



www.merciamarina.co.uk

# Mercia MERCURY

## EVENTS



All events are in the Willow Tree Tea Rooms and start at 7pm. Please note that there is no bar running for any event and so take your own drinks.

- Wednesday, 6 April**  
**Craft Night**
- Thursdays, 7, 14, 21, 28 April**  
**Watercolour Painting**
- Monday, 11 April**  
**Music Night**
- Wednesday, 13 April**  
**Beetle Drive**
- Monday, 18 April**  
**Photography Club**
- Tuesday, 19 April**  
**Craft Night**
- Wednesday, 20 April**  
**Quiz Night (Book with the Office)**
- Tuesday, 26 April**  
**Book Club**
- Wednesday, 27 April**  
**April Bingo**

Further details are on the Marina Community Facebook page. Or, if you don't do Facebook, ask in the Office.

## BANDSTAND BUSK



The monthly Bandstand Busk starts up on Sunday, 17th April. Bring or buy a picnic and drinks, set up your chairs and settle down for a great afternoon's entertainment with live music from local bands.



## TREASURE TRAIL



## SUNDAY MAKERS' MARKET



## ART FESTIVAL



**Mercia Marina Art Competition 2016**

The subject for competition entries is Water, Walks & Wildlife Along the Canal. Take in the local area, walks to Willington and surrounding villages along the canal or visit Mercia Marina for inspiration for this year's competition. You can see the very latest competition entries in the Mercia Marina Office.

So we want to hear from local talent, accomplished artists, creatives and amateurs alike. There are 3 entry levels:

**PROFESSIONAL** - Adult free categories

**AMATEURS** - JUNIORS (16 & UNDER)

**VISUAL ARTS** - (anything from drawing and painting to sculpture, knitting & digital)

**WORDS** - (Poems, typography, stories, creative writing)

**MUSIC** - (a song performance or recording)

Come and view the wonderful entries in the "Willington Gallery" and vote for your favourite in each category from the festival weekend of 14th and 15th May.

All entries to Mercia Marina by April 28th.

An array of fantastic prizes up for grabs for category winners, the panels overall winner and a special prize for 'most compelling artistic ability'.

All entries to have name and contact details supplied along with entry level and category.

## CHANDLERS SALE



## THE LOVE BOAT SAILS AT MERCIA MARINA



When Paul was asked by Ian to skipper one of their (New & Used's day boats) so that Findern designer Lotti Rawle could pop a surprise question to her boyfriend, little did he know he was in for an even bigger surprise! Lotti wanted to take advantage of the leap year tradition; she and her boyfriend, Matt, had visited the Marina often, so she knew he wouldn't suspect anything out of the ordinary.

Ian Parrot thought the idea was so special that he offered the boat and Paul's services free of charge – and even threw in a bottle of champagne for the young lovers after a shocked Matt had said "yes".

But after Paul waved-off the happy couple, delighted that the surprise had gone so well and that he had witnessed such a romantic moment, he returned to the office to open his post. To his utter disbelief, one of the envelopes contained a photograph sent by his own girlfriend, Emma, showing their two young children, Jack (four) and Seth (20 months), holding a sign that read "Marry Me". Paul, who lives with Emma and the

boys largely on their narrowboat at the Marina, said: "I was gobsmacked. I was so happy for Matt and Lotti, then just five minutes later I was staring at this picture of my beautiful boys holding a board saying 'Marry Me'. It was so emotional. I thought my job that day was just to captain the Love Boat, to play cupid to someone else. What a coincidence that Emma decided to propose to me as well that same day."

When Lotti and Matt discovered that Paul had also been proposed to after they had left the marina, they wanted to return to meet the other happy couple – both to congratulate them and to thank Paul and his boss once again for making their day so special.

Matt and Lotti have known of each other since they both attended St Peter's Primary school, in Marchington, near Uttoxeter. They also both attended Oldfields Hall Middle School and then Thomas Alleyne's High School, Uttoxeter. Given the four-year age gap, they had never been close friends, but knew each other through their respective sisters.

Lotti later moved to Essex, but was missing home so decided to catch up with a few old friends through Facebook. She and Matt became Facebook friends and the couple immediately clicked and sparked up a relationship. Within three months of meeting up for the first time after several years, Lotti came back to the area and moved in with Matt.

"It was quite a surprise to both of us," said Lotti. "I was adding people on Facebook, and then Matt's profile popped up and we immediately clicked. It was my sister who told me about the leap year tradition, and she often asked me whether Matt had asked me. So I thought why don't I ask him? It would be amazing. And it was."

## MERCIA MARINA'S LATEST VISITORS!



We, have (or have had) this black headed gull in the Marina recently. Michael Williams checked its identification from its rings and the Gull was recorded in Norway last July! We also have another ringed Gull from Norway – this one first recorded here at Mercia in 2011. Finding its way back here and bringing friends, means we must be rating quite highly on the bird equivalent of Trip Advisor!

## MERCIA MARINA CLUB CARD

The Club Card entitles annual and 6-month berth holders as well as lodge owners to a range of benefits at our local businesses. Please present your Club Card when ordering.



Members of the scheme include The Willow Tea Rooms, The Butcher, Baker ... , Zing Furniture, Blue Water, White Finn, Molly & Co, Elegant Touch, Midland Chandlers, Aqua Narrowboats, Boardwalk Bar & Dining, Nadee Restaurant, The Dragon, Kay's Teacom, Cottage Garden Florist, Dog's Paws Cat's Whiskers and Small Pet Boarding as well as discounts on our own pumpout tokens and Dry Dock!



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

## RESIDENTIAL BOAT MOVES



All boat owners with residential status are obliged to swap berths during April 2016. The majority of boats will return to the original berth they were in before the June 2015 swaps but an additional 80 residential berths have been implemented since the swap in 2015, so there will also be many people swapping for the first time. Please work with neighbouring residential boats to make sure that no-one is left out. When you swap please ensure that your electricity lead is plugged into the correctly numbered socket for your new berth and organise any difference in credit with the previous berth holder. For Superberth moorers on the new smartcard system, please transfer your credit to your smartcard when you move and leave the bollard clear of credit. Those boaters part of a long chain or group of moves will need to move as soon as their berth is available (weather permitting). Please contact Jules Aucott with any questions and let her know your current and intended berths if you have not already done so.

## MARINA WIFI



If you use the Marina WiFi and you are moving your boat as part of the residential swapping, you may find your internet signal has worsened. You may need to switch to a different Marina mast. If you need help, ask Wynne – the resident teckie!

## KEEPING OUR WATERFOWL HEALTHY

Spring is upon us and the Marina will soon have many ducklings, cygnets, goslings and the chicks of our moorhens, coots, tufted ducks, gadwall, little grebe and other waterfowl. There's been a lot in the press recently about our changing habits in feeding waterfowl – a 10% drop in those throwing bread – which is very good news. Bread adds next to nothing to their diet and causes all sorts of problems.



There are a lot of really good foods for waterfowl which are much closer to their natural food and the waterfowl prefer most of them! Stillwaters Shop stocks little boxes of food which are easy to store and use or try any of the following: peas (defrost them first!), sweetcorn (tinned, fresh, unfrozen), oats (instant porridge oats, rolled oats) wild bird mixed seed (scattered on the ground near the edge of the water), rice (leftover from a takeaway perhaps), lettuce (the outer leaves you might not have been going to eat ripped into bits and dropped on the water) and – a huge favourite – kale (small chopped pieces dropped on the water).



Pic: Kev Stone

## THE MERCIA SWAN

There is a regular return service (unless prior booked for private charter) from the marina to local Willington or alternatively a longer trip to Stenson Lock in the opposite direction, where you can refresh yourself with a drink at the Stenson Bubble Inn or maybe tea and cake at the Stenson Lock Cafe.



We are available for private charters of up to 12 people, and will try to cater for most requirements. We can accommodate groups and celebrations - Senior citizen groups, WI, U3A, Birthdays, Weddings, Proms, Champagne Hamper Cruises, Corporate Events or themed evenings. Whatever your special event we will try to oblige. On private charters we could venture further afield to either Swarkestone or Horninglow, although you can choose the more local destinations.



For bookings on our scheduled trips please book in person at Stillwaters shop on the Marina or call 07399875552. For charter trips or any further information please call 07398821650.

## MICROCHIPPING YOUR DOG



I'm a Chipped Chip!

From the 6 of April 2016 all dogs in England must be microchipped and registered on an authorised microchip database. Owners will be required to keep their contact details up to date on the



If a dog without a microchip comes to the attention of the authorities, its keeper may be served with a notice requiring the dog to be microchipped, and may face criminal prosecution and a £500 fine if they do not comply with the notice. If this notice is ignored then a fine of up to £500 can be issued or an enforcer can seize the dog and microchip it at the keeper's expense.



Beech's Vets from Willington will microchip your dog and do the

necessary recording on the database for a special price of £10.00 over these few days. They visit the Marina on the second Tuesday of each month, so will be here on Tuesday 12th April from 2 – 3pm. They will have a couple of microchips with them but please call (01283 704768) if you need your dog microchipped. They can also offer general advice, do vaccinations, bring any medicated food and worm (let them know your pet's weight in advance).

With many boaters heading out for summer cruises, it's a good time to do health checks on your boat, yourself and your pets!



## COMMUNITY CAR SHARE

Introducing Community CarShare



Use the car at Mercia Marina or one of the many Co-wheels cars around the country



QUICK EASY CARSHARE

co-wheels.org.uk

co-wheels.org.uk/join

It's quick and easy to join and you can see the complete list of the Marina Office to sign up. All you need is your photo and driving licence and a credit or debit card.

Use our promotional code MARRACCA and get discounted individual terms membership for just £15.

This discount is only available to all Co-wheels on 0191 375 1000 to complete your membership with a valid OCA license (not done at the same time).

Then just log on, select the date, time and location to book the car (5-15 mins).

Get a question?

co-wheels.org.uk/faq



## QUEEN'S PARTY



This is a ticket only event and you should let the Office know by the 15th of April if you would like to attend.

## CANAL AND RIVER TRUST



Meet your local team

Your waterway will be holding open meetings in April for anyone to come along and discuss any matters regarding their local canal.

Thursday 21st at Aston Marina, Stone (10am til 2) then Rugeley Rose Theatre (4pm til 7)

Sunday 24th at Mercia Marina (10am til 3)

Thursday 26th at The Waterside Pub, Mountsorrel (11am til 2) then Bosworth Marina (4pm til 7)

We look forward to seeing you. Darren Green, waterway manager

## ELEGANT TOUCH

Elegant Touch Beauty

...where a treatment becomes an experience

Elegant Touch will be opening on Sundays 10am to 4pm from the beginning of April and extending Saturday opening hours until 4pm. So seven-day opening and extra time on Saturdays. Visit the new website [www.eleganttouchuk.co.uk](http://www.eleganttouchuk.co.uk) and book your next treatment!