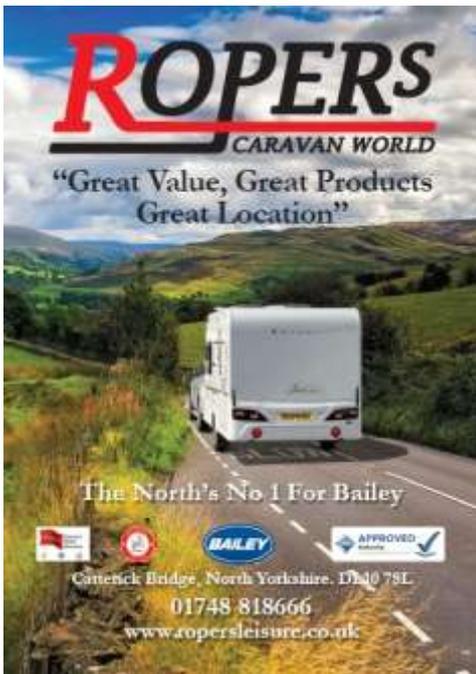




# Winter 2019



## Contents



Intro - More Thoughts from the Laptop!.....	1
membership renewal.....	2
committee vacancies .....	2
Rally Programme 2020: .....	2
Rally Reports.....	3
The Lenchford - 28th - 30th November	3
Forthcoming Attractions – JAN, FEB & MAR: .....	4
Barnstones - 23rd to 27th January:	4
ACCEO AGM - Ludlow Racecourse - Wednesday 30th September to Monday 5th October 2020.	5
Techie Stuff: .....	6
Sponsors: .....	9
And Finally:.....	10
Postscript:.....	10

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

Ahh - January is here and the adverts on TV are back to "normal" - furniture and holidays - nothing changes!

Hopefully you've all had a great Christmas and New Year and are now fully recovered from the festivities.

The last year ended on a very sad note for the club - our President, John Nicholls, passed away on the 7th of November following a brave fight against his cancer. He will be greatly missed - a man who was very active in the club, giving help and advice when asked and always giving his very best. His funeral was attended by a significant number of the club's members.





The cancellation of the New Year rally was unfortunate but inevitable - the decline in the number of club members and the continuing increase in site fees meant that a minimum of 10 units was agreed at the AGM. This number could not be met.

During the AGM (and before the decision was taken to cancel) the members asked that the deposit for the Rally in 2020 should be paid - further to this decision the site has been booked for New Year 20 / 21.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

I have always found that the New Year rally was the ideal time to renew our membership of the club - just pay the money and collect our Handbook and Membership card. With the cancellation of the New Year rally that option was not available this year so its paying on-line for me!! You can follow my example or renew by mail - details are on the website.

One thing that has changed this year when renewing your membership is that you should complete a Membership Form - this will record your authority for the Club to continue to use your personal information - a requirement of the Club's General Data Protection Policy.

(A copy of the Membership Form can be found on the website or drop me an e-mail and I'll send one to you.)

## **COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

It was announced at the AGM that our General Secretary (Gaynor) will not be re-standing for the role at the AGM in 2020. Notwithstanding this the Committee is already running with two vacancies - Chairman and Rally Secretary posts covered by Mick Whitehouse "doubling up" and the Equipment Officer role.

Please take this opportunity to help your club - anyone interested in covering the vacant posts should contact the Committee as soon as possible.

The summary of the AGM and the Committee Meeting that followed should be available in the Member's Area of the website very shortly.

## **RALLY PROGRAMME 2020:**

The program for 2020 is published on the website. On-line bookings for rallies in 2020 should now be available,

There are a couple of rallies which still require a Rally Marshal - the rally at Dunham and the rally at Stoke Bruerne. Please take the opportunity to step forward as "without Rally Marshals there can be no rally" (*copyright courtesy of Sheila H*).

And please remember that there is no need to "go overboard" with regard to providing food or organising activities when running a rally - many members just appreciate the fact that someone has made the time and effort to set the field up and collect the monies.

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



## **RALLY REPORTS**

### **The Lenchford - 28th - 30th November**

We were the first to arrive at the Lenchford Inn to a very warm welcome from Matt and Gaynor, and their caravan beautifully decked out with Christmas trimmings - - - including "naughty elf" with a few new accessories, no not Matt but a funny, plastic little thing known as "the naughty elf" !!

Roy and I had to dash off to a birthday party in Birmingham but we made it back for "Christmas Jumpers in the Pub".

Great evening putting the world to rights and a toast to absent friends Les Manderfield and John Nichols sadly no longer with us now.

Helena won the best Christmas jumper for the evening. Brilliant to see her out on the rally field along with her Granddaughter Trinity.

We were up early on Saturday morning and headed off to Worcester Christmas market to make a start on our Christmas shopping and to take a stroll along the river.

Saturday evening saw us all gathered in The Lenchford for a super Christmas Dinner followed by the much awaited "Gaynor Christmas Quiz" which tested our memories and our brains. Many of these quiz questions we have heard before but could we remember the answers - - - not a chance! Can't remember which cheats won the quiz but it really didn't matter as there were prizes for everyone. Think we got the best prize of all, a lovely Christmas mug and the pleasure of writing this rally report.

A great weekend was had by all and many thanks to Matt, Gaynor and Calvin for marshalling - - we will make sure that we do some cracker joke revision for next year!!

See you all soon

*Roy and Carole Abson*





## **FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS – JAN, FEB & MAR:**

### **Barnstones - 23rd to 27th January:**



*The club's regular season opener, not far from Banbury.*



## ACCEO AGM - Ludlow Racecourse - Wednesday 30th September to Monday 5th October 2020.

HOSTED BY ALL YEAR ROUND CARAVAN CLUB

### ***Wednesday***

Arrival Date, chance to meet up with friends new and old.

### ***Thursday***

Social Evening in the main hall with a quiz and some background music.



### ***Friday***



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT from female vocalist **EMILY ABBISS**

### ***Saturday***

AGM in the afternoon

EVENING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT from the brilliant

**"THE SOUNDATIONS BAND"**



### ***Sunday***

Coffee Morning with announcements and prize draw.

Evening get together in room



## **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.*

### **Winter care for your caravan**

So, you've had your last caravanning trip of the season and it's time to put your unit into hibernation until spring. No matter where you store it, there are lots of things you can do to ensure that everything is in good working order when you get it out again for the next season's touring.

Much of this relates to draining down water systems to prevent any possible damage from icing, ensuring best possible ventilation around the 'van, and checking the internal and external fabric is set-up for long-term storage. As well as the cold, other climate factors to be aware of include damp and even air pollution.

### **Where to store?**

It's up to you where you choose to store your caravan, but generally the choice boils down to outside your home or at some kind of remote storage compound – a campsite, specialist storage site, local farm or similar.

Caravans are of course designed for use outside, but it's not ideal for them to sit around in one place for long periods. Shelter can be great, but it's not a good idea to be directly under a tree. Leaves, branches, bird droppings... indeed anything that could drop out of the sky is a potential cause of damage to your caravan. There are a few sites that offer undercover storage, but these are rare. Before signing up, visit the site and check out how and where the caravan will be stored.

The plots on some sites can be rather close, limiting the use of your towcar and requiring a good deal of manoeuvring to get in place. This can be reasonable if the surfacing is hard, but if the surface is loose gravel or grass, without a motor mover you may find parking hard work. Also check out the written conditions and facilities – some sites will park up the caravans for you, some may have restricted access times, some may have battery charging and cleaning facilities available. Ask if the site has a vermin-control programme in place – infestation with mice can ruin a caravan and such damage is excluded from the majority of insurance policies. Having decided where to store your caravan over winter, be sure to advise your insurer.

### **Taking care of the bodywork**

Preparing the exterior of your caravan prior to winter will certainly pay dividends the following spring. Irrespective of whether you intend to use a cover or overwintering wax coating to help protect your 'van, a thorough cleaning is essential. Thorough cleaning of the body also provides the opportunity to inspect the bodywork for any kind of damage as the winter season is a good time to get it fixed when workshops are less busy.



Always use proprietary caravan cleaning agents that are designed to be kind to the various materials used in caravan construction. Beware the use of pressure washers. These are often powerful and can direct spray under trim and damage bodywork and seals. Pay particular attention to removing any signs of green or black mould, if left to grow over winter it may create conditions where the aluminium or plastic surface is permanently marked if left to grow over winter.

Also, take a personal-safety-first approach to cleaning your caravan. Be careful about stretching and using ladders, especially when it comes to cleaning the roof, which might not appreciate your weight on it!

Of course, there are other external aspects to consider:

- Tyres – these do not like standing around on the same piece of tread for long periods
- Check your car-to-caravan connector
- Consider turning the wheels, say every six to eight weeks and raise the pressure to help alleviate any problems, but don't forget to drop the pressures down when you go on the road. Ideally shield the tyres from sunlight to help prevent degradation of the rubber but avoid using plastic bags that seal the wheel and bearings and may cause condensation in the hub. Winter wheels (special clamps instead of wheels) can be used, but they do not meet the required criteria for some caravan insurance policies, so check first.
- Fit any security devices carefully
- Security – remember to fit hitch locks, wheel clamps and the like, especially if required by your insurer. If nothing else, these act as a visual deterrent.
- On older caravans, exterior light fittings can benefit from the removal of the lens, a quick clean of the seals and lens (inside and out) and the checking of any electrical connections, before replacement.
- Check your 13-pin or 12N and 12S (7-pin) car-to-caravan connectors for any signs of wear or damage.
- A jockey wheel cover gives protection from the elements
- Electrical contacts should be cleaned and wiped over with petroleum jelly or sprayed with a water dispersant such as WD-40 (after checking it will not affect the plastic).
- Ideally, store your caravan with all corner steadies down and the handbrake off, to prevent it sticking. Use wheel chocks if necessary.
- Apply grease to any moving mechanical parts or linkages, such as corner steadies' rotating screws and the spare wheel carrier.
- Finally, if you have been on the road late in the year during icy conditions then it will be worthwhile washing and brushing down the chassis to clear off corrosive road salt.

## Interior actions

- Spring-loaded blinds are best left in the open position
- Vacuum clean and wash down your caravan's interior throughout. As well as getting everything clean, it's a great way of checking you don't leave anything untoward in a cupboard or seat base. Creating best possible air circulation is the key to keeping your interior damp free.
- Cleaning the kitchen thoroughly should prevent any mould appearing here, although for the fridge it is also essential to leave the door ajar – there is usually a special catch provided for this purpose. Use products designed for caravan use, rather than normal domestic cleaning fluids, as these may cause damage to surfaces and seals in a caravan.
- Cushions are best left standing upright away from the caravan walls after vacuuming. This helps aid air circulation and prevents mildew occurring, especially in units with solid ply bed



bases (as opposed to slats). A further measure to keep upholstery in top condition is to cover with a breathable material such as old cotton sheets to keep the dust off. Ideally if you have room, store cushions at home in the warm, which is also a deterrent against caravan theft.

- Move cushions to an upright position in the 'van, or take them out and store somewhere dry and well ventilated, especially in 'vans with solid ply seat bases
- Fixed beds are best left in the open position. Again, this aids air circulation.
- For blinds with any kind of spring mechanism, it's best to leave them open, otherwise the springs are gradually stretched over a period of time and subsequently fail to work efficiently.
- Leaving locker and wardrobe doors open optimises ventilation.
- Make sure all roof lights and windows are fully closed.
- Lightly coat hinges with thin oil or water dispersant such as WD-40 to protect against rust, taking care to avoid contact with door surfaces.



## **SPONSORS:**

**ROPERS**  
CARAVAN WORLD

“Great Value, Great Products  
Great Location”

The North's No 1 For Bailey

Catterick Bridge, North Yorkshire. DN10 7SL  
01748 818666  
[www.ropersleisure.co.uk](http://www.ropersleisure.co.uk)



## **AND FINALLY:**

Here's wishing you all a happy and safe Winter.

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 continuing 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.