



SWIFT

**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**

Newsletter No. 128

Summer 2022

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman : Ian Matthews

Lynwood Villa, Capel Seion, Aberystwyth, SY23 4EE
Tel : 07855 438171 Email : lynwoodrecovery@yahoo.co.uk



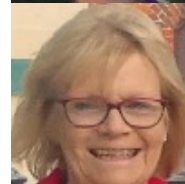
Vice Chairman : Heather Hartell

12 St. Boswells Close, Hailsham, E Sussex, BN27 3WB
Tel : 07887 426453 Email : heather.hartell@btinternet.com



Secretary : Val Dobbin

4 Ranleigh Drive, Newburgh, Lancs, WN8 7NA
Tel : 01257 462433 Email : valdobbin@sky.com



Treasurer : Bob Mason

Capen Hurst, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 7QX
Tel : 01935 851120 Email : bob@bobmason65.plus.com



Rally Secretary : Andy Hartell

12 St. Boswells Close, Hailsham, E Sussex, BN27 3WB
Tel : 07733 222027 Email : smoc.rallysecretary@gmail.com



Newsletter and Website : Ray Collinson

80 Minsthorpe Vale, South Elmsall, West Yorks, WF9 2PQ
Tel : 07876 506744 Email : rcolli4139@aol.com



Membership Secretary : Robert Hubbard

45 Oaklands Drive, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0NW
Tel: 07799 533434 Email:smoc.members.secretary@gmail.com



Regalia Organiser : Marilyn Miland

Peelers, Bayford, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9NR
Tel : 01963 34297 Email:smocregalia@aol.com



NEC Events Organiser : Jane Steward

Walton House, Brigstock, Kettering, Northants, NN14 3HH
Tel : 01536 373269 email : j@janesteward.co.uk



Co-opted Member

Photo Editor : Bill Hoggett

84 Zetland St, Southport, PR9 0RH
Tel : 01704 534129 Email : billhoggett12@googlemail.com



CHAIRMANS CHAT

We are now into our summer season of rallies, with Ambleside and South Cerney just around the corner, both excellent locations. Ambleside is set on lake Windermere, in a beautiful part of the country, and South Cerney steam fair is always a great display of steam power traction engines, vintage vehicles with brilliant stands and shows.

Thanks to Jane, and several members, we apparently enrolled many new members at the Peterborough Warners show earlier this year. Many thanks to Jane & Anthony for setting up a stand and promoting our club, giving up their time at the show to liaise with the public and attract new members, successfully, to the club.

With the absence of the NEC enrolment for some time now, this has been a great achievement, and we all very much appreciate it.

With the ever increasing cost of Caravan and Motorhome sites, along with the extortionate cost of fuel, I hope this will not affect members booking future rallies. Understandably the cost of our leisure pastime has reached a very expensive level, let's hope this is short term!

The club AGM will be fast approaching in September. Any members wishing to be part of the Committee will be most welcome to send in their nominations to the club secretary, details to be found in the Spring issue of the Newsletter.

The club is always actively looking for new sites and locations. If any members have suggestions or recommendations for future rallies, please forward details to the rally secretary. Any information will be much appreciated.

Hope to see you all very soon

Ian

Big Thanks! from the VICE CHAIR

I would like to thank Jane, assisted by Anthony for setting up, organising and running the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club (SMOC) Recruitment Stand at the Peterborough Show. This was Jane's idea, as we had been unable to have a stand at the NEC this February.

It was a new venture, and I'm sure gave Jane some sleepless nights, not knowing if it would be successful or not. The stand had lots of pictures and two photo albums' showing our members enjoying themselves at different rallies, for potential members to see. Jane also had some new badges made with a Swift Motorhome Owners Club design and these were added to the new members pack, a great little addition.

Jane enrolled lots of existing members to help, giving their time across the weekend to encourage new members to join. These included Janet and Peter, Ray and Carol, Sue and Keith, John and Elaine, Ann, Vinny and Karen, plus Andy and I when we finally arrived, but that's another story!

It was wonderful to chat to potential new members about all things motorhome, where we go on rallies, what we do on a rally, although funnily, alcohol and food came up a lot lol.

Some of the new members already had their MoHo, whilst some were waiting on delivery, but they still joined.

There was lots of tea, coffee, and biscuits available too, which helped draw people in and made them feel welcome. It's amazing what a cuppa and a few biscuits can do.

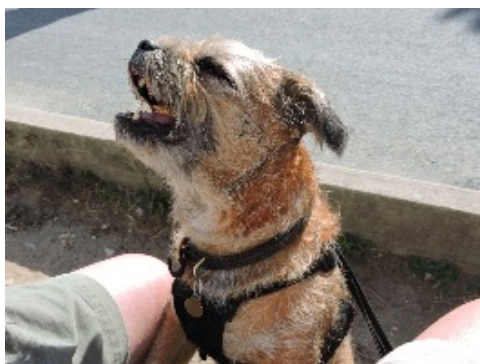
This was a great event with our lovely members making a great team and some hidden talents as salespeople were revealed! It was wonderful to see the support given to the event during the weekend by everyone. It was a brilliant success and I'm sure we'll repeat the event again.

Over the whole weekend and throughout the period the promotional offer ran we signed up 33 new members. So a Big welcome to all our new members, we hope to see you on a rally soon.

Finally, once again, a massive 'thank you' to everyone who helped but especially to Jane and Anthony for all the hard work in putting up and setting up of the stand and taking it down again.

Heather Hartell

EDITORIAL



It is with great sadness that I have to report to members that Bertie Steward is no longer with us. A regular sight at rallies for the last 10 years, he could often be seen chaperoning his owner Jane on her walks around various campsites. At the ripe old age of 112 (in dog years) he had been suffering from the effects of old age for some time. Visits to the vets were becoming more and more frequent and his quality of life was very poor. With a heavy heart, Jane realised that the kindest thing to do in this situation was to let the vet release him from his suffering. We will miss him. He was like a Club Mascot, being seen at the front of many group photos. R.I.P. Bertie



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

South Lytchett Manor, Poole - March 2022

For this rally we set off a day early and had a very pleasant overnight stop, in Wolvercote, at The Trout pub.

They have a large car park alongside the River Thames. We had a very enjoyable meal and the following morning a leisurely walk along the Thames before setting off for Lytchett Minster.

We arrived around 1pm on Wednesday along with three more of our contingent to a lovely welcome from Fred and Silv, followed by a bit of musical pitches. Some of us had to move to enable us to put up our awnings, due to not being able to use the grass to the side of our pitches. In all 26 vans attended the rally so Fred and Silv were kept busy getting us all organised but they got us all sorted in the end!



South Lytchett Manor is a lovely site well laid out with a small shop, just a short walk away is a small farmyard complex with craft shops, chocolate and old fashioned sweetie shop (which I have to say I spent time and money in) and Dylans Cafe.

Fred and Silv hosted a welcome meeting for us all that evening, it was our first rally this year so it was great to see everyone again for a good catch up and to meet the new members and their dogs at their first rally.

On Thursday Anthony and I headed off to Poole as did quite a few others. There was a bus stop close to the site entrance which was handy for those without cars.

Our first stop was Poole Harbour and Poole's historic quayside. Along the quayside there are tall ships, fishing vessels and luxury powerboats as well as miles of walking and cycle paths around this natural harbour.

We found a nice pub for a spot of lunch and then had a wander around Poole before heading back to base.

The weather was not so good on Friday so we had a quiet day, although the sun came out later and Bertie and I went for a nice walk. Friday evening Fred and Silv had organised an evening meal at Dylans Cafe, a short walk from the site. A very enjoyable evening was had.





Corfe Castle and the Model Village were on the agenda for Saturday. The model village shows what Corfe Castle would have looked like prior to its destruction by Oliver Cromwell's troops during the English Civil War. There is a tea room at the Castle Visitor Centre and one at the model village which, if visiting again, would be our preferred watering hole. It is set in the pretty garden which is much nicer than the visitor centre. Corfe village itself is well worth a wander round with some very old cottages and houses.



On Sunday we had the usual Coffee Morning and raffle where there was an abundance of prizes. We then went to the local pub St Peter's Finger which seems a somewhat strange name but written on the wall of the pub by the entrance from the car park is an explanation. According to legend, St Peter caught a fish with a gold coin in its mouth; a thief is said to have a fish hook on his finger; and the inn was formerly a den of thieves.

Lunch was very good and so while Anthony slept it off I went for a bike ride to work it off. Using the cycle lane from directly outside the site I went to Upton Manor and Country Park which is a Grade II* listed Georgian Mansion House set in extensive grounds with cycle/footpaths all around and a botanical Walled Garden.





Monday saw us taking a trip to Swanage which has some interesting old buildings and a Victorian Pier which you can walk along.

For our last night, Fred and Silv had organised a group meal at St Peter's Finger which most of us attended. This was a great fun night with lots of chatter and laughs. It was a really great way for us to end our first rally of the year.

Jane & Anthony Steward





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Sycamore Lakes Rally : Burgh Le Marsh - April 2022

David and I stumbled across this site a couple of years ago when we were wandering around Lincolnshire. It has everything that we desire by way of a rally site; electric hook up, fresh water, waste water and loo emptying a few steps away and a clean toilet block. As a bonus it has four heavily stocked fishing lakes, with Carp weighing over 24lb if you were lucky enough to catch one, a bar and restaurant on site too. We were all parked back against a hawthorn hedge on what used to be a light aircraft landing strip!

The weather for the first few days was a bit unkind to us as the wind seemed to come straight off the polar ice cap. However, we still managed to have our welcome meeting on the Wednesday with everyone well wrapped up. One evening we all managed to get together in Ray and Carol's van, ladies inside and chaps in their nice new pump up porch and on our last evening we tried to get everyone together in our van for a final chat and some liquid refreshment.



Burgh Le Marsh is a lovely ancient village with all the necessary facilities, fish & chip shop, Chinese Takeaway (which serves the best BBQ ribs I have ever tasted and they were only just able to fit in the foil dish they were so huge), three small supermarkets, hairdressers, butchers, church, a couple of windmills an antique shop and 3 pubs - all within a few minutes walk. The nearest pub, Ye Olde Red Lion and was lively, friendly and served good beer.



Also within a few minutes walk was the No.56 bus stop! This took us to some really lovely places, including ancient Spilsby, the birth place of Sir John Franklin. They have a statue of him leaning on an anchor in the market place and also have a theatre which looks more like a Greek temple. Amazing for such a small village, which had loads of interesting independent shops and a small market on Monday.



Further along the bus route is Horncastle which has a wonderful array of antique shops from which Phyllis purchased a couple of crystal wine glasses for very little money. There is a small market on Thursdays and Saturdays. Again most of the shops are independent ones so give a wide variety of goodies to look at and a selection of cafes to provide refreshment.





Just about three stops away is the Gunby Estate, now a National Trust property. Built by the Massingberg family, it was lived in until the 1960s and still looks as if the family are going to come back at any moment. There are formal gardens as well as acres of farmland and woodland to discover. When we were there in some places it would not have been possible to add one daffodil bulb as they were so prolific and even grew out of Pampas grasses. Oddly enough there were holly bushes growing half way up Yew trees too – very curious.



If you stay on the bus it takes you miles through the Lincolnshire Wolds, visiting a number of delightful small villages before finally arriving in Lincoln, which is always a treat.

Also in the area (at RAF Coningsby) is The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Unfortunately the No. 56 does not go there, but with a change at Horncastle it was possible to get as far as Coningsby Village. The 'Flight' presently consists of twelve aircraft:- 6 Spitfires, 2 Hurricanes, Lancaster, Dakota, and 2 Chipmunks. They are operated by the Royal Air Force and have been based at RAF Coningsby since 1976. Those members who had cars visited and we put it on our list to get there next time.



Lancaster PA474. Out of 6,377 that were built, this is one of only 2 that remain in airworthy condition



*Douglas Dakota ZA947
Used in WW2 to fly wounded soldiers from a temporary airstrip on the beach in Normandy, France*

The previous trips were all inland but the campsite is just a few miles from the coast and the traditional seaside resort of Skegness. Unlike many British resorts, it is still very busy and very clean. There are no empty shops and the funfair is packed with rides and there is a lovely promenade that stretches for miles. There are also plenty of places to eat, as long as you like Fish & Chips



All in all, this is a great part of the world to visit. There is so much to see and do, and if you like walking then there are a number of walks direct from the site, which are mostly flat.

Marilyn & David Miland

A Warm SMOC Welcome to our New Members.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Rallies

David & Helen Mooney, Cornwall 3414
Nardine & Darren, Cheltenham 3415
Lester & Julie Rope/Clarke Kirkby In Ashfield 3416
Malcolm & Amanda + Ryan Allison, Workington 3417
Gwen & Alister Smith, Shrewsbury 3418
Kevin & Marilyn Murphy, Somerset 3419
Andy & Rachel Peat, Essex 3420
Chris Reed, Northamptonshire 3421
David & Norma Lilly, Castleford, W. Yorkshire 3422
Christine & Stephen Oliver, Littlehampton 3423
Brian & Jenny Wood, Cambridgeshire 3424
Sue Rayner, Dover 3425
Richard Grainge, Northamptonshire 3426
Gwyneth Morritt, Barnsley 3427
Glen Spooner, Essex 3428
David Trotman, Gloucestershire 3429
Michael & Frances Doxey, Doncaster 3430
Brian & Carol Burns, Lincolnshire 3431
Philip & Paula Huntley, Lincolnshire 3432
Mark & Jacki Bassant, Kent 3433
Richard & Christine Glen, Sleaford 3434
Lindsey & Geoff Ransley/Parker, Rushden 3435
Richard & Janelia Appleton, Northamptonshire 3436
Andrew & Helen Harley, Leicestershire 3437
Kevin & Karen Turner, Kent 3438
Sophie & Dave Reece / Boneham, Nuneaton 3439
Richard & Alison Glaysher, Borehamwood 3440
Colin & Heather Loble, Nantwich 3441
Dave & Shirley Atkinson, Retford 3442
Paula & Michael Jenart, Spalding 3443
Warren & Kim Reeder/ Newland, Kent 3444
Aaron & Julie Green, Bedfordshire 3445
Ian Rowe, Derbyshire 3446
Beth & Riki Hill, Swindon 3447
Andrew Jessiman, Sleaford 3448
Rob & Carol Butler / Tucker, Chesterfield 3449
John Degrenier-Smith, Luton 3450
Paul & Jennifer Lawson, Cannock 3451
Angela & Paul Jennings, Southampton 3452
Allen & Janet Moore, Cambridgeshire 3453
Lisa & Mark Lee, Lincolnshire 3454
Peter & Trudi Letts, Wakefield 3455

FUTURE RALLIES

Western Motorhome Show , Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR136NW

Thurs 18th – Mon 22nd August 2021

This is one of the UK's leading Country & Western weekenders, a must visit event for all Country Music lovers so join 6000+ people at Warners largest camping rally of the year. Enjoy live music each night of your stay with entertainment across 3 venues provided by over 20 bands. Saturday's headline acts are Forever in Blue Jeans, Voice of the Heart, and Texas Gun, please note that is an additional charge at the time of booking.

Get in the spirit of the festival with authentic living history displays, educational workshops and live-action performances based around 19th Century Western America. Several of our members regularly go the whole hog and dress up in authentic western gear, so why not join in as well. You're sure to find something around the many stalls. Also, we are hoping to be able to offer some private line dance tuition to our members so watch this space!

With hundreds of new and used Motorhomes to view and over 200 stalls selling everything from awnings to zip ties there is plenty to while away your time and money!

Booking is via the Warners site, but please make sure you quote Swift MHOC on the drop-down menu for club camping. This will ensure you are with the SMOC group. Also remember to place a rally booking order, with the appropriate payment via BACS on the new online "Members Portal" or alternatively send in your rally slip to the Rally Secretary (details in the front of the newsletter) as well as your applicable rally fee. As usual to ensure we are all pitched together as a club we need a minimum of 10 units so be sure to book early.

Show Camping Fee: For a 4-night stay (Thursday arrival) £68 per unit.
3-night stay (Friday arrival) £65 per unit.

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

Rally Marshals: Heather & Andy Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: 3rd August 2022

No arrivals before 09.00 on any day

AGM Rally 2022, Townsend Touring & Camping Park

Pembridge, Leominster HR6 9HB

Wed 7th – Wed 14th September 2022

<http://www.townsend-farm.co.uk>

Our original venue for this year's AGM rally has let us down, so instead we will be going to Pembridge in Herefordshire. Situated in the northwest of the county the site is within a 15-minute walk of this "jewel in the crown" Black & White village; one of many in this area and boasting 2 pubs, a number of cafés, bars, restaurants and a thriving village hall which will be the venue for our AGM on Saturday 10th September. There are bus stops in the village with routes to Leominster via a number of other Black and White villages, including Eardisland voted the Midlands prettiest village and in the other direction to Hereford, the county town with its majestic cathedral, cider museum and home to the SAS.

The park an award winning 5-star site has fully serviced pitches with EHU, waste and water which are either on grass or hardstanding, 2 coarse fishing lakes, 2 mountain bike trails and an award-winning onsite farm shop and butchery.

Please note that we only have access to 8 hardstanding pitches and the remainder will be on grass, so please remember to book early if you want to secure a hardstanding pitch.

Pitch Fee: £26 per unit / night on hardstanding fully serviced pitch

£25 per unit / night on grass fully serviced pitch

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

Rally Marshals: Val & Dave Dobbin

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 1st August 2022

No arrivals before 1pm



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Season Finale Motorhome Show, Lincoln Showground, LN2 2NA

Thursday 22nd – Monday 26th September 2022

www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows

Our final Warners show of 2022 is one not to be missed with its proximity to the historic City of Lincoln, over 5,000 plus campers and a great line up of entertainment, which this year includes the popular “Moondogs” The Stones, Andy Ska and the Yourhythmics and headlining on Saturday night, Bobby Davro, the Manfreds and One Step Behind.

Away from the entertainment there are more than 200 exhibitors selling everything we may or may not need (but still buy!) Whilst browsing you can enjoy the daytime entertainment, or you may even be buzzed by a Spitfire or Lancaster bomber if you're lucky!

A continuous shuttle bus service will operate to Lincoln on Saturday between 9am - 5:00pm and tickets can be bought at the show from the information office. They are £4 per adult.

The showground is situated just 5 miles north of Lincoln city centre on the A15 and is easily reached from the A1, A57 and A46 and then following the signs to the showground or The Motorhome Show.

Booking is via the Warners site but please make sure you quote Swift MHOC on the drop-down menu for club camping as this will ensure you are with the SMOG group. Also please remember to book the rally with us, either via the “Members Portal” or by sending in your rally slip to the Rally Secretary (details on the front of the newsletter) and don't forget to include your £1 per person rally fee.

As usual for these events we need to have a minimum of 10 units to ensure we are together as a club so please ensure you book well ahead of the closure date below.

Show Camping Fee: 4-night stay (Thursday arrival) £73 per unit
3-night stay (Friday arrival) £70 per unit.

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

Rally Marshals: Robert & Bridget Hubbard

Closing Date for bookings: 7th September 2022

No arrivals before 09.00 on any day

Harford Bridge Holiday Park, Peter Tavy, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9LS

Wed 11th – Wed 18th October 2022

www.harfordbridge.co.uk

This five-star and award-winning family-run holiday park is situated just outside the heritage market town of Tavistock, on the edge of the Dartmoor National Park. Whether you like to explore the highest tors on Dartmoor, bike along the West Devon cycle way, spend a day at the beach or simply indulge in a Devon cream tea, it's all within easy reach of this holiday park.

For a less energetic day out, nearby local visitor attractions include Buckfast Abbey, the Tavistock Heritage & Mining World Heritage Site and Lydford Gorge.

Nearby Tavistock, an ancient stannary town is home to the Devon cream tea and is the only town in Devon to hold World Heritage Status. The town has a fine array of local independent shops, an award-winning farmers market and a unique indoor pannier market. As well as cream teas there are numerous other places to eat out, including gourmet restaurants, pub grub (there is a Wetherspoons!), and fine dining establishments. Buses from outside the park run to Tavistock and Oakhampton, a thriving market town on the northern edge of Dartmoor, which is known as the walking centre of Devon.

Harford Bridge has a shop (open 7 days a week) selling local produce and everyday essentials, a games room, a tennis court and for dog owners an off-lead walking area in the sites tree and

flower reserve. The park is a haven for wildlife, and its resident ducks roam free so beware!

Pitch Fee: £20.50 per unit per night (includes EHU)

Gazebo Fee: £5 per night (FOC if without sides)

2nd Dog Fee: £2.20 per night (*1st dog included in pitch fee above*)

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

Rally Marshals: Dave & Val Dobbin

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 29th August 2022

No arrivals before 1pm on any day

Christmas Rally, Poston Mill, Herefordshire, HR2 0SF

Wednesday 23rd November – Wednesday 30th November 2021

www.postonmill.co.uk

Due to lack of space the full details for this rally can't be included in this Newsletter. They will be in the Autumn edition, but in the meantime you can view them on our website at : www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk/poston-mill-hereford

Our club Christmas Dinner is booked for Saturday 26th November at the Mill Restaurant and the price will be circa £21. Further details will be provided on the "Members Portal" in the booking section for Poston Mill, where you will also be able to make your menu selections. For those members who book rallies via post / email we will contact you to discuss menu options once we receive your completed rally form.

Please note there are only 12 fully services pitches available

Pitch Fees:

Less than 7-night stay

Standard Pitch: £21 per unit per night (includes EHU)

Fully Serviced Pitch: £23 per unit per night (includes EHU)

7-night stay

Standard Pitch: £17.50 per unit per night (includes EHU)

Fully Serviced Pitch: £19.50 per unit per night (includes EHU)

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

Marshals: Heather & Andy Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: Friday 7th October

No arrivals before midday on any day

"MEMBERS PORTAL" – not receiving emails from the Club?

Periodically we send emails out to all members who have registered their email address. These are generally regarding Rallies or Membership renewals or other relevant club events, however it seems that some of our members are not receiving these. So to ensure you are not missing any of these communications could you please regularly check your SPAM or Junk folders and if you find any emails from us, please ensure they are moved to your inbox and the email smocmailbox2019@btinternet.com is added to your contacts.

If you have not yet signed into the portal or haven't previously provided an email address but would like to please contact either the Rally or Membership Secretary (contact details in the front of this newsletter)

Should you need any further information or have any feedback on the "Members Portal", rallies or the club in general please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Committee.

Garden Waste by Les Barker

I'd never had a garden,
So I smiled all summer; watched it grow.
Flowers came and flowers went, With gifts of colour, shape and scent.
And as I watched the seasons turn, I knew I had a lot to learn.
One thought in my young head was placed;
One must not waste one's garden waste.
And so I bought a compost bin, And put my garden waste therein,
In hopes in time it would decay, And so it proved one spring day.
I spread it on my garden so
The mulch would help my garden grow.

And so it proved, for very soon, I found I had to cut and prune.
I cut and pruned and hacked and mowed,
It seemed I had more than I'd sowed!
Still June, it seems impossible;
My compost bin's already full.
I bought a second compost bin, And put my garden waste therein,
In hopes in time it would decay, And so it proved one autumn day.
I spread it on my garden, those two bin fulls;
How my garden grows!

And grow it did, for very soon, I found I had to cut and prune.
The garden waste that I had used,
Made richer soil which thus produced more garden waste.
What can I do?
I filled in one, I filled in two.
I bought a third compost bin, And put my garden waste therein,
In hopes in time it would decay, And so it did one April day.
Bed and lawn, I mulched them both,
And watched in fear for signs of growth.

And grow it did, for very soon, I found I had to cut and prune....
....And hack and strim and mow and chop, Another bloody bumper crop!
A vintage year for garden waste, And soon the problem must be faced.
I make a start: I fill bins one and two and three,
The work goes on!

For I have cut and gathered in, Enough to fill another bin!
I went and bought bin number four. I will not do this any more....

I go out every evening late; I sneak out through my garden gate,
I lay my treasure down instead, On someone else's flowerbed.
And having thus enriched their loam, I steal their slugs and take them home.
I see their gardens, how they grow!
I look at mine and does it? No.
I watch them toil, I watch them weep.....
.....I close my eyes and go to sleep.



**The following Committee posts need to be filled at the next AGM
and nominees duly elected.**

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chairman, Rally Secretary,
Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster,
Regalia Organiser, Social Secretary

Post :

Nominee : Memb. No:

Signature :

Proposer : Memb. No:

Signature :

Seconder : Memb. No :

Signature :

Please send completed forms to :

**Val Dobbin, Swift Motorhomes Owners Club,
4 Ranleigh Drive, Newburgh, Lancs, WN8 7NA**

www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk

The Secretary must receive nominations for election to the Management Committee no later than 6th August 2022. I am quite happy for nominations to be emailed to me, but they must be followed up with form and signatures at the AGM. All nominations must be signed by the Proposer, Seconder and Nominee.

Peterborough Show and the SMOC Recruitment Stand

On the Wednesday, Anthony and I arrived at the Showground with a fully laden van towing a fully laden car! The reason for this was that the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club was having its first independent stand at a show - and we had all the equipment on board that we thought we would need.

The weather was kind to us and we were the first exhibitors to arrive in our area so that made it easy for us to get unloaded and get the tent up. This was the first challenge, but some lovely burly young men came across to assist me and it was soon in position.

We then went to the main speedway circuit (where SMOC is always allocated their camping pitches) and put up the flags and signs ready for members to arrive tomorrow.



We set up the stand display on Thursday morning, ready for the short opening for campers in the afternoon. I then went back to park our members and Anthony went to man the stand, soon to be joined by Ray and Carol and they signed up the first two new members.

Friday again was sunny but very windy, but as soon as the stand opened we had people interested in joining and members dropping in for a cuppa.

We were soon busy joining up new members and the trend continued over the weekend.

We signed up lots of new members, some of whom came and joined us at the Welcome Meeting on Friday evening and the Coffee Morning and Raffle on Sunday.

The stand was manned entirely by club volunteers and it was because of them that the enterprise was a huge success. We all had great fun and lots of laughs.



**Everyone who helped also had plenty of time to look around the show, but I'm sure helping on the stand helped keep pounds in pockets!
Very many thanks to all who helped.**

Jane & Anthony



Bucklers Hard - My First SMOC Rally

Hi everyone, I've just been to my first rally with SMOC at Bucklers Hard. Being a lone camper and having only joined SMOC at The National Motorhome Show at Peterborough, I did wonder how I would fit in. On arrival I was met by Rally Marshals Fred and Silvia and invited to the Welcome Meet. Although it was raining when I arrived Fred was in t-shirt and shorts and must have done a sun dance as it cleared up and the sun came out for the next few days (interspersed with some heavy showers in the late afternoon).

At 5pm there were 8 vans and we all met up for a Welcome Meeting and were introduced. It was a very close friendly atmosphere that you get with small groups of people that enjoy motorhoming. Fred produced wine and beer while Silvia brought out hot sausage rolls as we all got to know each other sitting around talking. I instantly felt accepted.

Later there was a tap on the door and I was invited to an impromptu get together that lasted till dark. On Wednesday night a fantastic thunderstorm, the sheet lightening was impressive. My neighbours, Stephen and Christine were also first timers, having joined at Peterborough as well. The site itself was great, a quiet field right next door to the Bucklers Hard village and museum with its attractions including a great little coffee shop. It seemed like we were camping in their back garden it was so close.

I can't wait for the next rally, which is after the lucky Motorhomers get back from France and their European Rally.

by Ian Rowe



Fred & Silvia - Rally Marshals

Bucklers Hard Rally Report - May 2022

Anthony and I took my Mum with us to the Bucklers Hard rally. We set off a day early and stopped off at The Trout Inn at Wolvercote, where we met up with Ann and the four of us had a lovely meal. The pub is on the side of the Thames and so Ann and I went for a walk with her dogs Nellie and Lottie along the water meadows almost to Oxford and back. It seems very strange not having Bertie with us after 14 years of motorhoming with him.

We then had a straight forward run to Bucklers Hard arriving to a great welcome once more from Fred and Silv. We had just got parked up and semi organised when the heavens opened but it didn't last long. This is a back to basics rally site but set in a lovely quiet meadow which felt a bit like home from home with a mare and foal next door. We are awaiting the arrival of our mare's foal; hopefully it will arrive before we go to France.

Bucklers Hard is a somewhat strange name for a place but possibly originates from the Buckle family who used the hard (gravel type area) on the Beaulieu River as a landing place.

Mum is an avid cyclist and so after an interesting morning looking around Bucklers Hard Village and museum, with tea and cake at the cafe, she took me on a short (in her view) bike ride. Off she went full chat with me in tow. There are lots of tracks through the forest and over the heath and I suggested we take one of them so we then had a more leisurely ride and met a lot of ponies and some longhorn cattle. It also cut a huge corner off her proposed ride! We then had a short section back on the road before taking a bike route back to the campsite arriving just before the rain.



Wednesday was a day packed with non bike activities! We went to Beaulieu Palace and gardens in the morning. It is sited within the Motor Museum complex and if you gift aid your tickets you get an annual pass, so this is what we did. They cost £25 each. The Palace was most interesting and really has a homely feel to it with lots of family photos and memorabilia on show, the kitchen with its original servants bells is a good illustration of how many rooms there are and the number of staff they had to run the place.



Wednesday night brought a lightning show and thunderstorms which rivaled the ones we had at the Bakewell rally, but Thursday was clear and sunny so off mum went on her bike for another short ride! She went to just through Lyndhurst to Emery Down and back. Meanwhile Anthony and I met up with some family who live in the area and had a meal at The Royal Oak at Hilltop a few miles up the road. We then had a wander around Beaulieu which is a characterful little town with some nice gift shops and several donkeys wandering round. We got back to the site in time for the coffee and raffle at 5pm so it was more of a drinks and raffle do. All three of us won a prize! Thanks to Fred and Silv for putting on two lovely evenings.



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On Friday morning it was raining so we utilised our ticket to the Motor Museum and spent several hours wandering round and having a good lunch. Mum took my brother David and I to Beaulieu back around 1967 when it was just a small collection of cars belonging to the then Lord Montagu displayed in the entrance hall of the Palace Hall as a tribute to his father. It is quite a difference now instead of 10 minutes it takes the best part of a day to look around.

Saturday was a sunny day, if a little cool in the wind, so more bike avoidance tactics were employed. Firstly, by going on the river cruise which was very pleasant. Then off in the car for pub lunch. Afterwards we took a drive down to the lookouts on Thorns Beach, which is also part of the Nature Reserve, and had a pleasant walk and a good view of the sailing boats across at the Isle of Wight and the Needles.

We really enjoyed our time here as although it is very basic it was quiet but also close to lots of things to see and do. Thinking now of all the jobs we have to do when we get home.



There are some calves that have been born while we were away so we have to fetch them in to tag and get registered. Hopefully the mare will have foaled and she can come home before we leave for France.

by Jane Steward



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