

Don't be an April Fool.....

Following the public consultation on proposed changes to the Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) which took place this autumn, the BSS Management Committee has decided that new BSS Requirements for carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on boats will be introduced from 1 April 2019.

All boats with accommodation spaces subject to the BSS will see mandatory checks introduced for suitable CO alarms in good condition and in appropriate locations. The requirements are designed to keep people on and around boats safe. As well as protection from neighbouring boats, the CO alarms are also expected to prevent death or injury to boat owners from their own boat engines or appliances. The alarms will warn



people in the area about immediately dangerous levels of CO. They can also alert craft occupants to moderate levels of CO, which can be a

long-term threat to health if left undetected. The BSS will be publishing the new checks in detail over the next two months on its website.

Fit alarms approved as meeting BS EN 50291-2; these are best suited for boats. Alarms with life-long batteries are available. If you already have a Kitemarked alarm, tested to BS EN 50201, or 50291-

1, the advice is to keep it, test it routinely and when it needs replacing, choose a unit tested to BS EN 50291-2. A list of CO alarms recommended as suitable for boats can be found at

www.boatsafetyscheme.org/media/294453/boat-co-alarms-may-18.pdf

Midland Changers have approved alarms in stock and these can be purchased at promotional prices. Mercia moorers can collect a 15% discount voucher from the Office and use this against a purchase of an approved alarm

from their branch at Mercia Marina. Please note the 15% is off the full retail price and will not apply to any promotional prices that Midland Changers may be running at the time of purchase.



Picture This

Come along and meet internationally famous wildlife photographer Paul Hobson, in The Willow Tree, on Friday 15 March from 7pm. He will be speaking about the 'What,

Why & How' behind many of his remarkable images in a talk entitled 'Techniques For Successful Wildlife Photography'.

Paul is the recipient of several major awards in his field, including *Wildlife Photographer Of The Year* back in 2009

and the *Festival de l'Oiseau Nature* prize of 2013.

This is a free event (normal £1 donation) and all are welcome. There will be time after Paul's talk for questions and discussion. To book your space sign up in the Marina Office or contact Jo James.



Meet Liz



Liz Bennett is no stranger to Mercia and many recognised her when she joined the Office on the 10 December. She and her husband moved to Wellington eleven years ago just as the marina was being built; indeed the traffic lights at the end of Findern Lane are not far from her house and she remembers them being put in. She's been to many Marina events, walked her dog, visited The Willow Tree with family and friends and, as a local First Responder, was at the heart of setting up Mercia's First Aid/First Responders' Team and helping establish the relationship with East Midlands Ambulance Service. Her life is full of interest and variety— 10 years on the beat with the Police followed by another 5 years managing the Control Room; working for an IT and web hosting company in Nottingham and then moving to the NHS, working with a company that makes specialised seating and mobility products. Liz has been involved with the Scouts from the time her son joined as a youngster twenty years ago and was part of the local 'Stamp and Deliver' group this Christmas. Alongside all that, she somehow makes time for dressmaking, making curtains and blinds and doing alterations (find her as 'Lizzy Stitch' on Facebook). About the only thing she hasn't done is boated! But her son makes up for that as an Open Water Lifeguard at Bosworth Water Park at Market Bosworth; Liz thinks his love of water probably came from his early years spent in Cornwall. Liz is thoroughly enjoying her new job; she knows Mercia well although putting names to faces, working out who does what and understanding the different networks of people will take a bit of time. But she's already very aware of the number of diverse experiences, occupations and skills there are here and how these combine to create a very special community of which she is delighted, now, to count herself a member.



Chips with everything

For one night only, over the Christmas break, The Willow Tree Tea Rooms was transformed into our very own 'Canalside Casino' for a festive Games Night. This new initiative, from Jo and Wynne in Linden Lodge, attracted over 30 Mercians, keen to spend their free 2,000 'Neffstas', on the roulette wheel and blackjack table, as well as to enjoy an evening of skittle, draughts, jenga and other assorted board games. Star of the roulette wheel was Pam Griffiths, who on two consecutive spins chose the exact number that the ball landed on. The odds on that happening

are thousands to one.

Meanwhile, on the Blackjack table, the big winners were Nigel Hunt and Paul Hughes.

Running the tables were Louise Davies, Wynne and Roger Filler, pictured above. Roger, who ran the Blackjack table says: "It was a real learning experience for me and many of the guests, but they soon got the hang of it. After gingerly placing bets totalling ten or twenty 'Neffstas', they were soon laying down 100 Neffsta chips, in their attempt to break the bank."

All agreed it was a great night, and one that we should repeat.

Weather Girls (& Boys)

The Marina Weather Station has been operational for nearly two years. Throughout that time, a team of Mercians have taken the daily readings and fed them into the official Met Office database. This is the only official Met Office weather station based at a marina, and, because it is running successfully, it gets good reports from our Regional Manager, Gill Allbones. We are now being asked for feedback and comment to assist new weather teams. There are currently nine Mercians on the

team. If you'd like to join in, get in touch with Jo James to find out more. It is straightforward, interesting, we have a wonderfully flexible rota and we'd welcome your involvement.



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

Using your loaf....again



There will be another bread evening on the 1 March at 7pm in the Willow Tree. Admission will be £1.50 on the night and the talk will be limited to 30 attendees to ensure everyone is able to easily see what is happening. The type of bread we will be discussing is Brioche, both as a cheesy loaf and also as a basis for burger buns. Pete will be making and bringing some samples of his favourite loaf, a Brioche de Gannat, that will be served toasted with unsalted butter.

Could you be a Fire Warden?



Fire Wardens wanted. Can you take control in an emergency? Could you organise people whilst waiting for the Fire Service? If you think this is something you could do then why not put your name forward. Training will be given which will not include fire-fighting which is done by the professionals. Nigel Hunt (retired firefighter) would

welcome you onto the team. Contact him or give the Office your name and contact details.

Do You Need A Lift?

If you need transport to enable you to attend medical appointments etc., here are a few options available to you. South Derbyshire CVS, a voluntary organisation based in Swadlincote, coordinate a range of schemes and can help you decide which is best suited to your needs. Charges vary depending on which service you require. The minimum charge is 45p per mile plus a £2 service charge. All volunteer drivers are vetted and their vehicle documentation is monitored. They can be contacted on 01283 219761

If you need a one-off or occasional lift, there is a list in the Office of people based on the marina who may be able to help you. Alternatively Nigel Hunt has volunteered to help find a volunteer driver for such an occasion. If you give your details to the Office, they will call Nigel and ask him to call you. If you make any donation towards the cost of this lift, please remember it should not exceed 45p a mile as set by HMRC.

On the buses

At a recent meeting with representatives from Trent Barton, and with several regular bus users from Mercia present, issues were raised and discussed about the suitability (or unsuitability!) of the new buses now being used on this route.

Trent Barton explained the yellow buses had to be taken off because of their age and the 'Solo' vehicles put in



as replacements.

The main concerns aired were about accessibility – including difficulties for those with a mobility scooter or walking aid and the steps half way up the aisle –

plus significantly reduced storage area for shopping and trolleys at the front of the bus. These issues were recognised as being major issues for a route which services predominantly rural communities with an older age group. Internal discussions have continued with Trent Barton over the last few weeks. The following email was received from Trent Barton just before New Year: "We have fed back our early days' analysis of the V3 route to the management team and we are still building an analysis of customer numbers for the service. We will be making arrangements to provide a vehicle for customers with mobility scooters to practice as promised. It is still very early days in the changes to the V3 and the brand is going from strength to strength and I am hopeful this trend will continue. The Solo SR vehicles will remain in place but we will be watching very closely to ensure that customers needs are being catered for. I hope we can keep a close working relationship."

If anyone has comments or input to make to the discussions, please do so via Jo James or the Office so that we can be sure Trent Barton is kept fully informed of their customers' views.

M.A.C CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

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



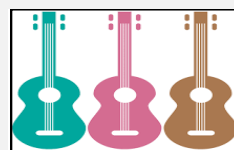
Watercolour Class

Monday 4 February
Monday 11 February
Monday 18 February
Monday 25 February



Craft Group

Wednesday 6 February
Tuesday 12 February
Tuesday 19 February



Ukulele Group

Thursday 7 February
Thursday 14 February
Thursday 21 February
Thursday 28 February

OTHER EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Ladies Social Night

Friday 1 February
(Further details to follow on Facebook Mercia Community page)

Music Group

Tuesday 5 February

Bingo

Wednesday 20 February

Book Club

Tuesday 26 February

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



Our thanks to
Midland Charters
for their support with this
newsletter

A nocturnal ode from Viv Thompson

*When you're out and about at night,
Take a torch, so you make yourself bright,
So, be seen, be safe and be light,
Always make sure that you're in full sight.*

*You'll see where you're going and see where you've been,
And avoid those trips if you misjudge the scene,
Make sure where you're walking the ground is clean,
Make sure at all times, that YOU can be seen.*

*If, like me, you've a dog or two,
A torch will help you to find their poo,
It's not pleasant for others to get mess on their shoe,
And you'll see if your dog runs away from you.*

*It's just about always being aware,
Consider yourself and others who're there
We live in a community that we all share,
Stay light, stay safe, and show that you care.*



Christmas Lights' winners

The marina's Christmas lights were the best yet, as this montage (left) shows, created by Dave Pinkney. The *Mercury* would like to thank Dave for the time and patience that he has put in to create this and many of the other photographs of marina over the years - and the subsequent editing. The Christmas Lights' winners were (middle) Steve Wright and (bottom) David Holmes

Don't tell him - Pike!

There will be a Pike Match on the Marina of Sunday 10 February, run by the Piscatorial Society. Check the Society's Facebook page for additional information. Mike Coates catch (below) was landed on New Year's Eve.

