



# HOLIDAY ACTION

Spring 2007

## Newsletter of the Scout Holiday Homes Trust

### EFFECTS OF SEA AIR IN CORNWALL

For most holidaymakers the sea air in Cornwall will refresh and reinvigorate. Sadly, the salt and wind also has a corrosive effect on caravans, especially those on a site more exposed than most. Our caravan on the lovely Pentewan Sands, near St Austell in Cornwall is twelve years old and nearing the end of its useful life. Our plan is to replace it with one of the new Pemberton Sovereign caravans which have proved so successful at New Milton, Paignton and Burnham but to do so we need the help of all our supporters. You will find more details on page three together with our need to replace the veranda of our caravan at Exmouth in Devon.

In Lynda's News from the Trust Office, she lists some of the recent cheques we have received and as ever we are delighted to be able to show photographs of some supporters who have already been helping us by raising money towards our funds for renovation and renewals. Don't forget that if you have a cheque presentation or an unusual way of boosting our funds, let Lynda have a photo and we will be pleased to give it an airing in our Autumn issue.

#### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Trustees**  
Bob Panton - Chairman  
Martin Payne - Treasurer  
David Roberts

**Committee**  
Val Drew  
Lesley Roberts  
Rex Stevens  
John Le Warne

**Special Needs Rep**  
Laura Spafford

**National Commissioner Special Needs**  
Sue Burton

**Scout Fellowship**  
Glenn Walker

**Office**  
Lynda Peters - Administrator  
Ann Standing - Assistant



**What did these two smiling Policemen do to raise over £1000 towards a new caravan?**

See the back page and also learn what other fundraisers have been up to.

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 14 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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E-mail: scout.holiday.homes@scout.org.uk or lynda.peters@scout.org.uk

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 Holidays Homes Trust Association. A phone call to the office and we will make sure they are in the next post. 020 8433 7290.

#### SCOUT HOLIDAY HOME TRUST ASSOCIATION

##### Subscriptions Now Due

All annual sponsorship donations were due on 1 April 2007 - £10 for individual and £30 for corporate membership. If you haven't already paid these, I would be most grateful if you could do this as soon as possible, please.

Sponsored by  
Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd  
Edited by  
Dick Sawdon Smith



## We could do with an injection of money – and youth says the Chairman

### Dear Friends,

It seems no time at all since your committee were considering the maintenance reports from the end of season site visits and authorising necessary maintenance. In a few weeks the sites re-open and hopefully the weather we experienced last week will prevail for most of the summer.

We have not been able to replace any of our caravans this year, we do generate cash but not at a rate to cover our needs, a new caravan plus ramp is now in excess of £40,000. Perhaps we need to look at financing our acquisitions other than by outright purchase. I do propose to have another try for Lottery funding this year or possibly through Comic Relief.

We don't of course just need money, I am conscious, and in particular from a personal viewpoint that our steering committee could do with an injection of youth. Not only of youth of course but of enthusiasm for the Trust and a willingness to share in a cause that is as valid now as it

was over 30 years ago. Please contact us if you are interested in joining our committee or helping us in some other way.

I would like to thank Dick Sawdon Smith for taking on the editorship of the magazine and arranging through Berkshire Scout Enterprises Limited for its production. The comments I received on the last issue were all laudatory.

Lynda and Ann, as ever, deserve our thanks for the unfailing cheerfulness with which they cope with all of the day to day tasks of the Trust.

Bob Panton

# LYNDA'S JOTTINGS - News from the Trust Office

## Welcome

A very warm welcome to Carol Kerridge who has already started looking after the caravan at Clacton and has agreed to clean and prepare the caravan for our first booking – I had a message from her this morning to say she was busy sewing on pillowcases, purchasing new inventory items, and getting ready for the start of the holiday season. I hope Carol will enjoy helping the Trust and its holidaymakers.

## And Goodbye

Sue Wake has retired from the Trust's National Executive Committee due to poor health. She has been on the Committee since February 2003 and has provided us with a great insight into family life with a child with special needs. I wish her good health and happiness.

After many years of dedication to the Trust several members of the Exmouth Holiday Homes Trust Association have retired – some of whom have been with us since the Trust started in 1969. Each and every one of them has helped care for the caravans – cleaning, repairing and meeting our holidaymakers. I wish all these wonderful people good health and a very happy and contented retirement. It is hard to single out anyone of this fabulous team – but we do owe Ellen Sparkes, Frank Sparkes, Ken Griggs and Alan Lowe an extra special thank you.

## Congratulations for a deserved Award

Our congratulations and best wishes to Margaret Ling for a well deserved award of the Silver Wolf in this year's St George's Day Awards. Margaret will be known to many Trust supporters as she is the wife of Les Ling who was a Trustee and Member of the National Executive Committee from 1976 until the end of 2003. Les and Margaret took the Trust's display round the country and represented the Trust at many events. They are also members of Croydon District Scout Fellowship.

## Could you help us?

We are looking for new members for the Trust's National Executive Committee. I would be most delighted to give you further information about this – so please ring the Office for more details. To give you some idea of the commitment - there are about seven meetings a year either on a Wednesday or Thursday – all at Gilwell Park starting at 6.00pm. In addition there is one Sunday morning meeting in June/July.

## FUNDRAISING 2007

### Suffolk Beavers magnificent donation

We have received a magnificent cheque for £2,650 from monies raised by the Suffolk Beaver Scouts. Jim and Mary Hopkins attended their party on 10 February 2007 and thoroughly enjoyed an evening with them.

### Arrowhead Lodge of Freedom

£1,000 has been received from The Arnold Singer Memorial Fund (A Relief Chest in the Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England) sponsored by the Arrowhead Lodge of Freedom No 8500, Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire, Wigan. At the moment a presentation is being arranged for May at our caravan at Prestatyn.

### Two racing – fundraising policemen

Andy Hunt raised a superb £1,025 from sponsorship for taking part in the Welsh 1000's mountain race with his friend and work colleague, Mike Grady – this was a fantastic achievement.

### In memory of Fred Phillips - a great supporter

The Trust has received donations in memory of Fred Phillips who died in January. Fred had been supporting the Trust for the last thirty years and had helped greatly with our fundraising by being our Manchester representative for collecting used stamps. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in the Trust and in Scouting. He was such a lovely man – always friendly and kind, and a joy to know. We greatly appreciate these in memoriam donations made by family and friends especially as they are given during what must be for them a very sad and difficult time.

### We appreciate all our fundraisers

Thank you to all our fundraisers bringing in large and small donations – individuals and Scout Fellowships and Groups/Councils. Just a thought - perhaps you would remember the Trust when decisions are being made about collections taken at St George's Day Parades and Services.

## HOLIDAY CARAVANS AND CHALET

### Extensive winter maintenance carried out

Over the winter months we have carried out a vast programme of maintenance and improvements and these have included: new carpets in both caravans at Exmouth and at Berwick (many thanks Raymond); new fridges at Clacton, St Austell and Skipsea (thank you Derick for making it fit in the space!); new de-humidifiers at Berwick, Kidwelly and St Austell; new curtains at Berwick, Clacton, Exmouth and Kidwelly; paving slabs from the bottom of the ramp to the road at Gt Yarmouth; repairs to the bathroom wall at Gt Yarmouth; repairs to the bathroom floor at Burnham; repainting inside and outside at Kidwelly (many thanks Gethin) and repairs to the ramps at Exmouth (many thanks to Alan).

### Getting ready for Easter opening

And a huge thank you to all our teams who are working flat out to get the caravans and chalet ready for the start of our 2007 season at Easter. Our volunteers are amazing – so kind and generous with their time and energy – it would be impossible to run the Trust without them. They have revitalised our units and got them into tip-top condition ready for our holidaymakers.

I would also like to thank David and Lesley Roberts who have been dashing about the country. They carried out a lot of the end of season inspections, and have been actively involved in getting the Paignton, Exmouth, Prestatyn and St Austell caravans ready for the start of the season. Lesley also coordinates the purchasing of the inventory items. They work tirelessly for the Trust and do it in such a happy and friendly way that makes it all seem so easy!

## 2007 HOLIDAYS

### Holiday Brochures now available

I would be delighted to let you have a copy of the 2007 holiday brochure, and if you know of any family with special needs, one parent family or families on a low income who would benefit from one of our holidays, please do not hesitate to let me know. Please remember that these families do not have to have any scouting or guiding connection.

### Last minute Special Deals on our website

In addition to our normal low-cost holidays for any family with special needs, the Office will be providing last-minute reduced-price deals during the holiday season. These special deals are available to any Scouting family as well as any special needs family – and these will be put onto our website – [www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/holhomes](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/holhomes). Or, you can phone or e-mail me about 10 days before you want a holiday for the latest price and availability.

## NATIONAL LOTTERY

### Final reports for New Milton and Paignton submitted

I have submitted final reports to Awards for All for the grants that we received in March/April last year for the ramps and verandas for the new caravans at New Milton and Paignton. I have received confirmation that our grant files have been closed and the Trust has provided them with the necessary information.

### Application made for Exmouth

At the end of February 2007 I submitted an application to Awards for All for a new pvc ramp and veranda to A94 at Exmouth – over 60 pages! I am expecting a decision within the next few weeks – so fingers crossed.

## USED POSTAGE STAMPS

### No more normal 1st or 2nd class stamps please

Please note that unfortunately the Trust can no longer sell on the normal 1st and 2nd class stamps, and therefore the Trust Office will only be able to collect commemorative and foreign stamps from now on.

### New Collection Point for stamps and postcards in the North East

I am pleased to report that Edward Hobbs, Chairman of the North Manchester District Scout Fellowship, has taken over the collection of stamps and postcards in this area and these can be delivered or sent to him at 1 Norville Avenue, New Moston, Manchester M40 0JG



## OUR CARAVAN AT PENTEWAN SANDS CORNWALL

Think of a holiday destination in the UK and probably the first county that would come to most people's minds would be Cornwall. Its magnificent coastline, luscious green countryside and large sandy beaches are a match for anywhere in the world. We are very happy to have one of our caravans at Pentewan Sands near St Austell in Cornwall, on a site that has its own private flat beach overlooked by stunning cliffs. The flatness of the site is ideal for holiday makers of restricted mobility. Those who are more active can explore the Cornish coastal path which runs right past and there are plenty of places of interest to visit within easy reach. Attractions like the Eden Project and The Lost Gardens of Heligan or the crooked alleys of old Mevagissey where the ferry goes to Fowey. Look at what some of our holiday makers have said.

### The Tindle Family

*Had a very good two weeks. Mum found the caravan very accessible and was able to get around easily.*

### The Crocker Family

*This is our 7th visit in the last 5 years. The van has always been well cleaned and presented. As a holiday site it is just the right mix between different families.*

### The Savage family

*Everywhere spotless. Lovely site, lovely weather.*

### The Stevens Family

*The caravan is well equipped. The beach is great and there is plenty to do. Really like the entertainment on site and plenty of other attractions nearby. Recommend the seal sanctuary. Excellent weather, a great holiday – will be back next year.*

Apart from anything else, this reflects much credit on our local management team, who like those at all our sites, voluntarily look after the caravans to make sure that they are cleaned and cared for.



• Mid Cornwall Scout Fellowship clean the caravan in readiness for the coming season. Ann Gibson, our local Management Team Secretary is third from the right.

### There are downsides

The very attractiveness of the site however does have its downside for our caravan which is now 12 years old. As this holiday park is at the back of a flat sandy beach, the caravans have always deteriorated faster than at any other park, mainly due to the salt and wind damage. The salt causes the chassis to rust at an accelerated rate. The interior of the caravans are also subject to damp and rust damage as over the winter months in particular the wet/salty air finds its way into the caravan. Talk to Ann Gibson, who as the local Management Team Secretary has to cope with keeping the caravan in the best possible condition for our holidaymakers, and she will agree with all this.

### The Solution

What we need to do then is to replace the Pentewan Caravan and ideally we would like to do so with a similar caravan to those we installed last year at New Milton and Paignton. These offer improved facilities much appreciated by our family holidaymakers.



### • Our preferred replacement

Ted Terry, Management Team Secretary at New Milton is enthusiastic about the benefits of the new caravan. The bathroom is a great improvement, he says, especially for wheelchair users, and the whole caravan has wider access for wheelchairs. The sleeping arrangements for families with children are much better than before. See what some of our holidaymakers have said.

### The Oxley family

*Van very roomy and well equipped. Thanks for a great time*

### The Gallett family

*Lovely caravan. Well laid out for wheelchair access. We had a great holiday – many thanks.*

### The Enderby family

*Lovely caravan and ideal for wheelchair users. Well equipped, everything we needed for a great holiday.*

### The Sullivan family

*We were delighted with the caravan. Being able to get back from a day out and find all the facilities for a wheelchair user made our holiday so much easier. The wet room shower was a bonus.*



• Ted Terry tests out the wide veranda at the new caravan at New Milton.

### Devon Cliffs – Exmouth

We also have to provide a new veranda and ramp to our caravan at Exmouth in Devon. We have a wooden one at present but Bourne Leisure require everyone to change to pvc verandas.

## Our projects for 2007 will cost over £50,000

Our problem of course, as Chairman Bob Panton points out elsewhere in his report, is that although we do generate cash it is not enough for capital expenditure such as this.

**Any help you can give us will be most welcome**



## View from our caravan at Berwick

This photograph of the beautiful view from our caravan at Berwick was taken last October by Malcolm Barsby. Malcolm, who is involved in Scouting in Loughborough, took advantage of one of our last minute offers. It is to our benefit to keep our caravans fully booked so we sometimes have last minute reduced price deals that are available to any Scouting families as well as families with handicapped members. Malcolm has kindly carried out small repairs that need doing when he has stayed with us but we don't expect that of our visitors. We just want them to relax and enjoy themselves. If you are interested, you will find these holidays posted on our website or alternatively you can give Lynda a ring at the office.

### Some Comments from the Visitors Book at Berwick

#### The Hobbs family

*A comfortable well equipped caravan with a super view of the bay. We've enjoyed watching the boats go by.*

#### The Cameron family

*It was great having breakfast and dinner on the veranda. Many thanks to all concerned at Scout Holidays Home Trust*

#### The Robinson family

*Lovely caravan and suitable for a family of 6. Good base to go visiting and also nice to use the park facilities when you want an easy day. Very good time, will return soon.*

#### The Stewart family

*We find it very homely and comfortable. Enjoyed the beach, thanks for a wonderful time. We will be back, hopefully for a break in October.*

### What some people will do for money - we're pleased to say!

Leslie Brown, ADC of Wolsey District Beavers in Suffolk, agreed to a sponsored head shave in order to raise funds for the Trust. Our grateful thanks to Leslie and the boys and girls of Wolsey Beavers who held several fund raising events including selling cakes, Christmas Fayres, coffee mornings and dances. In just over a year they raised the truly amazing amount of £2650, which they presented to the Trust at their New Year party in January. What a tremendous effort.



### The music goes pound and pound

The wonderful sum of £2,500 was raised by Colin Sheldon and Barry Bevington from their tours with their restored fairground organ during 2006. David Shelmerdine, Secretary of Scout Association UK accepted the cheque on behalf of the Scout Holiday Homes Trust from Colin, Barry and Meredith Brindley, accompanied by Bob McGuinness (Chairman of Staffordshire Morlands Scout Council) and Victor Thys (Trustee of the Scout Association).



### Even more from Colin and Barry

Colin and Barry have also organised other fundraising events which accumulated another £1700 for our funds. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the Trust is Mr & Mrs Timothy and Janet Cork. They are surrounded by Barry and Colin, Denis Priebe (Chairman Rudyard Sailability), Councillor Maureen Motom (Vide Chairman), Councillor Steve Povey (Deputy Mayor) SMDC, Roy Porter, Susan Keats and John Hammond representing the Scout Movement.



### A Wet Welsh Mountain Race Raises £1025

Andy Hunt and Mike Grady who are both serving Policemen in Northamptonshire, regularly undertake challenges under the heading 'Corby Police Charity Fund'. We are most grateful that they agreed to take part in the Welsh 1000 metres mountain race to raise money for the Trust's funds towards new caravans. As we can see from the photograph it turned out to be a very wet 1000 metres but even that couldn't stop them smiling.

• Mike and Andy still smiling.



## Local Management Teams

Our Local Management Team Secretaries are:

**Berwick-on-Tweed** Dave Mowbray  
**Burnham-on-Sea** Colina Hine  
**Clacton** Carol Kerridge

**Exmouth**  
**Great Yarmouth**  
**Kidwelly**

**New Milton**

Barbara Gover  
 Gillian Mays  
 Mary Davies  
 (cleaning/overseeing)  
 Ted Terry

**Paignton**  
**Poole**  
**Prestatyn**  
**St Austell**  
**Skipsea**

David Roberts  
 Brian Leaver  
 Denis Ward (overseeing)  
 Ann Gibson  
 Derick Wilson