



HOLIDAY ACTION

Spring 2008

Newsletter of the Scout Holiday Homes Trust

More sources of funding needed

Replacing caravans is key to our future says our Trustee and past Chairman

We are, at the Trust, at a crossroads. The accounts for 2007 are not yet available but they will show a significant drop in bookings (13%) over the previous year. You will see from Lynda's report that this season we have made an excellent start with an increase in bookings but last season's loss of revenue meant the Trust's costs exceeded its income. This of course had an impact in the short-term liquidity of the Trust and which, if continued, will affect its long term future

We are faced with increasing competition. As you may know the major site owners increasingly make use of their advertising muscle by offering what appears to be low cost breaks, these may not be cheaper than we are but their advertising works.

We have been fortunate in the early part of this year to have received a very generous legacy donation as well as a substantial one from an event in Biggleswade that our new Chairman John Le Warne was instrumental in obtaining. However, we need to be able to attract major donors for replacement caravans. We have disposed of one at St Austell that we were not able to replace and we now have an aging fleet. Replacement of each unit now costs over £40,000 against original prices of around £15,000.

We need your help to find funding sources not only for the short term but also for the future. To replace the entire fleet in the years to come could cost almost £500,000, so we need your support to ensure that we continue to provide value for money holidays for families with special needs.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments how we may attract more capital and more bookings then please contact Lynda.

Yours in Scouting
Bob Panton

SCOUT HOLIDAY HOME TRUST ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Subscriptions

These were due on 1 April 2008 - £10 for individual and £30 for corporate membership. I would like to sincerely thank every member who has generously paid these annual donations to the Trust. If you haven't already paid - I would appreciate it if you would take this as a reminder and do it now!

National Exec Committee

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Trustees | Bob Panton Martin Payne - Treasurer David Roberts |
| Committee | John Le Warne - Chairman Val Drew Lesley Roberts Rex Stevens |
| Special Needs Rep | Laura Spafford |
| National Commissioner Special Needs | Sue Burton |
| Scout Fellowship Office | Glenn Walker Lynda Peters - Administrator Ann Standing - Assistant |

Local Management Team Secretaries

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Berwick-on-Tweed | Dave Mowbray |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Colina Hine |
| Clacton | Carol Kerridge |
| Exmouth | Barbara Gover |
| Great Yarmouth | Gillian Mays |
| Kidwelly | Mary Davies (cleaning/overseeing) |
| New Milton | Ted Terry & Anne Davies |
| Paignton | David Roberts |
| Poole | Brian Leaver |
| Prestatyn | Phil Stansbie and Denis Ward (overseeing) |
| St Austell | Ann Gibson |
| Skipsea | Derick Wilson |

The Scout Holiday Homes Trust is a registered charity, founded in 1969, by former Scouts to provide suitable self-catering holiday accommodation in a welcoming family environment for any family or group who has a member with special needs, families with elderly or frail members, people with any special needs with their carers, single parent families and low income families - in fact any family in which the quality of life is diminished by disability, infirmity or misfortune.

There is no requirement to be a Member of either the Scout or Guide Movements. The Trust owns 13 caravans and 1 chalet on 12 fully commercial seaside holiday parks (eg British Holidays, Haven Holidays, Hoburne Holidays).

The Scout Holiday Homes Trust is managed locally and nationally by volunteers dedicated to the tradition that 'Scouts Help Others'.

Its income depends on Members' subscriptions, voluntary donations, legacies and fundraising by Members and Supporters.

The Scout Holiday Homes Trust

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Website: www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/holhomes

Administrator - Lynda Peters

Charity Registration Number 269946

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways you can help the Trust raise funds, often at little cost to yourself. Foreign or British commemorative postage stamps, foreign currency left over from holiday trips, small change collected in a Jingle Jar, badges, money-off coupons, church collections, saving stamps, bequests and so on, all help provide much needed income to continue and hopefully expand the work of the Trust and help those who benefit from the Trust's facilities.

SPREAD THE WORD

Help us to get more people to know about the Trust, not only to those who may become supporters but also to prospective users of our facilities. We have three different leaflets, one for holidaymakers, one for donations and one for Scout Holiday Homes Trust Association. A phone call to the office and we will make sure they are in the next post. 020 8433 7290.

Who's this on her knees sorting the linen?



All will be revealed on page three!

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Edited by
Dick Sawdon Smith



We face challenging times says our new Chairman

Dear Friends

I would like to thank Bob Panton for being Chairman of the Trust for the past 4 years.

As you will have read on the first page, we have challenging times ahead of us this year. To have our chalet and caravans sited for 2009, the site rents are due to be paid by December 2008 and this will cost the Trust just under £40,000.

At the end of 2009 our caravan at Prestatyn is due to be replaced. How times change, as this was the first caravan bought after I joined the committee and now it is the oldest.

At the beginning of this year our two caravans at Exmouth had new pvc ramps and verandas fitted, and these are a very big improvement on the old wooden ones.

All of the above projects will cost the Trust in the region of £80,000. We have started the year off very well with donations of £3,000 from Colin Sheldon and Barry Bevington, and £5,213 in memory of Freda Taylor, plus

other smaller donations. We have received a superb donation from St Andrews Church, Biggleswade of £5214.68 from the Country Fayre they held in September 2007. So as you can see, we still have some way to go to reach our targets for this year.

The Trust Committee is looking at grant funding to help replace our caravan, and we have been successful with 3 small grants worth just over £1,000 to date.

I am sure that with your help we can reach our goal for this year.

John Le Warne

LYNDA'S JOTTINGS - News from the Trust Office

Season gets off to a great start

We are off to a great start for the 2008 holiday season – and bookings are already up on last year. I would like to give my most sincere thanks to all the local teams who have spring cleaned and worked on the units over the winter months, and got them into a superb condition for the first holidaymakers at Easter – especially as Easter was so early this year.

A vast programme of maintenance and improvements completed

As usual the Trust carried out a review of all units in the autumn, and we have completed a vast programme of maintenance and improvements over the winter with major jobs including the ordering and construction of the new ramps and verandas on the caravans at Exmouth; and moving the caravan, ramp and veranda at Paignton to a new location on the same Park – now giving us a superb sea view. Some of the smaller things that have been done include:

- New Milton and Paignton caravans – chassis repainted
 - Fridge replaced at Clacton
 - New TV/DVD in Berwick and Gt Yarmouth
 - New microwave at Clacton
 - New carpets at Berwick
 - Lesley Roberts and her mother, Ruby Ash, have recovered some of the seating at Burnham, Gt Yarmouth and St Austell – and what a fantastic job they have made of these.
- At the moment (early April) I am arranging for a new ramp to be fitted to 21 Avalon Way at Burnham, and a designated disabled car parking space in front of the New Milton caravan.



• Here is the sea view from our re-located caravan at Paignton.

Thanks to local team secretaries

I would like to add a special thanks to the local team secretaries who have helped me so much – especially Colina (Burnham) and Carol (Clacton) who had to deal with last minute crises with the cleaning of their units – I just can't begin to tell you how grateful I am that you took this extra burden on at the last minute and made our caravans sparkle.

2008 HOLIDAYS

New brochures are available

Ann and I would be delighted to send you a brochure so please do not hesitate to ring or e-mail us – especially if you know of any family with special needs, one parent family or anyone on a low income that would benefit from one of our holidays.

Special price deals for last minute holidays

We will be continuing with our last-minute reduced-priced deals during the holiday season. These are available to any Scouting family as well as any special needs family. You can get information about these from the Office, and they will also be posted on our website.

FUNDRAISING

More from our fundraising double act

Once again Colin Sheldon and Barry Bevington have had a fantastic year with fundraising – mainly touring with their restored fairground organ. I was lucky enough to be able to go and meet them in Warrington in February for the presentation of their £3,000 cheque. We had a superb sponsored lunch and the company was great! Well done Colin and Barry!

More from Warrington

At their December meeting the 25th Warrington East Scout Group presented a cheque totalling £246 to Phil Stansbie who volunteered to represent the Trust. This group under the leadership of Denis Ward has been raising money for us for several years, and this donation is turning into an annual event!

Assistance from small trusts

With help from the Scout Association's Fundraising Department, I wrote to several small Trusts to raise funds to pay for the new ramps and verandas at Exmouth, which cost £14,539.44 – and from this our Trust received donations from the Gweneth Moxon Charitable Trust (£500), Claude & Margaret Pike Charity (£150) and Sir John & Lady Heathcote-Amory Charitable Trust (£500).

Freda Taylor remembered

We also received a large donation of £5,213 in memory of Freda Taylor for the ramps and verandas at Exmouth. Freda was a member of the local BP Guild and also a leader in Exmouth & Budleigh Salterton District for many years, as well as being one of the team who were on the rota for cleaning these caravans.

Wedding anniversary gift

I also would like to mention Henry and Cynthia Patey who donated £200 to the Trust from donations they had received instead of presents for their 50th Wedding Anniversary - it was so kind of them to do this.

Christmas card gift

Wood End Infant School decided that instead of writing out Christmas cards to everyone, to give a donation and send one card to all staff. Jackie Twiggins who works at the school and her husband are both Cub Scout Leaders at 3rd Northolt (Greenford District). It was their idea to donate last Christmas's collection of £50 to the Trust so we thank them for thinking of us.

Our grateful thanks to others who think of us

We have also received donations of £500 from the Pinewood Lodge of the Freemason's Grand Charity, £150 from the Impeesa Lodge and £150 from the Rotary Club of Christchurch. The Trust also wishes to thank the Scout Fellowships and Scout Councils for their large number of donations which are sent regularly – to name a few – Poole, Bristol South, 3rd Fareham Old Scouts, North Manchester, Cheltenham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Greater London South-West, Stowmarket, Sutton, Petersfield, Tewkesbury, Plymstock, West Sussex, and the Stourbridge & District Branch of the B-P Guild of Great Britain.

Generosity at a time of sorrow

I would also like to thank the families and friends who have so generously sent the Trust donations in memory of John Poole, Eric Metcalf and Stanley Machin. I think that this is a real act of kindness and generosity in a time of great sorrow.

PENNANTS

Ken Greenwood has again made and donated some pennants to the Trust. Many thanks, Ken. If you would like some, please let me know.

TRUST OFFICE New location at Gilwell

At the beginning of April the Trust Office moved from one side of Gilwell House to the other – and we are now located by the lift on the first floor. It has given Ann and I a chance to clear out our cupboards and files, and to generally reorganise the Office. It was hard work but we did it!

OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

One thing that we can pride ourselves on at Scout Holiday Homes Trust is our wonderful volunteers, who do so much to ensure that our holidaymakers have such good holidays. These include of course the Local Management Secretaries and their teams who work unselfishly on the units over the winter and then spring clean to get them in perfect condition for the opening of the season. They then have the task of ensuring that the units are clean and tidy and everything is in order for the arrival of each holiday party throughout the year. In some of the examples from the various visitor's books last season, on page four, it shows how much our visitors appreciate their efforts.

Then there are the members of the National Executive Committee, who do much more than meet regularly to decide on everything that affects the proper management of the Trust affairs. Here are photographs showing some behind the scenes activities. Our grateful thanks go out to all our volunteers.



• National Executive Committee member Lesley Roberts and her mother Ruby Ash repairing some of the seating which needed attention.



• Repaired seating on the way back to caravans at Great Yarmouth, St Austell and Burnham.

Cheque from Chairman's Charity Fund

Councillor Maureen Moton, from her year in office as Chairman of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, kindly donated £460 from the Chairman's Charity Fund. This was gratefully received on behalf of the Scout Holiday Homes Trust by Barry Bevington and Colin Sheldon.



Lynda meets Barry and Colin at last

In February, Lynda travelled to Stoke-on-Trent for a sponsored carvery lunch (sounds good) and to meet Barry Bevington and Colin Sheldon who have been raising money for the Trust for the last three years. She was delighted to receive a cheque for £3000 raised by their efforts during last year. The photo shows Sid Harvey (Secretary Dalesmen Male Voice Choir) Barry, Lynda, Sid Davies (ADC Cubs Staffordshire Moorlands) Colin and Chris Fletcher (Station Master of Cheddleton, Churnet Valley Railway).



New Ramps at Exmouth

Last year we successfully raised funds to provide new ramps and verandas for our two caravans at Exmouth. The photos show the ample space where our holiday makers can sit and sun themselves as well as the ramps making easy access to the caravans.



TURN YOUR JAM JAR INTO A JINGLE JAR

Find a home for all your loose change and help the Trust. When you have a reasonable amount just bank it and send a cheque to Scout Holiday Homes Trust. If you would like one of the wrap around labels to convert a jam jar into a jingle jar, you only have to ask Lynda. Take one or two more for friends, or if you are involved in a Scout Group, what about one for every Leader? At the very least it will make new Leaders aware of the Trust and what we do.



HOLIDAY HOMES TO THE RESCUE

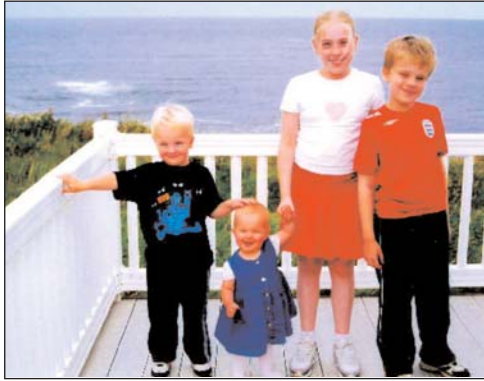
The Jobson family have been regular visitors to Berwick over the last 14 years where they have friends in the area. They have stayed at holiday parks including the one where our caravan is located. Last year however, their circumstances changed and it looked as if they wouldn't be able to afford a holiday. Then their friends told them about Holiday Homes. Mrs. Jobson takes up the story.

"On further investigation I was very pleasantly surprised at the excellent value for money and knowing the layout of the park, at the position of the caravan owned by the Trust. When I arrived at the caravan with my four children we were really excited by the wonderful view and the veranda around the caravan. The children couldn't wait to get out the deck chairs and eat their tea overlooking the sea. In all my visits over the years this was the best view we have ever had.

The caravan itself was very clean and well equipped and even came with extras – a selection of books and games left by previous occupants, which kept the children amused. The couple who maintain the caravan responded very quickly when contacted about a problem we had and turned out to be friends of my friends in Berwick – what a small world.

Overall a very highly recommended caravan holiday – we will certainly be back"

- The Jobson Children pose on the balcony where they couldn't wait to eat their tea.



- Here's part of the view that thrilled the Jobson family so much.



Here is a selection of Holidaymakers' Comments in Visitors Book 2007

BERWICK

This is our third time here and still finding interesting places to visit.

Mr & Mrs A Miller - May 2007

Had a lovely holiday. Caravan very nice, clean and comfortable.

Mrs A Statham - June 2007

We are writing to thank you for the wonderful holiday we had at Berwick on Tweed in October 2007. The caravan was magnificent, the sea view was bonnie. We hope to apply again next year. We felt at home during our stay. Thanks again. God Bless.

The Macpherson family - October 2007

KIDWELLY CHALET - CARMARTHENSHIRE

We had a most enjoyable week. The chalet was perfect for us. The restaurant and bar were good.

The Kinchin Family, Devon.

NEW MILTON

Dear Mrs Davies, Many thanks for the lovely biscuits and flowers you left for us. We have had a lovely week, the weather has been perfect. The caravan is superb and the site excellent.

Mr & Mrs M Willis - September 2007

Lovely caravan, beautifully kept. Lovely site. The veranda is a real bonus on such lovely days as we had. The food in the Smugglers' Retreat is excellent as well.

Mr & Mrs Willis – Woking - April/May 2007

Return visit from last year. We knew we would get an ideal caravan for Patrick – plenty of space to roam. Plenty to do on and around the site. Hope to come again. Many thanks

Mr & Mrs Oxley – Leamington Spa May 2007

The best site for us and well worth the journey down. Our thanks to Anne Davies for her welcome and to Mr Ted Terry for his sterling service over the years.

Mr & Mrs Dixon - West Yorkshire May 2007

We have had a really lovely holiday. The caravan was excellent and we appreciated Anne's lovely welcome. Thank you very much.

The Parrs, Coventry - October 2007

Caravan excellent. Very clean. Plenty of room for a wheelchair – shower was a Godsend. Weather was great. Thank you. (Separate Letter to Anne Davies)

We would like to say a very big Thank You for another wonderful holiday. It makes life so much easier to have a disabled caravan. People don't realise just how much difference it makes. We had a wonderful week and weather was really good to us. We sat outside most days. Thanks once again.

Mr & Mrs Cook, Bedford - July 2007

Dear Anne - (Local Team Secretary) Thank you so much for the kind welcome of flowers and biscuits. The flowers lasted all fortnight, the biscuits didn't!!! We have very much enjoyed our stay in this comfortable caravan and trust that sometime in the future we will be able to come again.

Bob and Olive Way - September 2007 PRESTATYN

The caravan was lovely and clean when we came. A credit to whoever looks after it. We have had a lovely week and looking forward to our other week in September.

The Alcock Family - May 2007

This holiday was the first we have tried, and gives us confidence to do the same again. Many thanks.

The McGuinness Family - June 2007

Caravan lovely. Adam has never done a full week. He loved it. A lovely week, the best week I have ever had with Adam. Thank you.

The Smith Family - July 2007

We enjoyed our stay here and were lucky to get out and about every day. Weather very good.

The Macaulay Family - August 2007

Great week. Lovely walks, easy to get about. First time we have been able to vacation in three years. Will be coming back.

The Weatherbee Family - August 2007

ST AUSTELL

A good time for all – the boys had lots to do and places to go. All the staff was fun and helpful – the entertainment was great.

Miss Carson - August 2007

Loved the beach and pool and thought the park was lovely and peaceful. Children loved playing with neighbours' children so fun and relaxation had by all. Great location on a lovely coastline.

Mr & Mrs Torricell - August 2007

September 08 Fundraiser

The Macclesfield Youth Brass Band and Churnet Valley Male Voice Choir are performing in aid of our Holiday Homes Trust on Saturday 27th September at Saint Luke's Church, Fountain Street, Leek, which is north east of Stoke on Trent. Tickets are available at the Tourist Information Office in Leek or by phoning the promoter on 01782 550 351.

We do hope anyone who is in the area at the time will go along and support what promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

