



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

Mercia Mercury

September 2013 Issue : 56

IWA Cressy Award Best Residential Boat

Six years ago, David and Angela knew nothing about narrowboats and had never been



on one. This time last year, with David retiring and Angela giving up her job, they moved onto their new boat. In

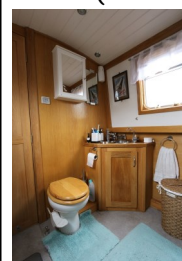
the intervening time, they bought a boat from Alan Dinott at Ilkeston, moved it to Mercia after a two-day Helmsman's Course and – to get themselves and the boat ready for the big change – made the seven-hour round trip from Norfolk each weekend for three years. At last month's National IWA Festival they (and Norfolk Belle) won the Cressy Award for the Best Residential Boat at the Festival. Quite a time of it then!

The Award was given with no explanation of why Norfolk Belle won, but David and Angela did pick up on approving noises and favourable eyes being cast here and there as the judging was taking place. Not



that they set out to create an award-winning boat; their sole intention was to create a 'home'. So whilst – they say – the boat may not suit others, it folds itself beautifully around them, their lives, their likes and dislikes and it has everything they need. The feeling of space is helped by a light and airy décor, the curtains changing to a softer material and colour in the summer and an open hatch.

Norfolk Belle is a 57' cruiser stern with lots of clever storage areas. The galley (cooker, sink, fridge, washing machine) is on one side at the front opposite a single Pullman dinette (which converts to a single bed).



This gives them a table/desk without interfering with the flow through to the salon. Leather recliners and stools, small tables, bookcases, a TV and Morso Squirrel stove create a comfortable relaxing area.

Between that space and the bathroom there is room for a wonderful glass cabinet with ornaments and keepsakes. The bath-

room has a roomy walk-in shower and a vacuflush toilet and beyond that the bedroom has an in-line double bed – long enough for 6' David and a side extension to give them 5' across. The cupboards make full use of the space under and behind the fitted furniture and Angela's use of clear plastic storage containers makes everything easily accessible.

There are plenty of bespoke touches – a water-saving shower head, David's 'tool shed' under the dinette, a 130w solar panel, LED lights throughout and a so-



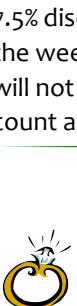
phisticated battery monitor. The squirrel stove has a temperature gauge for optimum use of fuel. Non-slip tread on the steps, battery-powered candles, CO detectors, fire blankets and fire alarms (with integral lights) and both solid and rescue ladders keeping safety high on the agenda. They've still got room for the equipment and materials associated with their hobbies and interests – Nordic walking, music (the keyboard slides neatly into its own space), jewellery making, knitting and art. With David's background in agriculture and machinery, he and his toolbox take care of the engine and most other jobs around the boat when they arise. The cratch holds the bicycles and a trolley but is free of clutter! It's a very comfortable 'easy' boat; it has a lovely feel to it. And maybe that homely atmosphere, more than anything, earned Norfolk Belle its recent accolade.

Extra Discount at Midland Chandelers for Long Term Mercia Moorers

Over the Festival Weekend (7 & 8 Sept.), Willington Midland Chandelers will offer a discount of 15% to moorers with a Mercia Club Card bearing the new 2014 sticker. Visit the Marina Office to get a new sticker on your card, otherwise only the normal 7.5% discount will apply and, worse, after the weekend the 2013 stickers will not be valid for any discount at all.



discount of 15% to moorers with a Mercia Club Card bearing the new 2014 sticker. Visit the Marina Office to get a new sticker



Thank You

Nancy Harman (nb Perfect Harmony) thanks everyone who helped hunt round Block 1 for her lost engagement ring. It was found and is now at the jewellers being repaired.

7th - 8th September

Parking £2

FREE ENTRY



MERCIA MARINA

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Live music, fireworks display, craft & food fair, bars, & children's rides



Live Music:

**Tick Tick Boom
Brookfield
Cruel Sister
John Rockliffe
Point Of Suspense**



Mercia's 5th Anniversary

Quite a lot has changed over the last five



years and these photograph are lovely illustrations of that.

The recent one was taken by Sven Osborne

only a couple of weeks ago. It really is a "green and pleasant land" and we, the community, thank the Madecorn Leisure Partners for giving us a

stunning environment which has a huge range of services and is cared for extraordinarily well. It has all turned out very well indeed! (If you'd like to see full size copies of the images, pop by the Office).



If you would like to help with the Festival and can spare an hour or two on one or other of the days, give Tony the nod!

Sven joins Stuart on the Estate

We are all delighted that Sven Osborne has joined Stuart and Pete to work on the Marina Estate. He was a well-known and friendly part of the Midland Chandlers' team over the last three years

but, with a love of the outdoors - boating, walking, cycling and photography - he didn't take long to think about a job move! Sven has been on the canal for over four years and was building boats before that. Half German, half British he grew up in Derbyshire so, apart from a couple of years in New Zealand, this is very much home territory.

Make him welcome when you see him on your Marina travels (although it's probably Stuart on the mower!).

Boaters' and Lodgers' Forum

Notes of the Forum Meeting held on the 20th of August are now available. You can read a hard copy on the board in each shower block, they can be emailed to you or you can ask for a hard copy. Talk to the Office.

The next meeting is on the 29th of October. Want to come? Got something for the Agenda? Talk to the Office.

Headline Topics:

- ☛ Bar/Bistro/Shops development – start date planned
- ☛ Residential Moorings – more details
- ☛ Fire Wardens – call for Volunteers
- ☛ Defibrillators to be available on site
- ☛ First Aiders – call for Volunteers. More information soon.
- ☛ Report from Reps on Moorers'/Lodgers' items
- ☛ Lodges' Update
- ☛ Mercia Festival Weekend

Forum Representatives

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

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

Nick Adams (nb Enterprise) Redshank, Sandpiper, Teal

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

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

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

Martin Stirling (Beech Lodge and NB Aurora on Zebra Dove) The Lodges



Been down to Betty's Farm recently? You'll find lots happening - their Summer Fun Day was Saturday 31 of August and they have a number of events through the year.

They also now have their own butcher's counter with superb beef and pork from Caulke Abbey and their home reared lamb. Open from Wednesday to Saturday, 9 till 5, you'll find Richard and Simon are only too ready to help and talk you through the options.

The Promontory Development



It is hoped to begin building work on the 18th of November, finish by end July 2014 and have a grand opening on 1 September 2014 with the intervening time used for tenant fitout. The development would be on two levels with retail units either side of the bistro.

It wasn't a 'done deal' yet as the bar/bistro/pub tenant had still to be finalised but with four tenants interested and discussions continuing, the signs are good.

The Thai Restaurant

John, Landlord at the Rising Sun for over two years, has added to the Pub's offerings by bringing two Thai chefs in.



The Restaurant opened a couple of weeks ago and we wish it well. John has been in Willington for

most of his life and knows the Marina well. He has moorers who are regular customers and always welcomes the visiting boaters on their stopovers. There is plenty going on in the week - Skittles, a Darts' Team and the bar has Sky Sports on.

Residential Moorings

The Planning Application will be submitted soon but the outcome will not be known for two or three months. The Office is inviting indications of interest from those wanting a residential berth so please let them know if you would like to be on the list.



Wild About Animals

Wed. 13th November 2013

Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford or

Thursday 14th November 2013

The Arts Theatre, Nottingham

(7.30pm. £15 adults, £13.50 concessions)

Andy Rouse is a multi-award winning professional wildlife photographer and conservationist

Wild about Animals

Medical Detection Dogs Foundation
The Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury
9th October 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
1st November 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
8th November 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
15th November 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
22nd November 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
29th November 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
6th December 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
13th December 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
20th December 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
27th December 2013
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
3rd January 2014
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
10th January 2014
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
17th January 2014
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
24th January 2014
The Bees Theatre, Chesham
31st January 2014

Shows All Start at 7.00pm
Tickets are £15 for adults,
£13.50 concessions available from the Box Office
www.andyrouse.co.uk
andyourephoto
wildmanrouse

A fun evening with multi award winning wildlife photographer
Andy Rouse

who is a larger than life character. His Wild About Animals tour showcases his latest work from around the world and the UK. Great pictures, funny anecdotes, irreverent chat, toe tapping music, it's all in

his action packed show, which is suitable for photographers and animal lovers alike.

It's a great night out for anyone who loves wildlife and has a sense of humour. This is his third time at the Gatehouse Theatre and he has an all new show.

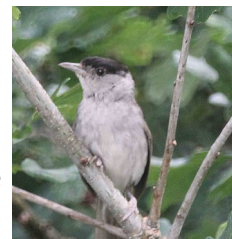
For full information, check the website:

<http://www.andyrouse.co.uk>

A photographing moorer's recommendation

Around the Marina

We go walking slowly, listening and watching, cameras at the ready. But it helps to be with people that really know what they're doing! We have the monthly WeBS walk when the bird species are identified and counted



and there is Rose Williams who will take butterfly, bird or moth photographs with equal delight. She and her son Michael are members of the Marina's Wildlife Committee and Michael is a Class A Ringer. We have a lively population of Pied Wagtails and the chicks get ringed as do most young birds on the



Marina. Rose's recent photographs capture less common visitors - a Black Cap, a Wheatear and a Painted Lady Butterfly.

