

## Going for Gold

Mercia Marina has been notified of its latest achievements in the 2019-20 David Bellamy Conservation Awards. The following email arrived at the Marina:

"We are delighted to advise you that Professor Bellamy has awarded Mercia Marina the Gold accolade.

"I am really pleased to say that you are one of the first recipients of our new *Going Green Together* badge. Please thank everyone involved in your prize-winning project.

"Great news on the 5-in-5 habitat badge front—you've won this year's *Woodlands Badge*. We hope you will aim for your next badge in 2020 when the focus will be on wetlands.

"In addition, well done on all the hard work you've done to help Britain's bees—I am delighted to say that you are

a *Honey Bee Friendly* park.

"Many congratulations on this achievement."

Our first Gold Medal was awarded in 2011, the Marina's first attempt at attaining the highly sought-after accolade and we have achieved the same

standard each year since then. Three years ago we were, in addition, given a Special Distinction Award for the 2016 Bee Conservation Project - wonderfully



led by Jane Wakeham - and we have been accredited as a Bee Friendly Park each year since. Last year special mention was made of the work of the Volunteers involved in all the projects over the last nine years. The David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme is one of the longest running green tourism awards in the UK.

Robert Neff and the rest of the Mercia team is delighted with this year's set of Awards. 'Many marinas and parks', he says, 'minimise the estate work (and

therefore running costs) by putting common areas under grass which looks 'green' but is not very helpful to wildlife. In

contrast, our aim has been to create diverse environments for nature. This deliberate planning has given us a wonderful variety of flora which has attracted an increasingly diverse fauna. The recognition we are receiving from David Bellamy is testament to the investment and foresight of all those involved – most notably John Thornton and David Boddy - and delivered by Stuart Reeves and the entire estates' team. And we couldn't have done it without the involvement and commitment of the able and knowledgeable volunteers who have worked alongside – and sometimes led – us."

We have been given a 'heads up' on the focus for next year's "5 in 5" badge. It's moving from Woodlands to Wetland Habitats. This will encompass everything from small ponds and wetland scrapes up to large ponds and lakes. We start with a huge advantage so if you have any ideas for new projects, let Robert know.



## Is your Mercia Card up to date?

The Mercia Marina Club Card entitles annual and six-month berth holders, as well as lodge owners, to a wide range of benefits on and off the Marina.

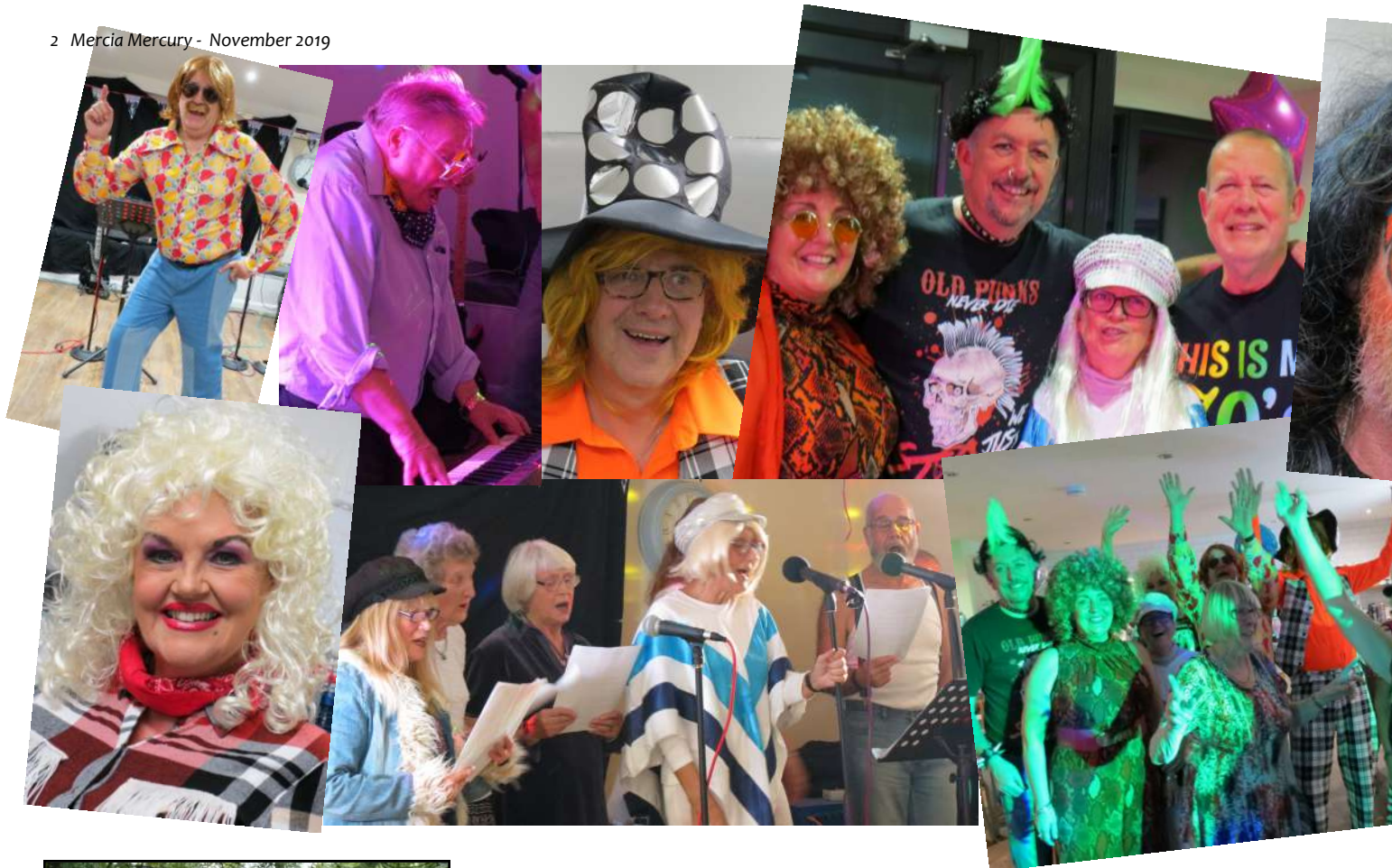
These include the Dry Dock and Pump Out. There are 10% discounts available at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms, Zing Furniture, Bluewater, White Finn and Elegant Touch Beauty on The Boardwalk. Midland Chandlers will also give all those with a Club Card 7.5%

discount on all purchases.

Off the marina Nadee Restaurant and The Dragon Pub offer 10% discount and the Dog Paws and Cat's Whiskers Boarding at Stenson also offer 10% outside of peak holiday periods.

The Water's Edge Indian Restaurant in Willington offer a 15% discount on food (not Friday or Saturday) and the Willington Chip Shop, beside the Railway Station, also offer a 10% discount. Update your card or ask at the Office for yours today.

Terms and conditions of the discounts may differ so please check/ask for full details



### Canal Boat Diaries in our `patch`

Well-known vlogger Robbie Cumming will be bringing his 'Canal Boat Diaries' to national television on 18 November, with Episode 1, Shardlow to Stoke on Trent screening on BBC1 in the East Midland at 7.30pm, while those who get West Midlands will see Episode 2, Caldon Canal, Macclesfield and Peak Forest. Other episodes are being shown at the same time in different regions. The very next day, all five of the episodes will be available on catch up on the BBC iPlayer. Looks like a `must see`.

### Piscatorial Society It's Pike Season!



Just a reminder that the pike season is now with us until March. The rules are: 1: no treble hooks please as they are banned on the marina. 2: all

hooks barbless with the exception of bait hooks. 3: wire traces must be used. 4: please ensure you are using the correct tackle 12lb line as a minimum and if you are going after the big boys then you will need at least 20lb. 5: make sure that you have a landing net suitable for the species. 6: **NO** gaffs or Gags and you will need long forceps, long-nose pliers and even side cutters to hand. Finally, don't forget the unhooking mat.

### Mercia Profile Hannah Strawson

Hannah Strawson and James Brown arrived at Mercia in August – mooring their 55' narrowboat on Redshank Pontoon. They wasted little time in becoming part of the community – James now a member of the Estates' Team and Hannah offering the Dog Walking/Small Animal Care service she started at Pillings' Lock a year ago (their previous mooring). Come rain or shine, you'll see both of them out and about although Hannah could be accompanied by a variety of four-legged companions and not always their own Cocker Spaniels, Alfie and Poppy.



Hannah was brought up with animals and has ridden all her life. The three years she spent at Brooksby Melton College completing courses on Countryside Skills, Animal Care and Equine Studies has equipped her for a career working with small animals, cats, dogs and horses. Hannah worked in a boarding kennels for six years to build up a thorough practical experience before, with the move to the narrowboat, she took the decision to set up her own business.

Hannah offers: Dog Walking, Dog Boarding (on her boat), Doggy Daycare including walks and feeding. She can feed and keep cats company at times during the day, feed and water and clean out living quarters of small animals and can assist with care of horses. She has her own horse and rides at weekends but would be very pleased be working with horses during the week as well. She is getting to know a lot of people (and their dogs) on the Marina and would be happy for people to get in touch if you think you could use her services.

You could text (07775 529702), message her via Facebook or drop a note in at the Office with your contact details. But do expect her to be a little distracted next Spring! She and James, having met in their first year at Brooksby Melton, (where he went to study horticulture) are engaged and getting married next May!

## November Calendar

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

### Music Group

Tuesday 5 November

### Watercolour Group

Monday 4 November  
Monday 11 November  
Monday 18 November  
Monday 25 November

### Craft Group

Wednesday 6 November  
Tuesday 12 November  
Tuesday 19 November

### Ukulele Group

Thursday 7 November  
Thursday 14 November  
Thursday 21 November  
Thursday 28 November

### Book Club

Tuesday 26 November

### OTHER NOVEMBER EVENTS

**Nature Group—Bee Nests**  
Monday 1 November

### Beetle Drive

Wednesday 13 November

### First Aid Team

Friday 15 November

### Rope Splicing & Knots

Saturday 16 November

### Bingo Night

Wednesday 20 November

### Quiz Night

Wednesday 27 November

### Flower Arranging

Friday 29 November

*Dates and arrangements can change and new events do get added. Keep in the know by checking the Marina Community Facebook page or ask friends/neighbours for updates*



### Oh What A Night!

As you can see by the above pictures a good time was had by all at the recent 70's night, organised by Jane Wakeham. The evening attracted punks, skinheads, Dolly Parton, the Abba girls as well as Noddy Holder from Slade and Ian Carroll in full Roy Wood mode, in a costume he made himself that won him the best fancy dress prize. Music was provided by the Willow Warblers, ably backed by Wynne, Bill and Robert.

### Lotus Indian Kitchen In best restaurant final



Just after twelve months from first opening its doors, Lotus Indian Kitchen was recognised as one of the top three restaurants in Derby and a finalist for Restaurant of The Year at the Derby Food and Drink Awards 2019.

Sanj and Sunny are extremely proud of all the team at Lotus and thanks everyone for their support.

Mercia Marina is delighted at Lotus's success and congratulate all concerned.

### The Janes dominate at Speed Conkers Championship



Well she did it again, and Jane Crafts, from Xantus pontoon, pictured above, retained her Speed Conkers Championship title, after beating Jane Wakeham in a thrilling final that went to extra time.

Sixteen Mercians entered the knockout competition with semi finalists being the two Janes, Louise Davies and Bart Burzynski. Jane's Conker Crown was presented by World Conker Championship Chairman Jim Packer.

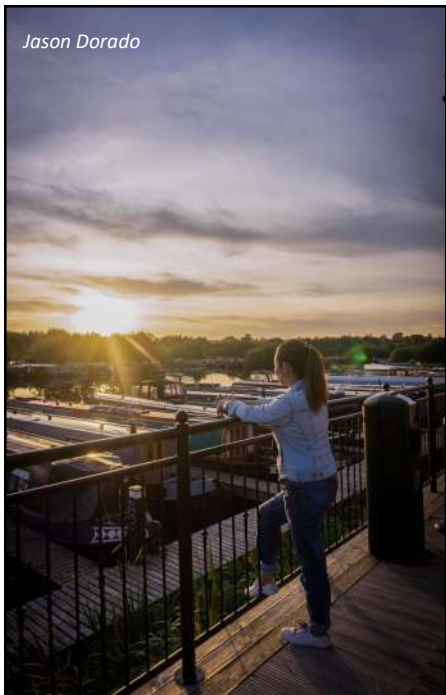


For comment and contributions, please contact  
Jo on 07973 711431 or at [jojames46@gmail.com](mailto:jojames46@gmail.com)



Our thanks to  
Midland Charters  
for their support with this  
newsletter

Jason Dorado



## September Photography Winners

The approach of autumn was a feature in many of last month's entries and the three winners were Shahn Ellora, Jason Dorado and Lisa Harrison

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 *Mercia* next month.

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

Lisa Hartman



Shahn Ellora



## 'A Safe Place'



The Marina has recently signed up to this new initiative supported by Derbyshire Police, Trading Standards and the Derbyshire Learning Disability Partnership Board. This is part of the Hate Crime/Keeping Safe initiative.

A 'Safe Place' is somewhere people can go if they feel scared, are lost or need help when they are out and about.

They are generally public buildings, such as libraries, GP surgeries and shops. All such places display a sticker in their window so that visitors can see they are part of the scheme and let them know they can go in and ask for help if they need to.

This is an important initiative and has the full support of the Marina staff. If you go in and ask for help they will: Give you somewhere safe to wait Call your family, friends or support staff Call the police or ambulance if it's an emergency.

For more information about the scheme, ask in the office for a leaflet.

REMEMBER

### REMEMBER



Before you light your stove to keep you warm tonight don't forget to check your fire and carbon monoxide alarms

## How to clean bird feeders



**You will need**

- Rubber gloves
- Hot water
- Veterinary disinfectant
- Bucket
- Bird feeder brush or a bottle brush

Only use disinfectant suitable for use with animals. A good version is available from [vinehouse-farm.co.uk](http://vinehouse-farm.co.uk)

Make sure you clean your feeders outside - don't bring them inside!

1 Empty all food in the feeder into an outside bin. *Always wear gloves!*

2 Following instructions on the bottle, mix the disinfectant with hot water to make up a cleaning solution in the bucket.

3 Soak your feeders in the bucket of cleaning solution.

4 Use the brush to scrub the feeders until clean. *Ideally clean every two weeks*

5 Thoroughly rinse in cold water (preferably from an outside tap).

6 Leave the feeders to dry outside.

7 Wash your hands and forearms after removing your gloves.