

# News headlines

## What price a fantastic Voyageur?

A STYLISH 1926 Voyageur caravan fetched £11,500 at a Bonhams auction in Oxford during March.

Featuring beautiful leaded windows, stove, oak furniture, gas lighting, a gramophone and curtained-off toilet, the Bertram Hutchings Caravans-manufactured vehicle is the height of luxury and would have cost £245 when new.

The 12ft-long Voyageur model was in production for six years, eventually being replaced by the famous, streamlined Winchester.

The Voyageur, with its distinctive straight ends and bowed sides, lantern roof and bay window at the rear sold for around twice its estimate of £4,000-£6,000 at Bonhams Collectors' Motor Cars and Automobilia sale in Kidlington. We would love to hear from the caravan's new owners – please do get in touch on 01342 336795!



Courtesy of Bonhams

### HOW TO CONTACT THE CLUB

For comprehensive contact information, please see [caravanclub.co.uk/contact](http://caravanclub.co.uk/contact)

**MAIN SWITCHBOARD**  
01342 326944 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

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01342 316101

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01342 336611

**CLUB MAGAZINE EDITORIAL**  
01342 336799

**CLUB MAGAZINE EMAIL**  
[magazine@caravanclub.co.uk](mailto:magazine@caravanclub.co.uk)

## Fun on tap at The National

ARE YOU still looking for somewhere to spend the Jubilee bank holiday weekend? What about The National 2012, taking place in The Deer Park at Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire?

The National is the highlight of the Club's caravanning year and you're guaranteed a warm welcome.

This year's evening entertainment line-up is truly outstanding. On the Monday night, for example, you can enjoy a traditional Oktoberfest-style event hosted by touring-appliance manufacturer Truma.

Experience the flavour of Bavaria with an oompah band and rousing songs! Two glasses of authentic German beer or wine, a souvenir stein and a Herefordshire hog roast is included within the entry fee of just £16 per adult.

Curious to know what The National is about but hesitant about committing to a five-night

stay? Then why not just pop in for a day? There is loads to see including trade stalls, arena displays and sports.

You could even stay for one of the evening shows by buying a ticket (subject to availability) from the on-site box office. Day visitors – £10 per adult or £25 for a family – can come in on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday by paying at the gate.

Securing a pitch, even one with electric hook-up, is simple. See [caravanclub.co.uk/national](http://caravanclub.co.uk/national) or give the Events team a call on 01342 336666.



# Taits on tour!

IT'S NOT just the Queen who has diamonds on her mind in 2012 – Club members Mary and Dave Tait are undertaking a nostalgic tour of the country as part of their 60th wedding anniversary celebrations.

The Leicestershire-based couple, who have been members and motorhomers for 27 years, decided to revisit nostalgic locations, using Club sites as bases.

So earlier this year, they headed to the Club's Chester Fair Oaks site in order to take a trip into the famous walled city.

Daleacres, Hythe, was next so the couple could stop off at Mary's home town of Ashford and look in on the church where they made their vows. In April, they were due to stay at



Seacroft in Norfolk, so that they could visit Thetford – Dave's birthplace.

Next up – Northumberland and Scotland – so look out for the couple in their Auto-Sleeper Talisman!

## Sitting comfortably?

FURTHER TO the Technical feature on upholstery improvements in the February edition of *The Caravan Club Magazine*, readers might also be interested in the following furnishing

companies – Regal Furnishings (call 01159 329988 or email [regalfurnishings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:regalfurnishings@yahoo.co.uk)) and Tockfield (call 01773 834968, email [sales@foam.co.uk](mailto:sales@foam.co.uk) or see [foam.co.uk](http://foam.co.uk)).



## London calling

THE CLUB'S temporary site at Barleylands Farm Park – open from Friday 27 July to Sunday 12 August – gives easy access to Olympic venues and is perfectly placed to soak up the sporting atmosphere.

The site comprises about 400 member-only pitches close to Billericay station, which is within easy reach of Stratford City. Even if you don't have tickets, you could watch all the action with fellow enthusiasts on big screens in locations such as Hyde Park and Victoria Park.

Site bookings can be made via the Club's website or the Events department on 01342 336666.



## SHOWTIME

## APRIL

**\*27-29 PETERBOROUGH:**

National Motorhome Show, East of England Showground (Warners Group, call 01778 391123 or see [outandaboutlive.co.uk](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk))

## MAY

**4-7 RICHMOND:**

The Great North Caravan & Motorhome Show 2012 (Catterick Caravans, call 01748 818391 or see [catterickcaravans.com](http://catterickcaravans.com))

**11-13 CARMARTHEN:**

South & West Wales Caravan & Motorhome Show, United Counties Showground (Daffodil Events, call 01570 470783 or see [daffodilevents.co.uk](http://daffodilevents.co.uk))

**\*18-20 NEWBURY:**

The Southern Motorcaravan Show, Newbury Showground, Chieveley (Warners Group, call 01778 391123 or see [outandaboutlive.co.uk](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk))

## JUNE

**\*15-17 KELMARSH:**

The Midsummer Motorhome and Caravan Show, Kelmarsh Hall, Northampton (Warners Group, call 01778 391123 or see [outandaboutlive.co.uk](http://outandaboutlive.co.uk))

**30-1 JULY SHREWSBURY:**

UK Motorhome Summer Fair, Shropshire & West Midlands Showground (Event Developments, call 01775 723723 or see [eventdevelopments.co.uk](http://eventdevelopments.co.uk))

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



**LUCKY COUPLE** Mr and Mrs Lloyd have picked up the keys to a brand new Swift Challenger Sport 514 that they won in an online Caravan Club competition.

The Lloyds visited the Club's new discoverytouring.co.uk website during August 2011, where they used a picture clue to correctly guess the location of an outdoor-loving family.

The competition – 'Find the Freedom' – drew 6,000 entries. Swift Group Commercial Director Nick Page said, "We were happy to offer our support to The Caravan Club by donating one of our newly-launched Swift Challenger Sport models, and we are thrilled that the competition attracted so many entrants."

## Get ready for the NEC

IT MAY be a few months away but now is the time to put 16-21 October in your diary – the dates for this year's Motorhome & Caravan Show at Birmingham's NEC.

Run by NCC Events and supported by The Caravan Club and The Camping and Caravanning Club, this is the industry's national showcase, featuring new vehicles, stands devoted to domestic and overseas destinations, expert workshops, celebrity guests and interactive exhibits.

The likes of Swift, Bailey, Elddis, Lunar and Coachman, as well as foreign manufacturers such as Chausson, Rapido and Dethleffs have already signed up to show off their 2013

product ranges and there will once again be a host of accessory companies showcasing their wares.

For more information, see [motorhomeandcaravanshow.co.uk](http://motorhomeandcaravanshow.co.uk).

→ **NCC Events brings touring enthusiasts a further event from 19-24 February 2013 – The Spring Caravan & Camping Show. Also held at the NEC in Birmingham, it will welcome newcomers to the hobby as well as existing enthusiasts, and feature the best in new motorhomes and caravans, as well as a host of leisure accessories and camping gear. The event will follow The Motorhome, Caravan & Camping Show at London's ExCeL from 12-17 February.**

## Rowland's a good Sport

CARAVAN CLUB member, comedian, musician and presenter Rowland Rivron claimed the



television dance competition, *Let's Dance for Sport Relief*, title in March.

Rivron, who enjoys touring with his family in a customised, pale green Bailey caravan and regularly attends shows with the Club, won the audience's vote for a routine performed to Fatboy Slim's *Weapon of Choice*.

Rivron used the Club Together community section at [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk) to thank members for their support. "Thank you to all who voted for me," he said. "Together you helped raise an amazing £1,000,000 for a fantastic charity."

## Paul Hassard

IT IS with great sadness that I have to announce the sudden death of my husband, Paul, on 19 March at the age of 65. Paul and I have been active Club members since 1975 and site wardens since 2001. We have worked on sites in North Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cumbria and latterly in Co Durham on the new site at Barnard Castle. We were working on another new site, Bridlington, when Paul was taken ill.

I would like to thank all our friends and colleagues at the Club for their kindness and support during a difficult time, and all the members we have met over the years. My thanks also to all those who travelled many miles to attend Paul's funeral. Donations made at the service raised £938 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Paul was a big guy with a big personality and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Di Hassard

## Welly correction

THE WEDGE Welly featured on page 92 of the April 2012 issue in our Buy Comparison feature was from the Flex range and not the Curve line-up as described. The Curve range comprises shorter boots that offer a wider foot, ankle and calf fitting. The Flex, meanwhile, is a slim-fit product with adjustable gusset so jeans can be tucked in. Apologies for any inconvenience. For more on Wedge Welly designs, see [wedgewelly.co.uk](http://wedgewelly.co.uk).



## All Together now

**CLUB TOGETHER** – The Caravan Club's new online community – is going from strength to strength and we are so pleased to see how many of you are getting involved.

Some great discussions are taking place, with people recommending sites, sharing their experiences and seeking advice from other users. Current things to look out for on Club Together include:

→ Our new 'Tips for making Touring and Caravanning Cheaper' discussion section – the ideal place

to share your money-saving advice with other members.

→ Follow the progress of Jo Thompson, the designer of the Club-sponsored 'Celebration of Caravanning' garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. Jo will be giving us regular updates and sharing her tips for your own gardens.

→ John Hartley from the Approved Workshop Scheme answers your caravan servicing questions in the 'Ask the Expert' section.



There is so much more going on – and it's changing all the time! So please join us on Club Together – all you need to do is choose a screen name. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Rowena Sait, Community Manager**  
[www.caravanclub.co.uk/together](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk/together)



Winners Lawrence Mortimer (Leisure Tech North East, left) and James Redshaw (Tilshead Caravans, right) celebrate with runner-up James Hogg (GW Caravan Services)

## Talking shop

LEISURE TECH North East and Tilshead Caravans of Lopcombe near Salisbury are celebrating victory in the Approved Workshop Scheme (AWS) Awards.

The AWS, the result of a collaboration between the National Caravan Council, The Caravan Club and The Camping and Caravanning Club, sets an industry-wide benchmark for tourer and motorhome servicing and maintenance. Businesses joining the scheme are required to demonstrate high standards of competence to independent assessors and adhere to industry codes and practices.

Leisure Tech North East picked up Approved Mobile Workshop of the Year while BC Caravan Services of Hampshire finished as runner-up. The Approved Workshop of the Year (Fixed Base) award went to Tilshead Caravans with Derbyshire company, GW Caravan Services, collecting second place.

Winners were selected following the results of customer satisfaction surveys and annual assessments.

## Vantage points

WEST YORKSHIRE van conversion specialist Vantage Motorhomes has moved to 20,000sq ft premises in Leeds. The new building, which is 9,000sq ft bigger than the previous site in Newmarket Green, will incorporate a showroom and specialist accessory shop.



Four decades of input: John Bamber with a 1972 Lunar Venus and a 2012 Clubman

## John notches 40 years at Lunar

LUNAR CARAVANS cabinetmaker John Bamber has just celebrated 40 years service with the Preston company.

"I have always enjoyed my job here at Lunar and it has been very rewarding," said John, who joined the cabinet shop department in February 1972 and is now the manufacturer's longest-serving employee. "Caravan designs have changed dramatically over the years but I have always taken pride in using traditional woodworking skills to create timeless, beautifully-crafted cabinets."

Lunar's Chairman, Brian Mellor, extended his congratulations. "A great asset that Lunar Caravans has within our industry is the skills and experience of our workforce. John is typical of this profile," he said. "On behalf of Lunar, may I thank John for his loyalty and contribution to our wonderful product."

Hitchin Caravans in Hertfordshire reopened in March after 18 months. Now owned by Venture Caravans, the business will specialise in recent-model, pre-owned caravans but will also stock new Adria caravans and motorhomes, Bailey motorhomes and accessories. For details, call 01462 452856 or see [hitchin-caravans.com](http://hitchin-caravans.com).

## Top LEVELLER

AN AUTOMATIC levelling system for caravans manufactured by Dutch firm E&P Hydraulics is now available through a dedicated domestic company, E&P Hydraulics UK.

Visitors to The Motorhome & Caravan Show in October last year had the opportunity to see the caravan-levelling system – which consists of two hydraulic jacks on the axle, four hydraulically-operated Al-Ko Bigfoots and an electric/hydraulic pump – at close quarters. The manufacturer says it can level a caravan in less than two minutes.

"The system offers safe, secure and rapid automatic levelling with just one push of a button," says Oliver Drinkwater, owner of E&P UK.

The system will be available through a growing network of accredited dealers. Call 01254 297785 or see [ep-hydraulics.co.uk](http://ep-hydraulics.co.uk) for more details.



## Auto-Sleepers available in Sri Lanka

HAVING ALREADY established business in Auckland, New Zealand, Worcestershire-based motorhome specialist Auto-Sleepers has now appointed a dealer in Sri Lanka.

IWS Leisure, based in Kelaniya, 20 minutes from Columbo, will offer the full range of the company's Peugeot, Mercedes and VW vehicles, including the County line-up. Its Chairman Arthur Senanayake said, "With the extensive range of motorhomes that Auto-Sleepers provides, customers will be spoilt for choice."

Earlier this year, Auto-Sleepers' Service Centre staff Mark Burdett and Paul Oliver joined company CEO Geoff Scott on a trip to meet IWS staff.

Mark and Paul spent time training technicians, dealing with such matters as appliance operation, how to adjust moving parts, replacing parts and carrying out habitation checks.





# Digging the caravan scene

We catch up with Jo Thompson, who has a very special design for this year's Chelsea Flower Show



**KENT-BASED** Jo Thompson is designing the Club-sponsored 'Celebration of Caravanning' garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year. It features a 1950s caravan nicknamed Doris and embodies the spirit of the British holiday.

## What gave you the idea for the garden?

I'm not a camper or a caravanner – I hold my hands up. My children had wanted to go and we found this site on the Isle of Wight called Vintage Vacations. I was slightly skeptical about what we were going to encounter, but it was the best holiday I've ever had. The children were deliciously happy being in all that open space and in a

caravan which is pared down so you only have what you need. Then I thought, I'd love to have one of those caravans as a home office and then how lovely it would be to incorporate one into a Chelsea garden.

## Can you tell us a little about the design?

I looked at caravans and I thought they were a very British way of holidaying. I wanted to make it a realistic garden so there is a caravan at the end that can be anything you want it to be. It could be a place for people to stay in or just a garden shelter. I've used very evocative planting – pink and cream, roses and peonies; quite soft. There are some modern elements to it too, so we've got sculptured benches that have a curve in them that echoes the shape of the roof of the caravan. We've got a stream running through which is actually made of metal – the same material as the caravan.

## When do you start growing the plants?

That started a few months ago. I found the trees two years ago on a



nursery visit and I didn't know what they'd be for at the time but I tagged them and reserved them. I found the trees before I'd even started thinking about the garden really! It's been in the planning since last July and it takes about a third of the working year to create a Chelsea garden.

## How many gardens do you design each year?

It varies but we've got about 35 live projects on at the moment. But I've got three other people working with me.

## Finally, if I was about to go away on a two-week holiday, what one piece of gardening advice would you give me?

Well, this year I would say don't plant any pots. There are hosepipe bans anyway and I'd go easy on the containers unless you've got a helpful neighbour.

→ *The RHS Chelsea Flower Show runs from 22-26 May. You can find out more about Jo's gardens and read her blog at [jonthompson-garden-design.co.uk/](http://jonthompson-garden-design.co.uk/)*

## Jo's UK garden recommendations

Designer Jo Thompson selects some wonderful places for you to visit...

### 1 Bodnant Garden

Near Colwyn Bay in Wales, Bodnant Garden covers 80 acres above the River Conwy. It features beautiful plants from all over the world.  
**See:** [bodnantgarden.co.uk](http://bodnantgarden.co.uk)

### 2 Cranborne Manor

Open once a week in the spring and summer, the Manor Garden surrounds the ancient house on the Cranborne Estate in Dorset.  
**See:** [cranborne.co.uk](http://cranborne.co.uk)

### 3 East Ruston Old Vicarage

This stunning Norfolk garden

lies 1½ miles from the North Sea and features many rare and unusual plants. The owners have endeavoured to replace lost wildlife habitats by planting mixed hedgerows, banks, wildflower areas and ponds.

**See:** [e-ruston-oldvicaragegardens.co.uk](http://e-ruston-oldvicaragegardens.co.uk)

### 4 Easton Walled Gardens

Work was started on these Lincolnshire 'lost' gardens 11 years ago. The gardens have been designed for adults and children to enjoy – look out for the birdhide, swing, turf maze and yew tunnel.

**See:** [eastonwalledgardens.co.uk](http://eastonwalledgardens.co.uk)

### 5 The Garden House

Set in beautiful South Devon landscape on the edge of



Dartmoor, this eight-acre attraction includes a romantic, terraced walled garden surrounding the ruins of a 16th-century vicarage.

**See:** [thegardenhouse.org.uk](http://thegardenhouse.org.uk)

### 6 Holker Hall & Gardens

Holker Hall in Cumbria is the home of Lord and Lady Cavendish. Close to Grange-over-Sands and Morecambe Bay, 25 acres are spanned by

woodland and formal garden, complemented by natural parkland.

**See:** [holker.co.uk](http://holker.co.uk)

### 7 Knoll Gardens

Knoll in East Dorset features one of the country's biggest collections of grasses set against a backdrop of rare and unusual trees.

**See:** [knollgardens.co.uk](http://knollgardens.co.uk)

### 8 Wollerton Old Hall

This four-acre Shropshire garden has been developed by Lesley and John Jenkins. Producing echoes of the Arts and Crafts movement, it is set around a 16th century house.

**See:** [wollertonoldhallgarden.com](http://wollertonoldhallgarden.com)

### 9 Wyken Hall

These formal Suffolk gardens are home to yew hedges, herbs, roses and fruit trees surrounding an Elizabethan manor house.

**See:** [wykenvineyards.co.uk](http://wykenvineyards.co.uk)

### 10 Plas Brondanw

These gardens were created by Clough Williams-Ellis – the man behind the famous village of Portmeirion.

**See:** [brondanw.org](http://brondanw.org)

# NEW WHEELS

Clive White reports on the latest car releases



## DS5 arrives in the UK

CITROËN'S AWARD-winning DS5 went on sale on 2 April in four versions: THP 200, e-HDi 110, HDi 160 and the new 200bhp diesel electric Hybrid4, the company's first production model fitted with diesel hybrid technology.

Among DS5's Créative Technologie line-up is keyless access and start, smart beams, colour head-up display and a new Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS). The car has already picked up an award or two and is priced from £22,400. For details, see [citroen.co.uk/ds5](http://citroen.co.uk/ds5).

## Buy one, get some free

CUSTOMERS BUYING a new British-built Honda CR-V before the end of June can get a complimentary trim-level upgrade worth up to £2,520. The CR-V SE+ will be upgraded to the ES-T variant, adding 18in alloy wheels, half leather/half alcantara upholstery, heated front seats, retractable wing mirrors, iPod connectivity and Satellite Navigation with Hands-Free Telephone system, free of charge.

Buyers of the ES-T receive an upgrade to EX trim, giving premium audio, full leather upholstery, panoramic roof, HID lights, auto lights and wipers, full body coloured bumpers and eight-way power-assisted driver's seat. See [honda.co.uk/offers](http://honda.co.uk/offers) for details.



## Posh mud plugger

NEED SOMETHING a bit special to pull your top-of-the-range Carlight or Airstream etc? Then send the chauffeur down to your nearest Bentley showroom to pick up an EXP 9 F brochure. He can look forward to six litres of twin-turbo W12 engine with eight-speed transmission at your not inconsiderable expense.

Not sure that WO Bentley would approve, but the current management claims it is a "Bold reinterpretation of Bentley design cues in a spacious, versatile and high performance SUV." Interested? Get your valet to log on to [bentleymotors.com](http://bentleymotors.com).

## FEEDBACK WANTED

WE WOULD like your views on the models listed below for our Owners' Report features. You can now fill in your feedback questionnaires online at [caravanclub.co.uk/news-and-events/club-magazine](http://caravanclub.co.uk/news-and-events/club-magazine) (click on either 'Owners' report caravans questionnaire' or 'Owners' report cars questionnaire'). Alternatively, call 01342 336799 (please be ready to quote your membership number) or write, fax or email (see p146) for a form and prepaid return envelope. Please specify the vehicle you wish to report on. Closing dates for return are highlighted.  
 SEPTEMBER 2012: Honda CR-V 2.2i-CTDI (2006-10) v Mitsubishi Outlander 2.0 DI-D (2006-11), by 7 May.  
 OCTOBER 2012: Different approaches to similarly-priced four-berths – Adria Adora 642 UP v Elddis Odyssey 524, by 7 June.  
 NOVEMBER 2012: Seat Exeo (saloon and estate) v Volvo S40/V50 (post 2004), by 6 July.