



SWIFT

**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**



Newsletter No 132 - Summer 2023



Greenfields

Dedicated servicing and repairs
at our workshop In Camberley Surrey

MOTORHOME SERVICE CENTRE

- Repairs
- Habitation
- Installations
- Van washing
- Engine servicing
- Swift approved
- NCC Approved workshop

Warranty or non warranty

CALL NOW

MORE INFO 
01344 231153

www.caravan-service.co.uk



SWIFT

Quality
servicing

Discount for Swift Motorhomes
Owners' Club Members

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson : Heather Hartell

12 St. Boswells Close, Hailsham, E Sussex, BN27 3WB

Tel: 07887426453 email: h.hartell@btinternet.com



Vice Chairman : Bridget Hubbard

45 Oaklands Drive, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0NW

Tel: 07485425925 email: bm25hubbard@gmail.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

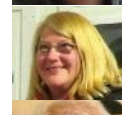
12 St. Boswells Close, Hailsham, E Sussex, BN27 3WB

Tel: 07733222027 email: smoc.rallysecretary@gmail.com



Newsletter and Website : Heather Hartell (Chairperson)

Tel: 07887426453 email: heather.hartell@btinternet.com



Membership Secretary : Robert Hubbard

45 Oaklands Drive, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0NW

Tel: 07799533434 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 Members

Ray Collinson

80 Minsthorpe Vale, South Elmsall, West Yorks, WF9 2PQ

Tel: 07876506744 email: rcolli4139@aol.com



Keith Morgan

Gwel yr Afon, Penrhyncoch, Aberystwyth, SY233EE

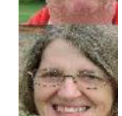
Tel: 07890542297 email: Keithmorgan913@hotmail.com



Ann Halford

30 Bean Oak Rd, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 1RL

Tel: 07980453293 email: annhalford@msn.com



2023 SMOC RALLY PROGRAMME

<u>Feb</u>	14 th - 21 st	Wyton Lakes, (Wyton, PE28 2AA)
<u>March</u>	9 th - 16 th	Harrogate Caravan Park, (Harrogate, HG2 8NZ)
	29 th - Apr 5 th	Swift Group Rally and Factory Tour Driffeld Showground (Driffield, YO25 9FB)
<u>April</u>	20 th - 24 th	National Motorhome Show (Peterborough, PE2 6XE)
<u>May</u>	10 th - 17 th	Briarfields Touring Park (Cheltenham, GL51 0SS)
	18 th - 22 nd	The Southern Motorhome Show (Newbury, RG18 9QZ) <i>(Follow on meet – Please book independently)</i>
<u>June</u>	5 th - 23 rd	Overseas Rally (France & Northern Spain) <i>(Details to be finalised in late October)</i>
<u>July</u>	12 th - 19 th	Minehead Rugby Club (Minehead TA24 6TR)
	19 th - 24 th	Uphill Marina & Touring Park, (Weston-super-Mare, BS23 4XR) <i>Follow on meet – Please book independently</i>
<u>Aug</u>	6 th - 9 th	Morton Hall Caravan & Camping, (Edinburgh, EH16 6TJ) <i>(Meet only – Please book independently)</i>
	9 th - 16 th	Alnwick Rugby Club (Alnwick, NE66 1BE)
	17 th - 21 st	Malvern Country & Western Show (WR13 6NW)
<u>Sept</u>	1st - 4th	Truckfest, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN) <i>(Meet only – Please book independently)</i>
	13 th – 20 th	AGM Rally, Rutland Caravan & Camping Park (Greetham, LE15 7FN)
	21 st - 25 th	Lincoln Motorhome Show (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)
<u>Oct</u>	10 th - 17 th	Cardiff Caravan & Camping Park (Cardiff, CF11 9XR)
<u>Nov</u>	22 nd - 29 th	Thorntons Holt Camping Park, (Stragglethorpe, NG12 2JZ)

CHAIRPERSON'S CHAT

Well, I can't quite believe we are in July, where has the time gone. For those that have been out in their motorhomes on the various club rallies here and abroad, I hope you have enjoyed yourselves. Many of us have tales to tell from our delightful France trip, look out for the report in the next newsletter.

I wish to welcome all new members to the SMOC family, please come and try a rally with us and enjoy the companionship of fellow motorhomers in some great places throughout the UK and abroad. All upcoming rallies are in this newsletter, along with details on how to book. Take a look at the rally reports in this edition and see what we get up to.

In September we have our AGM, which this year will be held in the county of Rutland (England's smallest). Please come along and meet the committee and have your say, after all it's your club. Each year every committee member has to seek re-election so if you fancy a go, please fill in a form (copy in this newsletter) and indicate which position you would like and send it via email or post to Val Dobbin our Club Secretary. One key position that is currently available is that of Newsletter Editor & Webmaster so dust off that "typewriter" and put your name forward if you want to have a go.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those lovely members who offer their time and effort to Marshal rallies, this year this includes Nick & Ann, Jane & Anthony, Ann Jones, Robert & Bridget, Fred & Silv, Val & Dave and Marilyn & David; each marshal brings their own brand of experience to each rally and provide some lovely food, yum. Also thanks to all of you who help with the raffles, write rally reports, and donate wonderful prizes.

Finally I would like to thank the Committee who volunteer their time in the background, often unseen, ensuring that the club and its activities run successfully for each and every member.

Don't forget to join us on a rally and if you happen to see Andy or I sitting outside our motorhome, please don't hesitate to join us for a drink or two!

Best Regards

Heather (Chairperson)

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the summer edition of the newsletter which is slightly later than usual owing to our being away in France, throughout the whole month of June. The France rally was very enjoyable and although not as hot as last year at least the motorhomes were bearable at night.

We are still on the lookout for someone to take on the role of Newsletter Editor as doing this as well as my Rally Secretary role can get a bit like working for a living, although that said it does keep me out of mischief! Alternatively if you fancy a go at the role of Rally Secretary, some fresh ideas are always welcome, please let either Heather or I know or simply complete the nomination form in this newsletter.

I cannot believe that we are already beyond the halfway point in the year and by the time you read this we will have had seven rallies so far with another six to go. The ones now available to book are the AGM at Rutland, although you will need to hurry as the closing date is 9th August. This is followed by the Lincoln show which is always a favourite and then Cardiff, we are right next to the city, and finally closing out the year, the Christmas rally at Thorntons Holt, Stragglethorpe.

It would seem that our booking system on the “Members Portal” is now being used by almost everyone for rallies and membership renewals, however we have just one request, can you please ensure you quote the booking order number on your bank transfer payment as this helps us greatly when it comes to reconciling the payment,

As you read this I will be busy pulling together next years program and as mentioned in the last edition we are looking to revisit some old favourites in what will be our 35th year as a club, so watch this space.

Don't forget to join us on some rallies and see what we are all about, the reports in this edition will give you a flavour. Also if you have any ideas of where we should visit 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 SMOC welcome to our new members
We look forward to seeing you on a rally soon

Dave Smith & Susie Evans-Smith – 3507

Stephen & Yvonne Gunn – 3508

Tracie & Tony Butler – 3509

Tim & Karen Frogg – 3510

John & Sandy Godfrey – 3511

Karina Walker & Brian Sproson – 3512

David Ellis – 3513

Paul & Sally Saunders – 3514

Tony & Sheila Wilkinson – 3515

Alison & Barry Emms – 3516

Fiona & Nigel Hibbert – 3517

Alan & Susie Dyke – 3518

Anita & Steve Crowson – 3519

Jan Skippins & Clare Simms – 3520

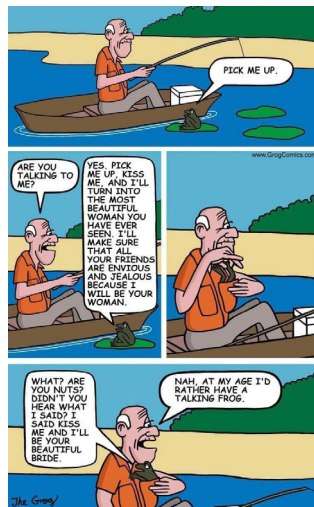
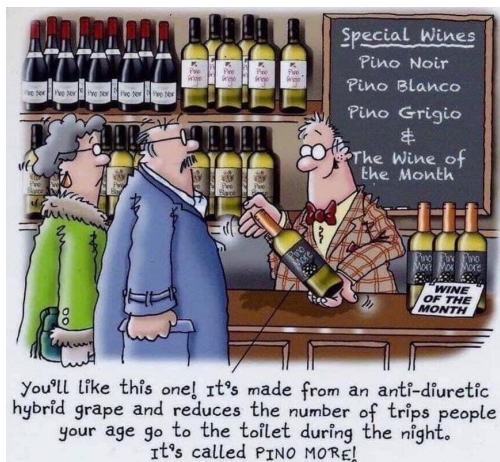
Sarah & Bill Smith – 3521

Mike Borrett & Claire English - 3522

Ian & Carole Murphy – 3523

Andrew Cummings – 3524

Stephen Budd - 3525



Overseas Rally 2023 - France

Having just returned from our French trip I can't thank Andy and Heather enough for their hard work in planning and organising every detail of the trip. Their hard work and effort in making sure we had the best possible experience was truly appreciated. We all had a wonderful time exploring the caves, going on boat trips, visiting local markets, and trying new food together. Who could ever forget all those fresh croissants and batons delivered each morning. And the hilarious moments we shared at Heather & Andy's motorhome when Heather and Ann managed to create some tasty morsels from all that left over French bread, not a bit was wasted. It was lovely that members old and new joined together and had a great time. Its always my aim to make everyone feel welcome and able to join in.

Bridget Deputy Chair - 3177





SWIFT MOTORHOMES

MADE TO MAKE YOU

Smile

2018
APPROVED
DEALER
AWARDS

★★★★★



PROFESSIONAL

OWNER
SATISFACTION
AWARDS
2017
CamperUK
PREMIER SERVICE

CamperUK
PREMIER SERVICE

HIRE | SALES | SERVICE | PARTS

'Lincolnshire's Premier Motorhome Dealership'

T: 01522 411252

WWW.CAMPERUK.CO.UK

New & Used
Vehicle Sales



Workshop



Accessory Shop



Leisure Park



01522 697070 | Camper UK, Deacon Road, Lincoln, LN2 4JB | www.CamperUK.co.uk



camperuk.co.uk



@Camper UK



@Camper_UK



@Camper_UK

LPG Gas for your Motorhome what are your options?

At present the choices are between Calor / Flogas or Refillable LPG, so you have to decide what is best for your circumstances, particularly how do you use your motorhome, mainly off grid or using sites with EHU.

Today most of our rallies are on established sites with EHU but as the cost of energy has risen so much over the last couple of years, sites are charging more for this now. Because of this we are now holding more rallies off grid in the summer months for example on rugby clubs, as well as our usual Warners events and this year the Factory visit rally at Driffield. Fine you say I have solar panels; however you can't cook or heat your van with solar unless you have a powerful inverter, a bank of batteries and lots of solar. However solar will power your heater by using gas, if only for a short time on a dull cold day.

When not on EHU you need gas to ensure you have a cold beer in your fridge or a nicely chilled bottle of wine, or warm your toes from the air vent and cook that English breakfast on a beautiful Sunday morning in the Lake District. Then there's days like we had at Driffield, 5 days of cold dull grey skies, where I used at least one 6 kilo Calor gas tank which was £30 at the local garage. Last year, you could not get 6kg cylinders from Calor and if you could they were £36 to £40.

So that got me thinking about a refillable LPG solution and asking around the club I was not alone with about 25% having some form of refillable LPG set-up. Nationally this may be as high as 30% according to the Caravan & Motorhome Club.

So let's look at the pros and cons of fitting refillable LPG tanks to your Motorhome.

Pros:

- No more lifting heavy bottles around or wrapping you knuckles when changing bottles.
- It's easier to travel off-grid without the fear of the supply running out.
- Travelling in Europe becomes more convenient without empty tanks to dispose of. Also you cannot get Calor in Europe but you can get equivalent cylinders of gas, but you will need adaptors. Whereas LPG pumps are plentiful.

Cons:

- For a full new system including two 6 kilo cylinders will set you back around £650
- You have got to find a fuel station that has these LPG pumps and since more electric cars are coming on stream, less garages have these pumps, particularly as Taxis that used LPG are moving over to electric.

So let's have a closer look at the two main refillable systems.



Gaslow System



Gas-It System

The kits include the following parts to enable a twin cylinder fitment.

- 2 Refillable steel cylinders
- Regulator changeover head
- White or black 70mm filler body with brass bayonet fitting
- Either a 1000mm or 600mm stainless steel or rubber filler hose
- Cylinder to cylinder filler connection
- Two stainless steel or rubber 21.8LHT regulator hoses. (Pigtails)
- LPG Filler mounting bracket:

Note: The filler point body mounts directly to a vehicle exterior panel or skirt.

If you were to go with an option of two 11 kilo tanks this will cost, you between £850 to £900 or more if you had them fitted



One member has their filler in the gas cabinet whereas mine is in the skirt directly below the gas locker.

The Capacities below are for the Gaslow system however the Gas-It system is roughly the same.

- 6kg cylinder
- carries approximately 11.6 litres of LPG at 80% capacity.
- height 465mm to the top of the filler elbow x 246mm diameter
- weight of 8.30kg when empty
- 11kg cylinder
- carries approximately 21 litres of LPG at 80% capacity.
- height 530mm to the top of the filler elbow 302mm diameter
- weight of 12.4kg when empty

If you wish you could fit one 11kg and one 6kg cylinder or if you have a big enough gas locker, two 11 kilos cylinders.

Note:

Gaslow have a single hose that goes from the filler to the first cylinder, then a hose between the two cylinders via a T-junction on the cylinder.

Gas-It have a T-junction that goes to each tank, the T going down to the filler.

Both systems can be altered to be same as each other, although which is the best configuration is debatable.

It is important to remember that even when new the date on the cylinder should be no less than a year old, the date is stamped on the tank. Ten years is the norm, but some are fifteen and after this time the tanks have to be pressure tested, which at current prices costs £90 for each tank. If they are over a year old, they have been on display in the shop for too long, although it's unlikely they will tell you so please check. This applies equally to both new and second-hand cylinders.

Also all the connecting pipes are date stamped, with rubber pipes having a life of 5 years. If they are over the habitation check will pick it up and fail them and advise you to change them asap. Again remember to check when buying new hoses as they too could have been on display for 2 years or more, which mean there's only 3 years of use remaining. The metal braided pipes have a 20-year life, but they do cost 2/3 more. When you buy second hand, always check the date, one seller on Facebook wanted £300 for a 11kg cylinder and hose work, when I pressed her for the date stamp around the rim of the cylinder, she sent a photo of the cylinder which expires in 2024.

There are also two other company that supply refillable systems:

Safefill LPG Gas bottles:

This is the refillable LPG cylinder that was designed specifically to be filled on forecourts. Launched in February 2011 at the NEC and caused quite a stir both with the public and the UK LPG industry. Safefill cylinders are 'user owned', not exchange cylinders and you simply top it up with LPG whenever you need to. They are not fixed in your motorhome like Gaslow or Gas-Itso you have to take-off the main hose and fit an adaptor to fill them.

Cost Approximately: £212.99 for a 10-kilo cylinder.

GasBank:

Refillable gas cylinder for LPG storage used for BBQ, camping, cooking, heating at home, on campervans, caravans, motorhomes, boats, for industrial burners and blowtorches or any application where the standard LPG bottle can be used.

The Cylinder is made from lightweight composite material for durability and high protection demands, net weight of a 11KG cylinder is only 5.51KG. Many Caravan owners have these two systems.

Cost Approximately: £214.99 for a Slim 5kg cylinder



So after much deliberation and research I have just fitted a second hand Gaslow system with two 6kg cylinders and stainless-steel hoses, the hoses have a 20-year life and the cylinders a 9-year warranty.

Fitting both cylinders into my gas locker was easy, I took out all the floor holding clips and straps and then I glued hard foam strips where the cylinders were touching the sides of the locker, I also used the same padding underneath each tank. I then repositioned the straps on the side walls of the locker this gave me a little more storage for my EHU cable and gas & water hoses.

Because I wanted the filler point to be in the skirt of the motorhome I had to make a hole in the leakage vent that lets any leakage of gas out to ground level (propane being heavier than air). The one metre stainless steel hose went through this hole with a rubber grommet protecting the hose. I then got a very good friend with a 69mm hole saw to drill the hole in the skirt and fit the filler underneath the van. Two small notches then had to be filed into the hole with 6 screws, keeping it all in place.

I then attached the pigtails to the regulator hoses and to each cylinder and connected the 600mm hose between the two cylinders, finally fitting the filler hose to number one cylinder. I then re-checked all the connections for leaks using a sprayer filled with washing up liquid, alternatively you can use a proper leak detector. Check everything twice.

Trauma regulators are prone to problems due to re-condensed gas extracting plasticisers from the high-pressure rubber hoses so to help avoid this problem switch off the gas whenever possible. If you are going to fit a system yourself or even just on your existing bottle system always have the regulator above the cylinders and make sure that any hoses haven't got a dip in them so that the liquid gas don't congeal and re-condense over a period time and cause the filters in the regulator to block up, this is more important if you have rubber hoses.

My first outing with the system was at a Warners show at Peterborough, so beforehand I topped up the cylinders at Morrisons in St Ives. I only had to put in 2 ½ litres at a cost of 79.9p a litre, as the tanks came with 1½ tanks full, worth £15! Many Morrison's supermarkets have LPG pumps, as well as some independent garages.

At Peterborough over the 5 days using the fridge, cooking & using the external BBQ point. I used 9½ litres of LPG worth £7.60, so it was a saving of approximately £18 vs my previous Calor system, so far so good.

Robert Hubbard: Membership No 3177

In memory of Christine Oliver
12th April 1954 ~ 17th March 2023

It is with great sadness that we learnt that one of our members, Christine Oliver passed away in March of this year after a short illness. Whilst Christine and her husband Stephen had only started rallying with us in May of last year, they quickly became part of our social group.

Those of us who met her will remember her enthusiasm for motorhoming and her looking forward to her many outings in their new home. We offer Stephen and his family our deepest condolences and our best wishes for the future.



Swift Group Rally
Donations to Macmillan Cancer Support

Following the highly successful Swift Group Rally at Driffield, Swift invited Macmillan to their factory to present them with the cheque from the monies raised during the event, which totalled a brilliant £1,874.

Macmillan were absolutely over the moon with the donation and sent over a special certificate to mark the contribution.



Swift Group Rally, Driffield (29th March to 5th April 2023)

Dave and I had a good journey 2 ½ hours, we unfortunately missed the turning for the showground, so had a tour of Driffield town first. Greeted by a very smiley Robert, (as promised in the rally email) and shown to our pitch. The rally was attended by 4 groups, Swift Motorhomes Owners Club, Swift Owners Club, Bessacarr Owners Club and Sprite Owners Club, all affiliated with the Swift group.

At 5 o'clock it was meet and greet at Robert and Bridget's van, bring own drinks and nibbles provided. The weather was kind and we stayed for over an hour.

Thursday, again the weather was good, so we walked into Driffield. It was market day, good but very small, however, we found a lovely tea shop with china cups and saucers! Some ventured further afield by car, bus and by train. That evening Robert and Bridget had arranged fish and chips for us all in the 'Pavilion' on site, and a good chatty evening was had by everyone.



Friday daytime, we had nothing planned and the weather wasn't very good, however, Carol knocked at the door, she and Ray were going to Whitby in the car and would we like to go with them, yes please. We had a lovely walk round despite the weather, and fish and chips in Trenchers, excellent.



Friday evening was Horse Racing in the pavilion for everyone. What an excellent night, there were 9 races, with up to 8 horses in each race, bets were £1, with all proceeds going to the weekend charity Macmillan Cancer Support, we raised £695.

Saturday was the Swift factory tour. Buses were provided by Swift Group, with the first bus leaving at 09.00. Once at the factory we were shown round in smaller groups so we could all hear the guide, he was very knowledgeable about Swift products, even to the cost of each machine and the date it was installed in the factory.



SWIFT

Discover
peace of
mind.
Escape in
a Swift.



**WEST COUNTRY
MOTORHOMES**

The UK's Premier Dealer

www.wcmh.co.uk

- Specialist finance (subject to status)
- See website for our special offers
- Top px prices for motorhomes, caravans and cars



SALES



SERVICE



ACCESSORIES

Over 200 new and quality used motorhomes in stock

SOMERSET SALES CENTRE

Bristol Road (A38) Brent Knoll,
Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4HG

☎ 01278 761200

WILTSHIRE SALES CENTRE

Turnpike Road, Blunsdon,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN26 7EA

☎ 01793 726666



Unfortunately, no one was working that morning, but his descriptions of the processes were very interesting. The tour ended in their Cafeteria where we could have either tea or coffee, and the loveliest little cakes I have tasted in a long time.



The afternoon saw us all converging on the Pavilion to decorate our tables in the “Last Night of the Proms” theme, boxes and bags of all shapes and sizes arrived, with all manner of things inside. Some really beautiful table settings were produced, especially by our members, not that I could possibly be biased!

We all returned prompt at 7 o’clock, last minute touches to the tables were done before judging, the judge for the evening was the brass band leader. She chose Ann and Nicks table, they were very deserved winners along with their table mates, Carol & Ray Collinson, Tony & Julia Wickham and Ian Rowe, they are now the proud holders, until the next Driffield Rally, of the winners Shield

During the evening we had the game tops and tails for a bottle of whiskey, we all paid £1 and stood with either hands on heads or tails, a coin was flipped, and you stayed standing if you guessed correctly. The winner of the bottle of whiskey was Ann Halford, well done Ann, again. The brass band were fantastic, and everyone had a great night.



Sunday morning was “Flag” in the pavilion. Also known as coffee morning for SMOC members! There was an auction for large items, donated by Swift, including 2 Caravan porch awnings, and a caravan cover. The auction raised £650. This was followed by the raffle which raised £574.

Our own SMOC raffle and get together was at Robert and Bridget's van at 4 o'clock. The sun came out and although not particularly warm it was very pleasant; tickets had been sold by Gwen and Allister and £95 was raised for club funds. Robert gave the results of his last night's quiz, and passed the answers round so we all knew where we had gone wrong. Heather thanked Robert and Bridget for marshalling and everyone else for attending.



Val Dobbin - 3104

A couple of easy to hard Sudoku puzzles to keep you entertained

1	5		2		9			4
	4				6			
				4			6	3
	7					8		6
6								5
2		8					1	
4	6			8				
			6				7	
8			5		1		4	9

	9	1		7				
2		3					5	
			4		2	9		7
		2	8		6			9
9			1		4	6		
1		5	2		7			
	8					5		1
				1		7	6	

Peterborough Show (20th - 24th April 2023)

The 19th April arrived, hubby finished work early and we were set to go to the last Peterborough Warner's show. All packed, food and everything on board and up our drive we went, only problem is we caught our clean water tank pipe on the drive and ripped it off!! After a lot of water left on the main road the question was what to do?? We phoned our dealership, Salop in Shrewsbury and all they could do as it was 4pm was put us up for the night in their car park, with the aim hopefully to repair our problem in the morning. We were only going to stop halfway somewhere anyway. After a very good night's sleep we woke early and Salop took us into the garage at 8.15 am even before they opened. We had a lovely breakfast in the café while they repaired our pipe. They even filled it with water for us. Happy days. Off we set for the last leg to get to Peterborough.



We soon found our group and joined them for a walk around the show as it was open in the afternoon for the people staying. The stall for Swift members had been set up by Jane and the gang, ready for the weekend of getting new members to join and seeing 'old friends' again.

The weather was lovely, dry with occasional showers over the weekend and then we had the usual windy dry days. The member's tent was new, and the bunting was up as well as the usual tea and coffee for keeping us going during the weekend, the new tent looked very good.



The first full open day was on the Friday, and we had a quick walk around the show as there is nothing that we wanted. That 'saying' we all use but in all cases we all know that we never have enough of something. We did a stint in the members tent much to the relief of Keith!! At the members tent no spending!!

The Friday welcome meeting in the evening was well attended with a very warm welcome from Ann, Jane and Anthony, our hosts. Well, what can I say the cakes and spread was out of this world.

A rota was put out for people to help on the members stall and many put their names forward to help that wanted to help. No pressure to help if you did not want too. This is the best bit about the club, nothing is forced on you and you can do what you want. In the evening we went to see the show which was Madness overload, very good and we really enjoyed it. Slept well that night and lovely and quiet here in the showground.



A few motorhomes were being pulled from a boggy part of the showground over the weekend as they had sunk in the wet areas. We were all ok as the ground was fairly firm where we were pitched. The bus was doing its usual run to a local town, but we did not go as we had been before.



Saturday and the usual quick walk around the show and we bought some wind shields for the pull-out awing, see I said we had everything. LOL. Hubby stored it in the garage of the MH. Off we went to help in the members tent, and it was quite a good day, had some really good conversations with people and recruited new people to the group. Got Keith some home-made samosas off one of the stalls and they were out of this world, he usually does not like Indian food but for a change even he enjoyed them. Had a surprise visit from an anonym's person a lovely wind bumble bee. Now called busy bee, she will have to travel with us all the time as a lot of you are aware

I like my bumble bee theme.

We did not go on the shuttle bus which was to Peterborough town as we had been before and Keith was not keen. We had tickets to go to see Abba in the evening and well what a disappointment they were, they were like they had just met and that they could not be bothered to sing. They were all over the place, but we had great company with us and that made up for it.



Sunday and the last day of the show, such a shame but that is how it goes. Will be somewhere else next year, so hopefully a visit to somewhere we have not been before. The raffle and coffee morning came, and the Chair gave a speech and the raffle was done. Did not win anything this time but loads of raffle prizes were won by others.

The spread was lovely again and as you can see in the pictures Jane was holding onto her wine, don't blame her really after setting up and organising the members tent for the weekend. Off to the members stall for the day and see who we can get to join the club.

It was a lovely weekend and great to catch up with everyone. Cooked a lovely Sunday dinner in the motorhome for Keith and then off to the show for the evening, again with great company. This was a much better show than the main event the night before. It was soon time to go back to the motorhome to bed and early rise in the morning to set off for the next leg of our trip to Grimsby to pick up some live fish.

Got home to find the daughter had flooded the utility but she had cleared it up before we got home. Must have been something about water leaking this month as we had three incidents with water.

Looking forward to our next trip wherever that will be with the Swift motorhomes group. The trips are always brilliant and always take you to somewhere where we would not normally visit. Cannot beat this group for been so friendly, so if you have not been with the group yet, you must give it a try and you will soon be going each month.

Sue Morgan - 3237

Brairfields Rally (10th - 17th May 2023)

Well unlike some sites we have visited Briarfield's was a doddle to find, although it would seem our fellow ralliers were better than us in locating it, as many had already set up when we got there. Nick and Ann, our Marshals for the week had adorned their pitch with Coronation regalia in recognition of the Kings coronation only a few days before.



Once we had set up ourselves, we spent some time catching up with old friends and almost missed the start of the meet & greet, although it would have helped if we had listened to the correct time! The get together had some lovely cakes plus tea & coffee, Ann even had a special coronation cake which she duly cut, and we all had a piece or two! As well as providing the refreshments Ann & Nick informed us of the plans for the week, what was on and how to get there. Certainly visits to Gloucester & Cheltenham were on our agenda and we made plans for when we would go. The bus stop was not too far away although as the week went by, we did find out there was one a little closer!

That evening we all trundled over to the pub which although only a Harvester provided a place for us all to have a good chat over a drink.

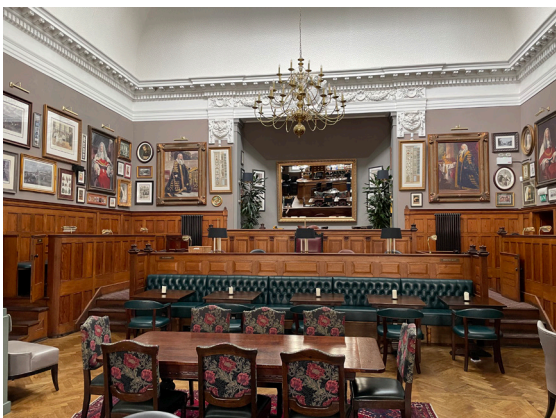
Unfortunately (or should I say fortunately!) Heather & I don't have bus passes, so we duly paid our dues and got on the bus with several fellow ralliers to visit Gloucester. We ambled around the town taking in the activities going on in the town square and then meandering to the cathedral which was closed to the public due to there being a private flower show inside, so much for an open church for all! After this we wandered towards the docks taking in a few shops on the way, it seems Heather & Bridget can't go past a Harrods (charity shop) without calling in! Going past the prison built on the site of Gloucester castle and now closed we arrived at the docks which still has its many wharf buildings, although these are now occupied by those living in the apartments within them, rather than the trade goods of old.

Around the perimeter of the water there were various shops, bars, restaurants, and cafés, and it was in one of these, a Greek café, we parked ourselves for lunch with Robert & Bridget. The little shop the café had adjoining it had every Greek delicacy you could think of and more, tempting maybe but there was always another day. After our lunch and a very fine Greek coffee that certainly woke me up, we continued our exploration returning towards the shops, o' dear! And then on the bus back to Briarfields.



The following day we ventured off to the Regency town of Cheltenham as it was market day, although when we arrived the market was a little subdued and short on wares, perhaps our fellow travellers had beaten us to it. That said Cheltenham again had lots of shops and even a few Harrods to browse around and then we decided it was time for lunch and where better than the Old Courthouse, built between 1869 & 1871 and still with its marble columns and wooden docks intact, although the term being called to the bar has a different connotation these days. That evening we all enjoyed fish and chips which Nick & Ann kindly collected, and we all gathered around their motorhome to enjoy and discuss our adventures so far.

On Saturday Heather & I decided to take a walk with the dogs around GCHQ, which was right next to the site, the perimeter I might add, pity they didn't do tours! The walk, one of many you could do from the site allowed us to stretch our legs but probably was not the best we could have taken, particularly when I later learnt, one walk went to a pub and another a garden centre, both across some fields. That evening we all gathered again and enjoyed some nibbles provided by Nick & Ann and had a thoroughly good evening talking about everything and anything, although some had to resort to blankets as apparently it was cold.





Sunday saw us return to Gloucester with Robert & Bridget to see the Dragon boat race, whilst some of our fellow ralliers went for lunch at the Harvester we visited on the first evening.

The Dragon boat festival is an annual event and it certainly brought in the crowds as the docks were packed. Teams of

up to 10 rowers drawn from organisations and clubs around the area competed in 30-foot-long canoes with carved dragon heads for the prestige of overall winner and raising a lot of money for charity to boot. As well as the racing there was live music and several stalls selling both food and other items. Once again, we planted ourselves outside the Greek café, we had visited only 3 days before and enjoyed another lunch whilst watching the races and enjoying the atmosphere of the day.

Unfortunately for us we had to leave on the Monday and return home, but a number remained at the site for 2 more nights and by all accounts continued to enjoy their time at Briarfields. Many thanks to Nick and Ann for looking after us all throughout the week and providing the opportunity for us to enjoy our time together.

Andy Hartell - 3423





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

This is to advise the membership of the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club that the 33rd Annual General Meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday 16th September at

**Greetham Community Centre,
Greetham LE15 7NG**

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Secretary must receive nominations for election to the Management Committee no later than 5th August 2023. 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. (See Overleaf for Nomination Form)

MOTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA

Motions for inclusion in the Agenda must be received in writing by the Secretary no later than 5th August 2023 and must include the Name and Membership number of the Proposer and Seconder.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE AGENDA, TOGETHER WITH THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023 WILL BE CIRCULATED BY 12th AUGUST 2023

Only full and family members shall have the right to attend, speak, vote and stand for office at the AGM. Associate Members shall have no voting rights.

Val Dobbin - Hon. Secretary



SWIFT

**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**

**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, N.E.C. Events Organiser

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

AGM Rally

Rutland Caravan & Camping Park, Greetham, LE15 7FN

Wed 13th – Wed 20th September 2023

Situated in the heart of Rutland, England's smallest county, the campsite is just a short 10-minute level stroll (via a gravel path) to the village of Greetham. The Village has 2 pubs, a village store and post office, a thriving community centre and regular bus services to Oakham, a lovely town with a good range of shops. Buses also run to Melton Mowbray which has a wide array of visitor attractions.

The site built on limestone is exceptionally well drained and has two heated shower blocks, all fully serviced H/S pitches with EHU and a heated indoor swimming pool (open all year) which is available for a small additional charge. Next to the site at the main entrance is an independent café. The location offers you the opportunity to explore England's smallest county (just 20 miles across) with the motto "Multum in Parvo" which means "Much in Little" The county is renowned for its picturesque villages and towns and also Rutland Water, which is nearby, with its sailing, cycling, fishing, nature reserve and many other activities. In addition below are just some of the other nearby attractions:

Greetham Valley Golf Club, Bernsdale gardens - Geoff Hamilton's TV Garden, Oakham Museum, Rutland Falconry and Owl Centre, Oakham Castle, Rutland Railway Museum, Burghley House, Belton House, Belvoir Castle, Rockingham Castle, Grimsthorpe Castle, National Space Centre,

There are also several local markets nearby in Melton Mowbray (Tuesday/Friday), Oakham (Wednesday/Saturday), Stamford (Friday), Grantham Saturday)

The AGM will be held at the Greetham Community Centre, Great Lane, Greetham, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7NG on Saturday 16th September @ 10.30am.

Please note that EHU pitches are a mix of harstanding and grass and will be allocated as appropriate.



Pitch Fee:

£24 per unit per night (includes EHU)

£21 per unit per night

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

Rally Marshals: Andy & Heather Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 9th August 2023

No arrivals before midday on any day

Lincoln Motorhome Show
Lincoln Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
Thursday 21st – Monday 25th September 2023

Situated near the historic City of Lincoln, our final Warners show of 2023 is one not to be missed, with 5,000 plus campers and a great line up of entertainment, which this year includes Suzi Quatro, Shang a Lang, Little Miss 60s, The Moondogs, and Heart of Glass. Please note that a separate fee is charged for the Saturday night headliners.

Away from the entertainment there are more than 200 exhibitors selling everything we may or may not need (but still seem to 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 £5 per adult.

When booking via the Out and About site, please make sure you quote SMHOC on the drop-down menu for club camping as this ensures that you will be with the club group. Also please remember to book the event on the "Members Portal" and pay your rally fee. Alternatively a rally slip can be sent to the Rally Secretary (details on the front of the newsletter) along with your rally fee payment.

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) £78 per unit

3-night stay (Friday arrival) £75 per unit.

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

Rally Marshals: Robert & Bridget Hubbard

Closing Date for bookings: 6th September 2023

No arrivals before 09.00 on any day



Cardiff Caravan & Camping Park

Cardiff, CF11 9XR

Wed 10th – Wed 17th October 2023

Set in beautiful parkland in the heart of Cardiff this site is within easy walking distance of Cardiff, or you can take the half hourly water taxi from the park into Wales's capital city.

Why not visit some of Cardiff's major attractions by using the cities hop on hop off buses or just take a walk, after all it's a quite compact capital. Attractions include Cardiff castle, an incredibly well preserved and interactive site, or pop along to the market where you will find rows of independent shops and cafes selling local products. Then there is the National Museum which houses some of Europe's finest art collections, Bute Park with its lovely walks and cycle trails, the National Stadium, a must for sports fans or simply just take a boat trip down the Taff or just relax in the restaurants, bars, and cafés of Mermaid Quay.

Further afield you will find Penarth beach, Castle Coch (a gothic castle set in woods) or Caerphilly castle, the biggest in Wales. Whilst in Caerphilly you can even walk up its mountain (a hill really) and take in the Welsh countryside, along with the ocean and city of Cardiff in the distance. Another hill (sorry mountain) providing equally great views yet still less than 30 minutes from the city centre is Garth Mountain. You might even consider having a drink in Wales's most southerly pub on Flat Holm, an island off Cardiff in the Bristol channel, with boat trips from Penarth and Mermaid Quay

Pitch Fees:

Less than 7 night's stay: £30 per unit per night (includes EHU)

7 night's stay – £26.50 per unit per night (includes EHU)

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

Rally Marshals: Marilyn & David Miland

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 29th August 2023

No arrivals before midday on any day



Christmas Rally Thorntons Holt Camping Park

Stragglethorpe, NG12 2JZ

22nd - 29th November 2023

A quiet family Camping Park in the rural hamlet of Stragglethorpe south east 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 will have over 40 market stalls offering gifts, crafts and speciality foods

Just over the road is The Shepherds Pub & Carvery, the venue for our Christmas meal and also the bus stop with a frequent service to West Bridgford and Nottingham (to visit the Christmas Market) & Cotgrave.

Details regarding the Christmas meal and costs will be provided once confirmed with the venue however we anticipate a full 3 course festive menu with the price circa £22 per person.

Pitch Fees:

Less than 7 night's stay: £28 per unit per night (includes EHU)

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

Rally Marshals: Robert & Bridget Hubbard

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 11th October 2023

No arrivals before midday on any day



**Electronic Power Braked
light weight A Frame Specialists**

Tow A Frame

12 Nationwide Install Centres | 24 month Warranty | Award winning USA electronics



**Electronic vacuum assisted braking system
fast, smooth, proportionate pneumatic braking**

Tow A Frame



[SmartBox DUO]

***NEW** for October 2019 TowAFrame in partnership with Tow bar Solutions Wales and Wessex Nissan are pleased to announce our exciting new offer. We can now supply a Brand New Nissan Micra – supplied ReadyToTow with TowAFrame.com system installed & Nissan Wessex Finance options available. View the new Demonstration RTT Nissan Micra in the Atrium area Site E.

KEY BENEFITS

Dual sensing design means our system only brakes when required - No false braking

Hardware proudly designed, manufactured & fully tested in the UK

NCAP standard safety features retained with OEM Crash Management System bar strengthened for dual point towing



Also see our Car Transporter Trailers that feature as standard:- 2 year warranty, galvanised steel chassis, full EU Type Approval, Chassis plate with 17 digit unique VIN, full 13pin electrics, spare wheel, front wheel chocks, slide out captive ramp design. Trailers for smart cars to Jaguars & almost everything in between. Call us for more details!

TowAFrame.com

**T:0333-335-1020
E:Mike@TowAFrame.com**