

PICKETS POST

Newsletter of the Camping and Caravanning Club New Forest District Association

At a glance:

Due to changing from a caravan to a motorhome, Laurence has a selection of caravanning accessories he would like to 'dispose' of. All of the items are free - or a donation to the Chairman's Charity. See Classifieds for details.



Due to some last minute cancellations there are still some places available at the Birchwood THS.

Phone Janet on 07513409978 to check for late availability.

A note from your editor:

Welcome to the June edition of Pickets Post. I hope you find it both enjoyable and informative, and as always, if you have any suggestions for articles or content then please drop an email to:

pickets.post.nfda@gmail.com

Chairman's Pitch:

Well here we are in the start of summer proper and despite a bit of inconvenient rain, it's been lovely and sunny. Perfect camping weather in fact. So here's to plenty more warm weekends ahead.



Now a rather disappointing bit about our last three meets. Warren Park farm for May Day Bank Holiday, just 8 units. I asked for opinions on Facebook and was told it's the same everywhere and maybe the price put people off? Owners are increasing their prices to reflect the increased cost of everything. People had been asking me to book rallies with electric hookup. I do and people don't come. Then we tried a brand new place for us, the Bluebird social club at Longham, opposite Haskins and Hobby Craft. The club even put on a live band and gave everyone who rallied temporary membership to take advantage of the bar at discounted prices. A nice green field with resident fox family, rabbits and deer. All for the bargain price of £12 per unit night. Perfect we thought, this could be busy. Er nope, just one unit plus the steward for a couple of nights. Very disappointing. Late May Bank holiday at the Homestead in West Parley was a let down for another reason. The owner inspected the fields before arrival, and although wet the pitches should dry, but the access was ankle deep water over slimy mud. All units would need towing on and off, damaging the field for weeks to come. So we had to cancel the meet last minute. Fortunately those booked found other local meets.



Am I getting the sites booking absolutely wrong or is it a sign of the times that our members no longer want green field camping? Considering the size of our membership, very few of them now camp with us.

Please prove me wrong, by coming to our New Park Farm meet - 13th to 18th of June, stewarded by Tony Tester, who is home from his travels so will no doubt have stories to share of his globetrotting adventure.

Following that we have a rally at the popular Bamptons farm in Lymington, stewarded by Graham Morton (28th of June to 2nd of July)

Straight after that we have the extremely popular Bucklers Hard meet stewarded by me (4th to the 9th of July) This is a booked meet and I am approaching the limits of field capacity. Get you booking in soon if you would like to go on the list and maybe the reserves list.

Chairman's Pitch:

The following weekend is the South West Region Summer meet as it bows out this year to hopefully return in a new format in 2026. Yes it is out of our area in Wrantage at Higher Listock Farm. This year it is heavily subsidised to £50 for the weekend, including entertainment.

Don't miss our Airshow meet or Salisbury Club site or even the return fixture with Bluebird Social Club with entertainment again. And of course, our DA feast of Lanterns at Birchwood. Our lighting up theme this year is Christmas. So get your thinking caps on and crafting skills to add to the usual lovely atmosphere. I am aware there will be a fish & chip van on site again this year and there will be stalls selling crafted items for the Chairman's Charity for the year - The Dorset university hospital trust fundraising to buy a whole body cancer scanner to help with early detection of cancers in local patients. Something I know that is close to all our hearts.

Please come join us in a field somewhere soon, and if you have any comments, the whole committee and I are keen to hear from you.

John

Don't Forget: South West Region Summer Meet

11th to 15th July at Higher Listock Farm, Wrantage, Nr. Taunton, Somerset. Cost £50 per unit.

Booking deadline is June 24th. Superb entertainment is being arranged for Friday and Saturday evenings. The theme for the weekend being "I am a cider drinker".

As this is the last Regional Summer meet in its current format and is reasonably local to us, it would be nice to see a bug turn out from New Forest members.

Full details and booking form can be found on the SW Region website.

Janet Setchell.

Janet Setchell

SITES LIST 2024

Opens	Closes	Venue	Map Reference & Post Code	Fee PuN	Stewards
15/02/24	19/02/24	Birchwood Tourist Park	195/893913 BH20 7PA	£22.40	John Burst
17/03/24	11am start prompt	MS Centre Parley	BH22 8TS	AGM	No Camping
28/03/24	02/04/24	Verwood C&CC Site	195/069098 BH218NQ	£20.40	John Burst
02/05/24	07/05/24	Warren Park Farm	195/129117 SP63DE	£20.40	John Burst
16/05/24	21/05/24	Bluebird Social Club	195/064992 BH229DA	£12	John Burst
23/05/24	28/05/24	The Homestead	195/093979 BH228SH	£22	John Burst
13/06/24	18/06/24	New Park Farm	196/300046 SO427QH	£20	Tony Tester
28/06/24	02/07/24	Bampton Farm	196/339954 SO415SH	£12	Graham Morton
04/07/24	09/07/24	Bucklers Hard	196/406003 SO427XB	£19	John Burst
11/07/24	15/07/24	SWR Summer Meet	Higher Listock Farm Wrantage	£50 weekend	
29/08/24	03/09/24	Bournemouth Airshow at The Homestead	195/093979 BH228SH	£22	John Burst
05/09/24	10/09/24	Bluebird Social Club	195/064992 BH229DA	£12	John Burst
03/10/24	07/10/24	Birchwood DA FOL	195/893913 BH20 7PA	£20.40	John Burst



Off Grid & Battery Capacity.

As well as being your Editor, I am also a Senior Electronics Engineer working in all things nuclear. Some I can tell you about, and some I can't. I have been intending to add a little technical section to Pickets Post for a while. As we are light on content for this edition (yes - you know I keep nagging for content!) I thought I would write a small article on battery capacity. Batteries of course are a necessity for us when camping 'off-grid'. The term 'off-grid' simply means that we are not connected to mains services - e.g. gas, water, or as in the context of the article I am writing here, electricity.

Did you know that all most everything in your caravan or motorhome runs off 12V - *even if you are on electricity?*

There are of course a few exceptions, mainly your fridge, water heater and heating system, and maybe a single ring on your hob. That said, the first two can also be run from gas *and* 12V, as can a gas hob. What do you need to make this happen? The simple answer is a 12V supply. Where do we get this from? Another simple answer, a battery. Not all batteries are the same and that will be covered in another article.

If you have a leisure battery, you can go off-grid. What determines how long you can stay off grid? The capacity of the battery, and, how much of that capacity you use over time.

Go and have a look at your battery - you should see an 'Ah' rating on it's label. Note this number down.

A typical leisure battery may have a capacity of one-hundred Amp hours - written as 100Ah (Amp, shortened from Ampere is the unit of current). Theoretically this means you could draw 100A at 12V for one hour, or 10A at 12V for ten hours, or 1A at 12V for one hundred hours. See how it works?

Unfortunately, it's not quite that simple! You cannot completely discharge a typical lead acid leisure battery to 0V as it would be irreparably damaged. More about that in a later article. As a typical rule of thumb a 100Ah battery has about a 50% usable capacity - so about 50Ah.

Question - What's a Watt?

Answer - The Watt is the unit of power.

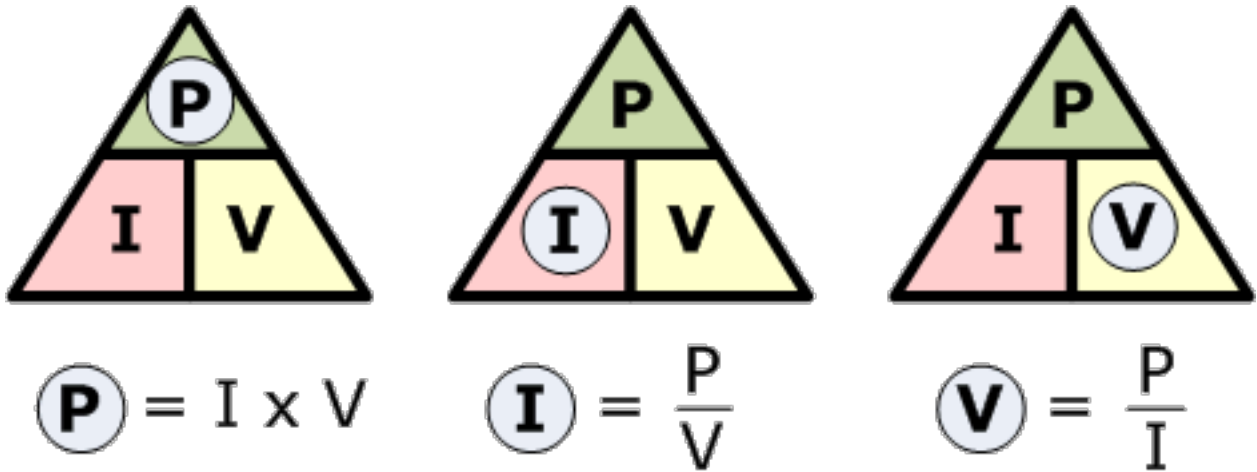
To work out how long you can run off grid for you need to know four factors. These are Voltage (V), Current (A), Power (W), and time (h). Luckily you know one, and we can *assume* it is always constant. This is the voltage, and for the purposes of this article will shall fix that at 12V.

Now, let's head back to school and introduce a formula, noting that current is represented by the letter I:

$P = V \times I$ or Power = Voltage x Current

Don't be afraid - take a look at the next page. It's time to draw a silly triangle...





Whoa! What does this mean? Using the cover-up rule, I can find out either my power, current, or voltage by multiplying or dividing the other two factors.

Do you have LED lighting? Let's assume you do and that one of your LED bulbs has a rated power of 6W (you typically find the power rating of an appliance on a ratings plate attached to it, or maybe from the box if you have bought a light bulb for example).

To find the current, we shall use the centre triangle and cover up what we want to find - so in this case, put your finger over the I. To find the current, this tells us we have to divide P by V. Lets put some numbers in for our 6W LED example from above:

$$I = P/V = 6W/12V = 0.5A$$

Now, let's turn on two of our LED bulbs to see how much current we draw. $2 \times 0.5A = 1A$. Pretty simple? Let's turn four bulbs on. $4 \times 0.5A = 2A$.

Remember our battery? Earlier I stated a useable capacity of 50Ah - so we could draw 50A for one hour. If in the example above we turned two LEDs on, which consumed a current of 1A, our battery could last for 50 hours. With four turned on it could last 25 hours.

BUT, and this is a big BUT, we don't (intentionally) leave the lights on all of the time. If our four LEDs, and *only* our four LEDs, were used for five hours a day, our battery would last for five days of off-grid camping.

You do need to remember though that there is *always* a draw from the leisure battery. The fridge when running on gas uses the 12V system for its control electronics, as does the boiler. The screens for your controllers (Truma, Alde) use the 12V system. The radio - yes the one fitted but the one hardly anyone uses - uses the 12V system. Do you leave your TV in standby? Are you using a WiFi router? Is your phone on charge? All of these other uses contribute to what is called 'parasitic drain' - the drain to the 12V system that you can't see.

In my next article, I'll discuss solar panels and how they return capacity to your battery, allowing you to run for longer off-grid.



Who am I? - Janet Setchell

By way of a change I will tell you a bit about myself. I am your DA Vice President but came back to help so currently I am your Secretary as well as THS Officer.

Born in Yorkshire, mother a school teacher and father a master Haycutter. Basically farmers cut and dried their hay then put it into a stack. My father would buy the stack then take his baler onto site, cut up the hay with a hay knife and make into bales. These were then collected by the forage merchant from Lancashire and transported to Lancashire to feed the cattle. A hay cutting knife was triangular in shape with a long handle. Unfortunately I have not been able to find a picture of one. With the advent of pick up balers he slowly became redundant as there was no requirement for his trade. We then moved south to Hampshire from where I went to work at The Royal Free Hospital in London. I met and married Brian 61 years ago. We have 2 children, Ann our DA minutes Secretary and Alan a retired Police officer.

We camped regularly during their childhood most weekends out in our tent from Easter to September. Easter was always to Beech where we first met our DA member Christine Cole and camped annually with her parents, Brenda & Harold. What a pleasure it has been to meet up with her again since moving to Poole. Ann still loves the camping life and has her own tent etc. We progressed to a caravan eventually and are still enjoying the occasional outing. Since Brian's major surgery in 2019 followed by lockdown for Covid, we do not venture out frequently as it is very difficult to get our van out of our back garden, pushed along the entrance until it is wide enough to turn the van to attach to the car. As we are now both 80+ this task gets harder year on year.

I enjoy the work I do for the DA and will miss not being so active. ***We do need to replace me as secretary so any offer to become Secretary please let me know.***

Going back to my roots, my favourite food was always, and still is, a Yorkshire Curd Tart.



I hear you say what is that? Well best described as a pastry case filled with a curd mixture. Curds (as in the nursery rhyme, curds and whey) are made from curdling the raw milk (can't make it with pasteurised milk!) Hang in muslin to let all the whey drip off leaving the solids called curds. Add to this butter, sugar and currants then place in the pastry case and bake. A little nutmeg can be sprinkled on the top to add to the taste. Cool and eat. Will keep for 3 – 4 days.

Who am I? - Janet Setchell

When Morrisons first came to Weymouth , I was delighted to find they still sold them so was very happy for a while but of course with little demand for them down south , they stopped. Continuing to sell them up north. Last weekend Ann took Brian and I up to Yorkshire to visit my elderly cousin, so task number 1 was :- find a curd tart. Morrison's first as on their web site it said they stock them – Sorry no we stopped about 2 years ago. Next try the 2 bakers shops in the town, alas like around here they no longer exist. Ask an elderly pedestrian – oh yes dear she said , I know what you want but no idea where to send you now. Give up and go to local Garden centre for a coffee as it is now 11am. Hey Presto – found in their cake display so bought 4 as a take away for our tea. Happy Days !!

How do I manage – I have a secret store. I order my curd tarts on line and they arrive beautifully packed. Sealed then bubble wrapped and an icepack between each tart so I can put in my freezer and take out for special treats. They do of course come from Yorkshire by Royal Mail.

Home again now and preparing for Birchwood THS. Unfortunately I have had some last minute cancellations so **THERE ARE VACANCIES** that need to be filled. If you fancy a few days at Birchwood between 7th June and 5th July at £20 a night which includes EHU please contact me on 07513409978 to see if I still have room for you.

Janet Setchell



Birchwood Summer THS:

Birchwood was very popular last year and unfortunately some of you couldn't get in because you left it too late to book. Many return year on year and book very early to make sure of a place. It has become a meeting place of camping friends over the years we have been running.

2024 dates are 7th June to 5th July.

Due to the large number of cancellations in 2023 it has been decided to run 2024 slightly differently in as much as there will be a **£20 non refundable booking fee** which is the first night of your camp. That way if you do not turn up at least we do not lose the cost of a night if unable to re let it immediately.

The cost per night in 2024 is £20 which includes your EHU. The booking form for this is on the DA website. Do not leave it to the last minute and be disappointed.

Janet Setchell Email me at ths-officer@newforestda.com

Birchwood Payment details:

£20 NON RETURNABLE BOOKING FEE

PHONE 07513409978 to confirm availability before paying deposit.

Booking Fee and Balance: Please try to pay by BACS any balance due by 1st June to save congestion on arrival particularly if arriving on 7th June, as bus service may use the same one way system.

BACS Details:

A/c name:- Camping & Caravanning Club New Forest DA

A/c number:- 44684960

Sort Code:- 30-98-97

Ref:- B24 + (your surname) example - B24SMITH

Late payments to the Stewards on pitch 44. on day of arrival by card please.
(No cash or cheques on site.)

Please **do not pay at reception** as you will not get discounted price!!
Email completed form to ths-officer@newforestda.com by **01/05/2024**.
ONLY Telephone bookings available after that date.

If posting send to
NFDA THS Officer, 23 Milestone Road, Oakdale , Poole, BH15 3DR.

Birchwood Booking Form:

Members Name	
Membership number	
DA (from your card)	
Caravan, Motorhome, Trailer Tent or Tent	
Approx length	
Reg No of car or motorhome	
Reg No of any additional car	
No of Adults,	
No of children under 18	
Contact tel no (pref mobile)	
Email address	
Date of arrival	
Date of departure	
Total No of nights @ £20	

Notes:- (Janet's mobile contact no is 07513409978)

Not on a bus route. Wareham Approx 3 miles.

In 2023, busses did run from the site into Wareham. Plans for 2024 are not yet known.

Access and exit at site is by number plate recognition at barriers.

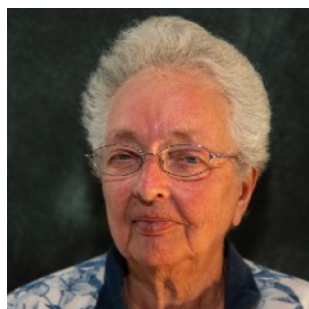
ARRIVALS between 1pm and 7pm **not** before 1pm please.

DEPARTURES by 11am

PAYMENT DETAILS ON PREVIOUS PAGE.



Your Committee:



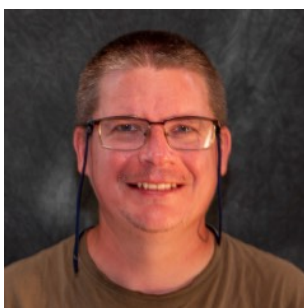
Vice President/Secretary:
Janet Setchell



Vice President:
Alan Bown



Chairman:
John Burst



Vice Chairman:
Laurence Jeffries



Treasurer:
Maureen Horswell



Executive Committee:
Chris Sawkins



Minutes Secretary:
Ann Setchell



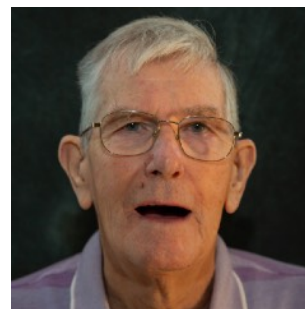
Committee Member:
Linda Sawkins



Committee Member:
Susan Chappell



Committee Member:
Allan Horswell



Committee Member:
Brian Setchell

Classifieds:

- 1x Aquaroll 40L
- 2x Aquaroll 29L
- 3x Wastemaster



All available for a suitable donation to the Chairman's Charity.
Contact Laurence for details - laurencejeffries1976@gmail.com

There may be some more bits in the next edition as they get discovered no doubt!

