



ALC e-News

December 2022



Welcome to the December e-News. For many of our members, the October Meet marks the end of the camping season - and we had a fabulous weekend at St Neots this year. However, last winter several of us met up informally between November and March, but we couldn't advertise these events because we were not able to reach the minimum number required for an official Club Meet. I'm delighted that the magic number 7 was reached at Hertford last weekend, and we have now booked **Oxford (13-15 Jan)** with provisional bookings for **Canterbury (17-19 Feb)** and **Delamere Forest (17-19 Mar)**. Interested? Contact Susan at allyeartenters@gmail.com



Burnham Trophy 2022

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the ALC Bulletin and e-News between June 2021 and May 2022.

We submitted those publications for the Burnham Trophy and were delighted to receive a Highly Commended certificate. Keep sending us your photos and stories for our 2023 entry!

David, wearing his ALC Archivist hat, has just sent me the results of a member survey we did back in the 1990s. It showed that 32% of our members camped all year round. A new member survey is long overdue - watch out for that early next year. If you have never tried winter camping but are tempted, what better way than joining an ALC Meet? We can offer lots of tips and advice on staying warm and, although we can't make any promises about the weather - you will definitely get a warm welcome! **Susan, Editor and PR Officer**

Rosie Clack-Walsh, Community Editor

I started at the Club in June 2021, as the magazine's editorial assistant. Since then I've enjoyed getting out on the Club's network, completing a lightweight camping trip to Scotland and meeting members. Within my new role as the Club's community editor I will now be looking after the Out & About section of the magazine and reporting on the events and news from our different Special Interest Sections, DAs and Regions. I hope in time I can come along to many of your meets, along with that of others, in this social side of camping. If you have any great stories from one of your meets please feel free to drop me an email at rosie.clack-walsh@campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk



We are delighted that Rosie plans to join us at our Hertford Meet in December, and we're looking forward to working with her to promote the ALC and all forms of lightweight camping.



St Neots October 2022
The end of your camping season...
or are you an All Year Tenter?

Some ALC Autumn Meets

Chris: At the Normans Bay meet three members arrived with Brompton's and went for a number of local rides and a very nice lunch. A fourth member didn't have their bike, but met up using the train.

Following these successful rides we all agreed to meet up at St Neots. Three Brompton's and a Dahon (amongst others), and their riders met up at the St. Neots site. The first night was a curry near the campsite entrance, we were on our way out as they demonstrated their special dish – setting fire to something and producing loads of smoke!

Sarah suggested a route to Wimpole Hall for Saturday, Chris navigated and all arrived in time for coffee and cake, another ALC member was just leaving as we arrived. As the weather was so nice we found a longer route home, stopping for a very nice Pizza for afternoon tea! We managed a total of 45 very nice miles with really good views.

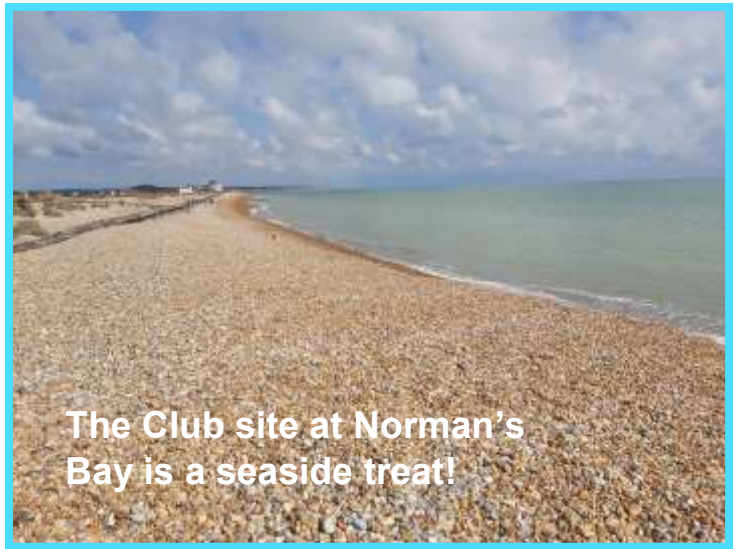
We aim to meet up at Hertford in December, probably for a shorter ride, but still including a curry. All decisions are made on the day, based upon the weather etc. Non small wheeled bikes are also welcome to come along.



Mary and David: As usual we arrived before 1pm so parked up at Pevensey and had our lunch. Arriving at the site we were warmly welcomed and shown to our pitches which were close to one of the amenities blocks, bonus. Checking these out I was pleased that they had a couple of cubicles, no plugs, but no problem as I have a rubber plug that fits.

All I can say about the weather for the next few days was that it was really windy, very heavy rain, black clouds, but sunny and hot in between. It all changed on Friday afternoon with beautiful weather which lasted for the whole meet. Of the campers who arrived on the Friday, five were new to us, which I don't think has happened before at one meet.

We are not an activity section, but activities take place at our meets organised by those camping. Over the three days a number cycled to Beachy Head, Battle and Pevensey Castle, while some took the train. Sheelagh took part in a park run in Hastings, running to the start from the site. Margaret parked the car at the National Trust Car Park



at Birling Gap and walked onto a downs ridge, back to Eastbourne and then along the coastal path to Birling Gap via Beachy Head, a walk she would recommend for all levels and ages.

David & I along with John walked to the train station, about 15 mins from the site and took the train to Hastings. We had coffee and then parted, John to get some shopping and we to walk to St Leonards, a place we had visited many times 60 years ago when my brother used to live there. Of course it had changed except for the statue of Queen Victoria in Warrior Square. Walking back we picked up some fish and chips and sat on a bench overlooking the sea, as you do, before getting the train back. Sunday, again with John we bought ice cream from the site shop and sat on the beach and gazed. A very enjoyable meet, good company, plenty to do, or just relax, lots of lovely sunsets. Site Manager and Assistants made us very welcome, For those who like numbers. There were 8 units with 9 members, 7 came by car and 1 cycled.

Susan: The Torchlight Festival seems a long time ago now, but Fiona and I are keeping an eye on the Club site for 2023 bookings to open. Is anyone interested in an ALC group booking?



A new ALC role - Environmental Impact Officer

As lightweight campers we are already low impact when compared to Club members in general. However, there are ways in which we might go further. For example, checking there are public transport options at all of our Meets, considering the possibility of car sharing, sourcing and sharing information about lightweight camping equipment that is produced with sustainability in mind, sharing tips on the repair of equipment, etc.

Actions that are environmentally friendly are often described using R words. Below are the ones that I have developed for my other voluntary activity (a community roof garden). I think most of these can apply to lightweight camping, and many of our members already do brilliant things that exemplify these, as seen in the two member tips below. The ALC Council has created the role of Environmental Impact Officer and I have agreed to take it on for 2023. Do get in touch with any suggestions or questions - or if you are interested in the role for 2024. **Susan**

RE-THINK

Refuse: can I just say no? Do I really need to buy this, or do this? is there a lower-impact way?

Reduce: can I use less of this? Will that save money as well as help the environment?

Reuse: can I use it again? Can I lend it, or give it, to someone else?

Repurpose: can I use this in another way? Could someone else suggest another use for it?

Repair: can I mend it? Do I know someone else who could mend it?

Rot: can this go into a compost heap? Could I have one? Does a friend or neighbour have one?

Regenerate: collect seeds, take cuttings, divide plants, share all these with others.

Recycle right: read and follow guidelines, *gently* inform if the guidelines are wrong!

Recover: is something in the recycling bin reusable, repairable, repurposable?

Recruit: spread the word, encourage others, reward or incentivise low impact behaviours.

Are you using your entitlement?

Dan Joyce in the October/November 2022 edition of Cycle outlines astronomical inflation in his editorial. For those of us unable to afford new bikes, Spa treatment is available for our old clunkers at campsites close to the ports of Brittany and Normandy (other countries available).

Spares priced and paid for in Euro can be a fraction of the cost of those in pounds. Under Brexit rules you are allowed to import £390.00 of goods for your own personal use, in my case only exploring this theory I made a £25.00 saving on a pair of tyres, a £15.00 saving on a 9 speed cassette and a £2.50 saving on a chain (like for like UK/F comparisons). NL appeared to be the least favourable component donor country. This has wetted my appetite to overcome "we no longer export to the UK", a tandem owner's nightmare as most good quality equipment originates outside of England. The cassette cruise? Have you anything to declare? Only my meanness...

Robin of Loxley (Researcher) & Little John

N.B. Should you be purchasing threaded items (cranks, pedals, screw-on freewheels etc. outside of the UK ensure compatibility. Metric threaded items (and they differ throughout Europe) are not compatible with BSC. *All information correct at time of writing.*

TipTop - a Green Christmas Box

Landfill reduction is a priority, so rather than repurposing your inner tubes into a purse (sewing machine with leather compatible needle) why not repair it? TipTop puncture repair outfits come in a handy green box: Type 04 Sport for 18mm to 28mm inner tubes; Type 02 Touring 28mm and above. Date the unopened box with month and year of purchase as just carrying an outfit will off ward off the tyre trauma troll. Unopened vulcanising fluid lasts approximately 4 years before the glue angels have taken more than a wee dram. Individual replacement items are available separately (fluid, patches, etc.). Sadly we no longer have a local bike shop so use cyclebasket.com or spacycles.co.uk. A handy stocking filler.

Also, don't send your partly worn tyres to landfill. Donate them to St. Saviour's cycles or your local cycle charity.

Happy New Year, Pippa

Cookery column

Young member Charlotte Baldwin has contributed lots of recipes that can be cooked on a campsite - but she has recently been concentrating on themed cup cakes for charity fundraisers. I asked her if we could have ALC cup cakes and here is the result. Now we just need to organise a coffee morning!



Charlotte's cup cake recipe obviously needs an oven but Mary and David's Welsh cakes and Flapjacks can be cooked on a Trangia

Welsh Cakes

225g/½ lb SR Flour
75g/3oz margarine or butter
50g/2oz Currants
75g/3oz Sugar
1 small egg
Pinch of salt
2 tablespoons milk

Method: Rub fat into flour add currants & sugar. Add egg & enough milk to make a stiff dough. Roll dough out flat ¼ in thick. Cut dough into circles. Heat greased Trangia frying pan. Cook on both sides until firm

Flapjacks

1 egg
1 cup SR Flour
¾ cup of milk
1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons veg oil
½ tsp salt

Method: Beat all ingredients together in a bowl, then spoon onto a hot Trangia frying pan. When one side has set, flip over & cook other side, till golden brown.

ALC e-News for 2023

Next year we hope to send you an e-News every month.

All contributors will get a Centenary Pennon and a badge!

Please send your stories, reviews, recipes, photos, etc. to newsfromthealc@gmail.com

Letterboxing ➡ Geocaching?

Rosie asked me recently if any of our members are involved in Geocaching. That reminded me of an article way back in our archives about Letterboxing, which sounds like a very similar activity. Here is an extract:

10-12 June 2005, Letterboxing Meet, Dartmoor

"We parked the cars in Belstone...and walked to the moor...we found a good few boxes following clues such as ('Pink Elephant' From large boulder head on 143° to lone gorse bush, box stuck between two small rocks on south side. White chimney stack 352° Cosdon Beacon 122.5°). Dartmoor is a magical place...the letterboxes are a bonus, we collected 54 over the two days."

So my question is - **Are any of you involved in Geocaching?** If you are, please do tell us about it. Is it similar to letterboxing? Does it need technical knowledge? If you enjoy it, could you help other members to get involved?

Promoting the ALC Did you notice that the ALC featured in recent editions of the Club magazine and the Out and About supplement? Many thanks to Alan, Rich and Dawn for giving us permission to use their photos – and also to Kate for her digital skills in getting the images to the format needed for publication.

Vegan breakfast – the Beech Croft Café

The Beech Croft Campsite (nearest town Buxton) is a family favourite but is hardstanding only in winter.



However, if you are walking or cycling in the area we have discovered that the café is open most Saturdays and Sundays serving up hearty breakfasts and they welcome walkers and cyclists - you don't have to be staying at the campsite. Their menu includes a vegetarian breakfast but on our last visit they were also happy to produce a vegan version. They serve tea in proper pots and have milk alternatives. But check their opening hours in advance. **Susan and Pamela**