



## It's a grand National!

NEXT YEAR The Caravan Club National Rally makes a welcome return to the grounds of Weston Park in Shropshire and preparations for a spectacular entertainment package are well under way.

Focus recently has been on arena entertainment and we have a real treat for visitors in the form of lumberjack display team Adams Axemen, who will be performing on both the Saturday and Sunday.

Sharing centre stage is The Welsh Horse Yeomanry, who will be bringing

us a musical spectacular in the main arena as well as a living history display.

Arena displays on the Saturday start at 10.40am, with the Official Opening Ceremony at 12.30pm featuring the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas. The Gurkhas are renowned for marching at a fast pace and incorporate traditional Nepalese music and dance into their performances. Once the ceremonial is over the arena entertainment will continue throughout the afternoon.

Don't forget the arena activities are included in your Rally fee – there is plenty going on to appeal to all ages so try not to miss any of it.

Booking a pitch at the National Rally could not be simpler. The quickest method is to complete the online booking form at [caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk). Alternatively, you can request a form by calling the Events team on 01342 336687.



The New Scottish Division Council for 2009-2010. Back row left to right: Alastair Fisher (Editor), Hamish Stuart (Vice President), Ian Bennett (Vice Chairman), Dave Smith (Vice President), Morris Whitehead (Hon PRO/Webmaster). Front row left to right: Alex Davidson (Secretary), Ian MacLean (Chairman), Margaret Devine (President), Fiona Murray (Vice President), David Benison (Treasurer)

## Scottish Division AGM

THE 64TH AGM of The Scottish Division of The Caravan Club was held on 10 October at The Cochrane Halls in Alva and was attended by 130 members.

Ian MacLean was installed as Chairman for 2009-2010. In

attendance were The Caravan Club's Chairman, Grenville Chamberlain (who acted as Interim Chairman), and Director General Trevor Watson.

A total of 57 units attended a caravan rally at the Woods Caravan Site, held in conjunction with the AGM.

## Book early for Club's NEC campsite

WHY NOT make the most of the Boat & Caravan Show (previously the National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Show – see story opposite) at Birmingham's NEC by staying right next door to the site?

The Club will once again be running a temporary campsite with 400 pitches available per day – members are being encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment.

Set in North Car Parks 8-11, pitches can be booked from Monday 22 to Sunday 28 February 2010 inclusive. All include electric hook-up (6A maximum) and fresh water will be available, although the Club recommends members arrive with an initial supply. Black, grey

and dry waste disposal is provided. Those booking will have access to a mobile restaurant and bar marquee as well as a courtesy shuttle service to and from the show itself.

Bookings can be made through The Caravan Club website ([caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk)) or by calling 01342 336779. There will be a £5 administration fee for cancelled bookings up to 12 February, after which no refunds will be issued. Show tickets are non-refundable. Bookings close 15 February 2010 subject to availability.

**628**  
The total acreage of the grounds at the NEC in Birmingham



## Cards for caravanners

ARMCHER PRODUCTIONS has produced a range of humorous, caravanning-themed Christmas cards (£1.25 each). The A5-sized cards are available in 16 different designs, featuring delightful hand-drawn cartoon illustrations that fellow caravanners are sure to appreciate.

View the full selection and order yours at [armcher.com](http://armcher.com), or call the orderline on 01773 783243.



## REBRAND FOR FEBRUARY SHOW

THE UK's largest outdoor leisure event, The National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Show, has been renamed the Boat & Caravan Show.

Now in its 49th year, Boat & Caravan Show 2010 takes place from 23-28 February at the NEC in Birmingham and will offer a huge choice of products, model launches and holiday destination information, as well as plenty of activities to keep visitors entertained.

To make the most of the early booking prices on tickets, please visit [boatandcaravan.co.uk](http://boatandcaravan.co.uk).

In Brief

The Central Region will be holding its **Members' Question Time** event during the afternoon of 6 March 2010 at the Kegworth Whitehouse Hotel, Packington Hill, Kegworth, Derbyshire DE74 7DF.



## Centring on charity

EACH YEAR the Club's Centres work extremely hard raising money for charity. This year has been no exception, with Devon and Cornwall Centre's junior members raising a whopping £4179.45 for the Make A Wish Foundation, which works to fulfil the special wishes of children and young people with life-threatening illnesses. Midland Centre juniors also collected an impressive £2700 for the Alzheimers Society. Meanwhile, South Staffordshire Centre's juniors (pictured above) raised nearly £800 for the RNLI.

A sum of £3847 was raised by the North London Centre for Keech Hospice Care (for children in Luton, Bedfordshire) and Wiltshire Centre donated £2078.87 to the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity.

East Yorkshire Centre also collected £2660 for the Humber Rescue Team, the money going towards replacing equipment that was lost or damaged during rescue operations at the time of the 2007 floods.



## CLUB TALK

**Pam Owen**  
Editor, *Sites Directory & Handbook*



How long have you worked at the Club and what exactly is your role?

I've worked for the Club in the same role of Editor of the *Sites Directory & Handbook* for 17 years – first in a full-time capacity and for the past eight years I have job-shared. The Club is a great place to work – it's like a family.

How many people are involved in producing the *Directory* and how many site reports do you receive each year from members?

Myself and my job-share partner are solely responsible for compiling the *Sites Directory & Handbook*, along with its sister publication, the *Sites Location Map*. Many Club staff contribute, both internally and externally. We are constantly updating the database which forms the basis of all the sites pages in the book. We receive in the region of 1500 members' reports per year on Club sites, CLs and commercial sites. They are a valuable source of information that we can call upon when we update the *Directory*.

What are the biggest changes you have seen with the *Sites Directory & Handbook* since you began working on it?

Well, it wasn't exactly the quill pen method when I first started the job, but there have been many changes in technology over the past 17 years which have enabled us to improve on the book and its production. The biggest change has to have been in 2007, when we produced the first *Directory* in colour, which was very exciting.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am involved in my village residents' association, organising social events and raising funds for local charities. I enjoy floral designing and have been involved in creating the flowers for weddings and large corporate functions. I also love walking my black cocker spaniel, Lupin, in the countryside near my home.

## Kids get creative at Motor Museum

FAMILIES VISITING the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu this summer joined in a series of Caravan Club-supported creative workshops on the theme of motoring and leisure.

Children were encouraged to create their own artwork and join in poetry and story-writing sessions on an eco-friendly motoring theme. Art topics included pennant and badge making and designing a car or caravan using recycled material.

Several hundred children and their families joined in the drop-in activities at Beaulieu and at the Club's New Forest Centenary Site in Bransgore, Hampshire.

Those whose artwork was most eye-catching were invited back to the museum to receive prizes from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and Janet Moore, Club Vice Chairman. Prizes included Club teddies and money boxes, plus lots of Beaulieu gifts.

Angela Cox, the National Motor Museum Trust Caravan Club



Left to right: Jonathan Haigh (9), Christopher Lympany (7), Janet Moore, Lord Montagu, Nathan Flanagan (10), Ewan Chapman (5), Rachel Nicholson (8)

Collection Officer said, "This is the third year we have run these workshops, which provide a fantastic opportunity for families to access the collections of the National Motor Museum and The Caravan Club. We thank the Club for its kind support."



Collection of archive items and these feature widely on the new website.

42  
The number – in thousands – of motoring-related objects at the NMM

## Beaulieu celebrations

A CELEBRATION was held at Beaulieu in October to mark the achievements of the National Motor Museum Trust (NMMT) and the support it receives from the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

The occasion also saw the launch of the new MLA-funded

website ([nationalmotor-museum.org.uk](http://nationalmotor-museum.org.uk)), the presentation of a Designation Plaque to Lord Montagu and the renaming of the NMMT Centre building on its 20th anniversary as the National Motor Museum Collections Centre.

The National Motor Museum is home to The Caravan Club



## Coachman extends Hull factory space

COACHMAN CARAVANS has bought four additional industrial units for its Hull-based site, adding a total of 10,996 sq ft to the factory working area.

The factory, on Sutton Fields Industrial Estate, now has a total floor space of some 80,000 sq ft. Jim Hibbs,

Coachman Managing Director, said: "Even though economic times have been difficult throughout 2009, we have focused strongly upon investing in all areas of the business to safeguard our future – from design right through to production."

## Still great value

THE ANNUAL subscription to the Club has been raised from £37 to £38, effective from 1 January 2010.

Still excellent value for money, your subscription covers one Full and one Joint Member, 12 issues of the *Club Magazine*, access to our

200-plus sites network and around 2500 CLs, as well as the option of taking advantage of a variety of travel and insurance services. In addition, members can access special sections of the new, improved Club website.

## Christmas opening hours

THE CLUB will close for Christmas at 1pm on 24 December. After which its opening hours will be as follows: 29-31 December from 9am-5.30pm; weekdays from 4-29 January 2010 between 9am and 6pm. Members will also be able to contact the Club each Saturday during January (9, 16, 23 and 30) from 9am-1pm.



## Volvo XC60 towbar offer

MEMBERS ORDERING a new Volvo XC60 can take advantage of free towbar and fitting, to the value of £600 plus VAT. Please see the 'Member Offers' section of the Club website ([caravanclub.co.uk](http://caravanclub.co.uk)) for further details and contact information.

This offer is based on recommended retail prices before VAT, at participating Volvo dealers and is valid on orders placed between 1 October 2009 and 31 December 2009 and registered by 31 March 2010.

Members must produce their membership card at the time of order. The promotion applies to all brand new XC60 vehicles, supplied by Volvo Car UK Limited. This offer must be taken advantage of at time of purchase – benefits cannot be claimed retrospectively.

The promotion cannot be combined with any other incentive or promotion from Volvo Car UK Limited or Volvo Car Finance. This promotion is not transferable. There is no alternative cash offer.

**In Brief**  
Visitors to our **Baltic Wharf** site are being warned about new parking restrictions on Cumberland Road. No vehicles are now permitted to wait in the bus and coach bays opposite the site. Therefore visitors are advised to arrive after noon. From **18 March 2010**, no arrivals will be accepted before 1pm.

## Home sweet Home

MEMBERS OF the Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, North London and Middlesex Centres enjoyed a successful Home Counties Invitation Rally in September.

Special guests were Caravan Club Chairman Grenville Chamberlain, his wife Liz and their grandchildren.

Many traders attended the rally at Henlow Bridge in Bedfordshire and members were also treated to an Inter-Centre Challenge, bingo and tabletop sale. The highlight of the biennial HCIR over the years has always been the Saturday evening professional entertainment and this year was no exception, as comedy vocalist Matt Black, Mr Rainmaker (a five-man group) and comedian Phil Lowen thrilled the crowds.

Food enjoyed over the weekend included fish and chips, a delicious ploughman's lunch and bacon butties.



HCIR Chairman Andrew Heil (middle) presents cheques to Pat Tomlinson (left) from St Mary's in Henlow and John Street (right) from The Salvation Army at Stotfold

As is usual with this rally, the charities for the weekend were chosen by the site owner and he opted to present donations to St Mary's Church in Henlow and the Salvation Army at Stotfold. A total of £700 was raised over the weekend from raffles, a fête and donations.

## Obituary

Ray Radford

THE CLUB is sad to announce the passing of former Sites sub-Committee member and CL Inspector Ray Radford. Ray, Avis and their daughter Vivien were undertaking a trip across the United States and were getting ready to travel home when Ray was taken ill. Ray was a tremendous supporter of the Club and a great friend to many wardens across the network.



## Swift flies up the charts

THE SWIFT Group has jumped 40 places in the *Sunday Times* TopTrack 250, a ranking of Britain's biggest mid-market private companies.

Swift, the only caravan and motor caravan manufacturer to feature on the list which appeared in the paper on 11 October, is now ranked 169th. The result relates to the company's performance to the end of August 2008.

Now in its fifth year, the league table ranks Britain's 250 biggest mid-market private companies, the next tier down from the 100 biggest private companies, based on sales from their latest available audited accounts, provided they have increased turnover and made an operating profit.

In the year featured, the Swift Group turned over £211 million and made a pre-tax profit of £3.98 million.

## Four stars for Swift

SWIFT GROUP is celebrating after four of its caravans picked up prestigious industry awards.

The Swift Conqueror 630, fixed-bed, end-washroom, twin-axle layout shone at the 2010 Caravan Industry Awards by winning the Overall Tourer of the Year award and Best Tourer in the Over £16,000 category. Meanwhile, the Charisma 220 with its revised L-shaped kitchen, picked up Best Tourer Under £12,500.

The new Sprite Musketeer TD has received a hat-trick of accolades – Best Caravan for Small Families at the 2010 *Practical Caravan Awards* and *Which Caravan's* Best Lightweight Caravan and Best Family Caravan under £13,500.

The Sterling ranges also did well at the 2010 *Which Caravan Awards*, with the Sterling Elite Searcher (which shares the same layout as the Swift Conqueror 630) winning Best Luxury Caravan.

In Brief

Want to hire a motor caravan? Then check out website [motorholme.co.uk](http://motorholme.co.uk).

A handy, clickable map displays vehicles for hire in your area ranging from two to seven-berths. The company, which can be contacted on **08703 832036**, also has ex-rental vehicles for sale.

# New wheels

Clive White reports on the latest car releases

## Crossover to go sporty

MAZDA'S NEW CX-7 'Sports Crossover' is now available as a single model, the Sport Tech Diesel, at £25,785 OTR.

Its new 2.2-litre engine develops 171bhp and 295lb ft of torque driving through an

electronically-controlled Active Torque 4WD system.

Mazda says it is one of the world's first SUVs to combine sporty design and driving experience with SUV practicality and roominess.

Standard equipment includes Emergency Stop Signalling to initiate hazard lights under heavy braking; Rear Vehicle Monitoring, aiding safe lane changing; and a bespoke BOSE premium surround audio system. **CW**



## Putting Golf on the green

VW HAS launched its greenest Golf – 74.3mpg and 99g/km – which costs £17,325 and is exempt from VED.

The new Golf BlueMotion is based on the standard 1.6

TDI engine with 103bhp and maximum torque of 184lb ft (250Nm) developed at 1500rpm.

In addition to the standard

Golf's specification, the BlueMotion has economy and emissions enhancements including Start/Stop, regenerative braking, hill hold, higher gearing, low rolling resistance tyres, gear-shift indicator, sports suspension and sports styling kit for improved aerodynamics. **CW**



## Changing its game

HERE'S A first glimpse of Mitsubishi's future and the way in which it is shifting from being an SUV-focused brand towards lower impact vehicles.

The new crossover, to go on sale first in Japan in February 2010, is derived from Mitsubishi's Concept-cX show car and is the latest development of the company's mid-size global platform.

Its European premiere is scheduled for the 2010 Geneva Motor Show. **CW**

### Feedback wanted

WE WANT your views on the models listed for our 'Buying Used' features. Just call the Editor's secretary on 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.

APR 2010: Buccaneer Schooner v Bessacarr Cameo 550 GL. Post 2003 models preferred, by **11 December**.

MAY 2010: Toyota RAV-4 2.2 D-4D (from 2006 onwards) v Volkswagen Tiguan 2.0TDI (all diesel variants), by **11 January 2010**.

JUNE 2010: Continental four-berths: Adria Adora 532 UP v Lunar Chateau 530, by **11 February 2010**, please.