

The world's 'greenest' caravan?

FORMER *DALLAS* star, Patrick Duffy, helped the Club unveil what is believed to be the most eco-friendly and sustainable caravan in the world, at October's NEC show.

The Club challenged former *Top Gear* presenter, Steve Berry, and motoring expert, Tighe Grainger, to build the caravan, called EcoStream.

Initially, Steve and Tighe acquired a classic 1967 Airstream Overlander, refurbishing the aluminium-clad exterior and fitting a new axle, wheels and a euro-legal towing hitch. But, after many late nights, it was discovered that this model was fractionally too wide to be legally towed on British roads by a family car. The entire project could have hit the buffers if it hadn't been for the intervention of Bob Wheeler, CEO of Airstream Inc.

Steve and Tighe met Bob when they visited the Jackson Centre factory in Ohio, USA, to film the unique hand-built process by which an Airstream is created. When he heard of their plight, Bob arranged to ship an (empty) euro-legal Airstream 534 to Liverpool. Steve

and Tighe worked with a team of engineers, designers and craftsmen to completely redesign the interior of the 534 using eco-friendly methods and recycled materials.

"This has been a unique, absorbing and, at times, tiring, challenge," said Steve. "I've learnt that you can be a petrol-head and a tree-hugger!"

The build process of the EcoStream has included as many environmentally-friendly options as possible. The flooring is made from strand woven bamboo which is one of the hardest flooring products available. Wood takes approximately 15 to 20 years to reach maturity, whereas the non-harmful harvesting of bamboo takes a mere three to five years.

Any existing paint or varnish that needed to be removed from the EcoStream was done with an advanced water-based remover so that no dangerous fumes or particles were exposed to the air.

The soft furnishings are made from hemp fabric and canvas. All materials were sourced from environmentally-



friendly and sustainable sources from around the world. Table tops, seating and bedding were made from converted recycled plastic products such as shampoo bottles, mobile phone covers, yoghurt pots and CDs.

The 'heart' of the EcoStream is a wood burning stove, which will provide heat, hot water and cooking facilities. An environmentally-friendly compact composting toilet is also installed.

B&B Leisure Services, near Bolton in Lancashire, re-fitted the EcoStream with these eco-friendly materials and appliances.

"Though caravanning is a highly sustainable form of holiday option, there is more that can be done and we hope that the EcoStream will give people inspiration," said Nick Lomas, the Club's Director of Marketing.



CHANGING FOR THE BETTER

THE CLUB is currently undertaking the replacement of all the computer systems which support its day-to-day operations. "We will be replacing all of our current separate systems with a single system which will enable us to serve our members even better in the future," says Trevor Watson, Director General of the Club. "We have joined forces with a market-leading supplier who is, like us, committed to continual investment in and improvement of its product."

During 2008 this huge project has been gathering pace within all areas of

the Club's operations, with the East Grinstead HQ and each and every Club site becoming involved.

As part of this work, all the Club's current processes have been put under the spotlight to see where we can do better in the future – for example making things easier, smoother and quicker. From membership surveys, we know how important it is to you that we remain 'easy to deal with'.

Quite simply, our aim is to be the 'Same Club, Just Better': real benefits are in the pipeline for members, staff and the Club alike. There are too many

benefits to cover now, but watch out for updates in future editions of the *Club Magazine*.

We hope you've been blissfully unaware of all this behind-the-scenes activity so far. But with new systems planned to 'go live' in two phases during the first half of 2009, you may start to experience a few differences when you contact East Grinstead House and UK sites over coming months.

We will, of course, be making every effort to keep everything up and running smoothly for the membership

during this time of transition. However, with over 1000 staff to train on the new system and time needed for everyone to get used to new ways of doing things, realistically there may be the odd hiccup compared with normal. Perhaps your call won't be answered as quickly, you may encounter short closures for staff training or maybe your transaction isn't handled as smoothly as usual – your patience and understanding will be much appreciated as we introduce these very necessary changes for the future. Ultimately, we all stand to gain.



Bailey winner unveiled

AMID A great deal of interest, the winning entry to the My Bailey Van Caravan Design Competition, which attracted more than 850 entries and was open only to members of The Caravan Club, was unveiled on Tuesday 14 October at the International Caravan & Motorhome Show, NEC, Birmingham.

Visitors to the Bailey stand were able to view a prototype of the winning design, submitted by Iain and

Julia Bramble. Their entry – the Bailey Brambler – is an innovative new family caravan devised for them to enjoy with their daughter Ellie, aged five, and son Alex, three.

The flexible layout features two dedicated living and sleeping areas, an L-shaped kitchen and spacious end washroom.

Four generations of the Bramble family

94,251
Total land area in sq miles
of the United Kingdom

(above) were present to see their one-of-a-kind caravan for the first time. Television presenter and caravan convert, Rowland Rivron, was on hand to present the keys to the winner.

For more information on this caravan, see mybaileyvan.co.uk/competition/results.htm.

Bailey will now produce a second version of the Senator Wyoming-based Brambler, which Iain and Julia will collect from their local retailer, Ropers Leisure of Catterick Bridge in North Yorkshire, later this year.



Following positive feedback received from show visitors, Bailey is giving serious consideration to introducing a production model based on the Brambler early next year. Watch this space for more information.

Head for Manchester

THE CARAVAN and Motorhome Show returns to Manchester Central (formerly GMex) between 22-25 January 2009. With over 70 exhibitors once more showcasing a huge range of vehicles, gadgets and accessories at great prices, it will be a must-visit for caravanners and motor caravanners.

The accessory megastore will be back, ensuring visitors can purchase everything they need for their touring holiday, while the Cookery Area will provide ideas for mouthwatering meals on the road.

Ticket hotline number 0871 230 1090 or see caravanshows.com.

Pitch up at the NEC

FOR THE first time the Club will be running the temporary campsite at the National Boat, Caravan & Leisure Show at Birmingham's NEC (17-22 February 2009). Following our successful running of similar facilities at the last two October shows at the NEC, the campsite will be in North Car Parks 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Pitches will be available from Mon 16 to Sun 22 Feb 2009 inc. Fees are £25 per pitch per night and include 6A electric hook-up. About 350 hardstanding (no awning) pitches will be available, and there will be provision for fresh water, black and grey water disposal and dry waste disposal. Arrival is from 12 noon, departure by 10am.

Stay on the temporary site and you can enjoy free evening entertainment (Tue to Sat night inc). There will also be a mobile restaurant and bar on site. A shuttle service will operate to and from the show.

You can book your pitch now by calling 01342 336779 or log on to caravanclub.co.uk and follow the instructions. An admin fee of £5 will be charged for cancelled pitch bookings up to 9 February 2009, after which no refunds will be issued. Pitch bookings close 9 February 2009 and are subject to availability.

Special two-day discounted show entry tickets are available to those booked on the temporary site – but these tickets are non-refundable.

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for friends and family?

The Caravan Club official 2009 pocket diary



This handy pocket diary is the perfect stocking filler, packed with useful information, it's a must have for 2009.

Only £3.99
+£1.95 p&p*

To order your Caravan Club Diary 2009 visit www.caravanclub.co.uk/shop or call 01342 318813 quoting M0146

THE CARAVAN CLUB

*Post & Packing: £1.95 per order no matter how many items are ordered. Please note calls may be monitored and recorded for training purposes. Prices correct at time of going to press.

PERFECT XMAS GIFTS

THE FOLLOWING NEW ITEMS ARE NOW ON SALE TO CLUB MEMBERS



HI-VIS VEST

(ORDER CODE M0128; PRICE £3.99)

Certified to EN471 standard, this vest provides maximum visibility in emergency situations. In many European countries it is compulsory to carry one. In some instances every occupant of the vehicle must have one.

JUTE BAG

(ORDER CODE M0127; PRICE £3.49)

This strong, reusable bag is made from jute (a natural material) and dyed with vegetable dyes to ensure it is biodegradable. Larger than normal jute bags: 30x31x23cm. Manufacturers claim that rotating jute with crops like rice and potatoes creates a barrier to diseases and pests which damage those other crops, and also leaves the soil with organic micronutrients that other crops thrive on. This eco-friendly alternative to plastic bags is now available to pre-order and will be dispatched from 15 December.



TRAVEL DOCUMENT HOLDER*

(ORDER CODE M0130; PRICE £2.99)

This red canvas travel document wallet, which comes with a Velcro fastening and Club logo, is great for keeping all those important travel documents safe.

GB STICKER TWIN SET*

(ORDER CODE M0129; PRICE 99P)

A GB sticker is required on the rear of any UK-registered vehicle travelling in non-EU countries. A GB sticker is also required on your car if it hasn't got Euro-plates (12 stars with GB inside).



**Motor Caravan
using this pitch**

MOTOR CARAVAN PITCH SIGN

(ORDER CODE M0126; PRICE £6)

Ideal for motor caravanners leaving their pitch for the day. Made of hard-wearing, reusable green plastic.

*Travel Document Holder and GB Sticker Twin Set will be mailed free of charge if you purchase either i) Red Pennant Motoring & Personal or ii) Red Pennant Motoring cover

ORDER BY 18 DECEMBER TO ENSURE CHRISTMAS DELIVERY. ORDER ONLINE AT CARAVANCLUB.CO.UK/SHOP OR CALL 01342 318813. £1.95 P&P PER ORDER

STILL GREAT VALUE

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION to the Club will be £37 with effect from 1 January 2009 – an increase of just £1 and still representing excellent value for money. This fee, which covers one Full and one Joint Member, not only covers 12 issues of this magazine and access to our ever-improving website, but also gives access to our 200-plus sites network and around 2500 CLs, plus a variety of travel and insurance services.

First show of 2009

COMBINE A New Year treat with a visit to the Milton Keynes Caravan & Small Motorhomes Show, which will be held outside the John Lewis

store in Middleton Hall, the centre:mk (one of Europe's largest shopping centres) from 8-11 January 2009.

Caravans from Adria, Bailey, Swift, Lunar, Coachman and Compass, and motor caravans from Auto-Sleepers, will be joined by a selection of nearly new tourers and accessories. Hyundai and Kia will show



their latest ranges of towcars too.

To find the centre:mk, head for J13 or 14 of the M1 or the A5 and follow the 'centre:mk central

shopping' signs. Alternatively, trains stop at Milton Keynes Central, which is a short bus or taxi ride away.

Admission to the show is free, and opening hours are 9.30am-8pm (Thu and Fri), 9am-6pm (Sat) and 11am-5pm (Sun). For further details, call 01908 305123 or see centralexhibitions.co.uk.



SCOTTISH AGM

THE 63RD AGM of The Scottish Division of The Caravan Club was held on 11 October, at The Cochrane Halls in Alva. 174 members attended.

Fiona Murray was installed as Chairman for a second term, while Club Chairman, Grenville Chamberlain, Executive Secretary of the Club, Brian Richardson, and previous Club Chairman, Bob Black MBE, were in attendance. Some 75 units pitched up at The Woods Affiliated site for the rally that ran alongside the AGM.

Back row l-r: William Smith (Vice President), Ian Bennett (Vice President), Alastair Fisher (Editor), Morris Whitehead (Hon PRO), Ian MacLean (Vice Chairman), Alex Davidson (Vice President). Front row l-r: Margaret Devine (President), Fiona Murray (Chairman), Patricia Young (Secretary), David Benison (Treasurer).

PETER DOWSE

THE CLUB'S former Sites Manager, Peter Dowse, has passed away at the age of 89. Former staff of Peter's recall him as the nicest and fairest boss they were privileged to work for.

He promoted loyalty among the Sites department staff because he was

loyal to those who worked for him. Whenever mistakes occurred, Peter would always take responsibility. If a decision had to be made, whether political, financial or just day-to-day, his doctrine was 'We must do whatever is in the members' best interests – let

us see what that is'. Peter, who retired in 1983, was a great friend to his staff and enjoyed a lunchtime pint with them, occasionally giving an insight into his wartime career. Our thoughts are with Peter's wife, Margaret, and two daughters.



Club Talk

Name: Barry Williams

Position: Head of Publications

How long have you worked in the industry? What changes have you seen? I started my current career in 1968 as a writer/sub-editor on *Caravan* magazine. On one of my first caravan tests I had to light gas lamps at night and woke up next morning with ice on the inside of the glass windows... So the biggest change has been a huge leap in caravan comfort.

How long have you worked for the Club and what are your key responsibilities? I started working for the Club in 1997 and took on my present job in 2006. I act as publisher of this magazine and have overall responsibility for virtually everything else involving print on paper. I also keep a close watch on our 'corporate branding' – the use and misuse of the Club logo.

How many staff members work in the Publications department?

Ten permanent members of staff, including four job-sharers. At certain times, close to the deadlines of our annual and biennial publications, they are backed up by temps.

Which publications are you responsible for overseeing and when will the 2009 editions be available to members?

Apart from the *Club Magazine*, the two major publications are the *Sites Directory & Handbook* and *Caravan Europe*. The new *SD&H* will be mailed to all full members just after Christmas and both volumes of *Caravan Europe* will be available to buy in early January.

Can you tell us about a challenging situation you have had to deal with?

The most challenging was changing the *Magazine* from eight issues a year to a monthly publication. We had to take a chance that the advertising revenue would be there to support it; and it meant 50% more work from the staff.

What do you do in your spare time?

Learn as much as I can about restoring classic cars so that one day, when I have the time and money, I can put theory into practice.



TIME CAPSULE BURIED

THE CLUB'S commemorative Centenary time capsule was buried at the New Forest Centenary site on Tuesday 28 October, in front of an excited crowd of members who were enjoying a stay at this wonderful location at the time. Pictured by the

time capsule, which is filled with artefacts from the Club and will be reopened on the 200th anniversary of the Club's formation on 14 June 2107, are (from left to right): New Forest site Wardens, Linda and Ian Thomas, and Assistant Warden, Myra Russell.

COMPETITION

Win Coast: The Walks book and an OS Select™ map

BE INSPIRED BY DAYS OUT THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY

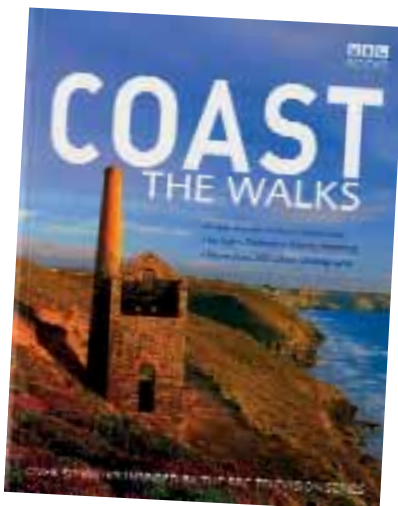
A FUN, cheap day out with the family is still within reach.

Coast: The Walks will inspire you to explore the best our coastline has to offer with 50 fantastic walks. The maps also include all the detail you expect from Ordnance Survey with picnic areas, viewpoints, places of interest and rights of way.

Ordnance Survey is offering Club members the chance to win one of 10 copies of the book and an OS Select map centred on a location of their choice.

OS Select maps are bespoke maps that allow you to cite your favourite spot – put your house at the centre or make your favourite route the focal point. The choice is yours.

To enter this competition, simply send your name, address and membership number on a postcard/sealed envelope to: Coast Giveaway, Sites Marketing, The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1UA. Entries must be received by 2 January 2009. The first 10 winners picked at random will be notified by post by 30 January 2009. Please do not include any other correspondence with your entry, as non-winning entries will be destroyed. Only one entry per household. Usual Caravan Club rules apply.



BEST IN THE BROADS

BROADLANDS CARAVAN Club site won the Best Campsite in the Broads award at a ceremony held by Norfolk Broads Net (NBN) in October. The inaugural event was introduced to reward and support outstanding local businesses in and around Norfolk, to promote the Broads and its businesses and to forge closer relationships between companies and organisations in this thriving business community.

The winners of each category, including Best Chippy, Best Bed & Breakfast and Best Restaurant, were voted for by customers and other local businesses via the NBN's family-run website forum, thenorfolkbroads.net.

Broadlands (*Sites Directory*, p137) is located within a national park, between the villages of Horning and Ludham, just 200 yards from the river Ant. The nine-acre, members-only site comprises 110 pitches, 93 of which are hardstandings. Nearby attractions include Blickling Hall, Toad Hole Cottage and Bure Valley Railway.



CHILD'S PLAY AT BEAULIEU

THROUGHOUT THE summer holidays, families visiting the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu were able to join in a series of fun drop-in creative activities and artist-led workshops, supported by The Caravan Club and Shell, on the theme of motoring and leisure. The children whose artwork was most eye-catching and creative were invited back to the museum to receive prizes from the Hon. Ralph Montagu.

Several thousand children and their families joined in the drop-in activities and over 500 took part in the workshops. Goodie bags of prizes for the winners included Club puzzles, F1 Ferrari Lego, plus lots of Beaulieu gifts.

FOR MORE NEWS VISIT CARAVANCLUB.CO.UK/NEWS

in brief

The Central Region will be holding its Members' Question Time on 7 March 2009 at the Donington Thistle Hotel, East Midlands Airport. Look out for details and booking form in the January issue of the *Club Magazine*.

Allan Wright, who with his wife, Brenda, worked for the Club as site Wardens from 1986 to 2004, sadly passed away on 8 October. Our deepest sympathies are with Brenda.

Liz Twitchell sadly passed away on 11 September. Together with husband, Terry, Liz worked as a site Warden at Treamble Valley, Looe and Stover from 1986-1999, when they retired onto the Flying Squad. Our deepest sympathies are with Terry.

West Sussex Centre raised £3078 for the Worthing branch of the Multiple Sclerosis charity. North Yorkshire Centre Teenagers collected £1050 for CHUF, which supports the heart and paediatric intensive care units at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital, plus another £1050 for Daisy Chain, a charity for autistic children and their families. Lincolnshire Centre raised £1650 for Nottinghamshire/Lincolnshire Air Ambulance.

North Centre member, Sandy Adam, was presented with the Alba Shield at the Scottish Caravan Club's AGM. The Shield is presented annually to the winner of the Scottish Caravan Club's photographic competition. Club Chairman, Grenville Chamberlain, judged the entries.

Ron and Maureen Cull started working for the Club in 1992, working mainly on sites in the south of England. After retiring in 1997, they were members of the Flying Squad for a further nine years. We have recently been notified that both Ron and Maureen passed away earlier in the year.

Derbyshire-based Tockfield Ltd has returned to manufacturing caravan upholstery as well as offering a cushion refilling service. The company is offering a 20% discount for Club members. Call 01773 834968 or see foam.co.uk.

The Explorer Group has become the first UK manufacturer to gain EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval for its motor caravans, with certification via the UK type approval body, the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA).

The Bailey Ranger GT60 540/6 Series 6 has claimed *Practical Caravan Magazine's* Tourer of the Year Title. Its stablemate, the Ranger Series 6 500/5, secured the Best Caravan for Small Families title.

PULLING POWER

ROUND-UP OF THE LATEST TOWCAR RELEASES



BlueMotion, new potion

HAILED AS the most efficient, economical and environmentally-friendly Passat yet produced, new BlueMotion 2 has automatic stop/start and a new 2.0-litre TDI 109bhp common-rail diesel. Special electronic mapping reduces idle speed and

optimises economy while its manual gearbox gets higher ratios on 3rd, 4th and top. Optimised aerodynamics include 15mm lower ride-height plus unique grille/bumper with air intakes blanked-off and relocated to the underside to reduce drag. Stop/start

cuts the engine when the driver depresses the clutch and selects neutral, restarting when the clutch is pressed again and 1st gear selected. Up to 57.6mpg is promised with CO₂ down to 128g/km (129g/km, estate); from £17,700 (£18,835 estate). **CW**



ROOM WITH A 2

IF YOU'VE been considering Skoda's practical Roomster 2, now might be a good time to step in, as its £1500 Family Pack is free! It consists of features such as panoramic sunroof, rear parking sensors, metallic paint, sunset glass and electric rear windows. Roomster 2, from £11,630 otr, is already well equipped with alloy wheels, air conditioning, powered/heated door mirrors, electric front windows, remote central locking, curtain airbags and trip computer. Engines culminate at the 1.9TDI, but if you can manage with the 80bhp 1.4TDI, Skoda claims up to 62.8mpg and CO₂ of 135g/km. **CW**

Diesel do better!

HYUNDAI SAYS its newly-unveiled 2.0 and 2.2-litre R-Engine diesels 'comfortably beat the power outputs of all comparable German and French competitors with 182bhp/289lb ft and 198bhp/322lb ft – more than most rivals' V6s.' Third generation common-rail, electronic variable geometry turbocharger, exhaust gas recirculation, particulate filter, advanced engine control unit etc ensure the new engine attains Euro 5 emission compliancy. R-Engine enters production in '09 with first applications in new SUVs and large saloons. **CW**



FEEDBACK WANTED

WE WANT your views on the models listed for our 'Buying Used' features. Just call the Editor's secretary on 01342 336804 (please be ready to quote your membership number) or write, fax or email (see p5) for an appropriate questionnaire and prepaid return envelope.

Please specify the vehicle you wish to report on. Closing dates for return are highlighted. So far, only two members have reported on their Fleetwood Heritages for the April 2009 issue. If you own one of these 550 or 560 models, we really do need your feedback to make this feature work.

APR 09: Luxury family caravans: Avondale Osprey v Fleetwood Heritage 550 and 560 models, **by 8 Dec.**

MAY 09: Audi A3 v BMW 1-Series (all variants), **by 8 Jan.**

JUN 09: Abbey GTS/GTS Vogue 416 v Compass Omega 524, **by 10 Feb.**