



THE MOONRAKER

WILTS DA NEWSLETTER

WWW.WILTSDA.CO.UK



SPRING 2017

Chairman's Witterings

Another AGM has been and gone, and surprise-surprise I have been re-elected as your Chairman for yet another year. This will make it my fourth year as your Chairman, and at the end of this year I would like to hand the role on to someone new at next year's AGM (remember that it is your DA not mine), so if you have any inklings on doing the job, please ask me what it is all about.

Over the winter the DA doesn't do a great deal, but we do seem to have been on electric quite a bit lately, which is a luxury.

The New Year meet worked really well at Pottern, and we have booked the venue again for next New Year. It was nice to see so many of you use your initiative to do things like getting the afternoon tea out, and setting the tables without being asked, as this made the meet more relaxing for me. We would welcome all DA members to this meet, but I won't start taking bookings until after the summer.

A small group of us found a new site near Devizes, handily connected to a pub, which we are hoping to book for a late summer meet (the ground is too soft for a winter meet, ask wheel spinner Chappell), keep your eyes peeled for this one.

The DA Dinner meet was a first for us as we totally booked out the dining room in the Three Magpies pub next to the Devizes club site. The meal worked well, but there was some criticism of the narrow menu choices available, and due to us filling the place, there were comments that there was not enough room to socialise. We would welcome members suggestions as to what to do for next year. It has been suggested that we use a hall and get outside caterers in, or we could go back to the three magpies again, or somewhere different, let us know what you would like to do. We thank Anne and Allen for stewarding this meet.

A week later and we were at Alton Barnes for the AGM, we thank Anne, Allen and Kathryn for stewarding this meet. We welcome Colin to the committee and say goodbye to Ray and Pam Currier who have stood down from the committee.

Since the AGM we have found stewards to cover our THS's at Kilima and Rainbow Woods, and both of these meets will go ahead as advertised.

The DA is sadly struggling to get stewards for our meets, and it is falling to the same few people each time, and when they are ill or they have another commitment then there is a risk that our meet will be cancelled. As you know stewards get free camping, and as we would much rather this perk was spread around the DA rather than kept to just a few people. It doesn't matter if you do things differently to those that have been before you, that is just how you want to do it. All that is asked of the stewards is that they remain on site, collect the camping site fees, pay the farmer, hand excess cash to the treasurer, and they organise cof-

fee morning on Sunday. It couldn't be simpler.

Our rally for the opening weekend of the Salisbury club site was well attended, and quite a few of us walked into town for Saturday lunch in Weatherspoon's, we thank Anne and Allen for stewarding.

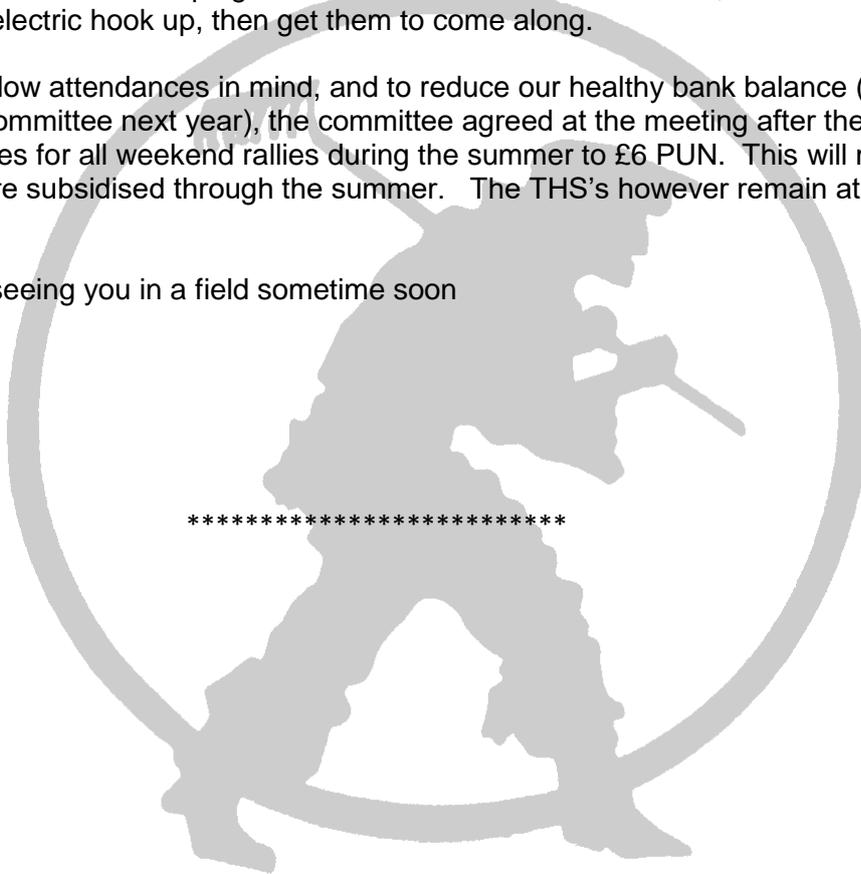
And so we now move onto Easter, and onto grass, and all the fun and games that come with this meet, I have the eggs for the hunt and prizes for those silly games you all like doing, so please come along and support us, the fun and games (and chocolate) are for everyone, not just the children.

As I mentioned at the AGM, the DA is struggling to get people out to camp with us, and God knows we are trying, as it is demoralising to sit in a field all by yourself. Colin as our new Publicity and Public Relations Officer is promoting the DA on our Facebook page and is planning a 'new to rallying' weekend when we are at the Beehive Field in Bradford on Avon. If you know anyone who likes camping but has not been out with us before, or has never been away without an electric hook up, then get them to come along.

With the issue of low attendances in mind, and to reduce our healthy bank balance (in case we can't form a committee next year), the committee agreed at the meeting after the AGM to reduce our site fees for all weekend rallies during the summer to £6 PUN. This will mean that all of our rallies are subsidised through the summer. The THS's however remain at the advertised price.

I look forward to seeing you in a field sometime soon

David



Family New Year Meet Potters Wick

We were pleased that the family meet was changing to Potters Wick as Bushton village hall was always a little cramped and at times smelly, and that's coming from a country boy.

We arrived just around lunch time to find the site with lots of space's available. Jayden was soon out helping us set up getting the water etc., and then we went inside to say hello to friends in the DA. It was nice to have Paula and Darren and the family camping with us for the holiday.

The meal that evening was prepared by Becky, Anne and Caz and what a fine start to the proceedings. A full roast dinner followed by an excellent pudding. (The diet could wait) was enjoyed by all. The evening entertainment was a game of blind date, which went down well with all assembled, followed by a little music till the late hours.

The following morning the first of the breakfasts was served up. David had a good team in the kitchen with Darren, Smurf, Colin and Larry, and food was dished out on time. A full English, porridge, toast with all the trimmings. Wilts do know how to start the day. We ventured of into Devizes shopping whilst others went for a ramble around the local area.

Everyone gathered in the afternoon for tea and cakes (The diet could wait again). It was nice to see that people were getting together playing games and chatting throughout the day and the kids were certainly making good use of the covered play area.

The evening was started at 7.00pm by our meal cooked by the men and then later a game of Blankety Blank was played. Hosted by Andrea and a curvy Colin wearing a very tight gold number and blonde hair. Hmmm quite fetching.

Paula won this after two rounds and she got a basket of miniatures. This being New Year's eve the Chinese raffle was in full swing with various draws throughout the night, with me being the last one to get a draw. We had a small pomp and circumstance moment before midnight which some of the elder members remember from meets over the past years. Heather fully enjoyed herself waving her union jack quite vigorously. Twelve o'clock came and I believe all that were present joined in with auld Lang syne and welcomed in 2017. I managed 1.30am then called it a night.

Breakfast the following morning was a somewhat quiet affair with everyone drifting in and most looking a tad tired. I ran a five game bingo in the afternoon after tea and cakes (The diet still could wait).

The left over tea was very good with all finding something that they liked. The evening entertainment looked as if it was going to end early until David and I got the kids playing various games and we packed up just after ten. Exhausted and tired.

A good clean up in the morning and a final gathering for coffee morning and to auction off the food left over.

I would just like to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped with food, entertainment and cleaning up and to David who pulled this together and was pivotal to everyone enjoying them self's over the holiday period. The venue was excellent and it worked. We look forward to further New-year meets here..

If you enjoyed yourself half as much as I did then I enjoyed myself twice as much as you.

See you in a field sometime.

Slim.

Can You Help? We need stewards for our meets

If you are able to steward a meet, please speak to Kathryn

Secretary's Notes

The beginning of April – that is one quarter of the year behind us already. It seems to have started well for the DA, with the supper, the AGM and Salisbury. It seems that campers – Wilts members and visitors – like to be on a Club site at rally prices. We are back at Devizes in November.

Heather and John enjoyed their day at Coventry to mark their 50 years with the Camping Club; their daughter Sue is not many years behind as she was a youth member and has kept her membership ever since.

Price reduced

From Easter through the summer meets, camping will be £6 per night, not £8. This will be reviewed later in the year.

South West Region

The **AGM** will be held at Furzebrook Village Hall at 2 pm on **Saturday 13th May**, camping with New Forest.

The **Summer Meet** is hosted this year by Devon DA from **14th to 16th July**, at Escot Park, Ottery St. Mary. Booking form included later.

Details are in your SWR fixture book, or talk to our newly appointed DA rep Ian Laing, or Anne or Steve Ashman.

Allen and I will be stewarding at Kilima – please come and join us.

Anne Earley
(07814 450 160)

Devizes – Dinner Weekend

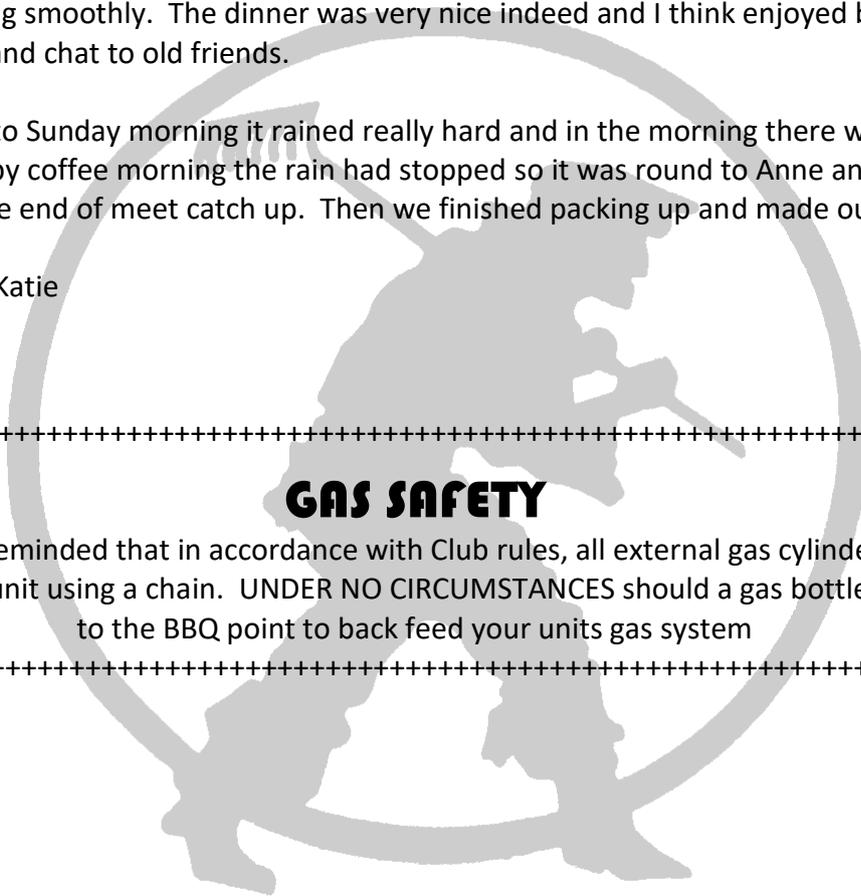
I think we were the last to arrive on Friday night but were quite lucky that even though it was dark it was very mild and wasn't raining.

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny and went on to be quite warm. David, Katie and I went into Devizes in the afternoon for a mooch around enjoying the sunshine. Then it was time to get ready for the DA Dinner at the Three Magpies.

A congregation gathered outside David and Kathryn's van as some of us were walking to the pub together. When we arrived at the pub there were a number of members already there and catching up on the news. The waitresses worked really hard with a full dining room but kept everything running smoothly. The dinner was very nice indeed and I think enjoyed by everyone. It was good to see and chat to old friends.

Saturday night into Sunday morning it rained really hard and in the morning there were some very soggy areas, but by coffee morning the rain had stopped so it was round to Anne and Allens' motorhome to the end of meet catch up. Then we finished packing up and made our way home.

Tricia, David and Katie



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GAS SAFETY

Members are reminded that in accordance with Club rules, all external gas cylinders should be secured to your unit using a chain. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a gas bottle be connected to the BBQ point to back feed your units gas system

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Big Meet at Salisbury

We arrived at Salisbury Club Site around 12.50 on Friday, only to wait in a queue of caravans and motorhomes as a delivery lorry arrived at the same time. It should have been on site at 10 o'clock with a new boiler for the shower block. Once they got that sorted they started to let us in. The weather was sunny. By the time we set up it was getting quite windy but our charming stewards had made us a nice cup of tea.

Weather on Saturday varied; we had sun, clouds and some very heavy showers. We had friends with us for the weekend. It was their first experience at DA camping and they felt a bit worried but they were surprised how friendly it was.

We woke on Sunday to a bright day. By the time we had coffee morning it was hot so everyone could sit around talking.

There were 36 units on site.

We would like to thank the stewards for a very nice weekend.

Carol and Brian

Stewards' view

The site only opened on Friday so we were in the queue like many others. What a start to the season to find your boiler is not working properly!

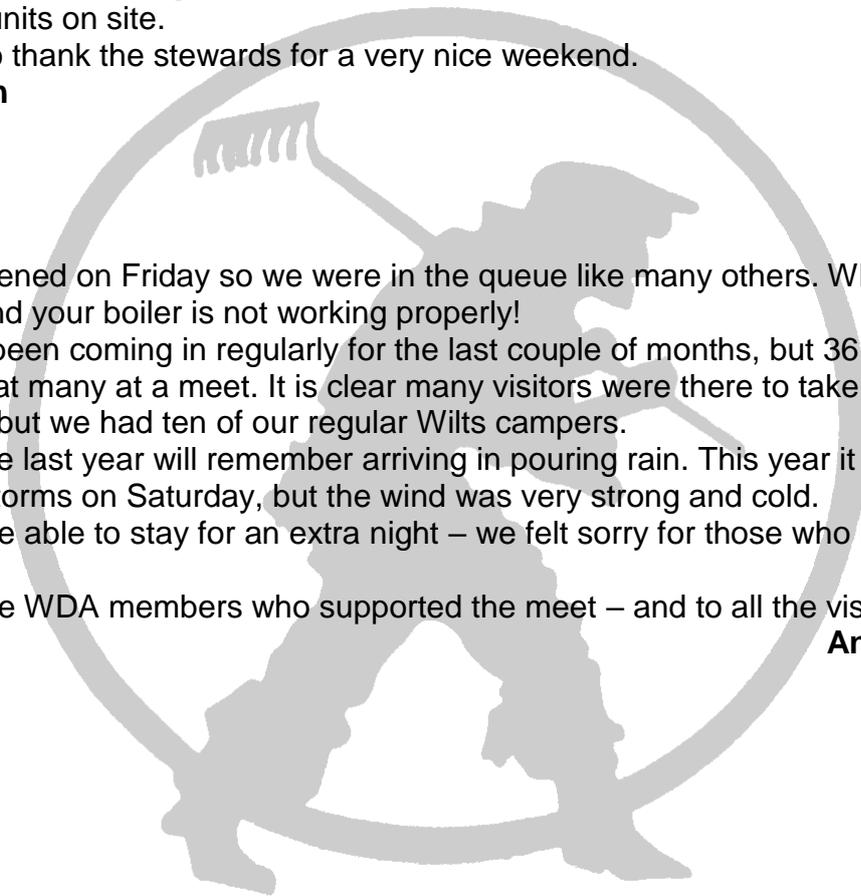
Bookings have been coming in regularly for the last couple of months, but 36 – long time since we had that many at a meet. It is clear many visitors were there to take advantage of the special rate but we had ten of our regular Wilts campers.

Those who came last year will remember arriving in pouring rain. This year it was mostly dry, just a few storms on Saturday, but the wind was very strong and cold.

Seven units were able to stay for an extra night – we felt sorry for those who had to return to work!

Our thanks to the WDA members who supported the meet – and to all the visitors.

Anne and Allen



A Note from Tina

I'd like to introduce you to our new addition to the family who will be joining up at the end of April.

We are all keeping well, we have both found new jobs and it's moving along really nicely.

I hope that you are all keeping well and enjoying this wonderful sunshine.

Well I will keep in touch, take care and have fun

Love

Tina xxx



CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY OF THE YEAR

The charity we have agreed to support is Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire, which arranges support for people suffering from dementia, and for the people who care for them.

The charity operates throughout the majority of Wiltshire, where we camp, and supports around 450 people every month. More information can be found about the charity from their website:
<http://www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk/>

Members are reminded that fund raising for causes other than the Chairman's Charity at DA meets is not permitted.

A Note from Eileen

Tom and I joined the Wiltshire DA over 40 years ago, for 25 years of which I have been on my own, it's now time to say cheerio.

Over the years I have served on the DA committee, stewarded at Stoke Gabriel and Kilima and made some very good friends. I shall enjoy looking back over the years and the memories which will last forever.

A very special thank you to my son Richard and his wife Sue, who after Tom died were always ready to tow my caravan to any meets I wanted to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my friends past and present, Good Health and Happiness in the future and HAPPY CAMPING to you all.

Eileen Roots



SOUTH WEST REGION SUMMER MEET

Escot Park

Ottery St Mary

EX11 1LU

14-16 July 2017



Beach Party

This form is for ONE pitch and ONE vehicle only
Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS

Surname		Initials		Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr	
Address					
Postcode			Contact No		
Membership No			DA/Section		Car Reg
Caravan	Motorhome	Tent	Trailer Tent	Disabled Pitch	

	No	£
Wednesday/Thursday pitch required before Summer Meet		£8.00 pun
Cost per adult for Friday 14 th to Sunday 16 th July		£20.00
Child 0-12 years		Free
12-18 years & CCY membership to 21 if passed youth test		Free
Pennon		£5.00
Sunday night pitch		£8.00 pun
Total		
NB: Day Visitor Charge - £5.00 per visitor		

ARE YOU WILLING TO REFEREE IF REQUIRED – YES OR NO: BOULES VOLLEYBALL

Please send this form to your own DA/Section secretary if you wish to be in a block booking.
Otherwise please return to Mrs Joan Fenton, 57 Maidenway Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ3 2QB

Closing date for bookings: 22 June 2017

Please make cheques payable to CCC Devon DA an enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you require a receipt

There is a five day meet at Rydon Farm, Woodbury, EX5 1LB from 7-12 July 2017 prior to the Summer Meet and a five day meet after from 17-22 July 2017 at Gosford Park, Little Gosford Farm, Taleford, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1NA.
Booking is not necessary but appreciated. There is no electric hookup at either of these meets.

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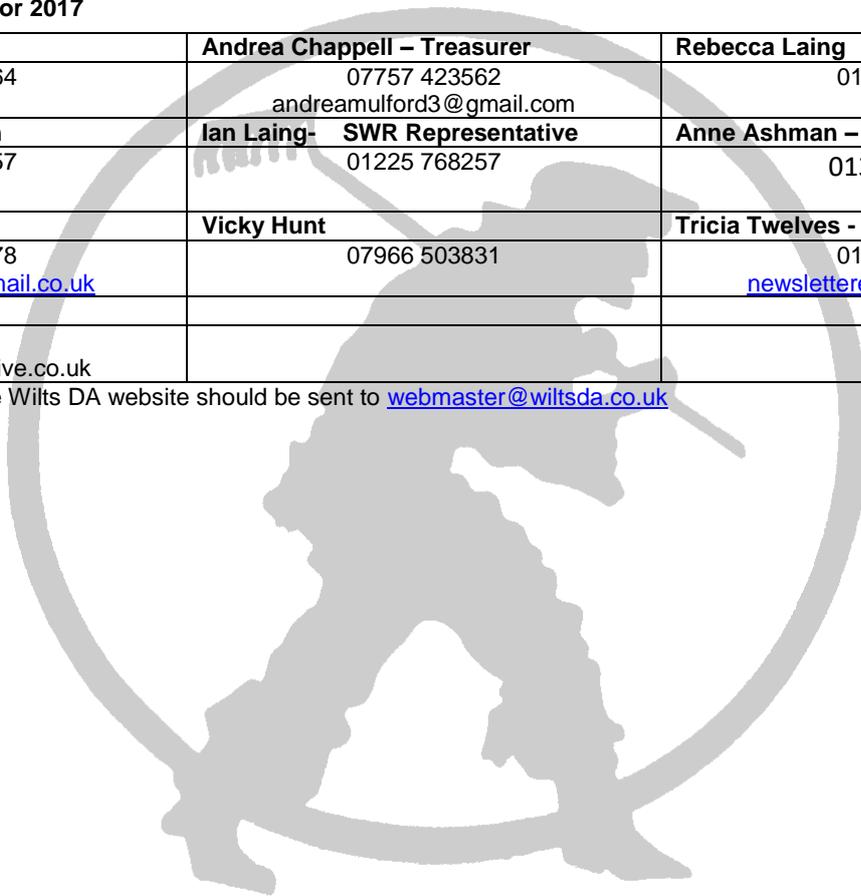
Moonraker Circulation

The Moonraker is available for free to anyone from the website

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Officers and Committee for 2017		
David Price - Chairman 01225 776264	Andrea Chappell – Treasurer 07757 423562 andreamulford3@gmail.com	Rebecca Laing 01225 768257
Ian Laing - Vice Chairman 01225 768257	Ian Laing- SWR Representative 01225 768257	Anne Ashman – SWR Deputy Rep 01373 823023
Anne Earley - Secretary 01985 214378 wdasecretary@hotmail.co.uk	Vicky Hunt 07966 503831	Tricia Twelves - Newsletter Editor 01235 764474 newslettereditor@wiltsda.co.uk
Colin Chappell - PRO Colin.chappell76@live.co.uk		

Queries regarding the Wilts DA website should be sent to webmaster@wiltsda.co.uk



Editorial

A newsletter is only as good as the information the editor is supplied with, so please send your weekend reports, stories, jokes, tips, etc. as soon as possible. The email address for the newsletter is newslettereditor@wiltsda.co.uk We promise to include everything you send for the newsletter, though we do reserve the right to censor anything that could be considered offensive, rude or too long.

Jokes in the newsletter are based on fictional Wilts DA characters, not real DA members. Any similarity in characteristics with current or past DA members is totally coincidental and unintentional.

Email Circulation

In the past there have been problems with the group hotmail email, which has resulted in losing the group email list. Please email me at newslettereditor@wiltsda.co.uk to register for future email copies of the Moonraker. Feel free to forward digital copies of this newsletter.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN

From time to time photographs are innocently taken on site and submitted for publication, either in the Moonraker or on the website, however if the photograph includes a child we require the parent's permission to publish the photograph.

To enable the DA to publish or use any photograph containing your child (except in the distant background), we will need your permission as the child's parent or guardian. Parents please do not be offended if you are given a permission slip, as we need to know what your wishes are.

Tricia

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FOR SALE

If you have any camping/caravanning items for sale and would like to include them in the next Moonraker, please send any information to newslettereditor@wiltsda.co.uk

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CLUB APP

Do you have a smart phone or tablet device?

If so, the Camping and Caravanning Club has launched an app that allows you to search for Club and Certified Sites. The app basically puts the Big Site book on your tiny phone, with the advantage of searching on a map. The app is free, just go to your App Store and search for 'camping and caravanning club' and install.

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Please remember that the speed limit on any DA meet site is 5 mph

Dogs must be on kept on leads

DIARY OF MEETS AHEAD

WEEKEND MEETS OPEN AT 3pm - TEMPORARY HOLIDAY SITES OPEN AT 8am
STATED FEES ARE PER UNIT - PER NIGHT,

Date	Site	Stewards	Price Per Night
13 – 18 April	Easter Biddestone Village Hall		£8
28 April – 14 May	THS Kilima Farm, Lacock	Anne & Allen	£8
13 May	SW Region AGM Wareham		
26 May – 4 June	THS Green Hill Farm, Landord. New Forest	Kathryn & David Vicky and Lee	£13
9 – 11 June	The Paddocks Devizes		£8
23 - 25 June	No Notion Cottages Corsham		£8
30 June – 2 July	The Beehive Bradford on Avon		£8
12 - 17 July	RIAT Crouch Farm Swindon		£8
14 - 16 July	SW Region Summer Meet. Honiton		
21 July – 12 August	THS Stoke Gabriel. Devon	Anne & Allen	£16 + Elec
21 July – 6 August	THS Rainbow Wood. Bath		£12
24 – 29 August	Kilima Farm Lacock		£8
8 – 10 September	Semington Frome Cheese Show		£8
29 September – 1 October	Iford Apple Picking for Cider Farm		£8
14 October	SW Region Dinner Dance Dawlish		
27 – 29 October	Harvest Supper Bushton Village Hall*		£8
17 – 19 November	Devizes Club Site		£8 + Elec
8 – 10 December TBC	Burbage Village Hall* Christmas Party		£8
29 December – 2 January 2018	New Year Meet Potterne Wick		

Late Price Change – Summer Meets now £6 per night

Sites Officer: Kathryn – 07427 104249

Secretary: Anne – 07814 450160

Site Mobile Number – 07508 890749 switched on from 12 noon day site opens