

# TillerTalk

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM BARTON MARINA

## BEARS ROAM MARINA WOODS

*full story page 2*



### ENDING IN TIERS!

This edition of Tiller Talk is written more in hope than expectation. After the false dawn of Eat Out to Help Out, the fleeting semblance of normality has been just that. The varied businesses on Barton Marina are not downcast, however. Since reopening, the restaurants and shops have been observing strict procedures to keep you, and their staff, safe. And you've come in your thousands, so thank you.

The Christmas lights at the marina will be shining as usual, and Tiller Talk has been impressed by the wide variety and amount of festive goods already in the shops.

*Enjoy Christmas and keep safe*

### Shops & Restaurants

Alyssa - Ladieswear and accessories  
Start & Tremayne - Designer leather goods

Blue Water - Contemporary clothing  
The Apple Tree Coffee Shop

Butcher, Baker Farm Shop - An Aladdin's cave of culinary delights

Gallery Three - An eclectic mix of fine art  
The Mug Tug - Paint-a-pot on board a narrowboat

Thai Marina Restaurant - Authentic Thai cuisine

Red Carpet Cinema & Café Bar - the latest movies and special screenings

Nero E Bianco - Exclusive ladies and menswear

John Partridge - Elegant country wear

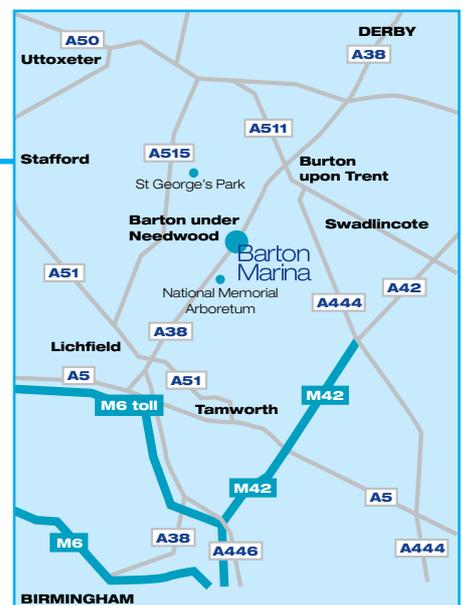
Casa Home - Quality gifts and home items for the discerning buyer

Indulgence - Fine Italian Wine, Chocolates & Gelato

Parker Hall - Estate Agents

The Waterfront - Good Honest Pub Food freshly-cooked to order

The Marina Café - A hidden gem! Breakfast, lunch and snacks at affordable prices. Lip-smacking Cornish ice-cream



Barton Marina  
Barton-under-Needwood  
Burton Upon Trent DE13 8DZ  
[www.bartonmarina.co.uk](http://www.bartonmarina.co.uk)

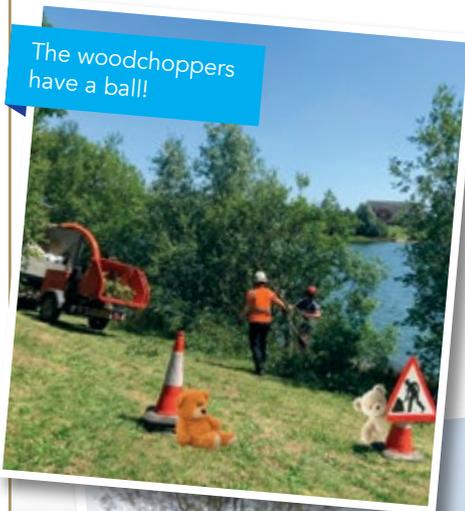
# The bare cheek of it!



**If you go down in the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise!**

Not a Teddy Bear's picnic – picnicking isn't permitted at Barton Marina – but a possible sighting of one of these elusive creatures lurking in the undergrowth. The colony was discovered by tree surgeons working on the marina woodland.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Bears is aiming to round the creatures up and find them a good home. Honey traps have been laid and bear bait put down. In the meantime, walkers, who until now have barely been able to see the woods for the trees, must keep strictly to the recently-cleared paths. The little rascals can become grumpy if disturbed.



The woodchoppers have a ball!



Spectacular views are back again



Lucas puts on a spurt to clean timber rails



Site manager Steve Rainsford in deep water



Work on thinning the woods resumes next year as Barton Marina continues to build its reputation as one of Staffordshire's leading destinations.

## ANTIQUES DISCOVERY DAY

There were lots to look at during the first Barton Marina Antiques Discovery Day at the Marina Café. Local lofts and cupboards had been turned over in a search for that forgotten heirloom. Edward Rycroft, an expert from Derbyshire auctioneers, Hanson's, was on hand to provide instant valuations.

Amongst many fascinating objects that Edward booked into Hanson's next sale was a boxed Hornby toy locomotive and a large collection of Georgian coins and early 20th Century postcards.

You have plenty of time to dig for treasure before the next "Flog it!" day in April: date to be announced.



Scared Steiff! Hanson reward for finder of runaway bear.



Improvisation is the name of the game this Christmas! The Waterfront's programme of events has been drawn up around what is possible at the time of Tiller Talk's publication. Check social media and the website for full details and updates.

The pub is closed for a private party of bears on Christmas Day, but otherwise will operate normal opening hours.

**Breakfast** 10.00am to 12noon

**Coffee, cakes and pastries** 10.00am to 5.00pm

**Restaurant and bar snacks** 12noon to 9.00pm (Sunday 8.00pm)

On Boxing Day and New Year's Day food will only be served until 6pm. And unless there is a change in the law, the doors will be locked at 10pm – even on New Year's Eve!

The popular Festive Fayre menu in the restaurant will run from 2nd to 24th December. Two courses £21.50 + Three course £26.50 – maximum six to a table.



Keep an eye for offers  
on **TWO for ONE**  
**COCKTAILS**

## THE WATERFRONT, COVID-19 & TRIP ADVISOR

A sample of what the customers say:

*"The host seated us at a table of our choice. Tables clean and well-spaced out. Sanitizers at every touch point. Staff wearing PPE made us feel safe"*

*"Adhering to social distancing yet making it feel normal"*

*"Everything felt very safe and well-organised"*

*"Pleased to see how well they had dealt with the pandemic, one way in, one way out, hand sanitizers everywhere"*

## CELEBRATE YOUR CHRISTMAS IN STYLE IN THE CROW'S NEST SUITE!

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in December, The Waterfront is opening the Crow's Nest function room for private parties of six persons. Take the chance to wine, dine & relax to the music of local vocalist April.

Tiller Talk has had a preview of the five-course menu. It looks scrumptious! The price of £270 per table of six includes half a bottle of wine per person.

### AND ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

BOTTOMLESS PROSECCO, MULLED WINE OR CIDER

BRUNCH: £24.95pp 11am to 1pm

LUNCH: £39.95pp 2.30pm to 4.30pm

DINNER: £39.95pp 6.30pm to 8.30pm

*Strictly limited numbers to keep everyone safe*

To book at The Waterfront: 01283 711500 or online on the website [www.waterfrontbarton.co.uk](http://www.waterfrontbarton.co.uk)

## Barton Marina Café

Visitors looking for a breath of fresh air since the end of lockdown have no further to go than The Marina Café.

In addition to the large lawn overlooking the marina, the new timber deck is proving to be a sought-after spot to relax and enjoy the sunshine. Intent on looking after their customers, the café erected a marquee for use on a rainy day during the summer.

Walking, cycling and biking clubs have bought into the culture of well-cooked, reasonably-priced food and adopted the Marina café as their meeting place. Whilst their members might prefer hearty breakfasts, new introductions to the menu are hitting the right spots. Lunchtime favourites include curry, chilli nachos, jacket potatoes and pulled pork baps.

To book (four people or over) call 01283 711666 Website [www.bartonmarina.co.uk](http://www.bartonmarina.co.uk)



And is there honey still for tea?

## Alyssa

The girls from Alyssa are hoping for a wonderful if very different festive time.

A recent introduction to the shop's range of ladies' clothing and accessories is the beautiful new Swarovski Crystal jewellery collection. Each style of earring, necklace, bracelet and ring is available in five dazzling shades. With prices ranging from just £15 to £21, treat yourself as well as your loved ones to a bit of sparkle. And if you're not permitted to attend parties or big gatherings this year, you can always make your friends go green with envy on Zoom, Facetime or Skype!



Hidden Gems!

## The Apple Tree

National award-winning coffee shop, The Apple Tree, is open for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea from 10am to 4pm. Drinks and cakes are served all day – no need to book. Reservations are essential for the three-tiered, (this time nothing to do with Boris), champagne afternoon tea.

Seasonal craft drinks on offer include a Black Forest Hot Chocolate, a Winter Spiced Latte, and a Bailey's Cream Indulgence, the ideal accompaniment to an Apple Stollen or Spiced Apple Pie.

The Apple Tree is stocking a wide range of Christmas fine foods and chocolates. And if you're looking for that elusive present, gift vouchers for the delicious champagne afternoon tea are available online.

Call 01283 712332. Website [www.appletreebartonmarina.co.uk](http://www.appletreebartonmarina.co.uk)



Post early for Christmas boys and girls! Pop that letter with your Christmas wishes into Santa's Post Box for its daily delivery to the North Pole.

## Red Carpet Cinema & Café Bar

With the latest Bond film, 'No Time to Die,' rescheduled for next April, major chains like Cineworld are shutting down worldwide. Our local silver screen has also been tarnished by the Covid-19 effect.

Owner of The Red Carpet, Kate Silverwood, appeared on BBC1 Midlands Today to talk about the struggle the cinema world is facing.

'Whilst in theory they'll be more cinema goers to go round,' Kate told veteran broadcaster Nick Owen, 'unfortunately it doesn't work like that. With these chains closing their doors, the likelihood of a leading distributor releasing any films is very much reduced. The challenge ahead for us is clever programming with a mix of old favourites, pre-recorded live events and smaller new film releases.'

Kate ended her confident interview with an appeal for support. 'If customers visit us even once a month they'll be saving fifty jobs – and The Red Carpet will still be here in the Spring.'

Please put one day a month aside to make sure it's not curtains for your local cinema.

To book: register on website [www.redcarpetcinema.co.uk](http://www.redcarpetcinema.co.uk)



A Star is Born!  
Cool Kate impresses viewers

## Butcher, Baker & Farm Shop

Bye-bye to BBQs. Hello to hot steaming plates of meat and veg.

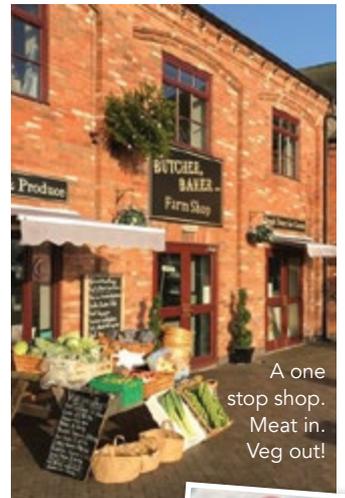
Our local butcher's counter has never looked more inviting. Beef, lamb and pork are always at their best this time of year after a summer's grazing on the lush Staffordshire grassland.

In the last issue of Tiller Talk we enthused about Yoxall farmer, David Fern, and his cross-bred Wagyu beef. Its arrival in the shop is eagerly awaited by a regular clientele who appreciate the superb quality of the meat. The first venison from Cannock Chase is now on sale.

It wouldn't be Christmas without turkeys and cockerels, and orders have been flocking in. For an extra special Christmas, the butchery team will be happy to offer suggestions for suitable meats to make up a hamper.

The farm shop is like a mini Fortnum & Mason, this year stocking the largest range of festive food items and gifts ever. Customer's safety is paramount, and collection and delivery is a growing service.

[www.butcherbakerfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.butcherbakerfarmshop.co.uk)



A one stop shop.  
Meat in.  
Veg out!

## StrEATfood Social

What high jinks the August Bank Holiday weekend visit of the StrEATfood Social turned out to be?

Barton Marina's car parking facilities needed to come through with flying colours and they did. Over a thousand hungry and thirsty punters turned out to sample dishes from vendors

with bizarre names like Greidy's Wings and Strips, Kebab Cartel, Buddha Belly, Disco Fries and Nanny Bill's Urban Cheesecake. You're right: this isn't The Savoy Grill – these guys make it much more fun than that!

And the good news is that they'll be back again on a regular basis next year starting with Easter weekend – Sat 3rd & Sun 4th April.



Double D's Doughnuts fill a hole

## Artisan Market

The monthly Artisan Market has become a regular highlight on Barton Marina's calendar. To supplement the top quality shops already lining the promenade, more than forty stallholders come from far and wide. So too do hundreds of visitors.

Markets next year will be on the third Sunday of every month, starting on 17th January. Make a day of it by booking breakfast, lunch or dinner at one of the marina's eateries, followed by a trip around the lakes to burn off the calories.



## May the best boat WIN!

It might not be the Battle of Trafalgar, but the annual Best Dressed Boat competition is fiercely contested by the Barton Marina boating community. Onlookers can expect an illuminating experience when judging takes place on Sunday 6th December. Sponsors of the event, The Waterfront, will be treating this year's winner to a Meal for Two.



## Spot the Bear Competition

How many bears did you identify in Tiller Talk?

The first person to email: [boats@bartonturnsmarina.co.uk](mailto:boats@bartonturnsmarina.co.uk) with the correct answer wins a £20 voucher for a meal at The Waterfront.

