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**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**



Newsletter No 137 - Autumn 2024



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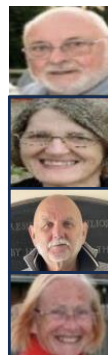
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RALLY PROGRAM 2025

Feb	12 th - 19 th	Foxtail Holiday Park (Chirk, LL14 5DJ)
Mar	12 th - 19 th	Pinecones Caravan & Camping (Kings Lynn, PE31 6WL)
Apr	9 th - 16 th	Thornbrook Barn (Thornton in Lonsdale, LA6 3PD)
May	7 th - 14 th	Bridge Villa Camping & Caravan Park (Wallingford, OX10 8HB)
	15 th - 19 th	The Southern Motorhome & Campervan Show (Newbury, RG18 9QZ)
	26 th - 30 th	River Valley Holiday Park (County Wicklow, Ireland)
May/ June	30 th - 3 rd	Blarney Caravan & Camping Park (Blarney, County Cork, Ireland)
	3 rd - 7 th	Glenross Caravan & Camping Park (County Kerry, Ireland)
	7 th - 11 th	Nagles Camping & Caravan Park (County Clare, Ireland)
July	16 th - 23 rd	Bagwell Farm Touring Park (Chickerell, DT3 4EA)
	24 th - 28 th	Netley Marsh Steam Fair
Aug	7 th - 14 th	Aberystwyth Rugby Club (Aberystwyth, SY23 1HL)
	14 th - 18 th	Malvern Country & Western Show (Malvern, WR13 6NW)
Sept	10 th - 17 th	AGM Rally, Lickhill Manor Caravan Park (Stourport-on-Seven DY3 8RL)
	18 th - 22 nd	The Motorhome & Campervan Show Season Finale (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)
Oct	8 th - 15 th	Canterbury Camping & Caravanning Club Site
Nov	19 th - 26 th	Christmas Rally - York House Caravan Park (Hawsker, YO22 4LW)
Dec/ Jan	29 th - 2 nd	New Year Rally - Riverside Caravan & Camping Park & Country Club (South Molton, EX36 3HQ)



CHAIRPERSONS CHAT

Well, it's October and we only have three rallies left for 2024, wow what an adventure it's been. Motorhoming is a great pastime as we move from one lovely place to another, enjoying social activities with like-minded people. Please make sure you look at next year's program of rallies, they look great, you can see them on page 3 of this newsletter. I do hope you can join us on some.

We have just enjoyed the AGM at Shrewsbury where we had Gwen and Alistair co-marshalling and doing a really great job. They made the week extra special by donating a "barrel of prosecco" which they shared with everyone at the rally so that we could celebrate the 90th birthday of one of our oldest members still rallying, namely Bill Hoggett, cheers Bill. I would also like to thank Pauline & Martin Hayward who co-marshalled the Halfpenny Green Winery rally and like Gwen and Alistair they were naturals.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new committee members, Sue Morgan (Newsletter Editor) who I am sure will put a new twist on the newsletter and allow Andy to have some time back! And Keith Morgan who became a full member of the committee and will take on the Regalia role from Marilyn Miland. As many of you will know Marilyn has held many roles in the club and given her experience, which we didn't want to lose, we have co-opted her back on. Finally, I would like to welcome Stephen Scull as another co-opted member. Thank you to all the committee members who give their time to support the club and its members. A full list of all committee members and their roles can be found on page 2.

In our 35th Anniversary year, the committee felt it was time that we took a look at our constitution and ensure that it is fit for purpose today. To this end, we have begun to benchmark against constitutions of similar clubs of our size and type and also considered how we wanted to be viewed as a club, this is still a work in progress. However, we have all agreed that the club should have a Code of Conduct that guides how we should act as a club and as individuals within it. This new code can be viewed in this edition of the Newsletter. Once the review of the Constitution is completed and updated accordingly, we will make it available on the "Members Portal"

In addition to this, we thought it would be useful for members of the committee to have outline Job Descriptions for each of the committee roles and for these also to be available on the "Members Portal" these will be available in a few weeks.

As I write this, we are looking forward to the Southport Rally, where Trevor and Sheila are our Marshalls. We haven't been before, but I hear it is a lovely place to visit and I'm sure Trevor and Sheila will have some great activities for us. Following Southport, we have our Christmas rally at Slimbridge with, at present 20 Mohos booked. The site is close to the Slimbridge Wildlife Trust and the canal for walks and right next to the pub, which is the venue for our Christmas dinner.

Please remember to look at the rallies coming up which are in this newsletter, we would love to see you there and perhaps enjoy a drink or two. Also if you would like to help on a rally or have suggestions for venues please do get in touch.

Heather Hartell (Chairperson)





Swift Motorhomes Owners Club - Code of Conduct:

1. Be kind and courteous:
 - We are all in the club together to mutually enjoy the pastime of Motorhoming, so we should always create a positive, welcoming and inviting environment.
 - We should treat everyone with respect and dignity, whilst healthy debates are natural kindness should prevail.
2. No hate speech, bullying, physical or verbal abuse:
 - We should always make sure people feel safe. Physical or verbal abuse or intimidating behaviour of any kind is not allowed and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
 - Instances of such behaviour should be challenged and reported.
3. Respect everyone's privacy.
 - Being part of a club requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but they may also be sensitive and private.

Inappropriate behaviour by a member which causes (or could reasonably be expected to cause) offence, embarrassment or disruption to the Club or other members, shall be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Club reserves the right to suspend or permanently exclude any member who breaches the Code of Conduct, along with all other members directly linked to the same Membership.

EDITORIAL

As summer draws to a close and the days get shorter we begin to think about preparing our vehicles for the winter months, although the colder months do not deter many of us from travelling about in our homes on wheels. I always feel that whilst it's lovely to sit out in the summer sun, albeit a rarity this year, it's equally good to cosy up in the Motorhome protected from the outside elements. That reminds me, I must get the boiler looked at as I can only operate on E1 at present. Apparently, it's either the element or the PCB, both of which are expensive!

Whilst we are nearly at the end of our rally season for 2024, we still have the Christmas Rally to look forward to, as well as, I believe, our first-ever New Year's bash. Unfortunately, the New Year rally is now full, however, if you are interested in our Christmas one, please let me know and I will see if we can squeeze you in. The details are in this newsletter.

Next year, we have a very full calendar, with rallies spanning most points of both England & Wales, we will get to Scotland (my birthplace) again soon. The full list can be found on page 3 of this newsletter and you can now book all rallies up to the end of March 2025 and also the 2025/26 New Year event, details of which are in this edition. A highlight of next year's program is our trip to Southern Ireland and we still have a couple of places left, so don't delay and book today.

As usual, our rallies are only the success they are because of your active participation and the tremendous work our team of marshals do. So, if you fancy a go as a marshal, either directly or shadowing one of our experienced team, please get in touch. You even get an allowance against your pitch fee up to a maximum of 5 days, so that can't be bad.

Sadly, this is my last Newsletter, as I am handing over the reins to Sue Morgan, who I'm certain will do a fantastic job. Please support her with lots of pictures, articles and rally experiences, which are so important to the ongoing success of the newsletter. I will, however, be continuing as the Rally Secretary.

Finally, don't forget to sign up for the new Facebook group if you haven't already, and hopefully see you soon on one of our rallies.

All the very best, Andy

(Newsletter & Rally Secretary)

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



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A very warm Swift Motorhomes Owners Club welcome to our new members

Paul & Adele Blackham - 3605
Philip & Sandy Wilks - 3606
Hilary & Tony DiStefano - 3607
Juliet Smart & Sue Howard - 3608
Alan & Angela Whitbrook - 3609
David & Catherine Munro - 3610
Graham & Jane Jackson - 3611
Sarah & Steve White - 3612
Martin & Chris Bradley - 3613
Ron & Christine White - 3614
John & Helen Robinson - 3615
Chris Barry - 3616
Vicky Vale - 3617

What would you like people to say about you?

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, “When you’re in your coffin and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?”

Arthur said, “I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man.”

Mark commented, “I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of the Almighty who made a huge difference in people’s lives.”

John said, “I’d like them to say, ‘Look, he’s moving!’”

Retirement is wonderful. It’s doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it. (Gene Perret)

A retired husband is often a wife’s full-time job. (Ella Harris)

French Holiday Rally 10th-21st June 2024

Le Coin Tranquille

Monday 10th June:

We left Chalon sur Saone around 10:30, arriving at Le Coin Tranquille around 3pm after a steady journey, again across D roads. We were greeted by Martine, the site owner. She gave us details of the site, pitch location and a large envelope all about the area, then directed us our pitch, where Ray and Carol were waiting to meet us.

We finally got set up, in-between chatting to other members, and soon it was off to the restaurant for an introduction by Martine on the history of the site. She then introduced her family and staff one by one whilst we enjoyed a nice glass of bubbly (Elderflower/sparkling wine combination), accompanied by canapé, then it was off to dinner.



Our meal was a home made terrine and green salad, followed by Sea Bream in a cream sauce with vegetables, desert was green ice cream soufflé (the green colour was from chartreuse liquor) with chocolate sauce (presented with sparklers), followed by coffee. The rest of the evening was spent chatting and drinking, before finally retiring back to our units as tomorrow was going to be a busy day.

Tuesday 11th June

We awoke to overcast skies, but all ready for our lake and river cruise.

After a short coach ride, we arrived at Aix Les Bains, a very picturesque town for our cruise on Lake Bourget and the Saviere Canal, passing through a large lock onto the River Rhone. On board, we had a 3 course meal (salmon for starters, chicken with veg and potato gratin followed by cherry pie) with wine, it was excellent.

On our return trip along the Saviere Canal, we stopped at a village called Chanaz, where they extracted the oil from walnuts (sadly for us all, the press was closed, but we only found that after walking up an extremely steep hill). Another feature of the village was a street that had a canopy of colourful umbrellas, very pretty.

After a very full day, a few people had a snooze on the coach back to site and an early relaxing evening was had by most (but a few of us ventured up to the bar for a few drinks). Such an enjoyable day.

Wednesday 12 June:

Awoke to a beautiful, bright and warm morning. After a spot of breakfast, it was off to reception to join an organised 7km walk, led by Elodie the campsite owner's daughter. The walk took us through parts of the countryside which you would not have seen if you had been driving, past pretty houses and some stunning views,

with a surprise half way round for a comfort break. We were met by Florian, another family member, who provided refreshments and a trip back in the car if anyone wanted to. A great few hour of walking, time for a snooze.

At 7:30pm, it was time for the BBQ, organised by the campsite team. We all congregated in the large marquee by the swimming pool, where we enjoyed a few hours of good food, drink and live music. The evening started with sparkling wine and unlimited carafes of wine, then the site introduced the waiting staff and the duo who provided the evenings entertainment.



It was then time for the BBQ to be served, which consisted of a mixed grill of meats (beef, pork and ham), green beans and chips, plus a large chunk of bread. Desert was a kind of pink and white cream slice (again presented with sparklers), followed by coffee. A fun evening was enjoyed by all late into the night with singing and dancing. Think we finally got to bed at 1:30am after enjoying a late night natter with Robert & Bridget outside our Motorhome.



Thursday 13th June:

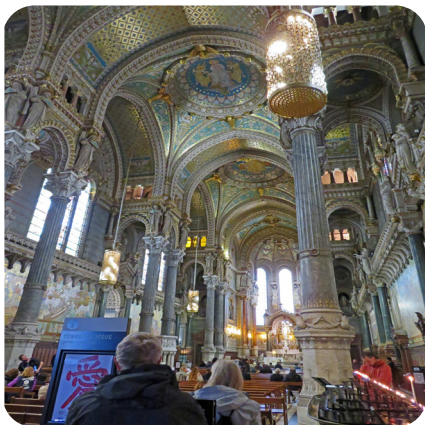
Today was a free day do whatever you want. We had a lay in and a late breakfast, then decided to walk into Les Abrets for some shopping. The walk was a little challenging in places with a steep hill half way (which Marilyn didn't enjoy at all), but we got there and back (with a little help from Ray & Carol, who gave Marilyn a lift back). Next time I will go on my own. After a spot of tea late afternoon, a few of us sat outside Robert & Bridget's unit chatting until it got chilly.



Friday 14th June:

A little damp today and an early start for our day out to the historic city of Lyon. After picking up our guide, the first stop was to the very impressive Basilique Notre Dame de Fourviere, the Catholic Church that looms over the city of Lyon. It can be seen from many vantage points around Lyon and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After re boarding the coach, we had a guided tour explaining the architecture and history of the city then after finally being dropped off by the coach, our guide took us on a walk around the old town. We crossed between streets using connecting passages that also contained entrances to flats. The guide also explained that during the WW2, these passages were very helpful to the French resistance in evading capture or escaping from Nazi troops.



Soon it was time for our meal. We were told the restaurant was a short 10-minute walk away. All I can say is that French 10 minutes are different to ours, as it was a fair old hike. The meal was in a quaint restaurant and consisted of bacon, egg and salad for starters, pork in a mushroom sauce with a potato gratin, followed by a desert of a rhubarb and nut praline tart and coffee to finish. Needless to say, again wine was plentiful with the meal. After the meal, we had a little free time before meeting in a the central square when we then walked to our river trip.

The trip took us up the river, where the guide pointed out places of interest. Sadly for those of us who were sitting downstairs, it was extremely warm being a glass sided area so with the effects of this and the nice meal, quite a few of us missed some of the commentary due to having a snooze. Finally, we took the coach back to the site, but it took longer than expected due extensive roadwork's. We got back at 7:30pm and decided to head to the restaurant for Pizza and a few beers

Saturday 15th June:

After a night of broken sleep caused by heavy and persistent rain, we had a little lay in with a chilled-out day of reading, catching up with TV on iPlayer, before the get together that Ray & Carol were organising for the evening. Around 6:30pm, it was time to get the party started. There was a spread of nibbles and plenty of wine and beer flowed (with soft drinks for those who didn't do those). Ray laid on a music quiz, which we, Nick & Ann won, 19 out of 21, well happy.



Sunday 16th June:

Another free day for chilling, we didn't do much, apart from a trip to the bar in the evening.

Monday 17th June:

We awoke to nice warm weather and a not a too early start, today we were touring the Bugey area. Our coach took us to a nice and pretty vineyard in Vongnes, the Caveau Bugiste, where we had a video presentation on the kind of wines they produced, the history of the region and how the wine got from grape to bottle, followed by wine tasting. This started out an easy task, but after tasting a few wines then passing them on,



sometimes it became difficult to distinguish between one wine and another (well that was our excuse).

Next it was time for a picnic organised by the campsite. Whilst they were setting this up, we visited a nice little chapel just along from the vineyard. On our return, we all sat in a nice rustic barn for a sumptuous picnic of mixed meats, quiche, rice, pizza, coleslaw, gherkins, crisps and crusty bread. For dessert, there was a selection cheeses and fruit, followed by coffee and local liquor. All this was accompanied by a selection of sparkling and still wines (those we had not sampled during the tasting session).

After an enjoyable few hours, with bellies full, we then boarded the coach for a short trip to the stunning and picturesque Barterland lake and finally to an equally stunning Glandieu waterfall. Such a great day, finished by a few of us enjoying a few pints in the campsite bar.



Tuesday 18th June:

Today was extremely hot, 29 C. I decided to walk into Les Abrets to pick up some well needed supplies, whilst Marilyn stayed behind and did some washing. Even though it was extremely hot, it was a nice walk there and back, around 5 miles in total (I believe a few others did the same as well).



The afternoon was chilling time, in and around the swimming pool, as it was so hot for quite a few of us. In the evening, we had BBQ by the Motorhome then sat outside till late in the beautiful warm weather chatting with other until we decided to get an early night (although it was too warm to sleep), ready for an early start the following day.

Wednesday 19th June:

An early start this morning for a full day to visit Vizille & Lake Monteynard, south of Grenoble. From the scenery, we were now really into the Alps region. Our first stop was to the village of Vizille, where we visited the Chateau and museum



that was the birthplace of the French Revolution. We had a guided tour that explained via paintings the story of over a 10-year (and at times a very violent) period. France went from being country ruled by monarchy and noblemen to a republic. Following this we had a short period to visit the stunning gardens of the Chateau that included a large lake.

Sadly we couldn't stay any longer as lunch was calling, by the side of the beautiful Monteynard Lake up in the mountains.

Lunch was a starter of a fish mouse in dill sauce, followed by pork, ratatouille and potato gratin. Desert was a chocolate tart. Again, wine accompanied the meal. Some got coffee after the meal, but sadly not all, as it was time for our boat trip.

Our cruise was on the Monteynard lake, a man-made body of water that feeds a hydroelectric dam at one end. In the bottom of the lake before it was formed, there was a village which is now long submerged. A very pleasant cruise with lots to see. In the evening quite a few of us congregated outside the bar to listen to the live music that was part of the Moules evening (I believe a few partook in enjoying the Moules).

Thursday 20th June:

An extremely wet start to the day, so time for a lie in. It seems as though everyone is starting to pack for our departure tomorrow, but before we go, time for the rally farewell meal in the restaurant. Martine greeted us all and thanked us for staying on the site, it was now time for the farewell, which started with a glass of sparkling wine mixed with a peach cordial, again plenty of carafes of wine (and soft drinks for those who preferred). Starter was Salmon ravioli, followed by a main course of chicken in a champagne sauce, potato gratin and vegetables. Desert was baked Alaska (which was initially presented to a large table at the front and flambéed by Giles), followed by coffee.



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Finally, unbeknown to Ray & Carol, a collection that had taken place was presented as a little thank you from us all, with a card for a fantastic time.

Friday 21st June:

All good things must come to an end with thoughts of further memories to be had in the future. Slowly, members began to depart to their next destinations. Ray & Carol with a few others presented Martine and her team with a gift of a SMOC teddy bear and collection for the staff as a thank you for their hospitality over the past 11 days.

From Marilyn and I, thank you to everyone for making us so welcome on our first S.M.O.C. rally (it won't be our last) and a special big thank you to Ray & Carol for organising a fantastic holiday rally, here's to the next one



Garry & Marilyn Batten - 3540

NEW DEDICATED CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

If you haven't already, don't forget to join up to our clubs new Facebook Group. So far over 85 of our members have signed up but that still leaves a lot that are still to take the plunge.

To join simply scan the QR code below, answer the 3 qualifying membership questions and accept the group rules.



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- * **11 meal** (Inc: breakfast & lunches)

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to secure your place**

Limetrees Newcomers and Taster Rally

Anthony and I arrived on Wednesday afternoon to get everything set up and ready to welcome our 1st time ralliers some who had joined recently and some who were taking up our try before you buy offer.

The campsite is a very tranquil place and beautifully kept, with private dog walks on site which is great for me since I acquired 3 dogs.



On Thursday the first of the ralliers arrived and were parked up. Thursday evening we had the welcome meeting with some snacks and a fun quiz with Lesley and Ian who were here to see what the club is all about getting the most answers correct and so winning a bottle of red wine. Welcome to Lesley and Ian and Elsie and Greg who were also giving us a try and subsequently joined us.

Friday saw some going for a walk which surprisingly ended up at the pub, several members walked into Atherstone and again on the way back found themselves in the pub, The Gate Inn, a quaint, welcoming place to visit. An informal evening gathering outside our Motorhome was enjoyable with everyone getting to know each other.

Saturday was Farmers Market in Atherstone so a good few of us went in and came back laden with goodies. Some stopped off at the pub on the way back! In the afternoon a couple of us braved a cycle ride led by my mum. This took us on a 12 mile circuit taking in Sheepy Magna, climbing the hill up to Orton on the Hill where we had terrific views for miles over the Leicestershire Wolds, then on to Harvey's Cabin for tea then on past the Bilstone Gibbet Post which stands here a reminder that murder does not pay. John Massey brutally

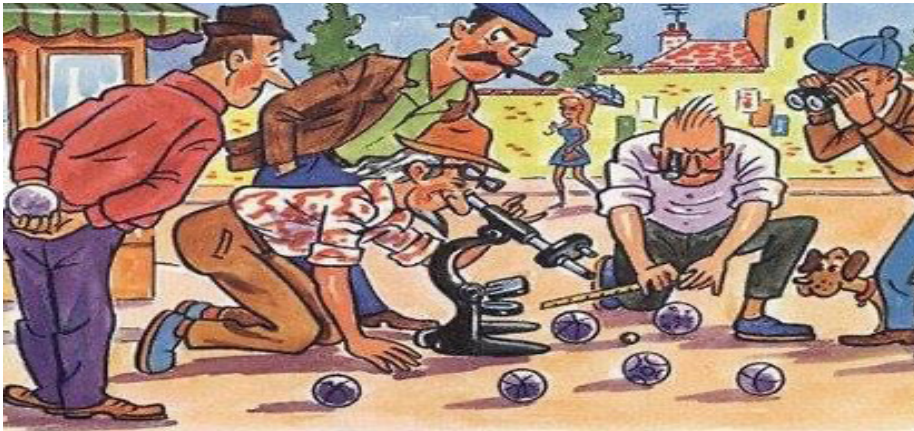


beat his wife and 10 year old daughter and pushed them in the mill stream but the daughter survived and Massey was hung and then transported back to the parish where the murder was committed where his body was chained to the post and left as a grim reminder of what happens to those who commit murder and to prove justice had been done. It was reported that the skeleton still hung there some 17 years later in 1818. We then came back along Watery Lane to Sheepy Magna, Radcliffe Culey and the welcome sight of Limetrees. Some members will know my mother is a mad keen cyclist so she was under strict instructions not too far and not too fast, she did vaguely follow these instructions but we had a lovely ride and she only left us behind once!



Sunday morning we had our usual coffee morning and then later surprise surprise we headed off to the pub for a rather good lunch. Later on nearly everyone went back to the pub to watch the footie on the tv and of course a pint or two. I think the pub will miss us !

Jane Steward - 2981



Bakewell Rally: August 8th – 15th

Bakewell was a known place for Nick and I, as we had both lived within an hour from the town when we were much younger and had also rallied there just after COVID. That's why we were looking forward to visiting again, especially without any COVID restrictions. The fact that there were no showers and toilets available



on site was not going to put us off. The electricity supply was limited, in that a 16-amp supply was shared with others. I just made sure I only had one kitchen appliance on at any time, but some did have issues from time to time.

The site is so close to the town, giving easy access for all via a gentle walk through the site and over the famous padlock bridge. Bakewell had both a cattle/sheep market and a town market during our stay, as well as a good selection of cafes, restaurants and Bakewell Tart/Pudding shops. Buses could be caught from the centre to many of the surrounding towns and villages for those who use public transport. So there was plenty of places to visit and things to do.

The weather on the day of arrival was somewhat damp. I think most of us changed our shoes at least once while setting up. The grass had recently been cut but was longer than your average back lawn. The rally



marshals, Trevor and Sheila warmly welcomed us on to the site and assisted in pitching in the right place so that everyone would have access to the electricity and very thoughtfully, made arrangements for us to have the use of a grass rake for clearing the cut grass from around our van doors. They had also thoughtfully decided to move the welcome meeting to day 2 as there were more vans arriving then, including a number of first time ralliers. This also turned out to be a good move as there was a great improvement in the weather.

Over the days that followed most of us visited local markets at Chesterfield as well as Bakewell, when the town market coincided with the cattle/sheep market. On our previous visit, COVID restrictions meant that there were no visitors allowed in the market, so this was an interesting spectacle for all. Local buses took ralliers to Matlock, Matlock Bath and Buxton to name one or two of the local towns. Visits were made to places such as Chatsworth House, Haddon Hall and Crich Tramway Museum. The Peak Shopping Village at Rowsley, not too far from the site, was visited by ourselves and others. I think that the ice creams Nick and I had were the biggest 2 scoopers that we had ever been served! The Monsal trail or parts of it were covered on foot by many while Barrie, Jane and Ann did a full 17.3 miles on bicycles.



We had all noticed the activity in a nearby meadow on Friday but had no idea what it was all for. Some of us found out early, 6.30am, on Saturday morning, when voices were heard passing the vans nearest to the footpath. Supporters of the Alzheimer's Trust were setting out a 26 mile walk to raise funds for the Charity. Bakewell was very busy all day. We even passed returning walkers, as together with Ray and Carol went out to a pub around 8pm in the evening!



They had all gone by Sunday when we had a raffle with a difference, during our coffee morning. Each van got a prize as numbers were drawn from the bag matching one each van had received in their welcome pack. All the prizes were hidden in wrapping, making it impossible to identify what you had picked and to keep up the suspense, we were told not to open them till all prizes had been awarded. On opening them, there

was far more 'oohs' and 'aahs' heard than would normally be heard on a Sunday morning raffle. Sunday lunch was not formally arranged but by coincidence, several of us had booked to go to the Farmers Feast Sunday Carvery, served at the the café in the Agricultural Society building, which went down very nicely.

With the weather in our favour the following evenings had us all gathering around one of our vans for a chat with our drinks and nibbles, until it got too dark or as on the last evening, too damp.



Tuesday evening was hosted by our Marshals, Trevor and Sheila, who had arranged a fish and chip supper, collected by Sheila and I from a local fish and chip shop. This was followed by a few rounds of Play Your Cards Right. Thoroughly enjoyed by us all, whether we won or not. Those that won a round, were presented with a lottery scratch card, giving them a second chance to win something. Unfortunately, nobody won BIG, though there were one or two successful low value winners.

Over the evenings at the rally we had noticed that at a point each evening the local population of geese took to the skies, so you learnt to cover your head if they were directly overhead. On this particular evening, one goose managed to make a direct hit on one of the played cards! Unfortunately for Sheila she was in the way and got hit too. Sheila and the card were quickly cleaned up and the game continued. Altogether, a really good rally, enjoying all the local area had to offer and the company of our fellow ralliers. So, thank you to Trevor and Sheila for all their time and energy spent in allowing us to sit back and enjoy.

Ann & Nick Halford - 3116

Some old men can still think fast

An elderly man in town had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back. It was properly shaped for swimming, so he fixed it up nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some orange, and lime trees. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he Came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, 'we're not coming out until you leave!' The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked.. Holding the bucket up, he said, 'I'm here to feed the alligator.'

Malvern Show Rally: August 15th – 19th (Part a)

We arrived at Malvern on Thursday to be greeted by Fred and Sylvia, who then showed us to our pitch and said meet and greet would be at 5pm. After getting set up we had a wander around and saw that some of the various food venues were open, so Ray had a Pie and Mash with Baked Beans which he said he enjoyed. We then made our way back to the van to find some more had arrived. As we were getting ready for the meet and it decided to rain, so the meet and greet was postponed until the following day. Friday dawned a lovely sunny day, so off we go



along with hundreds of others to view some of the motorhomes on show, we were nearly tempted but decided we would keep our Swift. We watched some of the Lonestar enactments which we thought might frighten Rupert (dog) but he just sat beside us watching, I was the one who jumped when shots were fired and he didn't move a muscle. After traipsing around some of the stalls we decided it was time

to eat, so it was time to try the Fish and Chips, which were enjoyed. At 5pm we were off to the meet and greet, where Sylvia handed round some delicious biscuits. Fred welcomed everyone introducing the first time ralliers and explained about the raffle which would take place on Sunday morning at 10am, saying that any prizes would be gratefully received. Several of us bought our tickets then. Everyone got to listen to the music for free as our pitches were just across from the Severn Hall. Everyone did as they wanted then all met up again for the raffle.

Ray & Margaret Cannon - 3462

Malvern Show Rally: August 15th – 19th (Part b)

We arrived in Malvern to the usual well signed SMOC signage to tell us where you all are. We arrived and met by the lovely marshals (Fred and Sylvia) who showed us to our place to park. We could not have believed the luck as we were parking outside the Severn Hall which is where all the main evening events take place. So, we had free music on all the night. We could not get tickets to go as we had to bring our dog and he does not like to be left in the MH. The evening entertainment does not accept dogs only the white tent which is always packed full of dogs and their owners. Our little pug Freddy is also diabetic, so we must feed and treat at certain times morning and night.

Next was setting up our 'new' awning! Wait now for the domestics and shouting! This did not happen as I sat down and watched as another fellow person helped and advised Keith on what to do. He has never been so quiet!! It was so funny



watching him do as he was told. We had set up and had a quick snack that we brought from M&S. Had a lovely little walk around then back to the MH for the evening, I started to feel unwell and was really dizzy and headache with feeling of sickness. This was getting worse, and I just could not stop the dizzy feeling and it just got worse. The next thing I remember was been taken to the medical unit at the Wardens show and for me this was telling me I did not feel well. (BEEN A NURSE THIS IS NOT THE DONE THING) They were really good and looked after me so well. They told me that I had food poisoning. No more detail as the rest of the evening/night was not good.

Malvern and us do not seem to have a very good record as the year before we had COVID and were confined to our MH.

We did not go to the local Malvern town due to me not fully feeling up to going out and about. We just went around the show and looked at other motorhomes and we could not find another make that we liked. So sorry to let you all know you are all stuck with us in the Swift motorhome owners club!! We were also particularly good and did not purchase much in the show, so Keith was happy. We like coming to the show as it gives you the opportunity to see what is out there. We attended one of the talks and again they are very informative as they were discussing how to stay safe and what are the best devices and wifi kit, as well as how to ensure that you abide by the countryside guide. We set off on the journey home, after dismantling the awning with no domestic. This is a first and an incredibly happy Keith. For us it was back to work and earn some more pennies, so that we can wonder off again with the motorhome to enjoy the freedom of seeing and going where we like to go.



Next meeting with SMOC will be in Shrewsbury, which is fairly local for us. Happy travels everyone!!

Sue Morgan - 3237

35th Anniversary Rally Salisbury



We travelled down from Derbyshire for the rally, stopping off for one night at the Stratton Arms, Turweston, near Brackley, which we would highly recommend. On arriving at the rally, the weather was glorious, and we had a very warm welcome from our Rally Marshals, Fred & Silv and were presented with a welcome pack and gift to celebrate the clubs 35th Anniversary.

Saturday again was a lovely sunny day, so we had a ride into the New Forest to see the ponies, who looked very well fed. That evening, we all went round to Heather and Andy's motorhome for drinks and nibbles, where we all shared a glass of bubbly to toast the club's anniversary. Also, a small presentation was made to Sally and John, who have been members of the club for many of its 35 years. After the get-together, we went over to the rugby club, just a very short walk away from our vehicles and enjoyed a massive burger and side salad and a few more drinks with everyone.



On Sunday, we gathered for the raffle with some more nibbles before we went off for lunch at the local pub. The raffle raised £78, which wasn't bad for such a small group. Lunch was very enjoyable, with good company, a nice atmosphere and good food and drink, what more could you want. Unfortunately, I had too much to eat, including blue cheese, so I had to spend the rest of the day resting in the motorhome. This meant I missed the evening's entertainment, which involved lots of fun and games in the rugby club, including a quiz, a nonsensical blankety-blank and a whist drive. There was also a 35th Anniversary cake, which was cut by Silv. The room was also decorated with streamers and banners.



I awoke feeling much better on Monday, so we went off to the coast, visiting Boscombe, where we had a nice ice cream and tea and cakes. The

weather, although sunny, was a bit windy. That evening, we gathered around Heather and Andy's, enjoying a chat and a few more drinks before retiring.



On Tuesday, we decided to do a bit of shopping in Andover and visited the local Dobbies for a coffee. That evening, Ann did a lovely spread of nibbles, including lovely mini sausages, pork pie and, sausage rolls, etc. A great time was had by everyone as we sat out

in the warm evening and played the Scissors game, which caught a few people out completely. We also enjoyed some lovely cake and a little more fizz.

Wednesday was a quiet day as we remained by the Motorhome, although others went into Salisbury, took a walk or visited the local Army Air Corps museum. That evening, we enjoyed a wonderful Ploughmans provided and prepared by Fred and Silv. This was followed by a very intense but fun game of boules, although I think we were all playing by different rules. Our team came second, although Greg was certain his team had been cheated out of a win! All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening capped off by many of the group going to enjoy a few drinks in the rugby club,



Thursday was a rainy day, our first bad one of the week, so most stayed local to the site and started to pack things away. We did, however, visit the rugby club that evening to enjoy a farewell drink, especially as many had qualified for a free drink via the rugby club's loyalty card.

We had a lovely rally, a first for us and were made to feel welcome by everyone present. The site was very close to the city, and the bus stops were nearby, although we also had our car, which meant we could go a little further afield. There were showers and toilets on site, and the rugby club staff looked after us well. Many thanks to Fred & Silv and their band of helpers. We hope to see you again soon.

Elsie & Greg Samson - 3602

New Years Eve Rally (29th Dec – 2nd Jan 2025)

Riverside Caravan & Camping Park & Country Club

South Molton, North Devon, EX36 3HQ



Come and celebrate the end of 2025 with us in style next New Year's Eve at the Riverside Caravan and Camping Park & Country Club.

The price of £250 includes 4 nights camping with EHU and entry into the Clubhouse on the evening of the 31st December, plus a fantastic selection of food from their banquet buffet and entertainment.

To secure your place, simply click on the link below and remember to pay your deposit of £100

(please note that deposits are non-refundable unless we can get someone to take your place)

<https://webcollect.org.uk/smoc/event/riverside-caravan-and-camping-park-country-club-new-year-2025-6-rally>

Foxtail Holiday Park

Chirk, LL14 5DJ

12th - 19th February 2025

Foxtail Holiday Park has breathtaking views on its doorstep and some lovely walks, such as along the Llangollen canal or the Chirk Aqueduct, both of which are part of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and the Llangollen Canal World Heritage site. Plus a short part of the canal, leading through Chirk Bank to Gledrid Bridge is also an Ancient schedule monument in its own right.

Conveniently located within a short distance of many places to eat and drink, you should find something for everyone, from Takeaways, Cafe's and lite Bites and Traditional Pub food, to some of the finest dining in the area.

The towns of Oswestry, Chirk and Wrexham are easily accessible by an hourly bus service nearby. So you can easily explore this lovely area on the English / Welsh border.

Onsite there is a bar serving a range of Draught Beers, Wine, Spirits and bottled drinks (currently open 3-10pm Friday's and Saturday's).

All pitches include EHU, fresh water & grey waste drainage and access to free superfast Wifi throughout the site.

Pitch Fee: £28 / unit per night (inc H/S & EHU)

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

Rally Marshals: Andy & Heather Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 1st January 2025

No arrivals before 12.30pm on any day



Pinecones Caravan & Camping

Kings Lynn, PE31 6WL

12th - 19th March 2025

Established in 2015, Pinecones Caravan & Camping is an award winning site located on the doorstep of the vast Sandringham estate, a private residence of King Charles III. The Sandringham visitor centre is just a 25 minute walk away. Further afield you can walk to Snettisham beach a bird watchers paradise. Or alternatively why not try out one of the many cycling trails, the site hires out bikes.

There are nearby bus stops in Dersingham with routes to Hunstanton and Kings Lynn. The village also hosts two pubs within a short walk, both are dog friendly and a supermarket, takeaway, and coffee shop.

The site, nestled in six acres of pine trees has an onsite bar and shop (please note that opening times may vary)

With its dramatic cliffs, charming seaside towns, starry night skies and miles of golden sandy beaches, The Norfolk Coast AONB is the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing break for couples and families alike.

Explore the wider county and you'll discover stately homes including the palatial splendour of Holkham Hall and the Royal elegance of Sandringham Estate, and historic market towns with café and boutique-lined boulevards.

Pitch Fee: (inc H/S & EHU)

Basic H/S: £27

H/S with picnic hut: £29

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

Rally Marshals: TBC

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 27th January 2025

No arrivals before 1pm on any day



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[SmartBox DUO]

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