

Tuning in to Mercia



Left: Sally & Heidi set the scene live on the radio
Above: Broadcasting from The Willow Tree

Sally Pepper and the Radio Derby team came to Mercia Marina for their morning show on Friday, 9 August.

This was as part of her 'Staycation' feature encouraging people to discover the delights of holidaying in the UK and particularly in Derbyshire. It was an excellent three hours spent with us – exploring Silver Ann 2 (Mary

Ann's narrowboat which can be hired), taking her time in the Willow Tree Tea Rooms talking to customers and Marina folk and sending Heidi to Stenson and back on the Mercia Swan with Paul Hughes, other Marina boaters and visitors. There was a very positive response from her listeners, both loving the show and deciding a boating holiday was definitely for them!



All aboard The Mercia Swan

Paul Hughes, Skipper of The Mercia Swan, has given up counting the different nationalities he has welcomed on board the Mercian green widebeam since he took over the business some four years ago. "I think it is well over 30," said Paul, who also a long-standing moorer on the marina. "For many of our overseas visitors it is a unique experience."

The Mercia Swan runs a daily schedule from Easter to October, with the popular Santa Specials starting late in November, where every child receives an appropriate present from Santa and a quick trip around the inner marina.

Cruises are normally an hour round trip to Willington and back, and the longer two-hour trip to Stenson, with a return stop at Mad Hatters tea room, adjacent to Nadee. Tea, coffee and snacks are available during the trips and guests can also purchase duck and swan food. He also regularly gets birthday parties and often ferries brides to the wedding venue at Nadee. Paul is very conscious of his position on the marina. "It's our job to give all our guests a memorable and interesting experience that they will take away and remember for a long time."

It seems to be working, for Paul is getting a lot of return business. And the most unusual thing he has been asked? "Well, the other day, a teenage girl asked where the handbrake was. That was pretty unusual."



Rose & Linden Lodge

10am to noon,
Friday 27 September

Everyone invited

Home-baked cakes
welcome

Look out for more
details

The Mercia Activities Committee (MAC) started as the ENTs Committee five years ago with Louise Davies, Sue Hicks and Sue Eales coming together at Robert Neff's request to build a programme of events for the Marina. They took their responsibilities seriously and asked everyone what sort of groups, activities, parties and 'skill-learning' activities they'd like to have. The Willow Tree Tea Rooms (thanks to Jodie Culley) became the evening venue for many of these events and that continues to this day (thanks, now, to the generosity of Heg Deaville).

Marina-wide Events

Activities started growing and before long the annual programme was listing group meetings on craft, art, music, nature, photography, books and occasional one-off sessions on I.T., boat maintenance, boat handling, first aid and knot tying, with fun sessions for bingo and quiz lovers. And MAC support fed out into marina-wide events like the Christmas Fuddle, the ReXFactor, Summer BBQs and Bonfire Night coupled with special events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee BBQ, the Queen's 90th Birthday and the Marina's 10th Anniversary Weekend.

All the events were open to all and, in the busiest year, there were 220 events listed on the programme which was also shared widely through the *Mercia Mercury*, the Community Facebook page, the Office, the Forum Representatives and general chatter and talk around the Marina.

Membership

Membership of MAC changed over the years and it has always welcomed potential new members – people ready with ideas and ready to roll their sleeves up to help make things happen. MAC has liaised with the Boaters' and Lodge Owners' Forum throughout its time, wanting both to support central marina work and contribute ideas to help the whole community grow.

MAC's core purpose has always been to listen to the wishes of the community and find ways, where possible, of responding to those needs alongside pursuing initiatives to develop, sustain and support the community.

Recent Arrivals

Times change and increasing numbers of moorers and lodge owners are relatively

M.A.C. What's it all about?



Marina Street Party



Watercolour Group



The ReX Factor



Hog Roast



Rope Splicing Evening

recent arrivals. This, therefore, is a time for MAC to hear from all those who perhaps haven't stuck their hand in the air before now (didn't know anyone, didn't feel they could, didn't believe it was for 'them') whether they are residential or leisure moorers, lodge owners or, in deed, whether they have been here for ages but haven't wanted to get involved until now.

Membership

The current MAC membership is Louise Davies (Chair), Tony Blackburn (Secretary), Wendy Bourne (Treasurer), Roger Filler, Irene Lea, Sean Vincent and Danni Burzynski. They would welcome interest from anyone with suggestions of groups or activities and people willing to volunteer help with regular or special events. Over the next few months there will be the End of Season celebration, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, a relaunch of the Moorers'/Lodge Owners annual welcome evening, Halloween and Bonfire Night and the Christmas Fuddle.

Calendar

The Calendar for groups, events and one-off specials comes out at the beginning of September. It will be on the Community Facebook Page; it will have a month by month column in the *Mercia Mercury*, a copy will be in the documents' section on the Community Facebook Page and a hard copy will be kept in the Office. Be aware that things change; new events can be added, timings can change, some meetings may be cancelled. So please keep yourself up to date – the bottom line is if you don't know then probably your neighbour or your neighbour's neighbour does!

The floor is yours MAC's door is open



Newcomers Evening

Saturday 28 September

If you are new to the marina, and would like to find out what is going on socially, and how to get involved, come along and find out.

Boat Safety Scheme (BSS)

Gas Aspect - Examiners, Bubble Testers and Manometers

A BSS Examination is a safety check every four years to ensure your boat is being kept in a condition that complies with the BSS requirements (and be aware that, in the intervening period, your boat must not have any non-compliant changes to any of its systems which are subject to a BSS check). You can find an Examiner from the BSS website: www.boatsafetyscheme.org which lists examiners by area and gives full details of the scheme. You could also ask a neighbouring boater, a friend or post on the Marina Community Facebook Page.

However, a key element of the BSS Examination - **the Gas check (7.12.2)** - is critical as to whether your BSS Examiner will be able to issue a 'pass' confirmation for your boat. Graham Watts, BSS Support Executive, has been the lead on what follows, so read carefully and make sure you understand; if you don't, ask!!

● If you are a leisure user (i.e. non-residential and your boat is non-commercial (not a hire boat, or not a shop etc.) any BSS Examiner can complete the safety checks and issue a 'pass' because they can check for gas leaks (check 7.12.2) using a manometer. If you are a residential boater then if

your BSS Examiner is not also Gas Safe (LPG boats-competent) registered, the Examiner can only complete check 7.12.2 (and therefore issue the 'pass') by either observing the tightness test conducted by an attending GSR engineer undertaking a gas tightness test using a bubble tester where correctly fitted and correctly located.

● Less than 30% of BSS Examiners are also GSR so check for an in-date ID card if necessary. Chris Williams (often at the Marina) of Ovation Surveys 07963 974793 is such a one; Steve Williams 0784 530679 is another.

If you choose to have a GSR engineer attending as well as the BSS Examiner (because not all GSR engineers are also BSS examiners), you will be paying both of them. Regular GSR engineers at the Marina are Tom Holmes (Streethay Wharf) and James Packer (JIMM Services).

● In terms of the (b) option, a bubble tester must be fitted by a GSR engineer** and if the total kW rating of appliances running through the system is greater than 12kW (as in most wide-beams), the bubble tester cannot be fitted in-line but needs to be on a by-pass. This can be awkward in the locker and, to complicate matters, they are

designed to fit to metric pipework. To add to this, a big part of the GasSafe gas test is the gas pressures of the system which the bubble tester doesn't show. Two final points: The BSS does not require you to have a bubble-tester fitted. And, particularly important, if you are a residential boater, consider the sense in having an annual routine gas check.

**Boats used for residential purposes as well as hire boats and floating businesses (such as cafés or shops) all fall within scope of the Gas Safety [Installation and Use] Regulations (GSIUR) and as such any LPG 'work' must be undertaken by Gas Safe registered installers.

September Events

All events are at The Willow Tree Tea Room, starting at 7pm, unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 3 September
Music Group (All abilities welcome)

Wednesday 4 September
Craft Group

Monday 9 September
Matt Franklin starts his 'Ride Across Britain'

Tuesday 10 September
Craft Group

Saturday 14 September
End Of Season Party

Sunday 15 September
Matt ends his 'Ride Across Britain'

Tuesday 17 September
Craft Group

Friday 27 September
Macmillan Coffee Morning
10am to 12 noon

Saturday 28 September
Newcomers' Evening

14TH SEPTEMBER

END OF SEASON PARTY

Kids
Bubble Artist
Free face painting
Finding Meemo Trail
11.45pm - 3.45pm

Adults
Rum, gin, prosecco, world beers and vibrant street food market by StrEATFood Social
12pm - 10pm

FREE ENTRY & PARKING

MERCIA MARINA
SHOP • EAT • STAY • EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE



Piscatorial News

Neil Wakeham Memorial Trophy

Held at Longford Fishery

Saturday 27 July

A great day's fishing held in Neil's memory with £130 raised and presented to Jane Wakeham for Prostate Cancer UK.

The results were:

- 1st. Nigel (Neil's friend and work colleague) 21lb 8oz
 - 2nd. John Welch. 17lb 14oz (plus biggest fish, common carp 7lb 12oz)
 - 3rd. Keith Griffiths. 14lb 8oz
 - 4th. Maureen Selwood 7lb 14oz
 - 5th. Garry Scott 3lb 8oz
 - 6th. Colin Selwood 2lb.
- John Lousvet & Nigel Hunt DNW



Our thanks to
Midland Chandlers
for their support with this
newsletter



Donna Jenkinson



Lyn Meads

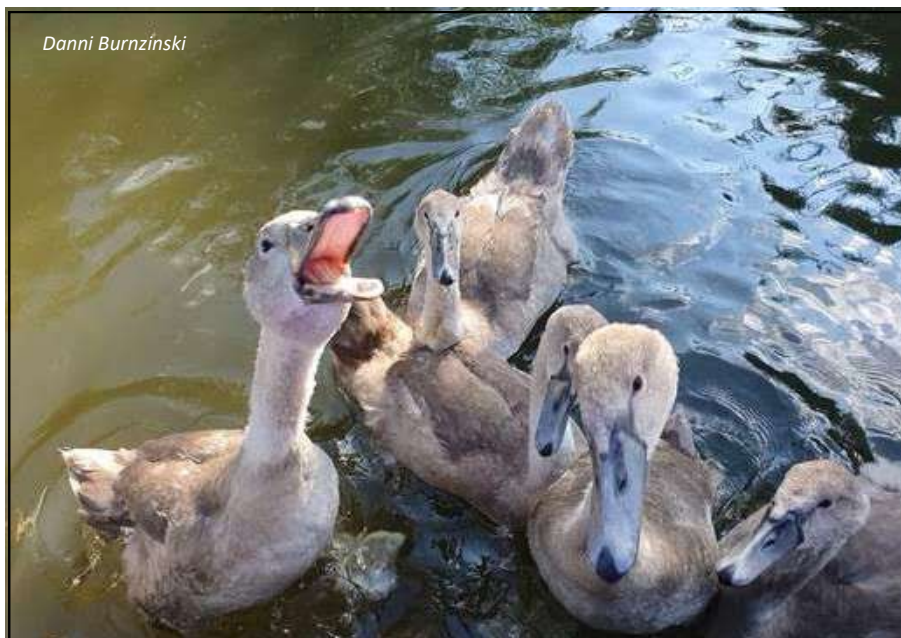
Mercia Photography July Winners

The Marina's wildlife proved a popular subject again in July with winning entries from Danni Burzynski, Lyn Meads and Donna Jenkinson.

All monthly winners receive either a bottle of Prosecco or 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 *Mercury* next month.

To enter the monthly competition, send your 'Mercia Marina' photographs to tony@merciamarina.co.uk



Danni Burzynski

A Night At The Races



Matt Franklin present the 'Champion Punter' trophy to Mark Walker

The recent Race Night, held in The Willow Tree, to benefit Mercia Matt Franklin's attempt to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats, raised a whopping £450. A packed crowd fluttered on eight races with diverse names such as 'The Mercian Rubbing Strakes Stakes' and The Mercia Swan 'Get Your Ticket Here' Novice Stakes. Several Mercians generously sponsored a number of the races, giving their horses personalised names with every winning punter receiving a special chocolate along with their winnings and at the end of the evening the person with the most gold wrappers won the award for 'Champion Punter'. This was won by Mark Walker on Quail who had four wins during the evening. A big thanks to all the MAC team who pulled this event together.



A packed Willow Tree enjoy the night's racing on the big screen



Paul Hughes presents a winners' golden chocolate to Nigel Hunt