



Protecting ourselves and each other

From the Marina

Be kind. Help one another. Don't suffer in silence.

Owing to the severity of the likely effects of the C-19 virus on a large proportion of the marina population and the resulting Government advice and regulations, unfortunately we are unable to maintain a full service, despite the best efforts of the Mercia teams. It is hoped that the actions we have taken will allow us to maintain a restricted service until the virus is defeated, contained or is manageable.

The Facilities Blocks are a transmission hotspot. People using them were not only putting themselves at risk but also other users and the Housekeeping Team. Kath and her Housekeeping Team did a tremendous job of keeping the facilities open at the beginning. However, it was not sustainable. The showers in the three Facilities' Blocks are now closed, the public toilets and the toilets in Facilities'

Blocks 2 and 3 are also closed. The toilets in Block 1 will remain open for the moment but you must not use these if you have facilities on your boat. The three laundries remain open for now together with the two elsans and the pump-out but they must be used responsibly.

We regret the inconvenience but the risk of transmission between users themselves and between users and the Housekeeping Team is too great. Taking these steps now will help, I hope, in keeping the laundries and the remaining toilets open. Please be aware the Housekeeping Team are putting themselves at risk to keep even the limited facilities open. Please do not take the services or the people who deliver them for granted.

The Office is another transmission hotspot and there is now only one team member working in there at a time. Hopefully, that will make it less likely that all the Office team contract the virus at once, forcing the Office to close, and

less likely the Office team will spread the virus to yourselves. Please be aware that many of the Office members have young children and/or are looking after at-risk relatives. By coming in to serve you, they are putting them-

selves at risk so please be patient. The rear (car park side) door of the Office is now locked and there is a notice on the front door requesting only one person to visit at a time. This must be observed. We are determined to keep the Office open but need to minimise exposure to do so. By minimising exposure to us, we minimise risk to you.

The Grounds and Maintenance Team are on standby ready to help those who are self-isolating.

If you are self-isolating because you have the virus, suspect you have the virus or have recently come into contact with someone who has the virus, you should remain in your boat or lodge and let the Office know. We will work with the community to ensure you have support. If you are self-isolating following Government instruction or due to pre-existing medical conditions, unless the Government advice changes, you can walk the grounds but do so at quieter times, only visit the Office at quieter times for unavoidable matters and keep your distance from others. Everyone needs to maintain separation distances of at least 2 metres when out and about, for your own wellbeing and for that of others.

Although many of the businesses are shut, Still Waters and Betty's Farm are offering food deliveries and Beetroot Tree are offering takeaways and food-stuff like milk and bread during the day. For updated details of these services please check the information overleaf and see or ask on the Community Facebook page.

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

[NHS.UK/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
[GOV.UK/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Be under no illusions about the Cov-19 virus. Nor think, or encourage others to think, that the private side of the Marina is a 'safe' place where you can take risks or relax your guard. The virus is here and Mercians should ensure they behave exactly as guided and directed.

A Very Big Thank You

On behalf of everyone, there needs to be a huge thank you from the Community to our own core "key workers" during these very strange times. The Partners, the Office, the Housekeeping Team, the Grounds/Estate Team and the shops and businesses – everyone has been working very very hard to keep things running and as normal as possible. The planning and second-guessing of what needs to be done, the staff coming to work when they'd been told they could stay home with pay (and that was before Richi Sunak's statement on the 20th March) and their willingness to put themselves at possible greater exposure to the virus to help us is truly amazing. For their sakes we need to stay safe, stay put where possible, stay kind and considerate and make life easier for those doing so much on our behalf. And to make sure we give them our thanks constantly – even though it will be from a 2m distance!

Support from Our Local Businesses

Still Waters



Grahame and Chrissy have offered to deliver groceries for those who are self-isolating. You need to phone them between 9am -

5pm on 01283 707474. You pay with your card and the order must be more than £5. A receipt will be put in with your shopping which will be delivered to your boat. You can still order coal, gas & logs for delivery to your boat but again for those who cannot get out they have waived the delivery charge.

The Beetroot Tree



The Beetroot Tree is open from 9am-1pm Monday to Saturday (closed Sunday). You can get take-out drinks, deli food, sausages by the pound, vegies, bread and milk together with other items. Phone on 01283 707325 to order then collect. If you need bread, please call by 1pm (Monday - Friday) so it can be ordered for you to collect the following day.

Betty's Farm Shop



There is a weekly delivery service on Thursdays from Betty's for those self-isolating or who can't get to the farm shop. If you want to order meat, meat boxes, veg boxes and other items please email Jo James –

jojames46@gmail.com who will send you the forms and information on how this will work. Payment by BACS and orders must be in by 2pm on Tuesdays.

The **Post Offices** in Findern and Willington are open as is the **Co-Op**. Please check with them about opening hours, services and what they have to offer.

Streethay Engineering



In light of the Government announcement on Monday evening, we now have no option but to close our office here at Mercia Marina for a period of at least 3 weeks.

If you have works booked in with us over this period, we will be in touch to reschedule as soon as possible after we re-open.

We are, however, able to offer Emergency support during this difficult period.

Should you need us, please call Nick on 07824 848444.

We thank you for your business and will, of course, keep you informed.

We hope you stay well,

With regards,

The Streethay Engineering Team.

Mercia Marina's First Aid Team



If someone has a serious injury, is unconscious or there is a risk to life call 999.

Your 'Emergency Card' reminds you of the information to tell the Ambulance Service.

The volunteers on the Marina's First Aid Team have worked with East Midlands Ambulance Service and their Control Rooms so that when the control room receives a call from the Marina, they will alert the First Aider on duty.

If a First Aiders is on duty, they will attend to support you within their capabilities. You may of course decide you don't need their assistance (and you can say this to whomever comes from the Team). First Aiders will open the gates and direct the ambulance to your boat and keep you company while you wait and provide reassurance.

All First Aiders have undergone a basic first aid course which includes resuscita-

tion and dealing with minor injuries such as cuts and abrasions, minor burns and choking.

The qualification lasts for 3 years. There may be some first Aiders who have additional qualifications

Jane Wakeham is looking for your memories



Jane Wakeham's 1950s party night has had to be postponed. But what a GREAT party we'll have when we're able to gather again. So all the arrangements are being stored carefully, ready to bring out when the right time comes.

As part of that, Jane is looking to produce a souvenir magazine recalling what it was like to live or grow up in the 1950's. And – surprisingly! – some of us were there (your editors for two!!). What do you remember? What was it like for you at home, at play, at school? Was there an event that stands out from your life at that time? What was your favourite food?

One or two sentences is fine unless you feel like writing more. Here an example from Jane:- "Every Boxing day we had to go for tea at Granny's, taking our own food and meeting all the aunties and uncles. Very boring when all I wanted was to stay home and enjoy my new toys".

You can email, message or text or store it up to tell Jane when we are able to move about and meet again. Some stories might find their way onto the Community Facebook page to cheer us up-so be warned.

The Great Pumpkin Challenge

A competition for all moorers and lodge owners to grow and show their best pumpkin this Halloween (end of October).

Grow yours in a bag, basket or anything really. Prizes will be awarded in various classes. One entry per boat, lodge or allotment (separate judging classes)

Seeds, compost, starter pot, growing tips all provided

Judging will be at the end of October for weight and appearance

Full details to follow

CANCELLED UNTIL 2021

Bird nests and the law



All wild birds are protected but some more than others. Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that it is an offence to intentionally take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while the nest is in use or being built. This means that it would be illegal to move boats which host occupied nests.

CRT raised this issue with Natural England who advised that a licence to disturb nesting birds would not be granted for boating activities. Indeed, the time taken for a licence to be processed can be longer than the time taken for the chicks to leave the nest! So boat owners should wait until the young have left the nest and then employ tactics to prevent further birds from nesting on buttons, fenders and plant boxes (unless you want them to of course). Act now if you want to prevent the first nest appearing!

The Trent and Mersey Walk for Prostate Cancer UK

Tony Haslam's Trent and Mersey 92-mile walk was to have been from 8 to 14 June 2020. But he is postponing it and, fingers crossed, it'll happen between 5 & 11 October. In the meantime,

we thought you'd like to hear a bit about his walk last year, because taking on these challenges is not easy and people involved in them really do need our support and encouragement.

He and Dave Bradbury covered the route in seven days, raising £2,800 for Prostate Cancer UK in the process. They had a lot of support from Mercia, Cranfleet Boat Club and through Sally Pepper publicising the walk on Radio Derby. Phil Bibby was a tireless helper and, obviously wanting to be properly in the thick of it, he's joining Dave and Tony for the walk whenever it happens this year. That's two Derby County and one Nottingham Forest fans. Tony and Dave learned a lot from last year's outing – they set out thinking of it as a slightly longer daily Footloose



Tony Haslam

Walking Group walk or training walk. The first shock was barely seeing a soul on the 16 miles of Day 1 because it rained – and rained – and went on raining. Their spirits were restored thanks to the welcome and support from the staff and patrons of the Northwich Premier Inn and from then on there were people all along the route with donations and encouragement. Dave carried the coins with Tony opting for the notes (they were lighter!). He remembers the delight of dipping their feet in the canal at Stoke having walked over the Harecastle Tunnel, the misery of Thursday afternoon when Dave started feeling very ill and, at one point, Tony trudged along, planning how he'd have to carry him to the car at Great Haywood. (The poorliness turned out to be a consequence of Dave eating sandwiches he'd bought five days earlier!) The best moments were all the wonderful people they met on the way, an amazing meal at the Dragon in Willington with family, friends and supporters and the huge welcome and celebration with the Walking Group who were there to meet them at Shardlow. Tony is committed to his charity walk. He knows the statistics – 11,500 men will die this year from Prostate Cancer. On average, that's more than 30 every single day. And, again on average, 129 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every day. In the light of the current challenge we face, it's a sobering set of figures. But Prostate Cancer survival is improving and has tripled in the last 40 years in the UK, probably because of PSA testing. So funding research and funding the information and support around Prostate Cancer is hugely important and, for Tony, it's putting something back and finding his way to make his contribution.

M.A.C CALENDAR

All Events, Clubs, Groups and Socials are cancelled for the foreseeable future. But there are plans to try out different forms of 'meetings' or 'events' through video conferencing that can run on smart phones or tablets. Keep up to date with news of this and other things on the Marina Community Facebook page on Facebook. If you need help in finding and joining this group, let me (Jo James) or Louise Davies know.



Ben Todd

February's Photography Competition

February's Photography winners were Ben Todd, Evie Phillips and Lynn Meads.

Each receives either a bottle of Prosecco or a box of chocolates from the Marina Office but please wait till things get back to a sort of normal before going.

If you take a photograph you think merits inclusion in Mercury, submit your March entries to tony@merciamarina.co.uk

Thank You

The Grounds' Team say a big 'thank you' to everyone for the Golden Windlass. Being thanked by the community in such a way does make a difference to each one of them and they appreciate it a lot, so there will be even bigger smiles and friendly waves when you see them around and about!



Evie Phillips



Lynn Meads

When this is over,
May we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with the neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine check up
A school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself

When this ends,
May we find
That we have become
More like the people
We wanted to be
We were called to be
We hoped to be
And may we stay
That way—better
For each other
Because of the worst.

Laura Kelly Fanucci



Our thanks to
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newsletter