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**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**



Newsletter No 141 - Winter 2025



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson : Andy Hartell



Vice Chairperson : Bridget Hubbard



Secretary : Pauline Hayward



Treasurer : Ann Halford



Rally Secretary : Heather Hartell



Membership Secretary : Robert Hubbard



Newsletter Editor: Sue Morgan



Regalia Organiser : Keith Morgan



Social Media & Recruitment Officer : Jane Steward



Co-opted Members

Ray Collinson



Bob Mason



Geoff Scott



Gwen Smith



Martin Hayward



Chairman's Chat

Dear Members,

As we round off another busy year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our club's achievements, thank all of you for your ongoing support, and share some important updates for the months ahead.

Exciting News: Club Clothing Now Available!

Looking for a new wardrobe? We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new range of club clothing, now available for purchase through the "Members' Portal." Whether you're after a stylish polo shirt for rallies, a cosy fleece for the cooler months, or some practical gear to show your club pride, there's something for everyone in the new collection. Wearing club clothing not only promotes our identity but also fosters a wonderful sense of camaraderie at events. Head over to the Members' Portal to explore the range and place your order today!

Club Information Library

We are delighted to announce a new addition to the "Members Portal": the Club Information Library. This section provides access to key club documents, including:

- ☐ Committee contact details
- ☐ Club Code of Conduct
- ☐ Club Constitution (coming soon)
- ☐ How to book a rally (coming soon)
- ☐ How to renew your membership (coming soon)

In light of recent incidents and phishing attempts, we have implemented stronger security measures to protect our club and its members. One such measure is the move to publish committee contact information exclusively in the secure Members Portal. Please check the Club Information Library for the latest contact details, as several committee members have changed their email addresses.

Managing Club Costs & Membership Cards Update

As you will know, postage costs are ever-increasing and, to help mitigate these costs, the committee has decided to phase out Membership Cards from the beginning of 2026. Instead, we will be sending out renewal

information, including confirmation of your membership number, via email. We hope this change will streamline our processes and reduce unnecessary expenses, whilst ensuring you continue to receive all essential information promptly. If you have any questions or concerns about this transition, please don't hesitate to contact us through the Members Portal.

In addition to phasing out Membership Cards, the committee is actively exploring new ways to manage our costs. One area where you can lend your support is by considering how you wish to receive your copy of the Club's newsletter, which will continue at four editions per year. In the New Year, we will be sending out an email asking each member whether they prefer their newsletter in print, i.e. by post, or electronically via email. Rest assured, this does not mean we are moving exclusively to e-versions; we are just offering a choice, although for those who are happy to receive an e-version, this does reduce postage costs,

Your Newsletter – Your Voice

Regarding the newsletter, don't forget that it's your newsletter, so any ideas you may have for articles and stories are most welcome. Better still, why not write something yourself? All inputs are most welcome – whether it's a tale from a recent event, some useful tips, or a personal reflection on your club experiences. Let's make the newsletter as lively and engaging as possible by sharing our voices and experiences!

Events 2026 – Now Available To Book

Don't forget to book your places for next year's Events! Spaces can fill up quickly, so be sure to check the Members Portal for the latest information and booking details. Important Reminder: When paying for a rally or renewing your membership, please don't forget to use the Members Portal (Webcollect) order number as the reference on your BACS payment. This helps us to process your payment smoothly and ensures your booking or renewal is correctly allocated. Thank you for your cooperation.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to our committee members, marshals, volunteers and you, my fellow club members, for your tireless dedication and support. I look forward to this continuing in 2026.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Let's continue to work together and keep our club a safe, welcoming place for all.

With warmest regards,

Andy - Chairman

STOP PRESS - I am absolutely delighted to announce that we have been able to fully recover the loss we suffered due to a scammer last year. This was achieved via our Insurer and was due to the tremendous efforts of Bob Mason (Past Treasurer) Ann Halford (Treasurer) and particularly our Club Secretary, Pauline Hayward. Many thanks all a fantastic result.

Newsletter chat

Dear Members

As we turn the page on another year of adventures, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has truly been a memorable season for our club.

From the meet ups, where we braved the last of the chilly morning with mugs of hot tea, to sun-soaked summer rallies and the cosy autumn weeks away. This year has reminded us exactly why we love life on the road. Each trip brought new faces, new friendships and new stories – the very heart of the club.

As we look ahead, we've already begun planning next years rallies and activities – and if this year has been anything to go by, we've set for even more fun, learning and laughter.

Thank you for making this year special. Safe travels over the winter months, keep warm, and I look forward to seeing you all again for another season on the open road.

The Canterbury Rally will be added into the Spring Newsletter.

Happy motoring

Sue Your newsletter Editor

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

Gillian & Malcolm Stoneman - 3670.

Tim & Rachel Wardle - 3671

Jane & Paul Eldred - 3672

Jane & Colin Rudd - 3673

Scott & Louise Crumpton - 3674

Simon & Paula Miller - 3675

Michelle & Micheal Ellis - 3676

Wayne & Nicola Homer - 3677

Lesley & Richard Clarke - 3678

Paul & Nikki Richards - 3679

Gary & Lorraine Purcell - 3680

Ian & Joe Betts - 3681

**SWIFT****MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**

RALLY PROGRAM 2026

Feb	11 th - 18 th	Woodland Waters Holiday Park (Ancaster, NG32 3RT)
Mar	11 th - 18 th	Whitemead Forest Park (Lydney, GL15 4LA)
Apr	15 th - 22 nd	Hurley Riverside Park (Hurley, SL6 5NE)
May	6 th - 13 th 14 th - 18 th	Homestead Lake Park (Weeley, CO16 9JN) Southern Motorhome & Campervan Show (Newbury, RG18 9QZ)
May/ June	28 th May - 11 th June	Overseas Rally, South of France
June	18 th - 22 nd	Wolvey Caravan Park (Wolvey, LE10 3HF)
July	16 th - 20 th 24 th - 31 st	Netley Marsh Steam Fair (Netley Marsh, SO40 7GY) Ambleside RFC (Ambleside, LA22 0EN)
Aug	17 th - 21 st 20 th - 24 th	Salisbury Rugby Football Club (Salisbury, SP1 3SA) The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show (Malvern, WR13 6NW)
Sept	9 th - 16 th 17 th - 21 st	AGM Rally (Brigstock NN14 3HH) The Motorhome & Campervan Show Season Finale (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)
Oct	8 th - 15 th	Harford Bridge (Tavistock, PL19 9LS)
Nov	18 th - 25 th	Wyton Lakes Holiday Park (Huntingdon, PE28 2AA)
Dec/ Jan	30 th Dec - 4 th Jan	Grange Caravan Park (Melton Mowbray, LE14 3QU)



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35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2025
STOURPORT COMMUNITY CENTRE, LICKHILL ROAD,
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN
DY13 8RW

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Heather Hartell, Bridget Hubbard, Andy Hartell, Robert Hubbard, Ray Collinson, Ann Halford, Bob Mason, Sue Morgan, Keith Morgan & Pauline Hayward.

Apologises: Jane Steward & Marilyn Miland.

Chairperson - Heather Hartell welcomed all SMOC members to the 35th Annual General Meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Val & David Dobbin via Chairperson.

Marilyn & David Miland via Chairperson.

Meeting minutes of the AGM 2024 - Saturday 14th September 2024, accepted by all SMOC members in attendance.

Matters Arising from the Minutes (published in Newsletter 138) – None, accepted by all SMOC members in attendance.

Chairperson's Report:

Welcome to the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club AGM here in Stourport-On-Severn.

Today I step down after 3 years as Chairperson; it's been a bit of a rollercoaster; however, it's been lovely to be supported by the committee and all our members.

Before we carry on, I need to inform you all that whilst we were in Ireland, the Club was sadly hit by a sophisticated email scam, which resulted in the transfer of £982 to a fraudulent bank account. The committee was informed at the time and Bob, our Treasurer, has been taking action to try and recover the money. I will leave it to Bob to update you on where we are during his report.

When I attend rallies, it's great to hear your comments. There are many reasons you come along and continue to do so. These include going to new places, experiencing different things like going for a walk, even if it is to the pub. Partaking in cycle ride, meeting new friends and old. We all meet up for a chat or a meal, we laugh, we joke, oh and we may have a drink or two. We share our lives and experiences of where we have been and who we have met; this is what our club is about. We are all linked by our interactions with each other through the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club.

This year's rallies have been varied as always, visiting new and old rally sites. The Taster rallies have been very successful with nearly all the attendees signing up, well done Jane Steward. Also, our New Year and overseas rallies seem to attract members both old and new.

Next year's rallies list is available for you all to view and place in your diaries. Andy will update you shortly. Don't forget, if the booking date is past, you can always contact the rally secretary to see if they can fit you in on the rally, the more the merrier as always.

By the way, don't forget we have a growing club bear population so make sure you get yours and, we now have club umbrellas; they are, however, going fast, so order yours today, if you haven't already.

So now I have a few thank acknowledgements to make.

Firstly, thank you to my vice chair, Bridget Hubbard, who is always on hand to help, which I really appreciate.

Thank you to Pauline Hayward, who joined the committee as Secretary last year and has had quite a challenging time, but has handled things brilliantly.

A big thank you to Bob, who has been our Treasurer for several years and has introduced several positive changes during this time. He is now stepping down

for a well-deserved rest.

Thanks to Sue Morgan, who has taken on the role of newsletter editor and continues to do so despite some difficult personal circumstances over the last few months.

Thanks to Robert Hubbard, who manages our membership and continues to do so, hopefully.

A massive thanks to Jane Steward, who sadly did not have Anthony to support her this year, a very sad loss.

I also want to thank Keith Morgan, Ray Collinson (who continues to help us with printing of the newsletter and its fulfilment), Marilyn Miland and particularly Ann Halford (and Nick) who have been constant help to me and the club. This usually means them taking me to the shops to get goodies for rallies or picking up Fish & Chips.

Oh, and big, big thank to my husband Andy, who as well as fulfilling his role as Rally Secretary, does a lot of unseen work for the club in the background.

Finally, I would like to thank all our marshals, because without their help, we wouldn't be able to run the rallies we do. Please keep this up; it is much appreciated by everyone.

All the people I have mentioned do what they do voluntarily and without benefit, so I do think they all deserve a collective thanks.

We have a wonderful group of members in the club and without your support, the club would not be what it is. I hope still to be involved in the committee and look forward to a bright future for the club.

Heather Hartell, Chairperson

Treasurer's Report and presentation of the Annual Accounts:

This will be my last report as Treasurer as I am handing the reins over to Ann Halford after several years in the post.

I would like to think that during my time as Treasurer I have made a positive contribution in moving the club forward. The most significant being the

introduction of the SMOC Accounting Spreadsheet and moving the accounts to “online banking.” It took a few years to convince some members that this was the way ahead, but the system has proven to be very successful. It also makes the Auditors job much easier.

WebCollect came along, introduced by Andy, was another leap forward as it made booking and paying for events and rallies much easier. It is not without its faults but That said, it is far better than what we had before.

Overseas Rallies have always caused a few issues when it comes to making payments. The bank charges £15.00 per transaction. The 2024 French Rally racked up something over £100.00 in currency transaction charges. When the 2025 Irish Rally was announced I looked at various ways to minimise these charges. I set up an account with a company called Key Currency who don't charge for foreign currency transactions. It was very secure and successful as the checks and balances carried out before payment ensured safe payments.

The Cash Balance Statement shows the exact state of Club Finances as of 31 Mar 25.

The Income/Expenditure Sheet details how our income is derived and expended.

Should any member wish to examine the Accounting Spreadsheet, they are welcome to do so by arrangement with me.

SCAM

On the 18th of June we were the victim of a SCAM to the tune of £982.00. I received an email from someone pretending to be Heather Hartell our chairperson, requesting that I make a payment of £982.00 to Abbie Colbeck. The email appeared authentic, so I made the payment. A couple of days later Andy noticed the payment and contacted me asking what was it for? It then became apparent that the original email had not come from Heather. I immediately contacted the Fraud Team at our bank who set an investigation in train. The bank informed me that the bank that had received the payment was not a member of the PCR so the bank could not recover the funds from them.

I also reported the incident to Action Fraud.

The bank is still investigating the matter, and an update should be received soon after the 4th of August. If that proves to be unsuccessful then we are able to approach the Financial Ombudsman. That is the state of play at the time of writing. An update will be made at the AGM.

Needless to say, we have updated our security procedures to ensure that we try and prevent any further fraudulent activity.

Finally, I should like to thank you all for your support and help during my time as the club treasurer and a special thank you to Carol Collinson for being our accounts scrutineer.

Bob Mason

Hon Treasurer – Swift Motorhomes Owners Club

Appointment of Financial Examiner for the Accounts, Carol Collinson has kindly offered her services, therefore appointed for 2025/2026 – committee thanked her.

Other Reports:

Membership Secretary's Report:

We have approx. 148 Members and rising slowly, after losing the NEC stands.

We have 4 Life Memberships.

(Bill Hogget & Phylis Simcock has now been honoured as a Life Members)

15 reminder letters went out in June stating their membership is due, I have not had a reply from 6 of them, even though I asked all of them to reply.

8 members also cancelled their membership in June; this is the worst month this year.

If we do not get a reply by Oct, we will send one last reminder, before we remove their membership of the club.

This is the procedure for all of months of the year.

I am looking forward to another year as Members Secretary

I would like to thank Bob Mason for the help he gave me, so that I could do my job as Members Secretary.

Robert Hubbard

Membership Secretary

Rally Secretary's Report:

So, after 5 years as Rally Secretary, I am now going to hand over the reins to someone new, although, given my relationship with the potential new incumbent, I may still have some influence and support the IT side of things, I said may!

Since last year's AGM, we have had 15 rallies with an average of 13 Motorhomes at each rally (14), which is done from 15 in 2023. We have travelled as far North as Carnforth, Lancashire, as far West as Dunmore Head (ROI), as far South as Chesil Beach and as far east as Sandringham.

In total, members have booked a total of 950 nights (1,213) since the last AGM. This reflects several new members who are staying for a shorter period. The average stay on a 7-night rally is 5.5 days. I have also noticed a marked dip in members who rally in the summer months with the averages per rally being higher in the months February, March, April, May, October, November, vs July, August. June is usually good due to the overseas rally and the AGM in September is historically quite poor.

Bookings and payments for rallies are now exclusively conducted via the "Members Portal" with no paper bookings made in the last 12 months.

In June, several club members had a wonderful time in Ireland, despite the weather and a massive thanks must go to my wife Heather for organising such a great trip. She enjoyed it so much, she has agreed to take on next year's rally to the South of France. More details will be available soon, but don't forget to block the date in your diary. Also, this June, we had our 2nd Newcomers Rally, which was attended by a group of non-members and hosted by Jane Steward. They enjoyed it so much that they all joined (6), with many already booked to come on other rallies. We have another one planned for next year.

Surprisingly, given my concerns over recent years, the Warners shows in general

have had a resurgence. This is apart from the Newbury show, where we only just scraped over the line in terms of numbers, although it may have been affected by its closeness to the overseas rally. Newbury is particularly important to us as a club, as it is where we have our recruitment stand, so the more members there, the better it looks to prospective joiners. Also, I know Jane would very much appreciate some help on our stand during the weekend. A big thanks to those who did help, including some who came up for the day (or two)

Also disappointing was the lack of booking for the Netley Marsh Steam Fair, which is a cracking event. We are going to give it a try again in 2026, so please make sure you put it in your diaries.

Following on from this rally, we have the Lincoln show, which has 17 units booked, which is a good number. We are then off to Canterbury, there are still spaces, so if you would like to go, please let me know and then we have our Christmas rally near Whitby. Finally, 10 motorhomes are off to Devon to bring in the New Year.

Now turning to our 2026 program, you will see that it includes a return to some old favourites, including Salisbury, Ambleside, Woodland Waters and Tavistock, to name but a few.

Hopefully, you will agree that we have a varied program in terms of geography and type of site/venue and we look forward to seeing you at those rallies.

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 2026, So if you want to have a go or even co-host one, please, please, please let us know.

Andy Hartell

Rally Secretary

Newsletter Editor's Report:

Overview



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The newsletter writing and formatting has now lasted a year under my wing, and what a year this has been, it has been a very big learning curve, and I can say a very enjoyable experience.

Key Updates

- ▶ The newsletter “team” has completed the scheduled content revisions with the help of Ray and Andy whilst I got to undertake this role for the members.
- ▶ A big thank you goes to Ray and Carol for their support on getting the article to the printers and sending out the newsletters to you all.
- ▶ Distribution metrics indicate a steady increase in readership (members increasing)
- ▶ Feedback from the editor is we give a big thank you to everyone who has given rally reports etc for the newsletter over the last year.
- ▶ The cost of printing has stayed the same as last year £320 for 300 copies

Challenges

- ▶ Some technical difficulties were encountered with formatting, but this is improving with experience and the help of You Tube!!
- ▶ There are ongoing increases with the cost of postage as this has increased over the last year. This has increased from 72p to 82p with the overall cost at £72 a year. Some of the newsletters have been distributed by hand in the rallies, and this has helped with the cost.

Next Steps

- ▶ Implement further improvements to the newsletter layout on my behalf and more engagement from members. Try to get greater engagement with featured articles from our members. whether storeis, information or

what you feel you would like to see in the newsletter. It is nice to see what everyone gets up to!!

- ▶ Continue monitoring audience engagement and adapt content strategies as needed.
- ▶ Review cost of printers

Sue Morgan Newsletter Editor

Regalia Organiser Report:

It has been a difficult few months, I am now re-looking at ideas/options, suppliers for SMOC

Regalia items.

Recently I have sourced and purchased regalia item 'Pen', unfortunately these haven't arrived in time for SMOC AGM today. SMOC members have shown an interest in items such as, clothing (T-shirts, sweatshirts, fleeces etc.), I have started the ball rolling sourcing/speaking suppliers local to me, in person visits will enable me to obtain samples to review merchandisw prior to ordering/purchasing.

Recent SMOC regalia items purchased, Teddy Bears (these have travelled far & wide in SMOC members motorhomes) and umbrella's, these seemed to have been a real hit (big sellers) with SMOC members purchasing via the Members Portal Webcollect.

If any member/s have any further ideas/requests regarding SMOC regalia, please let me know, I am sure, we can look into this.

Keith Morgan Regalia Organiser

Secretary's Report:

Good morning

After the success of my nomination at AGM 2024, I became club secretary.

This last year has been a learning curve for me, organising Public Liability Insurance & ACCEO (Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations) membership, both these have been renewed for another year. The transactions run smoothly with the help/assistance and support of Bob - Treasurer.

The majority of SMOC members would have received AGM Agenda and Financial statement via email, only 2 required to be posted out to members with no email address.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their assistance/support whilst serving my first year in this role, hopefully I have served you well.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Bob Mason SMOC's long standing committee member - Treasurer, I would just like to say, it has been a great pleasure working with/alongside you Bob. Hope we will all see you on future SMOC rallies.

Pauline Hayward

Secretary

Election of Management Committee:

	Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
1	Charperson	Andrew Hartell	Ann Halford	Barrie Kelly
2	Vice-Chairperson	Bridget Hubbard	Brian Alderson	Elsie Samson
3	Secretary	Pauline Hayward	Gwen Smith	Alistair Smith
4	Rally Secretary	Heather Hartell	Ann Halford	Jane Steward
5	Membership Secretary	Robert Hubbard	David Lower	Barrie Kelly
6	Treasurer	Ann Halford	Heather Hartell	Bridget Hubbard

7	Newsletter Editor	Sue Morgan	Pauline Hayward	Andrew Hartell
8	Regalia Organiser	Keith Morgan	Heather Hartell	Martin Hayward
9	Social Media & Recruitment Officer	Jane Steward	Ann Halford	Carole Lower
10	Webmaster			
11	Co-opted committee member	Ray Collinson		
12	Co-opted committee member	Bob Mason		
13	Co-opted committee member	Geoff Scott		
14	Co-opted committee member	Gwen Smith		
15	Co-opted committee member	Martin Hayward		

All current committee members removed themselves from their posts (seats), SMOC members were asked to vote, all hands raised in agreement of each proposed committee post.

All nominated SMOC committee members were seated to uptake their posts/role.

Proposal of Motions: None received

Time and date of the next Annual General Meeting.

Saturday 12th September 2026 at 10:30 hrs – Brigstock NN14 3HH.

Close: Chairperson – ‘NEW’ Andy Hartell thanked all SMOC members for attending and formerly closed the meeting.

AGM Rally Lickhill Manor Caravan Park Stourport

10th - 17th September 2025

AGM rallies are always a bit different to other rallies in each year. The most obvious difference is that it brings together the club committee members. So, if you want to meet those club members that organise and run the club, the AGM rally is the opportunity to do so. It also gives you the opportunity to have your say in how things are done. Our first rally was an AGM rally, admittedly it also included a trip to Swift in Cottingham. From then on over the next couple of years of rallies, we always recognised somebody we had previously met. As we were both still working there were limitations on the number of rallies we could attend but we didn't feel like newbies each time. This year the rally clashed with a family celebration but fortunately my Sister-in-Law was very understanding, as I had been put forward for a committee post following 2 years of being co-opted onto the committee to learn the ropes.

Nick and I have never been to Stourport and were quite surprised that the sat-nav took us down a few little back roads, a bit challenging with a car on the back! We were met by our Marshals, Andy and Heather who directed us to our pitch (to un-hook) and then the water supply. Before long we were pitched and all set for the next seven days. We were all grouped together over a couple of rows on the large flat meadow alongside the river Severn. In all 10 vans arrived ahead of the meet and greet at 5pm and the weather was kind to us. Some of us gathered later in the evening to make our way to the pub. We followed the clear site signage to the 'Spar', The shop situated next to the pub. On reaching the end of the path onto public space, the signage stopped! There was some discussion as to which way to take, some turned left followed by a right and others went to the right and then turned left. The second turn being crucial for both routes. Failure to do this either sent you back towards the site's main entrance or towards the centre of town. A small group setting off later ended up with quite a long walk!! We were made very welcome in the community run pub which meant that we made at least one more visit over the rally period. T

Over the first few days, visits either on foot or by car were made to places such as Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport itself. Two couples chose to take the steam train running from Kidderminster, stopping at Bewdley and then on to Bridgenorth on the Severn Valley railway. Nick and I, having been on the train at least a couple of occasions over the years, chose to visit Stourport on our first afternoon. We parked the car in a bit of badly made-up land which had car park signs up with pay machines. We were surprised to see on the bank record the company name 'Barry Island Ltd'. This made some sense when we discovered the static fun fare down by the Canal Basin, was owned by the same family that owns the fun fare in Barry.

There were a number of busy amusement arcades on the high street too, but no sign of a Café culture in the town as we were unable to find a café. We were able to browse a couple of antique shops and a number of charity shops.

The canal basin could easily be reached by a 20 minute walk from the site along the riverside and a number of ralliers spent some time there watching the boats going by. Walking was probably the most popular activity, for those able to. Bewdley could be reached by a walk a long the river in the opposite direction to Stourport and for those who like long walks, Kidderminster was a 4 mile walk along the canal. Unfortunately, the bus stop was a little way from the site and you had to take a bus to Kidderminster to go anywhere else. On Thursday we dodged the heavy rain showers in Bewdley where we had lunch and a good browse in the museum during a particularly heavy downpour where we picked up a bit of history of Stourport. It only came into existence on the opening of the canal basin, connecting the canal system to the River Severn and originally called Newport by James Brindley.

By Friday evening, in time for the serving of Hot Dogs, all the expected vans had arrived. The weather was on our side, and we were all able to sit out and enjoy the Hot Dogs cooked by Andy and Heather with help from Robert, their assistant chef. We went our separate ways after dark.

Saturday was the day of the AGM and we were joined by a number of members who arrived just to attend the AGM but I will leave that for the minutes, except on a personal note. It was our 10th attendance at the club AGM and I became the Club's Treasurer following Bob's decision to stand down. I hope I can perform the role as well as my predecessor. Thank you Bob for your help and the improvements you have introduced during your term in office. These together with the introduction of WebCollect have given a good structure to follow.

Saturday evening was the Fish and Chip Supper with celebratory Bubbles as our Chairperson Heather had completed her 3-year term and was happy to hand over to the clubs incoming Chair. Thanks also need to be given to the site staff who ferried our fish & chips to us from the visiting Chippy on the other side of the site. It took 3 deliveries to ensure that we all got hot food. Very much appreciated by all. The only change to the itinerary, was that we moved the event to Bridget and Roberts van as a group had gathered there earlier in the afternoon sunshine and so we were joined by everyone else.

As I said before, AGM rallies tend to be rather different to other rallies and this was the case on Sunday as quickly, following on from the raffle, we said cheerio to a number of ralliers as they had to cut short stays for many reasons. Nick managed to save the day for Andy & Heather by donating a windscreen wiper to replace a damaged one.

Their return home was very important and we weren't leaving for another 3 nights, so had plenty of opportunity to get a replacement. In fact, we go-were able to get one from Halfords later in the day on a visit to see our son and wife in Leamington Spa.

We got drenched in Kidderminster on Monday walking back to the car to pick up waterproofs due to an approaching dark cloud. We were too slow and got caught in a huge downpour. Since we were last in Kidderminster the centre has changed beyond all recognition, where an area around one of the old Carpet mills has been developed, so we donned our waterproofs, went for a coffee and a wander



That evening, we invited the remaining ralliers, for a piece of cake and a bit of left over fizz from a previous evening, to celebrate my birthday. The evening was dry but a bit blowy but as there was only eight of us, we could fit into our screen house. It was a lovely way to spend my birthday with friends.

Overnight, somewhere around 1am. we had an unwelcome noisy visitor, as a helicopter flew over. Those that had been woken by it thought it was landing in the field, it was so loud. I asked at the office, when I went to pay my first bill in my new role, it was discussed but they too were not aware of why it had flown over so low.

On our last full day we said cheerio to 2 more vans before going off to a National Trust run house, Hanbury Hall, down near Worcester. There was quite a large group of volunteers tidying up the formal gardens, ready for the autumn planting, The box hedging and little fir trees were immaculate and the house had some very different classical wall paintings. The evening was very mild, and we were joined by our two fellow ralliers that had stayed the course, for one last drink. We were still there chatting away an hour or two later. How better than to end a rally in such a way,



Wednesday morning was a bit damp but both vans were able to finish packing and had left our pitches just after 9.30, having walked the pitches and finding only one sparking wine cork!!! Many thanks to our Marshals Heather & Andy and to the Committee members for their work of the last year.

Ann & Nick Halford

Membership No. 3116



WARNERS SEASON FINALE MOTORHOME SHOW – LINCOLN

We left the AGM Rally (at Lytchett Manor) 2 days early so that we could break our journey to the Lincoln Show. Our chosen stopover site was Milestone Caravan Park near Newark. The site is by the side of the A1, with a decent bus service into Newark and Cromwell Brewery and Bar next door. It's an ideal place to spend a few nights.

On Thursday morning we set off on the final 25 miles to the Lincoln Show. We were met at the SMOC pitches by our marshals, Jane and Barry Kelly. They gave us our rally list and plaque and informed us that the welcome meeting would be at 5 o'clock.

This show is always popular and our group contained 17 motorhomes. At the welcome meeting we were provided with various hot nibbles prepared by Jane Kelly and Jane Steward. Barry gave a very informative welcome speech telling everyone where the Showground facilities could be found and gave a special mention to the Saturday Shuttle Buses into Lincoln (operating 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.) Later that night we went to the huge entertainment marquee to see the evening's entertainment. The first act was a group called 'The Denotones'. They sang mainly 60's songs but were not very good with either vocals or instruments. People were leaving throughout the performance to go to the adjacent building where a DJ was playing Northern Soul.

We stayed and were rewarded by a far better act for the second spot. Union Gap UK performed a wide range of songs from the mid sixties to the eighties, including Young Girl by Gary Puckett and the Union Gap.



The food court was also better this year, having moved to a much better location. It had a marquee where you could eat your meal whilst listening to the daytime entertainment plus a large outdoor seating area. The 11 food trucks had various offerings including Mexican and Thai as well as all the usual British favourites.

During our visit on Friday there was the added bonus (?) of 6 free games of prize bingo, with a maximum prize of £50 plus a free MMM magazine!

Friday night's entertainment consisted of two very professional acts with top quality singers and musicians. First up was 'Beardsmith', a rock group consisting of 4 brothers. They performed rock classics by Bon Jovi, Dire Straits, Fleetwood Mac, Guns & Roses and many more. The dance floor was full and the place was buzzing.



Next up was a Warners favourite, 'Abba Fever' who sang and played their way through lots of Abba's greatest hits. Many showgoers had dressed for the evening in 70's gear. The dance floor was full to bursting and everyone had a fantastic evening.



On Saturday, we never stay at the Showground. Instead, we join thousands of other showgoers and travel into Lincoln on one of the many Shuttle buses. The cost is £5 per person return and the buses departed from next to our pitch. Lincoln is a lovely city. It's castle and cathedral, at the top of the aptly named 'Steep Hill' are exceptional historic buildings that are definitely worth a visit.

At the bottom of the hill, the City contains all manner of shops, cafes and pubs – with a canal running through the middle. Unlike many city centres, Lincoln is thriving. If you need any supplies before returning for the bus, there are Co-op and Heron food stores around the corner from the Bus Stop.



We never go to the Headline Show on Saturday night as we have spent a full day in Lincoln and need to relax. This year's show consisted of 'Badness' (a ska band who play mainly Madness hits), comedian Joe Pasquale and rock 'n' roll group Showaddywaddy. It was very good value for the £20 ticket price and everyone I spoke to who went to the show said it was excellent.

Sunday arrived and we had our usual Coffee Morning outside Jane and Barry's motorhome. The Raffle was run by Graham and Barbara Ball, with most ralliers winning a prize. Some people left the Showground when the Coffee Morning ended but plenty remained to enjoy the final day of the show and try to pick up some last minute bargains.



Later in the afternoon we were treated to a low level fly- past over the Showground by the Lancaster bomber of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The plane is based at nearby R.A.F. Coningsby and is one of the two Lancasters that remain airworthy.

The evening's entertainment started with 'The Decades' – a pop rock trio who covered some of the biggest hits of the last 70 years. They were very good. Final spot was 'The Amazing Blues Brothers' who have performed at many Warners Shows. Their performance was OK, but the group had 2 less members than previously and the whole performance was a lot less energetic than at previous shows.



Monday arrived and it was time to say farewell to Lincoln for another year. It was another excellent show and we look forward to returning next year. If you've never been to a Lincoln Show you are missing out on an excellent rally.

Ray & Carol Collinson (2576)

Snow, Spirits & Whitby Wonders

19th - 26th November 2025



Christmas at York House Caravan Park was a celebration to remember, filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a dash of winter drama. The weather seemed de-termined to showcase its entire repertoire - snow, hail, rain, high winds, freezing temperatures and even a fleeting glimpse of sunshine! Despite the chill, the group's festive spirit never wavered. The season also brought moments of teamwork and resilience, as members rallied together to move a caravan and a motorhome on the snowy hill site.

On arrival, members were greeted by Heather and me, often wearing a range of attire to shield us from the varied elements. As everyone settled in, they received a small goody bag complete with a festive Christmas tree decoration, created by Heather.



A highlight of the week was the sumptuous Christmas lunch at the historic Bagdale Hall in Whitby, where the charm of the venue matched the warmth of the company. After the feast, Heather even managed to sneak in an extra treat, to go with the coffee, some mini mince pies, adding a homely touch to the elegant surroundings. This year, the club agreed to subsidise the Christmas lunch instead of providing wine at the table and as the meal came in under budget, mem-bers were treated to an after-dinner drink, a gesture warmly appreciated by all.

Whitby itself proved irresistible, with members returning for a wander through its narrow streets and for many to sample the essential seaside tradition of fish and chips.

Evenings were spent in good cheer, whether gathered in the on-site Café Bar or at the welcoming Hare and Hounds pub, which served one of my favourites, Old Peculiar. Although I did also enjoy the odd bottle or two of Scarborough Fair IPA, which was sold in the onsite bar.

Friday night brought a hearty spread of burgers, chilli, and curry in the on-site bar and kitchen. The meal was enjoyed by all and set the tone for a weekend of indulgence.



Heather hosted a quiz with a twist—lots of laughter, sweets even for wrong answers, and gifts that could be cheekily “stolen.” The prizes, generously donated by both the club and Heather & Andy, kept everyone entertained and added a playful sparkle to the festivities.

The traditional raffle on Sunday offered the usual mix of wine, sweets, and goodies. With a wide range of winners and plenty of excitement, the club raised £100—an excellent boost to the coffers.

No Christmas would be complete without mince pies and mulled wine, and Robert and Bridget’s hospitality ensured tradition was upheld. Their gathering, though held in the cold, was warmed by friendship and festive cheer.

This year’s event was more than just a holiday—it was a reminder of the joy found in shared experiences, the strength of community, and the magic of Christmas, even when the weather throws everything it has at you.

Make sure you look out for next year’s Christmas Event—details will follow soon!

Andy Hartell





Whitemead Forest Park

Lydney GL15 4LA

11th – 18th March 2026

Whitemead Forest Park offers great options for a break in the Forest of Dean. There are acres of fantastic woodland to explore and lots of fun activities and entertainment to keep you busy, or why not just kick back and relax?

During our time at Whitemead, we will have full access to the indoor pool, gym and sauna, plus their selection of onsite bars and cafes. They also have a well-stocked shop.

With acres of ancient forest on the doorstep, walking is one of the most popular outdoor activities in the Forest of Dean and there are plenty of options for walkers of all abilities.

A short 10-minute walk from the site is the local village pub (Woodman Inn) and the bus stops. Buses go to the historic market town of Lydney, located on the River Severn, which is often referred to as the “Gateway to the Forest of Dean.” The town offers nature walks, history, and crafts, with highlights including the scenic Dean Forest Railway, the art at Taurus Crafts, walks around Lydney Harbour, the ancient Roman Temple at Lydney Park and Clearwell Caves.

Pitch Fees: Hardstanding & EHU

7 night stay: £27 per unit per night

5–6 night stay: £32 per night

1–4 night stay: £36 per night

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

Rally Marshals: TBC

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 26th January 2026

No arrivals before 1 pm on any day

Hurley Riverside Park

Hurley SL6 5NE

15th – 22nd April 2026

This family-friendly park, sitting alongside the River Thames in the picturesque village of Hurley between Henley-on-Thames and Marlow, is our base for April.

With direct access to the River Thames and the Thames Path, the site is perfect for lovers of the river and walkers alike. With the lush green countryside of the Thames Valley all around, red kites circling above and the river traffic gliding past, it is hard to believe the site is only an hour outside London.

There are plenty of walks from the site, including to Marlow and Henley, as well as shorter circular walks around the village. The area is rich in history with routes passing by Hurley Church and Monk's Barn, traditional pubs riverside landmarks. The park shop stocks a selection of food, drink and household goods, plus there is a village shop on the high street with a wide selection of items. Further along the high street is the local hostelry, The Rising Sun.

Local buses can be caught right outside the site, with buses to Henley and Marlow or onwards to Maidenhead, Windsor, Reading and Oxford.

Pitch Fees: Hardstanding & EHU

£28 per unit per night

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

Rally Marshals: Ann & Nick Halford

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 2nd March 2026

No arrivals before 1 pm on any day

Homestead Lake Park

Weeley CO16 9JN

6th – 13th May 2026

Boasting a quiet location in the heart of the countryside yet just a 15-minute drive from the beach, this Essex touring park has both an on-site Café and an Outdoor Leisure shop. It's a popular venue for fishing, boasting a large, well-established coarse fishing lake, with plenty of carp, tench & roach.

The village of Weeley has a post office and general store as well as a pub.

Bus stops are directly at the entrance of the site and from there you can visit Colchester with its castle, zoo and varied Roman history, Clacton, with its famous pier, Walton-on-the-Naze or Frinton on Sea. Nearby is Harwich, where the Pilgrim Fathers built the Mayflower, Dovercourt, Mersea Island, Constable Country, or why not pay a visit to the Tiptree (Jam) Museum.

Please note that we will be in the rally field for this event and will have limited EHU, which will be prioritised for the Marshals and those with a medical need. Although we should be able to allow some periodic access to electricity during the time we are there, for others.

Pitch Fees: Grass Rally Field (excluding EHU)

£12 per unit per night

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

Rally Marshals: Lesley & Mark Jones

Closing Date for bookings: Monday 2nd March 2026

No arrivals before 12 noon on any day

Southern Motorhome Show – Newbury Showground Chieveley, RG18 9QZ

14th -18th May, 2026

Celebrating the Swinging Sixties, this Warners show is held over 4 days at the Newbury showground just off the M4 motorway. With both local and national dealers displaying a wide range of both new and used vehicles, you will need to be careful you don't part with something you didn't intend to!

The entertainment line-up includes the 60's Explosion, The Fourmost, Vanity Fair and the Doctor Hook Experience, please note that a separate fee is charged for the Saturday night headliners.

A continuous shuttle bus service will operate to Newbury on Saturday between 9 am - 5:00 pm, and tickets can be bought at the show from the information office. (£~5 pp) Plus, there is a coach trip to Oxford on Friday (departing at 10 am) for £25 per person, bookable via the Out & About Website.

When booking via the Warners site, please make sure you quote Swift (SMOC) when selecting 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. As usual, for these events, we need to have a minimum of 11 units to ensure we are together as a club, so please ensure you book well ahead of the closure date below.

Show Camping Fee: For a 4-night stay (Thursday or Friday arrival) £92.40 per unit.

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

Rally Marshals: Jane & Barrie Kelly

Closing Date for bookings: 29th April 2026

No arrivals before 08.00 on any day



SWIFT

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OWNERS CLUB**

BRANDED CLOTHING CATALOGUE

All items will be embroidered with the club logo

**Orders can either be made Online via the “Members Portal” or
by email, alternatively items can be purchased at rallies**

**Payment can be made via BACS, cheque or in person via cash, please
quote the system Order Number if paying via BACS or cheque**

***PLEASE NOTE THAT SIZING FOR SOME ITEMS MAY BE SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN
UK STANDARD SIZES - YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER A LARGER SIZE***

BEANIE HAT: £12.00



Don't forget to keep you head nice a cosy this winter with a club Beanie Hat

Available in Black, Classic Red, Dark Navy or Sky Blue

SWEATSHIRT: UNISEX - £25.00

Keep nice and toasty with a club sweatshirt

Available in Black, Dark Navy, Classic Red or Sky Blue.



POLO SHIRT: MEN - £19.00

Pop on this stylish polo shirt for a great smart casual look

Available in Black, Classic Red, Dark Navy, Sky Blue or White



CARGO SHORTS: MEN - £25.00

Don't hide those legs away and prepare for warmer days with these stylish cargo shorts

Available in Black, Burgundy, Dark Grey, Dark Navy



TOTE BAG: £11.00

Advertise the club whilst carrying your goodies, with this large Tote Bag.



PADDED JACKET: FEMALE - £50.00



Stay simply stylish in this Full-zip Padded Jacket, with vibrant contrast colour lining.

Available in Black, Classic Red, Dark Navy, or Sky Blue

FLEECE TOP: UNISEX - £32.00



Remain warm, even when its chilly outside with this fabulous Fleece.

Available in Black, Classic Red, Dark Navy or Sky Blue

PUFFER JACKET: MEN - £38.00

Stand out in the crowd, with this Full-zip Padded Jacket, with vibrant contrast colour lining.

Available in Black, Classic Red, Dark Navy, Sky Blue



PADDED GILET: UNISEX - £48.00

Add a fashionable extra layer when the weather is cooler, with a vibrant and colourful padded Gilet.

Available in Black, Classic Red, Dark Navy, Sky Blue or Bright Yellow



POLO SHIRT: FEMALE: £19.00



Pop on this stylish polo shirt for a great smart casual look

Available in Black, Classic Red, Dark Navy, Sky Blue or Hot Pink

Contact details

Keith Morgan

Gwel Yr Afon Penrhyncoch, Aberystwyth, SY23 3EE

Keithmorgan913@hotmail.com

All items will be posted directly from the supplier and usually take 2-4 weeks

Prices quoted include embroidery of the Club logo and postage

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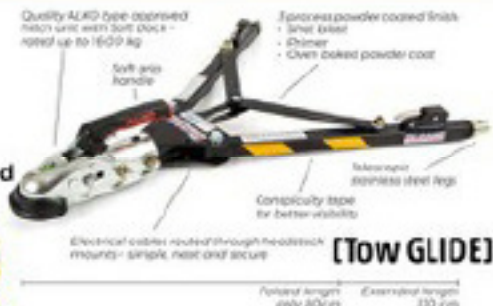
***NEW** for October 2019 TowAFrame in partnership with Tow bar Solutions Wales and Wessex Nissan are pleased to announce our exciting new offer. We can now supply a Brand New Nissan Micra – supplied ReadyToTow with TowAFrame.com system installed & Nissan Wessex Finance options available. View the new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

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