



The Willow Tea Rooms - under New Management -



A formal and big welcome to Helen Deaville who took over the Willow Tea Rooms from 8.00 a.m. on Saturday, the 8th of March. Helen has plenty of experience in providing a perfect café/tearoom; she established and ran The Meeting Place in Burton for several years and her eye fell on Mercia Marina when she started looking around for 'the next step'. A background in Ceramics and Art and Design, a waterside location and a couple of narrowboat holidays combined to make it an interesting possibility. So, on a miserably cold Saturday afternoon in February 2013, she loaded the cars with her husband and children together with various family members and headed up the A38. They found the Tea Rooms buzzing with life and warmth, cars and bikes arriving, people walking, people talking and a colourful kaleidoscope of boats on their moorings. "Hmmm" she thought "that many people want to be here even on a day like today? There must be something about this place."

A year on and Helen is a familiar face to many on the Marina, having worked alongside Jodi and her team over the last weeks to familiarise herself with the routines. She's not planning any immediate changes; better to concentrate on making sure the Willow Tea Rooms is providing an excellent service, she thinks, while she plans the next steps. There is a new coffee machine with coffee from a local supplier and the menu will undergo some changes over the coming weeks. For now, then, drop by and add your own welcome as you tuck into a toasted tea cake or a Sunday breakfast!

MERCIA QUIZ

The next Quiz in the Willow Tea Rooms will be on Wednesday, 15th April. An early April date for the benefit of those heading out on boats. Give Lucy/The Office a call or drop by to get your name down for the usual evening of fun and frolics. If you don't have a team, Lucy will sort it. So do join in!



New Member of Staff Wanted

Pre-Delivery & Aftersales Administrator
New & Used Boat Co require a full-time (or, for the right person, this could be 25 hours a week part-time) Pre-Delivery & Aftersales Administrator to work from their Derbyshire office at Mercia Marina.

Your role will be to liaise with our New & Used's warranty engineers, outside contractors, the sales team and customers to ensure that when a customer collects their new boat and sails away, all runs smoothly. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate excellent organisational and interpersonal skills, be computer literate, have good time management skills, be able to work under pressure, and must excel in handling and solving problems. A practical person with a good 'common sense' understanding of engineering would be ideal. Normal working hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday but these would be adjusted if the new staff member is part-time. Salary pro-rata c£18-20k. Apply in writing with CV to Chris Hill, Managing Director: chris@newandusedboat.co.uk



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Swarkestone Lock Closure

8.00 a.m. on 1st April - Midday 4th April

Repairing coping stones and brickwork



NAVIGATION CLOSURE NOTICE

Central Shires	
Date of Issue: 24 March 2014	Ref. No: 000
Waterway: Trent & Mersey Canal	
Start Date: 01 April 2014 at 08:00	End Date: 04 April 2014 at 12:00
Location: Swarkestone Lock 5	
Description: Repair of coping stones and brickwork	
From 1st April the navigation will unfortunately have to close to allow the essential repairs to the lock to be completed.	
The closure is necessary due to the onerous lifting operations and the extent of the repairs needed to make the lock clearance safe.	
The navigation will re-open at 12:00 noon on Friday 4th April.	
Upstream warning: Willington (last east of bridge 22)	Downstream warning: Cuby Vial*
Towpath closed?: No	

with a crane coming in for these days, CRT are closing the navigation from the Tuesday, to midday on the Friday. So if you're going that way,

get through Swarkestone Lock by 4pm on the 31st of March. CRT are currently managing passage through the lock each day between 8am and 4pm.

If you want the regular updates from the Canal and River Trust on all stoppages, you can subscribe to their email service (through the CRT website) or "follow" @CRTNotices.

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Our thanks to Midland Changers for the printing and sending through of the Newsletter. And it's Freaky Friday on the 4th April so get your shopping lists out!!



Responsible Dog Ownership

Mercia Marina is writing to each Moorer and Lodge Owner as a reminder of the contractual obligation for any dog owner (or anyone in control of a dog) to pick up, bag and bin across all areas of the Marina.



The letter describes the public health hazard as well as the unpleasant and unacceptable lack of courtesy coming from those few dog owners/dog walkers who do not pick up after their pet.

If dog mess is left in the private fields, these will be closed. Infra-red and motion cameras will be used in problem areas, and moorers and lodge owners should report any person not picking up after a pet. Any individual who habitually refuses to pick up will be told they must leave the marina permanently.

It's time this issue is resolved and so it's time to get very tough on the few who don't seem to care about the health and wellbeing of the whole community.

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Fire Wardens, First Aid and Defibrillators

The Marina now has advanced first aiders and one is always available to be called on for assistance if needed - perhaps for minor injuries or whilst waiting for paramedics.



There is a leaflet in the Office with all the details, telephone numbers and information about the defibrillators. Pop by and pick one up to keep on your boat or in your lodge.

If you would like to volunteer to be one of the Marina's Fire Wardens, please let the Office know. Full training will be given and



it's important to stress that the purpose of a Warden is not to fight fire but to take control, ensure

the proper safety steps are taken and to gather information to pass to the Fire Service when they arrive. Ideally there will be Wardens in all marina areas.

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Residential Moorings

There have been a number of meetings over the last weeks and hopefully everyone has now had the chance to get all the information they need and to ask any questions they had. However, the Office is happy for anyone who still has queries or for whom some things may still not be clear to go and ask - or call or email.



Golden Windlass Award

A Golden Windlass Award has been made to Bob Diamond. This was decided at the



February Boaters' and Lodgers' Forum meeting in recognition of the significant contribution Bob has been making to

the Marina's grounds and general estate. He has been at the heart of the Bobalong group, supporting all the work done by Stewart, Sven and Pete. You'll see him tidying a copse, planting some bulbs, sweeping pontoon paths, pruning dead wood, picking up litter. He has a lot of knowledge and experience to put to good use and is only too delighted when others turn up to lend a hand.



The Golden Windlass award is now being given in the form of a boat plaque with the individual's name engraved in the middle.

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Wildflower Meadow

Here's a poppy that just grew all by itself on the zigzags. But with the Marina's soil being very poor, some hard work is needed to create the



conditions to support wildflower growth. Which is what's behind the development of the strip at the north end of the Marina. With the grass having died back, the harrow has been through the ground as a first step in creating the Meadow/Orchard area. In time, the area will be cordoned off for protection from tramping feet and scampering dogs! There won't be much to see for a year, but hopefully over the next two or three, a lovely nectar-rich meadow will develop. Take care too in the little copse by X Pontoon. That has a lot of new young plants and the bluebells which were put in a year ago are coming on beautifully! With Bob and the Bobalong's clearing of the old and dead wood and cleaning up of the ground litter, air and light have been able to get in amongst the trees. So stop and look as you walk by over the next weeks and see how a little bit of work goes a long way!

One plant that does well on poor soil is the scarlet pimpernel. A very pretty and uncommon little flower. We have a lot of them on site so keep a watch as you walk about.



The Revd. Sue Starkey A Chaplain for Mercia Marina

Sue has been Vicar of All Saints Findern and St Michael's Willington for 10 years. Despite passing the Marina many hundreds of times only very recently, when in her voluntary role as a Derby City Centre Chaplain, did she wonder whether there might be a role for a Chaplain closer to home. Mercia is within her parish boundaries and is a big community full of people from all walks of life. With shops, a pub, café and businesses it has all the hallmarks of a village. But there is no church.

Chaplains aren't there to preach but to offer comfort, care and a listening ear to all regardless of faith. Sometimes, it's just nice to have someone who's not so close you can talk to and who comes with an outside



perspective. As many will know, there is a growing Waterways Ministry on the canals with many in this 'linear' community on the move reporting a real benefit.

So, with Robert's full support and having talked to a few moorers Sue got to know from things like the Carol Service before Christmas, a plan has been born!

Sue will be walking around the Marina on a Thursday afternoon. She knows we all tend to stop and greet each other and she believes this will be the easiest way to get to know people and for people to get to know her. If you meet her (or walk around yourself in order to meet her) feel free to discuss anything. It may not be a personal conversation - just whatever you feel is comfortable and easy. Sue would also be happy to fix a specific time to meet someone, go to a boat or lodge for a quiet conversation, have private prayer perhaps or a boat communion. And she says she is really looking forward to having a weekly walk around the site.

If you'd like to talk to Sue or make a date, ring the landline at the Vicarage (01283 703928) and leave a message. It will be picked up and she will call you back! She does have a mobile but often fails to hear it ringing, so the landline is the safest bet. There is plenty going on at her churches as well as actual services: a weekly Home Group, New Songs Group, prayer meetings and coffee mornings. If you would like to find out more, ask Sue.

Sue came back to Derbyshire from St

Luke's Watford and South Oxhey (just outside Watford). Two very different areas - one a big thriving well-to-do parish with hundreds attending church weekly and the other a deprived area with every possible problem and difficulty to deal with on a daily basis. In Oxhey the Church reached out, providing meals, counselling, advice and groups for all those that asked. This wealth of experience, and willingness to be involved with people gives Sue an easy warmth which will spark a ready response from the Mercia community.

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Easter Egg Raffle in Aid of Derbyshire, Leicester and Rutland Air Ambulance

March's Newsletter carried the story of Dr Pam Hardy, a moorer and a Doctor with DLRAA. A year ago, David Holmes and Mary Whittaker (nb Tranquility) put on an Easter Raffle with two giant eggs in support of the Air Ambulance. And they're at it again! This time they asked, and got, a hugely generous contribution from Thorntons plc- an enormous Easter Egg, two more only slightly



smaller eggs and an Easter Hamper with a lot more gorgeous munchies! Susi and John will have all these and the raffle tickets in Still Water. Tickets are on sale now at £1 a strip. So go and give your support to a

wonderful cause and then cross your fingers that you'll be one of the lucky winners!



The Air Ambulance Service
SAVING LIVES

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Contemporary Luminaires

That's the name for funky lights nowadays! The lights have been put up along the front of the Marina lighting the car park area. With more happening in the public part of the site, having better (and very nice!) lighting is good.



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The Office is keeping normal hours over the Easter weekend. Big thanks due!!