



Mercia MERCURY

August 2018
Issue : 114



www.merciamarina.co.uk

Mercia celebrates its 10th birthday in style

Arrangements for the 10th Anniversary Weekend are developing rapidly and information will be given out over the coming weeks. We will need to know numbers for the community party on the Saturday (to make sure there are enough chairs and Hog Roast/BBQ food) so expect a "sign up for tickets" shout out. From 4pm, family and friends are welcome to join the fun (there is a fuddle for your evening food and drink).

Moorers' Day

The moorers' and lodge owners' day will be on Saturday 15 September, with the public day being on the following day. Saturday's events will start at 1pm and finish at 10pm with everything happening at the western end of the long-term car park.

Public Day

The following day, Sunday 16 September, the public celebrations take place from midday.

A family fun day will see stilt walkers, bubble artists, street performers, fire dancers, magician, live music bands, swan pedalos and the unveiling of something special to mark the occasion topped off with pyrotechnics and a special firework display to finish.

A day not to be missed and everyone is welcome

Saturday Highlights

- Force 10 Big Band
- Mercia Ukulele Group
- Stretch tent with matting, floor and lights and sound system
- Music & dancing
- Hog Roast and BBQ and separate BBQ for vegetarians
- BYO Fuddle picnic and drinks
- Table and chairs a-plenty
- Luxury Loo trailer

What else is happening?

Line Dancing with Lynn Clayton

Hats and check shirts, stomping feet (no spurs!), a yee-haa and bit of rhythm! Join in the stretch tent's Line Dancing sessions. No experience necessary – Lynn will be calling and there'll be a few well-practiced line dancers in the crowd to get you going. Or just join in the fun from the sidelines with a cheer and clap.

Mercia's Make-A-Cake Off

Looking for the best single-tier 8" sponge cake - your own recipe, flavoured however you fancy, decorated however you like (all home-made of course) and delivered to the stretch tent by 5pm. To be viewed, tasted and judged by our two professional bakers Lin Pugh and Rebekah Preston and head judge Robert Neff. Suitable prizes in a variety of categories. More details and terms and conditions available from the Office in the near future. All cakes will then be eaten by everyone as part of the community fuddle!!

Boaters' Bonnets

Make a statement with your own individually designed and decorated Bonnet. Boaters' Hats, Bowler Hats, Berets, Straw Hats, Fedoras, Top Hats, Lace Bonnets, Baseball Cap, Cowboy Hat, Cloche, Straw or Turban. Wear your individually created masterpiece at the Saturday Party in the Stretch Tent, wear it throughout the public celebrations on the Sunday. Let's have hundreds of Mercia Boaters' Bonnets bringing colour and pizzazz to the weekend. Outstanding hats will be singled out for honorary awards by our very own Crafting Supremo, Mary Bodman! Jo Smith is your Millinery Advisor, so questions to her or through the Office.



**BLOOMING BOATS
& BONNETS**



MARINA NEWS & VIEWS

Storage Sheds: The 70 new storage sheds have been ordered and will be delivered and constructed during August. They will be available on the same terms and rates as the current sheds. If you want to know more, please ask in the Marina Office.

Mercia Allotment: Developing a community allotment in the marina's leisure field (the west end of the long-stay car park) is under active consideration. If you are interested and would like to be involved, leave your name and contact details in the Office.

Mercia Events: There is now a dedicated email address for any questions about events or comments to the MAC group: events@merciamarina.co.uk. Make use of it; you will get a reply!!

Bridge, Ramps and Overflow Car Park: Completion of the overflow car park, the bridge and its ramps is expected in August.

Boaters and Lodge Owners' Forum: John Harman (Forum Rep for Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing and Moorhen) resigned his position having moved areas in the marina. A call will shortly be put out for nominations and votes to recruit a new Rep. If you are interested, please let the Office know.

Smart Electricity Meters: The installation roll-out recommenced in July. Signs will be put on converted bollards to remind moorers to use the new cards.

Mooring Contracts: The mooring contracts for the next year have gone out. Would everyone please return their forms and documents (copies of your BSSC, Licence and Insurance) as soon as possible so that invoices can be prepared in time for 1 September.



How safe is your boat?

Every now and then there's a shout out on the Mercia Community Facebook page for a BSS Examiner.

It's really important to know that if you are a residential moorer, you must meet certain conditions if your boat is to pass its BSS. To clarify these, Graham Watts, the BSS Manager of the Boat Safety Scheme, responded to our questions as follows:

Why are there complicated rules meaning only some BSS Examiners can check residential boat gas systems?

It's part of the Health & Safety Executive's Gas Safety rules. The rules mean that for liveaboard boats (and hire boats and other commercial boats), only a qualified Gas Safe registered engineer can work on the gas system and the definition of 'work' includes checking for gas leaks using a manometer device attached to the gas pipework.

Is it recommended that boat owners fit a Bubble Tester?

Yes, fitting a Bubble Tester in the LPG cylinder locker is strongly recommended because it allows owners to check for leaks themselves and so enjoy piece of mind



in between BSS Examinations. It is very important that fitting Bubble Testers on residential boats (and private leisure boats) is done by a LPG boat-competent Gas Safe registered engineer. This is because the Bubble Tester must be correctly located and oriented, and for large volume LPG systems, the engineer may need to install a bypass arrangement to allow gas to flow past the Bubble Tester when it is not being used.

Does a Bubble Tester do away with the need for a Gas Safe registered engineer testing the gas system on residential boats?

Yes, because any BSS Examiner can check for leaks using a fully functioning and appropriately located Bubble Tester. It is the case however that there is no BSS requirement for a bubble tester and so fitting one is matter of boat owner choice.



Our thanks to
Midland Chandra's
for their support
with this newsletter



10th Anniversary Boat Parade



On Sunday 16 September, as part of the Marina's 10th Birthday celebrations, why not decorate your boat with bunting, ribbons, lights, flags and flowers for the parade between Mercia and Willington. Moor on the towpath and chat to passers-by,

answering questions and accepting their admiring comments or be part of the moving parade travelling down our home stretch. Wear your boater's bonnets and feel free to dress up! Sue Jordan is collecting names so let her or the Office know you will be there.

Save Our Bees stall returns



Come along to the 'Save Our Bees' stall, which will be situated outside the Marina Office, on Sunday 12 August from 10am-4pm.

Find out more about bee conservation and how you can help in the fight to 'Save Our Bees'.

Lotus Kitchen opens for business

After months of waiting and speculation, the new Lotus Kitchen, has now fully opened on the new Piazza development at the end of The Boardwalk. Offering a selection of Indian street food, as well as traditional Indian dishes, the restaurant is already proving popular with Mercians and guests alike.



For comment and contributions, please contact Jo on 07973 711431 or at jojames46@gmail.com



Meet Matt Franklin

Matt Franklin joined the Mercia Community three years ago last April. Never having even stepped onto a narrowboat, he saw the image of one moving down a canal as a backdrop to a television advertisement and was immediately certain that this was to be his future. He looked at a couple of marinas before realising his perfect marina - Mercia - was just round the corner from his (then) house. So he bought a boat and moved onto a mooring which became residential soon after. Since then he, and his 9-year-old son Nate, have embraced a whole new way of life.

Matt has been self-employed for the last 14 years and along the way developed a hugely useful set of transferable skills in maintenance and landscape gardening. The gardening and estate work side led to him working part-time with the marina estate team and this changed to full-time on the 16 July. The 'maintenance' skills have been well used and extended through the fit-out of his sailaway 65' x 12' Collingwood!

Matt cycles - he's had his first bike when his was 4 and, it seems, has seldom been off them since! From BMX he moved through mountain biking to his current Road Biking. And not just any old road biking, this is Sportive biking where a cyclist has a personal battle over distance and time as part of organised cycling events. Most recently he was in Wales, cycling 85 miles in 33° heat.

A big welcome to Matt on becoming part of Mercia's team; he comes with a lot of expertise and experience. Make sure you all greet him as you see him out and about!



What a Scorcher!

You don't need reminding what a scorching July was, and our local weather station, here on the marina, has recorded some interesting statistics.

The rainfall at Mercia for the whole of July was just 1.1mm. The July national average is normally 63mm.

Our average daily temperature has been 25.3c, compared to a national July average of 18c, and we have enjoyed 278 hours of sunshine during July, compared to an average of 194.

This period of dry, hot weather has resulted in a possible case of avian botulism in the wildlife pond (between the marina and towpath). Avian botulism outbreaks occur relatively frequently in ponds and lakes in periods when there is less oxygen in the water, such as during heat waves. The risk to health for both humans and dogs is considered to be very low.

However, for the time being it's sense to exercise caution, so please **keep your dogs on leads and do not let them go into the water.** If you see wildfowl in distress, please report it to the Marina Office and don't feed birds in the water.

Saturday 1st September

STARGAZING AT
MERCIA MARINA
DERBYSHIRE

7pm onwards at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms

Explore the wonders of the night sky with one of the Derbyshire and District Astronomical Society's telescopes

Bring your own telescope or binoculars (at your own risk) and look at the wonders with the assistance of the Derbyshire and District Astronomical Society

Hear more about astronomy and ask any questions you might have

Tea and coffee will be provided

Wear sensible shoes and clothing it may be cold

Cost is a £1 per person donation to marina charities collected on the night

To book your place or ask for more information Email: events@merciamarina.co.uk or refer to the event listing on the Mercia marina community Facebook page

Open to all lodge owners and moorers

Closing date
- 24th
September

MERCIA MARINA
WILLINGTON

Mercia Art Competition

**PUTTING COMMUNITY
IN THE PICTURE**

Entry levels

PROFESSIONALS AMATEURS JUNIORS (18 & under)

Categories

VISUAL ARTS - drawing, painting, sculpture, needlework, digital
PHOTOGRAPHY - creative, colour, black and white

Prizes awarded for category winners, the overall winner.
 Entries displayed on 29th Sept at Willington Village Hall

Residents from Willington, Findern and Mercia are invited to submit their piece of art capturing a place, activity or image of interest from the community area...

All entries to Mercia Marina Reception
 Mercia Marina Findern Lane Willington Derbyshire DE65 6DW
 01283 703332 info@merciamarina.co.uk www.merciamarina.co.uk