

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



'Congratulations Henri for submitting the winning photograph in the June competition. Send your entries to: lucy@merciamarina.co.uk

CHICKEN GUMBO RECIPE



(from Bruce Napier, NB *Sanity Again*)

Ingredients (for 4)

1 tbsp olive oil
1 medium onion
1 green pepper, deseeded and chopped
1 celery stalk, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
450g chicken breast, cubed
tin plum tomatoes, chopped
1 tbsp tomato puree
1 tbsp Worcester sauce
1 or more tsp hot pepper sauce or Tabasco
1 tbsp Cajun spice mix or 1/2 tsp each paprika and ground black pepper
1 tsp marjoram or oregano
1 tsp dried thyme or 1 tbsp fresh
150g prawns

Method

Heat the oil in a large deep frying pan or wok and fry the pepper, celery and onion until the onion is translucent. Add the garlic and chicken and seal the meat. Add the tomatoes, rinsing the tin with a little red wine. Stir all together and add the remainder of the ingredients apart from the prawns. Simmer for 20 - 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the chicken is cooked and the sauce thickened a little. Add the prawns and simmer for a few minutes only, a little longer if the prawns are raw or frozen, a little less if they are cooked and thawed. Serve at once over plain boiled rice in deep bowls.

FOR SALE

Two boat-chairs and footstools – can convert to single beds or joined to make a double. Made by Elite Furnishings about 2 years ago but use has been about 20 weeks. We have felt we need more seating so have a sofa on order. They cost around £350 each but asking £250 for the pair. Can be seen at Mercia Marina. Phone 07954 785471



SUNDAY AT MERCIA MARINA - SPECIALIST FOOD & CRAFT MARKET



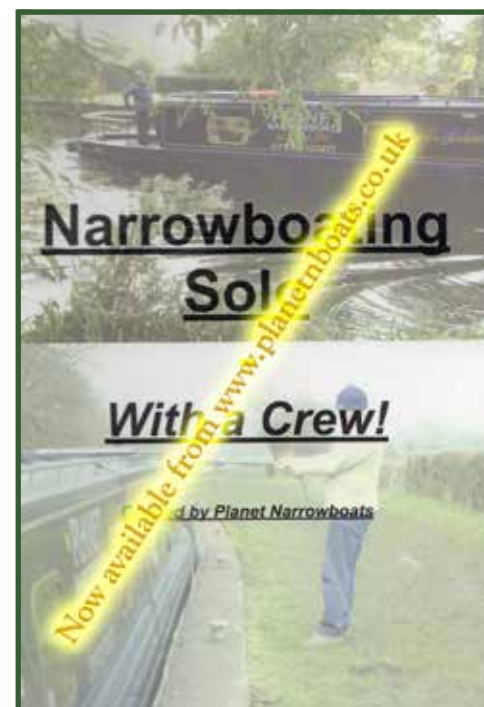
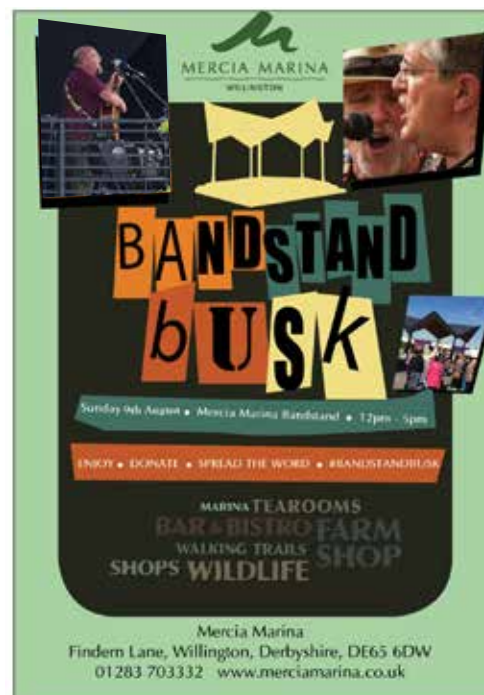
Free entry and parking

MARINA TEAROOMS
TRIP BAR & BISTRO FARM
BOAT WALKING TRAILS SHOP
SHOPS WILDLIFE DAY BOAT

KELPIES



We visited in July, a couple of days after the Princess Royal officially 'opened' them. They are truly wonderful – an amazing sight. I wish we'd gone by boat but it might be a cruise too far from Mercia, even with advice from the Timothy Spalls!



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MERCIA MARINA
DERBYSHIRE
www.merciamarina.co.uk

MERCIA COMMUNITY CARSHARE



The average cost of running and owning a car has now reached over £4.5k a year according to the AA (the RAC puts it at £6.7k). This is particularly painful for people on a fixed income but even for those for whom the cost is not so important, the hassle of licencing and maintaining a car makes shared cars an attractive alternative alongside public transport, cycling, having lifts from friends or renting for particular occasions. Many boaters sold theirs years ago, seeing them as an unnecessary cost and irritation.

Toyota and Mercia Marina have worked together to provide a community car at the Marina which can be hired at low cost. The Marina will not make money from this but see it as a good service for marina users and the national operators behind the scheme - Co-Wheels - are themselves a social enterprise.

Now, rather than paying a taxi £5 to go to Willington, £18 to Derby or £10 to Burton, you can hire the Mercia Community Car for £6.58 to Derby centre and straight back or £5.80 to Burton and straight back. Want to linger and shop? Add £4.50 an hour. Want to drive to Lake Windermere and stay overnight? With the Community Car the cost would be £26.50 leaving here late and coming back early. The above includes fuel.

As a special discount, Mercia Club Card holders pay just £10 for lifetime membership, a saving of £15.

As long as you have had a full UK driving licence for at least 12 months and have no more than 6 points on your licence (0 points if you are under 21) you can join the scheme.



Our thanks to
Midland Chancellors
for their support for
the Newsletter.

To join, visit the marina office or go to www.co-wheels.org.uk/join and use the promotion code MARINACAR. The car is scheduled to be available from 27 July 2015 and will be permanently stationed next to the entrance to the marina.



In addition to the Mercia Community Car, we are also introducing a Mercia Community BikeShare. This is all about becoming more responsible members of the community, saving you money, saving the planet, getting fitter and making life easier.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW



A couple of the many excellent photographs taken at the Marina's very successful Classic Car Show in July. Thanks to David Pinkney for these and to Harvey Lea for his organisation!



TOWPATH TODDLE

Towpath Toddle sponsorship totalled £1262.20 and the cheques for each supported charity – Macmillan Cancer Support and Derbyshire Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance – have been received with delight. Steve Kirk who won the prize for the greatest sponsorship amount achieved, is a resident moorer at the marina, said: "My punters are always really generous when it comes to fund raising, so it's them I should be thanking for my involvement. But I also love living here at the marina, and I'm always happy to support my community." His first prize – a Pedicure and Foot Massage donated by Elegant Touch on the Marina's Boardwalk – he handed on to be a raffle prize to The Brain Tumour Charity who had a tea party at Willington Village Hall on the 25th of July.



Pictured are (l to r) Gini Smith, Derbyshire fund raising manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, Steve Kirk, Tony Preston from the Marina Office (who walked both ways in what was probably record time!) and Collette Richardson, fund raising co-ordinator for Derbyshire Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance. Collette said: "This is just fantastic support. The support we get from the marina is incredible, and it's great that the local community here is really behind it." Gini added her thanks, saying that the money raised from the marina's charity walk could pay for a Macmillan nurse for three days, or help provide things like food processors or special bedding for up to five patients. "It's marvellous to see everyone working together like this to help us give financial, medical and emotional support to our patients," she said. "We are so grateful."

JAMES AND HANNAH'S
200 MILE RUN

Photograph:
The Burton Mail



James and Hannah met three years ago when James came to work at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms. With them both into sports and running, they hatched a plan for a BIG fundraising run for Cancer Research UK to support all those people and families who have been affected by cancer like James's grandparents Ray Pollard and Eddie and Ethel Slack. The run starts on Saturday 1st August on the Tissington Trail at Ashbourne and, over the following two weeks, James and Hannah will be running a total of 200 miles at various locations across England. They'll travel, run some 20 miles, travel and run again, stopping overnight as they go. From Derbyshire to Sussex, Norfolk to Lancashire, their fundraising t-shirts will alert the locals and, hopefully, more support for Cancer Research UK. The run's finish will be at the Bandstand at Mercia Marina on Saturday 15th August around the middle of the day. Come and help cheer them home!

James has always been involved with sport and when the run – and the summer – are over, he'll be starting a degree in Sports' Development and Coaching at Staffordshire University through Burton College. He hopes his grandparents would be proud of him. That, alongside his real wish to make a difference through his fundraising, are two key motivations which have kept him – and Hannah - going on their daily training runs.

The Willow Tree Tea Rooms Coffee Morning in June gave a good early bump to James' and Hannah's £1,000 fundraising goal and donations are now arriving either direct to the Tea Rooms or via their Just Giving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/jamesandhana200mile>).



Their wider families are hearing about their run and adding their support and donations. Their total now stands at just over £800. You can help James and Hannah help Cancer Research UK. Pop by the Willow Tree Tea Rooms and drop a donation in their pot on the counter or use their Just Giving page (and Gift Aid your donation if you are a tax payer). If everyone reading this Newsletter made a gift, they'd certainly reach and even surpass their fundraising target and start their run with a real spring in their steps!

BUTTERFLY COUNT



Mercia Marina will be taking part in the Big Butterfly Count at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 2nd August (unless the weather's bad). The Marina will be divided into sections (both sides of the road and on both the public and moorers' side), and people will be assigned a section for their 15-minute count. If there are several people in a section lists can be compared and a single list created. If you'd like to join in, give your name and contact details to the Office as soon as possible and come to the Office at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday August 2nd to be given a chart and an assigned area. And you can download the Big Butterfly Count App for iOS and Android!



INSTALLING
ACOUSTIC FENCE



Acoustic fencing is being put up at the top end of the Marina to the right and left of the 'bund'. The purpose of these constructions is to help minimise the noise from the A50. Derwent Fencing of Hilton had been given the contract - the Marina always wanting to employ local businesses wherever possible. The photographs (courtesy of Dave Pinkney) show Turner (nb *The Hobo Jones*) hard at work with his colleague.



DUCK!



Phil Walton, Artist and Signwriter, answered the Marina's recent call for help. It was agreed at the last Forum meeting a warning was needed for people walking from the Marina down onto the Wildlife Field en route to the canal – there isn't a lot of headroom either end of the concrete bridge. Phil's solution is just perfect and utterly delightful ... so much so that people are now walking down onto the Field just to see it!!



Much of Phil's recent work is the painting of narrowboats which includes traditional signwriting, pictorial work and interior artwork but he produces artwork and traditional signwriting on almost any flat surface such as signboards, furniture, or murals on exterior walls and inside.

CANALS GROW IN
POPULARITY



The celebrated British seaside is facing stiff competition from canals after a record-breaking number of visits were made last year. Figures released by the Canal & River Trust show a huge surge in interest in the historic waterways. Over the last 12 months, 19.5 million visitors made 400 million trips to their local canal or river, up from 351 million visits the previous year. In 2012-2013, just 300 million visits were made.

The Canal & River Trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of rivers in England and Wales, was established in 2012 as the successor to British Waterways. More than 100 community groups have now "adopted" their local stretch of canal, working alongside the charity to maintain their local waterway.

Richard Parry, chief executive of the Canal & River Trust, said there was "more interest in canals now than since the heyday of the Industrial Revolution". He added: "The creation of the charity provided the opportunity to secure the waterways' long-term future and to make them central to public life. Whilst we know there is much more we can do, the progress we have made shows what is possible."

The charity has experienced a 14% rise in volunteering, which exceeded 400,000 hours for the first time. Volunteers assist in various ways, from conservation to working as lock-keepers along the waterways.

Chairman of the trust, Tony Hales, said: "Our canals are better used, enjoyed and valued than ever before and our new strategy has people at its heart. I am particularly pleased that this past year has seen so many new people getting involved with our work either as volunteers or partners. "The last three years have given me immense satisfaction, seeing the Canal & River Trust grow, thrive and attract ever increasing numbers of volunteers, supporters and partners. When we started this journey in July 2012, whilst we hoped for encouragement, we could not have envisaged the tremendous support and goodwill that we have received."

(article from The Western Daily Press. <http://www.westerndailypress.co.uk/>)

CRT BRIDGE WORKS

Restricted towpath between Buckford Bridge 21 and Bridge 20a, Findern.



GREEN DOG WALKERS



Beech Vets, in Beech Avenue, Willington, has joined with Mercia Marina, in Findern Lane, to back the Green Dog Walker's campaign. Since South Derbyshire District Council introduced the scheme, over 120 people have joined (reports the Burton Mail) and Robert Neff, the Marina's General Manager, says it is an important step in encouraging responsible dog ownership. In the picture are some of the dog-owning members of the Marina community who have joined up. Anyone wanting to find out more should call at the Marina Office and pick up a leaflet. (Photograph from the Burton Mail)



WILDFLOWER MEADOW
IN THE HERITAGE FIELD



The Heritage Field Flower Meadow continues to delight

