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**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**

and friends



Newsletter No 144 - Summer 2026



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson : Andy Hartell



Vice Chairperson : Bridget Hubbard



Secretary : Pauline Hayward



Treasurer : Ann Halford



Events Secretary : Heather Hartell



Membership Secretary : Robert Hubbard Newsletter



Editor: Sue Morgan



Regalia Organiser : Keith Morgan



Social Media & Recruitment Officer : Jane Steward



Co-opted Members

Ray Collinson



Geoff Scott



Gwen Smith



Martin Hayward





SWIFT
MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB
and friends

Great People,
Great Places,
One Club
—❤—

Join us for
our 2026-27
events!



Rallies & Events
New Friends
Day Trips
Overseas Adventures
Fun & Laughter

Our 2026 - 2027 Events

2026

OCTOBER	8th - 15th	Harford Bridge (Tavistock, PL19 9LS)
NOVEMBER	18th - 25th	Wyton Lakes Holiday Park (Huntingdon, PE28 2AA)
DEC/ JAN	29th - 2nd	Riverside Caravan & Camping Park (South Molton, EX36 3HQ)



Fantastic rallies
& events



Make new friends
(and bring a friend!)



Explore amazing
locations in the UK
and overseas



Something for everyone
from Weekend breaks to
holiday events

2027

FEBRUARY	10th - 17th	Bath Waterside Marina (Bath, BA1 3JT)
MARCH	9th - 16th	Harrogate Caravan Park (Harrogate, HG2 8NZ)
APRIL	12th - 17th	Stratford on Avon Racecourse (Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 9ES)
MAY	6th - 11th	Roundill Campsite * (Brockenhurst, SO42 7QL)
JUNE	7th - 23rd	Overseas Event - Northern Spain
JULY	15th - 19th	Netley Marsh Steam & Craft Show (Netley Marsh, SO40 7GY)
JULY	19th - 26th	Hereford Rowing Club (Hereford, HR4 0BE)
AUGUST	11th - 18th	Swaffham Rugby Football Club (North Pickenham Road, Swaffham, PE37 7QX)
AUGUST	19th - 23rd	Western Motorhome and Campervan Show (Malvern, WR13 6NW)
SEPTEMBER	8th - 15th	AGM Event - West Midlands Showground (Shrewsbury, SY1 2PF)
SEPTEMBER	16th - 20th	Motorhome & Campervan Show Season Finale * (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)
OCTOBER	6th - 13th	South Lytchett Manor Caravan & Camping Park (Poole, BH16 6JB)
NOVEMBER	17th - 24th	Cardiff Caravan & Camping Park (Cardiff, CF11 9XR)
DECEMBER	6th - 10th	Bruges Christmas Market and Belgian City break (Bruges, 8310)

* Items with an * are TBC (to be confirmed)
More events may be added throughout the year.

www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk



Find us on
Facebook



Follow us on
Instagram

Scan here
to see our
latest events
and join us!



Swift Motorhomes
Owners Club
and Friends
—❤—



Hi everyone,

Following our recent AGM, I wanted to update members on the key decisions agreed by the committee and ratified by those present.

Like many clubs, we have seen membership gradually reduce over recent years, while recruitment has become more challenging. We therefore aim to broaden the club's appeal, support existing members, attract new ones, and return membership to a sustainable level close to 200 units.

The main agreed changes are:

1. Opening membership to owners of non-Swift motorhomes and campervans, while remaining a majority Swift Motorhome / Campervan Owners Club.
2. Amending our logo to include the line "And Friends", with a copy of the new logo attached.
3. Updating our messaging, advertising banners and club business cards so they feel current and welcoming.

The friendliness of our members and the sociable times we enjoy together remain the club's greatest strengths. Marketing helps, but our best ambassadors are our members.

In the next newsletter, you will receive around a dozen new club business cards. Please use them when speaking to friends, fellow campers or people on sites and CLs who show an interest in the club. If someone joins following your recommendation and mentions you when signing up, you will receive a £5 event voucher to use at any rally. Event attendance has also fallen, which can affect both overall social interaction and our finances. In response to feedback, the 2027 pro-programme includes lower priced events, non-bookable options and locations that better reflect where many members live, with a mix of coast, countryside, on-site clubhouses and back-to-basics options.

We also need to appeal to changing leisure habits, including increased interest in campervans, flexibility, active breaks and off-grid options, while keeping the welcoming, sociable club atmosphere that current members value.

We have launched a club Instagram page, which is already attracting interest, and continue to use our Facebook group. Please follow, like and join where you can. We would also like to launch a new website, but need a webmaster to join the committee, so volunteers would be very welcome.

Finally, we have agreed to remove the £1 per person rally/event fee, which is easy to forget and creates extra administration, but currently raises around £500 each year. To replace this income, and because subscriptions have not changed for more than 10 years, membership fees will increase to £25 from 1 January 2027.

This is not intended to introduce routine annual increases, but to recalibrate subscriptions so we can continue supporting the activities members enjoy. I hope these changes have your support and help ensure we can all continue to enjoy the benefits of the club for many years to come.

Kind regards
Andy (Chairman)



Newsletter Editor

As we head into autumn it's the perfect time to get out in the motorhome and enjoy some new adventures. Whether it's a weekend away a favourite campsite or simply finding somewhere new to explore with the club, there is always something special about travelling with the freedom of your home on wheels.

Don't forget to make the most of the last of the warm days, enjoy the beautiful autumn scenery and most importantly the swift MH company of our fellow motorhome friends. Here's to plenty more miles, memories and laughter along the way.

Hopefully our own wheels will be turning soon, once we get our health and C1 sorted. We have missed a year now of travelling and I am sure our MH is starting to feel neglected. It still gets its wash and polish even though the wheels are not turning.

Sue



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.

Obituaries

Esther Scull:



Earlier this year, we sadly learnt of the death of Esther Scull after a short illness. Esther was a real character in the club and I'm sure many of you will have your own memories of her from the many rallies she and Stephen attended. Esther would often be sitting outside her motorhome and would strike up a cheery conversation with anyone who passed by. We have been in contact with Stephen on a few occasions since, and he is still keen to stay in contact with the club and its members. The club donated to the British Heart Foundation in line with the wishes of Stephen and his family.

Paul Lawson:



In early August we learnt of the sudden death of Paul. He and his wife Jennifer were relatively new members of the club, but I know that many of you would have met them and enjoyed their company at the Warners shows, Bath and Minehead, to name but a few. The club sent Jennifer a bouquet on hearing this sad news. Whilst Jennifer has given up motorhoming, her son is going to take on their membership and he has already been to our Malvern event, so some of you will have already met him.



SWIFT MOTORHOMES

TIME TO MAKE YOU

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

Peter & Penolope Simpkins - 3686

Chris Hefforf - 3687

Carole-Anne & Tony Routeledge - 3688

Trevor & Sally Kinson - 3689

Martyn & Lesley David - 3690

Amy & Dennis Hicks - 3691

Rob & Pearl Dean - 3692

Robin & Val Kirwan-Taylor - 3693

Tim & Becky Wall - 3694

Mike & Annette McHugh - 3695

Peter & Carol Connell - 3696

Colin & Sue Bunce - 3697

Neil & Tarnya Farman - 3698

Keith & Anne Parker – 3699



Hurley Riverside Park:

April 2026

A Thames-side April Gathering

Walks, sunshine, history & good company
beside the River Thames

Hurley Riverside Park made a wonderful base for our April event,



offering a riverside setting in the picturesque village of Hurley, between Henley-on-Thames and Marlow. With direct access to the River Thames and the Thames Path, the site was ideal for walkers, river-watchers and anyone simply looking to enjoy the relaxed pace of life in the Thames Valley.



Although the park feels surrounded by lush green countryside, with red kites circling overhead and boats gliding past on the river, it is hard to believe it lies only around an hour from London. The location gave members the chance to enjoy peaceful surroundings while still being close to lively towns, historic landmarks and excellent local amenities.

Exploring Hurley and the Thames Path

There were plenty of walks from the site, including riverside routes



towards Marlow and Henley, as well as shorter circular walks around the village. Several members enjoyed a walk to Marlow along the River Thames, taking in the scenery and the steady movement of river traffic along the way.

Hurley itself added plenty of interest. The village has a long recorded history, with roots reaching back at least as far as the Domesday Book, and reminders of its past can still be found in landmarks such as Hurley Church and Monk's Barn.

Today, that heritage sits comfortably alongside traditional pubs, village shops, riverside walks and a strong sense of community.



Food, Fellowship and Local Flavour

The park shop provided a useful selection of food, drink and household items, while Hurley's high street offered a village shop and two local hostelrys, The Rising Sun and the Olde Bell Hotel, where members enjoyed a lovely lunch outside in the sunshine

A visit to Henley proved popular too, with some members making the most of the shops and local produce. Cheese featured strongly among the purchases, including the famously pungent Stinking Bishop, although not everyone was keen for it to travel back in the motorhome!

Event Highlights

Nick did a wonderful job hosting the welcome gathering, as Ann wouldn't arrive until later, due to a prior commitment. The Sunday morning raffle added to the friendly atmosphere, while the proposed "Henley-style" riverside picnic encouraged everyone to dig out their hampers, blazers and boaters.

The picnic turned into a terrific afternoon beside the riverbank, helped along by sunshine, good company and even a little live guitar music from one of our members. It was exactly the sort of relaxed gathering that makes these events so enjoyable.



There was also plenty of entertainment from our four-legged companions, with some of the dogs thoroughly enjoying a splash and frolic in the river. Paddle boards and dinghies were available nearby, although no one quite felt brave enough to take to the water that way.



Getting Around

For those wishing to explore further afield, local buses could be caught right outside the site, with routes to Henley and Marlow, and onward connections to Maidenhead, Windsor, Reading and Oxford. This made it easy to enjoy the wider area without needing to rely on a car.



Thank You

Our thanks go to hosts Nick and Ann Halford for helping to make the Hurley Riverside Park event such an enjoyable gathering. With its mix of riverside scenery, village history, walks, food, friendship and sunshine, Hurley gave us a memorable April stay beside the Thames.

Andy Hartell



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MOTORHOMES OWNERS CLUB
and friends

*Great People,
 Great Places,
 One Club*

Bath Breakaway: Roman City, Riverside Stay

Bath Waterside & Marina and Caravan Park • Bath BA1 3JT
 10 – 17 February 2027

Swap the everyday for a refreshing week beside the River Avon, with graceful Georgian streets, famous Roman heritage, riverside walks and plenty of relaxed winter exploring right on your doorstep.

Why come?

Bath brings together wellness, history, culture and great food in one compact, walkable city. Wander past elegant Georgian architecture, discover independent shops and boutiques, enjoy live entertainment, or simply soak up the atmosphere of this UNESCO World Heritage city.

Adventure is easy to find:

paddle along the River Avon, follow in the footsteps of Bridgerton filming locations, browse the city centre, explore the Roman Baths, or unwind in the rooftop pool at Thermae Bath Spa.

Your base:

Bath Waterside & Marina and Caravan Park sits beside the River Avon, just two miles from the city centre. Stroll or cycle along the towpath, hop on the park-and-ride, and enjoy a peaceful riverside setting with canal-side pubs and wildlife close by.



Each of the 88 hardstanding pitches includes free Wi-Fi, 16 amp electric and a television connection point, giving you everything you need for a comfortable winter getaway.



*Book your place now
 and enjoy a memorable week
 in one of Britain's most
 beautiful cities.*



*Scan here
 to book your
 place!*

<https://weboconnect.org.uk/smod/event/bath-waterside-marina-event>



EVENT BOOKING PROCESS

Please complete the event booking process below. This really helps us to know who is going.

- 1 Select all nights you will attend. The pitch fee will show as zero because pitch booking and payment must be completed separately via the Bath Marina booking portal: <https://bathcaravanpark.com>
- 2 Then select Add to basket.
- 3 If you are also booking for a guest, do not check out at this stage; wait for the basket pop-up to close, then click Next to complete the Guest Fee payment section.
- 4 Please remember to use your unique system generated Order Number, as the reference when paying by BACS.



*Scan here
 for the Bath Marina
 booking portal*

<https://bathcaravanpark.com>

See you in Bath!

Homestead Lake Park

May 2026

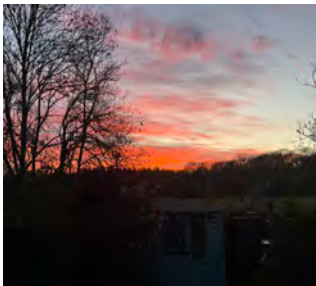
A Weekend of Friendship, Fun and Maritime Heritage

Our recent rally at Homestead Lake Park proved to be a wonderful and relaxing break, blessed with good company, plenty of laughter and opportunities to explore the local area. Set in 25 acres of peaceful Essex country-side and just a short distance from the coast, Homestead Lake Park is an ideal destination for touring and camping. Located near the village of Weeley, the park offers 50 fully serviced hard-standing pitches for motorhomes, caravans and trailer tents, together with a small number of tent pitches.

The park is also pet-friendly and features a large coarse fishing lake stocked with carp, perch, tench and roach, making it a popular destination for anglers and nature lovers alike. We were all on their rally field but were still able to enjoy all their facilities, including their comprehensive onsite camping shop and restaurant.



Our Marshals, Lesley and Mark, looked after us royally throughout our stay. Despite this being their first event as hosts, they took to the role like ducks to water, ensuring everything ran smoothly from start to finish. In true marshal fashion, Mark was even seen touring the field before our arrival, removing goose droppings to make sure everything was spotlessly prepared for members.



The rally began with a friendly meet-and-greet session, allowing everyone to catch up with old friends and welcome new faces. This was followed by a lively bingo afternoon which proved extremely popular. Mark did a sterling job calling the numbers despite having to work with a child's bingo set and its tiny, numbered balls.

Sadly, our Chairman maintained that his tickets must have been faulty, although no evidence could be produced to support his claim!



Members made the most of their stay by exploring the surrounding area. Some enjoyed visits to nearby Clacton-on-Sea, taking in the famous pier and, by all accounts, sampling traditional fish and chips. Others became regular visitors to the local hostelry, The Black Boy, where several members enthusiastically took part in the weekly pub quiz although this was unofficial. Although victory eluded us, the evening was enjoyed by all and provided plenty of good humour and friendly competition.

For those venturing a little further afield, the Suffolk coast offers a wealth of maritime history. A visit to the HMS Ganges Museum provides a fascinating insight into one of Britain's most famous Royal Navy training establishments. Situated on the Shotley Peninsula between the Rivers Orwell and Stour, HMS Ganges trained generations of young sailors from 1905 until its closure in 1976. The establishment became famous for its imposing 143-foot mast, which trainees climbed as part of their seamanship training. Today, the museum preserves the memories, traditions and stories of the thousands who passed through its gates.

Nearby lies the picturesque village of Pin Mill, one of Suffolk's most charming waterside locations. Overlooking the River Orwell is the renowned Butt & Oyster public house, a favourite haunt of sailors, artists and visitors for generations. With its warm welcome, traditional character and stunning estuary views it is the perfect place to pause for refreshment while watching yachts and historic barges pass along the river. The beauty of the Orwell estuary also attracted the celebrated landscape painter John Constable, who visited the area and captured scenes of the river and surrounding countryside in his sketches. Standing on the waterfront at Pin Mill today, it is easy to understand why he found such inspiration here.



All in all, the rally was a tremendous success, combining great company, excellent facilities and plenty to see and do. Our sincere thanks go to Les-ley and Mark for all their hard work, preparation and enthusiasm in making the event such an enjoyable and memorable occasion. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the next event.

Heather Hartell



SWIFT MOTORHOMES OWNERS CLUB

NEW BRANDED CLOTHING RANGE NOW AVAILABLE!

Show your club pride and promote the club with our exclusive range of branded clothing embroidered with the official club logo!

How to Order:

- **Online:** Visit the "Members Portal"
- **Email:** Place your order via email
- **In Person:** Purchase at rallies

Payment Options:

- **BACS or Cheque:** Please quote your system Order Number
 - **Cash:** Pay in person

Important: Some items may run slightly smaller than UK standard sizes. Consider ordering a larger size for the perfect fit!

Get your club gear today and represent Swift Motorhomes Owners Club in style!

For further information, please contact : Keithmorgan913@hotmail.com



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*Great People,
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Harrogate

CARAVAN PARK

Great Yorkshire Showground
Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8NZ



Tuesday 9th – Tuesday 16th March 2027 (7 nights)



Tel: 01423 546145



<https://www.harrogatecaravanpark.co.uk>

A pretty site located on the south side of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, overlooking the beautiful Crimple Valley. The perfect base for exploring Harrogate, York and Leeds plus the wonderful countryside and Dales beyond.



The location means that the site has some fantastic amenities right on the doorstep, including an award winning farm shop and café, Fodder, a local Sainsbury's and a local pub within 10 minutes and a bus stop with routes to Harrogate and Wetherby. Also nearby are the towns of Boroughbridge, Knaresborough, Masham and Pateley Bridge and the medieval city of Ripon.



The Victorian spa town of Harrogate with its thriving streets buzzing with busy shops and eateries is also accessible by foot from the site, albeit a good walk! The town has long been a place where people head to unwind, relax, indulge and feel good. Famous for its cream teas, Turkish baths, and plentiful spas, it's not surprising that everyone from Charles Dickens to European royalty have all flocked to Harrogate to enjoy the waters. As a result, it rightly boasts a reputation as England's classic spa town. Along with this, you can expect to find quaint streets, historic houses, landscaped gardens and so many fun things to do. Alongside the genteel prettiness and relaxing waters, the town is full of great independent shops, glorious antique stores and top-class cosy pubs serving excellent beer.



Pitch Fee:

£34 / unit per night
inc. EHU/Hardstanding



Guests:

£5 per unit per event



Closing Date for bookings:

Monday 1st February 2027

No arrivals before 1pm



*Scan me
to book your
place...*



See you there!

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peace of
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I wish I'd known



Q: What should I do when I receive a reminder email from the Membership Secretary?

A: If this is the 1st or 2nd reminder about your subscription, the process is the same

- Log in to the Members Portal (Webcollect).
- In the right-hand column, check “My recent orders” to see whether an order for your new subscription already exists. This is most likely if you renew in the month after your subscription expires, because the system automatically creates an order on the 1st of that month if none has been created. Always check first to avoid a duplicate order.
- If an order already exists, you should have received a confirmation email when it was created; check your Junk or Spam folder if necessary. Please pay the club using the account details in that email. When making payment, please quote the 7-digit numerical Order number. Our Treasurer will send a confirmation once the payment has been reconciled.
- If no subscription order exists, scroll to “My Subscriptions” in the left-hand column and select the blue “Manage/Renew My Subscriptions” button. Do not select “Buy New Membership Subscription Here” unless your current subscription is promotional; in that case, use the “Buy New Membership Subscription Here” option
- Most members should select the blue “Manage/Renew My Subscriptions” button to open their list of subscriptions.
- Select the blue “Renew” button next to the relevant subscription.
- The subscription order will be added to your basket. You may be asked to update your personal details; use this opportunity to check your postal and email addresses, telephone numbers, and vehicle information, including registration numbers.
- When you are ready, proceed to checkout.
- After checking out, you should then receive a subscription order confirmation email. Check your Junk or Spam folder if it does not appear in your inbox.

- Pay the club using the account details provided in the confirmation email. When making payment, please quote the 7-digit numerical Order number.
- The Treasurer will confirm once your payment has been reconciled. After reconciliation, the Membership Secretary will email confirmation of your subscription, including your membership number and subscription start and end dates.
- Membership cards are no longer issued. You can log in to your personal dashboard at any time to review your subscription status, payments, upcoming club events and bookings, personal details, and GDPR permissions.

Communication, Communication, Communication

We use various means to communicate with all members; these include:

1. **Emails** – We regularly email members with news about upcoming events, club merchandise, changes affecting the club, pre-event information, reminders regarding membership renewal and outstanding payments for membership, events or club merchandise. These emails will generally come from these email addresses:
 - smocmailbox2019@btinternet.com
 - smoc@webcollect.org.uk
 - smoc_chair@icloud.com
 - smoc.members.secretary@gmail.com

Emails from smoc@webcollect.org.uk are sent out quite frequently, usually at least once a week. So if you are not receiving any of these, please make sure you do the following.

- a) Make sure you have the correct email contact details in the “Members Portal” (Webcollect)
- b) Check your Spam or Junk folder, as the emails may have ended up there
- c) Add the addresses above to your contacts list, allow the sender list or mark them as not junk/spam
- d) Should you still not be receiving emails from us, please let us know and we can explore alternative ways of communicating.

2. **Verbal updates at our events**, with news about upcoming events, club merchandise, changes affecting the club, and current event information.
3. **Facebook Group** – Our FB group is a closed group open to club members only. The group is intended to support information sharing about the club and its activities and provide a forum for all members to input ideas and suggestions on any topic relating to the club or motorhoming in general. Or simply providing a vehicle to share what members have been enjoying when out and about on their travels.
 - The FB Group name is: Swift Motorhomes Owners Club (SMOC) - Members Only.
 - To join, you will need to answer 3 simple questions and agree to the group rules. If you have any trouble accessing the group, please let us know and we will send you an electronic link.
 - Please do not confuse this group with the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club group, which is solely an open FB group for owners of Swift Group motorhomes/ Campervans. It is not the official club although it is still a very useful resource for all owners of Swift vehicles.
4. **Instagram Page** – This is an open Instagram page designed to promote the club and its activities and hopefully attract new members. It is, of course, open to all existing members, so please take a look and follow us. The more likes we get for our posts, the better our visibility will be on social media. Just one note of caution: this is an open page, so please do not post about your current activities, but feel free to do so after you return home.
 - The page address is Swift Motorhomes Owners Club (@swiftmoc)

Finally, we have a website, which is currently being updated, as it will be a key part of our marketing activities to promote the club and gain new members. We are still looking for someone to manage the website, which is almost ready to go, so if any members are willing to take on this role, please let us know. Rest assured, we don't need web design skills or content creators; we just need someone to manage it and upload material created by other committee members.

As you can see, there are lots of ways we can communicate with members, so please make sure you check them out and if you need any help accessing them, please let us know. And remember, communication is two-way, so if you have any ideas for event venues, social activities, or suggested changes to the club, please don't hesitate to get In touch. You can reach us via email, phone, or our Facebook Group. A full list of the committee's contact details is available on the "Members Portal" (Webcollect)





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MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB

and friends

Great People
Great Places
One Club

Stratford Racecourse Touring Park

12th - 17th April 2027



Located on the western fringes of Stratford-upon-Avon, Stratford Racecourse Touring Park is a place with spacious and level pitches that are equally well placed for easy race day access or some time wandering around Warwickshire.

Close to the banks of the Avon and set in Shakespearean countryside, Stratford Racecourse Touring Park is only 20 minutes' gentle walk from the thespian tours and treats of central Stratford-upon-Avon. And, with a name like Stratford Racecourse Touring Park, it's a sure bet you'll be near the geegees too.

Scan to book



£28 per pitch
inc EHU

Guest Fee - £5 per unit
per event



All Motorhomes / Campervans Welcome
Whether Swift manufactured or not!

All you need to do is either join the club via the QR code
or come with an existing member as a guest.



Social Events



Great Destinations



Like-minded Friends



Adventure Awaits

Winter-Ready: Preparing Your Motorhome for the Colder Months



As the season closes, a few hours spent preparing our motorhome for storage can prevent winter damage and ensure it is ready for spring. Freezing water, inactive batteries and tyres, damp and pests are the main risks.

Drain Down the Water System

Drain the freshwater system completely: water left in tanks, pipes, pumps, taps or the heater can freeze, crack fittings and cause costly repairs



Open every tap, including the shower, and leave mixer taps centrally positioned so both circuits drain. Remove the shower head so the hose empties fully. Once I overlooked this, and it cost me a new shower mixer tap. I also disconnect the water pump and damper: some members have found that trapped frost cracked the

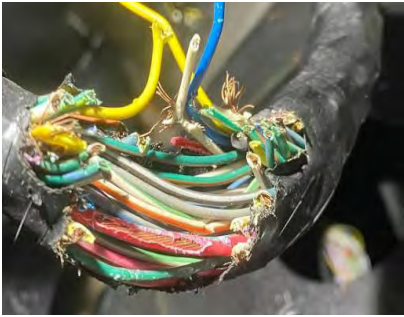
damper when the system was refilled. Also don't forget the toilet flush and outside showers

Empty the freshwater tank, open the heater drain valve and briefly run the pump. Compressed-air systems like Floe can clear residual water. Remove carbon filters, clean strainers, drain hoses and containers, then leave taps and valves open with the pump off. For Alde heating, leave the fluid in place but maintain the recommended antifreeze concentration.

Don't Forget the Waste System

Empty the grey-water tank and, where possible, leave its drain valve open with fine mesh over the outlet. Empty and clean the toilet cassette, lubricate its seals and drain any separate flush-water reservoir.

Keep Unwanted Visitors Away



Remove food and, where possible, soft furnishings; vacuum cupboards and lockers, and wipe away crumbs. Rodents may chew wiring and are also attracted to diesel: some members have had their diesel-tank inlet pipe destroyed by vermin. Check regularly for droppings, nests or gnawing, and use a suitable

deterrent where needed. I personally avoid using a trap as it seems counter intuitive to introduce food when I have just removed it all.

Keep Damp and Mould at Bay

Leave cupboards, wardrobes and lockers open, and keep gas drop-out vents clear. Built-in ventilation is usually safer than open windows or roof lights. After a wet trip, use moisture traps or a dehumidifier, inspect regularly for water ingress, and avoid background heating that may increase humidity.

Give the Interior a Thorough Clean

Remove food and drink, clean surfaces and appliances, and vacuum fabrics. Clean the fridge and leave its door ajar; I also put a container of baking soda inside to absorb odours. Store soft furnishings indoors, or stand cushions upright away from exterior walls



Check Seals and Exterior Condition

Wash the motorhome, including the roof, and clear debris that can trap moisture. Inspect roof lights, windows, doors, hatches and service points for failing seals before they cause water ingress. Prevent rubber seals from sticking with a light dusting of talcum powder or a thin film of silicone grease.

Protect the Base Vehicle

Commercial-vehicle components benefit from regular use. If possible, take an hour-long drive every few weeks on a dry day so the engine, gearbox and brakes reach normal temperature; this also ventilates the motorhome.

Before storage, fill the fuel tank, check coolant antifreeze and winter grade washer fluid, and ensure servicing is up to date

Care for Tyres and Batteries



Inflate and inspect tyres and move the vehicle occasionally to prevent flatspots. Use wheel chocks rather than relying solely on a handbrake that may seize. Maintain starter and leisure batteries with solar or a suitable mains charger, and isolate unnecessary loads.

Secure the Gas System

Close all gas-cylinder valves and, for a refillable LPG system, the isolation valve, following the manufacturer's instructions. Comply with your storage site's rules on cylinders if applicable.

A Few Hours Well Spent

Winterising takes only a little planning yet can prevent expensive damage and lost touring time. Drain the water system, control damp, maintain batteries and deter vermin, and the motorhome should be ready when spring returns.

Of course, the easiest way to keep your vehicle in use over winter is to join us at our events in November, December and February!

Happy winter motorhoming, and here's to another fantastic season ahead!

Andy Hartell et al

Travels with a Club Teddy Bear

A furry-eyed view of our overseas adventure to Provence and the Cotes D'Azur

Hello everyone! It's me, one of your well-traveled club teddy bears, reporting back after a thoroughly splendid overseas adventure in sunny Provence. I may be small enough to fit neatly on a dashboard, but I saw an enormous amount: medieval towns, markets, mountains, turquoise water, vineyards, boats, bicycles, boules, quizzes, good meals, and, best of all, lots of happy club members making memories together.



First Stop: Camping Les Prés Hauts, Sisteron

Our adventure began at Camping Les Prés Hauts near Sisteron, the lovely “Gateway to Provence”. With its dramatic citadel and sweeping views, Sisteron made a fine setting for the start of our holiday . From my teddy sized viewpoint, the cliffs looked especially tall and the scenery seemed perfectly arranged for postcards.

There was plenty to keep everyone smiling. We enjoyed meeting our fellow travelers, and the adventures began almost immediately. A French quiz got us all thinking, some paws were quicker on the answers than others and it was a lovely way to bring everyone together.



One of the highlights was our scenic visit to Forcalquier. We strolled through the historic streets, admired the old town and cathedral, and made our way up to the citadel area to take in the magnificent views. After all that exploring, a very welcome two-course lunch on the outskirts of town restored everyone's energy — even mine,

though I was mostly carried. The day ended in fine Provençal fashion with a visit to Domaine des Bergeries for a vineyard tour, charcuterie and wine tasting. I did not personally sample the wine, being a responsible



teddy bear, but I can confirm there were many contented faces on the return to Sisteron.

Gorges du Verdon & Sainte-Croix Lake

Another big outing took us to Moustiers-Sainte-Marie and the spectacular Gorges du Verdon. We boarded five-seater electric boats and floated between towering cliffs, with turquoise water below and extraordinary views all around. From my seat, it felt like sailing through a giant picture book.

Of course, no adventure is completely without surprises. A few light fingered thieves tried to spoil things for some of our fellow travelers, but they did not succeed in reducing the holiday spirit. The care and good humour of the group shone through, and everyone carried on making the most of the trip.

We also had a lovely cycle ride into the historic town. A few riders temporarily took the scenic route, or, as I prefer to call it, an unscheduled teddy-bear expedition but all became part of the story we will remember with a smile.

Most importantly, friendships were made, strengthened and celebrated. That, to a club teddy bear, is what makes a rally truly special.

On to Camping Tomasses, Toulon:

Our next stop was Camping Tomasses, with Toulon providing another enjoyable change of scene. Members explored the market, some hopped aboard the little train, and others chose a more relaxed approach with a drink or two. I approved of all methods of sightseeing, especially those involving shade and comfy seats.



There was time for the quaint old town, shop-ping, chatting and simply enjoying the rally atmosphere. A breakfast for members brought everyone together again, which is always one of the nicest parts of traveling as a club.

One evening, our resident thespians treated us to a marvelous murder mystery night. There was drama, laughter and just the right amount of suspicion. I kept a close eye on proceedings from a safe distance, as teddy bears make excellent witnesses but very poor detectives.

Camping du Domaine Côte d'Azur, Cogolin

Our final campsite was Camping du Domaine Côte d'Azur at Cogolin, where the Mediterranean mood truly arrived. A fantastic evening meal at the campsite restaurant, with flowing wine and cheerful company, set the tone beautifully.

Then came St Tropez, full of timeless French charm: cobbled streets, colourful houses, lively cafés, chic boutiques and famous beaches. We enjoyed a private boat trip along the coastline, with time for a swim at sea. I stayed dry, of course, wet fur is not my best, look but the swimmers seemed delighted. There was also paddle boarding, which looked wonderfully brave from where I was sitting. Whether on the water, around campsite, or gathered together for a meal, the group spirit remained excellent. Great people really do make a great holiday.



A Big Teddy Thank You

Before I zip myself back into the rally bag, I must say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the holiday so enjoyable. Special thanks go to Donald for organising the boules, Ann for the teas and coffees, all those who helped fellow travelers when needed, and everyone who brought kindness, laughter and friendship to the trip.



From Sisteron's citadel to the waters of the Verdon, from Toulon's market to the sparkle of St Tropez, it was an overseas adventure packed with scenery, stories and smiles. This little club teddy bear came home with tired paws, a full heart and many happy memories.

And now, as I brush the crumbs from my fur and tuck away my little travel memories, I am already looking forward to next year's overseas event in Northern Spain. I have heard whispers of beautiful scenery, wonderful food, lively company and plenty more adventures for a small bear with a big sense of curiosity. If there is room in someone's motorhome, I shall be ready and waiting, passport polished, bags packed, and nose pointed firmly towards Spain

Until the next adventure — keep traveling, keep smiling, and always leave room for a teddy bear on board!



SWIFT

**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**

and friends

Join us at **Roundhill Campsite** New Forest

**6th - 11th
May 2027**



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Netley Marsh Steam and Craft Show

16th to 20th July 2026

We have recently returned from a rather pleasant extended weekend at the Netley Marsh Steam and Craft Show, which took place between Thursday 16th and Monday 20th July 2026.

We left home in rural Cheshire shortly after breakfast on Thursday and headed south via the M6, M42, M40, A34 and then onto the M3 headed towards Southampton, and then the M27 round Southampton and then onto the A326 towards Netley Marsh and then finally followed the useful yellow signs. We arrived at the public camping area at around 2:30 and were directed to the SMOC area by the helpful and attentive marshals.



We were greeted at the SMOC tent by Jane and Barrie Kelly, who were co-marshalling with Jane Steward. Barrie showed us to our pitch on the gently sloping area, requiring levelling ramps on one side of the van. The nice thing about the SMOC camping area was that you could easily see the access road to and from the main show entrance area from the sun canopy of the van, which allowed plenty of sitting in the shade and watching the arrival of assorted vintage and interesting vehicles.

Netley Marsh is Hampshire's largest steam and craft show, originating in 1971, and featuring full size steam engines, miniature steam engines, earth moving demonstrations, classic cars, commercial vehicles, tractors, stationary engines, motorcycles, heavy horses, falconry and ferret displays. As well as the vehicles there was a craft tent, a model tent as well as an excellent selection of food outlets and trade stands selling all the things you never knew you didn't need. There really was something for everyone, even if you weren't interested in motor vehicles.

Thursday evening was an evening for sitting round and catching up with friends.

Friday was a bright sunny day, ideal for walking round the showground and just enjoying the sights as they unfolded.



We enjoyed the motorcycles, from the older vintage machines to more modern speed demons, as they rode round the show ring. Most riders had left their crash hats at home and appeared to be grinning from ear to ear. We then continued round to the smaller display ring, just in time for the falconry where a Harris Hawk was going through a fantastic series of flight manoeuvres for the rewards the trainer was using. This was a shortened display due to the warm weather.

Cheers Colin and Heather





SWIFT
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Overseas Rally

NORTHERN SPAIN

7th - 23rd June 2027

*Spectacular landscapes...
historic towns...
amazing food & wine...
unforgettable memories!*

Join an unforgettable Swift Motorhomes Owners' Club adventure through northern Spain, discovering the spectacular Basque Country, Cantabria, Asturias and Galicia.

From beautiful coastal towns and vibrant cities to dramatic mountain landscapes, vineyards and historic villages, this rally offers a wonderful mix of organised excursions and relaxing free time.



Bilbao & the Guggenheim Museum

Explore Bilbao and the iconic Guggenheim Museum, plus vibrant cities and charming coastal towns.



Wine & Culinary Delights

Enjoy wine tasting at a family-run vineyard and discover the culinary delights of San Sebastián.



Picos de Europa

Travel into the spectacular Picos de Europa, including a ride on the famous Fuente Dé cable car, and visit the historic towns of Potes and Cudillero.



Galicia

Unwind beside the beach at Bayona, enjoy a sunset boat trip to the Cies Islands and discover the historic city of Santiago de Compostela.



The Perfect Rally

With welcoming meals, scenic campsites and plenty of opportunities to experience the local food, wine, culture and scenery, this is a fantastic way to discover some of Spain's most beautiful northern regions.



Bilbao



Cies Islands



Picos de Europa



Cudillero



Potes



Santiago de Compostela



Wine Tasting



San Sebastián



*Scan the QR code to
find out more and
reserve your place!*



This rally is open to all Members of the Swift Motorhomes Owners' Club, and also owners of non-Swift Motorhome/Campervan make/model



Prices are a guide based on 2026 pricing. Final 2027 prices will be released later in the year.

Salisbury Event

17th – 21st August 2026



Just over one hours run for us down to Salisbury Rugby Club, arriving just after the usual earliest arrival of 1pm.

Surprised to find that the top part of the camping area was occupied by a fairground in full swing. Fred explained that we required an escort to take us through safely to our event area midway down the large field.

The ground, like all other areas

in the south was parched, but luckily very short. We did notice that a couple of the fair-ground people were doing some welding, so we made sure there was a good gap between them and our van even though they had an extinguisher nearby!



We were quickly followed by other members joining the event, setting up in two rows across the field. Due to the presence of the fair we were too far away from the power supply for those who required it, so a smaller encampment was formed adjacent to the club house. Not ideal but as we were able to gather at the club house all was well, although on the first evening they joined us in a gather to catch the last of the sunshine together. Fred let us all know it would be market day in Salisbury on the following day. With the bus stop just across the road from the club, Nick and I headed for the bus into

Salisbury around 10 ish. By the time we had got about halfway round the market it was becoming obvious that most of us had had the same idea. Coffee shops were going to do well! The sun lingered in the evening so with the club bar open, most of us made our way round there. We understood there was going to be a group of 'shanty' singers performing. Slight exaggeration as it was their practice session prior to a gig the coming week-end.



So, we sat ourselves outside in the garden, under the last of the days sunshine and picked up the odd line or two of a shanty! The beer appeared to go down well too.

Wednesday and Thursday followed a familiar pattern of us all going off and doing our own thing during the day and then gathering in the evening. Nick and I took off to Shaftsbury neither of us ever having been before but both remembering the Hovis advert with the view down Gold Hill.

I had a wander down to see what lay beyond the bend in the road. The cobbles replaced by tarmac and the cottages more brightly painted.

Good fun together on Wednesday evening, joining in the club bar quiz. We made up 3 tables in total and although none of us won anything, each table could claim a win. Our table had the highest score of the 3 in part 1, another table got all five of the true/false questions in part 2 and the final table managed to get the nearest answer to a guess the number question in part 3, so we all left with something to celebrate.

Awakened to the first rain for a few weeks on Thursday, so Nick and I went over to an antiques and collectibles warehouse, followed by a visit to the local Harvester for a good lunch. Nick had a drive up towards home for a pre-booked aviation talk at Blackbushe Airport later, leaving as the rest of us gathered for the raffle, the sunshine having returned, we were able to sit outside until the chill set in.



We all went our separate ways with Nick and I heading further south for a few days at Wareham in Dorset. Many thanks to Fred and Sylv our Marshals.

Ann & Nick Halford



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BRUGES

Christmas Market

& BELGIAN CITY BREAK

6TH – 10TH DECEMBER 2027



JOIN US FOR A 4-NIGHT STAY

in the enchanting city of Bruges with the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club & Friends.



VISIT THE FAMOUS CHRISTMAS MARKET,

soak up the festive atmosphere and explore one of Europe's most beautiful medieval cities.



FERRY CROSSINGS SHOULD BE ARRANGED INDEPENDENTLY,

giving you the flexibility to explore Flanders and North West France at your own pace before or after the event.



Scan the QR code
to book your place



Warner's Western Show, Malvern

20th to 24th August 2026

A long weekend to relax and socialise with friends, soaking up the sun, with LIVE evening entertainment and shopping thrown in, what could be better?



For all those who missed this club event at the Warner's Western Motorhome & Campervan show, you missed a great weekend.

It didn't start off too well when we heard that the club had not secured the magic number of pitches to qualify for a 'club area' booking, but not to be

deterred, Ann, our event marshal for the weekend, arranged a pre-event get together at a campsite just down the road from the Three Counties Show Ground so that we could enter the show in convoy and be pitched together in the general camping area.

So, we stopped the Wednesday night at the Newland Meadow campsite.



Rather interesting reception that welcomed us – patio table & parasol and a guy telling us, 'cash is king', Martin & I did chuckle. To say the facilities were basic would be an understatement, but it was only for one night and at least we were all together. For those who couldn't make it on the Wednesday, Ann also arranged

a meet up at the local Aldi store on the Thursday morning. A great opportunity also to pick up a few items that we had forgotten to pack!

Unfortunately, some members still ended up scattered around the camping area, fortunately Martin had a flagpole with a smiley face flag which gave our members some idea where we were located. Ann was not to be defeated, she managed to get everyone together for a welcome coffee and nibbles on the Friday afternoon and again on Sunday morning for delicious breakfast bacon baps, these went down well.



The show itself was packed with over 200 stalls and dealers giving everyone the chance to explore the latest vehicles and camping accessories, to meet and chat to experts for advice on getting the most from life on the road. Plus, Guest speakers, LIVE cooking demos, wine tasting, line dancing and fitness classes. It seemed that every time we ventured into the exhibition area over the weekend, we found new stands that we'd previously missed.

On the Saturday we took advantage of the shuttle bus into Malvern so we could explore a little more of the area and delve into the small independent shops and coffee houses.

Retail therapy is all well and good, but we needed to conserve some of our energy for the show's evening entertainment at different venues across the site. The theme for this show was Country & Western, and many attendees went all out with the costumes and took every opportunity to join in with the line dancing, where some of our SMOC members participated. You were transported to southern US of A with bands playing Rockabilly music and classics like Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell and Dolly Parton, late into each evening.

We had a super weekend. Ann was the perfect host, and we came away having met more new members of this amazing club.

Our thanks go to Ann for all her hard work in 'rounding us all up' from the 4 corners of the site in true western style.

Don and Anita Whipp and Pauline and Martin Hayward

