



Activity



A group of Peakland members went for a walk of 8 miles from Chesterfield to Kelstedge in February. Although the weather was kind to us and we enjoyed the views, there was plenty of snow still around but Lucy was warm and dry in her onesie. We all sampled Sunday lunch in the hostelry at the end of the walk.



Issue 104 Spring 2015

The Friendly Club

Trev MASTers Voice.

Hello, all.

By the time this edition of Activity is published all three of our MAS Areas will have embarked upon our new season's meets; something many of us, I'm sure, have been eagerly awaiting. Back out in the vans, setting up in fields in some gorgeous countryside, meeting many of the old familiar faces. And hoping for some decent weather!

What struck me as strange the other day was reading that this past winter has been the sunniest since 1929. And, yes, I suppose that's right; so why has virtually every walk I've done involved slipping and sliding and squelching through mud for mile after mile?

Last year we announced that we would be needing a new secretary for the Section. The response, for a group that has a large number of active members, has been an embarrassing silence. It shouldn't need saying that unless we fill this post the whole MAS will have to fold.....

Fortunately we have had a generous offer to fill the position temporarily; just for one year. That offer comes from Liz Prior, a fairly new member who has only just taken her retirement and was hoping that paperwork and attending meetings would now be a thing of the past. Whilst we should be very grateful to her we cannot now simply relax. The need for a longer term secretary remains. So please, if this Section means a lot to you, will you give thought to at least asking what the post entails.

But let me close on a positive note. The sun is shining as I type this, even if there's a gale-force wind! I look forward to seeing lots of old friends in our early meets then as many of you as possible at Pateley Bridge for some excellent walking, cycling and, of course, socialising. See you all,



Trev.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

(One more time)

Colin Wild, our Section Secretary, has given notice that he will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM 2 May 2015 at Pateley Bridge. We are therefore looking for someone to offer to take on this important role.

Colin has undertaken this task with enthusiasm and considerable organisational skill – for which we are grateful – and will be leaving the post in good order for his successor.

The post involves most of the traditional secretarial duties – handling communications, preparing agendas for the AGM and 3 meetings of the Section Council and attending those meetings. It does not involve taking minutes of those meetings as we have a separate minutes secretary.

**Further information can be obtained from
Trev Masters, Chairman – [REDACTED]**

Or from

Les Morton, Vice Chairman – [REDACTED]

Mountain Activity Section

We welcome all members who have an interest in walking, cycling and camping. We aim to organise walks and cycle rides in beautiful countryside suitable for a range of ages and abilities.

Further details may be found on our website,

www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk,

or contact Secretary Colin Wild on 07788706049
or the membership Sec. Barry Cowlard on 07770287434.

MAS Membership – Good for your Health!

“Camping and Caravanning”, the Club’s magazine, has rightly been publicising the news that camping, especially among friends, has been shown to be an activity that makes people healthier and happier.

I was therefore interested to read in the Guardian the other day an extended extract from a book by Susan Pinker, “The Village Effect: Why Face-to-Face Contact Matters”.

The book starts with the observation that the inhabitants of hilltop villages in Sardinia are statistically quite exceptional. Ten times as many men there live past the age of 100 as men who live elsewhere! Men there also live as long as their wives and sisters (who live to similarly mature years) whereas women elsewhere outlive men by an average of 5 to 7 years. And in most countries community groups and activities catering for people aged 60 or older have 3 women members on average to every 1 man.

So what is it about those Sardinian hilltop villages that has led to such significant longevity for both sexes? The author of the book went there to find out. Firstly, many of the centenarians still remained active; most actually working way into their 90s. Secondly, she found a wonderful spirit of community cohesion. There are historic reasons for this as over the centuries the coastal areas had suffered invasions and attacks from pirates that led the population to escape inland and up into the hills for self-defence. And there they have remained, retaining their close links and interdependence.

This is in marked contrast to many countries in the so-called developed world. You will recall that a few months ago a Church of England report asserted that many people in Britain today, both young and old, but especially the old, feel “unwanted, unvalued and unnoticed”.

Increasingly studies are showing that our survival – our emotional and biological health – depends hugely on our social interaction and integration. People with good face-to-face social networks (Internet friendships simply are NOT adequate substitutes!) are 4 times more likely to survive serious illnesses than those with few friends and few rewarding activities.

After the long winter months many of us have now embarked upon our new season of meets. And most of us, I know, felt and expressed real pleasure, even elation, at meeting up again with so many old friends. I could sense in most of us a feeling of joy and a sense of energy waiting to be released.

Yes, MAS membership really can provide us with many of the things that science is now revealing to be essentials for a happy and healthy life; the wide circle of friends, the activity, and the open air. And all for £6 per year! What a bargain!

Trev Masters



Thought for today

"It is never too soon to do a kindness; for you never know how soon it will be too late."

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)



National Feast of Lanterns

27th- 31st August 2015

The event this year is to be held in the beautiful grounds of Houghton Hall, Nr Sandringham.

Holiday sites are taking place before and after the event.

If you are interested in attending the event and wish to camp with MAS friends please send booking form to:

Anne Crosland, 28 Emmott Drive, Rawdon, Leeds LS19 6RF

by the 14th June.

Hope to see you there.

Mountain Activity Section Officers 2014/15

Chairperson MAS Executive Member (2017)	Trevor Masters (07786617910) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Vice Chairperson MAS Executive Member (2017)	Les Morton (07967900225) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
President	Andrew Wood (07881788900) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Vice Presidents	Carole Booth (07788197649) Email: [REDACTED] Christine Stevenson Email: [REDACTED] Terry Bishop Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Secretary MAS Executive Member (2015)	Colin Wild (07948560571) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Immediate Past Chairman MAS Executive Member (2015)	Diane Goodyear (07761949896) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Treasurer MAS Executive Member	Jenny Williams (07984003348) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
PRO/Website Co-ordinator Elected Member (2016)	John Gerner (077348852656) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Membership Secretary Elected Member (2015)	Barry Cowlard (07770287434) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Section Youth Officers	Howard and Anne Crosland (07855707681) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Minutes Secretary	Ruth Brown (07774860968) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Regalia Officer	Sheila Newsome Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Newsletter Editor Elected Member (2016)	Toni Busuttill-Reynaud (07762326340) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Webmaster	Adrian Rose Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other elected Members to Section Council	Sandra Wild (07765016672) Email: [REDACTED] Yvonne Plevey Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Advisory Officer to National Council	Howard Crosland	
Deputy Advisory Officer	Diane Goodyear	
<u>Representatives to Section Council Northern Area</u>	Lesley Storey (07552716556) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Peakland Area	Sandra Wain (07503000568) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Wessex Area	Deb Masters (07765040211) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<u>Area Secretaries Northern Area</u>	Carole Booth 07788197649) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Peakland Area	Les Morton (07967900225) Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Wessex Area	Viv Stevens Email: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
National Council Rep. to MAS	Steve Harris Email: [REDACTED]	

Cycle or walk the two tunnels at Bath

If you are coming to Bath and staying at the campsite at Newbridge, Nextbike has a hire station at the site. You can cycle into the city and return your bike to any station around the city.

An opportunity not to be missed is to cycle the two tunnels. One is about a half mile long and the other nearly a mile. It is very easy to get to the tunnels along the river where it is sign posted. You can return to the city along the canal making it a circular ride if you wish. The site is also next to the Bath to Bristol railway path and the park and ride is just across the road. Alexandra Park is not far from the start of the first tunnel, it's uphill but the views of the city are spectacular. If you would like more information use the contact form on www.citycyclerrider.co.uk

Wendy and John Morris



One of the tunnel entrances. Note that it is part of the Sustrans network.



.....views of the city are spectacular.

Peter Williams (1939 – 2015)

Peter, alongside his wife, Jenny, was an active and enthusiastic member of the Mountain Activity Section from 1996 and made a number of significant contributions to it. As Jenny points out the MAS became an important part of his life, meeting so many good friends and together enjoying the love of walking and of the countryside.

Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Peter will have our own fond memories of him. For many he was the warm, quietly authoritative companion on MAS walks. For others he was also the man whose meticulous planning had enabled them to enjoy more adventurous walking holidays. Those of us, for example, who accompanied him on any of the trips he organised to the French Alps will have been hugely impressed by the thoroughness of his preparation. It is hard to think of any aspect of those adventures that Peter had not anticipated and built into his planning. (Apart from, Jenny reminds me, the time their car broke down in the middle of France and delayed their arrival in the Alps by a couple of days!)

Peter was also one of the key members of the group that over the years tackled many of this country's wonderful long distance walks. Only another 50 miles and he would have clocked up 3,000 miles on these walks.

Despite all his abilities Peter was nevertheless a modest man who never sought the limelight. It was indeed only recently that he agreed to be elected to the Section Council in order to take on the role of Public Relations Officer. He promptly brought his skills to our MAS website, helping to develop it alongside Adrian Rose, our Webmaster, and John Gerner, Peter's recent successor. It is now worthy of the 21st Century and, I think, a fitting tribute to Peter himself.

Trev Masters.



**Peter as we
all saw him.**

**His boots were made for walking, but this is a splendid
way to use them now**





THE LANGUAGE OF WESSEX

If you are greeted at a Wessex section meet with “wassail”, don’t be offended, they are not being rude, it is just the Old English greeting when Wessex actually did exist?

As you probably know from your school days, Wessex was a kingdom of the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy, with its centre at Winchester. Ruled from 871 to 899 by Alfred the Great, and was the only English Kingdom to withstand the onslaught of the Danes.

The Anglo-Saxons would have greeted each other with **wæsh hæil** (pronounced ‘wassail’)

Meaning literally ‘be thou hale/healthy’. Also used during eating & drinking as ‘Cheers’

Everyday phrases would include:

Ic drince beor (Itch drink-uh bey-or) – I drink beer

Ic awogie wifman (Itch a-wo-gee-uh weef-man) – I woo the woman

Nimst þu docgan to gaenne (nim-st thoo dog-an toe gaa-en-uh) – you take the dog for a walk

But did Wessex actually exist?

According to the online version of the Oxford English Dictionary the name ‘Wessex’ did not exist before 1868, when it was coined by the Dorset Poet William Barnes.

It seems that Rev. John Collinson had used the word Wessex in his History of the Somersets, and it was then popularised by Barnes’ friend Thomas Hardy.

But, the Anglo Saxon Kingdom certainly existed.

In the sixth century the Angles and Saxon invasion advanced considerably forming 'Kingdoms', the most important being 'Wessex'. Originally based around Dorchester-on-Thames and Hampshire, then Dorset, and by 800 the Kingdom extended from the River Tamar in the west, to the Itchen in the east, and bordered by the Hampshire Downs, upper River Thames, and the Cotswolds.

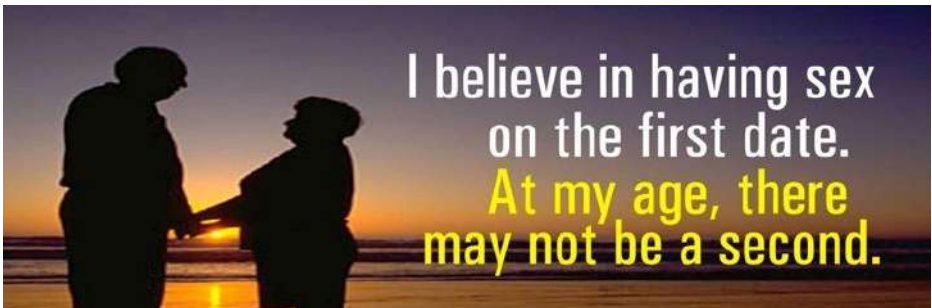
This may have been called West Saxon, although there is no written evidence of this.

Bede, a Northumbrian monk, used the terms South Saxon (Sussex), and East Saxon (Essex) in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* in 731.

The most popular definition of 'Wessex' today is the six counties used by Thomas Hardy: Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Berkshire.

The 'Wessex Society' uses a definition which also includes Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

So, on reflection, a greeting of 'Hello, welcome, journey OK' is more appropriate.



Winter Camping

This winter down south we have experienced so far a good winter with some fabulous days and it's been great to get away and experience nice quiet sites with some offering good deals but unfortunately not the Camping and Caravan Club. At one time they offered a winter deal of staying 4 nights and pay for 3 or stay 7 nights pay for 5 which was most attractive. No deals as I presume the Club is struggling to pay off the £6 million debt incurred by the bad decision to introduce lodges onto camp sites. I see they are now introducing Ready Camp which for a family is extremely expensive and could be another white elephant that the member will have to bear.

On a much brighter note there *are* good deals out there and I have visited the excellent sites run under the Morris group who for the months of February and March are offering 3 nights and pay for just 2. I visited their site just .75 miles outside Ludlow - a beautiful small town set on the river Teme. Ludlow has some super out of the ordinary shops, noted for its fantastic food, a lovely castle and a super location for cycling on quiet scenic byways. The weather was really great - cold frosty mornings but offering wonderful scenes to photograph and clear nights illuminated by the wonderful Milky Way.



I then went on to meet up with friends at Blackmore near Malvern and as the picture shows, it was warm enough to eat lunch outside basking in the sun. From there I spent time visiting Croome Park which is a National Trust place set in fantastic grounds with the Malvern hills as a backdrop. Within the park is Croome Court which is home to the Coventry family. It is at present in enshrouded in scaffold as it's undergoing a massive restoration scheme, but you can still go inside and take a tour up the scaffold which gives you a terrific view, besides getting really close to the exterior stonework. Within the park are numerous statues (sadly covered over to protect them from the frost) a Temple Greenhouse, Ice House, Island Pavilion, Rotunda, Grotto, Boathouse, and many other features all landscaped by Capability Brown. Before the grounds, housed in the old Nissen Huts of Defford RAF station, is a remarkable museum which during the war was home to 2,500 personnel and 130 aircraft. It was here that secret radar systems were tested and the world's first automatic approach and landing technology was pioneered. A very rewarding day plus they do really good meals which I needed before my cycle ride back.

I'm now looking forward to my next trip out at the beginning of March to visit two more Morris sites at Stanmore Hall and Shrewsbury at discounted prices. It's good to use and air out one's Motorhome or caravan and I just love the quietness of winter camping and the snugness of a warm motorhome after a good walk or cycle ride, especially if you have left the slow cooker on cooking your evening meal.

Pauline Porter

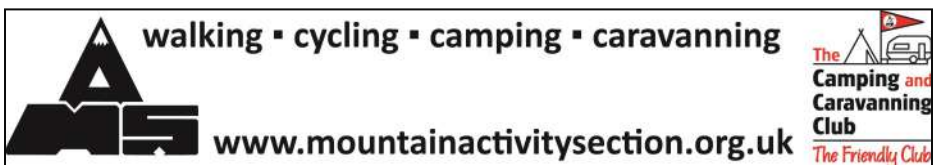


FREE STICKERS

Since the last edition of Activity there have been a number of initiatives to raise awareness of MAS amongst members of the Camping & Caravanning Club. The first point of contact for many potential new members is our website. As many of you will be aware our webmaster, Adrian Rose, has redesigned the site to give a fresh new look. What is less obvious are a number of major changes behind the scenes so that Areas can now keep their list of events up to date, add news items and collections of photos to the gallery.

To publicize our website we have produced car stickers which combine the MAS and CCC logos with the “ walking, cycling, camping, caravanning” strapline that we are using across all our publicity materials. The stickers are of the static cling type so they can easily be removed from windows. We have also produced business cards with the same information so that when you tell others about the Mountain Activity Section you can give a card to encourage them to visit our website and find out more. The stickers and cards will be given to Areas to distribute to members at the Pateley Bridge Festival of Walking meet.

John Gerner



At my age, the only thing
that gets hard is my arteries.

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Peakland Area Mountain Activity Section 2015 Meets List

Date	Venue	Map Ref	Duration	Stewards
March 13-15	Foufinside, Parwich (Pre-AGM meeting)	119/183 549	2 nights	Les/Jean 01298 213430 or 07967 900225
March 20-22	Mill Farm, Barlow (Peakland AGM)	119/336 756	2 nights	Frank/Carol 01142 510140 or 077388560832
April 2-7	Thorpe (Easter)	119/166 514	5 nights	Peakland Committee (01298 213430 or 07967900225)
April 17-19	Wyming Brook Farm, Redmires	110/270 857	2 nights	Sandra/Roger (01246 232379 or 07503000568)
April 30- May 5	Pateley Bridge (Section AGM)	99/157 655	5 nights	John/Jane/ (07768921192)
May 5-9	Follow-on meet. The Lido, Knaresborough	104/362 560	5 nights	Dave/Viv (07949649232)
May 15-17	Edale (Invite from Sheffield DA)	110/118 854	2 nights	Sheffield DA (Robert Lees 01226 379644)
June 5-7	Grenfields Farm, Alport (Wine and Cheese)	119/225 637	2 nights	Malcolm/Chris (01773318030)
June 18-23	4 Acres, Bamford (Invite to Northern)	119/196 827	5 nights	Robin/Elaine 07962107983
July 2-7	Forest View, Cannock (Invite to Wessex)	128/005 174	5 nights	Peakland Committee (01298 213430 or 07967900225)
July 1 7-19	Packhorse, Alderwasley	119/321 523	2 nights	Yvonne/Colin 01629581049
Aug 27- Sept 1	Hexham (Invite from Northern)	87/885 717	5 nights	Alistair/Jean (07964902551)
Sept 1-6	Stanhope, Weardale (Follow-on meet)	92/992 391	5 nights	Dot/Barry (07791026435)
Sep 11-14	Marsden Cricket Club	110/044 105	3 nights	Mick/Lyn (07583229622 or 01142338308)
Sept 25-27	Winster Moor Farm, Winster	119/242 594	2 nights	John/Ina (07941079118)
Oct 9-11	Leek Edge Farm, Leek	118/999 572	2 nights	Les/Jean (01298 213430 or 07967900225)
Oct 23-25	King Sterndale (End of Season meet)	119/093 720	2 nights	Rod/Margaret (07983454076 or 01142845752)

Wessex MAS meets List 2015

We may have to change these sites. Please check in current month's Out and About or contact Sites Officers or Stewards at least 2 days before travelling.

Sites officers are Lindie and Michael Pink, 01865 872363 or 07811 883552

Booked days	Location	BSB and map refs	Stewards
March 19th - Mar 24th	Cheddar Mendip Heights Booked Meet C C Club site	182/ 523518	Pauline Porter 01779692806 07553100323
April 2nd - April 7th (Easter)	Breamore House, Fordingbridge SP6 2DF AGM + American supper Hulse Hall	184/152187 184/159180	Edward & Frances Delaine 01425617893 07547275261
April 16th – April 21st	Birchwood Tourist park, Cold Harbour, Wareham Dorset BH20 7PA	BSB 195/263 195/897906	Ray & Hazel Miles 01425627159 07785794212
April 30th - May 5th (Bank Holiday)	Festival of Walking and National AGM Pateley Bridge	99/ SE157655	See Out and About
May 5th - May 10th	Follow on Meet The Lido, Knaresborough	104/362560	See Northern Area Programme or Out & About
May 7th- May 12th	Little Metlands Farm. Lime Kiln Lane, Dean, Bishops Waltham. SO32 1FY	BSB 185/571195	Richard & Sheila Price 07808517647
May 21st - May 26th (Bank Holiday)	Longhills Farm Chipping Campden, Mickleton, Gloucs GL55 6PS	BSB 151/020 151/157427	Maurice & Deirdre Spratt 01432860572
June 4th- June 9th	Whitemark Farm, Watlington Oxon OX49 5AF	BSB 175/120 175/696938	Len & Julia Frampton 02086577659 07944869622
June 18th - June 23rd	Suddene Park Farm, Burbage, Wilts SN83DP	BSB174/048 174/241618	Sandra Ryan 01256323036 07944837386

Booked days	Location	BSB and map refs	Stewards
July 2nd - July 7th	Joint meet with Peakland Forest View, Kingsley Wood Road, Penkridge Bank, Rugeley, Staffs. WS15 2UF	BSB 128 74 128/003174	Peakland shared Meet
July 9th- July 14th	SW region meet		
July 16th-J uly 21st	Red barn Farm Aldstone, Tewkesbury, Gloucs GL20 8JD	BSB 150/137 150/985323	Derrick & Gill Masters 01531632599 07974770887
July 30th – Aug 4th	Brocklands Farm, West Meon, Hants GU32 1JN	BSB 185/60 185/639235	Toni & Annette B-Reynaud 01243370422 07762326340
Aug 13th – Aug 18th	Mount Farm, Batchelors Lane, Ratley, Banbury, Oxon OX15 6DT	151/383476	Rae Williams 01295267463 07773953434
Aug 27th – Sep 1st (Bank Holiday)	St Leonards Parish Hall, Tring HP23 6NW	165/914071	Viv & Terry Stevens 07926938450
Sep 10th- Sep15th	Upper Row Farm, Laverton, Nr Bath Somerset BA2 7RB	BSB 183/48 183/764540	Tricia Anderson 07753613180
Sep 24th- Sep 29th	Mill Farm, Long Compton, Warks CV36 5NZ	151/278332	John & Polly Gerner 07734852656
Oct 8th- Oct 13th	Graffham C C Club site booked meet GU28 0QJ	197/941187	Trevor & Deb Masters 02392381220 07765040211

**LIVE EACH DAY
LIKE IT'S YOUR LAST.**

One day, you'll get it right.



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MAS Northern Area 2015 Meets List

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STEWARD A MEET PLEASE ADD YOUR DETAILS BELOW

If you haven't stewarded a meet before and would like to know more,
please contact Alastair on 01274 566412 or Steve on 01142 884752

Date and Nights	Map ref, Site Location and Area	Event/info	Steward Tel and Mobile
2-7 April 5	100/548780 Brink House Farm Coxwold		Geoff and Carole 07788197649
17-19 April 3	98/815641 Settle FC Settle		Peter and Christine 01200 427289
30 April – 5 May 5	99/157655 Showground Bewerley Park Pateley Bridge	National AGM	John and Jane + committee 07768921192
5- 10 May 5	104/362560 The Lido Knaresborough		Dave and Viv 07949649232
14-19 May 5	98/778692 Silloth House Austwick	Invite to Nelda	John and Frances 07591161875
21- 31 May 10	89/088023 Kemplerigg (THS) Gosforth		Lesley and Steve 07779750124
4-7 June 3	104/071539 Bolton Abbey Top car park, Bolton Abbey	Invite to Nelda	John and Kathryn 07931939376
18-23 June 5	119/196827 Four Acres Derbyshire	Peakland	Invite from Peakland Stewarded by Peakland
24-28 June 4	103/717445 Gannies Farm Waddington		Margaret and John 01254 879812
8 -13 July 5	98/702870 High Laning Farm Dent		Colin and Chris 07968226598
23-28 July 5	94/792170 Greylands Farm Hinderwell		Janice and Ian 07964622779

Dates and Nights	Map ref, Site Location and Area	Event/info	Steward Tel and Mobile
28 July – 2 Aug 5	100/705900 Church View Hutton le Hole	Invite to Spen valley	Steve and Linda 07791701793
13 –18 Aug 5	97/607793 Rugby Club Kirkby Lonsdale		Keith and Wendy 07749569120
27 Aug – 1 Sept 5	87/885717 Greencarts Farm Hexham		Jean and Alastair 07964902551
1-6 Sept 5	92/992391 Stanhope Showground Stanhope		Dot and Barry 07791026435
11-13 Sept 2	98/898623 Showground Malham	Nelda	Invite from Nelda Stewarded by Nelda
18 – 23 Sept 5	89/258234 Club Site Keswick		Diane and Ian 07761661039
23-28 Sept 5	97/472759 Silver Saplings Silverdale		Sylvia and Mike 01254 667474
8-11 Oct 3	99/099733 Studfold Farm Lofthouse	Ehu £3 pn	Mike and Sue 079297173333
22 – 25 Oct 3	110/044105 Marsden CC Kirklees	Hardstanding	Diane and Ian 07761661039

MAS Northern Update, EASTER MEET

Hi Everyone

Following a phone call from the Site owner of Brink House Farm, Coxwold, we have been forced to cancel our Easter meet due to the condition of the site entrance. Unfortunately we have been unable to secure another site in the area, but Spen Valley DA have kindly invited us to join them at their THS at Cracken House Farm, Leyburn. The area offers good walking and cycling and is in walking distance to Leyburn.

You will find the address and site directions in You are Invited Sites for Holidays under NORTH EAST Leyburn, North Yorkshire, Spen Valley DA.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Geoff Booth, Northern Area Committee

First Wessex meeting of the year



We awoke on the first morning of our first meet this season at Mendip Heights hoping to see the scheduled eclipse. The cloudy sky quickly cleared and a few carefully crafted pinhole cameras were placed facing the sun.

The availability of special solar spectacles to view this rare event was very limited, but luckily I had managed to get hold of a Sky at Night magazine with its free Solar Eclipse

glasses. These enabled everyone to look safely up at the spectacle that unfolded before our eyes. It was amusing to hear people mutter about the complete blackout as they held the specs to their eyes, to be replaced with a 'WOW' as their eyes finally focused on our glorious Sun which was rapidly turning into a glowing crescent of red light.

What an amazing start to the season, an eclipse, sunny dry weather and wonderful walks in the beautiful countryside around Cheddar.



Viv

We were SO lucky with the weather as Mendip Heights can be quite a bleak place if the weather is bad, being 1000' up - just amazes me that the phone signal is so bad. Besides the normal walking, cycle rides took place each day and on the first 7 rode together. Mike Atkins took over as leader and did 25/30 milers. On Monday Mike with tandem then the Tileys, both on Bromptons, had a long day leaving site about 10.45 and not getting back until 6.30pm. Their ride took them down on the Somerset levels and the nature reserve at Westhay and then the mountain to climb bringing them back to site. I had booked a table at the Queen Victoria in the village for 7pm so the six of us toddled off with the late foursome joining us once showered etc and we all enjoyed a super evening, managing to gain a large dish of best ice cream on the house as they somehow duplicated the order.

There were 5 completely new members on the rally plus Jen, Mike and Shirley who have been with us a couple of times before. I received some lovely comments as folk were leaving so I think everyone enjoyed the meet.

Pauline



A timely but old fashioned warning!



A hot air balloon taking advantage of the good weather



Reader's corner

The latest Kindle books I've been reading are a series by Nathan Lowell—the Golden Age of the Solar Clipper. These six short books follow the life



and times of Ismael Wang from the time his mother dies when he is 18 years old, catapulting him into instant adulthood, through to ownership of his own trading spaceship. Ignoring the fact that it's under the label of Science Fiction, they are extremely well observed and written, and have kept me entertained for the last couple of weeks. Try them.

Toni

Editor's bit

Hello All,

My thanks to all those who sent in snippets to help fill the pages and to communicate with the silent majority. As I said before, anything and everything is welcome. One of the things to start coming through the selection of input is the diversity yet commonality of interests and activities we all enjoy. What do you think?

My email address is [REDACTED]— send anything and everything here. There is also a link to me on the Activity website, so you can use that for a direct link if you find that easier. My snail mail address is 12 Orchard Lane, Emsworth, PO10 8BH, so as a last resort, send letters here.

I can accept information in just about any format - Word, text, PDF, or written as a normal letter, and photos as digital or prints, though anything too complex in layout does cause the occasional headache!.

*It's your magazine - fill it with your information
and news!*

*The next edition is due at the beginning of August
2015 - deadline for input is end of July. please.*

