



ALC e-News

January 2023



Welcome to the January e-News. I'm writing this the day after returning from Oxford, a bit wet, very windy, but a great weekend. Choosing to have our Winter Meets within walking distance of a town or city centre has turned out to be a very popular move. Having plenty of indoor options makes all the difference at this time of year. Oxford was a fabulous choice. We packed a lot into the weekend, including a folk jam session, theatre trip, cycle ride to Woodstock, several museums, some country walks and a bit of shopping in the January sales (I really shouldn't do that when I'm backpacking and my pack is already bursting!). At the time of writing there is one place left at Canterbury (17 Feb) and Delamere (17 Mar) is fully booked, but I may be able to get extra places. If you are interested, contact me using the email allyeartenters@gmail.com or 07812558820. Best wishes, Susan.

ALC Meets 2023

(All at Club sites apart from Watlington)

Devizes 2 nights from 10th March

Hayfield Easter 4 nights from 7th April

Kingsbury 3 nights from 19th May
(ALC AGM Sat 20th May)

Canterbury 3 nights from 2nd June

Scarborough 3 nights from 7th July

Watlington 5 nights from 3rd August
(ALC Birthday Meet)

Wolverley 2 nights from 15th September

Cambridge 2 nights from 6th October

To book a place at any of these Meets, please contact Rich Forest sites@lightweightcampers.org.uk

Club sites price per unit night:
£7.50 solo, £10 couple.
(Watlington price tbc)

Election of ALC Council members 2023

The ALC Council members are elected each year from our membership. The Council exists to manage the activities of the Section, which can cover a very wide range of interests. What we can offer to you depends entirely on the skills and interests of Council members, so it's important that we have new people coming forward as they bring fresh ideas and talents.

We have three vacancies for 2023 and online elections are managed on our behalf by the Club. To stand for Council you just have to complete a nomination form - **a copy is attached with this e-News and the deadline for return by post is 12 noon 1st February 2023.**

Council members attend four meetings per year. Two of these are online (by Zoom) and two are in-person meetings that take place at an ALC Meet. Travel expenses are paid at 45p per mile for the in-person meetings. For 2023, the in-person Council meetings will be at Kingsbury (20th May) and at Wolverley (16th Sept).

Council members can increase their involvement by taking on a Voluntary Officer role, but that's not a requirement, and you certainly won't be pushed into it.

Please do consider standing for election - we need an active Council to keep the Section running and offer a good experience to our members. If you would like to know more, or have any questions, just ask and we'll send you a speedy answer. **Email newsfromthealc@gmail.com**

**Hertford
December
2022**



ALC e-News Contributor Awards

Throughout 2023 we'll be giving Centenary pennons and ALC badges to members who send in a contribution for the e-News or the Bulletin. As it happens, our first four 'winners' were all at the Oxford Meet, which meant we could have an Awards Ceremony! Please do send us anything you think will interest members. Meet attendance not required - we'll send your pennon/badge by post! [Email to newsfromthealc@gmail.com](mailto:newsfromthealc@gmail.com)



Staying warm at Winter Meets

We all know the saying 'there's no such thing as bad weather...just wrong clothes'. If fear of being cold is the only thing putting you off joining a Winter Meet, would you be interested in **an online session** to share ideas for staying cosy when camping in bad weather? Contact Susan for more info or to request an invite at allyeartenters@gmail.com

Tip 1: lots of layers!

Julie, Nicola, Sarah, Sheelagh & Chris



Another money saving tip

from Robin of Loxley and Little John

ACSI Camping Card

We read with interest Pitch-Up page 12 and 13, December C&CC magazine. Direct from ACSI your ID card will cost €4.95, allowing you to purchase your Camping Card for as little as €16.95.

Using an exchange rate of 1.14 this could save you £4.92. Prices correct 21st November, 2022.

Environmental Impact - your hints and tips

Some fun ideas this month for reusing or repurposing small items that might otherwise end up in landfill.



Here's a great idea for those of you who knit, sew or crochet. Some of our members make items for charity sales and, when it's a cardigan, the cost of a set of buttons can be almost as much as the wool. Buttons can often be reused, repurposed and welcomed by crafters. This is a novel way to present them using gift cards.

If you have needed to purchase disposable FFP2 face-masks during the last year or two they often come with several plastic extensions to ensure the mask is a perfect fit. Peter has kept all of his and it seems these have lots of alternative uses - here they are in use as pole tidies but they are also great plant ties.



And for those of you who attend the sort of events where everyone is issued with a wristband, if it is the ribbon type that has to be pulled through to fit your wrist, it can in fact be reused. They have to be threaded through in the right direction so that they slide then lock into place, and then they have a range of emergency uses - here is one on a guy line.



Thanks to Jennie and Peter - please send me your own favourite hints and tips for the next e-News.

Hertford Meet December 2022

I was looking forward to returning to Hertford, having camped there last December with Susan and Rita, this year we had the pleasure of 5 more members joining us. I arrived on the Thursday, closely followed by Rita who kindly pitched her tent and left blankets, chairs and cooking equipment in case we needed spares. I took a walk in to Hertford to see some of the Yarnbombers festive decorations before returning to camp by



which time Susan had arrived and was busy setting up. We sat about for a while chatting before heading in to our tents and the warmth of our sleeping bags.

Everyone else arrived on Friday, by this time the sustained freezing temperatures had frozen our nearest water tap and most others on the site. Hardly surprising as Chris informed us the temperature dropped to -7 Friday night. We were advised the Motorhome tap was still OK.

Saturday morning arrived and we were looking forward to meeting Rosie (the Club Community Editor) and sharing some information about our kit and why we enjoy camping, (look forward to the article in a future Club magazine).

After she left some of the group did a walk from the campsite which I'd done the previous day, whilst I caught the train to Ryes Mead, walking back to Ware along the Lee Valley Way.



Saturday evening England were playing France in the World Cup, so five of us sat in Wetherspoons to watch the match before once again returning to the campsite. Having now had two nights of sub zero temperatures I think I'd become acclimatised as woke in the early hours quite warm and had to undo my sleeping bag to cool off a little.

All too soon Sunday arrived and it was time to pack up, we left Rita and Susan who were staying that evening.....that's another story entirely! Hertford Campsite is ideally placed for a winter camp, and once again I thoroughly enjoyed my stay - many thanks to Susan for organising. **Julie**

Items for Sale

A couple of items for sale by ALC members - if you are interested please contact the vendor directly.



Due to moving house I'm looking to sell two tents surplus to requirement. Vango Spectre 200 (2 person tent), well used but still in good condition £40.00 + p&p or could be picked up at a Meet (*pictured above*). Vango Cairngorm 100 (1 person tent), used for 5 nights on the Isle of Arran, and a overnight walk in Suffolk...£40.00 + p&p or could be picked up at a Meet (*pictured below*). Contact Julie at juliejog@sky.com



And to finish...

I have a Dahon folding bike now surplus to requirements. It's been lurking in my bike shed for a while now, and needs some tlc and a good home, but it was a great bike to have on holiday. I'd like to sell it for £50 o.n.o Contact Heather at heatherconstance9@gmail.com

Please note that we are only offering vendors a means to tell other members they have kit to sell - we have no knowledge of the items and are not in any way involved in the transaction. Any member may ask to use this service via newsfromthealc@gmail.com