



LITTLE COTTON CARAVAN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

### MARCH 2012

#### **Barbara Burn**

It is with deep sorrow and regret that I have to advise you that Barbara died in hospital on Monday 5 March. All the members who have rallied with her will remember her with affection. She was always on hand to help any member who had any trouble with their caravan, she was more capable than a lot of men. We send our condolences to Jeanette and I am sure she would like members to keep in touch with her.

#### **Eve Shearer**

Eve's son rang me on 10 March to say that Eve had died in the ambulance on her way to hospital that morning. She rallied with us for a few years and after that was an honorary member, but still kept in touch with a few members, we will miss her.

#### **Bentham Rally**

It has been brought to our attention by Dorothy Wilkin the Rally Officer for this rally that part of the information for the Bentham rally is incorrect.

Please delete the sentence 'Views over Morcambe Bay' as this does not relate to this rally.

#### **Dartmouth Rally**

To mark 60 years of The Queen's reign the Diamond Jubilee celebrations will centre around an extended weekend in 2012 on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June. The end of May Bank Holiday has been moved to June 4<sup>th</sup> and a special Bank Holiday for the Jubilee has been created for June 5<sup>th</sup>. School half terms have also been moved to this week.

Considering all of these things, I think the road to the west country will be extra busy on Friday and Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and I have agreed with the site owner that we can start the Dartmouth rally 2 days earlier on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will hopefully enable you to travel down before the rush. The rally will now run from **2.00pm Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June** until Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June giving you almost three weeks in this superb spot on the Devon coast. Please do not get there until after 2.00pm to give your rally officers a chance to arrive first.

For those of you who have not been before, the rally field is adjacent to, and accessed through Little Cotton Caravan Park. The site facilities are superb and include Wi-fi! The site entrance is directly opposite to Sainsbury's as you approach Dartmouth, which makes shopping particularly easy. Lidl is no more than 200yds away and even closer is the park and ride which takes you down the hill and into Dartmouth town centre. The P&R is now cheaper if you go as a group, as the site owner tells me that a car load, from 2 to 6, can use the bus for £4.50.

With bank holidays and half terms it is definitely the week to stay in, or use the P&R, and with that in mind we will celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with our own street party. The Thames river pageant will be on Sunday afternoon. On Monday is the Buckingham Palace concert and thousands of beacons will be lit around the country that night.

Whilst we are here:-

Farmers Market on the old market square Dartmouth on 9<sup>th</sup> June 9.00am – 1.00pm

The 2012 J/80 sailing world championship in Dartmouth June Seventy or more J/80 teams will compete in the Championship. This small armada will comprise approximately hundred and fifty competing athletes and a total of around five visitors to the port. The sailing area for the championship will be in Start Bay, just outside the harbour entrance and so easily visible from the nearby beaches and cliff tops for the enjoyment of spectators.



9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
World  
three  
hundred

Totnes; Costumed Charity and Craft Markets in the Civic Square, every Tuesday 9.00am - 3.00pm - try out the stocks, wander around the market and shops, or stroll by the river.

### Dartmouth Steam Railway and River Boat Company

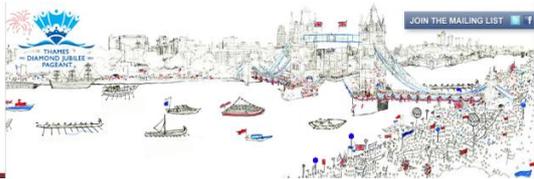
[www.Dartmouthrailriver.co.uk](http://www.Dartmouthrailriver.co.uk)

They run the 'Round Robin' Trip; Boat, Train and Bus between Dartmouth, Totnes and Paignton, plus many other local boat trips.

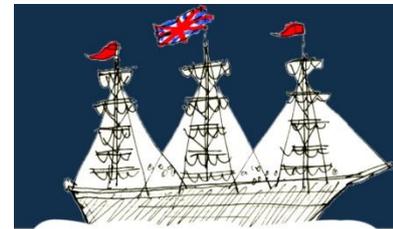


Jean Yates, Rally Secretary

The Thames Diamond Jubilee



Pageant



Extract from the website; <http://www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org/>

At high water in the afternoon of Sunday 3 June 2012, up to a thousand boats muster on the River Thames in preparation for Her Majesty The Queen to lead the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river. Rowed boats and working boats and pleasure vessels of all shapes and sizes will be beautifully dressed with streamers and Union Jacks, their crews and passengers turned out in their finest rigs. The armed forces, fire, police, rescue and other services are all afloat and there are an exuberance of historic boats, wooden launches, steam vessels and other boats of note. The flotilla itself will be over seven miles long and – including mustering, dispersal and the avenue of sail – will include some 25 miles of Thames river bank and pass under 14 bridges. It will take 90 minutes to pass any given point.

The spectacle is further enhanced with music barges, boats spouting geysers and pyrotechnic barges spitting smoke and daytime fireworks. And there will be specially constructed elements like a floating belfry, its chiming bells answered by those from riverbank churches.

There are many boats that have travelled from far and wide to represent UK port cities, the Commonwealth countries and other international interests. Downriver of London Bridge, there is a gun salute and the flotilla passes through a spectacular avenue of sail made by traditional Thames sailing boats, oyster smacks, square riggers, naval vessels and other impressive ships. The flotilla will be divided into ten sections, with music herald barges separating each one. The Pageant's music will be a diverse mixture of the contemporary and classical. The Pageant organisers were keen to embrace the opportunity to commission new pieces and the selection therefore includes a number of world premieres. Examples include a new song with lyrics by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and a new work inspired by Handel's water music, created by ten renowned British film composers. The final music herald barge will be the London Philharmonic Orchestra, performing a British repertoire, including music by Benjamin Britten and Gustav Holst.

Heralded by The Royal Jubilee Bells, and led by Gloriana, the hand-built, 88-foot rowbarge, the first section will include rowed and paddled vessels, including Watermen's cutters, modern row boats, kayaks and Dragon boats. The second section includes boats carrying the flags of the Commonwealth nations, Realms, Territories and Dependencies. Then comes the Royal section, with support vessels from the former Royal Yacht Britannia, accompanying the Pageant's flagship, the

Royal Barge, on which The Queen will travel. She will be followed immediately by the Guard of Honour. In the fourth section will be the Dunkirk Little Ships, followed by historic vessels in the fifth. Following the historic boats will be the working boats, including steam boats and tugs. The next – the seventh – will see an array of leisure vessels, followed by the eighth section of narrow boats and Dutch barges. The final two sections are designated for passenger vessels, allowing for significant public participation as part of the flotilla itself.

### **Dartmouth Rally – further information**

As the rally is starting at the Jubilee weekend the committee has decided to run a Jubilee Street Party on the rally site, hopefully, weather permitting it will be held on Monday 4 June commencing at 4.00pm. If the weather is unkind we will try to run it on the 5 June.

The suggestion is that we make several Tartiflettes, served with salad and fresh baguettes, followed by desserts.

**Have you got a Remoska, would you be willing to make a Tartiflette? (Recipe below). Please let the Rally Officer know as soon as possible if you are going to Dartmouth and if you have a Remoska, this will be a great help with organising the street party.**

There will be small charge for this party so that we can buy all the fresh ingredients and hand them to those who are cooking.

Would each couple bring a dessert, enough for at least two people (or more if you wish) and also a few nibbles for the evening, plus any drink you wish.

If you have a caravan table that you do not normally bring to a rally could you please bring it for the street party?

You can dress in patriotic clothes or any red, white and blue if you wish.

### **Tartiflette Recipe – 4 people**

- 1kg Potatoes
- 1 Block Reblochon de Savorie (or blue cheese or Brie)
- Lardons or streaky bacon
- 100ml Crème fraiche
- Chopped garlic
- Salt, pepper and chives

Part cook the potatoes and cut into small cubes. Fry lardons. Layer the potatoes, garlic, lardons, chives and seasoning then the cheese. Repeat the layer finishing with cheese.

Cook in the Remoska for approximately ½ - ¾ hour then put crème fraiche on the top and cook for a few more minutes.

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<b>Stourport on Severn</b>	<b>Report by</b>	Barb and Jeanette
<b>9 – 23 October</b>	<b>No of Vans</b>	10 + 2 Motorhomes
<b>Rally Officers</b> Clive and Yvonne	<b>Weather</b>	Dry, Sunny, Chilly Wind

As usual we arrived later than planned after a good journey from home, I (Barb) decided to argue with the Sat Nav, which led to an unscheduled detour. All ended well and we got set up on our fully serviced pitch. The park managers had located us on the main site instead of opening up the huge rally field for 12 vans.

This turned out to be quite an eventful rally. Seems we had nearly lost Alan Holdcroft in the river! he had been trying to recover Cindy who had fallen in during her walk and fell in himself. Terry Bodle saw Alan struggling and went to his rescue!! . Tragedy averted thank goodness!

Many strange and unexplained happenings took place during the rally. We believe a friendly (Lady in White) ghost was having a good time bugging various peoples vans. David and Lynne's heating stopped working for no apparent reason, then was O K. Tom's water pump failed then again worked with no apparent reason. Alan and Jean had a drawer tipped out during the night and Jeanette "saw" a dark haired lady dressed in white walk through our van wall in the middle of the night !. Upon enquiry at the office before leaving, it seems there is a ghost on the Park who messes with peoples vans and mobile homes, (of which there are many). May be a long gone visitor who lost her husband on site and is annoyed. Whatever the answer may be she certainly kept everyone on their toes!

We all had a good time sight seeing, Worcester, Kidderminster, Bewdley which is very picturesque. Merry Hill Shopping Centre between Dudley and Stourbridge is worth a visit, though we can understand why the locals call it "Merry Hell" as one can easily get lost as it is quite a complicated layout and covers a large area. Talking of getting lost, Graham kept going out to find Bewdley, still not sure if he got there!. Plenty of choices for local shopping in the area and one can walk along the riverside to Stourport and Bewdley. The Marina and locks in Stourport are worth a visit , lots of super boats!. Transport links seemed to be good from outside the site.

Fishing on the river could have been very good if Mick and I had picked some local brains, but it was nice watching the multitude of birds around us, sadly no Kingfishers.

Most of us enjoyed the arranged trips to the local Hostelry for lunch both weeks. It was a bit chilly for afternoon teas but we did manage a couple, just wrapped up warm.

Oh I forgot there is The Severn Valley Railway to take one back in time and to Bridgenorth to boot . I do believe we all enjoyed our stay at Lickhill Manor despite and maybe because of our friendly ghost. We will definitely go back. Thank you Clive and Yvonne for a good job done.

**Did you remember to pay your membership this year? If you forgot please send a cheque made payable to Welton Owners Club in the sum of £10.00, to Yvonne Gibbs, 27 Prinknash Road, Bedford. MK41 8DJ. We do not want to lose members.**

### **French Rally 2013**

Just a short update regarding the proposed 2013 French rally. Nothing has been booked just yet, but we think the start date will be from 27th May 2013 for 10 nights staying at a site near Vihiers in the Loire, then moving to a site in the Dordogne or Charente area for approx 12 nights.

The first site is near Vihiers 10 nights approx 150 euros.  
Second site North of Perigueux 14 nights approx 278 euros.  
Both sites include electric.

Regards Bob Clark

Yvonne Gibbs – Secretary  
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