

Labour Party Conference, Brighton 2017



**Nancy Harman writes:** "I guess that quite a few people will have stopped reading this after the title, but I thought that some of you may be interested in my time there. This was the first time I'd been to a political conference, and I have to say it was amazing. Brighton seemed to be full of people wearing conference lanyards, and I wondered where the locals were? I paid for my own expenses, it wasn't a 'Party jolly', although I went as the delegate for South Derbyshire. This meant that the actual conference was free, but the hotel, food, travel etc. came out of my pocket. Being a delegate meant that I was required to vote on motions after debates. The responsibility was quite awe-inspiring, but in the end the decisions seemed clear cut to me. I was amazed by how truly democratic it was, very much down up. People on the floor decided many of the subjects of debate, and they rejected some of the requests from the National Executive Committee. People from the floor were encouraged, and enthusiastic to get up on stage and participate in the debates. I tried, but wasn't chosen....next time hopefully. The security was sensible but meant that delays getting into the centre at busy times had to be factored in. I attended some of the training sessions which were very useful. Hopefully I'll be able to use some of the information gained to help out at the next election, National or Local. It left me enthusiastic to go to next year's, which is in Liverpool.....so John and I can take the boat and make a real journey of it! Can't wait!

November Events

Wednesday, 29th November

A slightly changed format for the Monthly Quiz. It will now be run by moorers but still with Marina support, not least by funding The Willow Tree Tea Rooms platters of fresh sandwiches (thanks also to Helen!). Teams should bring their own drinks and glasses, nuts, crisps and supplementary food if they want more than a snack! Volunteers will run Quizzes (so if you fancy that let Viv Thompson or Jo James know) and, as usual, the winning team receives the total entry funds (£1 per person). We also ask for the Marina's Charity contribution of £1 per person. November's Question Master is Roger Filler (of ReXFactor and Ukulele Fame among other things!). He is promising a very British Quiz!! Book in at the Office and if you don't have - but would like - a team, tell them that too and we'll join you up with others.

Friday, 24th November

Another change is to the CPR monthly training. This is now "First Aid Fridays" and led by Sarah Cunnington. Fun, games, quizzes, CPR, basic First Aid, reminders of emergency procedures and a monthly theme. An evening that promises fun and laughter and lots of valuable information and ideas to keep us all safe. What better way to spend a winter's evening once a month. Name/s to the Office please!

**Mercia Marina**  
WILLINGTON

**CHRISTMAS MARKETS**

**Makers Market 26 Nov**

**Food & Festivities 10 Dec**

Sunday November 26th 10 - 4.30  
Christmas Makers Market with crafts, gift ideas, art, foods, clothing, drinks and be merry

Sunday December 10th 10 - 4.30  
Food and festivities market, live entertainment, mulled wine, hot foods and Christmas lights

**FREE ENTRY & PARKING**

Mercia Marina, Findern Lane, Willington, Derbyshire, DE45 6DW 01283 703332

**Liveboard Boat Insurance**

**COLLIDGE & PARTNERS**  
MARINE INSURANCE

**assist**  
INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

Do you have a residential mooring and do you live on your boat? If so, are you sure you have the right level of insurance. 'Regular' narrow/widebeam insurance policies tend to be for leisure users and these may not be giving you enough cover and you may be missing out on associated benefits. A good liveboard insurance policy gives alternative accommodation if the boat becomes uninhabitable, gives lock and key replacement, insurance for personal property away from the boat (to certain agreed limits), cover on portable electronic equipment (laptops, tablets, ipads, phones and cameras), cover for credit cards and cash, pedal cycles and solar panels. There may be no excess payable if the loss or damage occurs when the boat is on its mooring at the Marina. And what about hull surveys on older craft? At least one company will 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. So check your insurance carefully. Is it right for you and does it cover what you need it to cover?

**GJW Direct**

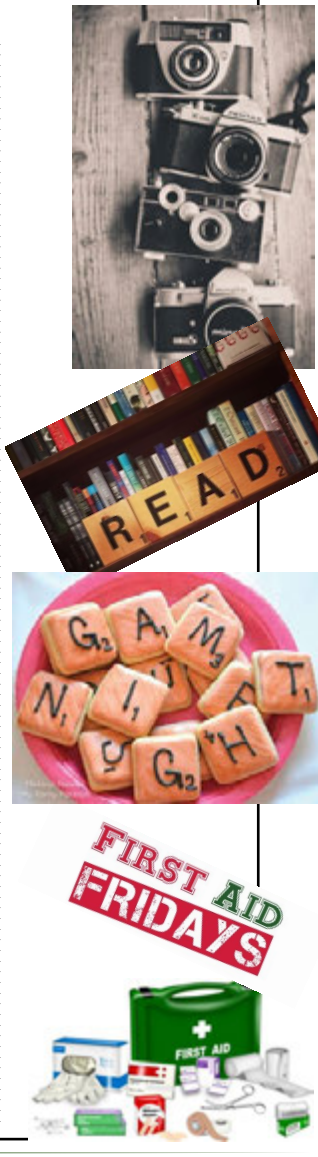
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Community Events' Programme for 2017-2018

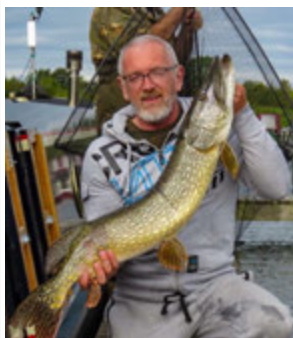
The Calendar of Community Events is on the Mercia Community Facebook Page. If you still can't find what you want, then ask! Ask in the Office, email [merciaevents@hotmail.com](mailto:merciaevents@hotmail.com), ask your Forum Rep - there is plenty of help around. And it is very important that you keep in touch with any last minute changes or arrangements for your group - either on Facebook or asking a friend to check for you. Some events are very popular, so it is important you say you want to come in good time. Events on the FB page have a 'join' button (no need to 'decline' or 'maybe', just accept if you want to) or, if you don't use Facebook, email [merciaevents@hotmail.com](mailto:merciaevents@hotmail.com) or give the Office a note of your name/event to pass on. Most events are in The Willow Tea Rooms (thanks to Helen Deaville) and usually start at 7pm.

The November Events' Diary

Wed	1	Craft
Thurs	2	Ukulele
Sun	5	Fireworks (see separate poster)
Mon	6	Watercolour
Tues	7	Music
Wed	8	Photography
Thurs	9	Ukulele
Mon	13	Watercolour
Tues	14	Craft
Wed	15	Bingo
Thurs	16	Ukulele
Fri	17	Games Night (watch for further details)
Mon	20	Watercolour
Tues	21	Craft
Wed	22	Bingo
Thurs	23	Ukulele
Fri	24	First Aid Friday (see separate item)
Sat	25	Nature Society
Sun	26	Makers' Market (see poster)
Mon	27	Watercolour
Tues	28	Book Club
Wed	29	Quiz (see separate item)
Thurs	30	Ukulele



Mercia Piscatorial Society



The Society held their First Pike Match on the 8th of October. The winner was Ian Carroll with a fine 16lb 8oz fish in very good condition. This species along with Perch and Zander spawn through the winter months so by the next, and second, match in December this fish will be in the 20lb range. Our first away Match in on the 25th of October at Longford with a nice number in attendance. The weights for this will go into the league. Nigel Hunt is currently in the lead, second is Steve Winning. The Environment Agency will be down again through November; they are placing some sonar equipment around the Marina to look at species type and numbers. Just a reminder for those who may have a dabble at Pike fishing, please make sure that your main line is no less than 12lb, that you always use a wire trace and we don't promote the use of gags. If you would like to join the Society, have a word with Nigel Hunt or John Welch.



Lucy and Hannah



We said our 'goodbyes' to Lucy Elson on Saturday 21 October. Following her Friday night Farewell from the Partners and colleagues, she was given a rousing sendoff in The Willow Tree Tea Rooms, with a superb cake from Rebekah Preston, a musical interlude from the Ukulele group featuring Sarah Cunnington, Viv Thompson's brief speech of thanks on behalf of us all, flowers, card and a 'spend' contribution to the impending New Zealand trip! Lucy has been part of the Marina since January 2009 and we'll miss her. A very warm and genuine welcome to Hannah Armson who has taken over as Office Manager. Hannah has always lived locally and her parents

are still in Willington. Her brother was on the offside moorings for a bit before the Marina was built, so they have all known Mercia from the beginning. Hannah now lives with her own family in Findern and has visited the Marina frequently over the years. Her daughter, Imogen (who loves narrowboats), won the Willington Arts Festival/Mercia Marina Art Competition painting category in 2013 for her "Swan and Cygnets" and her Mum, Jan, won the Festival's Sculpture category in the year after that! With Jan also having sung in the Christmas Carols on the Bandstand and Hannah frequently walking her two young dogs (a Doberman and a Rhodesian Ridgeback) along the towpath from the Nadee, it's surprising we don't all count her as a friend already! But now's the time to remedy that, so make yourself known to her when you go in the Office.



Golden Windlass



A Golden Windlass has been awarded to Rick Richards for two acts in the last month - namely rescuing a boat adrift in the recent high winds (ably assisted by partner, Tracey) and piloting a boat back to its berth following the skipper's sudden onset of illness.



Pictured left: Jude Boynton receiving her Golden Windlass, given in recognition of her long-standing support for the Marina's recycling and her own example of living an environmentally responsible life.

See and Be Seen

British Summer Time has ended and for the next few months, it will be dark by late afternoon. If you're out and about, make sure you will be able to see and, equally important, be seen! Take a torch, wear a headlight and/or put on reflective clothing. If you've a dog with you, a reflective collar or lead is a good thing. Watch/listen for traffic and other pedestrians and make sure you have been seen by them. Step off the road and stop if needs be.



Be Safe! Take a Torch!

A Bellamy Bee Award

Mercia Marina is now officially Bee Friendly. Our thanks go to the volunteers who have given their time and commitment, their leadership and their expertise to achieve this and other awards. The quality of our environment owes a lot to them and their tireless work on behalf of the wildlife..



Thanks to Midland Chandlers for their continued support of the Newsletter. Copies can be emailed (give the office your address) and printed copies are available in our own Midland Chandlers, the cafes and shops and in the Marina Office.



Archaeology at Mercia - The 2017 Excavation



The Archaeological dig in the fields on the west side of the Marina has been completed. It was the latest in a series of explorations which are a necessary and preliminary part of any approved developments on the site. The first was some 40 years ago in preparation for the gravel extraction associated with the construction of the A50; the 2008 dig - preceding the building of the Marina - focussed on a trench, a pit and an area to the east side of the flooded quarry. Each dig excavated archaeological remains from most prehistory periods - the Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. There were stone tools, flints, pits, ring ditches, post holes, linear boundary features and ceramics. The current plan for the new lodges, the pond and landscaping in the two fields therefore brought the Archaeological Research Services, with Assistant Project Officer Caitlin Halton, back on site to confirm the known archaeology and to

record any new archaeology from several small digs within the area. The top soil in the fields is quite thick and the development is relatively shallow so there was no need to dig down more than about half a metre - which meant not going below the Romano-British remains.

The known line of pits across the field was confirmed, though their purpose remains unknown (perhaps waste pits or boundary markers) and there was evidence of post holes in other areas. A piece of Roman ceramic building material was recovered. Given the acidic nature of the soil, any animal matter would have decayed so there were no animal or other bones to find to help decide what might have been going on in the area.

Such explorations are necessary activities even though, in this case, nothing new or surprising was discovered. It adds to the general knowledge of the area and, for us - perhaps - a more immediate awareness of what is under our feet. Go far enough down and you'll hit the marina's bedrock of Mercia Mudstone - formed during the Triassic period when all around us was desert!



Strong Winds, Storms and Boat Safety

As ex-Hurricane Ophelia was heading our way back in the middle of October (and then we had our own Brian soon after), Rob McLean of the Boat Safety Scheme wrote a timely reminded and warning how wind and rain can threaten both us and our boats in several ways.

With his full permission, I quote:

**Stoves** - in strong gusty winds your stove can suffer from two opposite effects -

1. Back-draughting - Combustion fumes are blown back down the flue and forced out of the stove chamber. Make sure your fire is burning well (but not too strongly - see below) and that the upwards draw is maintained. Make sure you have a chimney terminal atop the roof, this will help with the draw.
2. Over-firing - where the stove races away. Don't overbank the stove and leave it unattended. Don't leave the air controls open (or the door open - never do that) and leave the stove. The fire and heat can pick up in a moment.

In both cases, tarry chimney pipes can both reduce the upward flow of gases and the deposits can catch fire (chimney fires). If this happens the heat can radiate to other parts of boat and decorations around the stove. A completely burnt out boat can result.

Your belt and braces lifesaver if, despite your carefulness, the worst happens will be working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms. For further information about types and options, have a look at the web pages (the links are a Facebook redirection)

[www.boatsafetyscheme.org/.../choosing-a-smoke-alarm/](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/.../choosing-a-smoke-alarm/) and [www.boatsafetyscheme.org/.../co-alarms-save-lives/](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/.../co-alarms-save-lives/)

You should be checking these regularly to make sure they are working properly but an extra check or two throughout stormy conditions is no bad thing!

The other risks to plan for

**Trees** - keep a 'weather' eye on any trees by or above your boat! Check for any branches likely to drop or split boughs.

**Rapidly rising/falling water levels** - also strong stream flows - with both of these check your mooring pins and ropes ahead of the storm hitting.

**Moorings** - strong winds can move the boat quite significantly so check your ropes and mooring pins frequently.

Plan ahead, avoid having to navigate in strong stream and high wind conditions - get your water/fuel/gas in stock; and if you need to, empty your over-full holding tanks before it arrives

Should things go wrong on a boat, you'll need a lifesaver!



To find out more about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on boats go to [www.boatsafetyscheme.org/stay-safe](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/stay-safe)

Don't Drink and Drive



Even though the perimeter road around the Marina is a private road, that only goes as far as the green electric security gates. Outside of those, the road is considered a public road. The police say they would happily act within the Marina on information given to them. And, if people report to the Office that Mercians are driving whilst intoxicated, the Office has a duty to take action to prevent harm to people.

Free Jewellery & Watch Valuations

at Mercia Marina, Findern Lane, Willington, Derby DE65 6DW

Saturday 25 November 10am - 3pm

Discover the value of your Jewellery with the opportunity to consign to auction with Isabel Balmer FGA, DGA

Free Home Visits for large/multiple items, House Clearance & Downsizing advice Probate & Insurance Valuations



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