually his sheer vulgarity and the strong aroma of Marmite will repel you.

I urge you to follow the same advice that I gave to Reg. Join an upmarket boat club where you will meet some real gentlemen. You will have no problem passing the interview as you are bound to impress those blazer-wearing toffs. Why not volunteer to serve tea and biccies on work party days and you will surely find someone with both manners AND muscles!

Good Luck,

Agatha

By the way, Agatha also knows that there's roughly 60,000 miles of blood vessels in the human body.

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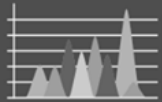
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The risks on the island are compounded by us being surrounded by water which additionally poses a real risk of drowning.

Recent observations have highlighted trip hazards, particularly on our shared mooring routes, for example along the outside loop. Some hazards include:

Hose pipes left out and running across the walkway.
Electrical cables again running across the walkway.

Can we ask members to review how their cables and hoses are routed.

The risk can easily be negated by routing the cables under the walkway rather than on the top for all permanent fixtures and putting hoses away after use.

Thank you for your understanding.

Advance Notice of Bridge Closure

The bridge will be closed for major works from Saturday 9th May 2026 through to and including Sunday 17th May 2026.

Please be aware that you will not be able to take vehicles to your boat at this time and will need to park by the Clubhouse. Cars already parked at moorings beyond the bridge, unless moved, will be unable to leave the Island at this time.

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WORK PARTY WONDERINGS

I caught up with Ken and Malc recently and they were telling me about all the work that has been completed on the Island. Ken and Malc are responsible for the Wednesday and Saturday work parties and have been doing this longer than they can remember. Here is what they had to say as this year's Winter works comes to an end:

We're REALLY fortunate as most of the maintenance has been done and we don't have a lot to do now. There's still little bits obviously, but it's nice to know that we haven't got a list as long as our arm this year. We enjoy doing the work parties as it's a good laugh. Anybody can join in and the bonus is that we always get well fed by the Galley Team.

So what have you done this year that you want everybody to know about?

This year has all been about general maintenance and it ranges from chopping wood up, putting up fences, clearing areas, looking after buildings, looking after the compound and other general maintenance. We don't have the glory like the jetty



guys, but it's all jobs that have to be done to keep the Island neat and tidy. We work alongside teams and normally clear up behind them. Our aim is to keep the Island looking great and this is really a question of just improving here and there and generally keeping things working.

Have your team been involved with the tree pruning?

This has been major works. We have worked alongside the Moorings Team. They have been responsible for taking the trees down because generally their team is a little bit younger than ours! Our team has cleared up behind them by getting rid of all the wood that they weren't using for reinforcing the bank. This meant that they were able to press on with the cutting of the trees. It's really great that we've got teams that are working together.

Malc has taken some before and after photos to show what improvements have been made he says:

Take a look at the photos to see the before and after effects of the teams working together and the improvements that Members have made. Some of these photos show what has been achieved by the mooring holder, and they look absolutely great so it shows that you don't have to be part of a team to do your bit. In this case they have put up some decorative fencing and it looks absolutely brilliant, but that's not us, that's the mooring holder.

There are a lot of things you can see in these photos, but there's a lot of work that can't be seen. For instance the Electrical Team as much of their work is buried and the Moorings Team as if their work does not impact on you personally you would not know that this is going on so there's a lot of hidden work that you probably don't know about.



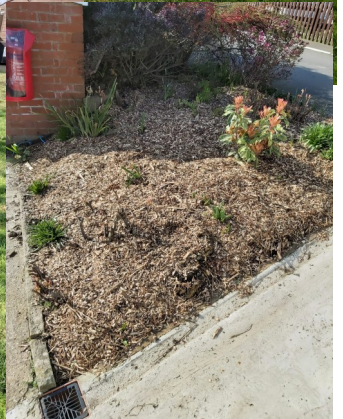
Looking to the future Malc and Ken have said that:

We've got a couple of little jobs to do and we might just ask for half a dozen members to help us with these in the coming months and this will involve lifting and clearing of the compound. Keep an eye on the Facebook page as this is where we will be asking for that help on an ad hoc basis.

Thank you to all that have worked the Winter period on the Wednesday and Saturday work parties and also to the other teams that have supported us. Remember that if you do see something that needs attention over the Summer it is fine to get on with it. If you feel that it is too large a job for one then contact us via Facebook and we will be happy to help and assess the work that needs doing.

Thank you all again,

Ken Shaw and Malcolm Dawson



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