



## Matt's Miles & Miles...

Early in the morning on the seventh of September the first wave of over eight hundred cyclists will set off from Land's End to begin their epic Ride Across Britain. Amongst them will be our very own Matt Franklin.

### The Road Ahead

Ahead lie nine solid days of biking until, after 980 miles going from the rugged coastline of Cornwall to the rolling hills and valleys of the North of England and through the barren majesty of the Scottish Highlands, they reach their destination – John o'Groats. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Deloitte challenge and it's both a 'never to be forgotten' personal challenge for each cyclist and a fundraising event which brings millions of pounds to riders' charities.

### Sponsorship

Matt's sponsorship is going to support Great Ormond Street Hospital. Fit and healthy himself and with Nate, his 9-year-old, never having been ill or poorly, he wants to contribute to the treatment of those less fortunate.

This ride has been a long-held ambition and he, rightly, decided that keeping it as a 'maybe' or a 'one day' might always be the case and, now aged 43, the 'maybe' needed to change to a 'this year'.

Deloitte's support the riders with medical

*Above: Matt on a 100-mile training session in the Lake District.*

*Right: Matt with his cycling pals Paul Swain and Phil Chilton*

and physio teams, tents, food and transport for luggage and with Matt being joined by his two cycling mates – Paul Swain and Phil Chilton (each riding their for individual charities) – they have all the benefits of riding as a team. Training is well underway with Matt upping his regular Sportive challenges of some 100 miles a week to prepare for



the Ride Across Britain of, on average, 110 miles a day for 9 consecutive days. On the first weekend in July (6-7) he is doing a 196-mile return ride to Skegness and there are other solo challenges in the diary over the next couple of months.

### How to give him your support

We can all show our support. There are sponsorship forms in the Office, you can donate online on his Just Giving page ([www.justgiving.com/fundraising/matthew-franklin3](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/matthew-franklin3)) or you can join in one of the fundraising events that the Marina will host.

The first of these will be a static cycle ride on the Marina Bandstand with Matt, Paul and Phil seeing how far they can get in seven hours.

More details coming shortly.



### Summer Solstice Fun





*With Streethay now firmly established on the Marina we asked the team there how they were settling in and what boat owners can expect from our new neighbours*



**Nick Bellamy (left)** feels the first couple of months have gone well. He has only come in a couple of days a month though he and Paul are in constant contact by phone and Paul drops by the Streethay main site each week for a catch-up in person.

Parents **Tina and Terry** (above) have been here a more than they expected but that may change as things settle down. Since they moved in, spaces have been filled! Woodwork jobs have come in quickly filling the order book, so they've built a workshop; a test bed has been created for Webasto and Eberspächer heaters. Blacking is a growing part of the business with an extra pair of hands (a Mercia moorer) taken on to help. Whilst the bigger jobs are still done at the main Streethay yard, Mercia's job list divides roughly between dry dock, engineering and woodworking with proper refits of galleys and bathrooms, the making of work surfaces, cratch boards and TV cabinets. And, too, they go out to moorings to do work. Nick is pleased there is plenty of work coming in. Except for a few engine refit spots, they're pretty well booked up till the Autumn.



**Paul Fisher** joined Streethay a couple of years ago, his first job for Nick being to fill in a hole and lay some slabs in the yard! A liveaboard for 20 years his background is steel-based Foundry work. He was Foreman at Streethay and has moved to the Mercia site so he and Nick manage the two yards, co-ordinating the work and keeping the materials and people moving efficiently across both sites while things settle down and a pattern develops.

He likes dealing with his new customers but it is different from a yard where boats were booked in and brought down. Here boaters pop by, asking for this or that to be looked at or done and hoping it can happen instantly!



**Dave Powell** has been with Streethay since Nick took over in 2012 and, on boats all his life, was a moorer here at that time. Now he and his wife are in a bungalow in Lichfield to give three-year old Chloë more space and freedom. He trained as a boat builder, woodworker and painter and, at Streethay, had been doing much of the painting (he led the painting team for our nb. *Voyager*!). But woodworking jobs have developed quickly at Mercia so, with plumbing and toilets as well, he's very much a Jack of All Trades. He likes the space at Mercia and it's a quieter working environment.



**Genadi Korudov** began working with Streethay about nine months ago and has been at the Mercia site from the beginning. He comes

with an exemplary marine engineering and electrical background! Four years at Marine College in Bulgaria (he now has dual UK/Bulgarian citizenship) was followed by two years at Marine College in the UK, a further year on an Electrical Engineering College course and then, subsequently, courses on specific engines such as Beta Marine. He worked with the Canaltine fleet at Sawley for 11 years and, when the boats moved elsewhere, went to Sunseeker in Poole for a year. But, settled with his wife and daughter in Bramcote, he wanted to work in the Midlands so Streethay was ideal. The biggest difference is changing from looking after 60 virtually identical boats and holidaymakers to working with the Marina's boats. Each boat is different (the builder, the age, the electrics, the engine, the work previously) and the experience of the owners also differs enormously.

### What's next from Streethay

Looking ahead to the end of the main cruising season, Nick is expecting enquiries for blacking, boiler servicing, end-of-season engine servicing and – for some – winterising.

They are getting many enquiries about solar panels so Streethay will become a place to go for advice, discussion of options and fitting. So, too, he plans to put together a 'Fire Package' where boaters can have their stoves serviced with ropes, glass, handles, chimneys and flues all checked.

An open session is also planned in the Autumn when the entire Streethay Wharf team will be introducing themselves and their work and inviting discussion, questions and suggestions from the Mercia Marina community.

Remember, too, that the main Streethay Wharf yard has the slipway, a stretch pad and the paint dock and it is there that the major work will continue to be done.



## Streethay Wharf

### What their customers are saying:

**Tony Bishop** (*wb Repandunum*) is delighted with Streethay's recent week's work on his boat which, he says, exceeded his very high expectations. "They did what they said would, in the time they said and at the price they said". There was a lot of work done – engineering, blacking, woodwork and electrical – but everything had been

planned well and all material was on hand and ready to go from the moment Tony left the boat with them.

**Ian Parrott\*** (New & Used Boat Co) says he has nothing but praise for Paul, Dave and Genadi. He finds them helpful, customer friendly, quick, and first class in terms of the work done. He is more than happy to hand his boats over to them for surveying and any work that needs doing and has no reason to take the work away.

\*Ian Parrott says New & Used Boat Co will be moving from their current offices in the main office block to a temporary home on the Sales Pontoon on the 8 July, pending the move to their permanent home on the Pontoon. Everyone is more than welcome to continue to pop by or call in for a visit as they do now.

And, for those who will welcome an update, Lyn and Doug are doing well. Ian saw Doug recently, finding him shirtless on a tractor mowing grass!



## Joining Mercia Marina's Community Facebook Page

**O**n your home Facebook page, type "Mercia Community" into the search bar. Look for the group with the picture of the Boardwalk at night as the picture shows. Click 'Join' and answer the three questions - name of your boat or lodge, where you are in the marina (pontoon name) and the date you came to Mercia. Your request to join is then approved by the Admin team.

You can use the page to comment on things around the marina, ask questions or request help or look for recommendations. There are sub-groups you might like to join and useful information in the file section of the page. If you need any further help don't hesitate to ask.

Please look at the group rules - they are simple and rely on us being courteous to everyone. Anyone who abuses the rules will be notified and possibly removed from the page.

The page is only for members of the Marina community. If you leave the Marina you should remove yourself or, on the twice yearly member cleanup, you will be removed. Please note that we are unable to approve extended family members.



## In Case of Emergency

**T**here have been – thankfully rare – times where the Office has needed to contact a family member or friend

on your behalf. They do try to ensure the (confidential) information they hold is accurate and as you would want it to be. But, with many moorers having been here for a number of years, it may be limited or, indeed, out of date. Please drop into the office as soon as possible and check what emergency contact details you have given in the past. Update if necessary and think about adding a second number in case the first contact doesn't work for some reason.

## Neil Wakeham Memorial Match 2019



**T**he Memorial Match will be on Saturday 27 July at Longford. It will be £20 per entry which includes £10 to charity, your fishing and breakfast. Anyone fishing must have a valid rod license, two keep nets and barbless hooks only\*.

For further information, contact either Nigel Hunt or John Welch.

**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT FISHING AT THE MARINA AT ANY TIME MUST BE DONE WITH BARBLESS HOOKS.**



## Willington Surgery Hub

**T**here are extended access Hub Appointments on weekday evenings (Littleover), Saturdays (Osmaston Road, Derby) and Sunday mornings (Hilton) for patients with acute minor ailments. If you need an appointment

outside normal surgery hours or if Willington is fully booked, this provision might provide the answer. Pick up a leaflet with more details at the Surgery or in the Office. These 'hub' appointments are made through the Receptionist at Willington Surgery.

## Adopt A Tree

**T**hey say we're due some hot weeks before we get to Autumn and if that



is the case then, despite the rain through the early summer, we could hit a really dry spell which begins to affect our amazing vegetation.

To help the estate's staff who now have an enormous number of trees, shrubs and plants to care for, you could adopt a tree, shrub or plant patch near your boat or lodge.

Fill a container from the nearest tap or – even better - use your own waste water! Grey water (shower, bath, kitchen and washing machine water [from rinse cycles]) can tide plants over in a summer drought and there should be no problem with detergent residue which can be filtered out by the soil and composts and, indeed, act as a mild fertiliser. But to minimise bacterial growth, grey water should be saved for only 24 hours.

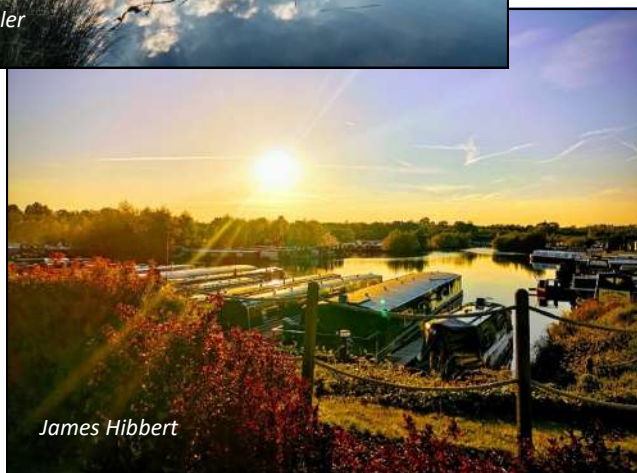
For comment and contributions, please contact  
Jo on 07973 711431 or at jojames46@gmail.com



Our thanks to  
Midland Chandlers  
for their support with this  
newsletter



Claire Bowler



James Hibbert



Jac Jeffries

## Mercia Photography May Winners

**W**ith summer now in full swing, many entries into the monthly competition are showing the marina at its sparkling best as these winning pictures show.

All monthly winners receive either a bottle of Prosecco or a box of chocolates 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.

To enter the monthly competition, send your 'Mercia Marina' photographs to [tony@merciamarina.co.uk](mailto:tony@merciamarina.co.uk)



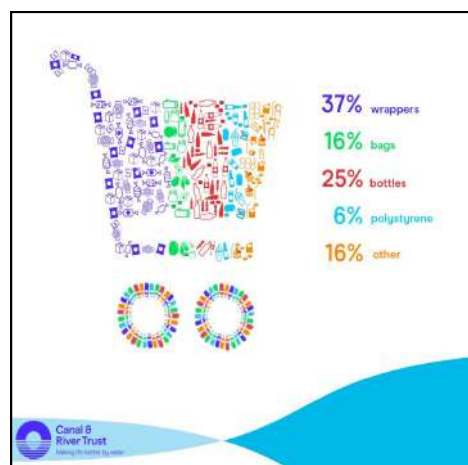
What a load of rubbish!

**A**s most of us are probably now aware, CRT have launched a 'Plastics Challenge' and are urging communities to take action on their doorstep to help tackle the global plastics crisis. Working with Coventry University, they've published a detailed analysis of plastics and other litter found in our waterways. Data from 25 locations found that plastic accounts for 59% of the waste found. The 'shopping trolley' image shows the make-up of the different types of litter found along the waterways and part of

the CRT Challenge is to ask every visitor on every visit to the waterways to make their own contribution to the clean-up by picking up and recycling a piece of rubbish.

### We can all join in

We can join in as we travel the waterways on our various trips out – perhaps clearing around an evening moorings, for instance. Or, if possible, do a bit of a clear-up when you get to a lock that has collected a floating rubbish raft. A



children's dipping net could grab a bottle or two. And don't forget the rubbish removed from your prop! Leave the vegetation, of course, but take litter with you and drop it in the next rubbish trip, otherwise it will find its way back into the canal or river to foul a few more props *en route* to the ocean! A box of heavy duty (disposable) nitrile gloves might be a useful addition to the boat's kit to keep you safe with the handling of discarded hoodies, jeans, plastic bags and sundry bits of string!