

Wow....what a weekend!



Mercians and guests celebrated our 10th Anniversary in style over the weekend of 15 & 16 September: the sun shone (well, most of the time) and the varied programme of events, which ran from midday on the Saturday included line dancing, cake baking, a boater's bonnet competition, an inaugural Mercian pantomime, a big band, a performance from the Mercian Ukulele Group, a speech from Michael Thornton and music and dancing until late.

The giant stretch tent, with its three open sides, proved popular throughout the day and moorers and lodge owners enjoyed a free barbecue and, eventually, a hog roast.

On Sunday, a dozen or so boats entertained the several thousand guests as they paraded around the marina, before cruising to Willington, many decorated especially for the occasion, with a number of 'boaters bonnets' in evidence. The weekend's events were wrapped up on the Sunday with a grand firework finale and an open air showing in the stretch marquee of 'Mamma Mia'!





The Bird of Happiness is revealed

Finally, after being 'under wraps' for several weeks, the bronze statue that sits at the end of the Boardwalk has been unveiled as part of the Marina's tenth anniversary celebrations. Called 'The Bird of Happiness',

it has been very well received by Mercians and the public in general. But what bird is it? Many believe it be a swan, though others are not so sure. But whatever your interpretation, it is a fine addition to the Marina.



The 'Bird of Happiness' has been created by sculptor Simon Gudgeon, His signature smooth-style concentrates itself on spirit and nature. Hailing from Yorkshire, but living and working in Dorset, Simon Gudgeon is widely regarded as one of the country's top contemporary sculptures. He says: "A sculpture, on a superficial level must encapsulate beauty; it must uplift the spirit and enhance its surroundings. But on a deeper level it should resonate with the viewer and have a subconscious appeal to their emotions. Miniature copies of the bronze are currently available to buy in the Bluebell Gallery.

STREETHAY WHARF LTD Coventry Canal Lichfield

Negotiations are now well advanced towards Streethay opening a 'satellite' engineering workshop at Mercia and, all being well, this should be in place mid-October/early November. The plan is to have Streethay engineers based here doing repair work, electrical, solar, gas, stoves, plumbing and engineering work on both marina-based and visiting boats. Major work – such as stretching, refits, painting, boat fit-outs (yes, they do one a year with the current commission on a Tyler Wilson shell) and big engineering projects will stay at Streethay Wharf's home base. This isn't intended as a fixed arrangement – more a starting plan which can evolve and develop as the new

workshop beds in and develops. Terry and Tina Bellamy acquired Streethay Wharf in 2012 though their son Nick had been working there with Ray Bowen from some ten years before that. Boats are in the Bellamy blood – they remember a Stewart & Lloyds Joey, then acquiring Darley with its butty Alperton which they restored followed by the Cowburn and Cowpar Starling with its LMS butty Ethel. And they have a couple of other project boats to work on when time permits! Nick's passion for boats didn't stop him picking up his B.Tech and HNC in Electronics but his focus has been the boatyard since he left school and his extensive constant working experience on countless numbers and types of

boats over the last 15 years adds hugely to Terry's own knowledge. With Tina's background in IT, education and business management they make a formidable trio.

We are indeed fortunate they are willing to bring all that expertise and experience to the Marina.

You will have questions you want to ask no doubt! More details will emerge as the next few weeks pass and they intend an evening buffet as an opportunity for an official Launch and Introduction of the Streethay Team at The Willow or Beetroot Tree (Heg Deaville has already generously said she's ready to help with that) in the near future. Watch for an announcement of that date and get your name in quickly; it will be a popular event.



Our thanks to
Midland Changers
for their support with
this newsletter



Knit your poppy with pride

You have probably noticed the poppies on the signage on the main gates.

This is in conjunction with a display that the marina are planning to acknowledge the 100th year anniversary of the end of the Great War.

This is a shout out to any knitters or crochet folk who could make some red poppies. The display will run from 1 - 30 November. Please give them to Jane Hunt, Jane Wakeham or leave them in the office, thank you

Pop-Up Poppy Knitting Pattern designed especially for this project

USING RED DK WOOL AND 3.75 OR SIZE 9 KNITTING NEEDLES

MAIN POPPY

CAST ON 80 STITCHES AND KNIT 2 ROWS

3RD ROW – KNIT 2 TOGETHER ACROSS ROW (40 STITCHES)

KNIT 2 ROWS

6TH ROW – KNIT 2 TOGETHER ACROSS ROW (20 STITCHES)

KNIT 2 ROWS

9TH ROW – KNIT 2 TOGETHER ACROSS ROW (10 STITCHES)

KNIT 2 ROWS

12TH ROW – KNIT 2 TOGETHER ACROSS ROW (5 STITCHES)

BREAK WOOL AND THREAD WOOL THROUGH THESE STITCHES

GATHER UP, SECURE AND SEW UP THE SIDE SEAM OF YOUR POPPY

POPPY MIDDLE

USING BLACK DK WOOL AND SAME NEEDLES

CAST ON 14 STITCHES, KNIT 1 ROW

2ND ROW – KNIT 2 TOGETHER ACROSS ROW (7 STITCHES)

BREAK WOOL AND GATHER UP THE MIDDLE INTO A ROUND SHAPE

SEW INTO THE CENTRE OF YOUR POPPY

OR FIND A NICE BLACK BUTTON INSTEAD



Marina 10mph Speed Limit:

The Marina's 10mph speed limit applies to ALL vehicles on the perimeter road. Cyclists are not exempt so you are asked to cycle responsibly.

Too many people are travelling too fast around a shared space and it cannot continue.

If you do speed, expect to be cautioned and – if you are caught doing so again – your car, cycle, van or whatever it may be will have to remain outside the green gates.

You have been warned!



Bread Baking

A member of the Mercia community has offered to host an evening

demonstrating how to bake bread - in particular the various stages to preparing Sourdough Bread, including tasting the finished product.

It will be held sometime in November – but judging by the instant response to the invitation, there may need to be more than one session!

If any budding Paul Hollywood's are out there, who would like to attend, but haven't seen the notice, then drop your details to- events@merciamarina.co.uk or leave your name in the Office.

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

M.A.C CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Below are the leisure activities for October. All events are in the Willow Tree Tea Rooms, and generally start at 7pm.



Watercolour Class

Monday 1 October
Monday 8 October
Monday 15 October
Monday 22 October
Monday 29 October



Craft Group

Wednesday 3 October
Wednesday 10 October
Wednesday 17 October



Ukulele Group

Thursday 4 October
Thursday 11 October
Thursday 18 October
Thursday 25 October

OTHER EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Music Group

Tuesday 2 October

Photography Group

Tuesday 9 October

Bingo Night

Tuesday 16 October

Rope Splicing

Tuesday 23 October

Speed Conkers Tournament

(what! Yes, you read it correctly)
Wednesday 24 October

Book Club

Tuesday 30 October

Quiz Night

Wednesday 31 October

The Quiz is a team event, so please book in at the Office (who can also give you a team).

If you wish to know more about anything leisure-based please email: events@merciamarina.co.uk



In your Boatman's bonnet...

This wonderful Boatwoman's Bonnet was made by Mary Bodman who - at 93 - is our most senior residential moorer. Mary's lifelong passion has been craft - both as a teacher and practitioner and many of us have had the privilege of seeing her outstanding quilting. She undertook the bonnet as her contribution to the Boater's Bonnet competition and reckons it took her some 70 hours to complete in all. It's left her with huge admiration for the women who made them in Victorian times since they would have been worked entirely by hand and very often by candlelight or lamps in the evening since the days would have been filled with the business of their working boats. Mary's bonnet has been entered in the Willington Arts' Festival."

MAC Accounts for the year:

The MAC accounts (Mercia Activities Committee) have been audited by Nigel Hunt (many thanks) and have been found to be correct. The total amount raised in 17/18 is £1,701.85. This will be divided between this year's chosen charities. If anyone wishes to see the balance sheet please ask and I'll be happy to provide you with a copy.

Many thanks to everyone for their continuing generosity, without you none of this would be possible.

Nancy Harman, MAC Treasurer

Overflow Car Park:

The new overflow car park proved its worth over the Anniversary weekend and was well used. CCTV, lighting and a lifting arm barrier are the final touches to be added. Then, excepting

for particular events, weekday use will be limited to Marina businesses with keyfob access and, at the weekends, available for general use for visitors and the community.

All Change

All residential boaters are reminded that their mooring position has to change between 1 and 20 October. You cannot go back to the mooring



you left in the Spring. Questions or concerns? Please go and see Jules Aucott in the Marina Office. You will probably find someone on your pontoon is helping plan the switcheroo!

Are you bonkers for conkers?



Fancy a game of speed conkers? We are trialling this concept on Wednesday 24 October in the Willow Tree. Conkers are drawn at random from a bag and each round lasts three

minutes. It's a knockout tournament and a new conker is drawn each round. Alternating, each player has three strikes and if there is no clear winner after three minutes it is a judges decision.

It promises to be a fast and furious barrel of laughs so look out for more info on Facebook and posters.

Oh no it's not....

Oh yes it probably is....



After the success of 'Cinderella' at the Tenth Anniversary party by the Mercian Players, they are now planning a full-scale pantomime for Christmas 2019. This will depend on whether the new Community Hall will be on-line by then, but it looks very likely that will be the case.

The panto will be Aladdin, complete, hopefully, with a flying narrowboat. We have an original script, a producer, and the nucleus of a cast, but there are a dozen speaking roles in the show, some large and some small which need to be filled. So gents, if you have always wanted to be a 'dame', or ladies, a 'leading man', then now's your chance. Further details to follow.

