

# News & Views from the Marina

August 1999

Volume 1, Issue 1

## New Moorers

A hearty welcome is extended to the new moorers:

**Jack & Sandy Dorward** (narrow boat 'Zephyr')

Jack (originally from Winnipeg, Canada) and Sandy hail from San Francisco. They have already won the hearts of the moorers they have met so far. Unfortunately they have to return stateside at the end of August but they'll be back as soon as they are able to.

**Richard Bowker** (narrow boat 'Pots and Pans')

Richard was moored at Limehouse until having his boat transported here on the 4th of August. He is no stranger to the 'Macc' and plans to spend lots of time with his boat.

**Maggie Spooner**

(narrow boat 'Dreamcatcher') Maggie has just bought her first boat and she hasn't yet enjoyed the magic of canal cruising. Living in the Orkneys means that she and her son Jay won't be here as often as some of you lucky people.

## Under New Management

As many of you are aware, at the beginning of July the marina came under new management. Ged & Marilyn didn't get to go cruising after all. Instead we took over the business at the marina.

For those of you who don't know, let me take this opportunity to update everyone on the changes that have taken place and some of our plans for the development of the marina.

Keith has decided to seek a quieter life somewhere in rural England and as far away from boats as he can get! I know that he will miss the village atmosphere of the marina where he has made many friendships and I am sure that everyone would like to

join us in wishing him every success for the future.

How do these changes affect you?

Well they shouldn't really. We have retained the



business name and formed a limited company (Macclesfield Canal Centre Ltd.) Moorings that have already been paid will be honoured and things will seem pretty much as they always have. We do need to update records and renew mooring agreements. We will keep the form filling to a minimum but it is important that we know where to contact you should we need to, so please bear with us.

## Beer, Boats & Folk

We have received such wonderful support and encouragement in taking on the business that we plan to show our appreciation by staging a small event for our moorers and a few invited guests who have also helped in all sorts of ways.

On Sunday the 26th September Astra II will carry a contingent of folk singers (usually to be found at the Dog & Partridge - Bollington on Friday nights) who will play and sing along the canal from Bollington to the Marina. I imagine that they will arrive here at around 3 or 4pm. whereupon they will do their best to entertain us all.

If you can make it you'll be very welcome. Some beer and wine will be provided but I suggest that you bring chairs, a picnic and some drinks (much like you would do for a concert in the park) in case we run out.

## Other News.....

**Wesley Leads The Way.....Christmas Do.....**

**Further Plans.....Services at the Marina.....**

## New Laundry

Two semi-industrial machines (a washer and a drier) have been installed at the marina for the use and convenience of the moorers. In due course the laundry room will also house a shower room and ironing facilities. It costs £3 to wash only £4 to wash & dry and £1:50 to dry only. A booking system is in operation. Details and instructions can be obtained at the marina office.

## Development Plans

Work on landscaping and improving the grounds is already underway, this will continue throughout the year. High on the agenda is a new office & reception area with a small shop for giftware, books, maps, ices, cold cans and anything you need on a regular basis.

## In The Pipeline

Other plans that we have in mind are:

Refurbishment of the toilet block

The establishment of a small lawned area at the far side of the marina where we adjoin the BW yard.

Additional shore line electrical points

## Wesley Leads The Way

Many of you will know Wesley and Karys who own nb Joker. What you won't know is what keen conservationists they are. Concern about the possibility of oil contaminated bilge water entering the canal and affecting the fish, fowl and fauna, prompted Wes to order a Clerify Bilge Clean filtration system for his boat. As Wes says "There's a lot I could spend money on to make the boat more comfortable but Karys and I see this as our number one priority" Very Commendable Wes, well done!

Much has been written lately in the waterways press about a crackdown by the Environmental Agency and a drive to prosecute those responsible for polluting rivers and waterways. In the first instance the

agency aims to prosecute marina operators regardless of the source. With powers to fine up to £20,000, marina operators are encouraging those owners who have no option but to drop old oil into the bilge or those with older leaky engines, to consider fitting this system. Some marinas are making it a condition of mooring.

If you have a contamination problem, details of the Clerify system (which costs around £78) can be obtained from the marina office. As an incentive to deal with this problem, the marina will give a voucher for diesel worth £15:00 to any owner who orders and fits the system, effectively reducing the cost to around £63.00. Now, can anyone buy one cheaper?

## Christmas Already?

Yes, I know it's early but you're either fast or hungry when it comes to booking a room for the annual "Works Do"

Many of you will remember that what started last year as a "works do" was very quickly altered to a "Marina Do" which was tremendously well supported.

The top room at the Puss in Boots was the venue, the set menu meal (choice of meats and a vegetarian alternative)

provided festive fare and everyone had a jolly good time. Shall we do it again? I imagine that the meal will cost around £12 - £15 for two. I need to book it early so please let me know if you wish to attend. The date I have in mind is Friday 17th December.

*Thank You.....*

*For all the support and encouragement which has been heaped upon us. In particular, thanks to Laurie (The Office Boy) who looks after the telephone and general enquiries when we are unable to. Thanks also to Wendy & Robin Porter for all the weeding, gardening, technical (computers) and general help.*

*You all make it easy for us to enjoy doing what we're doing.....and as for cruising.....well maybe next year we'll go out for more than one night.*

*Bye for now,  
Ged & Marilyn Layfield.*

## Services Available

We are now able to provide the following services:

Engine servicing and repairs, boat painting & sign writing, mail order chandlery, plumbing & gas fitting. Foam seating (both replacement or refurbishment).

Above all we aim to provide you with the highest quality of service at all times. We care. We are boaters ourselves and we understand your needs. We welcome any feedback and your suggestions will be carefully considered.

## BW Licences and Insurance

*If you re-licence your boat through us BW pays a small commission all of which goes back into the marina to fund improvements which will benefit you. Please consider using this facility when your licence is next due.*

*We are agents for Haven Knox-Johnson (Pleasure craft insurers) and we can obtain a quote for your boat there and then.*