

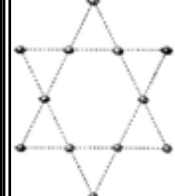
Mercia Events

The December Events' Diary

More information on the Community Facebook page or ask in the Office. Things can change, so check for updates! And sign up for those popular like the Christmas Fuddle. Most events are at the Willow Tree Tea Rooms, courtesy of Helen, and start at 7.00

Sat	2	Brave the Shave 3.30 - 4.30 @ Willow Tree
Mon	4	Watercolour
Tues	5	Music
Wed	6	Craft
Thurs	7	Ukulele
Sat	9	Christmas Fuddle
Sun	10	Fishing Match (Pike Match)
Tues	12	Craft
Wed	13	Photography
Thurs	14	Ukulele
Mon	20	Watercolour
Tues	19	Craft
Wed	20	Bingo
Thurs	21	Ukulele
Mon	25	OFFICE CLOSED
Tues	26	OFFICE CLOSED

Mince Pie Puzzle



Henry Ernest Dudeney created this puzzle 120 years ago. Six rows of four mince pies in each row. Move four mince pies so there are **seven** rows of four mince pies. Lovely little puzzle! Or just eat them all so there are no mince pies. Or - best of all - check whether your boaty neighbour could do with some company and take them all round there. Or invite them to join you for a cuppa, a meal, a chat .... Share Christmas with each other; make sure no one is lonely. A bit of company makes all the difference!

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. Please could people check for 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). There is a weight limit of 17kg for any parcel.



The Christmas Fuddle

**Saturday, 9th December, Willow Tea Rooms.**

This is a ticket-only evening because of limitations on space. It is for moorers and lodge owners and tickets (first-come, first-served) are available from the Office from the 30th of November.

The Fuddle is a 'bring and share' meal, so channel your creativity and plan your savoury or sweet contribution! There is a food list in the Office to keep a check on what people are bringing, so please consult this and sign up for your 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! And please label your food in terms of vegetarian or meat, dairy-free or gluten-free if it is, nuts or no nuts etc. If your food is not on a disposable plate/platter, put your name on a label on the bottom of the plate if you want it back.. It's a BYO drinks' evening and there will probably be music and 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!

This is also an opportunity to say, on behalf of everyone, a very big thank you to Helen Deaville for her generosity in giving the Willow Tree Tea Rooms to us all, not just for this night but for all the nights throughout the year for our community activities.



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, DE65 6DW 01283 703332


Thank you to Midland Chandelers for their continuing support of the Newsletter and to Kerry Reay for her cheerful willingness to give us the hard copies each month!!






Have a Very Happy Christmas !!

Christmas and New Year Opening Times



Midland Chandelers



Marina Office

23rd December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
24th December - 9 a.m. till 2.00 p.m.  
Closed on 25th and 26th December  
27th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
28th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
29th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
30th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
31st December - 9 a.m. till 2.00 p.m.  
Closed on 1st January  
2nd January - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
Please sort electricity cards, credit on smart electricity cards and diesel requirements in plenty of time.


Still Waters Shop

24th December - 9 a.m. till 2.00 p.m.  
Closed on 25th December  
Closed on 26th December  
27th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
28th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
29th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
30th December - 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.  
31st December - 9 a.m. till 2.00 p.m.  
Closed on 1st January  
2nd January - open as normal  
Please remember to get your coal, gas and logs in advance of the closed dates.



Willow Tree Tea Rooms


24th December - 8.30 a.m. till 3.00 p.m.  
Closed on 25th December  
26th December - 10.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.  
27th December - 8.30 a.m. till 4.30 p.m.  
28th December - 8.30 a.m. till 4.30 p.m.  
29th December - 8.30 a.m. till 4.30 p.m.  
30th December - 8.30 a.m. till 4.30 p.m.  
31st December - 8.30a.m. till 3.00 p.m.  
1st January - 10.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.  
2nd January - open as normal  
Please remember to have a BIG Boater's Breakfast on Christmas Eve because we won't be open on Christmas Day !!

Macmillan "Brave the Shave"



Saturday, 2 December, 3.30 p.m. @ the Willow Tree Tea Rooms  
Helen Deaville and her children, Teddy and Chloe, are having their hair shaved off to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Teddy and Chloe's hair will go to the Little Princess Trust to be made into wigs and given free to children who have lost theirs through cancer treatment or other illness. Some 12,000 people have Braved the Shave this year and raised nearly £4,000,000. It's a HUGE thing to do, particularly for teenagers Chloe and Teddy so we all need to be there to support them. You can add to the sponsorship by clicking on the link below, signing the sponsorship form in the Willow Tree Tea Rooms or buying raffle tickets on the day (in fact, do all three!). [bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/heg-deaville](http://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/heg-deaville)  
The expert shaver will be Wil Wheelwright - the proprietor of the new and gorgeous hair studio coming to the Piazza. Wil and his wife, Jasmine (pictures with Helen Deaville below) and their two young children live locally and have a Salon in Oakham. They are only too delighted to work with Helen, Chloe and Teddy and join the community to aid such a good cause.  
Their own clientele will be encouraged to add their support and to come to Mercia to look at the setting for Wil and Jasmine's new Hair Design studio.  
Macmillan do wonderful work and most of us will know someone they've supported. Now we have an opportunity to help them in their work.





WILLIAM WHEELWRIGHT  
HAIRDRESSING


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



## Marina Charities for 2018

Forum Members unanimously approved Angela Stone's nomination after over £300 was raised for the British Legion through the sale of her beautiful hand crocheted Remembrance Poppies.

## The Piazza



Tenants signed up now include Bluebird Gallery, William Wheelwright Hairdressing, Black by Design (homewares and gifts), Twigg (fashion and gift shop) and an Indian small plates (tapas) restaurant. The construction company will be off-site in mid January so the tenants can start their own internal fitout. There will be a series of events as each is ready to open its doors to customers.

Members of the community voted for the causes to be supported by the Marina through the next year. The three chosen are:

**Mercia Community Fund** - helping people on the marina who may need support during difficult times.

**Motor Neurone Disease Association (Charity No. 294354)**

[www.mndderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.mndderbyshire.org.uk) The Derbyshire MND Support Group aims to serve all those in the area affected by Motor Neurone Disease.

**Spinal Injuries Association (Charity No. 1054097). [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)**  
The Association wants to ensure everyone touched by spinal cord injury has the support they need to rebuild their lives.

Funds for the good causes are raised through the £1 contribution given by those attending events in the Willow Tree Tea Rooms, individual collections or raffles are particular times and anyone can contribute by given in a donation to the Office. At the end of the year, the funds will be shared between the Mercia Community Fund and the two Charities.. By the end of 2017, Mercia Community Groups will have donated over £100 to the Midland Freewheelers and Peter Le Marchant Trust as well as making a £400+ donation the Mercia Community Fund.

## Sarah's Bravery Award

Now East Midlands Ambulance Service have given their own Bravery Award at a surprise presentation on a lovely sunny Friday at the Marina. The East Midlands Ambulance Service Press Release carried the full story (which was picked up by local press

BBC East Midlands News that evening:

*"A woman who selflessly jumped into a marina to save an unconscious 91-year-old pensioner from drowning has been presented with a prestigious Bravery Award. Sarah Cunnington, who works part-time at Mercia Marina in Willington, leapt into the water when Dennis Oates collapsed and fell into the marina. Sarah, who called for help and held Dennis' head above water to stop him from drowning, was today presented with an East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) Bravery Award. At the surprise event at Mercia Marina, she was also reunited with Dennis, 999 call handler Georgia Culligan who took the call and the Ambulance Technician Christa Calladine who came to help him. On receiving the award, Sarah said: "This is so surreal. I didn't really do anything out of the ordinary, I was only doing what anyone would have done."*

Robert Neff put into words what we'd all want to say: "We ... congratulate Sarah on receiving this award, which she thoroughly deserves, and we are delighted that she has

joined the volunteer First Aid team and feel proud that she is part of the wonderful community that we have at Mercia Marina.



## A Seasonal Quiz

1. Myrrh was one of the original Christmas presents, but what is it?
2. One of the largest diamonds ever found is called by the Persian for "Mountain of Light". What name is it known by?
3. Boxing Day is so called because traditionally the servants recovered from the stress of Christmas Day by organising pugilistic contests between themselves. True or false?
4. Where does the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree come from?
5. According to research by Nationwide, the average Brit bought 14 Christmas presents last year. Did he or she spend over:  
a) £150 b) £180 c) £250 or d) £280?
6. What was the new present on the ninth day of Christmas?
7. What's the fastest production car you could ask for for Christmas?
8. And what's its top speed?
9. What is a male yearling turkey called?
10. Which came to England first, the Christmas card or the Christmas tree?
11. According to legend, who first put gold coins in a Christmas stocking?
12. Which classic film introduced *I'm dreaming of a White Christmas*?
13. The Romans had a mid-winter festival on the same dates as our one, with partying, present giving, ghost story telling and general tomfoolery. In which god's honour was it held?
14. What is the optimum temperature for making a snowball?
15. David Essex, William Shakespeare, Colin Farrell. What's the connection?

*Many thanks to Bruce and Sheila Napier who will be Quizmasters for the first Willow Tree Tea Room Quiz in 2018.*

See how many you get without a Google! Answers in the New Year Newsletter



## Mercia Christmas Light Extravaganza!



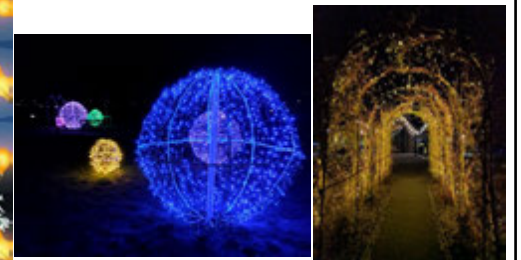
Our traditional best-decorated boat and lodge competition has a dramatic uplift! An Illuminated Christmas Cruise to Willington and return. All decorated boats and lodges will be automatically part of the competition but you can also choose to give your boat an outing with the Illuminated Boat Parade.

There are already a dozen boats signed up but there is still room for a few more, so go to the Office and put your name down! And if anyone would like to help on the towpath, then hand your name in too - you'd be very welcome, says organiser Louise Hartley.

The winners of the various categories - (best decorated boat, best decorated lodge, best parade boat, best Christmas outfit, most mince pies and mulled wine handed out to crew, best overall display and anything else that can be thought of nearer the time!) - will be announced on December 18th.

Sailaway is 4pm but boats will leave at timed intervals to help exit from the Marina and subsequent winding at Willington.

So lots of reasons to dust off your lanterns, deck your decks with boughs of holly, create a new theme for Christmas 2017 and add to the Marina's festive appearance. The estate team has already got the Christmas Trees and lights upon on the Boardwalk so now it's your opportunity to dazzle!

**Mercia Forum Representatives November 2017**

The Forum representatives for the six areas of the Marina are as follows:

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

**Kerrie Fletcher** (NB British Maid) Albatross, Avocet, Blackbird, Bullfinch,

**Zebra Dove** (*kerriefletcher@gmx.co.uk*)

**Key Stone** (NB Chelwood) Veery, Woodcock, Xantus, Yellowhammer, Lodges

([kitcarkev@gmail.com](mailto:kitcarkev@gmail.com))

**Viv Thompson** (WB Steel Blue Lady) Redshank, Sandpiper, Teal, Upland Goose

(vivthompson11@gmail.com)

**John Welch** (nb Sharazad) Nuthatch, Owl, Peregrine, Quail (07917 595630 or 07958 322631 and text to this second number if you can't get him on the phone).

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

## Star Moorers on the Cover!

If the cover of December's 'Waterways World' looks familiar, it's because it was taken just down the cut at Bridge 20 and features new arrivals to Mercia, Dave and Angie Culley, on their boat 'Annie'.

Dave says: "We had just been down to Stenson for a spin and was asked by a

The cover of the December 2011 issue of *Waterways World* features a large photograph of a blue and white boat on a river. The title "Waterways World" is prominently displayed at the top. Below it, the text "BOAT OF THE FUTURE" is visible. Other headlines include "Lancaster Canal", "FINAL COUNTDOWN", "BRIT CANALS", and "New Accommodation". The cover also mentions "December 2011" and "Volume 14 Number 12".

