



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

# Mercia Mercury

April 2013 Issue : 51

## Art Competition 2013

The Competition is being run in conjunction with the Willington Arts Festival and the deadline for entries is April 15th. For further details please go to the Marina Office. With five different categories - sculpture, painting, drawing, photography and mixed media - all on the theme of "Water Living" there is plenty to get the creative juices flowing! Indeed, judging by the superb quality and variety of entries already being submitted the 2013 Art Competition is going to be wonderful! If you are tempted to enter - go ahead; Mercia Marina is very happy to receive entries from moorers, lodgers, friends and family and members of the surrounding communities.



## The Mercury's Readership

Sebastian Bainbridge couldn't wait to get his young hands on a copy of the March edition of the Mercury. As soon as it was put on his table at The Willows Tea Rooms, he grabbed it. Conversation with his mum and granny stopped as he buried himself in the latest news from the Marina. The Editor, sitting at the next table, was delighted to see the Newsletter appealed to all ages!



## Mercia's Talent Contest

Toward the end of June the Marina will be holding its very own **M Factor**. Details are now being finalised and these will appear both in the next Newsletter and on Posters at the Marina and locally. Entry will be by application only and from these applications a short-list will be chosen to perform and compete on the day itself. So if you are a musician, dancer or have some other special talent, perform by yourself or as part of a group, now is the time to start practising.



## Marina Developments

**The Promontory:** The plans for developing the Marina's promontory have undergone a further slippage. Understandably affected by the continuing poor economy, retailers being slow to sign up and since the Pub is dependent on the retailers and vice versa, this has affected the whole scheme. The Marina is now working on delivering part of the scheme to meet the same deadline of Spring 2013. The aim remains to provide a combined retail, eating, drinking complex, although this may mean that, for now, a smaller bar and bistro is opened rather than the full scale pub as was envisaged.

The interests of boaters and lodgers are at the forefront of the Partners' minds, and with the Marina working well and enjoying a growing and excellent reputation for its facilities and environment, it is important that any further developments enhance the current provision.

**Marina Festival 2013:** The Festival/Open Days will now be in September (tentatively the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) to coincide with the Marina's Fifth Anniversary. The thinking is also that there will be less clashing events at that time of year and the weather should be better. It will be very similar to the events of earlier years with plenty to offer all ages and an open invitation to all.

**Festival & Open Days**

**Second Elsan Point:** As those travelling around the Marina will have noticed, the Elsan tank is ready to be dropped just near Facilities Block 2. Once this latest cold spell has passed and the weather improves a bit, work will start. There will be two new buildings, the new one with the new tank and the current Elsan Point being refurbished.



## The WeBS Walk

It was a cold and blustery day for the WeBS walk in March but the usual bird species were out and about. The Great Crested Grebes are back and one of the two Oystercatchers is ringed. When we have a clear enough picture of the ring, we will know for certain if it's the same pair last year's. The next WeBS Walk will be in the morning of Sunday 14 April and everyone is very welcome to join in. Bring cameras and binoculars! By then, there should be a lot going on, so plenty to see.



## Mercia Marina Club Card

The Club Card guide has been updated and a copy can be picked up in the Marina Office. All lodgers, annual moorers and six-month moorers (who pay their six-month fees in one payment) are entitled to the Club Card.

New for 2013 are Marina discounts on Pump Outs and Dry Dock (terms and conditions apply), discounts from Smith Hall Organics and Kay's Tea Rooms. With other Marina businesses and a dozen local shops and suppliers also offering discounts to holders of the Club Card, it's a good card to have. For the discounts to apply, you need to have the card with you and it must be valid - i.e. have the 2013 sticker on it.

For full details and terms and conditions, go to the Office to get your copy of the guide.

A guide to your  
Mercia Marina Club Card



## Boaters' and Lodgers' Forum

The next meeting of the Forum will be on Tuesday 9 April. If you have anything you would like discussed or raised, please get in touch with the appropriate Forum Rep.

### FORUM REPRESENTATIVES

**Finch, Grebe, Heron**

Nigel Hunt NB MaryAnn

Email: [nbmaryann@gmail.com](mailto:nbmaryann@gmail.com)

**Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Moorhen**

Celia Kind of NB Bluebell

Email: [kind.celia@googlemail.com](mailto:kind.celia@googlemail.com)

**Nuthatch, Owl, Peregrine, Quail**

Lee Bartlett NB La Pirogue

Email: [k8max@orange.net](mailto:k8max@orange.net)

**Redshank, Sandpiper, Teal**

Nick Adams of NB Enterprise

Text or call on 07946551237

**Upland Goose, Veery, Woodcock, Xantus**

Richard Tandy NB Mystic River

Email: [explugger@btopenworld.com](mailto:explugger@btopenworld.com)

**Yellowhammer, Zebra Dove, Avocet,**

**Blackbird, Albatross, Bullfinch**

Mike Coates of NB Aphrodite

Email: [mike.coates@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mike.coates@hotmail.co.uk)

**Mercia Marina Lodges**

Martin Stirling, Beech Lodge

Email: [mart.stirling@btinternet.com](mailto:mart.stirling@btinternet.com)

If you'd like to attend a Forum meeting as an observer (there can be two a meeting, please call by the office and talk to Robert

## Wildlife Management Committee

The Committee, chaired by David Boddy, next meets on Monday 9 April. If there is anything you would like to put on the agenda, please let Jo James (Secretary) know (contact details on this Newsletter).

## Boat Safety

There are two new free leaflets put out by the Boat Safety Scheme available at the Office. Both are up to date and useful additions to your boat's bookshelf. A timely reminder of things you probably already know and practice, but an easy read in front of the fire on a cold evening. So call by the Office if you would like copies.

And a date for your diary (though this will appear again in next month's Newsletter): A Fire Safety Evening at The Willows on the 31st of May. Kate McLaughlin, Community Fire Safety Officer will be talking and answering questions.

## Air Ambulance Donation

Put together an idea from David Holmes and Mary Whittaker (nb Tranquility) and the backing and support from John and Susi (Still Waters Shop) and the result was a great Easter Raffle with two Giant Easter Eggs as prizes. To date £150.00 has been raised from ticket sales - a great results and one that the Air Ambulance will be very pleased about!

**Easter Raffle**  
Help us raise money for  
Derbyshire Air Ambulance

Just £1.00

Date: 12/04/13 Time: 12:34:57

All proceeds go straight to the Air Ambulance

Win these GIANT 12" TALL EASTER EGGS (Displayed in Still Waters Shop)

Tickets on sale in Still Waters & Mercia Marina Office

Post Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance

003333 22#3333 003333 003333

With no Government or National Lottery funding the air ambulance completely rely on the support of generous people like you. Every donation, no matter how small, really does make a difference and keeps us flying and saving lives.

David and Mary are supporters of the Air Ambulance because of its ability to reach places where there is no road access and they know of the many occasions when boaters have had cause to benefit. Based at East Midlands airport, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance attend, on average, four missions every single day, from road traffic collisions to house fires; fallen horse riders to industrial accidents. They have the fastest and most

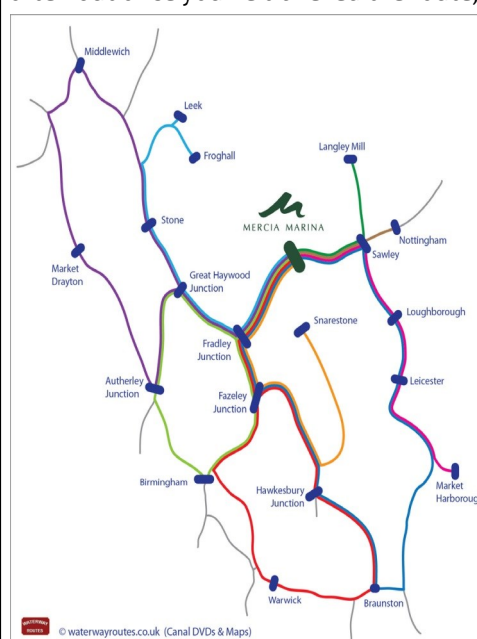
technologically advanced civilian helicopter available taking a highly trained medical team to the scene of any incident within minutes, giving patients the best possible chance of recovery.

Their primary response area is the 2,100 square miles of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and they serve in excess of 1.4 million people.



## Easter/Spring Cruising

Are you heading out on the cut over the coming weeks? Planning a trip along the Trent & Mersey; going further afield? Maybe a winter moorer going back out for the next six months; a first-time boater; owner or holiday-maker? The Marina website carries the basic sketch map of local routes and some information about timing. But most boaters have either Nicholson's or Pearsons to hand (or both!)- often heavily marked and annotated from previous outings. These guides to get updated every so often but once you've travelled the route,



know where the locks are, where the services are, the pubs and the good eateries, there's not a lot of point in buying new versions. There is news of a Kindle version of Nicholson's but the publication of this has slipped a little from March, so ebook lovers will just need to keep their eyes on Amazon for the latest information. We are also fans of the Lockmaster series of maps - a bit big for consulting while at the tiller but they do give a huge amount of information and the big black and white maps do provide a useful strategic view of large parts of the canal system.

Probably the best source of immediate information about your route, the state of locks, where volunteer lock-keepers are on duty, the availability of services, mooring places, shopping, transport links and anything else you need to ask is Canal World Discussion Forum ([www.canalworld.net](http://www.canalworld.net)). It is populated by boaters from all over the country and information is provided with astonishing promptness is answer to a plea for help. If you're also signed up to CRT's email alerts for stoppages/problems etc. then CWDF is wonderful in keeping that information bang up to date (as we proved when we were on the Leicester Ring and one of the locks on the Watford Flight had a paddle failure).

If you want to use technology to plan a trip try [canalplan.eu](http://canalplan.eu). You can add in variables - hours of travelling, route and dates - and get back a pretty good idea of travelling time.

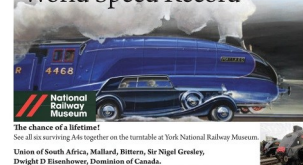
Do take photographs and send them to me with tales of your travels. This time last year we were all changing routes because of the lack of water. This year who knows what is in store but, if you're out on a boat it will be a joyous adventure so share the fun with your fellows!

## World Speed Record 75th Anniversary

A trip to York National Railway Museum on Tuesday 9 July to see all six surviving A4s. Entry to the Museum is free - your only cost is a share of the hire coach.

Tuesday 9th July

### 75TH ANNIVERSARY World Speed Record



The chance of a lifetime!  
See all six surviving A4s together on the turntable at York National Railway Museum.  
Union of South Africa, Mallard, Bittern, Sir Nigel Gresley, Dwight D Eisenhower, Dominion of Canada.



Entrance to the Museum is free. Your only cost is the coach hire.  
Please register your interest in the shop so we can get this great fun trip organised

For more details contact Harvey on NB Water Music (W Pontoon) - 07817 398 593

touch with Harvey (nb Water Music on W) 07817 398593.

## Quiz Night at The Willows

The next Mercia Quiz will be on Wednesday 24 April. As usual, see Lucy in the Office to get your team booked in fast! The quizzes are ever more popular and a great time is had by all!

