



# CROSSINGS

## MOTORHOME TOURS

Newsletter

# May 2018



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## From the editors

May 2018

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter with a particular hello to all of you who signed up this month after coming to see Garry and Shirley at the Peterborough Show in April. Sounds like you all had lovely weather for a change.

We are back on the road again (hooray) and in this month's edition you can read a full tour review from our first trip of the

season to Holland, Belgium and France.

We have another recipe from resident foodie, Dave and this month's motorhoming tips are an update on getting the best rate for your foreign currency.

***Bob , Wendy, Dave and Sue.***

## Peterborough Motorhome Show

A big thank you to everyone who came to see us at the Peterborough Show at the end of April.

Garry and Shirley really enjoyed speaking to everyone and giving a 'customer-eye' view of the tours. Garry and Shirley came with us last year on our Three-Country Starter Tour, not

realising we would be roping them into working for us!

Peterborough has a bit of a reputation for being wet and muddy so it looks like this year bucked the trend.

Our next show is The Norfolk Show in July, although Jimmy Osmond won't be there.

May 2018

*Full details of the  
2019 schedule are  
currently **only**  
available to our  
newsletter  
readers but will 'go  
public' during May.*

## 2019 Tour Update and Previews

### Booking Procedure

We started taking bookings at the beginning of last month so please feel free to get in touch now if you want to secure your place in 2019.

Full details of the 2019 schedule are currently **only available to our newsletter readers** but will 'go public' during May.

Our designer is currently working on the new brochure and the new website content for 2019 so at the moment the full details are only available in electronic form in a PDF document.

If you have not yet seen the PDF it was attached to the newsletter email that we have just sent you or we can email it to you if you are having trouble downloading it.



### Three-Country Starter Tour

14 days | 24th Apr to 7th May  
Early Bird £1600 per unit  
Loyalty Discount of £50  
Deposit £350  
Bob & Wendy | Dog-friendly



### Budapest, Prague and Vienna

25 days | 13th May to 6th June  
Early Bird £2500 per unit  
Loyalty Discount of £50  
Bob & Wendy | Sorry no dogs  
Deposit £500

### The Pyrenees

25 days | 4th to 28th June  
Early Bird £2500 per unit  
Loyalty Discount of £50  
Colin & Sue | Sorry no dogs  
Deposit £500

### The Swiss & Austrian Alps

18 days | 12th to 29th June  
Early Bird £1800 per unit  
Loyalty Discount of £50  
Dave & Sue | Sorry no dogs  
Deposit £350

### The Dordogne

14 days | 3rd to 16th June  
Early Bird £1600 per unit  
Loyalty Discount of £50  
Gary & Eleanor | Sorry no dogs  
Deposit £350





*At the moment full details of our 2019 tours are only available in electronic form in a PDF document. We sent a link with your newsletter email but please contact us if you haven't seen it or are having trouble downloading it.*

### **Provence & The Ardeche**

18 days | 16th June to 3rd July

Early Bird £1800 per unit

Loyalty Discount of £50

Bob & Wendy | Dog-friendly

Deposit £350

### **Italian Lakes & Cities**

18 days | 9th to 26th September

Early Bird £1800 per unit

Loyalty Discount of £50

Gary & Eleanor | Sorry no dogs

Deposit £350



### **Poland**

25 days | 5th to 29th September

Early Bird £2500 per unit

Loyalty Discount of £50

Bob & Wendy | Sorry no dogs

Deposit £500

### **Summer in Scandinavia**

25 days | 7th to 31st August

Early Bird £2500 per unit

Loyalty Discount of £50

Bob & Wendy | Sorry no dogs

Deposit £500

### **Croatia & Slovenia**

25 days | 5th to 29th September

Early Bird £2500 per unit

Loyalty Discount of £50

Colin & Sue | Sorry no dogs

Deposit £500



## Three-Country Starter Tour Review



On the night before we were due to head off on our first tour of the season, we were sitting at home with the wood-burner on. The week before we were watching it snow.

So it was with an eye on the weather reports that we headed off to Dover for our Three-Country Starter Tour.

As it happens, we didn't need to worry too much as we started Day One with glorious sunshine and a beautiful calm day for our crossing to Calais.

On arrival the lovely weather continued with temperatures well into the 20s Celsius.

Our first stop was the historic Belgian city of Bruges, famed for its network of small canals, pretty squares, chocolates and waffles. Our well-connected site made it easy for everyone to walk, cycle or bus it into the centre to partake.

We often get reasonable Spring weather for this tour, but the nights generally force most people into the vans. Not so for

the first few days of this tour with everyone able to sit out and have a chat (and maybe a Belgian beer) and get to know each other.

Our next destination was into Holland with our very pretty site close to the city, sitting on the polders near the Biesbosch National Park.

Hats off to three of our couples who took on the challenge of cycling to the Kinderdijk Windmills. 16km round trip on paper but a bit more in real life! Happily they all returned successfully with some achy bits.

The rest of us used the local train service (and bikes) to get into Dordrecht, which is perhaps one of Holland's best-kept secrets as it is





never too crowded with tourists despite having lots going for it.

Several couples took advantage of the water taxis to head further afield to Rotterdam.

Coffee and apple pie seemed to be the order of the day, with the cafes actually running out of apple pie due to the unexpected demand as a result of the great weather.

We then had a marvellous impromptu evening at the local Chinese where the lady spoke Dutch, Cantonese and a small amount of English. After much merriment we all actually got what we wanted, when we wanted it. It seems that "LARGE BEER" is universally understood.

Next stop was deeper into Holland where we located ourselves for a couple of days between Amsterdam and the Keukenhof Gardens. Most of the group did one day at one and another day at the other.

Keukenhof was particularly splendid this year by all accounts with millions of bulbs in full bloom.

Now we have to admit that the weather did change a bit at this point with more typical Spring weather moving in. Sunshine and showers would be the best way to describe it although it didn't seem to dampen anyone's enthusiasm.

Next stop on our whirlwind tour was the Belgian capital Brussels. The highlight of the city is probably the Grand Place, which is a stunning 360 degree architectural treat.

Eateries abound in the network of narrow streets surrounding the square, with all the restaurateurs vying for your business. Apparently Belgian mussels are the biggest and the best in Europe.

Another highlight of the tour for us was a splendid group meal, which we enjoyed in a typical Belgian bistro very close to our campsite. The chef treated us to a traditional stew cooked in the local beer.

There seems to be a beer theme running through this review although in my defence, we were in Belgium.

Final stop was a few days in the Champagne region of France where many of the group visited Reims.

One of my personal highlights is the drive from Brussels, through the wide open vistas of Northern France. The roads are great with no potholes and not much traffic. What a treat.

There was an unexpected bonus on our trip into the French city of Reims as there was a train strike. In true French fashion this meant that the trains were running but there was no

requirement to pay so we all enjoyed a free ride into the city. We all spent our savings in various of the lovely street-side restaurants whilst enjoying views of one of the finest cathedrals in France.

On our final full day, despite the dire weather warnings, we enjoyed a warm and sunny day on the campsite with some of us venturing out for a bike ride and others enjoying a relaxing day on site.

All there was time left for now was a couple of farewell drinks before heading home.

All in all we had a great first tour of the season and we hope that the rest of them are as good.



# Exhibition Schedule 2018

*“Exhibitions are a great way for you to check us out before committing to a tour.”*

Here’s a reminder of the remaining shows in 2018 where Crossings will be in attendance.

## **The Norfolk Motorhome Show**

Norwich 20th—22nd July 2018

With Bob and Wendy.



## **The Western Motorhome Show**

Malvern 17th—19th August 2018

With Dave and Sue.



## **The Motorhome and Caravan Show**

NEC 16th—21st October 2018

With Bob and Wendy and others.



## **2019 Show**

Next year we will be in attendance at:

- NEC in February
- Harrogate in March
- Peterborough in April
- Newbury in May
- Norfolk in July
- Malvern in August
- Bath in September
- NEC in October

We love doing the shows. It’s great way for us to meet existing customers, many of whom have become friends. It’s also a great way to meet new customers and for you to check us out before committing to a tour.



May 2018

**Coq au Van:** the amusingly-titled recipe feature with ideas for meals that you can cook within the confines of a motorhome!

## Sticky Lamb Chops

### Ingredients:

6 lamb chops, ranch-trimmed. (600g total)  
200g mixed-colour baby heritage carrots.  
8 cloves of garlic.  
3 oranges.  
1/2 bunch of fresh thyme. (15g)

### Cooking method:

1. Score the fat of the lamb chops, season them with sea salt and black pepper, then line them up like a rack, and sit them together fat edges down in a large shallow casserole pan on a medium heat.

2 Leave for 5 mins to render and crisp up.

3. Trim and add the whole baby carrots (halving any larger ones) and the unpeeled garlic cloves alongside, turning the carrots regularly.

4. Gently turn the chops on to their sides, to cook for 2 mins on each side, or until golden, but still pink in the middle.

5. Meanwhile, use a speed-peeler to peel strips of zest from one orange.

6. Sprinkle them into the pan with the thyme sprigs, and toss it all together for just 30 secs to get the flavours going.

7. Remove the chops to a plate to rest, then squeeze the juice from all 3 oranges into the pan, let the juice bubble and reduce until sticky, quickly toss the lamb back in with its resting juices, then hey presto, time to dish up. Yummy.





# Motorhoming and Travel Tips & Advice

*“Shop around. Things are changing fast so the best rate one day might not be the best a week later”.*

We have covered the issue of foreign currency exchange before but it seems that in this post-Brexit age there have been a lot of changes to the way that companies are operating. Here is the latest from my recent research:

1. It still remains the case that the more you buy the better the rate.
2. Booking online in advance seems to attract the best exchange rates at the moment. For example, ASDA Money will give you 2 cents more per pound if you book 48 hours in advance.
3. P & O also do good rates as long as you book in advance—up to 3 cents better than their standard rate. You can then pick it up on the ferry.
4. If you buy online some bureau will charge for delivery, but will waive this charge over a certain amount.
5. Only use well-known

companies. You are not protected while the exchange bureau has your money so if they go bust in those few days, you lose your money.

6. Using the right credit card when abroad is often the best way to get good rates. Check for those that offer zero fees on foreign use.
7. Buying currency in the UK with a credit card can incur fees so check carefully.
8. Shop around. Things are changing fast so the best rate one day might not be the best a week later.



## Keep in touch

Please feel free to contact us at any time about any aspect of our tours. Whether you have already booked, or are just thinking about it, please remember that there is no such thing as stupid question.

During the non-touring months:

- The newsletter comes out every month featuring previews of the 2018 tours.
- We don't tend to update Facebook and Instagram as often as when we are on

tour mainly as we don't take so many photos!

- Your call will be re-routed to our mobile (at our expense) if you phone our land-line while we are away.

- We are available seven days a week.

**01522 861715**

**07957 745434**



# *Congratulations*

Finally this month we would like to pass on our congratulations to Mark and Pepi who got married on Saturday 28th April 2018. Mark proposed to Pepi during the Brittany & Normandy Tour last June and they tied the knot last week.

Unfortunately we were out on tour so unable to attend but we were really pleased to hear that 15 guests off the same tour were among the guests. People travelled from all four corners of the UK to attend the wedding weekend in the Midlands.

Best wishes Mark and Pepi.

