



MERCIA MARINA  
http://www.merciamarina.co.uk/

# Mercia Mercury

September 2014 Issue : 68

## THE BOARDWALK BAR & DINING

Daryl Cockerill and Shane Holland are looking forward to the second half of September when they expect the Boardwalk to be up and running. As a Midlands-based pub company with a lot of experience and local knowledge they are planning for a pub/bistro that will fit in well with the Marina's moorers and lodgers as well as the local communities. Most of the eating/dining will be upstairs, using fresh, locally-supplied food, although there will be sandwiches and snacks served at the bar downstairs. The Bar will have local breweries supplying cask ales on a rotational bask with three hand pulls on offer at any time.

Daryl and Shane have begun recruiting staff. They have the Manager in place and will be holding a couple of Open Days in the near future for anyone interested in working for them. So if you are, keep your eyes open for the notices about these Open Days. And thank you, Daryl, for the Meal Voucher gift to the WWI Fuddle Raffle!

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### Elegant Touch

Another business gracing the Boardwalk will be the very attractive Elegant Touch with Anna Bovey offering the full range of beauty treatments. Anna is moving her business down from Hilton, where she has lived for the last four years, unable to resist the delight of having her first Salon in such a superb environment. She knows her local clients will be only too happy to come to Mercia not least to enjoy the other shops and businesses on the Boardwalk. Anna has impeccable credentials, gained her qualifications at Loughborough College and then spending her early professional life at Ragdale Hall. Her Salon will have a Reception and nail bar area plus two treatment rooms together with shower and washing facilities.

Already in the throes of fit-out, she will be opening in the middle of September. We welcome Anna to the Mercia community; keep your eyes open for more information about the opening date, details of treatments and introductory offers with little gift packs! Thank you, too, Anna, for generously gifting an Elegant Touch Treatment Voucher to the WWI Fuddle Raffle.



The Mercia Marina Partners  
are pleased to invite  
**Moorers' & Lodge Owners'**  
(and visiting family/friends!)  
to enjoy a

### Hog Roast and Ale Party Saturday 13th September at 1.00 p.m.



Plus sausages, wine, soft drinks - and if you play the guitar, flute, drum, violin, accordion, bring it along - there'll be a bit of a jam going on.

We'll have the marquees up if needed.

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### A Change at Still Waters Shop

Susi and John are giving up Still Waters from the end of August.

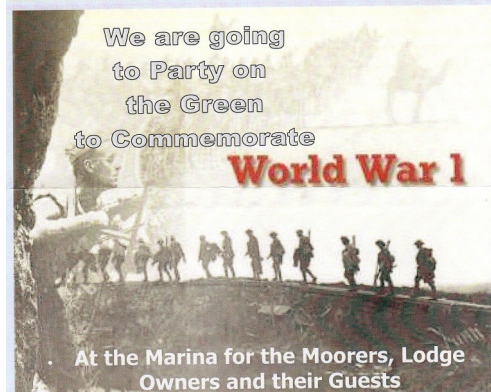
John's business in Wolverhampton and Susi's hip problem have meant long hard days, lots of travelling and little time off. They've decided, with real sadness, it's time to hand over. Happily, they're not giving up the Marina. They'll be here at weekends and can enjoy a social life, catching up with friends and living on the other side of the counter! It has been an event-filled three years for them and us! They have brought so much to the Marina's life - the Quiz, the Easter Egg Raffles, Jazz in the Afternoon and Christmas Carols spring immediately to mind - plus their own engagement (on the evening of the Jubilee Celebrations) and wedding. They've had the moorers' interests at the front of their minds throughout that time and a lot of people have been cared for in Susi and John's own quiet ways. We have seen them "open all hours", delivering coal, heaving gas cylinders around, getting in special orders and requests, looking after Trip Boat bookings and moorers' mail. All of this is only surpassed by John's indefatigable willingness and ability to put up his marquee whatever the weather and to take it down equally swiftly. Of course Roy and Michael have backed up and supported throughout, but good teamwork comes from good team spirit and leadership and John and Susi have those in boatloads. Thank you both for all you've done. Our best wishes for the next phase in your lives and we're glad it still includes Mercia Marina! Chrissy and Graham are taking over - more of them in the next Newsletter!



### September Afternoon Party Saturday 6 September 1pm till 4pm

The event will be held on the grass area to the north side of the Lodges.

**Sat 6th Sept 2014, 1-4pm**



- **FUDDLE**— bring food to share (please put your name on the list in the office)
- **Bring war time memorabilia and share your stories**
- **Raffle, tickets sold in Stillwaters shop**
- **Prize donations welcomed**

All proceeds to The National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas. We are looking for volunteers to help on the day and before this event.  
Contact Sue Hicks (suehicks7@btinternet.com) or Jules in the office

If you're able to give some time on the day to help or if you have some ideas you want to share to contribute to the day please let the Office know or contact Sue Hicks (WB Free Spirit) [suehicks7@btinternet.com](mailto:suehicks7@btinternet.com).



**First World War Centenary**  
Take part in this global commemoration  
2014 - 2018

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### Boaters & Lodge Owners' Forum Tuesday, 16 September 2014

FORUM REPRESENTATIVES  
(June 2014)

**Finch, Grebe, Heron**  
Nigel Hunt of NB MaryAnn. Email [nbmaryann@gmail.com](mailto:nbmaryann@gmail.com)

**Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Moorhen**  
Ian Cowlishaw of NB Thomas. Email [ian.merciarep@gmail.com](mailto:ian.merciarep@gmail.com)

**Nuthatch, Owl, Peregrine, Quail**  
Tony Wilkinson

**Redshank**  
Keith Tonge

**Veery, Woodcock, Xantus**  
Richard Tandy of NB Mystic River, Veery. Email [explugger@btinternet.com](mailto:explugger@btinternet.com)

**Yellowhammer, Zebra Dove, Avocet, Blackbird, Albatross, Bullfinch**  
Mike Coates of NB Aphrodite, Albatross. Text or call on 07857109822

**Superberths (Sandpiper, Teal, Upland Goose)**  
Terry Evans of NB Gentle Gypsy

**Mercia Marina Lodges**  
Bev Wilcockson, Fir Tree Lodge. Email [whitcolbvc@gmail.com](mailto:whitcolbvc@gmail.com)

Talk to your Rep. if you have anything you want raised at the Forum. And if you'd like to attend as an Observer, tell the Office.

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Thanks, as always, to Midland Chancellors for their printing the Newsletter for us.



## Downsizing

### ... with the Difference ...

Moving onto a boat as a liveaboard is extreme form of downsizing and everyone

who has done it has stories to tell and lots of advice for others about to embark on the same course. A major consideration

is how to get rid of the unwanted or unneeded "things" and "stuff". The usual ways include gives to family and friends, donations to local charities, selling via auctions, car boots or online (Ebay, Gumtree, etc.), recycling or upcycling locally, selling/giving items to the people purchasing the house and making a LOT of trips to the local tip/recycling site. When all that is done, people say you still have an extra boatload or two of things you think you need but for which there is no room. At that point, a local storage unit is the usual answer with a twelve month deadline.

Peter and Katie Hampton (WB Uriah Heep) added another approach to the above list – one they were told about and thought it worth trying. It was hugely successful, cost them nothing, gave them instant cash in hand and, leaving aside the preparation time, was all over in a few hours! They held a "House Contents' Sale", advertising it in the local magazine and newssheet for two weeks in a row. They gave an idea of the range of things on offer (wardrobes, kitchen table and chairs, three piece suite, etc.), an address, day and time, said it would be cash only and that goods had to be taken away immediately. There was a mobile number if people wanted further details.



They had no idea what to expect. There were a couple of phone calls from individuals and several from dealers wanting to know about jewellery, brooches and watches and trying to slide in the night before to steal a march on everyone. Peter and Katie imagined that there would be a trickle of people throughout the day but, in the event, everyone arrived on the dot of 10.00 a.m. (the starting time) in their vans and estate cars. Each room had a list

of items for sale with the price; nobody tried to haggle – they paid up and took their pieces away with the exception of one or two items which were paid for and collected later. "Not for Sale" items were clearly labelled!

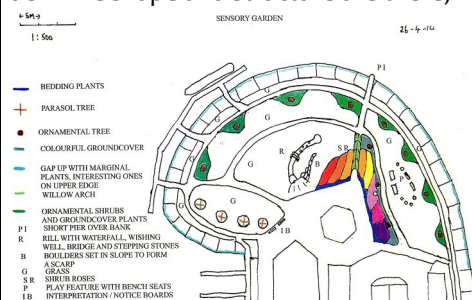
There were no dramas or problems, though – with hindsight – they reckoned it would have been a lot easier to draft in friends and have a couple of people in each room just to oversee everything.



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## The Sensory Garden

Alongside all their other site work, Stuart, Sven and Pete are busy in the Sensory Garden. The shape and structure are there,



planting is well underway and Stuart's recent work with the stone burier has made a dramatic difference to what will be the grassed areas. The Rose Bushes are in with some good rotted horse manure (courtesy of David and Pat Boddy's horse!) and the Rill has its big boulders and Scottish Beach Cobbles in place, covering and protecting the pump, pipe-work and reservoir mechanics of the recycling water feature. The Willow saplings are planted with the sculpted Arch ready to have the slender branches tied and trained when things have settled down. The photograph shows one of the pathways still to have its tarmac laid.



The 'parasol' trees – hornbeam and beech – have taken their place on the edge of the garden and, over time, their branches will grow along and over connecting canes to create a shady area. There are over 100 new trees now on site around the Garden and car parking area.

The whole Garden will be wheelchair friendly with places to stop, tarmac on the paths and areas for people to sit and enjoy everything.

All being well, it will be on show as part of the Festival weekend in October.

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## The Tillerettes

Plans for the Tillerettes continue. More than half a dozen women have said they'd like to join in, so the list is building! It won't start till October. The 'teaching' Tillerettes are all on board (ha!) - more about them later.



Here's the final logo - thanks to Darren Amphlett. Now just the pin badges and a bit of Admin and we're good to go! Tell the Office if you want in.

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## !!THE MERCIA QUIZ IS BACK !!

### Wednesday, 1st October

The first Quiz of the new season will be in the Willow Tea Rooms. Give Lucy or the Office a call or drop by to get your name down for the usual evening of fun and frolics. If you don't have a team, you can be matched up with others. So do join in!



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## Mercia in Bloom

Boats around the marina are ablaze with vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers. Thank you to everyone for a lot of hard work! Congratulations to Ruth and Steve Evans (Times A Fickle) who win the Kitchen Garden category and Mike Coates (Aphrodite) who wins the "Colour" category.

