



## Great Weston

WESTON PARK will officially open its doors for the first time this year on the weekend that The Caravan Club's National Rally takes place in the grounds from 28 May to 1 June.

The house and gardens will be open to Rally participants at a special discounted fee of £2 per person. It is home to an internationally-acclaimed collection, including works by Van

Dyck, Lely and Gainsborough, a rare set of Gobelin's tapestries and furniture by royal makers Morel and Hughes.

There are some fascinating stories waiting to be uncovered. Which famous Prime Minister was a regular house guest? What happened to the Great Seal of England? Who witnessed a secret royal marriage? All will be revealed during your visit.

The house and gardens will be open from 1pm-5pm (last admission is 4.30pm) on Friday, Sunday and Monday (not Saturday). You will find a helpful volunteer guide in each room and there are also trails for children. To gain entry to the house and gardens and to claim your discount, please display your Rally participant badge.

**20**  
The % rise in the number of camping and caravan trips taken in the UK during the first nine months of 2009  
Source: VisitEngland

### BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

For a more in-depth look at Weston Park, go 'Behind the Scenes' with an expert guide. These tours take visitors to parts of the house not normally accessible to the general public. These tours will be available on Sunday 30 and Monday 31 May. They start at noon and 2pm and the entry fee of £7 per person includes house admission.

### THE GRANARY FARM SHOP

This shop is open daily from 10am and stocks the best in locally-produced food and drink. Whether you are planning a slap-up breakfast, barbecue supper or just need some essentials, the farm shop will be just a short walk from your pitch.

The shop has all the day-to-day essentials, including fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, cheese, eggs, bread, dried ingredients and homemade cakes. The in-house Butchery stocks award-winning sausages, bacon and locally-reared meat, and Weston's head chef supplies the shop with a range of specials, including fresh soups and desserts.

**To reserve a pitch at the National, send your booking form to the Events Team now – use the online form at [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) and follow the 'National Rally' links or call 01342 336687. You can still buy evening entertainment tickets in advance for most shows – details will be sent out with your booking confirmation.**



Foreground l-r: Eric Illsley MP, Keith and Alison Rogers, Hilda and Roy Griggs, Club Chairman Grenville Chamberlain. Background l-r: Ann and Roy Aunger collecting the second-place award on behalf of David and Jean Clarkson

## Keal Lodge wins CL of the Year

KEITH AND Alison Rogers of Keal Lodge in Lincolnshire were presented with the Certificated Location (CL) of the Year 2009 award at a particularly special ceremony at the Houses of Parliament in early February.

The Club's CL network of small, five-pitch, privately-owned sites has now been in existence for 50 years and Chairman Grenville Chamberlain sang its praises. "Fifty years of these wonderful CL sites is real cause for celebration, and our winners here today are testament to the enjoyment and friendship that these locations offer our members," he said.

Keal Lodge CL is only a five-minute walk from the pretty, historic Lincolnshire village of Deeping St James, with its pubs and restaurants, good local shops and walks along the river Welland.

Keith and Alison have run the site for 14 years. "I've lived in the area all my life," explained Alison. "So I am more than happy to help our guests make the most of their stay – whether it's wildlife watching, admiring historic

buildings or joining in one of my craft weekends!"

Second place in the awards went to Laithes Lodge CL in Blackpool, owned by David and Jean Clarkson, while Roy and Hilda Griggs' Stoneyways CL in Woodbridge, Suffolk, picked up third.

Owners of the top three CLs, voted for by members, were presented with their awards by John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The full list of regional and category winners can be seen below.

**In brief**  
The Gloucestershire Centre's old website has been closed down prematurely. Members are being advised that the new address is [gloucestershirecentre.co.uk](http://gloucestershirecentre.co.uk)

### Time for questions

A TEAM of South West Region Officers and Committee representatives will be joined by Club officials and nominated members for a Meet the Members weekend at Moreton-in-Marsh Caravan Club Site from 23-25 April. Informative question and answer sessions will be held on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, with times displayed in the reception area. Club brochures and leaflets will be available and light refreshments will be served.

## Magazine up in ABC rankings

THE CARAVAN Club Magazine ranked 35th in the Audit Bureau of Circulation's report for 2009 in the Total Average Net Circulation/Distribution category.

According to official figures for January to December last year, the Club Magazine averaged a distribution of 383,396 copies – up 2.4% on 2008. It ranks 32nd in magazines circulated/distributed solely in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The Club Magazine is above publications such as *That's Life* and *Woman & Home* on the list, which covers both paid-for and free titles.

Sales of commercial caravanning magazines were encouraging, with *Practical Motorhome* (+4.8%), *Caravan* (+1.3%) and *Motorhome Monthly* (+0.2%), recording year-on-year increases, although ABC market leader *Practical Caravan*'s sales dropped by 3.1% to 40,242 during 2009.



### SURVEY YOUR SCENE

IF YOU want to plan your day trips before you go on your next caravanning holiday, an Ordnance Survey map is the perfect place to start.

The 1:50 000 scale, (2cm to 1km, 1in to 1 mile) all-purpose Landranger maps cover an area of 40km by 40km, so you can really get to know the region you are visiting in advance.

If your break is likely to be a more active one and you enjoy walking or cycling, you might want to invest in a more detailed map. On hikes and rides, the OS Explorer map is ideal. With a scale of 1:25 000 scale (4cm to 1km, 2in to 1 mile) it shows every landmark, house, river, viewpoint, hill and pub so you'll easily be able to plan and navigate your route.





# Club Matters

## YOU TALK, WE LISTEN



### How important is technology in your life?

DO YOU know your dongles from your doughnuts? Are you permanently attached to your iPhone and addicted to apps? Prefer the dulcet tones of your sat-nav to the rustle of paper maps? Are you a regular Tweeter?

Change is all around us, and in the area of technology and communications, the pace seems to be particularly hectic. The media is

jam-packed with adverts for all the latest gadgetry and predictions about 'the next big thing'. But what does it all mean for us? How is technology affecting your caravanning – for better or worse – when you're planning and booking breaks, out on the road, enjoying sites, keeping in touch with family and so on?

Whether you're an early adopter of all-things new or a Luddite who's

happy operating on steam, we'd like to hear from you. We'd like to learn more about the technology you own and use, how you prefer to do things and what you reckon might change over the coming months.

Your feedback will help us make sure the *Magazine's* product tests and reviews, members' special offers, our information/advice and member services all hit the mark.

### Your views please...

Simply visit [caravanclub/my-club/club-matters](http://caravanclub/my-club/club-matters), log in and follow the link to a short online survey (if you don't have internet access and wish to take part, please send a large SAE to 'April Have Your Say', Marketing Department, at our East Grinstead address by 16 April and we'll send you a form). We're expecting lots of replies, so will not be able to respond individually – but we will be publishing a summary of the results in a future edition.

### PITCHING AND PUTTING

THE 2010 Scottish Division Golf Championships will be held at Whitemoss Golf Club in Perthshire on Saturday 15 May.

The Fife and Tayside Centre will hold a rally at Braco from 14-16 May, in conjunction with the golf. Championships winners will be announced on Sunday on the rally field.

Full details can be found on p38 of the Scottish Caravan Club rally programme and on The Scottish Caravan Club website at [thescottishcaravanclub.com](http://thescottishcaravanclub.com).



## Design Awards attract impressive line-up

THE CLUB received a bumper 74 entries for its Caravan Design and Lightweight Leisure Trailer Awards, held annually at the Boat and Caravan Show. A team of nine judges pored over vehicles entered in 13 categories ranging from 'Trailer Tents Under £3750' to 'Any Fifth Wheel Caravan'.

Elddis achieved a first in the history of the awards, picking up prizes in both the caravan and lightweight leisure trailer sections for its Xplore 302. Meanwhile, Bailey of Bristol performed particularly well, picking up four awards for its new products

featuring the revolutionary Alu-Tech body construction – 'Family Caravan £12,000-£16,000' (Olympus 504), '2-berth Caravan £12,000-£16,000' (Pegasus 462), 'Caravan with Dedicated Bed(s) £12,000-£16,000' (Olympus 534) and 'Any Caravan £16,000-£19,000' (Pegasus 624).

Bailey's Nick Howard is pictured with Club Chairman Grenville Chamberlain accepting one of these awards.

For a complete round-up of the results, see the supplement that accompanies this issue.



## Electric Bill!

"WE HOPE we're like Bill at 80," say the winter wardens at Abbey Wood Caravan Club Site, who'd like to congratulate volunteer Bill Hulbert, who celebrated becoming an octogenarian in December.

Bill has been a member of the Club since 1974 and is a former chairman of the East Kent Centre.

He's been volunteering at Abbey Wood for more than 16 months and Wardens Alison and Bill Macleod and Karen and Dave Cuthbert are amazed by his enthusiasm.

"He comes twice a week to the site and is always raring to go. It's an effort at times to keep up with him," they say. Thanks for all your efforts Bill!



### SHOW TIME

#### APRIL

**9-11 – SHEPTON MALLET:** The Outdoor Leisure Show, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet. (Stone Leisure, call 020 8302 6150 or see [stoneleisure.com](http://stoneleisure.com))

**9-11 – ROMSEY:** South Coast Caravan and Motorhome Show, Broadlands, Romsey. (Appletree Exhibitions, call 01395 277002 or see [appletree-exhibitions.co.uk](http://appletree-exhibitions.co.uk))

**16-18 – CARMARTHEN:** Carmarthen Caravan & Motorhome Show, United Counties Showground, Carmarthen. (Towy Events, call 01267 236569 or see [towyevents.co.uk](http://towyevents.co.uk))

**23-25 – PETERBOROUGH\*:** The National Motorhome Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough. (Warners Group, call 01778 391105 or see [outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions))

#### MAY

**7-9 – BRISTOL:** Bristol Caravan and Motorhome Show, Durdham Downs, Bristol. (Appletree Exhibitions, call 01395 277002 or see [appletree-exhibitions.co.uk](http://appletree-exhibitions.co.uk))

**21-23 – NEWBURY\*:** The Southern Motorcaravan Show, Newbury Showground, Thatcham. (Warners Group, call 01778 391105 or see [outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions))

**22-23 – EXETER:** The Motorhome Big Sale, Exeter Racecourse. (Appletree Exhibitions, call 01395 277002 or see [appletree-exhibitions.co.uk](http://appletree-exhibitions.co.uk))

**Note:** details subject to change – please telephone event organisers in advance for up-to-date information. \*Indicates shows at which the Club will have a stand.

## Looking out for Linda

INTERIOR DESIGN guru and television celebrity Linda Barker opened the Boat and Caravan Show in The Caravan Club Lounge at the NEC.

Club member Linda, who shot to fame in 1994 on the *Changing Rooms* programme, was enthusiastic about the caravans on display. "I think some of the new ones are really amazing," she said. "All you need to do is add a few cushions and throws and you're away."

A fan of the caravanning lifestyle, she hopes to do some touring herself in 2010. "I think holidaying in the UK is the way forward – that's what's really exciting about caravanning," she said.

More than 83,000 people attended the show which gave caravan and motor caravan manufacturers the opportunity to show off their new products for 2010.



**49**  
The number of years the Boat and Caravan Show has been running

### Obituaries

#### John Teague

The Caravan Club is sad to report that John Teague, former chairman of the South Wales Centre, passed away on 29 December 2009. John was a well-respected Club member who had many friends and he will be sadly missed. John's family wish to express their gratitude to those who have sent their condolences.

#### Ron Turner

Ron Turner, who started working for the Club with his wife, Muriel, in 1990, sadly passed away on 18 February. During their time at the Club, the couple worked as Assistant Wardens and Wardens. In 1996, they decided to retire onto the Flying Squad. Our deepest sympathies are with Ron's daughter Sue and her family.



# Club Website EXPLAINED

E-Commerce Executive **Mark Solomon** helps you get the most out of [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk)

**SECURE**  
All your personal details are kept secure in 'My Club'. We encrypt any personal information sent between your computer and the Club website, meaning it is all safely managed

**FORGOTTEN YOUR PASSWORD?**  
Get a password reminder online. Simply find the login form and click the link for 'Forgotten your password?'

EACH MONTH we'll be featuring a different section of the Club website – [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) – and explaining how it can help you get the most out of your membership. In this first part of a new series we look at the 'My Club' area.

## MANAGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Did you know you can manage most aspects of your membership and your UK site bookings on the internet? The Caravan Club website is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so you can take advantage of Club services at a time that's convenient for you.

'My Club' is your area of the website. It can be easily accessed from a link at the top of every page (it's usually the first page you see when you log in).

## MY BOOKINGS

Under 'My Club' is a list of clickable subheadings, including 'My bookings'. Here you can view, amend or cancel any UK site bookings you have made. You don't even need to have made them online – all your current bookings will be displayed here (note: Affiliated Sites are booked directly so do not show in 'My Club').

## RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Here you can renew your membership online, saving yourself the trouble and cost of a phone call.

## CHANGE MY OUTFITS

Add, amend or delete any outfit information we have for you. Letting us know what outfits you have helps us to tailor information we send to you and speeds up any future bookings you want to make.

## CHANGE MY DETAILS

Update your personal details here – change your email address, password, postal address and telephone numbers. You can even update your email preferences to let us know what sort of information you would (or perhaps wouldn't) like to receive.

## CLUB MATTERS

Want your say on Club services? Then check out the 'Club Matters' section. Here we'll be requesting your feedback on numerous topics and asking for your suggestions on what changes we could make. We'd love to hear from you, so why not tell us your views?

## MEMBER OFFERS

Take advantage of a huge range of discounts negotiated for members. From home and garden offers to savings on Great Days Out or special rates for caravanning equipment – it's all online.

**CHANGED YOUR EMAIL?**  
Let us know! Most people remember to tell us about a change of postal address, but if you keep your email details up to date as well, it makes it easier for you to access online services and easier for us to contact you should we need to

## COMING SOON TO MY CLUB

The Club's website team has plenty of plans to improve 'My Club'. Some of these include:

- Centre renewal – renew your centre membership with ease online
- Advanced change of address – set a date for your address to update on our systems
- Overseas bookings – view all of your site bookings in 'My Club', not just the UK ones
- Enhanced online renewals – add or remove joint or family members when your membership comes up for renewal
- Convert to Direct Debit and save time when it's time to renew your membership



## WHAT ELSE CAN I FIND ONLINE?

There is a wealth of interesting and useful content on the Club website, with thousands of pages for members to browse. Here are a few of the areas you can access:

- Up-to-date Club site information and availability
- Current CL details
- Technical help
- Route planning
- Overseas caravan site and ferry deals
- Quality insurance and financial services
- Upcoming events and shows
- Help on buying a car, caravan or motor caravan
- Club, industry and leisure news
- Club shop and bookshop
- Club *Magazine* archive with articles dating back to 2002
- Caravan Club awards and competitions

## YOUR WEBSITE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q: I'm having trouble registering/logging in, what can I do?**

**A:** Take a look at our webpage [caravanclub.co.uk/login-trouble](http://caravanclub.co.uk/login-trouble) as a start. There's plenty of useful information on there which may solve the problem. If not, email [webcontactteam@caravanclub.co.uk](mailto:webcontactteam@caravanclub.co.uk) or call **01342 336612** and we'll be happy to help.

**Q: What is the easiest way to find what I'm looking for on the Club website?**

**A:** Everyone likes to browse the website differently, so we try to lay out the navigation as simply as possible. If you can't find what you're looking for, you might find it easier to use the search box at the top of the website. It's recently been upgraded to use a Google search tool so you can search for anything from the 'Magazine' to the 'National Rally' or even a particular Club site or CL.



# New wheels

Clive White reports on the latest car releases



## Hy expectations

DESPITE ITS very reasonable £16,495 OTR starting price, Hyundai claims its new "ix35 range has equipment levels that no rival can even dream of matching", and is likely to cost less to run than mainstream family cars and MPVs with comparable engines. The entry-level ix35 2.0-litre petrol front-wheel-drive Style is cheaper to buy than a basic Ford Focus, yet includes 17in alloys, ESP, air conditioning, Bluetooth phone connectivity, heated front and rear seats, electric heated door mirrors with integrated LED side repeaters, leather steering wheel and gear knob, reverse parking sensors and trip computer. The 2.0CRDi diesel Style FWD costs £17,995, with other two and four-wheel drive variants graduating up to £20,745. The ix35 went on sale at the end of March, with a direct-injection 1.6 petrol and 1.7 diesel joining in the autumn.

## SKODA SURGERY

ŠKODA'S BEEN busy giving its Fabia, Fabia Estate and Roomster a complete facelift with new engines and technology, reduced emissions and improved performance, ready for the recent Geneva Motor Show. The company says the new design accentuates the cars' width – a restyled face gives both cars a more dynamic look, increasing their road presence. Scout models have also been redesigned. There are four petrol engines and two diesels in the UK, with power from 60bhp to 105bhp in the Fabia and 70bhp to 105bhp in the Roomster (all EU5 compliant).



### Feedback wanted

WE WANT your views on the models listed for our 'Buying Used' features. Just call 01342 336804 (please be ready to quote your membership number) or write, fax or email (see p3) for an appropriate questionnaire and prepaid return envelope. Please specify the vehicle you wish to report on. Closing dates for return are highlighted.

**AUGUST 2010:** Upper-crust two-berths: Buccaneer Elan (2000-2009) v Vanmaster Fanfare, by **12 April 2010**.

**SEPTEMBER 2010:** Mazda6 (2002-2008) 2.0-litre diesel hatchback/saloon/estate v Volkswagen Passat Mk6 (from 2005) 1.9/2.0-litre diesel saloon/estate, by **12 May 2010**.

**OCTOBER 2010:** Ace Globetrotter (2002-2009) v Avondale Dart 545/4 (2005-2009), by **11 June 2010**.

## SUBARU CLUES



YOU MIGHT not think that futuristic concept cars have a lot to do with towing, but they can often give clues as to a manufacturer's way of

thinking ahead. Subaru, for instance, is obviously looking at the hybrid route and has combined electric power with its boxer engine and symmetrical four-wheel drive and thrown in its in-house-designed Lineartronic automatic transmission for good measure. At start-up and low speeds, the rear 20kW motor provides drive until the petrol engine cuts in, with the front 10kW acting as both generator and supplementary power unit for increased power. However, Subaru has gone all-electric with its Stella city car, a 90km full charge taking about five hours (a 15-minute quick charge gives 80% capacity).