



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

# Mercia Mercury

July 2013 Issue : 54

## Boat Checks and Safety:

Justin, Aqua Narrowboats, had some very helpful advice and tips on his blog recently. All relevant to those who may be coming down to their boats again, ready to head



out onto the cut for a day's cruising or for longer. He was willing to have his

reminders copied to the Newsletter (thanks Justin!). It never hurts to reread things you may already know! Aqua have also got their own online Newsletter, so pay a visit to the website, read the other boating advice and news and add your name to his email list so that you'll receive his news regularly.

**Ventilation:** always an easy one to check and you know vents get clogged up with spider webs, dust and grease. So give them a good clean to reduce the risks of knock on effects such as mildew, not to mention carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Smoke and CO Detectors:** they are easy to fit and could prove life saving. Once fitted make sure you test regularly and replace batteries immediately once used. It can only save your life if it works!!

**Fire extinguishers and blankets:** continuing with the theme above, make sure you also have a powder extinguisher on board. The small 1kg extinguisher will last about 6-8 seconds, obviously larger ones will last longer but space maybe limiting. In addition a fire blanket may be more useful and creates less mess than a fire extinguisher, good to have both at the ready and understand how to use them.

**First Aid Kit:** Useful to have on board for minor accidents that may occur and keep it well stocked. Common minor accidents on board narrowboats will be cuts, burns, bites, dust in eyes and may include falls if the stairs are steep. You

may consider getting basic first aid training. **Hand gel and wipes:** We all know that Weil's Disease can occur from canal water and it isn't always practical to get to the sink to wash your hands whilst managing a narrowboat through locks for example. So a small tub of hand gel or wipes to keep in your pocket will help keep your hands clean and minimise risk. Of course, maintain general hygiene rules of washing hands especially before eating food.

**Sun Cream:** We may have had plenty of rain but when the sun does come out it will hit

you at double strength whilst cruising on your narrowboat. So protect your skin with sun cream to reduce your chances of sun-burn and long term sun damage. Use after-sun lotion if you do get caught out, but prevention is better than cure!!

**Get Gas Appliances Checked Annually:** make sure you get your boat's gas system checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer. To minimise the risk of leaks make sure all joints are tight, pipes, regulators and hose connections are protected as much as possible and are not damaged in any way. You may consider using a bubble leak detector in the gas bottle locker to assist with this.

**Buoyancy Aids:** Life jackets are now much more comfortable to wear especially the self inflating type. It's recommended that life jackets are worn when out of the cabin by single handed boaters, children and non swimmers.



This could be life saving should someone fall into the water, especially in the lock areas, so everyone should really be wearing a life jacket. Again remember that they need to be fitted properly or they will not provide the safety required. Traditional lifebuoys should also be kept on board for back up.

**Safety chat to new boaters:** If you have new boaters on board it's always good to give them a quick safety brief. We do this with all our hire customers as well as emailing them the Boaters Handbook, full of useful tips and check lists.

([www.aquanarrowboats.co.uk](http://www.aquanarrowboats.co.uk))

## Boaters' and Lodgers' Forum

Notes of the Forum Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June are now available. Have you read them? You can read a hard copy or have them emailed. Talk to the Office. The next meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. Want to come? Got something for the Agenda? This is your Forum and the Reps attend on your behalf

### Headlines from the last meeting:

- Bar/Bistro/Shops development
- Residential Moorings
- Fire Safety and Fire Wardens
- Control of Pets during nesting season
- Pump-Out and Elsan
- Mooring Fees for 2013/14
- Lodges' Update
- 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

## Forum Representative

Celia Kind has stepped down as Rep for Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Moorhen pontoons. The Forum members all wished to record their thanks for her commitment and involvement over the years. Election papers had been issued to all moorers on those pontoons to decide on a new Rep; at least two moorers were willing to stand. More details from the Office.

**Election papers must be submitted by the end of June.**

## GIGS & EVENTS

**Bands with a Mercia connection:**

**PECZ, Drugs & Rock n Roll :** The Rising Sun, Willington on 5th July, starting about 8.30 p.m. Recent recording "All Together Now" which is about a footie match on the Somme on Christmas Day 1917 with all proceeds going to Help for Heroes.

**Tick Tick Boom ...** see below for dates and places They're playing at our Festival in September. Further gig details on the website [www.ticktickboomband.co.uk](http://www.ticktickboomband.co.uk)

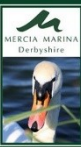


**5 Piece Rock Covers Band**

*The Goodridge, Burton - Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> June at 9pm*  
*The Wyggeston, Burton - Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June at 9pm*  
*Tudor Inn, Castle Donington - Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June at 9pm*  
*The Greyhound, Beeston - Fri 21<sup>st</sup> June at 9pm*  
*The Hop Inn, Belper - Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 9pm*  
*George & Dragon, Ashbourne - Fri 19<sup>th</sup> July at 9pm*  
*The Mill House, Stretton - Sat 27<sup>th</sup> July at 9pm*  
*Bradley House Club, Uttoxeter - Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Sept at 9pm*  
*Mercia Marina, Willington - Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7.30pm*  
*The Roebuck, Burton - Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Sept at 5.30pm*  
*The Steamboat, Trent Lock - Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 9pm*  
*Royal Oak, Burton - Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Sept at 9pm*  
*Stumble Inn, Long Eaton - Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept at 9pm*  
*Shardlow Marina - Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Sept at 9pm*

**Mediumship Evening :** Village Hall, Willington, Saturday 6th July, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets from the Office or 07541 830658

**York Trip** Coach to Railway Museum or City Centre. Tuesday 9 July. Tickets and more information from John in StillWaters Shop.



Celebrating 5 years

2008 - 2013

Celebrating 5 years



## Residential Moorings

This matter was discussed at the recent Forum Meeting because of BWML's very recent success in obtaining residential moorings at nine of its Marinas. It was likely that Sawley's application would soon be approved and Mercia Marina was minded to do likewise.

A pre-application for a maximum of 30% of the Marina moorings to be residential had been submitted. This was not seen as a money-making opportunity by the Marina but more a way of offering additional facilities and maintaining the Marina's competitive position. Council tax would be paid as part of that status but, based on a composite rate, this was likely to be under £50 per boat. There was still a great deal of detail to be worked through but Robert Neff wanted this to be seen as a potential benefit to moorers. For the full note of the discussion, see the Forum Notes themselves.

## Another Date for the Diary

Come to the front of the Marina on Sunday, 14 July. Enjoy the display of Classic Cars; food and drink and a live band.

**JULY 14TH** 10am - 5pm at Mercia Marina, Willington DE65 6DW

Large selection of classic cars  
Many makes and models to see  
Hot food and drink available

**Classic Cars Display**

**FREE ENTRY**

Sponsored by STILL WATERS CONVENIENCE & GIFT SHOP

**RYTHUM & Swing**  
Live band 1pm to 4pm

Come along to this small event at Derbyshire's exclusive beauty spot.  
tel: 01283 703332

## Mercia in Bloom

Get your boat blooming! Mercia in Bloom is running again this year and will be judged over 7/8 September (the Festival weekend). More details from the Office.



## Calendar 2014

The 2013 Mercia Marina calendar was a great success with some wonderful photographs. There will be a Mercia Marina Calendar for 2014 and, as before, it will feature photographs from moorers and lodge owners. The pictures for each month should have been taken in that month. For more information from the Office. Please send your pictures to [info@merciamarina.co.uk](mailto:info@merciamarina.co.uk) with the date or month they were taken.

## Mooring Contract Renewals !! Prize Draw !!

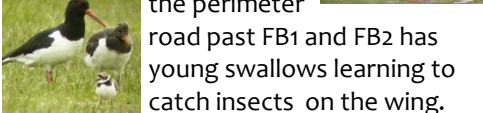
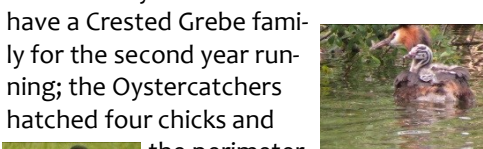
The time for contract renewals is upon us. And, as an incentive to get you moving, anyone renewing their mooring who returns their new mooring agreement and the Office has copies of all their current documentation **by the 21<sup>st</sup> July**, will be entered into a Prize Draw to win ....

**a month's free mooring**



## Nesting Birds and Fledglings

Please be aware that the Marina estate has a LOT of breeding birds. Disturbing a nesting bird is an offence - even if they have made it at the back of your boat like this coot! We have a Crested Grebe family for the second year running; the Oystercatchers hatched four chicks and the perimeter road past FB1 and FB2 has young swallows learning to catch insects on the wing.



Please keep all pets under control.

## Volunteers' At Work

Members of the volunteer group planted poppies and sowed wildflower seeds on some Marina banks. The soil is poor but these nectar rich plants will benefit the bees and butterflies if they do grow. Keep your fingers crossed for next year.



## Promontory Update



The Marina Partners have been approached by a possible Operator for the Bar/Bistro. The discussions are positive and, assuming all goes ahead, they would run this area as they see fit subject to some restrictions imposed by the marina and based on their considerable experience from other establishments. Potential tenants for the retail units remain keen to be involved.

The building contract is ready to go and, provided the financial side is finally agreed (bearing in mind that the economic outlook remained less than positive), work could start in October/November.

## Fire Safety on Boats

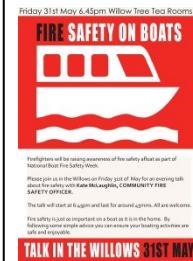
The evening at the very end of May was a useful couple of hours. Kate McLaughlin, Community Fire and Safety Officer, talked about Fire Safety in general and several points are, of course, relevant to boaters:

- Check Smoke and CO Alarms regularly
- Get Out, Stay Out, Call the Fire Service
- Keep Escape Routes Clear At All Times

In the discussion which followed, several more safety points and 'advisories' were added to the list: check people are safe and make appropriate calls; if possible, lose the boats around the 'fire' boat. That one needs to stay moored so the Fire Services can deal with it. Make sure someone goes to the main gate to direct the Fire Services. And, in terms of your boat's

doors, ensure they can be unlocked from inside. Don't have one of your two main exits barred because the door is locked from the outside. Finally have a powerful torch and phone to hand for any occasion you may need to leave your boat at night in a hurry.

Thanks to our speaker and also Nigel Hunt and other boaters who shared their knowledge and experience with everyone.



## Holiday Cruising Advice

A couple more boaters have offered their recent experience on waterway routes. If you'd like safe mooring advice, up to date information about shops, services, good pubs and interesting places to visit, get in touch with them. There will be a book in the Office shortly so you can check if your proposed route is covered. And, if you're willing, add your own trips to the list.