



Summer  
2018



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**INTRO - MORE THOUGHTS FROM THE  
LAPTOP!**

As I write this intro for the Newsletter we have left behind a very wet Spring and have (so far) enjoyed a very warm and dry Summer.

So, welcome to the Summer edition of the AAOCC's Newsletter.

The nights are drawing out and the weather warming so those nights on the rally field are looking more appealing, but for rallies we need marshals and the club has struggled to attract people to step forward and



marshal rallies - the club has had to cancel three rallies through lack of marshal - Bramblewood - March, Lyndon Top (National Rally) - May and Blue Lias Inn - July.

The program for 2019 is being "put to bed" as I write - if you've put forward a suggestion for a rally please be prepared to run it - after all the club's reputation with site owners will become unacceptable if we are seen to be cancelling on a regular basis, will it?

The club offers an incentive to any of its members who step forward- you'll get a "free" rally and £5 off next year's membership fees!!



## **RALLY REPORTS**

### **Moor Edge Farm - Mayday 2018**

We set off on our journey in glorious sunshine and had a good drive to the farm site to be welcomed to the rally by Michael. We got set up and then got the chairs out to sit in the lovely weather, Cliff and Sheila were also there, as were Pete & Lesley setting up also, Christine arrived with Liam & his girlfriend. Later our New Ralliers arrived - my cousin Tracey & Andy, plus a new little 4 legged friend (Cody), which we all took to straight way. We all gathered to welcome them to the rally, then we helped them set up. Later we all gathered in the awning for a chat and a drink.



**Saturday:** Up to lovely weather once again - we had breakfast and got ready to go out and about to Matlock and Matlock Bath, it was really busy. We couldn't find anywhere to park so returned to the site to enjoy the weather once again. Tonight we had a group Barbeque outside, which was very nice. As the evening cooled down we gathered in the awning and played a game organised by the rally marshal, Chocolate Game, with fire proof hood, goggles, ski gloves and a scarf, enjoyed by everyone, but having to cut chocolate up with a knife and fork was not easy, if you could actually get your turn before someone else took over. Very good fun.

**Sunday:** Woke to lovely weather again, Gary cooked breakfast for us, then we sat out in the super weather, again, very sore from sitting in the sun yesterday. We ventured out with Michael and Christine to Ashbourne and later on we visited Tissington, where we all had ice cream. I bought some old fashioned bon bon's from the little village shop - lovely village, Michael became a good Samaritan, and helped an elderly couple who had car problems. We drove back to the site and sat out having latte's and cakes. We gathered outside for a Chinese auction,(except Gary who was poorly) much to the amusement of the 1st time ralliers . Luckily most of us won chocolate, although there were a couple of novelty prizes that were swapped a few times. Michael also produced a quiz, which we had 15 minutes to answer all the questions, Loser got the rally report??? I WAS ON MY OWN



**Monday:** Once again we woke to superb weather, unfortunately that only means one thing, it's taking down the awning and getting packed up ready to get home. Well we didn't rush to do those jobs, we sat drinking tea and debating that we probably should make a move and get the jobs done as people were starting to leave. We then started to pack our things up and set off home.

THANK YOU, MICHAEL & CHRISTINE , for a fab weekend.

*Sandy & Gary Shipley.*



## Wolds Way - July 2018.



On arrival we were greeted by Lesley & Pete and great weather - wall-to-wall sunshine. Legs down, caravan set up, awning up and we are ready!!

Thursday night we sat in the awning with friends old and new - we had first-time ralliers with us, Ray and Liz Hall. We had a catch up. Sadly Steve and Val (Wray) couldn't make it so it was just the 8 caravans.

Friday brought another lovely, hot day. We went into Malton to do some retail therapy! In the evening, back in the awning, we played "sticky bingo" which we won 3 times - great calling Pete!!

Saturday morning and we were treated to Sheila Higgins' lovely scones with jam and cream for "elevenses"- delicious!

During the day we met up with some caravanning friends.

In the evening we returned to site and an "American Supper" - what a spread - everything that you could think of!! Supper finished we settled down to play "Right, Left and Centre" which was won by Chris (Whitehouse) - she had never played the game before!



Sunday and we were greeted with another warm, sunny day and with more of Sheila's lovely scones, all warm just out of the oven - there was even a "cheese and bacon" version which proved to be very popular. Cliff (Taylor) decided that he'd have his with jam and cream!!! We paid £1 per scone and raised £22 for the "Daisy Appeal", the club's 2018 charity. Mick and Chris (Whitehouse) had to leave us - **work** tomorrow!!!

Sunday night and again in the awning we took part in a raffle - we won 3 times and the raffle raised a further £22 for the charity.



Monday was a little overcast but still warm. We went out with Sandy and Gary (Shiple) to Scarborough, then lunch in a pub (the Fox Hound) in Flixton - OMG - the portion size was huge and the food delicious! We'll definitely be calling again.

Monday evening was spent in the awning drinking and chatting.

Thanks for a great time, Pete & Lesley!!

*Colin and Julie Wilkinson.*



## **Royal Oak, Car Colston:**

No rally report was received.

## **Banbury Steam Rally:**

No rally report was received.

## **The "Alternative" National Rally:**

As many of you know the AAOCC National Rally was cancelled, so a few of us decided to have a weekend away at Beeford, Inholmes Lodge.

We were made very welcome, as we used to go there for rallies as the Avondale Club. Gary and myself arrived on the Friday, to be followed shortly by Mick & Christine, lovely weather, fingers crossed it would continue.

Saturday morning and we woke to lovely weather, Gary decided that we would have a ride out to John Bull Rock Factory, hence we came away with rather a lot of sweets, much to Mick and Gary's delight! We also had to call in to the Caravan Centre close by, where we bumped into Colin & Julie Wilkinson. They were staying at Flamborough. We had a look in some very nice new vans, but no purchases were made. Back to the site to enjoy the lovely weather and Sheila and Len arrived to join our little rally,

We all sat out in the sun and had a lovely afternoon catching up, drinking tea and coffee, and eating cakes and biscuits, getting tanned, a lot!! Later on, after tea, we had a ride to Bridlington, the place was closed, even the funfair, we couldn't believe it, so back to the caravans.

Sunday morning sun was shining on all of us, so off we went to Skirlington Market, then ventured to Hornsea where fish and chips were had, We had a lovely walk long the seafront, where Gary and I bumped into old friends from Scunthorpe, we then returned to the site to sit out in the sun with Sheila and Len and Ruby. We all had a trip to Mr Moo's Ice cream Parlour, very nice cake for me, (don't do ice cream very often). We all sat out enjoying the lovely weather until it cooled too much to sit any longer.

Monday morning after everyone was up, and had got sorted we sat out in the sunshine as a certain lady (Sheila), had made scones, so cups of tea were made and we all tucked in - very nice! Sheila spoilt us again,

Thank you everyone for a fabulous "alternative" weekend,

*Sandy & Gary.*



## **FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS – AUG, SEPT & OCT:**

### **Fillongley Village Hall - 24th - 27th August:**



The club's Annual General Meeting takes place at Fillongley this year following the effective "closure" of Grace Dieu school to the club with their ban on dogs.

The meeting gives you, the club's members, to select your committee for the coming year and to have your input into the way the club moves forward. Reports will be presented by your committee on the actions that have been taken on your behalf to manage your club during 2017 - 18.

### **Ripon Racecourse - 28th -30th September:**



We return again to this very popular site and once again we will be visiting during a race event.



## ACCEO AGM, Ukrainian Youth Centre - 3rd - 8th October:



### ACCEO National Rally 2018

Ukrainian Youth Centre  
Weston on Trent, Derbyshire. DE72 2BU  
3rd - 8th October 2018



#### Full Social Programme

Wednesday	Meet & Greet
Thursday	Social Evening
Friday	Live Entertainment
Saturday	ACCEO AGM Live Entertainment
Sunday	Social Evening

#### Bus Service to Derby

Minimum of 4 outward & return trips to Derby Town Centre on Friday and Saturday (more if required), a small fare or donation will be required.  
By kind permission of the Potteries Omnibus Preservation Society




The Rally Marshals can be contacted on 07934 968183. This phone will be switched on at 9:00 on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and will remain live for the duration of the rally.

Cost for the National £30.00 for the weekend with any additional nights, (Wed, Thurs & Sun) at £10 per night.  
Admission to the entertainment is £10 per adult, with accompanying children going free.

#### Your Weekend Entertainment

##### Friday Night

##### Tandem



**Father and Daughter Duo**

They performs songs from all eras's and certainly knows how to get a party started. Have appeared on many Members Club Rallies

##### Saturday Night

##### Wayne Swift



**Multiple Tribute Artist**

Back by popular demand Performs songs by Michael Bubl , the Rat Pack, Robbie Williams and many more hits from the 60's to the 00's

## Naburn Lock - 26th -28th October:



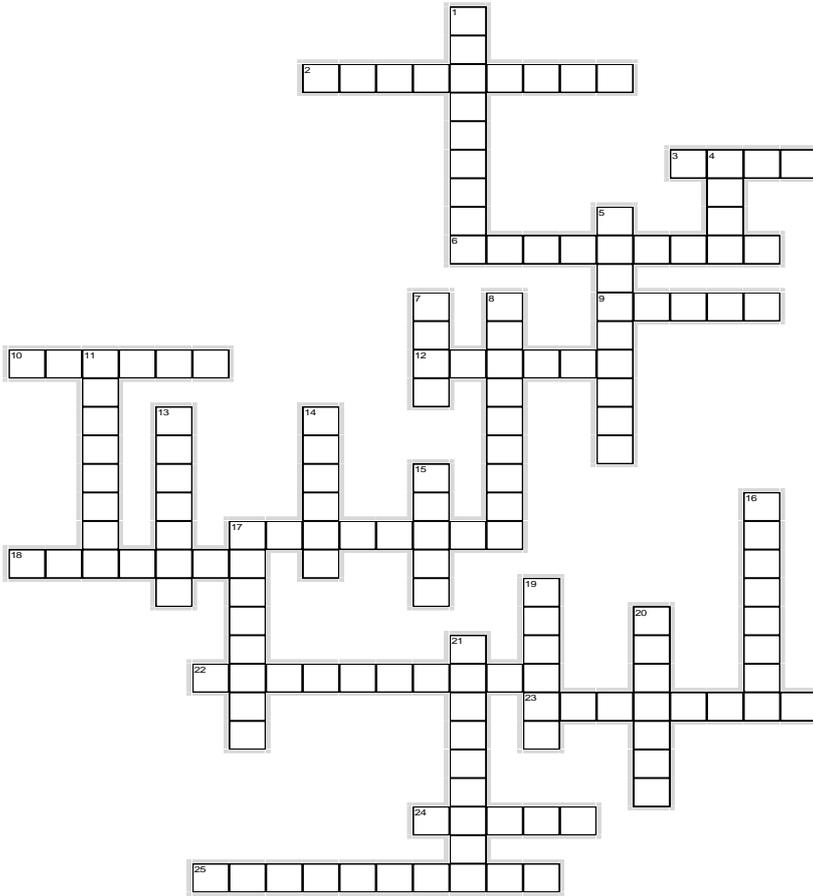
Naburn Lock on the outskirts of York is a "regular" on the club's calendar.

Not far off the A64 the site allows easy access to the historic city and to the Yorkshire Wolds and Moors.



# **JUST FOR FUN!!**

## **YORKSHIRE PEOPLE & PLACES:**



### **Across**

2. North Yorkshire Garrison town? (9)
3. The Jorvik Viking Centre is a museum and visitor attraction in which city? (4)
6. Known as "Danum" by the Romans? (9)
9. AAOCC's favourite Yorkshire racecourse? (5)
10. According to the well known song you should not go here without your hat? (6)
12. What term is used to describe the three parts of Yorkshire? (6)
17. Michael Parkinson's home town? (8)
18. Yorkshire term used when describing a large church? (7)
22. Liquorice "cakes"? (10)
23. Historic market town in the East Riding? (8)
24. The town where Wensleydale cheese is made? (5)
25. The sporting stadium that is the home of Yorkshire County Cricket Club? (10)

### **Down**

1. The Yorkshire city which has the highest ratio of trees to people of any European city? (9)
4. York's river? (4)
5. Often thought of as the "posh" city of Yorkshire? (9)
7. River that passes through Leeds? (4)
8. Sheffield's football club known as "The Owls"? (9)
11. "----- upon Hull" - the full name for the city of Hull? (8)
13. Yorkshire village associated with the Bronte sisters? (7)
14. A "lock" that the AAOCC visits regularly? (6)
15. Yorkshire seaside resort? (5)
16. Name of the employee friendly West Yorkshire town created by Sir Titus Salt? (8)
17. The Yorkshire city once known as the 'wool capital of the world'? (8)
19. The seaside town in which Bram Stoker's Dracula was washed ashore? (6)
20. Yorkshire's Fast Bowler of the 1950's / 1960's - "Freddie ..." (7)
21. What is "Hardraw Force"? (9)



## **TECHIE STUFF:**

*This section is written as a guide only - I'm no expert and I am willing to be corrected if any of the statements are wrong or misleading but all endeavours have been made to confirm the accuracy of the information. While I accept that most members will already know this information it sometimes pays to be reminded as it is all too simple to overlook some of these issues.*

### **Caravan Pre-tow Checks**

So you're all hitched up and ready to head for the horizon with your caravan – but is there anything you should be checking before you set off on your journey? Is your caravan and car **really** safe to venture on to the open road?

*(Please note: This list in no particular order and is by no means a complete list. Please use the comments section at the bottom of the page to add your own tips if you feel I have missed something important from the list.)*

#### **Pre-tow check 1:**

Is your caravan PROPERLY hitched up to your car? By properly I mean that it will not jump off your towball a mile down the road. Depending on whether you have a stabiliser on your hitch head will determine the check that you should perform to ensure you are properly hitched up. If you have an AL-KO stabiliser there is a green indicator on the head of the device that tells you that you are hitched up correctly.

To test if you are correctly hitched up when your caravan **does not have a stabiliser**, simply wind the jockey wheel down further, if you are correctly hitched it should raise the car.

**(Note:** Do not attempt to do this if you have a stabiliser fitted as this can cause serious damage to your stabiliser pads).

#### **Pre-tow check 2:**

A breakaway cable is now required by law while towing. Check that your breakaway cable is correctly attached around your towball. I would also recommend checking that your breakaway cable is not broken or frayed as a faulty breakaway cable could prove extremely dangerous.

#### **Pre-tow check 3:**

Check that the gaiter on your damper (the corrugated rubber around the section between your a-frame and hitch head) is not split. Any splits in the gaiter could allow grit and debris to get into the mechanism and prevent it from operating correctly. Without your damper in action an emergency stop can be very dangerous.

#### **Pre-tow check 4:**

Is your jockey wheel retracted and stowed away safely? Think of your jockey wheel as your landing gear – it is not required during the "flight".

#### **Pre-tow check 5:**

Hookup leads – there are several mini checks that I would suggest you perform on your hookup leads:

- Is the rubber insulation damaged exposing any wires?
- Is the socket damaged in any way or missing pins?
- Ensure the socket is not full of water or corroded as this may cause a bad connection
- Are they connected to the car correctly – pushed all the way in?



### **Pre-tow check 6:**

Check number 5 leads us nicely on to road lights. Now that you have confirmed your hookup leads are correctly connected continue to check that all your road lights are working including:

- Main lights
- Brake light
- Left indication
- Right indication
- Hazards

Remember to check for any broken light lenses as this may dazzle other road users

It is always worth asking someone to assist you in checking your lights.

### **Pre-tow check 7:**

It is highly recommended that you check your tyre pressures before every journey with your caravan, just as it with a car. Tyre pressure gauges are very cheap and so there is no excuse not to own one. Refer to your manual for the correct tyre pressures for your caravan.

### **Pre-tow check 8:**

Another commonly overlooked safety check that should be periodically carried out is your wheel nuts. Check what torque setting your wheel nuts should be at in your caravan's handbook. **Remember** that if the wheels have just been removed and refitted you should re-check the wheel nuts after a short journey.

### **Pre-tow check 9:**

Blow outs are one of the main causes for accidents involving caravans on our roads, and the sad thing is that in most cases they could be avoided. A quick visual check of the condition of your tyre before each journey is all it takes. You want to ensure that there are no cracks or chunks out of the tyre wall as these can be signs of a weakness in the tyre. If in doubt have an expert take a look for you – better to be safe than sorry.

### **Pre-tow check 10 (twin axles only):**

If you own a twin axle caravan it is wise to check for any bricks, wood or debris that may lodge itself between the two wheels when you set off. Many caravan owners use bricks or blocks of wood to further secure their caravan in position in storage. A brick between the wheels on the road would be ugly.

### **Pre-tow check 11:**

Are your corner steadies raised ALL THE WAY UP? None of this "half way will do" stuff. If you drive over a pothole with a corner steady half way down it could tear the bottom from your caravan and obstruct other road users. Wind them all the way!

### **Pre-tow check 12:**

If you have a directional aerial ensure that it has been retracted. Recent guidance recommends that the "pointy-end" facing to the rear.

### **Pre-tow check 13:**

Has your inside load been secured? A set of big heavy awning poles rolling around inside the caravan is just not good for the towing physics. You don't want anything else to influence the direction the caravan travels in except your tow vehicle!



**Pre-tow check 14:**

Check to ensure that all of the following are secure and will not come loose while travelling to help prevent damage, injury and danger to other road users:

- Entrance door
- Internal partition doors
- Windows
- Roof lights
- External locker doors
- Internal locker doors
- Oven and sink covers

**Pre-tow check 15:**

Before you consider moving the outfit check that the motor mover (if fitted) is "off" and clear of the wheels. Towing with the motor mover "on" will not only damage the mover, but will probably damage the tyres and may cause an accident.

**Pre-tow check 16:**

Lastly, before you pull off check that your handbrake is "off". You would not believe the amount of axle and chassis damage that is seen every year by caravan engineers. Not only is it a VERY costly fix but it is very dangerous to be towing with your handbrake on.



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## **AND FINALLY:**

Here's wishing you all a happy and safe summer - enjoy your caravan, wherever you choose to use it but remember you'll always be welcome on an AAOCC rally and you'll be supporting your club at the same time.

One plea from me - it's always good to receive news of what we've been doing on the rally field and being able to share this with club members and the wider world is a joy. But I do need your support - if you want to pick up a pen (or more likely switch on the computer / tablet / smart phone) and drop me a line please feel free to do so - you don't have to be "selected" by a Rally Marshal to write a report!

Don't be afraid to communicate - after all, it is your club!!!

Thank you for your continued support.

*Peter Cook*

**Publicity Officer**

## **POSTSCRIPT:**

If anyone has any items that they are wanting to sell, or are looking for help on any club related issue please contact the Newsletter and we'll do our very best to help.