



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

Mercia Mercury

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Sue Eales' Sponsored Walk Mercia Marina to Alrewas

The Bank Holiday weekend brought the Mercia community out in force to support Sue Eales' sponsored walk from the Co-Op in Willington to the Co-Op in Alrewas.



The walk raised nearly £500 for the Breast Cancer Unit where Gail, Sue's cousin, is receiving treatment*. Sue's friend Margaret, Gail, her husband Dave, son Christopher and dog Barney, were on the walk too - Gail doing it all apart from the last stretch after Wychnor Lock.

It was a truly community event: Avante (thanks Donna and Steve) handed over Puck for two days, happy to be involved and waving away payment - even for fuel or cleaning. Mike and Roy lock-



wheeled on the Sunday and on Monday's return trip. Canal & River Trust reserved a mooring at Alrewas (thanks Terry!) and local advice on car parking and moorings came from Harry Arnold. Margaret and Tony gave

Gail and family Rowan Lodge for the night with Kath and Helen giving their time and expertise to get the Lodge ready for the next guests.

Robert forsook the Office and his day off to take the tiller for the stretch down to Alrewas. His first time in a narrow lock he says! He was hailed and cheered on his way by the many Mercia boats passed en route and, despite the lack of recent time at the tiller, avoided all groundings, canal debris, bridge 'ole confrontations and was superb at gliding into lock landings to drop off the lockwheelers!

Wynne arrived back from the USA (work!) late on Sunday and joined me on the boat for the night while the jubilant walkers and boat crew disappeared by car.



We were at Alrewas overnight and, on Monday morning, joined by Mike and Roy as lockwheelers and fortified by bacon rolls, we made the run back to Mercia in no time at all.

Sue says a huge thank you to everyone involved over the weekend and to all her sponsors. Gail, who says she had a wonderful time, sends her love and thanks to everyone at Mercia Marina.

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



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MERCIA QUIZ

Wednesday 28th May, the last Quiz of the season, was won by Team Sanity. The next Quiz is in September. Our thanks go to the Marina for their support for the evening and to Lucy, Jules, Josh and Robert for spending their evening setting up, serving drinks and food and clearing up afterwards. See you all in September!



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Boaters/Lodgers Forum

There was a meeting of the Forum on the 13th of May. Notes are available in the Office or by email. As usual there was a lot of business to discuss in terms of matters affecting moorers and lodge owners. If you would like to feed into the Forum, or attend a meeting, let your Rep. know.

Nigel Hunt (NB Mary Ann) Finch, Grebe, Heron

Ian Cowlshaw (NB Thomas) Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Moorhen

Steve Frost (WB Donovan) Nuthatch, Owl, Peregrine, Quail

Keith Tonge (NB Ternstow) Redshank

Richard Tandy (NB Mystic River) Veery, Woodcock, Xantus

Mike Coates (NB Aphrodite) Yellowhammer, Zebra Dove, Avocet, Blackbird, Albartross, Bullfinch

Bev Wilcockson (NB Esme) Fir Tree Lodge - The Lodges

A new Superberths Representative is needed (Sandpiper, Teal and Upland Goose). Two people have offered to serve - Brian Colledge and Terry Evans. If you have a boat on the Superberths, cast your vote for one or the other before 15th June.

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A Selection of Forum Issues

Boardwalk Development: Behind schedule by two weeks but coming along well. All but two of the shop units now spoken for. The Festival Weekend (October 11 & 12) to celebrate the opening of the new development will include Fireworks, a band, street performers and a variety of stalls.

Fire Wardens: The Office would still like to hear from anyone interested in being part of the Fire Warden team. Further information is available, so call in and talk to Jules if you would like to know more.

Residential Moorings: Anyone wanting to take up a residential moorings needs to be in touch with the Office now. All paperwork for the boat must be in order and arrangements for the payment of the first year's fee need to be made.

Landlines to Boats: Installing landlines to bollards is impractical. There is a substantial capital cost and the internet service at the Marina will be poor - BT Infinity is not in the area and it was the slow broadband speed that had the Marina getting w3z WiFi installed. If boaters or lodge owners find the internet speed slow, the signal may be boosted with an external WiFi aerial connected to an internal WiFi router. This equipment is available from Solwise for £70. It has worked very well so far. If you're interested and could do with some help, get in touch with Wynne (via Jo). A new w3z mast is due to go up at the end of AABB Pontoon soon; this should give a stronger signal to boats moored towards the middle of the Marina.

Elsan: The original Elsan will be refurbished shortly, including a new shed. It is planned to keep disruption to a minimum; moorers are reminded that there is the new Elsan on the other side of the Marina to be used while the refurbishment is going on.

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Volunteer Lock Keepers

Canal & River Trust will soon be recruiting new Volunteer Lock Keepers. They provide training, travel expenses, life jackets etc. You don't need be a boater, you may never have visited a



lock! If you're interested and would like to know more, get in touch with Jo and she'll put you in touch with the right person.

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





Willow Tree Tea Rooms

Please Note: The Willow Tree Tea Rooms will be CLOSED on Monday, 9th June. This is for rewiring and some refurbishment. Business as usual on Tuesday, 10th June.

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Modern Dog Training

Remember to go and talk to Jim Wainwright if you're interested in his classes. The Marina is fully behind his initiative and is offering a significant contribution to the cost of the first course for each dog.



www.progressdogtrainingschool.co.uk

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First World War Centenary

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2014 - 2018

The Boaters and Lodge Owners Forum discussed ways in which the Marina might hold an event or events or undertake a project to mark this Centenary. Ideas were put forward - a street party, a jazz picnic, a village fete. Jules Aucott is collecting ideas and will be looking for volunteers from the Marina community who would like to get involved in the planning and organisation. Please call in at the Office and speak to Jules if you would like to help.

One project was agreed on: creating a bank of poppies. The Royal British Legion have a Centenary Poppy Campaign with Flanders Poppy Seeds. The intention - over the next year or two - is to turn the zig-zag bank into a bank of poppies.



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Save the Date! Sunday 13th July Classic Car Event

Rolls Royce Enthusiasts will be bringing their cars with many owners dressed to echo their car's era. Prizes will be awarded to Best in Show, Best Pre-War and Best Post-War Cars.



Derby A Cappella Chorus will be performing and there will be a BBQ, Fish 'n Chip van, bar, boat trips and exhibitions.

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Mercia on Tour

Mercia T shirts are being photographed in a variety of wonderful places both at home and abroad. Any boater or lodge owners about to depart on a cruise or holiday is invited to pick up a free T Shirt from the Office. Then send back the photograph to join the growing gallery of creative images. Photographs have come in from Bali, New Zealand, China, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Hong Kong, Downtown Abbey and, most notably, not only from Times Square but from the big screen in Times Square!



They are enjoyed by all so keep them coming!

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Mercia Marina Art Competition in conjunction with Willington Arts Festival 2014

Primary school pupil Daisy Gilman has beaten all-comers to win the overall prize at Mercia Marina's annual art competition organised in conjunction with Willington Arts Festival. At just 11 years old, Daisy was the youngest artist to enter this



year's competition, yet she also bagged the most public votes for her pencil drawing of a family of ducks on the water at Mercia Marina, near Willington. People were invited to submit entries in any creative medium for the theme 'Anything that Floats'. Public votes for category winners were then cast during South Derbyshire's Willington Arts Festival on May 17-18, where all entries were displayed.

Daisy, who said she had been drawing ever since she could remember, said: "I was speechless. Winning was such a shock and an amazing feeling. I'm so happy to win and really excited about my future."

She said that she could see herself eventually pursuing a career in design or fashion. "My mum's an artist and a huge inspiration - as is my dad and the whole family. My older brother works in design, so I guess it runs in the family." Daisy's dad, Dave Gilman, is a moorer at Mercia Marina, while her mum, Deborah Gilman, lives in nearby Bretby.

Category Winners:

Overall Winner	Daisy Gilman
Painting Under 16s	Sarah Wilson
Painting Over 16s	Amanda Hughes
Photography Under 16s	Imogen Lewis
Photography Over 16s	Alan Fletcher
Sculpture Over 16s	Jan Armson
Mixed Media Over 16s	Jan Calendar

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The Bookshop that Floated Away by Sarah Henshaw

Sarah Henshaw opened her Book Barge in 2009. The book, published in April, tells the story of the last five years - most notably the Great Adventure of 2011, when Sarah went on a six-month 1,000 mile cruise of the waterways. She made a meagre living from her fledgling but delightful business and with a boat with no kitchen, bathroom or loo (no pump-out/ cassette discussion for her!) she bartered books for these things as she went along. To attract customers to her planned stops, she advertised her whereabouts on Twitter and Facebook (you'll find her active on both), asking for food, fuel or the use of a shower and giving people stories in return. With family and friends backing up at time, it worked! Of course there were dramas, boat breakdowns, high days and low days, good weather and bad weather - just as all boaters experience when they go cruising. But, despite (perhaps because of) the added pressure of life on a shoestring, Sarah's book is funny, honest and a good read (she is/was a journalist and has a passion for literature). It's on Amazon, but - much better and in line with her campaign to save independent bookshops - find her at Barton Marina and buy the book (as well as a couple of others). It's a delightful read.

