

On Board – February 2023



Mick and Phil relaxing on our boat on the Captain's Cruise in Ireland

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This was taken during our week boating on Lough Derg which was part of the River Shannon in Eire. Beautiful part of the world worth visiting if you haven't been before.

A Message from our Captain

Hi everyone, as this is my last chance to be on the front page of On Board this year I would like to wish all a happy 2023, good health, and looking forward to Sandra's year as captain, who is lining up some good events, not to be missed.

Looking back over the last events of the year after Rutland Water we had the Captain's Cruise to Ireland, a week on the river Shannon, six members attended, followed by a motor home tour of the South, including kissing the Blarney Stone by myself and Sandra, so I can now talk for England. At the beginning of October we had our annual mystery trip, which was enjoyed by all, and as it turned out a very special weekend (unplanned) for one particular couple. Next we had a very interesting and informative walk around Tamworth, thanks to Sandra, well attended, you do not realise how much history there is on your doorstep.

Sadly November was very sad as we lost Anne, a very good friend and long time member, she will be missed very much. Thinking of Robert, I am sure that the members will support him as much as they did me at this time.

Our dinner dance, at the Charnwood Arms, was fantastic, good food, good company and entertainment, making me feel very proud to be your captain this year. Our pre Christmas dinner was held at The Plough, Normanton, we had a good turn out, the meal was good, another enjoyable evening. Unfortunately I missed the New Year's day lunch at the Hunting Lodge but again a good meal etc. Hope to see you all at the AGM.

Captain Phil



“Walk around Tamworth”



“Bantry Bay at sundown”



“All dressed up for the Dinner Dance”

Useful Information

Management Committee Meetings

The FCC Management Committee meet bi-monthly.

If you have anything you wish us to discuss, please contact any member of the committee and they will bring it up at the next meeting.

Club Membership Leaflet

Club Leaflets are available for members to carry with

them for anybody who expresses interest in Joining. Please ask Sandra for copies.

Associated Memberships

The FCC is a member of the IWA and affiliated to the Leicestershire Branch.

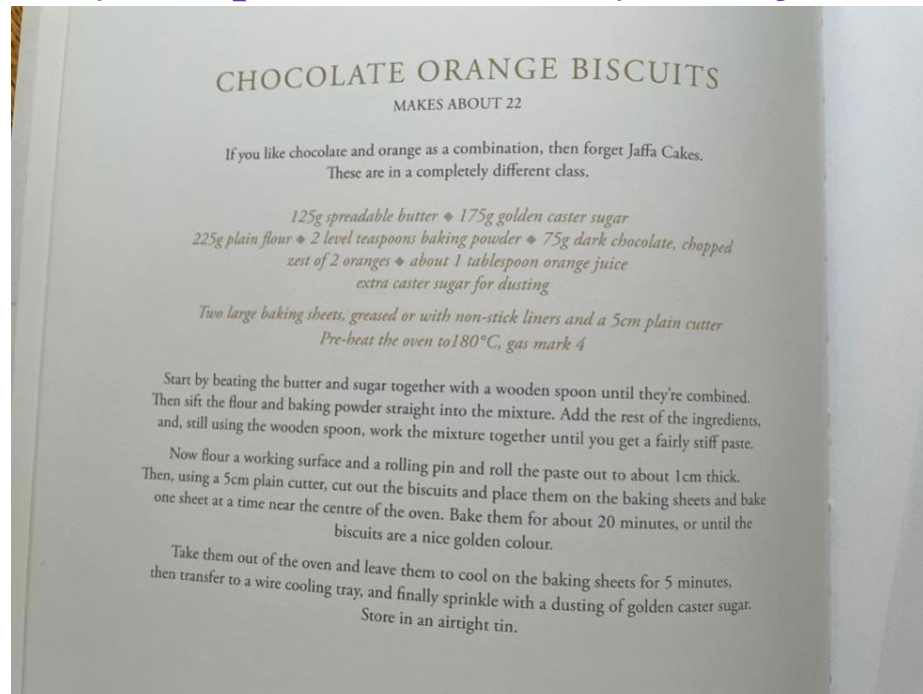
The FCC is also a member of the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs and Linda has a reference copy.

This membership is useful should you be looking to moor at a fellow member's Boat Club - further details can be found on their website www.awcc.org.uk

Fifty Club Membership

Just to remind you that our Fifty Club now runs in line with the membership year with the Annual draws to be made at the next AGM.

Lovely Recipe for us all to try from Janet



CAPTAIN'S CRUISE ON THE RIVER SHANNON

What a fantastic holiday we had in Ireland for this year's Captain's Cruise in September. Thanks to Jim's friend Neil six of us were able to join their flotilla of boats and sail around Lough Derg which is part of the River Shannon.

We stopped every night at a different port and frequented a local ale house to eat and entertain the locals with our various instruments and singalongs. We were also sometimes entertained by the locals themselves including the under 21 Irish Accordion Champion player of 2022.

After the cruise itself three motorhomes toured around Ireland visiting Galway, Kilkenny, Killarney, Athlone, the Ring of Kerry ... to name but a few places.

And as Phil mentioned in his introduction, he and I dangled precariously from the ramparts of Blarney Castle and kissed the Blarney Stone – and I'm sure we are both a lot more "eloquent" following our experience.

Hopefully the photographs will give you a flavour of the lovely places we visited.



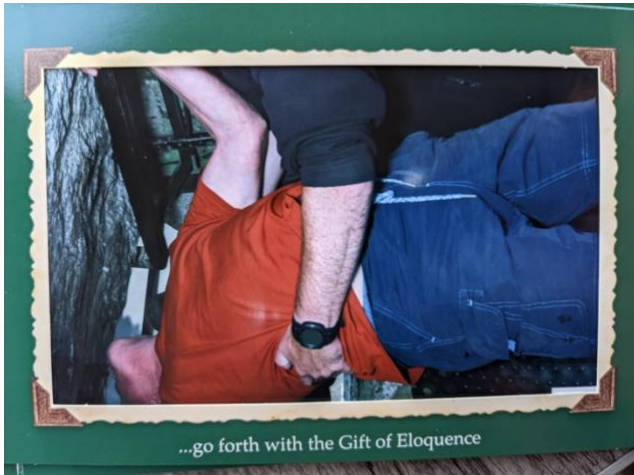
Blarney Castle



On Lough Derg approaching Killaloe



Mick took this photo as he and Margaret watched "the sun go down on Galway Bay"



Phil kissing the Blarney Stone



Sandra met the Gallway Girl



Crossing the Cork & Kerry Mountains



An tSionn R. SHANNON

ANNUAL MYSTERY TRIP

This year's Mystery Trip took us to the lovely county of Shropshire. We first of all visited the Royal Airforce Museum at Cosford with a mixture of indoor and outdoor exhibitions showcasing aviation history and numerous decommissioned aeroplanes.



We then moved on to Blists Hill – a reconstruction of a typical Victorian working class town in the East Shropshire Coalfield circa 1900.

It even presented us with real life townsfolk working and willing to show us their way of life.

On then to our resting place for the evening – the beautiful Buckatree Hall Hotel – which just happened to be where Roger and Debbie Ashford (our newest members) spent their Wedding Night. A lovely meal to end a lovely day.



But the Mystery Trip still had more for us as the coach on Sunday morning took us to Shrewsbury for the day which included an interesting and informative trip on a boat on the river Severn before the journey home.



Thanks to Phil and Sue for organising a great weekend away.

Looking Back by Sarah Morris Armer - 2018

When I was just a little girl We didn't have a lot
 My mother kept the lights on With some silver in the slot
 The tv was a rental one That too was on a meter
 But when I cast my mind back Life back then, seemed so much sweeter
 The pantry wasn't always full Of tasty things to eat
 But we didn't notice hunger As we played outside in the street
 Our clothes weren't always bought from new Quite often worn before
 But we didn't follow fashion Never thought to ask for more
 My mother's purse was empty Except of course for dreams
 But she always found some pennies To buy us both Ice Creams
 Our shoes were always measured Our hair was always neat
 I remember she insisted You must take care of your feet!

School uniforms were granted Given by the state
 We looked as smart as anyone When we walked through that school gate
 In summer we picked berries From the hedgerows in the field
 Our fingers stained with purple We delighted in our yield
 No games consoles to keep us quiet Our joy was climbing trees
 Making dens in bales of straw With grass stains on our knees
 We didn't know the world beyond The place we use to play
 We didn't have a single care As night just followed day
 The girls would make their perfume With petals from the flowers
 Often getting in hot water Cos the blooms were never ours
 We'd nick the fairy liquid tub To have a water fight
 And on the baking concrete Our names we'd always write

We shared bikes and we shared footballs Used our sweaters as the goal
 And when the bitter winter came We'd fill buckets up with coal
 Every single chimney Cast a plume into the sky
 As we huddled by the fire With a meat and tatty pie
 Bath night was always Sunday And the tub we had to share
 A frozen dash from the bathroom With vosene suds in your hair
 Scratch your name on the frosty pane Before the curtains shut
 Tucked under a heap of blankets No choice but to stay put
 We never took a holiday Certainly not abroad
 A day out to skeggy Was all we could afford
 We'd paddle in the Sea And sit down in the foam
 Ride a donkey up the beach And wish we could take it home



*Maureen reading
 about the famous
 Spitfire*



*Jim and Phil
 enjoying hot
 chocolate on the
 River Severn*



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We made toast on the open fire I can taste it to this day
Dripping in salted butter It seems half a world away
Every Christmas there were presents Underneath our tinsel tree
And always we were overjoyed Whatever they may be
Never really knowing They had cost our mother dear
And she wouldn't clear her catalogue Until Christmas came next year
In and out of houses Up and down the street
Borrowing cups of sugar We helped each other make ends meet
And when you went to bed at night That then was mother's time
You'd hear her downstairs singing To Johnny Cash or Patsy Cline
Life back then was infinite You never could grow old
There was nothing to be frightened of With your mother's hand to hold

But the years passed in minutes There was no time to spare
Overnight it seems..... the silver threads Adorned your mother's hair
Your endless days were over As time raced away at pace
And the happy days of innocence Disappeared ... without trace
Don't waste a single minute Of this life with which you're blessed
Things change in just a heartbeat The ride can come to rest
Good times become just memories Faces fade and smiles are lost
Don't wish away a second Hang on... at any cost
When I was just a little girl We didn't have a lot

But one day... all of that nothing Will be the greatest gift I've got .

Thank you to Jim for this trip down memory lane



2022's DINNER & DANCE





*Fish & Chip Supper at the
Uttoxeter Weekend*

50 Club Winners

September 2022

Ken

October 2022

Jim & Sandra

November 2022

Robert

December 2022

Jim & Sandra

January 2023

Ken

February 2023

Jim & Sandra

(Well we do have 6 balls)

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Future Events

AGM

11 MARCH 2023

5pm Mtg Starts – eat at 6pm followed by entertainment from Dan Toft

Winter Walk

26 March 2023

Walk around Calke Abbey – meet at 10am at Ticknall Village Hall Carpark, Ingleby Lane, Ticknall, DE73 7JX

Easter Weekend at Gunthorpe

7-10 April 2023

Annual trip to Gunthorpe, boaters on the pontoons, campers at Riverside. Meal at the Unicorn, cycle ride, quiz etc

King's Coronation Weekend

5-8 May 2023

Coalville

Come and watch the Coronation and join in the tea party.
Come and watch the Royal Concert and raise money for our Charities.

Seaside Weekend in Norfolk

25 – 30 May 2023

Camping at Beeston Regis

MANY MORE EVENTS BEING PLANNED BY THE COMMITTEE – IF ANYBODY HAS ANY IDEAS OF SUITABLE EVENTS OR VENUES PLEASE LET ONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS KNOW!

MORE SAD, SAD NEWS

In November we lost another dear friend and founder member of the FCC. Ann Pickering sadly passed away after a long spell in hospital but was with Robert and Sarah at home when she finally left us.

Many FCC members attended her funeral and I'm sure Ann will know that she will be sadly missed we will do our best to look after Robert

