

News & views

Club announces countrywide show line-up

THE CARAVAN Club will be exhibiting at a number of key shows across the UK over the coming months, including the new National Caravan Council Motorhome and Caravan Show at Birmingham's NEC from 11-16 October.

The Club will also have a stand at EventCity in Manchester from 19-22 January 2012 during

The Caravan & Motorhome Show and will be exhibiting in Glasgow at the Scottish Caravan & Outdoor Leisure Show in early February.

From 14-19 February, London's ExCeL is the venue for the Motorhome, Caravanning and Camping Show, where The Caravan Club will be the official event partner.



London's ExCeL

"We're delighted to support these four shows as it gives our members, wherever they live, an opportunity to have a great day out

and the chance to see all the latest caravan and motor caravan models," said Lawrence Bate, Caravan Club Director of Marketing.



DATES

25 July-14 August 2012: site open for visitors wishing to travel to the Olympic venues

15-26 August 2012: site remains open for general tourism use

27 August-11 September 2012: site open for visitors wishing to travel to the Paralympic venues

12 September 2012: site closes

Book Chigwell site by phone

PHONE BOOKINGS open on 13 June 2011 for the Club's Chigwell Temporary Site, which will give members easy access to Olympic and Paralympic venues in 2012.

To reserve your pitch on the site, which is close to Central Line tube stations, call the Events Department on 01342 336666. Website bookings can still be made by visiting caravanclub.co.uk.

The pitch fees are £30 per night with electric hook-up (£25 without electricity) – there are no extra charges payable per person.

INFORMATION

- Easy access via M25 and route signs to site
- Green field site (no hardstanding pitches) with far-reaching views into central London
- Open to all outfit types (no tents)
- Maximum of 1,300 pitches – 1,000 EHU (electric hook-up – max 6A) and 300 non-EHU
- Provision for Blue Badge areas in both EHU and non-EHU
- Pitches available from noon

- Pitches to be vacated by 10am on day of departure
- Fresh water available
- Black, grey and dry waste disposal available
- Own sanitation essential – limited toilet facilities and no showers
- Minimum two nights stay (website will accept a maximum of 30 days – call the Events Team for stays in excess of 30 days)
- Dogs allowed provided they

In brief
The Environmental Transport Association has developed a novel caravan measuring just 2m by 75cm, designed to be towed by a mobility scooter. Called the QTvan, the tiny tourer was designed to highlight the estimated 220,000 people who use a mobility scooter without breakdown cover.

- are attended and kept on a lead at all times
- Bar and fast food outlets
- Food hall
- Caravan hire
- Calor Gas sales
- Big screens
- Free mini-bus transfers to and from local Central Line tube station to Stratford area

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

THE ANNUAL Members' Meeting of The Caravan Club will be held at 1.30pm on Saturday 22 October 2011, at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P3EE (opposite Westminster Abbey).

In accordance with Bye-Law 8a, notices of motion and nominations for

the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Treasurer or ordinary members of the Executive Committee must be received in writing by the Director General not later than Saturday 27 August 2011. The agenda, together with the Annual Report and Accounts, will be published in the October issue of *The Caravan Club Magazine*.



Comic in a camper

COMEDIAN LAURA Mugridge is performing her 'Running on Air' show from the confines of a VW campervan as part of the New Wolsey Theatre's Pulse Fringe Festival in Ipswich.

Audiences of five at a time will be admitted to Mugridge's 1978 camper, nicknamed 'Joni', for performances on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 June. The 45-minute show "recreates the beauty of the great outdoors" as "Laura invites you on an intimate journey from Land's End to Edinburgh, sharing her experience of marriage, camping and her love of the good life."

For further details call 01473 295911 or visit wolseytheatre.co.uk. Mugridge is travelling the country with her show – for tour information visit lauramugridge.co.uk.



Prince Philip celebrates 90th birthday

THE CARAVAN Club would like to wish its patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, a very happy 90th birthday on 10 June.

Prince Philip agreed to extend his patronage to the Club in 1952 and has

visited a number of Club sites over the years, including The Sandringham Estate and Abbey Wood. He also hosted a garden party at Buckingham Palace in celebration of the Club's Centenary in 2007 (pictured above).

HOME INSURANCE

The key to security in home insurance is The Club

As a Club member **Caravan Club Home insurance** makes a lot of sense. Our value-for-money policies include full cover when you're away from home for up to **90 days** – compared to some policies where you're locked in to a 30-day limit.

We understand the cover our touring members need because we're caravanners ourselves. The key to security in home insurance is cover from the people who really understand touring.

- Full cover for your home up to 90 days when you're away
- Optional cover for caravanning and camping equipment, personal effects, jewellery, cameras, money, etc. anywhere in the EU and for up to 60 days worldwide
- Compulsory excesses as low as £50 – with discounts available for additional voluntary excesses
- Option of standard or accidental damage cover
- Buildings cover includes loss of rent and alternative accommodation cover (up to 20% of your buildings sum insured)
- Automatic index-linked sum insured on Buildings Cover

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†Lines are open Mon-Fri 0830-1800 & Sat 0900-1300. Calls may be recorded.

or get more information at

www.caravanclub.co.uk/homeins

The Caravan Club's Home insurance is arranged for The Club by Devitt Insurance Services Limited, Insurance Brokers. The Caravan Club Limited and Devitt Insurance Services Limited are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.



Bailey recalls single-axle Unicorns

FOLLOWING A small number of reports of wheel detachments on new single-axle Unicorn caravans, Bailey of Bristol is recalling all Unicorn Seville, Madrid, Valencia and Almeria models.

The company is working with its suppliers to identify the cause of the problem and as a safety precaution is asking retailers to contact owners of the models in question.

Bailey would like to reiterate the importance of torquing the wheel

bolts in accordance with the guidelines laid down in customers' owner and service manuals prior to travelling with the caravans.

The correct torque setting for the alloy wheels fitted to the current Unicorn range is: 110Nm (81lb/ft).

The wheel bolts should be tightened in sequence (each opposite fixing in succession) using a calibrated torque wrench. Neither a corner steady brace nor an electric power wrench should be used as it is



as dangerous to over-tighten as to under-tighten the bolts. As per the instructions in the manual, this should be done before every journey made with the caravan.

If customers are unable to carry out this task they should contact their nearest Approved Bailey Retailer or

Service Centre, full details of which can be found at bailey-caravans.co.uk, for further advice.

Bailey will be contacting caravan owners and their supplying retailers directly. Details of the appropriate follow-up action required will be made available in due course.

Scotland's got it covered!

THE SCOTTISH Division of The Caravan Club has claimed victory in the 2011 Rally Handbook Cover Competition and picks up a prize of £500.

The winning design features the beautiful Floors Castle in Kelso contained within the Club's

distinctive pennant motif and set against a white background.

Second prize of £250 was awarded to the South Essex Centre, while the Dyfed Centre's innovative rally handbook cover, featuring representations of the four seasons, picked up third place.

The East Yorkshire Centre, which selected an image of the Sledmere village monument for its cover, was highly commended.



First Irish Forum a success

MORE THAN 150 members attended the first Irish Division Open Forum at Naas Racecourse in Co Kildare in April.

Irish Division Chairman Paul Cahill welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the panel: Club Chairman Grenville Chamberlain, Director General Nick Lomas, Director of Membership Services Brian Savage, Executive Committee member Bill Martin and Con Quill of the Irish Caravan & Camping Council.

Introductory speeches were followed by questions from the floor and a discussion on centre rallies.

The best of Bearsted

BEARSTED CARAVAN Club Site has raised nearly £100 for the British Legion by holding an Easter raffle followed by a quiz.

Mrs Jenner, a visitor to the site for 18 years, claimed a tasty Easter egg with her winning ticket, while Mr Leonard of Hove proved he had the biggest brain in the quiz and picked up sites vouchers. Well done to all concerned!

There were further celebrations on Royal Wedding Day (29 April) at the site as Mr and Mrs Thomas toasted their golden wedding anniversary. Everybody on site received a slice of cake cut by the golden couple as members enjoyed a 'street party'.

SHOW TIME

JUNE

3-5 June – STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: The Motorhome Show, Stratford Racecourse, Stratford-upon-Avon (Stone Leisure, call 020 8302 6150 or see themotorhomeshow.com)

10-12 June – ROMSEY: Marquis Show, Paultons Park, Ower, Nr Romsey, Hampshire (call 0800 026 7777 or see marquismotorhomes.co.uk/paultonspark)

21-22 – CHESHIRE: Cheshire County Show, Cheshire County Showground, Flittogate Lane, Tabley (call 01565 650200 or see cheshirecountyshow.org.uk)

17-19 June – GRANTHAM: The Midsummer Great Escape, Belvoir Castle, Grantham, Leicestershire (Warners Group, call 01778 391105 or see outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions)

JULY

15-17 – KNUTSFORD: The Northern Motorcaravan Show, Cheshire Showground, Clay House Farm, Flittogate Lane, Tabley, Knutsford, Cheshire (Warners Group, call 01778 391105 or see outandaboutlive.co.uk/exhibitions)

Note: details subject to change – please telephone event organisers in advance for up-to-date information.

In brief

The Leinster Centre AGM and Kilcock Rally will now take place one week later than advertised. The new AGM date is Saturday 17 September at 6.30 pm.

South Western questions...

THE SOUTH West Region of the Caravan Club is holding a Meet the Members weekend from 24-26 June 2011 at the Hurn Lane site, Berrow, Burnham-on-Sea (more details on p182 of the *Sites Directory*).

A team of regional officers and committee members, Club officials and nominated members will be on site on Friday between 6pm and 9pm, Saturday between 5pm and 8pm and Sunday morning between 10am and noon.

Members are invited to come along and ask questions, offer suggestions or discuss any issues causing concern. Club brochures and leaflets will be available and light refreshments will be served during proceedings. Further details can be found at southwestregioncc.org.uk.



...and some South Eastern answers

THE SOUTH East Region held a successful Question Time event in April (above) attended by members with caravanning experience ranging from three months to 50 years.

The panel consisted of Caravan Club Vice Chairman Janet Moore, Vice Chairman Rodney Lambert, Director of Membership Services

Brian Savage, Head of Financial Services Lesley Coell, Head of Product Development Natasha MacDonald and Sites Regional Manager Karl Hayman. The meeting was chaired by Maggie Scrase, chairman of the South East Region.

For information on what's going on in the region, see southeastregioncc.org.uk.

Northern Centres Rally

THE 40th Northern Centres Rally will be held at Grange Park, Wetherby from Friday 26 August to Tuesday 30 August.

Electric hook-up pitches are available this year in a central block (not on Centre lines) at a cost of £20. As well as the usual inter-Centre sports events, activities on the Rally include a quiz, tea dance, children's

sports, children's fancy dress, arts and crafts competition, Be A Star competition, children's activity morning and fun dog show.

Evening entertainment will include bingo, a family social and discos for the teenagers. Professional acts will perform in the marquee on two evenings at additional cost. Look out for further details at northerncentres.co.uk or read the rally blog at northerncentres.blogspot.com.

Cumbria Centre Rally Secretary

The telephone number of the Cumbria Centre's Rally Secretary was printed incorrectly in the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2011/2012*. It should have read 01946 831243. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused.



Ferry good cause!

THE BRITISH Heart Foundation's Villages of Rockingham Forest Cycle Ride starts from Ferry Meadows Country Park on Sunday 26 June.

The Caravan Club has an excellent site here which would make an excellent base. The entry fee is £10 for adults and £7 for under-16s, with a choice of 25 or 50-mile routes available.

The course heads west into the Nene Valley and through a number of picturesque forest villages. Both routes feature good quality roads and there are no steep climbs or descents. For further information please call Brian on 01733 231786 or Colin on 01780 470636.

Caravan Europe winners announced

CONGRATULATIONS TO P Jordan, David Davies, Alan Brooks, David Oldroyd and W Hesbrook who each won both volumes of the Club's *Caravan Europe 2011* guide in our April competition.

Caravan Europe, which features sites recommended by members, has become an invaluable resource for anyone planning a touring holiday in Europe, be it in a caravan, motor caravan or trailer tent.

To place your order for a copy of *Caravan Europe 1*, which covers France (with Andorra), Portugal and Spain, or *Caravan Europe 2*, which features Austria,

Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, central Europe, Germany, Greece, Italy, Scandinavia and Switzerland please visit caravanclub.co.uk/ caravaneurope.org or call 01342 327410.



OBITUARIES

Brian Carter

BRIAN CARTER, who started working for The Caravan Club with his wife Enid in 1993, sadly passed away in April. Brian and Enid were Assistant Wardens for three years and became Wardens in 1996, mainly working on sites in Northern England. They retired onto the Flying Squad in 2005. Our deepest sympathies are with Enid and the family.

John Banks

IT IS with great sadness that the Shropshire Centre reports the death of former chairman John Banks. John bought his first caravan in 1971 and served on the committee for 30 years. He was immensely proud when his wife, Gillian, became chairman in 2009 and gave his full support. He will be greatly missed by all his friends at The Caravan Club, especially those who are members of the Shropshire Centre.

Southern Centres head Thameside

THE 19th Biennial Southern Centres Rally is being held at Apps Court Farm, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey from 26-29 August.

A full programme is planned including fun sports for all, handicrafts, fete and live music. Hot food and a licensed bar will also be available. Local visitor attractions include the stunning

Hampton Court Palace as well as the River Thames with its cycle towpath. Additional nights (Wednesday, Thursday and Monday) are available as well as a limited number of electric hook-ups on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further details call Stuart Johnson on 01903 249595 or email treasurer@southerncentres.org.uk.

SITES DIRECTORY UPDATE

ROUTES – AN IMPORTANT NOTE

Routes provided by autoroutes or sat-nav systems may include roads unsuitable for vehicles towing trailers or caravans. There may also be specific weight, width or height restrictions. For caravan-friendly local routes to Club sites, CLs and commercial sites, we advise using the standard directions published in the *Sites Directory & Handbook* and on our website.

CL SITES

See also the CL section of the Club website (caravanclub.co.uk) for the most up-to-date information on all Certificated Locations.

NEW CLs ENGLAND LEICESTERSHIRE

MELTON MOWBRAY (9½m NW) – Hortor's Nursery, Grove Farm, Hickling Road, Kinoulton NG12 3ED. 01949 81199/81507; 07971435383; jan@hortors.co.uk; hortors.co.uk. 129:SK690302. ¼ac; quiet; adults only; canal fishing; shop on site from July 2011; £8.

SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH (22½m SE) – Airhouses, Oxtou, Lauder, Scottish Borders TD2 6PX. 01578 750642; carol@airhouses.com; clsitescotland.co.uk. 73:NT483535. 1ac; hd std; el pts; pub adjacent; quiet; wi-fi; £12.

UPDATES

IMPORTANT: Nightly fees may differ from those published in the *Sites Directory & Handbook* due to change of facilities or ownership. It is therefore essential to confirm current fees when enquiring or making a booking.

300 WINDSOR – Rinder Ltd, Stroud

Farm. Amend tel no: 07928 812878.

342 CREDITON – Mr & Mrs G H Barber, Lake View. Now contact owners direct. Tel: 01363 85187 or 07791 727303.

348 KINGSBRIDGE – Mr & Mrs G R Moore, Mill Farm. Amend tel no: 01548 561359.

362 BISHOP AUCKLAND – Messrs Capstack, Churm & Craig, Middridge Meadows Livery. Add *el pts* and *pt hd standing*.

419 WOODHALL SPA – Mr Reynolds, Log Cabin, Ferry Farm Cottage. Add tel nos: 01522 804943, 07778 340990.

428 FAKENHAM – Mr M Palmer, Hall Farm CL. Add web address: whissonsethallfarmcl.co.uk.

428 FAKENHAM – Mr & Mrs J Strahan, Old Brick Kilns. Amend tel no: 01328 878305.

430 HARLESTON – Mr D Sitch, Valley House. Now *adults only*.

444 MANSFIELD – Mr A James, Tall Trees Touring Park (note name change). Add email: info@talltreestouringpark.co.uk.

473 WOODBRIDGE – Mrs A Hayward, The Gull. Amend listing town (ie *not* Framlingham).

519 YORK – Mr & Mrs Medley, Ball Hall Farm. Amend email: kath.medley@gmail.com.

525 CEMAES – Mrs E Davies, Cafnan (note name change)

549 TENBY – Mr & Mrs T Williams, Heath Cottage. Amend email tands.williams@btinternet.com.

CLOSURES

The following Certificated Locations have closed since publication of the 2011/12 *Sites Directory and Handbook* and the May issue of the magazine. Page numbers refer to the *Directory*.

319 REDRUTH – Mr R Mulvaney Churchill Kennels

424 AYLSHAM – Mrs J Cooper, The Goat Inn



Still here in Spirit

WHILE FEW Rolls-Royces sport a towbar, all have proudly perched the 'Flying Lady' atop their radiators since 1911.

Rolls-Royce Managing Director Claude Johnson commissioned a mascot that 'belonged' to the car from artist/sculptor Charles Sykes.

Sykes knew motoring pioneer John Montagu whose Secretary and mistress, Eleanor Thornton (above), inspired the iconic Spirit of Ecstasy. The 'Flying Lady' is now 100, but Eleanor sadly died while aboard the torpedoed *SS Persia* in 1915. John survived, grieving privately for his secret lover.

Sykes later produced another sculpture for Montagu, thought to be based on Eleanor and their covert love story – a lady in fluttering robes with her finger pressed to her lips, called 'The Whisper'.

Celebrating the centenary of the 'Flying Lady', an exhibition was opened on 5 May in the Montagus' Palace House, Beaulieu, adjacent to the National Motor Museum, home of the Club's archives (see nationalmotormuseum.org.uk/Caravan_Club_Collection or call 01590 614650). The exhibition runs until October 2011 and can be seen as part of the whole Beaulieu attraction (see beaulieu.co.uk or call 01590 612345).



NEW WHEELS

Clive White reports on the latest car releases



1927
Volvo built its first car, known as 'Jakob', on 14 April 1927.

Garnished Swedes

FANCY AN extra tasty Swede?

Volvo S80 and V70 are available in tailor-made versions for buyers craving exclusivity.

S80 Executive offers luxuries such as leather fascia top, ventilated soft leather massaging seats, leather door panels, analogue clock,

aluminium centre console, thick carpets, fridge with Swedish crystal glasses, special design details and new wheels.

V70 Design includes specially developed exterior and interior features such as LED indicators in the door mirrors with silk metal

covers, diamond-cut 'Ixon' 18in wheels, leather off-black trim, contrast stitched black floor-mats etc. It can also be had with the new 1.6-litre **DRIVE** diesel (CO₂ 119g/km) and the ergonomic Volvo Sensus 'infotainment' system is available on both models.

Rover not over

RECENT FIGURES from the SMMT (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders) show that there are nearly one million MG and Rover cars currently on the road, with some Rover models recording a decline of just 1% (2009-10).

MG ZR, ZS, ZT and TF all performed well, each model achieving a decline of less than 5%. The number of MG Rover cars still on the road totals 921,811.

Craig Cooper, General Manager of XPart, which provides MG Rover parts and write-off avoidance schemes says, "A great many people are passionate about MGs and Rovers and we feel it is important to

keep these fine examples of British engineering on the road for as long as possible. The figures show the level of affection people still have for these historic brands and we are constantly finding new ways to source components to ensure that we can provide parts and service to help maintain these fantastic cars." Well said, Craig. See xpart.com or call 0870 242 4791.



FEEDBACK WANTED

WE WANT your views on the models listed for our Owners' Report 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.

OCTOBER: Two-berth battle – Bailey Senator Vermont Series 5 and Series 6 v Sterling Eccles Topaz, by **8 June**.

NOVEMBER: Compact MPVs – Ford C-Max diesels (pre-2010) v Vauxhall Zafira diesels (2005-2010), by **8 July**.

DECEMBER: Fondly-remembered marques – twin-axle four-berths – Abbey Spectrum 540 (2000-09) v Compass Rallye 634 (2004-09), by **8 August**.