



MERCIA MARINA
http://www.merciamarina.co.uk/

Mercia Mercury

October 2014 Issue : 69

GRAND OPENING OF THE BOARDWALK

11 -12 October



It's going to be a weekend to remember, so make sure you're at the Marina to enjoy it! A kaleidoscope of Music, Theatre, Street Performers, Magic and Illusion, a Fire Performance Show and Tribute Bands will entertain everyone starting at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday with acts repeating through the days. Saturday's celebrations finish with a grand display of Fireworks at around 9.00 p.m. and, on Sunday, the official Grand Opening with Heather Wheeler MP will be at 6.30 pm

The Boardwalk Bar and Bistro, The Farm Shop with its Café and Coffee Shop, Elegant

The Boardwalk Grand Opening Weekend	
Saturday 11th October	Sunday 12th October
9.00am - 10.00am: Fire Performance Show	9.00am - 10.00am: Fire Performance Show
10.00am - 11.00am: Magic and Illusion	10.00am - 11.00am: Magic and Illusion
11.00am - 12.00pm: Street Performers	11.00am - 12.00pm: Street Performers
12.00pm - 1.00pm: Music	12.00pm - 1.00pm: Music
1.00pm - 2.00pm: Music	1.00pm - 2.00pm: Music
2.00pm - 3.00pm: Music	2.00pm - 3.00pm: Music
3.00pm - 4.00pm: Music	3.00pm - 4.00pm: Music
4.00pm - 5.00pm: Music	4.00pm - 5.00pm: Music
5.00pm - 6.00pm: Music	5.00pm - 6.00pm: Music
6.00pm - 7.00pm: Music	6.00pm - 7.00pm: Music
7.00pm - 8.00pm: Music	7.00pm - 8.00pm: Music
8.00pm - 9.00pm: Music	8.00pm - 9.00pm: Music
9.00pm - 10.00pm: Music	9.00pm - 10.00pm: Music
10.00pm - 11.00pm: Music	10.00pm - 11.00pm: Music
11.00pm - 12.00am: Music	11.00pm - 12.00am: Music

Touch and the new retail outlets on the new Boardwalk promenade will all be open to be enjoyed and explored and will doubtless have tempting offers on for this very special weekend. The Marina's Trip Boat will be joined by the Swan Pedalos who are making a return visit. Still Waters Shop and The Willow Tree Tea Rooms will be ready to serve everyone.

Entry and Parking will be free. No car will be allowed past the security gates and into the private part of the Marina without a Marina sticker with the boat name on it.

If any moorer or lodge owner would like to be part of the team of volunteers helping at the weekend, please go to the Office.

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Thank you to Midland Chenders for their support over five years in producing the monthly newsletter.

More hard copies are needed each month as



the Marina visitor numbers grow!



Hog Roast and Ale Party

Saturday 13th September at 1.00 p.m

It was a beautiful Saturday - lots of sunshine, soft breeze, the tantalizing smell of roast pork and apple sauce in the air and superb music coming from our jamming musicians. So EVERYONE came to the Party (including our hosts, John and Francois and Michael and Jane Thornton). Guess what ..



the food and drink ran out!! But people still enjoyed the afternoon, taking the opportunity to sit in the sun and chat to friends and

family. Thanks to Dave Bull and his team for the Hog Roast, Helen for sandwiches, Stewart for the benches, the musicians and to the volunteer barmen! Next time there's a big party, we'll get the catering right!

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Farewell to Harvey Lea

We are sad to bid farewell to Harvey Lea as he leaves the Marina. He and Angela bought *nb Water Music* from New & Used Boat Co. and were one of the first moorers when Mercia opened in 2008. They have been lovely members of the community and good friends to many of us. Harvey wants everyone to know how much he has enjoyed his time at Mercia and how much he appreciates the support given to him and Angela, especially at the time of her passing away a year ago. The friendships they made will continue and he will be back for the Quiz, to help with Marina events and to call on his friends as he hopes they will call on him in Belper where he will be living close to family and life-long friends. Our best wishes to Harvey for this next phase in his life and see you soon!



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Canal and River Trust

Our white footbridge (bridge 22 which is often referred to as Potlocks) is planned for closure for 7 weeks between 3 November and 21 December. This closure will affect the bridge, the towpath and the navigation. See more at:



canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/static_maps/East_Midlands_A4.pdf

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GOLDEN TICKET WINNER



Jan Herbst (*nb Lost Highway*) was the lucky Golden Ticket winner of a month's free mooring.



Still Waters Shop

Chrissy and Grahame Take Over

Still Waters Shop is now in the capable and delightful hands of Chrissy and Grahame. They live locally and came to boating and the Marina quite recently via a sailaway from New & Used Boat Co (the fitout done by Grahame and a friend who is a cabinet maker). They've also just moved Marina moorings to F Pontoon to be closer to the shop and many of you may have already met them over the last weeks. They are newcomers to running a retail business – Chrissy's previous work was in telecoms and government suppliers and Grahame is an



Emergency Care Assistant. Finding how much they were enjoying coming to the Marina and spending time here, they were ready to respond to the opportunity when it arose. Chrissy took voluntary redundancy at the end of August and began work in the Shop on the 1st of September! Grahame is still working but able to put in a lot of shop time around his shifts. They are full of thanks to Susi and John who have been 'brilliant' throughout the entire handover, given huge amounts of advice.

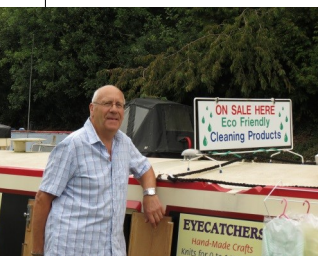
Chrissy and Grahame look forward to meeting Marina people over the coming months and their main aim is for everyone to see Still Waters as the moorers' convenience store. If there's something you want or need, tell them. If it's reasonable and within budget, they'll do what they can. The delivery service provided by Susi and John will continue but will increase to two or three times a week if there is the demand. They know their new business will need a huge amount of time and commitment but with a local commute and Chrissy no longer needing to go to Milton Keynes for work, they are well up for the challenge! A far greater challenge, they say, is getting their heads around all the rules and regulations now involved in running such a business!

As a footnote (and sort of following in John and Susi's footsteps), Grahame proposed to Chrissy when they were on holiday in Spain in August. Totally out of the blue, she says, but it was wonderfully romantic – on the beach in the moonlight. A wedding next year is on the cards! Congratulations!!

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ECOVER

Angela and David Dunham (nb *Norfolk Belle*) already had busy lives: Area Reps for RBOA (Residential Boat Owners' Association), members of BCF (Boaters' Christian Fellowship) and Angela is the Social Secretary and Meetings Organiser for the local branch of the IWA. Now they're a properly licensed and insured Trading Boat for Ecover. This came about by chance – they were buying



some Ecover from a Trading Boat and, subsequently, the owner got in touch to say she was giving up and would the Dunham's like to buy her stock and take the business on.

Pete Moore (CRT's Business Boating Manager for the Midlands) was supportive, the Trading License was only £80 extra and Insurance (provided customers don't enter the boat), wasn't much of an issue. So it all seemed possible and, at the end of May, Angela and David began trading. People hailed the boat as they travelled and, with another boat giving up supplying Ecover, they found plenty of customers whenever they stopped (Foxton Locks in particular). Angela also sells her craft items (jewellery and knitwear) and prove popular. Their travelling trade has been curtailed over the last weeks as Angela has been on crutches. Robert permits them to sell the products in the Marina and, at weekends, they usually moor at Willington where they can also sell Angela's craft products. Ecover, as most boaters will know, are plant and mineral-based cleaning products which have been around for nearly forty years – long before "green" was an everyday concept. So if you're after Washing Up Liquid, All Purpose Cleaner, Laundry Liquid, etc. etc., they're on Kingfisher Pontoon (nb *Norfolk Belle*) or call/text on 07795362488.

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The Tillerettes

We will shortly be getting in touch with the two dozen or so names who are on the list. Lapel pins are being made and the 'tutor' team have agreed the plans. If you'd like to be part of this scheme, give your name / contact details to the Office.



Golden Windlass Award

Two Awards were agreed at the Forum Meeting in September. One is to Ken Hall



for the amount of unstinting help he gives whenever those around him need extra support. He is a very positive and community-minded person. The second is for Sue Hicks for her cool head and first aid for a moorer who had food caught in his windpipe at the Hogroast and was unable to breathe. Sue's calmness and appropriate use of first aid (including the Heimlich Manoeuvre) resolved the situation.

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THE MERCIA QUIZ IS BACK

The new Season starts on Wednesday 1st October. On Wednesday 12th November there will be a special Quiz in aid of Help for Heroes. Teams of 4 or 5 with the winning team wins a bottle of wine. There will be a stall and a raffle (prize donations welcome!). Get your team booked in or, if you are



happy for the Office to put you in a team, just ask. Quiz nights are very popular, so don't delay!

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The World War Centenary Commemorative



party was a great success. Over 50 people came and everyone had a good day. The food was wonderful, the helpers superb and the company was great. Over £500 was raised for the National Memorial Arboretum. Sue Hicks is full of thanks to all the volunteers (see below in their WWI Aprons made by Chris Holmes on nb *Molly D*) and for the extra help and support putting up and taking down the marquees.



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New Service from Aqua Diesel Fuel Polishing

Aqua Narrowboats now offer a narrowboat fuel polishing service down to 2.8 microns.

The cost is £140.00 + vat for the first 1½ hours including 1 pair of filters.

Thereafter (if needed) £41.00 + vat per hour plus additional filters as required.

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Fireproof Boards

As Autumn approaches, boaters will begin using heating systems and running engines. They are reminded that exhausts can scorch and burn jetties. Boats could be turned around so the exhausts are not on the jetty side. The best solution is to go to the Marina Office which holds fireproof soffit boards. These will be given to boaters willing and able to do the fitting or there are volunteer boaters who would be happy to come and sort things out. Just ask!

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Boaters' and Lodge Owners' Forum

The Forum met on Tuesday, 16 September and the Notes will be circulated shortly. These can be emailed to you if your name is on the Office circulation list. A hard copy is available in the Office. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 18 November. If you would like to attend as a Guest, please speak to the Office and put your name down. If you have any issues or questions you want raised at the meeting, talk to your area rep.

FORUM REPRESENTATIVES at 20 SEPTEMBER 2014

Finch, Grebe, Heron

Nigel Hunt of NB MaryAnn.

Email nbmaryann@gmail.com

Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Moorhen

Ian Cowlishaw of WB Popsey Bell.

Email ian.merciarep@gmail.com

Nuthatch, Owl, Peregrine, Quail

Tony Wilkinson of NB Alicia Dawn.

Text/call 07736 163200. Email: tony@tonyonthenarrowboat.co.uk

Redshank

Keith Tonge, NB Ternstow.

Email kt1707@hotmail.co.uk

Sandpiper, Teal, Upland Goose (Superberths)

Terry Evans of NB Gentle Gypsy

Call/text 07739 251816. Email: anne49@btinternet.com

Veery, Woodcock, Xantus

vacant

Yellowhammer, Zebra Dove, Avocet, Blackbird, Albatross, Bullfinch

Mike Coates of NB Aphrodite, Albatross.

Call/text on 07857109822

Mercia Marina Lodges

Bev Wilcockson, Fir Tree Lodge.

Email whitcolbvc@gmail.com

A new representative is needed for V, W and X Pontoons. An election will be held with moorers on those pontoons invited to suggest names and, subsequently, to vote. Our thanks to retiring rep., Richard Tandy, for his work and contribution to the forum over several years.