



Spring  
2018



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

As I write this intro for the Newsletter we are about to leave a very wet Spring and move into (hopefully) a warm and dry Summer.

So, welcome to the Spring 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 is struggling at the moment. The club currently has three rallies where we need someone to come forward - Lyndon Top (National Rally) - May, Blue Lias Inn - July and Barlow - December. Please step forward - after all you'll get a "free" rally and £5 off next year's membership fees!!



## **RALLY REPORTS**

### **Easter Rally, Lady Margaret Hall, Worksop - April 2018**

*(Editor's note: Due to the process used to "select" the report writer we have a unique perspective of the rally that took place!!)*

Arrived safely on Friday to find that the planned rally field was flooded and that we had relocated onto the grassed area adjacent to the hall's car park. *(John & Sharon Hadley)*

During the night it rained fairly constantly and we woke on Saturday to find that Val & Steve and Sheila, Peter and Len were surrounded by a "lake". We went home to get Alan's "wellies" as the galoshes were no good - the water was too deep! *(Lynn & Alan Barnard)*



Saturday we went to the Dukeries Garden Centre to buy Dad some "wellies" so that he could leave the caravan, and whilst there we sampled the "green" cake in the cafe.

In the evening we all went to a very nice pub and had lovely food and the occasional "pud".



Sunday came and we were still surrounded by water - most managed to eat chocolate *(it was Easter!)* before going for a walk to see the park and the white deer. Some even went back to the pub for cake / "pud" and a cuppa!

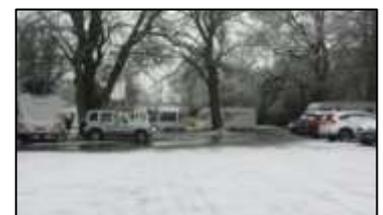
Sunday evening and "flag" and all the ladies received an Easter egg "left" by the Easter Bunny. (Gaz, ever thoughtful, provided something for the men!).



During the rally everyone had attempted to solve the "anagram" quiz which was won by the Cooks!. During the evening we all attempted a fun quiz of "Underground" stations and, after lots of helpful clues 5 winners had the same score, all scoring 8 points. The Rally Marshal selected a "winner" at random from the 5 - the Cooks!!

The rally report was the next "prize" on offer - the Rally Marshal had prepared some slips with the anticipated quiz scores on. Lesley Cook was asked to select a slip at random and selected the slip with the number "8" on it, hence the rally report was to be written by the 5 winners - and here it is!! *(Sheila Higgins)*

We all retired to our vans in good spirits. Discussion in the awnings had considered what was to come on the Monday - the weather forecast had said that there may be some snow or a little more rain (!! ) during the night. I'd woken during the night and was pleased to hear that it had stopped raining - all was quiet and maybe the site would have drained a little before we left. No





- it had gone quiet because the rain had turned to snow! We had a good 2" - 3" on the ground in the morning!!!!

Gradually we all packed up and said our goodbyes - I managed to get stuck and had to be rescued by John and Gary - I will remember to close the caravan's front locker if it ever happens again!!

Our thanks to the Rally Marshals, Chris & Mick and their assistants, Gary and Sandy for a great rally in difficult circumstances. Also respect to our fellow ralliers, particularly Steve and Val and Peter, Sheila and Len for their good humour in spite of their very damp surroundings.

*Peter & Lesley Cook (on behalf of the co-authors)*



## **FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS – MAY, JUNE & JULY:**

***Friday 4th May to Monday 7th May - Moor Edge Farm, Crich, Derbyshire***



*The site is in the heart of the beautiful Derbyshire countryside where there are a lot of leisurely walks available.*

*The site is on a family run 200 acre working dairy farm. The site is within easy walking distance of the local village of Crich where there is a bakers, butchers, mini supermarket, post office, chemist and hairdressers.*

*Eating and drinking establishments include an Indian restaurant, chip shop and 3 pubs.*

### ***Nearby Attractions***

*Crich Tramway Museum*

*Crich Stand Memorial*

*Wingfield Manor*

*Gullivers Kingdom Theme Park*

*Chatsworth House*

*Haddon Hall*

*Bolsover Castle*

*Matlock Bath*

*Carsington Water*

*Tissington Trail*



**Friday 25th May to Monday 28th May - Lyndon Top, Rutland Water, Manton, Rutland.**



*At the site you will find 112 acres of peace and tranquillity maintained to a very high standard running to the shores of one of Europe's largest lakes, for you to enjoy.*

*With the historic market towns of Stamford, Oakham and Uppingham within 6 miles of the site, and a cycle/footpath, garden*

*nursery, nature reserve, bird watching centre and visitor centre adjacent to the site. There are excellent restaurants and bars around the lake.*



**Friday 8th June to Sunday 10th June - The Royal Oak, Car Colston, Nottinghamshire**



*The picturesque village of Car Colston has 29 acres of village greens and is believed to be the largest rural common in England.*

*The building of the Royal Oak is over two hundred years old and is thought by some to have a hosiery factory hence the rather unusual vaulted brick ceiling*

*in the bar which certainly would have carried the weight of the appropriate textiles machinery above.*

*Speaking from personal experience the food served in the inn is fantastic.*





**Friday 20th June to Tuesday 25th June - Banbury Steam Rally, Bloxham,**

*One of the biggest events in the country! Working displays of vintage vehicles, Old time fairground, Heavy horses, Craft marquee & food hall. Evening entertainment available.*

*Shows will include:*

*Steam engines*

*Fun fair*

*Live music*

*Classic cars*

*Classic motorbikes*

*Fairground organs*

*Food tent*

*Crafts*

*Models and miniatures*

*Commercial vehicles*

*Ex-military vehicles*

*Demonstrations*

*Classic caravans*

*Market area*

*Licensed bar*

*Pets corner*

*Stationary engines*

*Tractors*

*Showman's living vans*

*Historic re-enactment*

*and Lawnmowers*



**Friday 5th July to 10th July - Wolds Way Caravan & Camping, Malton.**

*Situated amongst glorious countryside, in the heart of Ryedale.*

*The site enjoys panoramic views over the Vale of Pickering to the North Yorkshire Moors. The park is peacefully located adjacent to Wolds farmland and large areas of woodland providing peace and tranquillity, meaning visitors are able to relax amidst wildlife, flora and fauna.*



*With easy access to East Coast resorts and the historic city of York. There are several public footpaths throughout the farm and neighbouring woodland available for pleasant walks and bike rides. This area of Yorkshire has something for everyone, be it to relax in the beautiful countryside, explore stately homes, abbeys and market towns or to enjoy the sports of horse racing, golf, fishing, or sailing.*



**Friday 13th July to Sunday 15th July - Blue Lias Inn, Stockton, Warwickshire.**



*The Blue Lias is a beautiful canal-side Inn located next to the Grand Union Canal in Warwickshire, between the villages of Stockton and Long Itchington.*

*The inn was originally an 18th century farmhouse. It is haunted by the ghost of a red-haired farm labourer who was killed by the enraged farmer who returned from market one day to find his wife in bed with*

*the red haired farmhand. It first became an inn when the early canal travellers stopped for evening refreshment and overnight stabling for their horses.*

*There are many delightful walks in the area and the Blue Lias is the ideal place to enjoy a meal and a drink at the end of your walk. The site is right next to Bridge 23 on the Grand Union, which is at the bottom of the Stockton Flight of locks. If you enjoy watching other people work you can take a walk up the towpath and see the canal folk and holiday-makers taking their boats through the locks.*





## **JUST FOR FUN!!**

For the young at heart!!



Colour me in!!



## **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.*

### **Cleaning water containers, pipes and related equipment**

When the caravan has been left standing for several weeks, before bringing the water system back into use flush the entire system out with steriliser (such as Milton). Follow the instructions carefully and **do not use domestic bleach**. Clean out any connecting hoses and fresh water containers at the same time.

- Drain down the system (open all taps to allow air in, enabling the system to drain quickly).
- **Remove any water filters** fitted, and replace with a short length of hose or empty filter cartridge (this will ensure the filter is not affected by the disinfectant/sterilising solution).
- Fill the system by using the pump with a disinfectant/sterilising solution (check that the solution at full strength appears at all taps/showers). Allow to stand for the recommended period of time.
- Drain the system down completely.
- Thoroughly clean the outside of all taps/connectors with a cloth soaked in the disinfectant/sterilizing solution.
- Flush the system through with clean drinking water until no traces of disinfectant/sterilising solution can be detected at any tap.
- Replace the filter.

Filters should be replaced at the recommended intervals, irrespective of how often they have been used.

### **Water pumps: operation and maintenance**

Most caravans are equipped with submersible pumps, whereas motorhomes are usually fitted with diaphragm pumps. A good quality submersible pump should give unfailing service for 10 years or more, but many develop faults more frequently – so always carry a spare, especially if travelling abroad.

### **Troubleshooting**

#### **Motor not running**

Is the battery discharged? Try the lights to see if they work.

Is the pump switched on at the distribution unit? Many caravans have a control switch.

Has a fuse failed? Fuses are usually fitted at the distribution unit in the wardrobe or under the front seats.

#### **Motor running but no water at the tap**

With a submersible pump, air sometimes gets trapped in the casing. Disconnect the hose from the input coupling and swing the pipe so the pump gently strikes the side of the water container, under the surface. This usually dislodges air bubbles. With a diaphragm pump, if grit gets into the pump, its mechanism is soon damaged. Check the filter regularly and clean if necessary. If there is internal damage, the pump can be serviced or repaired by the supplier. One of the seals or O-rings inside the assembly sometimes fails and pump chambers cease to be airtight. Spares kits are available but repairs would normally be referred to a specialist.

#### **Switch system faulty**

In general, one of two systems is used: either a tiny switch is fitted in the tap itself – called a microswitch – or a switch activates the pump when it senses a drop of pressure in the supply system – for instance, when a tap is turned on. This is called a pressure-sensitive switch.

Damp can cause the downfall of a microswitch and in some instances the whole tap has to be replaced. In most cases, however, the switch can be easily changed by a qualified electrician.



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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.