

Events & The Community Website

Have you visited Mercia Marina's Community Website yet at www.mercia.community ? It's there you'll find details of Marina Events and, in many cases, be able to register your name as attending. There are events for members of the local community too and anyone who wants to join us will be made most welcome. Almost all events are in The Willow Tree Tea Rooms (thanks go to Helen Deaville) and are usually from 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Tea and coffee are generally on offer - or take your own tippie - and the £1 charge per person per evening goes to the Marina Charities. **November promises to be busy! The Diary says:**

- Tuesday 1st** - Music Group - come and play, sing, listen!
- Wednesday 2nd** - Craft Group - lots of crafts and lots of help and biscuits
- Thursdays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th** - Ukulele Group - all levels, all welcome
- Friday 4th** - Fire and First Aid Evening - a reminder on keeping safe
- Sunday 6th** - Fireworks (further information elsewhere in the Newsletter)
- Tuesdays 8th & 15th** - Craft Group - crafts, biscuits, chat and lots of help
- Mondays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th** - Watercolour Painting
- Wednesday 9th** - Photography Evening - getting off 'Auto' and learning about your camera
- Friday 11th** - Skittles Night (further information on the Community Website and Facebook pages)
- Wednesday 16th** - Bingo Session (general mayhem and laughter)
- Friday 18th** - Tillerettes (further information down below)
- Saturday 19th** - Rope Splicing - hugely popular teach-in on how to splice and work ropes
- Tuesday 22nd** - Beetle Drive (general mayhem and laughter again)
- Friday 25th** - Decorative Rope Work
- Saturday 26th** - CPR Training
- Sunday 27th** - Christmas Market at the Marina
- Tuesday 29th** - Book Club (see Facebook for the chosen book)
- Wednesday 30th** - Quiz: A long-established tradition. Names to the Office and if you need a team to join, they'll sort you out.



Firework Display

Sunday 6 November
5 - 9 pm

Our annual display can be watched from clear vantage points around the marina and from the Boardwalk around to the Willow



Tree Tea Rooms. With so much room you and your family can enjoy this professional display in comfort. The cafes, bars and some shops will be open throughout the evening. The display is free of charge as is the parking. There will a lot

of people coming, so if you can leave your car at home and walk, that would be great! Everyone is welcome, but remember to leave your pets well cared for and tucked up at home. The Marina is open all day and as soon as we can we will announce the time of the display (probably pretty soon after 5pm so don't be late arriving!).

Thanks to Midland Chandlers for their continuing support of the Newsletter which began in the summer of 2010 - over six years ago - and hasn't wavered since despite the 'Mercury' doubling in size and the time Kerry spends each month printing, sorting, packing and sending, the van driver delivering and Matt and the team here receiving it safely. Thank you to Alastair Thomas and all!



Tillerettes

The Tillerettes' first meeting of the season is on Friday, 18th of November at 7pm in the Willow Tree Tea Rooms. This is an occasion for you to listen to a tale or two from the previous generation, ask questions, talk about what it is you would like, about your experience in boats, find out about the programme and how you think the Tillerettes can help you. The September Mercia Mercury had a fuller piece about the Tillerettes, so this is really just a 'heads up' about the date. Anyone who would like some help with their boating skills is more than welcome to come (plus their other halves!) and sign up. If you can't make the night but do want to be part of it, then please email or text me (contact details below) and I'll send you a form to fill in.



Golden Windlass

- The following were awarded Golden Windlasses:
- 1) Maurice Steele for help in a medical emergency and middle of the night transport of family members;
 - 2) Jane and Neil Wakeham for inspiring volunteers support and for their many and varied ideas and activities in support of bee conservation.
 - 3) Mick & Sue Johnson for consistent, on-going, exhaustive and unquestioning support provided to a neighbour following an accident.



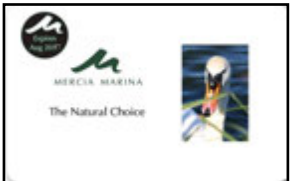
Welcome to Mercia Marina!



There was a big and happy gathering at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms on Saturday, 15 October. We were welcoming those who had come to the Marina - leisure and residential - in the last year. It was delightful to see how many of our newer community members had already found friends and made themselves at home and that those who hadn't spent as much time here since they came, fitted right in and by the time the evening was over were very much part of the 'gang'. Tony Preston introduced the evening, welcoming everyone - old and new - and Louise Davies, coordinator of the marina's events programme, took over and talked about this, introducing groups' leaders along the way.

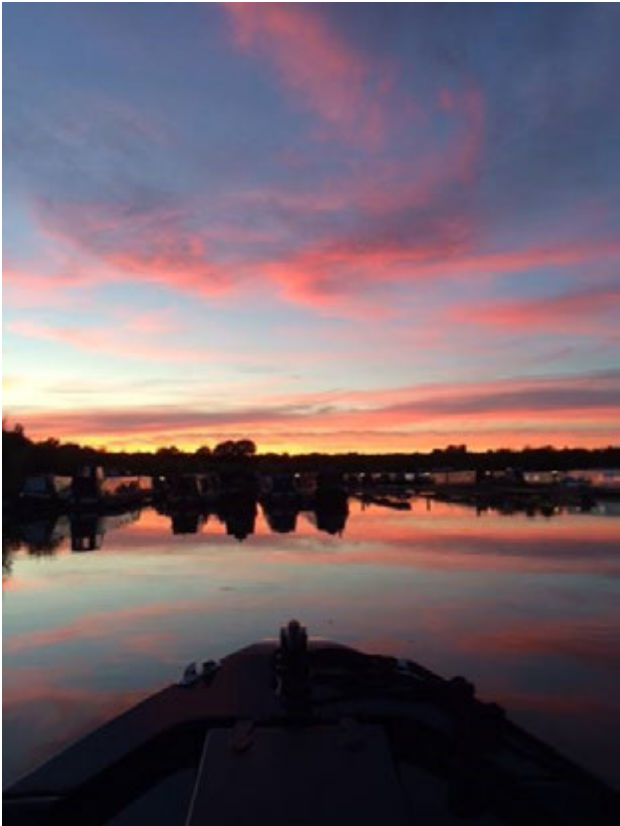
It is quite astonishing how quickly the marina's events have grown in number and prospered in activity. We are blessed with a sizeable crowd of very able people who are willing to give up their time and skill to encourage

others to join them in learning music, art, photography, a wide variety of craft, talking about books ... all accompanied by games' and quiz evenings, skittles outings and fuddles. So, too, there was a serious side - dates given for Fire & Safety and First Aid talks. Volunteers with a professional background lead a small network of moorers to give the marina a local support team that is of immense value. One of the 60 new moorers attending said that in her eyes the marina's First Aid team saved her husband's life - how the attending moorer (who was on the scene very quickly when the alarm was raised) reassured and calmed the situation and ensured the right care was administered while the emergency services were on their way. It was a lovely evening and a great demonstration of how strong a community we have become.



If your Discount Card sticker isn't orange, it's out of date! Have you GOT a discount card? Lots of local businesses offer a discount to Mercia moorers who show a valid card, so make sure you are up to date. The Office can sort you out in a moment!!

Photography Competition



Congratulations to Angela Hamilton on this lovely evening shot of the Marina which wins the September 2016 Photo Competition. To enter the November competition, email your photographs to lucy@merciamarina.co.uk

Ukulele Group



A lively bunch! Doing superbly well under Mick's leadership and his preparation of the sessions that ensures beginners and more experienced players all enjoy themselves equally. They are now practising for a Ukulele Christmas Special and will be performing on the Bandstand on 27th November as an accompaniment to the Christmas Market.



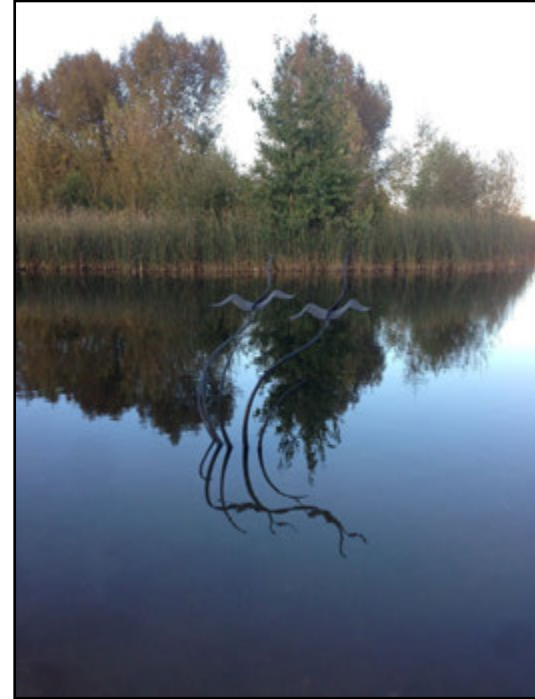
Save our Bees



Have you visited the 'Bee Friendly' cottage garden by Facilities Block 2? It may now be Autumn but the garden is still charming and a brilliant example of what we can do together. The idea came from Neil and Jane, the support from Robert, the execution and work putting it together from Stewart, Sven and Pete and the planting and aftercare from the Bee Group Volunteers. Tony Preston designed the sign (see also below). Let's hope the bees love it as much as we do! David Bellamy mentioned the bee conservation work in his Award letter: *'Let me also say that your bee conservation project sounds amazing - please give all the volunteers involved a massive vote of thanks from me. As a result of all this hard work, you are officially a "Honey Bee Friendly" park. Well done!'*

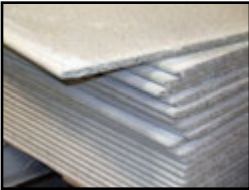


The Knitting & Stitching Show
Saturday 26th November. Over half the 33 tickets are now sold, so if you want to go, get in touch with Nancy Harman immediately! Plans for the second Mercia trip Harrogate are well under way. The coach will leave here at 8.00am (be at the Boardwalk car park by 7.45). We'll leave Harrogate at 4.30pm returning to the marina mid evening. Prices are as follows: Members of the Craft Group £17 Friends and family or any Mercians (residential or leisure) £23. If there are spaces then Mercians who want to just have a day in Harrogate will pay £11 less (£12) If there are any further spaces then people off the marina will be offered places at £30. Please put your details and payment in full in an envelope for Nancy Harman and hand into the office or give to her personally. Priority will go to group members then friends, family and Mercians, then others. If too many apply your money will be returned through the office so please ensure you add email address or phone number as well as your name. Cheques to "Nancy Harman" please .



Pontoon Fireboards

Diesel heaters are increasingly common on boats and do their job well but you need be aware that the exhaust gasses are very hot and exit on the side of the boat. If your boat has been moved in the recent shuffle, have you checked whether your jetty has a fibre cement board fitted? Have you left a gap to allow the gasses to escape up the (correct!) side of the fitted fireboard. If you don't have a fireboard fitted, please let the Office know and this will be done for you if you don't want to take the board and do it yourself. There is a real danger of fire on the jetties from these exhausts so please check if you've moved to a new mooring.



At the beginning of the summer, Lucy Elson and Louise Davies chose this piece of sculpture by Paul Margetts. Since then, "The Flying Geese" were in the Marina Office for people to see but they have now been installed in Wildlife Pond by Callum & Tony. A beautiful setting for a great piece of art.

Findern Playing Field Project

The Marina works closely with its neighbours and particularly with Willington and Findern villages. For instance, we are an active participant in the Willington Arts Festival, we work with Findern Footpaths Group on environmental projects, we host the Findern Primary School sponsored walks and we welcome the local community to a number of our events. Right now, there is a very practical and easy way for us to help a local project which will be of enormous benefit to the local children. All each of us has to do - should we choose to - is cast a vote.

Current Site Findern Playing Field

Current Play Equipment - tired, old, isolated and lacks variety

itself and out of date (see picture). Deciding to do something about it, a local group got together to apply for refurbishment grants, starting with the baby/toddler area. Given the number of projects nowadays applying for grants, they deserve huge congratulations that they've been shortlisted for two grants. And this is where you could come in.

For Groundwork/Tesco Bags of Help vote for the Findern Project in the Mickleover Tesco store between the Monday 31st October to Sunday 13th November. You can vote with each transaction in store throughout that two weeks. The project with the most votes over the 2 weeks gets awarded the full £12,000. If you use that Tescos anyway, it'll be easy!

The second grant application was to the **Aviva Community Fund** and, again, the project was shortlisted. To be awarded a grant needs lots of votes and this is done online at <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-2602> . You can read much more about the project there and then, if you want to vote in support, you do a quick registration with the



Aviva site and you're then able to cast up to 10 votes per person registered. The village has a growing number of young families whose needs are not currently being met. The planning group are also working with the local Findern Footpaths Group to incorporate a Wildlife Area/Garden with insect hotels, a butterfly bund, bee attracting flowers and work to establish wild orchids, wild iris and the "Fynderne Flower" (a type of daffodil). The current site is used by responsible dog walkers and this would continue. The project was initiated by feedback from the local community and they are proud to be working together to make a real difference which will deliver a huge benefit.

CPR Training

Next Session: Saturday 26 November 7pm
Please sign up in the Office - members of the local community are welcome.
There are DVDs to watch and dummies for practising CPR. The Marina's First Aid team will be there to offer support.. This is concerned solely with CPR, the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, how to deal with an unconscious person and recognising a cardiac arrest. These are all truly important things for each of us to know and remember, so do go and sign up.



New Bus Stops

All being well, the new bus stops either side of the road outside the Marina will be operational within the next three or four weeks. There will also be a bus shelter at the stop on the Marina side - it isn't possible to have one on the other side because the ground falls away too quickly. There's no word yet from Trent Barton about what fare stage these will be. As many know, the Burton direction fare is cheaper from the stop nearer Willington and going in the Derby direction is cheaper from the Everglades stop. The 'fare boundary' is more or less at the Marina! But the two existing stops will remain, which means there won't be an increase in travel costs. And a big thankyou to the Marina for being a major contributor to all the costs and for spending a great deal of time in discussions to win the necessary agreements from both Trent Barton and the Council.

