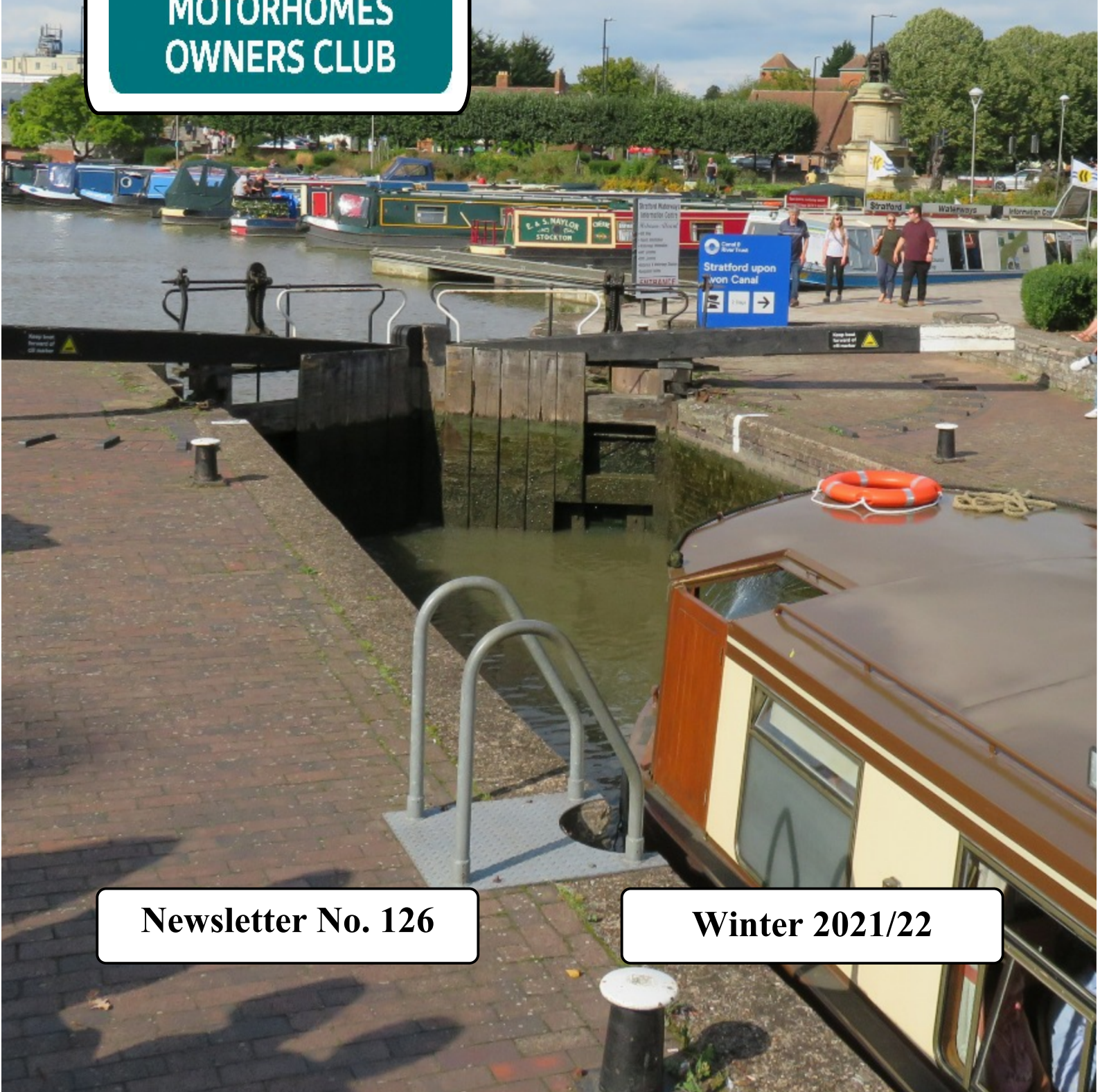




SWIFT

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Newsletter No. 126

Winter 2021/22

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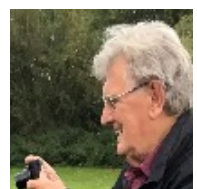
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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Greetings to all.

As I write this article, at the end of November, we are creeping into winter, and hopefully, a much more social and near normal Christmas for all family and friends.

Some Christmas markets are operating, but I believe many have again cancelled. This is disappointing. One of the many highlights of our Club calendar has always been the final rally of the year at Christmas - with the usual party and visit to the local market. Hopefully, Henley this year will be holding a Xmas market nearby.

It was disappointing again not to have the NEC exhibition in October, with our usual gathering on the club stand. The February event will go ahead as planned and we can get back to meeting with members and friends, also visiting the new models Swift will have on display.

I personally don't expect to see an electric powered motorhome in the near future, unless Tesla branch out into the commercial market!

To any members who have yet to join us on a Club rally, please take a look at the rally programme for next year. It would be really good for more members to attend rallies. You can be guaranteed a very warm welcome, friendly folk and interesting locations that we will be visiting.

The club arranges most rallies on high standard Motorhome/Caravan parks or adjacent rally fields. The days of "rally" fields in the middle of nowhere with no electric or facilities are long gone. We all like our comfort these days.

The new season will soon be with us, starting in February at Lincoln Farm Park.

Bookings for this rally close on the 10th January so you need to book A.S.A.P.

We look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Wishing all our members and many friends, a healthy, and happier New Year .

Warmest wishes, from Sharon and myself,

Ian (Chairman)

A Warm SMOC Welcome to our New Members.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Rallies

Philip & Julie Cripps from Bramley, 3386

Douglas & Barbara Green from East Cowes, 3387

Martin Brewer from Birmingham, 3388

Sara Brassington & Lynne Hall from Poole, 3389

Tracy Ella & Mick Calver from Bowers Gifford, 3390

Colin & Gill Beckett from Harleston, 3391

David Gill & Karen Vaughan-Jones from Rhos On Sea, 3392

David & Frances Whittington from Bishopstoke, 3393

Derek & Marian Blake from Middlesborough, 3394

Mark & Kathryn Greenwood from Croston, 3395

Alan & Belinda Johnson from Southport, 3396

Colin Cowell, Honiton, 3397

Tracy & Nigel Owen from Caerphilly, 3398

EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to everyone and let's hope that in 2022 we can continue our slow return to normality.

2021 was another testing year for the Club, with a slow start due to lockdown. We didn't have a rally until late April - 6 months after the previous one, and that was subject to groups of no more than six people!

Warners Shows were badly affected, the Vintage Extravaganza was cancelled and our French Rally had to be moved to 2022.

Due to the success of the Covid Vaccine, this year looks much more promising. NEC shows are restarting, Foreign Travel is allowed again (with very few regulations for fully vaccinated people), Warners Shows are back and we have a full year of rallies ahead of us. What could possibly go wrong???

This edition of the Newsletter contains 4 informative articles that should be of interest to most members. Please take time to read them.

A) On the next page is an article describing our new **Online Members Portal**. Following a lot of hard work (by Andy, our Rally Secretary) to set up and trial the system, the Portal has now gone live.

B) Just before the Future Rallies pages I have written a feature on **Travelling Abroad with your Motorhome** highlighting current regulations.

C) After the Rally Pages you will find the **Minutes of the 2021 AGM**. These were provided by Val, our Club Secretary.

D) Towards the back of the Newsletter is an article about **Warners Shows** (by Robert our new Membership Secretary). He explains what there is to see and do at these very popular events.

Hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. If not, don't worry - after 8 years in the job, I'm standing down at the next AGM.

Ray (Editor & Webmaster)

new Members cont'd.....

Romi & Alison Bagga from Bilston, 3399
Rodney Webb & Deborah Shaile from Swindon, 3400
Norman & Dawn Lilly from Peacemarsh, Gillingham, 3401
Lorraine & Andrew Hussey from Bath, 3402
Sharon Butler & Jonothan Green from Thatcham, 3403
Robert & Amanda Jonothan Gains from Tyldesley, 3404
Carole & David Lower from Marden, 3405

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

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT - New Online Members Portal

During the second half of October, the Club trialled a new Membership Tool that provides a way to sign up online and pay for new membership subscriptions.

The trial was aligned with a discounted first year membership offer, like we normally have at the NEC shows. During this trial period we gained an impressive 14 new subscriptions (all of whom signed up online and paid via BACS). It also enabled the Membership Secretary & Treasurer, who are both involved when a new member joins, to get a good feel for the system and its associated processes.

We are delighted to announce that, following the successful trial, we are now looking to roll out the “**Swift Motorhomes Owners Club Members Portal**” to all members.

We have been hard at work, over recent weeks, transferring our existing records. Some of you, when you read this, may already have received an invite to sign in to the new portal. The plan is that everyone will have received an invite before the 15th January 2022.

When you log in for the first time, you will see that your personal home page is already pre-loaded with the information we hold about you. We kindly ask you to review and update as appropriate when you first sign in.

In addition, you will see some supplementary information questions which will help to support your membership of the club and other important developments of the portal, such as online rally bookings. Finally could you please review your consent choices surrounding how we use your information within the club and its associated activities.

This new “Members Portal” will provide several key benefits to both our Members and the Club overall. These are:

A secure repository for all members data:

- Ensuring that this key club asset is fully compliant with all data protection regulations both now and in the future
- Protecting the data from any potential losses
- Reducing errors in members data as each person owns their data and can change / update it at any time via the Portal

All members subscription data is held in one place allowing everyone:

- **To review when their renewal subscription is due and then renew via the portal. Payment can then be made offline via BACS or regular Standing Order.**
- **Once key data has been entered this will negate the need to re-enter that information when making rally bookings in the system (future update)**

Provides a simple sign-up process for new members.

Opportunity to book Club Rallies online and pay via BACS, either at the time of the booking order or at a future date prior to the Rally Guaranteed Booking Deadline.

- **Receive automatic rally booking confirmations.**

Ability to communicate to club members on a range of topics such as the AGM, Committee matters and rally updates.

The Members Portal over the coming months will also provide a simpler and more manageable process for several of the Committee, especially surrounding payment reconciliation, membership management (both new & renewals) and rally bookings and coordination.

For the handful of members who do not have an email address or still prefer to pay via cheque then of course the existing methods of membership renewal and enrolment will continue. We will, however, use the system to store and manage their data, including any data consent authorisations. A separate letter will be sent to these members shortly, outlining everything.

We hope you agree that this a big step forward for the Club, and that you find the new “Swift Motorhomes Owners Club Members Portal” both beneficial and simple to use.

However, if you do have any concerns or problems with the portal, please do not hesitate to contact us. Also, if you have any suggestions for improvements to the portal, we would love to hear your thoughts.

The Committee (Swift Motorhomes Owners Club)

Stratford upon Avon, AGM Rally - Sept 2021

There was a good turn out for the AGM rally. Stratford upon Avon is a lovely town to visit and although we have been here on numerous occasions both with the van and without it is always a great place to visit, lots of places to eat, a big wheel, quirky buildings and of course Shakespeare. It's a great place to rally with lots to do all very close to the site and Stratford a short ride on the river taxi from the site.



Ian and Sharon were there to greet us and get us parked up. Later that evening there was a meet and greet at their van with nibbles and drinks. The weather was kind to us and we had a lovely evening.





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Thursday was a lazy day for us but we did go to the pub in Tiddington for an evening meal. It's within easy walking distance for most people, and they are very nice and friendly in the pub - being dog friendly too, which is a bonus as Bertie loves a trip to the pub.

On Friday, Anthony and I had a nice stroll around Stratford followed by lunch at the Tapas bar by the bridge. This, of course, necessitated an afternoon snooze for Anthony and a bike ride for me.



The Royal Shakespeare Theatre



The Butterfly Farm was visited by many of our Members



Stratford Riverside



On Friday evening we had a get together and raffle. It decided to rain just as we gathered outside Ray and Carol's van, but this didn't put us off and after a while it eased off and then stopped. Another good evening was had.



Wellesbourne Airfield is not far away and there is a big Saturday market there. We popped over for a look and bought some bits and bobs, including a 200m hose which came in handy on Sunday.

Sunday dawned bright and clear and showing typical SMOC cooperation we decided to see if we could attach all our hoses together and fill water tanks up without having to move Motorhomes, a real team building exercise. We succeeded, 9 hoses were used to perform this miracle.



An evening at the Chinese Restaurant in Tiddington was organised, but as we had arranged to go out for Sunday lunch we did not think we could manage two large meals in one day, so didn't go.

On Monday it was cooler, so we went to the Butterfly Farm in Stratford. It was tropical in there and so many beautiful butterflies to see. A really nice way to spend an hour or so, followed by lunch at Cox's Yard. The afternoon was spent successfully trying to repair a pipe on the Alde heating as all the fluid had leaked out. We then joined those who went on the boat trip, which Bertie enjoyed too. Our last full day was AGM day. The AGM doesn't last too long so there was plenty of time to get out and about afterwards. That evening some of us got together and went back to the Crown pub in Tiddington for an evening meal.

We really enjoyed seeing everyone again and had a great time.

by Jane Steward



Stratford Canal Basin

Lincoln Season Finale Motorhome Show - September 2021

We arrived on site around 4pm, last to arrive, to be greeted by Robert, Membership Secretary. He showed us to a lovely pitch just outside the show entrance, which was really handy. The Welcome Meeting was held 20 minutes later, after having made hot drinks. Later, we popped along to the Marquee to see a Tom Jones tribute and to dance to the Moondogs, together with a bevy or two. On the Friday, we woke up to a lovely sunny day and wandered into the show. New pillows seemed to be the order of the day, as most people we saw had one or two stuffed under their arm. We joined them and bought one to see how we got on with it. We had Thai takeaway, for lunch that was on offer amongst a few other mobile eateries. It was delicious even if Peter had to stand in queue for a while.

In the evening we joined the crowd to be entertained. First act was 'The Four D's' who were usually on Cruise Ships but lucky for us had not been able to travel. After them were a tribute to David Bowie. We actually couldn't believe the entertainment that was on offer over the weekend.

On Saturday we went into Lincoln town on a shuttle bus that had been arranged by the show. We got our tickets, £4 return, the previous day. Having never been to Lincoln, we were pleasantly surprised. It's the town that keeps on giving. If you are interested in history, this is the place. It's got a Castle, a cathedral and one of the oldest domestic dwellings in England which is at the bottom of Steep Hill, and it is very steep. We really enjoyed wandering round this lovely city.

We had spotted a lovely place for lunch and earmarked it for later. It was called the Cheese Society. We got the last two seats at lunchtime and had a fabulous meal. We also bought some cheese, as it's got to be done. We would definitely go back if we get to Lincoln again.

Another sunny day on Sunday and we joined the rest of our crowd to have bit of quiz and to report on what we had thought and bought at the show. We then wandered to the Food Court with another couple of members, Alex and Melvin, to listen to Andy Ska who was singing there. He was very entertaining with his Reggae, Madness and Saxophone.





In the evening was more entertainment with Cliff and Phil Collins. We probably had entertainment overload, having been deprived for so long, but we very much enjoyed it.

Monday, home day. It was just as well because there was a bit of a storm and at one time we thought we might blow away. Usual thing, 30 minutes later the sun came out again.

Thanks for organising this Rally. Special thanks to Bridget and Robert and to Heather and Andy, who made us feel welcome.

Janice and Peter Ridgeway



Travelling to France with your Motorhome in 2022

Many of us are planning to travel to France in our motorhome this year. For most, it will be their first trip to Europe since we left the EU and also the first trip subject to Covid regulations. Here is a list of things to be aware of.

Healthcare If you have an EHIC card that is still current, it is still valid in the EU. If your card has expired then you should apply for a GHIC card. Search [Gov.UK/GHIC](https://gov.uk/ghic). It's free and entitles you to subsidised prescriptions and healthcare. You should still take out separate Travel Insurance as well.

Covid 19 Entry Requirements. France currently classes the UK as an amber risk country (23/11/2021). If you are fully vaccinated, you must present proof of your vaccination status PLUS a sworn statement certifying the absence of COVID-19 symptoms and of any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

You can access your NHS COVID Pass through the free NHS App on a smartphone. If you do not have access to a smartphone you can request an NHS COVID Pass letter by calling 119 (select the 'NHS COVID Pass service').

The sworn statement form (or declaration sur l'honneur) can be found on the French government's website by searching for Attestation de déplacement et de voyage.

Upon return to the UK, fully vaccinated travellers must take a pre-booked Covid-19 PCR or Lateral Flow test on Day 2 after arrival.

Number Plates. The government has changed our international number plate symbol from GB to UK. Stickers to cover existing incorrect markings can be bought on Amazon, Ebay or at ports. If you have a GB sticker, cover or remove it before driving outside the UK.

Foodstuffs Travellers to the EU from UK are not allowed to bring in meat, milk or their products following Brexit. Personal consignments that are found to be in breach of the rules will be seized and destroyed.

Passports A New UK passport has been introduced, but the old EU passports are still valid. However, the expiry date must not be within 3 months of your return date.

Previous rules still apply

Remember to take your log book, driving licence, Insurance and MOT certificate. You need to carry with you a warning triangle and hi- vis jackets for everyone in the vehicle in case of breakdown.

Headlight Deflectors should be fitted, even if you are not travelling at night - (just in case it rains).

All motorhomes with a total weight exceeding 3.5 tonnes must have 'angle morts' stickers, showing the position of the blind spots - visible on the sides and at the rear of the vehicle.

This information was current at the time of writing. Future updates can be found at [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk) and [UK/AMBAFRANCE.ORG](https://uk.ambafrance.org)

FUTURE RALLIES **LINCOLN FARM PARK, STANDLAKE, OX29 7RH**

Wed 9th – Wed 16th February 2022 (7 Nights)

www.lincolnfarmpark.co.uk

Set in 9 acres of Oxfordshire countryside in the village of Standlake, a short drive from Oxford and the Cotswolds. This award-winning park offers 5 star facilities, such as 2 onsite indoor swimming pools, steam room, jacuzzi, gym and games room and there is a well-stocked shop.

The park is surrounded by farmland with fields on all sides with deer, foxes and hedgehogs in abundance. A short walk from the site is the river Thames and also 2 local pubs, one of which, The Black Horse, offers a takeaway service to the site. In the local village there is also a Fish & Chips shop and other local eateries.

Take a bus from outside the site to Witney and from there onward to Oxford with its myriad of spires, ancient and modern buildings and a large selection of shops and places to eat and drink. Don't forget to stop off in Witney with its Teddy Bear shop and Blanket Hall, highlighting Witney's blanket history.

Pitch Fee: £25 / unit per night including EHU

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

BACS payment reference – RallyStandlake02

Rally Marshals: Nick & Anne Halford

Closing Date for guaranteed bookings: Monday 10th January 2022

No arrivals before 1pm on any day

SOUTH LYTCHETT MANOR CARAVAN AND CAMPING PARK

Lytchett Minster, BH16 6JB

Wed 9th – Wed 16th March 2022

www.southlytchettmanor.co.uk

Situated on land that once belonged to the historic South Lytchett Manor House the site is set in beautiful countryside and located just three miles from Poole, nine miles from Bournemouth and thirteen miles from the beautiful Jurassic Coastline. A bus stop outside provides a regular service to Poole, Swanage or along the coast to Weymouth and is the perfect base for exploring the East Dorset coast.

A winner of Best Caravan Site and Best Motorhome site for 2 years running the park puts a strong emphasis on promoting a green and sustainable holiday environment, encouraging birds and wildlife of all types. The Park has all the facilities one would expect from such a highly rated site, including wifi, motorhome service point, a well-stocked shop and bakery plus three recently refurbished (2018) amenity buildings. There are also local pubs serving food within walking distance, with the St Peter's Finger offering a free bottle of wine when two main courses are purchased.

Pitch Fee: £19.50 / unit per night including EHU

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

BACS payment reference – RallyLytchett03

Rally Marshals: Fred & Silvia Morris

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 1st February 2022

No arrivals before 1pm on any day

SYCAMORE LAKES PARK
Skegness Rd, Burgh le Marsh, Skegness PE24 5LN

Wed 6th – Wed 13th April 2022

Tel: [01754 811411](tel:01754811411)

www.sycamorelakes.co.uk/touring-and-camping/touring-and-camping.php

A family-owned site on the outskirts of Skegness, Lincolnshire, Sycamore Lakes has been open for over 30 years, with the touring site which surrounds several lakes being in operation since 2004. The site has spacious level motorhome pitches all with EHU and an onsite Restaurant and Bar, making Sycamore Lakes a good base for exploring this part of Lincolnshire.

The village of Burgh-le-marsh is just a 10-minute walk away and has a good selection of shops including a butcher, bakers, grocery store, fishmonger, newsagents, and florists as well as a good number of hostelrys and restaurants.

There are bus stops right outside the site providing regular services to Skegness and surrounding towns & villages.

Please note that these are well drained grass pitches and although rarely out of action availability will be weather dependant.

Pitch Fee: £28 / unit per night including EHU

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

BACS Ref: Sycamore04

Rally Marshals: David & Marilyn Miland

Closing Date for bookings: Tuesday 1st March 2022

No arrivals before 1pm on any day

THE NATIONAL MOTORHOME AND CAMPERVAN SHOW
East of England Showground, Peterborough, PE2 6XE

Thurs 21st – Mon 25th April 2022

www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows/show/the-national-motorhome-campervan-show

This ever-popular Warners show has lots to offer with an extensive exhibition area and great live entertainment with this year's headline acts being a celebration of 80's music, featuring Go West, T'Pau & Sonia. ***(Please note there is an additional £20 per head charge, payable at the time of booking for these headliners)***

The Peterborough event now in its 31st year historically attracts over 10,000-day visitors and 3,000 camping units with many paying multiple visits to the extensive trade show, which has over 300 stands carrying everything a motorhome needs (or perhaps not!).

There are also a series of free MMM seminars scheduled which will cover a range of motorhome topics - further details to be announced nearer the event.

Booking is via Warners website but please make sure you quote Swift MHOC on the drop-down menu for club camping as this will ensure you are sited with our club group. Also please remember to send in your rally slip to the Rally Secretary (details on the front of the newsletter) as well as your rally fee. We usually have a great pitch in the centre of the showground arena however this will be dependent on numbers, we need a minimum of 10 units so be sure to book early.

Show Camping Fee:

4-night stay (Thursday arrival) £68 per unit or

3-night stay (Friday arrival) £65 per unit.

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

BACS Ref: Peterborough04

Rally Marshals: Jane & Anthony Steward

Closing Date for bookings: 6th April 2022

No arrivals before 09.00 on any day

BUCKLER'S HARD MARITIME MUSEUM AND HISTORIC VILLAGE

Beaulieu, SO42 7XB

Mon 16th – Mon 22nd May 2022

www.bucklershard.co.uk

Discover the fascinating story of Montagu Town as it was originally known which was founded as a free port for the trading of sugar from the West Indies. The newly re-designed Maritime Museum tells why the ambitious plans for a new town were never realised and why its name changed to Buckler's Hard. Learn about the machine gun that fired round and square bullets and see characters from the village at the time of Henry Adams, the Master Shipbuilder who lived and worked at Buckler's Hard.

An ideal base to explore the New Forest, Buckler's Hard is just a short walk away from Beaulieu village. Here you'll find a range of charming shops as well as the many delights of the Beaulieu visitor attraction, including the world-famous National Motor Museum.

Bucklers Hard has been accommodating rallies for many years and the site has both a fresh water and Elsan point available, although pitches are on grass and there is no EHU. There are public toilets in the village which are available during the day.

Please note that there is a **maximum capacity of 25 units for this rally** so please book early to secure a place.

Pitch Fee: £16.50 / unit per night

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

BACS Ref: Buckler05

Rally Marshals: Fred & Silvia Morris

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 4th April 2022

Arrival Time TBC

SMOC Rally Program 2022

February

9th - 16th

Lincoln Farm Park (Standlake, OX29 7RH)

March

9th – 16th

South Lychett Manor (Poole, BH16 6JB)

April

6th – 13th

Sycamore Lakes Park (Burgh le Marsh, PE24 5LN)

21st - 25th

**The National Motorhome & Campervan Show
(Peterborough, PE2 6XE)**

May

16th – 22nd

**Buckler's Hard Maritime Museum and Historic Village
(Beaulieu SO42 7XB)**

June

6th – 10th

10th – 14th

14th – 22nd

FOREIGN RALLY (3 sites - 16 nights) **FULLY BOOKED**

Bocage des Lacs (Brittany, France)

La Guyonniere (Vendee, France)

L'Isle Verte (Loire Valley, France)

**Please Contact Ray Collinson if you wish to be put on the
Reserve List in case of a Cancellation**

July

13th – 20th

Ambleside Rugby Club (Ambleside, LA22 0EN)

August

4th – 8th

**Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza
(South Cerney, GL7 6HU)**

10th – 17th

Brecon Rugby Club (Brecon, LD3 7EL)

18th – 22nd

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

September

7th – 14th

**Cranberry Moss Camping & Caravan Site
(Oswestry, SY10 8DY)**

22nd – 26th

Lincoln Motorhome Show (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)

October

11th – 18th

Harford Bridge (Tavistock, PL19 9LS)

November

23rd – 30th

“Christmas Rally”, Poston Mill (Hereford HR2 0SF)

More details can be found at www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk



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MINUTES OF THE 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2019 at RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK,
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, WARWICKSHIRE

Apologies for absence.

Received from: Trevor and Sheila Howard.

Minutes of the 30th AGM held on 14th September 2019

Published in Newsletter 118 were accepted by those present

1. Matters arising from the minutes published in newsletter 118 – none.

2. Chairman's Report by Ian Matthews

After a very difficult and different world over the past 18 months or so, most of us have happily survived this terrible time. Unfortunately, a lot of folks were not so lucky. None of us want a repeat of the past 18 months, we can now hopefully look forward to a better life next year.

It has also been a very difficult year for our club to fulfil the rally programme, events and socials on the rallies that went ahead. With site owners quite rightly being very nervous of gatherings and providing our usual facilities, meeting rooms etc.

Personally, Sharon and myself would like to thank all the committee members for keeping the club rolling over such a difficult period.

Andy, Heather and John for constant battling with sites and venues, dates being changed, organising pubs and meals, amongst everything else, with Covid rules being constant battle.

Ray and Carol for keeping us up to date with the very popular newsletter and juggling with the printers to get the newsletter produced in such difficult times. Also, their very kind assistance for help to run the rally here at Stratford.

Thanks to Val, Bob and Sheila for keeping the financials and the general office duties running smoothly.

Also, to Marilyn for the re-organisation of our regalia sales process, and to Jane for her work with the events and member enrolment calendar.

Well finally, all I wish for now is a super season next year, and, for myself and many others, especially Rays organised French Rally can't come quick enough.

3. Treasurer's Report by Bob Mason

The 2020 AGM was cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The only real effect on the Treasurers duties was the reduction in the number of transactions taking place. Apart from that there was little change in the way the accounts are managed. The accounts were audited as is the norm and deemed satisfactory.

A full breakdown of our accounts is always available to view by any club member by arrangement with the Treasurer.

With cheques being virtually universally unacceptable by camp sites, it often placed an unnecessary burden on individuals to pay for a rally using personal credit cards.

With many rallies costing thousands, something needed to be done to address this issue. To that end I applied for a club Debit Card which is held by the Chairman and to the best of my knowledge this has worked very well.

I also hold the Debit Card details, so in an emergency I can pay a bill over the phone. Proposed Rally Sites almost without exception require a deposit that is often quite hefty. As Andy produces our Rally Programme several months in advance the total the club has to outlay in deposits can be quite significant before any Rally income is forthcoming.

At the moment we are managing this, but it is something we have to be mindful of. The full Accounting Spreadsheets are still maintained in the normal manner and audited by Carol Collinson annually and are available for anyone to view by arrangement with me.

The SMOC Financial state as of March 2020 as the audit showed to be quite healthy.

TREASURERS REPORT 2020- 2021

In order to show the state of club finances in a clearer and concise manner, for the period 2020-2021 I have produced a Cash Balance Statement (CBS) copies of which are distributed amongst you. I will continue to produce a CBS annually.

2020 really was a year of turmoil, many cancelled events and last minute changes due to the uncertain circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

From a Treasurers perspective, things were not too difficult, apart from communicating was made difficult as many people were not contactable due to lockdown.

During the longest part of the lockdown our loyal advertisers were not charged their normal advertising fees as they were getting no benefit from their postings. This lasted for 2 Newsletter Issues and was greatly appreciated by all concerned. The one good thing to come out of the Pandemic was it allowed me to align all our advertiser invoices to the same date:

Motorhome Protect was new advertiser for 2021 and paid upfront for one year.

During the course of 2021 many members took the decision to pay their rally fees by BACS. This really was not an issue for me except where members gave no hint as to what the payment was for. However, that has been resolved by members providing a Rally Reference or an email detailing the payment.

I also feel that the £1.00/person Rally Fee should be subsumed into the Rally Cost: Rally Fees are not accounted for separately.

I do think it is time for the club to have a definitive policy on BACS payments and a method in place that the relevant club officials get that information.

BACS payment for club events has to be the way ahead and will be discussed later.

Members are reminded that whenever club money is spent a receipt must be obtained and presented with the relevant claim.

I would like to thank Carol Collinson who again audited the accounts for 2020-2021 and they were found to be satisfactory.

The Cash Balance Statement for 2021 shows how our Finances Stand.

4. Appointment of Financial Examiner for the accounts

Carol Collinson re-appointed.

5. Other reports:

i) Membership Secretary's report read by Val Dobbin, Secretary.

I am sorry that Trevor and I are unable to attend this years' AGM due to work commitments. The membership has taken its toll of the past two years, due to Covid. I hope who ever takes over will get to see it revive.

I have enjoyed my time as Membership Secretary. But it is time for new blood. We hope to see you all on future rallies.

Sheila Howard - Membership Secretary

ii) Rally Organiser's Report by Andy Hartell

It has been a somewhat challenging last 18 months as we all know and this has meant many of our rallies in 2020 and early 2021 were either curtailed, postponed or cancelled. In 2020 we only held 4 full rallies, namely Rutland, Bakewell, The Lawns and Eye Kettleby Lakes, and this year our season did not really start until April. This has meant a lot of re-jigging the itinerary, especially as sites held credits for deposits which clearly, we did not want to lose, so these sites were added into this year's program with some even overspilling into 2022.

Our 2022 program, which is still to be formally approved by the committee, has a mix of sites including as stated earlier, those we were unable to visit over the period of the pandemic and some which are in those areas of the UK that members had voted they would like to visit, when we conducted a survey at the end of 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who have volunteered to marshal rallies and invite any others to give it a try next year, its great fun so if you want to have a go or even co-host one, please let me know.

iii) Newsletter Editor and Webmaster's Report by Ray Collinson

I'll briefly mention the Website before moving on to the Newsletter.

WEBSITE

The website continues to attract a steady stream of visitors and was our only source of recruitment during this financial year, due to the absence of the N.E.C. Shows.

But, the site has a major drawback – people cannot join online. They have to print off a form and post it to the Membership Secretary OR they have to email the Club using the 'Contact Us' page to ask for a Membership Form to be sent to them.

Most people nowadays would expect to be able to join online and pay by Bank Transfer.

I discussed this problem with Andy whilst at Fort Widley. He thinks we will be able to put a link from the website to enable online recruitment. If possible, this would be a big improvement and a major benefit to the Club.

NEWSLETTER

This has been a very difficult year for the Newsletter!

A lack of rally reports, due to most rallies being cancelled because of Covid, meant that it was very hard to put a Newsletter together.

It was only made possible due to the support of members who sent me other articles to publish.

I'd like to say a big thank you to all of you.

Some members, in particular, sent items on a regular basis.

I'd like to give special thanks to
Marilyn Miland
Jane Steward
Phyllis Simcock and
Andy Hartell

I'd also like to thank everyone who sent in Rally Reports and photos.

Without this support I wouldn't be able to produce the Newsletter – Thank you again.

Overall Costs for the Newsletter have stayed roughly the same as last year.

Although there was an increase in postage costs, it was offset by a reduction in the number of Members receiving the Newsletter – a result of falling membership.

I'll close now by announcing that this coming year will be my last as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

By that time, I will have had the job for 8 years and will have produced 30 out of the 129 issues, so I think it is time for someone else to take the reins.

If anyone wants to know what the job entails please come and see me. I'll give whatever support I can to anyone interested.

iv) Secretary' Report by Val Dobbin

I have now completed 4 years as Secretary, and if you will have me I shall do a couple more.

I would like to thank the Committee for their help during the past year, or I should say 2 years as we were unable to hold an AGM last year due to Covid. I would like to thank Andy for circulating the AGM agenda and accounts by email, therefore greatly reducing the postage cost for the Club, and for posting the remainder by Royal Mail.

I would also like to thank both Heather and Andy for taking over the Pickering Rally earlier this year. Dave and I had our 2nd covid jabs during that week and I had a long-awaited hospital appointment which I was unable to move.

I can also report that our insurance policy and membership is up to date; thank you Bob the payment system is working great, so much quicker than cheques. We have public liability insurance with Saffron and we are also members of ACCEO, the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations, the total cost of these is £305.20.

6. Election of Management Committee

Chairman	Ian Matthews	Proposed - Jane Steward Seconded - Anthony Steward
Vice Chairman	Heather Hartell	Proposed - Robert Hubbard Seconded - Bridget Hubbard
Secretary	Val Dobbin	Proposed - Phyllis Simcok Seconded - Bill Hoggett
Treasurer	Bob Mason	Proposed - Val Dobbin Seconded - Phyllis Simcock

Membership Secretary	Robert Hubbard	Proposed - Andrew Hartell Seconded - Heather Hartell
Rally Secretary	Andrew Hartel	Proposed - Bridget Hubbard Seconded - Robert Hubbard
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster	Ray Collinson	Proposed- Janice Lane Seconded- Peter Lane
Regalia Organiser	Marilyn Miland	Proposed - Bridget Hubbard Seconded - Ann Halford

7. Proposal of Motions – all those present agreed by show of hands.

8. Any other Business

Proposed by Sharon Matthews. The Post of NEC Events Organiser, held by Jane Steward as a co-opted member of the committee, be made a full committee position. All those present at the AGM agreed. Therefore, NEC Events Organiser will become a full Committee Position re-elected each year.

Warners Shows.

Warners now require SMOC to have at least 10 vans in attendance to be pitched together within an allotted area, any less will result in SMOC members being pitched separately amongst everyone else.

It was agreed, to perhaps help with numbers, that Warners shows be reduced from 4 to 3, Peterborough, Malvern and Lincoln, dropping Stoneleigh.

Some time ago David Miland looked at the attendance figures for these shows and found that some members only do shows, some only do rallies but very few do both. It was also stressed that members, as well as booking directly with Warners for these shows, **must also send in a booking form (with the appropriate fee) to the Rally Secretary in order that they are expected and included within SMOC allotted area.**

An email has been received from Sally Dodds (Warners) confirming that tickets for these shows are not transferable.

Rally Plaques

A point was raised by Rick Griffin regarding Rally Plaques. He felt they were unnecessary, a cost to the club and as they were made of plastic, not environmentally friendly. This was put to the floor and the majority were in favour of keeping them. Andy Hartell replied that the cost was covered by the rally fee and people liked to keep them as a reminder of where they had been. There was also little wastage as these plaques could be ordered in small numbers and also they could be recycled.

9. Date and Place of the next Annual General Meeting

**10th September 2022 at
Cranberry Moss Camping and Caravanning Site, Oswestry, SY10 8DY**



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A Trip to the Severn Valley

Prior to the AGM, we decided to spend a few days visiting the Severn Valley, including the Steam Railway and the Country Park. We pitched up at The Ship Inn at Highley as it is in the middle of the railway and has a CAMC CL. The position is ideal as less than 100 metres away is the pub and river one way and the railway station the other – could not be better – and the food was good too.

The Severn Valley Railway is a tourist attraction and Heritage Steam Railway operating full-size, mainly steam-hauled, passenger trains for 16 miles along the beautiful Severn Valley between Kidderminster, Bewdley and Bridgnorth. The Engine House, the indoor visitor centre at Highley, is home to the reserve collection of full size steam locomotives and a lot of railway memorabilia. Now that Covid restrictions have been somewhat lifted it is possible to hop on and hop off the trains whereas before you had to book your own compartment.



Our Engine - 46100 Royal Scot



Right : This engine is Gordon who worked during WWII serving on the home front.



This is the actual sorting carriage that was being used during the Great Train Robbery!



Good job that our cabs are not as complicated as this.

Prior to preservation, the Severn Valley line was never financially successful. Freight traffic, mostly agricultural, and coal traffic from the collieries of Alveley and Highley were the principal sources of revenue. To save it The Severn Valley Railway Society was formed in July 1965 by a group of members who wished to preserve a section of the line which had closed in 1963.

Highley village is a steep walk of about half a mile and was originally just a clearing in the Wyle Forest. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being owned by Lady Godiva. The village prospered originally by mining sandstone to build cathedrals and later developed huge coal mines. There is a memorial to the miners in the village and a pit head wheel in the country park.

The Country Park extends to both sides of the river and was once the site of the coal mines. The station road side is easily reached and contains The Engine House, but most of it is over the river in Shropshire. This involves a walk along the river and crossing on what was the miners bridge. Once there it is possible to learn a lot more about the history of mining in the area and the hard lives lived by those who worked in the pits. The walk can be shortened by asking the train to stop at Country Park Halt, which is not one of the regular stations.



There is still the remains of the Ferryman's Cottage who used to hand haul a small boat across the river. The coal from the mines was sent across on an aerial ropeway! At one stage the residents had to move as the stench from the coal spoil heaps was overpowering. Fortunately not a problem nowadays as the whole park is beautiful with woodlands, wetlands, ponds, wildflower meadows and bird hides. There are many waymarked walks and cycle trails and a Visitor Centre (with cafe). The national cycle trail route 45 also passes through.

by Marilyn Miland

THIRTEEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

It's okay to talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.

In Style' are the clothes that still fit

You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off

Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

The biggest lie you tell yourself is, 'I don't need to write this down. I'll remember it'

'On time' is when you get there

Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.

It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle free and three sizes smaller.

Lately, you've noticed that people your age are so much older than you

Growing old should have taken longer

Ageing has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up

You still haven't learnt to act your age and hope you never will

'One for the road' means peeing before you leave the house



Charmouth Rally Report – Oct 2021

On the road again, this time heading to Charmouth with a one-night stopover in Tewkesbury at the Abbey Caravan and Motorhome site in Tewkesbury. We looked around the Abbey and gardens and were able to enjoy the singing of a visiting choir. It was a glorious evening so we decided to take a walk along the river.

Tewkesbury is an ancient settlement at the meeting of the rivers Severn and Avon. The surrounding rivers and flood plain have prevented the old town from expanding so that its long thin profile has hardly altered since the Middle Ages. Tewkesbury presents one of the best medieval townscapes in England with its fine half-timbered Tudor buildings, overhanging upper storeys and ornately carved doorways.

It has a historical role in the milling of flour. The old Abbey Water Mill still stands, though it has now been converted for residential use. A newer mill, a short way from the town quay is still in use. Parts of the mill date back to 1865. When it was originally built for Healings the millers, it was thought to be the largest and most modern flourmill in the world.

Wednesday morning we set off for **Newlands Holiday Park, Charmouth**

Arriving around 12.30 we were met by Heather running down the slope to meet us. As the site is on many levels she needed to be able to direct us to our pitch. Unfortunately we had missed the sign telling us to sign in at reception and wait at the bottom to be assigned our pitch. Heather and Andy were kept very busy running up and down (probably a half marathon) as most of the members also failed to see the sign.

The afternoon was spent meeting and catching up with the rest of the clan as they arrived. That evening we all met for meet and greet, at the on site Tow Bar restaurant and lounge. Some of us had food while others had liquid refreshments. Newlands is a large terraced site for Motorhomes, Caravans, Statics and Lodges. The site has a Swimming pool, Games Room, a small Spar shop and a bus stop just outside the entrance.



The following day we drove into Lyme Regis. While taking a stroll along the town's 13th Century Cobb harbour wall, we were intrigued by all the activity with lots of crates, old buoys, fishing nets etc. Robert asked what they were doing. and was told they were creating a film set for the next Willy Wonka film. It was very interesting to watch their creativity. Apparently the Cobb has previous iconic status for its starring role in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.



In need of a coffee we headed for the pretty town that tumbles down to a promenade of multi-coloured houses overlooking the Bay and Harbour. Another place we visited was the pretty working fishing village of Beer. There was a fresh fish shop so we bought some Dabs for dinner. On the way back we spotted the Seaton tramway. Fred and Sylvia spent an enjoyable time taking a scenic ride on the vintage style tram.

Friday, several of us caught the bus into Lyme Regis. Once there we looked around with Andy and Heather enjoyed a lovely hot chocolate at one of the many cafes along the prom. A short time later Jane, Barry and Bob also stopped off for refreshments. We then moved up into the town did a bit of window-shopping and a few charity shops (Harrods). We then went in search of a snack for lunch; Andy's cousin had told him that you could get a very good pork roll. After going up and down the high street a couple of times we finally located the café, which was just a hole in the wall. The snack turned into a roll stuffed full with pork stuffing and crackling, yum!!!



Friday afternoon, Heather arranged for us all to have afternoon tea in the Tow Bar conservatory where we could all catch up and chat. There was tea and coffee and a selection of lovely cakes to choose from. A good afternoon had by all.

Saturday, several members caught the bus to various places along the Jurassic coast, Axminster, Bridport, Dorchester, Weymouth, Sidmouth, Burton Bradstock, Portland, Abbotsbury and West Bay.





Chesil Beach from Portland

That evening found us all having an enjoyable meal in the Tow Bar. The food was very good. Thanks to Heather who did a great job of running back and forth getting everyone's menu choices sorted. Not an easy task for so many people. Slowly we all made our way back to our motorhome for a good nights rest. Unbeknown to everyone, as Anthony and Jane walked back Jane lost her footing and fell. Jane realized she had broken her arm so headed of to the Hospital where they then spent several hour getting her arm straightened and plastered.

Sunday morning we all gathered in the conservatory, where you could have breakfast and drinks if you wanted. Raffle time, everyone was there. Janice and Peter had done a sterling job of selling tickets and gathering lots of prizes to be won. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the raffle raised a staggering £160. Many thanks Janice and Peter! I think most of us were lucky and won a prize or two.

Along with Andy and Heather we walked into Charmouth and had Sunday lunch at the pub, one of the best pub Sunday lunch I've had in a long time. Most of Monday and Tuesday we all did our own things. Many met together at each other's vans for a drink and chat. It was lovely to sit out and enjoy the lovely weather we were blessed with the whole week.

The last evening most of us met in the Tow Bar for drinks and catch up. A few of the men decided to try their hand at Pool. Andy, Barry, Robert and Graham, none of them had played in years. Robert hoping in vain to win at least one game but managed to lose them all. Graham was the star of the night I believe he won most of his games. He then told us that he was a champion player for three years running, but that was several years ago. They had all had a good time which is our motto - enjoy yourself.



Next morning it was time to say our goodbyes. We decided to have a one night stop off at Tewksbury again, as did Val and David, but most headed straight for home, apart from Jane and Anthony who were originally moving to a different site in the area but decided to stay so that Jane could revisit the Hospital to get her plaster changed. Many thanks to Heather and Andy for another great rally; you put in lots of hard work so we are all able to have a fantastic time and enjoy ourselves.

When we were back home I read in the local paper that the 91- year old Great Yarmouth fishing boat, Lydia Eva, has been centre stage in the new Willy Wonka film. The vessel, usually moored at the south quay Yarmouth, was towed by tug to the south coast. In the film Lydia Eva features as a passenger steamer, which brings young Willy to England.

By Bridget Hubbard



Nearly Everything You Need to Know about Warner's Shows

By Robert Hubbard (Rally Marshal at the Lincoln Show)



Warner's organise shows for Motorhome & Campervan Owners, plus for the other crowd who call themselves Caravanners. Warner's try not to mix the two different factions but they do come together for one or two shows.

The Motorhome & Campervan shows are mainly for the sale of Motorhomes & Campervans and the spares that go with them, but there are a lot of accessories that both factions have, like Awnings, Fire Extinguishers, B B Q sets, Tent Pegs, Electric Bikes, Flag Poles and loads of space saving gadgets.

And of course new and used Motorhomes or Campervans that every Caravan owner is envious of.

Then there is food & drink that we all like. You will see Gin Stalls, Whisky Sellers (Don't Drink & Drive after trying them all), Cheese Stalls and all types of Sausages to try. There's also a large Food Court with a selection of Mobile Caterers.

There's clubs to join, The AA, The Caravan & Motorhome Club, Brit Stops and if you are not a member yet, Swift Motorhomes Owners Club.

There are over 200 Trade Stands wanting to sell you something. You name it, somebody has got it and want to sell it.

From Monday to Wednesday the Exhibition stands are being built. There's a hive of activity, with Motorhomes being placed on the exhibition stands, Marquees being built, Delivery vans unloading their wares, Motorhomes being washed and polished.

For the Lincoln Finale Show that took place in September 2019 (Before Covid), 5500 Motorhomes & Campervans made their way to the Lincoln Show Ground over a three day period. The show starts on Wednesday for all the Club Marshals, who plan out the pitches for the 24 Clubs that are able to have their own area. Swift Motorhomes Owners Club has one of these. We normally have between 10 to 18 Motorhomes.

Our area is usually close to the shows main areas. Water and Toilets are usually within 100 metres. There's no EHU, but gas is sold on site. (This the same for all the Warner's Shows.)

Some clubs have over 200 Motorhomes; I believe that Motorhome Fun are the biggest club. They have their own Marquee for entertainment. Try not to be parked near them, its too noisy!!

Then there's the General Camping areas scattered around the perimeter of the Show Ground. There is also a disabled area which is closer to the Exhibition area and the Entertainment Marquees.

The gates open at 9.30am on Thursday for the Motorhomer's, with 50 Warner's Marshals directing all the vans into the right locations. On the Friday & Saturday more Motorhomes arrive until the show ground is filled to capacity.

Being a Marshal is nerve-racking waiting for your members to arrive, most of ours don't show-up till the afternoon.

From Thursday to Sunday night there are two venues for entertainment, FREE, Lincoln usually have Comedians and 60 & 70s music.

On Saturday there is a Shuttle bus to Lincoln City Centre throughout the day - £4 return per person.

The main entertainment at Lincoln is in a 100 metre long x 40 metre wide double marquee with a fully equipped stage and seating and tables for 2000. There is, of course, a bar at both ends, which is not badly priced.

The other entertainment hall is the Epic Centre, which has some sort of activity throughout the day, whether it is Line Dancing or just having a Coffee. At night it has dancing to 50s & 60s music and this is all free.

There is a £20 per person charge for the Main Marquee on Saturday, which you need to purchase when booking. You do need to start queuing at least 1 hour before the show if you want a good seat. This year's acts are:

Bobby Davro, The Manfreds and One Step Behind



Continued overleaf.....

Photo supplied by Warners



The UK's longest running and largest outdoor Motorhome & Campervan Show is held in April at the Peterborough Show Ground.

It has all the same things happening as the Lincoln show (but bigger) and, of course, with different entertainment.

It is one of the three Warner's Shows where we have our own Club Area.

Below are the April 2022 acts who are booked for Peterborough.

*Thursday - Main Arena: **Boogie Wonderland, Countdown to the 80s***

Peterborough Suite: TBC

*Friday - Main Arena: **The Amazing Blues Brothers, The Take That Show***

Peterborough Suite: TBC

*Saturday - Main arena: **Go West, T-Pau, Sonia***

Peterborough Suite: TBC.



Entry on Saturday to see Go West, T-Pau and Sonia is £20 per person , but all other nights and venues are free to enter. Book online when you make your booking with Warners

On Saturday there is a Shuttle Bus to Peterborough City Centre - £4 return.

The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show is held at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcs. It is Warner's largest rally field -- A massive 6,000 ralliers camping on site and over 5,500 day visitors.

A variety of 250 trades stands are on display.

Renowned as one of the most famous country & western festivals in the UK, this will be the stand out weekend in any Country & Western lover's calendar! Known for its exciting atmosphere, join over 6000 people camping against the backdrop of the beautiful Malvern Hills.

There will be over 20 great Country & Western bands taking to the stage over the weekend along with the chance to watch authentic living history displays from the Lonestar Old West Re-enactment Group, an absolute must-see when visiting the show. The dedicated group provide live-action performances based around 19th century Western America. On top of all this, there will be one of the biggest displays of vehicles in the whole of UK! Local & national dealers will be bringing hundreds of new & used motorhomes and campervans in a range of styles and layouts.

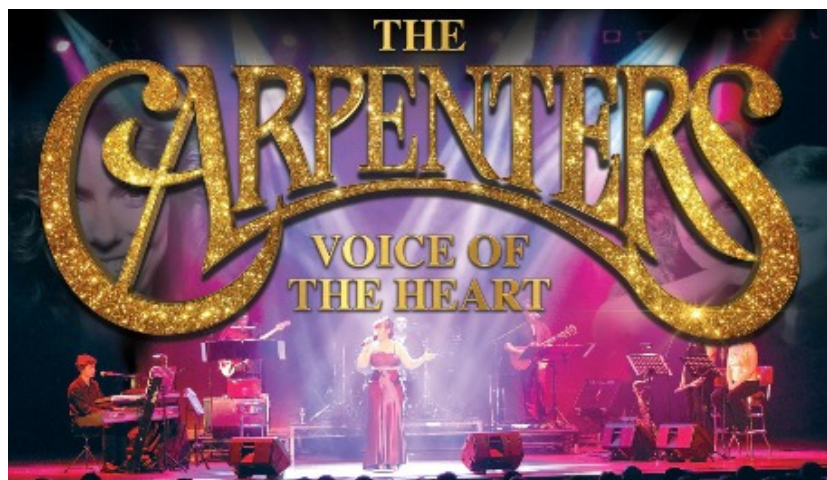
You will hear lots of Yee-Ha and gun shots. Also people dress up as US Cavalry, Cowboys and First Nations. There are Wild West displays throughout each day. Two of our members have all the regalia; guns that fire blanks, boots and all. You can kit yourself out in a full Western costume from the stands that come to this Show. Malvern host a large and varied display of 'authentic American' traders, situated beside the 'Lonestar Re-enactment' area.

The entertainment has not been announced yet for the venues at Malvern apart from Saturday's Main Show featuring;

Forever in Blue Jeans and Voice of the Heart.

You will need tickets which you can book on-line at the same time as booking.

Warner's Shows have extended their 'Booking Guarantee'. If any show has to be cancelled you will receive a full refund. Warners also continue to offer 'COVID compliant entertainment.'



Come and Join Us!

The Marshalls run a Meet & Greet and a Raffle but mostly members enjoy the entertainment that is provided by Warner's.

To book one of our rallies at a Warner's show: go online to Out & About Live, choose which show and pay Warner's. Remember to tick box for SMOC. Also fill in our usual rally form and pay the £2 rally fee and send to the Rally Secretary.

For more information visit www.showgoer.co.uk

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[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.

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[Tow GLIDE]

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