

# Shopfront

Clive White finds some useful kit for caravanners



## Security wheelclamp

From: Purple Line  
Price: Towsure special price £99.95 (SRP £179.99)  
Contact: [towsure.com/product/Nemesis\\_Ultra\\_Caravan\\_Wheel\\_Clamp](http://towsure.com/product/Nemesis_Ultra_Caravan_Wheel_Clamp), [purpleline.co.uk](http://purpleline.co.uk) or call 01473 601200

Wheelclamps are necessary items, but their effective theft-deterrence often relies on weight and bulk. Purple Line's Nemesis Ultra is a neat device incorporating the claimed unique feature of locking to a universal wheel bolt, the clamp passing through the alloy wheel rather than around it, shielding parts that a thief would try to cut through. If the wheel rotates, a steel bar folds the caravan's suspension or chassis, preventing further motion. The clamp incorporates a British made anti-pick, nine-pin Lowe & Fletcher Lock and is Sold Secure approved.

## Multi-use awning poles

From: Awning Handyman  
Price: various kits/prices  
Contact: 01978 365831, 07931 991773 (mobile), [awninghandyman.co.uk](http://awninghandyman.co.uk)

If caravanners encounter problems setting up on site, it's invariably the awning that causes grief. Various sets of poles are available under the Awning Handyman banner, which have been designed and developed by a caravanner for caravanners. The scope of potential difficulties they rectify goes far beyond the space available here. Briefly, they can assist one-person awning erection, strengthen/repair existing poles, offer additional roof support, provide extra resistance to stormy weather, etc. I can do no better than refer you to the contacts above for full details.



## Caravan cleaner

From: Chemicals Direct Ltd, Crewe  
Price: £28.99  
Contact: 01270 500043, [stores.ebay.co.uk/Chemicals-Direct-Ltd](http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Chemicals-Direct-Ltd)

In addition to Chemicals Direct Caravan and Motorhome cleaner/degreaser being an effective, biodegradable cleaning solution, it's supplied in a nifty container with tap and integrated spray bottle, allowing for easy decanting and convenient storage. The spray gives quick application while the tap enables controlled dilution. The concentrated multi-purpose, hard-surface cleaner is designed to remove, dirt, algae, grease, grime, black streaks, oil stains, bird droppings and leaf mould. Described as non-abrasive, non-corrosive and non-flammable, it can be diluted 10-1 for heavy soiling and up to 150-1 for lightly soiled areas.



## Snooper MySpeed update

From: Snooper, Capital Stores (unit purchase)  
Price: free download and pre-loaded with new MySpeed units  
Contact: [snooper.co.uk](http://snooper.co.uk), [capitalstores.co.uk](http://capitalstores.co.uk)

Last month's Snooper's MySpeed Aura review was a shade too fast. Recently released software now enables the unit to be programmed for specific vehicle types (car, caravan, motorhomes up to or greater than 3.5 tonnes and various truck weights). Once MySpeed is set for your vehicle type, it displays the appropriate maximum speed for the road you are on in the UK and most European routes. Very useful for caravanners and motorhomers driving on unfamiliar roads, and easy resetting is ideal for multiple vehicles and when not towing.



## Tablet stylus/pen

From: STM  
Price: £24.95  
Contact: high-street and on-line computer suppliers, [stmbags.com.au](http://stmbags.com.au) (for info)

Hands up who got a tablet computer for Christmas. That many – lucky you! Well, here's a beautifully-made little accessory that enhances its use and keeps sticky fingerprints off the screen. The Tracer Deluxe feels like a quality writing instrument and its soft, durable rubber tip allows accurate drawing and typing, and won't scratch your tablet's screen. Not only does it include a two-colour pen for paper note taking, the detachable stylus tip also reveals mini screwdriver tools and a SIM-card ejector pin.

## Computer TV

From: Hauppauge  
Price: from around £150 (Maplin) depending on supplier  
Contact: 020 3405 1717, [hauppauge.co.uk](http://hauppauge.co.uk)

With the Broadway2T you can watch live TV on your iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Android device, Mac or PC at home via Wi-Fi or on your travels over the internet. The networked TV receiver has two integrated DVB-T tuners, analogue video input with IR blaster and ultra-fast 802.11n wireless. Once set up with a TV input and Wi-Fi router, your device accesses and controls TV using the appropriate internet browser, with one mobile device and a computer having access at the same time. Supplied with leads and power adapter.



## WORDS & PICTURES

### TOUCHING DISTANCE

James Cracknell and Beverley Turner  
Published by: Century  
ISBN 9781780890937  
£18.99 hardback



Most people know James Cracknell as the Olympic gold medal-winning rower and the chap who rowed across the Atlantic with television presenter Ben Fogle. But in 2010 he was knocked off his bike when he was hit by the wing mirror of a passing petrol tanker while undertaking a trans-American endurance challenge. This resulted in a severe brain injury that would completely change his life.

This book charts his journey towards recovery, and battle to cope with issues such as epilepsy and personality change. What really adds to its impact, though, are contributions from Cracknell's wife – writer and broadcaster Beverley Turner. Her experiences of coping with the accident and her 'different' partner, while bringing up young children are particularly moving.

If you are interested in high-level sport of any kind, you will love this book as it documents Cracknell's rise to fame and offers an insight into what it takes to become a professional athlete; two good colour photograph sections add to its appeal. But the human story of a man's fight to be the best husband and father he can be is even more remarkable.

### ZVERNIER: FASHION, FEMININITY & FORM

Robin Muir, Becky E Conekin, Alistair Layzell (editor)  
Published by: Hirmer Publishers  
ISBN 978377451510  
£39.95 hardback



Unless you're really into photography or fashion, the name Eugene Vernier may not mean too much. But, after his early career as a ciné cameraman documenting the activities of the Free French in North Africa and then working for Pathé News, he joined iconic fashion magazine, *Vogue*. According to photographic historian, Robin Muir, and the models that Vernier worked with, he shunned celebrity, letting his craftsmanship and the art of his finished images take the accolades.

Look at the work he's chosen for this book and he has a style that makes the models look comfortable and relaxed in even the most contrived scenes. In some, he makes the simplest arrangements appear elegant and sophisticated. In others, there are hints of gritty news reportage. Then there are those – like the 1961 picture of Ros Watkins sitting on the pavement apparently catching fish from a drain – that are just pure fun. Enjoy revisiting the style of the 1950s and '60s in this beautifully-presented book.

### DVD: LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

Number of discs: 5 Run time: 900 minutes Price: £10.99 (Amazon)

If, like me, you're suffering from New Year blues, this look back at the extraordinary 2012 Olympic Games is the perfect tonic.

The first disc is dedicated to the opening ceremony, featuring an exclusive 'director's cut' by Danny Boyle. Audio commentary from Boyle and writer Frank Cottrell Boyce highlights how the spectacular was put together.

Discs two to four contain the main sporting highlights, from Lizzi Armistead's silver medal in the women's cycling road race on the second day to Tom Daley's emotional diving bronze, and not forgetting golds from the likes of Bradley Wiggins, Jessica Ennis, Mo Farah and Ben Ainslie. The perfect cocktail of British sporting triumph.

That's not to say the other nations are ignored of course – the likes of Michael Phelps' record 19th Olympic swimming medal and Usain Bolt's sprint 'treble' receive pride of place. And who can forget Clare Balding's interview with South Africa's Bert le Clos, proud father of Chad, the 200m butterfly champion in the pool?

Rounded off with the coverage from the closing ceremony, this is a set to treasure.



### APP: MAPMYWALK

Platform: iOS/Android (tested on Android) Price: free

If you've resolved to be more active this year – or simply if you enjoy walking and would like to record your experiences – this is a great app for you. At the simplest level, MapMyWalk will monitor your stroll using your phone's GPS function, providing feedback on speed and distance travelled. If you want to take things more seriously, it will use the registration details you provide to estimate your daily 'calorie budget'. It even gives details of calories burned during each workout and allows you to record meals eaten and drinks consumed! Perhaps the most useful feature, though, is the ability to search for walks performed by other users of the service nearby. I looked for routes near the Club's East Grinstead HQ and four with starting points within 0.3 miles appeared. You then select one from the list, click 'DO IT' and follow your position on the screen map – simple.

The app is designed to work in conjunction with the [mapmywalk.com](http://mapmywalk.com) website which offers even more detailed analysis and the ability to draw maps online for future use. Offering the opportunity to interact with fellow MapMyWalk 'friends' and compatible with Facebook, you can share your walking experiences however you see fit. You can upgrade to advertisement-free 'pro' versions which offer further functionality.

