# Mercia ERCURY

MERCIA MARINA

www.merciamarina.co.uk



## NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

#### **Marina Office:**

30 December – 9am - 5.30pm 31 December – 10am - 2pm

1 January – CLOSED

2 January onwards normal hours We are opening on all of the Royal

Mail delivery dates.

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR PARCELS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.

#### Still Waters Shop:

30th December – 9am - 5.30pm 31st December – 9am - 4pm 1 January – CLOSED 2nd January - open from 9am as normal

#### Willow Tree Tea Room:

30th December – normal hours 31st December – 8.30am - 3pm 1st January – 10am - 4pm 2nd January – normal hours

#### Midland Chandlers:

Wednesday 30th -- 1000 - 1600 Thursday 31st - CLOSED Friday 1st January - CLOSED Saturday 2nd January onwards: Open as normal.



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

### **SANTA STROLL**



Findern Primary School had their annual Santa Stroll to the Marina on Friday 4th December. This year they met our very own Santa and his helper 'Elf and Safety.



Santa and 'Elf have been busy all December with Steve Frost on the Trip Boat Grotto.

### TOWPATH TASKFORCE



lan Webb retired recently. Contemplating the next phase in his life, his eye fell on an article in the Derby Telegraph calling for volunteers to join the South Derbyshire Towpath Taskforce. With no boating experience himself but having two narrowboating friends, lan decided that helping care for the Trent & Mersey Canal would be worthwhile and interesting – and painting and decorating outdoors with others would certainly beat doing it at home!

He arrived at Swarkestone for the first Taskforce session on the 9th of October, joining Barry Keight (Volunteer Leader, Central Shires, Canal and River Trust), John Dyson – member of the Fradley Task Force, Atholl Beattie – member of the Tamworth Task Force and Steve Morton who's been volunteering at Fradley in a variety of roles over the last four years.

It was the perfect day for doing preparatory work on Aylesbury – the CRT work boat due for a repaint. And for the Taskforce Volunteers to get to know each other. John, Atholl and Steve had a lot of experience with different teams and different work sites. As Barry Keight pointed out, once signed a Volunteer can volunteer anywhere at any time. And CRT is keen to help Volunteers learn new skills - Steve had done Wattle Fence Making and Helmsman Courses and had just become a CATS (Competence Assessment & Training Scheme) Assessor for Volunteer Lock Keepers.

The team is looking forward to the next South Derbyshire sessions which are on every second Friday. Anyone interested in joining them or finding out more on this or other Towpath Taskforces should get in touch with Canal and River Trust's Volunteer Co-Ordinator Tom Freeland

(tom.freeland@canalrivertrust.org.uk).

### **JANUARY DIARY**





Wednesday, 6 January 7pm Craft Night at the Willow Tree Tea Room



Wednesday, 6 January Skittles Night at the Burton Bridge Inn, Burton on Trent



Monday, 11 January Music Night at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms



Wednesday, 13 January 7pm Beetle Drive at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms

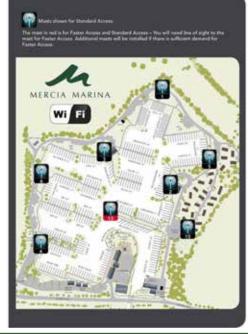


Wednesday, 20 January 7pm Quiz at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms



Wednesday, 27 January 7pm Bingo Night at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms (find all the details on the Marina Community Facebook Page or ask in the Office)





# A POEM BY CHRIS POLLARD

Puppies in an apron, and a smug looking kitten, A gorgeous girl laughing whilst being licked and bitten. Faithful old Labs, who wait for their food. KERRY and HONEY'S eyes on dishes are glued. These photos so many the pleasure they bring. These are a few of my favourite things

There's clever old TESSA she delighted us all, She was so amazing when seeking a ball, You could hide it completely whilst shutting her away, But she would find it in seconds, oh what a display. There are other old friends, who smile on us all, There was PENNY; She was special although she was smaller love was so great; Her heart was so big. She gave us such joy, in the life that she lived. To look at these photos the delight that they bring, These are a few of my favourite things.

There was ZITA; she was faithful, slender and brown, She was a dog who would love you and not let you down. There are so many old friends, in these pictures I love, They are part of my life and I thank heavens above. When I look back at their lives and the joy that they bring. These faithful Old friends are ALL my favourite things.

Before I finish there is one I have missed, This one is SASHA; She was a gift. She arrived on our doorstep one Sunday afternoon, Her eyes were so sad, Her face full of gloom, She was such a beauty we could not turn her away, Now she is happy and still with us today.





Music, hot buffet, bubbly on arrival 7:30 till late.