

Answers to the Seasonal Quiz

Thanks to Bruce and Sheila Napier for the Quiz

- 1. Myrrh was one of the original Christmas presents, but what is it? *An aromatic gum used in ancient medicine and religious rituals.*
- 2. One of the largest diamonds ever found is called by the Persian for "Mountain of Light". What name is it known by? *Koh-I-Noor*
- 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? *False: it was the traditional day for exchanging presents.*
- 4. Where does the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree come from? *Norway*
- 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? *d) £282*
- 6. What was the new present on the ninth day of Christmas? *Nine ladies dancing*
- 7. What's the fastest production car you could ask for for Christmas? *Tesla Model S Ludicrous*
- 8. And what's its top speed? *155 mph*
- 9. What is a male yearling turkey called? *A stag*
- 10. Which came to England first, the Christmas card or the Christmas tree? *The Tree in 1800, the first card was marketed in 1843*
- 11. According to legend, who first put gold coins in a Christmas stocking? *St Nicholas*
- 12. Which classic film introduced *I'm dreaming of a White Christmas*? *Holiday Inn*
- 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? *Saturn, hence Saturnalia*
- 14. What is the optimum temperature for making a snowball? *0° C, 32° F*
- 15. David Essex, William Shakespeare, Colin Farrell. What's the connection? *Winter's Tale: song by David Essex, play by Shakespeare, film A New York Winter's Tale starring Colin Farrell.*



Boat Combustion Emissions Study

Below you'll see a notice from Graham Watts, BSS Manager. You may have questions and the details are not yet finalised, but because time is short, if you are interested then respond now. You can always say 'no' if you find out it's not possible for you.



CALL FOR RESIDENTIAL BOAT OWNERS TO VOLUNTEER THEIR BOATS
TO HELP WITH AN IMPORTANT SAFETY STUDY

The Boat Safety Scheme in conjunction with BRE's scientists and in partnership with Mercia Marina, are seeking expressions of interests from those who live aboard their boat in the marina to make available their boat in early February 2018 in support of an essential safety initiative. This pilot study will measure the effects of combustion emissions from boats (engines, portable generators, diesel-fuelled heating appliances and solid fuel stoves). It will focus primarily on the potential effects of carbon monoxide but will also provide measurements of other potential pollutants, e.g. nitrogen oxides (NOx) and airborne particles. The commitment we are asking of volunteers is to make their boats available at a set location in the marina over a period of two, possibly three days, during the week commencing Monday 5 February 2018. We are looking for up to four boats to take part and there will be a need for all owners to be in attendance during the testing because we will need various configurations of engines and appliances to be turned on or off, and boats moved occasionally. Scientific measuring instruments will be used on board and please note that whilst the testing is taking place owners will not be able to use gas hobs or ovens, combustion-type heaters or even smoke – otherwise these activities will sway the test results.



In return for your help, the BSS offer to pay the BSS Examiner's fees at your next BSS Examination and will pay for the fuel used during the testing and your reasonable other expenses, for example, food lunches in the Boardwalk. Expressions of interest are sought and so if this safety initiative appeals to you please talk to the Marina Office. There will be a form to fill out - your contact details, details of your boat (length, year of manufacture etc.), its equipment (tick boxes for diesel engine or heating, solid fuel stove, inverter, CO alarm, petrol gen, LPG heating, petrol inboard engine). The form must be completed and handed in before Friday 12 January 2018. You will then be contacted by the BSS within five working days to let you know if you have been chosen to take part.

Brave the Shave

Helen is delighted to report that her, Chloe and Teddy's head shave raised £1,300 for MacMillan Cancer Support. She thanks all the sponsors, their friends and family for support and Wil Wheelwright for the brilliant shave!

The Piazza @ Mercia Marina



A New Year and A New Beginning: The Piazza's dramatic architecture is creating a lot of interest and admiring glances as it complements its Boardwalk companion. As the building nears completion, there is increasing focus on the new retail businesses which will begin their fit out in January. There will be several businesses, with each opening its doors to customers in the next few months. And, in addition, Still Waters

Shop run by Chrissy and Grahame Clamp will be opening **Chrissy's Gift Boat** - a widebeam boat on a commercial berth by the Boardwalk. Grahame, with the help of very good friends, is currently doing the fit out and they should be open for business by the beginning of the year. It's an exciting new venture, following taking on and developing the Still Waters' business over the last three plus years. The shop had no more space to give - neither outwards nor upwards - so they decided to move the gifts, scarves, hats, handbags, Yankee Candles and some new lines to a separate outlet and start from scratch. Still Waters will become purely a convenience store with more hardware, food and groceries. Alan Croot, a moorer, has joined the staff team alongside Chrissy, Grahame and Michael. We wish them well in their new business - they look after us all so well and provide an excellent service. The Piazza will have attractive new businesses. **Twigg Home** is one such. They say: "Passion for creating a positive atmosphere and a good dose of humour are what created Twigg Home, along with a love for the outdoors and clean Scandinavian living. The idea came with a recent visit to Denmark where we took little treasures and inspiration from both city living and rustic outdoor simplicity to help select our collections for in store and online. Twigg Home is a way of living bringing fashion and lifestyle together. Twigg is a place to soak yourself in life's simple pleasures with selected products for Home and Garden, Food and Drink and Fashion/Accessories." Want to keep up to date with design ideas, interiors and fashion? Then sign up to their news letter at www.twigghome.co.uk




Then there will be **William Wheelwright Hairdressing**. The last Newsletter introduced Wil and his wife, Jasmine, when they came to support Brave The Shave in the Willow Tree Tea Rooms. Wil and Jasmine already have a Salon in Oakham so will be running the two businesses when they open at Mercia in January. They have an established clientele in Oakham and are both looking forward to coming here and attracting new customers. If you want to read more go to williamwheelwright.co.uk or find him on Facebook.

Black By Design has been established now for more than six years as an internet only business selling homewares and gifts which are particularly influenced by Scandinavian styles. Currently based in rural Staffordshire they decided earlier this year to look for an office and being Derby people they decided to look for an office in Derby. "We stumbled by chance on the new development at the Marina and felt that this would be perfect not only as an office but also as a shop front for the products that we sell. So bucking the National trend (rightly or wrongly !!) of retail shops closing, we are opening with a range of brands many of which are not readily in shops at the moment and we hope that these will complement the excellent offering that is already at the Marina". www.black-by-design.co.uk There are two further businesses coming into the Piazza - Bluebird Gallery and an Indian 'small plates' (tapas) restaurant. More information on these and further updates on the other businesses will be in the February and March Newsletters. When all the businesses are up and running, the Marina will be an even more attractive and interesting place to live and visit.






Community Events’ Programme for 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, 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 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.



January 2018 Diary



Tues	2	Music
Wed	3	Craft
Thurs	4	Ukulele
Tues	9	Craft
Wed	10	Photography
Thurs	11	Ukulele
Mon	13	Watercolour
Tues	16	Craft
Wed	17	Bingo
Thurs	18	Ukulele
Tues	23	Beetle Drive
Thurs	25	Ukulele
Frid	26	First Aid Friday
Tues	30	Book Club
Wed	31	Quiz (Teams of up to 6. Book at the Office)



Happy New Year and Thank You

The New Year of 2018 was acknowledged on the front page and a thank you to Midland Chandra's has just been said. So this is the right time to wish everyone a Good New Year. May the next twelve months be good to you and yours and your friends and neighbours here in the community. If you can help someone have a bit of a better year, then do it! There were so many times this was happening through 2017 and it was heartwarming to see the care being shown one to another. Also we should pause and give our thanks to all those who put so much time and work into maintaining and developing our community and providing such a great place to live and spend our leisure time - the Partners John and Michael Thornton and Robert Neff; the Office - Lucy, Hannah, Jules, Tony and Sarah; the Housekeeping Team - Kath, Pam, Naomi, Jenny, Karen, Jackie, Chris and Angela; the Grounds Team - Stuart, Pete, Ryan, Dan and Ian; all the onsite businesses, with a particular thank you to Helen Deaville who has allowed the Willow Tree Tea Rooms to be used for our community events. Thanks, too, to all the volunteer First Aiders and Fire Wardens, Kev and Angie Stone for their tireless work with the Community Bike scheme, Wynne's tecky help, those who have led the various groups and the volunteers who sit on the Events Committee and the Mercia Forum. So many people to thank but is clear the difference each and every person makes to our daily lives.

My thanks to Alastair Thomas, Managing Director of Arleigh International for his continuing support of the Newsletter. And to Kerry Rear for her superb administrative support throughout the year. Copies can be emailed to you and printed copies are available in our own Midland Chandra's, the cafes and shops and in the Marina Office.



A wonderful first Illuminated Boat Parade. We need more boats next year please! Well done to Louise Hartley for suggesting it.

Golden Windlass

A Golden Windlass was awarded to Angela Stone for her amazing commitment of time and skill in crocheting the hundreds of beautiful red Remembrance poppies which raised over £300 for the British Legion.



Santa's Grotto



Santa was welcomed back to his Floating Grotto on the Mercia Swan in December and delighted visiting children and adults (of all ages!) as he heard about their Christmas wishes whilst the boat went on a short trip.

Annual Santa Stroll



Twenty-five children, parents and staff from Findern Community Pre-School were recently treated to a trip on Santa's Floating Grotto after walking to the Marina as part of their annual Santa Stroll event. Carole Gillard, who runs the pre-school, said: "Every year we walk to the Marina from the pre-school dressed up in festive hats and costumes. This year the children met Santa and, as a surprise, they went for a short trip on his Floating Grotto which was lovely. We've got children, parents and grandparents who come along and it's a wonderful tradition. We would like to say a big thankyou to Mercia Marina for making it such a lovely day."

Nature Society News



A wonderful hat trick of donations was made by Mercia Marina Nature Society this year. £200 went to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, £200 to Butterfly Conservation and £50 to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. The monies came from the various events, raffles and donations the Society ran or encouraged. The Society is active throughout the year, encouraging an interest in, and support for, the Marina's wildlife. If you would like to find out more and perhaps get involved in one of the many activities, let the Office know and they will put you in touch with members of the Society.

Weather Station



The Marina Weather Station has been operating for almost a full year now and, in the middle of December, had an electronic Vaisala Unit fitted which monitors the air temperature through 24 hours. And we now have a web bulb thermometer as well which, our Met Office Manager tells me, makes us a fully-fledged weather station! There is a team of a dozen of us who do the daily gam readings. If you would like to join in, tell me! You'd be very welcome; it's straightforward but interesting.