



**WINTER
2023**

PUNNET

The magazine of
Strawberry Island
Boat Club in
Doncaster



In your Winter 2023 edition of Punnet

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the Winter edition of Punnet

Thank you to everyone who visited me at the Punnet table during the Rally. It was great to see so many of you and how enthusiastic you were to get involved. This has made my job in compiling Winter Punnet much easier as I have had much more material to play with. If your article does not appear in this edition, then I have saved it for Spring.

Pam Bowley has officially joined the Punnet team and has done a sterling job in getting you all to put your hands in your pockets and donate a pound (or three or four in some cases) for a Christmas message. The total raised from greetings this year is £61 and will be distributed between Yorkshire Air Ambulance, RNLI and Macmillan.

In this special edition you will find a Christmas Quiz put together by Sue and Frank Beevers so try your hand at this (answers provided) but no prizes!

Also, an historic boat with a difference, the Marjorie R, which has had an interesting life.

I hope to see you all as the Christmas festivities begin, and as usual I will be donning my elf outfit to help Santa out. I hope you have the most fantastic Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

So all that remains is for me to make my usual plea. I am now looking for material to go in the Spring edition as I am already putting this together. Please send to punnet@sibc.club or post in Punnet box. Alternatively, hand it to Santa's elf.

See you all soon,

Donna Ward

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	£17.25
100% cotton V neck jumper - unisex	£19.20
Fleeces - unisex	£17.15
Reversible shower proof jackets - unisex	£23.85
Heavyweight Storm reversible jacket - unisex	£31.40
Polo shirts - unisex	£11.50
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 Column

Commodore's Report Winter 2023

Hi Folks,

I hope that you have all had a great summer whatever you have done. If you are lucky enough to have gone off boating for the summer, I hope you have not been held up by the many stoppages that have dogged the system. If you have stayed closer to home hopefully you have managed to get out cruising as often as possible and had time to join in the many social activities organised at SIBC.

I've got a couple of items to bring to your attention:

Vandalism in the toilets! The ladies' loos have suffered an excess use of paper which on several occasions has blocked the drains. Not a nice job to have to unblock. In the gents we had a broken tap and basin. I know accidents happen, but we don't need vandalism!

Following the rally, we had a complaint from a member regarding another member shouting at a visitor about cleaning up after their dog. Please remember that even if things are said as a joke they may not always be taken as such. Think before shouting and respect the feelings of other members and visitors.

Update on Allotments – from SIBC perspective, we have agreed to the parking over the bridge and we are waiting for CRT to sort out that side of the lease. We are also getting the changes to our Trustees sorted, no mean task as unfortunately some are no longer with us.

A couple of the items that were raised at the Open Forum:

- a) Pictures etc. to go on walls, photocopies have been in the club on a couple of occasions for members to say Yes/No to them on

the walls. We'll now get these down so that members can have a closer look before the final decision is made.

- b) Can members please slow down when driving around the island. Several of you are going too fast! Remember we have children and escapee dogs that might not be thinking of cars as they run out of the mooring.
- c) Roles on the committee, a good point was raised as to what job you might be allocated if you are on the committee. And new members may not realise that everyone on the committee is allocated a job to do. We'll address this by putting together a brief job description of all the roles.

Members did an excellent job of the summer social events and we're now into the winter social events with a great "Laying Up Supper" there's lots going on especially during December and the Social team will need members to help. Please support the events and if you want to get involved contact one of the social team.

And finally, Richard and I wish all members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Let's hope for a good boating season for 2024.

Fazel

Harbourmaster Matters

To ensure that we keep our records up to date can 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 or by phone on 0792 9204811

Thank you,

Richard Owen
Harbourmaster

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Hazel Owen	Sub Committees, Cruises, AWCC
Chris Drayton	Plant & Estates
Steve Marshall	Bar Manager
Richard Owen	Harbour Master
Lesley Drayton	Fobs, Keys and Electric Cards
Barbara Marshall	Social Activities
John Clark	Fire Safety
Anne Clarke	Participation
Brian Clarke	GDPR, IT, Electrical
Ken Collier	Moorings
Malcolm Dawson	Wed / Sat Work Parties
Mick Hirst	Website
Phil Jefferson	Estates
Anne Mitchie	Galley
Don Musgrave	Slipway, Hardstanding, Hoist
Ken Shaw	Wed / Sat Work Parties, Sheds, Tents
John Southcombe	Awards, Lawnmowers, Pool Table, Showers
Donna Ward	Punnet
Derek Wildsmith	Health and Safety
John Robinson	Slipway

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PUNNET TEAM

DONNA WARD & MICK HIRST

Official photographer Pam Bowley

CONTACT US AT

punnet@sibc.club

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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

Christmas Quiz – The Questions

- Q1** Which well-known children's novel is set in a land where it is "always winter but never Christmas?"
- Q2** Which film was the first to feature the song White Christmas?
- Q3** The BBC play a censored version of which 1987 Christmas hit?
- Q4** In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' how many birds were given in total by the end of day twelve?
- Q5** What is the name of the ballet that takes place at Christmas?
- Q6** In Japan, which fast food is a popular Christmas dinner?
- Q7** Which Christmas song was the first song to be played in space?
- Q8** If you were born on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?
- Q9** Which famous TV family has a dog called Santa's Little Helper?
- Q10** In 1847 a baker called Tom Smith invented an item which is often found on the table at Christmas dinner, but what is it?
- Q11** Who wrote the children's books 'The Snowman' and 'Father Christmas'?
- Q12** Christmas Island is an overseas territory of which country?
- Q13** Which YouTuber and musician seems obsessed with sausage rolls at Christmas?
- Q14** Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen, but who was Stephen and when was his Feast?
- Q15** Which recording, re-released in 2009, successfully prevented a single from the television show X Factor becoming the Christmas number 1 for the 5th time?
- Q16** Who was the 3rd ghost to visit Scrooge in A Christmas Carol?
- Q17** Which 2 of Santa's reindeer have names which could mean stormy weather?
- Q18** What date is Twelfth Night when all Christmas decorations should be taken down?
- Q19** The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is sent as a gift from which country?
- Q20** Donald Trump has a cameo role in which film set at Christmas?

SIBC Awards

It's not long now until the Awards season begins, leading up to the Awards Night in February, so I thought I'd talk a little bit about the actual awards themselves and where they came from, as on the whole, they've all been given by friends and family to commemorate past members.

I will talk first about the current awards that we give out and give a little bit of background on each one.

The **Jean Skelland Award** is given to the female personality of the current year. Stan and his wife Jean were always involved in activities at SIBC, both in Committee and social matters. Sadly, Jean developed a serious illness and for a considerable time she was confined to a wheelchair, before she tragically died and the club lost the most friendly and pleasant lady. Her husband Stan presented the Club with the Jean Skelland Award so that we could all go on to remember such a lovely lady.

The **Phil Hancock Award** for public spirit is given to the male personality of the current year. Phil Hancock was a young and energetic member who took part in the early opening of the Island, cutting down a lot of the overgrown vegetation and so helping to bring the Island to what we know today. Phil was a bachelor who died very unexpectedly at the tender age of 25 and to remember him, his mother gave the Rose Bowl to preserve his memory and everything that he brought to the Club.

The **Commodore Hart Award** was presented by Derek Hart. During his years as Commodore both he and his wife June saw the value of joint involvement by both partners, not only in contributing to boating activities at the Island, but also in participating and encouraging joint cruises, taking on administrative jobs, organising social activities, galley and clubhouse duties and many of the other tasks that are required to make the Club such an enjoyable place.

The **Longest Tow Award** speaks for itself and is given to the member who tows another member the longest distance, usually after a breakdown or some other such reason.

The **Frosty Cup** is currently given to the member who has been towed the furthest, in conjunction with the longest tow. Originally the Frosty Cup was given to the most active small boat up to 35 foot. This award was donated by Doug and Meriel Dalton. This couple had a small wooden boat that became famous for Doug's trip to York. On

one memorable return journey he missed penning in at Selby, then missed Goole and ended up on the Humber being rescued by Humber Rescue and having to be towed to South Ferriby.

The **Brightside Award** was given by Bill Peace. It is an award for when those unexpected but rather funny things happen, like when you've just painted your boat, you step back to have a look and splash, you're in!

The **White Heather Award** is currently given for the longest inland cruise for the furthest point reached and the longest route taken. This award was presented by Charlie Wagstaff, the founder member of SYBC (Heck) and later SIBC. Charlie cruised extensively, although crippled with arthritis, and always accompanied by his lady friend Alice. When advancing years and arthritis ended his cruising days, he very magnanimously passed over the keys of White Heather to Ron and Margaret Parker, who had always shown him many kindnesses.

The **Gutteridge Award** is for the best ship's log, David and May Gutteridge presented, this award after many happy years of cruising. Being members of SIBC, they were very keen on keeping accurate ship's logs of their cruises. Sadly, May's eyesight worsened, and they had to cease cruising. It is now given to the members who provide the best ship's log of their cruises.

The **Bracken Award** was presented by Bob and Janet Brackenbury to commemorate our associate members. The Bracken Award is given to the associate member or members who the Awards Committee feel have contributed most to the Club over the last 12 months.

The following awards are decided by the Awards Committee. All the ones we've discussed above are decided by you the members, based on how many of you vote for them.

The **Tetley Trophy** is given by the Awards Committee. This was presented by the Tetley Brewery and is given in recognition of a special act or event, by either a group or a single member.

The **Danum Salver** was presented to the Club by Bob and Carol Peace. It is decided and presented by the Commodore to the most promising new member or members.

The **Klinkenberg Award** for the best kept mooring is decided by the Awards Committee following regular inspections to see which mooring has had the best upkeep throughout the year. It's not about

the biggest or best mooring, just the best kept. This award was presented in memory of Keith Klinkenberg, who was one of the earliest members to take pride in the mooring allocated to him, and to encourage fellow members to maintain better moorings.

The **Rioja Photography Award** was presented by Steve and Barbara Marshall to commemorate Steve's time as Commodore. This award is given to the best photograph submitted from usually quite an extensive number of entrants. It is narrowed down to the best thirteen photographs and the judging is done by an independent, impartial non-member. The thirteen winning photographs are then used to make the following year's calendar, with the outright winner going into the photo frame in the cabinet and being the front page of the calendar.

The following awards are no longer used, but of course I'd like to talk a little bit more about these, as they are all from past members that should be remembered:

The **Myra Shay Award** is for the most meritorious voyage. In the early days when trophies were scarce in number, John Martin, as the current Commodore at a Sheffield Boat Club dinner, persuaded one of their members to present the 'New club' with an award trophy and that member did so under the name of his mother, Myra Shay. This was given to the more adventurous cruises from Strawberry Island.

The **Clarke Trophy**. Richard and Yvonne were members for many years and during that period Dick acted as Harbourmaster for a time. He was obviously very promotive of safety on boats and decided to present a trophy to draw attention to that aspect, and to further encourage it by assessing the many safety features and fittings introduced by members and acknowledging what was considered to be the safest boat. This went on to be an award for the safest cruiser.

The **New Award** was a shield presented by Dorothy and Alan Pashley to recognise the above, but this award was given to the safest narrowboat, so giving more members the opportunity to win an award for safety.

The **Eddie Gibson Award** (Most Active Small Boat to 25ft). Eddie was a bachelor in his 40s who worked at Brodsworth Pit and cruised on his own, mainly at weekends, in his beautiful eighteen foot mini cruiser. One winter's morning he had not emerged from his boat which was on the hard standing and as members hadn't seen him in the clubhouse on Friday evening as was usual, they climbed aboard. Sadly, they found Eddie had died during the night due to inhaling poisonous exhaust fumes that had seeped through the slats in the

louvre cabin door. His family knew how much he enjoyed his boating at SIBC and felt that they would like to preserve his memory by providing this magnificent trophy.

Looking back, it's actually quite amusing to see the names of those who were given awards in 2015, as a lot of these are actually current members, that regularly win awards right up to present day. I won't mention any names, but it looks like these members have been treading the red carpet on a regular basis. Maybe it means it would be good to see some new faces up there, as well as these popular, I won't say older, members. Remember to nominate either by filling in the form in the clubhouse or online via the website. If you are not sure about this, see a member of the Awards team.

I'd like to say a quick thank you for the help in getting the research needed to write this article to Teresa Robinson and Chris Painter.

Pam Bowley

In your Spring 2024 edition of Punnet:	Trip-Islander — Your SIBC canal review. Next edition — The Tidal Trent. Submit your review now to punnet@sibc.club
	A trip to Boston with Alan and Carol The adventures of Selby the Sloth
	Your cruise logs, disasters, funny stories. It's your stories that make your Punnet so submit your articles now to punnet@sibc.club

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for further details

SOCIAL 2023



Merry Christmas Everyone

The boating season has come to a close once again and I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer cruising. The Festive Social season has started and we look forward to seeing you all in the clubhouse.

There is a **Christmas Market** and a **Prize Draw night**. A **Christmas party**, followed by a **Christmas lunch** and a **New Years Eve Party** to welcome in 2024.

In the New Year we have a **cheese and wine evening** planned, and members can show off their talents in February with another **members' talent night**. What do the Awards team have in store for us this year?

In March we hope to have another **Mothers' Day lunch**, and the **Annual Dinner** is the 16th of March. Easter is particularly early this year with Good Friday being the 29th March, therefore, our **Fitting Out Supper** has to be early on the 23^d March. On a positive note, that means everyone who goes long term cruising after the Fitting Out can leave a few weeks early!

The lists for Saturday and Sunday lunches are on the Galley noticeboard. How quickly can we fill them up?

Please see our Facebook posts for regular updates on all our events. If you would like to volunteer, please message us or if you prefer you can email me at social@sibc.club or speak to a member of the social team.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all from the Social Team.

Regards,

Barbara, Social Chair

Dates for your Diary

(All may be subject to additions or change)



2023	
2 nd December	Christmas Market
8 th December	Christmas Sing-along
9 th December	Christmas Draw
12 th December	Thursford Trip
16 th December	Adult Christmas Party
17 th December	Christmas Lunch
31 st December	New Year's Eve Party
2024	
1 st January	New Year's Day Cruise
20 st January	Cheese and Wine Party
10 th February	Members' Talent Night
24 th February	Awards Night
10 th March	Mother's Day Lunch
16 th March	SIBC Annual Dinner
17 th March	AGM
23 rd March	Fitting Out Supper

Out and About

When you are out and about and find somewhere that you want to share with club members as you have had good service, delicious food, amazing entertainment or a shop that floats your boat. Let us know by emailing Punnet at punnet@sibc.club so that we can give these small businesses a helping hand.

These are for the more crafty amongst us and are both worth a look especially if you enjoy knitting or crocheting.

I'm not sure how many of you know we have a fabulous haberdashery shop in Doncaster's famous marketplace- it's called **Knit & Stitch**. You'll be given a warm welcome by the owner Liz or one of the lovely and knowledgeable staff. They are bursting at the seams in the lower part of the shop, with the most delicious wool to suit all tastes and budgets from basic acrylics to high end 100% wool and wool mix yarns, also an extensive selection of Ricorumi cotton yarns and delightful books of patterns where you can make the cutest little Amigurumi characters. If that isn't enough there's a whole floor above with beautiful quilting cottons and other supplies needed for sewing, this room also doubles as the classroom, where you can book various classes or just one-off days to learn new skills or build on your existing ones. Usually, the classes are mid-week but they do have lots of one offs on a weekend... well worth a visit either by car (just park in the market car park) or it's really not far on foot, probably a 20 minute walk from the island.

If you want to cruise a bit further, a trip to Castleford isn't complete without a trip into the town centre where you will find **Sew Susie Bloom** on Carlton Street. This shop has a very similar stock to Knit & Stitch and it's all on one level. It's a lovely shop to just have a browse, as there's lots of inspiration for new ideas dotted about for other crafts not just knitting, crochet or sewing. The only thing is the opening hours aren't quite so accommodating so it's always best to check the Facebook page or ring ahead if you are planning to go, but it's definitely worth a visit. And while you're over that way consider popping into the library opposite as it has a really interesting collection of Henry Moore artwork, Castleford's famous son.

Disclaimer: Reviews are subject to change but are a true representation at the time of visit.

Getting stuck (in) on the Rochdale

Oh well it was bound to happen sooner or later. After an interesting trip from Castlefield Basin via Picawilly (Piccadilly) to Turdmorden (Todmorden), Gaz and I encountered our first long boating hold-up on Bagpuss – stopping at Walsden, a couple of miles from the knackered guillotine lock in Turdmorden centre.



Now, there are two ways to view this situation first, as a downright inconvenience and second, as the perfect opportunity to explore what was for us, virgin territory. For purposes of preserving our (diminishing) sanity, we chose the latter. (Sorry folks – we know some of you have endured much worse delays this season and may approach this with some cynicism, and you would be right!).

Anyway the first couple of days were spent sussing out the area (moored near a pub, cricket ground, garden centre and bus-stop things could have been worse), working out 'how-to' – how to get water, how to empty the potty etc. Which to choose, proximity to water or Elsan? We picked water After that, well what fun!

So, what is there in the area? Here are my musings about a couple of splendid days out we had (not including the obvious Hebden Bridge and Sowerby Bridge which we are sure most of you will be familiar with) during our period of enforced idleness. And afterwards, I'll share a couple of the multitude of challenges encountered during our three week stay at Walsden.

A long-held desire of mine was to visit Shibden Hall (£8 each for adults), to take a walk around the home of the (in)famous Anne Lister (1791-1840), diarist, businesswomen, landowner and lesbian - of recent "Gentleman Jack" fame (Suranne Jones was fab – quite fancy her myself), a period drama I know some of you will have enjoyed (Gazza included – which is odd, as he's not normally a fan of period drama??? mmmmmm). If you've not been, it's definitely worth a visit, if only to re-live a little of the TV series. A beautiful historic building, with barns containing historic artefacts, in existence well before Anne



Lister's time (the house dates back to 1420). All that said, the tea room was a bit of a non-entity (for us cake lovers, a bit of a disappointment). I won't spoil it and tell you anymore – go, see for yourself, you won't be disappointed (apart from the café!). One thing I will say, if you are on public transport like we were, the walk from Halifax bus station was a bit of a challenge, up steep "t'ills" – perhaps take a taxi.

Another day we took a bus up to Stoodley Pike (1300-foot hill in the south Penines – 4km 2.5 east of Turdmorden). I think the local bus-driver, who was clearly very familiar with the route, was a rally driver in a previous life. Unfortunately, I'm not an adrenaline junkie and feared for my life at times – okay, perhaps a little dramatic! (Who? Me?) Dropped off nearby, we ascended the hill, with the path bathed in beautiful sunshine. Not so the descent; we came down in persistent rain (my way of saying it was p**sing it down) and howling gales. Typical! The grade II listed monument at the top (which replaced the earlier one built in 1814 that was struck by lightning causing collapse in 1854) is 37m (121-foot in old money) and was completed in 1856. Apparently, it commemorates the defeat of Napoleon after the Battle of Waterloo. Anyway despite the weather, it was well worth the effort. Such glorious views from the top.



Talking of scary bus trips, Gazza really enjoyed our stay in Walsden, a mere two miles out of Turdmorden, getting full use of his recently (ish) acquired bus pass. Free trips down to the services (Elsan) to empty the potty (triple wrapped I assure you!) eased the pain of the unpleasant task I think – easy for me to say. Thankfully, as we Islanders know only too well, one good turd – sorry – turn, deserves another. After spending a morning helping our new boating friends (and neighbours) empty their pump-out with a hand

operated suction pump which went into two large cannisters and later emptied down a kind local persons septic tank, Garry negotiated an alternative 'potty trip' process. What a great way to get to know people; shovelling their s**t, sorry waste! Anyway as I said, this generous act secured multiple lifts down to the services in said boating friend's car, thus replacing bus turd carriage! Thank goodness for small mercies.



To wrap-up this somewhat lengthy narrative, I thought I'd share my few top tips for those planning a trip on the Rochdale:

Look ahead; plan to moor near services – obvious reasons and don't fill your pump-out to the brim – perhaps a regular empty on a stretch of the system that is clearly creaking under the strain!

Don't turn your back on your newly purchased 'stick thingy' (hand spike) – not for a second! Some lousy toerag will "arf inch" it quicker than you can say "Oy you – thieving ratbag!". Grrrrrr – yes, I was really annoyed! Cost me sixteen quid only the day before.

At Salter Hebble Locks, if your boat is 57 foot, don't assume all will be well; we got stuck in the Top Lock (where aforesaid stick thingy was nicked!). Apparently, our back button hangs low and caused cill problems – Gazza had to sort out his 'hanging low problems' in the lock – well overdue if you ask me (the hanging low problem that is).

Don't shake dog hairs off your blanket with your phone securely wrapped inside – begs the question "How did you lose yours?". I'd love to know and maybe that one's for another day and not in polite company!

Be nice to locals and provide ice cold tinnies for those who kindly assist you. Some of the locks were very cranky; a little bit of local knowledge and kind assistance saw us safely off the Rochdale around four weeks after embarking on our adventure.

Anyway all in all, we had a great time, seeing beautiful scenery, meeting kind (if somewhat colourful – who am I to talk) people and doing a bit of personal 'character building'. Loved it and yes, we may well do it again.

Dawn M

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

Work Party Dates

Saturday 16th December 2023

Saturday 20th January 2024

Saturday 24th February 2024

Saturday 23rd March 2024

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.



To members and bar staff, best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Pete and Doreen
Pettrador

Merry Christmas

Annette and Derek
Out of the Blue

Merry Christmas to everyone on Strawberry Island.

Sheila and Brian Murray (Devon)
Aegir

Merry Christmas, peace on Earth and best wishes to all our friends on the Island.

Judy and John
Candolim

Happy Christmas to all members and enjoy boating in 2024.

Tess

Merry Christmas to all colleagues and boaters.

Stella and Trevor Millenium

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all SIBC members.

Phil and Sheila Starlight Express

A happy Christmas and New Year.

Malc and Ange Trent Weaver

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Happy 2024 boating.

Richard and Carole
Victoria Grace Miller

Hazel and Richard wish all members a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

RumaGin

**Best wishes everyone at SIBC for
Christmas and New Year.**

Helen and Don Musgrave
Rosedale Lady

**Best wishes and merry
Christmas to all and a happy
New Year.**

Ken and Glenys Pratt
Purple Emperor

**Seasons greetings to all our
friends**

From the Riley Family
Land of Green Ginger

**Happy Christmas to all at
SIBC. Wishing you all a safe
and happy cruising in 2024.**

John and Jean Foster
Northern Light

**Christmas greetings to all at
SIBC.**

Ash and Anne
Dreamweaver

**Wishing everyone a merry
Christmas and a happy New
Year.**

Teresa and John Robinson
Lady Mercy

**Christmas wishes to all our
friends at SIBC.**

Graham, Viv, Poppy and Rudy
Apeldoorn

**Wishing everyone a merry
Christmas and a happy New Year.**

Anne and Brian Clarke
NB Andante

**Merry Christmas and a happy
New Year.**

Anne and Simon Mitchie
Moon Dancer

**Have yourself a merry little
Christmas.**

Sue and John McBride
NB Mister G

**Merry Christmas and a happy
New Year to all.**

Barbara, Steve and Bella
Rioja

**Seasons greetings and a happy
New Year.**

Chris, Lesley, Olly and Lucy
NB Faith, Hope and Charity

A very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year sent to all our members old and new.

Mick, Pam and Rory
The Drunken Duck

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Garry and Dawn Morgan
Bagpuss

Happy Christmas to everybody at SIBC. Happy New Year .

Philip, Nicola, Irene, David and Diesel
Yorky

Wishing all you Strawberry Islanders a happy, healthy Christmas.

Ian and Ally Marmite

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all at Strawberry Island. Happy boating.

Ernie and Chris Painter

Poppy, Sandra and Bill would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Scorpio

Drink more, worry less!

The Long Sandall Drinking Club
Camrose

We hope you are Santa's 'nice' list. Remember he is always watching. Merry Christmas everyone.

Peta and Bev Teide II

Sending Christmas wishes to all our Strawberry Island friends and wishing you all many miles of trouble free cruising in 2024.

Bill and Mandy Gaynor

Frohe weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins. Neue Jahr wünsch.

David and Claudia
Tonka 2

Joyeux Noel et Bon Année. Happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

The Bracks in France

Wishing our friends at Strawberry Island a great Christmas and a very happy cruising New Year.

Carol and Peter Harbon Cheswold

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas with very best wishes for 2024.

Martyn and Carole
NB Daisy May

Bah humbug! 😊 Please stay away from me. 😊

Sean
Hydra

Have a fab Christmas and New Year.

Sarah, Ian,
Millie, Enzo, Ben and Jerry

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone.

John Lindsay Alassiomiss

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Alan and Linda Neech Aladin

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Jane, Dougie and Charlie
Yorkshirerose

May your waters flow, your locks open easily and your windlass never get lost.

Margaret and Kevin
Meander

Merry Christmas, thank you.

Shaun and Sharon Taylor
Freedom

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all.

Donna and Mick NB ArMutch

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy boating in 2024.

Brian and Jo Thatsit

Merry Christmas to all the friends who've broken down whilst cruising with me, and everyone else who hasn't.

Mick Pattison (Magic)
Amourouse

The Punnet team would like to wish all our members, contributors, advertisers and all who support us a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

TRIP ISLANDER – The Ribble Link

Early morning, approaching Tarleton Lock at the end of the Rufford Arm of the Leeds Liverpool Canal. The gates are opened for us and the boats two and three of the five crossing this morning enter the lock. The lockie gives us the final bits of advice about going round the left of the Astland Lamp and, in particular, banging on plenty of power as we exit the lock entering the River Douglas which is flooding in at an alarming rate. Nerves jangled because of all the stories heard whilst researching the crossing – you're going to end up at Preston Docks because you'll run out of water if you're not fast enough – you'll ground on the sandbanks as you turn into Savick Brook – you'll get stuck on Savick Brook as the tide drops – you'll never get under the bridge after the sea lock – the waves on the Ribble are huge and so on.

The boats drop to river level and the gates open. True to the lockie's word, the Douglas is flooding in – will we get swept to the right upstream with the tide – where will we end up? Marmite exits first and enters the Douglas as though he'd just left Doncaster Lock. Plenty of power on ArMutch and we follow. A slight pull to the right, easily



corrected, and we drop in behind Marmite. The speed of the incoming flood is evident as we're making only slow progress against the tide in the relatively narrow channel but hey, it's not too bad.

We chug onwards punching the tide and as we pass Douglas Marine the river widens, the flow reduces and our headway increases. Keeping to the middle of the channel we push on heading towards the confluence with the Ribble. Approaching Astland Lamp there's a huge temptation to go to the right across the seemingly vast expanse of water offering a shortcut – don't even think about it – there's submerged walls and shallow washlands here.

Roughly an hour after leaving Tarleton Lock we follow Marmite around Astland Lamp and join the Ribble. There's a great photo



opportunity here due to the line you take – superb side on photos of Marmite in front and Bagpuss following as they make the turn round the lamp. By now the tide has turned and is ebbing out so keeping the power on we head in the middle of the channel for the three and a half mile slog to the entrance of Savick Brook. Looking behind

there's just a massive expanse of water as far as you can see – almost like you're crossing the real sea. The next 45 minutes seem like an age as there's really not much to see but then the green light at the entrance to Savick Brook comes into view. Bearing in mind the dire warnings of sandbanks we enter square to the brook allowing, as best we can, for the ebbing tide trying to push us into the left bank. The first bit of the brook's not what we expected – there's plenty of room and we head up through the sea lock to where the five boats tie up on the floating pontoon which is nearly big enough for two boats.



We wait for the water to drop sufficiently to allow us to pass under the A583 bridge and head off to the first of the locks. The bend just after the bridge is 'interesting' and needs special care as you hit a sharp 90 degree left turn in a narrow channel with a non-continuous line of sheet piles on the outside, all the time with the outflow pushing you onto the piles. The next, a right hander, isn't much better. After that, apart from the odd sharp bend, the journey is straightforward, under the guidance of a team of CRT lockies with nothing too untoward until you meet the final locks – a triple staircase. Because of the line of the channel at the bottom, boats must sail past the locks which are aligned at about 135 degrees to your heading and then reverse in. There's no room for a basin to make the turn possible. Thankfully, the deep chambers of the triple are extra long meaning that you don't have to reverse into the waterfall flooding through the upper gates. Three uneventful lifts, managed by CRT, and that's it – you're there.



Three weeks of fun on the canal – it really is a great area to visit and explore with lots to do – was followed by the return journey. This is just a reverse repeat of the incoming crossing so I'll just mention the excitement of exiting Savick Brook onto the Ribble. At this point in the journey the Ribble is

flooding in at quite a lick. We've all heard the warnings about getting swept upstream towards Preston if you don't allow for this. Being the fourth boat of the five in the flotilla allowed us to watch the fun and plan the turn onto the Ribble. Boat one put on a bit of power, went out of the brook and promptly disappeared out of view sideways towards Preston. Boat two gave it what it had from its quite cute historic two pot air cooled thumper and managed to not disappear from view as it got swept to the left. These two boats then gracefully fought the tide across the mouth of the Savick Brook as boat three powered out to execute the perfect turn towards Astland Lamp. We wound up the Beta and followed the lead of the boat in front and then turned to watch boat five shoot out into the Ribble as if it were rocket powered. I searched in vain for the water skier. To save embarrassment I'll not identify the boats other than to say that the three SIBC boats were the ones who did it correctly. The rest of the journey was just a simple repeat of the way out.

So, would we do it again? Without doubt, yes. The Ribble link was no worse, and probably less concerning than the Trent. Certainly, the turns off the main river are much easier. The Lancaster Canal is lovely from start to finish and the surrounding area is fabulous. There are not too many canals with the seaside just minutes away. In fact, probably the hardest thing to overcome is the fear instilled by the horror stories that we hear about the crossing.

Disclaimer – Please note that this crossing, in both directions, was done in perfect weather – calm, blue skies and hardly any waves / swell on the rivers. The story might be completely different in bad weather so please bear this in mind if you decide to have a go at this crossing.

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Left home on Thursday 10th August to set sail. Loaded boat with plenty of provisions (beer, wine, cider) then cast off. Stopped at Barnby Dun to water up then headed to Sykehouse. A quick pub stop then onto Pollington for the night. Beautiful evening, John fishing me reading my book and watching the tawny owls as the light faded.

Friday 11th August- We were just about to leave Pollington when the farmer closed the swing bridge and moved his sheep over the canal, a magical experience to watch. Sailed onto Knottingley for the night after a cheeky pint at the pub had a delicious Indian takeaway.



Saturday 12th August- Set sail for Cas Vegas. The first problem we encountered was a cruiser blocking the flood lock at Ferrybridge. John and a fellow boater managed to move the cruiser and secure it on some moorings and off we set full steam ahead. Spent the rest of the day in Cas Vegas, John watching Nottingham Forest lose to Arsenal (a good start to the season).

Sunday 13th August- Spent the day in Castleford cleaning the boat and just having a general tidy up as John's son was arriving the next day.

Monday 14th August- handed the boat into Dylan's capable hands and we set off for a few days at home.

Friday 18th August- Travelled to Skipton to meet Dylan and Davina a pleasant night at Wetherspoons and a few drinks on the boat while John and Dylan tried their hand at fishing again.

Saturday 19th August- A look round Skipton before setting off to Gargrave, what a beautiful village and surrounding area.

Sunday 20th August- Was the day we had all been waiting for, could the lionesses bring home the world cup? Booked in at the Old Swan for Sunday lunch (excellent meal and well worth a visit) and settled down to watch the football. Alas, it was not meant to be but what an absolutely brilliant match, they did us proud.

Monday 21st August- Our plan today was to get to Barnoldswick and off we set on our travels admiring the beautiful scenery along the

way. We got as far as Greenfield Locks which were only open during the hours of 10am and 3pm so had no choice but to moor up there for the night.

Tuesday 22nd August- Made our way to Foulridge John was looking forward to going through the tunnel, not sure why but he was. After the tunnel it was hard going as the canal was full of weed and rubbish which kept getting caught around the propeller, John was constantly stopping to clean the weed hatch out (I think we could have pulled the boat quicker). We decided to stop at Nelson perhaps not the best mooring but at least it was secure and Morrisons supermarket was just through the gate so a great opportunity to stock up on more provisions.



Wednesday 23rd August- (Silly as we are) we made a plan to get to Blackburn after what seemed like hours of sailing through the weeded canal we had only managed to make Burnley. Enough was enough, we moored up and had a look around Burnley. Not a town either me or John had visited before but pretty much as we had expected. We decided that it was probably time to turn around and start to make our way back to Strawberry Island.

Thursday 24th August- A day out on the train to Blackburn as we wanted to see the cathedral and the famous market we had heard about. Loved the market so vibrant, full of character and buzzing with customers something you rarely see now.

Friday 25th August- A slow travel back to Nelson more weed and plastic bags to contend with but we gritted our teeth and just kept going. After the locks the weed seemed to clear a little and John again was looking forward to travelling through the tunnel (little things please little minds). We had arranged moorings via AWCC at the East Lancashire and West Yorkshire Boat Club really lovely little club, everybody friendly and very welcoming, we even got electric hook up so at last I could wash and dry my hair... oh bliss.

Saturday 26th August- A short cruise to Barnoldswick then a quick look around the quaint little town before heading off again towards Greenfield Locks. Weather was really pleasant so we stopped for a

picnic in the sunshine for once, before continuing on our journey. Then the rain came so we moored up at East Marton, not the best spot on the canal but better than getting soaked through.

Sunday 27th August- A short trip from East Marton to Gargrave over the locks at Newton Bank with another boat, Hildergart, which was the boat that got stuck in Marple lock this summer. Had a wander around Gargrave, such a pretty village. As it was the Bank Holiday weekend, they had a craft fair come tabletop sale on in the village hall, all crafters at SIBC would have been in their element.

Monday 28th August- Gargrave to Skipton with the added bonus of John's son Joe and his husband Michael coming to visit for the day. We had a fantastic time walking around Skipton and having a few drinks in the local pubs before going back to the boat with fish and chips. Such a beautiful place and even the sun was shining (at last).



Tuesday 29th August- A slow cruise from Skipton to Silsden only seven miles but nine swing bridges and most of them extremely difficult to operate. Great scenery and again at least the weather was in our favour.

Wednesday 30th August- Out for a morning walk before heading off to Riddlesden where we stopped to stretch our legs and have a bite to eat before making our way to Bingley Five Rise. What a beautiful area at the top, the cafe and the view of the Five Rise (which we had never seen before) was magnificent.

Thursday 31st August- Up at first light as we were to be one of the first boats down, travelling with another solo cruiser and only one CRT helper so again I ended up doing all the locks (I really am going to have to get to grips with driving the boat). What an experience and the views were fabulous we even saw a steam train go flying past; John was in his element as that is another passion of his. Into Bingley a little look round such a pretty place. Then it was time to move on to Saltaire. What a surprise this was, so much history and lots of beautiful old buildings.

Friday 1st September- Walked around the park before setting off to Appleby Bridge. Replenished supplies as well as water before travelling on to Rodley for the night.

Saturday 2nd September- The dreaded Rodley Bridge was waiting for us, after hearing all the horror stories I was convinced that this was

going to be my undoing and I was going to have to admit defeat. The instruction boards are so confusing as they only tell you instructions from five to nine and it took me a while to fathom out that you had to insert the waterways key, lift the lid and follow steps one to four. Well, I did eventually get the bridge open. I'm sure a man must have designed it (sorry guys) as if it had been a woman, it would have been far simpler! Onwards and downwards to Leeds, finding another boat to team up with meant my work was halved. We spent the evening in Granary Wharf in Leeds (to my delight) as I just love it here.

Sunday 3rd September- Spent the morning in Leeds as the lock was only open from 1pm until 3pm so we took the opportunity to have a relaxed breakfast before setting sail. Only problem was the lock keeper never appeared. At last, a boat came through and we decided to start our journey with another solo boater, things weren't going to be so bad now as we were back to pushing buttons to open the locks (yippee). Moored up at Allerton Bywater, we both love it here, and by this time the weather was getting to be a bit more like it, sunshine at last.

Monday 4th September- Walked to the nature reserve in the morning along the canal then back through the village before heading off to Cas Vegas for the night. A few pints at Wetherspoons as you do. John spent the evening fishing while I sat in the sunshine reading my book with a lovely cold glass of wine, perfect.

Tuesday 5th September- A short cruise to Knottingley in the sunshine, picked up some more supplies before heading out for a meal at the Indian, excellent food as ever. Saw a grass snake which made John's day.

Wednesday 6th September- Our last real day of boating, Knottingley to Barnby Dun with a stop at Whitely lock for some liquid refreshment and lunch. Moored up at Barnby Dun, filled up with water and sampled fish and chips from the local chippy. (and very nice they were too).

Thursday 7th September- Barnby Dun to SIBC home at last.

We had such an amazing time, managed to overcome many obstacles that got in our way but we wouldn't have changed anything, although it would have been helpful if we had had a fridge that worked! This all added to the cruise as we had to buy food daily so always local, and we found some excellent butchers and bakers and just enjoyed the experience.

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Dear Agatha,

Recently, during the very hot dry spell of weather, I decided I'd better take my narrowboat out for a quick test run as I was having ongoing engine problems. My wife was sunbathing on the mooring and I decided to leave her to it as she was happily chatting to the chap next door. He's well known in our boat club for having a rather large chopper, he often cuts wood with it for his log burner. As I was leaving, he was offering to give my wife one, or two. Anyway, I'd literally just got around the first corner when I heard this really loud banging, so I quickly turned the boat and headed back ... I was really disgusted and shocked to find my wife and the said Lothario in a compromising position on the sun lounger ... please, please advise as I'm at a loss what to do next!

Many thanks, **Jealous Guy of Edlington**

Dear Jealous Guy

Firstly, you need to make an urgent call to RCR as it sounds very much like your engine mountings have gone. Then, while you are waiting several hours for them to arrive, perhaps you need to give a little thought to the state of your marriage.

Take a long hard look at yourself. Have you let yourself go a bit? Are you less Brad Pitt and more Cess Pit? Are you usually found in oily work clothes and a woolly bobble hat? Are you rarely out of your Dickie's all-in-one? I thought so!

I know from bitter experience that when a man finds an engrossing hobby like boating, he may neglect his appearance and pay less attention to his poor wife. No wonder she has been tempted by the charms of the club heartthrob. I expect he is young, fit and tanned with a massive six-pack, not to mention huge biceps from brandishing his chopper...

Goodness me, I'm feeling quite faint! I may need to go and have a little lie down.

Anyway, I think this is one problem I ought to deal with in person. Please email me the contact details of your rival asap and I'm sure I can persuade him to leave your wife alone. No need to thank me, it will be my pleasure!

Good Luck, *Agatha*

Historical Boats – The Marjorie R

The Marjorie R is a 1945 Yorkshire coal barge moored in Leeds and owned for the last ten years by Chris and Victoria. It was my privilege to get to speak to Victoria about Marjorie R.

Prior to their purchase, she was owned by Hargreaves Coal Transportation and built in Knottingley just down the road.

Marjorie Reid was married to the director of the coal company and that is why the boat got this name. Victoria did think about changing it but due to the barge's long history decided against it.



Norman Claxton was the skipper for Hargreaves so most of her working life, the Marjorie R was a coal barge. When she was retired in the 1980s, she became unloved until purchased by Victoria and Chris.



In November 2022 Marjorie R was turned into a shop selling new and used books, curiosities, and plants all lovingly named by Chris. I did see Beyoncé and purchased Max the cactus for my grandson! Students, residents, and visitors to the Armouries are all regulars and even the Mayor of Leeds, Al Garthwaite, has visited voicing she is a keen reader.

Victoria works with uk.bookshop.org so that clients can buy books from them, this helps to ensure that large companies like Amazon don't put little bookshops out of business. As for visiting at this time of year, the fire is lit in the winter and inviting reading areas above and below deck for customers to enjoy this lovingly restored barge.

Marjorie R was initially supposed to be featured on TV on Look North Leeds, however, due to a quiet weekend ended up on the Look North regional breakfast show. This resulted in people visiting her from Canada, Ireland and Sweden saying they had seen the program on the World Service.

This year Marjorie R is the National Ships Flagship of the Year.

Shirley Sefton



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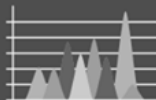
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This month we have extended the locations with what3words references, with information provided by Cherryl Holliday of Thorne Cruising Club, who also had the following kind words to say about your Punnet.

“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 another tasty recipe from Fiona Prime which is perfect for adding to your Christmas meal.

Shredded Brussels with pancetta and almonds

Ingredients:

1. 500g Brussels sprouts
2. 150g pancetta (cut into 2cm strips)
3. 100g flaked almonds
4. 1 garlic clove

Method:

- Gently toast almonds in a dry frying pan and then leave to one side in a dish to use later.
- Remove the outer leaves of the brussels and then finely shred.
- Finely chop the garlic clove.
- Add a little olive oil to a frying pan and cook garlic and pancetta (3 to 5 mins).
- Add the shredded brussels and cook for a further 5 minutes.
- Before serving mix with the almonds.

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.

Christmas Quiz – The Answers

- A1** The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C S Lewis
- A2** Holiday Inn, which starred Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire (1942)
- A3** Fairytale of New York by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl
- A4** 184
- A5** The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky
- A6** KFC. Around 3.6 million Japanese people sit down to a KFC dinner on Christmas Day.
- A7** On 16th December 1965, Gemini 6 astronauts performed Jingle Bells just before re-entering the earth's atmosphere.
- A8** Capricorn
- A9** The Simpsons
- A10** Christmas Crackers
- A11** Raymond Briggs
- A12** Australia
- A13** LadBaby
- A14** St Stephen was the first Christian martyr and his feast day is the 26th December
- A15** Killing in the Name by Rage Against the Machine successfully kept X Factor winner, Joe McElderry, from the Number 1 spot.
- A16** The 3rd spirit to visit Scrooge was the Ghost of Christmas Present. The 1st and 2nd spirits were Jacob Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Past.
- A17** Donner and Blitzen, a German term for Thunder and Lightning
- A18** January 5th
- A19** Norway
- A20** Home Alone 2

Winter Stoppage Notices 2023-24

Here's a list of some of the local winter stoppages that might affect your winter boating this year.

15 Jan 2024 to 23 Feb 2024 Long Sandall Lock downstream of Footbridge over old lock. A stoppage is required to carry out gate replacement & general repairs.

29 Jan 2024 to 18 March 2024 Bridge 83, Keadby Rail Drawbridge. A navigation and towpath stoppage are required to allow third party contractors to undertake extensive strengthening works to the north canal wall of the drawbridge.

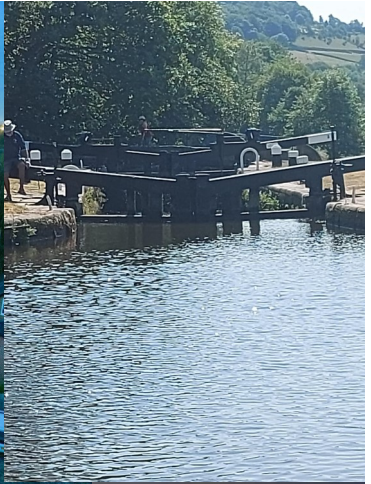
19 Feb 2024 to 15 March 2024 Wakefield Branch (Aire & Calder) Lock 6, Woodnook Lock A restriction is required to carry out some repair works to the lock. Resin grouting will be put behind the lock walls to fill up any voids and prevent deterioration of the lock structure. We will have a small pontoon in the lock during these works, so customers may experience delays of up to an hour.

15 Jan 2024 to 23 Feb 2024 Aire & Calder Navigation New Goole Caisson near Old Goole. A stoppage is required to carry out repairs to quoins and cills and also damaged/bent stop grooves.

6 Nov 2023 to 20 Dec 2023. Leeds & Liverpool Canal Bridge 201, Bingley 3 Rise Swing Bridge. A stoppage is required to carry out repairs to a collapsing wash wall.

If you're travelling further away then you can find more details of the winter stoppage programme at:
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/refresh/media/report/winter-notices.pdf.

We'd also like to remind members that when out cruising it's a good idea to take account of the stoppage notices at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices when you plan your cruise. We also recommend that you should sign up to receive notices and stoppages for your intended route within the 'My Trust' section of the CRT website as these will advise you of problems as soon as they are notified.



**Looking forward to
sunny weather and
pastures new?**

