



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

Mercia Mercury

May 2014 Issue : 64

Off Out Cruising

The Cruising Season has definitely arrived. us. Boats are coming and going from the Marina; neighbours waving neighbours off and plans and routes discussed on jetties and moorers meeting up on a walkabout.



Easter produced some lovely weather; this was at sunrise on Good Friday morning by the gravel pits. It was fun to stay in one place to fettle, read books, doze in the sun and greet familiar boats as they passed by. As you travel, if you see things that need to be reported (problem locks, vegetation or obstructions), let CRT know. Phone the central number 03030 404040 (land line rate/included in phone packages) or tweet Customer Services - @CRTContactUs - and make sure you know the location (bridge or culvert or lock name/number, canal, etc.). Finally, as you head out, don't forget to collect your Mercia Marina T-shirt so that you can send in your "Tour" snap.

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Volunteer Lock Keepers

As you arrive at a number of lock flights on your travels, you may well be greeted by a voluntary lock keeper. Many are boaters or ex-boaters, all have gone through two days' training and they will be only to happy to help if you want them to. They will be life jacketed and blue sweatshirt/poloshirted and will stand back if you prefer to do the locks yourself. Our waterway (Central Shires) has them at Fradley, Atherstone, Hillmorton, Stone, Stoke among others. No payment of course, but if the kettle's on, the offer of a cup of tea and piece of cake would probably be welcomed! They also know the area well and can fill you in on the latest news.

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Thanks to Midland Chandlers for the monthly printing and delivery of the Newsletter.



MERCIA QUIZ

The next Quiz in the Willow Tea Rooms will be on Wednesday, 28th May. 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, you can be matched up with other part teams. So do join in! And thanks to Lucy, Jules and Josh for their organisation of these evenings.

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Modern Dog Training



Would you like to understand your dog and its behaviour better? Know how to change 'bad' habits? Make your boat a safe and secure home? Make sure your pet is getting the best diet and that you're avoiding things around the Marina which may not be good for his or her health? Perhaps learn how to do a nose to tail health check? And all this together with the basic control commands taught through reward-based fun training that could lead onto games and agility training?

Jim and Kim brought their boat to Mercia last October and, loving the new lifestyle, they took the big decision that Jim would give up his corporate work world and devote his time to what he really loves - training dogs and their owners. He's been involved with dogs for most of his life and takes them seriously. He says the approach to dog training has changed significantly and it's now done by humane principles, professionalism and motivational leadership. He has a Diploma in Canine Psychology, is a full member of The Institute of Modern Dog Trainers, has completed numerous practical and educational courses with professional accredited organisations such as the Academy of Dog Training and Behaviour and continues to broaden his knowledge by attending courses and seminars relating to his work. He is currently studying for a further Diploma as a Canine Behaviour Practitioner. He is fully insured, CRB checked and Dog First Aid trained.



He will begin Mercia dog training classes in June so act fast if you're interested! He will be able to do two or three classes a week-end (8 dogs per class maximum to allow for individual attention as required) and once the dogs' skill levels have been assessed, classes would be of groups with similar abilities, safeguarding against people and dogs being left behind with their learning, subsequently giving both more confidence. These classes are for Mercia Marina dogs only - those from outside have their classes held elsewhere. The Marina classes will be held on the grassy area in the far corner. Have a look at Jim's website for more information:

www.progressdogtrainingschool.co.uk

The Marina is very much behind this new initiative believing it will benefit individual dog owners and the whole community. It will be subsidising the cost of the first set of classes for each dog. And Jim has all the equipment you'll need.

Want to take the next step? If so, give Jim a ring or send him a text (07721 555764) so you, your dog/s and he can meet up. You can tell him what you feel you would want to achieve and what you feel would benefit your dog. He can check on your dog's age, vaccinations, previous training experience and so on. Then, if you wish, you can fill out a simple enrolment form.

Finally, a big welcome to Jim and Kim and their five dogs (Paige, Fern, Jess, Bart and Ruby) as newish members of the Mercia community. It'll be great to see dogs playing noughts and crosses, having team games and delighting their owners with a host of new tricks and abilities!

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Golden Windlass Award

- An Apology -

As a correction to April's announcement, a Golden Windlass Award was made to Bob Drummond (rather than the other surname I gave him). My apologies to a good mate who accepted my 'in person' version with courtesy and good humour. Here he is, with his plaque, sitting on his 'living' bench in the blue-bell copse. Photographed by Jules.



Sponsored Walk 25 May 2014 Mercia Marina to Alrewas



Sue Eales is leading the sponsored walk on Bank Holiday Monday to raise money for Breast Cancer* treatment and research. *Voyager* (decked out in pink balloons!!) will be the support boat! If you'd like to join in, add your support or help, let the Office know. The more the merrier!!

*Breast Fund, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, charity 1049226

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

The Easter Raffle was drawn on Easter Sunday morning. Congratulations to David



Brazier WB Galaxy, who won the hamper. The other four eggs were won by Roy Whitehouse NB Loftus Rose, Jane Thompson WB Kitty James II, Jeff Blackburn

WB Barney Rubble and Janet Allen NB San-ity. A cheque for £176.36 was presented to Pam Hardy (our 'Flying/Boating Doctor') who was delighted. She was on duty over the Easter weekend so able to collect the cheque in person as you can see from the photograph.

Thanks to David Holmes and Mary Whittaker for organising this and to Thorntons plc for their very



generous response to David's request for eggs. And to Susi and John for giving their full support as always.

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Mercia Marina Emails

Some people are still not getting emails from someone@merciamarina.co.uk. If you find any in your spam folder, you will need to tell your email account that this address is not spam and mail should be delivered to your inbox. Not sure what to do? Ask Josh in the Office.



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Lost iPod

A blue backpack (advertising pet products) was donated to the table in FB3 a couple of weeks ago. It may have had an iPod in a pocket. Lots of family photographs so Maria Shaw really wants to find it or even just to know that the pockets were empty. If you can help, please tell the Office.



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The Newbury Coat A Challenge for the Derbyshire Guild (Part II)

In March, the Newsletter told the story of last summer's challenge to create a coat in one day, starting with the shearing of the sheep. Tim FitzHigham (The Gambler) was at the centre of the challenge and Radio 4 broadcast the programme on Sunday, April 6th. It revealed that, just as the sun was disappearing over the horizon, Tim emerged from the barn with the finished coat on his back. Behind him were a group of exhausted spinners, weavers, tailors and sewers who had each worked flat out



for the full day. Amongst them was our own Kate Hession and husband Terry. Many congratulations to everyone.

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The Marina and the Internet

A number of people on the Marina have problems with their internet connection. Some use the

Marina's WiFi, others use one of the mobile networks. If

you are less than happy with your internet speed or reception, there are a number of things to know and things to try. If you're still not satisfied, then you could call or text me (Jo James) and I'll put Wynne onto it to see if he can work his magic!

A couple of basic things

1. Just as your TV needs to pick up a signal, so does your laptop/phone/tablet. If you are sitting on a chair surrounded by a steel boat, that's not going to be easy. Try in the cratch or in the open air. If that gives you



better speed, then you might consider an antenna which would bring the signal into the boat and rebroadcast it wirelessly.

2. If the signal is no better when you're in the open air, it may be to do with where you're moored, who you're using as your internet provider (although this is mattering less as most providers are using the EE network), or which of the Marina WiFi masts you use. For the Marina WiFi, work out which mast has the strongest signal and connect to that one. If you need help, then ask.

3. Advances in technologies are constantly increasing the sensitivity of mobile phones, laptops and tablets. Your problem may lie with the age of your bit of kit and it may be worth thinking about a replacement.

4. Maybe your laptop is actually fine but needs a bit of a clean up? You could have a lot of clutter which is just making a smooth operation difficult.

Getting things working well is often a case of trial and error. Wynne is a senior tecky in an international IT company. There's not much he doesn't know about hardware or software. He's happy to give moorers and lodgers his help and advice, so do feel free to ask!

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First Aid & Defibrillators

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

Then call **07831 126796** for the marina's advanced first aiders to assist you while waiting for the paramedics.

If you require assistance with any minor injuries call the first aiders.

07831 126796

If in any doubt, always call **999** first.

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Boaters' and Lodger Owners' Forum

Nick Adams has sadly needed to leave the Marina due to ill health. Our thanks to him for his commitment to the Forum.

Keith Tonge (*nb* Ternstow on Redshank) as the alternate, has assumed the Rep's role for the foreseeable future. Next Forum meeting will be on Tuesday, 13 May.