

PUNNET

The magazine of Strawberry Island
Boat Club in Doncaster



**SUMMER
2023**



In your Summer 2023 edition of Punnet

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the Summer edition of Punnet

I am hoping that you are all well whether you have stayed at home or travelled on your boats to far flung places. Water, locks and breaches permitting.

As usual Punnet has been produced on the good ship ArMutch and has been a little tricky from time to time due to dodgy WiFi and Bennie cat helping to type.

There have certainly been some exciting times at the Island this Summer and I am pleased to say our youngest writer, Olly, has put pen to paper yet again to report on the King's coronation. There have also been plenty of shenanigans with our members taking their boats out onto the cut. Ian Marr's article is a classic. If you enjoy poetry, talk to Mick Marshall about his poem in this edition as I think you will be surprised about how it was developed.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed as without you Punnet would not exist. As usual I am now making a plea for material to go in the Winter edition as I am already putting this together. Please send to punnet@sibc.club or post in Punnet box. You can also hand anything to me at the Rally as I will be there all weekend.

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.

| | |
|--|--------|
| 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 |
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| T Shirts | £ 5.95 |

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



Commodore's Column

Commodore's Report Summer 2023

Hello Everyone,

As I write this report Richard and I are enjoying some lovely hot weather on the Llangollen canal with Simon and Anne on Moon Dancer. We initially cruised the Llangollen on Rum 'a' Gin some fifteen years ago when we weekendend the boat across the country to get to new cruising ground. We're now fortunate to be amongst those lucky people who can go cruising for extended periods over the summer. I hope that everyone that has been able to get away have had an enjoyable time and not been plagued by too many stoppages and incidents.

Our trip this year with Moon Dancer has had some interesting episodes, including our trip on the Manchester Ship Canal! I'll leave you to read the article on that one.

A big thank you to Chris, Lesley and all the members who have kept the social side at SIBC going with PYCR, Mr and Mrs plus organising cruises. And to the Rally team who are working hard to produce what I'm sure will be a very enjoyable event in September. Rallies are not easy to organise, the team needs lots of help from members to run the stalls and food outlets, so please get your names down on the list to offer support.

Earlier in the year you will have seen the allotment holders constructing a parking area and access on what was the allotment near our long-term parking area. SIAA has agreed the use of the allotment with DMBC. Access across the bridge has been provisionally agreed by all parties, I say provisionally because the area is not yet in operation as we have still to agree the changes to

the DMBC lease. Once received the document will be going to our solicitors to ensure that it is only signed when it is right for SIBC. Regarding the fires that are being lit on the industrial estate opposite the east loop. I have been in contact with the Community Emergency Response Team. They are looking into the incidents but if anyone sees a fire, please report it by contacting 01302 341628 this is a 24hr emergency number, please quote 1406CD6. Don't just think someone will have reported it, the more calls the better.

No matter if you have cruised far and wide or stayed local remember to get your photo entries in for the Rioja award, make a note of boating mishap details and keep your ships logs up to date ready to submit for the awards. And if you have unfortunately broken down and needed a tow, make sure that gets entered as well.

Enough from me, I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer cruising season.

Hazel

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 |
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Official photographer Pam Bowley

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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

Castleford

We were very lucky this year to have such an amazing Easter weekend, and it was made all the better by a cheeky little trip to Castleford with Brian and Betty and John and Judy. The weather was absolutely gorgeous, and we were lucky enough to visit the Queen's Mill over the Easter weekend and even better they were celebrating their fourth birthday at the Craft Beer Shop on the ground floor. We got to sit in the



sunshine listening to local bands and enjoying a few beers. This is a definite stop off point or if you don't have time, take a few back to the boat if you like craft beers. I particularly like the draught lager They weren't serving sambuca sadly

Every time I go to Castleford, I always stop to marvel at the wonderful footbridge and beautiful weir with its sunken boat feature. I was lucky enough last year, along with my daughter Lucy, to be given a private guided tour and hear all about the history of the beautiful Mill from one of its previous employees and current tour guide. He even gave us a bag of flour that he'd just milled that morning. We were also treated to a special



peek at the water wheel that's actually still there. Queen's Mill was previously known as the Allinsons flour mill before that Castleford Mill. It's actually the world's largest stone grinding flour mill, with 20 pairs of stones. I hadn't realised that's where they made the bread 'with nowt tekken out' back in the eighties.



According to the West Yorkshire Archaeological society, there has been a working mill on the River Aire at this point as far back as Roman times, and it can be stated with some confidence that flour has been produced on this site for an almost unbroken period of more than 900 years. During mediaeval times the mills

were used mainly for milling wheat just as a Queen's Mill continues to do to this day.

The mill is now looked after and run by the Castleford Heritage Trust and is open Monday to Friday 9.30 to 4pm. It also includes tearooms, a craft beer shop, a coffee roasters and even a paint a pot! Wakefield Council has recently awarded a grant to the Castleford Heritage Trust so that they can begin a £24 million regeneration plan known as Castleford Boho to link the Riverside to the town centre. It's looking like 'Casvegas' is definitely going to be on the map for us boaters. If you've never been to Castleford or even if you have but never walked over the footbridge then make sure you stop at the mill, you won't regret it. It's a beautiful building and I look forward to seeing more of it on our next trip. Please feel free to tag along and treat me to a sambuca.

Love Pam (Bowley) xx

A cracking night at S.Y.B.C

We spent our first night at the South Yorkshire Boat Club moorings near Heck. We heard a rumour that 'Play Your Cards Right' was on in the clubhouse so being experts we trotted along. A warm welcome greeted us by a nice chap clutching raffle tickets. Like Pavlov's dog, the gents all reached for a fiver and so it began. Well... in the first round of cards, we didn't get a look in and the nice chap with the raffle tickets returned. Again, the boys whipped out their wallets, with slightly less enthusiasm, and round two was played with no success. A lovely lady appeared at the table with a Grand National game. Only a pound a square, so the boys, now scrambling through pockets for change (having run out of fivers) duly purchased a horse. Shortly after, a kindly gent rocked up with charity trinkets, all a £1, so three pens, a key ring and a novelty llama were also bought. When 'nice chap' clutching raffle tickets turned up for the third time, the boys were looking a little pale. 'Do you accept kidneys?' one quipped.



All in all, we had a grand night, surrounded by warm and friendly folk. Great moorings and a fabulous club house too. What more can you ask for?

*Strawberry
Island
Loo Blue*



**5 litres for £10
Please ask at the bar
for further details**

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. Two to start us off:

The Old George, Sykehouse

This is a little bit of a trek across the fields from the moorings at Sykehouse or alternatively you can take the slightly longer route along the road. We were not disappointed as the food was delicious and the service was spot on. The whole pub had a really good feel about it and was busy with locals the day we visited. I'm unsure whether they are dog friendly (call to check if you want to sit inside) but there is a beer garden around the back.

Table 26, Swillington

When visiting Woodlesford (Leeds) instead of going into Woodlesford itself, turn left on the main road and go up the hill to Swillington (you can also catch the number 175, 168 or 9A bus up the hill and get off at Tesco / Swillington Church).

A short walk down Church Lane (and on your right) will bring you to Table 26 which is a small but fantastic Indian Restaurant. The food is delicious and the company (if the owner Zak is in) is entertaining to say the least. We left there I am sure, with more food (in our doggy bag) than we had ordered due to him bringing a new 'special' that he wanted us to try. He is also very generous with the complimentary liqueurs!

Table 26 were the winners of 'The best Indian Restaurant of the Year in Yorkshire and Humberside', at the English Curry Awards 2021. They are also finalists in the English Curry Awards 2023.

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

SOCIAL 2023



Social Summer Sunshine

As I write this article we are currently moored in Hebden Bridge. It is a balmy evening and having had an online Committee meeting, we are now enjoying a glass of wine with three hundred Canada geese as neighbours.

At our last social meeting we put together the Social calendar for Autumn to Spring 2024. Starting in October, we are hoping Mikron Theatre Company will be back, there is another Speed Quiz and our Laying Up Supper with a decades theme.

November, we will have the Macmillan Coffee Morning and get ready ladies for another fantastic Ladies' Night.

December, we have a full month of Christmas festivities. The Christmas Market will be a week earlier this year followed by a Draw Night, a trip to Thursford, a Singalong, Parties and another fabulous Christmas Lunch.

In the New Year, you can look forward to a Cheese and Wine evening and members can show off their talents in February with another Members' Talent Night. What will the Awards team bring us this year? March, finishes the calendar with a Mother's Day Lunch, the Dinner Dance and last but not least the Fitting Out Supper.

The lists for Saturday and Sunday lunches will be on the galley noticeboard, how quickly can we fill them up?

Once again, we will be holding regular social meetings for volunteers to help at these events. If you prefer you can email me at social@sibc or speak to a member of the social team.

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer cruising this year and managed to get around the system without too many hitches.

Regards,

Barbara, Social Chair.

The Perfect Berry Island

What a treat the day we met Mark!
Introduced us to SIBC,
John showed us around,
What a paradise we'd found.
Met Big Chris and Les,
Little did we know how our future would unfold.

Met Michael and Pat,
what a character we'd heard,
And eventually became to know,
Michael's beloved 'O' and Co.
This became Van's,
as our futures continued to unfold!

Casino night and tapas, 007s galore,
Loads of leading ladies,
Tracy and Sharon to name but two adorned the floor.
Dinner dance at Wheatly Hall,
Met two Petes, a David, Carol, Bev and Elaine.
Even won the scratch card game.

Interview day was like being back at school,
I needn't have worried, Hazel, Les and Derek
Vetted us thoroughly,
Then the longest two weeks unfolded,
Confirmation we're in!
Our lives closer to paradise,

What adventures, people, places and memories lie ahead?

By Shirley Sefton

Dates for your Diary

(All may be subject to additions or change)



| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 2023 | |
| 16 th /17 th September | Rally |
| 7 th October | Commodore's Cruise |
| 9 th October | Mikron Theatre |
| 14 th October | Quiz |
| 28 th October | Laying up supper |
| 4 th November | Bonfire Cruise |
| 11 th November | Macmillan coffee morning |
| 18 th November | Ladies Night |
| 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 | Member's 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 |

As I Sit by the Canal Bank Side

**As I sit by the canal bank side,
Watching time pass me by,
Waiting for the sunrise reflection,
To paint the world with its golden hue.**

**The morning fog envelopes me,
A peaceful escape from the world,
And the chirping of the birds,
A symphony that fills my soul.**

**The stillness of the water,
Reflecting the beauty of the sky,
A moment frozen in time,
A moment that will never die.**

**I let my mind wander,
As I watch the world awaken,
The worries of yesterday,
Fade away, and I am taken.**

**Taken by the beauty,
Of this moment in time,
A moment to cherish,
A moment that is truly divine.**

**And as the sun rises high,
And the fog slowly disappears,
I am left with a memory,
Of a morning that calmed my fears.**

**So let time pass you by,
And enjoy the beauty that surrounds,
For in these peaceful moments,
True happiness can be found.**

Mick Marshall

A Club for All

This season I have been mainly learning to knit socks thanks to Dawn Morgan and Ally Marr, in between a little bit of practice on the concertina (which still sounds like I am strangling the cat). The point I am trying to make is that whatever your interest there will always be someone in the Club that will share it with you, and you do not have to be a professional to join in.



A great place to start is in the club house on Saturdays. From the beginning of October the Crafty Crankers meet for a cuppa, natter and to share their latest creations. There are so many knowledgeable creative people here it is always worth nipping in to see what is happening. Annette Wildsmith also has her painting class which has been very popular in the past. Take a look in the conservatory where you will find some of the paintings completed by the class on show.

In the afternoon the Island Folk meet. The music is not strictly folk music but a range of easier pieces to encourage beginners to come along.

So, what are you waiting for? Keep an eye out for posts on Facebook and notifications in the club house.

| | |
|---|---|
| In your Winter 2023 edition of Punnet: | Trip-Islander — Your SIBC canal review. Next edition — The Ribble Link. Submit your review now to punnet@sibc.club |
| | Your cruise logs, disasters, funny stories. It's your stories that make your Punnet so submit your review now to punnet@sibc.club |

Manchester Ship Canal

One evening whilst planning our journey for this year, somebody i.e. our Commodore said, 'Well if we are doing the River Weaver we might as well go on the Manchester Ship Canal!'

We said we would think about it and get back. 'Where's your sense of adventure?'

So, down the Anderton boat lift we went and moored up at the bottom and then Hazel started to make all the phone calls that need to be done.

First, you need a survey to confirm your boat is safe. This was completed after a few phone calls to different surveyors due to wanting one the next day. We ended up going back to the first person who agreed to do them the next afternoon at around 4pm at Winsford marina.



Second phone call was to the CRT to ensure Marsh Lock would be manned and also Ellesmere Port Lock unchained.

Third call was to Ellesmere Port Council who work the swing bridge at the entrance to Ellesmere Port.

Fourth, to Peel Ports along with an email with the boat survey and the registration form. Once these were sent we then paid and a date and time was given, that being the 26th May at 11am. We then had to re phone CRT and the Council to confirm date and time.

So, from Winsford Marina we set off to Northwich, we then found out Saltersford Lock was closed for repair! We got up the next morning and decided to go to Saltersford anyway and see what the problem was. Luckily we got to the lock and they were just testing it and let us through, phew back on track.

Finally, we got to Marsh Lock to moor up and look at what we had let ourselves in for which was a very choppy, grey looking canal. To quote one of Hazel's phrases, that Simon would have to put his BIG BOY PANTS on tomorrow.

Well D-Day came and we got to Marsh Lock at 10am and CRT had already got the lock ready. We were ready for the gates to open (no turning back now) the boat surveyor had said just head out in a straight line. RUM 'A' GIN went first... I'm not saying what happened next, you will have to go to the Awards Night to find out!

We finally turned into the ship canal and notified them by radio and was told a boat was coming our way and to stay to the port side. At various places you must radio in and ask permission to proceed, which we did, until we saw a tugboat moving a massive ship and we had to tread water until advised safe to proceed.



Finally, we got to the turning for Ellesmere Port and the swing bridge was open but the lock gates still had the chain round them. Hazel was once again on the phone to CRT and Simon sent to the Visitors' Centre to find somebody to unlock them. Thirty minutes later we had a man walk down with a key.

All in all, a very good experience.

Cost of Survey £55 Fee to Peel Port £46
Moorings at Ellesmere Port £10per night which includes entry to the museum.

Anne Mitchie

Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival

Following our trip up the Lancaster Canal, with a little bit of judicious juggling of our itinerary we passed through Middlewich during the weekend of the Folk and Boat Festival (FABFest). Last year's festival (which we also attended) appeared to be an attempt by the Town Council to pull the festival into the mainstream and there were several well known 'big-name' bands playing. Unfortunately, it made a huge loss and as a result the rights to the festival were acquired by a couple of local people. They then set about reverting the festival to its original intent of supporting local community groups, businesses and talent and build upon its canal heritage. The event had a much more homely feel and the townsfolk were out in droves to support it.

There are three main aspects to FABFest. Firstly, there's the main events arranged by the organisers around the town centre. A main stage on the 'Market Field' hosts a large outdoor stage which saw music from local bands on Friday and Saturday evenings (ticketed) and Sunday afternoon. Friday night was an 80's evening with tribute bands covering Pet Shop Boys, New Romantic and ABBA. Saturday night saw an eclectic mix of Americana, Folk music, Little Mix tribute and Indie rock whilst Sunday's free concert included music from local groups including a rock choir, folk singer, more Indie rock and a swing fusion band covering the 20's to modern times.

Saturday daytime's organised events started with a morning carnival parade of local groups and residents through the main shopping street (which also hosted a street market) to the 'Market Field'. This was followed by community events including a dog show, an energetic performance by the local kids youth group called 'Kids Dance to the Beat', a presentation of the local Morris Dance known as



the 'Crow Dance' and a couple of local acts also played.

The second part of the festival is ranged along the canal between Big Lock and the Middlewich 3 Locks. Roving traders have reserved moorings along this stretch selling their wares. These range from boaty bits such as handmade fenders and such like through to festival clothing, jewellery and crystals, framed pictures made from cut out vinyl records and paintings. Food and drink was available from the

boats including an onboard wood fired pizza oven (!), coffee and cakes, gins and cocktails. There were also several historic boats on display and this was probably helped by the festival taking place in between the historic boat weekends at Etruria and Lymm.

Finally, there is the fringe festival which takes place in local pubs and other venues (including a boatyard) around the town. Most of the local pubs (I counted ten) put on music events which range in scale from a single band in the evening through to a full weekend's festival involving thirty acts across three stages in the case of the King's Lock pub. There's also impromptu folk sessions that spring up here and there.



With so much to see and do it's hard to cover everything. We didn't really go to many of the main events although we did support the local carnival parade and community groups who performed after it. Obviously, we had to ~~waste~~ spend money at the floating market on a few bits and pieces and chat to 'old-timers' about how the laughing shaft is connected to the giggle stick on their 1908 single cylinder, air cooled, hot bulb, chain drive, sludge powered, original to the boat, engine. However, most of our time was spent in the various venues



of the fringe festival. Highlights for us included the small outdoor bar and stage behind Middlewich Town Wharf (above the 3 Locks) where good beer combined well with a variety of acoustic acts and a folk session after the last act finished. The sheer range of music styles and beer at King's Lock pub wasn't to be missed either. Most memorable act of the weekend (I am ashamed to admit) had to be the Boy George and Elvis impersonator at the Cheshire Cheese on Sunday evening. Impersonation was in the looser meaning of that term (he was the right body shape) but the audience were involved throughout the act (including your Editor on a couple of occasions).

The FABFest is regaining its focus as a community event and by all reports it was well received in the town. Plans are underway for the 2024 event so if you're in the area next year I thoroughly recommend it. Keep an eye on Facebook or middlewichfabfest.com for next year's dates.

Blue Star Surveys

Marine Surveyor and
Boat Safety Scheme Examiner

Mike Boulton

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S.I.B.C. Tie



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A.W.C.C. Burgee

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Trip Islander- Your SIBC Canal Review

Each edition we aim to bring you unbiased reviews by our members of one of the features of our canals. This month – Liverpool and Salthouse Dock.

Ally Marr

The approach to Salthouse dock is quite spectacular. Passing the partly constructed Everton Football Stadium and navigating ‘Sid’s ditch’ (a legend in his own lifetime as a long-term enthusiastic employee of the BWB/CRT) you enter a series of stark concrete tunnels. Marmite’s top was off at this point or we could have left a lovely merlot coloured strip on the ceiling.



On leaving the tunnels the skyline of Liverpool surrounds the canal with the historical vying for attention between the modern glass superstructures.

Suddenly, we were passing the iconic Liver building, far more impressive than the flickering ‘Rediffusion’ images from the late 60’s tv programme. Continuing on we felt like visiting royalty as the camera laden crowds snapped and waved as we entered Albert dock and passed through to Salthouse Dock.

Our mooring for the week was tucked up in the far corner with views of the ferris wheel and old dock buildings. Salthouse dock feels like the quieter neighbour to Albert dock (apart from the busy road). It is fairly secure with locked gates, although the fitter locals can hop over the gate. I had a lovely chat about the merits of Marmite with a canny couple of cheeky scousers sat just outside my hatch.

For £10 a night including electric, you’d be hard pushed to find parking for that price in central Liverpool. Salthouse Dock is within minutes of Liverpool One, a huge shopping area, and more museums and culture than you can throw a windlass at.

Everyone said, ‘You will love Liverpool’...and they were so right.
Experience score – 5 out of 5

The Winter Edition will be reviewing the Ribble Link. Please send reviews to punnet@sibc.club

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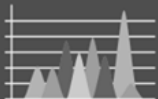
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Ask Agatha

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Dear Agatha,

I'm hoping that you can give me some advice as my husband seems to be addicted to eBay and in particular buying fishing paraphernalia. In recent weeks his tackle has expanded, his rod has become longer and all he mutters about are tequila boobies.

I opened a biscuit tin looking for a tasty snack yesterday and got a face full of Blue Bottles.

Please help,

Exasperated of Edenthorpe

Dear Exasperated

Honestly, men and their hobbies! It's just an excuse to avoid doing the decorating in my opinion. I've never understood the appeal of sitting for hours on a cold, wet canal bank. It's a sure-fire way to get piles and the only way to break the monotony is to fiddle with your maggots and hurl abuse at passing boats.

However, let me give you a word of warning as my own dear hubby once took up fishing. Like your husband, he was forever rearranging his tackle on the kitchen table. He even borrowed my best dishcloth to polish his 9ft pole! At first it seemed like good clean fun but things took a sinister turn. I was disturbed to hear him talking to a friend about 'slow jigging' and his 'wet flies'. The final straw came when I saw that he'd ordered a pair of thigh high PVC waders and some French nymphs. I nipped that hobby in the bud pretty sharpish and I suggest you do the same!

Good Luck,

Agatha



Jensen, Jetsam and Barmaids

Bagpuss and Marmite, with crews of two plus two, set off for a leisurely adventure over the Leeds and Liverpool. A week in, and Marmite's crew was reduced to one as Ally had to return to tend to the needs of the dead and buried of the Parish. As Clerk to the Burial Board, she knows a stiffy when she sees one.

I thought it would help crewing and progress if I invited an old pal from kit car building days, as we are both paid up members of the Phukawi Tribe. Steve Knaggs, Sunderland born, bred and fed, grasped the nettle and committed six days to assist the 'Penniners'. One Megabus and one train later, Knaggsie was in Saltaire carrying various cameras and Buzz the drone. We were shortly joined by RumaGin and Moon Dancer and off we went on the hunt for Fannies. It's a great little bar.

Knaggsie is, shall we say, excitable yet personable. He fitted in well with SIBC banter, even soothing things over when Jensen and a local dog had a robust conversation. No blood was drawn in the making of this tale.

Steve is keen on photographing most (actually everything) that happens in his life and our trip ensured he captured a cornucopia of locks, flowers, buildings, reflections, people and wildlife. Knaggsie's enthusiasm to capture the image is often impulsive, dynamic and dangerous to life. Imagine Diane Clark on steroids.

On a leisurely cruise from Silsden towards Skipton we were following Bagpuss and I remarked to Steve that Garry was feeding a swan from his stern (not a euphemism) and that maybe he would like to feed it some bread that I had by my side in the wheelhouse. Boy, did that hit Knaggsie's button. Like a coiled spring released from both ends, he surged forwards to grab the bread with one hand and his trusty little Go Pro with the other. This was at the same time, despite being three metres apart and me in-between.

He tore a piece of bread off and with bread in one hand and Go Pro in the other a feeding shot was nearly in the bag. I then heard those fateful words, "I don't believe I did that". I turned to see his ashen face and his hand holding a piece of bread. Yes, his excitement had got the better of him and he had launched the Go Pro at the swan. The

swan survived. The Go Pro was fully charged and will have recorded its final flight, plus two hours of the bottom of the cut.

At times like this it is important to rally around people in need, and so many of us needed to laugh. Even Steve, after going down below to have a quiet word with himself, returned with a reluctant smile. He even confessed to bringing a Go Pro float but had left it in his rucksack.

On arrival in Skipton, the story was retold to barmaid after barmaid and it was not long before Skiptonites began pointing from across the road and sniggering. And so, the legend of Steve “Butterfingers” Knaggs was born.



No swans, dogs or barmaids were injured in this tale.

Ian Marr

Have you had any boating catastrophes or mishaps? Maybe you've lost items to the Cut. If so, send your stories to punnet@sibc and make us all smile at your expense.

Work Party Dates

Saturday 28th October 2023
Saturday 18th November 2023
Saturday 16th December 2023
Saturday 20st January 2024
Saturday 24th February 2024
Saturday 23rd March 2024

Wednesday Work Parties

Please see Facebook for updates.
See Malcolm Dawson or Ken Shaw if you require more information.

Planning to travel from Strawberry Island along the New Junction Canal? Are you arranging for someone to open all the bridges and locks for you? Here is a good idea from the Lomas family. Postcodes of all the bridges and locks so your helpers can travel safely and efficiently to keep up with you using their car satellite navigation.

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 warmer days.

Tuna and Sweetcorn Fishcakes

Ingredients:

1. 450g potato, quartered
2. Two tablespoons mayonnaise, plus extra to serve
3. Two 185g cans tuna, drained
4. 198g can sweetcorn, drained
5. Small bunch of chives snipped or one teaspoon of dried parsley
6. Two eggs beaten
7. 100g dried breadcrumbs
8. Oil for frying
9. Salad and favourite dressing to serve

Method:

- Cook the potatoes in boiling salted water until really tender. Drain and allow to steam-dry in a colander.
- Tip potatoes into a bowl, season and mash.
- Stir in the mayonnaise, tuna, sweetcorn and chives or parsley.
- Shape into four cakes and chill until cold and firm.
- Once chilled, dip each cake into the egg, letting the excess drip off, then coat in the breadcrumbs. Chill for fifteen minutes.
- Heat a little of the oil in a pan and gently fry the cakes until each side is golden. You might want to do this in batches so keep the cooked fishcakes in a pre-warmed oven on low.
- Serve with extra mayonnaise and salad leaves.

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.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

The King's Coronation

When me, Lucy, Grandad and Nanna arrived at the clubhouse the first thing we did was unpack the car to get things ready for tomorrow (the kings coronation). Early in the morning Nanna went to the club house to start making the food, I went to her an hour later and put on an apron and washed my hands and then she told me what to do. I made the ham sandwiches and helped to cut them up and then had to put jam into lots of tiny pots for the scones. I put in a lot of hard work into the pots and sandwiches so we could all eat later.

After I left the galley, we went to the flagpole down the Island where every one watched my grandad (helped by Lucy and me) to raise the three flags to open the weekend, I felt very proud.

We had now arrived at the clubhouse all eyes ready for this spectacular moment when King Charles III was to be crowned. Nanna and Paul gave everyone some punch before the Coronation started and when it was nearly over we took around cakes stands, one between two people. They were delicious especially the ham sandwiches.



After, I went on my scooter for a little ride to wake me up as I felt very sleepy. Later that day my grandad made an announcement and was appreciative for everyone who had been part of the weekend so far and that there was more fun to follow. We went back to the boat and had afternoon nap.

It was then time to go back to the clubhouse where there was singing and a curry made by John and Judy, it was lovely. Now it was time to get ready for the raffle. I helped Grandad with the tickets and after the raffle we listened to a choir which I loved. Eloise, Masie, Eydie,

Lucy and I were asked to go to the front and we were given some sweets to share because we all had junior membership and we had all been there to celebrate.



When we left the clubhouse it was 01:30am, I was tired and I flopped straight into bed as we had to be ready for tomorrow as it was another busy day. We set off sailing to Sykehouse (I think there were about 24 boats). I sailed the boat with Grandad while Lucy was on Roblox (a game she plays on her Ipad). We arrived setting everything up, I went to a forest and

started to climb trees but we then got sent on a mission. We had to go down the line of boats and pick the best decorated one. I kept it a secret who had won. We then had tea it was a BBQ sausage burger, chicken cooked by Nanna and salad and potatoes that Julie had done. After tea we went back in the fields and climbed trees and got very muddy.

When it started to get dark we had to come and sit where we could be seen but I didn't mind as there was another concert to watch on the telly that was in the tent. When it was really dark, we went to bed and slept.

In the morning we had bacon and sausage sandwiches to start the day and then started to pack the stuff away. It didn't take long and we set off back. It was raining on the way back and Nanna had to do Barnby Dun bridge but she didn't mind because she had her new coat on that kept her warm and dry. 😊

It was a good weekend that I will always remember and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as me.

By Olly Norbury



