

Activity

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



Heathland and woodland in the New Forest.



Issue 124
Mid 2022



Francines WAC-*Keynotes*

Well haven't we had great weather for our meets this year... I have been enjoying all the photos posted on the Wessex, Peakland, & Northern Facebook pages which helped me to feel that I was sharing in the high spots of all the meets even though I couldn't always be there in person.

It seems that we are getting more cyclists attending, with organised rides often seeming to pass by some very inviting watering holes —what a coincidence!

My thanks to all our volunteers who help to make our meets so successful. The walk leaders having done a sterling job ... thank you one and all.

The end of our season for meets is approaching, October seeing the last few weekend meets, but winter walks have been arranged in some areas, Peakland I know having two organised with a pub meal after.

Next years meets programme is being finalised and will be on our website soon, our thanks to all those involved in organising them and to the volunteer stewards who have committed to keep them running smoothly. Potential 2024 sites are now being considered so if you know of a gem of a site speak to your area sites team and give them the details.

Some fantastic news..... hot off the press is that The Club is to award Certificates of Honour to Peakland's dynamic duo Les & Jean Morton who have dedicated much of their time in support of the Walking & Cycling Section over many years, we have been so fortunate to have such a lovely couple helping the Section to prosper for all these years. Hopefully the presentation will be made at Peaklands AGM Ashover meet on 25th March 2023.

Wishing you all a not too cold winter... roll on 2023

Francine Nutt

Walking and Cycling Section Chairman

Poppy's backpack

Poppy is nearly 15 years old, deaf, has a metal plate in one of her legs, has arthritis and cannot walk very much. However she is still a member of our family and I want her to take part in our activities as much as possible.

After buying a dog backpack which was totally useless I came up with the idea of a toddler backpack and a dog bed. She is anchored to both the bed and the backpack. To protect her from the sun we are using a parasol which was bought for our son 29 years ago.



Poppy seems to really enjoy her hikes in the backpack. She comes out every now and again to walk and of course do the natural things.

The second picture is only to show you what we do when it starts raining.

Isabelle Hinman

The New Forest

The Wessex area had a meeting at Ocknell in the New Forest over the second weekend in September. This site is based on an old WWII airfield with some of the concrete dispersals still in place and in use as hard standings for caravans and motorhomes. There is also plenty of grass area available for tents, and though the site was by no means full, (280 grass and hardstanding pitches altogether!!) there were plenty of all types of units there, with plenty of family groups in evidence. We were on the rally field, tucked away in the trees past the toilet block, which gave us the full flavour of a forest weekend. We had two or three walks and cycle rides each day, with some people doing their own thing and others joining in long or short outings as suited them. The weather was very kind to us, staying warm all the time yet not so hot as to make walking troublesome. We covered forest tracks, small roads, heathland and through areas of the big old trees that make the forest what it is. We have camped in the forest before, and almost always spot deer as well as the obligatory ponies and donkeys. However, this time was a bit special - as Derek and Lesley were setting up, a herd of deer wandered through the rally field, setting the tone for the next few days.



On our first morning, we woke to noise and looked out of the van window to see a stag smashing low branches of a nearby oak tree to get leaves and acorns to eat, and also to rub the velvet off its antlers. This sight was seen and photographed by everyone on site over the weekend, and



we also got good views of several stags with the velvet partly off and the antlers all red and bloody, through to completely stripped and white. On the last day, having packed up ready to go, we sat and watched ten stags quietly grazing and foraging about 15 feet away from us between the vans and trees. It was a particularly good weekend for wildlife, and the walking and cycling wasn't bad either.

Toni Reynaud



The Peakland rally at Yew Tree Farm near Kidderminster in September.

After a really good day walking, 20 of us went to the pub called The Plough next door to the campsite. A 3 course meal for just £12. A real bargain. They didn't skimp on the size of the meal either. We all had a great time

Christine Mason



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A NEW JOB!!

Its been six months since I took the Peakland chair and its been a privilege to meet all members. Throughout the year we we have had excellent turnouts on all the meets with plenty of walking and cycling, which is down to volunteers getting involved. Thank you to all volunteers. The photos on our Facebook page shows what fun we have all had.

We are close to finishing this year's camping but over the winter months walks will be organised with a meal at the end of each one. Walking with a pub involved is something to look forward to.

We have 13 meets booked for next year. Interested? Look us up and join us. You will be made more than welcome.

Graham Mason

Peakland Chair



Wessex rally at Tarrant Crawford

The walking and cycling was good and well attended, even though the vegetation made some of the paths a little difficult to find and traverse! There was also the opportunity to practice music making in company. We don't just walk and cycle. . . .

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Our Year

Since May we have not attended many meets, but the ones we have been to have been lovely and interesting, meeting all the familiar faces and lots of lovely new ones. I have led some short walks this year, varying in length from 4 to 8 miles, my longer walks a distant memory, and have enjoyed the company of many friends, with a grand total of 13 + Chester the dog joining me on my New Forest trail.

At Tarrant Crawford, on our first day, Alan led a lovely walk to orientate us all to the area. The Church in the grounds of the old Tarrant Abbey had some faded ancient frescos, and an interesting history, which included a marked spot at the alter where a priest dropped dead during a service, not a frequent event, I hope. We then crossed a little bridge over the river Stour at Spetisbury and were fortunate to watch a very active otter swimming quite close to us, before enjoying delicious Ice cream at the local farm shop. The next day some of us walked to Blandford Forum, a lovely market town (although the quilt shop I really wanted to visit shut just before we reached it, so saved some

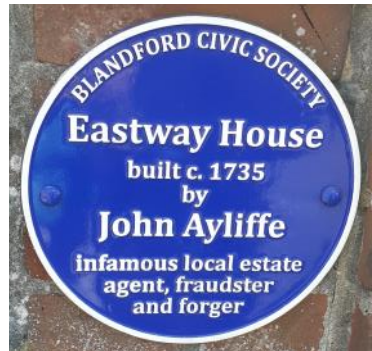


Photo Toni Reynaud

money there!!) and came across the blue plaque suggesting not all estate agents are honest! Really?

We enjoyed our Platinum Jubilee tea party at Woodford Halse and the lovely countryside there. Our meet in the New Forest was the forest at its best with visits from Ponies, donkeys , deer , birds galore and some say they even saw a shrew, although no one could provide photograhic evidence, so it may only have been a field mouse. Watching the deer shedding the velvet off their



Photo John Gerner

antlers was mesmerising, the antlers where almost as large as the little deer themselves.

And at Sherbourne, if you can manage the steep climbs, some magnificent views, and a flowery phone box in the village of Haydon.

The sunrises and sunsets have been amazing this year, how lucky we are to have this beautiful country side. Let's not allow it be spoilt.

Del Masters



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
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

If you can't find one of these to sit on at a coffee stop.....



Try one of these!!



**PEAKLAND WALKING & CYCLING SECTION
2022 SITES LIST**

Booking Officer Hazel Caldwell: 07785 746857

email: handy02@hotmail.co.uk

11 Sites open at 2pm unless otherwise stated

DATES	VENUE & MAP REF	STEWARDS
13/10 to 16/10	Church Farm, Hackney Lane, Barlow S18 7TR 119/344748	SALLY AND BRASS 07909045559/ 07549148228
26/10 to 30/10	Thorn tree 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
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



A picture from our visit to the Malverns earlier this year



One day's activities at Ellwood.

I believe it's the largest MTB Group ride we have seen in the Wessex Group.

Alan Eckersall

Editor's bit

Hello All, My thanks to all those who sent contributions in. For those who think there isn't enough of their section news in here, please feel free to add to future editions. My email address is tonibr@btinternet.com - send any articles, notes, photos, letters and thoughts there.

