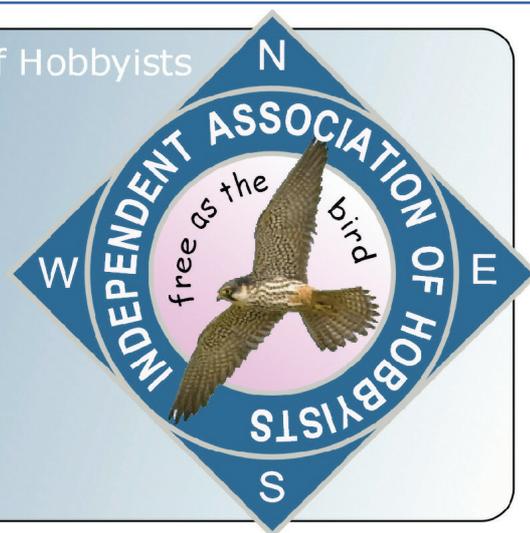


IAH - Independent Association of Hobbyists

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

The UK's only club for Hobby Motorhome Enthusiasts



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013

EDITORIAL

Club News is in somewhat short supply at present with the winter months upon us and activity at a low ebb after the Christmas, New Year break. Hopefully it will pick up as members start traveling. The number of events each year comes down to how many people are willing to organise them, looking back in 2009 there were 6, 2010 there were 10, 2011 there were 5 and 2012 there were 5.

One of the problems of being a relatively small club with a UK wide membership is the age old problem of attracting attendees and trying to provide something for everybody in the selection of locations used. A Rally in Ambleside is planned for the period 24 June to 1 July with the AGM scheduled presumably for the 29 June 2013. Possibly members in Scotland might have felt a bit left out but if the rumor mill is true things could change this year, with a migration north after the Ambleside Rally, maybe this is the chance for those of you living in this area to show the rest of us your favourite places. Put a marker in your diary for this and await developments! Do not be put off organising an event wherever you fancy, there is usually a hard core of regular attendees and nearly always a few new faces to make it all worth while.

REMINDER

Subscriptions - These will be due soon as the membership year runs from the beginning of April to end of March. If you pay by Standing Order thank you very much (you will make the treasurer very very happy) no further action required, however, if you pay by other means please process promptly when due, not six weeks or months later as this gives the Treasurer and Membership Secretary high blood pressure as they end up hastening/sending reminders. If you have not already done so please consider using a Standing Order, it is £2 per year cheaper and totally safe as you remain in total control and can vary the amount or cancel at anytime!

Contents:

Editorial

Reminder (Subscriptions)

Pre Christmas Rally

Has Rip Off Britain Returned?

Things Hobby

Snuggly Wuggly Travels Again

That Old Chestnut

Have Pet Will Travel

Motorhome Shows & Events

For Your amusement

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Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

Pre Christmas Rally Roseberry Tourist Park, Willingham

This was, for many, a return visit to a site that they knew well. Organised by Jo and Cliff who got everything right bar the weather which was extremely wet and windy! Six Motorhomes and twelve people arrived albeit not everybody staying the full period. The visit was used by most for visiting local towns and attractions including Cambridge, Huntingdon, Ely and St Ives etc. There is a Park and Ride for Cambridge and St Ives three miles from the campsite, the route uses the old railway line and the buses run along concrete tracks steered by small wheels that press against the side of the concrete guideway, the drivers controlling the speed, stopping and starting. Alongside the bus track is a surfaced cycle/walkway that makes for safe and pleasant cycling. The bus route to St Ives goes through a very pleasant RSPB Reserve where given good weather many an hour could be spent if so inclined.

Some whose families once lived in the area spent the time following up family history but did not let on whether they found any scandal.

Several evenings were spent as a group in a large static mobile home kindly provided free of charge by the site owner, needless to say when everybody was gathered there was much story telling, leg pulling, and reminiscing. The world and the UK in particular would certainly be a better place with IAH members in charge!

Cliff and Jo visited several local hostelries (came back sober) and arranged an evening out on Thursday for a group meal at the Green Man in Colne about three miles from the site. Everybody attended and had a very pleasant evening.

Saturday evening we had a Quiz organised by Jo and Fish and Chips organised by Cliff. Unfortunately this night provided the worst weather of the week, the road was closed by an accident, and Cliff, ably assisted by Tony Charity, although managing to get through on the way out had a long detour on the return journey. The food once received was good and followed by goodies courtesy of Jo who had also found time to



Event Organisers Cliff and Jo.



1999 Hobby looking very smart.



Who needs Venice?



Doing what comes easily!

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

Pre Christmas Rally Roseberry Tourist Park, Willingham - continued

produce two quizzes, one with a Christmas theme, won with a dead heat by Christine Lawson and yours truly, the other involved identifying all the counties of England on a map, this was won by Cliff with 43 right out of 46 - good going.

Sunday night everybody gathered in the mobile home for a drink and a last opportunity to 'put the world to rights' before departing in various directions on Monday morning.

Hope to see you next time!



Dave and Christine Lawson at their Gallery!

HAS RIP OFF BRITAIN RETURNED?

I recently decided to undertake a price comparison of UK and German prices for Hobby Motorhomes. German prices come from the Factory Website and are from eg the lowest price before extras. UK prices were not given on the importers website so were taken from an authorised Hobby dealers website. Some price difference can be explained by extra manufacturing costs to make right hand drive vehicles (presumably in lower volume), differences in specification between German and UK vehicles (continentals often do without an oven for example) and of course the cost of transporting the vehicles to the UK. Taxes are also a factor that must be considered and are believed to be included in both cases but I have to admit neither website made it very clear. UK VAT is 20% whilst the German equivalent Mehrwertsteuer is 21%. Prices converted at €1.222 = £1 as at 28 Dec 12. Make up your own mind as to the result.

	PRICE FROM A UK HOBBY DEALER WEBSITE 28 DEC 2012 - PRICED IN £S	Prices from http://www.hobby-caravan.de/reisemobile/ on 28 Dec 2012 - Priced in Euros
Premium Van 55GF from	£49,567 or €60,571	€43,950 or £35,965
Premium Drive 65HFL from	£52,440 or €64,082	€51,450 or £42,172

THINGS HOBBY

Want to see the latest 2013 Hobby Motorhome Brochures try - <http://www.hobbycaravansuk.co.uk/motorhomes/>

Need to find a Hobby Dealer try <http://www.hobbycaravansuk.co.uk/contact/>

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

SNUGGLY WUGGLY TRAVELS AGAIN

Snuggly Wuggly complete with owners Tony and Pam (club members) set off again on their travels in September 2012 by attending the Holbeach Rally in Cambridgeshire and have subsequently journeyed down to Dover across to Calais down through France. Stopping off along the way at, for example, the Millau Viaduc and Carcassone passing through the east Pyrenees to the Costa Brava. They meandered down the Med coast to Gibraltar before crossing to Morocco where they spent Christmas and New Year partying on the beach! Follow their adventures at <http://snugglywuggly.wordpress.com/>.



Snuggly Wuggly in the wilderness

That Old Chestnut -Towing A Car With An A Frame

Much has been written on this topic and the web is full of factual and anecdotal information that is in many cases contradictory. It is believed (but check for yourself) at this moment in time that within the UK such devices are legal subject to meeting the relevant requirements regarding Speed, Weights, Lighting, Braking and Reversing but are still somewhat of a grey area in that there has never been a test case in the UK Courts. A recent magazine article caught my eye as it intimated in 2014 it will become illegal to fit an overrun brake system - although it is unclear if this will be enforced retrospectively. It also inferred each Country will interpret and apply new legislation as they see fit. In Spain for example it stated it is already illegal to tow any vehicle unless on a trailer and we know of course of one club member who had his wallet relieved of some of its burden whilst in Italy. The saga continues but 2014 seems a key date likely to reignite this topic.

Have Pet Will Travel

From January 2012 it became easier to take your pet to the EU and specified non EU countries and return to the UK. Basically assuming it is a dog you need to visit the vet have a Microchip inserted and then a rabies injection and have the details recorded in a Pet Passport and you can return to the UK anytime after 21 days. There is still a requirement to visit a vet on foreign soil for Tapeworm treatment not less than 24 hours or more than 120 hours before scheduled arrival in UK. The treatment must be administered by a qualified vet and recorded in the Pet Passport. Exceptions to the Tapeworm process are animals entering the UK from Finland, Ireland Malta or Norway. For definitive guidance please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad>.

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

Motorhome Shows and Events 2013 (Check details in press or on Web before traveling).

February 7 to 10 Scottish Caravan and Outdoor Leisure Show SECC, Glasgow, G3 8YW

February 19 to 24 The Spring Caravan & Camping Show NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT

March 1 to 3 Wales Caravan and Motorhome Show Chepstow Racecourse

March 8 to 10 Southwest Caravan and Motorhome Show Westpoint, Exeter EX5 1DJ

March 15 to 17 Bath Caravan and Motorhome Show Bath Racecourse

March 22 to 24 UK Motorhome and Caravan Spring Fair Newark Showground, Newark-On Trent NG24 2NY

March 22 to 24 The Great Yorkshire Motorhome and Caravan Show Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, HG2 8NZ

April 5 to 7 South Coast Caravan and Motorhome Show Broadlands, Romsey

April 12 to 14 [The Motorhome Show](#) The Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 6QN

April 19 to 21 The National Motorhome Show East of England Showground, Peterborough PE2 6XE

April 19 to 21 Wales Caravan and Motorhome Show Chepstow Racecourse

April 26 to 28 The Northern Caravan and Motorhome Show York Racecourse

May 10 to 12 The Biggest Caravan and Motorhome Show Ever Stoneleigh Park Warwickshire CV8 2LG

May 17 to 19 Southern Motorcaravan Show Newbury Showground, Chieveley, Berkshire RG18 9QZ

May 25 to 27 Nottingham Caravan and Motorhome Show Nottingham Racecourse

June 14 to 16 Midsummer Motorhome & Caravan Event Westpoint Arena, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, EX5 1DJ

June Motorhome Show Stratford Racecourse, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9SE (to be confirmed)

July 6 to 7 UK Motorhome Summer Show Shropshire & West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury, SY1 2PF

July 19 to 21 Northern Motorcaravan Show Cheshire Showground, Tabley, Knutsford, WA16 0HJ

August 16 to 18 Western Motorhome Show Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Wores, WR13 6NW

August 31 to September 8 Caravan Salon Dusseldorf Dusseldorf Exhibition Centre

August 31 to September 1 UK Autumn Motorhome & Caravan Show Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2NY

7th – 8th September, 2013 The Caravan Extravaganza (HERCMA) The Lawns, Cottingham, East Yorkshire, HU16 5SQ

September Motorhome Show Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset (to be confirmed)

September 20 – 22 Motorhome Show Season Finale Lincoln Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA

October 15 to 20 The Motorhome & Caravan Show NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT

EMBARRASSING MEDICAL SITUATIONS (allegedly true incidents reported by American Doctors)

1. A man comes into the ER and yells 'My wife's going to have her baby in the cab.' I grabbed my stuff, rushed out to the cab, lifted the lady's dress and began to take off her underwear. Suddenly I noticed that there were several cabs and I was in the wrong one.
2. At the beginning of my shift I placed a stethoscope on an elderly and slightly deaf female patient's anterior chest wall. 'Big breaths,' I instructed. 'Yes, they used to be,' replied the patient.
3. One day I had to be the bearer of bad news when I told a wife that her husband had died of a massive myocardial infarct. Not more than five minutes later, I heard her reporting to the rest of the family that he had died of a 'massive internal fart.'
4. During a patient's two week follow-up appointment with his cardiologist, he informed me, his doctor, that he was having trouble with one of his medications. 'Which one?' I asked. 'The patch the Nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours and now I'm running out of places to put it!' I had him quickly undress and discovered what I hoped I wouldn't see. Yes, the man had over fifty patches on his body! Now, the instructions include removal of the old patch before applying a new one.
5. While acquainting myself with a new elderly patient, I asked, 'How long have you been bedridden?' After a look of complete confusion she answered. 'Why, not for about twenty years - when my husband was alive.'
6. I was performing rounds at the hospital one morning and while checking up on a man I asked . . .' So how's your breakfast this morning?' 'It's very good except for the Kentucky Jelly. I can't seem to get used to the taste'. Bob replied. I then asked to see the jelly and Bob produced a foil packet labeled 'KY Jelly.'
7. A nurse was on duty in the Emergency Room when a young woman with purple hair styled into a punk rocker Mohawk, sporting a variety of tattoos, and wearing strange clothing, entered. It was quickly determined that the patient had acute appendicitis, so she was scheduled for immediate surgery. When she was completely disrobed on the operating table, the staff noticed that her pubic hair had been dyed green and above it there was a tattoo that read 'Keep off the grass.' Once the surgery was completed, the surgeon wrote a short note on the patient's dressing, which said 'Sorry, had to mow the lawn.'
8. Baby's First Doctor Visit - A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the doctor to come in for the baby's first exam. The doctor arrived, and examined the baby, checked his weight, and being a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed. 'Breast-fed,' she replied 'Well, strip down to your waist,' the doctor ordered. She did. He pinched her nipples, pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both breasts for a while in a very professional and detailed examination. Motioning to her to get dressed, the doctor said, 'No wonder this baby is underweight. You don't have any milk.' 'I know,' she said, 'I'm his Grandma, But I'm glad I came.'