



# LONDON THAMES VALLEY AND WILTSHIRE BCC 2017 SITE REPORTS

## **4th Feb.**                      **Gardner Arms**                      **Marion & Colin**

On February 4th, 32 of us met at the Gardeners Arms in Emmer Green for a game of skittles and a buffet lunch. This was enjoyed by all the members and friends of LTVW. The winners of the Skittles were Rene, and Jonathan (Tony & Rosemary's grandson) and the consolation prizes went to Dennis and Mary D. A big thank you must go to Ken Deverill for keeping score throughout the afternoon and to the "boys & girls" who picked up the skittles. We had a good raffle and thanks to the many people who donated raffle prizes. The temporary landlord did us proud with an enjoyable lunch once again. We have been going to this venue for many years and have been assured the pub will continue to be open should we wish to have our skittles event there in the future. As many of you know, Colin and I no longer have a caravan. It's a sad time as we have been members of the C&CC and the BCC for 41 years and we have been regular members of LTV (now LTV&W) for 31 years. We would like to thank you all for your friendship and the support you have given us over the years.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Mar.**                      **Bushey Park Walk**                      **Pat & Maurice**

Despite the inclement weather, 20 brave LTVW's including 1 mobility scooter plus 2 dogs joined myself and Maurice for a walk round Bushy Park. The walk was a circular one, beginning and ending at The Pheasantry carpark. The first part of the walk took us passed Bushy House and the NPL sports field to the newly restored Water Garden alongside Upper Lodge. From there we walked down to the Woodland Gardens, where, because dogs are not allowed in this area, the dog walkers had to leave us and walk back to the Pheasantry by the perimeter fence. The rest of us walked through the Woodland Gardens and enjoyed the profusion of daffodils, primulas, camellias and the blossom already out on some of the trees. We also saw some Egyptian Geese chicks. Back at the Pheasantry cafe we enjoyed a welcome cuppa before departing for home.

## **30<sup>th</sup> Mar-3<sup>rd</sup> Apr.**                      **Chertsey Club Site**                      **John & Val**

First meet of the year at Chertsey camping club site, we had eleven units on Site. We were extremely lucky with the weather, we were able to sit outside nearly all weekend.

Meet started on Thursday and finished on Monday.

There was another motorhome group on site, we asked them to join us on Friday night, we met in the hall for a few drinks and a chat. Saturday morning we had a committee meeting. Saturday evening we had fish & chips for forty and a quiz with others from the group joining us later. A good time was had by all.



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**13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Aston & Cote Village Hall**

**Frank, Margaret & Committee**

What another great Easter meeting 31 units attended & the weather was kind to us this year.

The Hot Cross Buns was enjoyed by all on the Good Friday morning with a good cup of Tea / Coffee.

In the evening John read out a couple of quizzes done by Les & Daphne, well I think it was the hardest quiz we ever had, I bet Les & Daphne were having a good laugh at home.

On Saturday evening Val Malone, Cheryl, Karen cooked us a great meal, Lasagne, salad or beans with a choice of gateaux to follow.

A big thank you to you all.

After we had the card game where the prize was passed around but was wrapped so no one knew what the prize was, this was very popular and lasted most of the evening.

We made the winners open their prizes at the end which gave us all a good laugh.

Sunday morning we had the AGM which was well attended and went very well

In the afternoon we had Tea/ Coffee etc and had the Easter Bonnet & Card competition.

This was Judged by Liz Stewart's Daughter Emily.

Richard Newman won the Mens best Bonnet & the best card. Emily had a hard job trying to say which was the best Ladies Bonnet, so we had 2 winners, Eileen Stroud & Pat Boissieux.

During the evening we had an American supper & horse racing, Tom was training Margaret & Mary to do the Tote, Tom said he thought they may need more training! again a great time was had by all, a big thank you to Tom & Mary.

Monday morning at Coffee we had the raffle and there were lots of prizes, a big thank you to all who donated prizes.

We collected £122.00 for the charity over the weekend, so a big thank you to you all.

A big thank you to all who supported us, from your stewards Frank & Margaret & the Committee

Look Forward to seeing you all at Henley Birthday Meet.

**27<sup>th</sup> Apr-2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Swiss Farm Henley**

**John, Mary & Committee**

Wow what a fantastic fun packed weekend at Henley-on-Thames!

Over 50 vans attended to celebrate the LTV's 65th birthday and we were pleased to welcome Roy & Kath Brown, Christine & Terry Cole and our own counsellor Tony Latham and his wife Rosemary.



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Being the 'friendly club' no rally would be complete without our evenings of fun and merriment with friends old and new . The main event of the weekend was however our Saturday afternoon birthday celebrations involving an afternoon tea provided by LTV&W members for all to enjoy. There was a veritable feast of sandwiches, sausage rolls, pies and quiches followed by a large variety of cakes.

No LTV&W party would be complete without a glass or two of Frank's infamous punch (50mls of this 50mls of that). Thankfully there was also a non alcoholic version available for those who might be driving.

It was lovely to invite back a number of our old LTV members who no longer rally and there was much reminiscing during the afternoon.

Most evenings we gathered in the marquee for a chat, a few drinks and some silly games.

The success of the weekend is down to all the help and generosity of our members who provided the food, helped erect and take down the marquee and party tent, and donated raffle prizes. A huge thank you to everyone who helped, we could not have done it without you.

**25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May**                      **Salisbury RFC**                      **Liz & Francis**

Having recovered from our first weekend of stewarding a rally we are now able to write a few words.....

We welcomed 32 units on site; 14 motorhomes and 18 caravans. Of these 23 were LTVW members; a warm welcome was given to visitors from Hampshire, Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire and Herts and Avon DAs.

Francis was continually on the prowl, not only checking that all was well on the site but also to catch the unwary to buy yet more raffle tickets!

All in all a grand £78.50 for the raffle was raised together with four sheets of Thunderball completed.

We had a splendid supper party on the Saturday evening followed by a not too difficult quiz on Salisbury and its surroundings to follow.

Some members were initially somewhat alarmed when the scrap paper was handed out as it contained a variety of mathematics questions. All was soon resolved when punters were asked to turn the sheets over!

Given the rugby club had a marquee up Francis negotiated use of same for the Sunday Afternoon tea and cakes and also for the coffee morning/raffle prizes and weekend quiz session on Monday morning.

For some the highlight of the weekend was the request from the rugby club to help drinking up the excess beer from their Saturday event in return for donations to their charity. The rally came to the rescue and did a sterling job...just to help out you understand.



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All in all a successful weekend with much fun and laughter all round.

Even down to the eclectic mix of raffle prizes which included a brand-new pair of mismatching (in size) flip flops. We did think to keep these for pass the parcel another time but decided against this.

Thank you to all who supported the rally. Until next time...same place, same time, next year!!

## 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June                      Runnymede NT                      Wendy & Jim

9 units attended this meet, stewarded by Jim and Wendy who organised a street party for the Saturday evening and all the campers joined in and enjoyed a bbq cooked by Jim. This was followed by a game which raised £14 for our chosen charities. The two prize winners, one of whom one a box of chocolates and the other a box of biscuits, kindly shared their prizes with the other campers.

## 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June                      Weyhill Fair PH                      Nina & George

Opposite the site is an excellent farm shop and Nina and George took advantage of their succulent sausages and produced hot dogs for everyone on Saturday evening, assisted by Wendy, Jim and Cheryl which was much appreciated by all there.

## 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July                      Swiss Farm Henley                      Val & Cheryl

Well what a fantastic turn out we had. 63 units in total from all parts of the UK and one from Holland. We had truly tropical weather with wall to wall sunshine all weekend allowing people to dine outside every evening, catching up with friends and family.

We had several birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate on Saturday evening so we all got together in the marquee with our food and drinks to celebrate. We had cake and punch to toast afterwards, along with music and dancing. Much fun was had by all.

## 21<sup>st</sup> July-7<sup>th</sup> Aug                      Abingdon THS                      John & Mary

Well that's another Abingdon THS over and despite somewhat inclement weather at times it has proven to be yet another success rally with many of our visitors vowing to come back again next year. Abingdon Cricket Club is a hugely popular site with a lovely flat field, close to the town and with some lovely walks along the Thames Path accessed directly from the site. This year 238 units visited us some for a few days others for much longer. Everyone seemed to enjoy their stay and we received many positive comments and thanks.

This year we chose this THS as the venue for our main charity fund raiser. On the first Sunday we held our coffee morning with a difference, tea and coffee with a piece of cake, together with a range of money raising side shows and raffles. Despite us having to terminate the event early due to rain we raised a remarkable £579. On the following Tuesday an afternoon tea was held which raised a further £79, these two sums together with donations means that over £750 was raised to be shared between our two charities Macmillan Cancer Support and Dementia UK. A huge thank you to



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everyone who helped run a stall, donated prizes or gave generously, we could not have done it without you.

This is the first time Mary and I have stewarded a THS but as nobody else has come forward it does look as if we will be doing it all again next year. We cannot do it alone! We are extremely grateful to Frank & Margaret Bennett and John & Val Farley for their help and support this year. There is so much to do in preparation not least the marking out of pitches, fetching and erecting the marquee, parking up of units as they arrive, etc. We do need others to come forward to share the load so that it is not left to the same few.

**1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> Sept**                      **White Mark Farm**                      **Karen**

9 units - all bar one being LTVW members - enjoyed a sunny weekend at White Mark Farm.

We were invited to a summer fete being held in the grounds of the nursing home next door on Saturday afternoon, plus various hostelries were visited during the course of the weekend and plenty of sloes were picked for a 2017 vintage gin. The dogs - Dexter, Holly, Josie and Jazz - were spoilt with the plethora of walks, the site being adjacent to The Ridgeway and Watlington Hill.

Everyone got together for a communal BBQ on Saturday evening, although the autumn chill drove us back into our vans not long after darkness descended.

At coffee morning on Sunday Dave Marriage won the Thunderball draw and the generous donations of raffle prizes were fairly evenly distributed amongst the attendees.

In all another successful weekend, thank you, despite the proximity to the bank holiday weekend.

**14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> Sept**                      **Winchester**                      **Joy, Peter, Liz & Francis**

Joy and Peter and Liz and Francis welcomed twenty plus units at the St Cross Cricket Club at Winchester. The weather was mixed and varied but a good time was had by all in the sunny times between the showers. What with day trips out on the bus and walks into Winchester there really was something for everyone to enjoy.

On the Saturday evening we had a splendid BBQ prepared and cooked by Val, John and Frank.

Everyone joined in...some singing in the rain.

Eileen was very helpful emptying the bucket....

Many thanks to them. After a supper of hot dogs and burgers we enjoyed (!) a quiz devised by Liz which had questions relating to a BBQ theme. This was won by Eileen's team.

Sunday morning saw us reconvening for the traditional coffee morning. We enjoyed Alan's birthday cake, the weekend quiz results, the thunderball prizes and the now infamous LTVW raffle with its eclectic mix of prizes.



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Sunday evening we enjoyed a get together around the St Cross Cricket Club fire pit.

A really very happy and enjoyable weekend with most units being able to pack up dry.

**29<sup>th</sup> Sept-1<sup>st</sup> Oct**      **Riverside Park, Hurley**      **Ken & Sue**

23 units of which 17 were LTVW attended our FOL at Hurley, themed Classic Childrens Films.

Unfortunately the field was already waterlogged when we arrived and became muddier daily.

Friday evening Ken did a quiz on The Thames, won by Cheryl, Paul and Karen.

Saturday, after some showers, the evening was lit up with tableaux, window displays and many colourful lights, enjoyed by everyone. A lot of planning and effort had gone on beforehand.

This was followed by hot dogs and punch.

We were treated to cakes on coffee morning by Pat & Maurice for their birthdays. Unfortunately they left beforehand as Pat was feeling unwell.

After the raffle, Ken announced the eagerly awaited result of the FOL which was Mary and John's Mad Hatter's tea party with their daughter in law (Alice) and grandsons (Mad Hatter and White Rabbit) behind a table of a delightful array of appetising food. The annual cup, along with wine and chocs was presented.

Unfortunately as more rain was forecast, most people packed and left fairly early.

Next year's theme chosen by our winners is SPACE - start thinking!

**12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Oct**      **Sandy Balls HP**      **John & Mary**

Sixteen units attended this lovely Holiday Park on the edge of the New Forest. The weather was largely fine and unseasonably warm although the remnants of hurricane Ophelia brought some interesting skies treating us to the picturesque sight of a blazing red sun, which doused the sky with a captivating orange glow. Apparently this phenomenon was brought about by sand blown in from the Sahara mixed with smoke particles from the dreadful fires in Portugal.

There is so much to do on this site with lovely riverside walks, a heated indoor swimming pool and cycle hire and it was good to see members making full use of the facilities.

On Saturday evening twenty members dined at Aubrey's restaurant on site and had a lovely meal and get together. A huge thank you to our Treasurer Karen who coordinated the individual menu requests, collected the money and liaised with the restaurant in advance of the meal so that everything went smoothly.

This was a 'free and easy' rally so the meal was the only planned event, notwithstanding members were still able to socialise by availing themselves of the on-site pub.



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Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the weekend and with hard standing and electricity it was an ideal site for a late season rally. Sadly due to a change of ownership the site is not taking rallies for 2018 so this appears to be a first and last for LTVW, however we will monitor the situation to see whether their position on future rallies changes

**26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**Chertsey Club Site**

**Frank & Margaret**

Dear all, we had our last meeting at Chertsey and 14 units attended.

On Thursday evening we had a social get together in the clubhouse on site to settle everyone in.

On Friday evening I went to collect everyone a Fish & Chip supper which they all enjoyed, we then had a couple of quizzes just to finish the evening off.

On Saturday morning Bill took Val, Margaret & Mary to the local Costco to get the food for the evening buffet, which the club supplied. [ you can turn you hearing aids on now Bill ]

At 3pm some of us got together in the clubhouse to lay the food out & decorate the hall with lights & tinsel etc, we even had a Christmas Tree.

We started the evening at 6pm as we had lots of food to eat, and a large amount of LTVW Punch, we also had some new games which everyone laughed & enjoyed very much.

Father Christmas arrived and gave out the Raffle prizes, he also enjoyed giving the women a Christmas Kiss & if you was really unlucky the men got to sit on his knee.

We also celebrated Tony & Rosemary's 56<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with a lovely cake they brought, this was followed by a toast with a glass of the LTVW Punch.

On Sunday 9 units stopped so we had a get together in the clubhouse to finish off the food & wind down.

Margaret & I would like to thank those who helped over the weekend to make it a great time & Maurice for taking the photos & a thank you to those who sent us e mails saying what a great time they had and never laughed so much.

**4<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**The Greyhound PH**

**Frank & Margaret**

We tried this new venue The Greyhound Pub at Eton Wick for the Skittles afternoon & 33 people attended.

We had a very good response from all who attended saying what a good venue and when the food arrived, a hot / cold buffet, it was a great selection and everyone said it was very good.

We held the raffle half way through & a big thank you to those who donated prizes.

The winner of the men's skittles was Johnathan & the winner of the Ladies was Norma.

The winner of the men's wooden spoon was George & the Ladies was won by Nina.

On the final round we decided to have a knockout completion at 50p each, this was won by Rosemary & she donated her winnings £16 to our Charity, so a big thank to her for this.

I would like to thank John Divall for keeping the scores & all those who helped pick up the skittles.

As we have this venue booked for 3rd February 2018 we asked if anyone wanted to put there names down for next year, we had such a response everyone put there names down and we are full.

However we are having a reserve list so please contact Frank & Margaret if you wish to put your name down.



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We are always very cautious of trying new venues but I believe this turned out to be very successful one, and a great time was had by all.

Frank & Margaret thank you for your support & see you all on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Have a great Christmas & a Happy New Year.