

Mercia Moorers in August's Derbyshire Life

Through the Quay Hole

Derbyshire's waterways are quietly bustling with boats as more and more people seek ways to escape the rat race. Most of us probably spare no more than an occasional passing thought to the canals and rivers that sit largely hidden behind trees and beneath bridges. But you may actually be surprised by what, or who, you find there. Photographer Rebecca Soanes paid them a visit. Phil Stubbs reports...



Have you seen August's Derbyshire Life yet? You will find some familiar faces in there. Great photography and some nice write-ups.

Boaters' and Lodgers' Forum

We are pleased to announce that following the casting of votes by moorers on Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing and Moorhen pontoons, Mr. Ian Cowlishaw of NB Thomas on Jay pontoon will be the new Rep. and the Alternate is Mr. Keith Seals of NB Rollybrick also on Jay pontoon.

The next meeting of the Forum is on the 20th of August. This is your Forum and the Reps attend on your behalf, so if you have anything you wish raised at the meeting, talk to your Rep. Or you can always email or talk to the Office.



Festival & Open Days
Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 September
Celebrate Mercia Marina's 5th year
FREE ENTRY event for families to enjoy food, drink and entertainment. Local producers' food market, craft fair, live music, children's rides, dance and fireworks.

Mercia in Bloom Keep your boat blooming!

Mercia in Bloom is running again this year and will be judged over the Festival Weekend (7-8 September). More details from the Office. There are some wonderful colours and textures around the Marina ... they will change before September to give fresh and new textures and shades.



York Trip

With 2013 being the 75th Anniversary of the class A4 Mallard setting the world record speed for a steam engine, the National Railway Museum held a great gathering of all the six A4 class locomotives including two from North America.

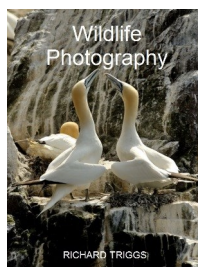


A trip was organised by Harvey Lea and John Coleman and a coachload of 25 went to York (city, shops and Museum), leaving the Marina on the 9th of July in fabulous weather, returning about 8.30 pm tired but happy! A good day out was had by all, rounded off by a great meal in the village of Heath, near Chesterfield

(Photograph by Hayley Powell)

Wildlife Photography Guide

Richard Triggs (nb Tichanme) has produced a superb guide. There are leaflets in the Office for you to take away (see below) and a hard copy of a more detailed version (see right). If you like what you see, go online for this version. It



is available for FREE download, an epub file optimised for iPad.

All Richard's notes and tips are accompanied by his own beautiful images. The most recent shots come from his trip around and across Scotland with Sue. Thank you, Richard, both for the images and for your readiness in spending so much of your time in sharing your expertise with us.

www.tichanme.co.uk/gallery.html



Mooring Contract Renewals !! Prize Draw !!

The winner of the month's free mooring is Mr Michael Kirkman of NB Xanadu 3. Great news for Michael!

Calendar 2014

Don't forget to submit your photographs for the 2014 Mercia Marina Calendar. There have been some real differences in the seasons over the months so you may have picked up some great images of the Marina, its people and wildlife. Send your pictures, with date and month they were taken, to

info@merciamarina.co.uk.



Volunteers' At Work



IWA National Festival Winners



Congratulations to two set of Mercia Moorers who carried off major trophies from the 2013 IWA National Festival in July!

A P Herbert Trophy: John + Nancy Harman (nb Perfect Harmony) Longest journey to festival in qualifying period which began on 1st May. They were at Reading then, so the journey was Reading, K&A to Bristol, back to Reading, down Thames to Weybridge then on the Wey to Godalming. Back to Weybridge then Thames to Brentwood, GU to Bulls Bridge then down Paddington Arm to Willow Tree, back to Bulls Bridge then GU to Cassiobury Park. Just under 600 lock miles and a well kept log, which counted towards it.



Cressy Award: David + Angela Dunham (nb Norfolk Belle) Best residential boat at festival. The next Newsletter will, hopefully, have some more detail about what appealed especially to the judges and won David and Angela the Award.

Both boats are now on their way back to Mercia Marina.

Classic Cars, Rhythm and Swing

A gloriously sunny Sunday, the 14 of July, saw the culmination of a lot of hard work to produce the Marina's first Classic Car day. The Rolls Royce Enthusiasts' Club produced 30+ beautiful pre and post war cars and there were about another 60 classics on the promontory,

complemented by 2 Green Goddess Fire Engines. The event was well received by the public and moorers alike with the cafe and shops doing a roaring trade. Stuart's Fish & Chip Van was also very popular. We were entertained by a jazz band, courtesy of Stillwaters Shop, during the afternoon. A light hearted Concours d'Elegance was held with

prizes for the best Rolls Royce and best classic car. The Best in Show award went to a pristine Jaguar XK120.



Helen and her team raised in excess of £240 for Macmillan Nightingale at Royal Derby Hospital.

Thanks to all concerned - especially Harvey Lea, John Coleman and Tony Preston (and to the weather) for the organisation and for a successful Mercia Marina event.

Some Classic Car Prizewinners

Best Pre War Car

Alvis Firebird Tourer - Richard Rhodes



Best Post War Car

MG B Roadster - Brian & Heather Meredith



Moorers' and Lodgers' Club Card

Are you using your Club Card? The Marina



Office has a leaflet with a full list of the local businesses which give a discount to Moorers and Lodgers who present their

card at the time of their purchase. The leaflet also details the terms and conditions. So do pick up a copy and keep your card with you when you eating, drinking or shopping!

Thank You

My thanks to Midland Chandelers for their repeated generosity in printing the Newsletter and bringing it up to the Marina; to Kerry for organising this and Alastair for o.k'ing it.



Did You Know?

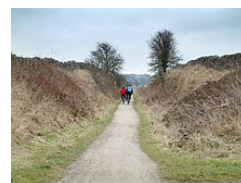
A thoroughly enjoyable book by Edward Garner yields countless fascinating facts and bits of history on each and every page. **The Seven Canals of Derbyshire** tells the story of our canals, the three great canal architects and designers who came from - or came to live in - Derbyshire (James Brindley, Benjamin Outram and William Jessop) and the Cromford and High Peak Railway, a unique British railway. Industrial expansion around Manchester, the vast limestone deposits in North Derbyshire, the coalfields and the factories of the East Midlands all needed connecting. The Trent and Mersey Canal can do that, but it was 135 miles. A direct tram or rail link would only be some 40 miles. Initial thinking was for a canal link but each proposed route was dismissed and sidelined. In 1824, the tramway (the Cromford & High Peak Railway) was agreed.

It was the only railway ever built to link one canal with another and, several of its turns and twists and steep inclines were unique in the British rail system. With its summit at Ladmanlow a 1,000ft climb from Cromford, it was also one of the highest railways in Britain. When only horses were used, it would take two days to travel from



one end of the railway to the other. With the coming of the steam locomotive, this was cut to six hours.

The chief engineer for the project, Josias Jessop, was the son of William Jessop. The Peak District Planning Board and DCC bought the track bed in 1971 and it is now the High Peak Trail - hugely popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Along the route are lots of reminders of the old railways - abandoned kilns, stone-work walls, an engine house at Middleton Top and the bridges and tunnels. The High Peak Junction Workshop and Visitor Centre is open every day through the summer.



Thank You

Stuart is hugely grateful to all those who brought drink to him and his team through the blistering heat of the last weeks.

