

Shop front

Clive White finds some useful kit for caravanners

Air Conditioner

From: **Cool My Camper**
Price: **£450 plus £14.99 UK mainland delivery**
Contact: **01780 761372, coolmycamper.com**

If the weather's as hot when you read this as it was when it was written, you'll wish you already had this portable refrigeration air conditioner. Easy to use, the external condenser is simply hung over a windowsill, or placed in another convenient external location, and the fan unit with LCD display put inside. It has two fan speeds and four cooling levels plus a timer (intervals from 30min to 7½hr) and thermostatically switches to a lower energy-saving setting once the desired temperature is reached. While producing 700W of cooling (2,400Btuh), it uses 350W (1.52A). The complete unit weighs 20.5kg, but is easily stowed (fan unit 395 x 360 x 180mm; compressor 435 x 410 x 200mm).



Story Walks

From: **Tale Trails**
Price: **£3.95 plus £1 p&p**
Contact: **07939 074197, taletrails.co.uk**

If you're in the Lake District, get the kids enjoying the great outdoors by introducing them to *Hetti the Carvetii of Pooley Bridge*, *The Nozomi Bird of Aira Force* and *The Marsh Kelpie of Askham Fell!* They're all characters created by Anja Phoenix, and are designed to encourage children and parents to bring the landscape to life, burn off energy, use eyes, ears and brain during a fabulous walking experience and have fun on the fells. Each laminated Tale Trail features a beautifully-illustrated map and story plus details such as directions, parking, the best visiting times, terrain, route length and wildlife to watch out for.



Rhino Goo Caravan Cleaner

From: **Demon Tweaks Direct, eBay and other outlets**
Price: **£6.12 plus delivery (Demon Tweaks)**
Contact: **01633 676682, 07837 335347, rhinogoo.co.uk**

A product called Rhino Goo may not immediately conjure up images of sparkling caravans, but luxury motorhome constructor, SC Sporthomes, liked it so much the product now enjoys the company's endorsement. Originally developed for Motocross and mountain bikes, Rhino Goo is environmentally friendly, biodegradable, PH neutral and safe for all metals, plastics and sealants, and is effective on brake dust and black streaks on neglected caravans. Easy to use, just hose (where permitted) the vehicle down, spray with Rhino Goo and after a minute or so, hose off.



Pet Temperature Alarm

From: **AnimAlarm**
Price: **£108 plus £4.95 delivery**
Contact: **01452 702062, animalarm.co.uk**

No responsible and caring pet owners would intentionally leave their dog in a vehicle if it was at risk of becoming overheated. But if a pet has to be left for a short period, AnimAlarm will provide reassurance that all is well. It is a temperature monitor that can be set up by the user to send a text alert to your mobile phone if the interior of the car/caravan/conservatory/etc becomes too hot (or too cold). The user can also send a text message to the unit at any time to get a temperature check. AnimAlarm is about the size of a mobile phone, so is easily portable and operated in any vehicle or enclosed space. A pay as you go SIM card, compatible with most major networks, is installed, and the device is supplied with mains and car chargers.

Lunch Box

From: **SIGG**
Price: **from £25.99**
Contact: **01284 774740, sigg.com**

For something rather more stylish than your average plastic box in which to transport your sandwiches to a picnic or work, why not use a lovely Alu Box from SIGG. The aluminium boxes have a reassuringly robust retro look and feel, and are made in a range of colours – in Mini or Maxi sizes. They have a food-safe coating and rubber-sealed lids with strong securing clips to keep the contents fresh and cool. Dimensions: Maxi 228 x 145 x 77mm; Mini 170 x 117 x 60mm.



Read all about it

HOW TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY ON THE INTERNET

Reader's Digest
ISBN 9781780200514
£14.99 paperback

If you're serious about researching your family history and are comfortable using the internet, this comprehensive book from Reader's Digest will guide you every step of the way.

The book is split into four logical sections – 'First steps', 'Building your family tree', 'Your family's story' and 'Making contact'. A terrific starting point is the 'Ten sites to get you started' chapter – most are free to use and will open your eyes to the wealth of information available online.

The practical advice sections are broken up by articles which put your research into context – pieces on The National Archives (did you know that it contains 100 miles of shelving?), the Red Cross (which sent 20 million food parcels to British prisoners during the Second World War) and The Old Bailey are particularly interesting. The latter introduces the idea that you may (or may not) want to find out more about criminal ancestors through reports of trials at oldbaileyonline.org!

In fact, you will be stunned by the resources out there – from convict registers to workhouse details to Land Tax records and war grave information. Even where no online data is available, this excellent guide will point you in the right direction.



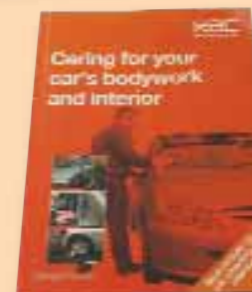
CARING FOR YOUR CAR'S BODYWORK AND INTERIOR

Simon Nixon
Veloce Publishing
ISBN 9781845843885
£9.99 paperback

Apart from the fact a clean, shiny car is a pleasure to drive, there are serious financial benefits to be had from caring for your car's exterior and interior. Regular maintenance and servicing will obviously help it keep its value but you'd be surprised by how much extra a dealer or private buyer is prepared to pay for a vehicle that has been kept clean and tidy.

If, like me, your idea of a car wash is a bucket of soapy water thrown over the bodywork or a trip down to the mechanised brushes at the local garage, this book is a real eye-opener. Compiled by Simon Nixon, a professional automobile valet for the past 13 years, it contains a wealth of information on the various cleaning products and tools you are going to need as well as no-nonsense, step-by-step guides on looking after every nook and cranny of your pride and joy.

If you are lucky enough to have a soft top or leather interior, there is sound advice on these more specialist areas. Nearly £10 does seem a bit steep for an 80-page paperback, but if you follow the advice within you could potentially save yourself hundreds in the long run.



MILLER'S COLLECTABLES HANDBOOK 2012-2013

Judith Miller and Mark Hill
Miller's Publications
ISBN 9781845336356
£19.99 paperback

If a day sat on the sofa watching *Bargain Hunt*, *Flog It*, *Cash in the Attic* and *Antiques Roadshow* is your idea of heaven, *Miller's Collectables Handbook* is the book for you. Split into easily navigable sections covering everything from 'Advertising & Packaging' to 'Weird & Wonderful', the guide is beautifully presented throughout.

As well as photographs and descriptions of hundreds of individual items, it features regular 'Quick Reference' mini-features that look at objects, styles and makers in greater detail. A short article on Corgi model cars, for example, reveals that Corgis were the first to feature clear, plastic windows. 'Closer Look' panels help readers identify marks and even spot fakes, while 'Miller's Compares' sub-sections explain why two similar-looking objects command different prices – these can be real eye-openers.

Authors and *Antiques Roadshow* regulars Judith Miller and Mark Hill also provide their 'Picks' – particular items they believe are noteworthy in some way. Featuring timely sections on Olympic and royal memorabilia, this is the guide no treasure hunter should be without.



101 WAYS TO HAVE FUN WITH A TENNIS BALL

Christopher Dunkley
Open Door
ISBN 9781902322056
£4.99 paperback

Who'd have thought you could have so much fun with a humble tennis ball? This 48-page, glossy paperback could potentially provide hours of on-site entertainment for your kids (well away from the pitches, of course!).

Not only will it keep them active but it helps develop co-ordination and ball skills – great for aspiring Rafael Nadal and Wayne Rooney's.

The book contains basic exercises designed to help youngsters balance, roll, bounce, catch and throw a ball. Scoreboards feature next to each activity so you can record your progress and there is a central, removable 'Champion Chart' that is ideal for the caravan wall. The beauty of the exercises is that all you need is a tennis ball, a watch with a second hand and, occasionally, objects found around the house or caravan – empty drinks bottles, boxes and buckets are perfect for target practice. There are even games designed to be played in the park (roll the ball up a slide or along a see-saw) or on the beach (dribble round the sandcastles).

So next time you go away, remember the tennis ball – it won't cause any storage/payload issues!

