

Mercia Marina Event News

Mercia Marina Events are back! The 2016/17 season starts right here, right now. Crafters (yes, I do know you’ve been going all summer!), photographers, musicians, quizzers, knot tyers and splicers, book readers, quizzers, painters, beetle drivers time to hone your skills and sharpen your needles, pens, pencils, camera lenses and ukulele strings. If you’re new to Mercia, go along and join in - you’ll be made very welcome and you’ll make a lot of new friends. Almost all events are held in The Willow Tea Rooms (everyone’s thanks go to Helen Deaville’s courtesy in allowing this) and usually start at 7.00 p.m. A £1 charge per person per evening goes to the Marina Charities*.

The October Diary has the following:

- Mondays (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st)** - Watercolour Painting Classes
- Tuesday 4th** - Music Evening: Mercia Jam for anyone with an instrument who’d like to come and play along
- Wednesdays (3rd, 11th, 18th)** - Craft Evenings. Take whatever you’re working on or try something new.
- Thursdays (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th)** - Ukelele Evenings for beginners, getting betterers and players!
- Wednesday 12th** - Photography Evening
- Saturday 15th** - Newcomers’ Evening (see more information on front page of Newsletter)
- Wednesday 19th** - Bingo Session (general mayhem and laughter)
- Tuesday 25th** - Book Club: talking about our summer reads before choosing next month’s book
- Wednesday 26th** - Quiz: long-established tradition. Names to the Office and if you need a team to join, you’ll get one!
- Saturday 29th** - CPR evening - see separate information

*Midland Free Wheelers Blood Bikes & Peter Le Marchant Trust



John Harman’s 70th Birthday Surprise!

There was a bit of a do at the National Brewery Centre! And John wants to say his bit:

I would just like to thank all the close-mouthed people who came to my surprise birthday party. I was extremely surprised, but I think I might have just got away with it, with no one noticing. I wish! Whoever said you couldn't keep a secret on the marina was wrong and the saying that the husband is the always the last to know is certainly true. At the last count I had something in excess of sixty bars of soap and ditto toothbrushes. Never tell your wife what you'd like if money was no object. Or tell her, but make it £50 notes. My love and hanks to Nancy, though, for her amazing organisation and also to Rebekkah Preston for a cake that was just perfect and tasted wonderful! Anyway I had a wonderful day, seeing some people for first time in ten years, since my last significant birthday. I hope I see them and you at the next one. Thanks again.



Widebeam/Narrowboat Insurance

Thursday 6 October from 11am - 2pm at Linden Lodge
Short Presentation followed by Q & A

Assist Insurance (underwritten by a leading Lloyd’s underwriter (Sompo Canopus)) have introduced a Liveaboard Insurance Policy to sit alongside their Leisure Insurance Policy. This provides a number of additional benefits as part of a normal quote (all up to certain limits) - alternative accommodation if the boat becomes uninhabitable, lock and key replacement, insurance on portable electronic equipment (laptops, tablets, ipads, mobile phones and cameras), credit cards and cash, pedal cycles, solar panels, personal property away from the boat and there is no excess payable if the damage or loss occurs when the boat is on its permanent mooring at the Marina. On all policies, they only ask for a hull survey on a 30-year old boat and then only every five years which can be varied by two years to coincide with blacking. They offer competitive quotes and will give a discount to Mercia Marina. They insure our boat* and a number of others here so it’s an opportunity (particularly if your cover is due for renewal!) to come over to the lodge and see if it works for you. Bring your questions and requests! If it all gets too busy for the session at 11am, it’ll repeat at 12.30. Or come over at any time to talk with them. If you want to go online in advance, the web address is www.assistinsurance.co.uk and if you ask for a quote, make sure they know you are moored at Mercia Marina. (*and many of the lodges)



Liveaboard
Policy Booklet

SOMPO CANOPUS



For comments and contributions, please contact Jo—07973711431 or jojames46@gmail.com



Mercia Mercury

The ReX Factor

On Sunday 17th September the Marina’s first ReX Factor was held. It proved hugely popular with attending dogs, owners and onlookers! Thanks to Roger and Pat Filler (and others) for all the time put into the organisation. There were no bust-ups, no arguments and no antisocial behaviour and the various events - Musical Sits, Dog & Spoon Race, Doggy High Jump & Limbo and ‘Who’s Your Mummy/Daddy’ (don’t ask!) were crowned by the final Grand Fancy Dress Parade. Congratulations to all those who took part, to the dogs who took it all in very good spirit and to all the rosette winners!



Photography Competition



Congratulations to Neil Wakeham on this lovely photo of a bee, winning the August 2016 Photo Competition. Email your photos to lucy@merciamarina.co.uk to be entered into the October competition.

Tai Chi



John Collinson’s Tai Chi/Qigong classes for beginners start on the 6th of October in Findern Village Hall (16.30 to 17.30). If you want to join in, let the Marina Office know.

CPR Training

Saturday, 29th October 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.
at The Willow Tea Rooms

When Mercia received the defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation (it’s mounted on the wall outside the Office), the marina undertook to train as many people as possible on CPR, which at best could save a life but will certainly give the emergency services a better chance of saving that person. We have been given DVDs to show (each lasting about 30 mins) and have dummies for people to practice CPR. Those who attend will be supported our own First Aid team and after completing the evening they receive a certificate of attendance. The intention is to give people confidence should they ever come across someone having a heart attack as every moment counts. This evening differs from the one on First Aid and Fire Safety (which gives an

overview of first aid, common injuries, fire prevention, etc.) as it concentrates solely on CPR, the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, how to deal with an unconscious person, and recognising a cardiac arrest.

Let the Office have your name if you’ll be there. Everyone should attend!!



Welcome to Mercia Marina

If you’ve come to the Marina since October 2015, you will be receiving an email inviting you to an event at the Willow Tea Rooms on the evening of Saturday 15th October. You’ll meet the Events Committee, Forum Reps, Fire Wardens and First Aiders and the Office Staff will also be there. Come along and find out about everything - and meet each other!

Golden Windlass

Tony Webb and Roy Whitehouse were awarded Golden Windlasses after they abandoned their planned cruise to man StillWater shop following a bereavement thereby ensuring an important, and to many, essential, service was maintained.



Mercia’s thanks again go to Midland Chandlers for their continuing support for the Newsletter.





Richard Triggs’s remarkable panorama captures Mercia Marina’s unique environment. Eight years on from it’s opening, the maturing trees and shrubs soften the contours, add tone and texture to the mirrored water and frame the grassy slopes. Before the Marina, there was a flooded gravel pit and whilst the development’s primary goal was a Marina, a key objective has always been to “maximise the wildlife value and habitat diversity through targeted management [and a] commitment to establishing and improving habitats in non-operational areas that will encourage wildlife and enhance the local area.”. The wildlife surveys done before the development began found some tadpoles, a frog and a couple of pipistrelle bats along with farmyard and song birds with a few visiting wetland birds. It was a pretty barren stretch of land and water. Expertise, time, commitment and significant investment has enabled a remarkable microsite to develop - one that has just earned a Gold David Bellamy Conversation Award for the sixth year running. We have done regular surveys of waterfowl, bats, butterflies and song birds. A recent, and continuing, focus has been on bumblebees and includes setting up a volunteer group “Save Our Bees” which has raised many hundreds of pounds to support the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and we have also been busy with bee-friendly planting in designated areas around the Marina. The latest Bumblebee Day introduced Mr Bumble, a new Marina character who made many friends and will reappear at appropriate times (see photograph on left)! [Richard Triggs’s photograph is copyright. If you want a print, or have him do a drone picture for you, email him on thedrone@tichanme.co.uk]



Small Mammals

A new focus is on small mammals. Neil and Jane Wakeham recently attended a three-day training course on ‘Identifying Small Land Mammals’. Not just a case of seeing something and saying “Oh, look, a mouse, must be a house mouse”. No, as you would expect things are a bit more complicated. They learnt live trapping, weighing, sexing, breeding condition and keeping a close track on all traps. And they learnt the licensing laws which included the necessary recording and reporting to ‘The Derbyshire Mammal Group’. Means of identification such as tracks, kills, smell, sound, droppings and scratch marks were also practised. Yes, before anyone asks they did have to handle droppings and scrutinise them through a magnify. What fun! The types of small mammals trapped included Bank & Field Voles, Wood Mice, Pygmy and Common Shrews. Others identified by different methods included rabbits, squirrels, fox, badger and bats (although there is a separate bat course). While many small mammals look similar there are definite identifying features such as ears, colour, tail size, habitat and eating patterns. They came away not only competent in live trapping and identification but also raring to get stuck in and find out exactly what is here on the marina and how best to protect and conserve all our mammals as each one has a part to play in the biodiversity of the area. We have some very diverse habitats here which are essential. Our hedgerows with their wide variety of trees and shrubs will be used by some animals as green corridors, others will eat there, some pass through, or simply live there. It will encourage insects and butterflies which in turn will help the bird population. Neil and Jane have been live trapping behind some of our hedges – a fantastic area for our small mammals. They trapped a goodly number of Bank Voles, all very healthy, great news. They’ve also seen evidence of Field Voles - a stash of bitten grass in a concealed run. Also sadly a dead Field Vole which had been killed by a Weasel or Stoat. All these creatures form a large part of the food chain. They trapped in some woodland and had three wood mice. This was good as one was a juvenile male and another was a pregnant female. The third was a mature female. Again all in really good condition with big black eyes, large ears and extremely lively. They can only live trap until the end of the month so not much time left. However they also have a camera trap which they can continue to use. There are many other ways to track and identify mammals so they will be busy all year round. The Marina is happy to support all this work - both directly and indirectly.



Pictures (top to bottom): Mr Bumble and friends, Pygmy Shrew, Wood Mouse, Bank Vole

The Piazza

A planning application was submitted at the beginning of September for a new building on the promontory to replace the pub tower which was originally put forward six years ago, the Boardwalk building having been completed two years ago. The proposed building, to be called The Piazza, is for offices, a restaurant and shops. Indications are that approval will be granted as the local authority are very keen to attract quality professional employment in the offices to South Derbyshire and the building is similar to that which was previously approved. The development mooted six years ago had - as a centrepiece - the pub, which was always part of the marina’s development plans. As the nature and popularity of pubs has changed so dramatically since the marina was planned, the Piazza will consist of a restaurant, shops and offices. The exact numbers and sizes are yet to be determined. If things go according to plan, work on site will commence in March 2017 for completion in December.

