



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

Mercia Mercury

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Happy
New Year
2014

#UKStorm

(What it was known as on Twitter!)

The Marina had a few relatively minor things happening as a consequence of the high winds at the beginning of December. Two storage shed roofs from the middle section were lifted (sorted quickly thanks to Stuart, Sven and Pete coming in), the main gate was blown back sort of inside out, a sign blew down, the Still Waters' Christmas Tree took flight, a moorer's dog went into the water and numerous branches and debris found its way into the canal. And one of our young swans and its parent crash landed on the road outside the Marina. Sven rescued the dazed youngster and put it on the bank in front of the Office. Robert got in touch with the RSPCA. Kelly



duly arrived and, with Robert's help, lifted the swan into its carrying bag. It was too docile for Kelly's liking and, though she could see no damage, she was not happy. However, following a thorough check by the Vets in Belper, our Swan was given a clean bill of health. They kept it overnight because another swan had been brought in and they decided to release them together on the Derwent which runs by the surgery.

(If you find an injured animal in the Marina and feel it needs help, you can tell the Office who will get in touch with the right people if that's the appropriate thing to do.)



Quiz Nights

The next Quiz is on Wednesday 29th January. If you'd like to take part, drop by the Office and give Lucy your name as soon as possible. You can enter a team or Lucy will join you up with others. The evenings are very popular so don't delay if you want to join in.

Santa Stroll

Findern Primary School

50 Santas - big and little - strolled to the Marina on

Tuesday 3 December and we were ablaze with cheery red suits and lots of laughter. All went well on the stroll down and, after some refreshments in the marquee, everyone set off back up the road. It was a welcome and happy start to the Marina's Christmas celebrations.



Christmas Carol Service Sunday 22 December

Choirs from All Saints Findern and St



Michaels Willington came to join Marina moorers and lodgers for a service of lessons and carols. It was a very welcome visit

and one which we hope will be repeated next year. Everyone was in good voice and John and Susi dispensed warming drinks and mince pies after the service.



Christmas Fuddle Saturday 21 December

Some 70 moorers and lodgers gathered in the Willow Tea Rooms for a Christmas Fuddle. They brought the food - wonderful and tasty contributions of all sorts and John and Susi ran the bar. It was a very good evening indeed with new friendships being made and time to sit and talk, eat and drink. Special thanks are due to Lucy



and Robert for co-ordinating the evening and for being there to join the fun and make sure all had a good time.



Yellow Dog UK™
some dogs need space

The Marina is introducing a new scheme - Yellow Dog UK. It is entirely voluntary and it aims to support moorers and lodgers who know their dogs need a bit of space when out and about. It's a way of letting other dog owners know this so they can recall their dogs or avoid approaching when they see a dog wearing a yellow ribbon or bandana.

It might be used for short term periods - i.e. whilst a dog is



training or a bit poorly or in season perhaps - or long term - for example if a dog is elderly or a bit grumpy.

If you'd like to find out more and how to get hold of a yellow ribbon or bandana, pop by the Office and talk to Jules. There is a website too: www.yellowdoguk.co.uk/



Boaters' and Lodgers' Forum

The Forum met on Tuesday, 17 December. Notes from the meeting are available by email, as hard copy in the Office and a brief summary of the main headlines from the meeting is also available. Do take time to read up on what was discussed and what issues were raised.

Residential Moorings: the Forum agreed



that a couple of evenings would be set up fairly soon to give everyone a chance to hear the latest information and to ask questions and raise particular queries.

Fire Safety and Fire Wardens: A short and useful summary of Fire Safety on boats will soon be available together with a note on the procedure to follow if there is a fire on the Marina. Volunteer Fire Wardens would be welcomed, so if you're interested let the Office know.

Parking: This is a problem in certain parts of the Marina. But steps are being taken to help. The Forum Notes have the detail.

Superberth Rep: There is to be an election for an additional Rep to join the Forum.

Our thanks as always to Midland Chandlers for their continued support of the Newsletter.





Christmas Competition Best Decorated Boat & Lodge

The votes were counted and Tony Wilkinson of NB Alicia Dawn won the competition for the second year running. Second place went to Brian and Bev Colledge for Fir Tree Lodge and Third place to Kevin Stone of NB Chelwood. Congratulations to everyone - the overall effect in the Marina was just lovely and thanks to Dave Pinkney for all his great photographs. He braved hours of cold over several days to get the images from the boats and lodges.

Tony Wilkinson has written to say: *"Having won the best decorated boat for the second year we would like to thank all of the people that voted for us. This year we did not expect to win as there was a lot of good decorated boats and lodges. Each year we now get more and more people dressing the boats and lodges. It is very nice to walk round the marina at night to see all the effort that has been put in. We now look forward to seeing the marina grow with the future development and see even more decorations next year. Thanks again"*

Chimneys, Smoke and Neighbours

A Marina full of boats in the winter means lots of stoves. But is your stove efficient or does it belch smoke and soot at your neighbour's boat? Have you a CO detector on your boat? Just a few checks might be a good thing. Stay safe and be a good neighbour!



New & Used Boat Co.

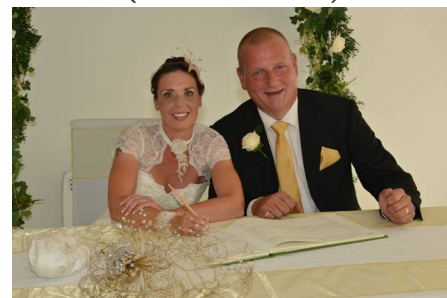
Welcome to Tracie Baxter at New & Used! Tracie will be known to many at Mercia for she came to the Marina nearly five years ago. She had Thor for the last couple of years and is now on a linear mooring down towards the Nadee because its better for dogs ... particularly her German Shepherd Wolfie. Tracie has done various things in her time - working with the Ambulance Service, Pet Sitting and Dog Walking among them. She saw the advertisement for a job with New & Used and thought "I could do that" and she started work just a few weeks ago. It's the perfect job - working close to home, with boats and with all the people she's come to know over recent years. She likes the variety of the job and sorting out people's problems. She's always liked the environment at Mercia and, of course, her work colleagues are a delight!!

Boat Jumble

Do you think there a Boat Jumble day would be a good idea? Is there enough good jumble in boats and lodges? Other local boat jumbles are popular and well attended. So tell the Office what you think and, if there's enough support, this could be set up.



Congratulations to Ian and Lisa (albeit a little late!)



Ian and Lisa (nb Otter Holt) are familiar faces in the Marina and when they decided to get married at the end of September after many years together, it was a 'family' affair! Lisa organised it all in ten weeks (the date Melbourne View Hotel could give them) and the day, they said, felt very personal and intimate with just immediate family and very close friends joining them. The car was arranged by Peter Robinson, Richard Triggs was the photographer and their wedding party organised by Liam and Ange at The Green Man. Then off to Weston-Super-Mare and Portishead where the first thing they saw was a narrowboat waiting at the lock!

Ian and Lisa came to Mercia three years ago via Streethay (having bought a boat from Ian), Atherstone, King's Bromley, Droitwich and New Mills. With a lot of first hand experience of other moorings, they are very happy where they are now.

Feed the Birds (but not with white bread)

It's important to support wildlife through a hard winter. But it's equally important to give the right sort of food. Water birds, in particular, can fend for themselves and don't really require human handouts to survive. White



bread really is the worst possible food to give. It has little nutritional value and fills them up to they stop feeding on the leaves, seeds and aquatic plants that make for a natural healthy diet. And white bread is now linked to growth deformities such as Angel's Wing. So feed by all means but go for corn, birdseed, mealworms, grapes (cut in half), chopped greens or duck pellets.