



Pickets Post Newsletter

February 2021



Your Pickets Post Editor is John Burst,

Contact me on 07740621551 or email pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com

Articles for the March issue to be with me by 21st February please

Next Committee Meeting 15th of February 2021 (by Zoom)

www.newforestda.com

Weekend stewards mobile number

is now

07514 555790

Chairman's Welcome February 2021

Hello Everyone.

In January we welcomed our new DA treasurer to our zoom committee meeting. His name is Tim Cooper and we are very grateful that he is taking the time to take on this important DA committee role. He stepped in at the last moment as no one else had offered and he did not want to see the DA fold. A dedicated treasurer's email address has been set up and you can contact him on this. It is: - treasurer.newforestda@outlook.com He will be offered support from the committee, past Treasurer Tina and the SWR region Treasurer Joy.

I would like to thank Tina on behalf of the DA for the work she has done the past year. It has not been easy with covid, job and family.

We also have two more people willing to stand for committee. With those re standing we will have eight out of 12 members. So there are still places for 4 more people to apply. The AGM will be held virtually by zoom meeting. Tony Tester has added a link to our Facebook group and you can download the relevant information/form from our website.

Please do try and fill in the attendance form, so we can send you an invite to the Zoom meeting

Last month our Son & daughter, who are previous juniors and youth members, celebrated their birthdays. Margaret made the comment that she remembers David doing an FOL display of Postman Pat when he was a junior. I know our previous Chairman Mike Cole was treated to a story of the display given by our David, giving details of the drawing and who all the characters were.



I thought as there are a few new members I would share some pictures of past events. The pictures include David's Postman Pat display. There are two from 1990/1991 when the Junior Section who helped with conservation donated 2 x bird cherry trees to the National Trust. They are sited on the boundary near Pamphill School and the plaque still exists in the shrubbery. Colin & I saw it last year. The juniors planted the trees in January 1991.



We also took part in the FICC parade at Shepton-Mallett showground (picture with DA pennon). There was always a good turnout of juniors and Youth for the Mardi Gras parades at National Feast of Lanterns (pictures of the sixties with the girls in their black & white dresses) and the boys as the Beatles with their Yellow submarine. We joined the Mardi Gras parade at Stratford Saye with the juniors dressed as Mickey & Minnie mouse.



We also used to do shows for the members at the hall at Sixpenny Handley at Easter. These were instigated by our former Secretary Marion Evans. The pictures are of the juniors, youth and adults portraying The King & I. The costumes were all upcycled from charity shops curtains with some embellishments. Lisa our daughter, dressed as a ballerina, did Swan Lake ably assisted in tutus and wellies by our then Youth Leader Garth and Dennis Big Boots (who organised our winter walks). A lot of fun was had by all and forged some great memories. Hopefully when the current situation is over we can once again forge new memories.

Stay Safe.

Heather Brown. Chairman.



NFDA NEEDS YOU – Officer Vacancies

NO COMMITTEE = NO DA

Secretary – Committee and executive position

THS Officer – Non committee or committee position

Auditor x 2 – Non committee position. Must not be related to a committee member.

Social Organiser – Non committee or committee position

Other Committee positions

PRO

Appointed region councillor

Committee members – various job roles

Your DA Needs YOU

We have spaces to bring the Committee up to our Constitution number of 12.

The **2021 AGM** will take place on **Sunday 7th March 2021** at the
West Parley Memorial Hall

The doors will open at 10am to give you all time to sign in, collect your paperwork, read the reports and be ready to start promptly at 11am. Below is a nomination form for you to cut out and return to our Hon Secretary by 5th January.

New Forest D.A. Committee

Nomination Form 2021

Name of Nominee

.....

Printed Name

Signature

Proposed by

--	--

Seconded by

--	--

All nominations should be forwarded to the Hon Secretary

Mrs Dee Tester, 18 Carters Avenue, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset, BH15 4JU

Any nominations received after 5th January up to the close for nominations at the AGM will be subject to vote if more nominations than places.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

This year as many other DA's we are planning to hold our AGM virtually on Zoom.

How will this work?

We would like as many members as possible to join us on our meeting. So, to enable this to happen you will have to request attendance using the form link below. This form will then go to our Secretary Dee, who will then send you the link to the meeting and papers if you request them. You may wish to create an email address specifically to keep DA mails separate from others. I recommend Gmail for this as it is free and very easy to use

For those that have not used Zoom before it is quite simple, you will just click the link in the email we send you, which will take you straight to the meeting room. You will then be invited into the meeting and placed on mute. We will take questions at the end of the meeting, opening the floor to members one at a time.

[Please Click here for the Form](#)

We are still actively seeking volunteers to come onto the Committee, if you are interested then indicate on the form. We anticipate most of our meetings throughout 2021 to be virtual and quite possibly this may be the way for many in the future.

Nominations for positions can still be submitted using the Nomination Form in the Pickets Post

[Pickets Post Click Here](#)

A little tribute to a wonderful Dad.....*Dean Mueller-Davies*

A few years ago, around 2013, my Dad and his wife, Ruth, bought their first caravan. It was very small and basic, but they liked it and they had lots of great camping trips in it. Dave & I went to visit them a couple of times and I really struggled to see the attraction of caravan life! Sitting in a field, no TV, no way to charge my phone, no wifi and no proper shower – this life wasn't for me, I thought! That was until we visited them at the Downton Cuckoo Fair meet – we had such a lovely morning, visiting the Fair and having coffee and cake and chilling out back at the caravan. We had such a great time that we went home via the caravan showroom and bought our first caravan. A 'Freedom Jetstream', which was so small, one of us had to stand outside while the other put the bed up! The kitchen was at one end, so if we weren't careful, the whole van would tip!! BUT we loved it, and couldn't wait to pick it up. I'll never forget Dad's excitement when we told him we'd soon be joining in on their caravan adventures. They had just bought a new caravan too, and we were all counting down until our first trip out together.



Our first meet in our caravan was Stourton Caundle. Dave, Dad & Ruth took the vans out there on the Friday – I was at work and I couldn't wait to finish so I could join them! At the time I was in a job that I hated and I was constantly stressed, so I was hoping that camping would alleviate that a little. **And doesn't it just do that??** I look back on this weekend as one of my happiest memories with Dad. We had dinner together on the Friday evening, cooked, and ate, breakfast outside on the Saturday morning then sat on the peaceful field enjoying each other's company. We then went in to Sherborne and had some lunch in an artisan bakery, where the stools were made out of tractor seats (Dad had been here before and loved it so much he wanted to take us there). We had a mooch around the shops (do you remember those days?!) and then came back to just sit, chat and relax. A communal BBQ followed for dinner and then Dad taught us how to play cribbage in the evening. Dad was always on my team because I could never quite get the hang of it all so he would help me out....I guess I had better brush up on my skills now you're not here to help me, Dad....

We had several more happy trips together. And then our little boy Charlie came along, and although camping wasn't quite as relaxing as it used to be, Charlie absolutely loved going away and seeing his Grandad and Oma for a whole weekend. He quickly learnt where Grandad kept his biscuits and would point at the cupboard when he was peckish (or just to prove that Grandad was wrapped round his little finger). We had said that we would all take Charlie to camp at Royal Victoria Country Park last year – Dad was excited to take Charlie to see the cruise ships and to have a go on the train. However, like most things, Covid-19 put a stop to this plan, and sadly Dad won't be able to make these memories with Charlie. However, we will still take Charlie when we can and we know that Dad will be with us in spirit.



My favourite camping memory has to be when Dave & I and Ruth & Dad stewarded the summer THS at Parley Glade in 2016. I work in a school so I was off all summer, and Dad and I had such a lovely 3 weeks 'working' together while Dave and Ruth went off to work. We laughed lots, sunbathed lots thanks to some lovely weather and I truly treasure the happy summer we all had together.

Dad made so many lovely friends through camping, as have Dave & I, and I know that he will be missed by many on the field. If it wasn't for him, we never would have got a caravan in the first place, so we will be eternally grateful to him.

I hope we can all get back to camping soon – these memories won't make themselves.

Stay safe everyone.

Georgie Wills

2021 Bookings and Website Forms

With the ongoing pandemic we are looking to hopefully get out camping albeit again slightly different than normal. Last year we introduced a booking form on the website to enable us to safely camp. This year is no different and wanted to remind all that we are only doing booked meets until the situation changes.

So! what does this mean? All sites will be published both on the website and Facebook. The adverts will contain a link to a booking form which has to be completed and sent to Ian our sites officer. The form needs all fields completing or it will not send! When Ian has your booking, he will email to confirm you have a space and then ask for electronic payment.

If reading this electronically then click the below link to see the form.

[New Forest DA – Camping in the Portland, Purbeck & New Forest Areas](#)

It can be found under the booking form tab on the NFDA Website

New Forest DA

Home Photo Gallery Pickets Post Sites and Booking Forms Committee THS Links

Lead Contact Name *

First Last

Which site are you interested in *

— Select —
Birchwood
Moreton

Additional Members Camping

First Last

Additional Members Camping

First Last

ABOUT US


The New Forest District Association (NFDA) is a part of the Camping and Caravanning Club. The UK is divided into 13 regions and our region, South West Region, is divided into District Association (DA) areas together with special interest groups. As a member of the Camping and Caravanning Club you are automatically a member of your local DA. You may camp with any DA or section within the club. There is a programme of camping meets from early March to the end of October. During the winter months rallies require pre booking. Walks, conservation meets and various

As you can see we have two sites currently populated and those are now bookable. Any difficulties please contact me Tony on webmaster@newforestda.com

Please be patient! Normal service will resume as and when the country does. Thank you

Your Temporary Holiday Sites

I still have big gaps for stewards this year. **Your help is urgently needed** A full list of our sites was in Dec issue and also is on our web site. **Ballard** is the only one currently catered for **Parley Glade** is still waiting for stewards and **will be cancelled** if no one volunteers. **Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club** I am in urgent need of help of an experienced steward to start this off and we hope to be there once Ballard closes This is one of our busiest, friendliest and lucrative sites. Co-stewards also needed. Chris and Linda Sawkins are happy to do **Breamore** but they cannot do it alone, please contact me if you would like to go along and help them, they will make excellent tutors for anyone who is unsure and has never done this before.

Birchwood I will collate as it will again be a pre booked THS but I would welcome some able bodied assistants for putting members on pitches when they arrive. Not a difficult task but it does involve a fair amount of walking.

You may have noticed that this is not yet advertised in Out & About. It has been approved by The Club but I am still waiting for a price from the site. I have heard from them again this week and was hoping for a figure by today but unfortunately it still has not arrived. The main problem is that they are currently closed and our price is a family decision and usually very much less than would normally be charged. It does not prevent you from making a provisional booking with me as I have already had enquiries from regular users of this THS.

If there is no help then these **WILL BE CANCELLED** and the DA will not get the income. On top of that the landowners will let to other DA's and we could lose the site for future use.

You might also like to think about taking on the job of organising the THS for the DA. I have made the decision to come off the Committee at this year's AGM. I am currently the oldest member of your Committee and feel that it really does need some younger blood with a little more energy than I now have, I will continue this year to look after the THS however this becomes a little more difficult year on year. I will happily hand this over to anyone interested and this does not have to be a Committee position but you do need to be able to work closely with the Committee to get things approved.

Have you thought about getting your caravan serviced?

Ours will be in need of a service as last year's got cancelled firstly because the engineer was taken ill and then due to lockdown. Once the lockdown is lifted will perhaps be a little late to think about this task as everyone else will be looking to do the same thing. Our van has not moved since Brian had his heart operation in Nov 2019. It has been regularly checked and is covered to protect from all the leaves that fall from our neighbour's wilderness/mini forest . His back garden is full of trees! This week I have been in touch with a mobile servicing company and booked a service and also tyre replacement on site for the same day so that they can work together to have it ready for use again.

There are several mobile companies that cover this area so have a think and get this organised if you do not want to be disappointed. It is a condition of our Insurance that this is done annually and we have to declare it each time the insurance renews.

Looking forward to vaccination (Brian has had his first one) and seeing you all out on site again later this year.

Janet

NFDA THS sites for 2021

Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club, Wareham 4th August to 1st September 2021 12.00 Opening and Closing



Follow A351 Wareham to Weymouth road. At roundabout, junction with A352 (Sign posted Weymouth) turn left towards Wareham. Go straight across traffic lights in Wareham into Bestwalls Road and turn left after last house in road.

Stewards contact:

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!!!

Janet Email jsetchell20@talktalk.net

Price: £12.50 per unit night, No Extra Adults fee

CASH ONLY ACCEPTED

Ballard School New Milton 16th July to 13th August 2021 12.00 opening and closing



Located in New Milton this private school is just a short walk to the town and is easily accessible from B3058. With tarmac roads around the school (a one-way system operates) the field has short grass, bounded by trees and is level. It is ideally situated for exploring the delights of the New Forest, from which we take our D.A. name. The lovely coastal area, shops and cinema and theatre trips are also within easy reach. Shops, beaches, forest and local attractions are all close to hand.

Stewards contact:

To be announced

Price: £11.50 per unit night, No Extra Adults fee

CASH ONLY ACCEPTED

Birchwood Tourist Park 2nd September to 30th September 2021 12.00 opening and closing Booking required



Centrally located in an ideal position for exploring Dorset and the Jurassic Coast.

Full facility site & direct access into the forest for dog walks and general exploring!

Site is not on a bus route.

Contact Janet: 07513409978

Price: Awaits per unit night includes EHU, No Extra Adults fee
(Early booking advised as limited hook ups)

Booking Essential

CASH ONLY ACCEPTED

NFDA THS sites for 2021

Parley Glade



Ideal for coastal resorts of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch, and within easy reach of New Forest and Purbeck Hills. Own san advisable, but toilets available.

NO ADVANCE BOOKINGS. JUST TURN UP.

Stewards Require Please

£12.00 p.u.n. or £18.00 p.u.n with EHU

No Extra Adult charge.

CASH ONLY ACCEPTED

Breamore House, Fordingbridge 1st September to 27th September 2021 12.00 Opening



Breamore House, Fordingbridge SP6 2DF. MR 184/154191. Take A338 Ringwood to Fordingbridge road, just north of Fordingbridge at village of Breamore turn left to Breamore House and follow the signs. Lovely walks, Manor House & countryside Museum and Tea room. New Forest, Salisbury & Ringwood markets close by. Bus 1m. Own san is essential. Booking is neither available nor necessary

Price: £9.00 per unit night, No Extra Adults fee

STEWARDS

Chris & Lynda Sawkins

Extra Stewards **REQUIRED PLEASE**

CASH ONLY ACCEPTED

Sites officer notes

Sadly Birchwood has been cancelled due to the Covid lockdown. Hopefully we can carry on with the rest of booked sites as planned. If people wish to send me a booking form for Moreton I will hold them ready until I hear anything differently. It is a bit airy fairy I know but not a lot I can do differently, playing it by ear. I have re-booked Birchwood for February 2022.

Sorry there is no more to report at the moment- Ian

[Book sites online by clicking here and filling in the form](#)



FEBRUARY

FLOWERS OF THE MONTH



Primrose

Violet

Site List 2021

Opens	Closes	Venue	Map Reference & Postcode	Fee pun	Stewards	Opens
February						
18 th	22nd	Birchwood C P Cancelled due to Covid	195/893913 BH20 7PA	£13 pun inc h/up	?	12pm
March						
April						
1 st	5 th	Easter Church Farm Sixpenny Handley	184/996174 SP5 5ND	£13-50 pun	?	12.00pm
15th	18th	MORETON CCC	194/782892 DT2 8BB	£6-50pun + £5-95h/up	?	1pm
May						
29 th (Apr)	3 rd	Downton Cuckoo Fair (4 NIGHTS) **	184/169205	?	There is no cuckoo fair	?
13 th	16 th	Exbury Gardens (3 Nights)	196/426987 SO45 1AZ	£16-20pun		?
27 th	1 st June	Furzebrook (5 nights)	195/932846 BH20 5AU	£10-80 pun	?	12 noon
June						
10 th Thur	13 th Sun	New Park Farm (4 Nights)	196/300 046 SO42 7QH	TBA	?	10am
July						
1 st Thur	5 th Mon	Bampton's Farm	196/339954 SO41 5SH	£9-50	?	12 noon
29 th July	2 nd Aug	Setthorns	195/263004 BH25 5WA	£9-50 + £5-95 h/up	?	1pm

Site List 2021

Opens	Closes	Venue	Map Reference & Postcode	Fee pun	Stewards	Opens
August						
CHECK OUR T.H.S						
September						
9 th Thur	12 th Sunday	Ridge farm	?not booked	?	Awaiting the owners	?
30 th Thursday	4th Oct Monday	Birchwood	195/893913 BH20 7PA	?	?	12 noon
October						

Stewards Phone No - 07514 555790 Visit

our website at Newforestda.com

Emergency Ward 10 — FEBRUARY 2021

Hello everyone!...

Well, I said my prayers and asked the Almighty for a lovely sunny day for Christmas Day to cheer us all upand didn't we do well!!! what a glorious, fabulous Christmas day it turned out to be. I hope you were able to get out in the fresh air and lovely sunshine. This year we went down Sandbanks beach on Christmas morning and I managed to get my "festive paddle", the water was lovely and not as cold as I thought it would be. Usually I am the only one "toe dipping" but this year there were at least 12 other hardy souls (or fools!), but they were braver than me and they were swimming, admittedly some had dry suits on but at least half of them just had cozzies!!!! It took a good hour or more for my feet and legs to thaw out so I can't imagine how long it took for some of their "appendages" to come back to life ... LOL !!!!

So far this year I haven't sent out any Get Well cards, which in the light of recent events, is very encouraging!! As we enter another year it's interesting to look back and realise that I have been doing the "Emergency Ward 10" card sending, since 1997 having taken over from Dorothy Maynard when she stepped down from the Committee. A quick "add up" shows that since I began in November 1997 I've sent out a staggering **887** cards!! I've also kept a note of the reason why I sent them too! I do enjoy doing the job, and it helps me to keep in contact with members, after all, we are all getting older and aches and pains come in all disguises and if a Get Well Card with friendly wishes and sincere thoughts helps our members to feel better, then it's a job worthwhile.

I do hope that you have all recovered from the "excesses" of Christmas and that you are all in fine fettle and looking forward to the start????? of another camping season, (Mr. C-19 permitting of course!!).

Let's face it, we sure don't want a season like the last camping season!!!! If you do know of anyone who is feeling under the weather please let me know, either by ringing me or sending me an e-mail. Many thanks!

Here's wishing you all a very Happy AND Healthy New Year from Margaret, Ray and Stuart

01202 241605 – ray.miller7@ntlworld.com

KNATTY KNITTERS

At Christmas I received a card from Janet Stafford who is the lady in charge of the Knatty Knitters knitting that is sent to Malawi (sorry, last month I said it was Namibia). She is so appreciative of all the wonderful knitting that we do, she thanks us all very much and sends her best wishes for the coming year.

Ray's Joke Corner

Two men have been sitting out on a lake all day long ice fishing. One has been having no luck at all whilst the other has been pulling fish after fish out of his ice hole. The man having no luck finally leans over and asks the other man what his secret is, to which he replies "mmmm mmm mm mmmm". I'm sorry, what did you say? .. "mmmm mmm mm mmmm" repeats the successful fisherman. "I'm sorry, I still don't understand you" says the first man. The successful fisherman then spits something into his hand and says very clearly, "You've just gotta keep your worms warm!!".

Just a thought...

I remember the days when I used to get up
without making sound effects!!!!

Marg x

CHOCOLATE SALAMI!!!

90g sultanas
4 tablespoons cognac, divided
400g rich tea biscuits
150g blanched almonds
375g butter, melted
220g cocoa powder
1 (397g) tin condensed sweetened milk
icing sugar for decorating

1. Soak the sultanas in 2 tablespoons of cognac for 10 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, break the biscuits into medium-sized pieces. Add the almonds, butter, cocoa powder, the rest of the cognac and the condensed milk. Add the soaked sultanas and stir it all very well. This will be a very stiff dough, best way to mix it all is by using your hands. It may seem like it's not going to come together, but it will, just keep mixing it up until all ingredients are well incorporated, forming a dark, moist dough.
3. Place a double layer of cling film onto a clean work surface and put 1/3 of the dough in the middle. Using your hands, shape dough into a log about 5 to 7cm in diameter. Place log towards one end of the cling film and start rolling the film tightly around the log. Twist the ends of the plastic and tuck them under the log.
4. Repeat this process to make three logs. Chill the logs in the fridge overnight.
When ready to serve, use a small sieve to sprinkle the outside of the logs with icing sugar (or, if you prefer, sprinkle the icing sugar on a piece of kitchen paper and roll the log on it). Slice with a sharp knife.
Enjoy!!! MARG X



Christmas Day – Oh what a beautiful morning!!.....



Christmas Day Dinner - Miller style !!
I knew the caravan would come in handy for something!!!!

Hidden Pictures®

Shake Break

By David Helton

Can you find these hidden objects?



wedge of lemon



button



slice of pizza



tack



ring



envelope



horseshoe



teacup



magnifying glass



feather



slice of bread



candle



key



carrot



golf club



bell



slice of pie



ladle



In this big picture, find the wedge of lemon, button, slice of pizza, tack, ring, envelope, horseshoe, teacup, feather, magnifying glass, slice of bread, candle, key, golf club, carrot, bell, slice of pie, and ladle.

Highlights

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HAPPY HUNTING! .. MARG X

Spicy chorizo and king prawn starter.

I haven't given quantities, it really depends on how many people it's for and how hot you want it. Not much preparation and not long to cook.

Garlic chopped

Onion chopped (I prefer red, or spring onions)

Fresh chilli chopped

Mushroom sliced

Chorizo sliced, then cut slices in half

Raw king prawns peeled (you could use fresh tuna or scallops instead)

I prefer to use a wok.

Heat wok, with small amount of oil, then add the chorizo, onions & chilli.

When nearly cooked add mushrooms and garlic.

When all cooked, neatly put on a side plate, with a salad garnish of your choice, preferably include a slice of lemon.

Wipe wok out with kitchen roll and put back on heat straight away, so wok doesn't lose its heat.

Put small amount of oil in wok, wait for wok to get hot then add the prawns. Keep them moving until fully cooked, should only take a few minutes.

Then place attractively onto the bed on the side plate, and enjoy!

Recipe supplied by Tim Cooper

A Note from your Pickets Post Editor

Well as I sit here writing this piece for February's Pickets Post it is feeling rather like "groundhog day" where the world keeps spinning but nothing much seems to change day by day. However with all the great news about the Covid vaccine and the Bournemouth BIC being chosen as a vaccine hub, things are looking much brighter. We can now start tentatively planning ahead for a camping season at last.

Those of you members that follow the DA on Facebook may well have seen Heather's plea for interesting things to put in pickets post. Whilst we are all sat at home, it is an ideal time to go through those old diaries, log books and photos. Please share some of those lovely memories with us of special meets that you will always remember. Or sites and CLs that you use when not rallying with us. Send us a write up of what you remember of the early days of New Forest DA. While I can't publish them all in one go, it will give us all something interesting to read and maybe reminisce over.

We have been camping as a New Forest DA since 1971, which makes this year's birthday on May 5th a very special 50th. Personally we have run with the DA for 26 years and can well remember some of the founder members of this big camping family, do you?

In the next issue, I am hoping to start off with some early season maintenance advice. Especially as some of our vans have barely moved in the last year. Time to get out there, wash the van, clear away those cobwebs and remember why our camping lifestyle is so very special.

A suggestion has been made that we start a list of trusted tradesmen in our area, whether for work related to our caravan, motorhome, car or even home. Do you have somebody that you could recommend to other DA members? If so, I would love to hear from you

Please do get in touch. You can contact me on

07740621551 or email pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com