



LONDON THAMES VALLEY AND  
WILTSHIRE BCC

SITE REPORTS 2018

**3 February            The Greyhound Public House**

Hi everyone, another well supported skittles afternoon.

We had 32 members attend and it proved to be once again a great day out with good food and plenty of fun.

The men's skittles was won by Frank & the ladies was won by Shirley, the wooden spoon was awarded to Tony & the ladies Mary Foster. The knockout competition was won by Pat Boissieux who donated her prize money to LTVW chosen charities.

We would like to thank those who donated raffle prizes.

It was great to see Peter & Joy attend as just 5 days ,before Peter was in hospital having a pacemaker fitted , what great supports of the club they are.

Please remember to send me your membership card as this will be needed at the AGM for you to vote

Frank and Margaret

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**11 March            Isabella Plantation Richmond Park Winter Walk**

19 LTVW members including Maurice and myself enjoyed a short walk around the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park. At least we didn't have snow and the rain held off as well. The ground was quite boggy in places, but fortunately the Isabella Plantation has some firmish footpaths. Some parts of the garden were inaccessible because of state of the ground, so we didn't get to go through the bog garden. Not many spring flowers were out yet, probably because of the adverse weather over the last few weeks and of course, we were a month too early for the azaleas. But at least it blew the cobwebs away.

Pat and Maurice

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15-19 March            Chertsey Club Site

No report received

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**30 March -3 April   Princes Risborough School**

Site opened at 10am on Friday 30th April in the rain, and the rain continued throughout the meet, however, this did not dampen the spirits of those you braved it.

This was the first time LTV&W had used this site and what a blessing this was, as we were all on hard standings and had use of heated hall and kitchens. We chuckled

at the thought of the 'other group' wading around in the mud at Aston (the site we were hoping to have for this meet).

Members and guests were greeted on arrival with hot cross buns, coffee and teas prepared and served by Liz and Francis.

The site was attended by 24 units including members from Essex, Staffordshire, Royal Berks and North Warwickshire DA's

Friday evening got events underway with a social gathering and an evening of Bingo with a twist in which winners had to become the Bingo caller in the next game.

Saturday evening we prepared and served a lasagne & salad meal, this was prepared by Karen and her helpers ( Val Farley and Viv Frazer), managed by Paul(head chef).

The meal was followed by a game of horse racing in which winners became jockeys in the following race.

Sunday morning got underway with us being very much on our guard as it was April fools day and we were expecting some little tricks but thankfully there were no pranks.

The well attended AGM got underway at 11AM. Frank Bennett sadly stood down as Chairman and Margaret Bennett stood down from the committee, they both will be truly missed. A big thank you and a presentation was given.

Sunday evening got underway with an Easter Bonnet competition, a collection of fantastic Bonnets were presented and judged by Roy Brown and Keith Thompson. This was followed by a social gathering with several games of Dingbats.

Monday got underway with a coffee morning including a raffle with lots of prizes, a big thank you to all those who donated prizes and to Karen for making and serving the coffee and tea. Next time she can borrow Paul's maids outfit!

Charity Donations for this event totalled £68.30. (Name the bunny, book & Clothing sales and collection boxes.

Another BIG THANK YOU to everyone who attended and to everyone that helped or offered their help.

Cheryl and Paul

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### **19-24 April Home Farm Rally Field Stoke Bruerne**

Unfortunately due to the adverse weather, the rally was cancelled

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### **3 – 8 May Swiss Farm Henley on Thames**

Site opened 12.0clock Thursday and the sun shone for the next six days after a wet start to the week, The rally was well attended with 54 units coming and going over the five days.

Val and John

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### **24-29 May Salisbury Rugby Club**

Liz and Francis were pleased to welcome friends old and new to the Rugby Club at Salisbury. Whilst the weather was mixed it did not change the happy friendly atmosphere of the meet.

Whilst the numbers were down on last year a good time was had by all.

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!

We were in competition with the European cup final on Saturday evening with regard to entertainment; a counselling service was offered to Liverpool supporters on Sunday morning.

The rugby club made us very welcome; indeed, the use of their hall was very welcome on a rainy Sunday morning for our coffee morning, quiz results and raffle.

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

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

Liz and Francis

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### **7- 11 June Aston Cote Village Hall**

Aston Cote is a good site and was easy to organise, no problems this year with boggy ground, because we booked good weather for the whole weekend! It was a fantastic small meet (7 units, all LVT&W), quiet during the day, but with good social evenings.

The shelter was erected the first evening (Thanks to help given) and proved very popular with all on site joining in with the chat & games. It was a gentle start for us in fact it was so good we are helping out with meets next year.

Shirley & Garry.

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### **21-25 June Cirencester Rugby Club**

A very successful trip to the Cotswolds. Despite many of our regulars being away on holiday elsewhere, we had a good turnout with 17 units attending for the weekend, including visitors from Chandlers Ford, Gloucester, Stroud, Chepstow and Huddersfield.

With the town being within easy walking distance most of us enjoyed a stroll around the numerous shops, hostelrys and cultural attractions at some point, also visiting the Friday and Saturday markets and a classic car show on Sunday.

The weather was glorious and enabled us to get together to celebrate Paul McGurk's birthday on Friday evening ( featuring a few party games! ), and on Saturday evening we gathered for a communal BBQ and music evening ( where everyone's requests for favourite songs were accommodated ). On both nights the hardy souls who remained at sunset then moved into the event shelter to continue socialising until curfew.

The rugby club opened especially for us on Sunday afternoon to provide a venue for watching England's thrashing of Panama in the World Cup.

In all a very enjoyable weekend, with thanks to Paul & Cheryl for their help with the stewarding ( next year I must train them to walk the dog, not just man the fort while I went out walking! ), and also to Dorothy who donated a number of plants from her garden to raise funds for our charities.

Karen

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## **11-16 July Swiss Farm Henley on Thames**

We had 56 units attend at our Popular Henley Music Festival meet.

It was good to see they now have the fireworks back, which we thought was better than before.

It was a very hot weekend and John Farley and I had to keep stopping for refreshments when setting out the pitch's, but it was worth it !

Apart from our own members we had visitors from Ireland, Holland, Wales, and a great group from Royal Berks DA.

On the Saturday afternoon we had a Henley tea party to celebrate Pat and Maurice 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary, Peter Reeve's 90th Birthday .

Other Birthdays celebrated was Nina Ruggins, Mary Divall, Bill Malone, Francis Stewart, John Mills, Eric Martin.

The Club supplied the cakes , scones , with tea , coffee followed by LTVW Punch to round off the afternoon, and into the evening.

We thank Danny and Tony of Royal Berks for the loan of 2 event shelters to put with the clubs 2 , this made some shade from the very hot sun which was very much appreciated.

Others put up umbrellas and gazebos which made the area look more like a garden party, and many people dressed for the occasion being we were at the Henley Music festival weekend .

The club spared no expense we had the fly pass from the Royal airforce from Buckingham Palace on Tuesday and on Friday we had a fly pass by President Trump ,and the Royal Squadron Helicopter land in the field next to us on Saturday.

The things LTVW do to Celebrate Anniversary and Birthdays !

Margaret and I would like to thank John and Val Farley and John and Mary Divall for all there help.

Margaret and Frank

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20 Jul-6 Aug            Abingdon THS

We have had another very successful THS at Abingdon with almost 250 units visiting us over the 17 nights we were there. We received many complimentary comments and words of thanks such as "you have made us so welcome" and "what a lovely site – we will be back next year".

Stewarding this THS is tiring but enjoyable and we clocked up a few miles walking up and down the field. A huge thank you to Frank and Margaret for their help and support for the duration of the meet, also to John and Val for their help in marking out and with parking until John suffered a knee problem necessitating a trip to hospital and a week on crutches.

Thanks also to Paul, Val and Karen who helped with marking out and getting the field ready for the THS. All three stayed for the duration of the meet provided additional cover enabling us to get off site for a couple of hours.

On the first Sunday we held our annual charity event which raised £550 (plus a further £70 raised by Wayne and Mary Jarvis) which will be shared between our two designated charities Dementia UK and Kids Cancer Charity. This is an amazing sum and I wish to thank everyone who took part in either running a stall or who gave generously in supporting these causes.

Throughout the meet the weather was unusually hot with quite a few days exceeding 30 degrees. The long dry spell was having an effect on the trees around the site with many of them shedding branches, a phenomenon that I have never witnessed before. Fortunately when we became aware of the problem we were able to move units away from the trees and nobody suffered any damage.

This year rather than use the marquee we opted to use the two party shelters which served us well until the second weekend when we experienced a couple of days of strong gusty winds and rain. One of the party shelters suffered some minor damage caused by the wind forcing us to take them down rather than risk further damage. We are hopeful that the damage can be repaired fairly easily.

Now that we are back home we have a week to get the washing done and to get packed for the trip to Kelso for the BCC FOL. Thanks again everyone for helping to make the THS such a success, it's all due to team effort.

John & Mary

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### **16-20 Aug Newnham Manor Crowmarsh Gifford**

Nina and George welcomed units to The LTVW Crowmarsh Gifford Rally. Good weather was enjoyed with a number

of walking activities taking place. Friday saw a group walking to a local pub whilst others enjoyed a more leisurely walk through Crowmarsh Gifford, across the river, into Wallingford. We were pleased to be able to wish Tom Foster a very happy birthday which he celebrated this weekend. We also enjoyed meeting around the fire pit where we enjoyed an evening of music whereby everyone chose a

favourite song of their choice.

Saturday morning saw another group walk to Benson for a breakfast which was absolutely delicious and to be highly

recommended.

Sunday morning saw the usual coffee morning, thunderball results and the drawing of raffle tickets.

Nina and George

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### **13-17 Sept Winchester St Cross CC (formerly Green Jackets CC)**

Liz and Francis were very pleased to welcome 31 units (20 motorhomes and 11 caravans); friends old and new to the St Cross Cricket Ground in Winchester. We enjoyed the company of visitors from Hants, Surrey, New Forest, London, waterside, Bucks, Herts and Middx, Solent, Dorset and Berks DAs together with a goodly cohort of LTVW members.

We were very lucky with the weather....lovely warm late summer days although little chillier at night. Folks enjoyed the delights of Winchester and other locations made especially easy by the easy access to bus routes outside the site.

We semi-adopted Wilma, a local cat, who seemed very interested in what was going on. I think she particularly liked units that did not have a dog!!!!

Francis was, yet again 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! He was accompanied by his friendly chicken.

The weekend ended with the usual coffee morning, quiz results, thunderball winners and of course the raffle.

All in all a successful weekend with much fun and laughter all round. We did not need the wheelbarrow on this occasion!

Thank you to all who supported the rally. Until next time...

Liz and Francis.

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### **28-30 Sept                  Riverside Park Hurley on Thames**

First of all myself and my wife Lisa and kids Harry and Millie would like to thank everyone for their support for our first rally we have run for LTVW at Hurley riverside park, with the weekend FOL theme being space. And what an amazing weekend we all had. The sun was shining all weekend and the famous LTVW punch was in full flow on Saturday night made by Frank Bennett and Michael Ball. Yet again the hot dogs went down a treat served by the 3 (banger) sisters Gill, Polly, Julie, The tears we're held back after Francis peeled and cooked 4 big bags of onions and the sausages we're lovingly cooked by Dan Foote and Cheryl McGurk. We had kids only bingo on Saturday afternoon allowing the oldies to decorate the units ready for the nights event.

In total we had 24 units with most lighting up their units one way or another and some going over the top as usual. like us !!! We had an amazing young boy called Reece Baker who stood up in front of the whole camp site and showed his great knowledge of space, everyone was gob smacked of how much Reece knew about space, a massive well done Reece !!! The light up was won by ourselves yet again dressing up and putting on a show. The evening went down well on Saturday night in the gazebos having a good social and don't forget the famous punch which see the evening through. We finished Sunday morning off with a great coffee morning with raffle and prize giving

This is an amazing event to put in the diary for next year

Thank you everyone again for supporting us. See you all very soon in the middle of a field

Happy camping

Micky, Lisa, Harry, Millie

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### **11-15 Oct                  Shamba Holiday**

There was 22 units 12 caravans and 10 Motorhomes. Visitors from Hants da, Waterside da, Solent da, Sarum da, and 12 LTVW units. The highlight was Eve & myself arranged with the site manager a meal they paid for £12 each that was served 6/30pm which was followed on with music played by members from Dorset DA 3 musicians called Sixty Plus hence most of us new the tunes, every one seem to have a enjoyable evening which finished at 10-30pm. The weather was not at its best with rain and high winds at night, it didn't stop campers getting about. Winners

were Liz Stewart for the quiz Dot Beavers and Eve Johnson won £10 each on the bonus ball .There was a £70 raised on the raffle thanks to all who donated .Feed back told us it was a successful meet .

Eric &Eve

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### **25-29 Oct Chertsey Club Site**

Well attended meet to round off the 2018 rally programme. As usual Saturday night was Christmas party time, were members who weren't able to camp also came along. LTVW are always different, whilst the rest of the country were celebrating Halloween, we saw Christmas in early. Val and her helpers put on a splendid buffet and with the help of some party games a good and hilarious evening was enjoyed by all.

Val and Bill

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### **3 Nov. The Greyhound PH**

Another great afternoon of skittles, food and fun.

We thank all those that attended and a very big thanks to all those that mucked in and helped on the day, it was very much appreciated.

Congratulations to our winners:-

Karen Foster (Ladies)

Alan Shroud (Men's)

The knockout competition was also won by Karen Foster who generously donated her winnings to our two chosen charities.

The event was well attended with 25 members.

A Big thanks to everyone who donated raffle prices.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, see you all in 2019

Paul and Cheryl

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