

# RAISE A GLASS...

... to some of Britain's best pub-based CLs.  
**Steve Rowe** unearths a trio of taverns offering pitches for caravans and motorhomes

**WHAT COULD** be better than sitting by the fireside in a cosy hostelry, enjoying an evening meal, or perhaps a pint or two, before bedding down for the night just yards away?

It sounds like the perfect end to a day spent walking, cycling or simply sightseeing. So why not pitch your caravan or motorhome at one of the Club's smaller Certificated Locations set within the grounds of a pub?

They are normally easy to find – pubs are usually the stand-out buildings in any town or

village. The other advantage, of course, is that guests usually have access to the pub's facilities and can enjoy lunchtime or evening meals in many of them.

This month I visited three pub-based CLs to give you a sample of what's available. Your copy of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2011/2012* contains a wide choice of CLs on pub sites – or visit [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) and use the 'Search and book' facility on the left-hand side of the home page to find your ideal location. Cheers!



## THE ANCHOR INN

*Sites Directory & Handbook p467*

This could be the dream location for many – a rural pub on the banks of a canal! If you stay at the Anchor Inn CL in High Offley, Staffordshire, you can enjoy a pint in the beer garden watching the boats slowly chug by, then stroll back to your caravan for that night-time mug of Ovaltine. Pub landlady Olive Cliff has been running the pub and CL here for over 40 years and has built up a friendly group of regulars.



**Location:** High Offley, Staffordshire  
**Call:** 01785 284569  
**Pitch type:** grass  
**Facilities:** electric hook-up, fresh water and toilet/waste water emptying points, pub toilets  
**Pets allowed?:** yes, dogs on leads  
**Opening dates:** April to October

### MEET THE OWNER

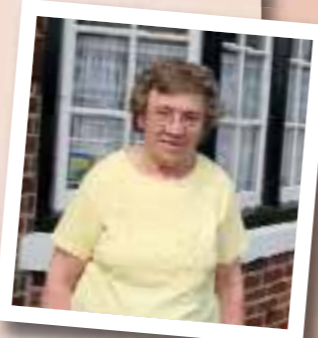
**We chat to Olive Cliff**

**How long have you been running the CL?**

"I set it up back in the 1960s with my husband. It took a while to get established but it then became very popular, with many people coming back time after time."

**What tip would you pass on to anyone starting their own CL?**

"Running a CL as part of a pub business can help bring more people into your venue. Many caravanners are self-sufficient with their own food and drink, but they still might like to enjoy a pint or two in the evening. I think location is also important, and there's plenty for people to do around here."



### STAYING ON THE CL

**John and Lorna Moffat from Merseyside were enjoying a weekend break at The Anchor**

**Why did you choose this CL?**

"We have only been caravanning for 18 months, but have already found that we love the small CL sites. We discovered this pub years ago on a canal boat holiday, so were delighted when we found out in the Club's handbook that it was also a CL. We love the quiet and rural feel of the place, plus being near the pub is a great idea."

**What tip about using CLs would you give other members?**

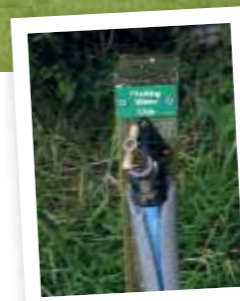
"We've found that you meet like-minded people on CLs – people who like the extra space and the quiet nature of these smaller sites. Our tip to anyone who hasn't tried a CL yet is to get out there and give it a go. We just love to relax so it's the perfect holiday for us."



## YE HORN'S INN

*Sites Directory & Handbook p406*

Close to Preston in Lancashire, Ye Horn's Inn CL is a well-developed site in a rural location offering hardstandings and electric hook-up points. The pub serves food at lunchtime and in the evening, so there's no need to cook in your vehicle if you don't want to. Visitors can use the pub facilities, such as the toilets.



**Location:** Goosnargh, Lancashire  
**Call:** 01772 865230  
**Pitch type:** hardstanding  
**Facilities:** electric hook-up, fresh water and toilet/waste water drain point, access to pub's toilets  
**Pets allowed?:** yes, dogs  
**Opening dates:** all year

### MEET THE OWNER

**We chat to pub and CL owner Mark Woods**

**Why did you set up the CL?**

"The pub has been in my family's ownership since the 1950s and I took over 23 years ago, starting the CL a few years later. The land behind the pub was doing nothing, so I thought it would be a great idea to turn it into a CL to add to the pub's income. I used to go caravanning when I was a child, so knew what made a good site. To make the site suitable for year-round use, I added electric hook-up points and hardstandings for all the pitches, which has also made the site better for motorhomes."

**Describe a typical visitor** "We tend to get two types, the first being those who come for a weekend break, who are usually older couples living locally. The second type are people who stop here for a single night during the week, using us as a stopover on their way north or south from here – we are a short drive from the M6 motorway. People who stay here for a short break normally like walking or cycling in the local area, plus we are only 25 minutes' drive from Blackpool, and 50 minutes from the Lake District."

**What tip would you pass on to anyone starting their own CL?**

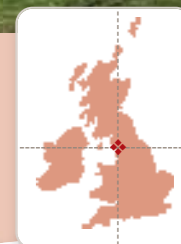
"I would say it's important to offer electric hook-ups these days, as most people seem to want this, plus hardstanding is a good idea, especially if you plan to stay open all year round. Running a CL doesn't have to be a complex business – keep it simple and you'll enjoy running your site."



## CHURCH HOUSE INN

*Sites Directory & Handbook p327*

Right in the heart of the Lake District, close to Coniston, this CL is situated behind a pub which dates back to the 15th century. Jointly run by friends Michael Beaty and Mandy Groves, the pub has an award-winning reputation for its hearty Cumbrian food, making it popular with locals and visitors. As well as offering some superb views, the CL boasts electric hook-up points plus access to the pub's toilet facilities.



**Location:** Torver, Cumbria  
**Call:** 01539 441282  
**Pitch type:** grass  
**Facilities:** electric hook-up, fresh water and toilet/waste water drain point, access to pub's toilets  
**Pets allowed?:** yes, dogs in pub and on CL  
**Opening dates:** all year

### MEET THE OWNER

**We chat to Lauren Vanheeswijk, manager of the pub and CL**

**Why did you set up the CL?** "Mandy and Michael (pictured with Lauren) have run the pub for over five years. The CL was just a basic field when they took over, but they added the electric hook-up points. As well as providing extra income, the CL also means a few extra customers for the pub as people come to eat here at least once."

**Describe a typical visitor?** "We are dog-friendly, both in the pub and on the CL, so our typical visitors would be a couple with their dog. There are plenty of great walking opportunities in the local area and we have people staying here all year round."

### STAYING ON THE CL

**Tina Shaw from Huddersfield was staying with fellow members of the Springers Agility & Flyball Club**

**Why did you choose this CL?**

"We regularly travel away for a group holiday and have been using the CL sites for about 15 years now. All together we practically take over a small CL site, so have to book well ahead. Both the pub and CL here are dog-friendly, so that's perfect for us."

**What tip about using CLs would you give other members?**

"We always look for CLs with electric hook-up points and here the additional bonus is that we can use the pub's toilet facilities, if necessary. The pub is also a B&B, so five of us are on the CL and four are staying in the pub itself, all of us with our dogs!"

