

Rockley Park Owners' Association July 2012 Newsletter



Chairperson:-

Hello. Well I'm not going to say anything about the summer we haven't had, and we are already halfway through our season, so let's hope for an Indian Summer. I, as most of you know, have a dog, so have had to walk whatever the weather, and have seen some beautiful sunrises. It has also been nice to see the improvement on the beach, Well Done Rockley. The level of interest in the Association continues to grow and we are looking at another year of excellent growth, well done to everyone that's recruited more members. An Update on **Chrissie's Cream Teas**, held 21st July. It was a great success, the sun shone on us. Thanks to Stuart for the loan of his caravan, Penny & Ed for their hard work, and Oscar for eating all the Bread Pudding. **We raised £155** on the day, final figure to be advised on next newsletter. Many thanks to all those who came & donated. **For those who still want to donate, please see me, Stuart or Oscar** as we can add your donation. The charity donation will be going to 'Help for Heroes'. Because of the success of this, **we have decided to hold another one on the 15th September at Oscars, CP 61 time 2 p.m. If you could advise either me or Penny if you are coming, that would be nice**, to work out numbers.
Mavis White (Chairperson)

Vice Chairman:

Well another season well and truly in full swing. For those of us who live in Bristol we have the added pleasure of watching all the news from home and the West country, oh what joy!! But on the positive side, the reason we still have the charade, is because the transmitter is still not 100% on the I.O.W. So to save all the hassle of channel hopping (get it) every time the aerial is changed and then back, park are waiting till the end of the season, when hopefully it should have sorted itself out. Then we should be able to see what is happening in the area we all love to visit. You never know it might also be sunny and warm, seeing as the seasons seem to have turned around. Thanks goodness the caravan is chained down, I never realised it was to stop it being washed away.

Eddy Kapp (Vice Chair)

ENTERTAINMENT Bavarian Night in the Mash & Barrel in May was great fun. Banging tables with our Spoons and singing along to the many songs. (Hope no dents were left on the tables). A few dressed up for the occasion with our blonde pigtails and lederhosen shorts

(an opportunity for men to show off their legs). Three women were chosen to blow a trumpet to try and produce a note. (that was a hoot). Three men had to Yodel (eat your heart out Frank Ifield). Sausages, sauerkraut with a curry dip and bread was on the menu (Very nice too Rockley). I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and look forward to another like it next year. Excellent.

Adult Night in Mash & Barrel in June was fantastic. Mark Daniels was very entertaining as always (he was in the Owners Lounge in March). Kevin Kay the comedian was very good with his very quick jokes which were I thought alright for an Adult Night. Although I did notice a couple of children there! Then along came the Mad Hatters. Wow! They were something else. Lots of impersonations had me in fits of laughter. Especially when one of the group ran around the room dressed as Benny Hill with the signature tune blaring in the background. Sausage and Mash was on the menu and very delicious! Looking forward to seeing this group again.

Tricia Warner (Treasurer)

Branksome Dene Chine Fun Day on the 9th August. Don't forget we have this fabulous day booked on the **Beach, fun for all the family. Sand castle competition, treasure trail, Hot Dogs, tea/coffee et al.** Please contact Tricia to let her know how many to cater for. There is a small charge for the parking (council run) but the rest is free. We have also put in an order for the Sun to shine, but we have wet weather capacity in the building, just in case it goes astray. **Please contact Tricia on 07771628213 to let me know numbers attending.**

Electrical Periodic Testing:- 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.

View from the top, of what we have yet to decide but for all those wanting to buy a new caravan it's good news as the proposed 20% VAT increase was khyboshed. Whether it was the pressure by the respective trade bodies or just the government giving up a dumb idea is still decided by who you work for with both claiming success. This still does nothing to alter the fact that the country is still in the doldrums and people are not willing to spend

vast amounts of money on something that is potentially worthless with depreciation greater than that of buying a new car !!. With greater emphasis on value for money, it's now the turn of the parks themselves to make people want to give up their hard earned cash by offering the kind of service the people expect. I keep getting bombarded by other Park operators offering to pay for removal of my caravan to their park, for nothing, wherever I want to go. You wonder what is in it for them, but if you take the current economic situation, they probably can't sell the caravans either, so instead of an empty space, why not fill it with something that will give them some sort of cash return, spending in the club house etc., and the potential that in a few years time they might upgrade, if we get back to a + balance. That's of course if you like the park, which is where retaining the customers you have got seems to be more on the agenda, than has probably been in recent years. **Ed.**

SHOW STOPPERS

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 warranty 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! Regrettably this says much for the concept of quality in the industry as a whole, something the car makers have learnt over the years with manufacturers so confident in their product that 5 years warranties are almost the norm.

I would not set myself up as a quality guru by any means but having worked with BS 5750 almost from the start in the early eighties and later ISO 9000 & EN 29000, I think I can claim a reasonable insight into the subject. Whilst your caravan may carry the EN 1647 mark this has little to do with actual 'build quality' and more to do with Health & Safety e.g. ventilation means of escape and installation albeit useful to see though any brochure or sales blurb when determining how warm and cosy you may be. The heating should comply to EN 1647 grade 2, which will ensure a 20 degrees centigrade differential between the outside and inside temperatures. The other standards are not a product specification themselves but a management tool relating to How quality is provided in all facets of the business activity from design, the supply chain to marketing. Sadly we are not aware of any Holiday Static manufacture that work within this accreditation and may account for the poor quality we see from time to time. It must be very difficult for our maintenance team to put something right when there is no consistent exact specification as to how it should be in the first place!- Manufacturers' you must do better.

Terry Warner (Secretary)

Hi Folks, I trust that most of you are trying to make the most of this typical English weather? I feel the acts in the Showbar are still at the same standard as the last newsletter, however, I was overall impressed with the acts we had on over the weekend of the 15-16th June. There was a comedy band on the Friday and a band called The Move on the Saturday, which I think is one of the best bands we have had on so far this season, its just a shame that it was held on the same night as the Owners adult comedy night in the Mash and Barrel. Talking about Owners nights, I went to the Bavarian night and what a fantastic time that was had by all. I would like to say a big thank you to all the members of staff that made the evening what it was. I bet some of the tables took a huge hammering to with all the bashing of the spoons that was going on?!? If anyone has any issues/queries or just wants to chat about the Entertainments I can be found at the weekends in the Showbar stood at the back by the disco box or if not I will be round by the face painting lady, as at the moment there seems to be a bit of an issue with security about us Owners congregating at the back, even though its where we have always stood. Maybe they should create an Owners corner in the Showbar for us all so that we can all stand together, watch the acts, chat and have a laugh with each other without being asked to move. That's all for now guys, lets hope for some sunshine and I wish you all a happy summer.

Kate (Owner)

Entertainment Update:- We have for the last few weeks, had a New Entertainments Manager in the complex. This has resulted in some welcoming changes in the main showbar, which has been commented about a reduction in the music level. Only time will tell if this will last.

Stuart Chinery/ Oscar Howlett (Entertainments)

Dear Members

Well we are halfway through the year and we have not had very good weather, however it looks as if the cycle has now broken and we are enjoying the sunshine which has been a long time coming. I would like to welcome all the new members that have joined us over the last few months and also not forgetting our existing members. I would like to say a big thank you to all our members, on behalf of the Committee for giving us your support.

Penny Kapp (Registration Secretary)

Meeting With Management

On a more serious note you may or may not be aware we had a meeting with Park Management following points raised from our AGM.

Vouchers :- or non receipt of the vouchers and also the withdrawal of the £1.00 breakfast this year. The decision was made at Hemel, who felt there was a decline in value of the vouchers and that owners did not want the Vouchers. Unless the majority of owners on all Parks write to Hemel to overturn the decision the Vouchers will not be returning. It appears that they want quality for all our owners.

TV From Bristol :- This was raised as we all like to have our own local news which would be normally the Dorset news. However, Rockley signal is not stable coming from the Isle of Wight and therefore until the end of the year we will be pointing to the Bristol Transmitter. Management understand our feelings and assures us once the signal has stabilised, we will return back to the IOW.

Television in Owners Lounge:- Please note the TV control is left with discretion of the member of staff working in the Lounge at that time, who you should approach if the noise levels are too loud.

Owners with Doggies:- Please ensure you clean up after your doggie fouls and throw it in the bin. Management are going to ensure that the doggie bins will be emptied regularly.

Pot Holes & Tree Roots:- around Rockley, are very dangerous especially when walking around at night. Management mentioned that they will look into this and arrange for them to be filled in or tamped down.

Changing room in Sauna:- Costumes being left around the Sauna. It was suggested that a dryer be installed, however this will not happen this year, possibility dryer will be looked into for installation next year as management has taken the suggestion on board.

And finally, the Gardeners:- It was mentioned to Management, that the gardeners have done very well under the circumstances, with the recent bad weather. To all the staff who keep our Park neat and tidy, we thank you and keep the good work up.

Penny Kapp (Registration Secretary)

And Finally:- As the new editor, it has not been an easy task for the work/life balance, when work seems to have won the day, so apologies for any delay with getting this edition of the newsletter out to members. You may notice that this edition contains a bit of colour to it on the first page. Whether this will be a regular feature is yet to be seen, but we have used it to stress a few points that are happening soon. As you may also notice I have gone over the 2 page limit we normally have, partly my fault, as didn't read the manual (it's a man thing, so Penny tells me). As we have plenty of space, if anyone would like to contribute to the next newsletter then please forward anything you would like to say to our email address rockleyowners@aol.com or send it to us by post.

In the next edition I am hoping to include a bit about the history of Rockley Sands / Park, so if anyone has any articles about that, or was around here in the pre Bourne Leisure days that would be appreciated. I have a few old photos from when I was smaller at the Olympic sized swimming pool (now the Tropicana, you would not believe it) so might include that on the website. Also we shall bring the newer members some information of what we started off with, as a selling point, when we were first introduced to the site back some 16 years ago, which was when we bought our first caravan (seems longer than that). Don't forget the website www.rockleyowners.org.uk which although the forum is still on the system, I am trying to update it to a newer version, but other things are taking up all my time so that has been put on a back burner till probably Christmas time. For the time being it is not open to new users as have had a battle with European attacks on it, on a daily basis. Take care.

Eddy Kapp (Editor)