

Winterising your boat



It's probably a bit early to second guess the winter weather that may come our way but remember 2010?

The morning of the 10 December? So very cold with the Marina then frozen for many weeks.

With Covid restrictions possible easing a bit in the next few weeks, it might be an opportune moment for those who aren't liveaboards to get down to the Marina and winterise their boat and for those who do liveaboard, a bit of checking and maintaining is always worth it! The list on the right is for a complete close down and you can cherry pick, depending on how long you'll be leaving your boat between each visit and whether you will be leaving heaters on board.

The very very best way to keep your boat healthy if you will be leaving it for weeks at a time might well be through a helpful liveaboard neighbour who can keep an eye out for you (you could do as others

and leave keys and your phone number). Do also make sure the Office has your up-to-date contact information.



Your Winter Checklist

- ☐ Check engine coolant, if not obvious then drain and replace anti-freeze mix.
 - ☐ Grease exposed linkages
 - ☐ Grease battery main terminals, isolate engine battery
 - ☐ Grease stern gland
 - ☐ Batteries: let your landline do its work
 - ☐ Ensure the bilge pump will work automatically or visit the boat to check the bilge water level
 - ☐ A light application of WD40 to vulnerable electrics (and main control panel if it is outside)
 - ☐ Grease all door hinges
 - ☐ Remove all perishable food and rat treats
 - ☐ Remove plants
 - ☐ Leave cupboards open for flow of air
 - ☐ Leave fridge door open (if you're switching the electricity off) or pop a couple of tea-bags in
 - ☐ Remove as much textile as possible or store it hanging in free air
 - ☐ Make sure ventilators are unobstructed and
 - leave a couple of windows open a crack
 - ☐ Put boat poles, lines and any roof equipment inside that will suffer being left out
 - ☐ Turn off gas
 - ☐ Turn off main electric (excluding automatic bilge pump)
 - ☐ Try and keep the diesel as full as possible to prevent water condensation in the tank
 - ☐ Install a couple of tube heaters or an oil-filled radiator on thermostatic switches
- And if you're draining down:*
- ☐ Drain down hot water heaters and leave drain plugs out
 - ☐ Drain down central heating (or calorifier); check indirect heating water anti-freeze
 - ☐ Ideally close main water tank stopcock, pump out remaining water, turn pump off
 - ☐ Leave taps open, turn off water pump
 - ☐ Make sure the shower drain pump is run immediately before you leave

If you are on the Marina, or visiting, through the winter months, please be careful on the pontoons. There is the new anti-slip layer on the pontoons but the jetties may still be slippery so walk with caution and use the sand provided in the large containers.

There is one water tap with a heat trace on each pontoon, so water should still get to all boats. And do remember to make sure you have laid in a good amount of lekky on your meter.



Come and enjoy the Marina's Christmas display

With the welcoming re-opening of the Piazza & Boardwalk businesses, in perfect timing for your Christmas shopping, there is much to enjoy on a visit to the Marina. Curtains of light cover the railings and walkways with glittering trees and stars picked up by the variously decorated boats. Photograph boards let the children have a bit of fun and, at weekend, Santa and his Elf are nearby on the Bandstand for a safe and socially distanced visit.



Wynne Jones

There is no charge for any part of the Marina's Christmas display but we would encourage your gift for our Charity this year—South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service's Food Bank. See the feature opposite and add your help for families who are facing significant hardship this winter.



Wynne Jones

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

Marina Office

Christmas Eve - 9am-2pm
Christmas Day - Closed
Boxing Day - Closed
27 December - Closed
28 December - Closed
29 December - 9am-5.30pm
30 December - 9am-5.30pm
New Year's Eve - 9am-2pm
New Year's Day - Closed
2 January - Normal hours

Still Waters

Christmas Eve - 9am-2pm
Christmas Day - Closed
Boxing Day - Closed
27 December - 9am-5pm
28 December - 9am-2pm
29 December - 9am-5pm
30 December - 9am-5pm
New Year's Eve - 9am-2pm
New Year's Day - Closed
2 January - Normal hours

Beetroot Tree

Christmas Eve - 8.30am-3pm
Christmas Day - Closed
Boxing Day - Closed
27 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
28 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
29 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
30 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
New Year's Eve - 8.30am-3pm
New Year's Day - Closed
2 January - Normal hours

Willow Tree Tea Rooms

Christmas Eve - 8.30am-3pm
Christmas Day - Closed
Boxing Day - 10am-4pm
27 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
28 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
29 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
30 December - 8.30am-4.30pm
New Year's Eve - 8.30am-3pm

These hours may be affected by new announcements

How to clean bird feeders

You will need

- Rubber gloves
- Hot water
- Veterinary disinfectant
Only use disinfectant suitable for use with animals. A good version is available from vinehouse farm.co.uk
- Bucket
- Bird feeder brush or a bottle brush

1 Empty all food in the feeder into an outside bin. *Ideally clean every two weeks.*

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

3 Soak your feeders in the bucket of cleaning solution.

4 Use the brush to scrub the feeders until clean.

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.

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

Lotus

Christmas Eve: 12pm - 10pm
Christmas Day: Closed
Boxing Day: 12pm - 10pm
27 December: 12pm - 10pm
28 December: 5pm - 10pm
29 December: 5pm - 10pm
30 December: 5pm - 10pm
New Year's Eve 12pm - 10pm (or later subject to announcements)
New Year's Day: 12pm 10pm
2 January: 12pm - 10pm

Takeouts continue (with 20% off collections for those with a Mercia Marina card)

MORE WILLINGTON MEMORIES



ALAN F GIFFORD

A New Local History

Willington historian Alan Gifford has lived in the village for over 60 years and his new book 'More Willington Memories' has just been published. It is a complete re-working of the previous 'Willington Memories' with over 100 pages, and photographs, old and new.

It is a fascinating read with stories of Willington's people, its trade, its lost buildings and much, much more; a record of Willington's past, present and maybe it's future.

There is plenty for boaters to find interesting with a whole section on the

canal, the wharf and our marina, but Alan also focuses on the villages shops and business, law and order and how the Trent has shaped the village into what it is today

It is priced £10 with all profits going to the Village Hall extension fund and would make a fine Christmas present to place under your Christmas tree.

You can get your copies by safe socially-distanced, front-door sale from Tony & Mary Whittaker, 36 Trent Avenue, Willington (though its best to ring 01283 702229 first to check they are in.)



Can you help with Mercia's Winter Giving Campaign?



The impact of the Covid pandemic on the lives, health and welfare of local people has been significant, and food banks up and down the country have seen a surge in demand in recent months.

Here in South Derbyshire, the CVS Food Bank has been active in supplying the local community with over 12,000 meals from March to October this year.

But demand is growing, and they are appealing for financial donations, through the winter period to feed families across South Derbyshire.

**COMMUNITY
VOLUNTARY
SUPPORT**
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

These are people around us facing significant hardships due to redundancy, ill health or changes to their personal circumstances.

If you can, please support this charity by making a financial donation today, to help support those

most in need this winter.

£5 buys food for a child for one day.
£20 buys emergency food for a family for three days.
£50 buys food for a family for one week.

MAKE A DONATION TODAY

Remember, signing a Gift Aid declaration increases your donation by 25%

Via Pay Pal at

<https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3179381>

Or the donate button on the website
<https://sdcvs.org.uk/donate>

By Bank Transfer to:

Unity Trust Bank
Sort Code 60-83-01
Account Number: 20139731
Account Name: South Derbyshire CVS
Quotng Ref: FOODBANK

By Cheque

Post a cheque, made payable to South Derbyshire CVS to Winter Giving Campaign, South Derbyshire CVS, 46-48 Grove Street, Swadlincote, DE11 9DD

By Cash

Look out for special CVS buckets on the Marina bandstand this December, where Santa will be meeting local children every weekend.

October's Photography Competition Winners



Morgan Fitsimmonds



Della Hobson



Geoff Edwards

Congratulations to Della Hobson, Geoff Edwards and Morgan Fitsimmonds, October's winner, for their autumn-inspired images. Each winner receives either a bottle of Prosecco or a box of chocolates from the Marina Office. Submit your entries for next month's competition to tony@merciamarina.co.uk

◆ AROUND THE MARINA ◆

Halloween Pumpkin Carving/Decorating/Dressing



Tony Preston's wonderful carving easily won the popular vote. Great artistic talent, Tony! And thanks to all

those who took part.

Cars on Site



As of 1 January 2021, residential moorers will only be allowed two vehicles to be kept on site,

(paid for motorhome storage and motorcycles are exempt). The Office therefore needs up-to-date details of the vehicles (including motorhomes and motorcycles) you will be keeping here. And note that the registered vehicles must be displaying a valid parking permit sticker at all times while on site. Everyone knows parking spaces are in high demand and increasing them just seems to bring more vehicles on site. It is time, therefore, to cull all the extras!

December Post and Parcels



Please collect your post and parcels promptly through December. Whilst there is now a lot more space for these, the significant increase in online ordering means there are many more arriving at the Office and helping to keep the Office functioning efficiently means collecting your things promptly!



Smoke Alarms

Have you tested yours recently. They could save your life!

If you would like to contribute an idea, a feature or submit marina news for publication in the 'Mercury', please get in touch with Jo James on 07973 711431

MERCIA MARINA SHOP • EAT • STAY • EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE

Superfast Fibre Broadband

Superfast fibre broadband is now being installed marina wide. As superfast fibre broadband becomes available to your pontoon or lodge, you can sign up to the service you need.

Fibre Broadband Benefits Overview



Data is unlimited - no more running out when you need it the most.



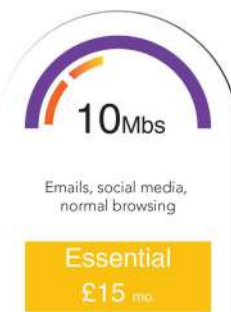
Choose your speed - 10, 20 or 50Mbps download speed (1, 5, and 50Mbps upload respectively).



Routers and LAN cables set up package is £70.80 (inc. VAT) for a dual band router and 10 metre LAN cable, or source your own (FWA routers can be reconfigured to work). A 'How To' guide to setting up is being produced. It is easy.



Try before you byte! Boaters can take up a 1 month trial period (Streaming Tariff) during the first 2 weeks following the wiring of your pontoon. Set up package cost is refundable if router and cable returned within 2 weeks undamaged.



Tariffs above inclusive of VAT. Subject to fair usage policy.

We'd like to thank our friends at
Midland Chandelers

for their continued support with the 'Mercia Mercury' again in 2020

They will be closing the branch on Christmas Eve at 1pm and re-opening on 4 January at 9am

