



## A site is born

IF YOU'VE been following our 'Birth of a Club Site' feature over the past few months in Sites News, you will be aware of the hard work that has gone into the development of Teesdale Barnard Castle in Co Durham.

Well, over the last few weeks the landscaping and buildings have been finished (right), and the site will open as planned at the beginning of August.

Set in an 'Area of High Landscape Value' (above), Teesdale Barnard Castle is the perfect base for walkers and cyclists. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the Teesdale Way or take on the greater challenge of parts of the breathtaking Pennine Way.

A 10-minute walk from the site along the banks of the river Tees takes you to the historic town of Barnard Castle, where you will find many restaurants and the Bowes Museum with its fine collection of European art. Nearby Raby Castle Gardens and Deer Park is also well worth a visit.

You'll enjoy many 'highs' during a stay at Teesdale Barnard Castle: England's highest waterfall, High Force, where the river Tees crashes



70ft over the Great Whin Sill; England's highest pub, Tan Hill Inn; and England's highest market town, Alston, are all within easy driving distance of the site. If you've not got a head for heights, how about an underground discovery with a visit to a lead mine?

Teesdale is set within the North Pennines, which is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a UNESCO European Geopark. The scenery here is truly breathtaking.

The site itself has 76 pitches, all hardstanding, and boasts the excellent standard of facilities that

you would expect from a Club site, including a toilet block and disabled access. Local bus services provide access to the upper reaches of Teesdale and beyond.

Teesdale Barnard Castle will be open to members on 1 August. See [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) or call the Club on 01342 327490 to book your pitch.

### USEFUL LINKS

Websites:  
[seeteesdalediscovery.com](http://seeteesdalediscovery.com) and  
[northpennines.org.uk](http://northpennines.org.uk)

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

These Club sites have recently re-opened:

- **Cherry Hinton**, which was closed for redevelopments to the toilet block
- **Looe**, (below) where the toilet blocks have been substantially upgraded, additional pitches made available and infrastructure improved



- **Southland**, on the Isle of Wight, where there have been improvements to the toilet block, reception, play area and infrastructure

- **Balbirnie Park** in Fife, which has been closed for redevelopments to the toilet block

- **Park Coppice**, where there have been improvements to the toilet block and reception, as well as to the infrastructure of the site, is due to reopen in August

## Pitch in at NEC show

THE CLUB will again be running a temporary campsite during the International Caravan & Motorhome show at the NEC, Birmingham (12-19 October 2010).

The site will be set up in North Car Parks 9 to 11 and pitches will be available from 11-17 October inclusive. Fees are £27.50 per night including electric hook-up.

There will be a mixture of approximately 400 paved and hardstanding pitches available, each with an electric hook-up (6A max), fresh water and black and grey waste disposal. Bar and catering facilities

will be available in a marquee, which will also host a programme of free entertainment from Tuesday through to Saturday night. Shuttle buses will operate to and from the show.

You can book a pitch online at [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) or by calling the Events department on 01342 336779. We accept MasterCard or Visa. Those booking a pitch can also order their show entry tickets through the Club. A fee of £5 will be charged for cancelled pitch bookings up to 5 October, after which no refunds will be given. Show tickets are non-refundable. Bookings close 5 October subject to availability.

## Pedal power

SOME 150 'official' Caravan Club riders – including Chairman Grenville Chamberlain (right), other Committee members, head office staff, wardens and Club members – pedalled the 54 miles to complete the London to Brighton Bike Ride in June, raising money for the British Heart Foundation in the process.

Although not part of the actual Club team, 76-year-old Club member Mr McKinna was the oldest participant in the ride, which followed a route from Clapham Common to Brighton's Madeira Drive.



## SHOW TIME

### AUGUST

**14-15 – MALVERN\***: The Western Motorhome Show, Three Counties Showground, Malvern. (Warners Group, call 01778 391105 or see [outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions))

### SEPTEMBER

**4-5 – HULL**: The Caravan Extravaganza, The Lawns, Cottingham, Nr Hull. (See [lawnsandbeaulieushows.com](http://lawnsandbeaulieushows.com))

**11-13 – SHEPTON MALLET\***: The Motorhome & US RV Show, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. (Stone Leisure, call 020 8302 6150 or see [stoneleisure.com](http://stoneleisure.com))

**17-19 – CARMARTHEN**: Carmarthen Caravan and Motorhome Show, The United Counties Showground, Carmarthen. (Towy Events, call 01267 236569 or see [towyevents.co.uk](http://towyevents.co.uk))

**24-26 – NEW FOREST**: The Motorhome Big Sale, New Forest Showground. (Appletree Exhibitions, call 01395 277002, or see [appletree-exhibitions.co.uk](http://appletree-exhibitions.co.uk))

**24-26 – LINCOLN\***: The Motorhome Show Season Finale, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln (Warners Group, call 01778 391 123 or see [outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions))

### OCTOBER

**2-3 – EXETER**: Holiday Home and Lodge Show plus The Motorhome Big Sale, Exeter Racecourse. (Appletree Exhibitions, call 01395 277 002 or see [appletree-exhibitions.co.uk](http://appletree-exhibitions.co.uk))

**12-17 – BIRMINGHAM\***: International Caravan & Motorhome 2010, NEC, Birmingham. (Clarion Events, call 0844 412 4639 or see [caravanshows.com](http://caravanshows.com))

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.

## SET YOUR SIGHTS ON SLEDMERE

WE HAVE an exciting new venue for next year's National Rally – Sledmere House, set high on the Wolds near Driffield, East Yorkshire. The Rally will take place over the late spring bank holiday, from 27 to 31 May 2011.

Sledmere House is surrounded by glorious parkland and gardens, including a formal parterre, beautiful 18th-century walled Rose Garden, woodland walks where deer shelter

among trees and the Mediterranean Garden with fountain and summerhouse. Whether your interest is gardening, birds or Georgian architecture, you won't be disappointed. The house itself, extended and redecorated in the 1780s and 1790s by Sir Christopher Sykes, was gutted by fire in 1911. However, through careful restoration, it still has an 18th-century feel.

As with all National Rally venues, we are limited to the number of pitches we can have – for Sledmere, it will be 3,000. So, how do you book? Those of you who attended this year's event at Weston Park or visited Prestwold in 2009 will automatically receive a booking form in the post. Alternatively, an online booking form will be available on the Club website from mid October.







# ClubMatters

## YOU TALK, WE LISTEN



### OVERSEAS TRAVEL

WHETHER YOU regularly cross the Channel or have never considered touring abroad, we'd like to hear from you this month...

- If you've not yet ventured overseas, why not? Has anything put you off? What might help and encourage you to give it a go?
- If you do tour abroad, how do you

go about planning and booking your trips? Do you plan carefully and book months in advance or just set off and go on a whim?

- Did you know that the Club offers a host of overseas travel services? What's been your experience of them? What improvements or new things would you like to see us include?

- What do you feel is really special or different about caravan holidays overseas?

**Do help us to shape future overseas travel services, information and offers we provide for members. We'd love to hear your feedback – by 1 September please!**

### Take part and win\*

Respond to this survey and you will be automatically entered into a free prize draw to win a Dover to Dunkirk ferry crossing (for a car plus four passengers; travel dates subject to availability) and copies of *Caravan Europe* Volumes 1 and 2.

## Your feedback please...

Simply visit [caravanclub/my-club/club-matters](http://caravanclub/my-club/club-matters), login and click to a short online survey

No internet access but wish to take part? Send a large SAE to 'August Club Matters', Marketing Department, The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1UA or call 01342 336747 by 20 August, and we'll post you a form. We won't be able to respond to members individually, but look out for results in a future edition.

## You said...

THANKS TO those of you who responded to April's 'Club Matters', we now have a better feel for how members are making use of technology to help research, plan, book and enjoy touring breaks in the UK and overseas – and what you'd like to see us doing. We're already working on a number of your ideas; it'd be premature to talk about these now, but watch out for further details in future issues.

The desire for better, cheaper Wi-Fi access at Club sites is clear – see p78 of the July issue for news of improvements we're making.

Your feedback suggests new technology is often utilised 'as well as' and not 'instead of' old – paper maps and publications are still commonly used alongside sat-navs and online route planners. While a few of you are happy to do just about everything online, many believe good, old-fashioned human contact is still important for certain dealings –

and our aim is to make doing business with us easy and enjoyable.

In May we asked 'What does membership mean to you?' Not surprisingly, our sites are what you love most about the Club. An increasing number of members are using the self-service facilities ('My Club') on our website. Your ideas for new services and improvements centred around handling of site bookings, on-site facilities, member offers and more. Views on 'Great Days Out' will help our future plans.



### \*CLUB MATTERS PRIZE DRAW RULES

This prize draw is governed by The Caravan Club's standard prize draw terms and conditions. Please ensure that you read these at either [caravanclub.co.uk/tandc](http://caravanclub.co.uk/tandc) or order a copy on 01342 318813 prior to making your entry. Only one entry per membership number is permitted. The opening date for this prize draw is 9am on 23 July 2010 UK time. The closing date for this prize draw is 6pm on 1 September 2010 UK time. Entries are made by filling in the online survey. Entries must contain the entrant's full name, address and membership number. The first valid entry drawn randomly will win a Dover to Dunkirk ferry crossing (for a car plus four passengers; travel dates subject to availability) and copies of *Caravan Europe* Volumes

1 and 2. The draw will take place by 2 September 2010 and the winner will be notified by post or email to the address provided on the entry form on or before 16 September 2010. The winner must claim the prize according to the instructions in such notification as soon as possible and in any event within 30 days of the date of such notification. Except for any liability arising in relation to death or personal injury resulting from the negligence of The Caravan Club or its employees, The Caravan Club shall have no liability in respect of any loss, harm or damage whatsoever (including but not limited to direct, indirect and consequential loss) arising in connection with any prize draw to any person who has made or wished to make an entry into the prize draw or any third party.

## South West Region Question Time

AREMINDER that members are invited to the South West Region's 6th Members' Question Time at Exeter Racecourse, adjacent to the Club site, on Saturday 11 September at 2pm.

Admission is free but by ticket only. Please fill in the form below and

send it to the address shown.

The Avon Centre is organising a rally at Exeter Racecourse Club Site from 9-13 September to coincide with this event. Call rally officers Jan and Dave Trott on 07775 782332 for further details.

### South West Region Members' Question Time Booking Form

I wish to attend the South West Region's Members' Question Time

Please send me .....tickets Name .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Memb No .....

Email ..... Tel No .....

Please return the completed form to the Regional Secretary: Mrs Susan Southwell, PO Box 1566, Bitterne, Southampton SO18 9EQ

## Rally notes

MEMBERS ARE invited to join The Caravan Club Singers at their rally in Norton, Gloucester, from 8-16 August. The rally (no mains hook-ups, but fresh and waste water facilities provided) is being held to coincide with the Jazz Psalm Sunday Concert at Gloucester Cathedral on 15 August, at which the Club Singers will be performing. The concert is part of the week-long Three Choirs Festival. For further rally details, call Dave Wakeling on 07747 783546 or email [accssinger@aol.com](mailto:accssinger@aol.com).

## Ian Campsie

FOUNDER MEMBER of the North Lancashire Centre Ian Campsie sadly passed away on 10 May. Ian, who served the centre for 21 years, was its Chairman from 1973-75 and organised many rallies. He joined the Club in June 1964. Our condolences go to his wife Audrey and family.

**In brief**

The National Motor Museum Trust, Beaulieu, launched an exciting online caravanning exhibition at [nationalmotormuseum.org.uk](http://nationalmotormuseum.org.uk). The Club's Collection of caravanning memorabilia is the inspiration for the new web-based 'Caravan Road Rallying' exhibition.

# WESSEX CELEBRATIONS

THE RALLY of Wessex, a gathering of the Club's South West centres, is celebrating its 21st birthday at Frome Agricultural Showground over the bank holiday weekend of 27-30 August.

A programme of entertainment and friendly competition has been planned, including the

'Miss Wessex Show', children's fancy dress and the popular 'Illuminated Window' competition. 'Centres Entertain' is the theme for Saturday night, while Sunday will see an evening of '50s and '60s music performed by Vivo.

Contact Fiona Chamberlain on 07930 755811 for a booking form.



## On the road again...

FOLLOWING THE success of its Roadshow at the Club's Four Oaks site in Henley-on-Thames on 4-6 June, members of the Northern Home Counties Region can look forward to a similar event in August. The Region's final Roadshow of 2010 takes place at Burford Club site, Oxfordshire, over the weekend of 20-22 August. For further information, see [northernhomecountiesregion.info](http://northernhomecountiesregion.info).

## Buying advice wanted

IF YOU visited February's NEC show, you may have met Jane Lynch from Cardiff Business School, who is doing a PhD research project examining the UK touring caravan industry. If you'd like to share your thoughts on what matters most when buying a new caravan (her research focuses on new touring

caravans only, not motor caravans), Jane is seeking volunteers to take part in a quick, easy and anonymous online survey. She will share her findings with us and the wider caravanning industry, supporting continuous improvement efforts. To take part visit [surveymonkey.com/s/PK92TLB](http://surveymonkey.com/s/PK92TLB).

## Club member is Mayor

THE NEWLY-elected Mayor of Stourport-on-Severn, Councillor Dixon Sheppard, is a long-standing member of The Caravan Club.

Councillor Sheppard, who joined the Club in the mid-1970s, is pictured with his wife, Councillor Janice Sheppard, at the Town Mayor's Civic Reception in May.



Credit: photo by kind permission of the Kidderminster Shuttle



Left to right: Richard Kay, Olly Turner, Kenny Robertson (past SCC President), Margaret Allen and Andrew Kirkhope at the Scottish Division golf championships

# Tee for two

THEIR GOLF tournaments might not be able to match the fervour of the Ryder Cup, but competition was still fierce in the recent West Central Region and the Scottish Division golf championships.

In a field of 31, Tom Thornburrow from Lancaster won the West Central event, which was again sponsored

by TWG Hyundai, while Charlotte Wootton from Crewe took the top ladies' prize.

Played at Whitemoss Golf Club, Dunning, the Scottish Division championship was again won by Olly Turner, his 11th success in the tournament's 21 years. Margaret Allen was crowned ladies' champion.

## Awarding time for Coachman

HULL-BASED Coachman Caravans came top in the SME Recycling Success category at the annual Severnside Achievement in Recycling Awards recently.

The award recognised Coachman's excellence in the area of sustainable recycling and waste management. In recent years, the company has overhauled its waste handling techniques, going from relying almost wholly on landfill to operating several recycling streams covering a number of materials. Patrick Cattle, Coachman's



Welsh rugby union international Martin Williams presents the award to Coachman's Patrick Cattle (right)

Safety, Health and Environmental Supervisor, said: "We've reduced landfill by roughly 40% over the last couple of years – a real achievement."

## Welsh Division Question Time

THE WELSH Division is holding a Members' Question Time at 7pm at the Village Hotel & Leisure Club, Coryton, Cardiff (M4 J34) on Thursday 11 November. All members living in Wales are invited to come along to put their questions to Caravan Club staff and caravan dealers.

Admission is free but by ticket only, to allow the organisers to arrange seating and refreshments. Please fill in and return the form below to the Divisional Vice Chairman Graham Hall at the address given.

### Welsh Division Members' Question Time Booking Form

I wish to attend The Welsh Division Members' Question Time

Please send me .....tickets Name .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... M'ship No .....

Email .....Tel No .....

Please return the completed form to the Divisional Vice Chairman: Mr Graham Hall, 344 Caerleon Road, Newport NP19 7HX





# New wheels

Clive White reports on the latest car releases



## Mondeo Russian around

A REVISED Ford Mondeo makes its August debut at the 2010 Moscow International Automobile Salon prior to October's UK launch. New 238bhp EcoBoost petrol and 198bhp Duratorq TDCi engines are

introduced along with latest technologies, such as Lane Departure Warning, Auto High Beam, Driver Alert, Active Grille Shutter (yes, the radiator blind is back, in high-tech form) and Smart

Regenerative Charging. External styling features new grille treatment and LED daytime running lights, while the rear also gets a refresh and LED lighting. New trim materials, a

'flow-through' centre console, redesigned door trims and overhead console with ambient lighting help create what Ford says is its best-quality Mondeo ever.



## Tourer de France

THIS IS the first official picture of Vauxhall's Astra Sports Tourer. The British-built Astra estate will be launched at September's Paris Motor Show and appear in UK showrooms by the end of the year. Briton Mark Adams headed the design team with a major development contribution by Vauxhall's Engineering Centre, the Astra being tuned for UK roads. Astra adopts start/stop technology among the ST's many innovative technical features and maximising its space and practicality have been major design considerations.

## Ask the XParts

NICETO know that despite the demise of most British car brands, there are still discerning motorists out there who appreciate the unique qualities of their sporty MGs and unusually cosseting Rovers. Parts specialist XPart provides comprehensive parts support for the marques and reveals that MG Rover cars produced post-2000 have only declined 3% in number during the past 12 months, despite the factory closure in 2005. XPart says, "Thanks to the hard work of our 250 MG Rover AutoService centres and to initiatives such as our write-off avoidance programme, Close Call,



we offer MG Rover owners dealer-level support in the absence of a manufacturer."

Long may it continue!

## 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.

**DECEMBER 2010:** Coachman Amara 450/2 v Swift Charisma 230, by **12 August.**

**JANUARY 2011:** Kia Sorento 2.5TD (2006-09) v Hyundai Santa Fe 2.2TD (2006-), by **10 September.**

**FEBRUARY 2011:** Bailey Ranger 460/4 Series 5 and 6 (2006-2010) v Sprite Alpine 4 (2005-2010) by **8 October.**



# Club Website EXPLAINED

## E-Commerce Executive Mark Solomon details the launch of an exciting new online service for Club members, called 'Caravan Club Classifieds'

LOOKING TO buy or sell a caravan, motor caravan, towcar or camping accessory? Look no further! We have launched 'Caravan Club Classifieds', which provides members with a quick and easy way to trade their items online.

What's more, this service is FREE to members. The Club takes no commission from any transaction, although you can pay a small fee to highlight your ad or have it shown on the classified home page to potentially speed up your sale.

Non-members will also be able to use Caravan Club Classifieds, however members' advertisements will be promoted differently, displaying a Club member badge.

Placing an ad is a simple process, and you can use your Club website login (or register on the Club website if you haven't yet) to do so. Your ad will appear online within minutes, reaching a wide audience.

Some members may remember 'Online Trader', the Club's previous web-based classified service. Unfortunately The People's Web, the third party company that supported and maintained Online Trader, went into administration in 2009 and we were unable to find a viable solution to get this service back up and running.

Since then the Club has entered into a partnership with Friday-Ad, a well-established company that has a vast amount of experience in the classified market. The Friday-Ad group owns and operates 12 classified websites, including the brand-new 'Caravan Selecta', which will be powering Caravan Club Classifieds.

Any ads you create on Caravan Club Classifieds will automatically be placed for free on Caravan Selecta, so you gain maximum exposure.

Over the past few months, the Club's website team has been working hard to offer what we hope will be a very popular addition to our online member services. So, why not visit caravanclubclassifieds.co.uk today to place a free ad or find a bargain from the thousands of items on sale?

### Insure it

Whether you buy a car, caravan or motor caravan, the Club has competitive insurance cover. Visit the 'Insurance' section of the Club website to get a quote.

### Advertise for free

Place advertisements for free on [caravanclubclassifieds.co.uk](http://caravanclubclassifieds.co.uk) and browse thousands of existing adverts for everything from caravans to portable televisions.

### Make the right choice

Ensure you are making the right choice when buying a car, caravan or motor caravan by taking advantage of the 'Practical advice' section of the Club website – we've got essential buying information and reviews of popular makes and models.

