

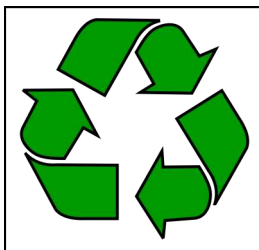
Are you recycling responsibly?



Although our recycling bins are used responsibly by most, there are still a few who are putting in food waste and non-recyclable packaging and plastics. One person is putting a large black rubbish bin bag into the recycling bins on the corner regularly; it contains teabags, food waste and non recyclable packaging. This really is unnecessary so take a bit of time to sort your rubbish properly.

The large green logo is the sign that indicates recyclability but many bottles and plastic trays will have a plain black triangle with any number from 1 to 7

inside it - all of these can go into the recycling bins. Everyone then needs to put their food waste, unmarked plastics and packaging into the general waste container.



And a seasonal alert! Your "Christmas Wrap Recycle Test" – can you scrunch your Christmas Wrap? If not, and if it unscrunches again, it can't be recycled. Your family and friends will find it

easier if you get non-glitter or non-foil paper. In fact, brown paper works really well when dressed up with a bit of ribbon!

Be safe and seen

The mornings and early evenings are dark and dog walkers, cyclists, car drivers and motorcyclists are on the move. Even assuming everyone is driving at no more than 10mph (the site speed limit), it's easy to be taken unawares with a pedestrian or dog-walker looming suddenly on the perimeter road edge, so make sure you and your pets are picked up by car or bike headlights in plenty of time.

There is a huge range of good products

on the market and most of them are just a few pounds. Fluorescent paint, reflective body straps or jackets for humans, reflective collars or coats and

even reflective leg bracelets for pets are out there!

A couple of motorists (who WERE driving slowly) have recently had a real fright from not spotting dogwalkers until the last moment.

It was scary enough for them to ask for this to be included in the Newsletter this month.



Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

Marina Office

23 December - 9am-5.30pm

24 December - 9am-2pm

Closed on 25 &

26 December

27 December - 9am-5.30pm

28 December - 9am-5.30pm

29 December - 9am-5.30pm

30 December - 9am-5.30pm

31 December - 9am-2pm

Closed 1 January

2 January - 9am-5.30pm.

Please sort electricity cards, credit on smart cards, pump out and diesel requirements in plenty of time.

Willow Tree Tea Rooms

24 December - 8am-3pm

Closed 25 December

26 December - 10am-4pm

27 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm

28 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm

29 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm

30 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm

31 December - 8.30am-3pm

1st January - 10am-4pm

2 January - Open as normal

Remember to have a BIG Boater's Breakfast on Christmas Eve because we won't be open on Christmas Day !!

Still Waters Shop

From 1 December and through the winter, the Shop will close at 5pm each day (excepting the early closing and closed days as listed below)

24 December - 9am-2pm

Closed 25 December

Closed 26 December

27 December - 9am-5pm

28 December - 9am-5pm

29 December - 9am-5pm

30 December - 9am-5pm

31 December - 9am-2pm

Closed on 1 January

2 January - Open as normal

Remember to get your coal, gas and logs in advance of the closed dates.

The Beetroot Tree Farm Shop and Coffee House

24 December - 8.30am-3pm

Closed 25 December

26 December - 10am-4pm

27 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm

28 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm

29 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm.

30 Dec. - 8.30am-4.30pm

31 Dec. - 8.30am-3pm

1 January - 10am-4pm

2 January - Open as normal

Midland Chandlers

24 December - 9am-1pm

Closed 25 December

Closed 26 December

27 December-10am-4pm

28 December - 10am-4pm

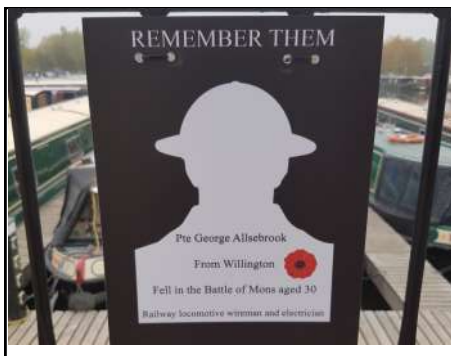
29 December - 10am-4pm

Closed 30 December

Closed 31 December

Closed 1 January

2 January - Open as normal



Mercia remembers

The marina joined the rest of the country as it remembered the centenary of the ending of the First World War last month, with a poppy display on the bandstand, and a moving static display on The Boardwalk, featuring the local villagers who died in the conflict.

As a mark of respect boaters sounded their horns after the two-minute silence on Remembrance Day.

Watch your speed!

Boat owners need to remember that a travelling boat causes waves and a wash. We all know to keep our speed down to about 4mph on canals and well below that, or tickover, when passing moored boats.

Similar courtesies should be observed when in the marina. You might need a sharp bit of revving to get in and out of a mooring but while moving around please try to manoeuvre safely. This is particularly important around bends, so indicate your intentions, paying attention to protecting the marina's infrastructure, and keep your speed to a minimum.

Even if you think you are well away from anyone, your wash will travel.

Cygnets Rescue



When Rik Richards came across a sickly cygnet while driving round the perimeter road, he wasn't sure what to do. "But I knew a man who did," he says, and rushed to find Mike Coates. Together they rescued it from the bushes. "It was obviously in some distress, so we wrapped it in my jumper and sought advice", says Rik. The cygnet was collected from the office and found to have a fishing line deeply embedded around its beak which had healed over so had been there for some time. The line ran down its throat which had weed wrapped around it. He came through the anaesthetic and is now recovering. Please, if you see any discarded fishing gear, here, or out on the canal, pick it up and dispose of it safely. If you should spot any wildlife in trouble or suspect there's a problem, please report it to the office or marina staff.



Mercia's Christmas Cards have arrived and are now available from the Marina Office for just 40p each. The greeting inside the card says "Tis the season to be Mercia. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

December Post & Parcels

The Marina has a large residential community and, at this time of year, there is a significant increase in the number of items of post and parcels so please check for post on a regular basis and collect parcels promptly. Parcels must also be kept to a reasonable size (if large items are expected, then delivery will need to be direct to the person or arranged some other way). There is a weight limit of 17kg for any parcel.



Opening Hours

Please note that the Marina Office will close at 2pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The rest of the week will be normal opening hours but will close at 2pm on New Year's Eve. Please ensure you have purchased electricity cards, credit on smart cards, pump out tokens and diesel requirements in good time.



Our thanks to
Midland Chandlers
for their support with
this newsletter



Christmas Fuddle

Sat, 15 December, Willow Tea Rooms.

This is a ticket-only evening because of limitations on space. It is for moorers and lodge owners and tickets (first-come, first-served) are available from the Office from the 30 November.

The Fuddle is a 'bring and share' meal, so channel your creativity and plan your savoury or sweet contribution! There is a food list in the Office to keep a check on what people are bringing, so please consult this and sign up for your contribution. But only bring enough food

for two to four people; everyone is always hugely generous and there is then far too much food for us all to consume! And please label your food in terms of vegetarian or meat, dairy-free or gluten-free if it is, nuts or no nuts etc. If your food is not on a disposable plate/platter, put your name on a label on the bottom of the plate if you want it back..

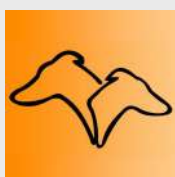
It's a BYO drinks' evening and there will probably be music and a raffle. But the main aim is to get everyone together to have a good evening with each other. Get those tickets - they'll go quickly! This is also an opportunity to say, on behalf of everyone, a very big thank you to Helen Deaville for her generosity in giving the Willow Tree Tea Rooms to us all, not just for this night but for all the nights throughout the year for our community activities.



Greyhound Gap

Sean Vincent and his rehomed ex-racing Greyhound Vicky joined us at Mercia this summer). Greyhounds, says Sean, are hugely adaptable and have generally have a placid nature. And, being used to level living from kennels, she is settled and content on a boat. A couple of 20-minute brisk walks a day is plenty of exercise though she is always kept on the lead.

Almost as soon as he arrived, Sean found Greyhound Gap in Stoke-on-Trent which is an independent charity set up to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home greyhounds and lurchers. They find homes for around 150 dogs every year. The dogs are very



carefully matched to owners and homes with questionnaires needing to be completed and homes checked. Sean, who does home checking, believes liveaboard boaters offer ideal homes and as many of you will know, we already have a number of greyhounds, lurchers and whippets on site. There are more dogs needing rehoming than there are homes being offered and this is likely to remain the case for some time to come. With Greyhound Racing slowly declining, increasing numbers of hounds are being handed to rehoming centres and many of these, like Vicky, are young dogs with a gentle temperament. Indeed, one of our resident hounds – Maeve - is now a PAT dog (Pets As Therapy) at Derby Royal Hospital, going in weekly with Jean Gittins.

If you'd like to get involved – by dog walking, volunteering through fundraising, transporting dogs, home checks or odd jobs around the kennels – you'd be made very welcome. And if you have fleece blankets, tinned dog food or treats for kennel hounds those would be hugely appreciated. Or you may

think rehoming a greyhound or lurcher. You can read more about Greyhound Gap at www.greyhoundgap.org.uk or on their Facebook Page

(Greyhound Gap). Or contact Sean and Vicky on Bullfinch. His mobile is 07896 366957.

M.A.C CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

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



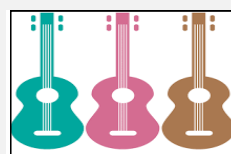
Watercolour Class

Monday 3 December
Monday 10 December
Monday 17 December



Craft Group

Wednesday 5 December
Tuesday 11 December
Tuesday 18 December



Ukulele Group

Thursday 6 December
Thursday 13 December
Thursday 20 December
Thursday 27 December

OTHER EVENTS IN DECEMBER



Music Group (Willow Warblers)

Tuesday 4 December



Christmas Fuddle

Saturday 15 December



Wine Appreciation Evening

Friday 7 December

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

Boat and Lodge Christmas Decorations



It's that time of year again... deck your hulls with holly and dress up your lodges for the Competition. Please have your decorations up by Sunday 9 December. You can then either take a snap of your boat/lodge and upload it with the boat/lodge name to the Marina's Facebook page.

Or send it to tony@merciamarina.co.uk. Voting on the **Marina** Facebook Page (click 'like'!) from 10 to 16 December. The winners will be announced just before Christmas.

Light Entertainment

Get your boats as 'twinkly' as possible and take part in this year's Illuminated Christmas Cruise to Willington and back on Sunday 9 December leaving at 2pm. The plan is to cruise into Willington and on the return, proudly parade around



the top end of the marina.

"So load up with mince pies and mulled wine and join in the fun", says organiser Louise Hartley.

If you want to be a part of the parade or be a towpath helper please add your name to the list in the office. .



Christmas Fuddle/Games Night

Fancy a games night over Christmas? Plans are afoot for moorers and lodge owners to convene on the evening of 27

December at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms for a night of fun and games, centred around our own casino where you can play Roulette and Blackjack with our special 'Mercia Play Money' to help you break the bank.

There will also be dominos, draughts, scrabble etc. Look out for more details.



MERCIA MARINA
BLENHEIM

EVENTS

Makers Market • Nov 25th 10:00 - 4:30

Floating Grotto • 11:00 - 4:00
Dec 1st - 2nd, 8th - 9th, 15th - 16th, 22nd - 23rd

Christmas Market • Dec 2nd 10:00 - 4:30

Christmas Market • Dec 16th 10:00 - 4:30

Free Entry & Parking



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



October Photography Competition winners

Winners of the October Photography competition are 1. Andy Winebloom's landscape; 2. Angela Carroll's Swans, and 3. Matt Howard's Bees. Each winner can choose between a bottle of Prosecco or a box of chocolates.

