

HERO QUIZ

Wednesday, 12 November
Willow Tea Rooms

The November Marina Quiz will be run by Nigel and Jane Hunt as part of the Help for Heroes Big Pub Quiz. All proceeds will go to the Charity and there will be a few extra happenings (a Charity Stall, a Raffle with donated prizes), the winning team will receive a prize rather than the usual cash and donations into the drinks' bar will be especially welcome. Book your team in as normal and expect an extra helping of Quiz Night Fun as we give our support to an excellent cause.

VOLUNTEER

The Marina hosts an increasing number of events through the year and you will have noticed that the numbers attending are also increasing! That has a knock-on effect on the Marina staff whose workload then increases! Volunteers can do a lot - help with car parking, do an early morning litter pick, act as guides where needed, help with Charity collections, help with the stall for the Lodges, etc. The next big event will be the Christmas Market Saturday and Sunday at the end of November. If you could give a couple of hours (or more) on one or both of those days, then come and join the team, you'd be made very welcome! Call in at the Office and leave your name and contact details.

ON THE BOARDWALK ...



It's busy and no wonder! Delicious coffee and snacks, great butchery, delicatessen, vegetables, ice cream, groceries and gifts. Another great addition to the Boardwalk.



Get into the Christmas spirit at Mercia Marina this Winter

The Christmas Market will be open for two magical days, packed full of festive food stalls, inspiring gift stalls, and plenty of mulled wine and mince pies to get you into the Christmas spirit.

For the kids, look out for our Frozen-themed area with costumes, Santa's Grotto on a boat and Christmas carol performances too!

Frozen scene
Let the kids become Prince and Princess of the marina with a Disney Frozen themed scene. With full costumes and props available, they're sure to have a ball!

Welcome aboard Santa's Grotto
Climb aboard Santa's Grotto at Mercia Marina for your last chance to speak to the big man before he sets off delivering Christmas presents around the world. Remember to say hello to the elves too!

Christmas Carols on the Band Stand
Sunday 30th November at 3:00pm

Shopping

Annie & George
Browse our winter clothes collection for kids of all ages, and stock up on some winter warmers in time for Christmas.

Blue Water
Stocking brands such as Masai, Sanwich and Sahara as well as their own Italian-made shirts, Bluewater is a women's shopping heaven - suitable for all shapes and sizes.

You can also now get the following brands from their website www.bluewaterexclusive.co.uk

White Stuff **seasalt**

Eating

The Boardwalk Bar & Dining
Enjoy a light lunch or evening meal at The Boardwalk Bar & Dining. Sit inside the two-storey bar and enjoy the waterside view as you sample their new Christmas menu.

Butcher Baker
Selling high quality produce locally sourced in The National Forest and surrounding areas. The Butcher Baker has it's very own cafe for quality coffee and fresh snacks.

Butcher Baker
The perfect place for buying Christmas hampers and snacks for the Christmas break.

Tea Rooms
Family run tea room in beautiful surroundings. Light lunches & excellent cake. Join us for a cuppa.

Molly & Co
Whether you're looking for that accessory to complete your outfit, or find the perfect stocking filler for Christmas, Molly & Co offers brilliant, quality brands at affordable prices.

Cali Kidz **RADLEY**

TED BAKER **PIORELLI**

Zing Furniture
Offering an Aladdin's cave of gifts with a wide selection of home furniture and accessories, with French style bedroom ranges, solid oak furniture and lots more.

Please visit our website for future events at www.merciamarina.co.uk

PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION
Quick - time is short! Carve your Halloween Pumpkin and take it to the Office by midday on Sunday, 2nd November. Judging will be at 5.00 pm the same day and the Pumpkins will be on view for everyone's enjoyment.



Will all moorers please ensure
Pontoons and Jetties
are kept clear of all personal items
No dog boards
No ash cans
No gas cylinders

DERBYSHIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND AIR AMBULANCE
Mercia Marina will again be supporting DLRAA with Sue Eales' Charity Stall at the Christmas Market. A Raffle, Tombola and a Boaters' Bring and Buy will all be raising funds for the Air Ambulance.

Sue would be delighted to receive donations for the Bring & Buy in advance - Boaters items in good condition ... unwanted sets of curtains or crockery, boat related books, maps or pictures, small items of furniture, brass items ... Please take things to Sue on nb Joe on X Pontoon.



Plenty for all the family to enjoy all through the weekend. Santa's Grotto on the Trip Boat, Christmas Carols on the Bandstand, 20 Food and Gift Stalls., Face Painting with Heidi and Fantasy Photography for the children with Derby's Legend Studios creating scenes from "Frozen". With all the retail units open with special offers and the Tea Rooms, Boardwalk Bar and Bistro and Coffee Shop offering food and drink to complement the Christmas Stalls, it'll be a great weekend outing at just the right time of year! You'll even find mulled wine and mince pies!!

Parking and Entry will be free



A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!!

Dawn Foote (Managing Director, Katapult - Derby's Creative Marketing Agency) wrote about our Grand Opening Weekend in her recent Blog. It's good to have someone else's view of us, so here's what she had to say:

"Over the last 5 years Mercia Marina has worked hard to establish itself as Europe's largest inland marina, building a highly rated destination for the boating community and holiday boaters. The Marina is now a place of significance for the natural world after achieving a David Bellamy Award for conservation.

Mercia Marina is just 6 miles from Derby City Centre, nestled between the rural villages of Findern & Willington, just off the A50/A38 Toyota roundabout. The profile of this secluded gem in our landscape was raised significantly this weekend when they had their grand opening of their new £1.7 million development 'The Boardwalk'. The Boardwalk comprises of a new Farm Shop, The Boardwalk Bar & Dining, Boutique Retailers, Band Stand and Sensory Garden.

Having worked with the team at Mercia Marina around the launch of the new development since Christmas, and watched the new boardwalk development take shape over many months, the weekend was one of celebration for all involved. Lots of hard work and love has gone into making the place strike the balance of being a much enjoyed marina by its resident moorers & holiday makers and an attractive visitor destination for those who fancy a leisurely day out. Both days of the weekend started with a thick layer of fog over the marina, but by mid-morning the sun had broken through and the marina glistened in all her full glory. Each day saw a few thousand people visit the Marina to enjoy the new development and entertainment laid on as part of the celebrations."



(Heather Wheeler MP, John Thornton, Robert Neff)

With the weather playing its part and a huge amount of work by Mercia's team, all went very well. Wonderful photography from Ashley Frankin, captured moments from the kaleidoscope of events over the weekend and here are just a few. Thank you Ashley, thank you Dawn and thank you to everyone for coming!



£500 for Air Ambulance

Mercia Marina often makes the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance their chosen charity and the Grand Opening Weekend raised £500 for them. Many dropped donations in the buckets (thank you!) and Sue Eales was selling raffle tickets for her Harrod's bear

'Daisy'. The winner, was thrilled with her prize which, as the photograph shows, is just about the same size as her. One of the Mercia Marina moorers - Pam Hardy - is one of the Doctors who flies with the Air Ambulance so we're always extra happy to support their work.



THE BOARDWALK IN NOVEMBER

Two more stores will be opening on the Boardwalk over the next couple of weeks. Zing will offer Furniture, Furnishings and Accessories over two floors and, at the other end of the Boardwalk, will be Annie & George, offering children's clothes and gifts. With The Farm Shop, Blue Water, Molly & Co, The Boardwalk Bar & Dining and Elegant Touch already welcoming a steady stream of customers, the Boardwalk will be the perfect place to browse and linger!



And don't forget the Trading Boats on the Pontoon! Kim, on her narrowboat Majesty, has Gift Hampers for all occasions or can create a personal Hamper to suit your budget and wishes. A special birthday, new boat, new hobby...? Kim has a wide range of Hampers on the boat but is ready to help you design your own. Wine, chocolates, tea or coffee, gardening tools - a Moses basket with baby gifts, spa products ... You can call or text Kim on 07951 513748 or visit the Facebook page "Ideal Hamper Company".



CANAL & RIVER TRUST
WINTER STOPPAGES

Don't forget that Stenson Lock will out of action from the 3rd to the 30th of November. This is to repair of the bottom gate (Re-plank, repair cill and stop-plank grooves). Weston and Shardlow Locks will be out of action in December. There is work going on in other places so if you are planning a journey, do look at the Canal & River Trust Notices and Stoppages pages to check if any of them affect you.



SECURITY BARRIER

A security barrier has been installed by the main Security Gate and it will be operative shortly. It is there to increase security on the mooring side of the Marina by stopping vehicles tail-gating. It will mean your entry and exit will take a little longer but it's being done in response to many requests from moorers and lodge owners. Read the notices carefully when they go up; pedestrians will need to obey the signs and not use the road gates.



MARINA OFFICE
A CHANGE TO THE HOURS

From the 1st of December, the Office hours are changing a little. A longer opening on Wednesdays and shorter on Sunday. The new hours are as follows:

- Monday 9 - 5.30
- Tuesday 9 - 5.30
- Wednesday 8 - 6.30
- Thursday 9 - 5.30
- Friday 9 - 5.30
- Saturday 9 - 5.30
- Sunday 10 - 4.30

BONFIRE NIGHT
SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

From dusk. Fireworks @ 5.30 p.m.



Fireworks, Braziers, Music and a BBQ. The Shops will be open till 7.00 p.m. Come and join the fun!

Our thanks to Midland Chandlers for their continuing support of the Mercia Mercury. It's now in all the new retail outlets as well as the Chandlery, Office, Shops and Willow Tea Rooms.



THE GREEN COLUMN
RECYCLING

Where are we now 5 years on?

Every laundry room is recycling books and unwanted bric-a-brac etc. We have recycling bins on the corner on the track down to the motorhome park



and one bottle and one recycling bin on the side by the crane/lorry access gate. Also a bottle bin with every site of general waste collection bins. Please fold up card-

board boxes before recycling to leave room for others.

HONESTLY its not complicated:

Bottle Bins: Bottles (not in carrier bags)
Large Recycling Bins:
Cardboard and paper
Cans and tins (washed out please)
Plastic bottles (washed out please)

As a community we could do more:

Fix more things: bikes, sports equipment, or furniture
In the future when we have allotments, set up a garden community swap and possibly begin to compost
Organise a monthly car boot for unwanted items? Or that may be a step too far ... ?
Just to remind you too that Willington has a comprehensive recycling facility next to the sports field where the Salvation Army has a clothes' collection as well as specific bins for plastics. Plus the new surgery has a Sally Army bin as well.

Any questions or suggestions? Ask or talk to Jude Boynton, nb Alice on Kingfisher.

MARINA CLUBCARD

New offers from the new retailers, so keep it with you! You'll get 10% off non sale items in the Farm Shop and Coffee House, 5% off food in the Boardwalk Bar and Dining, 10% off non sale items in Molly & Co, 10% off in Elegant Touch when you spend over £30 and 10% off in Bluewater when you spend over £50 on non-sale items.



Dog training

- A Dog's eye view -

via Bruce Napier

The editor asked me to ask our daughter's dog Sally what she made of the recent training sessions run by Jim Wainwright. Here is Sally's Report:

"Being a highly intelligent dog, it's important that I get enough brain work to keep me happy, so I was really pleased when Mum told me that we were going to do some training at the marina where Granny and Grandpa keep their boat. Any

excuse to get out and about is my motto and I really like the marina anyway, it's so dog friendly. "Like all this stuff, there's good and bad, naturally, but on the whole I really got into it. I met some new friends, both two- and four-legged, though I'm not big on socialising usually.



"The best bits were:

- ⇒ Jim believes in bits of hot dog sausage as training treats, a big improvement on Mum's usual skanky mini dry biscuits.
- ⇒ We did a lot of different activities over the four weekends.
- ⇒ I actually learnt some new tricks (didn't think that was possible) which meant lots of bits of hot dog sausage.
- ⇒ I got to show off heaps 'cos some of the stuff I knew already from agility classes. Also, I could pop in the odd funny like jumping over the cloth tunnel instead of running through it.
- ⇒ Jim's a really nice guy, showed proper appreciation of my looks and skills and had lots of hot dog sausage.
- ⇒ Mum had to give me lots of attention too (as well as hot dog sausage) as some of the stuff was quite demanding even for a high IQ dog like me.
- ⇒ I was able to chat up the other dogs when I wanted to, but could stay aloof when I felt like it.

⇒ When we went to visit the Aged Grandparents afterwards, I felt all virtuous and tired. They tried making me do some frisbee chasing in the dog exercise field after the first session, but I soon persuaded them that that was completely unnecessary.

⇒ Did I mention the hot dog sausages?"



So there you are. Elanor tells me that she was really impressed by Jim's approach to training, learnt a lot from him even though as Sally's owner she's got quite a bit of experience of training already, and would certainly want to take part in further sessions in the future.



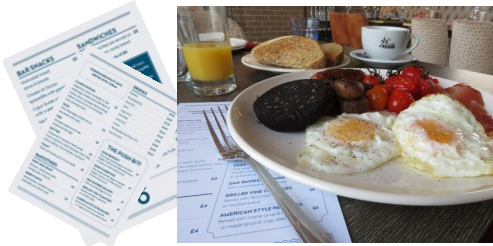
If you'd like to find out more about Jim Wainwright and Progress Dog Training School, give him a call on 07721 555764 or pop round and see him.

BOATER AND LODGE OWNERS' FORUM

The next meeting of the Forum will be on Tuesday, 18 November 2014. If there are questions or issues you'd like to raise or points you'd like to make, please see your area rep. For V, W and X Pontoons, talk to the Office, Robert or Jo James.

FORUM REPRESENTATIVES at NOVEMBER 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, Redshank Tony Wilkinson of NB Alicia Dawn. Text/call 07736 163200. Email: tony@tonyonthenarrowboat.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	

THE BOARDWALK
BAR & DINING



What a great start to Sunday! Full English or American Pancakes and Maple Syrup. The Boardwalk does breakfasts Saturdays and Sundays, so - with the Farm Shop and The Willow Tea Rooms also serving - you have a lovely set of options on offer!

There are also Bar Snacks at The Boardwalk - tasty smaller dishes as an alternative to the full menu. So have an explore on your next visit and you can always pop in or give them a call to book to make sure you have a table. Particularly over the Christmas period when they are already taking bookings for Christmas Day.

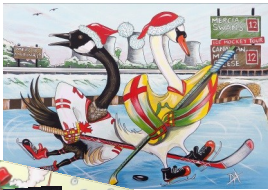
The Boardwalk will be holding monthly coffee mornings through the year in support of MacMillan Cancer Support. Keep your eye out for notices about dates; they will be letting the fund accumulate and adding them to their BIGGEST Coffee Morning event next September.



Now - finally - news of an initiative from I & J Pontoons. They are arranging a Pontoon Party Meal for Sunday evening, 7th December, reserving the upstairs at The Boardwalk for their sole use. Louise Davies (*wb Cariad*) is the person to talk to.

MARINA CHRISTMAS CARDS

Darren Amphlett, Cartoonist and recent moorer at Mercia has been commissioned to produce some Mercia Christmas Cards. They're in the Office now if you'd like to buy some!



WINTERISING YOUR BOAT

Yes, I know. This really is jumping the gun - especially when we've had such a great September and there is nothing forecast in terms of freezing cold. BUT, with all the events on at the Marina at the moment, a lot of leisure boat owners are visiting and, with Christmas and New Year round the corner, they may not be back for a few weeks. So now would be a very good time to think about whether you need to do a full winterising or whether it's a matter of doing a number of basic things to keep your boat healthy and happy through cold spells. A number of leisure boaters have, over the years, trusted to luck. And most of them have lucked out.

If you're not sure and you'd like some good advice and help, talk to Justin at Aquanarrowboats (01283701041).



If you aren't winterising, then your boat will need at least a weekly visit to check the water is running and the pump is working. Run the engine and heating for a bit and perhaps light a fire while you're there to warm the cabin. Think about having a thermostatic radiator or two which will switch on if the temperatures plummet - that's usually overnight and in the early morning hours (at 5.00 am on 7 December 2010 it was -17° on our Pontoon!). Then a few basic things for everyone (liveaboards to leisure) to consider:

1. Check engine coolant, if not obvious then drain and replace anti-freeze mix.
 2. Grease exposed linkages
 3. Grease battery main terminals, isolate engine battery
 4. Grease stern gland
 5. Leave batteries on a float charge
 6. Make sure the bilge pump is working
 7. Put poles, lines and roof equipment in the boat
 8. Make sure ventilators are unobstructed and a couple of windows open a crack. It's important to stop condensation and you can never have too much ventilation.
 9. Keep the diesel as full as possible to prevent water condensation in the tank.
- And, for those away from their boats for a few days or weeks talk to a neighbour. Leave a phone number and a key so your boat can have an eye kept on it. Nobody minds - it's what neighbours are for.