



THE MOONRAKER

WILTS DA NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2017

WILTS DA Annual General Meeting
17th March 2018 at 2.30 pm

at

Kennett Village Hall, Lockeridge near Marlborough SN8 4EL
Camping on hall car park

Chairman's Witterings

We are simply having a wonderful Christmas time.

It is Christmas party time yet again, so where has the year gone?

Since our last newsletter we have had a number of meets, and our thanks go to all our stewards and everyone who made these meets happen and enjoyable.

We went to Semington to be near the Frome Cheese show at the beginning of September, with a social gathering in the barn on both evenings.

We went to Iford for apple picking, DAFOL and cider drinking, with special thanks to Becky for preparing a meal for us all to share.

Harvest Supper was at Bushton with Slim's disco and a fish and chip supper.

For the second year running we went to the Devizes club site for a Christmas Meal at the Three Magpies, thanks to Vicky for organising the meal.

I do hope Secret Santa visits us at Burbage with something nice! The meet will have a quiet social on Friday night in the hall, the village craft fayre on Saturday at the church, and Saturday night we will have an American supper followed by Slim's disco to entertain the children with fun and games as well as dancing for all. Adult participation in the musical chairs is a must at any party.

New Year will be at Potterne, with the usual fun and games by you and food prepared by you.

We will be back at the Devizes club site for the annual DA Dinner at the beginning of March. Well behaved children are welcome to attend, but are responsible for the conduct of their adults. I promise I will have a better joke by then, than I had at the Christmas meal.

The AGM will be held at Kennett Valley Hall, Lockeridge. This is a new venue for us and is a large well maintained village hall with a large car park for camping, and a playing field for children. Dogs are not allowed on the playing field, but there are plenty of woodland walks nearby to exercise them.

At the AGM, half of the committee will be up for election, so we need nominations to fill these spaces to keep going. Don't assume that those already on the committee want to stay on the committee, some want to retire but feel obliged to stay on to keep it going. If you are keen to take on a role, remember that all roles are decided at the committee meeting that follows the AGM, so if you want to be, you could become the new Chairman (whoo-hoo), Secretary (double whoo-hoo), Treasurer (triple whoo-hoo), vice Chairman, newsletter editor or site officer. Will this be my last Chairman's Witterings? You decide.

Kathryn has prepared a list of site for next year, which is included in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you in a field sometime soon.

David

New Year Potterne Wick

29th December to 2nd January

Bookings are now open for new Year at Potterne which is a family friendly meet. This is a catered meet, and you need to pay for catering when you book, which is priced the same as last year. (£12.50 Adults, £7.50 Juveniles aged between 13 and 17, £5 children aged between 5 and 12). Camping is to be paid on Arrival and will be £50 for the meet.

As in previous years you will get two cooked evening meals and two cooked breakfasts from the catering fund, and there will also be a leftovers supper on the last night.

You will need to bring an American supper for the first night, which is a good chance to clear out your fridge of all the Christmas excess.

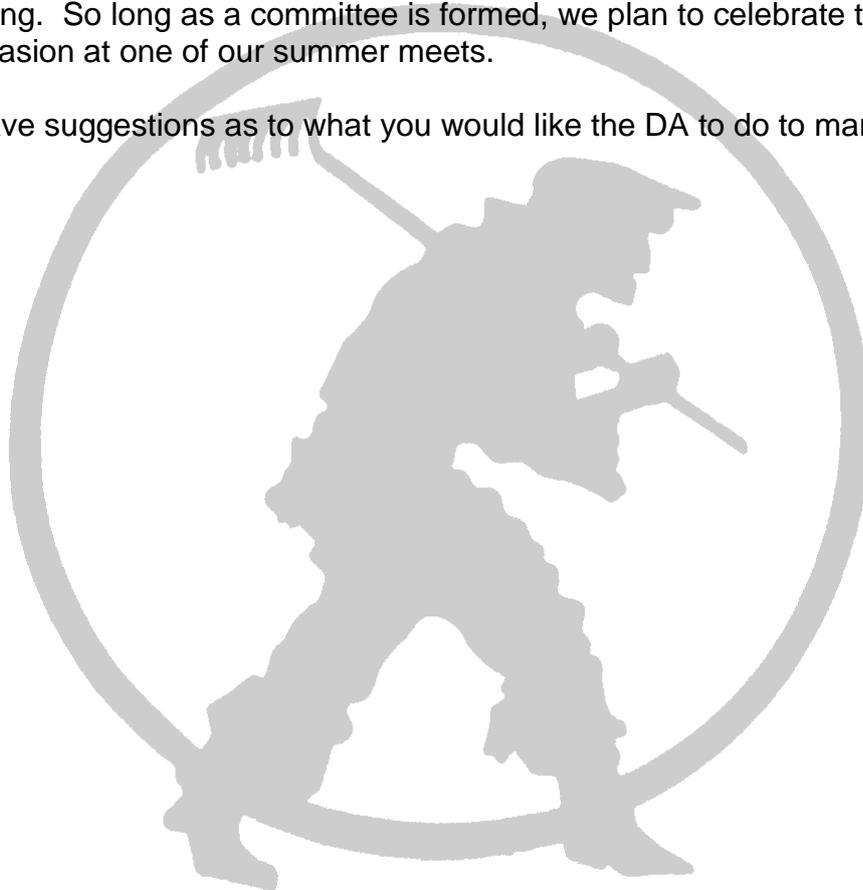
The evening entertainment is up to you, please let me know if you can do an hour or more of entertainment, suitable for all the family. In the past we have done our own versions of game shows like Blind Date, Blankety Blank, Generation Game, to name a few. We also need someone to prepare an opening night quiz.

David

Significant Birthday

It's not only me that has a significant birthday next year, so does the DA, which will be 45 years young. So long as a committee is formed, we plan to celebrate this momentous occasion at one of our summer meets.

Please let us have suggestions as to what you would like the DA to do to mark this occasion!



Can You Help? We need stewards for our meets

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

Why do birds fly south in winter?

Because it's too far to walk!!

Secretary's Notes

We have just returned from a good weekend at Devizes club site with a very good supper at the Three Magpies (thank you Vicky for organising).

Treasurer: Andrea does not wish to continue as our treasurer but she has kindly agreed to continue for a while longer, to give us time, hopefully, to find someone willing to take on this thankless task. We are not allowed to employ an outside treasurer; the committee is required to appoint someone, a member, they know and trust to look after the DA finances. Please give it some thought and if anyone knows anyone who might take this on, please speak to a committee member. I'm sure Andrea would be willing to give advice. Without a treasurer we cannot continue.

There are two important dates for your 2018 diaries. A full list is elsewhere in the newsletter.

2-4 March: We return to the Devizes site for our annual family supper weekend. Same format as this year - camping on the club site with supper at the Three Magpies. We are currently waiting for the menu but David has asked me to take bookings so please let me know if you wish your names to be added to the list. Remember, we are restricted to a maximum 40 people in the pub; places will be allocated strictly on a first come first served basis. Well behaved children are welcome to attend.

We also want bookings for camping, as there is always higher demand for pitches when we are at Devizes Club Site than the number of pitches we can reserve, so if you want to camp you MUST book this with me ASAP as the phone calls will start coming the minute the meet appears in the club magazine or website. We will take bookings from regular DA campers first.

16-18 March: AGM weekend, with camping, at Kennett Village Hall at Lockeridge, near Marlborough. We went from Devizes to visit this hall and be shown around. It looks very good. It is fully equipped, has a large car park and a big playing field in front. It looks a lovely place – please come and try it. There will be an American supper on the Saturday evening.

The AGM is at 2.30 pm on Saturday 17 March. Committee members are elected for two years, therefore half of the current committee retire at each AGM. To keep going the DA requires nominations to fill these vacancies. Please don't take it for granted that those who are already on the committee, who are up for election, wish to remain on the committee. In addition to filling the vacant committee positions, all committee roles are up for grabs, so if you fancy yourself as a budding Chairman, Secretary, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Newsletter editor, or you would simply like to book sites for us, please let us know. All roles are determined at the post AGM committee meeting, where everyone looks sheepish, and sometimes straws have to be drawn, so a volunteer at this stage is greatly appreciated.

Most of all, please support your AGM – come and have your say.

The 2018 NFOL will be at Arley Hall, Cheshire, from 23 to 27 August (Bank Holiday weekend). I have not got full details yet but if you wish to be included in the South West Region block booking please let me know.

If we don't see you at Burbage for the Christmas party, Allen and I wish you Happy Christmas with good camping for us all in 2018.

Anne Earley
(07814 450 160)

Semington Frome Cheese Show

The Semington weekend opened Friday 8th September stewarding by Steve and Ann Ashman with a further 4 units arriving, enjoying an evening catching up with chitchat of everyone's summer travels.

Saturday was an early start for myself, Carole, David and Kathryn to attend nearby Frome Cheese Show. Wow, so much cheese to see and sample along with other culinary delights. Not a cheese fan the show has many attractions for all, something I would recommend! "Put it in your dairy for 2018".

The exhibitors tent was full of rosette winning displays with our own camper Val Vincent's silver trophy winning art work, who with husband Mike joined us later on Saturday evening, baked spuds and roasted marshmallows hit the spot by all, after a game or two of Mexican train.

Sunday morning came around all to soon after a lay in (well, I did) coffee morning greeted us with home-made cake complements of Ann and Val.

David chaired the meet with a few of us still laughing at the stewards expense of seeing Steve going through an open window of his locked motorhome

Larry

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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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Who is never hungry at Christmas?

The turkey – he's always stuffed!

Bushton weekend

We, that is Sue and I, arrived about an hour after the site opened, and found that everyone it seemed had already arrived. There were only 2 groups to arrive after us. The village hall was open and tea and coffee readily available.

The quiet countryside location of the village, not far from Royal Wootton Bassett meant that the air was fresh and clean and full of rustic rural smells. (The farm next door had a huge silage store not too far upwind of the van park.) As a result of this rural setting there were many flies around but this didn't put a dampener on the fun and relaxation afforded to the DA member's attending the weekend. All told there were 13 pitches in the car park, and the age ranges went from 10 to 80 based in tourers and campervans.

To be honest the group was very friendly, everyone knew everyone except us. We were the newbies on the block. Given that we didn't really know many people we were readily and easily accepted by all, including the children. The hall was used by most of the children and adults throughout the day, and though we kept to ourselves, relaxing after a week of work we did not feel put out at all.

Saturday we spent visiting Wootton Bassett, others went for a walk through the countryside, down quiet lonely country roads, whilst others, I presume stayed on site and amused themselves. In the evening we were offered fish and chips as part of the deal, which we gladly accepted, and they were delicious. We all ate as one big family in the hall.

Sunday comes all too quickly on a weekend camp, but Sunday arrived and there was not paramount rush to be off site everyone pottered around till after midday then once the vans were put to bed people began to drift off to their homes wherever they lived in the area.

I would like to thank the organisers and persons responsible for making my weekend away especially relaxing. I am sure my students at work were also grateful I had spent the time relaxing.

Phil and Sue

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.

Devizes Club Meet

Devizes Club Site was our destination. What could be better than a site beside the Kennet & Avon Canal, with a pub only 5 minutes' walk away?

Pam & I arrived on site mid-afternoon on the Friday, to a warm welcome from the steward Colin, who soon relieved us of the site fees and directed us to our pitch. Once on our pitch, it didn't take long before we were enjoying a cuppa. There wasn't anything in particular planned for the Friday evening, so out came the puzzle that I have been doing (on and off) for the last 6 months. It is a canal scene. Pam loves to read, so she was happy, and of course it wasn't long before we had a glass of wine.

Saturday meant a bus trip into Devizes, and it felt as if half the site was on the bus too! It was a drizzly day and quite cold. We had a wander around the shops, Pam bought some stocking-fillers, and we found a lovely warm pub that did coffees as well as the usual. Then came the decision: do we get the bus back or walk the canal? Well, we decided to walk the canal, and so an hour and a half later we arrived back at site. Cuppa time again before we got ready to go to the pub.

Vicky had arranged a booking for a group of us to have a meal there. As you can imagine, the pub was quite busy on a Saturday night. We were all at one end of the dining area, I think we took up 4 or 5 tables. I think everyone enjoyed their meal (many thanks to Vicky for arranging it).

Sunday turned out to be a much better day. We had the usual coffee morning at 10.30am and chatted to friends old and new. Then we had to drive home for a family meal, having really enjoyed the weekend.

Ray Canter

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.laing1@blueyonder.co.uk	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

Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

So he can 'ho ho ho'!

What do get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas quacker!



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
8 – 10 December TBC	Burbage Village Hall Christmas Party		£8
29 December – 2 January 2018	New Year Meet Potterne Wick		



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STATED FEES ARE PER UNIT - PER NIGHT,

Date	Site	Stewards	Price Per Night
2-3 March 2018	Devizes Club Site Supper Meet BOOKED MEET		£8 + Elect
16-18 March	Kennett Village Hall Lockeridge, Marlborough AGM		£8
29 Mar – 2 April	Wildhern Andover EASTER		£8
13-15 April	Salisbury Club Site BOOKED MEET		£8 + Elect
27 April – 13 May	Kilima Farm, Lacock THS		£8
8–10 June	The New Inn Coate Devizes		£8
22-24 June	Rainbow Woods Bath		£8
11-16 July	RIAT Crouch Farm, Highworth		£8
20–11 August	Stoke Gabriel, Devon THS		£16.50 + Elec
24-28 August	Kilima Farm, Lacock		£8
7-9 September	Seven Acres, West Woodlands Frome Cheese Show BOOKED MEET		£15
28 -30 September	Iford Apple picking		£8
26-28 October	Kennett Village Hall Lockeridge, Marlborough		£8
16-18 November	Devizes Club Site BOOKED MEET		£8 + Elec
30 Nov – 2 December	Salisbury Club Meet Christmas market BOOKED MEET		£8 + Elec
7-9 December	Burbage Village Hall Christmas Party		£8
New Year	TBC		

Sites Officer: Kathryn – 07427 104249

Secretary: Anne – 07814 450160

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