

Rockley Park Owners' Association
December 2012 Newsletter



Chairperson:-

Here we are again at the end of another season. More rain than Sunshine but still had a great time. It must be the Rockley Owners Community Spirit.

A big Welcome to all our new members who joined the Association over the Summer period and look forward to seeing all of you at our **AGM** which will be on the **7th April 2013 at 11 a.m. The Venue is: Yarrells Preparatory School, Yarrells Drive, Upton. BH16 5EU**

Also, I would like to thank my fellow Committee Members:
Eddy Kapp Vice Chair, Newsletter Editor and Web Master
Penny Kapp Membership Secretary
Terry Warner Secretary
Tricia Warner Treasurer
Stuart Chinnery Entertainments
Oscar Howlett Entertainments
For all their hard work over the year.
Finally I wish everyone a Very Merry Xmas & A Happy New Year.

Mavis White (Chairperson)

Vice Chairman:

Last Owners Party

We were fortunate enough to be able to get a couple of tickets for the Pantomime edition of the Owners Party on the 17th November. We had resisted the temptation to go, but had we stayed back at the caravan we would have missed an enjoyable evening. The first act we saw was the Rainbow Roadshow with Bungle, Zippy etc or at least some of the characters I recognised from watching Cbeebies with my granddaughter recently. It kept the children amused and I couldn't stop watching either. Then came the **Pièce de résistance**. 'The Panto'. Although, I am told, approx 6 weeks of rehearsal had gone into it, John Woods (AKA Widow Twanky) and the script on the back of the washing powder box, was a sight to see. In the tradition of panto we had the baddy (boo,hiss), Aladdin (hooray) and plenty of characters with strange Haven park names to boot. Even when the microphones stopped working for a while, it didn't phase them, such was the professionalism in the true tradition of panto. 'Oh yes they did'. As a rule, the thought has never crossed my mind to go snog a man in drag, and after seeing John,

especially in his Steel Toecap boots and red tights, I haven't changed my mind at all.

We left just before the group for the evening came on, having had an early start to get down, so were just about shattered for the night. By the sound emanating from the stage door, as we passed it, they sounded very good.

So overall a good show and a very enjoyable evening. Well done to all the Rockley Team who took part, and the organising team behind it. Please don't give up the day jobs just yet though, but thank you for a great laugh and panto. Please John don't wear the tutu whilst under a caravan, especially with the boots. It all boils down to an end to the season, with what looks like a new and exciting beginning in 2013. I hope to see you all at the AGM on the 7th April. Until then please have a Merry Christmas and here's to a Great New Year.

Eddy Kapp (Vice Chair)

BRANSOME DENE CHINE 9th AUGUST FUNDAY

What a wonderful day we all had. Firstly I would like to thank Margaret Western and Oscar Howlett for helping out on the day. Thanks to Oscar for the lend of his tea urn.

It was a good turn out and the weather was sunny and warm and we were able to sit out on the patio and enjoy, which made a change from the wet Summer we had been having. The children were excellently behaved and enjoyed swimming in the sea and playing games on the sand.

A treasure hunt was held and the winner was Mrs Joan Capp and she was presented with a gift voucher for £10. The Sandcastle competitions were Jointly won by Leah Johnston and Meledy West who made a mermaid and a gift voucher for £5 was awarded. An Olympic Theme was won by Chloe Johnson who also received a £5 gift voucher. The Treasure Hunt was organised by Terry Warner and the Sandcastle competitions were judged by Margaret Western. Thanks for everyone who entered. All children who entered the competition received a bag of sweets for their efforts.

Tea coffee and biscuits was provided free of charge. Donations of £40.60 towards the Help the Hero's was generously given by all that attended.

Thanks to everyone who came and supported a great Fun Day.

Tricia Warner (Treasurer)

What has the association ever done for us.

When I drive up the park, even late season, I frequently see long queues for the bus service into Poole and remember your Association's campaign

with the council and the bus company, when it was cut to just 3 per day.

This prompted me to look back at old newsletters to see what other issues we have successfully addressed on behalf of members and other owners. Our children and grandchildren can now enjoy the sports zone at 50% discount, something we lost for a while, owners lounge is now open 7 days a week, rather than the two or three it once was, there appears to be a hiatus in drain-down charges and additional site fees for 'improvements' on certain areas of park. We have longer seasonal opening of facilities with entertainment, possibly into December this year, a benefit to owners who rent in high season only to return in the autumn to find the last holiday maker turned the lights out!!.

We have Sky Sports for the sports fans and food in the Mash & Barrel throughout November. We even have improved shop hours.

Some longer term members could say, well yes, but we had all this, and more, once upon a time, quite true, but I would ask as to why they let it all slip away?

Without question we are now seeing steady improvement for all owners and whilst I'm sure the Association will continue to strive for excellence, in line with our stated aims, objectives and resolutions, we should not belittle the progress to date.

What you can do for the Association is to try and make the 'non believers' who are not current members, understand what has been achieved and: [Come and Join Us.](#)

Terry Warner (Secretary)

Electrical Periodic Testing:- I shall repeat this next article, for those who missed it last time. I can't remember how many people have asked me about this, this is the 3 year testing of the electrical sockets and wiring in the caravan, but we have now found someone who is qualified to do it, and supply you with a certificate to prove it has been tested. Price is apparently cheaper than anyone else and you can watch him do it as well, so you know it's been done. Cups of tea gratefully received. If your caravan is due for a test, then why not give it a try. Please contact us for details, either by email to rockleyowners@aol.com or by calling **08458385235** and we can pass your details on, or call Adam direct on **07804 672 949** or email amjd@blueyonder.co.uk . Fully qualified Electrician.

View from the top,

954 signatures!!! What a poor performance from the UK's caravan owners. For the thousand's of owners, around the country, having such a paltry web 'sign up', obviously, they do not want protection from caravan park owners. You.Gov is a wonderful thing to get things debated, but often things go un-noticed.

Rather like the story I heard from a friend of mine, whose mother had a caravan on a small park on the South Coast. The owners of the site sold out to another company, whereby the caravan owners were asked to sign a new contract with them. The contracts contained a clause that stated that all caravans over 6 years old were to be removed or used as a deposit on a new caravan. No-one noticed this change until it was too late, and to cut a long story short, my friends mother no longer has a caravan, as hers was coming up to the magic 6 years, and she couldn't afford to buy a new one. The moral of the story is, read everything you sign, including the small print, before it comes back to haunt you later (not just necessarily caravans) and beware familiarity with a document without reading it in case of changes sneaked in there, which we have noticed.

On a brighter note another friend has just upgraded their caravan recently on a site near where we live, and they have told us they can use theirs 12 months of the year, have no restrictions on structures around the caravan, and can put a balcony on as well (subject to proper installation). Their rates are less than £3000 a year, but they have no entertainment on park. Fortunately they are very close (within walking distance) to an external entertainment complex. When are we moving there? Being so popular, it's got a waiting list, so they will probably convert it to a Haven park before we get there!

Ed.

SHOW STOPPERS Update!!

It was stated in the last edition "It's always interesting to visit the major Holiday Caravan Shows such as Beaulieu and the New Forest and even park show grounds just to see what's new on the market in terms of design or even manufacturers. There is however one area that does not appear to have changed very much over the years and that's the warrantee periods offered. Most of them only give one year with few exceptions and this is on a product that costs the consumers tens of thousands of pounds whereas you can get two years on a £10.00 toaster" Since this was written, the Park Manager, Geoffrey Smith has addressed this issue. Many thanks,

Editor

HI Folks.

Can't believe I am writing this already, as I don't know where this year has gone, but this is my last newsletter as the season has come to an end again. I hope you have all enjoyed it as much as I have? I would like to say a huge thank you to Geoffrey and all his team for working so hard this season, also keeping the entertainment going on for longer and giving us some enjoyable owners' events. The news from the showbar - I feel there has been great improvement, the sound

is better and we have had some really good acts. I would like to give a special mention to Chris the new entertainments manger, who has worked really hard to bring the showbar back to life (how it was a few years ago) and he works weekends. I really hope to see him back at Rockley next year. I'm also looking forward to seeing and using the new owners bar next season and am hoping more people will use it more often as I know I will.

Well that's all for now so here's wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. . * DONT FORGET TO RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP *

Oscar Howlett (Entertainments)

What a Year we have just had:

With just one month to go before 2013, we have seen lots of change. Most significantly has been the weather. In the first opening months we had the threat of droughts, stopping us using hoses and unnecessary water usage. Then we had one of the wettest summers on record, and now the risk of flooding. Will this be the coldest winter. Who knows what's next. With that in mind, don't forget to book or prepare for your draindown, and turn off the stop tap if you are not in the caravan inbetween occupation. One interesting item that I noticed recently, was a caravan site that had floats under each of the caravans, and an umbilical arm to hold them in position when the site does flood. Does this mean they now become houseboats? Whilst they are floating do they have to pay Marina fees and Mooring charges? Can I moor the Sunseeker next to it (wishful thinking)? Hold the last thought. With 10% of the Lottery Millionaires buying a Caravan, maybe that's not quite a ridiculous statement. I shall have to find out where it is, then hope my six numbers come up, and instead of an Audi, BMW or Mercedes (some of the cars of choice to buy), I can wait for the next flood and turn up in the boat instead. I think we are probably quite safe at Rockley from flooding though, unless we get a Tsunami or a Super Storm like in the USA. You probably wouldn't be able to make it to the caravan because the road under the bridge is flooded again, but at least it would be safe and just think of the rental potential whilst the people of Sandbanks are staying here. I've already sent Harry his invite.

Ed.

Dear All,

As promised at the last Cream Tea event, I said I would write a piece why they were called Chrissies Cream Teas. The Association was formed back in 1992, so it's our 20th Anniversary. I was unable to find out over the old records as to who formed the Association. However, Chrissie & Bill Harris were known to be members of the Association around the year 2000. Chrissie became Vice Chairman, from Entertainments, and Bill from Newsletter Editor to Membership Secretary. Both of them worked tirelessly

for the Association and actually revived the membership.

Bill & Chrissie arranged Evening Boat trips, to ensure members were able to socialise, which was one of the core reasons the Association was formed.

Chrissies Cream Teas was started after Chrissie was diagnosed with Cancer, in 2003. The funds from the Cream Teas were given to charity like the Lewis-Manning Hospice, Cancer research, The Heart Foundation, and other charities which were close to Chrissies heart. It also allowed people to get together for a worthwhile cause and socialise.

Right up to the end, Chrissie was always thinking of the Association and this is why it is important to keep up the name of Chrissies Cream Teas in her memory. We raised £167.20 for the first event to go to Help for Heroes (£207.80 total for this charity including Tricia's Fun Day), and on the second event we raised £250 to go to Lewis-Manning Hospice. A **very big thank you** to all who came and donated and we hope you enjoyed the Cream Teas and social get together. Also a big thank you to Stuart and Oscar for the loan of their caravans and help, not forgetting Mavis.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Penny Kapp, (Membership Registration Secretary.)

p.s. I will try and find out a little more information for the next news letter about another committee member who worked tirelessly for the Association as well as Rockley, Keith Ransome.

The birth of Rockley Sands

As promised in the last edition, I have put together a short essay, as my boss always says, on information I have found about the site, many years ago.

I am only including one picture for printing, but will put some more on the web site, over the Christmas break. Many thanks to everyone who sent me bits and pieces and to Keith & Sandra, I shall get around to visiting you at some stage, when we get down to have a look at your info. The information below will probably be amended at some stage and updated, as more info comes to light.

It appears that the site we are now all pitched on used to be an old quarry (according to the book I read). That probably explains the fishing lake in close proximity and the way the bays have been sculptured. For some reason the quarry was abandoned, probably due to the silting of the access, or the quality, but on that I am only surmising.

It was then bought by someone around 1955 (Rockley Sands Estates) who developed the site to become a holiday destination. In 1957 they even had plans for an 'Esso' filling station. The main complex looked to be one piece with the centre stage being called the

'Palladium'. The site gradually grew and in 1960 there were plans for 10 Chalets, followed in 1963/4 by an outdoor Swimming Pool (probably where the Tropicana now stands). For some reason there seems to have been a Betting Office on site around 1965. The Boatyard was formed from an in-filled Lagoon in 1976 at the same time as the Sailing School was started, with the Boatyard extended in the early 80's. The complex was increased in 1988 to probably near its current size, which was altered again to what it is now, early 2003.

In 1963 the Council leased the land out to Bourne Leisure (British Holidays) for 99 years. The site licence in 1991 was for 1360 caravans and up to 100 pitches for touring caravans. In 1998 there were 71 pitches for touring caravans and 1005 static caravans reportedly. The earliest pictures I can see from anywhere are from pre 1960's with lots of old vintage caravans and cars shown, to the later pictures from the 80's.

As you may be able to notice, the amount of caravans has probably shrunk in some areas and grown in others. The club house was the only thing in the whole site that stayed the same, with the swimming pool seeming to come along at a later date than the opening of the park. Note at the time the swimming pool, how I knew it, was an Olympic sized pool, biggest one I had ever seen at the age of 10 at least, which was when I first came down to Rockley. I can't remember if the caravan had electric lighting or gas mantles (what a memory!!), but remember arriving by train and the bus dropping us off at the bottom of Lake Road, so had what seemed like a marathon walk to reach the reception, complete with suitcases.

I remember being put in for a competition in the club house, details of which I will not reveal, but suffice to say you had to come dressed up as something your parents decided upon (I can feel the counselling coming on now). Had many happy times down at the beach, and going crabbing, a pastime that is still done to this day, by generations of people. Yes the trains still ran over the bridge at Lytchett Bay and there were boating activities, as can be seen by other photos.

What was once a rich persons domain then, seems to still be the same. Car, Caravan & Boat. I wonder what the relevant values then to now compare like.

As you can see from the timeline the site has been developed over the years and what was then more of a family run business, initially, was taken over by British Holidays, which was a division of Bourne Leisure. They built more onto the site and in the meantime, the outdoor swimming pool, was partially filled in and became the Tropicana, yes that is still the original site of it, so I am told (underneath there, is the Olympic sized pool). The reception changed to the other side of the road, which is where the Sailing School HQ is at present, and the shop was next door. The complex grew with the addition of the 'Aqua Bar' and indoor swimming pool as well as the outdoor pool for holiday makers and the main

'Horizons Showbar', along with 'Heavens Above', which was an adult only entertainment bar/venue during the majority of the time (adult comedians et al). The owners bar, or 'Hardys' as it was known (far from the madding crowd) was an adult only area, and incorporated the Gym, Sauna, Sun Beds and the Snooker room, which had a Snooker table, Pool table and Bar Billiards table along with the dart board, with the exception of Sundays for owners breakfasts, with a Bar area serving draught beers (these were at a lower price than the main bars, to encourage people to use it, of which lack of use is probably why it died). It always used to be a holding area for the Saturday night entertainment when everyone would disappear at 10 to see the main event in the Showbar, and at other times was a relaxing area, with background music, where you could sit and chat and catch up. This area was a separate complex joined to the 'Aqua Bar' (where the Mash & Barrel is at present), with an outdoor area joining this to the main 'Horizons Showbar' and Amusement arcade. The Showbar had a balcony inside, accessed from the upstairs area. At one stage we even had a Burger King on site. So as you can see the park has evolved over the years from an idea to give 'holidays to the masses', to something very similar, but modernised and changed. Whether it has changed for the better depends on where you start in the timeline, hence why some people remember what they had, of which new people don't know about.

Eddy Kapp (Editor)



And Finally, don't forget the AGM.

Sunday 7th April

11.00 a.m.

Venue: Yarrells Preparatory School

Yarrells Drive

Upton

BH16 5EU

For those members receiving this via email, your membership renewal form is being sent out now. Don't forget to renew please. Have a Joyous Christmas and a Fantastic New Year, from all the Committee Members, and see you all next year.