



📍 Alvechurch Marina Moorings



Moorers Newsletter Winter 2020

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at ABC Leisure Group.



ABC LEISURE GROUP LTD

Join us    [abcleisuregroup](https://www.abcleisuregroup.com)

www.everythingcanalboats.com



Company News

2020 has certainly been a challenge for all companies, especially a seasonal business such as ABC Leisure Group. The March lockdown occurred at the worst possible time for us. We had spent the winter improving the marinas and getting the various boat fleets ready for the cruising season and we weren't able to operate. With very little income the marina teams were placed on furlough and we waited. Private boats were able to cruise in June, followed by the hire boats in July. The shortened season was the busiest peak season we have ever seen.

The lockdown has introduced the canals to a whole new audience, and lots of them took advantage of a holiday on the water when they were allowed. Despite the financial challenges of this year we are still investing in the marinas, with new fencing at Hilperton, Fazeley and Gayton. We are also looking at how we can improve the slabbed sides of the marina at Anderton as well as some piling around the service jetty at Alvechurch.

Mooring Fees

The mooring year has been extended to the end of March 2021. The prices have been held and you have been invoiced in your usual method through to the end of March 2021. The mooring year will now run from April – March annually.

Red Diesel Update

The Government is still committed to banning Red Diesel for narrowboat propulsion although the legislation has not been finalised. The good news is they seem to be moving away from the idea of having two tanks on the boat.

The indications are that white diesel will be allowed for both propulsion and domestic use and the element declared for domestic use will still be at the lower duty rate. Further good news is that the indications are that end user fuel tanks will not need to be cleaned of all traces of red diesel. Shame the same cannot be said of the tanks used to dispense the fuel which will have to be cleaned or replaced.

PROUD MEMBER OF

**BRITISH
MARINE**



ABC Leisure Group are proud members of British Marine. British Marine is the industry federation and

ABC representatives are actively involved in a number of areas. Edward Helps who is one of the company owners sits on the British Marine board, Carl Onens, Managing Director, is on the British Marine Inland Boating Committee, Alan Boatman (Technical and Operations Director) is on the Yacht Harbour Association council, Dave Taylor (Technical Manager) is on the committee for British Marine Inland Boatbuilding.

This involvement ensures that the interest of the inland waterways and canal boating is strongly represented. It also allows us to share information and ideas as well as ensuring we are up to date with legislation and technical issues.



Great Canal Journeys - Channel 4

Channel 4 welcomed back its popular boating programme, Great Canal Journeys, which came to our screens in November. This year, the waterways were explored by brand new boaters – Sheila Hancock and Gyles Brandreth (who is wearing one of our cabin boy badges) – who embarked on spectacular canal journeys across Britain.

Episode 1 aired on Sunday 8th November on Channel 4 with episode 2 being shown on Sunday the 15th which featured one of our boats, Shore Lark, from Aldermaston Wharf. Well done to Dave Thomas and the team at Aldermaston for ensuring the boat looked its best and running around London to do remote safety handovers. If you missed the episodes they can be found on www.channel4.com.

Please help to keep the marina clean and tidy by using the refuse disposal and recycling facilities correctly and disposing of any large and/or unsuitable items at your local tip.

COVID-19

Over the course of the year we have had many challenges as a result of COVID-19. From making sure your boats were safe during the lockdown period when Government advice would not let you visit your boat, to introducing a whole new way of working involving social distancing and lots of PPE.

The management team worked closely with British Marine and The Yacht Harbour Association to establish new procedures and protocols. We would like to thank you for following the guidance around the marinas and in the shops.

Although Lockdown 2 required the retail operation of the marinas to close, along with the hire fleet, holiday lets and boat brokerage, we decided not to close the marinas but restrict sales to essential supplies. This means we were able to offer diesel, coal, gas etc. to our moorers and local boaters.

Social
Distance



Be
Kind



COVID Secure

The team at Kings Orchard sporting their branded PPE.

2021 International Boat Show

British Marine have announced the dates for the 2021 International Boat Show - the 52nd edition of the UK's largest water sports festival will take place from 10th - 19th September 2021.

The ten-day celebration, which attracts over 100,000 visitors annually, will showcase sail and power boats, products and services from over 450 marine brands, including ABC Leisure Group.

Winter Stoppages

Canal and River Trust are well into their winter programme. Fortunately this has not been dramatically reduced as a result of the COVID-19 issues this year which is vital for the future of the waterways.

You can check the latest details on the Canal and River Trust website - www.canalrivertrust.org.uk



Boats Left Stranded

During the Summer an issue with an Environment Agency sluice gate on the River Avon near Bath led to the water levels dropping dramatically in 90 minutes.

ABC Boat Hire had 7 boats trapped by the incident and there were a further 40 boats that also required saving. River Canal Rescue were on scene to provide assistance.

Prepare For Winter

Please ensure your boat is fully prepared to withstand the rigours of winter. Snow and heavy rain can be extremely heavy and push your boat right down in the water. This happened recently at one of the our marinas resulting in a sinking. If you are unsure about your boat please speak to your local marina team.

- **Make sure you've got plenty of gas, coal and/or logs which are available at great prices from the marina every day except Christmas day and Boxing day.**
- Keep a torch handy at all times for when it's dark.
- Always have a means of getting out of the water if you fall in. Emergency escape ladders can be sourced at some marinas; enquire at reception for further details.
- Make sure you have a first aid kit.
- Keep plenty of blankets on board just in case.
- Keep your diesel tanks full as well as your gas bottles.
- Make sure your batteries are fully charged.
- Ensure your engine is in good order and recently serviced.

Coal, Calor Gas, Logs and Kindling

The marina shops are stocked with plenty of Winter warmers at competitive prices. Come and see us for more details.



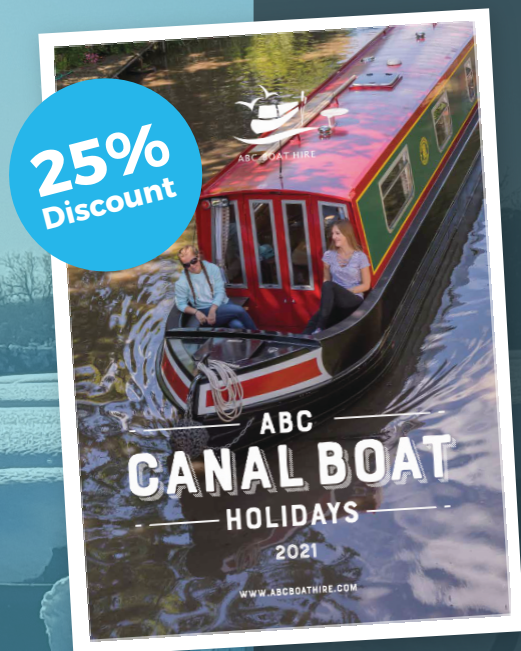
Please note that full marina services cannot be guaranteed in icy and/or snowy weather and surfaces may be slippery.

Get your boat winterised

If you're not going to be staying on your boat during the winter months, then it's really important that you have your boat winterised.

Winterising your boat prevents problems caused by extremely cold weather such as damaged pipes along with fixtures and fittings which can be quite costly to fix.

If you'd like your boat winterised, speak with a member of staff for more information.



Cruise on a different canal with your moorers discount.

If you would like to cruise on a different canal that you can't access easily with your own boat, such as the Scottish Waterways or the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal, you can, by using your moorers discount of 25%* off one of our hire boats.

We have 15 start locations altogether across the UK and boats for up to 12 people.

To find out more, go to www.abcboathire.com and to book with your discount, call our friendly team on 0330 333 0590.

*25% discount applies to boat hire only

Brokerage

Visit us online
www.abcboatsales.com

2020 has been a great year for Brokerage. We have experienced an unprecedented level of demand for second hand boat sales across our marinas, so if you're thinking about selling your boat, get in touch with us today.



How time flies, once again I am summing up how Brokerage has done this past year and what a year it has been. Despite Covid19, enquiries for Brokerage just continued to arrive, and it has been one of our best years.

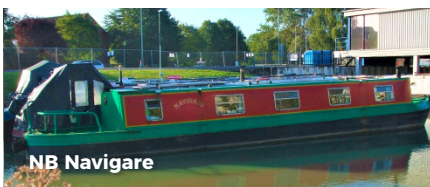
We sold 95 boats this year so again quite an achievement despite being in lockdown for much of it. Coronavirus has made living aboard a boat even more attractive, it must be the isolation it can offer!

Our Brokerage process continues to be respected and complimented so clearly we are doing the right things.

— Lynda Ballard, Customer Service Manager

Some of the benefits of selling with ABC

- ✔ Competitive commission rates from 6%
- ✔ Virtual tour of your boat online
- ✔ Modern website advertising your boat
- ✔ Your boat advertised in 14 marinas
- ✔ Fully staffed open 7 days/week
- ✔ Adverts in national canal publications
- ✔ E-mail campaigns to thousands of buyers
- ✔ 4 months free mooring while on brokerage
- ✔ Helpful, professional and trained staff
- ✔ Regular social media posts



Over
90

Boats sold
in the last
12 months

Just Over
20

Boats on
brokerage
right now

8

Currently
under offer

If you're thinking about selling your boat, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us to see how we can help you.

With commission rates from just 6% including VAT, we remain competitive without compromising on service.

General Marina Information

A reminder that following government guidelines, you are required to wear a face mask in the marina shops / reception and maintain social distancing to help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19. For information on the latest COVID-19 guidance and support please see www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Please keep dogs on leads particularly if it's dark. There is to be no fouling in the moorings and could all pet owners be responsible for clearing up their dogs foul, thank you.

Alvechurch OFFERS

ENGINE HEATER & SERVICE OFFER: Get your engine and heater serviced for just £200! Pop into the shop for further details and to get your boat booked in.

BLACKING OFFER: 15% discount available to book until March.

Can we ask moorers to consider winding their respective shore line cables around their stern rope. This will prevent accidental pulling of electrical posts when departing their mooring.

Please could we ask that if the marina gate is shut when you arrive on site, please lock it back up afterwards.

We'd also like to welcome Chris Hunt and Aaron Culleton to the team who are on hand to help.

Hilpertton OFFERS

EXTRA 15% DISCOUNT OFF CHANDLERY AND SERVICES - Get an extra 15% discount on top of your 10% moorers discount on all products and services.

You'll notice we have replaced our old chain link fence with a nice new one along with a set of new gates which is a lot more secure.

After a slow-ish start to winter maintenance and cleaning we are looking forward to welcoming back a number of staff from furlough and getting things moving at full speed. The site is jam packed with fleet boats along with the new CLC club arrivals.

During the Covid-19 restrictions we are still open for essential items like diesel and pumpout services, and have plenty of stock of coal, logs and kindling for the winter months.

Grove Lock

We have added 9 additional caravan pitches on the private site. To try and combat the annual problem of potholes in the turn onto the moorers car park we are having the area scraped, and honeycombed mat laid and re-stoned. Hopefully this will prevent the stone being pushed to the side.

We have also asked the groundsman to re-stake the rare apple tree orchard as the original stakes are very tight now. Please avoid parking on the grass during the inclement weather.

Anderton

There are now two new staff members at the marina - They are Steve Hemmings and Ray Richardson. Please feel free to introduce yourselves and I am sure they will help in anyway possible.

Since the start of COVID restrictions you will have noticed the program for replacing the jetties around the marina has come to a stop, however we intend to resume this in the New Year in order to continue replacing the most worn jetties first.

Plans are now in place for the creation of a new toilet and shower block to be constructed in parallel with the creation of the long awaited caravan park which will be situated in the field above the east side of the marina.

As usual all our services are still available including fuel, gas, coal, kindling, painting, docking, blacking and all aspects of engineering. We also offer servicing of Eberspacher & Alde heating systems especially before winter sets in - Please get in touch to book your boat in.

Gayton OFFERS

LIFT OUT OFFER – 25% off All Inclusive Price for lift out, pressure wash and blacking during March and April – Subject to availability. (This offer includes Moorers discount)

We are discussing the addition of more car parking spaces along the driveway and at the far end of marina. We will advise of any works via e-mail closer to the time.

You'll be aware that we are working on the replacement of some of our mooring pontoons - This work will be complete once we have finished adding the new fencing.

We are also adding caravan park spaces to the marina which should be finished soon.

Kings Orchard

The entrance to the marina just inside the gate is to be re-stoned with large gravel to see if this helps with the pothole situation.

Aldermaston

We have applied for planning permission to enhance the yard services we can offer. Ultimately this will include a concrete crane pad to stop the yard getting so muddy, a runway and workshop to enhance the base boat maintenance facilities.



Get an extra £20 off already discounted 2 night stays or more with this **exclusive ABC discount code**.

Go to www.greatlittlebreaks.com and sign up to their newsletter for all their latest offers and deals.



Offers For Moorers

50% off Waterways World books exclusive to ABC Moorers and Employees

To get a massive 50% discount off the online Waterways World store, use the code **ABC50** in the promotional code box in your shopping cart.

Go to <https://shop.waterwaysworld.com/books-merchandise> to see whats on offer.

Expires Jan 31st 2021



Marina Contact Details

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Padworth, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 4JS

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abclg@aldermastonwharf.com

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T: 0121 445 1133 E:

abclg@alvechurchmarina.com

Anderton Marina

Uplands Road, Anderton, Cheshire, CW9 6AJ

T: 01606 79642 E:

abclg@andertonmarina.com

Blackwater Meadow Marina

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Fazeley Mill Marina

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T: 01827 261 138 E:

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Gayton Marina

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Goytre Wharf

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Grove Lock Marina

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Hilpert Marina

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Kings Orchard Marina

Broad Lane, Huddlesford, Lichfield, WS13 8SP

T: 01543 433 608 E:

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New Mills Marina

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abclg@newmillsmarina.co.uk

Whitchurch Marina

Wrexham Road, Whitchurch, SY13 3AA

T: 01948 662 012 E:

abclg@whitchurchmarina.com

Wrenbury Mill Marina

Wrenbury, Near Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 8HG

T: 01270 780 544 E:

abclg@wrenburymill.com

Worcester Marina

Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester, WR1 2RS

T: 01905 734 160 E:

abclg@worcestermarina.com



Give the gift of boating this Christmas

Why not give a friend or family member the gift of a day on the water this Christmas with our boat hire gift vouchers.

We have lots of day hire locations to choose from all over the country from Anderton Marina in the North, to Hilpert Marina in the South.

Go to abctodayboathire.com for more information.



You can keep up to date with goings on at ABC by following us on Facebook by searching ABCLeisureGroup.