

Waggoner's Talk

Autumn 2017 - Issue 178



The Magazine of the Motor Caravan Section of the Camping & Caravanning Club

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Contents

Your Contacts	2
Editor's Message	3
Chairman's Chat	4
Beyond the Pail.....	4
Certificate of Merit	4
Marizion THS and Mazey Day.....	5
Around the Sections	6
Crossword Puzzle	17
Regalia	19
PRO Report.....	19
Obituaries.....	21

Waggoner's 

Next deadline date is 11 December 2017

Cover photo - 'MCS Members getting ready for the mardi gras at the Feast of Lanterns' by Derek Maidment

Ramblings of the Editor



Once again we put in a good effort at the National Feast of Lanterns this year at Hickstead in Sussex,

where we had wall-to-wall sunshine for the whole weekend, great entertainment for all ages, and a trade area with something for everyone. 15 MCS attended out of 6500, so we could have done better.

Keep in mind the date for next years MCS national meet which will be held at Kelso show ground from 31st of May till 4th June, with pre and follow-on meets in the area to extend your stay.

Bryan

WT - WAGGONER'S TALK

Website: www.waggonerstalk.co.uk

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Printed in the UK by Truprint Media Ltd.,
tel. 01843 220200 - website: www.truprintmedia.co.uk

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The Editorial Team

Chairman's Chat



Hi everyone you would not think this picture was taken of me at Whitby on the 30th of June, but as Trevor reminded me when I told him; there is no such thing as bad weather, it's bad clothing.

Any way that's enough about me I hope you have had a nice holiday somewhere in the sunshine, it's nice to be able to visit other areas, meet new friends and return to your own area with some new ideas to try on your area meets. It's good if you can get a core of members to attend their own area meets. East Mids Area give their members that attend 10 of their meets in 12 months a £10 voucher this can be used towards paying meet fee on a standard weekend meet.

Some areas are having difficulties in finding stewards to run meets, if you haven't stewarded before Volunteer to assist and help, that way it's by everyone's help that the Areas can survive. I hope when you read this Wales Area has managed to form a committee at their E.G.M.

Bye for now

Martin Whitaker – Chairman

Beyond the Pail

Picture the scene – you arrive in your van to a temporary holiday site where you camp in a field in a beautiful scenic spot. It's a hot sunny day and people are sitting out. Your partner is chatting to the stewards and before you walk the dog you go to the end of the field to get fresh water for a cuppa. Your neighbours are having a barbeque – Oops he trips over the bbq and the grass under you van catches fire. Your van and precious pet are in danger.

Now aren't you glad that several of your friends grabbed handy buckets of water and put out the fire instead of you having to run about looking for an extinguisher? What is so difficult about putting out a bucket of water anyway? It costs you nothing and could save a life.

We are all aware that water and electricity do not mix and obviously if you are on a Club Site with electric hook-ups and ample fire extinguishers there is no need for fire buckets. But don't forget the electric hook-ups are exposed to the rain and so they all have a trip switch to turn them off if dowsed with water. We are given the gift of "common sense" so for goodness sake let's use it.

Certificate of Merit

Maureen and Eddie Kaye would like to thank the Motor Caravan Section Committee for the Certificate of Merit which they received at the National AGM held at Chepstow Racecourse in May. We would also like to thank members of the NWMCS for the nomination, we feel this award is for all the members of the NWMCS who came forward in 2016 and worked so hard to make the National AGM at Cartmel such a success. Thanks to all.

Marizion THS and Mazey Day Celebrations



St Michaels mount

We have been Camping & Caravan Club members for nearly 30yrs, but only in the last three years have we used the THS sites. All those years and we didn't realise what we were missing. We now gear our Motor home holidays to coincide with the many meets and sites all over the country. There is always a warm welcome from the site coordinators, and without their commitment these sites would not be available to us all. As we live in Devon, Cornwall is almost in our back garden, and we often visit it. A beautiful county, with so many things to see. The coast is spectacular and in June 2017 we noticed the THS site at Home Farm, Marizion run by Cornwall DA. When we phoned to see if they had a pitch we were told that they were very busy because in Penzance they were celebrating the Golowan festival, a special week in Cornwall which culminates with Mazey day at the weekend, but we were assured that we could be found a pitch. We drove down on the Wednesday, which turned out to be the hottest day of June on record, Phew!

Arriving at 3pm we were given a warm welcome from Maggs and we were soon on our pitch. I think we had the flattest part of what can be described as a sloping field overlooking St Michael's Mount. We could see Penzance and at the bottom of the site we were on the South west coast path. The pretty town of Marazion was a five-minute walk with



Floats parade in Penzance high street

one of the best Cornish pasty shops you could wish for. Our first day was spent walking across the causeway to The Mount. What a location and spectacular views of Mounts bay. The sub tropical gardens were a delight to walk around and the climb to the castle was well worth the effort. The tide had covered the causeway by the time we left so we caught the ferry back to Marazion. We were back in our van within 10 minutes and ready for our evening meal.

On the Saturday we walked into Penzance along the coast path. Two miles and a lovely flat walk along the coast path, to go to the Mazey day celebration. The theme for this year's event was The Sea. Penzance Main Street had been taken over with stalls selling all sorts of things. Every two hours throughout the day a carnival processed down and up the main street. There were huge models of Whales, octopuses, fish being carried in the parade and many local schools were involved. The music, costumes and floats were greeted with much enthusiasm from the large crowds lining the streets. The atmosphere was amazing. Morris dancing in the streets, folk bands playing and singing, even a group of colourful clowns and plenty of local food stalls. We have lived in Devon all our lives and this was the first time we had witnessed such a great Cornish tradition. The evening culminated in a firework display which could have been seen from the site had the mist had not come in. It had been a lovely few days, made possible by Cornwall DA and advice given to us by our friendly site stewards Maggs and Brian. Before we left for home we went into Marazion and bought some Cornish pasties and a cream tea to take home. A trip to Cornwall wouldn't be complete without that. It was the perfect end of a most enjoyable few days in Cornwall.



Here's looking forward to our next THS adventure

Auril & Malcolm Ford

Around Your Areas and Groups

Devon and Cornwall...

What an interesting and varied camping summer we have had in the last 3 months. We have organised 5 meets and 1 Temporary Holiday Site, 4 were in Devon, 1 in Somerset and 1 in Cornwall. We have camped on Rugby grounds, a Cider Farm, grounds of an old house, and conventional campsites. And we are not finished yet!! There are meets in September and October and we finish the camping year with our annual Dinner and Dance the weekend of 1st-3rd December, more details further on.

Heather and Chris stewarded the meet at Kingsdown Tail Campsite, near Salcombe Regis, SE Devon from Thursday 8th to Sunday 11 June. The weather on the Thursday was poor and only when the weather improved did more people arrive, making a total of 25 units by the Saturday. On Friday Chris led a walk for 13 intrepid walkers by bus firstly, then down to the coast path. Due to showers the many steps were slippery and great care was needed, especially as some steps were missing! The walk finished at the Donkey Sanctuary, which fortunately had a cafe. It was either a short bus ride or a medium walk back; a few people opted for the walk. On Saturday people mostly went to Sidmouth on the bus. In the afternoon Tony set out his target bowls game and a dozen of us played. A hasty retreat was needed when the rain began again. In the evening nearly thirty of us gathered in the games room for a game of Chase the Ace. Thanks to Philip for being Master of Ceremonies. An iffy Sunday morning meant coffee morning in the games room. Then the sun came out and we were able to have a leisurely outdoor lunch before going home.

The Temporary Holiday Site at Exmouth Rugby Club between 22nd June and 6th July was organised by Philip



and Roger and stewarded by Committee members and friends. This THS, as in previous years was well supported and had over 60 units on most nights. The weather was varied starting and finishing with exceptionally warm weather with some rain in between. It seemed as though Exmouth has its own microclimate. Our visitors enjoyed the delights of the seaside town as well as walking and cycling beside the River Exe. Others took advantage of the local buses and visited the city of Exeter and other nearby towns or took the ferry across the river to Starcross. All in all a good time was had by all.

Our 27th Birthday Meet was held at Tiverton Rugby Club, between Friday 21st and Monday 24th July and stewarded by Jonathon and June. The weather was atrocious, particularly on the Friday, which meant we only had a total of 18 units. Luckily we had the use of a room in the Clubhouse, so we were able to have get-



togethers. Friday evening was Play your Cards Right, Saturday evening was a Bring and Share Supper and a quiz and Sunday evening was Games evening. All organised by Jonathon and June and very enjoyable. Sunday morning was dry and sunny enough to have our coffee morning outside. Bernie Verne, our very first chairman, came with his daughter and helped cut the birthday cake, informing us that the cake was a year out.

Jan and Laurence stewarded the meet at Tanpit Cider Farm, near Taunton between Friday 4th and Sunday 6th August. It was a showery weekend but that didn't spoil our enjoyment and we were able to 'play' games outdoors. Friday evening we played target bowls, won by Philip. Saturday 24 people walked into Taunton, along the towpath beside the Bridgwater and Taunton canal, returning to a Cider and Cheese Tasting afternoon, the cider having been produced on the campsite. The evening concluded with a game of MÖlkky, Swedish skittles, won by Jackie. After coffee morning on Sunday members went on their way.



Myself and Jack stewarded the meet at Timaru in Cornwall, between Wadebridge and Padstow, between Friday 18th and Sunday 20th August. Due to the poor weather only a total of 9 vans attended, Friday being the worse day. We had very high winds and squally showers as we were affected by the tail end of Hurricane Gert. Saturday was dry and sunny, so 8 went on a walk, led by Roger. They caught the bus outside the campsite into Padstow, where they walked, beside the estuary towards the open sea. They went as far as Coastguard Cottages where they stopped for refreshments, returning in time for afternoon tea, with homemade cakes. As we were a small number we were able to fit inside Roger's freestanding awning for both this and Sunday's coffee morning.

The last of the Summertime meets was at Lupton House, Churston Ferrers, near Brixham, South Devon between Friday 1st and Sunday 3 September, stewarded by Sue and Tony. A total of 19 vans attended. Sue and Tony had organised a number of games on the theme of childhood characters. On Saturday a group walked along footpaths to the coast, where one couple swam at Churston Cove. The walk continued around to Elberry Cove and back via the golf course, stopping at the Churston House Hotel for refreshments. Saturday evening members were able to socialise indoors and on Sunday we also had our coffee morning inside as the heavens had opened and it was very wet.

Future Meets

29th September–1st October

Frome Showground, West Woodlands, Frome, Somerset.
Own sanitation is essential.

13th–15th October

Whitemead CP, Wool, Dorset. This site has Electric Hookups, and the Bus stop and train station are nearby, with services to Poole and Weymouth

27th–29th October

Pentewan Sands, St Austell, Cornwall. No dogs allowed as the site is close to beach. There is a Swimming Pool and Restaurant on premises

1st–3rd December – Dinner and Dance

We are trying a change of venue for our end-of-season do this year at Cofton Holiday Park, near Dawlish, with 2 nights on hard standings and with excellent facilities. We are having a games night on the Friday (electronic) followed by a Buffet Supper, with the Dinner and Dance on the Saturday. Booking forms are available at our meets or call Phil Hingston on 01803 812162 or electronically from me, rose@baycotts.plus.com.

Rose

East Midlands...

Wilmcote meet 18th–21st May

Thursday Bill and I arrived in the afternoon to see stewards Sue, Colin, Barry and Doddie. We soon had the kettle on and got the lunch. Later on it was up with the tent and a grateful thanks to all who helped. In the evening we met in the tent for soft music with a drink and chat to friends. Sue told the group about the train and bus to get to Stratford.

Friday Bill wanted to go by train so off we went to the station. We had good day arriving back in the rain to see we had more units had arrived. (13 in total). In the evening the tent was full and we chatted to friends and guests old and new.

Saturday morning most people went off to Stratford on the train for the day. Saturday night we had a bring and share meal plus a birthday cake and we all sang happy birthday to Margaret. Thank you all for the cakes.

Sunday morning a few people left early to go off to Wales for the AGM. At the coffee morning it was reported that the raffle made £40. We waited till the sun dried the tent so that was dry when packed away.

Thank you to Sue, Colin, Doddie, Barry plus Daisy & Tweed for all your hard work. We all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.

Bill & Linda

Hayes Farm, Newstead 22nd–25th June 2017

The rally started at 2.00pm on a warm Thursday afternoon. A nice flat field, sheltered by trees on all sides and with electricity for those who required it, what a bonus! Dave and Diane extended a warm welcome to everyone that came and gave out a word search puzzle and also a programme. The programme also said that Dave would do a chip run on the Saturday and would take anyone wanting to go to the chip shop at tea time. Also Dave extended his services as a paperboy and if ordered the night before he would fetch newspapers for those that wanted them. Both these services were well used and was much appreciated.

5 Vans turned up and in the evening we all gathered in the Stewards awning for a natter and a few drinks. On the table in the awning was lots of literature about things to do in the area, maps showing footpaths and a bus timetable to Hucknall and Nottingham or details of the tram which went straight into the city centre.

On Friday some people went into Hucknall and a few took the tram to Nottingham, others went for a walk and some went on a bike ride around the country lanes. In the



afternoon 4 more vans joined the rally, 3 of which were visitors. The tent was erected and enabled us to have a lovely evening getting to know one another.

Saturday dawned a lovely day and at one point on Saturday morning everyone had gone off site and Dave and Diane enjoyed a well-deserved bit of 'R and R'. A lot of people went to Newstead Abbey, which was formerly an Augustinian priory converted to a domestic home following the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It is now best known as the ancestral home of Lord Byron. As well as visiting the Abbey the gardens are quite spectacular.

The abbey was about a two mile walk from the site and again there was Dave offering transport for all that wanted it to the gate and fetching them back later on. After lunch quite a few members played Boules and Quoits, it was not a competition but good fun and there was much laughter. Four of the visitors undertook a 14 mile walk that morning



and arrived back late afternoon as the games had just finished and joined the rest of the campers to tea and homemade cakes (very yummy).

In the evening we were back in the tent and feasted on pulled pork baps, with coleslaw, tomatoes and nibbles. Thank you Diane it was lovely. A quiz followed. Linda thanked everyone for coming and Dave and Diane for a lovely weekend.

Sunday we had a coffee morning and Bob the secretary once again thanked Dave and Diane and the raffle was drawn.

All in all it was a lovely rally, Dave and Diane could not do enough for everyone, they were 'STARS'. A lot of new friends were made and the visitors were made very welcome.

Ann Hollingworth

Blue Lias 6th–9th July 2017

As it was a four day meet some vans arrived on the Thursday we were greeted by our cheerful stewards Bob and Margaret who later gave us a 'guess a meal' quiz, Well we were really racking the grey matter with only the first letter of the words and numbers to start us off.

In the afternoon folks settled in and then helped set up the tent which was used by some in the evening for a catch-up. That afternoon, some decided to go for a walk along the canal or as it was hot and sunny stayed on site and lazed around in the shade.

On Friday more vans arrived and unfortunately one visitor had problems with the pump and battery on his caravan. As always help was soon at hand and the problem was found to be a faulty solar controller (luckily he still had the old one). Pam and Nev arrived with their loo not working which was diagnosed as a faulty fuse or two and they were very soon back to normal (but maybe feeling a bit flushed!!!) Later on some campers went for walks including nine accompanied by four dogs who went to the Boat Inn [quite dog friendly] walking beside the canal and up by the flight of locks, everyone agreed the meals were excellent. In the evening we all joined together for a catch up and natter in the tent.

Saturday morning came with a mix of those off on walks and others 'chilling' while some caught a taxi into Southam. Not an awful lot there but pleasant enough with an excellent very good value cafe in the library. In the afternoon we had a Boules tournament, and after several knock out rounds it was finally won by Maria and Paul [Daddy]. Tea and cake was then served by our friendly hosts. Saturday evening saw us gathering in the tent once again for a 'bring and share' and the answers to the 'meal quiz', this was won by one of our visitors from Lancashire.

Sunday morning we all sat outside the tent for coffee/tea and biscuits and the raffle draw. Thanks to all, the raffle raised an amazing £45. Linda read out some announcements, including details of Rode Village Hall meet and thanked all for attending, she also thanked Bob and Margaret who did an excellent job as stewards.

Well they say 'the sun shines on the righteous' and it did for the whole four days, even necessitating the need to sit outside in the shade for breakfast, normally something rare in the UK but very nice. A Brilliant, fun weekend, full of laughs and friendly banter.

Sixteen units attended over the four days including twelve dogs, with two new members Barry and Jane who

East Midlands (continued)...

were on their own were made to feel very welcome and have said they are looking forward to seeing us again.

Maria & Richard

The Old Priory, Breedon on the Hill 21st–23rd July

We arrived just after 1pm to be greeted by our Stewards Eddie and Sue who handed over a quiz for the weekend. After setting up we all got together to put the tent up, 20 plus units turned up on Friday and more on Saturday making a total of 32 units making it the most successful at this venue. 6 were visitors who pitch together as they were having birthday celebrations over the weekend. Friday afternoon Tony and Val went to the local butchers to clear his shelves of Walkers pork pies which they brought back and distributed to campers. Friday night was spent in the tent catching up with friends old and new. On Saturday campers went their

various ways, some off walking into the village, or up the hill to the church while others visited the on site cafe, craft and antique shops etc.. Come the evening we crammed into the tent for a wine and nibbles supper supplied by Ed and Sue and the quiz results were announced which was won by one of our new visitors. It was a bit of a squeeze especially as the weather had taken a turn for the worse. Sunday saw us up and out to rescue the collapsed tent, but we still had a great weekend. Sunday elevenes coffee and biscuits and the announcements on future events plus that the raffle had made £82 which was split 50/50 with the club and the Air Ambulance our designated charity. We had a number of new members attend which shows some of the enthusiasm is rubbing off. Some went to lunch in the Old Priory site cafe and then all off back home.

Glynnne and John



Future Meets:

29th September–1st October. £9.00

Roade Village Hall, Northants. NN7 2LS.

Poppy Appeal Charity and 40's weekend theme, fancy dress [optional] Corned Beef hash Saturday supper

Stewards - Barry and Doddie 07453 864464

20th–22nd October. £8.50 pun

Uppingham Community College, LE15 9TJ.

Pot luck supper Saturday night

Stewards - John and Barbara Taylor. 07719 657056

23rd–27th November. £13.50 pun including EHU.

NB This is a booked meet. Maximum number 20 outfits.

Barnstones Caravan Park, Great Bourton, Banbury, OX17 1QU.

Stewards Liz and Dave Smith, Paul James. 07788101333

8th–10th December 2017

Copt Oak Memorial Hall – FULLY BOOKED

Stewards Richard and Maria Gilbert. 07854 954335

Those who are booked on this meet are required to pay a deposit of £5 per person by 22nd October;



New Year – FULLY BOOKED with Waiting List

Stewards Pam and Dave Lewis 07860 200284

Theme – Back to School Proms on New Year's Eve. Total rally cost £55

Those who are booked on this meet are required to pay a deposit of £5 per person by 22nd October; if this is not received by that date their place will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.



Kent...



Hi Folks, heh! I can hardly believe, it's well into the Summer season & already we've enjoyed numerous camping meets with old friends & met many new ones to boot!

Upchurch Craft Weekend

On Saturday a good number of members displayed arts & crafts & helped those keen to try a new skill. Not least of these Mentors were Jennie (it's amazing what she can do with wool or cloth!) & Paul, who tied many of us up in Knots with skills well honed on many a real camping trip! These were well matched (I couldn't resist the pun!) by our Brian's practical use of those firelighters to build a model Motorhome. It goes without saying that Carol's artworks were avidly viewed by all. Our four stewards, Carol, Colin, Jennie & Paul also laid on a delicious cream tea & organised a Grand Raffle to raise £62 for the Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance, Bravo!



Rye Rugby Club

The weather was kind to us at this popular site, which was great as we were lucky to have visitors from far & wide to enjoy a great weekend. On Saturday there was a successful Table-Top Sale followed by an extremely delicious Barbecue generously laid on by the Southern Area Committee with lots of help freely given by many & what do you know? to put the Icing on the cake (not another pun?) we celebrated Linda & John's Ruby wedding anniversary (no, not with a curry!) The happy couple were congratulated by all.

Kent County Show Weekend. Penny Spring Farm.

Temperatures went sky high during this rally. Most of us "chilled out" with many a chat, often in the shade! Many of the men wore hats, otherwise, headwise, (including mine) it might have been – "Forty Shades of Grey!! Our stewards Leslie & Jim came resplendent in their shiny new Van. Well done you two!

Sandwich Lakes Fishing Weekend.

This was another popular rally, with much chilling out. (no!, not Frigidaire!) However, some of us "Twearlies!" took to the road on the upper deck of the local omnibus, destination – Deal with much marketing & the occasional eating house to frequent. It was at this meet that Leslie proclaimed that Jim had caught several large specimens, myself, I couldn't catch a cold.

Bob Still

Future Meets:

6th–8th October

Greatstone. Greatstone Primary School. TN28 8SY

13th–15th October

Faversham. Abbey School. ME13 8RZ

27th–29th October

Lenham. Swadelands School. ME17 2LL

2nd–5th November

Chertsey. Chertsey Club Site. KT16 8JX. Booked Meet, call Kathy on 079563401 or E mail: kathygiles@mac.com

8th–10th December

Faversham. Abbey School. ME13 8RZ

Christmas Celebrations. Booked Meet call Margaret on 01322 389116. Email: srill@hotmail.co.uk (Please note:- srill not still)

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Midland...

Welcome to the Midland Area

Peak Rail – Rowsley

The weekend offered the campers plenty of options whether it was riding the trains, visiting the railway sheds, enjoying the local sites or visiting the local beer festival. We socialized in the train carriages at night where Friday was a get together social and Saturday night we had games and quizzes. The coffee morning was well attended and the raffle well supported so thank you.

Shardlow Marina

Shardlow Marina never fails to bring out the members and visitors. The Marina wardens were very helpful however the owners have changed the field dividing it into two which means less room and a smaller area to site members. The demarcation was not clear with no division between the two areas. We were fortunate that no other group had booked the other part of the field. I mentioned this to the site wardens who I hope will take this on board. We had a great friendly weekend with visitors from East Midlands and two bikers from France which the wardens asked us to site. Fortunately they were members of the FICC so associated with our Club. On Saturday we had an afternoon tea with cakes supplied by

Linda and Edith which was much appreciated by the campers. Bill and Paul put up the tent in case of rain but the weather held right through to Sunday going home time.

Stafford Boat Club

We enjoyed a very pleasant four days at Stafford Boat Club. Alan was our knowledgeable and helpful steward. The skittles came out at the Club House and boy the game started off friendly but by the time it got to the semi-finals there was quite a lot of friendly competition going on. Of course we asked them to name their teams so we had names like Spots and Stripes (the winners) Captain Maggies Team, Dynamo, Rusty and Jims Girls. On Sunday the raffle was drawn at the coffee morning when we had a lovely sunny day. As a number of tickets had been bought by the Boat Club members these prizes (I think) went back to them and put behind the bar for the winners to produce their ticket. Members took the opportunity to go to the nearby pub for a meal and others walked their dogs along the canal path. There was retail therapy by going to the nearby Retail Outlet or into Stafford itself. A lovely spot which we have booked again for next year.





West Midlands Ski Centre

Despite it being very windy at the Tamworth Ski Centre on Friday, we managed to put the tent up on Saturday morning. As it was first time with those of us present we managed a very tidy, secure tent to have our evening soirée. Doreen and Martin had us all quizzing away, some bright ones even managed to get 27 right out of 40. However it was great fun and I think a few sips of alcohol helped us along the way. We also had a multifaceted quiz given to us on arrival with the results given at the coffee morning on Sunday. Trouble is I always need more time and ain't it true you know the answers fine when they are read out! We had a good weekend with some gathering blackberries but I never got a bit of the pie. Thanks go to Doreen and Martin (Dennis and Dolores) for running the rally.

Edith

Future Meets:

The Vernon Arms, Hanbury. B60 4DB. 13th–16th October.

Stewards Angela & Rob 07715825128. This is another new venue for us to try this year and Angela & Rob are stewarding for us. The venue is in Worcestershire which is us exploring a new part of our area. The venue has a good restaurant for those who wish to treat themselves.

Uttoxeter Racecourse, Wood Lane, Uttoxeter. ST14 8BD. 26th–28th October.

This is time for Halloween so if you have your spooky gowns, fangs or goolly shaped cakes then come along and make the weekend more fun. Uttoxeter has the usual shopping outlets and pubs and restaurants many people come along to enjoy and there is plenty of space if you fancy getting some fresh air (although you won't be able to jump the fences).

Shrewsbury Cricket Club, London Rd, Shrewsbury.

SY2 6PS. 17th–19th November.

This is our return following last year's successful weekend. The stewards Keith and Ann provide a good weekend and with Shrewsbury a short bus ride this is a good venue to enjoy some Christmas shopping. The cricket club provides a good venue for the evening's entertainment.

Midland Members

Paul and Martin are busy putting our 2018 camping calendar together. If you have a favourite venue you would like us to visit then let us know and we can see if can fit in subject the availability. Better still if you would like to steward a particular meet then now is a good time to come forward before someone else gets their name down before you. Stewarding is a good way of meeting fellow campers and is straight forward.

May I take the opportunity to thank the new and existing members that have supported the Midland area and hope to see you out and about on a meet? You will find us friendly and have a good time as we can cater for those who want to put their feet up and for those who like to join in.

If anyone would like any information then feel free to get in touch with me or any of our committee members.

Can I add a special mention to those who are stewarding for us this year? You are doing a great job, we really appreciate it!

Please refer to www.waggonerstalk.co.uk for up to date information

All the best

Colin

Midland PRO

North West...

We hope that everyone has had a great summer. We have had two very successful THS meets. One at Manorafan Farm Abegele and one at Southshore Cricket Club Blackpool.

I would like to thank all stewards who volunteered for both meets it is much appreciated and without your help these meets would not be able to take place.

Blackpool THS



Future Meets:

21st–25th September

Blackpool Illuminations Meet, South Shore Cricket Club, Blackpool FY4 5DY

Stewards Andrew and Karen Baines. Tel: 07802 787200

6th–8th October

Helsby Community Sports Centre, Chester Road WA6 0DL

Stewards Barbara Webb. Tel: 07746 555950

20th–22nd October

Lower Whitley Village Hall WA4 4EJ

Stewards Andrew and Karen Baines. Tel: 07802 787200

27th–29th October

Invite from Lakeland DA Halloween Meet

Warton Cricket Club Warton Carnforth Fancy Dress Optional, Jacobs Join Saturday Evening Fun and Games

Stewards Andrew and Karen Baines.

Tel 07802 787200. BOOKED MEET

3rd–5th November

Elm Cottage Touring Park CW7 2QJ

Stewards Bob and Kath. Tel: 07970 716609

10th–12th November

Lydiate Parish Hall 288 Southport Road L31 4EQ

Stewards Maureen and Eddie Kaye.

Tel: 07388 932060

24th–26th November

Holmeswood Village Hall L40 1UT. XMAS Party Meet
 Stewards Karen and David Turner. Tel: 07868 313110 or
 07865 962299



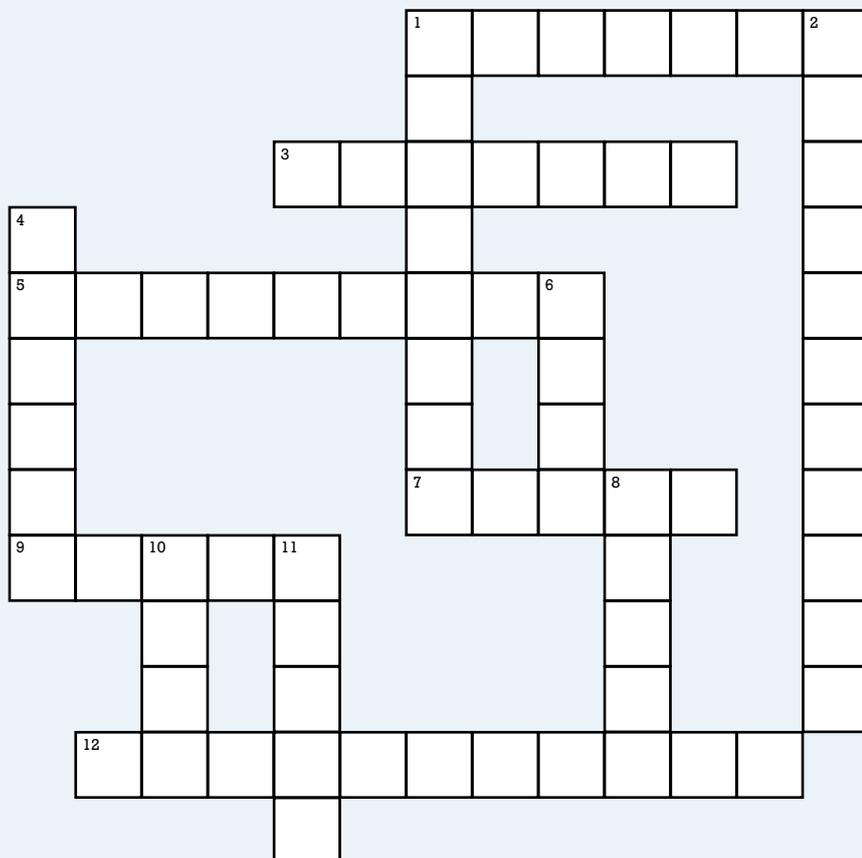
Unfortunately due to ill health Peter Knibbs has had to resign as Secretary for the North West Motor Caravan Section, we all wish Peter a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him soon at a meet. I have agreed to take on the role of Secretary in the meantime and this was agreed by the committee at the last meeting.



You can find all our meets and other information on our Facebook Page **C.C.C.N.W.M.C.S** or on our website northwestareamotorcaravansection.co.uk

Karen Baines
 Secretary

Crossword Puzzle



Clues Across:

- 1. Stores Power
- 3. Requires a Tow Bar
- 5. Stops the draught
- 7. Not so nice as El Cid!
- 9. Number of People etc...
- 12. Stop the van rocking!

Clues Down:

- 1. Make no mistake, it`s smokey!
- 2. Do Grizzly Bears play there?
- 4. Provides extra shelter
- 6. Touch of the lips?
- 8. Fruit from New York?
- 10. Leave it out!
- 11. Dig deep

Answers can be found on page 19

Northern...

There was a good turn out of Northern Area members to this years National meet in Chepstow and our congratulations to the organisers from the Wales Area for a good weekend. The entertainment on the two nights being enjoyed by those who attended.

Sykehouse was a new venue this year and was reasonably well attended. I am sure that the good weather helped along with free entertainment courtesy of a birthday party in the pub.

Old Bilton saw us with the EWYBCC for the Knaresborough bed race. Again this was well attended by both the hosts and ourselves

There was excellent weather and entertainment at the Yorkshire Region meet at Wetherby for those who attended. On the Saturday afternoon all of our members gathered together for a meal, each providing their own food.

Chatsworth saw many of our members camping in the grounds of the House. For those who made the long walk to the main house were suitably rewarded with concession rates in both the house and gardens. Once again the weather was kind over the weekend. On the Sunday afternoon Elaine Moores and her family provided goodies in order to celebrate Mikes 70th birthday. Not sure how they managed it but they managed to keep it a secret from Mike until everything was sorted.

At the end of June there was an open invitation from EYDA to attend their 80th birthday celebrations. On the Friday night the entertainment was from Trè Amicci, three tenors singing not only classical but modern songs. On the Sunday night it was a Group called Rapture singing more modern songs. Both went down well with the audience.

The THS at Settle was another success with campers enjoying the surrounding countryside as well as the town itself.

Our first visit to Staxton was well attended and run by first time stewards John and Jean who did an excellent job looking after the campers.

Our second THS at Whitby was well attended and at times had to turn people away, despite the weather conditions on a few days.

Cherry Tree farm saw more campers this year than last, it seems as though members are enjoying back to back meets. Most of those attending either made the short trip to Helmsley, a slightly longer run to Pickering or even to Scarborough. Assistance was given to John and Stella in how to steward meets, we could do with more members coming forward to take on the duties. This was followed by a short

journey to Malton where we camped on the rugby site and enjoying the market town with the opportunities for shopping and or refreshment. The last stop in this trio of back to back meets was at Pickering near to the station of the North York Moors Railway with opportunities for the steam train buffs to travel in bygone ways. Again another meet well attended.

Our THS at Beadnell was well attended and the weather wasn't too bad whilst we were there. As an added bonus, well for cycling fans, there was a good view of the second stage of the Tour of Britain race right passed the site entrance. At no extra charge to the campers!

Future Meets:

3rd–5th November

Eden Camp Modern History Theme Museum, Malton YO17 6RT. Map Ref 100/797735. A forties night on Saturday and access to the museum all weekend. Please note this is a booked meet and we are only allowed a maximum of 40 units. Booking forms are on the web-page. £12.50 pun

24th–26th November

Thirsk Auction Mart YO7 3AB. Map Ref 99/440811. Hard standing and socials each night. Comfortable walk into the market town of Thirsk. Lovely garden centre opposite for those last minute things for your gardens and where they do very good meals during the day. £6 pun

1st–3rd December

Hawes Auction Mart DL8 3NP. Map Ref 98/876897. In the Yorkshire Dales and on hard standing. Home of the Wensleydale cheese factory where you see it being manufactured, sample the finished product and buy it ready for Christmas. Visit the Gayle mill and see the working of wood turning machines powered by water and the Christmas fair. £9 pun

28th December 2017–2nd January 2018

Ripon Racecourse HG4 1UG. Map Ref 99/327702. New Year meet with entertainment every night. Room available throughout the day and camping on hardstanding. Please note this is a booked meet. £10 non-returnable booking fee to Carol Rowley. £8 pun for camping.

13th January

Bridge Hotel, Walshford LS22 5HS. Winter dinner. Three course dinner on the Saturday night, smart casual. £21.50 per person. Overnight parking is available on the Friday and

Regalia

Section Pennons - £3.00 inc VAT - Postage £1.50 | Lapel Badges - £2.50 inc VAT - Postage £1.50
Umbrellas - contact your Area/Group Regalia Officer

Please make cheques/PO's payable to the Camping & Caravanning Club Motor Caravan Section.
Cheques should also be crossed.

Orders to Mrs Mabel Shaw, 1 Rose Gardens, Birchington, Kent CT7 0DH.
Tel: **01843 842927** email: **mmslaw52@msn.com**

PRO Report

Hi All

Well here we are now into the Autumn, I hope that you have all had a good season and been able to get 'Out & About' to enjoy the good weather. We seem to have travelled 'Far & Wide' again this year, and have met members from all over the country. My team and I have enjoyed the shows where we have manned our Club Stand talking with existing members and recruiting new members and the Section now has more than 6700 members. By the time you read this we will have done our last show at Lincoln and I would like to thank Mabel, Edith, Vivienne, Keith, Paul R, Paul J, John, Dee, Geoff, Jane and in particular my partner Bryan for all the time that they give to assist on the stands, it is hard work, but with great rewards.

As you know all our Areas & Groups have to have a Committee to ensure they can continue, I would ask all of you to give some thought to joining your own Area/Group Committee, the work is not hard and I have to say we all have fun. New members are required every year, so talk to your existing Committee members and give it a go, you will have new ideas for venues and things to do and these are always appreciated.

On a final note, I know that in every Area/Group there are always the background members, they are not Committee, but members who are always there to Steward meets, make tea, help whenever there is a problem and first to volunteer. The Section has its own Certificate of Merit, so if you feel there is someone in your Area/Group who deserves this award as a 'Special Thank You' for all that they contribute, then please talk with your Committee to get them nominated for this award.

Thats all for now, and although it is early, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kathy

Saturday night. Booked meet, see our web-site for further details and booking form.

26th-28th January

Auction Mart, Skipton BD23 1UD. Map ref. 103/973518.
Hardstanding and a room for both Friday and Saturday nights for socials. The site is on the outskirts of Skipton with a pleasant walk through parkland to the town centre. Good market on the Saturday in town and a good shopping centre.

Across:
1) Battery; 3) Caravan; 5) Windbreak; 7) Elsan;
9) group; 12) Stabilizers

Down:
1) Barbecue; 2) Yellowstone (Park); 4) Awning;
6) Kiss; 8) Apple; 10) Omit; 11) Probe

Solutions to crossword on page 17:

Northern Ireland...

Hi Folks, greetings once again from Northern Ireland. In July we had our T.H.S. at the Shimna Integrated College in Newcastle. We had a steady stream of folk coming and going, some staying longer than others. We welcomed visitors from Scotland and England who enjoyed the scenery, the Town and the weather. The facilities at the school are great especially the free Wifi which was a bonus for the children who could play games on their tablets when they tired of playing games outside. A big thank you to all who helped to steward this event.



29th–30th July.

We are now into the festival period in NI with events being held all around the province. Our sites officer Bobby tries to organise meets to coincide with as many of these as he can. We kicked off with the Red Sails Festival in Portstewart. This festival runs for a week and people come to it from all around the country. The entertainment for young and old is excellent and it is all free. There is so much to see and do I would run out of paper trying to tell you all about it, so check it out at www.redsails.co.uk.



4th–7th August.

We are back again to the Shimna Intergrated School in Newcastle Co Down for the festival of flight another great weekend of street entertainment, live music shows, exhibitions of WW. Two memorabilia including Vehicles, a Helicopter and a Spitfire. The Airshow was great and a we were able to watch it from the comfort of our own chairs on site.

Billy cooked up burgers and hot dogs for each of us, just before the airshow began, so no lunch to make, Great! In the evenings we met in the hall and danced the night away to the music of the boys from the Windmill Country music club on the Friday night and on Saturday night it was Mr Music man himself Panache (Alan Crawford). Allen encouraged the children to take part and we had a great rendition of the song Country Roads and a demonstration of Irish dancing by young Lilly one of our younger and newest members.

Two nights of top entertainment, a free barbeque plus the Festival of Flight, what more could you ask for on a weekend. Thank you to my fellow committee members who made this a great weekend.

25th-28th August

Jordanstown and the Loughshore Festival. Friday night was a Cowboy themed evening and our Stewards for the week end were Jim and Maureen ably assisted by Bill the barbeque Mc Bride. We enjoyed a barbeque a bit of Line dancing and a sing along with Billy on guitar and Rose on the penny whistle a great nights craic was had by all.

Saturday saw a lot of folk go down onto the shoreline as there were stalls and fairground rides. Saturday night is the big night at the festival, this year we were entertained by the George Michael tribute band and at the end of the evening, an amazing fireworks display, although we only stayed on the Friday and Saturday night the festival continued through Sunday with the Oasis tribute band playing on the Sunday night to bring it all to an end.

Well done to all our Cowboys and Girls for supporting another great meet.

Future Meets:

22nd–24th September

Carrickfergus Sailing Club. Rodgers Quay, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim BT38 8BE. Entry from 14.00Hrs.

6th–8th October

Cookstown High School, Molesworth Street, Cookstown BT80 8PQ. NO Admittance before 17.00Hrs.

27th–29th October

Omagh Show Grounds. 3 Gillgooley Road, Omagh
BT79 7AQ. Entry from 14.00Hrs.



Obituaries

We in the Northern Ireland MCS Section, were sorry to hear of the passing of Two of our long-standing members.

Donald Mann passed away in June after a long illness which he had borne with great dignity.

And more recently **Terry Metcalf**, Terry was one of the founding members of our group, a man who liked nothing better than a good chat to folk.

He was always ready to help out when the need arose, both will be sadly missed and we extend our sympathy to both families.



Scotland...

G'day Waggoners,

Our summer(!) report. We scrabble around looking for a word to describe the weather and, in the interest of politeness, we settle on changeable. Despite this, June was a busy month. SAMCS paid its last visit to Benderloch, near Oban. This lovely site is being developed for static caravans, we believe, and sadly will no longer be available to us. The tale of the member who drove his (or her?) motorhome over a section of our bagged marquee will last long in the memory. The identity of same is a state secret, seemingly.

The more ambitious braved Rosehearty in the north, where the Boat Club made us very welcome and we thank the local constabulary for returning our stewards safely from town one particular evening. After that, the plusher airts of Royal Deeside, Crathes with its beautiful level field on the banks of the Dee - and good weather!



Above: a brave soul enjoying a Rosehearty summer.

July, and on to the fine town of Crieff, and Strathearn RFC's capacious grounds, again on a riverbank, this time the Earn. A goodly 40 units turned up for a week or so. A good time was had by all, with a couple of blips. The boules match was rained off, and a bus carrying two of our stewards (yes, the ladies mentioned above) broke down adjacent to a pub in Crail. How did they pass the time awaiting rescue? Next up was indeed Crail, one of the many exquisite seaside villages in the East Neuk of Fife where our stay coincided with the delights of the Crail Festival and Pittenweem Art Festival.

August saw our annual visit to Irvine, to a tight site tucked behind the Scottish Maritime museum, overlooking the harbour, for the duration of the Marymass Festival and the Irvine Folk Festival. Why do there seem to be so many old folkies the same age as me? Happily, they invariably sing an awful lot better.

Looking forward from here, after our end of season gig in the comforts of Cairnsmill Caravan Park, St Andrews, we tend to go into hibernation, until we wake up in March - guess where? yes, Cairnsmill at St Andrews. Of course, hereabouts we have the opportunity, with a slight diversion in some cases, to drive imperiously across the new Queensferry Crossing! It's got to be done.

A word now to the forward planners among you. SAMCS has carefully manicured its programme for 2018 to allow for visitors to the National MCS Rally at Kelso Showground (31 May-04 June) by arranging for a THS before and after the rally. Creetown (25-31 May) at Castle Cary Caravan Park and Edinburgh (03-14 June) at Drum Estate, Danderhall bookend the rally and hopefully will encourage visitors to extend their stay. Castle Cary is a lovely base for exploring bonny Galloway and the towns of Newton Stewart, Castle Douglas and the port of Stranraer. The site itself has acres of beautiful level grass, good facilities and, onsite, the Laird's Inn. Drum estate offers an economical base for experiencing all the delights of the capital.

And finally... At SAMCS we operate an email messaging system which allows us to communicate meet updates, any last minute changes, anything which we think might be of interest to our members and friends. Surprisingly, more than half our members are not signed up. So, if you are one of this unhappy band, you may rectify matters by emailing me at jamesvkeenan@tiscali.co.uk with your name(s), C&CC membership number and email address. Simple as that.

Hear from you!

Jim Keenan – PRO, SAMCS



Above: morning coffee at Irvine.

Below: morning coffee at Rosehearty.



South West...

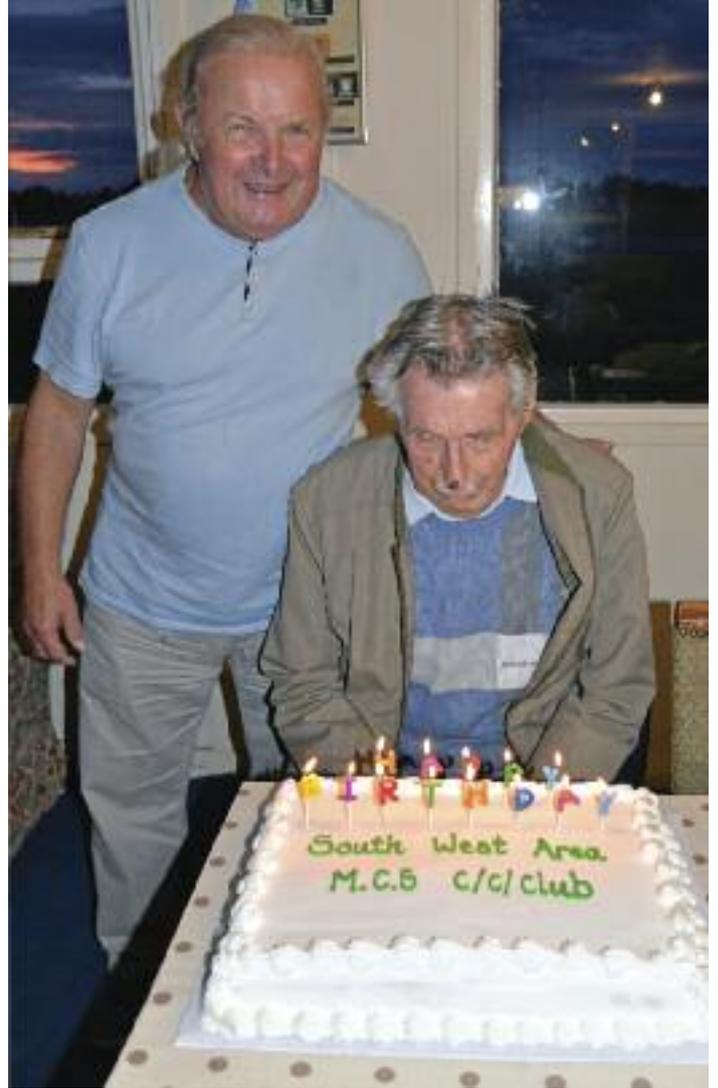
Hi all.

By the time you all are reading this summer will have long gone & Christmas will be nearly here again, where has the year gone as it only seems to be a few weeks ago that I was looking forward to the new year of 2017, and going to Ballard School in new Milton for our AGM meet, Followed on for Easter meet at Ringwood Junior School, closing on Easter Monday 2pm & driving the MotorCaravan back home all of 200yds, park up & driving up to Bob & Trish home in Basingstoke by car. Staying overnight only for all of us to get up early at 5.30am next morning to get a coach to travel to loch Awe Hotel by side of Loch in Scotland for 5 days.

Then off to steward our holiday meet at Bradford-on-Avon for almost 3 weeks.

Then the pre meet at Caldicot Castle, on to the National AGM Meet at Chepstow Racecourse. A busy time here as doing all the Photos.

I did then have 2 weeks travelling round south Wales before returning home to steward our next meet at Wareham Rugby Club. My thanks to Dave Lucas for use of his Kyham.



A few days home before off again to steward our meet at Henstridge Airfield. The weather was bad so a good job we had the use of a large Marquee & a room for the evenings. We had a late SWA birthday meet & Bern Venes was there to blow out the candles on our cake. (Photos)

Ah I thought a few days at home, no as away to step-daughters home to house-sit and look after all the animals, donkeys, sheep, chickens, ducks, fish, dogs & not forgetting Korky the cat, whilst they had a Holiday.

Then it was away to the NFOL at Hickstead & a few days break away, leaving Bob & Trish to steward our meet at Royal Victoria Country Park at Netley.

Looking now to our last meet of the year which is a Halloween meet at the end of the month at Ringwood.

Wow that's the year almost gone, and in a few more weeks it's Christmas & we will be looking forward to the new year of 2018.

I hope you have all had a good year of camping as I seem to have done looking back through this and some of my photos. I wish you all a very happy Xmas and a prosperous new year 2018.

Finally a big thanks to everyone who helped us out with the stewarding over the year.

I look forward to meeting up with you all at Ringwood or out camping next year.

Future Meets:

Friday 27th–Sunday 29th October

Halloween Meet, Ringwood Junior School, Hightown Road BH24 1NH. Site opens at 1pm.

Stewards Derek & Pam

Use of hall for weekend, don't forget your Halloween costumes.

For any more information & changes check out Waggoners Web Site or phone me on 01425 475415, mobile; 07977 061454

Derek

PRO SWA MCS



Southern...

Hi campers.

Here we are again now talking about Halloween and Christmas where has our camping year gone. Down in this part of the country we have had a fairly good summer, not extremely hot but reasonably good weather. Since my last report we have been to Rye where we held a Table-Top Fair and I was lucky enough to clear a good amount of motorhome clutter which we all accumulate and thanks to the generosity of our members, the RNLI were the recipients.

Next came our THS at Quex Park which lucky for me is only half a mile away from home. We had a steady stream of members, some who had been before, some for whom it was their first excursion into East Kent. We got the feeling that for some new visitors when they think of Kent they think of Dover and don't consider that we have some quite decent venues in this area. We also welcomed a few overseas visitors from the Netherlands and Germany, it seems we are beginning to conquer Europe now we are leaving. Another surprise was the arrival of a Dutch fire engine complete with caravan, they were on their way to a festival in Faversham and stayed with us for two nights, this was an attraction in itself. What will we get next year, I wonder.

We had 14 units at the National Feast of Lanterns, mainly all Southern Area members and one lady from Midland Area.



What a weekend, the Motor Caravan Section have never been so close to the entertainments tent, in fact on the Thursday and Friday nights we sat outside listening to the music and dancing the night away. We made absolute fools of ourselves in the Mardi Gras as the MCS sports day but it was a lot of fun. The illuminated streets were camped right next to us so we didn't have too far to walk and they were all very inventive.

Now we are looking forward to a visit to Hole Park, Rolvenden, where we are going to have a bonfire, a bit early but great fun. After that and before Christmas both Groups are having meets on our Club Sites, Normans Bay, Canterbury, Crowborough and Chertsey as nowadays they work out very reasonable.

Happy camping

Mabel



Surrey & South London...

Hi all you lucky campers, I say this as the sun is shining down here in Sussex and it looks like an Indian Summer to come, and with some cracking meets to still look forward to very welcome it is too, although I must say we have been blessed with some excellent meets with the sun to go with them this year so far, one as recent as the FOL at Hickstead Racecourse that is just down the road from us, Hosted by the South Eastern Region it was one that you had a job to fit every thing in so well organised with all you could wish for, and the icing on the cake, a thing I have never seen before a complete Fairground for the kids with free rides and activities to their little hearts content, who ever thought to include this, deserves a medal, and I am sure the parents will agree, and with wall-to-wall sunshine the entire time, if you missed this meet, make sure you book up the next FOL, Paul and I will, and with so much work that goes into making our camping so enjoyable do support your Section and Groups after all its what its all about, we are the oldest and the most friendly Club, and, even if our Section did not win any prizes we all had a jolly good time. With a record number of units, it was a winner all round.

Getting back to the fall in turnout we have seen recently in our Group, as Paul often points out to me, members who have camped with us for years are getting older, some not as fit as they were, but the problem is if numbers are too low, we will find it hard to book a venue as it has to be booked one year in advance, and if you do let a venue go you may not be able to return again, so please bear in mind, your Committee works its socks off to provide something different to entertain you, that you need to turn up to and join in, and maybe steward a meet, we always welcome new members with different things in mind, and as my old Mum used to say, when today is gone it never comes back, and the one thing you can't buy is time, so put on your happy camping face, and join us as much as you can, you know it make sense.



Future Meets:

13th–15th October

Site opens 12 noon. 2 nights, Queen Acre Caravan Site, Windsor Rd, Water Oakley, Windsor Berkshire SL4 5UJ. This is a new venue we are looking forward to try, £12.00 pupn incl elec hookup.

27th–29th October

Tillingbourne School, New Rd, Tillingbourne, Guilford Surrey GU4 8NB. Site opens 2pm. £10 pupnt hard standing, Hall Saturday evening full programme Bus to Guilford outside the gate.

3rd–5th November

Crowborough Club Site. Goldsmith Recreation Ground Eridge Rd, Crowborough, E Sx TN6 2TN. Site opens 1.30pm H/S. Elec -2 nights. £11.00 pupnt. This is a booked meet contact committee, one to look forward to if you like a big firework display, also social Saturday evening, so it should go down with a bang, excuse the pun.

24th–26th November

Cranleigh Middle School, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6. Site opens 5.00pm. £8.50 pupn 2 nights, this a booked meet for our very popular winter nosh, where we all put our best bib and tuckers on for a visit to the village Club House for a festive meal to round up the year, we always get a warm welcome, from all the local residents, and entertainment not to be missed, so until we meet again Paul and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Bastin





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