

ISSUE 114 SUMMER 2018





This issue's contributors:

John & Margaret Allen, Tricia Anderson, Trevor Batchelor, Toni Busuttil-Reynaud, John Gerner, Elaine Grayson, David Hall, Christine & Graham Mason, Trev Masters, Gordon & Nicky Prosser, Chris & Sue Rogers, Melanie Shearn, Judith Vince, Sandra Wain, Colin Wild, Andrew Wood

Trev MASters' Voice



Firstly, on behalf of us all, I welcome Melanie Shearn as our new editor of *Activity*. Also, Melanie, a big thank-you for taking on this important position. And also, of course, many thanks to her predecessor, Toni, for all his excellent, award-winning work over so many years.

After a generally disappointing start to the season with several meets having to be cancelled, it's now encouraging to note that the vast improvement to the weather has enabled us to get those vans out and things seem to be in full swing. I was hugely disappointed therefore that health concerns led me to cry off attending the Festival of Walking and Cycling – I actually got as far as Wakefield! – especially, as from all accounts it was an extremely enjoyable and successful event. Congratulations and thanks to all in Northern Area who were involved in its planning and its running. You even managed to arrange fantastic weather!

I wrote in our last edition about the need to ensure we have enough volunteers to fill essential positions and it's therefore heartening to know that Peakland and Northern Areas, and the Section itself, achieved a full complement. Thanks to all of you who came forward.

A waterlogged field cancelled the Wessex AGM and although a quorate meeting was held, two crucial positions were left unfulfilled. But I am now delighted that following a successful EGM at Kingston Mount in July, Wessex, too, has a full committee.

I hope the rest of the season proves a good one for us all.

Trev Masters, Chairman, MAS

Front cover photo: Erik and his grandma, Judith Lamb, on Muncaster Fell. Credit: David Hall

Hello!

Thanks to all of you for putting your faith in me by sending in so many photos and tales from your meets, walks and wanderings. From the proliferation of rear view photos, it seems those walkers at the back are not being slow: they're our happy snappers!

Thank you, too, to all those volunteers who organised, stewarded and led walks for all of these meets: the fruits of your efforts and the variety of places that our Section explores fill the pages of this Summer and Festival of Walking & Cycling edition.

Boots and bikes abound, but I hope I've captured our apparent love for lunchstops, culture, a touch of humour and sunsets too. For the early birds, how about a sunrise?

Happy reading, camping and activities!



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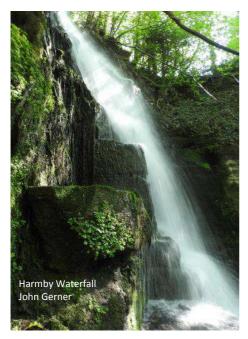
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Festival of Walking & Cycling



Northern Area hosted this year's Festival of Walking & Cycling at Craken House Farm, Leyburn in Wensleydale on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. Various group and independent walks of varying lengths on most days. The Tour de Yorkshire passed through on the Saturday: some indulged in the festival spirit and watched it direct from site, others took to their own two wheels up hill and down dale. Others booted up.

Next year's Festival is hosted by Wessex.



FESTIVAL of WALKING & CYCLING

Early bird catches Buttertubs & Cheese: Chris Rogers

The sun was out and bright at 6.00am in the morning, time to put the kettle on and have breakfast for an early cycle ride. At 7.30am while riding to the gate, caravan blinds and curtains were still closed and no members about!



A nice ride through Redmire and Askrigg then started to climb Butter Tubs just after 9.00ish. After the first hard climb the road got easier up to the top. Time for malt loaf, banana and juice. Going down was easy, freewheeled just about all the way down, then on to Hawes and the Wensleydale Creamery. Plenty of samples were available and tasted the different cheeses produced; also purchased a couple of packs.

The ride back was on the main road through Bainbridge, Aysgarth and arrived back at site just after 12.00ish when the weather was starting to warm up! 44 miles.

FESTIVAL of WALKING & CYCLING



Photo story by Gordon & Nicky Prosser

FESTIVAL of WALKING & CYCLING

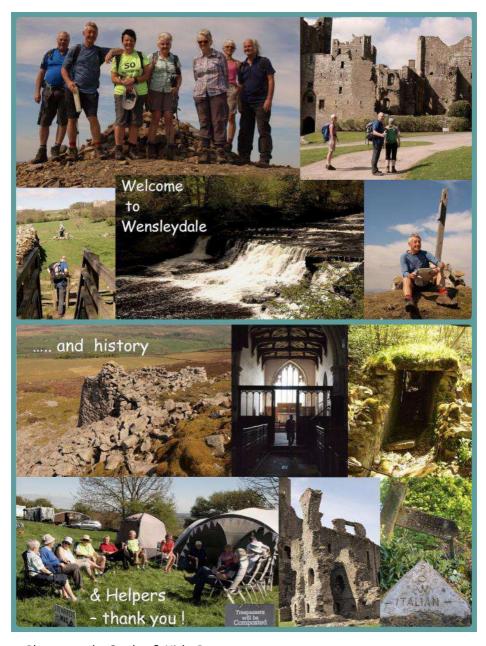


Photo story by Gordon & Nicky Prosser

Wessex

Why MAS is always good for the soul

Toni Busuttil-Reynaud

We were due to Steward the third Wessex meet at Houghton, just north of Arundel near the River Arun and with access to the South Downs way. We were a bit worried about the state of the ground, but a phone call to the farmer said all was OK and that the Canoe section had used it the week before. As we didn't bring boats, the farmer's wife directed us to a less puddled field. The water and elsan point, near the original field, were now about 150 yards away with access either down the edge of the field or down the road, then through the farmyard entrance past the cowshed. However, we were in and started setting up.

"Isn't there another switch?"

Because Annette had injured her leg last year, then broken her ankle, we hadn't used the motorhome for about 7 months. We were a bit rusty on things – the electrics refused to work and I was deep into fuse boxes and wiring before Annette said, "Isn't there another switch outside somewhere for the battery?" Of course not, but I HAD forgotten to flick the master switch by the door – just selecting AUX or CAR didn't work!!

So now we had power, the solar panel was out and connected, I had done the walk with the 40 litre bottle and trolley to get water, and we could start on the flags and signs. A quick walk up the road to the junction and four signs later, the kettle was on and we were awaiting the first arrivals.

Jean and Martin were the first, and claimed the highest flattest spot in the field for their tent, known as The Hilton because it has every mod con one could desire to make camping comfortable. As the afternoon went on Tricia, Rae, Sandra, and Pat and her new dog turned up, making eight of us in five units. Roger and Judith came too, but found the ground just too soft to get onto the levelling ramps, so they decided to go to Littlehampton instead. We all spent the evening reacquainting with people we hadn't seen for a while and looking at the weather forecast to see if there would be more rain!

Rain was due about 12.30, so there wasn't really time for a *proper* walk so we wandered off to the Amberley Tea Room in the village about a mile and a half away. We got there at 10.20 – the tea room was closed! Never mind, up to the shop for the paper and local asparagus, where we were informed that the Tea Room opened at 10.30, so we wandered back down and got there just as the gate was opened.

The route back took us through a really old part of the village, behind the Amberley Castle Hotel and across some water meadows. These were very wet, and we had to modify the route somewhat to get to the river bank without getting wet up to the ankles. We got back to site about 12.15, and as advertised the rain set in at 12.30 with a vengeance. Good timing!

Back for tea and cakes in The Hilton where all eight of us sat in comfort for an hour and a half and chatted. After that I fixed a switch in Rae's solar panel circuitry, then in the evening we played Scrabble with Rae, checking the quality of her home made wine as we did so – delicious!

Next day, a check on my phone's Rain Today rain radar showed that the rain was due



about 3pm. We walked up over the downs, through an ancient trackway along a wooded hillside, through Bury, up a slope covered in white garlic flowers and bluebells, and along the river bank back to site. We got back about 2.30, just before the rain again!

Tea in The Hilton while the rain poured down, then another walk down to the water tap for another 40 litres – where had it all gone? The water pump had kept burping every few minutes and the hot water system seemed to lose pressure and splash out a load of air every time we used it – the weekend was not going well as far as the accommodation was concerned. However, we could cope, so we watched a bit of snooker on the TV until the Low Battery alarm went off – it had been a dull day so there had been no great input from the solar panel, but the battery had been on a float charge

for a couple of months before we came away, so I would have expected it to last a little bit longer. We then played Triominoes and Scrabble cards by the light of one small LED lamp with about as much illuminative power as a candle!

Sunday was cold, about 8 or 9 degrees C, so Amberley Museum it was. It turned out that there was a special Cubs and Guides event at the museum, as



well as a stationary engine event, so the place was heaving! However, we got in as a group (£10 each instead of £11) and had a good wander round the old machinery and crafts, and absorbing a bit of the chalk pits history. It is worth a visit. Some of us ate in the café (not bad, but not brilliant).

As we made our afternoon tea, the gas bottle ran out – one last little thing to add to all the other odd things that happened over the weekend, but switching to the second bottle wasn't a problem.

More rain and high winds were forecast for Monday afternoon and Tuesday, so, we all packed up and left first thing Monday morning.

After getting home we bought a new bigger battery for the motorhome, and then on investigation I found that the hot water drain valve, used during the cold snap during the winter to empty the system, had not closed completely and was letting just a dribble of water out. A quick open and close a few times seemed to reseat it correctly, and now all seems to be well with the van.

Although we personally had a few problems, the weekend went well and was enjoyed by all, proving once again that an MAS weekend is good for the soul.

Northern

Kemplerigg THS: Western Lake District fells

David Hall

On a group walk, starting at Ravenglass, we took "Laal Ratty" (train) to Eskdale Green and walked back over the fell, round Muncaster castle, the remains of the Roman Bath house and back to Ravenglass.

Up Muncaster Fell we went. This was Erik's, (Judith Lamb's grandson's), first big hill (mountain to him and a few others that were feeling the hot conditions). He did it with enthusiasm and enjoyed his visit to the "very top of the mountain" whilst his granddad was up one of the big mountains in sight from there (*see cover photo*).

After a second lunchstop (why have only one when the views are this good!?), as we climbed, we lingered over views of fells to the East, looking up Eskdale. Glorious weather!! Can it ever be as good again?

With thanks to John & Frances
Doyle, our main stewards, and everyone who assisted them at this popular meet.



Peakland

Visit to Wirksworth, South Derbyshire Dales

Trevor Batchelor

Site: Peak View Caravan Site, one mile west of Wirksworth with views of the nearby hills.

We received a warm Friday welcome from the weekend stewards, Chris and Graham. Later, we met in the group tent to enjoy quizzes organised by Chris.

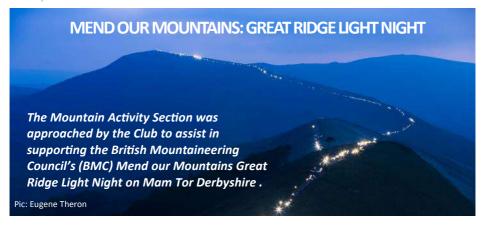


Our Saturday walk, led by Chris and Graham, took us on an amazing 8 mile historical walk through mixed environments taking in lead, lime and horses for WW1 and how they were all transported by rail and canal.

A shorter route on Sunday, to enjoy the Ecclesbourne railway open day. We walked down the High Peak Incline to the station via the stone museum.







Elaine Grayson

This took place in Castleton in the Peak District on 22 May. More than 500 people set off from the Mam Nick car park led by our club President, Julia Bradbury, and Sam Thompson, a reality star from Made in Chelsea. We made a line of human torches along the 3 mile ridge. Many members of the Club and MAS were present. The Club HQ team camped with Julia at a 5 van site in Castleton. It was a unique experience although it was very windy and chilly standing on

the ridge for an hour and a half. Thank goodness for the flask of coffee.

Andrew Wood, MAS President

This was an evening walk and illumination by head torch of the Mam Tor Ridge. Because we would be out on the hill after dark, we made sure our



headtorches all had new and spare batteries, and we had a guide. Part of the club's communications team were filming the event and joined us. As we made our way up onto the Ridge, we stopped several times for them to film. Robin Grayson and I each did a "small piece to camera" promoting the support of the Mountain Activity Section for the event.

Making our way along the ridge, darkness fell around 10pm. Our guides, who were in radio communication with the summit, asked us to turn our headtorches on. A half hour of "manoeuvres" followed, spreading us evenly across the ridge to ensure there were no gaps in the lights.

At 11pm we turned our headtorches on again facing Mam Tor, and then to face cameras filming from several surrounding hilltops, a couple of which were several miles away. It was certainly impressive and anyone looking up from the valley must have thought there was a massive Mountain Rescue incident going on.

The event also promoted the start of National Camping & Caravanning Week. The Club's Facebook has articles & a feature appeared on p.35 of July 2018 Camping and Caravanning Club magazine. Watch out for the MAS media stars! The BMC's Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million appeal aims to raise £1million for path repair in the UK's 15 National Parks. Sections of the footpath on Great Ridge, one of the country's top 10 favourite walks, have eroded and need essential repair work to prevent further damage.

The Club was a founding member of the BMC, the national representative body for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers in England and Wales. The BMC's charity - the Access & Conservation Trust (ACT) – promotes sustainable access to cliffs, mountains and open countryside by facilitating education and conservation projects across the UK and Ireland. ACT helps to enable future generations to continue to enjoy outdoor activities and the physical, mental and social benefits they bring to individual lives and society in general.

Matthew Bradbury, Chair of the BMC ACT, said: "The Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million appeal is about more than just tidying up a few muddy paths. It aims to galvanise a sense of pride and responsibility for looking after places that play an important role in many of our lives, whether we walk, run, ride, ramble, camp or climb. Lighting up the Great Ridge symbolises this collective determination to give something back to the landscapes we care about."

Meet your **Stewards**

Say 'hi' to some of the lovely members who voluntarily give their time to steward all our meets. If you love a meet, consider offering to steward it (and get your site fees free). If you don't want to commit, popular meets often require extra helping hands for a few hours. Give it a go.



John Allen, sporting the summer spirit and proposing a new Northern area stewarding outfit at the Chipping meet. Can't wait to see his fire bucket designs.

Photo: Margaret Allen

Christine and Graham Mason

Bravo! Their first time stewarding at Peakland's Wirksworth meet.

Taking a happy pitstop: "It was only 8 miles but an extremely hot day so plenty long enough."

Photo: Trevor Batchelor



Meet your Contributors



Chris Rogers, early-rising cyclist and dog walker. Previous steward, walk leader, Activities Officer and occasional Youth Section volunteer. Newly retired, downloaded Activity and the meets programme, and set off to Leyburn to meet up with old friends. Has enjoyed family history holidays in Latvia with Sue, perusing church records and graves, all the way back to 1740. Photo: Sue Rogers

Gordon Prosser, handing out warm and friendly welcomes as he assisted the main stewards at the Festival of Walking & Cycling 2018. A prolific photographer and trailer-tent camper with his wife, Nicky.

Photo: Melanie Shearn



Northern

Cleveland Way: From Whitby to Staithes

Melanie Shearn

Whomever picked High Straggleton Farm (I'm think I'm right in looking at you, Chris Stevenson?), it's ranking up there among our favourite coastal sites for an active meet. It has almost everything we love: a wide open view across greenery and the open sea; a national trail with views every way you look; crashing waves on one side, birdsong on the other; undulating terrain that gets the heart pumping and a chance to shed those warmer layers; gorgeous villages and towns along the way, giving us a chance to buy local, wander round the art and history, and use a loo; a bus that'll take us back to our start which means we can go further for longer; sandy beaches; and, of course, there's that lingering sense of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.



Thanks Chris & Colin for stewarding

We ended our one-way walk at Staithes, a small fishing village, once home to James Cook and current home to a vast array of artists. It's a creative heaven to wander round. The photo above was the first sign we spotted in a cottage window. I think it's my favourite.



From top to bottom L to R: Runswick Bay in the distance, Cleveland Way signpost, Alex looking pensive over the slate grey of Whitby's North Sea just before a sundowner in town, iconic British seaside huts, Alex leading the way.

It's a Wild Life at Austwick

Gordon Prosser





Wessex

Back-to-back summer explorations in Kent

Tricia Anderson



On Saturday 19th May, **Canterbury Club site** welcomed us with Royal Wedding cakes!

A select few ventured into the wilds of Kent for this back to back meet but great explorations were undertaken by various means of transport.

Explorations included Fordwich (England's smallest town),
Whitstable (famous for its oysters), Herne Bay, Broadstairs, Sandwich
(one of the 5 Cinque Head Ports), Deal, Goodnestone Park gardens,
Canterbury and its beautiful cathedral, Tenterden, Rolvenden,
Sissinghurst gardens, Scotney Castle, and Great Dixter gardens.

The weather was reasonably kind to us whilst based at Canterbury, with only a little rain; hardy souls enjoyed fish and chips snuggled between two vans trying to escape the cool North wind! We enjoyed a variety of walks, with the excellent bus service assisting us on some.

On Thursday 24th May, a smaller group of 6 vans moved on to join **South East Region's THS** in the beautiful grounds of **Hole Park Estate** near Rolvenden. Unfortunately, for some, the rape crop was in full flower and blocked a footpath: those of us who followed the official leader of the day enjoyed a lovely walk back from Tenterden!

Saturday night brought a huge lightning storm and rendered the final two days of our meet unbearably humid and hot with little walking being done, though it was pleasant enough sitting in the shade of our vans drinking tea and chatting!

My thanks go to those who supported my stewardship of these two meets and whose company made for a very enjoyable 10 days in the beautiful and varied county of Kent.



Top L to R: after picnicking by the River Stour in Fordwich; Martin the eagle slayer in Hole Park gardens; walking from Sandwich to Deal

The Book Corner

It's probably no surprise that one of my favourite bits of *Activity* was Toni's The Book Corner. Two books I've read recently offer a great sense of both place and humanity.

The first is an historical fiction set in St Malo, France mainly during WWII. It's about a blind French teenage girl and a clever, radio loving German teenage boy. Quite moving and structured in short chapters, it is Anthony Doerr's Pulitzer winning *All the Light We Cannot See*.

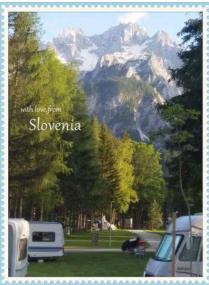


The second was a memoir, and quite fitting for the MAS, perhaps. *The Salt Path*, by Raynor Winn, tells the story of a couple who impulsively—and very cheaply (too cheaply, perhaps) - walk England's South West Coast Path. Having lost everything as a result of a bankrupting business error, and with Moth being diagnosed with an incurable neurological disease, *The Salt Path* contemplates grief, long distance walking, land ownership, access and homelessness, and, like *All the Light We Cannot See*, humanity.

Have any of you read either of these?

MAS are members of The Walking Partnership operated by Rambler's Holidays. The Partnership provides direct financial support for organisations that encourage walking and organise group walks. If any MAS member books a holiday with Rambler's Holidays they can nominate MAS for a donation. If you are considering a break with Rambler's Holidays please remember to say that you are a member of MAS when you make your booking, otherwise we will miss out on the donation.

Continental Postcards



View from our 'van of Mt.Spik in Kranskja Gora, Slovenia. Camping Spik, ACSI site—probably the best campsite we stayed on during our trip to Croatia. Well worth a few hundred miles to get here!

Colin Wild



15 nights in Bad Durkheim and the Mosel, Germany. Lots of walking and cycling along very good cycle paths and tracks through vineyards, meadows and woodland and also a new activity...wine tasting!

Chris & Sue Rogers

Now that is a room with a VIEW, Colin! And cycling through vineyards followed by a teeny tipple......

MAS members are obviously crossing the Channel with their 'vans, getting up to all the same activities that we do here in Britain.

Leafing through older issues of **Activity**, I came across tales from an MAS French Alps trip in 2013.

If anyone is interested in doing (or organising) something similar again, please drop me a line.

Melanie

MAS NORTHERN - forthcoming meets

Please check the MAS Website: www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk or the current month's *Out and About*, or by contacting site officers or stewards 2 days before travelling. There is also extra information about each meet on the website. Meets usually start at 2pm. Own sanitation is essential. Advance booking not required unless otherwise stated.

Date start and Days	Venue	Stewards
2 nd August 3	Stoneyhurst College, nr	Sylvia & Mike 07817427853
9 th August 5	Cragg Hill Farm, Horton-in-	Dave & Gill 07443939245
	Ribblesdale, BD24 0HW	Invite to Peakland
23 rd August 5 (runs for longer)	Bathafarn Hall, Ruthin, North Wales, LL15 2UU	Invite from LCDA
14 th September 3	Hoo Hole Farm, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5HA	Craig & Sue 07779076851
27 th September 5	Ilkley Cricket Club, Ilkley,	Invite from BCC
11 th October 3	Clotherholme Farm, Ripon	John & Kathryn 01943462921
25 th October 3	Studfold Farm, Nidderdale, +EHU & Facs	Dave & Viv 07949649232

Glorious weather ensured every day was a MAS Northern classic at our Ambleside meet in late June.

A popular meet, please consider giving short amounts of time to the stewarding team in June 2019.

Credit: John & Margaret Allen



MAS PEAKLAND - forthcoming meets

Please check the MAS Website: www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk or the current month's *Out and About*, or by contacting site officers or stewards 2 days before travelling. There is also extra information about each meet on the website. Meets start at 2pm. Unless otherwise stated. Own sanitation is essential, advance booking not necessary.

Aug 9-14	Craghill Farm, Horton BD24 0HW	Invite from Northern
5 nights	098/806714	Area
Aug 23-28	Pitfield Farm, Pembridge, Leominster	Invite to Peakland/
5 nights	148/382574	Wessex from Salop DA
Aug 28-Sept 2	Feather Knowle Farm, Ashford	Invite to Peakland/
5 nights	Bowlder 137/515695	Wessex from Salop DA
Sept 7-10	Shrewsbury Arms, Little Budworth	Cindy
3 nights	CW9 9EY 117/595668	
Sept 21-24	Rushton Spencer 118/911618	Libby/lan (01524 63645
3 nights		or 07957 172434)
Oct 5-7	Sunnyside, Tansley 119/331604	Carol/Frank
2 nights		
Oct 19-21	Stanley Villa, Biggin (End of Season)	Ina/John
2 nights	119/152595	



MAS WESSEX - forthcoming meets

Please check the MAS Website: www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk or the current month's *Out and About*, or by contacting site officers or stewards 2 days before travelling. There is also extra information about each meet on the website. Meets start at noon unless stated otherwise. Own sanitation essential. Wessex Area levy, £1 per adult per meet.

From: 02/08/2018 To: 07/08/2018	Ocknell Caravan and Camping Site, Fritham, Hampshire, SO43 7HH	Lesley & Derek
Aug 23-28 5 nights	Pitfield Farm, Pembridge, Leominster 148/382574	Invite to Peakland/ Wessex from Salop DA
Aug 28-Sept 2 5 nights	Feather Knowle Farm, Ashford Bowlder 137/515695	Invite to Peakland/ Wessex from Salop DA
From: 06/09/2018 To: 11/09/2018 Start: 12:00	Nunnington Park Farm, Wiveliscombe, Taunton, TA4 2AD Map Ref: 181/ST086265 BSB Ref: 181/161	Terry & Anne 01425 626434 07790 592628
From: 20/09/2018 To: 25/09/2018 Start: 12:00	South View Park , Oliver's Battery, Winchester, SO22 4HG Map Ref: 185/SU461274	Tony & Pat 01329 310724
From: 04/10/2018 To: 09/10/2018 Start: 13:00	Salisbury CCC Site, Hudson's Field, Castle Road, Salisbury, SP1 3SA Map Ref: 184/SU140320	Geoff & Lyn 01189 712632 07403 680628

Wessex members prior to their Sunday walk at Kingston Blount. Thanks to Pat's local knowledge of National Trust permissive paths absent from the OS map, a near 10 mile walk with woods and views was enjoyed by all. On the return leg, the Aston Rowant fete provided welcome refreshments as the mercury nudged towards the 30°C mark.

Credit: John Gerner



Mountain Activity Section Officers 2018/19

Chairperson MAS Executive Member (2020)	Trevor Masters (07400703731)
Vice Chairperson MAS Executive Member	Sandra Wild (07910723354)
President	Andrew Wood (07852040724)
Vice Presidents	Carole Booth (07788197649) Christine Stevenson Terry Bishop Diane Goodyear (07761949896)
Secretary MAS Executive Member (2019)	Colin Wild (07948560571)
Treasurer MAS Executive Member	Jenny Williams (07984003348)
PRO/Website Co-ordinator Elected Member	John Gerner (07734852656)
Membership Secretary Elected Member (2017)	Les Morton (07967900225)
Minutes Secretary	Sandra Wain (07503000568)
Newsletter Editor	Melanie Shearn
Webmaster	Adrian Rose
Other elected Members to Section Council Also MAS Executive Member (2019)	Yvonne Plevey (07919944532) Barry Cowlard (07770 287434)
Also MAS Executive Member (2019)	Barry Cowlard (07770 287434)
Also MAS Executive Member (2019) Advisory Officer to National Council	Barry Cowlard (07770 287434) Les Morton (07967900225)
Also MAS Executive Member (2019) Advisory Officer to National Council Deputy Officer to National Council	Barry Cowlard (07770 287434) Les Morton (07967900225) Barry Cowlard (07770 287434)
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MAS loves a room with a view



Top to Bottom: From High Straggleton Farm, Whitby meet x2 (David Hall); Red sky at night from Cockpole Green meet, nr Henley-on-Thames (Judith Vince)

The Mountain Activity Section is the oldest special interest section of the Camping & Caravanning Club. We offer a range of meets in beautiful countryside across Britain. If you enjoy walking, cycling or simply getting out in the fresh air and relish good company, we're the Section for you! All members of the Club are welcome to camp and steward with us. If you want to receive paper copies of *Activity*, you need to join the MAS too.

Call to join:

The Club: 024 7647 5442 MAS: 07967 900225 (Les Morton)