

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Congratulations to Kay Beadle for submitting the winning photograph in the July competition. Submit your entries to: lucy@merciamarina.co.uk

CHRISSY & GRAHAME



Many, many congratulations to Chrissy and Grahame who were married on Saturday 22nd August. Everyone at the Marina joins family and friends in wishing them both much happiness. Do add your personal wishes when you are in Still Waters for your gifts, groceries, papers or ice creams!

ENT'S COMMITTEE

The ENT's committee recently met to discuss the events calendar for the forthcoming months. Our goal is to have more varied events this year but keep with some of the more regular successful events. The 1st Wednesday in the month will continue to be the Craft Night and the 3rd Wednesday in the month will be the Quiz Night. So we need some suggestions for other events you like us to put on. Some ideas so far are as follows:

1. *Music night* - we ran this last time so hopefully we can get a few more budding musicians this time.
2. *Watercolour art class* - this would run for 10 weeks starting mid October and is aimed at novices. The class would run on a Thursday Evening.
3. *Dominoes and Whist Night*.
4. *Bingo and Beetle drives*.
5. *Film night*.
6. *Book club*.
7. *Photography group*. We are looking for enthusiastic photographers who are willing to teach new users how to use their cameras and how to get the best pictures.
8. *Cake decorating*.

Some of the events above will have limited places so please email merciaevents@hotmail.com if you want to add your name to a specific event. Also if you have any suggestions or can offer some time to help with these events please use the same email address. We hope to get the exact dates confirmed by mid September so let us know your thoughts. We do already have some dates for your diaries.....



August 22nd - Saturday Swing. There will be a Swing Band playing from midday to 3pm and several of the shops will have special events running. September 26th - Bandstand Jazz, 7pm - 10pm. There will be braziers lit in case it's chilly but come along and listen. September 27th - Hog Roast for moorers and lodge owners. You will need to give your name to the office where you will be given a ticket so you can get food. There will be a bar for you to buy drinks so please support that. Time is 1pm onwards. November 8th - Bonfire night, the time for the fireworks extravaganza will be set at a later date. December 19th - Christmas Fuddle. More about this nearer the time. We are also looking at whether we could put one off events that would take place on either a Friday or Saturday night. These could include a theatre trip, greyhound racing or perhaps a trip to the German markets in either Nottingham or Birmingham. These trips would involve a lot of planning so again let us know if these would be of interest. Kindest regards, The ENT's Committee.

SUNDAY MARKET



The Market will be on Sunday 6th September with its variety of craft and food stalls. And there will be a pop up marquee in support of the Derbyshire, Rutland and Leicestershire Air Ambulance

CRAFT NIGHT'S YOUNGEST RECRUIT



Beatrice (Sue Hick's granddaughter) was the Craft Night's youngest recruit when she went for a looksee. Being shown a few crochet moves, she was hooked and stayed the whole evening. That's what the Craft Group does to you!! First Wednesday of every month at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms. All Welcome.



Mercia MERCURY

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www.merciamarina.co.uk

MEET THE REPS



Ian Cowlshaw is the Forum Rep for Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Moorhen. He and his wife Sarah live on WB *Popsey Bell*. "We have been Living afloat now for just over 4 years. My wife Sarah and I had an epiphany about living on a boat one cold January morning in 2009 when we saw a boat chugging down the River Trent at Attenborough. Without looking at each other we both said "I could do that... live on a boat". And from there it began. We had a week off work where we spent it going from boat brokerage to boat brokerage to then realise hadn't we better have a holiday on one first! We booked our boating holiday for the March so it was still quite chilly in the mornings and nights but we were absolutely hooked. We purchased *Dignity*, our weekend boat, in the June of 2009 and chose to moor her at Mercia despite there being closer Marinas which were more convenient for us to get to. Mercia just felt right to us. We came to the boat every Friday and I think in an 18 month period we only missed 2 weekends. We would come down on a Friday and in the depths of winter we would be chipping ice off the doors so we could get in. We would light the fire wrap ourselves in a duvet and wait for the wall of warmth to come.

After about 18 months the opportunity arose for us to sell the house and buy our "live aboard" boat. We moved aboard NB *Thomas* in the April of 2011 and we

were so happy to be living our dream of being afloat. Then in late 2013 we were invited onto a friends wide beam boat who was having a party and the seed was planted. This also coincided with the Marina announcing they were applying for residential moorings. We ordered a widebeam and *Popsey Bell* was craned into the water last August. To us this was the final piece of the jigsaw. We have wonderful surroundings where we live and are the envy of friends who come to visit. The marina itself is constantly evolving and continues to mature and it is now a stark contrast to the sandy and almost barren landscape which greeted us when we arrived way back in 2009.

In terms of my other interests, I've been mad about tennis for years and actually met Sarah when we used to play. Since retiring from actually playing we both watch a lot of it on TV. And we have our annual pilgrimage to London to watch the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena. I also enjoy playing computer games and socialising with friends. I am keen to get into photography but the camera I have has not been taken off "simple" mode since I bought it!

If you see me please say hello or if you have anything you wish to raise any issues please email me or visit me on *Popsey Bell* where we moor on Ibis pontoon." (ian.merciarep@gmail.com)

FUGGLE & NUGGET



Just under two years ago, Mercia moorers Shaun Rose and Jane Laws read (in the Mercia Mercury) about Gary Hopper and Jane Thompson opening the Cask & Pottle in Tutbury (which was awarded Burton and South Derbyshire Camra country pub of the year 2015, you'll remember). So they visited Gary and Jane at the Cask and Pottle – the first Micropub they'd been to or even heard

about. Shaun is an enthusiast of real ales and has done a bit of home brewing and Jane loved the atmosphere and unique community of the micropub. They became regular visitors and following Jane's booking of the micropub for Shaun's 50th birthday party they were convinced that they would like their own micropub. They started looking, visiting villages and tracking down any possible sites, hunting for just the right place. Then, one day in Burton, they found it – 50 yards from the bustop (on the yellow V3 route!), with nearby restaurants and takeaways. The other 'traditional' pubs in the area are already extending a welcome, saying that the micropub is another helpful boost to the economy at that end of Burton.



The previous life of the Fuggle and Nugget was as a hairdressers and the Grade II building shares its space with Olympic Taxis. Shaun and Jane are now just waiting for the final details to be settled so they can get the keys and start on the work inside.

When up and running, the Fuggle and Nugget will be closed Mondays, open over lunchtime and from 4.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, all day from noon on Fridays and Saturdays and from 1p.m. to 4p.m. on Sundays. With four beers and two ciders always on offer, crisps and pork scratchings and locally produced pork pies and scotch eggs, it looks like being the perfect micropub. And there's a two-pint takeaway carton for bringing home your favourite ale! So hop onto the V3 and go visiting – and, with the V1 taking you from Burton to Tutbury, you can go to the Cask and Pottle as well!

Shaun and Jane are hugely grateful to Gary and Jane for all their help and advice – and the similar support from Dave and Elaine at the Chip and Pin in Melbourne. Keep your eyes open for announcements of their opening.

*Fuggle and Nugget are hop species!



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

THE MAN WITH THE GREEN VALETING VAN



Would your boat benefit from an end-of-season clean so it's ready for winter? Or perhaps it's a boat you've just bought and you'd like to have everything freshened up? Or is it just feeling tired and a bit grubby? Get in touch with Martin Smee – He will valet interior fabrics and carpets, taking curtains out for dry cleaning and return. Give him a call on 07815541177 (leave a message if he's unavailable) and then you can discuss what you'd like done.

AVANTE OFFICES LIFTED OUT



The two Avante floating offices were taken out of the Marina at the beginning of August. On a grey but thankfully non-windy day and with the help of a couple of Mercia moorers, Steve Foster's crane and trailers completed their task with the minimum of fuss. The Pontoon - renamed 'Egret' – is now home to residential widebeams and, being included in the Finch, Grebe and Heron pontoon group, will have Nigel Hunt as the Forum Rep. (Thanks to Bruce and Sheila Napier for the photographs)



BOATERS' & LODGE OWNERS' FORUM



Robert Neff says: "Over the past 7 years, one of the most important elements in building up the marina has been the Boaters' and Lodge Owners' Forum. At different times over different issues the Reps have acted as a cohesive pressure group, the Reps have argued their opposing views with each other and/or the marina management, the Reps have used it as a debating chamber when Reps' views do not match the marina management's and the Reps use it as a sounding board for all parties' ideas.

Like most things, it really only works when everyone is committed. Thus, it is vital that moorers and lodge owners let their Reps know what they think and want. This does happen but it can be better. To make this easier, a leaflet has been produced, hard copies of which are available in the office. The leaflet provides more information on the Forum and, crucially, provides pictures of the Reps alongside a map of the area each covers. Thanks go to Glenn Millington for the leaflet. Please get to know your Rep. Success is also dependent on the Reps being committed enough to attend the meetings and in between meetings to actively seek out the views of their constituents. It is not sufficient for Reps to be passive recipients. The Reps are elected by their peers and in return must represent those peers which means seeking out views.

On the marina side, it is necessary to listen and make sure the strength of feeling underlying the message is appreciated. It is necessary to balance opposing views. It is necessary to gain consensus where possible and where not possible to persuade others that the course of action is beneficial, necessary or at least not as bad as they think. One important unresolved Forum issue is the frequency of elections. Let me or your Rep know whether you think Rep positions should automatically be up for election every year, every two years or only when someone resigns or leaves. Finally, if you would like to observe a Forum meeting, let me know so you can come as a guest."

FAMOUS TRAINS MODEL RAILWAY



Just a few miles north of the Marina in Markeaton Park at the first roundabout on the A38 is Famous Trains Model Railway. One of our moorers, Kerry Schofield on Lapwing, is a Trustee of the charity that operates a large model railway, which is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, as well as a few extra days over the school holidays.



Kerry says: "After a few years of negotiation, we took over the building on a 15-year lease from Derby City Council in November 2013. In April 2014 we opened to the public and have recently had our 10,000th visitor.

The railway is based around a village in the Peak District called Chinley, which, in the past had a railway station far bigger than the population justified as it was a railway junction. Much of the 00 gauge layout was donated by someone who has now sadly died but his wife and daughter have been to see us and were pleased to see what we had achieved. It is still very much work in progress but most weekends sees around 20 trains running. There will be a canal scene later on, being a feeder to a Cromford & High Peak style inclined plane.



There are other exhibits, an N-gauge one, a small 00-gauge one where Thomas and friends run, a non-working O-gauge clockwork Hornby as well as a 3-rail Hornby Dublo one."

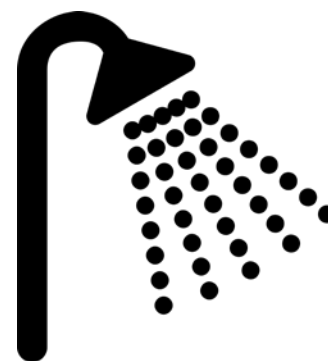
Opening times are 11am to 4pm; £1.50 for adults, 50p for children or £3 for a family. See www.famoustrains.org.uk for lots more information, wonderful photographs and details of all the layouts.

So borrow the Marina car, or take the V3 bus to Derby and the 29 out to Markeaton Park and go and see it. A cracking outing for the August Bank Holiday weekend.

GOLDEN WINDLASS

A Golden Windlass was awarded to Howard Johnson for the swift and effective use of the pontoon escape ladders to effect the rescue of Lesley. Well done Howard! (Make sure you know where the nearest ladder is stored. If you go in and you cannot attract anyone's attention, if you can make your way to the bank by hanging onto the jetty and going under the pontoon you can make your own way up the bank, as, unlike on a canal, the banks here are not steep.)

DOING YOUR BIT



Moorers and Lodge Owners are blessed with superb Facilities' Blocks. Guests and visitors are amazed at the quality and fit-out and Kath and the team go to great lengths each day to keep them in a pristine state of cleanliness such that they are a pleasure to use. And almost all those who use the Facilities' Blocks do their bit almost all of the time by making sure they take all their belongings, properly disposing of any rubbish, rinsing down the shower stall, giving the floor a quick run over with the mop. Just as you would do if it was your own shower or wash basin etc. When that thoughtfulness and considerate behaviour is forgotten, it is very noticeable. So – please – do your bit. Walk backwards if necessary, checking what everything will look like for the next person in! Leave things as you would like to find them.

NARROWBOAT TRAINING

Would you like to improve your narrowboat driving skills? Be able to take over the tiller and share the driving with your fellow boatmate/s? Are there particular things about driving a narrowboat that are less easy than others – mooring, winding, going through a lock? Are you setting off on a long cruise next year and want to be sure you've covered all your bases. Or perhaps you want a formal qualification, to do a First Aid or VHF Radio Course? Or you may fancy a Basic Seamanship course. If so, then the following options may help you get started:



1) The Tillerettes: The Marina set up its own in-house coaching/supporters' network this time last year and with summer cruising coming to an end, the moorings are filling up with lots of experienced boaters who have already volunteered to help anyone who asks. You may want to do no more than go over to the service pontoon, or how about an accompanied trip to Shobnall and back. Lots of options, lots of support and a friendly and informal network to join. For more information, get in touch with me (Jo James – contact details at the bottom of the Newsletter).

Planet Narrowboats

2) Planet Narrowboats: Mick Gavigan is your man here – the Newsletter carried an article by him a couple of months ago. Mick has his boat out on the Trent & Mersey, usually travelling between Shobnall and Shardlow, and is a professional trainer in boat handling and steering, specialising in solo cruising. For more details go to his website www.planetnboats.co.uk or text/call him on 07970 103217.

3) RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman Certificate: If it's a certificate you want or

need in addition to some good experience and training, then a Helmsman's Course is the one most people go for.

WILLOW WREN TRAINING

Willow Wren Training (www.willowwrentraining.co.uk) is well known [other centres are available!] and is an RYA and MCA approved training centre who can do the one or two-day training course in their boats or yours, at their centre or where you are.

Trent Sea Training

4) You may be after more advanced courses – A Day Skipper or Yachtmaster Course perhaps? VHF Radio or First Aid? If so, then have a look at Trent Sea Training who focus on RYA Shorebased Courses which are run weekly in Long Eaton and start in late September www.trentseatraining.com.

MERCIA MARINA CYCLE CO-OP



The Community BikeShare cycles are free to use for boaters, lodge owners and visitors. They are located in the rack across from the dry dock - please read the sign before use!

