

Activity

The newsletter for the
Walking and Cycling Section
of the Camping and Caravanning Club



Some strange characters hanging around Moreton Pinkney
over the Platinum Jubilee weekend

Photos by John Gerner



Issue 123
Early 2022



Francines WAC-*Keynotes*

Our 2022 camping season has started strongly, and with no limitations to the social side of our activities, the atmosphere at our meets has gone up a gear. So far we have been mostly fortunate with the weather and hopefully we have all made the most of the sunshine, even if extra layers were required for dealing with some arctic winds.

I chaired my first Section AGM at Cromford which was an experience in itself, and we welcomed our Club Chairman Phil Henson who made the long-awaited presentation of a Club Certificate of Honour to John Allen from Northern.

The Cromford Walking & Cycling Festival meet was an unbridled success with over 90 units in attendance. Walkers and cyclists ventured out into the hills in all directions and were treated to fantastic bluebell carpet displays alongside many of the routes taken. The sun shone and we were all scrabbling to get into our shorts, (un)fortunately I hadn't packed mine! My grateful thanks to the Peakland Committee who organised such a successful meet and all who helped it to run so smoothly.

The three Area AGMs have taken place and they have all been able to form committees in order to continue in their present form for 2022. New volunteers are always welcomed with open arms as they are the life blood of the Section, so please offer your services to your local areas if you can help in any way... we need YOU.

Wishing you all some Happy Camping

Francine Nutt

Walking and Cycling Section Chairman

Editor's bit

Hello All, My thanks to all those who sent pictures and notes in. For those who wish to contribute to future editions, my email address is tonibr@btinternet.com - please feel free to send anything there.



Frances Doyle

Frances (and John) loved camping and walking, and met one another on a holiday enjoying the great outdoors. They started camping in a tent, progressing to a caravan, and became members of the northern area MAS. Frances was well known for her baking skills, and was a very friendly member of the group. She served on the northern committee for a while, taking on the role of Publicity Officer including drawing up a new leaflet to advertise the group. For many years she organised our winter walks programme. She leaves behind her husband John, sons Peter and Alan and five grandchildren.



Found on the internet — it seems appropriate to our activities.....

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. The wind will blow their freshness into you, the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of autumn.

Naturalist John Muir

Putting your 12v system on steroids.....

If like me you are an off-grid kind of camper, you don't want to be hampered by a limp battery reserve 3 days into a meet. Yes, a solar panel is a must if you want to give your leisure battery some sustenance, but unless the skies are clear you'll be fretting whether what's on offer will meet your frugal needs. Add into this that you might want to recharge your e-bike and, heaven forbid, possibly microwave a ready meal and you're heading for trouble and candles. A possible solution is adding to your battery bank, but have you tried lifting those blighters? which means your payload would take a hammering too. So the answer for me was lithium batteries, half the weight and double the useable amps... and the ability to rapid charge via the vehicles alternator. Having no idea about the practicalities of fitting the required gizmos, I contacted Roadpro for a quote and booked in once I'd disconnected from the defibrillator! (Possibly the handymen amongst you wouldn't need their expertise though)

Following installation I have got rather relaxed about off grid camping and I am gaining an encyclopaedic knowledge of how many amps appliances I use draw — for example raising the bed draws 28 amps! and the microwave wins hands down at 79 amps, thankfully both for very short periods of time... the e-bike between 5 – 9 amps depending on whether I use the inverter or a 12v charger. The image on the left shows the amperage being put in by the alternator (67.1 Amps) on my way home from my last meet (5 nights and still 68% charge left having charged the ebike x3, one readymeal{!}, bed up/down x5, lights/TV/ tablet & phone charging)... the battery was full before I had travelled 40miles. The image on the right shows the batteries fully replenished.

Francine Nutt



Wessex Area Pithill Farm meet

In May the Wessex Area had a meet at Pithill Farm near Denmead in Hampshire. The last mile or so to get to the site is narrow lanes, but no one had any difficulty or met any traffic. The walking is great in this area, being right on the edge of the South Downs, and there are plenty of quiet lanes for cyclists to enjoy. We had the standard 5 to 10 mile walks from site, taking in among other places the Bat and Ball pub, the home of the Hambledon Cricket Club. One day we took a convoy of cars to the top of Portsdown hill for two walks along the top to enjoy the panoramic views over Portsmouth harbour and the surrounding area, then over the back of the hill to The Golden Lion at Southwick (where the D-Day landings were planned by Eisenhower and Montgomery) and back to the top through the bluebell woods. One party took the local busses to Portsmouth and Chichester, and yet another visited Portsmouth Dockyard for a day. We reverted to tea and cakes in company each afternoon, discussing the day's walks and generally putting the world to rights. Our ex-chairman Trev Masters took the opportunity to present a Certificate of Merit to Jenny Williams for all the work she has done for the Section as a whole and for Wessex in particular see the next page for details. The weather was very good for the whole weekend, only raining on the Tuesday morning as we were leaving.

Toni B-Reynaud



This postcard was doing the rounds at the Wessex meet at Pithill Farm in May, causing great amusement. Look at the next page to see why!



The most noticeable effect of the pylons was that when we all sat round for afternoon tea, it was possible to feel our metal framed chairs buzzing in time to the mains frequency. No free power, unfortunately.



Jenny Williams Certificate of Merit

The Certificate of Merit is an award by our Walking and Cycling Section for exceptional contributions to the functioning of the Section. It is so far a rare distinction.

Back in 2019 the Section Council decided to make this award to Jenny. The lockdown, however, prevented the planned presentation at the Section's AGM in 2020, as it also did in 2021. As recipients of this award are supposed to be unaware of this accolade, as Jenny certainly was, our cunning plan to present it at this year's AGM was also

thwarted. Jenny had decided not to attend!

The fallback plan, however, did succeed, although it was a decidedly lower key event at the Wessex Area's meet in Denmead, a few miles north of Portsmouth.

When I first met Jenny in 2008 I had just become an auditor for the Wessex Area of what was then, of course, the Mountain Activity Section. She was introduced to me in suitably awed tones as "our Section Auditor". I was suitably awe-struck! Over the years I have continued to be impressed by her and additionally come to appreciate just how much she has done, and continues to do, for us. After several years of auditing Jenny then became our Section Treasurer; a position she held with distinction for many years. As a very active member she has contributed hugely to the functioning of our Wessex Area; stewarding meets, leading walks, always willing to give a helping hand. And impressing us all by continuing to tow her caravan to so many meets despite losing her husband Peter. Although Jenny and Peter's trips to the Alps were not official MAS events, they were attended by many of us over the years, leaving us with wonderful memories for which we remain extremely grateful.

Thank you, Jenny, for everything and congratulations on this award.

Trev Masters.

National Walking/Cycling Meet



I attended the National Walking/Cycling meet at Cromford organised by the Peakland Group and a super meet it proved to be.

The campsite was on the Rugby pitch at Cromford with the use of their clubhouse on site each afternoon and evening which was superb for socialising and meeting up with friends going back over 20 years.

There were several organised walks each day and also a big bonus organised cycle rides each day. Previously I have had to either cycle by myself or map read a route so this was a real treat to be led through some stunning scenery in quiet lanes. Francine certainly chose some beautiful routes - all be it often some really good testing hills to climb but then affording us with fantastic views and Francine certainly well up in knowing where the best pub stops were for lunchtime.

Each evening we were in the clubhouse and Sunday evening entertainment was organised and although the acoustics weren't great everyone had a great time and even after a full day's exercise many found the energy to get up and dance.

Many thanks to Peakland committee for an extremely well organised 5 days of walking/cycling, socialising and look forward to 2023 meet organised by Wessex again hopefully with organised walks/cycle rides and entertainment.

Pauline Porter

Walking and Cycling Section Officers 2022/23

(Further contact details may be found on the website)

| | |
|--|---|
| Chairperson W&CS Executive Member (2020) | Francine Nutt (07542465589) |
| Vice Chairperson W&CS Executive Member (2020) | Graham Mason |
| Vice Presidents | Carole Booth (07788197649) Christine Stevenson Terry Bishop Diane Goodyear (07761949896) Anne and Howard Crosland |
| Secretary W&CS Executive Member (2019) | Christine Mason (07751312330) |
| Treasurer W&CS Executive Member | Tim Clarke (07867498825) |
| PRO/Website Co-ordinator Elected Member (2019) | John Gerner (077348852656) |
| Membership Secretary Elected Member | Les Morton (07967900225) |
| Minutes Secretary | Sandra Wain (07858-529891) |
| Newsletter Editor Elected Member (2019) | Toni Busuttill-Reynaud (07762326340) |
| Webmaster | Adrian Rose |
| Other elected Members to Section Council Also W&CS Executive Member | John Allen (07505906849) Trevor Masters Graham Mason |
| Advisory Officer to National Council | Position Vacant |
| Deputy Advisory Officer | John Allen |
| Representatives to Section Council | Northern Area John Allen |
| | Peakland Area Angela Ellis |
| | Wessex Area Deb Masters (07765 040211) |
| <u>Area Secretaries</u> | Northern Area Jean Richards (07964902612) |
| | Peakland Area Sandra Wain (07858-529891) |
| | Wessex Area John Gerner (07734-852656) |
| Section Forum Reps | Trevor Masters, Debs Masters |
| National Council Rep. to W&CS | Steve Harris (07567183893) |

John Allen, Walking and Cycling Section

The following is a copy of the citation read by Phil Henson at the AGM to John Allen on his Certificate of Honour award.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, fellow members.

It is my honour and privilege to be here with you this evening at Matlock Rugby Club situated in the wonderful Town of Matlock, Derbyshire, on the edge of the Peak District National Park to present the Camping and Caravanning Club Certificate of Honour to an extremely worthy recipient.

The award was instituted to honour those who have rendered distinguished service and carried out exceptional voluntary work for the Camping and Caravanning Club and is small way of saying a Big Thank You to nominated individuals!!

The presentation of Certificates of Honour recognizes the hard work, time, and commitment of all members That voluntary work should have been carried out over a substantial period and be of significant benefit to the other members in particular their Region, DA, Section or Section Area

The Camping and Caravanning Club are extremely grateful to all those members who have come forward and helped the Club in its efforts to provide family camping experiences for other members.

The recipient of this year's Outstanding Achievement Award, the Camping and Caravanning Club Certificate of Honour is a wonderful example of volunteers who have strengthened the Camping and Caravanning Club through years of hard work and creativity.

Can I ask John Allen to join me as I read his citation?

As I am sure most of you are aware, John's certificate should have been presented in 2020 but owing to the pandemic it's a little late arriving, so maybe a little late but worth waiting for.

John joined the Mountain Activity Section (now Walking and Cycling Section) after attending a Festival of Walking held at Clapham, North Yorkshire, hosted by MAS Northern Area in 1995. Since that time, he has been a very active and supportive member of the section.

John has held many positions of responsibility on the Section Council Committee. These include - Membership Secretary; Auditor; Section Representative to the Ramblers Association and Northern Area Representative; PRO.

For Northern Area, John has, over the years, taken on a variety of roles including - Northern Area Representative to Section Council; Sites Officer West to include Cumbria and Lancashire; Representative to North West Region; Vice Chairman then Chairman.

He has also been a Meet Steward on many occasions and organised many varied walks from these meets.

John has also been actively involved in the planning and hosting of MAS Festivals of Walking in the Northern Area. In addition, to this John has been a very enthusiastic and an active participant in the Conservation projects undertaken by the Section. These include Footpath repair work in Derbyshire and the Yorkshire dales, Dew Pond clearing, wall building, planting hedgerows. Also working with The National Trust at Arnside and Silverdale AONB (Area of National Beauty), clearing scrub which allows rare species to thrive.

Since retiring from work John has been involved in the planning and completion of several "long distance footpaths" shared by other W&CS members, using as a base a combination of club Certificated sites, THS and Rally sites in various locations mainly in England but also Scotland and Wales. This has required quite a commitment but has not prevented him from continuing his support of the core W&CS activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm sure you will all agree with me that John Allen is very worthy recipient of The Camping and Caravanning Club Certificate of Honour

Congratulations to you John, well deserved.

*John and Margaret
with the certificate
after the presentation
by Phil Henson*



John thanked Phil for coming to Derbyshire and said the Certificate belonged to his wife Margaret as much as himself for the support she has given him over the years, especially with the computer. He thanked everyone for their support, this made it all worthwhile. He reminded us that sadly it was 20 years to the day since Derek Wood, passed away.

Holiday Nightmare

One of our W&CS couples was on holiday in France, and as you do, they stopped off in a carpark to go for a planned coastal walk. They were having lovely walk, saw smoke, rushed back to the carpark, and found that three other motorhomes parked in the same carpark were on fire. They thought it was theirs at first, but luckily (!) they were parked a good six metres away from the closest one on the other side of a tree. However, their motorhome sustained fire damage and dents, a German van that was the other side of the three was slightly damaged, and several cars were also damaged by the exploding gas bottles. The three motorhomes that caught fire took less than 30 minutes to completely burn out - there was nothing left of any of them. Sadly one had 3 dogs in it.

Police and recovery personnel passed our couple's van as OK to drive, so it's still usable for the rest of the planned holiday. The insurance claim was sorted by phone, with the insurance company agreeing to wait till mid July for photos, estimate etc., so they'll just keep enjoying their holiday. A few quick fixes were carried out on the van - a few screws and some duct tape works wonders. Luckily white duct tape was used so it doesn't look too bad. They've moved along the coast a bit, but noticed that nobody parks near them now!



Toni Reynaud,

*from notes by Derek Richardson
and others on FaceBook*





Just a thought—occasionally someone brings up the six metre rule for situating units on C&CC sites and rallies. This incident highlights the reasoning behind that rule—the distance adds a certain amount of safety in the event of one unit catching fire.

Wessex Meets 2022

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – OPENING DATE FOR BOOKINGS TO BE CONFIRMED

For meets at Camping & Caravanning Club and Camping in the Forest sites email wessexbookings@walkingandcycling.org.uk and ask for a booking form. For all other meets, phone stewards to book.

Venues and stewards subject to change. Camping & Caravanning Club instructions or onsite ground conditions. Please check our website, <https://walkingandcycling.org.uk>, the latest edition of Out & About Magazine or by contacting the stewards 2 days before travelling. **NO ENTRY TO MEETS BEFORE 12 NOON ON THE OPENING DAY or BEFORE 1 PM ON EACH DAY FOR MEETS ON CLUB SITES**

| Date | Site | Stewards |
|--|---|--|
| 30 th June to 5 th July | Stow on the Wold RFC, Oddington Rd, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1JJ. SP214255 | Marie (Call John on 07734 852 656 to book). |
| 14 th to 19 th July | Fir Tree Farm, Warmington, Oxfordshire, OX17 1JL. SP407471 | Tricia & Jenny 07753 613 180 |
| 28 th July to 2 nd August | Nunnington Farm, Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2AD. ST086265 | Mary & Tony 01626 890 048 07901 995 827 |
| 11 th to 16 th August | Ellwood AFC, Ellwood, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7LY. Invite to Peakland SO594083 | Alan & Lynne 07790 189 115 |
| 25 th to 30 th August Bank Holiday | Ocknell Camping in the Forest Site, Fritham, Hampshire, SO43 7HH. SU252118 | Derek & Lesley 07443 841 560 |
| 8 th to 13 th September | Crackmoor Farm, Sherbourne, Dorset, DT9 5AA. ST660184 | Colin & Debbie 07752 689 597 |
| 22 nd to 27 th September | Bledlow Cricket Club. West Lane, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9PF. SP773024 | Mick & Lindie 07811 883 552 |
| 6 th to 11 th October | Graffham C&CC Site, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0QF. SU941187 | Pat M. 07746 468 375 |
| 20 th to 25 th October | Devizes C&CC Site, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6RN. ST951619 | Hilary and Robin 07905 371 108 |

PEAKLAND WALKING & CYCLING SECTION

2022 SITES LIST

Group Contacts: Les Morton (Chair) 07967-900225

Amanda 07772-364835 & Mark 07773-941342 Sites Officers

All Sites open at 2pm unless otherwise stated

| DATES | VENUE & MAP REF | STEWARDS |
|----------------|--|---|
| 27/07 to 01/08 | Ranah Stones Farm, Hazelhead, Penistone S36 4HJ 110/197029 | PETER 07949449162 |
| 25/08 to 30/08 | Four Acres, Hope Road, Thornhill S33 0AL 110/196827 AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY | ELAINE AND ROBIN 07399570796 |
| 14/09 to 19/09 | Yew Tree Farm, Pound Bank, Far Forest, Kidderminster DY14 9TH 138/730742 | YVONNE AND COLIN 07413 293198 |
| 29/09 to 02/10 | Hobson Farm, Rock House, Flagg, Buxton SK17 9QR 119/139685 | CHRISTINE AND GRAHAM 07751312330/ 07840267102 |
| 13/10 to 16/10 | Church Farm, Hackney Lane, Barlow S18 7TR 119/344748 | SALLY AND BRASS 07909045559/ 07549148228 |
| 26/10 to 30/10 | Thorntree Farm, Columbel Lane, Uppertown, Ashover S45 0JF 119/320653 END OF SEASON/HALF TERM | MELVYN 07960184316 |

NORTHERN WALKING & CYCLING SECTION

2022 SITES LIST

All Sites open at 2pm unless otherwise stated

| DATE | Location & Map Ref | Stewards |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 07/07-12/07/22 | Castlerigg Farm Keswick Booked Meet 90/228224 | Tony & Tricia 07748746741 |
| 11/08-16/08/22 | Clotherholme Farm Ripon 99/285723 | Dave & Viv 07949649232 |
| 08/09-13/09/22 | Riverside, Ruswarp (Prov) Ruswarp Invite from SYDA (Prov) 94/886090 | SYDA |
| 20/10-24/10/22 | Rolls Royce Social and Sports Club, Barnoldswick 103/881471 | Sylvia and Mike 07817427853 |

Money saving thoughts from Pauline

A light hearted approach to the current economic situation and a few suggestions to make your pounds go further - although I've been doing some of these things for years.

Out travelling I always stop at a service station for a shower - saving me if returning home putting the water heater on - favourite services Gloucester services both north and south excellent facilities.

Going away I always make sure every electric socket is turned off, sometimes turn the water off if it's an extended trip as leaving appliances on standby consumes energy.

At home I use a water heater therefore never an electric kettle which gives me instant hot water and very low energy user. Why heat a big tank of water for daily washing up or drinks ?

Luckily when I moved I chose to have solar panels installed - highly efficient and only one standing charge to pay daily. I have just purchased a second hand log burner stove as very luckily we have plenty of wood around plus fairly cheap to buy a trailer load compared to oil etc.

Food - well now having quite a large garden and after three years hard slog returning the wilderness into a manageable plot I now am growing most of my own vegetables and fruit so another huge saving and luckily I enjoy gardening as find it so rewarding. I make my own preserves from fruit produced but also buy some when in season. Plum and apple time many people have stalls outside their homes for a small fee and in many cases for free so I stock up by purée down the fruit and freeze for later use. Sevilles are usually about February time so buy and make my yearly supply of marmalade (probably not much cheaper than brought marmalade but so so much nicer homemade.)

I have installed 6 water butts on the property and now exempt from paying run off surface water so another good annual saving payment plus I am on a water meter which is a saving for me and even for a couple as by neighbour also had one fitted after me and she advises me her bill is now reduced.

When out on the bike I nearly always take a flask of coffee and a bite to eat but when in company I do partake in taking refreshments inside an establishment which is a treat.

Just a few of my quirky ideas to try and stay afloat in these times of economic crisis.

Pauline Porter