

Waggoner's Talk

Spring 2018 - Issue 180



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

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Waggoner's Talk

Next deadline date is 10 June 2018

Cover photo - Derek Maidment

Ramblings of the Editor



Hi all and a very happy new year to you, the front page in this issue is a reminder to those of you that attended the "National" in Wales last year. This year it will be in Scotland at Kelso show ground. I hope to see a lot of you there

Bryan

WT - WAGGONER'S TALK

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The Editorial Team

Chairman's Chat



Hi everyone,

I hope you're all recovered from the winter bug and back out again after the snow. Following up from my last chat with you, I asked if anyone who lives in an area that is now closed because they could not raise a committee, if they would like to run a meet in that area to contact me, I have not had any response to this it's not too late. Also I hope that all the areas have had a successful A.G. M. Don't leave it too late to fill in your booking form for the 56th National meet and send it to Doreen. We look forward to meeting you all at our Sections National meet in Kelso Scotland.

Bye for now

Martin Whitaker
Chairman

Obituaries

Peter Knibbs

May 28th.1938–January 19th 2018

He joined the Camping and Caravanning Club in 1985. and in August of that year he was elected to the committee of the North West Area and took the position of Secretary, he was also elected to Section Council, and became the National Secretary, a position which he held until May 2010 when he was elected Vice President of the MCS. In May 2013 he was elected President of the MCS, until June 2016. At the AGM 2016 Peter and Marion were presented jointly with the MCS Certificate of Merit, sadly Marion had passed away in May 2016.

Recently he once again took up the office of Secretary for the North West Area, but sadly his health deteriorated and he was forced to stand down.

Peter with his commitment to the Club also inspired his Daughters Alison, and Leslie, to take up motor caravanning.

For 33 years he worked tirelessly for the MCS and the Camping and Caravanning Club, "He will be missed. We will remember him."

Brian Hodgson

It is with great sadness that Southern Area & Kent Group have lost one of their long standing members, and we know that Brian will be missed by many members not only from his local Area/Group but from all over the country for his services at many of our National Meets as 'on duty First Aider' as well as 'the friendly guy' with the American Motorhome, also his hard work that he did with pleasure for Kent Group for many years for displays at the Feast of Lanterns. Our thoughts are with Margaret, Andrew, Susan & Tracey and their families.

Around Your Areas and Groups

Devon and Cornwall...

I am writing this article stuck at home with this very heavy snow, unable to go anywhere. We were due to go to Budemeadow Touring Park, near Bude in Cornwall the weekend of 2nd–4th March for our first meet of the season, but due to the forecast of very heavy snow we had to take the unprecedented step of cancelling this meet. Thanks to Jonathon and June for emailing all members who had supplied their email addresses. Anyone wishing to add their name to this list please email their details to devonandcornwallmcs@hotmail.com.

However we had already met on Sunday 4th February for our winter walk. This walk was organised by Roger Russell and took place near Topsham, Devon. We walked beside the River Clyst to where it joins the River Exe, walking past the Bowling Green Marsh Nature Reserve to Topsham. On the way Roger pointed out places of interest and historical information as Topsham was an ancient trading port and some of the buildings had Dutch style

frontages. This year the weather was kind to us (last year we had rain). We had sunshine with a cold wind, especially when we were near the River. You can see from the photograph that we were all wrapped up very warmly. We walked back to our cars and drove to the Blue Ball pub at Sandygate for carvery lunch with 40 members sitting down for lunch. We all enjoyed our day out, thanks to Roger and his organisation.

We are due to have our AGM shortly, when our Chairman will be standing down. Full details of this AGM will appear in the next Waggoner's Talk. Philip Hingston has been our Chairman for the last three years and this has been an interesting time. Never a dull moment when he is organising us. At our meets he has led walks, and introduced us to new games – Chase the Ace, Card Bingo, Horse racing, which involves large numbers of people and smaller group games such as Sequence.

P.T.O. for Future Meets...



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Devon and Cornwall (continued)...

Future Meets

Thursday 19th–Sunday 22nd April

Kings Down Tail Campsite, Salcombe Regis, E Devon EX10 0PD. Commercial Site with all facilities and small shop is 16 miles from junction 30 M5. The site is on A3052, on left after Donkey Sanctuary. Bus service outside site. Out buildings part of WWII radar station on site.

Thursday 3rd–Sunday 6th May

Whitsands Bay Holiday Park, Millbrook, SE Cornwall PL10 1JZ. Commercial site all facilities incl bar, restaurant, swimming pool, play area situated within a fort alongside the coast with numerous walking opportunities and a bus route. Getting there can include an interesting trip on the Torpoint Ferry across the river Tamar near Devonport Dockyard.

Thursday 17th–Sunday 20th May

Newberry Valley Park, Woodlands, Coombe Martin, N Devon EX34 0AT. Commercial site, pitches are hard standing and grass. ½ mile to village of Coombe Martin and coast via a footpath. Bus into Infracombe from village. Pitches overlooking lake. Individual cubicles with toilet, shower and wash basin.

Monday 4th–Thursday 7th June

Higher Penmayne Farm, Rock Wadebridge, N Cornwall, PL27 9NG. Commercial site above the Camel Estuary, One mile to beach and the ferry to Padstow, with coastal walks. Site near village of Pityme with Pub and Fish and Chip shop.

Thursday 14th–Sunday 17th June

Porthtowan Tourist Park, Mile Hill, Porthtowan, N Cornwall TR4 8TY. Commercial site with shop on site, grass pitches, and has a footpath from site for coastal walks. One mile walk into Porthtowan for local bus service, Blue Bar Café and convenience store. Coastal path walks with heritage mine workings. Chapel Porth Beach nearby has info and Wheal Coates Engine house is close.

Temporary Holiday Site

Thursday 21st June–Thursday 5 July

Exmouth Rugby Club, Exmouth EX8 1DG.

This booked only holiday site is filling up fast, so don't be disappointed, book soon. For Booking Forms please send a stamped addressed envelope to Philip Hingston 12 Bowden Road, Ipplepen Newton Abbot, South Devon TQ12 5QT.



East Midlands...

Copt Oak Christmas Rally – 8–10 December 2017

We arrived on a bitter cold Friday afternoon to be greeted by our stewards Richard, Paul and Maria. Richard and Paul were doing a sterling job of marking out the hard standing pitches in the hope of keeping everyone on hard standing as the weather forecast was not great and guess what? They managed it safely for all 25 vans! Maria greeted everyone in the hall and the kettle was constantly being filled as vans were parked and everyone filtered into the hall to register and have a warm drink.

Friday evening we all arrived back in the hall in our festive jumpers to meet up again and were entertained by Ian or as he is known by all of us; 'Big E'. He organised some Christmas songs which were sung along to and then music for dancing. Excellent job! During the evening a bottle of Martel Brandy was raffled off for £1 a ticket and £60 was raised for the Air Ambulance.

Saturday morning some people in the hall playing board games, others went to the village for a walk and visited the church to see it being decorated others just chilled in their vans catching up with friends. Everybody arrived back in the hall in the afternoon for a crafts afternoon. There was demonstrations of painting, upholstery, model railway, knitting, crochet, tapestry, a collection of old tools, radio controlled yachts, what a wealth of talent the East Midlands have. To top that some of the ladies had made cakes which we had with tea. What a feast and for those slimming there was even a slimming world cake!!!

In the evening Maria had organised a lovely two course meal. Beef and Turkey with hot new potatoes and salad which was followed by a huge array of deserts, she did us all proud. After dinner Paul had organised pass the parcel which after much laughter on its way round was won by Chris. We also had a parade of Christmas hats and all voted



for the winners. Maria announced half way through the evening that a surprised visitor had arrived. A few minutes later Santa came and everyone received a present. Big E then rounded off the evening with music and we had dancing including all the old party favourites like the Birdie Song and the Conga to name just a couple. It was a really great evening.

Sunday morning we woke up to a lot of snow and the coffee morning was cancelled as people wanted to make early tracks to home before the weather got worse. A few minutes later the stewards sent a message round to say that contact had been made with the hall caretaker and we could stay on till Monday because of the weather. 13 vans stayed and had a great time. Coffee morning was back on, although the raffle which made £95 was postponed until the first night of the New Year rally. Nearly all of us went out to the pub next door for lunch. We had a good meal and I think the landlady appreciated our custom as the phone rang all the time we were there as people were cancelling their booking because of the weather. When we arrived back at camp some of the campers built a snowman and a lot of snowballing took place. Such a laugh, second childhood or what!!!!

In the evening everyone raided their cupboards and fridges and the result was an excellent buffet put in front of us and another lovely evening was enjoyed.

To sum up this rally Richard and Maria were such good hosts, very well organised and never stopped making sure that everyone was looked after; we were never bored something was always happening and I labelled this rally as the 'rally that kept on giving'. These two made this rally happen and what a bonus to have an extra night!

Ann and Trevor

East Midlands (continued)...

New Year Meet at Hose Village Hall Saturday 30th December 2017–2nd January 2018.

Dave and I arrived at Hose about 1.30pm preparing to meet and greet friends but we only got as far as Stan and Chris's as they offered us a sausage sandwich. Absolutely no contest, friend's Vs sausage sandwich, well I ask you!! So once we had a full stomach off we went to socialise! There was coffee/tea available in the hall once you were settled. 27 units arrived for the meet.

In the evening there was a wonderful bring and share and a great atmosphere for catching up with friends and making new ones.

Sunday morning we were feeling energetic – I know – it doesn't happen often and will surprise a few people so off for a walk we went. We met a few other energetic folk along with their dogs. Unfortunately the pub was shut so back to the motorhome till 2.30pm when there was refreshments. That involved tea/coffee and an array of cakes – oh help! Many thanks to all those who provided such a fab assortment of cakes – they should be banished to Siberia or at least to the next meet!

And so to the evening which someone reminded me was actually New Year's Eve – NO – can't be, it's never a year since the last New Year's Eve. The theme was dress to impress and boy did everyone dress to impress. Mind you the men were wearing trousers and jackets but they still impressed.

This is when the catering team did an absolutely stunning job and provided us with dinner. Firstly we had melon, Parma ham and soft cheese starter, a delicious beef bourguignon with vegetables and roast potatoes and then to finish a choice of hot or cold desserts too many to list. It was a wonderful dinner that everyone enjoyed and gave thanks for.



Whilst the dishes were being washed Dave and I started a game of pass the parcel with 2 parcels. The layers had a prize, a sweet and a twist – a forfeit which everyone undertook with great enthusiasm. I think that was the emotion but not so sure with some however! It was also the first time we have ever seen Chris pass the parcel with such speed we weren't sure she actually touched it!! That's the knack, have a forfeit and she doesn't want to win – bless!

Dave and Diane then opened the roulette and blackjack tables and with everyone armed with their '£50' the betting began. At the end Terry and Chris were level pegging with £130 each so a final bet was made. The loud scream that followed suggested that Chris had won! However later on Terry found some more money – oh dear, that's what happens when you have too much money tucked away in your pockets.

We had a bit of a dance to while away the last few minutes to the New Year and 2018 arrived. I thoroughly enjoyed that bit, haven't kissed so many people in such a short space of time for many years. I didn't even have to go into the bike shed (oh did I mention we had a bike shed but unfortunately no smoking or kissing was allowed). I did hear a rumour regarding several people who broke the kissing rule but I'm not naming them. However I am open to bribery!

New Years Day dawned and perfect timing again we got offered bacon sandwich by our lovely neighbours Chris and Stan. Mind you it did have something to do with the use by date being 1st Jan. I've survived the breakfast.

Well to my surprise we had another burst of energy in the morning and went for another walk this time with Paul and Linda and Billy (my favourite Westie) and hey the pub was open so time for drinks. Pam, Nev, Chris and Stan joined us. Stan went and bought Chris and himself a drink and then got berated at the lack of change. Some people – well Chris – are so ungrateful. We love you Stan!

The afternoon offered more coffee/tea and cakes and then a school day related film; yes you've guessed it 'St Tinian's'. It was very easy to enjoy and to laugh at.

The theme for the evening was school days – and it brought out short trousers, askew ties, rugby, hockey, school teachers, lollypop man, and socks of varying heights, Grease, governess and, who I apologise to, if I've missed you off! Paul and Linda won the Gents and Ladies fancy dress. After another splendid meal from the catering team we had the raffle. There were so many raffle prizes donated and wrapped which was greatly appreciated. The raffle made a £145 which was truly amazing so thank you.



However I must mention one couple – well it would be wrong of me not to point out that they must have won at least ten prizes (I'm happy to be corrected!) I think you can say their embarrassment was complete. Oh their names are Kevin and Chris so if on a meet with them be warned!!

After that we played some games run by Glynne and Paul. First was a game of 'Play your Cards Right' and a second game involving a circle of people facing outwards, 20p and a container to be passed around. It proved to be very entertaining and some people discovered they were fitter than they realized. That saw us finished and off to bed we went.

Tuesday morning dawned and what a miserable morning – raining and time to go home after a brilliant few days. After coffee morning it was time to say goodbye and go our separate ways.

To finish, the thanks of every single person there must go to Linda and Bill Cooper, Diane and Dave Fowler and Sue and Colin Chester and all the helpers for organising such a great New Year celebration. Also all our thanks to everyone else who helped them make it such a success.

Liz and Dave

Nether Whitacre – 9th–11th February

A cold weekend but with the heated hall we had a great time. We were positioned by Martin and 22 units turned up.

A good program of activities all weekend thanks to Doreen and Martin.

Future Meets:

13th–15th April. £10.00pn

Water Ski Centre, Kingsbury B78 2DL

Stewards - Pat and Steph Presland. 07900 396160

May Day weekend – 4th May–7th May. £9.50pn

Shardlow Marina DE72 2GL

Stewards - Glynne and Denise Wildbore & Stan and Chris. 07850 733050

18th–20th May. £8.50pn.

Breedon on the Hill DE73 8AT

Stewards - Sue and Colin Chester. 07375 115619.

The stewards are hoping to provide facilities to watch the Royal Wedding and the Cup Final for those who wish to watch.

14th–17th June. £9.50pn

Hayes Farm NG15 0BD

Stewards - Dave and Diane Fowler. 07971 318564.

40TH ANNIVERSARY 29th June–1st July. East Midlands 40th anniversary celebration.

Hinckley Rugby Football Club LE10 3DR.

East Midlands (continued)...

NB. Meet opens 12 Noon.

This is a booked meet and a maximum of 50 units. The Booking form is available from Linda Cooper and Doreen Whitaker.

Price Friday–Sunday £36. Single occ £30. Extra adult £6. Extra child £3.

Stewards - Sue Chester and John Taylor. Plus Colin and Barbara!! 07375 115619

Friday evening entertainment - Acapella group

Saturday evening entertainment - singer Dean Thomas and there will be a buffet.

Breakfast is available on Saturday morning at £4.55 per person and Sunday lunch is available at £9.99 per person. These must be booked on Friday with your stewards.

12th–15th July. £9.50

Market Bosworth RFC CV13 0BE

Stewards - Eddie and Sue Croft. 07980 454283

27th–29th July. £10.50pn

Hatton Country World CV35 7LD

Stewards - Glynne and Denise Wildbore. 07850 733050

3rd–7th August. Price TBC

Stafford Boat Club ST17 4SG

Stewards - Invite from Midlands Area.

9th–12th August. £10.50pn

Stoke Bruerne NN12 7SY.

Stewards - Jean and Terry Johnson. 07960 686667

THS Holiday meet- 22nd August–9th September. £9.00pn

Batemans Brewery, Wainfleet PE24 4JE.

Stewards - Linda and Bill Cooper, John and Barbara Taylor. 07983 706465

There are EHU available at extra cost.

For any changes or further information please refer to our website www.eastmidlandsmcs.co.uk or Wagoners Talk website

Hope to welcome you on a site somewhere, Cheers

John

East Midlands PRO





Hello campers of Kent, welcome to my first report of 2018. I trust you all had a good Christmas & New Year. I am going to ignore the seasonal wet stuff pouring down outside whilst recalling the bright sunshine we enjoyed for the last two days & cast my mind forward to all the meets booked for us by Bryan, our sites secretary.

Once again guests to our Christmas Celebrations at Abbey School, Faversham enjoyed a festive welcome by Paul & his staff with a change of meal presentation this year – i.e. the Celebration dinner on the Saturday evening changed to a Carvery! This went down very well with a host of positive comments received.

The highlight of January for many was the visit to Peter Pan – the Panto (oh! yes it was!!!) at the superior Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, the booking of which is due with thanks to Kathy (it was a sell out!). Unfortunately Margaret & myself had to miss this landmark event due to the dreaded winter flu! – you can't win them all!

The next event for Kent Group was the "Winter Walk" at Faversham. This event organised by Paul was very well attended despite the cold & gave participants a rare insight into the varied and colourful past & present story of that most Historic Town.

Before going on to future meets it behoves me to remind members of all the work carried out on their behalf by committee members, such as booking sites etc. so please think about maybe putting forward for the committee yourself, or at least supporting them. One way is to be a

steward for at least one meet a season, it's not too difficult, just be yourself & the rest will follow. You only need to ask a committee member or fellow campers who will be only too pleased to assist.

On a sadder note, as many of you will know, we lost Brian Hodgson, one of Kent Group's Founder members in December. He & his wife Margaret camped in the early years with their Family of children & pets. Always a colourful & noted Camper, Brian will particularly be remembered for the many Project Builds (often on an Epic scale!) he made for the groups entry to the Theme competition for the National Feast of Lanterns (perhaps he trained with Isambard Kingdom Brunel!) In more recent times he could often be spotted on site tinkering with one of his many American R.V's.

Future Meets.

March 16th–18th.

The Lenham School (previously Swadelands), Ham lane, Lenham ME17 2LL. – MR189/893523. Hard Standing & Hall. Saturday evening. Fish & Chip Supper – order & pay Friday evening. Site opens 17.00 hrs. £7.50 pupn – 2nights.

March 29th–2ndApril.

Easter Celebrations. The Skinners School, St. John's rd., Tunbridge Wells TN24 2PG - MR188/583415. New site for Kent group with Hard Standing & Hall. Friday morning Hot Crossed Buns & coffee, Friday evening Quiz. Saturday evening Kentish Supper & Raffle. Sunday 11.00 a.m Kent Group A.G.M.

Kent (continued)...

– Sunday 15.00 hrs - Southern Area A.G.M. followed by Tea & Cakes! Campers Early Photos Guess Who? & Games. Site Opens 17.00 hrs. £9.50 pupn Stewards – Committee. – 4 nights. (Don't forget mem. Cards for the A.G.M.s)

April 12th–15th

Nethercourt Touring Park. Ramsgate CT11 0RX - MR179/366650 – Good site with facilities. Site opens 14.00 hrs. £9.00 pupn. Invite to Surrey & South London Group.

April 26th–29th

Booked Meet. Crowborough Club Site - Goldsmiths Recreation Ground, Crowborough TN6 2TN - MR188/520315 - Good site walking dist. to town or bus Tunbridge Wells. Hall available evenings. Site opens 13.00 hrs. £11.50 pupn Hard Standing & Electric. Contact Kathy on 07951 063401. Email Kathygiles@mac.com - Bookings close 10/04/18 - 3 nights

May 3rd–7th

May Bank Holiday meet. Quex House & Gardens & Powell Cotton Museum. Manston rd. Birchington CT7 0BH - MR179/309682. Farm Shop, Restaurants & walk into Birchington, buses to many local resorts. Site opens 11.00 hrs. £8.50 pupn. 4nights. Stewards Kathy & Bryan.



May 10th–13th

Booked Meet. Sea Fishing Weekend. Normans Bay Club Site. Pevensey Bay BN24 6PR - MR198/682055 - Flat grass pitches. Book with Kathy on kathygiles@mac.com bookings close 25th May.

Finally, on behalf of the Kent Group Committee, I would like to wish all campers, seasoned or new, "Happy Camping" in the coming year & I look forward to bumping into many of you.

Bob

PRO Report

Hi all. It's that time again, I am sure that you are looking forward to getting 'Out & About' and on the road again. The last few months there has been varied weather all over the country and the 'Beast from the East' seemed to visit most counties, and I know a few of the first meets of the year were cancelled due to weather.

In February we met up with our friends from Kent Group for a winter walk around the market town of Faversham, it was very interesting but very very cold. We are now looking forward to warmer dry weather and camping all over the country.

This year along with my team I will be manning the Club stand at National Motorhome Show in April, Norfolk Motorhome Show in July, the Western Motorhome Show in August and The Grand Finale Motorhome Show in September, so if you are attending any of these shows,

please come over for a chat. As well as talking with new members it is always good to meet with existing members and find out their likes and sometimes their dislikes about our club, over the years I have been managing the Club stand I have made many friends from all over the country.

Finally I would like to remind you all that the Section will be doing a Block Booking for the National Feast of Lanterns which is being hosted by North West Region at Arley Hall, Cheshire over the August Bank Holiday, so if you would like to join us there send your Booking form and cheque to me at 62 Poplar Drive, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7PY by the 20th May.

Well that's all for now, look forward to seeing many of you at our 56th National Meet in Kelso.

Kathy

Midland...

Welcome to the Midland section

Well firstly I would like to apologise for those of you who were itching to come to Rugeley for our first meet but the weather was against us. The infamous 'beast from the east' made us feel that it wasn't safe out to travel and as it was the coldest time of the winter so we felt it best to cancel.

We do however have plenty of opportunity for you to come out for a weekend to have a good time.

We also alternate our meets with East Mids so between us we can offer more camping weekends.

Future Meets:

4th–7th May 2018

New Members Meet

Dodderhill Equestrian, Droitwich WR9 0BE. £8pun.

Stewards Andrea and Rob 07715 825128.

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. It's a short walk to Droitwich which is a lovely 'spa' town to explore.

This is a good weekend to meet new friends whether you're a seasoned camper or starting out as a new camper wanting to find out more.

1st–4th Jun 2018

MCS 56th National Meet, Kelso Showground TD5 8AZ.

A great chance to meet other members of the MCS and see what delights Scotland has to offer. It'll be a good weekend of entertainment and there is a trip on offer to visit Edinburgh.

The booking form is in the Waggoners Talk so take up this opportunity to see this wonderful part of the country in fact you could use this event as part of a holiday to venture into areas that you may not normally go.

22nd–24th Jun 2018

Peak Rail, Rowsley Station, Matlock DE4 2HX. £8pun.

Enjoy a trip on the steam train into Matlock which has great shops and a lovely park. Enjoy a coffee or meal in one of the many restaurants. We usually socialise in the train in the evening.

This weekend offers opportunity to explore many attractions in the area if you haven't been here as it's furthest north of our area. You could see Chatsworth House or visit local market towns such as Bakewell, Buxton etc.

29th June–1st July 2018

East Mids 40th Anniversary, Hinckley Rugby Club
LE10 3DR

See East Mids page for more details.

13th–15th July 2018

Shardlow Marina DE72 2GL. Stewards Colin & Lynne.

This is a popular venue, this camp site with a pub/restaurant on site with another good selection of hostelrys around. The setting next to the marina makes for a relaxing weekend. There are walks around and regular buses to Derby, Castle Donington & Loughborough.

Midland Members

I'm pleased to say that Martin and Paul have added new venues to this year's calendar offering us different views as well maintaining some of our favorite sites. They have negotiated good deals with the site owners and therefore we're able to offer weekends for good value. We are pleased to say that we have new stewards coming forward to reinforce the new stewards that came forward last year.

We would like more of our members to come and camp with us. With more members we can offer more types of entertainment whether it be group walks or evening fun.

So now you've paid your membership come out and make use of it we try to encourage our campers to get what they want from the weekend whether that be to chill out or visit local attractions.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee to help us make the camping better then let us know as we have space for more committee members.

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 have or will be stewarding for us and the volunteers that help us run the meets. You've all 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 MCS PRO

colin.lang@ntlworld.com

North West...

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our good friend and member Mr Peter Knibbs this week. Peter was a our former Secretary and a true gentleman and scholar and will be sorely missed by us all.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 7th April at 11am at Whittingham and Goosnargh Sports and Social Club. We need you as members to volunteer to join the Committee. Positions that we need filling are Treasurer, Secretary and Sites Officer. Without these positions being filled there will be no club and I am sure that all our members do not want the club to fold. Entertainment on both Friday and Saturday night with food being provided by the club on Saturday night.

The meet at Cockerham Village Hall was enjoyed by all



who came to celebrate the life of Peter Knibbs and also to celebrate Bob, Aileen, Bryan and John's birthdays. Here are a few pictures from the weekend. Many thanks to Rita and David for stewarding the meet.

Future Meets:

22nd-26th March

Helsby Community Sports Centre

6th-8th April

AGM Whittingham and Goosnargh Sports and Social Club

4th-8th May

Manorafan Farm May Bank Holiday Meet

17th-21st May

North West Regional Meet Arley Hall Arley Cheshire

THS for this year are:

Manorafan Farm 28 Nights Starting Monday 11th June. And Southshore Cricket Club 1st July for 21 Nights.

PLEASE NOTE: These are not booked meets as advertised in the handbook but it is advisable to contact the stewards with regards to if spaces are available. The stewards will be announced with telephone numbers nearer the time.

Many Thanks

Karen Baines

Secretary



Northern...

A good weekend was had at the auction mart in Hawes with many campers making their way to the Wensleydale Creamery to sample and buy their favourite cheeses. On the Saturday evening the Christmas lights were turned on and Christmas carols were sung in the market place to the accompaniment of the local brass band with goodies to eat being passed round. The evening ended with a fireworks display.



Another full house was the order for the New Years meet at Ripon racecourse, this being enjoyed by all those that attended. There were two evenings where the campers were tasked with making a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows and on the second occasion a boat out of newspaper.

January again saw us at the Bridge Hotel in Walshford for our winter dinner with comments as to it probably being the best meal in the eleven years we had been there. Don't worry it has been booked for next year if you didn't manage this time round.

Skipton Auction Mart was another excellent turnout with some 70 units. Good evenings were had inside with free wine to go with the American supper on the Saturday.

Barnoldswick was a full house with good entertainment on the Saturday evening in the club. Unfortunately two



units had to be turned away as there wasn't any more room on the car park. Our apologies to those who could not stay with us for this weekend.

There was another good turnout at York with entertainment on each evening.

Future Meets:

All our meets start at 2pm unless otherwise stated.

3rd-8th May

Grinton near Reeth in the lovely Yorkshire Dales.

This is a popular location and you are advised to ring and book your place on 0792 710 9289 after 4 April. £7.50 pun.

18th-21st May

Yorkshire Heart Vineyard, York YO26 8EL.

There are tours available for those interested in finding out how wines and beers are made in this rural spot. £6 pun.

24th-29th May

Football Club, Gargrave.

A good flat field with canal walks adjacent. Buses available to either Skipton and or Settle. £7 pun.

1st-5th June

National meet and AGM, Kelso, Scotland.

This meet in the borders of Scotland gives the opportunity to explore this lovely area. Entertainment on most nights and tours out. See booking form in the magazine. The annual general meeting of the Section will be held during the weekend so your opportunity to have your say in the running of your Section.

Northern (continued)...

7th–12th June

Old Otlesians Rugby Club, Pool Road, Otley LS21 1DY.
The town centre of Otley is within easy walking distance of this venue. There is also a garden centre close by for all your gardening needs and food served daily. £9 pun

14th–19th June

Beech Tree Farm, Sutton on the Forest, York YO61 1EY.
Buses available into York for those who wish to either see the sights and or shopping.

19th–22nd June

Ripon Racecourse HG4 1EY.

This is a mid week rally for those who wish to see the races. This will be a booked meet so ring 0776 102 5163 to book your place.

Racing will be on Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon, on these days there will be restricted movement in and out of site.

21st–24th June

Yorkshire Region Meet, Wetherby. Block bookings to Carol Rowley on 0776 102 5163.

28th June–12th July

Football ground Settle. Our first THS of the season set in the lovely town of Settle on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. Opportunities for walks on the surrounding hills or maybe a journey on the Settle to Carlisle railway passing over the Ribbleshead Viaduct. £8.50 pun, extra adults, in excess of two, £3 per night plus a registration fee of £3.50. site phone number 0792 710 9289

12th–17th July

Durham Rugby Club. On the edge of the city centre. Come and enjoy the Durham miners gala on nearby fields. £9 pun

21st July–5th August

Caedmon College, Prospect Hill, Whitby YO21 1LA
The second of our THS's set in the fishing port of Whitby. A comfortable walk into the harbour and town centre or a more strenuous one up to the abbey. Toilets and showers are available. £14pun, extra adults in excess of two, £3 per night plus a registration fee of £3.50. Site phone 0792 710 9291

Motor Caravan Section 56th National Meet & AGM - Pre & Follow on Meets

Our Scottish Area have arranged the following pre and follow on meet for members who are attending the National Meet at Kelso this year so that you can make this a holiday.



May 25th–31st - Castle Cary Holiday Park, Creetown, Newton, Stewart, Dumfries & Galloway DG8 7DQ - £9.00 per unit per night. This is a lovely venue with a large level field, near to Freetown and handy for the Irish Ferry, coast and forest of South West Scotland. There are lovely walks in the forest with good dog walks. On site there are toilets & showers and use of the site facilities which include a shop, laundry, restaurant and swimming pool. Whilst this meet closes on the 31st May, this is a Commercial site, and Scottish Area have spoken with the site owners so that you can remain on site until the 1st June.



Jun 3rd–14th - The follow on meet they have organised is on the Beautiful walled Drum Estate in Edinburgh, 642 Old Dalkeith Road,

Danderhall, Edinburgh EH16 4SL. £8.00 per unit per night. This is a flat field thru the pillared gates with hardcore entrance with lovely views. There is a supermarket and bus stop at the entrance to the site with frequent bus service to the City Centre and borders and also a large restaurant nearby. This rally has been extended to 10 days to include one of the Edinburgh Festivals - The Leith Festival - it is situated beside the Royal Yacht Britannia which people can also visit. Buses are available a few yards from the rally to Leith which is Edinburgh's waterfront.

Northern Ireland...

Greetings once again from a very cold and blustery N.I. I hope by the time you are reading this, the weather will have improved and you will be out and about again.

We in N.I. are out all year round, January and February being the Two months when we meet just once a month, other wise it is twice in the month.

January 12th–14th was our first meet of the year and it saw Five units and their hardy occupants turn up at Beechlawn High School in Hillsborough.

Friday night saw us gather in Bill Mc Brides caravan for a get together for his wife Michelle, who had recently celebrated her 50th Birthday, it was a lovely evening and everyone enjoyed the supper that Bill had provided.

Saturday dawned crisp and clear we walked into Hillsborough and went to the Hillside Pub for lunch, this is fast becoming a tradition when we visit Hillsborough.

Saturday night and we gathered in the school hall. Competition was fierce between the men and women in a game of Four in a row on a giant frame.

Who would have thought that there was so much fun to be had from a child's game. The boys say they won Two games to One, and of course we the girls would dispute that.

Sunday morning and the ladies got to gather to make breakfast which we sat down together and enjoyed, something different from our usual coffee morning.

Thanks to all for a great weekend.

16th–18th February. Our destination this month was Central School Lisburn, again another good venue as it is only a short walk to all the amenities that Lisburn has to offer.

Friday night was catch up in the hall, and with Fifteen units on site, there was a lot of catching up to do.

Saturday and most folk headed off into city for a bit of retail therapy and a bite of lunch. We meet in the hall on the Saturday night for a quiz and fun night, the brain cells definitely got a workout from the quiz, and the drawing skills



as we played a game of Pictionary added a lot to the fun side of the evening. I don't think any of our drawings will end up in the National Gallery. Sunday and our coffee morning as usual before departing from the site in very heavy rain.

2nd–4th March. Unfortunately this meet had to be cancelled because of adverse weather conditions.

Future Meets:

16th–18th March.

Downpatrick Hockey Club, 2 Strangford Road, Downpatrick, Co Down BT30 6SL.

Entry from 14.00 hrs.

30th March–2nd April.

Portstewart Star of the Sea Parish Centre, 7 Coleraine Road, Portstewart BT55 7HP.

Entry from 14.00 hrs.

20th–22nd April.

N.I. Area A.G.M.

Thornfield High School, 8–12 Jordanstown Road, Co Antrim BT37 0QF.

Entry from 17.00 hrs.

Best Wishes

Elena.



Scotland...

As the Beast from the East reluctantly leaves our northern climes, it's time to dust the snow off our loved ones - our motorhomes, of course, and spaniels (other makes are available) - and contemplate the new season. Your Scottish Section is not overactive at this time of year, given the likelihood of baltic conditions - and this year has not disappointed.

We left last year with a party meet at delightful Cairnsmill by St Andrews. We start again on 21st March at exactly the same place for five days - such is progress at this time of year - but this time with more serious intent as this is our AGM Meet, and then on into the new season. Cairnsmill is always a joy, with its excellent facilities, bar and swimming pool and always a booked meet. A full programme of entertainments ensures that the mood will be light and enjoyable as always. I envy those attending - an operation on my hand will prevent me driving down - incidentally protecting music lovers from the odd discordant guitar strum and freeing up another pitch, perhaps for a lucky latecomer. Good luck everybody with the AGM!

This season we tread a reasonably well-worn path to places we've mostly seen before, and love well. As the season warms up in May, we strike out to our farthest point west, to Glenburn Dairy, by Troon. If you're looking for a quiet, rustic, agricultural setting but immediately adjacent to seaside holiday resorts, Glenburn Dairy could be the THS for you. Dates are 7th-14th May, motorhomes, caravans and tents are all welcome. Just turn up, there's no need to book.

As we march on towards mid-summer (so soon?) our next two meets, both THS, are cunningly designed to bookend the National Meet to be held at Kelso at the beginning of June and to lead the intrepid visitor through

some wonderful border countryside from Creetown to Kelso, and thence on to the spectacular joys of Scotland's capital city. Castle Cary Caravan Park was a find for us last year with its beautiful grounds, great facilities and, of course, the Laird's Inn of happy memory. Visit Newton Stewart, Wigtown, Kirkcudbright and Stranraer - Galloway's finest! As always, motorhomes, caravans and tents are all welcome, and there's no need to book, the THS being held from 25th-31st May.

After Kelso, drive up through bonnie border country to Drum Estate, Danderhall, Edinburgh. This is a new site for us, our thinking being that visitors to Scotland for the National Meet would enjoy the opportunity to extend their stay to take in the many cultural, historical and recreational attractions of Auld Reekie. Again all forms of transport are welcome, with no need to book, the THS being held from 3rd-14th June.

After all this hectic activity, we have a lovely, restful THS on the grounds of Creiff and Strathearn RFC in Creiff, the most northerly point in our calendar. The club enjoys beautiful, flat grassy grounds, the town an interesting variety of walks, parks, pubs and restaurants within reasonable walking distance. The THS runs from 29th June-9th July, all vehicles welcome without the need to book.

Finally, you can find much more detail on all the above by googling 'samcs' and selecting 'Scottish Area - Waggoners'. So - no excuses - be there or be square!

Have a great season,

Jim Keenan

PRO SAMCS

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: **07709 623491** email: **mshaw52@icloud.com**

South West...



Hello all. Our first meet of the year 2018 took place over the weekend of

16th–18th February at Ballard School, New Milton, Hants. The number of units down on last year to nine units owing to two Members selling their Motor Caravans due to Health problems & others ill or waiting for Hospital appointments.

The AGM took place at 5pm on Saturday 17th Feb.

The whole committee agreed & was voted on block to stand till the end of the year 2018, after this time the Whole Committee were going to stand down as no other help has come forward to help us out over the last few years.

We all said we will carry on this year as all sites booked.

I Joined the South West Area MCS a few years after it started and will be sorry to see it finish at the end of the year but Due to Health problems etc we have no other situation but to close the section down.

We have 2 Holiday meets this year at Bradford-on-Avon & Bamptons Farm Lymington so hope to see some of you there.



Future Meets:

Holiday Meet

26th April–5th May

Beehive Field, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1UA

Bus stop by Gate to Trowbridge, Bath, Bristol. Walks along by Canal

Site opens 12 Noon. £9.00 pupn

28th June–3rd July

Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwalls Road, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4HY

Site Opens at 12 Noon. £9.00 pupn

For any changes or up to Date information check out Waggoners Talk Website

Or phone me on 01425 475415; Mobile 07977 061454

Wishing you all a Happy Camping Season

Derek

PRO SWA MCS



Southern...

Hi campers

Well this is now looking like it could be Spring coming up. After the festive season things go quiet, but not for Southern Area as they had a raucous time at the Pantomime, which this year was excellent. It was Peter Pan and had the cast flying around the Theatre, plus they had supporting acts which made the whole experience a lot more interesting. We also had a Winter Walk through Faversham which was very informative but the weather or rather the wind was freezing and towards the end of the tour you were so cold you just couldn't concentrate, next time perhaps we could do it in the middle of summer.

Kent started off the camping year with a trip to Greatstone, at least that was the plan but the snow put pay to that, so sand sandwiches will just have to wait until later in the year. Surrey & South London also had to cancel their "Spring Nosh", at Cranleigh which was a shame as it promised to be a good evening.

It's that time again to think about AGMs', it would be great to have some new "blood" on the committees. Southern Area and Kent Group are holding theirs over the Easter Weekend at Tunbridge Wells and Surrey & South London on 18 March at Tillingbourne. We say every year that it is not an onerous task, in fact you might even enjoy it.

I am now starting to think about our National Rally in Scotland, like last year we are running the tombola and would be grateful for any contributions, this year the charity benefiting will be Scottish Association for Children with Heart Disorders.

The one blip on our year so far was the death of our friend Brian Hodgson, even if you didn't know Brian personally, he was known as the "man with the American van and the pipe". He will be sorely missed not only by his family but by all his many camping friends, Brian was always the one who had everything in his van to get you out of any situation.

Blue and I look forward to meeting you in a field SOON.

Mabel

Surrey & South London...

I start this report a bit down hearted due to the cancellation of our very popular Spring Nosh at Cranleigh Village Hall, our first meet of 2018 at Cranleigh Middle School, with a full programme all planned for the week-end, but still worse things happen at sea, Paul did his best to let folk know, as we had no option once that white stuff decided to fall on our parade, but never mind Paul has confirmed our November Christmas Nosh so lots to look forward to at the start of 2018 with lots of good and some new venues for you all to enjoy. I hope you all had a merry Christmas and a happy start to the new year, and are all set up with all those jobs you said you would do over the new year.

Future Meets:

May 3rd-7th

May Bank Holiday four-night meet at Orhcard Farm, Drift Lane, Chidham, Bosham.

Site opens 13.00pm with an invite to S West this very pretty site has a bus stop nearby and pub just down the lane with good food, also a full programme to delight you or if you prefer a good place to chill out whatever takes your fancy we cater for all tastes, and all modes of camping, so if you want to bring some friends to see how we perform feel free, the more the merrier. £11.00 pupn

11th-13th May

We have a booked meet at Walton Club Site, with hard-standing and hook-up, a site very popular and not far from Walton Town that has much to see, and again we always have something to amuse you with so come along and join in. Last date for booking is 15/4/2018.

17th-20th May

SE Region have their 70th Anniversary Meet, at Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden. The theme; celebrations, the SE Region promises a great weekend with sports etc. also a complementary Saturday Lunch, together with the now welcome refreshments, plus special items Art and Crafts, Produce, Table-top Sale, in aid of Alzheimers charity, so one to put in your diary.

1st-5th June

The Motor Caravan Section 56th National meet. Kelso Springwood Showground, Springwood Park, Kelso, Scottish Borders TD5 8LS. MR 74/72533.

The one meet you must attend and support as this is the most important meet for MCS members where all the Regions



and Groups meet at this wonderful venue, and meet friends old and new, to have many reunions and exchange a few jokes and have a wee tippie of whatever takes your fancy, and the bonus to this some of this entertainment is you take your own drinks and nibbles, to enjoy the opening ceremony by Bill Lees on Friday night followed by my keyboard playing son Paul for your pleasure, lots to do with a full programme every night with raffle tickets on sale all the weekend, and the most important A.G.M. on Sunday morning 11am, don't forget your membership card.



21st June–1st July

A welcome invite from Kent to join them at Rye Rugby Club, New Road, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7LS. This year it will be a 10 day holiday meet, this is a flat site with plenty to do, with a Cafe on site, bus stop nearby and good cycle tracks and a nice walk into Rye to explore and enjoy, and if the sun shines who needs the Continent?

5th–8th July

Once again an invite to Kent and S West Groups to join us at WEY HILL FAIR PH, HANTS SP11 OPP. On the A342 Bus stops near the site entrance, to ANDOVER or SALISBURY, Flat site with pub food, a craft fair to visit, and a full programme, so all you have to do is turn up and enjoy. £9.00 pupn

19th–22nd July

We return to the pleasant surrounds of the National Trust paddock at Runnymede on the Old Windsor Road SL4 2JL. Close to bus stop for Windsor and local Carvery pub. River boats and walks. Saturday night social. £13.00 pupn.

I hope I have given you a taste of what is to come, and Paul and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Chris Bastin

Candidates standing for Section Council

Each year at our Section AGM there is an election for Section Council. This year we have 5 members standing for Council. Voting can only take place at our AGM, we cannot accept postal votes



Paul James

I am 60 years old and have been a member of the Club for 28 years. With my wife Paula I joined the East Midlands Area of the Motor Caravan Section in 1988, firstly with 'Ollie' a 1979 Sherpa Highwayman which we thought was great, extremely basic by today's standards though. We progressed through the ranks of both motorhomes and the East Midlands Area, initially just helping where we could at meets, Stewarding, Cooking Suppers etc. Then onto the Committee for several years as Regalia Officers, then Entertainments Officer, Secretary and finally Chairman. It has been very challenging but rewarding. I have been a member of the Team manning the Club stand at Peterborough, Malvern & Lincoln Shows since 2011 and have enjoyed recruiting new members to our Club and chatting with existing members and encouraging them to go out and join their local meets. In 2012 my Area were the hosts for the Section 50th Birthday Celebrations and this was a very enjoyable meet at Newark Showgrounds. Since my last election I have sadly lost Paula, but with the continued support that I received from my own Area and my friends throughout the Section through Paula's illness and to me after her sad death, this is surely a great example of what the Section and our Club stand for. I am still out and about camping and will continue to support both our Club and the Section to the best of my ability.



Colin Lang BSc CEng MIET

Like many of you I enjoy my camping and socialising with others. I mix my camping between my local Area in the Midlands and other Areas in the MCS, in fact the only group I haven't camped with is Northern Ireland and I intend to put that

right in 2019 at the National meet. I'm a member of the Midland Committee and serve as the PRO and I also input the Areas' news into the Waggonerstalk. I've also been on the North Central Region Council to bring the Region and the MCS closer together. I'm on the Section Council as the Representative for the Midland Area and I serve as the Assistant Membership secretary inviting new members to join in with the areas activities. I was a key leader in the 2014 National Meet for the MCS organising the upfront bookings to the day to day events. I have also been on the Club stand recruiting members at the Malvern show and I will continue to support in 2018. I believe that with my welcoming approach I can influence the Section to develop for the membership and work to make our leisure activity enjoyable for all. Thanks for reading my statement.



Dennis Rowley

My name is Dennis Rowley and a retired bus company revenue inspector.

I joined the Club in 1992, became involved in DA camping in 2000 with Yorkshire DA and held several Committee positions, Youth Leader (01/04) Youth Tester (02/04) Sites Officer (02/05) Rep to Region (03/06) Chairman (06/08).

I then joined MCS Northern Area in 2009 and held several positions, Webmaster (2010–present) Rep to Region (2011/14) Treasurer (2013–present) Vice Chairman (2014/16) Appointed Officer to Section Council (2016–present).

I was Trade Officer for Yorkshire Region meets (2005/06), Trade Officer at NFOL (2008) and a member of Traffic team at Yorkshire Region meets (2012/16). I have also been a steward at Motor Home shows at York and Pickering.

I feel I have a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to bring to the Section



Alf Sexton

I have been a member of our Club for 44 years and in that time have been on the Section South West Area Committee serving as Sites Officer, Vice Chairman & Chairman. I also organised 2 Section National Meets & AGM's at Wincanton in 2000 & 2008.

I became a member of the Section Council as Appointed Councillor for South West Area, and was then elected to Section Council where I served as Vice Chairman & Chairman of the Section. In 2017 I became Vice Chairman of the Section again. When the Motorhome Show at Shepton Mallett was organised by Stone Leisure, I arranged and stewarded the Club Area at both the January & September shows for a number of years. I have also worked on the team on the Club Stand at the Motorhome Show at Malvern. With your support I would like to continue representing the members on the Section Council and also promoting both our Club and the Section.



Trevor Stenton

I am Currently a member of the Northern Area although I did start in the Mid-shires Area. I have been a member of the Club for more than 39 years and a member of the Section for 23 of them. For four years I undertook the duties of Sites Secretary and did two years as Vice Chairman. In 2007 I was elected as Chairman of the Northern Area and have carried out those duties up to this year with a gap of two years. During this period I have represented the Northern Area on the Yorkshire Region Council. I was on the working party for the 2008 NFOL and helped to stewards the Clubs camping area on the Northern Motorhome Shows at both York and Pickering. In 2009 I was elected onto the Section Council and in 2010 took over the duties of Editor of our magazine Waggoners Talk until 2014. For a number of years I have represented the Section on the Specialist Groups Section Forum.

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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