



May 2020

From the editor

In this month's edition:

- Coronavirus latest.

Plus our regular features:

- Another great recipe from Dave.
- Keep in touch.



Welcome to the slimmed down May edition of the newsletter. The main news this month is that there isn't any.

See Pages 2/3 for an extended version of the above sentence and the latest on our plans for 2020/21.

We are hopeful that things might improve for the second half of the season and that we may be able to get going for our August and September tours.

Our thoughts remain with those affected by the current crisis, either those suffering directly with it and of course our key workers, who are keeping the country running at the moment.

We probably all have several people in our lives who are working in the NHS, food retail, deliveries etc.

We feel very lucky where we are that we have a garden and some quiet open

spaces where we can play human pacman whilst going for a walk.

It occurs to us that we are getting a taste of what it must be like to be retired although I think our status would best be described as "self-unemployed" at the moment.

Stay safe everyone and we look forward to seeing you again on the other side of this.

Bob

Best wishes from The Crossing Team:

Bob & Wendy, Dave & Sue, Colin & Sue, Gary & Eleanor, Ian & Linda.

Coronavirus latest

2020 Tours

The current situation is that we have now cancelled all of our tours up to the end of June 2020. Everyone affected has been contacted personally.

Obviously this is very disappointing for all of us but it is entirely out of our control and is the only sensible course of action.

Our main point of reference in deciding whether to cancel a tour is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Where they advise against travel, then we do not travel.

We also take into account information from our suppliers locally (mainly the ferry companies and the campsites), who let us know the situation on the ground.

One difficulty for us is deciding at which point to cancel a tour. We don't want to do it too early if there is a



Keukenhof Gardens last year. Maybe next year...

chance that the tour may go. Conversely we cannot leave it too late as we have to confirm bookings for the ferries and campsites and we have to take payments from you.

Different countries have taken different approaches to this but almost all of them are on some form of lockdown until June at the earliest.

We do know that many of our campsites across Europe are planning on extending their season up to the end of October. This gives us some scope for putting some extra tours on later in the year all being well.

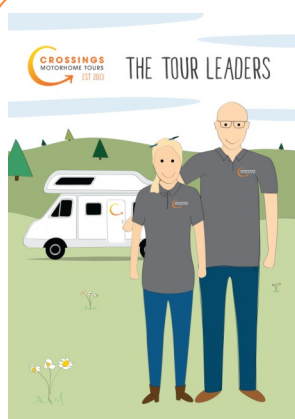
Therefore, for the remaining tours in August and September we are looking at them on a tour by tour basis. If you are booked on a tour later this year, we will contact you directly as soon as the decision is made.

There are some positive signs at the moment with some countries starting to open up a little, but we will simply have to wait and see how this pans out before making a decision.

2021 Tours

We are very encouraged by the amount of people asking about 2021. It shows that there is a real desire to get back

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...continued

out there again once we get through the current crisis.

We did release the 2021 previews just prior to the Coronavirus lockdown (great timing), but have currently put everything on hold for 2021.

The 2021 schedule is likely to be a mixture of tours that got cancelled this year and new ones that we planned to do next year. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for the latest information.

Financial protection

If you have a tour booked with us in August and September, please be re-assured that your deposits are sitting safely in a Barclays Client Premium Account. We never spend any of your money until your tour returns.

Even if we wanted to run off with your money, there is

nowhere to go anyway!

Motorhome Shows

Obviously, some of the motorhome shows have already been cancelled or re-arranged. We do quite a few of the Warners Shows in the middle of the year but it looks like we may lose most of these.

Please see Warner's website for the latest details. Please keep an eye on our website for details of which shows we will be attending.

Motorhome Tips

We are not doing motorhome tips at the moment as none of us are using them. Having said that we have received a few photos this month of people having meals/drinks in their motorhomes! All safely on the drive we must add.

This is a variation on the idea of a 'staycation' with locations as desirable as Costa del Garden

and Riva del Driveway. Lake Patio looks lovely at this time of year too.

Crossings Team self-isolation

We are doing our bit and have spread ourselves around the country from as far north as Aberdeenshire to as far south as Wiltshire.

In the absence of a group get-together we have had a lovely new computer-generated graphic done of the team (see page 1). Thanks to local artist Graham at Stick Monkey. He does commissions if you want yourself doing.

A message of thanks

As with last month's newsletter we would just like to thank everyone who has been contacting us over recent weeks with positive messages. We look forward to a time when this is all over and we can all get out there again.

Take care.

Coq au Van: the amusingly titled recipe section

Sausage and Pearl Barley Stew

Ingredients:

3 Tbsp of Oil.
6 Cumberland Sausages.
2 Onions sliced.
2 Celery sticks, halved lengthways and cut into chunks.
2 carrots diced.
200 g Pearl barley, rinsed in cold water.

2 sprigs of thyme, leaves removed.

Approx 200 ml of chicken stock.

Half of Savoy cabbage, salt & pepper..

Salt and Pepper

Cooking method:

Heat 2 tbsp of oil in a large deep frying pan.

Add the sausages and cook for 8 - 10 minutes, turning every so often,

until golden. remove from pan and set aside .

Add the remaining oil to the pan. Add the onions, celery and carrots and cook gently for 5 - 6 minutes, stirring occasionally until softened.

Stir in the Pearl barley and thyme followed by the stock. Season well. Simmer for 10 minutes, then return the sausages to the pan. Simmer for another 20 minutes.

Add the chopped cabbage and more water, if the liquid level is low. Simmer for another 5 - 10 minutes until the cabbage is cooked. Check the seasoning and serve.



Keep in touch

We are very happy to hear from newsletter readers throughout the year. If you have ideas for features, questions, motorhoming tips or questions about any of our tours, please feel free to get in touch at any time.

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