

Book Club - Summer Fun!



Sandy's book is a great summer read. To quote from the back cover : *Equipped with his cheerful optimism and a pith helmet, this Odysseus in a [Mirror] dinghy takes you with him from the borders of north Wales [on the Llangollen] to the Black Sea – 4,900 kilometres over salt and fresh water, under sail, at the oars, or at the end of a tow rope – through twelve countries, 282 locks and numerous trials and adventures, including an encounter with Balkan pirates."*

Sandy, Jack de Crow and the places he visits, are made more vivid by his illustrations, maps and diagrams. He is a very funny writer and his true story is intrinsically interesting – especially to boaters – and his self-deprecating, gentle and literary tone sets him apart from many travel writers.

I've known Sandy since he was born, babysat him and his siblings in Sydney and played host to him on his many visits to the UK, including the Oxford one recorded (Sandy-style!) in the book as it was on his route from Ellesmere to Port Salina. The book was published in 2002 and it's a bit pricey regardless of whether you opt for hard or electronic copy. But I do have my copy (in fact I think I have two) which I'm happy to lend if you ask (contact details below!).

To give you a flavour of the book itself, here's a bit about locks in another universe! *"In the serious world of Slovakian industrial river transport, the locks are the size of hydro-electric schemes and the barges could sit squarely in the middle of two football pitches end to end and not leave a lot of room for players around the edge. These iron giants have names like 'Bratislava Hulk Haulage' and are not to be trifled with. They are captained and crewed by grim-eyed, unshaven Romanians in grimy overalls who live on vodka, deep-fried pig's blood sausages and any dinghy sailors they can run down and gut.*

"This particular barge would fit into the Gabcikovo lock like a truncheon into a sheath. There was barely any room between the iron precipice of the hull and the concrete precipice of the lock's walls. There was certainly no room for a wooden dinghy off on a bid for freedom. In other words, in about three minutes' time there was going to be a keel-crunching, hull-splitting collision between a two-thousand ton, unstoppable industrial barge the size of Wolverhampton, a small thirty-year-old plywood dinghy and the concrete mouth of a lock that had been there for the last thirty years and wasn't going anywhere. It was not hard to guess who was going to come off worst."

The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow. A J Mackinnon Published by Seafarer (UK) ad Sheridan (USA)

Keep Your Eyes Open



A Seraphim Moth came visiting. An unusual sighting, so watch as you walk about. The Marina is full of birds, bees, insects and flowers at the moment! Keep your camera or smartphone at the ready.



On July 3rd
Mercia Marina will be holding a Bee Conservation Day. 10.00 – 16.00

There will be talks about how we can help our Bumble Bees and Honey bees and how we can easily garden Organically.

The Bumble Bee Conservation Trust will be here with many activities for little ones. Also if conditions permit there will be a bee walk. A local bee farmer and the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust will also be on hand to answer questions.

We will be having storytelling sessions throughout the day with specially written bee stories.

**Face painting
Kiddies and adults tombola's
Stalls selling honey and many other bee related items**

These little guys really need your help so please support the Mercia Marina S.O.B. group.
Come along and have some fun while finding out what YOU can do.

Sunday July 10th
10 to 4 at Mercia Marina

FREE entry and parking

Mercia Marina, Findern Lane, Willington,
Derbyshire, DE65 6DW 01283 703332

... and don't forget the other monthly events in and around the Boardwalk Bandstand.

Bandstand Busk - Sunday, 17 July
Makers' Market - Sunday, 31 July

Derbyshire's Fire & Rescue Visit

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue visited on Wednesday 1st June from 2-5pm. While some of the team were at the front of the Marina to answer questions and chat to people, Matt (Firefighter with Blue Watch) and Kate (Community Safety Officer) walked around the Marina to offer on-the-spot advice and, where invited, visit a few boats. While a number of Firefighters have been to the Marina, whenever they are called out to any incident here (and this goes for all emergency services), it is absolutely critical that they are given the information they need. The proper address - name, boat/lodge name, pontoon name/letter or lodge area, Mercia Marina and full address with postcode. As the Firefighting team travel here they will be making their preparations so giving them accurate information about the incident matters enormously. Most crucial is whether people are involved; it is worth bearing in mind that a Firefighter will be wearing breathing apparatus if dealing with a boat on fire and must wear a personal flotation device. That presents a huge risk for if they fell into



the water their own life will be in danger. They will take that risk to save a life but that example underlines the need for giving them accurate and relevant details about the situation.

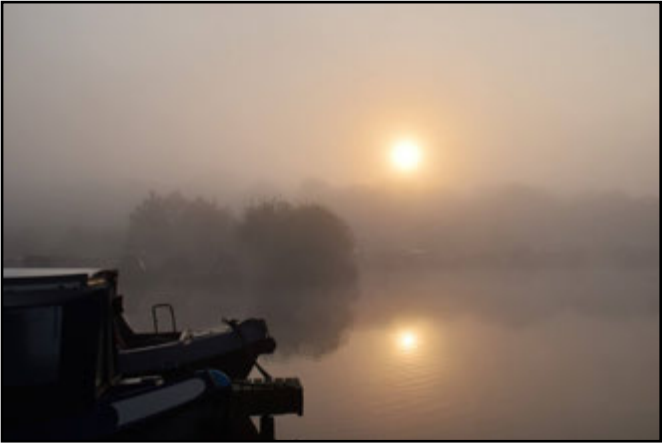
There are several straightforward measures all boaters and lodge owners should take to minimise fire risk and maximise their own safety: keep electrical leads tidy, test alarms, avoid piles of papers and magazines, make sure two exists are always available if you are in the boat/lodge, don't leave phones, ipads, tablets etc. charging on flammable material, turn your gas off if you're away for more than 24 hours. And if you're going away, let a neighbours know.

Nigel Hunt and Terry Evans gave an excellent Fire Safety and First Aid presentation at the beginning of the year and it is hoped this will be done again in the early Autumn as boaters return from summer cruising and begin to settle in for the colder months. If you do see it advertised, then put it in the diary. Your safety and the safety of your neighbours matters.

Mercia's thanks continue to go to Midland Chandlers for their long-standing support for the Newsletter. Each month Kerry, at Head Office, takes time out of her busy day to print off all the hard copies and put them onto the Midland Chandlers' van heading for Mercia. Thank you Kerry and thank you Alastair, Managing Director Arleigh Group Ltd.



Photography Competition



Congratulations to Tony Hall for winning the May Photography Competition with this beautiful image of a Mercia sunrise. Send your July entries to Lucy (lucy@merciamarina.co.uk) - each month the winner can choose either a bottle of Prosecco or a box of chocolates.

!! What a Swell Party That Was !!

RED, WHITE & BLUE...What an amazing day...
Mercia Marina Community celebrated the Queen's birthday today. Hats off to everyone who took the time and effort to partake.
What a community!



a BIG THANK YOU .. for a great party.
The food you all produced was fantastic
I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.
We had the best day
A fabulous afternoon.
A brilliant community event

... a fabulous day...
Great party for her Maj.
Good company great food
What a fantastic day
...proud to be part of a great community ...

Bional's Spinathon Raises £3,500 for Special Olympics GB

A 24 hour continuous "Spinathon", held overnight at Mercia Marina, on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 June has raised over £3,500.00 for charity. The outdoor event, organised by marina-based local company Bional Limited, involved continuous cycling on static gym bikes for a full 24 hours. Altogether, the equivalent of 765.14 miles was cycled by Bional staff and friends. Bional's Chief Executive Officer, Graham McIntosh, said: "On behalf of



the company, I'd like to say a massive thank you for the support we received for this event. Three great goals have been achieved. Not only have we raised a fantastic sum of money, we've also raised awareness for Special Olympics GB, a truly brilliant charity. Our third achievement was the fantastic team spirit this event engendered among Bional staff. Hard work it may have been, but we had lots of fun and laughter along the way. And the outstanding support we received from marina visitors, our clients and suppliers, friends here at the marina and further afield, staff and families, made this a truly special and inspiring event. In fact, we enjoyed it so much we're hoping to do something equally spectacular next year - watch this space".



Thank You

Damsels in distress - Karen Perks and Ann Cassidy-Beck - nominated Graham Haygreen for a Golden Windlass and, at their recent meeting, Forum members were happy to agree.



A new moorer cut across the road entrance to the marina and in doing so walked into a moving car that was entering. The ambulance was here in a matter of minutes and thankfully there was no physical damage apart from abrasions. She wants to extend her thanks to those who helped her. Specifically: Darren Prette, who called the ambulance, Karen Perks who was nearby and started directing the traffic around, Jo Lousvet who had received a text from the ambulance service on the first aid phone and came up.

Please used the marked crossing near the Marina entrance!



Craft Club

The craft club will continue to run throughout the summer on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. It is open to anyone on the marina and their friends; just come along with whatever you are currently working on and join in the chat. If you can't knit, crochet or have your eye on another craft, there will always be someone there happy to help you. We have gentlemen members as well as ladies so we really are open to everyone. If I'm not around then either Carol, Jean or Maxine will be there so come along whenever you're able you will be made most welcome.

Nancy Harman



Marina Video



Mercia Marina would like to thank moorer Dave Pinkney for producing an excellent film about the marina. Please watch and share it as the film is to a very high standard. Creating a video such as this has taken many many hours of filming, editing, refining and then doing all that again. Thank you Dave. You will often see Dave Pinkney behind a camera capturing wildlife, events and action around the marina and he is the main photographer for the Christmas Light displays on boats and lodges. So we want to acknowledge his support, skill and contribution to the community at Mercia. Link for video: <https://youtu.be/LYGDC7jSoVa>

Arts Festival Winners



The entries for the Art Festival competition were of an enormously high standards and they drew many admiring comments. The Winners' are shown here as little cameos but nothing is as good as the real thing so if you'd like to see any of them in more detail, have a word with Tony in the Office and he'll see if he can fix it for you! Our congratulations to Dave Tattersall (Winner, Visual Arts Professional), Richard Triggs (Winner, Visual Arts Amateur), Viv Taylor (Runner Up, Visual Arts Amateur), Colin Brooks (Winner, Recognising Artistic Ability), Freyer Garratt (Visual Arts Junior), Magda Piessens (Winner Words) and Loek Duinmeyer. (Winner Music).

Mooring Contracts

It is time for all moorers to renew their contracts with the Marina. You will have a letter from Lucy early in July, enclosing your new contract and payment options information. You will be reminded that the Office needs copies of your boat's current CRT Licence, boat insurance and BSSC as well as the signed and completed contract. Please read through your contract. Basic mooring fees will increase by 2% in line with inflation and there is, in addition, an adjustment to some other charges. If you are out cruising or away, please let Lucy know and she will email a copy of the renewal notice. As always, by way of encouragement all those who have completed and submitted this paperwork by July 21st will be entered in a draw and the lucky winner will be given the prize of a month's mooring fees!

Manual Alarm Sirens are being installed on pontoons. Please remember to keep jetties completely clear - this includes dog barriers.



Floating Market

Our first ever Floating Market was a great success. Barry Tuetenberg (Home Brew Boat) photographed the busy boats and other nearby events including children's facepainting by his wife Sandra!



What a Whopper!



It was THIS big!! It really was. Well done Andy!!

