



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

Mercia Mercury

February 2014 Issue : 61

A TASTE OF THE BOARDWALK



The Butcher, The Baker, The Ice Cream Maker will be a major and attractive central feature of the new Boardwalk. The Barton Marina store is hugely popular with locals, visitors and boaters and it will be the same in the new Mercia store. The BBICM (for short!) was born out of a shared love of food and farming by Steven and Tracey McKendrick and their family from Rangemore who have more than 40 years farming experience.



Most of their meats come from within the National Forest and surrounding areas, using native breeds such as Aberdeen Angus and Hereford

wherever possible. Like the cattle, the lambs are reared on an extensive system and enjoy their life in some of the most beautiful countryside in the Midlands. The pork is truly free range and the resulting bacon is home cured and smoked. In the Barton kitchen they hand-bake their own range of meat pies, pork pies, pasties, sausage rolls and turnovers. The butchers present a dazzling array of meats alongside home produced sausages, burgers, bacon and cooked meats.

There is locally baked artisan bread from a long-established local family firm, Hindleys, and if you like to bake your own, try the range of flours from Wessex Mill. Most people love a real home-made cake and Garden Farm Cakes are exactly that. Made by Tracey. At home.

They will stock fresh fruit and vegetables, locally grown where possible and choosing what is best and freshest on the day. The range of sauces, condiments and chutneys come from a host of small producers.

Last but not least, there is the excellent Red Lion Farm Ice Cream made by Alison Hollinshead on the farm outside Stafford using the milk from her herd of Jersey cows.



Steven sees coming to Mercia as a natural progression for the business. The Barton kitchen area can then be used to its full extent since it will be supplying both Farm Shops and all the produce - butchery, baking, cheese and delicatessen goods, vegetables and ice cream - will be available. There will be a butcher on site to prepare and cut meat, with specialist or large orders coming from Barton.



A new enterprise for Steven and Tracey will be the Coffee Shop. They will be using the produce from the Farm Shop and they're looking forward to starting what they see as a natural follow on from everything else they do.

BBICM will be needing staff for the coffee shop and Farm Shop and would be very happy to recruit locally. So, around about April, notices will appear about job opportunities.

Mercia Marina is well known to Steven. Having worked nearby and with a friend whose boat is moored here, he has watched its growth with real interest. Its location and its status among marinas, together with the number of things going on at the site all make for a place with a lot to offer, he says. People come to it as a destination. He and Tracey are very much looking forward to September and the start of their new venture.



Steven is adding Mercia Marina to the list of places which can order online from BBICM and your shopping will be delivered to your boat or lodge. Explore the website - www.bbicm.co.uk - and watch for notices saying that this service has started.

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Mercia on East Midlands Today

Did you catch the item on the local news on the 7th of January. The story was about the green shoots of economic recovery and the Marina was used as a good example of a business which had come through the bad times well and was showing every sign of successful growth and development. Our own TV star - Robert - did a great job and is available for signed autographs!



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Golden Windlass Award

Mercia Marina's Golden Windlass Award is given when someone has done something out of the ordinary or gone the extra mile to help another member of the community.



Sue Hicks and her husband Pete nominated their neighbours, Christine and Kevin Holmes. Sue and Pete had only been at the Marina for a few days when Pete went for



his hip replacement. A few days after he came back to the boat he was suddenly very unwell.

Throughout all these times Christine and Kevin had been a constant support, bringing in meals, ferrying Sue and Pete here and there, helping with the dog and dropping by for a chat. And, Sue says, she sees them being as helpful and involved with other moorers in their area. Congratulations to both Christine and Kevin for your care, inspiring support and show of real community spirit.

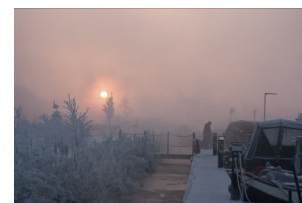
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February's Forecast

Winterised Your Boat Yet?

Some forecasters are predicting a very cold February and, on balance, it's reasonable to suppose we won't get through the winter without some stretches of icy conditions. With that in mind, together with the power outage on 25

February, if you're not at your boat daily, have you done what's necessary in terms of



winterising? Perhaps you have a neighbouring boater able to keep an eye on it for you? If you're not sure what should be done, ask another boater or have a word with Justin at Aqua Narrowboats.

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Power Shutdown on 25 February

The Marina will be shutdown from 9am till about 4pm, affecting power throughout the site: all electricity bollards; lodges; facilities blocks; Wi-Fi; dry dock, fuel pumps, pumpout and all businesses operating on the marina. And the Marina Office itself.

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Our sincere thanks to Midland Chandlers for their continued help with, and support for, the Mercia Mercury.



Residential Berths at Mercia

It is now looking very likely that there will be 180 residential berths at the marina in the near future. Discussions between the Marina and the Council and Valuation Office are continuing, so information is being updated as appropriate.



The first moorers' meeting on this issue was held on the 9th of January and dates for each area of the Marina are now in the diary - 2 in February and 3 in March. The first Residential Berths' Bulletin has been issued by Robert and there are Notes from the first meeting. Ask the Office for copies of these - hard copy or email - and make sure you've signed up for 'your' area meeting if this is a matter that concerns you. Above all, if you think you are at all likely to want one of the residential berths then get your name on the list now. There is a waiting list for Mercia moorers who aren't one of the first 180, but your name needs to be on it. The Marina is only accepting provisional new 'external' applications all of whom will have to wait until all those already moored here have made their wishes known and berths allocated. At this stage, you are not committing yourself, just registering your interest. When all the facts are known (including cost and the conditions which may apply) you will be asked to make a final decision and sign up formally. And for any questions and concerns, and for signing up for meetings, go to the Office. Or talk to your Rep who will be up to date with the latest news.

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Pump Out

There have been problems with the pump outs recently. The "fixers" report this is happening because boaters are not careful enough about what goes into their boats' toilet storage tank. There just mustn't be sanitary articles, nappies, wet wipes, kitchen towels and quilted toilet paper. Do your visitors or guests know the drill? Macerator toilet owners know how they fail to deal with these things ... it's the same for the pump out machinery. So please take more care!



Forum Representatives

Nominations and voting are underway for two new Representatives for the Boaters' and Lodgers' Forum. One is for the Superberth Pontoon (Sandpiper, Teal and Upland Goose) and the other for the Lodgers. Martin Stirling - who has been the Lodgers' Rep. since 2011 - has done a great job and everyone concerned says a big thank you.



Voting ends on the 16th of February so call by the Office if you are part of either of these 'constituencies'. The Forum does a good job in airing issues and keeping the lines of communication around the marina open.

On the same theme, do you talk to your Rep? Do you know what issues are being raised at the Forum meetings? Would you like to attend one as an Observer? The next meeting will be at 7pm on the 25th of February (the day of the power shutdown) so if you'd like to come along, give your name to the Office.

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Email Problems

If you have a Gmail account, you may not be getting your emails from Mercia Marina. The recent changes made by Gmail are causing two problems for a lot of people. One you can fix by making sure



Mercia Marina emails are in your primary inbox and are labelled as 'not spam' if that is necessary. The other problem is at Gmail 'central' and to do with bulk mail handling. The Office is sorting this bit. In the meantime, if you do have a Gmail account and you think you may have been missing out on emails over the last three or four weeks, email the Office (they received your emails just fine!) and tell them.

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International Book Giving Day www.bookgivingday.com

The 14 of February is a day dedicated to getting new and used books into the hands of as many children as possible. Give a child a book, or leave one in a waiting room. If you have any in great condition that you don't want, hand them in to the Office and they will be passed on for you.



The Bobalongs

There's a new grass roots movement on the block! Bob Drummond, Mike Coates and a number of other moorers are getting together to do bits and pieces around the Marina as the mood takes them (and Sven and Stewart approve). A bit of tidying up here, a bit of planting there, perhaps a check on the saplings to see if the rabbit guards and ties are no longer needed. Or a clearing up of a copse to let the light in. All things they see need doing and which offers them a chance to get together with others, have a bit of fun and get their hands dirty! As and when they're available and as the mood takes them. If you'd like to join in, wander round and see Bob (Mr D on W Pontoon). He'll let you know what's happening and when. And the Marina Volunteer Group is still active - many Bobalongs join that work too. So lots of choice.



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The Quiz

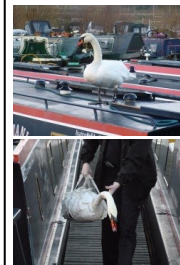
The January Quiz is at the very end of the month and, with February having two residential meetings and being a short month, there won't be another Quiz till March. No date yet but keep checking as the evenings are popular and places fill up fast.



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A Swan in Trouble

One of our swans crash landed on Sunday.



This was a male adult and Kelly, from the RSPCA, came to the rescue yet again. He looked groggy and was bleeding around his beak so off to the vet he went. Thanks to Sheila Napier for the pictures. We wish our swan well.

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25 February - Boaters' Lunch

Liam and Ange extend a warm welcome from The Green Man on the 25th of February - the day the power is off at the Marina. There will be a Boaters'/Lodgers' Lunch prepared for those fancying a meal out.



Make sure you book in - it will be popular!!
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