

Mercia Events

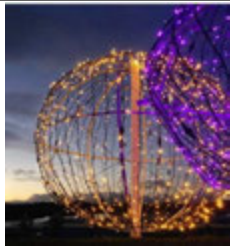
November has been a busy busy Events' month. Almost every night there were people crafting, playing music, having fun with Bingo and a Beetle Drive, talking about books and photography and painting. Alongside these regular events were special evenings for rope splicing, going off-site for a skittles night, getting together for CPR, Fire and First Aid awareness. The traditional monthly Quiz remains very popular and the Tillerettes had their first session of the season. A Small Mannals' Group was started with a significant number of moorers wanting to be involved. December promises to be just as lively, so do visit the Marina's Community Website [www.mercia.community](http://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. Updates to events and some further details are on the Community Facebook page so make sure you're signed up there too. Almost every event is in The Willow Tree Tea Rooms and 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.

Rope Splicing



Fireworks (Ian Carroll)

Mercia's Giant Christmas Snowballs



Learning About Quilting



Golden Windlass

Ian Francis was nominated for a Golden Windlass for building the community website ([www.mercia.community](http://www.mercia.community)). The Forum was happy to support the nomination.



CPR Evening - 28 January 2017

Everyone should attend one of these sessions, so sign up in the Office. The evening has a couple of short videos on how to spot the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, how to deal with an unconscious person and recognising a cardiac arrest. There is an opportunity to practice on dummies and understand the role the marina's First Aid Team.

The Christmas Fuddle



**Saturday, 10th December at the Willow Tea Rooms.** This will be a ticket-only evening because of space limitations. It is for moorers and lodge owners and the 60 tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The tickets can be collected from the Office from the 30th of November. The Fuddle is a 'bring and share' meal, so channel your Mary Berrys and Paul Hollywoods and plan your savoury or sweet contribution. But only bring enough food for two to four people; everyone is always hugely generous and there is then far too much food for us all to consume! Also, could you please label your food in terms of vegetarian or meat, dairy-free or gluten-free if it is, nuts or no nuts etc. There will be a food list in the Office to keep a check on what people are bringing, so feel free to consult this. And if you're not bringing your food on a disposable plate or platter, please write your name on a label on the bottom of the plate. It's a BYO drinks' evening. There will be no bar. There will probably be live music from those who can wield a guitar, drum, ukulele, tambourine ... so bring your instrument to join in! There will be a raffle. But the main aim is to get everyone together to have a good evening with each other. Get those tickets - they'll go quickly!



Thank you to Midland Changers for their continuing support of the Mercia Mercury.



Mercia Mercury

Have a Very Happy Christmas !!

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Marina Office

23rd December - open till 5.30 p.m.  
24th December - 10 a.m. till 2.00 p.m.  
**Closed on 25th, 26th, 27th December**  
28th December - 9.00 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
29th December - 9.00 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
30th December - 9.00 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
31st December - 10 a.m. till 2.00 p.m.  
**Closed on 1st January**  
2nd January - open as normal  
**Please sort queries, electricity cards and diesel requirements in plenty of time.**

Willow Tea Rooms

24th December - open till 3.00 p.m.  
**Closed on 25th December**  
26th December - 10.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.  
Normal hours 27th - 30th December  
31st December - 8.30 p.m. till 3.00 p.m.  
1st January - 10 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.  
2nd January - open as normal

Still Waters Shop

24th December - 9 till 3p.m.  
**Closed on 25th December**  
**Closed on 26th December -**  
27th December - 9 - 1 p.m.  
28th December - 9 - 5.30 p.m.  
29th December - 9 - 5.30 p.m.  
30th December - 9 - 5.30 p.m.  
31st December - 9 - 3.00 p.m.  
**Closed on 1st January**  
2nd January - 9 - 3 p.m.  
3rd January - open as normal  
**No coal, gas or logs deliveries during this period.**  
**Would people organise their deliveries early, or arrange with someone to collect for them.**

Midland Changers

Saturday 17th December	9.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 18th December	CLOSED
Monday 19th December	9.00am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 20th December	9.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 21st December	9.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday 22nd December	9.00am - 5.30pm
Friday 23rd December	9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 24th December	9.00am - 1.00pm
Sunday 25th December	CLOSED
Monday 26th December	CLOSED
Tuesday 27th December	CLOSED
Wednesday 28th December	10.00am - 4.00pm
Thursday 29th December	10.00am - 4.00pm
Friday 30th December	10.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 31st December	CLOSED
Sunday 1st January 2016	CLOSED
Normal opening hours resume from Monday 2nd January Onwards	

Best Decorated Boat/Lodge Competition

It's that time of year again... deck your hulls with holly and dress up your lodges for the Competition. Put up your decorations by Sunday 11 December. Take a snap of your boat or lodge and upload it with the boat/lodge name to the Marina's Facebook page. Voting from 12 -to 18 December; winners announced just before Christmas. Other



snaps taken of decorated lodges and boats can be emailed to Lucy in the Marina Office.



## Save our Bees

 The Marina's Bee Conservation Project has earned another accolade from the David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme. The following letter was sent by Rufus Bellamy:

oooOOOooo

"I am delighted to let you know that Mercia Marina is the well-deserved recipient of a Special Distinction Award in the 2016 David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme (DBCAS). This award is made in addition to the 'normal' award you have achieved this year.

You have been given the award for your 2016 bee conservation project. We love the way that this has involved volunteers in lots of bee-friendly planting, bee 'open days' and in the production of a comprehensive and informative report and "Bees Galore" booklet in conjunction with your local wildlife centre and the Bumble Bee Preservation Society."

oooOOOooo

Congratulations to Neil, Jane and all the Volunteers whose commitment and hard work have added a new and valuable dimension to the Marina wildlife.



## Winterising Your Boat



That was December 2010 at the Marina. If you're not at your boat every couple of days, is it prepared for a sudden cold snap? Is it winterised? Have you got a nearby boater looking out for you? Have you swapped email & phone #s?

## December Post and Parcels

The Marina has a large residential community and, at this time of year, there is a significant increase in the number of items of post and the number and size of parcels. It would be very helpful if people could check for their post on a regular basis and collect parcels promptly. Parcels must also be kept to a reasonable size (if large items are expected, then delivery will need to be direct to the person or arranged some other way). And there is a weight limit of 17kg for any parcel.



## Keep Safe this Winter

### #CarbonMonoxide

#### Ten Essential CO Safety Tips for Boats

Over 30 boaters have died in the last 20 years from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

It is a toxin that replaces the oxygen in the bloodstream, blocking supplies to vital organs. At low concentrations it can cause chronic illness, at higher levels it kills.

This deadly poison gas has multiple potential sources on boats including all fuel-burning appliances, flues, chimneys, engines and exhausts.

Staying safe begins with installing all such equipment properly, in the way the maker describes.

Letting maintenance drift, or putting-off repairs is a risk, as is ignoring running instructions. Crew members need to understand the risks and know the danger signs; they must always be watchful.

These are the ten CO essentials that will help keep you and your crew safe:-

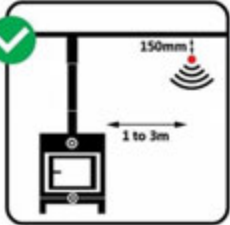
- 1) All the crew should know the symptoms of CO poisoning and how to react if it is suspected
- 2) Install fuel burning appliances properly, in-line with makers directions
- 3) Follow servicing guidelines; maintenance should be routine and competent - Don't allow bodged repairs, adjustments and adaptations
- 4) Always use appliances as per the instructions and never use cookers for space heating
- 5) Don't block ventilation - appliance fuels like gas, coal, wood, oil, paraffin, etc. need sufficient air to burn safely
- 6) Don't bring charcoal BBQs on board, or have them near a cabin during or after use - only stone-cold charcoal is safe
- 7) Keep engine fumes out of the cabin space, never use a portable generator in or near a cabin
- 8) Learn about the danger signs, spot potential hazards before CO occurs
- 9) Deal with problems immediately, never use equipment you suspect has problems
- 10) Install a certified CO alarm (BS EN 50291-2), test it routinely and never remove the batteries

For more tips and advice to help you and your crew stay safe go to [www.boatsafetyscheme.org/CO](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/CO)



## Tillerettes

We had an excellent first meeting of the new season in mid-November with nearly two dozen men and women on the Marina welcoming the idea of the buddy scheme to support their boating activity. There are now two new additions to the mentoring team and we should get things underway fairly soon. If you're interested and want to know more, get in touch with me (Jo James).



## Christmas Market and the Mercia Ukulele Group



What an excellent Christmas Market we had! The day was clear and dry the sun shone and people arrived by the dozen to enjoy the numerous stalls. The Mercia craft group had their wares on display, there were rides for children, artisan wines and hot pulled beef rolls. There were Christmas wreaths and decorations, festive cakes and wooden toys, jewellery and specialist ales. And live music with, as the star attraction, the Mercia Ukulele Group led by Mick Johnson. Having practised over the weeks, the players - many of whom were beginners not long ago - put on a wonderful performance to an appreciative audience who sang happily along with the musicians. Well done MUG !!

### Mercia Forum Representatives November 2016

The Forum representatives for the six areas of the Marina are as follows with pontoons and contact details also shown:

**Nigel Hunt (NB Mary Ann)** Egret, Finch, Grebe, Heron  
(nbmaryann@gmail.com)

**Rick Richards (WB Waterway to Live)** Albatross, Avocet, Blackbird, Bullfinch, Zebra Dove (07791 763448)

**Kev Stone (NB Chelwood)** Veery, Woodcock, Xantus, Yellowhammer, Lodges (kitcarkev@gmail.com)

**Viv Thompson (WB Steel Blue Lady)** Redshank, Sandpiper, Teal, Upland Goose (vivthompson11@gmail.com)

**Maisie Trotman (NB Global Spirit)** Nuthatch, Owl, Peregrine, Quail (07821 281966 - text please)

**John Harman (NB Perfect Harmony)** Ibis, Jay, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Moorhen (johngharman@msn.com)

### Morris Dancers



Morris

Willington Morris Dancers and friends

Christmas Dance Tour  
Sunday 4th December 2016

12.00pm Willington Village Pubs  
2.30pm Mercia Marina