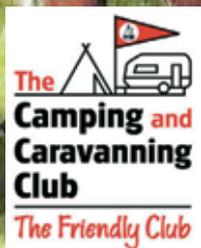


Waggoner's **Talk**

Autumn 2018 - Issue 182



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

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Waggoner's 

Next deadline date is 10 December 2018

Cover photo - a painting by Carol Downes

Ramblings of the Editor



Firstly an apology to David & Irene Blair who featured on the Front Cover of the last Edition with no explanation. It was in appreciation for the work that they did in organising the 56th National Meet in Scotland, what a time we all had there, we spent 3 weeks touring the Lowlands, and also camped with Scottish Area at their follow on meet near Edinburgh where we were treated to Fine Food & Whisky.

On the Front cover of this issue is a painting by Carol Downes a very talented Kent Group member and it depicts a scene at the Southern Area Fun Fair day at Rye Rugby Club, and everyone in the picture recognises themselves.

Under the East Midlands Area Report you will see that our Club Director General Robert Loudon MBE & his wife Donna attended their 40th Birthday Meet and has a great time.

Bryan

WT - WAGGONER'S TALK

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The Editorial Team

Chairman's Chat



Hi Everyone, what a lovely summer we have had after the cold wet spring, I did not think it would last for the kids 6 weeks holiday, but they have not had it too bad.

I hope you all had a lovely holiday wherever you went, I would like to thank Dave and Irene also anyone who helped in any way at Kelso it was a great success. After we toured the North Coast 500 and Yorkshire Dales, also called into Rippon Race course for a few days with Northern Area all very enjoyable. We also attended the N.F.O.L at Arley Hall and Gardens very good entertainment, only 11 units out with us but we all enjoyed it. Let's try to get more units out next year South West region will be running it.

I wonder if we will get a good autumn so we can continue going out on meets. I know it's early but the following magazine is after the New Year, so may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year to you all from Doreen and Myself.

Bye for now

Martin Whitaker
Chairman

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

Section Polo Shirt - The Polo Shirt (pictured opposite), is available from Mabel Shaw in all colours and sizes - prices on application

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: mmshaw52@icloud.com



Presentation

Vice President & Past Chairman of the MCS - Bill Lees presents the cheque for £1000 to David Blairs daughter Lesley Kinnear Chairperson of The Scottish Association for children with heart defects. The money was raised by members at the National Rally that was held in May at Kelso

Around Your Areas and Groups



Social get together at Rock.
Members being introduced to
interesting reading material!

Devon and Cornwall...

What a brilliant summer we have had. The weather in June and July has been exceptionally warm and dry, ideal for camping. Then rains came in August. A group of members travelled up to Kelso for the MCS National meet and then decided to explore further afield which meant we were missing some of our regulars at our June meets.

Lynn and Charlie stewarded the meet at **Higher Penmayne Farm near Rock in Cornwall from Monday 4th to Thursday 7th June**. 16 units attended and the weather was perfect. On the Tuesday 11 members walked downhill into Polzeath for pasty lunch before catching the bus back to Rock. Roger and Nina organised a cream tea for the Wednesday evening so it was decided to hold the raffle and social get-together as the evening was warm and sunny.

The next meet was at **Porthtowan Tourist Park, Porthtowan**, again in Cornwall, from **Thursday 14th – Sunday 17th June**. 17 units attended and the meet was stewarded by Bert and Joyce. On the way to the meet, the Chairman

espied 2 motorhomes parked outside the Victory Inn facing the wrong way. Apparently they had gone in to ask for directions and had stayed for a drink. The Chairman felt obliged to join them!! On Friday Philip led a group of 11 members on a walk down to Porthtowan then up over the cliffs to Chapel Porth, where they eat lunch, followed by the famous Hedgehog ice creams, before heading inland up the river valley, past ruined engine houses up and up, until they arrived at the Victory Inn, where a cooling drink was very much appreciated before walking back. The last mile up to the campsite was a hard slog making a total of 7 miles that day. Other members caught the bus into St Ives and enjoyed exploring the town. As the forecast was poor for Sunday morning the coffee morning was held on Saturday evening in the campsite games room. A good chance to catch up with each other, and to welcome a Dutch couple.

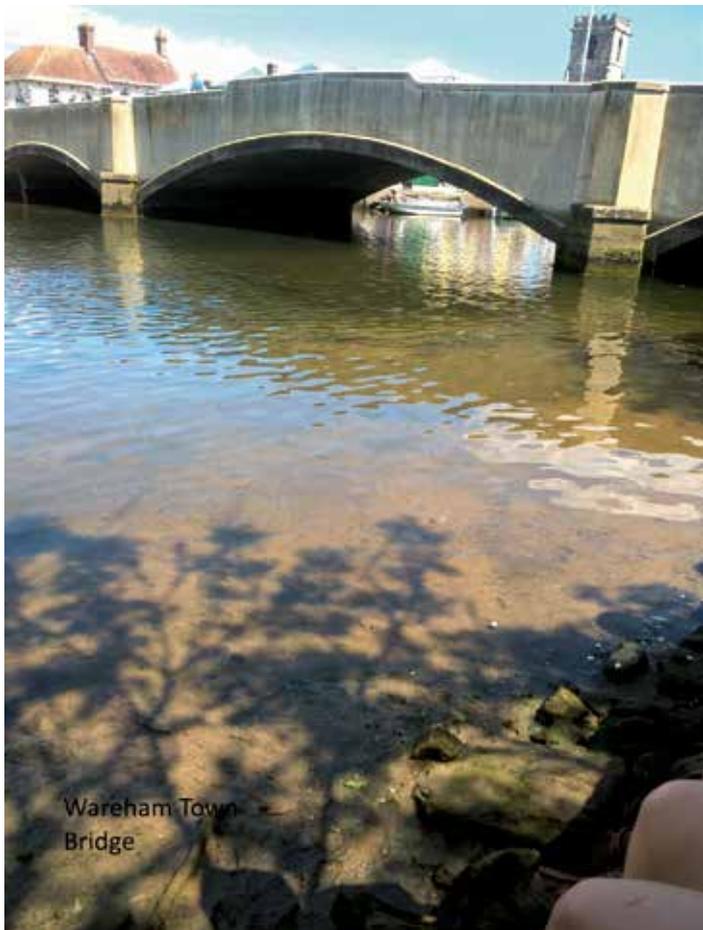
Exmouth RFC – THS – 21st June to 5th July report by Philip Hingston - Organiser

What a terrific fortnight! The weather was so continental;

Devon and Cornwall (continued)...

Exmouth Town had a superb atmosphere, which spread onto the site. We were virtually full up throughout the two weeks. It was very entertaining to have about 50 police officers based nearby when they used Exmouth for a major crime training exercise. Of course, the wonderful sunshine put everyone in a good mood; with campers leaving us with remarks such as "best holiday site ever" and "thanks for such a happy holiday". (Perhaps the sun had affected the Stewards on site!) We did have one thunderstorm for 4 or 5 hours but it just made it seem more tropical. We welcomed back our regulars and made new friends and it was a joy to see everyone having such a perfect time. Thanks so much to all who came and made the Stewards task such a pleasant one – and many thanks also to all the Stewards without whom it couldn't happen. We look forward to welcoming everyone next year.

The lovely weather continued for the next meet from **Friday 20th to Monday 23rd July** at **Swanage and Wareham RUFC** on the outskirts of the town of Wareham. We were lucky to have chosen Wareham's carnival weekend so there were activities going on in the town and on the river during the Saturday daytime with fireworks in the evening



and the carnival on Sunday lunchtime. Roger and Nina stewarded the meet to which 21 vans attended. We had use of the clubhouse in the evenings so ample opportunity to socialise. Nina ran an "Irish Raffle" on the Saturday evening, which produced a lot of hilarity as prizes went back and forth across the room. Coffee morning was held on Sunday morning in the warm sunshine.

Roadford Water Sports Centre at Roadford Reservoir, from **Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th August** was the next meet, stewarded by Rosemary and Neil. With the sun continuing to shine the weekend was very well supported with 22 units attending. A light hearted treasure hunt was organised for Friday afternoon. Saturday morning saw several members try their luck on the water. Paddle boarding and kayaking were popular. A walk around the lake and across the dam to the café was organised by Roger with a free ferry taking members to and fro to the café area during the afternoon. At 4pm all members enjoyed a cream tea on site. Evening entertainment followed with quizzing and music. Sunday morning raffle and coffee get together and goodbyes at 12 noon. Many thanks to the unofficial wardens who ensured everyone had an enjoyable time.

Jonathon and June stewarded the Birthday Meet at **Tiverton RFC** from **Friday 17th August to Sunday 19th August**. And a busy weekend was organised for the 25 units that attended. Friday started with afternoon tea and home-made jam tarts and then into the clubhouse on Friday evening to try a new game called Linkee – a word association game. On Saturday the various members walked up to Knightshayes National Trust house to enjoy the house, gardens and lunch before walking back whilst others explored the town of Tiverton with its shops, market and river. A game of Mökky, Swedish skittles, took place on Saturday afternoon which was won by Merv. Saturday evening a Bring and Share Supper took place in the clubhouse, with members supplying enough food to feed an army. The birthday cake was cut and shared before members took part in the various quizzes organised. The remainder of the cake was eaten at coffee morning on Sunday.

Future Meets:

Friday 19th–Sunday 21st October
Heligan Woods Camp Site

This campsite is next door to The Lost Gardens of Heligan



Roger cutting
D & C Birthday
Cake



and the village of Mevagissey is on the coast below. Please note this is a booked meet contact Janet on 07895384103.

Dinner and Dance

Our annual dinner and dance will take place at Cofton Country Holidays, Starcross, Dawlish between Thursday 22nd – Saturday 24th November. Hard standing pitches with electricity are bookable at £12 pun. There will be a buffet

and social evening, at £10 per person, on the Thursday, with the Dinner and Dance, at £24 per person on the Friday evening. Advance booking is essential. Booking Forms are available from Roger Russell 01392 257759 or from me electronically rose@baycotts.plus.com. Please note additional nights can be arranged with the Campsite direct.

Rose



Watch the Birdie!!

East Midlands...

Hayes Farm Newstead Village, Notts – 14th to 17th June

We arrived on the Thursday afternoon to be greeted by Diane and Dave.

By Friday we had 10 units out which included the oldest member Paul (daddy) at nearly 92 years young and Malachi the youngest at 4 weeks old.

Saturday afternoon we were treated to some delicious cakes baked by Diane and in the evening to a lovely selection of Cheeses, Pate and Wine supplied by Diane and Dave. Diane also did a quiz which was won by Kevin and Cath.

Sunday morning we had Coffee and Cakes. We also had the raffle which raised £31.00.

The weather was very kind to us and we had a restful weekend.

Thank you to Diane and Dave for a lovely weekend

Sue and Colin

Hinckley Rugby Club 40th Anniversary meet – 29th June to 1st July 2018

What a wonderful weekend with 53 units attending ably welcomed by our stewards Colin, Sue, John and Barbara and sited by Bill, Steph and Paul. All our visitors were directed to the club house where our committee and members handled the registration and dishing out goody bags, refreshments, a bottle tombola and sale of raffle tickets.

In the evening we got together in the club house to meet up with old friends and new, obtained drinks from the bar and nattered. Our compare Steph started things off with a warm welcome to all with announcements and then followed with a welcome and presentation to the clubs Director General Robert and Donna Lowden this was followed by the presentation of a certificate of merit award to Liz and Dave Smith by Martin Whitaker the MCS Chairman. We then settled down and were entertained by Derick Farmer on his Saxophone who then introduced the "Symbolics Acapela group" giving us a lovely finish to the evening.

Saturday morning some of us partook the clubhouse breakfast Delicious, and the rest of the morning and afternoon were free and easy but the evening was where we were celebrating our 40th Anniversary. Our compare Steph welcomed everyone then we partook the delightful buffet which was followed by our excellent entertainer Dean Thomas, We held the raffle at the interval and we were amazed that we had raised £520 for the Air Ambulance, with numerous raffle prizes donated by various organisations with the majority supplemented by our own members. What a great evening and celebration.

Sunday we had unexpected early visitors in respect of Radio Leicester's Clueless hunters Dale and Emma looking for clue no 2. This was eventually found in Ian and Jan's motorhome who had been in on the act. Emma found the clue and then





interviewed both Linda and Robert who advertised ourselves and the club. After that we held our coffee morning where Linda thanked everyone for coming with special thanks to the five ex chairmen attending and made a presentation to Lucy the RFC club and catering manager who was so surprised she

had to retire and returned in a little while with the rugby club shield and plant which she presented to Linda for the club. Thanks were given to our Chairman Linda Cooper who took a major lead in organising the celebrations. Quite a few of us stayed on for the delicious Sunday carvery in the clubhouse before returning home in the afternoon.

John

The following are the lovely comments received from Gordon Barlow, Chairman of the Central Counties Region.

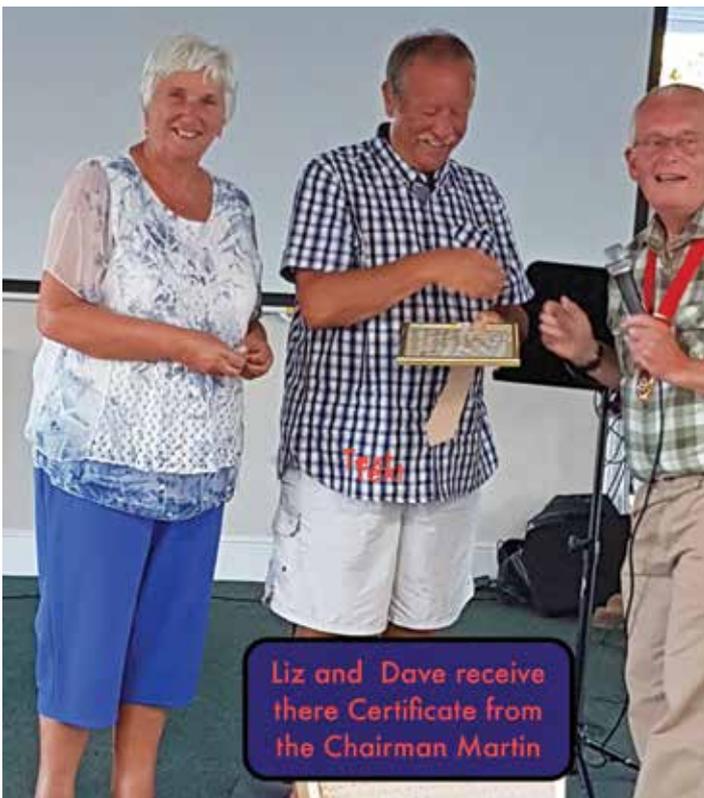
What a wonderful time Sue and I had at your birthday meet at Hinckley and what a lovely site.

From the very first contact at the gate everyone was so friendly. The Friday evening entertainment, "Symbolics Acapela group", was very entertaining.

Saturday was a restful day and we had a walk around Burbage common. After lunch I personally enjoyed watching the cricket match.

The Saturday evening "party" was brilliant and the food was magnificent, topped off by two wonderful birthday cakes. The entertainer, Dean Thomas, was well received and greatly added to the party atmosphere.

I think you can give yourselves a well-earned pat on the back. Please pass on my thanks to Linda and her Committee for a great time and thank you for asking us to attend.



East Midlands (continued)...

Market Bosworth RFC Rally – 12th to 15th July 2018

Once I remembered that we were going to Market Bosworth RFC and not Hinckley I got on so much better, and it was a Thursday - most confusing! We were met by mine hosts Edie and Sue, who gave us a programme and a sweetie quiz. 21 units arrived for the rally.

Dave had already arrived and was all set up so just in time for coffee. By this time it was quite hot so I think most folks had a quiet afternoon. We enjoyed a friendly evening in the hall.

Friday morning we went to the local garden centre with Pam and Nev and had a great lunch. It was very hot so had another relaxing afternoon.

In the evening we had use of the hall where I discovered that the answers to the quiz were to be done. Now bearing in mind Dave and I hadn't actually done the quiz this was a barrier. My friend Denise helped me which was no mean feat given that I'm dense regarding cryptic clues and I had consumed two large G & T's. For those who know me may be surprised by that but I've taken up drinking as my latest hobby. It won't last!! The competition was fierce with Chris and Sue Chester vying for top spot. Sue ultimately won.

Saturday again was hot, we walked around Market Bosworth which was a very pretty town and great memorial to the Great War and enjoyed lunch in a local pub. In the afternoon some energetic people played boules and smite, I joined Pam and Nev in watching the antics.

In the evening there was a great bring and share with lots of puddings which I particularly like. Eddie did a quiz which was a much quieter affair which was won by Paul and Linda. The raffle was drawn and was enjoyed by all especially Chris



as thankfully she won a prize. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought the tickets the raffle raised £80 which was split between the club and the Air Ambulance Charity.

Sunday morning had the usual coffee/tea and biscuits. John did the honors and thanked Eddie and Sue for a great weekend which was richly deserved. Sue and Glynne collected deposits for the Copt Oak and New Year meets.

When our esteemed Vice Chairman left he was so keen to go he ran over his collapsible bucket and yes it did collapse! I nearly had to run to stop him - it was a close call. We left about 12 to go south towards Bourton on the Water and with most people having left or nearly on their way.

So many thanks to Eddie and Sue for a lovely time where I very nearly managed to do absolutely nothing - great stuff.

Liz and Dave

Hatton Country World meet – 27th to 29th July

The Meet opened at 2pm and we arrived in brilliant sunshine to be greeted by our hosts Glynn and Denise. The priority was to get the awning out to give us some shade!!



Friday evening John and Barbara's grandchildren were cooking pancakes on Glynne's new Cadac with careful guidance by Glynn. We thoroughly enjoyed our pancakes which had strawberries in, kindly donated by Paul and Linda. We all sat round Glynn and Denise's van and had a lovely evening under the night sky, but no Blood Moon was seen due to the clouds.

Saturday dawned and the wind picked up! We decided to take the awnings in before going to explore Hatton Country World. Some people walked to the 21 Locks at Hatton, others just chilled. A sports afternoon was planned but the weather decided otherwise. A few hardy souls played horseshoes etc. but finally had to give in to the rain. A communal BBQ was planned but most people decided to do their own thing. Glynn, Paul and Eddie braved the weather, BBQing under umbrellas!

Sunday morning dawned and yes it was still raining. We gathered under Glynne's awning for coffee and beautiful cakes, the raffle was drawn with some visitors from Midlands taking away the spoils. The raffle raised £46 for funds.

Many thanks to Glynn and Denise for stewarding this meet, which was due to be cancelled when no stewards were available. 13 vans were in attendance and a great time was had by all.

Eddie and Sue Croft

Stoke Bruerne meet – 9th to 12th August 2018

We arrived at 2.30pm and were warmly greeted by Jean and Terry who told us it would be a free and easy weekend. Having pitched up, all available members including our grandkids helped to erect the marquee. 16 units attended which included a few welcome visitors from other areas. The site was an easy walk to the two Inns, the locks and the museum complex incorporating the Café, canal trips and shops both on and off the water. That evening some of the members got together in the marquee for a drink and a natter.

Friday morning saw us off to visit the Museum and a walk along the towpath just about missing the rain showers. In the afternoon we drove into Milton Keynes for a shop and lunch. We then visited the Escape and looked at the indoor skydiving. Looked a bit hairy for me Barbara and Bebe but Harry would like a go. Back to base, between showers, our grandchildren joined Elsie and played games while some of us rested in our vans. In the evening most of us got together in the Marquee for a good chat, nibbles and a drink.

Saturday dawned and as the weather forecast showed rain in the evening and through the night it was decided that

the Marquee should be packed away while it was dry. This proved fortuitous as the forecast was right. We went back to the waterways complex and took the boat trip up to the tunnel and back then lunched in the café. Around 3.30pm we all assembled outside our hosts van for afternoon tea and Jean's delicious homemade cream scones. Then raffle tickets were sold and drawn raising £50 for funds. Notices were made and special thanks were given to Terry and Jean for a lovely weekend and for all their efforts. The weather turned wet and most that didn't venture to the pub stayed in their vans

Sunday morning was drizzly, but we managed to pack our tent up reasonably dry, load up and head home.

John and Barbara

Future Meets:

19th–21st October

World Championship Conkers Competition! £8.50pn
Collingham Cricket Club, Nr Newark, NG23 7RD.
Stewards - Barry and Doddie Bartlett. 07453 864464

30th November–2nd December

Festive Meal. £8.50pn
Copt Oak Memorial Hall, Whitwick Road, LE67 9QB
Stewards - Glynne and Denise Wildbore. 07850 733050
Hardstanding Booked meet.

30th December–2nd January 2019

New Year Meet. Price tbc.
Hose village Hall, Nr Melton Mowbray, LE14 4JR.
Stewards - Glynne and Denise Wildbore. 07850 733050
Hardstanding. Booking required

8th–10th February 2019

Valentines meet Price tbc.
Uppingham Community College, London Road. LE15 9TJ
Stewards - John and Barbara Taylor. 07719 657056

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

Hope to welcome you on a site somewhere.

Cheers

John Taylor

East Midlands PRO

Kent...

Hello friends, I am sure you will agree with me, it's been a terrific camping season so far. I have a strange feeling that somewhere along the line the "Lighthouse Family" have had something to do with our success – "The Sky so blue, The Suns gonna shine on everything you do".

Brogdale Farm.

Here we held our Craft Weekend, which showed that we certainly do have some great talent in our midst, from Watercolour painting, painting large pebbles, to Knitting, needlecraft & cross stitch, Knitting & making miniature figures, making comfort muffs for disadvantaged people, making artificial flies for fishing & last but not least – making various knots with rope. This was a great success with most people taking advantage of the opportunity to watch crafts being performed live & many "had a go"! themselves, so it may be that we now have some freshly smitten crafts folk in our group. At this point I would like to say a big "Thank You!" on behalf of the group committee, to all those who displayed & shared their Arts & Crafts, along with those who also helped in setting up the event.

Rye Rugby Club. (Southern Area Holiday Meet).

This popular venue attracted a good number of units. On the first Saturday folks enjoyed a "Fairground Games afternoon" with such salubrious attractions as Coconut Shy, Catch a Duck!, Darts, Crazy Golf, Tombola, How Long is a Piece of String?, Knock Down the Tin Cans, Darts, Score a Goal & many others, not least of these being the Amazing Ducking Stool! Great Fun!

After a short period for campers to rest up from the "Arduous Exertions" (Poor Dears!) at the Ryeland Games? I am reliably informed that approx 100 folk were treated to a Sumptuous Al Fresco (whoever he is?) meal (Barbecue to us not so enlightened souls!) Sausages, Burgers, a goodly Salad Fayre & many other Culinary Delights were swiftly washed down with Vivianes' splendid Pymms, Bon Appetite! So I think I can safely say "A good time was had by all!! Later at this meet some campers joined in a communal Jigsaw Puzzle donated by Vic - "Such Fun".

Bridge Farm Appledore.

This is a quiet hideaway site just right for "Chilling Out & Reflection", with many visiting the village or taking a stroll along the Military Canal. On the Saturday morning (not too early!) Bryan Giles led some of us on a "Mile & a half walk" (I'm sure it was more!!) to the local hostelry (The Ferry Inn), where we had a great meal washed down with copious amounts



of various Amber Nectars. Yes, you've guessed it, the return journey was a much slower affair! Thanks, Bryan.

Penny Spring Farm.

Traditionally, a great favourite of Kent Group over the years - 32, I believe. Unfortunately, Mary the owner has informed us that for various reasons she is to close down the Rallying field after this year. Your committee arranged for a Bouquet of flowers to be presented to Mary on behalf of those who have enjoyed the good hospitality shown to us all. Meanwhile campers enjoyed all the usual delights of this rural retreat with many spending a day at the Annual Kent County Show on the adjacent fields. On the Saturday morning a few (those more adventurous) of us followed Bryan Giles on an epic walk (yes, a little more than a stroll!!) but the prize was worth it! yet another good meal at the Kings Arms Boxley! Another great fete we were treated to were several fly pasts of Spitfires with the, now standard, obligatory roll. (They never fail to enthral me!) All agreed, this was a worthwhile & relaxing weekends camping. Thank you Mary.

Sissinghurst Cricket Club.

Yet another members favourite site. On Friday a few of us campers took the public footpath route to Cranbrook, great coffee & cakes! On the Friday evening Grahame (the all round volunteer keeper) opened up the clubroom Bar for our use & we were even served part of the evening by our very own stand-in Bar person Brian Simpson, whilst Grahame went to do the family taxi run! Saturday was a special Day for Margaret & I (her indoors) - our Golden Wedding Anniversary! In the morning we received a deluge of congratulation cards & when the afternoon came, all were made welcome to partake of strawberries & cream (scrumptious!) & everyone enjoyed a splendid cake presented to us by Kathy. All of this eagerly consumed with copious amounts of Buck's Fizz &, of course



Tea. We were pleased to greet the arrival of Rosemary & Richard Harrison (seasoned campers who no longer camp).

Dane Court School.

A new venue, for us. Members enjoyed a site with the beautiful seaside town of Broadstairs just a short bus ride or, for those feeling super fit, a reasonable walk away.

Quex Park & Powell Cotton museum (A Kent Group THS).

This was an opportunity to meet up & catch up on News with a great many friends, many of whom return to this holiday venue year after year. A number of pitches were taken up by family groups eager to enjoy the many choices of place to visit on offer locally. A popular day out was during the Broadstairs Folk Festival week. Margaret & myself took advantage of the trades people at the Craft Village & the ice cream at the crazy golf was "to die for!". All these within the

grounds of the Park. An added benefit was a 10% discount for Campers in the Barn farm shop. Yes, some members carried on the new found tradition of the communal Jigsaw!

I would like to thank, on behalf of your committee, all those who Stewarded a meet or helped at Rallies & Temporary Holiday Sites & to remind you all that we will need volunteers to Steward rally sites in the future, as, obviously, without those Stewards there cannot be Rallies held. Also we are still on the lookout for new committee members & in particular, someone to fill the role of Group Treasurer.

Margaret & I are looking forward to camping with you &, hopefully, many new members in the coming months, meanwhile Happy Camping to you all!

Bob Still

Kent (continued)...



Future Meets:

19th–21st October

The Lenham School ME17 2LL

2nd–4th November

Crowborough Club Site. TN6 2TN (invite from Surrey & South London.) Booked Meet contact Paul Bastin on 01293 423203

15th–18th November

Chertsey Club site KT16 8JX. Booked Meet. Call Kathy on 07951063401 or Email kathygiles@mac.com

7th–9th December

Kent Group Christmas Celebrations. Abbey School Faversham ME13 8RZ. Booked Meet.

Call Margaret on 01322 389116 or Email srill@hotmail.co.uk

Please note that our sites list can be found at www.waggonerstalk.co.uk

PRO Report

Hi here we are again - the Summer seems to have flown by and we are now into the Autumn. I am sure that you have all had a great summer getting Out & About with your local Areas & Groups and also travelling around the country visiting Holiday Sites hosted by both our Section Areas & Groups and the DA's & Regions of our Club.

Since my last report with my team we have manned the stand at the Norfolk Motorhome Show and the Western Motorhome Show and by the time this lands on your doorstep we will have been at the Grand Finale at Lincoln Showground. We met with many existing members and at Norfolk recruited 24 new members and at the Western Motorhome Show 32 new members and hope that Lincoln will be another successful show. I would like to thank all of my team for giving up their weekends to come and man the stand with Bryan and myself.

I am sure you all know that without willing volunteers our Areas & Groups will not continue, so although it is very early to remind you about the 2019 AGM's please remember your AREAS & GROUPS always need new members on their Committees, so please give it some serious thought to standing for your local Committee, the work is not hard and we always have fun.

Well as they say 'that's all for now folks!' Have a good Autumn camping and look forward to seeing you in a field somewhere in the near future.

All the best

Kathy

Midland...

Welcome to the Midland section

I guess when you read this the summer heatwave will be over and many of us will have had a good summer enjoying the great outdoors especially in the evenings. But wait the camping season is not over and we have more to offer. So, read on, have a reflection on what we did over the summer and look at what opportunities we have before the year end.

Shardlow Marina. Stewards Colin & Lynne.

The weekend gave everyone something to enjoy. It may have been the great weather, it may have been the exploring around the local area (not to mention the choice of pubs). We had lots of campers from different areas of the camping and caravanning club attend and during the social we had, we mixed with each other over some lawn darts and the teams had some fun doing it.

Stafford Boat Club. Steward Alan.

I have to admit I have a soft spot for Stafford boat club. It demonstrates to me what a club is all about. It shows what club members can do when they work together. They have created a marvellous area. That said they give us good camping facilities and open the clubhouse for us to use. Sunday morning brings the engineer out of me when they launch two refurbished boats that the owners have carefully

prepared in the 'dry dock'. This is before they bring the next lot of boats out the water with a mug of tea in one hand and the winch controls in the other. We had a good time with good company from our East Midlands friends. At this point I would like to thank Sue Chester for her help with the raffle on Sunday morning.

Newland Meadow, Malvern. Stewards Martin & Doreen.

Martin (and Doreen) have found a super camping ground here in the Malvern countryside. The site provided a good base for those of us who went to the motorhome show for the day. This weekend also provided a good time for chilling out with the only noise coming from our social of a natter with a quiz.



Midland (continued)...

East Mids 40th Anniversary

On behalf of the Midlands area we would like to say what a cracking weekend you put on. It had everything from an excellent venue to good entertainment. All the effort you put into the weekend made us feel welcome from the moment we arrived and we were pitched through the drink and the special tombola. The music was good and the professional entertainer did a good turn on the Saturday night.

Future Meets:

12th–16th October 2018

Rugeley Cricket Club. WS15 2LG. Stewards Shylie and Jim. 07425144955 £8.50pun

The cricket club offers a good venue for socialising in the clubhouse. With a bring and share supper on the Saturday night. It also offers a good base to walk into Rugeley and explore the town. Shylie and Jim will be stewarding for us this time and some good support would be appreciated.

26th–28th October 2018

Halloween, Uttoxeter Racecourse ST14 8BD Stewards Andrea and Rob. 07715825128 £10pun

This meet brought a lot of fun and dressing up last year. There were vampires, ghouls and I think an axeman. In the socials there were mood lighting with ghostly candles. There were howls of werewolves as well as howls of laughter. This year the meet is likely to be similar although the weekend will have a new slant on it as Rob and Andrea will no doubt be thinking of how to personalise it.

16th–18th November 2018

Shrewsbury Cricket Club. SY2 6PS £10pun

This meet is great location for access to Shrewsbury with a bus stop just outside the gate. If you have a sweet tooth then the chocolate festival in the town is another good reason to go. We have use of the clubhouse in the evenings for our socials.

13th–16th December 2018

Booked Meet. Briarfield Motel Caravan Park, Cheltenham. GL51 0SX. £16pun

Stewards Anne and John. 01443 672195

This is the first time the Midland area has run the meet as it's normally been supported by the Wales area. The weekend is based on the caravan park (with electric



included) with bus routes to Cheltenham or Gloucester. There are a couple of local pubs and we'll be looking at going for a meal over the weekend (cost extra). So, come along and enjoy our last meet of the year but don't forget to book!

Midland Members

For those who have been camping with us I hope you've been enjoying the meets. If you haven't camped with us yet then come along and use your membership.

We have a laid-back approach to camping where we offer some fun over the weekends, a nice place to camp while respecting those who want to just do their own thing.

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

We are busy creating our programme for 2019 and we would like more stewards. We have put more meets on in 2018 as we've had more stewards come forward and we'd like to offer more camping opportunities so why not volunteer and you get a free weekend camping.

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...

What a fantastic summer we have had.

We had a great turn out at both our THS Meets. Our THS in June was at Manorafan Farm Abegele.

Evening socials together in the beautiful weather and also a get together to celebrate Kath's birthday.

The THS in July was held at Southshore Cricket Club. Entertainment was provided by Bernie and Brenda Wright in the clubhouse. On one night they raised over £100.00 for the charity Donna's Dream by having a raffle, prizes were all donated. Many thanks to everyone who attended

I would like to thank all stewards who stewarded these meets the tireless efforts that you all contribute is very much appreciated.

We now look forward to the meets in Autumn and Winter.

MANORAFON FARM ABERGELE THS 2018



SOUTHSHORE THS 2018



North West (continued)...



STEWARDS BRENDA AND BERNIE WRIGHT

Future Meets:

All our meets can be found on our website at northwestareamotorcaravansection.co.uk and our facebook page **C.C.C.N.W.M.C.S.**

26th–28th October

Invite from Lakeland DA Halloween Meet
Jacobs Join Saturday night. **Booked Meet**
Warton Cricket Club Borwick Ln, Warton, Carnforth
LA5 9QJ. £8.50 pupn
Stewards: Andrew and Karen Baines 07802787200.

9th–11th November

Lydiate Parish Hall, 288 Southport Road, L31 4EQ
£9.00 pupn
Maureen and Eddie Kaye

23rd–25th November

Lower Whitley Village Hall
Lancashire Day Weekend
Live Entertainment by Rob Mason brilliant singer/
comedian who entertained us at the North West
Motor Caravan National Meet at Cartmel, and
supper. £9.00 pupn. **Booked Meet**
Andrew and Karen Baines 07802787200

7th–9th December

Kirkland and Catterell Xmas Meal
Kirkland and Catterell Village Hall.
Booked Meet.
Contact Andrew and Karen Baines 07802787200.

28th December–1st January

New Year Meet.
Warton Cricket Club, Borwick Lane, Warton
Carnforth LA5 9QJ.
Come and join Lakeland DA at New Year Meet.
4 nights, £80.00 to include entertainment, fun and
games, Sunday lunch and a buffet on New Years Eve.
Free use of facilities including shower.
Limited spaces. **To book** please contact Andrew and
Karen Baines 07802787200.

Karen Baines

PRO/Communications Officer
North West Motor Caravan Section

Northern...

Well at last we are finally back on the road after an eight week wait for a new brake cable to be fitted to our van. For those who are picking this up for the first time the 'van is built on an Alko chassis and it has taken that length of time for one to come from Germany.

Now to other matters - the National meet this year was in Kelso. I am pleased to say that we had a good turn out for the weekend which went down very well, so congratulations to all those who helped to put it all together and were around to assist when required in the various tasks. Whilst talking of the National, as most of you will be aware next year it will be held in Ireland so heads up to all those going, if you intend going south of the border don't forget that you will need passports not only for the humans but also for your pets as well. And of course travel insurance - don't say you haven't been warned!

There was good turnout for our return to Otley albeit in a slightly different location where the weather was kind to us.

Beech Tree Farm at Sutton on the Forest now seems to be a favourite venue where a fair number of campers turned out with entertainment being provided by our resident deejay Dennis.

A completely new experience was laid on at Ripon racecourse where those attending could actually place their bets not only on the races at Ripon but also on their favourite 'nag' at Ladies day at Ascot. This was due to a large screen showing the racing live from Ascot. Many picking up a few winnings.



Picking a winner at Ripon races

We had another good turnout at the Yorkshire Region meet at Wetherby where the sun continued to shine, for some I think a little bit hot. Cannot please all the people at the time though.



Medieval Enactment at Yorkshire Region meet Wetherby

Our first THS of the season kicked off well at Settle and was actually full on the first weekend, again the hot sun continued and enjoyed by all.

Our visit to Durham was somewhat different than our last visit. Yes there was plenty of bands but one heck of a crowd of people milling round on the Saturday. It was the annual Durham miners gala, now I know a lot of you will be saying that there aren't any pits left, at least in Durham, but the tradition still continues.

Whitby THS was delayed a little this year with the dates being changed, virtually at the last minute, by the college. So apologies to all those who either had to change their last minute plans or missed our flyers advising of the changes. However it was totally out of our hands. Nevertheless there was a good attendance of campers over the period with excellent weather during our stay.

Fortunately the good weather continued at Cherry Tree Farm so those who camped there caught the last of the very hot spell.

Malton saw some of the campers moved here from Nawton as a follow on meet.

Pickering had some decent weather and a good turn out, obviously steam railway enthusiasts.

That's all for now have a safe journey and happy camping

Trevor

Future Meets:

Please note unless otherwise stated all our meets start at 2pm

Northern (continued)...

9th–11th November

South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum DN4 7NW. £7.50 pun.
Come and view some of the aircraft of yesteryear. Buses nearby to take you into either the Lakeside shopping centre or Doncaster. **Please note this will be a booked meet** check our web page for further information.

23rd–25th November

Wetherby racecourse LS22 5EJ. £7.00 pun.
Hardstanding and at the time of writing a bus into town.

30th November–2nd December

Hawes Auction Mart DL8 3NP. £9.00 pun.
Hardstanding and an easy walk into the town and the Wensleydale creamery for the best of the Dales cheeses.

28th December–2nd January

Ripon Racecourse HG4 1UG.

Please note this is a booked meet with a fee of £15 per unit plus camping fees (TBA)

12th January

Bridge Inn, Walshford LS22 5HS

Winter dinner at this wonderful location £21.25 per person. Overnight parking is available.

Booked meet, further details from either Trevor or Carole on 0788 405 0833

25th–27th January

Skipton Auction Mart £6.00 pun. Hardstanding and an easy walk to either the farm shop and or the town centre.



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Northern Ireland...



Hi folks, greetings once again from N. I. and may I kick off my report by saying how good it was to meet some of you at my very first National A. G.M. at Kelso. We had a good weekend despite the weather not being great, and it gave me an idea of what goes on because as you know we in N. I. are hosting next years National. Ideas and plans have come together and we have now got a great programme of events in place, all we need now is for you all to come over and enjoy our N. I. hospitality.

What a summer we have had, oodles of lovely sunshine for all to enjoy for weeks on end. May 31st - 4th June saw us meet in Ballycastle, a seaside town with plenty to see and do. The town also has a Ferry terminal to take folk over to Rathlin Island where they can watch the puffin colony nesting on the rocks on the island.

22nd-24th June and our group meet in Coleraine. This weekend coincided with Armed forces day on the



Northern Ireland (continued)...

Saturday so there was plenty going on, the day was packed with activities, forces bands, a challenger tank and a Naval vessel on the river Bann the sun shone and everyone had a great time.

6th–15th July. Our T. H. S. in the seaside town of Newcastle Co Down was another successful meet. There were plenty of folk coming and going, new members added to our group, and visitors from the mainland having a great time in the town and surrounding area.

From the T. H. S. we moved into the festival period in various parts of the province. We as a group usually visit, The Red Sails Festival in Portstewart, The Festival of Flight in Newcastle Co Down and the Loughshore Festival Jordanstown. This year was no different, except that the weather decided to break on the last day of all Three Festivals and the rain came down in torrents. We had gone from hose pipe ban to floods in the space of one month, oh well we have got to take it as it comes.

Before I close I would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to our members who come out week by week to enjoy the company and craic of friends, to our stewards who never fail to come up with some sort of entertainment for us all to enjoy and to my fellow committee members for their time and dedication to this group.

That's all from N. I. at the moment, as we slip into Autumn I do hope that there are many more good weekends for us all to enjoy.

Have a great Autumn and stay safe.

Elena



Obituary

William (Billy) Blair

The Northern Ireland Section are sad to Announce the sudden passing of. William (Billy) Blair. Billy's passing came as a great shock to all. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Isobel and his sons Ian and William at this very sad time.

Scotland...

Rowdy whitecaps scudding over a grey firth and boisterous blasts of wind clattering the mansard tiles as I try to recall the golden summer we've just enjoyed. Not even a somewhat apologetic rainbow helps jog the memory about happy times just past. Maybe we can look forward to the joys of an indian summer - or does Brexit allow that?

If our rally at Drum Estate in June was blessed with lovely weather, at Creiff in July we sweltered, myself in the van, the spaniel under it, the very short walk to the River Earn being foremost in the thoughts of both, the spaniel being the more adept in the joys of river bathing.

Later July and August saw us again at Bankhead Farm, Crail where the weather had returned to a pleasant, moderate summer variety. A blast of wind one afternoon saw our new tents tested. We learned (the hard way, of course) that with these lightweight tents it's a good idea to put the canvas on from the windward side, and to loosen it off from the leeward. The cost of this lesson was one bent corner post and much public embarrassment at one point when we seemed to be attempting convert the tent into a balloon. Crail, and its festival, was as charming as always.

The THS at the Maritime Museum in Irvine was well supported by the aficionados of the Marymass Festival and the Irvine Folk Festival, while at Kelso the musical highlight, or perhaps lowlight - we ended up in the dark - was a ukelele and guitar practice session in the tent which attracted an enthusiastic little audience. Our thanks to Les (ukelele) and Moira and me (guitars), and to the members who supplied various torches and lighting implements, and to the (non-biting) midges who obliterated our efforts to maintain a decent level of light. Thanks everybody - good craic! Apologies to our revered chairman who was languishing in a nearby van, suffering from a croaky throat. Some suggest a summer cold, others over-activity in the mandible area. We hope Jim is happily recovered.

We look forward to our end of season blow at Cairnsmill, where we anticipate the delights of mains electricity, swimming bath, bar and musical entertainment (professional, this time). Booking arrangements will be announced on our messaging system. Could I again encourage anyone, member or guest, who wants to be kept informed of SAMCS activities to join the messaging system?

Many of our bookings and arrangements have to be made a year or more in advance, and the only practicable way of putting out current information on booking arrangements, committee decisions/minutes etc. is via the messaging system. Data protection demands that you must ask to be included on our list. You ask by simply emailing me your name(s), CCC number and email address at jamesvkeenan@tiscali.co.uk.

Finally, a word of thanks - to our members and guests, who have turned up in numbers this year to make this a season for the Treasurer to smile about, and to our stewards for taking the time to look after us all. I will shortly be announcing an initiative to include many more of our members as stewards (via the messaging system, of course).

And a huge thanks to the new committee members who were plunged into the most complex areas of the section's activities at a difficult time and experienced all the hazards of changeover to come up with a really enjoyable and successful season - and an interesting looking programme for 2019 (more of this on the messaging system!). Our thanks to our Treasurer Moira Campbell and Les Wiseman and Jim Kinnell who jointly undertook Sites Officer's duties with admirable aplomb!

Jim Keenan
PRO



South West...

Hi all,

By the time you get this edition of Waggoner's Talk the summer will have gone, but what a hot summer we have had for a change. Campers for a change moaning about the heat & Sunshine. Several campers going home early because it was too hot.

Then it started to rain & yes they said bring the sunshine back.

Bern Venes at the age of 95 & a founder member of the South West Area MCS has finally retired from Camping & sold his MotorCaravan. He sends his best wishes to all his camping friends.

Our Meet at Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club in Wareham, Dorset 28th June to 3rd July was well attended with 22 Units on site. A very hot & sunny weekend. Several campers going to Swanage, Poole, Bournemouth & Corfe Castle. Thanks to Dave Lucas for use of his Kyham which came in useful for the Stewards Trish, Bob & Pam, Derek to get some shade from the sun. We had the use of the Rugby Club House in the evenings & several of us watched the World Cup Football on the big screen.

26th July to 5th August was our 2nd Holiday meet of the year at Bampton's Farm, Lymington. We had a total of 48 units including 1 Tent over the period. Thanks once again to Dave for his Kyham. Also a Big Big thanks to our Stewards Pam & Derek, Trish & Bob for an excellent job & giving Campers lifts to town by Trish & Pam's cars. Several walked the short distance to the Ferry Terminal & went across to The Isle of Wight for the day & then to Newport & Cowes where things were getting ready for Cowes Week in a few days time.

9th to 12th August we were once again at Henstridge Airfield in Somerset. The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance Helicopter is stationed here. We had a cream tea one afternoon with Scones, Jam, Clotted Cream, Cups of Tea & Coffee in the large Marquee. A Biscuit, Cheese & Wine evening in the Airport Cafe. Saturday evening we all enjoyed a Fantastic 3 course meal cooked by the Boss Man & Owner of the Airfield Geoff Jarvis, with a starter of Prawn Cocktail, Roast Beef with Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, 6 Different vegetables, Pavlova for sweet all for £10.00. Sunday was a wet day so unable to get any Plane flights in as in other years.



Future Meets:

4th-8th October

Greenjackets, St Cross Cricket Ground, Winchester
SO23 9RJ

Bus Stops by Gate entrance, Room for evenings, A few Electric Hook ups. £12.50pupn Electric extra

20th-22nd October

Halloween Meet at Ringwood Junior School, Hightown Road,
Ringwood BH24 1NH

Site Opens at 11am Sat morning, we have the use of the Hall for evenings. So bring along your Halloween Costumes & Prizes for the winners. £9.00 pupn

For any changes & up to date info check out Waggoner's Talk Web Site or Phone me on 01425 475415, Mobile 07977061454

Derek

PRO SWA MCS





Southern...

Hi Campers

Welcome to a glorious summer, I hope you are all making good use of this beautiful weather. We have had a craft weekend at Brogdale, the home of the National Fruit Collection, it was good to see so many of our members old and new displaying their talents. This was followed by a THS at Rye in East Sussex. This is always a popular meet as there is so much to do there and we had planned a good "old fashioned" fair with members running stalls, based on what they played at in their childhood. This proved very popular and Macmillan Nurses benefited from this. The fair was followed by a barbecue in the evening. One of our members brought along a jigsaw to be completed during the meet, this proved so popular that it was repeated at the following two Kent Group meets, but they seem to be harder each time.

The Kent Group held their THS at Quex Park which is proving evermore popular each year. New attractions are appearing and this year there was an Alpaca walk which was certainly entertaining as they came through where we were camped. Also once again the jigsaw puzzles came out and they were getting harder, one of our members purchased from the charity shop "Waterloo Station" which he said was a challenge and it certainly was. Again we had members from all over the country plus a couple from Germany who were originally staying for one night but ended up staying for four nights although they enjoyed themselves they had to return to Germany.

The Kent Group had a meet at the popular Sandwich Lakes in a new area which was surrounded by fruit,



blackberries, plums, sloes etc and we were given a plum tart treat courtesy of Claire.

Coming up we will soon be rallying on the good value Club Sites. First of all at Canterbury for their Food and Drink Festival followed by an invitation from Surrey & South London to Normans Bay Club Site for a fishing weekend. The season is drawing ever closer to Christmas but not before the Bonfire Meet at Rolvenden which is always popular.

Then hey presto it's party time - Surrey & South London hold their annual Christmas "do" at Cranleigh, which is always a great occasion, this year June and Jean are receiving their MCS Certificate of Merit, so there is something else to celebrate.

This is followed by the Kent Group party at Abbey School, Faversham, always a good weekend.

Whatever you are doing I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year camping.

Surrey & South London...

Greetings from Sunny Sussex where it shines most of the time, and has a little rest, over Bank Holidays when events like the N.F.O.L. that have been planned for two years with blood sweat and tears needed just four days of Sun but had to be content with the most important day the Mardi Gras with wall to wall sunshine. What a day to remember, to all who joined in the parade with the little green men and Dr Who, at Arley Hall, well done, the Science Fiction Theme was brilliant. The evening entertainment was excellent, so much going on you were spoilt for choice, so what if the other three days were wet, wet, wet, the campers were smiling from ear to ear. We Brits are used to three seasons in one day, so whats new, as my old Mum used to say get out in the rain it's good for the complexion, so for all you stay at homes dont miss next years N.F.O.L at Turnpike Showground Motcombe, Shaftsbury, Dorset, not to be missed. Never mind about the garden or the decorating you think you must do, it will be there when you get back, and dont forget when today is gone, it never comes back, so once again give it a try, Paul and I did in spite of the Motorway Smart Lane holdups.

We are now coming to the end of another great year, and how lucky we have been with the weather the best summer I can remember, although a wee bit too warm for some. Paul and I attended the F.I.C.C. in Germany where the heat wave continued, but you know every one coped, the only let down was the lack of a shop on site, which we found strange. It made Paul and I cycle a four mile trip for bread and milk etc. and the cycle lanes are excellent, so although fit to drop when we got back. There was lots to do in the evenings, with the Camping Club street party the best, but then I would say that, all in all a long way to go, but you pays your money and takes your choice, some you win some you lose, all in the rich tapestry of life. Maybe I should not compare, but when you get to my age, you can speak your mind a bit more, although Paul thinks my getting old is the problem, well enough of my ramblings, in the words of the song keep right on to the end of the road. We still have some good week-ends to look forward to as I mentioned in the last W/Talk, the highlight being our end of year Christmas Nosh, at Cranleigh, Village Hall, ring Paul on 01293 423203 for more information as this is a booked meet £8.50 PUPN two nights so look forward to seeing you all. In the meantime stay happy, keep camping, remember when you smile the world smiles with you, when you weep, you weep alone, but with all the friends we have in this great Club there is nothing we cant handle, rain, shine or snow, and a merry christmas and happy new year to one and all.

Chris Bastin





Motor Caravan Section 57th National Meet & AGM 24th–27th May 2019



hosted by Northern Ireland Area
at Bready Cricket Club, 7 Mason Road, Londonderry BT4 72RX

The Motor Caravan Section are very pleased to tell you that our Northern Ireland Area are hosting our National Rally & AGM in 2019. This is also the year that they celebrate their 10th Anniversary and we are pleased to report that they have gone from strength to strength over the past 10 years and are really looking forward to being our hosts for 2019.

This is the first National Meet & AGM that we have held in Northern Ireland, and I know that many of our members are looking forward to attending this meet and exploring new ground. Bready Cricket Club was started in 1938 and although they have moved venues over the years they have a super ground and pavilion for us to use for this event.

Our Colleagues in the Northern Ireland Area have arranged varied entertainment for us starting with Saultic Highland Dancers & George Crumley Accordion player on Friday night.

On the Saturday there will transport by minibus to the Maiden City of Londonderry for sight seeing and shopping. In the evening there will be a Hog Roast for all to enjoy and entertainment by Castaways. On Sunday there will be our 57th AGM, and then free time for all until the evening when we will be entertained by Purple Heather. On Monday there will be a Coach trip to the Giants Causeway.

We are working with Travel Services for Ferry Prices, and I know that there will be some members who may prefer to fly out and hire a unit in Northern Ireland, and information on this will be available in due course on our website and also from your Area/Group Secretaries.

So come and join us for this meet and take time to explore the beautiful scenery for County Tyrone.

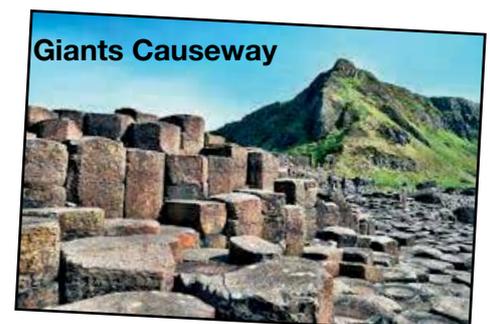
Peter Williamson & Robert Cupples
Northern Ireland Area



Bready Cricket Ground



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