

IWA Festival of Water : Saturday 26 - Monday 28 August 2017
@ Gallows Inn Playing Fields, Ilkeston



Keeping our waterways alive

IWA's Festival of Water is heading to Ilkeston this August Bank Holiday weekend, so why not escape to the Erewash this summer and join in the festivities on Gallows Inn playing fields by Gallows Inn lock from Saturday 26th to Monday 28th August although most boats arrive at least a day or two in advance. Reserving a spot, whether for a tent or a boat, can be done for just £30 (including evening entertainment) by filling in the form at www.waterways.org.uk/festivalofwater. Over 90 boats are booked in so far so why not come along too. There's a good chance you will meet some new people as well as catch up with old friends. The Festival of Water is an important event in IWA's annual calendar as the charity tries to encourage boaters to take a closer look at the lesser-boated waterways around the system. The 2016 festival was held in Pelsall, on the banks of the Wyrley & Essington, to encourage visiting boaters to get to know the quieter sections of the northern BCN and this year we hope to do the same for the Erewash with some visitors coming via the mighty Trent. IWA has plans to work with the local community in the Ilkeston area to encourage greater involvement in work parties along the waterway and Erewash Borough Council are keen to make the festival a big success this year. Festival goers will be treated to a packed entertainments programme with musical treats from the likes of Bon Accord and Mick and the Moonshiners as well as dance from local groups. Children will be delighted to have a go on the fairground rides, water zorbing, a mini land train and kicking a ball to win at football darts. There will be plenty of food, craft stalls on land and water as well as the real ale tent. If you are interested in taking a stall there are still several spots available. Take a look at www.waterways.org.uk/festivalofwater to find out more.

If you are interested in volunteering at the event, IWA would love to hear from you. The festival is organised by IWA volunteers and all the profits go towards the protection and restoration of the nation's 6,500 miles of canals and rivers. If you are interested in getting involved with the organising committee, especially if you have fundraising skills IWA please do get in touch via email:

jane.elwell@waterways.org.uk. Jane is the Event Committee chairman.

More general help between Wednesday 23rd August and Wednesday 30th August is also very much needed for jobs such as directing car park traffic, litter picking, erecting marquees, distributing programmes, making PA announcements and assisting with site information points and activities. For more information about this please contact Pat Barton on email:pat.barton@waterways.org.uk



Ere we go
IWA Festival of Water
Saturday 26th - Monday 28th August 2017
Gallows Inn Playing Fields, Ilkeston

Gallows Inn marks the Erewash Canal's entrance to Ilkeston and this August Bank Holiday the playing fields will host IWA's Festival of Water. The main attraction will of course be the huge array of narrowboats, trailboats and historic boats, gaily decorated for their big weekend but the huge entertainment marquee will also prove a draw. Music from a range of local and national groups as well as displays of dance and song will fill the stage from 11am every day.

For children the Festival brings a selection of birds of prey as well as some reptiles and other animals plus a chance to walk on water or maybe ride on a mini steam train. There will be a selection of children's rides and bigger children might like the chance to wander by the collections of classic cars!

Water based traders as well as land based craft and collectibles stalls will allow for a pleasant afternoon of shopping and the local real ale tent and food retailers will equally allow for a pleasant afternoon of relaxing.

For more details www.waterways.org.uk/festivalofwater



Tickets please
Reserve a spot for your boat or tent for just £30 which includes special evening entertainment www.waterways.org.uk/festivalofwater

Entrance to the Festival itself is free and so is the parking.

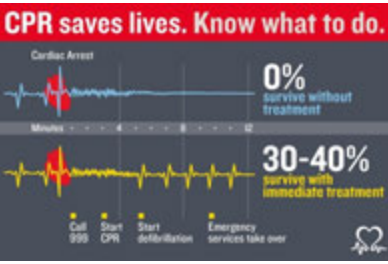
Why not volunteer?
If you would like to help out at the festival or at one of the work parties in the lead up to the festival, take a look at the festival webpages for more information www.waterways.org.uk/festivalofwater

"What a great celebration the Festival of Water will be for everyone and we look forward to welcoming the thousands of people who attend" Councillor Mike Wells, Erewash Borough Council



Saturday, 27 May 7pm
Willow Tea Rooms

CPR Training. Sign up in the Marina Office. All members of the Mercia community and local communities are welcome to attend the evening.



HM Treasury

At Spring Budget 2017, the government announced that it would publish a call for evidence on the use of red diesel. This "call for evidence" does not imply a change in the government's view on eligibility criteria for red diesel. Rather, it is designed to improve the information government has about red diesel use (where it is used and the types of use). Red diesel (rebated gas oil) represents about 15% of all diesel sales and whilst the majority of it is used in the commercial, agricultural and forestry sectors, a significant part is taken by craft of various types. So it is important we add our 'waterways' voice to those in other sectors and ensure that government is made fully aware of the sizeable and diverse body of users. The consultation pay little attention to this community and yet there are over 70,000 boats known to the various inland waterways' authorities.

Robert Neff says: "It is not the colour of the diesel that is important to boaters, it is the fact that a derogation is available depending on the use of the diesel by the boat. This amounts to a considerable sum, especially for those with diesel heating. Many boaters assumed that leaving the EU would mean that the discounted rate was protected or would even be reinstated for propulsion use, but few governments will forego tax income unless they are forced to do so. So, make your views known and provide hard facts. We will be doing the same."

URL for detail: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/red-diesel-call-for-evidence/red-diesel-call-for-evidence>

How to respond:

It is suggested an email be sent to ETTanswers@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk or letters be posted to

Red Diesel, Energy and Transport Tax Team,
Business and International Tax Group,
HM Treasury,
1 Horse Guards Road,
London, SW1A 2HQ

The areas being asked about are as follows: 1. "the purpose and type of use, such as business, public sector or domestic. Where red diesel is used as motor fuel it would be useful to know what types of machinery, including excepted vehicles, it is used to power and what they are used for." Then 2.

"where in the country diesel is used. Please include details of the locations where you use red diesel, and if it is used as a motor fuel the number of any machines, including excepted vehicles operating at those locations". Final area: 3. "whether you consider that there are any viable alternative fuels available to you to power such machinery or equipment".

You can send a short or long reply talking about your use of diesel, the need to use diesel to charge the batteries, run heaters or fires etc. When it comes to 'where in the country' you could say anything from permanent mooring to travelling the canals in the midlands or touring the UK waterways – depending on what you do. You could talk about alternative 'fuels' such as solar power but perhaps also say whether you consider there to be a real (viable) alternative to diesel or whether it's supplementary alternative fuel.

The main thing is that you do respond!

Background:

Fuel duty, introduced in 1928, was intended as a tax on motoring but because gas oil (diesel) was mainly used in off-road vehicles and for uses other than motoring (heating, lighting, etc.), legislation was introduced in 1935 to allow concessions. In the commercial, agricultural and forestry sectors, gas oil is used for equipment such as cranes, generators, bulldozers, tractors, combine harvesters, etc. It's also often used by carnivals and other travelling fairs to power their generators. In 1959 rebated gas oil was extended to all vehicles used exclusively off-road – in effect, any untaxed vehicle. Waterways' craft could therefore purchase all their gas oil at the discounted rate. But EU legislation has changed this and though the government won an extension to the new ruling that gas oil for the propulsion for pleasure craft would incur the full duty, this extension expired in December 2006.

Boaters will know they can still purchase red diesel (reduced rate diesel) for non-propulsion purposes (like heating, cooking, lighting and powering appliances such as fridges). For leisure boaters and continuous cruisers, they must declare a split in use (since a boat generally doesn't have two diesel tanks) and the default tends to be 60/40 between 'motive power and domestic use'. But boat owners whose primary, or only, residence is their boat and hold documentation which provide proof of permanent residency, can purchase all their fuel at the rebated rate.



Many thanks to Midland Chenders for continuing their support for our monthly Newsletter. Paper copies are especially popular for visitors.



NATURE SOCIETY
Making a real difference

WILDLIFE WEEKEND
MAY 6th & 7th



(see separate notice), **nature spotting** and **lucky dip** for the little ones and **Storytelling** sessions. And there will be an information section with facts about endangered species of all kinds, mammal signs and how to recognise them, and how to help bees and butterflies.

There will be visitors from the **Bumblebee Conservation Trust** and on Saturday, **Ron Rock** will be taking bee walks, weather permitting. On Sunday **Rhodri Green**, will be here with the Pollinating the Peak project. Both days we will have representatives from **Burton Wildlife Rescue**. Also on Sunday we are hoping to have a visiting **Harris Hawk**.

So please come along and win prizes, spend a little, learn some interesting facts and make some new friends. Remember our charities this year are Butterfly Conservation and Bumble Bee Conservation, crucial to our survival.

WANT TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT MARINA WILDLIFE?

Visit Mercia Marina website. Under Nature & Wildlife Newsletters we are starting to build up a library of information about all kinds of wildlife seen here at the Marina. Currently the library contains details of Goldfinch, Dunnock, Waxwing, Hedgehog, Wood Mouse, Red Admiral, Red Mason Bee. New items will be added each month. Enjoy.



LATEST SIGHTINGS

Very early indeed, but on Sunday 23rd April there was a fully-fledged Robin being fed by the parent close to the lodges. Robins do not usually lay until April. This is an interesting time of year, so keep your eyes peeled as you walk on any part of the Marina - including the field down towards the canal. Let us know what you see and, if you've managed a photograph as well, then that's perfect!

Photography Competition



To all you photographers out there!! There's still time to be part of the Nature Society's Photography Competition - part of the Wildlife Weekend on May 6th & 7th. Even if you haven't a photograph to enter, you can go and choose your favourites from the pictures which have been submitted. Each day will showcase a different subject - May 6th is Birds, May 7th is Insects.

We would like you to vote for your favourite and those who choose the winning picture will go into a prize draw.

We need pictures to be A4 size, so that they can be displayed to full effect!

Make sure your entries are with us by Friday 5th May at the latest or a day or so earlier if you need help getting them printed out.

By the time the Newsletter comes out, our cold snap will be over and the temperatures improving. Looking forward to some great shots.



Don't forget that Derbyshire goes to the polls on Thursday, 4 May. Mercia Marina is part of the Etwall, Eggington, Repton, Willington and Findern Division of South Derbyshire District Council. Our current Councillor is Martyn Ford (Conservative) who lives in Findern and has been a constant supporter of the Marina over 10 years. He's a frequent visitor to Mercia and understands the interests of our community well. He will be standing again on 4th May. Also standing will be Louise Howells (UKIP) from Willington, Annabelle Long (Liberal Democrats) from Burton and John McCallum (Labour) from Etwall.



Residential Moorers will probably have put themselves on the Electoral Roll and will already have their notice of the election. If you've asked for a Postal Vote (and many do because we can be out cruising when elections come around!) these usually arrive about a week before the election.

Remember the General Election on Thursday, 8 June. If you want to register to vote by post, the deadline is 5pm on Tuesday 23 May. www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote



Golden Windlass

The Forum warmly approved the following:

Peter Hicks nominated John and Jo Lousvet for their support during his sudden and acute illness. Sue Eales nominated both Maisie Trotman and Rob Williams for their responding immediately to the Eales' call for emergency help when Pete Eales dislocated his shoulder at Dallow Lock. Maisie and Rob dealt with the visit to A&E, bringing the boat back to Mercia and supporting Pete and Sue through it all.

May Events

General Information

The packed events calendar for 2016-2017 is coming to a close at the end of May to allow the group leaders to take a long earned rest and because many people are heading out on their boats for the spring and summer. The Mercia Activities' Committee continues as this becomes its busiest time. It is hoped to get the new events calendar ready for publication by July so that means fitting in about 200 events. At the end of May it is hoped to arrange an evening where anyone can come and meet the MAC team and give their views on what they'd like to see next year. The date has yet to be arranged, so you will need to keep an eye on the Community Facebook page. If you have any questions or are not sure about anything, email the wonderful Mercia Activities Committee (MAC) at:

merciaevents@hotmail.com

Because of the building work to the Willow Tree Tea Rooms, Lesley from The Mug Tug has kindly offered the use of her boat to help some of the groups continue. Please see the Community Facebook page for information on which groups are affected. It is there you will see information about any Groups that are meeting in May once the Tea Rooms are open again. Two Mug Tug



definites in the near future:

Watercolour Class - Monday 1st May in The Mug Tug
Craft Group - Tuesday 2nd May in The Mug Tug



Summer Dates for Your Diaries

25th June - The Mercia Walkabout: Raising money for the Marina Charities' by walking the Marina as many times as you can! More details to follow but you can start practising now!!

August - Marina BBQ. More details to follow but, if the sun is shining you can do the practising thing again!

September - Return of the Rex Factor, so very definitely start your dog training right now.



Mercia Matters

First Aiders: East Midlands Ambulance Service have written in extremely complimentary terms to the Volunteer First Aid Team at Mercia. They consider the way it is run, manned and the training provided to be such that the group are ranked by EMAS to be Community First Responders. This is an amazing endorsement by EMAS and congratulations to all the Team, in particular to Terry Evans, who was responsible for creating the team and has headed it since its inception.

WiFi Survey: There will be a survey of all users of the Marina WiFi during the summer. This is to check what people are using in terms of aeriels, what phones/phablets/laptops are used and what problems they have found in connections, signal strength etc. The information you give will help us help you to get the best possible service from what w3z is providing. So if this affects you, do please respond to the survey when it arrives!

Mooring Pricing: From September 2017 the discount presently given to widebeams on end berths will be replaced with the surcharge of 1.35 applied to other widebeams (excluding those widebeams paying for two narrowboat berths).

Mooring Pricing: It is expected that mooring and pitch fees will increase by RPI from September 2017. Inflation is on the rise and could well be 3% soon, so it would be wise to plan for this level of increase.

Long Stay Car Park: This is now in use. If a boater is going out for more than a few days, please put car(s) in the Long Stay. If there is more than one car associated with a boat, do consider using the Long Stay for the extra vehicle(s). Those that have moved across are already helping ease the pressure on parking spaces at waterside.

