

# Waggoner's **Talk**

Winter 2017/2018 - Issue 179



*Councillor David Blai  
presents Bill Lees  
with his Vice Presidents badge*

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

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**Waggoner's** 

Next deadline date is 10 March 2018

Cover photo - ???

## Ramblings of the Editor



Hi all, another season draws to a close, and looking forward to the next!

On the front page this issue is our Immediate Past Chairman; Bill Lees being presented his Vice Presidents badge by councillor David Blai. He is recovering well from his stroke, and hopes to see many of you at the "National" at Kelso in May

*Bryan*

### WT - WAGGONER'S TALK

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The Editorial Team

# Chairman's Chat



Hi everyone I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and everyone's wishes came true in the New Year. I am sorry to have to tell you that the Wales Area has had to close because they could not form a committee, in total 3 areas have had to close. This means anyone living in these areas have a long way to travel to a meet. If you are one of these members and would like to run a meet, please email me with the details where and when YOU would like to run a meet. I will try to fit it into M.C.S. Meets List at our next Section Council Meeting.

Those of you that don't come out in the winter months, it won't be long now before the covers come off and you will be meeting friends old and new, at your areas A.G.M. they need your support.

I hope to see you all at our Sections National Meet Kelso in Scotland. Why not fill in the booking form now so that you don't forget and sent it to Doreen.

Bye for now

*Martin Whitaker* – Chairman



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# Around Your Areas and Groups

*Devon and Cornwall...*



By the time you read this article we will be into 2018 and the usual inclement weather in January gives us the opportunity to plan the camping season ahead. The 2018 meet programme is now arranged and we have 16 short meets, 1 Temporary holiday site and 1 National planned, so look forward to seeing you at these. Full details should be available on the Waggoner's Talk website. In the New Year an electronic version of the meet programme will be sent out to all those who have given us their email addresses from the [devonandcornwallmcs@hotmail.com](mailto:devonandcornwallmcs@hotmail.com), email address. A paper version can be sent to you if you let me have your details. My home telephone number is 01803 314010.

This dedicated email address has been set up to send out information, quickly. It was very useful back in September when we had to rearrange a meet at very short notice. We are also looking at holding mobile phone numbers to send out urgent text messages. Please let us

have your email address and/or mobile phone number if you want to keep in touch.

In the Autumn we had 4 weekend meets, one in Devon, one in Somerset, one in Dorset and finally one in Cornwall. We finished off the year with our Dinner and Dance. On the whole a very successful season with an average of 19.5 units at each meet.

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th September Barry and Cyn stewarded the meet at Exmouth Cricket Club at which 33 units attended. We had the use of the marquee on Saturday evening for socialising and again on Sunday morning. On Saturday Philip led a walk from Exmouth. 15 members walked along the beach as the tide was out to Sandy Bay, returning along the coast path, stopping at Orkham Rocks for picnic lunch. The last mile was in very heavy rain and everyone returned soaked.

Jonathon and June stewarded the meet at Frome Showground from Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st

## *Devon and Cornwall (continued)...*

October, when 11 units attended. The weather was not very promising but that did not deter a party of 14 who went by taxi to Stourhead National Trust house and gardens on the Saturday. It rained overnight so several of us had problems coming off pitch.

Stan and Jan were the stewards when the meet Friday 13th to Sunday 15th October had to be rearranged to Longthorne's Farm, near the Monkey Sanctuary in Dorset. 11 units found the new venue. On the Saturday 4 took a taxi into Wool to catch the train into Wareham

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th October, Joyce and Bert stewarded the meet at Pentewan Sands Holiday Park. 26 units arrived on the Friday to beautiful sunshine. This was the last weekend of the Holiday Park's season and on the Friday evening we were able to enjoy a brilliant firework display. Saturday was overcast but dry and members took advantage of the site swimming pool, walking on the coast path and cycling on the cycle path into St Austell. It was mild enough to have the Sunday morning coffee morning

outside.

This year we had a change of venue for our Annual Dinner and Dance weekend. A total of 22 units camped at Cofton Country Holidays, Starcross, South Devon from Friday 1st December to Sunday 3rd December. We arrived on site on Friday in brilliant sunshine with a cold wind. This did not stop members from walking out or using the swimming pool. 39 members attended a buffet and social evening in Amelia's room. Many members wore Christmas jumpers and hats. Saturday was warmer but overcast and 16 members caught a bus to Dawlish Warren and walked along the Dawlish Sea Wall into Dawlish, where members explored the town and had refreshments. There were Christmas stalls out in the main street. Saturday evening 44 members sat down to an excellent dinner in Warren Retreat function room. We then danced the night away to 'Old School Rox'. The weekend ended on Sunday morning with coffee in Amelia's. We all had a very enjoyable weekend.



### ***Future meets***

Our 2018 season starts again in March.

#### **2nd–4th March**

##### **Budemeadows Touring Park, Widemouth Bay, Bude.**

This site has electric hook-ups and is near the South West Coast Path.

#### **16th–18th March**

##### **Whitsands Bay Holiday Park, Millbrook, South Cornwall**

This site has electric hook-ups, its own swimming pool, and restaurant and it is near the Coast Path. The **AGM** will take place on Sunday morning.

#### **6th–8th April**

##### **Higherwell Farm Holiday Park, Stoke Gabriel, near**

Paignton, South Devon.

This site has electric hook-ups and is near the attractions of Torbay.

#### **19th–22nd April**

##### **Kings Down Tail Campsite, Salcombe Regis, SE Devon.**

This site has electric hook-ups and a bus stop outside to go into Sidmouth. The Donkey Sanctuary is nearby.

#### **Temporary Holiday Site**

##### **Exmouth Rugby Club from 21st June–5th July.**

This is a booked only holiday site for a minimum of 5 days.

For Booking Forms please send a stamped addressed envelope to Philip Hingston, 12 Bowden Road, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot South Devon TQ12 5QT.

*Rose*



## *East Midlands...*

### **Lyndon Top Rutland Water – 10th–13th August**

The meet opened at 2pm on Thursday was attended by 28 units over the weekend, and we were welcomed by stewards Dave and Diane who did a sterling job siting us all. Thursday night was a get together in the tent where friends met up for a social natter. We arrived late on Friday 11th after work. Not sure what went off on Thursday but everyone was in a happy mood when we got there. Friday was a bring and share supper and we enjoyed meeting up with friends old and new and having a laugh in this beautiful location. On Saturday afternoon a number of athletic members took part in various games such as cricket, Tin can Alley, Quoits and Boule. The children were very good at all of them. Saturday night was a cheese and wine night. Very nice it was too and the spread was wonderful. Later on in the night we introduced friends to the delights of Sloe Gin, especially Sue. Sunday we got together for elevenses and the raffle draw. This raised £80 which was split 50/50 between the club and the Air Ambulance.

Finally we were saddened by the news of Arthur, the site manager, having passed away the previous week. Lyndon Top will not be the same without him.

## *Jan and Jan*

### **Batemans Wainfleet THS Holiday meet – 22nd August–10th September**

This holiday meet was attended by 52 units in various motor homes, caravans and tents over the period of the rally. The meet was ably stewarded by Linda, Bill, John and Barbara.

Electric hook ups were available and taken up by most units. The onsite brewery proved popular for refreshments, food and brewery tours, though the opening hours were



limited to 11.30am to 4pm. Sunday lunches were excellent as was the beer

This was a relaxing meet with nothing organised on site though the brewery had outdoor draughts, boules, snakes and ladders and twister. Impromptu games of boules, cricket and smite were played by some of our visitors. With a bus stop just off site, the railway station in town and some with vehicles various visits were made to Skegness, Louth, Lincoln, Boston, NT Gunby Hall, Lincoln Aviation Centre, Gibraltar Point, etc. Our grandkids enjoyed everyone's company and cycled safely around the site. We all had one day in Skegness where Harry had a donkey ride and we then made sandcastles, before the obligatory lunch and ice-creams. On the 1st Saturday the Miller Court Sheltered housing just off site held a Macmillan fundraising event and a number supported this and came back with raffle prizes and 6 fruit flans (shared around).

Wainfleet is a quaint old port now a couple of miles from the sea with a mix of historic buildings. At the end of the last week, there was a very informative organised walks around the town when we discovered a lot of interesting facts about the buildings and people and the only working petrol station left in England with a swinging arm petrol pump to serve vehicles on the road. It was lovely to meet so many friends and to make new acquaintances, such a real friendly bunch of members. We have booked the site again for next year 22nd August to 19th September 2018 so hope to see you there.

## *John and Barbara*

### **Muswell Leys Farm -14th–17th September 2017**

The meet opened at 2pm on Thursday was attended by 16 units over the weekend who received a warm welcome from our stewards Sue, Colin, Chris and Stan. We were cheerfully





greeted and ably sited by Colin, who even ensured we were level first time. Thursday evening was the usual natter and nibbles as we renewed old friendships and met new friends.

Friday was a day of leisure when we could watch the latecomers arrive or go into Wiley or Rugby for the more adventurous. Friday evening was the "Bring and Share" or American Supper, Pot Luck if you so wish. There was plenty of good food mostly homemade and some hot. The ice was certainly broken as everyone mingled and was talking to everyone else.

The Saturday afternoon games had to be moved inside as rain stopped play, undaunted the stewards took the games indoors so Skittles were played with the bowling worthy of Barnes Wallis. Teams of couples were next with "Head basketball/ netball". What a laugh trying to score when your partner was flinching at every ball. The evening was opened with a quiz followed by make your own card Bingo and the host at great expense were Big E and Jan the Legend AKA Ian and Jan. Ian got most people on the Karaoke with some surprisingly good songs and voices. There were also the four judges Glyn, Denise, Doreen and Martin from 'Britain Should Have Talent' to rip into us, sorry give encouragement. Stan and Chris, Richard and Maria with Sue, Judy and Linda all sang and were in good voice, and then came Bill and I (Barry) who proved that I couldn't hold a note, even if it was sheet music. It was a great night enjoyed by all.

Sunday was coffee morning and Raffle which raised £59, Luckily Chris did win a prize. So thank you again to our stewards Sue, Colin, Chris and Stan for an enjoyable weekend See you all again soon. We were treated to a weekend of laughter and great fun.

*Doddie and Barry, Angelina and Alan*



### **Roade Village Hall – 29th September–1st October**

The meet opened at 2pm on Friday was attended by 14 units over the weekend who received a warm welcome from our stewards Doddie, Barry, Sue and Colin. Friday evening was the usual natter and nibbles with old and new friends.

Saturday evening was a Forties style evening where Suitable style dress and ration books were optional. We were treated to a corn beef hash supper and forties music. The majority dressed up for the occasion and some danced the night away while others discussed their memories of the forties. Royal British Legion poppies and other artefacts were sold and an auction was held for a set of Red Arrow whisky tumblers. It was a great night enjoyed by all.

Sunday was coffee morning, answers to weekend quiz and raffle draw which raised £60, the auction £30 and that of artefacts £148 making a total of £238 to the royal British Legion so thank you again to our stewards Doddie, Barry, Sue and Colin for an enjoyable weekend. Our thanks also went to our new friends who took an active part in the organised evenings.

*John and Barbara*

### **Uppingham Community College – 20th–22nd October**

The meet opened at 4pm on Friday was attended by 14 units over the weekend who received a warm welcome from our stewards Barbara and John who handed out a weekend Quiz. Friday evening was the usual natter and nibbles with old and new friends. Saturday evening was an excellent pot luck supper followed by a team quiz and an open forum discussing ideas & questions about our section

## *East Midlands (continued)...*

and the C & CC Club. Linda chaired these discussions which talked about bringing your own drinks to the Sunday morning get together and the meeting agreed everybody was happy with the way things are going and they did not think we needed to change anything at this time.

Sunday was coffee morning, answers to weekend quiz and raffle draw which raised £59, so thank you again to our stewards Barbara and John for an enjoyable weekend. Our thanks also went to our new friends who took an active part in the organized evenings.

## *Barbara and John*

### **Barnstones Caravan Park – 23rd–27th November**

The meet opened at 2pm on Thursday and was attended by 9 units over the weekend who received a warm welcome from our steward Dave plus Liz from Saturday. We were cheerfully greeted and given a weekend quiz and ably sited by Dave, who even ensured we were level first time it was hard standings after all. Thursday evening was spent in our vans setting up and warming ourselves on a bitterly cold night.

Friday was a day of leisure when we could watch the latecomers arrive or go into Banbury for the more adventurous. Friday evening was the usual natter and nibbles and a gentle quiz? We renewed old friendships and met six new friends from the three units visiting us from other sections.

Saturday was another day of leisure with some venturing into Banbury using the bus which has been reinstalled, while we went to The British Motor Museum, Gaydon (highly recommended).

The evening was a culinary treat courtesy of Glynne, Liz, Dave and Denise with a choice of either Chilli Con Carne or Bolognese and French bread followed by a delicious sweet topped with cream. There then followed a tortuous quiz (4 rounds) with teams of two or three which we won just. It was a great night enjoyed by all.

Sunday was coffee morning, answers to weekend quiz and raffle draw which raised £27, so thank you again to our stewards Liz and Dave and the catering team Denise, Liz and Glynne for an enjoyable weekend. Our thanks also went to our new friends who took an active part in the organised evenings.

## *John and Barbara*



### **Future Meets:**

**9th–11th February** – £8.00 pun

Nether Whitacre Village hall, B46 2EH

Valentines meet

Stewards – Doreen and Martin 07738 833604

**9th–11th March** – £10.50 pun

Hose Village Hall, LE14 4JR

AGM. Stewards – Committee, Pam and Dave 07860 200284

### **30th March–2nd April**

Invite from Midlands Area

Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall, WS15 4NB

Easter meet

**13th–15th April** – £10.00 pun

Water Ski Centre Kingsbury, B78 2DL

Stewards - Pat and Steph 07900 396160

**4th–7th May** – £9.50 pun

Shardlow Marina, DE72 2GL

Stewards – Denise, Glynne, Chris and Stan 07850 733050

**18th–20th May** – £8.50 pun

Breedon on the Hill, DE73 8AT

Stewards – Sue and Colin 07375 115619

Please refer to [www.eastmidlandsmcs.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsmcs.co.uk) for up to date information

Cheers

*John* – East Midlands PRO

## *Kent...*

Hello fellow campers, it's been a good year for camping with the group. We gave a goodly account of ourselves at Chepstowe for the M.C.S national meet & the National Feast of Lanterns at Hickstead, where our team found themselves having a "Back to School sports day!" Grrreat stuff! Now it's only a few days before we enjoy Kent Groups' Christmas celebrations. The weather outside is dull but with thoughts of this coming weekend we can be cheered up no end! Which artist was it that said "if camping be the food of love, follow the M.C.S sign?" It must have been Van Dyke!

### **Hole Park Rolvenden (Bonfire Party).**

Members were treated to Hot Jacket Potatoes & Sausage with Salad, which, along with the down-to-earth taste & feel of a traditional Bonfire, takes some beating!



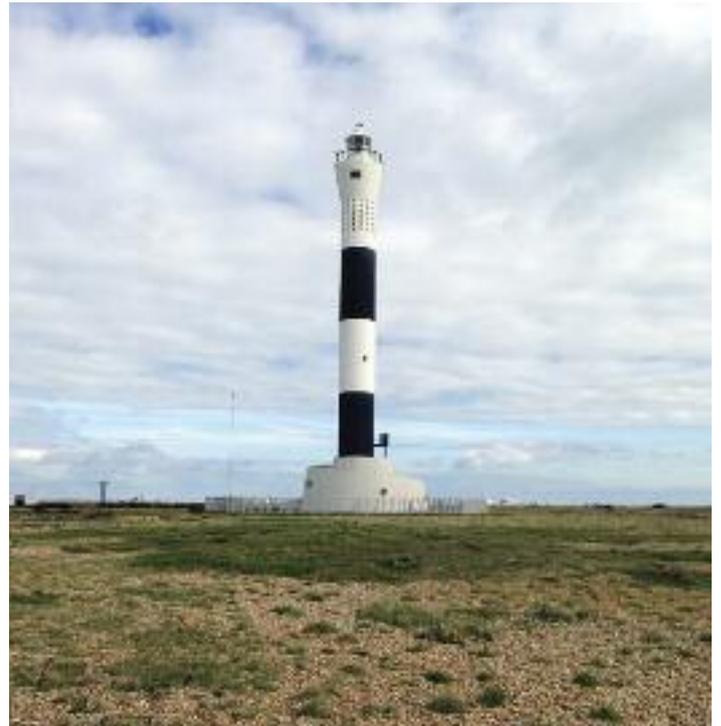
### **Greatstone**

A small but lively group met on Friday evening with lots of chat. On the Saturday many took to the Bus to explore. Margaret & I got off at New Romney & after sampling as much as we could of the local trading posts, wended our merry way back on foot. In the evening there were tales to be told in the school hall. A few of us visited Dungeness on the way home. An unusual landscape with historical & Artistic interest was there to be appreciated.



### **Chertsey Club Site.**

A combined Kent Group along with colleagues of Surrey & South London Group under the flag of the Southern Area at this pleasant site on the upper reaches of the river Thames. Lots to explore in this area including Runnymede, Windsor Great Park, Virginia Water & Valley Gardens.



### **Future Meets:**

#### **4th February**

Winter Walk Faversham.

A couple of hours duration around this Historic Town, if interested please contact Paul Randall on 07850 825298. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

#### **2nd-4th March – 2nights**

Greatstone School, Baldwins rd., Greatstone. Hall & Hard Standing. Cheese & Wine.

#### **16th-18th March – 2nights**

Swadelands School, Ham lane, Lenham, ME17 2LL, Hall & H/S. Fish & Chip Supper.

#### **29th March-2nd. April – 4 nights**

Easter Celebrations, Skinners School, St. Johns rd., Tunbridge Wells TN24 2PG (MR188/586417) Invite to Surrey & South London. - Hall & H/S ... Kent, Surrey & South London & Southern Area A,G,Ms

By the time you read this it will be into the New Year, so please look ahead & put your name forward to Steward one of these rallies & think about joining the committee, or if not, please give those on the committee all your support.

Well, that's all folks.

*Bale*

## Midland...

Welcome to the first Midland Area News of the year.

We look forward to see many of you camping out with us this year.

I would like to say that the last venues we used proved successful and many of you came out and had a good time. I've added a brief description of what we got up to!

### **The Vernon Arms.**

This venue was very welcoming and there was a nice atmosphere in the pub for us to socialize. There is a lovely craft centre nearby well worth a visit. The stewards Rob, Andrea and Ivan and Margaret did a good job with a quiz that took some head scratching.

### **Uttoxeter Racecourse.**

Everyone seemed to get some enjoyment out of this meet and the costumes were brilliant and varied. The farmers market was good fun and many people spent time in Uttoxeter. We were pleased with the amount of campers that joined in the bring and share supper. The party game of bobbing for apples was good fun and the ladies bobbed with forks. The horror came on people's faces when we announced a game of trick or treat but by the end there were tears of laughter.

### **Shrewsbury Cricket Club.**

This weekend was more successful than last year. A superb fish supper started the weekend and was taken up by many. Shrewsbury is always a pleasant town to visit with plenty of quirky shops and restaurants to enjoy but this year we were treated to a chocolate festival. We had a challenging quiz on Saturday that proved to get everyone involved. On Sunday morning there was a buzz about the meet therefore thanks to Keith and Ann for their energy.

### **Future Meets:**

#### **Rugeley Cricket Club, Chaseley Rd, WS15 2LG.**

##### **2nd-4th March.**

Stewards Shylie & Jim 07425244955. We are returning to this venue as it provides good parking with Hall facilities. It is a 10 min walk into the town centre with all the usual shopping facilities and eateries. Nearby is a welcome hostelry serving nice food. There is Cannock Chase nearby for those who wish explore this parkland.

#### **Hose Village Hall, 2 Harby Lane, LE14 4LJ. 9th-11th March.**

This is an invite from East Mids which provided good entertainment last year. This is their annual meet to elect their committee for the year. See East Mids for further details.





**Easter, Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall, Buds Rd, WS15 4NB. 30th March–2nd April.**

Stewards MMCS Committee 07425244955. This is our first new venue of the year. We've found this site with hard standing and a hall so we can socialize if the weather isn't on our side. This will be our annual meet and to elect our committee so come along and help us celebrate the area. We provide a buffet style gathering post the meeting where we can answer any queries you may have. There is a local shop if you need to top up with supplies. So come along and take part.

**New Members Meet, Dodderhill Equestrian, Droitwich WR9 0BE. 9th–11th March.**

Stewards Andrea and Rob 07715825128 This is our second new venue of the year and is in a new area for us to explore. You don't need to be a new member to come along for this meet as all are welcome but if you have joined the section and want to try out a meet then this one is ideal as you won't be the only new members at the meet. Nearby there is the spa town of Droitwich approximately 1.5 miles away.

**Midland Members**

Paul and Martin have been busy putting our 2018 camping calendar together and I hope you can make the most of the different locations. As last year we are blending our popular

locations with a selection of new venues this year.

If you have a favorite venue you would like us to visit then let us know and we can see if we can fit in subject to availability. Better still if you would like to steward a particular meet then let us know.

Stewarding is a good way of meeting fellow campers and is straight forward. This year I'm pleased to announce we have new stewards who will be pleased to see you and support the meets.

May I take the opportunity to thank the new and existing members that support 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?

**Thanks for volunteering we appreciate your support!**

Please refer to [www.waggonerstalk.co.uk](http://www.waggonerstalk.co.uk) for up to date information

All the best

*Colin* – Midland PRO

## Northern...

All at Northern Area hope that you all had a good Christmas and New Year and wish you happy camping throughout 2018.

Sad to relate that Derick Charlton as passed away recently. He had been a long standing member of not only the Club but also MCS. Our thoughts are with his family on this sad occasion.

Seaburn THS was again a success with many campers either taking part in or spectating the Great North Run from Newcastle to South Shields on the first weekend. Not forgetting the arial display by the Red Arrows

Whilst camping at Wetherby, for those who were interested, there was a dog show within the racecourse complex. Others made their way into the market town of Wetherby to sample the delights of local shops and hostleries.

There was a reasonable number of campers for the annual Sheep Fair in the market town of Masham which took part over the weekend. With many sampling the delights of the two breweries.

A full house was again the order of the weekend for the annual Jazz Festival. The weather was not too kind but with all the music and talent available nobody was downhearted.

A good turnout at Whitby with campers finding time to explore the old fishing port and many shops and recreational points. Evenings for most was in the adjacent rifle club.

Our first visit to Guisborough was enjoyed by those camping. The location being close to the town centre and evenings in the warmth made this a good weekend.

Change of venue this year for the Halloween meet was at Collingham. It was good to see that we had visiting campers from other Areas and DA's to make this a successful weekend. Many people left site on the Saturday to explore the nearby town of Newark.



Our return to Eden Camp was another sellout and from the comments received during the weekend it was well recieved by all. Just about all those who attended made the effort to dress in 40's costumes to enjoy the music and food of that era on the Saturday night.

Thirsk Auction Mart saw another good turnout. Saturday entertainment being provided by the Elsan Blues Band as well as disco music, quiz and bingo. Sunday morning we had our usual table top sale with many campers picking up bargains.

### **Future Meets:**

**All our meets start at 2pm unless otherwise stated.**

#### **2nd–5th February**

Pooley Bridge, Ullswater. Invite from Lakeland DA to join them in the Lake District National Park. Booked meet see their entry in Out and About for further details.

#### **15th–18th February**

Joseph Rowntree School, York YO32 4BZ. Situated near to York and on a bus route. Viking weekend in York city centre. £7.50 pun

#### **23rd–25th February**

Rolls Royce Social Club, Barnoldswick BB18 6HJ. Map Ref 103/81471. Social club available for the evenings. £7 pun

#### **9th–11th March**

Drax Social Club, Nr Selby YO8 8PJ. Map Ref 105/667264 Social club for the evenings and good meals. £8 pun

#### **22nd–25th March**

Racecourse, Thirsk YO7 1QL. Map Ref 99/421822. Close to town centre with a market on the Saturday. James Herriot museum in town. Athletic Club for the evenings.

**AGM on the Saturday morning - your chance to have your say.** £8.70 pun

#### **29th March–3rd April**

Racecourse, Beverley HU17 8QZ. Map Ref 107/037386. Close to town centre and on a bus route. Passion play on the Friday morning from the minster to the market place. Room for evening socials. Bookings advisable on 0792 710 9289. £11 pun

### 12th–17th April

Unthank Showground, Stanhope DL13 2PQ. Map Ref 92/992391.

Good walking country with old lead mines and museum in the area together with a heritage railway. Nice Dales town to explore. £7 pun

### 19th–24th April

Showground, Malham. Map Ref 98/898623.

Set in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Excellent walking country with Malham Tarn, Malham Cove and the waterfall at Gordale all within easy walking distance. £8 pun

### 24th–30th April

C&C Club site at Ravenglass. Invite from Lakeland DA to join them on the edge of the Lake District National Park. Booked meet see their entry in Out and About for further details.

So come and join us on at least one of our meets, see you in a field somewhere

*Trevor*



## *North West...*

Well we are nearly at the end of another year and I for one can say we have had some great meets and wonderful THS's. I want to take the time to thank all those who have volunteered to Steward throughout the year, your time and effort that you all put in is very much appreciated.

We ended the year with our Christmas Dinner at Kirkland and Cattrall Memorial Hall and once again the ladies of Kirkland and Cattrall prepared and served a delicious three course meal. A raffle took place where all monies raised went to the Charity of Choice which this year is Bury Hospice a total of £118.18 was raised well done everyone. We continued the evening with fun, games and music.

On behalf of the committee we would like to say a special thanks to Maureen Kaye for once again organising a fantastic event and to all members who helped with the preparations for the weekend.



Our first meet for 2018 is at Cockerham Village Hall 23rd to 25th February, 2018. Peter Knibbs is your steward for this meet. Please note that this meet starts at 4pm. Please do not arrive before this time as you will not be allowed on site.

It just remains for me to Wish you all A Very Merry Xmas and A Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

You can find all our 2018 meets and other information on our FACEBOOK Page **C.C.C.N.W.M.C.S** or on our website [northwestareamotorcaravansection.co.uk](http://northwestareamotorcaravansection.co.uk)

*Karen Baines* – Secretary

# For Sale

Outwell 'Daytona'- Air- Tall Freestanding, Drive-away Motor Caravan Awning, one year old, used once only.



Has openings on 3 sides and built-in groundsheet  
Has robust valise.

Comes complete with foot-hand pump having pressure gauge to ensure correct inflation press and joining kit to attach directly to van or groove in the casing of an existing roll out awning. Unlike flat roll- out awnings, can be used in moderate wind strengths.

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**Brian & Jenny Lee**

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07741290043 (Brian) / 07771330720 (Jenny)



# PRO Report

Hi all

Firstly I would like to wish you all the best for a Happy & Prosperous 2018, with great weather and lots of Camping with both Old & New Friends.

I am sure by now that those of you who have not camped through the cooler months of the year are now looking forward to getting 'Out & About' again with your local Groups and Areas, and for those who are wishing to plan further ahead to the summer holidays don't forget to look at the Holiday Meets that have been arranged all over the country.

I would like to say a Big Thank You to all the Area & Groups Committees for the work they have done throughout 2017 and for 2018. Whilst on the subject of Committees AGM's are coming up over the next few months, and every Area & Group are always looking for new members to come on their Committee, the work is not hard and everyone has fun and it is very rewarding, so do give it some careful consideration and talk to existing Committee members - join up and if you don't like it you can always step down.

I would also like to say a Big Thank You to all the members who Steward our meets and holiday meets all over the country without you these would not take place. Again whilst on this subject Stewarding is not a difficult job and is a great way to meet members and make friends, so give it a go this year, the more volunteers there are the easier it is.

Well enough of the 'pep chat' if you have not camped with your local Area/Group of joined a Holiday Meet then do give it a go it is a great way to meet members and make friends, and is a cheaper way to enjoy your unit. Remember whatever your unit and age you will always be made welcome by the Motor Caravan Section.

One final reminder don't forget to come up to Scotland and join us for our 56th National Meet & AGM, the booking form is in the back of the magazine, so come on up and join us.

Happy Camping

*Kathy*

## Northern Ireland...

Greeting's once again from N.I. by the time you read this we will be well into 2018. These past few months have been very busy for our section as we continue to meet on a fortnightly basis.

**6th-8th of October** saw us meeting in Cookstown, a great town for shopping and eating in. Friday night we had a meet and greet in the hall, a lot of chat and banter but a great evenings craic. Saturday and most folk hit the town to do a bit of shopping, and in the evening a few folk went to the local Chinese, before returning to the hall for a session of Tin-Top bingo, again another good night.

**27th-29th October** and our Halloween celebrations we had only one child with us this year, which was a bit disappointing. The hall was transformed with spooky decorations and the Ladies served up a delicious supper. The fancy dress parade was very good with more people taking part than usual. Thanks to all who made this a great weekend.

**10th-12th November** Our meet was in Lisburn, fewer units at this meet, but those who did go said it was a very good weekend.

**24th-26th November** Sixteen units attended the meet in Whitehead. This the weekend were the locals get to gather for their annual Victorian fair, Traders, Crafters and entertainers dress in Victorian costume to sell their wares from stalls, and for a small donation, the churches provide a welcome cup of tea & cakes.

The Steam Preservation Society were running a short trip up and down the line for parents and children, the expression on the children's faces was priceless.

Despite the cold wet day there was a great atmosphere, and everyone enjoyed it.



## *Northern Ireland (continued)...*

**6th–8th December** our meet was at Carrickfergus sailing club, Seventeen vans braved the snow and ice to be there. Friday night was our Christmas dinner with a Champagne reception to start, followed by a delicious meal which everyone enjoyed. Santa and his little Elf were in attendance to hand out gifts to all.

Saturday 8pm - late and we danced the night away to the music of the Castaways who played a great variety of music. While the Group took a break, a ballot was held, with some really good gifts on offer. A large Christmas Hamper donated by our former president was auctioned off, and when the group came back, we continued with the dancing, a really great night. Sunday morning, over coffee our chairman Peter presented prizes for the best Christmas sweater, the best decorated van and a word search that he had given out with the programme. Another great weekend.

These weekends don't just happen, they have got to be organised by the stewards or committee, so to each and everyone who has stewarded or helped out in anyway a great big thank you, we really do appreciate all your efforts. All that remains is for me to wish you a very happy New Year and where ever your travels may take you, be safe.

*Elena.*

### ***Future Meets:***

**12th–14th January 2018**

Beechlawn H.S. Hillsborough, Co Down.

Entry from 17.00hrs

**16th–18th February 2018**

Central School, 52–56 Hillsborough Rd, Lisburn, BT28 1JJ.

Entry from 17.00 hrs.

**30th March–2nd April 2018**

Portstewart Star of the sea Parish Centre. 7 Colerain Road, BT55 7HP.

Entry from 14.00hrs.

Take your pick.



## Scotland...

G'dayall,

Before we hunker down for the winter, some thoughts on the last leg of our 2017 programme. September welcomed us to the fine border town of Kelso and October to Bridge of Allan, both reasonably well favoured by the weather after a disappointing summer, with average numbers of vans in each case.

The season climaxed with our Party Meet at Cairnsmill OR St Andrews - and did it live up to that billing! For four of our five days a brilliant autumn sun shone on a full complement of 40 vans. For us the spectacle of our stewards groping about like moles in the unaccustomed brightness as they unerringly escorted us to our pitches. Added to the delights of strolling round the historic neuks of St Andrews, the Old Course and the West Beach, a varied programme of entertainments was topped by Bruce Davies' excellent singing and guitar playing. Following a very successful American Supper, an impromptu northern lighters' choral ensemble burst into (spiritual?) song, which compensated in enthusiasm for all it lacked in virtuosity. Great party spirit, and nice to see everybody leaving with a smile on their faces.

Now the Section goes into hibernation, waking up in the spring in Cairnsmill again for our AGM Meet (21-26 March), a booked meet with booking opening on 25th Feb.



The AGM is held on Sunday, 25th March at 1030hrs. SAMCS members not attending the rally are, of course, more than welcome to attend the AGM.

April (4-9) sees us back at Bridge of Allan where, in (hopefully) brilliant spring weather, we can enjoy tramping around the nice wee town of Bridge of Allan, not overlooking the local brewhouse, Dunblane Cathedral, historic Stirling and the Castle, and the Wallace Monument which overlooks our site at Strathallan Games Park.

A word more about the AGM. Members will note that changes are afoot in the Section. Two of the Section's stalwarts, Marjory and Tony Groundwater, who have given sterling service to the Section over many years in a variety of offices, will not be committee members next year. Tony has resigned as Sites Convener and Marjory has tendered her resignation as Treasurer as of the end of this year. The Section would like me to express our debt of gratitude to Marjory and Tony for their considerable efforts on our behalf. Our sincere thanks to you both. We look forward to your company at future meets, free of the burden of having to organise them.

This leaves us with big shoes to fill. Happily, the committee has been able to appoint Moira Campbell as our new Treasurer. Our thanks to Moira for making her skills available to us in this critical position. This leaves the AGM looking for a Sites Officer, at a time when the committee is looking to expand our programme more widely around Scotland. An interesting position - eager volunteers should not hesitate to contact me - or just show up at the AGM.

Finally, the Section was delighted to hear that David Blair has presented Bill Lees with his medal as Vice-President of the Motor Caravan Section of the Club. For our newer members (like me), Bill has had a long and distinguished career in the club and in our Section, and thus the presentation. He has been unwell of late, but happily is in full recovery mode and we look forward to seeing him again in the new season. Well done, Bill!



Roll on next season,

*Jim Keenan* - PRO SAMCS

## *South West...*

Welcome to the South West Area MotorCaravan Section C/C/Club.

Wishing you all a very Happy & Prosperous New Year 2018 & look forward to meeting up with you all in the Year.

Firstly a quick look back to November 2017, I must give a Big Big thank you to our Chairman Bob & his good Lady Trish for standing in for me & Opening & Stewarding our Halloween Meet at Ringwood Junior School as I had to take my Pam to Salisbury Hospital for a check up on her knee operation.

When back to Ringwood I was very disappointed with the poor turnout of units for our Halloween meet, but those there had a good time & some even dressed up with their Halloween costumes for Saturday evening

So I look forward to our 1st meet at Ballard School in February, so Please do come along, We have our AGM Meeting at 5pm on Saturday afternoon & unless we get some new Committee members to help us out the future of this South West Area is going to close down by the end of 2018.

### **Future Meets:**

#### **16th–18th February**

Ballard School, Fern Hill Lane New Milton, BH25 5SU  
Short walk into Town, Buses to Lymington Market on Sat or Christchurch & Bournemouth, AGM Meeting 5pm Sat, Hall for Saturday Evening. £9.00pupn

#### **Easter Meet– 30th March–2nd April**

Ringwood Junior School, Hightown Road, Ringwood, BH24 1NH.  
Site opens 11am on Friday. Use of Hall for the Weekend. Short walk to town Centre. £9.00pupn

#### **Holiday Meet – 26th April–15th May**

Beehive Field, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 1UA. Bus stops by gate for Trowbridge, Bath, Bristol etc. Good walks along by Canal.

For any Changes & up to date information check out Waggoner's Talk web site or you can Phone me on 01425 475415 or Mobile 07977061454

Happy Camping

*Derek* – PRO/Vice Chairman/Treasurer/Sites Officer Etc Etc



## *Southern...*

Hi Campers

I hope you all had a brilliant Christmas and New Year, with not too much of the white stuff.

This year has simply flown by, my mother always told me that the older you get the quicker the time goes and how right she was. We started off at Hole Park, Rolvenden with a magnificent bonfire and appropriate food to accompany it even though it wasn't Bonfire night and gosh it was hot!! This was followed by a weekend at Canterbury to attend the Food and Drink festival. Camping was at the Club Site which out of season is really good deal value for our members on a rally. Next was Crowborough Club Site for Kent and Normans Bay Club Site for Surrey & South London, I went to Crowborough but not until after I had got lost, as usual. Whilst there we went into Tunbridge Wells and had lunch at Wetherspoons which is the Opera House, a really magnificent building. Unfortunately we had another clash Kent went to Chertsey and Surrey & South London to Crowborough, both of these sites have halls so we were able to get together for the evenings.

We have just had a Christmas celebration with Surrey & London at Cranleigh, which was excellent, great company, great food and great entertainment and the Kent members won the majority of the raffle prizes. Kent followed two weeks later with their celebrations which were excellent, although on the Sunday we all woke up to the white stuff, still it is nearly Christmas.

Now we look forward to planning next year and start with Peter Pan which is usually very good. Following this Kent has a Winter Walk in Faversham which although we are use to frequenting, there is always things about the town you didn't know.

Of course we are now looking forward to the AGMs, both Groups would like some new "blood" on the Committees, it is not a difficult task and can be interesting as well as

rewarding. Surrey & South London have their AGM at Tillingbourne School, near Guildford on 18 March and the Southern Area and Kent Group have theirs over the Easter weekend at The Skinners School, Tunbridge Wells.

Happy camping to all members and I look forward to seeing you in a field somewhere.

*Mabel*



## 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: **mmshaw52@msn.com**

## *Surrey & South London...*

By the time you read this report our hard working Committee will have sorted out some great holiday meets also the weekends that some of us pick and mix, and not forgetting the popular Spring and Winter Nosh that we start and end the camping year with friendly staff at Cranleigh Village Hall who always make us very welcome year after year, so I am very pleased to report that we have a repeat booking with the excellent chef and staff for 2018, this of course has proved to be a good time to meet up with old friends and also make some new ones, as we say we are the friendly Club, so if the fancy takes you, book early with Paul as we are limited on numbers, having said that Paul and I attended the Kent Xmas Dinner in December and had a great time with Sunshine on our walk into the charming town of Faversham and a winter wonderland land to wake up to on the Sunday morning, so where else but in a Camper Van would you want to be, they say we get three seasons in three days, but it's what us hardy souls, who friends think we must be mad,

take in our stride with a smile and perhaps a little tippie to keep the cold out enjoy, and as I say if you waited for the weather you would miss out on many a good time, in the mean time try and get all those little jobs that you put on the back burner done, in time for 2018 meets list, after all as my old Mum used to say, live for the day, so I hope you have

your new dairy ready to fill all the dates in, as I find that we can't afford any senior moments to interfere with our very special hobby, Paul and I look forward to seeing you, the more the merrier, at some of the meets listed below, so until then keep Camping.

*Chris Bastin.*

### **Future Meets:**

**2nd–4th March** - Spring Nosh at Cranleigh 1st & Middle School - Booked Meet - contact Paul to book your place and meal.

**16th–18th March** - S&SL AGM weekend at Tillingbourne School - don't forget your membership card.

**29th March–2nd April** Easter Celebrations with the Kent group at The Skinners School, Tunbridge Wells.

**13th–15th April** - Invitation to join Kent Group at Nethercourt Touring Park, Ramsgate.

**3rd–7th May** - Mayday Meet at Orchard Farm, Drift Lane Chidham, Bosham.



# Motor Caravan Section 56th National Meet 2018



Border Union Showground  
 George Street Kelso TD5 8AZ  
 1st-3rd June Opens at 12.30



Friday Evening Paul Bastin Entertains on Keyboard  
 Saturday Evening Free Reelin  
 Sunday Afternoon Tea  
 Sunday Evening Professional Race Night  
 Monday Coach Trip to Edinburgh leaves site 9.30 back on site 4.30

## 56th National Meeting 2018 Booking Form

All bookings to be sent by 7th May, those received by this date will be entered in a free draw of £100 donated by TruPrint Media Ltd

Membership Number _____	Friday-Sunday	£65
Area/Group _____	Fri-Sun single occ	£60
Name _____	Monday Night	£10.00
Address _____	Extra Adult	£30
	Pennon	£5.50
	Plaque	£1.50
	Coach Trip £10 Each	£
Post Code _____		
Phone Number _____		
E-mail Address _____		

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle reg Number \_\_\_\_\_ Total £

please tick      Motorhome      Caravan      T/Tent      Tent      pitch for disabled

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