



SWIFT

**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**

Newsletter No 130 - Winter 2022/23



2023 SMOC RALLY PROGRAMME

<u>Feb</u>	14 th - 21 st	Wyton Lakes, (Wyton, PE28 2AA)
<u>March</u>	9 th - 16 th	Harrogate Caravan Park, (Harrogate, HG2 8NZ)
	29 th - Apr 5 th	Swift Group Rally and Factory Tour Driffield Showground (Driffield, YO25 9FB)
<u>April</u>	20 th - 24 th	National Motorhome Show (Peterborough, PE2 6XE)
<u>May</u>	10 th - 17 th	Briarfields Touring Park (Cheltenham, GL51 0SS)
	18 th - 22 nd	The Southern Motorhome Show (Newbury, RG18 9QZ) <i>(Follow on meet – Please book independently)</i>
<u>June</u>	5 th - 23 rd	Overseas Rally (France & Northern Spain) <i>(Details to be finalised in late October)</i>
<u>July</u>	12 th - 19 th	Minehead Rugby Club (Minehead TA24 6TR)
	19 th - 24 th	Uphill Marina & Touring Park, (Weston-super-Mare, BS23 4XR) <i>Follow on meet – Please book independently</i>
	27 th - 31 st	Welland Steam & Country Rally (Welland, WR13 6NG)
<u>Aug</u>	6 th - 9 th	Morton Hall Caravan & Camping, (Edinburgh, EH16 6TJ) <i>(Meet only – Please book independently)</i>
	9 th - 16 th	Alnwick Rugby Club (Alnwick, NE66 1BE)
	17 th - 21 st	Malvern Country & Western Show (WR13 6NW)
<u>Sept</u>	1 st - 4 th	Truckfest, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN)
	6 th - 13 th	AGM Rally, Rutland Caravan & Camping Park (Greetham, LE15 7FN)
	21 st - 25 th	Lincoln Motorhome Show (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)
<u>Oct</u>	10 th - 17 th	Cardiff Caravan & Camping Park (Cardiff, CF11 9XR)
<u>Nov</u>	22 nd - 29 th	Thorntons Holt Camping Park, (Stragglethorpe, NG12 2JZ)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson : Heather Hartell

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

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

Vice Chairman : Bridget Hubbard

45 Oaklands Drive, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0NW

Tel: 07485425925 Email: bm25hubbard@gmail.com

Secretary : Val Dobbin

4 Ranleigh Drive, Newburgh, Lincs, WN8 7NA

Tel: 01257 462433 Email: valdobbin@sky.com

Treasurer : Bob Mason

Capen Hurst, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 7QX

Tel: 01935 851120 Email: bob@bobmason65.plus.com

Rally Secretary : Andy Hartell

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

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

Newsletter and Website : Heather Hartell (Chairperson)

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

Membership Secretary : Robert Hubbard

45 Oaklands Drive, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0NW

Tel: 07799533434 Email: smoc.members.secretary@gmail.com

Regalia Organiser : Marilyn Miland Peelers,

Bayford, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9NR

Tel: 01963 34297 Email: smocregalia@aol.com

NEC Events Organiser : Jane Steward

Walton House, Brigstock, Kettering, Northants, NN14 3HH

Tel: 01536 373269 email: j@janesteward.co.uk

Co-opted Members

Ray Collinson

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

Tel: 07876506744 Email: rcolli4139@aol.com

Keith Morgan

Gwel yr Afon, Penrhyncoch, Aberystwyth, SY233EE

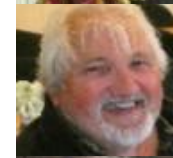
Tel: 07890542297 Email: Keithmorgan913@hotmail.com

Ann Halford

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

Tel: 07980453293 Email: annhalford@msn.com

www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk



CHAIRPERSON'S CHAT

Welcome to all members,

This year has been a very different one with the loss of our Queen, a new King Charles, three Prime Ministers, the cost of living going up and up and still Ukraine goes on. As always, our Christmas Rally was in November, so I hope all members who attended enjoyed it and hope all of you had a great Christmas and New Year.

The club has seen a very positive upturn on our members numbers mainly because of the different recruitment promotions, Facebook, Peterborough, and the NEC, so thanks especially to Jane and Anthony, the club gained 66 new members during these events. Jane especially wanted to thank all those that gave their time and energy to ensure a succesfull increase in club membership.

A big thanks to Andy for getting the 2023 rally program together, once again we have a full programme, see front of newsletter, and please also note the change to the AGM Rally venue. This year it has been great to see our old and new members come to the rallies, Bookings for next year rallies are now open so don't forget to book, this includes the Warners shows which are now live on the Out and About Live website. Andy and I hope to see you on a rally soon, perhaps we can share a drink or two!

The club cannot run rallies without the help of Marshalls and those of you who help with raffles and clearing up after events, just to say it is much appreciated. Please come forward if you wish to Marshall a rally.

I also wish to personally thank the committee for their hard work and dedication in supporting the club.

All that's left to say is Happy New year to you all and to hope for a brighter and happier 2023.

Best Regards

Heather (Chairperson)

.....

Letter and other contibutions published in the SMOC Newlsetter do not necessarily reflect thr views of the Editor or the Committee. It is a condition of publi-cation that all conributions may be edited for grammar, length and/ or clarity

A very warm SMOC welcome to our new members
We look forward to seeing you on a rally soon

Andrew & Julie Huntley from Caldicot - 3459
Colin & Diane Jerrom from Beltinge - 3460
John Lloyd from Worcester - 3461
Margaret & Ray Cannon from Donington - 3462
Martin & Carole Jones from Rhiwbina - 3463
Carol & Tony Lister from South Shields - 3464
Trudy & Russell Harris from Caerau - 3465
Glenda Dempsey & Peter Pheasey from Denton - 3466
Alan & Norma Sharkey from Syke - 3467
Phillip & Julie Stone from Stratton - 3468
Susan & David Purkis from Baildon - 3469
Robert Pollack from Southsea - 3470
Judith & Alex Fotheringham - 3471
Carole Berger & Andrew Howells from Monmouth - 3472
Peter Fitzhugh & Jenny James from Brackley - 3473
Helen Plaskitt from Birstall - 3474
Mark & Sharon Turner from Worksop - 3475
Norman Innes & Joanne Hodson - 3476
Andrew Welch from Boston - 3477
Jennifer Clark & Lee Ventham from South Ockendon - 3478
Trevor & Debra Locke from Stockton-On-Tees - 3479
Roger & Rose Meader from Romsey – 3480
Geoff & Teresa Green from Sunnyside – 3481
Amanda & Barry Hawkes – 3482
Alison Rose & Ros Hunt from Warton – 3483
Phillip Ford from Sinfin – 3484
Paul Rodgers from Beeston – 3485
Ann Brunt from Barlaston – 3486
Rebecca Dickson from Solihull – 3487
Lorraine & Allan Hay from Perth – 3488
Andrew Titherington & Jacqueline Walmsley from Darwen – 3489
Carl & Katie Radford from Newstead – 3490
Martin & Pauline Hayward from Prees – 3491
Johnny & Dawn Burns from Leicester – 3492
Garry & Gillian North from Fixby – 3493
Robert Bate & Debbie Hope from Great Sankey – 3494

“The Queue”

other queues will never seem as long again!

I always said I was going to do it but as I got off the train from Gatwick airport, after being dropped off by Heather at 11pm and looked around Blackfriars station wondering where to catch the train to London Bridge, I began to have my doubts, especially when I found out the last train had gone, so my only option was to walk to the beginning of the queue!



Queen Elizabeth II had up until just over a week before been my only monarch and a constant throughout mine and many others lives so I wanted to pay my respects. I therefore began to walk along the embankment, soon finding the snaking mass of people shuffling along albeit in the opposite direction to my walk, which was to take me to the beginning of the queue at Southwark Park some 2.5 miles from Blackfriars station. At one stage my hopes where raised, although quickly dashed because what I thought was the end of the queue was just a brief pause, to allow those who had been out enjoying a Saturday night out to get home. So onwards I walked and as I got closer to the queues, the shapes milling around me began to form into small groups of people, and then finally I arrived, at the start, well almost.

After being greeted cheerily by the yellow bibbed volunteers I then spent the next 30 minutes zig zagging across the park, along the way I struck up a conversation with a couple of people, one of whom wasn't very talkative, and I began to think the night was going to be very long indeed. However things improved greatly as I chatted to Justin and then as we ambled along, we were interrupted by a guy pounding along the temporary roadway with a large black suitcase in tow. This case was to be our saviour throughout the coming hours and its owner James kept us laughing constantly.

Finally we reached the start where a big electronic sign said the wait to view the Queen's Lying in State was 14 hours, I looked at my watch it was 2.15am!

Walking, well shuffling really, through the night along the Thames, via several lovely old streets just back from the river was rather fun as we chatted away and admired the old wharf buildings now converted into very expensive dwellings, the occupants were mainly tucked up in bed although some were on balconies still partying! Better keep the noise down as its now 3.30 am.



After talking to a Policeman from North Yorkshire (they drafted in some 10,000 from across the UK) we learnt that the snake of people, stretching from Southwark Park to Westminster, was about 8 miles long and the wait from Tower Bridge was around 6 hours, that's not so bad we thought, we might be at Westminster by 11am. What we hadn't counted on was the extra zig zags put in to slow the queue which not only added time but also distance.



As the sun began to rise the lights of London including the many buildings illuminated in a dark purple light (Tower Bridge, The Shard, The London Eye) began to fade and London began to wake up, with many of those enjoying the weak early sunshine filing pass the constant snake of people in the queue and engaging in a brief chat. By now it was 6.30am and our little group had grown to 7, all of whom contributed to making the long night pass very quickly and despite there

being no real opportunity to rest, our spirits were good, especially given we believed we only have 4.5 hours to go! As I went off to get some coffees, we all took it in turns, I returned to find my small group of newfound friends had moved on quite a way, however when I caught up with them, I discovered that another police officer (from the Met) had said we still had 6 hours or more to go.

We reached the point directly opposite the Houses of Parliament at 10.30am but new they we had to still get to Lambeth, cross the bridge and then tackle the zig zag from hell, awaiting us at Westminster Tower Gardens. However as it approached midday, we finally reached Westminster and could see Westminster Hall in the distance, were Queen Elizabeth II lay in state. The zig zag from hell lived up to its name as hundreds of very tired people made their way up and down 25 walkways, which crisscrossed the gardens. At the end of the park everyone disposed of any food and water they had left, although anything still in its packaging was collected for the homeless, along with other items like chairs etc which some people had.



At the airport style security checkpoint, just outside of Victoria Tower, the band of 7 all agreed to meet up once through so that we could go into Westminster Hall together. The security was very tight and personally I have never seen so many visibly armed police, I counted at least 40 all nursing Heckler Kochs.

As we approached the doors to Westminster Hall the mass of people who had endured over 12 hours of shuffling, it was now 10 past 2, fell silent this is what we had all come for. The scene as we moved from the entrance to the hall to the top of the stairs leading down into the vast cavernous space was almost surreal. The Catafalque on which her Majesty lay, was guarded by troopers from both the Blues and Royals and Lifeguards as well as Yeoman of the Guard and the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, all of whom seemed like they belonged in a picture as they were absolutely motionless. At this point a cold shiver came over me as I descended the stairs and approached the Catafalque where I paid my respects and filed out of the hall into the afternoon sunshine, albeit I did take a brief moment to look back and take a last look goodbye.

Outside the mood was sombre as we all met up to say our goodbyes and everyone agreed to keep in touch and share photos of our journey together. As James and I headed off to the nearest station I suddenly felt very tired and could hardly put one foot in front of the other, was I glad to get on that train and finally sit down, looking forward to a long bath and a glass of something.



Although it was as very long night and a tiring wait I would do it all again for the lady I admired as my monarch and who did so much in her service to this country and abroad. A few hours walking along the Thames in the middle of the night in a snaking queue of people was a small price to pay, especially given the new friends I made along the way, although perhaps less zig zags would have been preferable. I never did find out what was in James's suitcase!



2018 APPROVED DEALER AWARDS ★★★★★

FIAT PROFESSIONAL

OWNER SATISFACTION AWARDS 2017 CamperUK PREMIER SERVICE

SWIFT
SWIFT MOTORHOMES
MADE TO MAKE YOU Smile

CamperUK
PREMIER SERVICE

HIRE | SALES | SERVICE | PARTS

'Lincolnshire's Premier Motorhome Dealership'

T: 01522 411252

WWW.CAMPERUK.CO.UK

New & Used
Vehicle Sales



Workshop



Accessory Shop



Leisure Park



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



camperuk.co.uk



@Camper UK



@Camper_UK



@Camper_UK

Brecon Rugby Club - Jazz & Fringe Festival

10th -17th August 2022

On the first day meet & greet was held at Heather & Andy's motorhome where everyone introduced them self to the group along with a funny story or past memory. Thank you to Heather & Andy and the club for their generosity supplying drinks & nibbles. As first time rallier's we were made to feel very welcome. A very enjoyable couple of hours.



On Thursday everyone had a day of leisure to do their own thing.

Friday afternoon was time for celebrations as it was Birthday time for 3 members of the group, Sue celebrated her 60th, Gillian her 65th and John his 75th. We all had a pleasant couple of hours celebrating with Prosecco,

cake and snacks, in the evening with most members walking into Brecon to attend various Jazz Festival activities

On Saturday, we had a further gathering this time bringing your own eats and drinks again a pleasant evening with around 16 members attending, whilst the remainder walked into town to see further festival activities.

Sunday morning we had another gathering for a coffee morning and drawing of the raffle, which was very well organised by Jane and Barry, lovely donations of prizes were donated by all members of the group, again thanks to Heather and Andy for supplying tea, coffee cakes and biscuits. A group photo was taken for the magazine. Conversation then changed as to whether Keith and Sue would get there newly acquired 9m Kon Tikki over the notorious bridge on the exit



from the site. A few of us walked over to the bridge to have a laugh, (not really) we went to offer any guidance we could, but we also knew if Keith and Sue got over without incident then we all would be okay when it was our turn.



Monday evening, we had a cake and tea gathering in aid of the NHS, it looked at one stage that the event would have to be cancelled due to the weather, but the threatened weather didn't materialise. The event was attended by all those still with the rally. Tea and coffee was provided by Heather and Andy and there was a nice display of cakes for which the members made a donation to the NHS charity, total raised including gift aid was £84.00.

Tuesday evening was planned as our Au Revoir drinks gathering. As the Gurkha's are based in Brecon and have been for the last 45 years and

about 80 Nepalese families have made their home in the town since. Alistair suggested for our last gathering that we had a Nepalese take away, which went down well. Andy and Heather then worked hard to take orders, contact the restaurant and collect monies. The only downside to the evening was the weather, so we ended up eating in our motorhomes. As far as I'm aware everyone enjoyed their chosen meal.

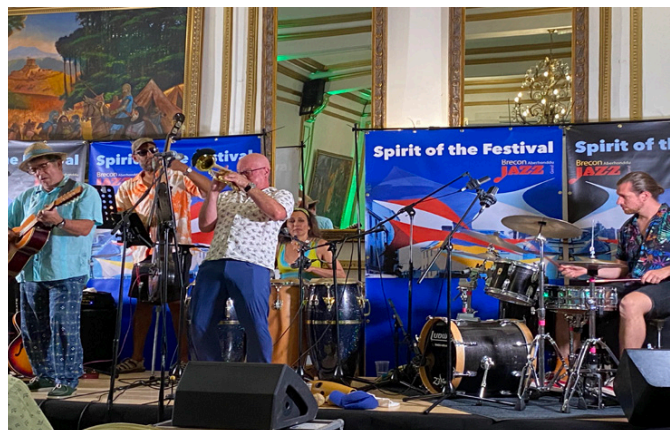
Wednesday morning, we all said our goodbyes and moved on to our chosen location, with some moving straight to the Malvern Rally.

As this was my first rally with the club, hence the reason for being volunteered to do this report, On behalf of my wife and myself I would like to thank Heather and Andy for a very well organised rally during which they both have worked very hard to plan and organise the events mention.

Finally we would like to thank all members and guest present for making us feel so welcome, this definitely won't be our first and last rally, hope to see you all again soon.



Kevin Murphy (3419)



MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, PEMBRIDGE

10TH SEPTEMBER 2022 – 10.30 a.m.

1. Ian opened the meeting with a 2 minute silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who very sadly passed away on 8th September 2022. He then welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Apoogies for absceence

Received from: John & Sally Dillon, Fred Morris & Silvia Pearse , John & Elaine White, Graham & Barbara Ball.

3. Minutes of the 31st AGM held on 10th September 2021

Published in Newsletter 126 were accepted by those present

4. Matter arising form the minutes published in newsletter 126

It was discussed by the committee in a previous committee meeting that we should amend the constitution i.e. To remove 9.7ii – ‘The rally marshal shall be paid a milage as agreed by the committee’. This was agreed by all those present at the AGM. Proposed by Sharron Matthews and Seconded by Janice Lane. Therefore the above has now been removed.

5. Chairmen’s report by Ian Mathews

With covid thankfully under control hopefully we can now get back to our normal way of living with our families, holidays and motorhome life.

We now have the extra burden of an expensive future ahead, with energy, fuel and living expenses on the rise, and our motorhome life will again be affected in terms of affordability with vast increases and availability on camp sites.

This will of course affect our club in finding suitable venues at a reasonable and sustainable cost to members, who also have the added cost of the impossible fuel increases. Hopefully members will continue to be able to travel and attend rallies with these rising costs. This of course will also reflect on eating out, admission fees to places we visit and so on.

Personally, I would like to thank all the committee members and marshals, who continue to work hard through these difficult times, and provide the club with a programme we can all enjoy and not forgetting the committee give up so much valuable time to support the club voluntarily.

The past year with the club has given many people great times to remember on various rallies, especially the superb French rally organised by Ray and Carol Collinson, certainly a holiday we all appreciated and enjoyed every day.

After seven years of being on the club committee, today I will hand over the chairman position to my new successor, thank you to all who supported me in this position and my wishes for a great future for the swift motorhome owners club.

Thank you

6. Treasurer's report by Bob Mason

For those who don't know me I am Bob Mason your Hon Treasurer. The 2021/22 Accounts were audited by Carol Collinson and found to be satisfactory in all respects.

The SMOC Accounting System is basically a spreadsheet comprising 10 pages that tracks the Bank Statement. It may sound a bit complicated, but in reality, it is fairly straightforward and is 100% accurate.

The two documents that I have produced for the meeting are the Cash Balance Statement (CBS) and the Income & Expenditure Sheet. Everyone should have sight of those documents. This information is extracted from the Accounting Spreadsheet which details every transaction that takes place throughout the year and available for any member to inspect.

The CBS is the simplest way to show exactly the state of the clubs finances at year end and the I&E Sheet how your money has been spent over the past year. Both documents are pretty much self-explanatory and indicate that SMOC is currently in a very healthy financial position. If anyone has any questions, I will take them at the end.

WebCollect, the online booking tool has been in operation for 9 months or so and it has not been without its problems. It has caused more work for the Treasurer, but the benefits outweigh the negatives. It has proven to be a very useful aid and it will only get better as members get used to using it.

I think it is fair to say that most queries and claims have been dealt with in a timely manner and I shall endeavour to keep that up.

Many members send me an email giving me a "heads up" that they have made a bank transaction. Please continue to do so if you wish as it is very helpful. If you do have a financial query just send me an email and I will try and sort it out as quickly as possible.

I have one request. If you have multiple receipts relating to a claim please assemble them on a sheet of A4 and photograph or scan them as a group. And please avoid coloured backgrounds as it consumes large amount of printer ink.

I should like to thank Carol Collinson for volunteering to audit the accounts. Finally, thank you all for your support and patience.

7. Appointment of Financial Examiner for the accounts

Once again Carol Collinson has volunteered. The Committee thanked Carol.

8. Other reports

Membership Secretary's Report - Robert Hubbard

When I became Membership Secretary last September, the club's membership was down to approx. 105 members because of Covid, hopefully not because we lost anybody to Covid. But mainly due to the fact people did not want to catch it and they had more important things to worry about than Motorhoming.

In October and November I was cleaning up the old excel files, instead of the name and addresses in one block, I had to make them into 6-line name & address plus postcode, plus I had to add extra columns to include the information that was required for WebCollect.

I might add that, yes, we had 105 members but there were also 50 ex-members who were also on the database, which I did not know then.

I had to go back to the previous membership secretary's excel sheets to find out who were ex-members and who were not.

We then had to transfer all the data to WebCollect which Andy did successfully.

Web Collect on the Members Secretaries side alone has had a saving to the club of over £110 just by not sending out reminders to each member, a few do need to go by Snail Mail as not everyone has an E-Mail Address. We also saved on the reduced size of the new members pack.

We now have approx. 171 members, and rising, Thanks to Jane's 30 plus new members in the April promotion at Peterborough.

As with all clubs, some join and some we lose.

But I think we are getting up to the pre-Covid numbers as the membership steadily climbs.

Rally Secretary's Report - Andy Hartell

It's great to finally be able to say after 2 tough years for everyone, that the last few months of 2021 and this year to date has in the main been pretty successful. We had a terrific rally in France, once again many thanks to Ray & Carol for making it happen, in addition we have had some wonderfully attended rallies in Charmouth (22 units), South Lytchett Manor (26) and the Western Motorhome Show, Malvern (18). Disappointingly some of our other rallies have only attracted single figures, however those that attended by all accounts still had a great time.

What is clear is that rallies outside of the summer months (July / August) generally do much better in terms of numbers, so this is something we will be trying to address in 2023 through increased promotion and choosing venues that may be a little less expensive in these peak times, although we must also recognise some of the other pulls our members have during these months, i.e., family commitments, other holidays etc.

I am still a little concerned about 2 of the Warners shows (Peterborough / Lincoln) as we struggle to achieve the required 10 units to hold our own rally, although we have actually managed to scrape over the line with both this year. I suggest therefore we give these one more push in 2023, especially as I understand this will be the last Peterborough show as the Showground is being redeveloped and also the event proved to be a great recruitment opportunity, with 33 new members signing up during the period of the show.

Of our 168 subscribed members some 54 (32%) attended at least one rally with a very big positive being the number of new members (17) who attended at least one rally, with 5 attending more than one...we must be doing something right! Of the 54 who attended a rally 16 booked onto 4 or more with 8 coming to more than 6 rallies I am still a little concerned about 2 of the Warners shows (Peterborough / Lincoln) as we struggle to achieve the required 10 units to hold our own rally, although we have actually managed to scrape over the line with both this year. I suggest therefore we give these one more push in 2023, especially as I understand this will be the last

Peterborough show as the Showground is being redeveloped and also the event proved to be a great recruitment opportunity, with 33 new members signing up during the period of the show.

As you will know we have had to carry some bookings over from 2020 and 2021 which has meant that perhaps the geographical diversity of our program has not been to everyone's liking, however I am hopeful, with a clean slate, that we can enjoy rallies in 2023 right across the UK and one again abroad. The program which is still to be formally approved by the committee, has a mix of sites both formal and informal across the UK and will include an overseas rally (France & Northern Spain) the details of which are still being finalised and will be communicated as soon as we can.

As I'm sure you will appreciate with the current financial challenges, putting together the program for 2023 has been an even greater challenge than last year. Sites are "even" more difficult to deal with, especially given the uncertainties over their variable costs i.e., fuel, the fact that site bookings for 2023 are currently strong and their increasing reluctance to entertain rallies, some, even when accepting rallies said they wouldn't consider a rally until January at the earliest, i.e., if space allowed.

Anyway, hopefully we now have a varied program in terms of geography, type of site / venue and importantly price, which should help to address the pressures our members also face. I have also considered follow on or pre-meets where possible, as several members have asked about these.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank-you to those members who have volunteered to marshal rallies over the last 12 months, without you, one of the core reasons for our club's being (our rallies) would not be possible. So, it remains just to say we "Need You!" for 2023, and any other members who would like to give it a try, it's really great fun, so if you want to have a go or even co-host one, please let me know.

Newsletter Editor / Webmaster Report - Ray Collinson

You'll be pleased to hear that I haven't got much to say this year! I've now been editor for 8 years and the Autumn Newsletter will be my last. During my time in the role, the Club has had 3 Chairmen, 3 Treasurers, 2 Secretaries, 3 Membership Secretaries and 3 Rally Secretaries – so the Editor's job is long overdue for someone else to take over the role.

I'd like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped me to produce the Newsletter over the years. You've sent me Rally Reports, Holiday Articles, Jokes and regular items such as Chairman's Chat and Future Rally Details. I'd like to give special thanks to Bill Hoggett who, along with others, has sent a regular supply of Rally Photos for the Newsletter – These are as important as the text content.

Finally, thank you to thank my wife Carol, for proofreading the Newsletter before it goes to the printer and for helping to label and pack the Newsletters prior to posting. Thank you everyone for your support over the last 8 years.

Secretary's Report - Val Dobbin

Good morning everyone. As I have now completed 5 years as your Secretary and have decided that this coming year will be my last, so if anyone would consider taking on this post at the next AGM I will give you all the help I can. I can confirm that our insurance is up to date as is our membership of ACCEO. Due to the AGM Agenda and Club accounts mostly now sent by email, thankyou Andy, our costs for this AGM in postage was only £12, which is great deal less than would have been using the mail.

9. Election of Management Committee

Chairperson	Heather Hartell	Proposed – Keith Morgan Seconded – Val Dobbin
Vice Chair	Bridget Hubbard	Proposed - Kirit Vaghela Seconded – John White
Treasurer	Bob Mason	Proposed – Val Dobbin Seconded – Phyllis Simcock
Secretary	Val Dobbin	Proposed – Heather Hartell Seconded – Bridget Hubbard
Rally Secretary	Andy Hartell	Proposed – Keith Morgan Seconded – Val Dobbin
Membership Secretary	Robert Hubbard	Proposed – Fred Morris Seconded – Silvia Pearse
Regalia Organiser	Marilyn Miland	Proposed – Pauline Cockburn Seconded – Jeff Smith
NEC Events Organiser	Jane Steward	Proposed – Sue Morgan Seconded – Keith Morgan

The secretary asked the members present if there was a volunteer who would be willing to fill the post of Newsletter and Web Editor. No one volunteered. As this was the case Heather Hartell has in conjunction with her other role as Chair person completed a proposal form

Chairperson	Heather Hartell	Proposed – Val Dobbin Seconded – Bridget Hubbard
--------------------	------------------------	---

10. Proposal of Motions - All those present agreed by a show of hands

11. Any other Business -

Ray Collinson– asked if there was a possibility of moving the AGM because of venue availability. It was thought by those present that the AGM should remain in September. Stephen Skull asked if a crib sheet could be produced to help answer questions posed by potential members we meet while on sites away from SMOC rallies. This was thought to be a good idea, and a document will be produced and shared with members in due course.

12. Date and Place of the Next Annual General Meeting -

Saturday 16th September, 10.30 a.m.

Rutland Caravan and Camping, Park Lane, Grantham, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 7FN.

The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show, Malvern

18th - 22nd August 2022

We have recently returned from a rather pleasant extended weekend at the Warner Western Motorhome Show at the Malvern Showground, in the company of various assorted and rather friendly members of the Swift Motorhome Owners Club, or SMOC.

We drove south on Thursday the 18th August from our home in Cheshire, past Shrewsbury, with the almost obligatory stop at Salop Leisure for a light lunch and a wander round looking at all the things you never knew you didn't need, on to Bridgenorth and then through Kidderminster, having ignored the Sat Nav which seems to insist we take the longer journey down the M6 and then the M5. I suppose its algorithm says it will be quicker. It obviously doesn't know about the continuous and never ending speed limits and that Birmingham does get busy at times.



Upon arrival at the entrance gate to the Malvern showground we were greeted by one of the stewards, who checked our printed entrance ticket and provided us with the goodie bag containing the show guide, wrist bands and assorted marketing items and directed us further up the field towards other stewards and hence towards the ultimate destination of the SMOC area.

Arriving at the SMOC area, we were greeted by a wet nose, belonging to a rather enthusiastic Manchester Terrier, closely followed by Heather and Andy, the event organisers. We were given a choice of two places to pitch. We chose the one closer to the corner, which was fairly level. We were shown the location of water, cassette emptying point and the like. Arriving mid-afternoon on the first day we were pleasantly surprised



by how many people were already pitched, not just at the SMOC area, but at the event generally.

As a new rally goer we were given a magnetic badge to put on the Swift, to denote our new rallier status to other ralliers. It seemed to work well as an ice breaker, as other SMOC event goers would stop on the way past for a chat and to pass the time of day.

We met David and Marilyn, John and Elaine and Trevor and Sheila, who were all very friendly. The magnetic First Timer badge is definitely something to continue using.

We had a wander round the site to orient ourselves. Wow, the showground is big, with lots of different areas for the different clubs, owners clubs and the like. Also there were the three main entertainment halls, Severn, Avon and Wye. Also you do tend to look at other units, including the size of some of the American ones| We opted for a visit to Severn Hall on the first evening where we watched Cole Jackson and LA Country.



Friday the show opened fully so this was explored. We were treated to several different mini shows from the Lonestar Re-enactment group, including a bank raid and a demonstration of frontier ordnance.

These were all very entertaining, and after the shows you could walk round the camp that they had set up and chat to the re-enactors. All very interesting, much more than I thought it would be at first look and very educational for someone whose knowledge of the wild west came from John Wayne films.

Of course there was also the main exhibitors, with everything from nuts and bolts up to motorhomes and fifth wheelers. Of course as with all the shows, not everything is of immediate interest to everyone and we found ourselves spending more time at some stands than others. Funnily enough some things were only really noticed on the second or even third time walking round.

Friday evening we saw Thornhills and later Midnight Riders in the Severn Hall. Both entertaining.



Saturday saw a bit of a repeat of Friday to a certain extent, with a wander round the stands and another set of mini shows from the informative Lonestar Group. All their shows seemed to draw a decent sized audience. If you needed a seat you either had to bring your own or turn up earlier to get a straw bale seat.

The evening shows in the Severn Hall were the headline acts of Texas Gun, a trio, followed by Voice of the Heart, playing favourite Carpenters songs, who then morphed into Forever in Blue Jeans after the mid-evening break. All the evening’s acts were very entertaining with reminders of old songs part forgotten.

Sunday morning there was the SMOC raffle, where rally goers would bring items of food or goods to be raffled off for club funds. Some people had bought stuff with them for the raffle, some were hastily purchased from the showground food shop. The raffle was conducted in a relatively well ordered manner, with almost everyone who had purchased a ticket walking off with something useful, or at least edible. The afternoon started to see the slow and steady exodus of show goers, especially those who had work on the Monday.

We managed to stay until the next day, where after thanking Andy and Heather, stewards were again available to aid our progress back to reality and the public highway network. We did stop for a late breakfast at the Morrisons store in Malvern, before heading North again to home, with some good memories of a rather pleasant weekend in the Worcestershire sunshine.

Colin & Heather Lobley (3441)

Members Portal

Don’t forget to log into your personal dashboard on the “Members Portal” where you can review / update you personal information, view upcoming rallies, existing bookings and manage your membership subscriptions. If you need any help just hit the “Contact Us” link at the top of any of the Portal pages.

Upcoming SMOC events

Christmas Meal 2022 - Poston Mill

Details

23-11-2022 Poston Mill

Details

23-11-2022 Rally Fee - Poston Mill

Details

Browse more upcoming events

My Rally Bookings for upcoming events

23-11-2022 Poston Mill - Pitch Fee - Fully Serviced Pitch (1 Night - Ful...

23-11-2022 Rally Fee - Poston Mill (Member Rally Fee (payable per attende...

23-11-2022 Rally Fee - Poston Mill (Member Rally Fee (payable per attende...

24-11-2022 Poston Mill - Pitch Fee - Fully Serviced Pitch (1 Night - Ful...

25-11-2022 Poston Mill - Pitch Fee - Fully Serviced Pitch (1 Night - Ful...

26-11-2022 Poston Mill - Pitch Fee - Fully Serviced Pitch (1 Night - Ful...

27-11-2022 Poston Mill - Pitch Fee - Fully Serviced Pitch (1 Night - Ful...

28-11-2022 Poston Mill - Pitch Fee - Fully Serviced Pitch (1 Night - Ful...

29-11-2022 Poston Mill - Pitch Fee - Fully Serviced Pitch (1 Night - Ful...

Details of all tickets

My subscriptions current

Manage / Renew my subscriptions

Full Membership Subscription

01-03-2023

Buy New Membership Subscription Here

Lists

I belong to

AGM Rally

View

Ambleside Rally

View

Brecon Rally

View

more...

My profile

Title

Mr

First name

Andrew

Last name

Hartell

Email

andy.hartell@btinternet.com

WebCollect id

599132

Unique id for SMOC

<not assigned>

Bank reference for SMOC

spkeylmzo8

Edit Details Password Addresses

My family: Hartell #3243

Name

Family admin

Andrew Hartell

Yes

Heather Hartell

No

Edit Members Details Membership forms

My recent orders

1601726

17-10

1 item

£43

Order placed

1532222

24-07

9 items

£138.50

Order placed

1532219

24-07

9 items

£160.90

Payment received

1420466

24-03

9 items

£93

Payment received

1420465

24-03

9 items

£164

Payment received

View all

Member Account

599132 - Andrew Hartell...

0.00



SWIFT

Discover
peace of
mind.
Escape in
a Swift.



**WEST COUNTRY
MOTORHOMES**

The UK's Premier Dealer

www.wcmh.co.uk

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



SALES



SERVICE



ACCESSORIES

Over 200 new and quality used motorhomes in stock

SOMERSET SALES CENTRE

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

☎ 01278 761200

WILTSHIRE SALES CENTRE

Turnpike Road, Blunsdon,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN26 7EA

☎ 01793 726666





FUTURE RALLIES

Wyton Lakes Holiday Park

Banks End, Wyton, Cambridgeshire PE28 2AA

Tue 14th – Tue 21st February 2023 (7 nights)

Located within the heart of the Cambridgeshire countryside Wyton Lakes Holiday Park is a 4 star rated family run adults only park. Set in twelve and a half acres with three well stocked fishing lakes and with frontage onto the river Great Ouse, Wyton Lakes is the ideal park for relaxing. Perfect if you enjoy fishing or just sitting watching the wildlife and boats go by.

The nearest pub is just a 5-minute walk away, there is a large garden centre just across the road and bus stops are less than 10 minutes from the site with buses to Huntingdon, Peterborough, St Ives and Cambridge.

Please note that there is an additional charge for standalone gazebos of £2 per night.

Why not start the season off with a visit to the Wyton Lakes rally, remember you don't have to stay the full week.

Pitch Fee: £25 / unit per night inc. EHU/Hardstanding

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

Rally Marshals: Andy & Heather Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: Tuesday 10th January 2023

No arrivals before 12 midday or after 7pm on any day.

Harrogate Caravan Park, Great Yorkshire Showground

Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8NZ

Thurs 9th – Thurs 16th March 2023 (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. The town is full of great independent shops, glorious antique stores and top-class cosy pubs serving excellent beer.

Pitch Fee: £24.50 / unit per night inc. EHU/Hardstanding

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

Rally Marshals: Val & Dave Dobbin

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 1st February 2023

No arrivals before 1pm

Swift Group Rally + Factory Visit, Driffield Showground,
Kelleythorpe, E. Yorkshire, YO25 9DN

Wed 29th March – Wed 5th April 2023 (7 nights)

Returning after more than 4 years, this rally (sponsored by the Swift Group) is for all Caravan & Motorhome Clubs that are supported by the Swift Group. The event includes a visit to the Swift Factory, with a guided tour which provides an excellent insight into the manufacturing process involved in producing Swift leisure vehicles.

Evening entertainment in the licensed pavilion is included, with horse racing, a charity auction, raffle and the keenly awaited Last Night of the Prom's where we are expected to dress accordingly, including our tables! No pressure here, but some members of the club are the current holders of the best dressed table shield!

The showground is situated in the Yorkshire Wolds, beside the town of Driffield with its transport links to Beverley, Hull and Bridlington.

By all accounts this is a great event and very popular so don't forget to book early to secure your place.

Please note that there is no EHU however there are toilets, fresh water and elsan facilities.

Pitch Fee: £7.50 / unit per night

Rally Fee: £1 per person

(No Guests allowed as this is a Swift Only Event)

Rally Marshals: John & Elaine White

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 27th February 2023

No arrivals before 12 midday

National Motorhome Show
East of England Showground, Peterborough, PE2 6XE.
Thurs 20th - Mon 24th April 2023 (4 nights)

Join us for the first and last Warners show at the Peterborough showground. Whilst it's our first show of 2023 it will be the last Peterborough show, as the site has been sold off for redevelopment. Established over 30 years ago the event attracts thousands of both day visitors and camping units. The show with its hundreds of trade stands, covering everything from alcohol to zips, will no doubt tempt you into buying something even if you didn't think you needed it! In the evening there is entertainment from the 70's and 80's, with this year's headline acts being Bjorn Again and Complete Madness.

On Friday there is a pre-bookable coach trip to Stamford (£15 pp return) as well as a shuttle bus to Peterborough on Saturday, costing £5 return per person.

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



Show Camping Fee:

4 night stay (Thursday arrival) £80 per unit
3 night stay (Friday arrival) £77 per unit
Rally Fee: £1 per person (Guests £10 per unit)

Rally Marshals: Jane & Anthony Steward

Closing Date for bookings: 5th April 2023

No arrivals before 09.00 on any day

What do you call?

Q: What do you call something that's easy to get into, but hard to get out of?

A: *Trouble.*

Q. What do you call a Spanish guy who has been discharged from hospital?

A: *Manuel.*

Q: What do you call a man with an elephant on his head?

A: *An ambulance.*

Q: What do you call a pony with a cough?

A: *A little hoarse.*

Briarfields Touring Park
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 0SS
Wed 10th - Wed 17th May 2023

Briarfields is a small family-owned touring caravan and camping site, located just 2 miles from Regency Cheltenham Spa and 6 miles from Historic Gloucester. There is an excellent bus service just a short walk from the site to both towns which runs every 15 minutes during the day and 30 minutes at other times.

A mix of the traditional and the new Cheltenham nestles against the Cotswolds with its abundance of independent high street shops and varied dining experiences, from street food to Michelin starred fine dining.

Gloucester, a cathedral city located on the river Severn and situated between the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean is the most inland port in the UK. Visit the 11th-century Cathedral, which has Romanesque and Gothic architecture, plus the tomb of King Edward II. Nearby are the Gloucester Docks, with restored Victorian warehouses, a dry dock and the Mariners Chapel. The National Waterways Museum celebrates the city's industrial past with canal boats and interactive displays.

Pitch Fee: £24 / unit per night including EHU / Hardstanding

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

Rally Marshals: Nick & Ann Halford

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 3rd April 2023

No arrivals before 12 midday or after 10pm

Lost Balls

Two Golfers were approaching the first tee.

The first guy goes into his golf bag to get a ball and says to his friend - "Hey, why don't you try this ball." He draws a green golf ball out of his bag. "Use this one - You can't lose it!"

His friend replies, "What do you mean you can't lose it?!!!"

The first man replies, "I'm serious, you can't lose it.

If you hit it into the woods, it makes a beeping sound, if you hit it into the water it produces bubbles, and if you hit it on the fairway, smoke comes up in order for you to find it."

Obviously, his friend doesn't believe him, but he shows him all the possibilities until he is convinced. The friend says, "Wow! That's incredible! Where did you get that ball?"

The man replies, "I found it."

AGM Rally - Townsend Touring Park, Pembridge

7th - 14th September 2022

Well! What a journey to get to the rally at Townsend Touring and Camping Park for the AGM!! There we were zooming along nicely until we left the M5 at the Worcester junction for the A44 and after about 5 miles along we came up behind a very slow moving queue of traffic, so we crawled along often only in first gear and after a while could see that it was half of one of those portable houses being transported but it was so wide oncoming traffic couldn't get past and so the road kept being jammed. It took about an hour to go 17 miles! Finally it turned off just before Leominster and we could get on eventually arriving around 4pm to a great welcome mainly for the new boy on the block Gibson from Val and Dave who were rally marshals, and then by Heather at speed having seen Gibson sitting up front just like dear Bertie used to do, such nosey little dogs Border Terriers. Heather also has a new puppy called Luna.

We have a lovely large grass pitch and so quickly got parked up, Gibson walked and then off up to Val and Dave's for the welcome meeting.



On the Thursday we didn't do much and were having a quiet day when we received the terribly sad news that our Queen had passed away peacefully with her children all gathered around her, while this was not totally unexpected as Her Majesty had been getting quite frail she had looked in good spirits when meeting with Liz Truss the 15th Prime Minister of her 70 year reign so it was somewhat of a shock to hear

that her children had all gone to Balmoral and then only a few hours later she had passed away. While most of us have only ever known Queen Elizabeth as our Monarch some members of the club at the rally (with Prince Charles now becoming King) will have seen three.

On Friday lots of ralliers walked down to Pembridge and caught the bus to Leominster and others to Hereford both only a short ride away. Anthony, Gibson and I went to Pembridge Church and visited the Detached Bell tower which is the only one like it in the country and it is possible it was built at the time of the Magna Carta. We watched the bell ringer toll the half muffled bell 70 times, 1 for each year of the Queens reign. The bell tower is well worth a visit as are the Pembridge Tapestries inside the church which depict the history of the village from Doomsday to present in stitches. Pembridge itself has several pubs, a lovely shop, a cafe where we had a lovely lunch and welcomes dogs and a craft and art shop in an old chapel opposite the cafe. There are also lots of interesting black and white timber houses including one built in 1661 to house the hospital (Duppa's Almshouses) of which there were two the other being built in 1686.



Saturday was the day of the AGM not taking too long, a report from the outgoing Chairman and other members of the committee with a chance for members to comment, ask questions and make suggestions about how they would like to see the club run and then the election of a new committee (anyone who is a full member can put themselves forward to stand on the committee) Presentations were made to Ian our outgoing chairman and Ray the Newsletter and web site editor to thank them for their input to the club.

There are some lovely walks from the site so Gibson and I trundled off and had a long walk by the River Arrow, other members also walked the river trails.



In the evening Heather the incoming Chairperson along with Bridget (Vice Chair) hosted a very enjoyable evening for us all at her van with a buffet and drinks.



A group lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by us all at The Kings House a characterful black and white building. A three course lunch saw me taking another long riverside walk with Gibson who also needs to watch his weight.



Anthony and I visited Berrington Hall on Monday which is about 20 minutes drive away from the site, a National Trust property which was on my list to visit as I had ridden here in competition but never had the time to look around.

Tuesday morning Val and Dave our Rally Marshals gave a coffee morning, more tea and cake! We then set off for Brobury House and gardens, a nice property with

views out over the River Wye. As we were having lunch Ray and Carol arrived so the four of us had an enjoyable amble around the gardens and followed by tea in the pop up cafe there.

So once more we have had another great rally, although we had a good number of vans it would be good to see even more members coming to the AGM rally next year as the actual rather boring bit only takes up about an hour on the Saturday morning and it is your chance to have a say in how the club is run.

Jane Steward (2981)



NEC Motorhome & Caravan Show October 22

After 2 years away it was great to be back at the show with the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club stand. Swift Group really pulled the stops out for their return to the NEC. The Swift stand was impressive and easily the best one at the show, the club areas were brought out into the main stand and highlighted so that people could find us easily and this showed in the record number of people who signed up with us at the show.

Anthony and myself arrived on the Monday to set the stand up ready for action on Tuesday. Club members volunteered to help man the stand, talking to people about the club and signing them up, other members visiting the show dropped by and helped so there was plenty of time for everyone to have a good look round and to explore the country's largest display of campervans, motorhomes and accessories all under one roof and it's a great opportunity to step inside the newest vehicles from the industry's finest, compare the different layouts, specifications and finishes and choose the right Motorhome for you, Swift of course!!



I went down from the pop up campsite each morning and prepared the stand for the day and made sure everything was ready. Anthony and I also spent some time on the stand each day assisting our wonderful volunteers who were also able to pop across to the Swift hub for complimentary drinks. It was here that the cookery demonstration was held every day and I made sure I was there to sample the delights on offer, the lemon curd cheesecake being particularly delicious.

We could not do this without volunteers so if anyone fancies a fun day out, tickets provided, at the NEC next October please contact me or see me at a rally.

Very many thanks to all of this year's volunteers.

We signed up 27 new members during the NEC show with a further 7 joining online during the promotional period. A great result thank-you Jane & Anthony - EDITOR



**MOTORHOME
PROTECT**
INSURANCE SPECIALIST

**INTRODUCTORY
OFFER
FOR CLUB MEMBERS**

£25 OFF

your motorhome or
campervan insurance with
Motorhome Protect

Call us on

01865 818 345

With the code 'CLUB25'

*Terms and
Conditions apply

MOTORHOME INSURANCE YOU CAN TRUST

Available Benefits at a Glance

- 🛡️ 365 days EU Cover*
- 🛡️ Self-build & DIY conversions
- 🛡️ UK & EU breakdown cover
- 🛡️ Unlimited mileage
- 🛡️ Club member discounts
- 🛡️ Introductory NCB allowed
- 🛡️ Personal effects cover
- 🛡️ Excellent Service

motorhomeprotect.co.uk  **/Motorhomeprotect**

*Policy benefits, features and discounts offered may vary between insurance schemes or cover selected and are subject to underwriting criteria. Motorhome Protect is a trading name of Insurance Factory Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (No. 306164). For mutual security, calls are recorded and may be monitored for training purposes.

Lincoln Motorhome Show **22nd - 26th September 2022**

Thursday 25th September we travelled from Derbyshire to Lincoln for the Motorhome Show, this would be our fourth time at the show but our first with SMOC. The Marshalls, Robert and Bridget greeted us at the entrance to the rally, identified us as the newbies and placed the sticker in prominent place on the door of the van. Robert had parked us in the middle – not sure whether this was so that he could keep an eye on us or make sure that we did not escape! There was steady flow of arrivals on Thursday and by the time of the ‘meet and greet’ there were 12 vans on site, with a couple more due to arrive on Friday. The meeting was the opportunity to re-acquaint the old and the new members and the nibbles were enjoyed by all – thank you to Bridget.



The entertainment on Thursday was a Cilla tribute act followed by the Moondogs – both were very enjoyable.

Early hours of Friday morning were we woken in our van by a blue flashing light – were we in the middle of a police raid – no we had run out of gas!! First job for us when the show opened was the find the gas man. With the show open from Friday most people went off for a look around to find all those things which they never knew they needed. Throughout the weekend there was a steady stream of new purchases ranging from flags and flag poles to front covers.

Friday evening saw most members back at the entertainment area this time for the YouRhymics and The Stones – both were very good. On Saturday several group members took advantage of the bus to Lincoln. Everyone else headed back into the show for more shopping and a trip down memory lane with the David Essex tribute act, the latter of which was brought to rather an abrupt end by the arrival of two Spitfires on their flyover.



Following a lengthy queue Saturday's entertainment was well worth the wait – Madness tribute act, followed by the hilarious Bobby Davro and the superb Manfreds.

Sunday morning it was time for the raffle and a quiz – well done to Elaine and John on your spectacular win in the quiz. There was also the presentation of the Swift Tumblers Awards for the most ungraceful dismount from one's bicycle during a recent rally to France.



Sunday was also the last day of the show so time to shop for any bargains and then all too soon it was the flypast of the Hurricane as a finale. Shortly after this we had to say our goodbyes and drive home as there was work to go to on Monday. We hope that you enjoyed Sunday evening either the entertainment or your drinks around the camp.

Thanks to everyone who attended for a most enjoyable rally, and especially Robert and Bridget for hosting, marshalling and generally keeping everyone in order.

Carol and Rob (3449)



Harford Bridge Holiday Park, Peter Tavy

11th - 18th October 2022

12 vans came together for the penultimate rally of 2002. The site is located north of the Devon town of Tavistock and the vans were pitched along the bank of the river Tavy, which gushed more than gurgled past, on its way to Tavistock. Due to the year's low rain fall the river level was not a concern for the vans nearest the river.

Val and Dave met us on arrival as Rally Marshals and directed us to our pitch. We had only travelled that morning from Collumpton, about an hour away, but when we arrived there were already a number of vans pitched. The weather was dry and warm for October, so early evening, we all met up alongside Val and Dave's van for the welcome 'meet and greet'. The site wardens joined us and together we enjoyed tea and cake while informing us about what was available on or around the site and the phone app that we could download to access the free wifi and order fresh bread, croissant or cream or savoury scones. They had even provided a tea urn for our use and were very welcoming and supportive throughout our stay.



The site had everything required for an autumn rally including the use of their games room, which had plenty of space for us to gather in. The bus stop was 300 yards from the entrance with buses approximately hourly to either Tavistock or Okehampton although there was no actual bus stop sign so you had to request the bus to stop. This proved a bit pointless for the 10.30 bus on the morning of our first full

day. It was full and could only take 2 passengers. This was down to the event taking place in Tavistock for the first time in 3 years – the 'annual' Goose Fair. Those heading out early therefore proceeded by foot, which was via cycle and footpaths. I managed to lose Nick on the way in, but despite Tavistock being extremely busy did manage to join up with him in the centre. Mobile phones can be useful!!! I think we all enjoyed wandering around the many



stalls and shops. Geese were hard to find though but there was plenty of street food and drink for us to partake of for lunch. Getting the bus back was a bit easier but there was standing room only, well before the bus was due to leave. It was much easier to get the bus during the rest of our stay and those with cars could park in the town too.

Despite previous forecasts, Thursday dawned with some sunshine. Nick did his early newspaper run which was not too far away at Mary Tavy. This became a shared duty, as Stephen and Esther enjoy a read of a newspaper every day too so Stephen and Nick alternated each day. We then went off to have a coffee and wander round Okehampton, returning in time for a lunchtime booking at the nearest pub for lunch. This had



been highly recommended by Graham and Pauline who had visited the Peter Tavy earlier in the week prior to the rally, so five of us joined them to enjoy the lovely food. The portion of Steak and Stilton Pie was huge! After sleeping off our large lunch we walked up to the games room to join everyone for the evening. We arrived in time to see the sites

well known ducks being put to bed. It was a bit like getting the kids to bed, with them quacking away for a good 10 minutes before settling quietly. Meanwhile we had enjoyed a 'bring your own drinks and nibbles' evening with an odd game of table football but nobody was tempted by the 85inch TV!!

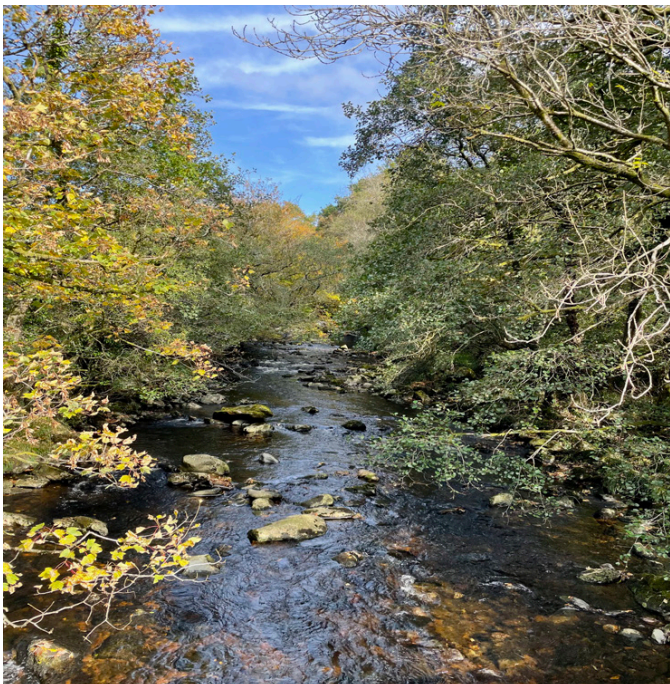
We woke to very grey skies and drizzle for the first time on Friday, but with and afternoon tea in the games room to look forward to Nick and I headed off to visit Castle Drogo (NT), the last castle to be built in the UK in the 1900s. It is definitely a bit of a conundrum, as it looks like a castle from the outside but has the ambience of a 'modern home' inside. All its electricity was generated from a water turbine which the National Trust has restored and is in use today. Returning to site to gather for the afternoon tea and later a fish and chip supper arranged by Val and Dave with the additional help of a car and driver. Many thanks to all involved for enabling another good evening.



Rather blustery on Saturday, but all headed off either on foot, by bus or car to the surrounding area. Nick and I headed to Princetown for a wander and coffee before making our way to a little place, Moretonhampstead to a motor museum we had found on the site map of things to see on the site map of things to see. This is a private car collection whose owner thoroughly enjoys personally showing his collection to visitors.

I spent the afternoon being taught the alphabet in sign language and how to sign my name by Esther. I shall endeavour to remember it so that I am ready when we next meet. The games room was the evening destination for a general get together with Val and Dave throwing in a dingbats quiz to keep our brains ticking over. I was pleased to find that Nick and my attempt was an improvement on previous ones.

Sunday found us all sitting out in the sunshine for the raffle, with our hot tea or coffee and biscuits. Thanks to Esther for doing the raffle and to all those who donated prizes. I think each van managed to get a prize helped by redraws from those that were luckier than others. A good bit of fun while raising funds for the club. Nick and I wanted to celebrate our 41st Anniversary with everybody so Val and Dave had again organised our use of the games room. We welcomed everyone to celebrate with us with some bubbly and cake. Thank you to you all for the card and kind wishes and giving us an enjoyable evening.



The weather continued to be better than expectations, despite a rather wet night. One or two vans left us on Monday due to commitments during the week while the rest spent the day enjoying the surrounding area. We took off to Bude where we spent a sunny morning around one of the headlands and the town and then later met up for dinner with some friends from home who have a holiday home nearby. After a late return to site we made sure that we were up early enough to say cheerio to those that were leaving at the end of the rally. We were staying on for a couple of nights to meet up with our friends again.

The site is really well situated giving easy access by bus to Bude and Plymouth and for those with a car, futher a field to Tintagel, Boscastle, Launceston and more.

Ann & Nick Halford (3116)

Northern Spain

As plans are afoot to have a rally in Northern Spain next year, I thought I would write what I hope will be a useful piece as we spent five weeks there in May and June 2022.

If you are planning to take the ferry rather than drive through France, then we would recommend using Santander. It is much easier to navigate through than Bilbao as it is a more compact city. The main A8 motorway crosses the whole of northern of Spain and is toll free, and, am delighted to say, almost traffic free. The short stretch of the AP8 from Bilbao into France is a toll road. Surprisingly it is almost flat as we seemed to either be going through a tunnel or over a viaduct. We made the mistake of going too far on our first day, thus missing some delightful coastal villages we had to find on our return. There are plenty of junctions leaving the motorway but very few service stations, which



when you find them have good old fashioned attended service and if you just say “complete” your tank will be filled for you. Supermarkets are not as frequent or as huge as in France, but are signposted off the motorway.

The scenery is stunning all the way along and in some places there were patches of snow high up on the mountains, but occasionally you come across a huge factory complex as the area is known for the mining of minerals and has plenty of running water (yes it does rain a bit!) to generate power. The rain is also responsible for the seven feet high Hydrangeas that grow wild and are absolutely beautiful.

If you plan to stay on after the organised bit, I suggest you purchase “All the Aires in Spain and Portugal” from Vicarious Books. We found some delightful ones and if you need an aire straight off the ferry try “the elephant aire” as its known, which is in Carbaceno Nature Park – its only a large car park (used to have facilities but no longer so make



sure you have water etc.,) and if you walk out of the footpath at the rear you will see a herd of elephants and some water buffalo roaming free. If you need facilities then the aire at Lierganes is also within about half an hour of the port.

Most of the aires run by the villages are free, we only came across one at Tapia de Casariego which charged 4euros for parking, but the machine was out of action when we were there. Worth every euro though as the beach is just across the road and the town a few minutes walk away. The facilities on most of the Aires are simple concrete structures which need no instructions on how to use, so no getting confused like I do at the French ones.

When you are out walking it is customary to greet everyone with Buenos Dias/Nochas or Hola so a few words of Spanish go a long way. We found (fortunately) that the folk



who ran the camp sites we stayed on spoke enough English to be able to understand my mutterings. Several of the sites wanted paying in cash so we took a card pre-loaded with Euros from the Post Office to save having a lot of notes hanging around and used cash machines when we needed to.

This card can also be used as a normal payment card in supermarkets/garages and camp sites that don't want cash.

Going early in the year we did not bother to book any sites but found that some in the ACSI book were closed when they should have been open and then we found one that had been closed for two years, but let us and a German couple stay anyway! Being early in the season too some campsite restaurants and supermarkets were not open. Probably best to book as its going to be later on in the season as the beaches are glorious and very popular with surfers – the beach front parking seemed to be free too and we never came across a height barrier. In fact most of the parking we came across was free.

One hazard that you have to be aware of is loads of pilgrims walking or limping their way to Santiago de Compostela. There are several routes that they use in this area and they tend to wander around in small groups, all with a shell on their backpack or round their neck.

**We found the price of fuel was just a little cheaper than at home and supermarket prices pretty much the same so there was no real problem in not being able to stock up the fridge before we went as we usually do. **

“Pulpo” is the speciality of this region and is served in many different ways – it’s octopus and comes fresh, frozen, pickled, spiced and live, I tried some at one campsite restaurant and it was OK, but a bit chewy and not something I will be repeating.

Anyway we had a lovely time wandering round finding all the nooks and crannies. If you have time go to Potes right up in the Picos de Europa, the campsite is about a mile out of town, with a swimming pool, and the town itself is very ancient (if a little touristy) with overhanging balconies on the narrow main road which seem to have come into contact with passing traffic at times. Another place well worth visiting is Taramundi, a village dedicated to making wooden handled knives. They are very beautiful and the shops are full of them in all shapes and sizes. A very steep walk down the valley from the Aire is an open air museum of different water mills – absolutely fascinating.

Marilyn Miland (2378)

Wordsearch

Safari Animals

E	E	L	A	N	D	P	E	L	H	O	D	N	E
A	R	N	B	G	E	F	I	B	A	B	O	O	N
C	H	E	E	B	F	O	E	L	L	E	Z	A	G
R	I	O	L	A	N	N	R	K	N	A	I	E	E
O	N	E	R	B	U	F	F	A	L	O	L	Z	N
C	O	I	O	S	O	K	U	D	U	I	T	O	W
O	G	A	E	P	P	Z	Z	E	B	R	A	E	A
D	S	O	C	C	D	R	R	T	R	R	L	E	R
I	A	R	E	A	H	A	I	A	N	E	E	T	T
L	D	R	A	P	O	E	L	N	P	C	N	E	H
E	E	D	T	I	G	C	E	H	G	N	N	V	O
W	H	I	P	P	O	N	A	T	O	B	N	I	G
H	Y	E	N	A	C	N	T	H	A	N	O	C	A
C	P	H	F	A	T	B	O	L	O	H	G	K	L

- KUDU
- LEOPARD
- SPRINGBOK
- ELAND
- CROCODILE
- BABOON
- GIRAFFE
- ELEPHANT
- BUFFALO
- HIPPO
- RHINO
- WARTHOG
- GAZELLE
- ZEBRA
- CHEETAH
- CIVET
- HYENA
- LION

Living life Today

A boat was docked in a tiny Calabrian fishing village. A tourist complimented the local fishermen on the quality of their fish and... asked how long it took to catch them.

“Not very long” they answered in unison. “

Why didn’t you stay out longer and catch more?”

The fishermen explained that their small catches were sufficient to meet their needs and those of their families. “But what do you do with the rest of your time?”

“We chat in the piazza with friends, fish a little, play with our children, and enjoy time with our wives. In the evenings, we go into the village to see our friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs. We have a full life.”

The tourist interrupted, “I have an MBA from Harvard and I can help you! You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat.” “And after that?”

With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to Milan, London, Los Angeles, or even New York City! From there you can direct your huge new enterprise.”

“How long would that take?” “Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years.” replied the tourist.

“And after that?” “Afterwards? Well my friend, that’s when it gets really interesting,” answered the tourist, laughing. “When your business gets really big, you can start buying and selling stocks and make millions!” “Millions? Really? And after that?” asked the fishermen. “After that you’ll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, play with your children, catch a few fish, enjoy time with your wife and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying your friends.”

“With all due respect sir, but that’s exactly what we are doing now. So what’s the point wasting twenty-five years?” asked the Italians.

And the moral of this story is:

Know where you’re going in life, you may already be there! Many times in life, money is not everything.

“Live your life before life becomes lifeless”

Some Facts About Camping.

- **16,608 new motorhomes were registered between 1st July 2020 and 1st July 2021 (a 8.25% increase on the previous record).**
- **The total value of sales of new motorhomes has now reached its highest ever value in the UK – approximately £1.15 billion.**
- **One in five adults have been camping or caravanning during Covid – many for the first time.**
- **In 2020, there were approximately 2,270 camping grounds, trailer parks and recreational vehicle park businesses operating in the UK.**
- **Crickets can help you tell the temperature, to know what the temperature is, count the number of chirps within a 25-second period. Then, divide by 3 and add 4! The reason being is that the colder it is, the harder it is for crickets to rub their hind legs together and chirp.**
- **Wild camping is only legal in Scotland and Devon**
- **Camping relieves stress and anxiety by boosting Serotonin (happy hormone)**
- **You shouldn't sleep with your head in your sleeping bag as exhaling creates condensation and your sleeping bag helps to generate heat, so you will wake up in sweats and wet PJs, that'll make you feel the cold much worse!**
- **Millennials are the largest camping generation being the generation with a little cash, a little time and a little freedom!**
- **The annual value of British camping is £2.5 Billion. Over 60 million nights were spent under the stars in 2019!**
- **69% of British campers stay in the UK**
- **The Lake District is the most popular camping location**
- **The top five most popular places to camp in the world are 1) Mount Cook National Park, New Zealand, 2) Devon, England, 3) Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, Scotland, 4) The Alps, France, and 5) Hossa National Park, Finland.[10]**



Electronic Power Braked light weight A Frame Specialists

Tow A Frame

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



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

Tow A Frame



[SmartBox DUO]

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

KEY BENEFITS

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

Hardware proudly designed, manufactured & fully tested in the UK

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



[Tow GLIDE]

Folded length only 80cm
Extended length 110cm



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

TowAFrame.com

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