

The Willow Tree Tea Rooms



Still to come: finishing touches, more seating and tables and soft furnishings. But isn't it just lovely? So much more space and the full glass windows to the front are amazing. Well done to all!

Yes - another clappy hands!



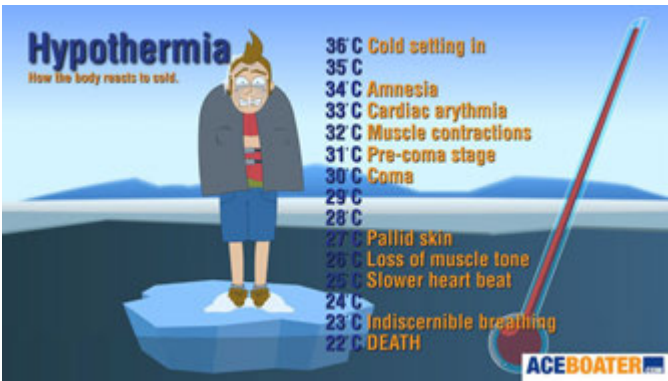
Falling in the Water is No Joke

At the beginning of May, one of our oldest residents (Denis) fell and tumbled down the embankment and into the water by FB1. Sarah glimpsed his fall - having just seen him at the top of the bank - and when she got to where he was, she saw him unconscious with his face under water. She jumped in (the water is just a few feet deep near the bank), lifted his shoulders to keep his head out of the water and shouted loudly for help. Helped by Marina staff and moorers, he was lifted out of the water (having regained consciousness), attended by the paramedics who'd been called immediately and was taken to hospital accompanied by Sarah when he said he would like someone with him. Thankfully he was back on the Marina a few days later. Sarah, Tony Preston, Robert Neff, Kath, those who took Tess (Sarah's dog) for a walk whilst she accompanied him to hospital, Carol for feeding Sarah when she got back. These were the 'key' people involved but many others helped and Denis, and the rest of us, are all grateful to be part of a community where help is right along-

side you whenever you may need it.

With the arrival of spring and summer, many of us are taking boats out, working on boats, fishing, and generally being out and about around water. A slip or trip that takes you into that water is not to be taken lightly. Hopefully, it will be a far less serious incident than Denis's. But we should all remember that water is cold and if you are in it for any period of time or don't remove wet clothing/wrap in warm blanket etc. straight afterwards then there is a danger of hypothermia. But most immediate dangers are cold shock and confusion, panic and hyperventilation. People on the Marina who have fallen in all say this is exactly what they experienced. So don't treat such an accident lightly. Do call for help (an ambulance if it's serious) and call our First Aiders for support and advice.

If you're out on the cut - and in many places on the Marina, the water may only be chest deep. On the Marina there are whistles and fire sirens at the end of pontoons. Use them if you need them - that's what they're there for. If you're out on the cut, you will probably be able to stand up and walk about while you plan how to get out of the canal. Does your boat carry safety equipment? Do you know how to use it? Perhaps one of the updated versions of the plank with a ramp one side and ladder steps the other would be a useful addition to your equipment.? Or you could walk/wade to the nearest bridge 'ole and lift your bum out backwards onto the stones. Don't let people grab your arms and drag you up the bank or over the Armco - you may well suffer injuries from this sort of 'help'. Then get warm, change clothes, shower or get a bowl of hot water for your feet and hands. These are just very brief points about falling in the water brought on by Sarah and Denis's experience. Please think about it, read up on it, plan what you would do if it was you or someone beside you who fell in. It's potentially anything but a joke!



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

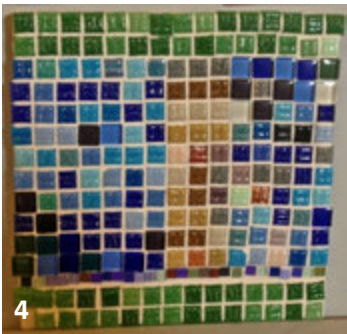
Willington Arts Festival 2017
Mercia Marina Art Competition Results

Willington's Annual Art Festival, which began in 2008, held its tenth annual event over the weekend of the 13th and 14th of May. The Festival has gone from strength to strength over the years with an increasing number of

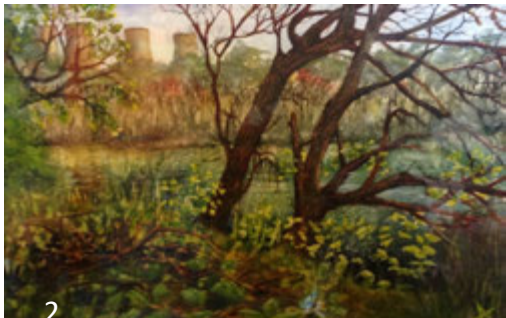


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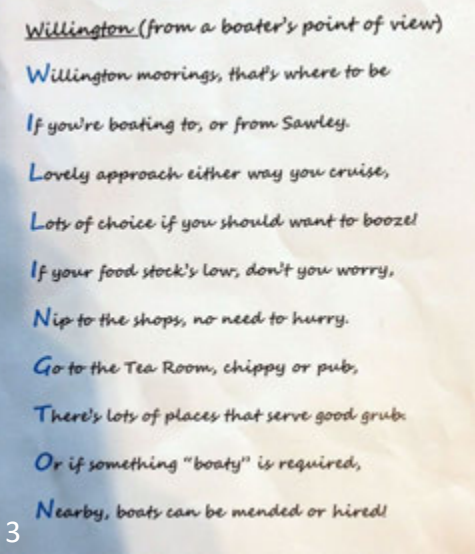
elements, displays, competitions and activities and, in tune with its growing reputation and variety, there were many many visitors arriving to join the local communities who turned out in force. The Marina's Art Competition has similarly grown, competition classes in various media increasing and bringing in greater numbers of entries from children and adults. The winners are to be congratulated for their outstanding work. This is their work but of course the small images do no justice at all to the originals which were much admired by the hundreds who voted.



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- 1. Winner Visual Arts Amateur - Barbara Wain (also overall winner from the public vote)
- 2. Winner Visual Arts Professional - David Tattersall
- 3. Winner Words - Linda Lilley
- 4. Winner Visual Arts Juniors - Freya Garratt
- 5. Winner Photography - Ian Coulton
- 6. Recognising Artistic Ability - Naheed Chatha



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Golden Windlass

The Boaters' and Lodge Owners' Forum all agreed to the Golden Windlass Awards for **Nigel Hunt** for his continuing support and help to a number of moorers in a variety of ways and **Sarah Cunnington** for her saving and assisting in the rescue of a moorer who had blacked out and fallen



down a bank and into the water. Sarah went after him immediately and kept his head above water whilst summoning help.

Many thanks to Midland Chandelers for continuing their support for our monthly Newsletter. Paper copies are distributed



around the Marina shops for viisitors or can be had from the Marina Office. Emailed copies are sent to anyone who asks in the Office.

Mercia Marina is in the South Derbyshire constituency. There are four candidates competing for the seat which has been held by Heather Wheeler since 2010. They are:

- Heather Wheeler - Conservative
- Marten Kats - Green Party
- Robert Pearson - Labour
- Lorraine Johnson - Liberal Democrat



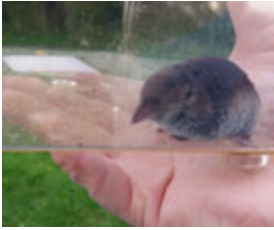
DAWN CHORUS WALK

April 29th at 05.30 saw a good crowd of people out for a dawn chorus walk.



NATURE SOCIETY
Making a real difference

We went over the canal bridge to Willington Woods as it was quieter away from the A50/A38. Dave Budworth who took us was very informative and everyone learned something. A lot of Robins and Chiffchaffs but more interestingly a Cetti's Warbler was heard from the reeds. An explosion of sound, unmistakable once you have heard it but new to almost everyone there.



MAMMAL TRAPPING

Small mammal trapping has started again now with excellent results. A common shrew, the first one trapped here, some lovely Field Voles and a plethora of Wood Mice in all kinds habitat, cheeky little things. Really good news as it helps us to understand the ecology of the marina. With prey animals come predators so the food chain is continued and a healthy balance maintained. Trapping will be taken over for a while by Jayne & Graeme Monie who already had a lot of basic knowledge and have proven to be excellent pupils. They will operate under the conditions of the required licence and Jane & Neil Wakeham will be there as back-up if required.

WILDLIFE WEEKEND.

It was brilliant!! When we started setting up on Saturday morning it was wet, windy, cold, not a good start. However, it cleared up a bit didn't warm up. Brrr!!! Yet we had a good footfall. Mr Buzz was a great attraction with the kiddies and the parents. Storytelling both days and lots of visits to the lucky dip and the raffle went extremely well.



Sunday was even better with lovely warm weather which brought out the crowds even more. Sadly, Mr Buzz had buzzed off to Greece. But we had a real live Harris Hawk here, who behaved beautifully. He belonged to nine-year-old Rose who was very happy to talk about him.

Very amusing to watch the sparrows who nest in the Clematis on the office wall. Bart was on the grass there and the sparrows were hopping about on the office roof watching him over the edge, reluctant to come down.

Burton Wildlife Rescue came on both days and brought an adorable baby fox cub called Izzy. Everyone got the chance to hold or touch her and the stand got many visitors throughout both days. They also brought two baby Magpies, whose tree had been cut down while they were in the nest and a baby Owl which went down a hoot! Bumblebee Conservation Trust who were also here both days had many visitors. One little lad was scared of insects but after spending some time with Rhodri was actually happy to have a bee on his finger. That is what these events are all about helping people to understand more about nature and how we can all live together. The information area set out with leaflets and samples of animal bones, owl pellets, nibbled shells and nuts and poo saw a lot of interest from adults and children alike.



We had lots of entries in the photographic competitions and we are pleased to announce that the winners were John Harman with his picture of a Nuthatch and Jane Hunt with her lovely Ladybird pic. Well done both. (Thank you to Ian Carroll for photographs on this page and much applause to Neil and Jane Wakeham for all their hard work and leadership.)



Mercia Matters

Lighting: The path lighting behind Midland Chandlers has been installed; it will make a real difference in the dark.

Marina Pathway: This is now nearing completion thanks to all the hard work from Stewart and the team.

Emergency Gate: The Highways Agency will be instructing the Marina on the alterations and improvements needed to the gateway so that it can be used as a permanent entry/exit.

Picnic Area: There is a new picnic area near K Pontoon as this snap shows. Beautifully done!

Piazza Development: The build continues well and is on schedule. It is very well managed with relatively little disruption to the life of the Marina. Additional car parking will need to be annexed for a short time for additional building materials needed at the next stage.

Floating Market: The Traders said the Market was worthwhile and they were glad to come.



Mercia Events During the Summer

merciaevents@hotmail.com



Yes, it's the Return of the ReXFactor! Not till September so don't panic. BUT you do need to get training your terriers, preparing your poodles, costuming your cockapoos and grooming your greyhounds! There's no telling what this year's ReXFactor will involve so you should prepare for everything from Doggy Puissance to Musical Chairs, Wire-Walking to Hide-and-Seek, Fancy Dress to Waggiest Tail!



Community Events are having their summer break. The Calendar for 2017/18 will be sent out at the end of July with most groups starting up in September. BUT CHECK! Your group may have a different plan so keep your eye on the Facebook Community page. This, and the Community Website (www.mercia.community) will be revamped a bit to make it easier to everyone to stay in touch via the internet. You can also ask in the Office for information. During the summer, MAC are planning a Summer Social (maybe a BBQ) and there will be many other opportunities to get together.



Responsible Recycling

A message from Jude: "So much greenery around this Marina so many people wanting to help birds, bees but can we be **even more green**?"

"If only everyone on this Marina put cardboard boxes (and flatten them to make room for other people's recycling!) into the recycling waste bins we could make a big difference."

"Next time you throw something in the general waste bin, think is this the BEST Bin to put this in."

Challenge me if you disagree - perhaps I can make you see."



Volunteers' Week is a national annual celebration of the amazing difference millions of volunteers make across the UK. And this is equally true at Mercia. From the very beginning, members of this community stepped forward to help in a whole variety of ways. Now, nine years later, there are volunteers to be seen in and around all the time. Not always organised, not always recognised, but there nonetheless. People showing prospective moorers around, helping with car parking and marshalling at Marina events, litter picking, first aiding, fire warden-ing, running groups, organising the running of groups, helping with shopping, running errands, checking the weather, making up quizzes, organising trips, looking after our flora and fauna, lending things or offering their boaty expertise, welcoming newcomers. All these gifts of time and goodwill make a huge difference to a community and Mercia is a remarkable example of what can happen when a community pulls together. If we stop for a moment and reflect on where we live, it's hard to feel anything but very fortunate. And a lot of that is down to the way we help each other. So thank you to all those who give so much to the community - you do make a huge difference!

Two popular events on two Sundays in June. The Bandstand Busk on the 18th and the Makers' Market on the 25th. Both events are always well attended and the building work means less parking space. So walk if you can! Visit the Willow Tree Tea Rooms, the Boardwalk Bar, the Farm Shop and Still Waters will all be open to provide drinks, snacks and meals.

