



PUNNET

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

WINTER 2024



In your Winter 2024 edition of Punnet

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Front cover - The Gorge at Craggside House, Rothbury, Northumberland



EDITORIAL



Welcome to the Winter edition of Punnet

Season's greetings to you all.

Here we go again, that most magical time of the year where hopefully we get to put our feet up a bit or alternatively, enjoy a few festivities. A time for me where I am grounded for a while (pew) without the husband trying to whisk me away on the boat or foreign climes!

We have a fabulous Punnet this time with plenty to keep you interested from the 'goings on' at the Island such as the rally, a challenging recipe, updates to health and safety on the Island and the Moorings, ideas for boating next year, a story for children, our wonderful Agatha and her Christmas message (including tips to survive Christmas) and more. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, you have been fabulous including Trevor Bailey for the quotes dotted here and there.

In the centrefold are your Christmas greetings, so check these out. Money raised has been shared equally between the charity boxes to be found on the bar. Please place your pound in one of these if you have not donated.

If you have something that can be included in the Spring edition of Punnet please email to punnet@sibc.club or use Messenger. You can also put handwritten articles into the post box at the main entrance to the Clubhouse.

Whatever you do this festive season have the most amazing time. A wish from me to you is for good health and calm seas for the 2025 boating season.

Donna Ward

Enjoy life and do whatever floats your boat
[Anon]



Commodore's Column

I hope everyone is well,

I write this looking over the North Sea, quite in awe because of the lovely Autumn weather we are having.

As the Summer draws to a close it is good to reflect on what a fantastic time we have had with all the events we planned. The Jamaican Food Night was a great success, many thanks to Liz and Patrick and their team for the great food they cooked for us. I'm sure everyone will agree what a great rally we had too. It just shows that when we all pull together, the members of this brilliant club can really put on a great time.

I am sure that you have seen the replacement of the outside moorings are really nearing completion and a big thank you goes to Ken and his team for their commitment to this task.

As we move forward into our winter season the Social Team have a host of activities planned for your enjoyment. Please come along, get involved and enjoy the festivities.

Although the island is looking well I'm sure Malc and Ken will be looking for members to get involved with the work parties. Dates of these are in your calendar, in Punnet and on the Website.

As we get ready for the new boating calendar the Awards Team are looking for nominees for the 2025 Awards. Forms are around the clubhouse or alternatively, I'm sure John and Judy will be happy to assist with your nomination.

May I take this opportunity for Lesley and me to wish each and every member a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chris

STRAWBERRY ISLAND BOAT CLUB

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www.sibc.club

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Chris Riley	Plant
Donna Ward	Punnet / AWCC Rep
Mick Hirst	Website
John Robinson	Slipway / Hardstanding

S.I.B.C. CRESTED CLOTHING

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

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

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

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

Sweats crew neck - unisex	£13.95
Sweats V neck - unisex	£14.40
Cardigans - unisex	£15.50
Hooded tops - unisex	£14.99
100% cotton V neck jumper - unisex	£19.20
Fleeces - unisex	£17.15
Reversible shower proof jackets - unisex	£24.65
Heavyweight Storm reversible jacket - unisex	£28.30
Polo shirts - unisex	£11.60
Polo shirts - ladies fit	£11.05
Tipped polo shirts - unisex	£12.75
T Shirts	£ 5.95

Please note that ALL prices are plus VAT at the current rate.

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



Licence YOUR Boat through your Club

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

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

This year we have 'lost' around £2000.

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

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

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

It is easy to renew your Licence:

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

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

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

Peter Harbon Treasurer & Trustee

Treasurer's Treasury



A Salutary Tale

Some 35 years ago, SIBC were planning to build a new clubhouse. The previous structure was a converted temporary wooden site accommodation with wooden portacabin toilets and games room, all past their useful life. The design for the new clubhouse was approved and funds were raised by a membership levy.

The treasurer at the time, (we will call him 'Bill', not his real name) gave precise reports to the Management Committee (MC) showing what we had received, what we had spent on the project etc and the balance in the bank. The construction of the new clubhouse was well advanced and whilst the treasurer was away on holiday, we started to receive calls from various suppliers about unpaid bills. On enquiring with the bank, there was no money in the current account! Fortunately, there were funds in the deposit account.



Well, 'Bill' was reported to the police where he admitted to the offence of fraud and theft. He said he had borrowed some cash from the club funds and was unable to pay it back, so he started to cover this up. He was always there when the postman delivered the bank statements so he could cover up the situation. He had managed to erase the printing on a bank statement. He had the blanks colour photocopied (very early days in this technology) and set up a printer to produce his own statements to show everything was OK. Even the bank could not tell the difference between their statements and his! He was producing two sets of accounts, the fraudulent ones for the MC.

Stepping back in time to after the funds were raised but before construction had commenced, there was a serious fire in the early hours of a Saturday morning. The bar, bar store etc were destroyed but the fire was limited to only that half of the clubhouse. The cause of the fire was reported to be rats or mice eating the cables. Now this is when the full force of our members help and ability swung into action. By the Sunday afternoon, the good half of the club had been partitioned off, repainted, a new bar and store built, a new electricity supply installed and the bar open!



An insurance claim was made, and eventually a cheque received. The cheque was taken to the bank by our president with a letter instructing the bank to deposit the cheque in our deposit account. The bank deposited the cheque in the current account, we did not know that 'Bill' our treasurer was running out of our money! If the bank had not made that error, his wrongdoings would not have been found out and the new clubhouse might not have gone ahead.

Anyway, 'Bill' got 5 years which was reduced to 2.5 years via appeal at the severity of his sentence. I think he served 18 months.

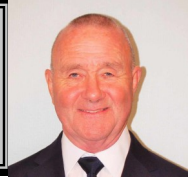
We appealed to the bank to refund the monies they had put in the wrong account, but they said they did not know that our treasurer was dishonest. We took the case to the banking ombudsman who found in our favour, and we were refunded the money. In the end we managed to carry out more work than was originally planned, including the new bar.

Control measures were put in place to protect the club finances and updated to keep up with modern banking practices.

Peter Harbon

The man who rows the boat seldom has time to rock it
[Amish proverb]

Harbourmaster Matters



Hello everyone,

Well, the busy start to my role as Harbourmaster shows no sign of slowing down. The Mainline moorings team were kept busy up to the end of May, when we decided to pause activity until after the rally. That said there was still work to be done on the East Loop to keep moorings in a safe and usable condition. Whilst some of our team deployed on their well earned break /cruise, there were still a couple of us around and with the help of the occupants (as expected, and thanks to them) we were able to complete the necessary repairs.

No time for Ann and me to put our feet up though as the Rally was fast approaching. For the second year running the Rally Team exceeded all expectations, so much so that we played host to 29 visiting boats and several motorhomes. What a brilliant effort by all concerned.

As Harbourmaster I like to personally greet our visitors, and in doing so I get a feel for their thoughts about our club. I can tell you that the feedback was once again very positive about our rally, club, facilities and the hospitality shown by Sarah and Ian. I like to take the positives from such feedback. As a visitor to our Club, boaters get to see what we have and what we can do when we pull together and they genuinely appreciate what we have to offer. We can all at times take what we have a little bit for granted, so such praise I feel, helps to keep me grounded and makes me remember just what facilities we have compared to elsewhere. Well, they all departed and poured praise on the Club.

No rest for the wicked though, our good member Dennis Gayle has manufactured and delivered the last of the steel frames and fittings to complete the Mainline stretch. Ideally, I would like to complete this work before the New Year and then maybe we can ease up a little next year.

That's it for this Punnet. Happy and safe sailing,

Ken

SOCIAL 2024

As I write my first report for the Punnet as Social Chair, I'd like to thank Shelley Brough for leading the Social Team in delivering some great events through the summer and also everyone who helped to make the lighter night months a fantastic time for socialising at SIBC.

Since the last issue we have enjoyed a number of terrific events that brought members together for nights of fun and entertainment. Firstly, the Jamaican-themed evening, with amazing traditional Jamaican food and live reggae music, was a great success and then the Speed Quiz Night delivered a night of fun, fast-paced trivia with teams competing across multiple and varied quiz rounds and finally more recently, where for one night only, the club was transformed into a casino with blackjack, roulette and poker tables proving very popular even if most people ended the night penniless!

Laying Up Supper is always a big event in SIBC's calendar, and this year was no exception. With the theme of Ghosts, Ghouls & Goths we were treated to fabulous food from Sara, Richard and their galley team, great live music and amazing company – a great spooky-themed way to bring the 2024 boating season to an end.

Ladies Night was an elegant and glamorous evening with the SIBC men laying on a fine dining experience courtesy of Brian Sharples and his galley crew, combined with the very entertaining waiting service before the night was rounded off by a live Motown and soul act. Thank you Gentlemen.

As we move towards the festive season the social team has a line-up of events to help celebrate the holidays and bring a closure to the year in style:

- Christmas Family Celebration – a new event in our social calendar so join us for an afternoon of games, sports & challenges, crafts, delicious food and delights – including John and Judy Southcombe's infamous curry, a cocktail bar, return of the winter wonderland photobooth and of course, a visit from Santa.

- Sing-Along Night with The Rickety Rockers - a lively and fun sing-along and a wonderful way to kick off the festive season with music, laughter and of course, mince pies.
- Christmas Party - join everyone to celebrate the festive season with live music from Marina Mae followed by our very own in-house DJ John Lindsay
- Christmas Lunch – always a treat and a very popular event so keep an eye out for tickets coming available in November
- Christmas Draw Night – the highly anticipated night where members have the chance to win fantastic prizes. Don't miss out, make sure you see Ashley and Anne for your tickets.
- New Year's Eve Party – a special final event of the year themed 'All Things Silver' in celebration of our Commodore, Chris, and Membership Secretary, Lesley's Silver Wedding Anniversary on the same day. The evening will include live music, dancing, and a countdown to midnight, ensuring a spectacular end to the year.

We hope that everyone will join us for this festive and celebratory end to 2024 and, as always, if you see something you would like to offer your help with, please let us know - your participation is invaluable to us.

Thank you and we look forward to enjoying this festive season together .

Mandy Atkinson

In your Spring 2025 edition of Punnet:	Trip-Islander — Your SIBC Canal Review. Next Edition — The Welsh Waterways. 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 articles now to punnet@sibc.club

A boat cannot go forward if each rows his own way [*Lamya Elarj*]

Dates for your Diary

(All may be subject to additions or change)



2024	
30 th November	Christmas Jumper Night
7 th December	Christmas Sing Along
14 th December	Adults' Christmas Party
15 th December	Christmas Lunch
21 st December	Christmas Draw Night
31 st December	New Year's Eve Party
2025	
1 st January	New Year's Day Cruise
18 th January	Social Meeting
18 th January	Race Night—'Ladies' Day'
1 st February	Chinese New Year
15 th February	Valentines' Dinner
22 nd February	Awards Night
8 th March	Social Meeting
8 th March	Game Show Night
15 th March	Annual Dinner Dance
16 th March	Annual General Meeting
22 nd - 23 rd March	Weekend Trip - PROVISIONAL DATE
30 th March	Mothers' Day Lunch
5 th April	Fitting Out Supper

Let's Talk Rubbish

£4,000

£4,000

£4,000

The disposal of rubbish from the island now costs more than **£4,000** and is growing year on year. By managing how we dispose of our waste could save us some money.

Methods of disposal

General waste bins

Recycling bins

Bottle bins

Skip

Take your rubbish home or to the tip

The **General Waste Bins** are for domestic waste only. We regularly have a surcharge placed on us because these bins are overweight. Used paint tins, old furniture, wood and metal **should not be** in these bins.

The Recycling Bins are for cardboard, paper, tin cans and recyclable plastic bottles and containers. Please try to separate these from your domestic waste. Please flatten cardboard boxes before putting them in the bin.

The Bottle Bins. We have several bottle bins on the island, some by the sanitary station and some behind the club. These should only contain glass but we are finding more and more domestic waste tipped into these bins. Please don't as the bin men won't empty them, so someone has to sort it.

The Skip costs us £216.00 plus VAT to empty, these costs are rising all the time but with better management we could save quite a bit of money. So how can we do it? It's very tempting to just throw anything and everything into the skip - after all it's much closer for some of you than the bins by the sanitary station. Before you throw anything in, have a think - can we do anything with it?

Tree branches can be chipped (we give the chippings to the gardeners) so put them by the compound and the work party will take care of it.

Tree trunks and thick branches can be cut up for logs and used on your log burners. We will cut it up.

Engineered wood can often be useful to us or cut up for logs so again put it by the compound.

Metal is a money maker for us so put it behind the sanitary station and we will take it to the scrap yard as they give us money... happy days.

Used engine oil is your responsibility so please take home and dispose of ethically.

Can we all please make the effort to put our rubbish/recycling where it should be. Recently we have had a toilet pan left behind the tractor shed and this needs to be removed by the person who put it there. This is the second one this year.

If you're not sure what to do with your rubbish, ask Malc or Ken and we will tell you where to stick it! Alternatively, Armthorpe 'dump it' site is only three miles away. Post code: DN2 5QB.

The overall cost for getting rid of our rubbish is only going one way and that's up so I'm sure we can save money by better waste management.

Malcolm Dawson

Get Involved With Your Club

Work Party Dates

Saturday 21st December 2024

Saturday 22nd February 2025

Saturday 18th January 2025

Saturday 29th March 2025

Wednesday Work Parties

Wednesday Work Parties are currently running each week.

All members are invited to help with various tasks around the island.

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

Rally Report

We have been and gone and done it! The Strawberry Island Boat Club Rally 2024 - the culmination of ten months of committed planning and bright ideas on the part of the committee and, latterly, dedicated, sheer hard work by a fantastic number of members, was a fabulous weekend of fun, food and entertainment. The Island looked absolutely gorgeous with a number of boats specially decorated for the big day, all the flower beds lovingly tended and the bunting fluttering in the sunshine. The 28 visiting boats, 5 camper vans and tent accommodated by Ken and made very welcome with a special pack to make their stay easy and comfortable.

The weekend started in the traditional way with a Pie 'n' Peas supper in the clubhouse with entertainment provided by the talented Tony Walsh. Tony's appearance was a special gift to the club from Bob and Beryl and he was an enormous success. Several people remarked on his ability to assess his audience and to choose music that was entirely suitable.

Saturday – the big day – dawned bright and clear. It was the most perfect day – dry and warm – and everything just fell into place. From the opening procession, led, as in years gone by, by the Sea Cadets, who kindly provided a colour party for us; to the duck race at the end of the day, and the varied entertainment flowed seamlessly from one act to another. SIBC was well represented by our very own Rickety Rockers and Mick Pattison. The crowds were kept very well fed and watered, with an enormous choice of excellent quality food and drink. Nobody has ever gone hungry or thirsty at an SIBC event! There were stalls aplenty to browse and representatives of charities keen to raise their profile. The children's corner, with activities and competitions to keep the youngsters occupied was very popular, as were the roving children's entertainers and, of course, happy children meant happy mummies and daddies, able to relax and stay to have 'just one more'.

Saturday evening saw us enjoying more food (!) and the return of the incomparable Razor Holler to help us dance the night away. What an evening! The raffle took nearly an hour to draw because there were so many lovely prizes.

The weather was wet and miserable on the Sunday but even that could not dampen the spirits. The Luxury Breakfast - in two sittings

this year - went down a treat as usual. It was quickly followed by the Commodore's Sherry Party, and this was very well attended. I cannot actually remember seeing much sherry but the Sheffield Punch – in two colourways – hit the spot, (and my knees!). The auction of all the leftovers followed, wittily and very ably conducted by Dave Chambers. I have to admit that having seen him in action last year, I did not trust myself not to end up with such a treasure as a backward running clock and so left the club house for an hour's nap. I returned to find Bill clutching a very useful river anchor whilst trying to hide his 'bonus' - a swivel chair without a seat!! Thank you, Dave! It was a wonderful end to a brilliant weekend.

The remit from the Commodore was to have a great weekend without it costing the club anything and this we did. We paid for some of the entertainment, and we gave the youngsters vouchers for a drink and a hot dog. The bar did a roaring trade that weekend. We have established links and reinforced connections that we already had within our community and have received a lovely 'thank you' letter from members of South Pennine Boat Club. We are given to understand that Heck have had a meeting to discuss why their rally was not as good as ours – praise indeed!

I have deliberately not attempted to thank any one individual or group because there are just too many to mention. This year's rally was an enormous success thanks to each and every member of the club who took part and supported the event. It would be just plain wrong to single any one individual or group out for a special mention here because it is the sum of everybody's' efforts that has made it so very, very good. There is nothing that we cannot achieve if we pull together like this. As a result of all our combined efforts, £1670.58 has been transferred into club funds and we will all benefit from this. Thank you to you all.

Mandy

*Strawberry
Island
Loo Blue*



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

The Rickety Rockers

As members of S.I.B.C many of you will be familiar with the resident band 'Rickety Rockers'. I would like to share what's involved in being part of the band. The RRs were formed many years ago by Norman Simms and included John Robinson who is still in the band. It was John who invited me to rehearsals originally with the intention of Improving my guitar skills, but I soon realised I was miles behind the rest of the band. Norman was away so I volunteered to fill in on vocals and we agreed on Norman's return that I would share vocals to help Norman. As you are aware we sadly lost Norman shortly after the 2023 rally, so I became the lead singer.

After Norman's death it was like starting the band all over again as we relied on Norman for many lead breaks and thanks to hours of practice by John and Steve Marshall we are getting there. Also in the band are Trevor Bailey on drums, Ian Elliott on bass



and Malc Dawson on rhythm guitar. We rehearse for about three hours every Monday night apart from management meetings. At the moment, we are practicing four new songs for the Christmas singalong. It is a thing we all enjoy doing and I am proud to be a member of both the band and the Club, as I'm sure the rest of the lads are.

For me, this is still Norman's band and I'm sure he would be proud that we carried on. I am also sure members appreciate the hours we put in to entertain the club.

Hopefully, come the next rally we will have a few more new songs and also might be performing at the Auckley Show too.

We are looking forward to doing this for a few more years to come, you lucky people!

Keep on Rocking,

Keith

Life is better on a boat
[Anon]

Out and About

This edition - The Reach at Piccadilly

The Reach at Piccadilly is located at Lock 84 on the historic Rochdale Canal. The waterway was vital for Manchester during the industrial revolution, transporting goods to and from textile mills around the North West and helping grow the city into the thriving hub it is today.

Named after the 'reach' or stretch of water that sits between the canal locks, the newly opened hotel strives to be an oasis of calm, where guests can eat, rest and reflect, away from the hustle and bustle of city life. The Reach has used simple, natural materials to pay tribute to the canal's legacy such as coal, cotton, timber, wool, and limestone, that were carried via boats across the North West of England and beyond, in order to design elegant rooms with sustainable, yet luxurious furnishings.

Just like the 'boaters' who, 200 years ago, used the many canal side inns to get a hot meal, share news and rest after a long day at work, The Reach hopes the hotel can be a place for guests to dine and drink with friends and colleagues, as well as enjoying a good night's sleep.



Van and I were fortunate to receive the hotel's free hospitality of a hot drink served by Ella and Naimh, as we passed through the lock. We were also told that if boaters were to stay at The Reach hotel, they would receive a discount.

Shirley Sefton

You can't buy happiness but you can buy a boat
And that's kind of the same thing [Anon]

Ghoul and Ghosts and Things that go Bump in the Night

This is the first year that we have taken part in The Ghost Ships of Doncaster. This hopefully annual event seems to be going from strength to strength and has been organised by Dave Robinette and his partner Charlotte Ward. Charlotte says that Dave has been the driving force and with his unstoppable passion and enthusiasm it is not difficult to see why it has been such a success.

This year surpassed all their expectations with hundreds of people watching the spectacular and collection buckets were very quickly filled with all proceeds being shared between the Air Ambulance and Canal and River Trust. Volunteers and staff of the Canal and River Trust were on hand to oversee the cavalcade and ensure safe passage through the locks and bridges. They did a fabulous job. Many were in Halloween costumes too which added to the ambience and made it very difficult to recognise who was there. I did not recognise Grahame Barrass until he actually spoke to me!

Strawberry Island was well represented in the cavalcade and the boats looked amazing. From galleons to pirates, scary tombstones to ghosts, the Addams Family to vampires and everything in between. I think we did the Island proud although our boat was a bit low key so we need to up our game next year!

The journey itself was quite magical and for us, was the first time we have boated in the dark. It was quite disorientating at times which made it more exciting and the silence was interspersed with bodiless voices shouting, 'Happy Halloween' as most of the time you could not see the spectators on the bank. All very strange! I would have liked to see what the boats looked like from the bank as it was very clear that it was appreciated by those watching.

Our journey took us from Long Sandall to Stainforth where we breasted up against Purple Emperor and shared a bottle of wine or two... well we deserved it!





We wish all our friends a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Malc and Ange
NB Trent Weaver

Best wishes for the New Year.

John and Linda
NB Blue Moon

Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr.

Claudia and David
NB Tonka 2

Frank and Sue wish all their friends at the Island a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NB Paddywack

Seasons greetings and a healthy and happy 2025.

Bob and Janet Brackenbury

Merry Christmas and all our best wishes for 2025.

Phil and Sue
(Gardeners)

Merry Christmas and a happy boating New Year.

Anne and Simon
NB Moondancer

Wishing all the Island a happy Xmas and a lovely New Year.

Annette and Derek
NB Out of the Blue

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our friends at SIBC.

Barbara, Steve and Bella
NB Rioja

We hope all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Pam and Mick Bowley
NB The Drunken Duck

Ey up boaters- Have a great Christmas and New Year, one and all.

**Duncan and Ellen
NB Ramble Gamble**

To all at SIBC a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**John Lindsay
Alassio Miss**

Wishing everyone best wishes for the Christmas season.

**Paul, Debbie, Eloise and Eydie
Mellors NB Twilight**

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Sue and John McBride
NB Mr G**

A very merry Christmas and happy New year. Happy sailing for 2025.

**Lesley and Chris
NB Faith, Hope and Charity**

Happy Christmas to all our friends. Happy boating for 2025.

**Phil and Anita Wood
Argyll Princess**

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

Ernie and Chris Painter

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for 2025.

**Jane and Dougie
NB Yorkshire rose**

Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to all at SIBC.

**Derrick and Theresa
NB Trekker**

'Nollaig Shona!' Merry Christmas to all our friends at SIBC, with many good wishes for the coming year. From the Irish Folk on the Dutch barge.

**John and Sharron
Mister Jingles**

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all.

**Janice and Dave Rabjohn
Taurus**

A very merry Christmas and a healthy New Year to all SIBC members.

**Richard and Carole
NB Victoria Grace Miller**

To everybody, I hope you have a happy Christmas.

**Lucy
NB Faith, Hope and Charity**

Richard and Hazel wish all members and friends at SIBC a very happy Christmas and New Year. With happy and stress free boating for 2025.

NB Rum'a'Gin

Happy Christmas everyone.

**Love Bill and Mandy Phillott
NB Gaynor**

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all members.

**Love, Sarah, Ian, Millie, Enzo, Ben
and Jerry and not forgetting Jack
and Vera xxx**

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Phil and Diane
NB Blue Moon**

Tracy and Paul from Rosebud would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Tess Johnson

To All at S.I.B.C. Our love and best wishes for a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!

**John and Teresa
NB Lady Mercy**

Christmas wishes to all friends at S.I.B.C.

**Graham and Viv
Apeldoorn**

Merry Christmas to everyone and a happy New Year. Best wishes,

**Linda and Alan Neech
NB Aladin**

Best wishes, happy Christmas and happy New Year.

Helen and Don Musgrave
NB Rosedale Lady

Very best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

Martyn and Carole
NB Daisy May

To everybody at SIBC, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Oilly
NB Faith, Hope and Charity

Wishing all members new and old a happy and joyous Christmas.

Steve and Jill
NB Two Loiners

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

Donna and Mick
NB ArMutch

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas to all and wishing all the best for 2025.
Xx

Neal and Julie
NB Sandpiper

Happy Christmas Strawberries.

From Rosie and Jim aboard
Purple Emperor

Have a good festive season folks.
Best wishes,

Garry and Dawn
NB Bagpuss

We hope you all have a fabulous Christmas and a cracking New Year. Xxx

Rachel and Chris Yorke
Vintage Rose

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

Cropredy

In 1644 the sleepy North Oxfordshire village of Cropredy, four miles north of Banbury was rudely awakened. Parliamentarians fought with Royalists at the battle of Cropredy Bridge, where they tried, but failed, to capture King Charles I. Afterwards the village returned to its slumber and for over 100 years nothing much happened once more.

In 1777 the outside world encroached and the Oxford Canal came to the village, enabling transportation of coal and other goods between Coventry, Oxford and the Thames. Once again, the village returned to its sleepy existence for another 200 years until 1979.



The folk band Fairport Convention, having had its heyday, decided to disband. As a farewell gesture they were having one final festival, which was headlined by non-other than Led Zeppelin.

One year later Fairport Convention decided to revisit this event and have a reunion festival, again in Cropredy. And so, the Annual Reunion festival, now known as Fairport's Cropredy Convention, was born.

Over 40 years later the festival is still going strong, continuing its traditions of good beer, wholesome food and above all great music. The only interruptions to this annual event have been because of COVID where the 2020 and 2021 festivals were cancelled.

I've been a regular visitor to Cropredy for the festival since 1988 and in that time have been entertained by an eclectic mix of headline bands including Alice Cooper, Madness, 10CC, Jethro Tull, Fisherman's Friends and many, many others. The festival also has a long history of introducing new acts, new talent to the audience.

A short time after each band or act has performed, you get the opportunity to meet them, take a selfie or get an autograph. Often the stars can be seen wandering the field or at the beer tent, don't be afraid of saying hello!

My earliest journeys to the village were as a backpacker. In later visits we had a car, trailer tent or motorhome. In 2022 we decided to take in the festival as part of our summer cruise, breaking our travels and going native for a while in Cropredy, and it certainly beats slumming it in a muddy field. The best tip we can offer is get there early, as the later you leave it the further you'll be moored from the action.

Cruising from the North it takes a couple of full days travel from Braunston to reach Cropredy. Passing through rural countryside, with only Napton and Fenny Compton there's little opportunity to get in any supplies you'll need for the duration of the festival.

From the South you cruise through Banbury a few hours before Cropredy and affords one last chance to stock up on food, ale and suntan cream. Banbury, an historic market town on the banks of the River Cherwell offers a market on Thursdays, plenty of pubs, eateries and shops plus a few historic attractions for the sightseer. For anyone with a crafty frame of mind the charity shop Orinoco offers a wealth of craft materials on sale.



Back in Cropredy the village itself boasts two pubs: the Red Lion and The Brasenose Arms, a village shop and a cafe. On Wednesday a butcher's van calls and sells excellent pork sausages. On Monday evenings a mobile fish and chip van also calls, and very good it is too! If you feel the urge to go further afield a bus service runs to and from Banbury on Thursday and Saturday. On other days if you walk up to Williamscot, about a mile away, there's an hourly bus service both to Banbury and Daventry every day.

During the festival weekend both pubs host their own fringe festival as does the campsite down School Lane. So, if the music on the main field doesn't appeal to you, your wristband will get you into nearly all of the fringe events for free. The beer boat puts on its own fringe music event the week before the festival. The Mikron Theatre puts on a couple of their plays at the rowing club. There's a car boot sale on the Saturday morning at the cricket club.

Each morning during the festival and on the Sunday morning after, if you don't fancy cooking, you can get a tasty full English breakfast at the rowing club or the village hall or even a continental breakfast at the church.

As a boater Cropredy offers a sanitary station with water point, toilet, bins and Elsan point. If you need a pump out Cropredy Marina can see to your needs. Coal, gas and diesel can be had periodically from Bob on "Dusty", the Jules Fuels boat that operates between Oxford and Fenny Compton. Bob can be contacted via his Facebook page.

I can thoroughly recommend the festival for its relaxed, dog friendly atmosphere, great music and entertainment, good food and drink and the wonderful feeling of wellbeing you're left with once it's all over.

Duncan Wright

Boats, like whisky, are all good [Anon]

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Ask Agatha

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



A Christmas message from Agatha

Greetings dear readers, it's the festive season again. Time to don your gay apparel and have a jolly good knees up! Sadly, my postbag is still heavy with Yuletide problems. Only yesterday I answered one from Aladdin, who was badly traumatised by finding out that his widowed mother was not all she seemed to be. Also, one from Jack, who sold his pet cow to a scammer on eBay and was paid in a worthless cryptocurrency, known in the trade as 'magic beans'.

Luckily, most of my readers just want advice on how to enjoy Christmas with (or in spite of) their loving families.

'Worried' of Warmsworth writes, 'My dear old Grandad loves his Christmas dinner with plenty of sprouts but unfortunately his digestion is not what it was and by mid-afternoon the atmosphere is quite unpleasant. What should I do?'

Well, 'Worried' if you must serve sprouts, I recommend opening plenty of windows and avoid naked flames. My hubby actually suffers from the same complaint. Last year when we lit the brandy on the Christmas pudding the resulting explosion blew the dining room window out, so be warned!

If you're tired of endless repeats of Dad's Army, why not have a family games night? Who doesn't love Charades or several hours of Monopoly? Perhaps you should avoid Twister if the average age is more than 70 as I believe ambulances are in short supply on Christmas Day. Also, be wary of Truth or Dare games and those that involve drinking shots. Blood may be thicker than water but that's no consolation when you're trying to get it out of the carpet!

On reflection, the Caribbean is very nice at this time of year. Whatever you do, have a peaceful Christmas and a problem-free 2025.

Agatha

Life is more fun when we put our boats in the water
[Gail Lynne Goodwin]

The Boater's Kitchen



The aim of the Boater's Kitchen is to provide you with tasty food which can be easily made on your boat. This edition Claudia has provided us with one of her recipes for a delicious treat at Christmas. Challenge yourself by making this but reading the recipe in German (an English translation has also been provided).

Zimtsterne – Cinnamon Stars

INGREDIENTS:

3 Eiweiß
3 egg whites

400g Puderzucker
400g Icing Sugar

1½ Eßlöffel Zimt
1½ Tablespoons Cinnamon

2 Eßlöffel Kirschwasser oder Zitronensaft
2 Tablespoons Kirschwasser (alcohol) or Lemon Juice

500g ungeschält gemahlene Mandeln
500g ground Almond (with their skin)

We may all have come on different boats but we're all in the same boat now
[*Martin Luther King*]

METHOD:

Eiweiß zu sehr steifem Schnee schlagen

Beat the egg whites until they are very stiff and add the icing sugar.

1/3 dieser Masse für die Glasur zur Seite stellen und mit den anderen Zutaten verkneten.

Put 1/3 to the side for the glaze and knead in the other ingredients.

Den Teig gut ½ cm dick ausrollen und Sterne Ausstechen.

Roll out the pastry about ½ cm thick and cut out stars.

Die Sterne auf ein mit Backtrennpapier ausgelegtes Backblech legen.

Put the stars on a baking tray lined with baking paper/parchment paper.

Die Sterne mit Glasur überziehen und über Nacht trocknen lassen.

Glaze the stars and then let them dry overnight.

Bei 200-225°C, Gasstufe 3-4 für 4-5 Minuten backen.

Bake them at 200-225°C, gas mark 3-4 for 4-5 minutes.

Die Glasur soll weiß bleiben und die Kekse weich auf der Unterseite.

The glaze should still be white and the biscuits soft underneath.



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.

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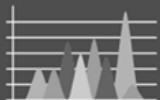
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Sadly And The Wrinklys

I am a little grey bear called Sadly and Mr and Mrs Wrinkly, (who I have lived with for a very long time) own narrowboat Meander which they keep at Strawberry Island in Doncaster. This is just one of my stories

It had been a really lovely Christmas with visits to Mr and Mrs Wrinkly's family, visits from the family and lots of Christmas decorations which I do really love. Mr Wrinkly is not a fan of Christmas decorations and even I can see his irritation as the apartment is slowly trimmed up by Mrs Wrinkly with the tree, ornaments, lights and lots of dangly things. Mr Wrinkly's face gets gloomier and gloomier and his eyes roll. Mrs Wrinkly always says, "Bah Humbug" which I am not sure what she means but it does fit with the look on Mr Wrinkly's face. Mrs Wrinkly says she turns a 'blind eye' to Mr Wrinkly's mood, but I know she is kidding as I know for a fact that both her eyes work. Mr Wrinkly does slowly and eventually get into a good mood for Christmas though.



You might remember that Chris Mouse, who should have actually been a Christmas tree ornament, arrived the Christmas before so it was his first anniversary in our apartment and I think he was still very glad that Mrs Wrinkly took off the piece of string that would have hung him in the Christmas tree and he became one of our gang instead of being put in a big plastic box in the attic when Christmas was over and then spending nearly 12 months up there in the dark.



Well, little did I know that two more mice would arrive. So now we have Ann Mouse and Joy Mouse who should also have been Christmas tree ornaments and were

also bought as a gift for Mrs Wrinkly by her daughter. They too have had their strings removed so that they can be one of the gang all year round instead of being put in the big plastic box in the attic when Christmas is over. Chris Mouse is a very quiet, sweet mouse who is a lovely friend and is never any trouble and so I expected and assumed that all mice were like that and that Ann Mouse and Joy Mouse would be just as quiet and just as sweet but it was then that something that Mrs Wrinkly said came to mind. Mrs Wrinkly would say, "Never expect and never assume!" Oh, how right she was!

It all started when Mrs Wrinkly had to yet again make the decision on who to take with her to Meander. Mr and Mrs Wrinkly were going on a long narrowboat journey and had lots of books with maps in to tell them which way to go. Mrs Wrinkly walked past all the gang at the apartment trying to decide who would go with them and then picked me and Och Aye up and shoved us quite roughly and quickly into a Cath Kidston's rucksack. (We know she has to shove us in quickly and out of sight of Mr Wrinkly because he would just go into his gloom like he does at Christmas and would say "I hope 'that' is not going with us" 'That' being us! But Mrs Wrinkly does not want to make him too gloomy so she did only pick and pack the two of us! So, there we were, waiting in the rucksack for our next adventure when suddenly we heard the squeak and squeals of Ann Mouse and Joy Mouse and there they were wriggling beside us.



Well, you cannot believe how glad me and Och Aye were to arrive at Meander and to be taken out of the Cath Kidston's rucksack you can only stand so much of the squealing and squeaking of two excited mice! Mrs Wrinkly sat Och Aye on the bed and me on the little painted narrowboat stool in the lounge and I waited in anticipation keeping my fingers crossed that the two mice were not sat next to me and wherever they were put, I would not be able to hear the squeaking and squealing. Phew! Huge relief when they were sat next to the tv together leaning on the pot that Mrs Wrinkly got from the second-hand market. It was going to be a nice quiet journey from now on!

Well, you have heard of things like OCD well these two mice had something that I am going to call UMMD Unstoppable Mischievous Mouse Disorder! You must also have heard of hyperactive? Well, that does not even touch the surface! Even Danger Mouse would be scared at their antics. I had thought about telling Mrs Wrinkly what was going on, but the two little terrors would only scurry about when she was out of sight so I am sure Mrs Wrinkly would think I was telling little fibs.



Thankfully mice cannot jump too far, so I thought they could not jump down from where they were sitting, which was a huge relief, but little did I know that they had spotted the umbrellas! They would climb down the umbrellas, onto the step and then they could go anywhere they wanted on the boat and they did. I sat on the little painted narrowboat stool

watching their antics in horror and remembered some more of Mrs Wrinkly's words "This is an accident waiting to happen." Well, you know that cats have nine lives well, these mice must have twenty-nine lives the way that these two terrors were behaving. Before they climbed down the umbrella they played horse-racing on the hippos, rode on the elephant and hid in the wooden pot then pretended it was a boat, they scurried round the boat and swung on the scrunchie hung on the shower tap, climbed onto the radiator, sat on Mr Wrinkly's solar panel regulator (a good job they did not press the switch), they played swings on the mooring chains, went to the back deck (a good job they did not fall in), then hid in the mugs, rode on the wine bottles, got stuck in the handles on the side hatch, tormented Och Aye, hung in the blinds and looked like flies on the window, trampled on the fruit in the fruit bowl, got stuck in the glass cupboard, and sat on the fire (a good job it was not lit).



Thank goodness for the arrival of the orange bear that Mrs Wrinkly had brought back to Meander when she got back after a trip home. Mrs Wrinkly's granddaughter, Lola had made the orange bear from a kit for Mrs Wrinkly as a gift. Lola was learning to sew so the stitches were not quite perfect but she had made a really good job of making the orange bear. Lola had sewn the orange bear up with blue cotton, because she did not have any colour that matched the orange bear and because of the stitching Mrs Wrinkly had decided to call the orange bear Stitch. Mrs Wrinkly loved Stitch as it was such a thoughtful gift from Lola. Even though Mrs Wrinkly did have to add a few extra stitches to Stitch when they arrived at the boat so that Stitch did not lose her leg, but Mrs Wrinkly didn't mind because she knew that Lola had worked really hard to make Stitch. (I don't like to mention it to Mrs Wrinkly but she might have to add a few more stitches to Stitch before her head falls off!)

Stitch's head is a little bit wonky, her eyes are not quite straight, in fact they are cockeyed, and she has one arm longer than the other but Mrs Wrinkly always says, "Never judge a book by its cover" and "It is not what is outside but what is inside". I must have to admit that I did not understand either of these words until Mrs Wrinkly explained them to me. Stitch spoke in a lovely, soft quiet voice and moved very slowly, quite unlike the two terrors! I knew immediately she was going to be a very caring friend. Mrs Wrinkly made Stitch a pretty little dress with the stick with the hook on the end and sat her next to me on the painted narrowboat stool.



Suddenly, the two terrors started their antics again and Stitch, who had not met them yet, watched for a few moments in disbelief as they ran up and down climbing, jumping and squealing and then totally out of character Stitch shouted in a really loud voice, "Hey you two! What do you think you are doing? Behave yourselves!" Well, you could have knocked me down with a feather! The two terrors stood still like two mice statues staring at each other, then looked at Stitch and in shock, immediately calmed down. Fear was in the faces of the two terrors as they stared at Stitch's cock-eyed eyes and wonky head

and they were thinking Stitch was going to whack them with her long arm. Then Stitch took a very deep breath and said very calmly, "Now you really need to be respectful of where you are. Go slowly and quietly, be careful climbing as you might fall, mind you don't break anything because that would make Mrs Wrinkly sad and just enjoy your surroundings!"

Ann Mouse and Joy Mouse looked at each other, then looked at Stitch's cock-eyed eyes, wonky head and long arm. They thought about what she had said and realised they had been disrespectful, realised they could have broken something and also could have hurt themselves.



From then on, the two terrors disappeared and in their place were two very polite and careful mice even though they did still play and squeak and squeal excitedly. Stitch may have cockeyed eyes, she may have a long arm and she may have a slightly wonky head but she is very sensible, very kind, very wise and has lots of good advice. She will fit in with our gang very nicely.

Margaret Pauline Bann

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Driving Safely on the Island

We'd like to take the opportunity to remind our members of some of the basic rules that apply to driving on the island. These rules have been implemented to make sure that everyone on the island, whether on foot or in a vehicle, remains safe.

Safety on the island begins as soon as you drive through the gates. Once you are inside the gates, please stop and watch them until they have fully closed (the beacon will stop flashing once the gates are closed). From time to time there's people hanging around outside the gates trying to get in which is why we ask you to watch the gates shutting. If you are being tailed into the car park by another vehicle, please make sure that it has a club member in it. When leaving the island, do not drive away from the gates until you are sure that they have closed behind you and no unauthorised people have entered.

Speed limit on the island is 5mph. No exceptions. This speed feels very slow to the driver but is probably twice the speed of someone walking down the island. Travelling faster isn't really going to make any significant difference to the length of time it takes you to get to your boat or to the bar so stick to the speed limit. Be aware of pedestrians moving around – they might not have seen or heard you, particularly if they are distracted by pushing a wheelbarrow or concentrating on work they are doing to their boat or suchlike. If you're driving an electric car this is particularly important – many of us are of a 'certain age' with uncertain hearing.



Please only park in the designated parking areas. If you are away on your boat for any length of time (more than a week or two) then please park on the gravelled area on the left-hand side as you cross over the bridge.

We have had recent instances of vehicles being driven over grassed areas and in the wet weather this has caused damage. There's absolutely no need to take your car onto the grass (with the exception of the strengthened grass parking area next to the roadway at the far end of the island) – please use only the tarmac and gravel roads and parking places.

Safety on the Island

As safety on the Island is a main priority, the following is to remind Members of some safety protocols that we have in place. Our Fire Safety Officer is John Clark and he will always be happy to talk to you about concerns that you have in this area. Derek Wildsmith has responsibility for Health and Safety. If you see anything on the Island which concerns you regarding these areas either speak to John and Derek directly or to one of the Management Team.

Fire Safety Information

On the Island we have thirty-six fire extinguishers of mixed types. All areas have extinguishers e.g. Clubhouse, Galley, Sheds, Hard Standing. In addition to this on the East/West loop moorings and the main canal mooring we have extinguisher plus fire buckets. Please check the location of the extinguisher/ fire bucket close to your mooring.

High Risk Areas – Galley

In the Galley we have two types of extinguisher: CO2 and also a 6L Wet Chemical. There are also two fire blankets.

CO2 Uses:

Safe for flammable liquids
Safe for live electrical equipment
Not for wood, paper and textiles.

Do Not hold horn whilst operating.

Wet Chemical Extinguisher uses:

To tackle fat and grease fires in the kitchen
Deep fat fryer fires
Can be used on fires containing wood, plastic, paper

Not to be used on electrical equipment fires.

Fire Blankets and how to use these:

If it is safe to do so, turn off the heat source.

Pull the tapes to remove the fire blanket from its container.

Hold the blanket in a shielded position keeping hands on the safe side of the blanket.

Place the blanket over the fire to smother the flames. NB do not throw the blanket over the flames.

Other Areas:

A.B.C Dry Powder Extinguishers. These can be used on:

Class A flammable solids such as textiles, paper and wood

Class B fires such as flammable liquids which includes paint, diesel and petrol

Class C fires such as flammable gases which includes Butane and Methane

Electrical fires under 1000v

Foam Extinguishers. These can be used on:

Wood, paper and textiles

Flammable liquids

Not to be used on live electrical equipment or flammable metal fires.

Water Extinguishers. These can be used on:

Solids such as wood, paper and fabrics

Not to be used on electrical fire or fires involving inflammable liquids.

Please note that all extinguishers are not effective with lithium battery fires because these batteries produce their own oxygen when on fire. Water mist could be used but it is better to contact the Emergency services for help.

Strawberry Island Fire Procedure

If you discover a fire:

Raise the alarm by breaking the glass at the nearest alarm call point.
Remove people from immediate danger.
Telephone 999 and ask for the Fire Brigade.
If safe to do so, attack the fire using firefighting equipment provided.

On hearing the alarm:

Guide people to the nearest exit.
Report to the management committee at the designated fire assembly point.

Additional Safety Information:

On the Island we have three grab and run water safety ladders. These are located in three areas: one outside the Galley rear door, one by the Social Shed, and one on the grassed/sitting area just passed the flagpole.

In addition to these, we have fixed drop ladders in various areas around the Island.





















We now have a safety information board in the conservatory regarding fire safety, water safety (please check for the positions of life rings), first aid and health and safety.

Remember to check Punnet and Facebook for updates to this information.

If you have any questions please speak to John Clark

There are good ships and wood ships
Ships that sail the sea
But the best ships are the friendships
May they always be
[Irish proverb]

Using The Correct Fire Extinguisher

	<h2>Water</h2>	<p>For use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Wood, Paper, Textiles etc 	<p>Do not use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Flammable liquid  Live electrical equipment
	<h2>Dry Powder</h2>	<p>For use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Wood, Paper, Textiles etc  Flammable liquids  Gaseous fires 	<p>Do not use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Live electrical equipment
	<h2>Foam</h2>	<p>For use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Wood, Paper, Textiles etc  Flammable liquids 	<p>Do not use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Live electrical equipment
	<h2>CO2</h2>	<p>For use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Flammable liquids  Live electrical equipment 	<p>Do not use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Wood, paper and textiles  Flammable metal fires <p>Do not use in a confined space</p>
	<h2>Wet Chemical</h2>	<p>For use on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Cooking oil fires  Wood, Paper, Textiles etc. 	<p>Discharge entire contents on to fire from at least 1 metre distance</p>

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The information contained in the pocket is for guidance only and should not be used as a substitute for recognised training.

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