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**Newsletter No 133 - Autumn 2023**



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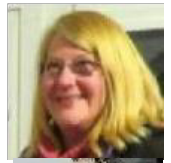
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**[www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk](http://www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk)**





# **RALLY PROGRAM 2024**

## **February**

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>

- Woodland Waters (Ancaster, NG32 3RT)

## **March**

5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

- Newlands Holiday Park (Charmouth, DT6 6RB)

## **April**

17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

- Woodhill Park (East Runton, NR27 9PX)

## **May**

9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

- Bath Marina (Bath, BA1 3JT)

16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

- The Southern Motorhome & Campervan Show (Newbury, RG18 9QZ)

## **June**

7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

- Camping du Pont de Bourgogne, Chalon sur Saône, Burgundy, France

10<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

- Camping le Coin Tranquille, Les Abrets en Dauphiné, Rhone Alps, France

## **July**

11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

- Vintage for Victory Festival (Whitchurch, Cardiff)

19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

- 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally - Salisbury Rugby Club (Salisbury, SP1 3SA)

## **August**

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

- Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza

8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

- Bakewell Showground, (Bakewell, DE45 1AH)

15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

- Malvern Country & Western Show (Malvern, WR13 6NW)

## **September**

5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

- Halfpenny Green Vineyards (Bobbington DY7 5EP)

11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

- AGM Rally - West Midlands Showground (Shrewsbury, SY1 2PF)

19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Lincoln Motorhome Show (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)

## **October**

8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

- Southport Victoria Park (Southport, PR8 1RX)

## **November**

20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

- Christmas Rally - Tudor Caravan Park (Slimbridge, GL2 7BP)



## CHAIRPERSON'S CHAT

The 33rd AGM held at Rutland Caravan Club has been and gone, so a big thank-you to all those wonderful members who attended and had their say, although it would have been great to have seen more of you there. I am delighted to say that all the existing committee stood again and have been duly elected and we also have a willing volunteer to shadow Andy, with a view, in time to possibly taking on the newsletter or at least some of its tasks. So a big welcome to Pauline Hayward, who has been co-opted onto the committee. As always, a big thank-you to our committee members for all the work they do.

We all very much enjoyed Rutland, especially the local pub which made us feel very welcome and many members explored the local area during our stay. On the evening after the AGM we had an "American Supper" with lots of fabulous food donated by everyone, Thanks to everyone for making it such a great evening.

Since writing my last chat we have had a great trip to France, where we enjoyed some great memories along with much food and wine. You can read about our adventures in more detail in this newsletter.

As we turn to our last few rallies of the year, we will be visiting Cardiff and then we have our Christmas Rally at Thorntons Holt, Stragglethorpe with a Christmas meal in the local golf club, further details are again in this newsletter. So please come and enjoy a lovely social event hosted by our Marshals Robert and Bridget Hubbard.

Don't forget to visit the Motorhome and Caravan Show at Birmingham's NEC (17th-22nd October 2023) where we will have a Swift Motorhomes Owners Club stand which Jane Steward (NEC and Events Coordinator) is kindly organising. Please support your club and come to the stand and chat to potential new members.

The rally list for 2024 can be found in this newsletter and its is a varied one, with returns to some old favourites in this our 35th Anniversary year, as well as some new venues, such as a Vineyard and a Vintage Festival. Please do come and try a rally, or even try your hand at marshalling one, you can even offer to co-host one to allow you to see what it is all about.

Take care everyone and I hope to see you all soon.

Best Regards

Heather

## EDITORIAL

I can't believe this is now my 4th edition as Editor (by default) of the newsletter, how time flies when you are enjoying yourself (allegedly). Although this is nowhere near our previous editor Ray's record and one I don't intend to emulate. I am therefore delighted that we have Pauline Hayward onboard, who will initially be shadowing me and hopefully over time taking on further responsibilities regarding the Newsletter.

In this edition you can read all about everyone's escapades in France and also some other rallies held closer to home. The adventures we have, which contrary to popular belief, don't always involve a drink or two, will hopefully wet your appetite and we will see you on a rally soon.

Whilst we have 2 more rallies still to go in 2023, you will see in this newsletter that we have a very full and varied program in place for 2024. So please take a look and also visit the "Members Portal" to read about the venues in more detail, you never know, before you know it you will have booked a few!

Please don't miss the advert in this edition for our overseas rally in France next year and if you want any further information don't hesitate to contact Ray Collinson. Having been to France with the club for the last 2 years they are certainly a great trip, especially if you have never taken your Motorhome abroad before.

None of the clubs rallies would be the success they are without the members who marshal them and although we have most of our rallies in 2024 covered we still need some more volunteers, so if you fancy a go or even if you would like to shadow another marshal, to see what it's all about, please let me know.

Finally even though we haven't even started 2024 my thoughts have already turned to 2025, so if you know of anywhere, perhaps somewhere you have tried or would like to go to, please drop me a line.

Happy & safe travels

Andy

**Letters and other contributions published in the SMOC Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Committee. It is a condition of publication that all contributions may be edited for grammar, length and/ or clarity**

**A very warm Swift Motorhomes Owners Club**  
**welcome to our new members**  
*We look forward to seeing you on a rally soon*

**Steve Cliiford– 3526**  
**Lynn Holden & Jayne Hosmer – 3527**  
**Karen & Paul Smith – 3528**  
**John & Diane Batty – 3529**  
**Laura & Neil Hutchins – 3530**  
**Tracy Bennett – 3531**  
**Keith Caldicott & Pauline Walters – 3532**  
**Rob Doherty – 3533**  
**Denise & Ian Gorman – 3534**  
**Helen & Glynn – 3535**

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**Never Take Life Too Seriously**

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack. “Miss Whack, I’d like to get a £30,000 loan to take a holiday.”

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it’s okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, “Sure. I have this,” and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink, and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she’ll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office. She finds the manager and says, “There’s a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow £30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral.” She holds up the tiny pink elephant. “I mean, what in the world is this?”

The bank manager looks back at her and says,  
“It’s a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man’s a Rolling Stone.”





## Eurosol, France (3rd - 9th June 2023)

After an interesting and enjoyable journey down with fellow motorhomers, Ian, Robert and Bridget, which took us via the Alps as intended, as well as a few unintended places! We eventually made it to our first club campsite which was Eurosol, set in the pine forests that line this part of the French coast that surrounds the Bay of Biscay..

Andy and I were not sure what to expect but were pleasantly surprised as we arrived at the site and were met by a lovely reception team and Fredrick the boss, who took us to the area we were to be camped in. As we manoeuvred onto our pitch in the pine forest and set up, we resembled an army of bees all busily buzzing about and setting up our homes for the next few days.



After a relaxing drink or two we all trundled



off to the onsite restaurant and enjoyed a great meal, much better than cooking yourself after a long journey. During the evening we all caught up on our adventures in France so far and the common theme of Satnav's and their foibles was much discussed. During the evening we all received a bag with lots of goodies from C'est si Bon.

As our first full day onsite arrived, we were greeted by the arrival of Frederick in his trusty golf cart with a bundle of Baguettes and Croissants. These were collected from a table outside of our motorhome by a steady stream of fellow campers, a theme that would become common throughout our stay in France.



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After enjoying a relaxing breakfast and as we had some free time in the morning, we took to the beautiful pool area to top up our tans and then went for a bike ride around the forest surrounding the site, although only after I had to have a puncture repaired at the on site bike hire and repair centre. The ride took us out to the beach and then into the dense pine trees, although the tracks were very good and as we were by the coast the going was pretty easy.



In the late afternoon it was the first of the Jeu de Boules Tournament, followed by, yes, drinkies in the bar. Well I must say there was lots of fun and laughter whilst we all learnt the rules (allegedly) and then split into teams with names such as the “Dave’s” and The Crusaders. What a competitive lot we are, although despite learning the rules! We all seemed to be playing by different ones which caused a few interesting discussions. This first tournament was won by the team consisting of Gwen, Martin and Pauline and didn’t we know it, as that evening as they paraded their trophy around the pitches with the music of “We are the Champions” accompanying their celebrations.

On Monday we went by coach for a picnic alongside Lake Leon, which was a lovely place and we all thoroughly enjoyed some good food and more than a few glasses of wine, as well as some great company. Following lunch we went on a boat trip on the Courant d’Huchet, this was a bit like punting in Cambridge, only slightly more exotic, as we saw lots of lovely dragon flies and some wonderful riverside vegetation. Locals call this area ‘Little Amazon of the Landes.’



We were also royally entertained by our punter and guide, although regrettably, for some of us at least, we only actually saw him when we got on and off the boat!



The following day there was a walk through the forest although I chickened out. Those that ventured out all went on a lovely stroll in the forest around the site. However it was a little warm and perhaps it had one too many pine trees to look at, also walking on the sand dunes was a bit draining apparently, I think everyone was happy to get back to campsite and chill out a bit and we then all meet for some aperitifs at the bar, any excuse.

Wednesday saw us on the coach again and we headed south to the city of Bayonne in the Basque region of southwest France where the Nive and Adour rivers meet. The city is not very large and therefore easy to walk around so we explored the cathedral of Sainte Marie and then ambled around the many shops, even learning how traditional French berets are made.



We then made our way to meet up with everyone at our lunch venue which was a 17th century building constructed of wood and stone and serving all you can drink cider, wow. The restaurant Cidrerie Ttipia was thoroughly enjoyed by all, as we enjoyed such delicacies as cod

omelette, beef rib and sheep's cheese and quince paste, all washed down with endless cider, although it was help yourself pouring, which was a skill in itself! After almost having to drag some of us out of this hostelry we walked back to our coach and returned to our campsite via a quick bar stop for some allegedly !





It was great to see Anthony whizzing round the site on his buggy and even funnier to see Jane running different errands on it, certainly was good to get round a large campsite.

So finally our last full day at Eurosol arrived and we spent the time relaxing by the pool, although Andy & Dave I felt they just had to try all the pools and slides, including those in the children's area. After another drink or two



we went off to our final evening, a paella night in the restaurant area, which was very enjoyable and capped of a great first week. Needless to say we all have some lovely memories from this site, and a few tales to tell, however ill leave that for another time.

Heather Hartell – 3243

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### The value of an older woman

After being married for 50 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, ‘Fifty years ago we had a cheap house, a junk car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep with a hot 23-year-old girl every night.



Now, I have a £500,000 home, a £45,000 car, a nice big bed and a large screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 69-year-old woman. It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things.'

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 23-year-old girl and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap house, driving a junk car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve an old guy's problems."



## Rally at Le Moulin du Bel-Air

After a 4 ½ hour rainy journey we arrived at our second site of the rally La Moulin De-Bel-Air, this old water mill is tucked away in the beautiful countryside close to the village of Saint-Germain-du-Bel-Air. We were certainly not the first of our party to arrive, Martin who was eager to make sure he had good satellite coverage had tried several pitches before finding the best spot. Once we were all hooked up it was time for us all to meet at the terrace brasserie (the heart of the campsite) for a welcome drink and dinner. Due to the rain we were directed to an inside room where we were given a very warm welcome and a drink by Thibaud and his wife Anne, they told us of their plans to create a home from home friendly atmosphere. A very tasty dinner was served washed down with a glass or two of wine. Back to our pitches for a good night's rest.



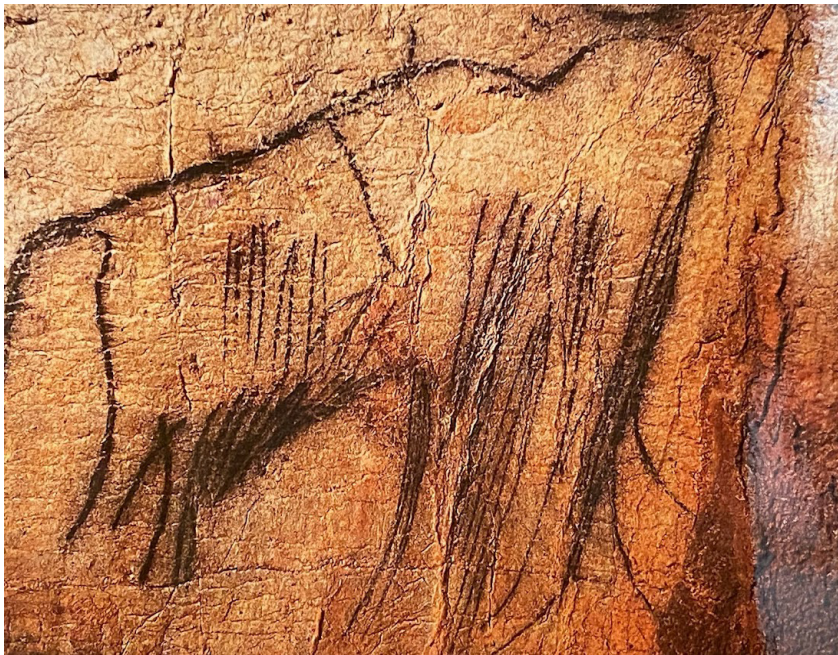
Next morning, after a breakfast of Croissants, (which were delivered to the vans every morning at 8am by Thibaud), we boarded the coach for a day out. Our first stop was Cahors busy street market, a great opportunity to buy some local food and drink to top up our supplies. A couple of hours later we struggled back to the coach with a few bottles of wine, fruit and veg. (Robert made sure he bought special mushrooms, bacon and sausages for a meal in a few days' time). Our next stop



was Cahors medieval quarter which has a rich history since Celtic times and it became a large Roman City. We strolled in the sun along the riverbank and onto the old 14th century fortified Valente bridge. After everyone had enjoyed the scene and taken photos, it was back to the coach on to the next stop for a picnic lunch of local meat, cheese and salad followed by a refreshing fruit salad and of course, wine, all prepared and provided by Thibaud and Anne.



After lunch a visit to the Pech Merle which is a cave (not wine tasting this time) but one that opens into a hillside. It is one of the few prehistoric cave painting sites in France. Created over 2 million years ago by an underground river, cutting



channels, which were later used by humans for shelter and eventually mural painting. There were lifelike images of woolly mammoths, dapple horses, reindeer, hand prints and some human footprints of children. Not forgetting the amazing stalactites and stalagmites which are still forming drip by drip. After a great day back to the campsite.

On our free day at the campsite we had planned to spend a quiet day by the pool but unfortunately due to a problem with the pools pump we were unable to use the pool that day and disappointedly it remained closed for the full duration of our stay. Thibaud had done his best to rectify the problem but had to wait for replacement parts. So instead we took a walk into the little village with a well-stocked shop to top up our supplies then wandered back to the terrace for food and drinks.



The continuing saga of Jeu de Boules round 2, now allegedly all following the same rules, things became serious and the introduction of Martin and Dave's tape measuring skills from boule to jack became a vital need. After an afternoon of matches the final two teams were ready for the final game.

Dave, Dave and Dave, (Robert really) up against Andy, Heather and Alistair. The first few boules by Team Dave went well, but unfortunately team Andy put in some



good shots and before anyone had realised, they had won. Final match was to be played at the last site.



Enjoyable evening with everyone gathering around Andy and Heathers pitch for a drink, chat and tasty nibbles provided by Heather and Ann. Marilyn and David entertained us with a game, we all needed a few coins which slowly added to a kitty



and at the end of the game the only person left with any coins was Heather Luke who was the lucky winner of the kitty. Then Anne asked for two volunteers for a boat blowing competition Martin and Alistair stepped up. A shallow tray was filled with water, both men were given a straw to blow, the idea being to get your boat to the other side before your opponent. Already for the count down, men in place, straw in mouth, ready to blow 3,2,1, then Ann slapped her hand down into the tray of water. Two slightly surprised and damp men were very good sports, albeit after the initial shock. It caused lots of laughter.

Coach Trip to Baynac one of the most beautiful villages in France and on the banks of the Dordogne. After a walk along the riverbank we congregated to board a Gabarre for a cruise. A Gabarre is traditional old boat used in the past for the transportation of goods on the river.





We had a tranquil sail along the riverbank with beautiful views of the village that spreads from the riverbank up the hillside which had perched at its very top Chateau du-Baynac.



Back in the cobbled streets of the village we wandered and followed the narrow lanes that wind their way through the traditional pretty honey-coloured buildings with slate roofs and with many little souvenir gift shops. and restaurants.

In need of a refreshing drink we met with Thibaud and some of the group, enjoying a coffee before heading back to the coach. Such a pity we had to leave so soon; I could have quite happily spent the day there.

Farewell barbecue dinner this time, as the weather was good, we were able to eat at the terrace bar and brasserie. The food was once again prepared and served by Thibaud and Anne, a was a somewhat different take on what we class as a barbecue but nonetheless still very tasty. Much merriment and laughter amongst us all. Jane, Sue, Anne and few others were dancing and singing until it was time to call it a night after thanking Thibaud and Anne for their friendliness and making us feel



like part of a family. Together they have certainly created a lovely friendly and welcoming atmosphere.



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## Rally Camping Chateau le Verdoyer

Chateau le Verdoyer has been developed in the park of a restored Chateau and is owned by Floris and his family. It is situated in the lesser-known area of the Dordogne, sometimes referred to as the Perigord Vert, with its green forest and small lakes. We were welcomed by Floris who spoke excellent English. The pitches were super large, with electricity and grey waste. Lecky was a bit doggy, keeping Dave and Alistair busy as it kept tripping out.

In the evening we all meet up at the Chateau restaurant for an Aperitif where Floris explained the family business, the programme for the week and what was on the evening menu. Perigord Salad (Salade Perigourdine) is a traditional French recipe from the region of Perigord, it's a regional favourite in this area, which is famous for their



consumption of duck. For those unaware it is duck gizzards confit, which are duck giblets ... OMG! After giving myself a good talking to, to remind myself that I was in France and to embrace the experience, I did try the dish albeit with my eyes closed and a shed load of wine. Personally, all I can say was that it was different but also tasty and to be fair, others in the group reported that they also enjoyed the meal.



The next day we went by coach to visit the Village of Saint Jean de Cole. Floris's father Richard, who also spoke excellent English was our guide, to show us around

places

of interest. This is a picturesque and very well-preserved medieval village. It is said to be one of the most beautiful villages in France and I would definitely agree. The architecture of the buildings was fascinating with a beautiful church and a Chateau that is privately owned.





There is an old mill (which has been restored) on the banks of the river as well as an ancient bridge. Photo opportunities abound at every twist and turn in the flower filled narrow streets.



From the Village of Saint Jean de Cole, we arrived at Chateau de Puyguilhem, also called Puyguilhem Castle. Puyguilhem is a delightful Renaissance Chateau lying at the heart of a wooded valley near Brantome in Perigord. We were met by a local guide and with Richard's translation skills, broad knowledge, sense of humour and his detailed explanations contributing to helping us understand how it was built and what life was like in the Chateau and surroundings

during the various ages of its existence. For me it was an absolutely stunning example of a Chateau. Although it had limited furniture, there were chairs, chests, a four-poster bed, kitchen table, and the most amazing five-hundred-year-old tapestries. When the bed warmer, called a monk (most definitely unlike traditional bed warmers!) was explained, this just made my day.



From Puyguilhem we made our way to Caves of Villars. The stalactites and stalagmites were impressive. There was a really good computer-controlled show giving excellent historical perspective on the development to understand the geological



phenomena. The cave tour

showed beautiful formations and cave art and explained their origins. One remarkable feature of note were images of horses and scratch marks from Ice age bears.

After a well-earned rest, Richard provided his "famous Verdoyer picnic" in the recreation area. With help from his granddaughter, we were fed and watered, which was delicious and well received.



The next day we were invited to visit Chateau Le Verdoyer. We were given a tour around the Chateau and its history. There was a staircase that took you to the top of the tower, after being warned about a bee's nest at the top, I was out. But, for others it had to be done. I was told the views were brilliant.

The following day was a rest day, so it only seemed right that the finals of the Boules competition took place. Well, the mother of all weather had a different idea and since none of us wanted to risk our now super skills in the downpour, we decided that the winner would be from the toss of a coin. Heather, Andy and Alistair on the one team and Martin, Pauline and myself on the other team. The coin toss was undertaken by Barry. Martin, Pauline and I lost the toss. With good fortune we all won a bottle of bubbly and the team that lost in the first competition; Barrie, Jane, Bob and Sue, took the other bottle of bubbly. But the story doesn't end there, at some point in future rallies and if we can all meet up again, game on, plus I've bought a new set of boules!! Boom..



The next day included a walk around the campsite and some beer tasting at a local brewery. Robert did a bicycle ride to the venue and back. Excellent. The tasting of the beer proved to be a winner, with orders made and free home delivery, double excellent.



The final day was a meal and tasting of several local products at the Chateau restaurant. The food just rolled out, with one plate after another, along with the accompanying wine for each dish. I'm just struggling to find the right words to describe the exquisite tastes for each dish and wine...



To summarise the week, where do I start. Lots of laughs and gatherings, brilliant outings and amazing food tastings. The daily baguette and croissants were a real treat. A big thanks to each and every one for making Alistair and I's first trip to France the most amazing experience- despite the sat nav packing up before we left the UK, we managed to negotiate our way around the most beautiful French villages. Memories to treasure forever.

Gwen - 3418





## **FRENCH RALLY 2024**

**Dates : Fri 7th June to Fri 21st June**



**This is a 2 site, 14 night Rally to South Eastern France.**

**Once again we are using C'est si Bon Group**

**1500 Euros per Couple. 855 Euros for One Person**  
(Approx £1300 and £745 @ 1.15€ = £1)

### **Site A - Camping du Pont de Bourgogne, Chalon sur Saône, Burgundy**

330 miles from Dieppe, 365 miles from Ouistreham/Caen, 400 miles from Calais.

3\* site with a new bar/restaurant and shower block on the banks of the River Saône.

**This is a stopover site en route to our main rally site, but is in an excellent location just a 10 minute walk from the historic city of Chalon (with it's many restaurants, shops and wine cellars, selling the local Burgundy wines).**

**Fri 7th to Mon 10th June** (3 nights = 200€/Couple & 130€/Single )

**Fri** - Arrival, Welcome Meal. (Aperitif, regional dish of Bœuf Bourignon + dessert)

**Sat** - Guided Visit around historic Chalon with Lunch in a city Restaurant

**Sun** - Free Day with wine tasting and cheese in the evening

**Mon** - Depart

### **Site B - Camping le Coin Tranquille, Les Abrets en Dauphiné, Rhone Alps**

115 miles south of Chalon sur Saône.

Immaculate 4\* site with indoor & outdoor pools, small shop and a large bar/restaurant with terrace which is popular with locals at weekends. It has a very full and varied menu (e.g. Meat, Fish, Burgers, Pizzas, Frogs Legs, Snails).

**The site is 2 miles from the small town of Les Abrets, where you will find shops, supermarkets and petrol stations.**

**Les Abrets is situated 45 miles east of the city of Lyon, in an area famous for it's rivers, lakes, mountains.**

**Mon 10th to Fri 21st June** (11 nights = 1300€/Couple & 725€/Single)

**Mon** - Arrival. Welcome Drink and presentation of the program at 6 p.m. followed by a 3 course meal in the restaurant with coffee and wine.

**Tues** - Free Day

**Wed** - Local walk at 10.00 a.m. with Site Owner, Martine.

Evening Barbecue Party at 7.30 p.m. - Meal in the terrace restaurant with Full wine and coffee included. Live Music all evening from Celine and Thierry Midi.

**Thur** - Meet at 10 a.m. - Coach to Aix les Bains for a 5.50 hour cruise on Lake Bourget, Saviere Canal and River Rhone, with lunch on the boat. Stopover at the pretty village of Chanaz. Arrive back at campsite at 6.30 p.m. / 7.00 p.m.



**Fri** - Depart by coach at 8.00 a.m. for a full day in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Lyon - the gastronomic capital of France. Guided Tour of the old city followed by a typical lunch in a Bouchon Lyonnaise. Boat trip around the Ile Barbe in the afternoon. Depart at 5.00 p.m.

**Sat** - Free Day with a get together in the evening at the Rally Marshal's pitch.

**Sun** - Free Day

**Mon** - Coach from campsite at 9.30 a.m. to the scenic village of Vongnes in the Bugey region for a wine tasting followed by a picnic organised by Gilles and the campsite staff (includes wine and coffee). Return via scenic route, arriving back to camp at around 6 p.m.

**Tues** - Free Day

**Wed** - Depart by coach at 8.45 a.m. for guided tour of Vizille Chateau & Museum of the French Revolution. At 12.45 p.m. we have lunch in La Pergola restaurant at Mayres Savel. This is followed by an afternoon cruise along the Lac de Monteynard to visit its scenic wild gorges with sheer cliffs and waterfalls.

**Thur** - Free Day, Departure Meal in the Evening

**Fri** - Depart

**Here is a quick summary of the rally :**

14 nights on large pitches with electric hook up, 8 Main meals, 1 picnic, 2 wine tastings, 3 river cruises, 2 guided city tours, 1 guided chateau/museum tours, 4 coach trips and a local guided walk.

**All the meals and outings described above are included in the rally price, along with pitch fees and EHU, but Ferry Crossing is not included.**

More info is available at [www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk](http://www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk)  
on the '2023/24 rallies' page

We expect that most members will want to attend both sites, but it will be possible to book just one site.

The Organiser and Marshal for this rally is Ray Collinson.

Feel free to contact me by email @ [rcolli4139@aol.com](mailto:rcolli4139@aol.com) or phone **07876 506744**

**BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN AND PLACES ARE LIMITED**

A deposit of £100 is needed to reserve your place on the rally, with a further payment in January and a final payment in mid April

Bookings and payments can be made using the Members Portal

Or

by sending a Rally Booking form to Andy, the Rally Secretary, accompanied by a cheque made out to 'Swift Motorhomes Owners Club'

## Minehead Rally (12th - 19th July 2023)

David and I arrived in the early afternoon on the first day and quickly settled onto our pitch... The site was green and lush as you would expect for a rugby club with the added bonus of a clubhouse for our use, as well as a toilet and shower block.

We joined the early evening gathering with Andy and Heather for a welcoming chat and to get to know each other. Heather suggested some group activities with a fish and chip supper to be eaten in the club house, along with a Sunday Roast at a local Brewers Fayre. These were favoured by all. Then Heather suggested a 'Tandanory night'. Tandanory! I immediately thought of Jackanory the 60's children's television programme where stories were read to the audience. We all burst out laughing as Heather realised what she had said. What she actually meant was a



Tandoori Night at the local curry house! Later we all met at the clubhouse where we were able to purchase drinks at club prices. A lovely and relaxing start to the week. The weather wasn't too great throughout the week but then motorhomers have never let the weather spoil their fun!

Minehead town centre was within walking distance and bus stops were right opposite the site. The town centre had an array of shops and restaurants and the town with its sandy beaches and nice walks provided an ideal base. David and I made the most of the week by visiting nearby attractions. Dunster Castle being one with a very interesting history.



We also made the most of our senior bus pass by taking the open topped bus into Ilfracombe. This was a journey of surprises with steep hills and very tight passing places, which kept us on the edge of our seats. Beautiful scenery, sudden outbursts of rain with nowhere to hide, and eventually two hours later we arrived in Ilfracombe. We enjoyed exploring this town and eventually returned back to base.



Minehead also boasts The West Somerset Railway, with trips on steam engines as well as diesel, we opted for the steam engine ride. This consisted of 20 miles of heritage railway through stunning countryside to Bishop's Lyneard. It's the longest heritage railway in England and a lovely way to spend a day. Cream teas were served on our return trip.



All in all it we had a very enjoyable week with lots of laughs and good company.

Carole Lower - 3405

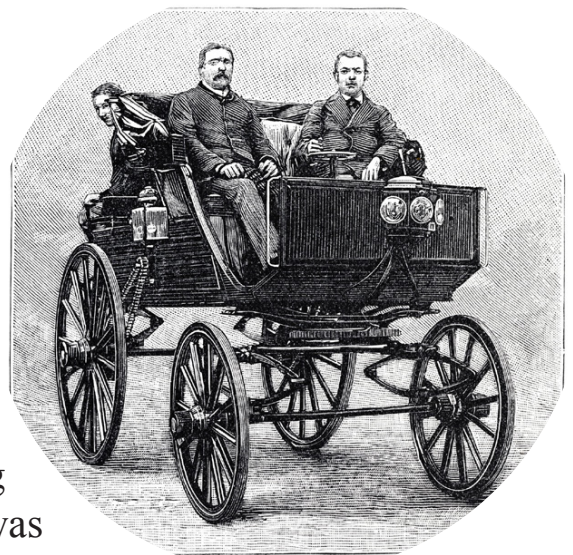
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### **Electric Cars, a Modern Invention?**

Did you know that in 1884 the first production standard electric car in the world capable of being reproduced and sold to the public was revealed? It was built in Wolverhampton by Thomas Parker, an English inventor who was responsible for electrifying the London Underground. This was followed in 1888 by the construction of the first real electric car by German engineer Andreas Flocken.

Did you know that by early 1900 1/3 of all vehicles on the road were electric? They started to disappear rapidly around 1920 with the introduction of gasoline and Henry Ford.

Ferdinand Porsche, the founder of the eponymous sports car, produced an electric vehicle called the 'P' in 1898, before creating the world's first hybrid offering, which was powered by both electricity and a combustion engine.



Mercedes-Benz also offered an electric model called the Mercedes Mixte, in 1906. This car was adopted as a taxi in the cities and even became a race car in 1907.

## Christmas Rally Thorntons Holt Camping Park

Stragglethorpe, NG12 2JZ

22nd – 29th November 2023

A quiet family Camping Park in the rural hamlet of Stragglethorpe, southeast of Nottingham and close to Radcliffe-On-Trent and Cotgrave.

Walkers and cyclists can explore the Cotgrave Country Park, the Grantham Canal, and the Holme Pierrepont Country Park which is part of the National Watersports Centre. These parks are connected by a local network of cycle and footpaths, which you can join outside the main entrance.

Don't forget to visit Nottingham's Christmas market which runs throughout our stay and has over 40 market stalls, offering gifts, crafts and speciality foods. There is a bus stop a short walk from the site with services to West Bridgeford, Cotgrove and Nottingham.

Local to the area are several pubs and the venue for our Christmas meal, The Nottinghamshire Golf & Country Club, please note that this is a change to our previously advertised venue. Whilst the Golf Club is within a mile of the campsite, we are looking to provide transport to and from the venue on the evening of the Christmas meal. (numbers permitting)

Details regarding the Christmas meal are on the following page and bookings are open until the 27th October 2023. The price is £32.95 per head.

**Pitch Fees: £28 per unit per night (includes EHU)**

**Rally Fee: £1 per person (Guests £10 per unit)**

**Rally Marshals: Bridget & Robert Hubbard**

**Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 11th October 2023**

**No arrivals before midday on any day**







## THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHRISTMAS MENU

### STARTERS

**Roasted Vegetable Soup,** *vegetable crisps and thyme oil (VE, GF)*  
**Beetroot Cured Salmon,** *pickled cucumber, brown crab mayo, ciabatta crisps*  
**Game Terrine,** *festive chutney, toasted sourdough & watercress*  
**Vegetable & Spinach Pakora,** *mint mayo, chilli, coriander and cucumber (VE)*

### MAINS

**Stuffed Rolled Turkey Breast,** *with sage & onion stuffing, roasted potatoes, parsnips, sautéed sprout ends, turkey gravy*  
**Braised Blade Beef,** *fondant potato, creamed cabbage, baton roasted carrots, bourguignonne sauce*  
**Filet Of Salmon,** *potato cake, samphire, kale, warm tartar sauce*  
**Roasted Butternut Squash, Sage, Chestnut Wellington,** *cranberry compote, roasted potatoes, parsnip, sautéed sprout ends & cauliflower cheese sauce (V)*

### DESSERTS

**Sticky Toffee Christmas Pudding,** *brandy custard and banana ice cream*  
**Chocolate Fondant,** *raspberry pearls and caramel ice cream (GF)*  
**Mulled Wine and Cherry Parfait,** *shortbread biscuit and cherry gel*  
**Coconut Panna Cotta,** *gingerbread pieces, pineapple, mango sorbet*

Enquire Today

Email - [events@thenottinghamshire.com](mailto:events@thenottinghamshire.com)

Telephone - 0115 933 3344

WhatsApp - 07393 18118

## **Woodland Waters Holiday Park**

Ancaster NG32 3RT

**7th – 14th February 2024**

Set in the heart of Lincolnshire, this idyllic fishing and touring park caters for all your holiday needs, appealing to everyone seeking a peaceful holiday in picturesque surroundings. Set in a beautiful wooded valley covering 72 acres and overlooking a 14 acre specimen lake, as well as many others.

Over looking the Specimen Lake and surrounding woodland, Woodys Bar and Lake View Restaurant provides the perfect setting to enjoy stunning views of the Park whilst enjoying excellent homemade, locally sourced food and our excellent range of ales, beers and wines. In the colder months, the log burning stove provides the perfect setting to enjoy a hot chocolate and take in the views of the changing seasons.

This part of the country is a treasure trove of old England Grantham (15 minutes' drive) is the town where Isaac Newton attended school and is home to the spectacular 14th-century Grantham House as well as a local history museum that gives an overview of everything from the Normandy landings to the Iron Lady. The 17th-century Belton House and its gardens, parkland and adventure playground are 10 minutes from base, and Newton's homestead of Woolsthorpe Manor

There are bus stops outside the site with routes to both Sleaford and Grantham.

Please note that we only have 7 Hardstanding pitches allocated to us with the rest being on grass, however we are assured that the site is on excellent draining sandy ground. All pitches have EHU.

### **Pitch Fees:**

**Hardstanding (7 pitches available): £23 per unit per night (includes EHU)**

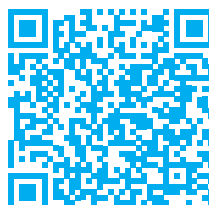
**Grass Pitches: £21 per unit per night (includes EHU)**

**Rally Fee: £1 per person (Guests £10 per unit)**

**Rally Marshals: Bridget & Robert Hubbard**

**Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 27th December 2023**

**No arrivals before 1pm on any day**





**Newlands Holidays**  
Charmouth, Bridport, DT6 6RB  
**Tues 5th – Tue 12th March 2024**

A firm favourite in our 2021 program, we once again will pay a visit to Newlands Holiday Park which is nestled besides the lovely World Heritage village of Charmouth and is the perfect spot for exploring Dorset's Jurassic Coast.

All pitches are terraced, overlooking the valley near Lyme Regis and the surrounding countryside.

The Tow Bar & Restaurant provides a great backdrop to our rally, offering an open plan feel with tucked away cosy areas. The bar offers west country ales, wines, spirits and soft drinks as well as barista coffee and teas, plus a range of specialist gins. All food is freshly prepared with locally sourced ingredients and the venue is open for breakfast, lunch and evening meals.

The indoor heated pool and Jacuzzi are open daily (please note extra charges apply)

There are 2 bus routes that pass the Park. Route 31 that goes from Axminster - Weymouth via Dorchester, and Coastline X53 which goes along the coast from Exeter - Poole taking in the beautiful Chesil Beach along the road to Weymouth. Weekly tickets can be purchased from the driver and are usable on both routes.

Access to a number of clifftop walks is possible from the campsite and the town of Charmouth is a 20 minute walk away.

**Pitch Fee: £33 / unit per night including hardstanding pitch & EHU**

**Rally Fee: £1 per person (Guest £10 per unit)**

**Rally Marshals: Andy & Heather Hartell**

**Closing Date for bookings: Tues 23rd January 2024**

**No arrivals before 11am or after 8pm  
(unless by prior arrangement) on any day)**



## Alnwick (9th - 16th August 2023)

Dave and I had a very leisurely journey up to the rally, 2 nights spent on 2 lovely Caravan Club CL's. We arrived early just after midday to a lovely welcome from Heather and Andy followed by a "Meet and Greet" at 7pm which lasted nearly 2



hours, as we all had a good catch up and welcomed our new ralliers Rebecca and Steve.

Thursday morning Dave and I walked into Alnwick which is a lovely town. The castle and gardens being worth a visit as is the poison garden, where apparently some ideas came from for the Harry Potter books. Some went farther afield even as far as Lindisfarne about 40 miles away.

In the evening some of us gathered in the Rugby Clubhouse for a chat, which was interrupted by Heather and her quiz. We separated into 2 teams, with Andy abstaining as he said he had read all the answers! Haribo's for the winners.

Friday some of our members had a bus ride to Berwick-on-Tweed which they said they enjoyed. Friday evening was fish and chips night, delivered to the club house by Robert and Heather and very nice they were too.



Saturday a few went down to watch the rugby, the home team Alnwick playing Melrose in a friendly. At 4.30 afternoon tea was held in support of the NHS 75th year, at Heather and Andy's place, we raised in total £70 and after Gift Aid this increased to £87.50, so a great effort. That evening we once again gathered in the club house.



Sunday morning we had our raffle, some lovely prizes were donated and £60 was raised toward club funds. Steve, our new member flew his drone and some of these are included in this report. Robert now wants one for Christmas. (Newsflash.... Robert couldn't wait and already has one at the time of this newsletter) At 12 o'clock we gathered at the Black Swan in Alnwick for a very nice pre-booked lunch arranged by Heather.

Monday Dave and I headed to the gardens at Alnwick Castle, the cascade is really spectacular and the poison garden included a guided tour. The guide gave us all the details we needed to commit the perfect crime, only joking! There



was even rosemary in there, yes, the same as we put on lamb, but you would need to eat the whole bush for it to have any effect whatsoever ever.

Monday night was pizza night, Heather and Bridget and a few others served up a lovely selection. Unfortunately it rained but we all managed to keep dry in a gazebo and under Robert's awning.

Tuesday, we had a lovely evening in the bar chatting with everyone.

Unfortunately Wednesday morning it was time to pack up and go our separate ways after another super Swift Motorhomes Owners rally. Thanks once again to Heather and Andy for putting on a rally good event.

Val Dobbin, Secretary.





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## Tow A Frame



[SmartBox DUO]

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