



Tony Haslam & Dave Bradbury

Beating Prostate Cancer-one step at a time

Preston Brook Tunnel marks the start of the 92 miles of the Trent and Mersey Canal and the start of Tony Haslam's 7-day walk from there to its end at Shardlow.

Covering 13 miles a day after the first day's 16 miles, he and fellow walker Dave Bradbury begin on the 18 March to raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK. Tony and David have a second 'highway' connection – the ends of Brian Clough Way with Tony supporting Derby County and Dave Nottingham Forest. They want the Clubs and fans to join to raise funds and support.

Every forty-five minutes a man dies from prostate cancer which means 11,000 men a year, and if you even just think you might have a problem, please talk to your doctor. Prostate Cancer UK works to help more men survive prostate cancer and enjoy a better quality of life. They support

men living with prostate cancer, prostate diseases and the effects of treatment. They find answers by funding research and lead change by campaigning and collaborating. Tony and Dave met through the Foot-loose Walking Group – a lively group of singles over 45 who meet regularly to enjoy walks of between 5 and 9 miles around the East Midlands. Started nearly 20 years ago there are around 60 or 70 members and Tony met his partner Jane Bills through this same group. Tony's training, however, has taken a more serious turn – doing 14 miles a day – e.g.



driving the car to Alrewas then walking back to his boat and walking back the following day to pick it up.

His fundraising, too, is serious and if you can help, go to his JustGiving page: (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tony-haslam).

He's well over half way to his target and I'm sure we can push that much higher. Steve Kirk (another moorer and landlord of DCFC's watering hole The Neptune in Derby) will be promoting the Sponsored Walk and BBC Radio Derby's Sally Pepper visited the marina to meet Tony and Jane and find out more.

At Mercia, we will be having the February Quiz on Sunday the 3 March in support of Tony's walk.

Left: Sally Pepper, Tony and Jane.

Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332) Registered company number 2653887.



Charles Foster

Chairman of the Residential Boat Owners' Association

Charles and his wife Ann moved onto narrowboats in 2003, having enjoyed narrowboat holidays afloat in the previous years. In 2009 they came to Mercia and have been on or around Nuthatch pontoon ever since. Charles is a company director of several companies in legal services and marketing and though the offices are in the East Midlands they operate nationally. A key focus is concerned with Wills, Powers of Attorney, Age Planning, establishing Trusts and Estate Administration (www.boaterswillcompany.co.uk).

Broad Background

Charles has a broad background in boats and boating, buying and selling craft, from rowing boats to super yachts, both in England and abroad. He joined RBOA in 2007 in the very early days of Residential Status being established for boat owners. He believed an organisation trying to assist in finding residential moorings, assisting with everyday health and financial needs and access to agencies was both important and worth supporting. His involvement with RBOA grew over the years with him helping as an Archivist and taking on the role of Vice-Chairman for the two years before his current role. He will be Chairman for the next two years and has set himself a challenging agenda.

RBOA

RBOA began in 1963, arising out of the London moorings issues where live-aboard boaters wanted to be accepted for living in a different way rather than as abnormal or strange people who were 'opting out'. And over 50 years later there are still many of the same issues – particularly for young families in terms of education and work.



RBOA is ready to help any inland or off-shore boater – indeed anyone with an interest in boats, who may be thinking about living on a boat, is living on a boat or wants to get off their boat and go back to the bank. They work primarily with CRT, the Harbour Authorities and the Environmental Agency. There is a real need for younger liveaboard/boaters to get involved with RBOA so their issues are properly understood and represented in policy discussion.

Key Issues

Charles has several key issues at the top of his list – one being the absolute (his

emphasis) need for boats to adhere to the requirements of the Boat Safety Scheme and to undergo proper Boat Surveys. Coupled with that is his wish to see control and regulations being established for DIY and electrical work on boats in support of 'well being and safety on the water'.

Boaters Are Normal People Too

He wants residential boaters to be treated as normal people when it comes to doctors, dentists, insurance, transport, electoral roll and issuing of benefits and age-related discounts where appropriate. He, and RBOA, would like to see more residential moorings with acceptable services (power, water, toilet disposal, safe access and parking) and that these should be affordable. In the same way licence fees should be kept affordable and all rules and regulations which are important in terms of trying to ensure the safety of boaters should not become hidebound with restrictions and unnecessary bureaucracy.

Key Role

Another key RBOA role is advising people considering living on a boat and, separately, helping those who want to come off their boat. There is a fair amount of churn in the boating community and it is, perhaps, too easy for people to decide to become a liveaboard/residential boater only to realise a short time later that it isn't really for them after all. Or there are those who have lived aboard for many many years and want to move off the water for a variety of reasons but finding the transition difficult in financial or social terms.

Tenanted Boats

Finally there is a significant emerging issue around Tenanted Boats. Renting out boats or advertising on a holiday short-term rental website is becoming a real problem, particularly in the heavily populated city centres where there are canals. Often there is no proper insurance, property owners' rules and regulations are not obeyed and there is no overall control in place.

RBOA encourages all residential boaters to consider membership. £25 a year or £30 for two individuals on the same boat and both will have voting rights. The Newsletter 'Soundings', is sent to members six times a year and you can read the latest edition with Charles Foster's Forward at www.rboa.org.uk/soundings/.



Mercians Meet

Friday 23 March

Willow Tree Tea Rooms, 7pm

Mercians Meet, hosted by the Events Team, is a get-together for all boaters and lodge owners and it offers much more than just a chance to meet others. There will be the opportunity for you to find out about what goes on here and ask all those community, lodge and boating questions you've been pondering over and haven't yet asked, and maybe some you haven't thought of yet!



So if you are searching for something to do, lost in lodges, baffled by boating, exasperated by electrics, muddled by mechanics, or wondering about wi-fi, puzzled by phone providers or maybe confused on cruising, press the <going> button on the Mercia Facebook page and come along. If we don't know the answer we will find someone who does! Likewise if you could help with the answers come along and share your experiences. If there is someone who would like to come but is not on Facebook, let them know they can mail events@merciamarina.co.uk to reserve a place. Bring your own drink. We will provide tea and coffee.

Support Tony Haslam's Walk at the World Biggest Pub Quiz!



The World's Biggest Pub Quiz runs from the 3-7 March with the main charity being Prostate Cancer UK. Mercia Marina is joining in! Sign your team up in the

Office as usual and head for The Willow Tree Tea Rooms on Sunday 3 March for a 7pm start. Pork pies, bread cheese and pickle and pork scratchings but Bring

Your Own Beer!! £2 per person. No team prize – just the honour of winning! All the money plus raffle money will be going to Tony. This is in place of our usual monthly quiz and the questions come from the Pub Quiz so who knows what we'll get!

Thank You from Brian and Pat Chamberlain

Brian and Pat Chamberlain would like to thank everyone for the offer of help and assistance following Brian's recent stroke on Boxing Day. He is making a good recovery and looking forward to seeing and speaking to you all on his walks with his faithful friend Bertie.

Wildlife Photography with Paul Hobson,

Friday 15th March

Willow Tree Tea Rooms, 7pm



Don't forget to sign up for Paul Hobson's evening. His photography is wonderful and the stories behind the shots are captivating. Sign up while there's still space – either in the Office or direct with jojames46@gmail.com or text 07973711431.

Mercia Piscatorial Society Annual General Meeting

Saturday 30 March

Willow Tree Tea Rooms, 7pm.

The meeting will give a report from the Treasurer and a yearly report from the Chairman. If you are a member you will be asked to vote on a new Treasurer and Chairman. All are welcome. There is a meeting to follow the AGM with the following agenda.

- Match fixtures for 2019
- Extra event dates
- Tackle Auction
- Rules and amendments
- Subscription changes



Our thanks to
Midland Chandlers
for their support with this
newsletter

M.A.C. CALENDAR FOR MARCH

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



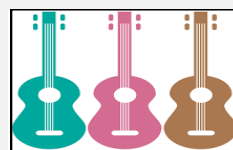
Watercolour Class

Monday 4 March
Monday 11 March
Monday 18 March
Monday 25 March



Craft Group

Wednesday 6 March
Tuesday 12 March
Tuesday 19 March



Ukulele Group

Thursday 7 March
Thursday 14 March
Thursday 21 March
Thursday 28 March

OTHER EVENTS IN MARCH

**see separate heading*

Charity Quiz

Sunday 3 March*

Music Group

Tuesday 5 March

Photography Event

Friday 15 March*

Bingo

Wednesday 20 March

Mercians Meet

Friday 23 March*

Book Club

Tuesday 26 March

Piscatorial Society AGM

Saturday 30 March*

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



1. Rose Braisby



2. Emma Phillips



3. Tina Maguire

Mercia Photography Winners

The cold and wintry weather of the past few months resulted in some very dramatic entries being received and the above are this month's worthy winners.

It was a clean sweep by the ladies this time with first spot going to Rose Braisby with her frosty landscape looking across to the Boardwalk.

Second place went to Emma Phillips for her close up of some native fungi, while third went to Tina Maguire for her composition of a mooring ring.

All winners receive a bottle of Prosecco from the Marina Office. If you have a photograph of the Marina you think is worthy of entry then let the office have a copy and you might see it on the back page of the *Mercia Mercury* next month.

Winter becomes Spring

March has arrived and maybe winter is done with us for this year. It's not been bad, either. We've had a very cold night or two and the daily ground minimum temperature was below freezing for some four weeks through January and into February. But even then it warmed up during the day and we only had to rely on the 'heat trace' taps on a couple of occasions.

Met Office Weather Station

The weather team have been visiting the Met Office station daily; it's a once a week commitment – a walk to the site, few moments picking up the data, back to a computer to log it all into the Met Office site; if you want to join the team, let Jo know. We've just been given a Gold Award for our consistency of inputting daily manual observations over the course of 2018. Well done us!

Thank You

On behalf of everyone I extend our thanks to those who carried on regardless through the cold spells - the House-keeping Team for keeping everything so clean despite the grit tramping around, the Grounds Team for sorting frozen taps and Elsan and responding to calls for help, the Office for always being there, First Aiders for their 24-hour response on several occasions, the Willow Tree for great food and giving us a warm place to meet for the

evening groups, the Group Leaders who turned out, Still Waters' shop and Grahame/Alan for all the coal deliveries and to the many members of the Mercia community who have helped neighbours and friends in lots of ways.

Image below: Shelly Haywood

