



# New Forest DA



**Pickets Post Newsletter**

**March 2021**



Your Pickets Post Editor is John Burst,

Contact me on 07740621551 or email [pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com](mailto:pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com)

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

Next Committee Meeting 7th of March 2021 After the AGM (by Zoom)

[www.newforestda.com](http://www.newforestda.com)

Weekend stewards mobile number

is now

07514 555790

## Chairman's Welcome March 2021

Well here we are my last Pickets Post notes as Chairman. I have done four years as Chairman and have tried to make my notes interesting and informative. It has been a challenging four years with many ups and downs but the DA is surviving and will continue to do so for a few more years. It has been good to fundraise for 3 charities during that time and hold many enjoyable rallies. The main thing people have missed during the last year is the social interaction. It was so strange last year not even having a Christmas party.

Easter will be so different this year with just Green Field camping, but we hope that the rally will be able to go ahead. We are however dependant on Government guidelines. Previous years we have held fancy dress competitions, quizzes, Easter Bonnets, Easter Garden displays and cakes plus had barn dances and discos. I have enclosed a picture of Lisa & David with their funny bunny masks at Sixpenny Handley site. It must have been warm as Lisa has a short sleeved blouse on and no sign of mud!! .Last year we even held virtual meets. Hopefully we will be able to do some of these things again in the future.



I would like to thank all the committee members for their voluntary work/time. Also thank you to the committee members' families including Colin who have supported the DA. I would also like to thank Ian Fraser for stepping in to take on the sites officer's job and to John Tompsett our auditor. Our retiring committee members deserve a thank you for all they have done for the DA. They are Dee Tester, Tina Evans, Janet Setchell, Chris Sawkins, Marian Bown, Colin & myself.

We have audited end of year accounts that will be seen by the committee at least 7 days prior to the AGM, so there will be **no need** for an EGM to approve them.

**I hope as many of you as possible, fill in the AGM form on the DA website to attend via zoom or at least contact Dee our Secretary with your email address to read the AGM reports.**

**\*\*Please note the treasurer's email address is [treasurer.nfda@outlook.com](mailto:treasurer.nfda@outlook.com) (not as previously printed) \*\***

Looking ahead we have some lovely rallies to look forward to as well as warmer weather and our usual THSs. Colin & I hope to meet up with members at them.

I wish our new Chairman and committee all the best for the forthcoming year and ask for you the members to give them as much support and help as you can when camping permitted. So take care, stay safe & remember Spring is just around the corner.

It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Mike Cole. He had been ill for a while. He was Chairman of New Forest DA from 1993-1995. Mike had a great sense of humour. I always remember he had good patter. Every time he sold raffle tickets whether at the beginning of a rally or at the end he would say, you need to buy some more as the winning tickets have not been purchased yet. People fell for it every time. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

Heather Brown.

Chairman New Forest DA.

## Caravan Servicing Review.



Having owned several caravans, I still find myself at this time of the year trying to sort out who to use for servicing. This year however I found it a simple choice and thought I would share my review of [CaraServe](#) who did it last year.

I'll start by saying that the owner Andrew is not related or linked to me in anyway.

So last year I started looking to find an engineer due to disappointment with our first service with an approved agent. I wanted to find a mobile engineer that could service our van on our drive and that was going to be approved and reliable. As usual I spoke with friends and family, but most had mixed views about companies they had used. I happened to speak with a friend who told me about Andrew who has been in the business for many years and now runs as a mobile service engineer.

So I booked for the service and come the day he turned up on time which is always a good sign. He had COVID protocols in place and then set to work on the service. When halfway through he wanted to point out some issues that he had found which included the fact that the cooker wasn't earthed (Manufacturing fault), the fridge seal to the exterior incorrectly fitted and could have caused carbon monoxide gasses to build up and the main power RCD again not earthed correctly.

This was the 2-year service on our van and I asked why would these faults not have been picked up by the approved service last year? He remained professional and said he did not know why but they should have been. The fact that he did not slate the other engineers shows great professionalism.

I had a conversation with the manufactures about the issues and they stated that they could be rectified under warrantee, but only with the same agent I had used last service! I was not happy with returning the caravan to a company that had missed these faults and, in the end, I chose to use Andrew to remedy them as his attention to detail was 100%. Yes, it cost me, but I have confidence that I will not be electrocuted or gassed!

So, this years' service engineer choice was easy, and I have booked [CaraServe](#). I review the service as five stars. I believe in sharing good work and passing the information on.

The above review is as supplied by DA member Tony Tester. The Camping & Caravanning Club and the DA can accept no liability, should you chose to use the reviewed company

If any other member has received excellent service from a local business, please feel free to send us a review. All we ask is that you keep to the facts and in addition have no personal direct connection to the business.

Please send reviews to the editor

Contact me on 07740621551 or email [pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com](mailto:pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com)

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January.

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### 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

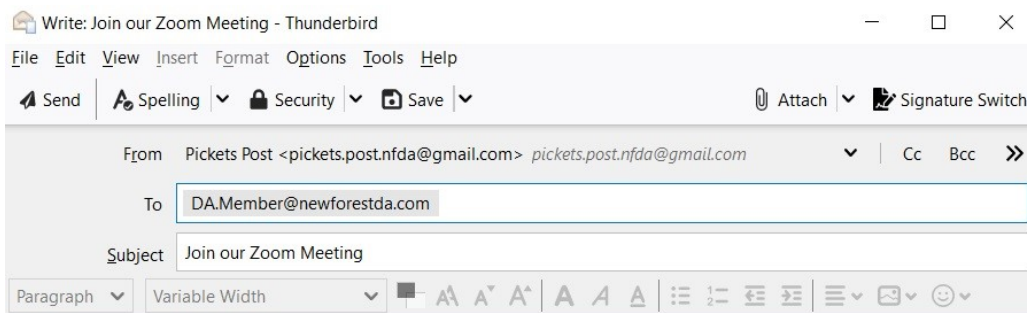
[Pickets Post Click Here](#)



## Something to help with the virtual AGM

If you are new to using Zoom, I have put together a very basic tutorial to help you join in with New Forest DA AGM at 11am on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

It really is very easy to use if you keep things simple to start off with. You will receive an email from the DA Secretary, as in the example below.



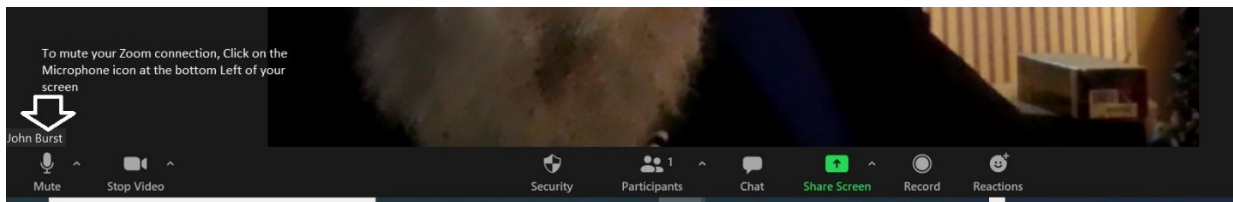
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/94912625904?pwd=aHBtZE4zZUJsWm1KUXJWeU5Zd2tUZz09>

Meeting ID: 949 1262 5904  
Passcode: QZwp77

Click on the link in the email and it will load a webpage and offer to download a copy of the Zoom APP to your device. Click to allow this and install and follow the prompts. Until Zoom opens and a box pops up telling you that the meeting host knows that you are waiting. The host sees your request and admits you to the meeting.

Please do try to install the APP in time prior to the meeting. If you previously installed Zoom, the link in the email will automatically load Zoom and show the host you are waiting to be admitted.

Zoom works by detecting the person speaking and immediately switches the focus to them and their video stream. The only way that this AGM can practically run is if you please ensure that you MUTE your connection. At the bottom left of your Zoom screen, you will see a picture of an old fashioned microphone. Please click on this to MUTE and when you do, a red line will appear through the microphone.



Later in the meeting if you wish to speak and address the meeting, please click on the same picture to UN-MUTE your connection.

At the end of the meeting, please click on the **RED BUTTON** to leave the meeting and click in the pop-up box to confirm.

Below is a link to a basic video on Youtube, which will walk you through the above explanation. Please click the link to launch the video.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wo1l6ljz\\_wg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wo1l6ljz_wg)

This guide has been produced for those that may have not used zoom before and hopefully will help with the smooth running of the AGM.

We hope you enjoy attending our virtual AGM,

John

Pickets Post editor

Contact me on 07740621551 or email [pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com](mailto:pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com)

## 2021 Bookings and Website Forms

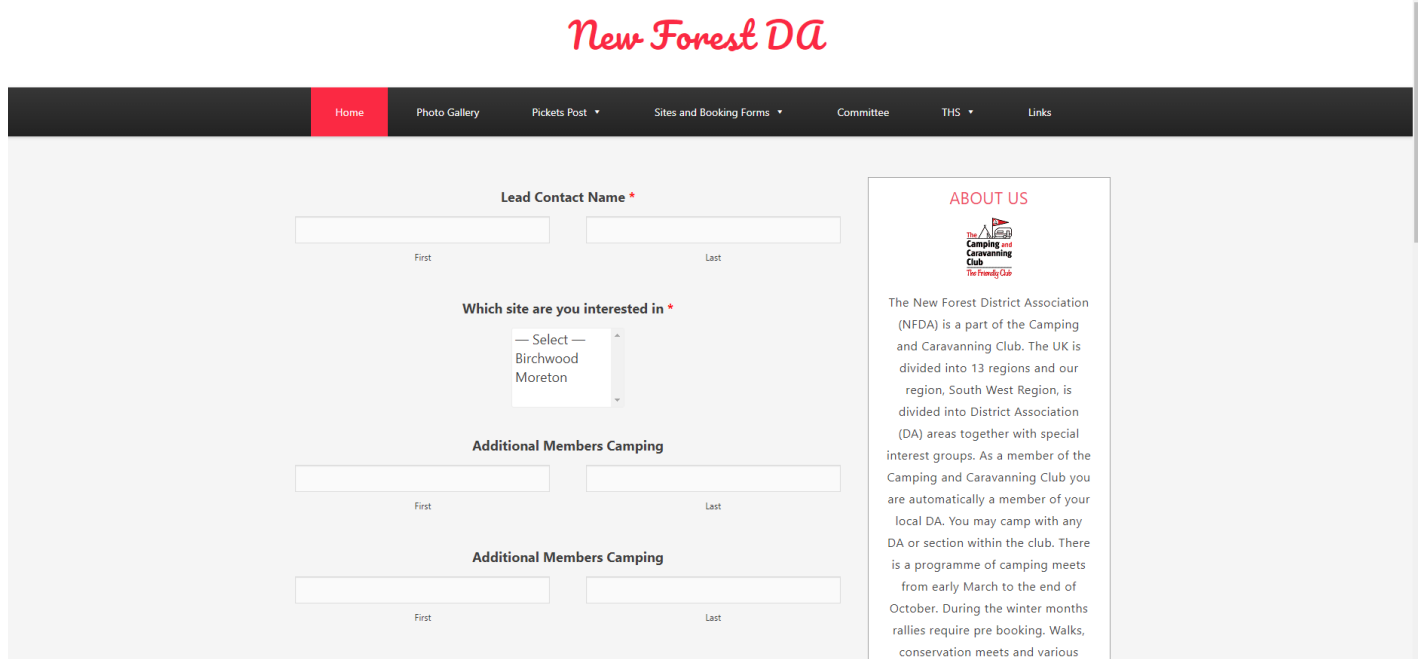
With the ongoing pandemic we are looking to hopefully get out camping albeit again slightly different than normal. Last year we introduced a booking form on the website to enable us to safely camp. This year is no different and wanted to remind all that we are only doing booked meets until the situation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



The screenshot shows the 'New Forest DA' website. The header is black with white navigation links: Home, Photo Gallery, Pickets Post, Sites and Booking Forms, Committee, THS, and Links. The main content area is light grey and contains a booking form. The form has the following sections:

- Lead Contact Name \***: Two input fields for 'First' and 'Last' names.
- Which site are you interested in \***: A dropdown menu with options: '— Select —', 'Birchwood', and 'Moreton'.
- Additional Members Camping**: Two input fields for 'First' and 'Last' names.
- Additional Members Camping**: Two input fields for 'First' and 'Last' names.

On the right side of the form, there is an 'ABOUT US' section with the NFDA logo and text: '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](mailto:webmaster@newforestda.com)

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



# New Forest DA



## Holiday Site ROTA 2021

Week No.	Start Date	End Date	Stewards	
<b>Ballard School (HS1727/21)</b>				
1,2,3	16/07/2021	02/08/2021	Setchell	Camburn
3 & 4	03/08/21	13/08/2021	Camburn	Sawkins
<b>Swanage &amp; Wareham RUFC (HS1858/21)</b>				
1 & 2	04/08/2021	18/08/2021	Setchell	<b>HELP !!</b>
3	18/08/2021	25/08/2021	Setchell	<b>HELP !!</b>
4	25/08/2021	01/09/2021	Setchell	<b>HELP !!</b>
<b>Parley Glade (HS2010/21) ** Air Show THS</b>				
1 & 2	25/08/2021	08/09/2021	<b>HELP !!</b>	<b>HELP !!</b>
<b>Breamore House (HS2378/21)</b>				
1 & 2	04/09/2020	09/09/2020	Sawkins	Smith
3	15/09/2020	19/09/2020	Sawkins	Jefferies
<b>Birchwood (HS1885/21)</b>				
1,2,3,4	15/06/2020	13/07/2020	Setchell	TBC

As you can see, I am still requiring a lot of help for the THS this year.

A very big thank you to the various members who have volunteered this month to help.

You have enabled me to complete Ballard School, Breamore House and hopefully Birchwood. I would like to complete **Wareham** next. If no one wants to take charge of the start then would anyone like to take over from us at Ballard School so that we can move to Wareham? This would still leave us needing a second set of stewards for the busy time at Wareham we could not manage this one alone.

**Parley Glade** If I do not get offers for 2 sets of stewards for this THS then it will be cancelled. This is likely to be the last year we would have the site for Air Festival as it has already been booked by another section for 2022.

Please consider helping and learning this year as I do not think we will be able to do so much in 2022.

Janet Contact on 01202649892 or [jsetchell20@talktalk.net](mailto:jsetchell20@talktalk.net)

## 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](mailto: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:**

**Setchell & Camburn & Sawkins**

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 Required 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 & Smith & Jefferies

**CASH ONLY ACCEPTED**

## **Sites officer notes March 2021**

This Year has started off poorly as we had to cancel Birchwood, I know it is a favourite site for many with h/up, showers etc and a great staff in reception. Boris said NO.

Looking to the future with fingers crossed we have Sixpenny Handley Ideal for walking and visiting Blandford, Salisbury Wimborne Etc. Unfortunately we will not be using the village hall so the weekend will be a quiet camp alone.

This site opening depends on Boris whether we open or not.

If you wish to go look on the DA website for booking form and send to me. I will ask for payment approx 10 days beforehand by BACs transfer. All instructions on booking form.

Moving on to Moreton the same applies here, send your forms in to me then payment will be asked of you 10 days beforehand.

I have managed to secure a weekend at Bucklers hard in the forest. The date for this is 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June, More details at a later date.

As with most things they have to have someone who is first in the field ie:- The Steward who will give you a big welcome.

At this moment the above sites need stewards. Most of the work will be done beforehand so no handling money and all covid PPE supplied.

Hope to hear from stewards soon. If I write back and say thank you but the job has been filled don't be offended.

All this waffle I have put in p/post maybe all in vain just depends on Boris  
Keep safe and fingers crossed

Ian Fraser NFDA sites officer

**PS I am still looking for a site for May bank holiday if anyone a has any suggestions**

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

# Site List 2021

Opens	Closes	Venue	Map Reference & Postcode	Fee pun	Stewards	Opens
February						
18 th	22nd	Birchwood C P <b>Cancelled due to Covid</b>	195/893913 BH20 7PA	£13 pun inc h/up	?	12pm
March						
April						
1 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup> (Apr)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Downton Cuckoo Fair <b>Cancelled Due to Covid</b>	184/169205		There is no cuckoo fair	?
13 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	Exbury Gardens (3 Nights)	196/426987 SO45 1AZ	£16-20pun		?
27 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> June	Furzebrook (5 nights )	195/932846 BH20 5AU	£10-80 pun	?	12 noon
June						
10 <sup>th</sup> Thur	13 <sup>th</sup> Sun	New Park Farm (4 Nights)	196/300 046 SO42 7QH	TBA	?	10am
July						
1 <sup>st</sup> Thur	5 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Bampton's Farm	196/339954 SO41 5SH	£9-50	?	12 noon
29 <sup>th</sup> July	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Thur	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Ridge farm	?not booked	?	Awaiting the owners	?
30 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	4th Oct Monday	Birchwood	195/893913 BH20 7PA	?	?	12 noon
October						

Stewards Phone No - 07514 555790 Visit

our website at [www.newforestda.com](http://www.newforestda.com)

## Emergency Ward 10 — March 2021

Hello everyone!

Well, we're still "locked down" and "locked up" but no doubt straining at the leash to be "let out!!". Hope you are all surviving and are keeping safe and well.

Since last month's Pickets Post I have sent out **3** cards to

### **Sue Tye, Jill Smith and Heather Brown**

who are not feeling too well and who, not doubt would benefit from a lovely weekend, "out in the field in the sunshine!!", wouldn't we all!! and we send them our love and lots of hugs!!

I know we are not meeting up at the moment but if you do hear of any of our members who are poorly or under the weather, please, please do let me know.

A card and a few kinds words will help anyone who is feeling isolated and cut off from camping friends. Just give me a ring or e-mail me and I'll do the rest.

### **BILL REAL**

Sadly, Bill, one of our "old timers" passed away recently aged 94. He moved from Sandford to Wareham after his wife Kath passed away several years ago. Sadly, he contracted Covid from one of his carers. Ray and I kept in touch with him over the years and shared many happy memories of our camping years together. Our condolences go to his daughter Kathy and her family.

### **Mike Cole**

It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Mike Cole. He had been ill for a while. He was Chairman of New Forest DA from 1993-1995. Mike had a great sense of humour. I always remember he had good patter. Every time he sold raffle tickets whether at the beginning of a rally or at the end he would say, you need to buy some more as the winning tickets have not been purchased yet. People fell for it every time. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

It is indeed sad news to hear that Mike has passed away. Having known Mike and Jan for many years, Ray, Stuart and I have fond memories of Mike and can recall many happy times together, spent joining in and supporting the D.A. at all the events over the years and our sincere condolences go to Jan, Nigel, Jane and family

Margaret , Ray & Stuart (Miller) – 01202 241605 – ray.miller7@ntlworld.com

## **RAY'S JOKE CORNER**

A Priest and a Rabbi are sitting next to each other on an airplane. After a while the Priest turns to the Rabbi and asks, "Is it still a requirement of your faith that you do not eat pork?". The Rabbi responds, "Yes, that is still one of our beliefs". The Priest then asks, "Have you ever eaten pork?", to which the Rabbi replies, "Yes, on one occasion I did succumb to temptation and tasted a ham sandwich". The Priest nodded in understanding and went on with his reading. A while later, the Rabbi spoke up and asked the Priest, "Father, is it still a requirement of your church that you remain celibate?". The Priest replied, "Yes, that is still very much a part of our faith". The Rabbi then asked him, "Father, have you ever fallen to the temptations of the flesh?". The Priest replied, "Yes, Rabbi on one occasion I was weak and broke with my faith". The Rabbi nodded understandingly. He was silent for about five minutes and then he said .... "Beats a ham sandwich doesn't it!!".

### **Just a thought.....**

Past Chairman Ian (Fraser) and Past Chairman Margaret (Miller)

This is what happens to you when you've been Chairman....

You have to get up at crack of dawn to cook breakfast for the D.A.!!!!

Junior Meet 2010 – Happy days!





### **MINCEMEAT PINWHEELS**

Just in case you have found half a jar of mincemeat left over from Christmas hiding at the back of the cupboard, here's a simple recipe to help use it up!

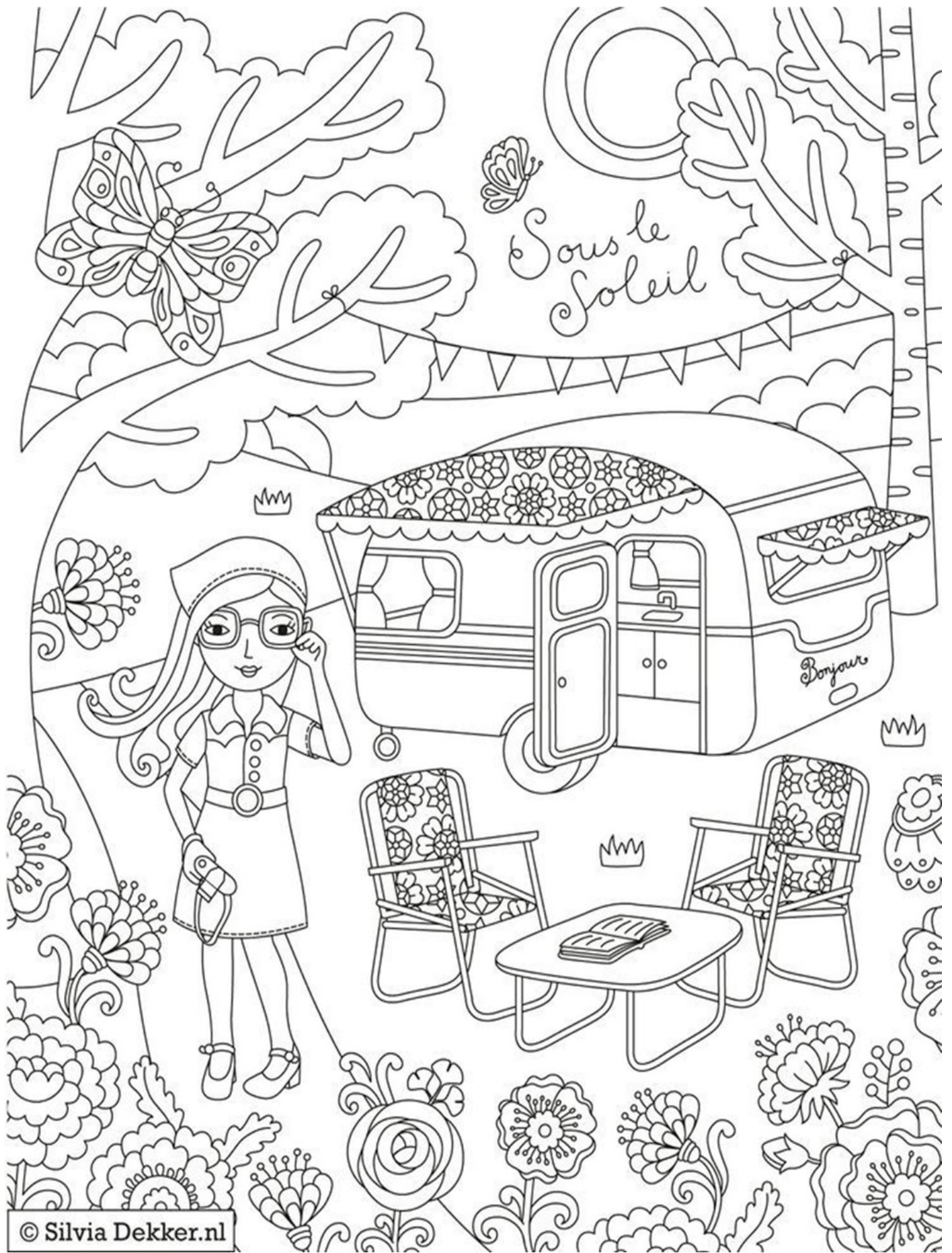
#### **INGREDIENTS**

Pack of puff pastry (or ready rolled) / Mincemeat / Grated zest of one or two satsumas or clementines / Icing Sugar

Mix the grated zest with the mincemeat. Roll out pastry to form an oblong and spread the mincemeat over it. Carefully roll the pastry up from the long edge to form a long sausage. Place the "sausage" in the freezer for 30 minutes to firm up. Cut the "sausage" into about ½ inch (1 cm) slices and place onto a non stick baking tray or non stick parchment. (Must be non-stick or else you'll be scrapping them off!!). Give them plenty of room and place in a pre-heated oven Gas 6 / 200c / 180c fan oven for 12 – 15 minutes till golden. Remove from the oven and cool before removing and giving a light covering of sifted icing sugar!

Tastes like Christmas again!! .... Marg (Miller)





HAPPY COLOURING! .. MARG X

## A Note from your Pickets Post Editor

Well hopefully this marks the end of winter and the vaccine heralds a new season of camping ahead of us all. For many of us, our vans have sat dormant for the best part of a year or more. Because of this, the start of this season it is even more important than ever to attend to servicing our trailers, Caravans and motorhomes. But, because of them all needing extra attention and not being able to have work done during lockdown, most engineers and dealers are booking up service slots very fast. Now is the time to ring and book.

**Very important service items are the brakes, tyres and electrics for safety on the road,**

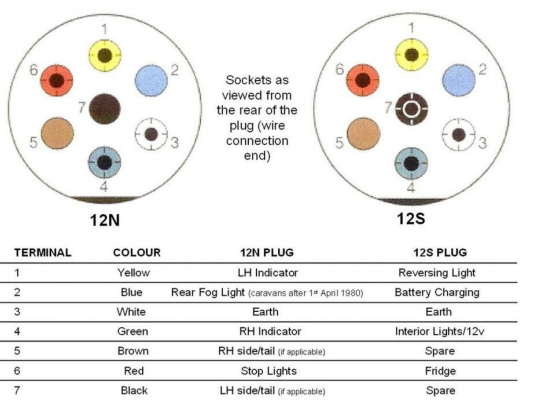
**Brakes** tend to rust when sat for prolonged periods, both the wheel hubs or disks, which cause the brakes to bind on and also lose braking efficiency. Brake cables also tend to stretch if left under tension and this sometimes only gets noticed when you need them.

**Tyres** are a touchy subject with some people and even though the tread might appear to be excellent, the sidewalls and between the treads tend to crack as the rubber hardens with age and due to UV degradation from the sun. Common advice is to replace tyres on a caravan or motorhome at 7 years old regardless of any tread left. A tyre blow out can be deadly. It is easy to check the age of tyres, because the manufacturing date is printed on the sidewall of the tyre in a 4 digit code. The first 2 numbers are the week number, 01 to 52. The second 2 are the year. In the example below week 47 of 2018



**Electrics** I will limit to checking bulbs for failures and plugs for corrosion or loose wires.

There are 3 types of plug on a towbar socket, The old 12n (lights) the old 12s (supplementary for charging battery & fridge) both 7 pin and the newer 13 pin standard that combines both the 12n & 12s functions. As a side note, the towbar electrics and socket on a vehicle are now part of the MOT test.



## **Just as important as safety on the road, is safety when you are camping**

**Gas** is the most important safety issue with camping units. Always check the hoses connecting your gas cylinders to the bulkhead regulator. These, like tyres deteriorate with age and cracks lead to ruptures under full pressure of the cylinder. The date of manufacture is printed on the hose, and it should be replaced at 5 years or before. Although the bottle top regulators mean that the gas hose is at low pressure, you should again replace and deteriorated hoses immediately or within 7 years

**CARBON MONOXIDE CO** is the deadliest of silent killers. This comes from the burning of propane. So your van's water heater, heating, oven and hob all need regular professional maintenance to ensure they burn cleanly. A gas flame that burns blue is a good sign, but if the flame is orange, not all the gas is burnt safely. You can't see or smell Carbon Monoxide, so it is essential that you have a working CO alarm fitted. Either long life, with a fixed battery or a cheaper version with disposable batteries work fine. But you need to test it regularly and replace the alarm or batteries before they die.

**Damp**, a word that strikes fear into all caravan and motorhome users. But it need not, if you keep a close eye on your van and clean it regularly. Pay close attention to body joints and that gaps are not forming. The worst cause of this is moss and any seeds that embed into any dirt, as their roots do the damage, allowing water in. If that small amount of water freezes the effect is multiplied. The other thing to be aware of is that every part or accessory that passes through a roof or side panel is sealed with non setting mastic. This mastic dries out and cracks with age and should be renewed periodically on older vans. The part most affected by brittle mastic is roof lights or sun roofs.

**So**, it's time to get out there and clean your van, evict the spiders and their webs and get ready for what looks like it will be a busy camping year (Hopefully). With leisure vehicle sales at an all time high and people desperate to replace their lost foreign holidays with a "staycation" it could bring lots of new members into our beloved DA

**Please do get in touch. You can contact me on**

**07740621551 or email [pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com](mailto:pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com)**

## Pickets Post Classified Section

Starting next month you are welcome and encouraged to advertise for sale your spare equipment, caravan or motorhome here in pickets post. We have a growing readership and you have direct access to fellow DA members.

**The DA and The Camping & Caravanning Club hold out no responsibility for any item advertised for sale. Any purchaser is advised to respect due diligence in the purchase of any item or vehicle. Only exchange money on collection of the item.**

**Please contact the seller directly**

To place an advert here, please email the editor [pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com](mailto:pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com)

Please include a clear photograph of the item for sale, the description, asking price and a contact telephone number or email for buyers to contact

