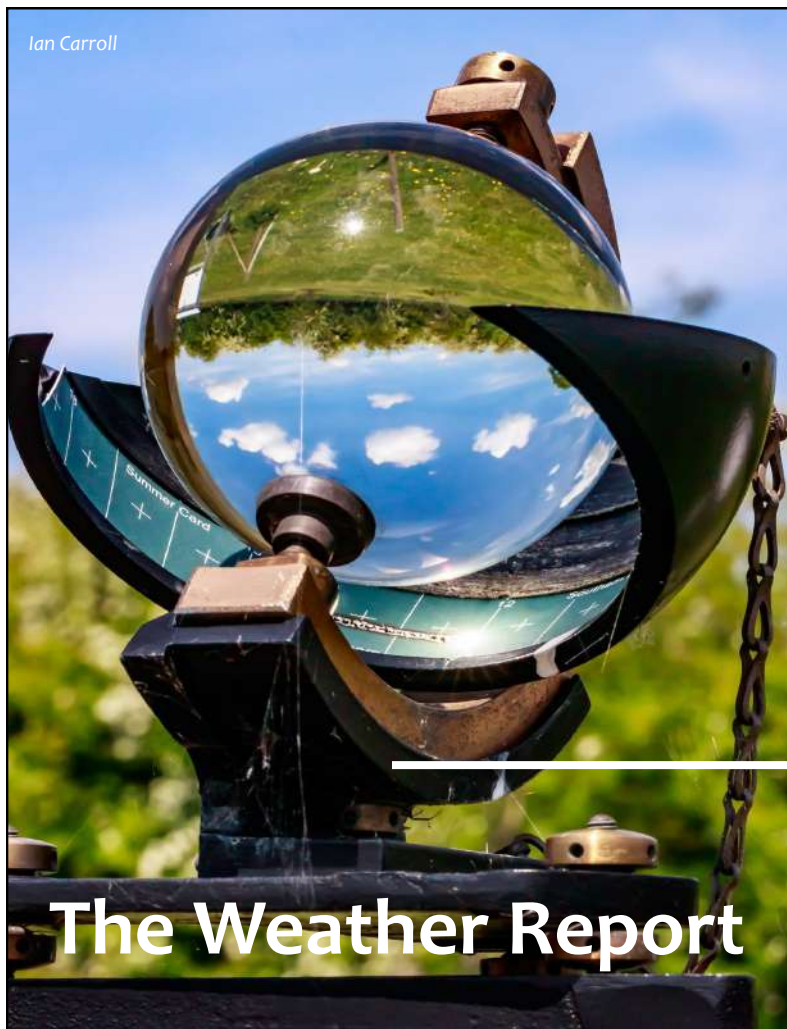


Ian Carroll



The Weather Report

We all like to moan about the weather being too hot or too cold, but how would you like to influence the weather, here in the marina? Well, now you can. How it is reported anyway.

Our Met Office Weather Station has been running for over three years and we continue to earn a Gold Award each year for our regular input of readings to the national database. It takes a few minutes a day [always at 0900hrs GMT (so 1000hrs at the moment!)] to record the weather from the previous 24 hours (temperatures, rainfall, sunshine, state of ground, cloud cover) and, when back at home/boat, transfer those reading to the Met Office. All very straightforward and easy. We would welcome another two or three

on the team. Our rota is online and very flexible - you can go on holiday - do different days - opt in and opt out - the more of us there are the easier it is to swap and change about. If you think you would like to help, do please send me a message and I'll give you more information. Jo James (07973 711431) or message through Facebook or leave a message at the Office.



Introducing Mandy



Mandy Mulligan may be the newest member of the Marina's Office Team but both she, and her partner Richard, have been moored on Quail for three years. Coming to Mercia was, for Mandy, quite unexpected. Richard's naval background always had him wanting to live on a boat and when Mandy's sister decided to sell hers, it seemed an idea way of both living that dream and reorganising their lives so that Mandy could move down from Burnley to be with Richard and closer to his work. Except that Mandy didn't want to live on a boat! She and Richard visited a number of local Marinas but at each one, Mandy thought 'no, no and just no'. Then they came here and, standing on the Boardwalk on a sunny day, looking out over the water and the boats, suddenly Mandy had a 'Eureka' moment and thought 'YES - this is perfect. I can live here.' Everything fell into place quite quickly and now she can't imagine living anywhere else!

A background in administration, accounts and running a business, gave Mandy a great job in Derby but with a working day spent largely on her own, she wanted more people around during the day. They do say be careful what you wish for as the Marina Office is very much the other end of the spectrum! But she's enjoying it enormously and looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Investing to Move Forward

Whilst the last few months have meant most things slowing down or stopping, the Marina has been using the time to prepare for a series of projects and installations which will be of particular benefit to the boaters and lodge owners.

Non-slip pontoon coverings

With 'lockdown' restrictions easing, work has now started on installing the Dura Composite non-slip pontoon covering and there are positive reports from the superbberth pontoons where it's already in place. Of course it'll really prove its value when the winter weather sets in by when it's expected the installation will have been completed.



prefer to stay with their current external provider (Vodafone, EE, 3 etc.).

For those choosing the fibre broadband, data will be uncapped and the choice will be based on speed with the cost comparable to that paid for a fibre broadband contract to a house. Full details will be circulated and questions about equipment and connections answered; for now, just wait a bit!

Smart-card washers and dryers

Complementing, and additional to these major site-wide installations, the replacement and additional smart-card washers and dryers are going in the laundry blocks shortly.

Storage Sheds

A new section of storage sheds will be going in near the Lakeside Lodges road entrance.

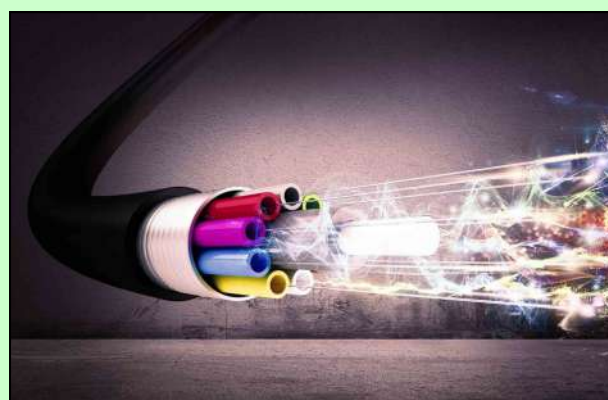
These will be available to anyone for rental, so if you are interested, get your name down early in case there is a high demand.

Trim Trail/Kids' Play Area

Finally there is the Trim Trail/ Kids' Play Area. This is intended as a low-key, low-impact development at the top of the junction of the two fields in the North-West corner of the Marina – the 'dog walking' field with the weather station and the Park. It will use natural materials for the Play Area – e.g. wooden stepping stones, climbing piles or crawl throughs – and be intended for younger children. The trim trail is intended to encourage stretching and low impact cardio activity for those wanting specific exercises as part – perhaps – of a regular walking habit or a keep fit regime.

Fibre Broadband

The second major installation is the fibre broadband. The BT Openreach line is now ready; the next element is for w3z to fit the connecting fibre line around the Marina which runs to a box at the end of each jetty. A final (removable) cable will connect that box to a device or a router in each boat. At the moment, the superbberths have 'jetty boxes' which are connected back to the current w3z WiFi and those who are trialling this 'hybrid' system see a big difference in stability and speed consequent upon having a wired connection back to the main WiFi mast. The one complaint that has been noted is from moorers who say they're now staying up into the wee small hours because it's so good being able to watch Netflix movies without any buffering or line dropping! The full installation timetable is being finalised and things should start



happening shortly.

There will be a residual WiFi system for those who want a basic internet connection and there are those who may

prefer to stay with their current external provider (Vodafone, EE, 3 etc.).

◆ AROUND THE MARINA ◆

Cars, Vans and other Motor Vehicles



Parking for moorers continues to be under pressure and this despite a significant increase in parking provision, particularly over the last few years. A number of the spaces are occupied by unused, untaxed and/or uninsured vehicles and those vehicles without an MoT. This is in direct contravention of the Mooring Contract which states parking (subject to availability) is only for 'validly taxed motor vehicles'. In addition, there are too many vehicles which do not display the Marina's green ID sticker with the boat name. A crackdown is under way and all vehicles falling into these categories will be identified, their owners contacted and if no action is taken in a very short time, the vehicle will be removed. Be warned!

Your Contact Details



Because emergencies can happen in ways and in places we don't expect, the marina office have asked for everyone to make certain it has up-to-date family or friend contact details in case of emergency. Please check next time you are in the office, or phone, text or email. This applies equally to all moorers and lodge owners.

The Fish Man Cometh



Stewart Bailey now comes to the marina (outside the office) every Friday morning. Order your fish from him in advance

to be sure of getting what you want. Telephone either 01332 344440 or 07944 812352 by Thursday lunchtime.

Walk in aid of Prostate Cancer UK



Remember to add your sponsorship to Tony Haslam's walk from Preston Brook to Shardlow (the length of the Trent & Mersey Canal). He starts his 92 miles on Sunday 6 October. Last year he had a target of £1,000 but raised more than double that for the Prostate Cancer Charity. Let's see if we can help him do better this year! Give what you can and remember that every little helps. Two Derby fans putting up with a Forest fan for a week has got to be worth something! [www.justgiving.com and search for Tony Haslam]

Any Old Iron?



Have you got scrap metal, bits and pieces, this and that cluttering up your boat? Now is a good time to get rid!! We have a friendly scrap metal merchant who will come - plus pickup truck and tail lift - and take it away in a couple of weeks when we're ready for him. No freezers or fridges and ONLY metal please. Details of where to take your scrap will be on the Facebook Community page shortly and a notice in the Office. And if you need help to take it to the collection point (which will be in the long-term car park), that can be sorted.

Neil Wakeham Memorial Fishing Match

On Saturday 1 August, the Piscatorial Society held its annual Neil Wakeham Fishing Match. This year we decided to change the venue, so it was held here, at the Marina, with bacon baps to start the day and burgers to finish. The winner was John Lousvet, 8lb in total weight and Nigel Hunt getting the

biggest fish. The sum of £150 was raised for the Prostate Cancer Appeal. The club has decided to hold another annual event, The Pete Hicks Memorial. The date is 26 September and entry will be £10 with bacon baps and burgers again so keep a look out for further info. The charity benefitting from this event will be the local Air Ambulance Appeal.



John Lousvet says: "I have never won any form of competition before so I am still a bit shocked at my win. I returned to fishing after 30 years and

have had much help and encouragement from many people here. Thanks to Nigel, Gill and John for the organisation of the match. After I got home I realised that all my fish were caught on a rod that I bought at the auction the club held for prostate cancer and belonged to Neil; for me that was quite humbling.

A Gift from Lotus

Lotus Indian Kitchen are giving a gift to anyone with a Marina card (such as boater, moorer, lodge owner) and those who work at the marina.



Sunny Chandhoke writes: "You support us all year round and con-

tinue to come to Lotus whether times are good or bad. Some of you haven't been able to come over the last month during the national 'Eat Out to Help Out' so, on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays, starting on the 2 September, we have a special offer for you. You will have a flat 20% off the cost of all your food and drink (yes, including alcohol) with no cap. This includes take-aways. Book in person, over the phone on 01332 300525, phone Sunny on 07868 652895 or use the Lotus App on your phone. BUT do NOT use the App for Takeaways for this special offer as the discount won't work! Happy Eating and thank you. Sunny."

If you would like to contribute an idea, a feature or submit marina news for publication in the Mercia Mercury, please forward it to
Jo James

Phone: 07973 711431
E Mail: jojames46@gmail.com



Louise Holmes

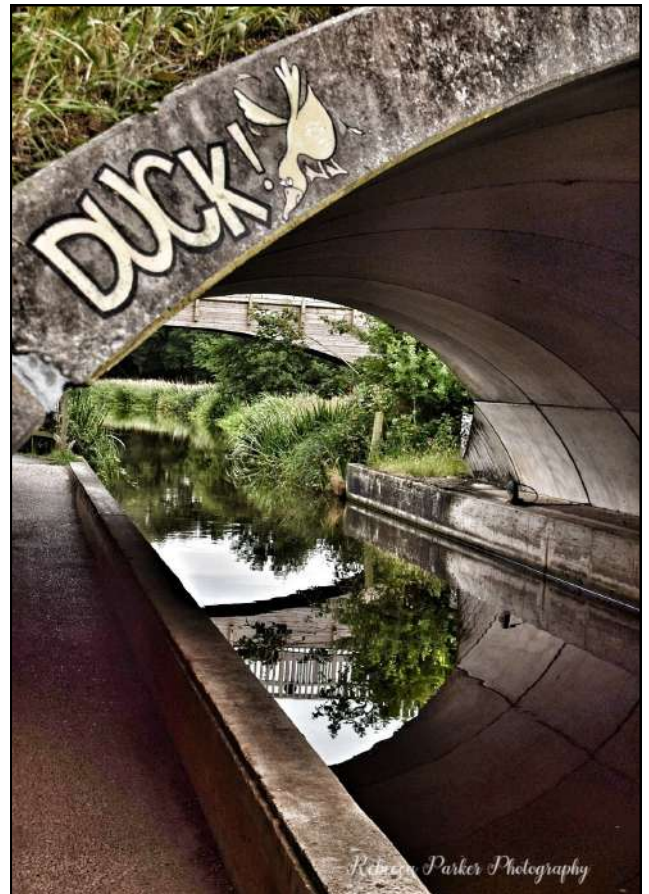
July's Photography Competition Winners

The winners' photographs for July are printed below and congratulations to Louise Holmes, Katie Dean and Rebecca Parkes for their summer-inspired images. Each receives either a bottle of Prosecco or a box of chocolates from the Marina Office.

If you are out and about around the marina with your camera and take a photograph you think merits inclusion in the Mercury, submit your entries to tony@merciamarina.co.uk



Katie Dean



Rebecca Parker Photography



Saturday 26 September 10am-12 noon (ish)

Linden and Rose Lodge welcome you on the lawn at the end of X pontoon. Bake cakes and cookies, bring and buy, stay and eat, take and share!

For a StayCa(ke)tion, bring a mug for coffee and tea, bring a chair so you can sit and enjoy the music. Bring an instrument. It's an All Comers `Jam`.

Encourage the fishing folk in the Pete Hicks Memorial Match. Buy them a brownie!

Let's raise A LOT of money for MacMillan. Last year the total was £350. We can do better than that.

Cake delivery details will be on the Community Facebook page, on a notice in the office, or just message Jo James.

Our thanks to
Midland Chandlers
for their support
with this
newsletter



**Midland
Chandlers**

CANALBOAT EQUIPMENT SINCE 1979