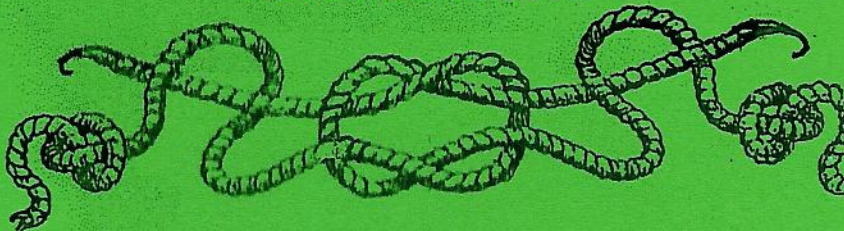


TAVERNER



CANAL TAVERNER'S BOAT CLUB
DECEMBER 2008



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Apologies for the late appearance of the Taverner but it was due to both technical and personal problems, anyway as you can see it's here at last and I hope it is better late than never. I would like to thank those of you who have contributed articles etc., I would like to thank Hazel for producing the cover and some of the articles, as you can see she does a great job.

As you know 2009 is the Club's 20th Anniversary with some special events planned throughout the year it is also planned to have two special editions of the Taverner the first in March will include articles looking back over the last 20 years and the second will be a record of what we have enjoyed in 2009, so I will be looking for your contributions to help make these two editions truly special.

I hope that despite the recession 2009 will be a good year for you all and for the Club.

Ed.

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Copy for the next issue:

By Friday 6th March, '09

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A MESSAGE FROM No.1



Carolyn Wetton

What a boating season, the weather seems to have dominated the whole year. Easter was spent being subjected to wind rain and even snow! At least we were lucky to be inside with the heating on, unlike the brave soles canoeing to Westminster. I know where I would rather have been.

The next few months seemed to be rain and more rain, but our trip to Bristol saw the sun (some even saw early morning trapeze artists!)

All that attended had a wonderful time and our thanks go out to Steve and John for all their hard work.

We were all very disappointed that our annual Legion trip had to be cancelled, none more than Andy and Dorrie, talk about Health and Safety gone mad.

I know that many of you enjoyed other events some organised and some spontaneous, which I am sure you will agree has made for a lot of fun times. Let's hope that next year being our 20th will be even more successful and that we are blessed with a lot more SUN!

Many thanks for all your support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Carolyn Wetton No.1.



A GRAND WESTERN WEEKEND

7 o'clock on Thursday morning and Jester slips her mooring at Bradford-on-Avon heading for the slipway at Widbrook marina. During this short passage her water tank is emptied and movable items are stowed away. By 10.15 she is high and dry, safely strapped down and ready for the road, having had her engine serviced and new prop fitted. Two and a half hours later we were stopped in the Taunton Dean Services on the M5 arranging our slipping time, and an hour later we were back in the water in Devon on the Grand Western canal.



ONE FOR THE ROAD

This canal was built in 1814 as part of a grandiose scheme to link the Bristol and English channels, of which just a short length was completed between the Taunton and Bridgwater

Canal and Tiverton. Today only 11 miles remain in water and navigable, administered by Devon County Council as a linear country park between Lowdells on the Devon/Somerset border and Tiverton Basin. There are no locks on this length as the Canal was built on the 'cut and fill' principle and there is one aqueduct which is the permanent home for just a handful of boats, including a horse drawn trip boat operating from Tiverton Basin. Once we had had some lunch we headed north to the upper limit of the navigation at Lowdells. The sun was out and it was a gorgeous late spring afternoon, the water was crystal clear, however the closer to the terminal



SOON TO BE WET AGAIN

we got the weedier it became and I seemed to be constantly engaging reverse gear to throw off the disabling blanket weed. At last we arrive at the Basin overlooked by a massive structure of limekilns and ahead of us the canal narrows to almost a brook blocked by a branch, beyond which could be seen a tunnel. We later discovered that the warden had purposely left this branch in situ to discourage boats from going through the tunnel; it worked.

We turned around and headed back to Sampford Peverell for an overnight mooring and a visit to the local pub, The Globe, for a meal (highly recommended). It had seemed strange that we had cruised for about 10 miles in total and had not seen another boat, such a contrast with our own very crowded waterway. Friday morning arrived and after breakfast we headed west towards Tiverton passing the festival site at the



East Devon showground where preparations were almost complete for the weekend's festivities. Several visiting boats had already moored up and there were more arriving hourly at the slipway. The canal in places seemed to fly across the Devon countryside on high embankments, one as high as 50ft affording views across the fields to the busy motorway beyond, before diving into a high-banked cutting. At one point just after the

village of Halburton the canal does a complete hairpin turn around a valley taking about 2 miles, the end of this section is marked by a modern lift bridge followed by a sharp



TIVERTON BASIN

right-angled bend. Carrying on towards the canal terminus we cross the only aqueduct on this section and a row of moored boats at the only permanent moorings on this waterway. We arrive at the basin in Tiverton at about mid-day, where with another wilderness boat we moored up at the very end of the canal where the waters drain down to the river Exe.



HORSING AROUND AT TIVERTON

Caroline Hogan and I spent a lazy afternoon wandering around Tiverton and sitting on the bank up on the canal, answering questions from members of the public surprised at seeing private boats on their canal, and watching the Horseboat return in all it's finery. As the afternoon closes it's time to head back to the festival site and take our mooring with the rest of the trailed boats. "Wilderni" amongst their many other advantages can moor end on, thereby getting more boats moored per metre. A

fish and chip supper was the order for the evening, eaten with good friends and good wine (lots of it). The weather forecast is not good; we went to bed with fingers crossed. Saturday; hooray! The weatherman has got it wrong, we woke to blue skies and bright sunshine. It's looking good, crowds start arriving at 10 o'clock being entertained by "Keepers Lock", Tiverton Town Band and a jazz band on the main site. Then following the opening addresses, Tiverton Sea cadets take to the water with a canoe demonstration, the boat handling competition followed this in the afternoon. The weather stayed fine and the public kept on coming and by mid afternoon the party atmosphere was enhanced by the tropical sounds of the Blackdown Samba Band. As the festival site closes for it's first day, the boats slip their moorings to head back to Halburton where a local business had put on a BBQ for attending boats. The wind and rains steered clear for the evening, as the boats were moored in a cutting protected from the elements we were spared the havoc caused by strong winds, which swept through the area overnight. It was not until we arrived back at the site that we heard of the devastation



WILDERNI ALL IN A ROW

caused to some of the tents and marquees on the festival site. Sunday, the forecast was



horrendous, however they got it wrong again, the day stayed dry and although the numbers were lower for the Sunday and some of the exhibitors failed to return, those that made the effort had another great day. It followed along the same lines as Saturday with entertainment in the main arena from the local majorettes, who had taken time out from another competition, and the local dog agility group. Another carnival band called *Vamanos* provided a taste of Latin America.

Again the clouds avoided us, the day stayed dry

and the proceedings were brought to a close at about 5 o'clock. This however was not the end of the matter for the boats. Sampford Peverell had arranged a Hog-roast and a festival of lights on the canal at 9:30. So all the craft proceeded the 4 miles or so to Sampford Peverell, they were dressed overall in a multitude of coloured lights and at the designated time we proceeded to an assembly point in darkness, returning in line astern (that's one behind the other) lights a blazing. It was fantastic to see virtually all the inhabitants on the canal bank cheering us on, their support was overwhelming and it stayed dry, it was not



to last. Monday, we awoke to driving rain and howling winds, not nice at all. The plan was for all the boats to cruise to Burlescombe where one of the local houses was having an open garden serving soup and cakes in aid of the village hall. It was a long hard slog, wet and very windy, the weed making it a lot harder. Once moored at Burlescombe wharf, John Fletcher, Chairman of the IWA conducted the prize giving under umbrellas. Having supported the open garden, which turned into an open kitchen, some brave souls set off to the Waytown tunnel whilst Caroline and I returned in what still felt like a monsoon to Sampford Peverell, where we spent the rest of the day hiding from the weather and watching TV. We spent another day on this scenic yet short waterway just lazing in the Devon countryside before returning to the slip and a wet journey back up the M5.



This is a wonderful, peaceful and beautiful canal, ideal for a quiet walk or a short tranquil adjournment whilst travelling along the M5. One day who knows this canal may even reach Taunton again. In spite of the weather A GRAND WEEKEND WAS HAD BY ALL.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As you will all know by now, the much enjoyed annual Royal British Legion cruise had to be cancelled.

This was due to the politically correct/Health & Safety brigade. It was considered by them to be too dangerous and, in particular, the catering facilities on the host boats were not compliant with regulations which meant we would be unable to provide refreshments and a meal on board - one of the main pleasures of the day. I have been in contact with Jacqui Ibbotson, the new manager of Somerset Legion House, but in spite of her representation she has been unable to get her Head Office to agree to the cruise going ahead.

I personally am very disappointed and hurt that this has come about on what would be the 18th year but hope that in future we can "come up" with a similar type of activity.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all past and present Taverners who have made this event so memorable and successful over the years.

Below is a copy of a letter sent to Jacqui Ibbotson by Andy Adams:

*Mrs Jacqui Ibbotson
The Royal British Legion
Somerset Legion House
57 Beach Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 4AL*

Dear Jacqui

I was very disappointed to have your news regarding this year's British Legion run on the Canal Taverners' boats. It appears to be bureaucracy gone mad!

I appreciate that the actual trip eventually received the "go ahead" but the question of catering i.e. coffee or tea, snacks and a lunch on board creates a problem only to your people.

I would like to make the following points:

- 1. This the eighteenth year we would have had the pleasure of taking Legion members as guests on a trip along the Kennet and Avon canal.*
- 2. There are usually only two Legion members on each boat.*
- 3. The guests share a lunch on board with the owners of the boats – the food having been prepared on board while the Legion members retire to the Tavern Inn at Bradford-on-Avon for a drink with their hosts.*
- 4. I assume that this ruling also means we would not be able to offer refreshments once the guests arrive on their respective boats after a long trip from Weston-super-Mare and with a boat journey of approximately two hours before arriving at Bradford on Avon.*

It has been one of the highlights of our year for Taverners to organise this annual trip for people whom they hold in respect and has given us much pleasure in their company. We are both disappointed and hurt by this decision after so many years and hope that the situation can be resolved.

Yours sincerely

Andy Adams

THE CTBC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2008 AT 8.00PM

IN THE

CANAL TAVERN, 49 FROME ROAD, BRADFORD-ON-AVON

The main business of the meeting will be to elect the Officers and Committee.

To elect Auditors and Ex-Officio Officers.

To receive and endorse the Club accounts

After the meeting there will be a buffet provided for your enjoyment.

THE BRISTOL HARBOUR FESTIVAL

This year's event took place over the weekend 1st, 2nd and 3rd August and we were blessed with reasonable weather despite the very poor summer.

There were 280 boats including cruisers, yachts and narrow boats entered with a further 60 on the waiting list. We had a good turnout from the Club with 11 boats moored together on 'L'



TAVERNERS ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE

Pontoon with another two moored at Baltic Wharf with the late entries.

It was estimated that 250,000 visitors came over the weekend enjoying the boats and all the other attractions. The Festival was opened at 18.00 hours on Friday by the Lord Mayor accompanied by a choir. Later there was a concert in the Amphitheatre with the band Black & Proud (ex band of James Brown - PeeWee Ellis) finishing at 23.00hrs a very good start to the Festival.

On Saturday and Sunday in Queen Square there was a music stage, kids area, twinning area, bar and continental market – At the Mud dock/Grove there was a Fun Fair and Remix stage - in Millennium Square there was Cique Bijou and street theatre - an addition to the festival site was dance village with 3 stages on the Crest Nicholson site with a continental market and a charity village by café Gusto. The fireworks on Saturday night were excellent the best for a number of years.

The feature vessels at the festival were Earl of Pembroke, Kaskelot, the survey vessel Isambard, Gay Archer (40s fast patrol boat), Pride of Bristol and the Matthew.

The usual water events took place such as the boat challenge, (unfortunately our team failed to get on the water due to a mix up), try a sail, lifeboat displays and the ever popular Newfoundland Dogs.

The Ship Shape competition brought success once again for the Club via Terry and Liz Kemp who were declared winners with their boat Salix Alpha, they



KASKELOT AND MATTHEW



TERRY AND LIZ WITH THEIR CERTIFICATE AND TROPHY ON SALIX ALPHA



received a certificate and a beautiful Bristol Blue Glass trophy. Well done!

We held several competitions between the boats from the Club - Best dressed boat was won by Doug and Sandra Fry on Eliza William and Neil Dowding won Best illuminated boat also



DOUG AND SANDRA FRY



NEIL DOWDING

Terry Kemp received a special award for Best illuminated Taverner. No.1 presented Steve Gobey with a bottle of wine in thanks for his work as Pontoon Marshall and to John Richardson for his work as Steve's deputy.



A WELL LIT TERRY KEMP WITH LIZ



JOHN RICHARDSON AND STEVE GOBEY

Everyone really enjoyed the event and on a personal note I thought it was the best Harbour Festival for a number of years.

Next years event is due to be held over the weekend of 1st and 2nd August but this is still in doubt as at the time of going to press there is still no major sponsor in place - I think it would be very sad if it had to be cancelled, not only for those who enter with their boats but for all the visitors who attend every year also the event makes millions of pounds for the city of Bristol.

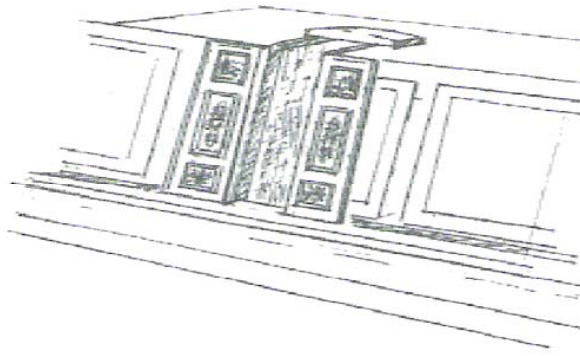
JR.

INTERCLUB MEETING

On our way back from Bristol Harbour Festival we moored at Sells Green and met Tina Curtis the Commodore of Salford Marina Boat Club who was spending a week on the K&A. We got talking and she explained her attempts to get the various boat clubs to take part in joint events. She invited the CTBC to take part in the Interclub Skittles Challenge and to attend an Interclub meeting aboard the John Sebastian the home of Cabot Cruising Club. The meeting duly took place on Sunday 16th November and Pat and myself attended on behalf of the Club - it was an excellent meeting with six clubs represented including Salford Marina BC, Bristol CC, Portavon Marina BC, Kelston Mill, Cabot CC and CTBC at the meeting we were able to decide on a comprehensive programme for 2009. It will be easier for the river clubs to attend most of the events but the CTBC can certainly attend several either by boat or by car.

A copy of the 2009 programme can be found on our website.

THROUGH THE HATCH



What a dreadful 'summer'. For personal reasons we were unable to go out cruising earlier on and so missed what would seemingly pass for summer 2008. Every time we decided to pack up and go, the rain changed our minds. We just couldn't find the enthusiasm for a prolonged cruise. So, although we have had some lovely days out on the cut, the hatch has been for the most part securely closed (although we haven't given up hope on this year just yet).

However, we have a very persistent editor who has been reminding me that he would like an article please. So what can I write? I can't write about the rain - no-one wants that, but a couple of weeks ago we decided to go out cruising anyway in spite of the weather. We decided to go to Dundas and it turned out to be a rather special weekend. As we cruised along the straight bit of canal from, Bradford lock to Avoncliff I became aware of something moving on the non-towpath side and keeping pace with us. At first I thought it was a cat and then (realised it was a fox jogging along looking for I know not what but he stayed with us almost up to the aqueduct - how special!

We did, of course, see a heron just standing looking into the water along the Limpley Stoke section - this is quite a regular haunt for them. He was quite a young one and had beautiful plumage. They can sometimes look a bit dilapidated.

When we arrived at Dundas we found a lovely mooring and settled down to a good book and copious cups of coffee (yes, coffee). The rain had stopped and when I happened to look out across the canal where there are some moored boats, I noticed that the trees were bending and swaying although there was precious little wind, and then I saw the squirrel and another one and another one - there may even have been more than three - and they were having the time of their lives leaping, climbing, having a nibble of some squirrel delicacy, or just hanging in there watching the world go by. What a joyful sight. In all the times we have been to Dundas I have never seen foxes or squirrels before. The squirrels were there again in the morning when the sun was shining warmly, where yesterday, it had been quiet- and almost eerie, today was the exact opposite. The canal was busy with all types of boats and the towpath buzzed with cyclists, walkers, dogs and children. We began to remember how social boating can be - everyone wanted to stop and chat. Boaters all had pressing jobs to do on their boats and even Himself tinkered with the engine, repaired the spot light and horn (in between chatting of course) and tried out, for the first time, his remote controlled model boat which he had as a Christmas present - little things.....

We had intended to spend another day here but having listened to the weather forecast we decided to up pegs and make our way back to the marina. What a good decision. The sun was so bright we had to find our sunglasses. I had forgotten how friendly boaters can be and it was jokes and humour all the way, - just as it should be. Even the lock was easily and happily negotiated. Once back and tied up we had a delicious Chinese takeaway - a perfect ending to an almost perfect day. The next day it was pouring with rain!

NATURE NOTEBOOK

FIRE & ICE

FIRE: Temperatures of 40°C and sand ranging in colour from pale beige on the coast to deep red further inland the deeper the colour the older the sand. The desert is a fascinating place.

I was there in November 2007. Arriving by plane the group spent the first night in Windhoek. The following day we drove to a tented camp in Kalahari, where we spent the next few nights. The days were spent being driven around in safari jeeps, seeing the bushmen, learning about their lives and viewing the wildlife that lives in this hostile climate, mostly wildebeest, onyx and we did catch a fleeting glimpse of meerkats.



BUSHMEN

On leaving the camp we drove along tarmac roads and some dirt tracks into the Namib desert to Sossusvlei. Here the sand is red and the dunes are the highest in the world. We walked amongst them and some brave souls (not me) climbed them.

After two nights at Sossusvlei in a lodge built in the style of an eastern castle, we drove back along some dirt tracks and tarmac roads to Swakopmund on the West coast, where we were to spend a few more days. Our time was spent walking in town, bartering at the local wood market, flying by helicopter over the dunes, sailing out to sea to view dolphins, flamingos, pelicans and seals, the seal joined us on board. On the final day we were taken on a dune ride in 4 x 4s we started along the beach then climbed up the dune before plummeting over the top and down the other side, a thrilling experience. We eventually ended up between the dunes, where we found tables and chairs being off loaded from one of the vehicles, and food boxes and wine from another. So everyone sat down to a very enjoyable picnic lunch.



THE WORLDS HIGHEST DUNES

After leaving Namibia I flew to Cape Town for a few days. At Windhoek airport, whilst waiting to check in I met the guide who had been with my party on my previous trip to Namibia. I spent two days in Cape Town on the first I took a bus around the coast and spent some time walking around the Victoria & Albert shopping centre and the harbour side. The following day I went on a coach trip to Hermanus to see the Southern Right Whales, but all too soon my trip ended and I had to head back to the U.K.

ICE: Having been to the Arctic to see polar bears (see Taverner April 2007) I suppose it was inevitable that I would end up at the other end of the globe with the penguins.

January 2008 saw me take a 19 hour flight from Gatwick to Ushuaia in Argentina to board 'Spirit of Adventure' to head south.

The days at sea were spent either on deck enjoying the view and sun or in the lecture room learning about the environment and the wildlife that we were going to see. The passage was smooth though I was told that Cape Horn was a bit bumpy (I slept through it) with crockery in the galley flying around. Eventually we arrived in the Antarctic peninsular and spent several days being ferried ashore in

zodiacs, visiting the islands to walk amongst the penguins, looking like red penguins in our waterproof jackets given by the boat, we saw Chinstrap, Adele and Gentoo who were nesting among the rocks (later on our return to Chile we saw Magellan penguins who nest in burrows.)



CHINSTRAP PENGUINES



GENTOO PENGUINS AND CHICKS

Plus a great many sea birds including storm-petrels and albatross.

Although this was Antarctic summer the days varied considerably one day we were sunning ourselves on deck licking ice cream - the next day we awoke to find the deck covered in snow and the Filipino crew building snowmen on deck - later that day we went out in the zodiacs to sail in the snow storm, negotiating our way between the ice flows and listening to the icebergs culving, which means the lumps of ice cracking off and falling into the water.

After Antarctica we sailed back through the Chilean Fjords with volcanic mountains and glaciers towering up over the channel. As luck would have it one morning during breakfast (when not many had a camera at the ready) we were joined by a pod of humpback whales and later that day we saw a leopard seal slide off an ice flow into the water.



ICE BERG AND GLACIER

As we proceeded north there was a rise in the temperature getting us ready for Santiago, where we would spend a few days.

Our first morning in Santiago saw us climb onto a coach and drive 9,000 feet into the Andes, stopping off on the way to see a few points of

interest. Eventually we arrived at 'Los Lagos de Los Incas' a lake surrounded by the Andes



LOS LAGOS de LOS INCAS

where we had lunch in a hotel built as a ski lodge, where condors circle above.

Later on the way down we saw alpaca and llama.

The following morning was spent wine tasting at a local winery again nestling in the valley surrounded by the Andes. The afternoon was spent sight seeing in Santiago.

All too soon the time arrived to leave and we flew from Santiago to Paris and then London. Everyone having wonderful memories.

Pauline Elcock

THE OLIVER CROMWELL

While attending the Saul Festival of Folk and Boats I had the pleasure of listening to the folk music and having a meal aboard the Oliver Cromwell paddle wheeler.

The Oliver Cromwell is the oldest floating paddle wheeler in England.



THE OLIVER CROMWELL FROM THE BOW



THE OLIVER CROMWELL SHOWING THE PADDLE WHEEL

The Oliver Cromwell is now a floating hotel and restaurant and for a mere £60 you could have spent the weekend on board and enjoyed the entertainment and food.

The Oliver Cromwell was originally a German built Rhine barge, built about 1929, and powered by a diesel engine.

Then in 1993 the Oliver Cromwell was converted into a hotel boat, funnels were added and she became a steam paddle wheeler.

During the Saul Festival several folk groups entertained us in the saloon - earlier in the evening in the same saloon meals were served, and were very good.

On the last morning of the festival, the Oliver Cromwell cruised back to her moorings at Gloucester (she is about to undergo another refit). It was an impressive site as the rear paddle churned up the water of the Sharpness Canal.

Hazel Yates Jones



ALL CHANGE AT THE CANAL TAVERN

We were all sad to hear that Irene and Rod our hosts at the Canal Tavern for the last few years were leaving, so because they had made us welcome as a Club it was decided to make a presentation to them of glasses inscribed with the Club logo as a token of our appreciation. A small group of Taverners gathered in the Dundas bar to say thank you and for Carolyn Wetton our No.1 to make the presentation.



Rod and Irene held an open house on Tuesday 2nd December their last night to say goodbye to their customers and friends - there was a live band and a buffet. Representing the CTBC was Robin and Christine Watt, John and Pat Richardson - Rod and Irene certainly had a good send off - We shall miss them. Andrew is the temporary manager until Victoria and Tarkan the new landlady and landlord take over on Monday 19th January.

INTERCLUB SKITTLES CHALLENGE

The Interclub Skittles Challenge was held at The Crown in Saltford on Saturday 15th November - there were 65 people from five boat/cruising clubs. George and Alison Muir, Robin and Christine Watt, John and Pat Richardson took part from the Taverners.



TAVERNERS ENJOYING A CHAT AND A DRINK AWAITING THEIR TURN

Tina Curtis the Commodore of Saltford Marina Boat Club organised the evening which apart from the skittles included an excellent buffet for the very reasonable price of £3 per head. Everyone enjoyed the evening and look forward to next year's event, hopefully more CTBC members will attend.



CAROL SERVICE AT DUNDAS

The Carol Service at Dundas took place on the evening of Saturday 6th December, led by Peter Atwill with music supplied by the Salvation Army,

The scene looked lovely with the boats and their Christmas lights also the large crowd gathered in the darkness only the candles and the braziers giving enough light to see the carol sheets. The weather this year was dry if rather cold, I couldn't feel my feet come the end,



Carolyn and Simon Wetton



Christine and Robin Watt



Pat Richardson and Jackie Tanner



Simon Wetton

but the singing was lovely and the mince pies and mulled wine was certainly warming.

Peter Atwill informed us that the carol service will take place again next year.

