



Newsletter May 2019

In this month's edition:

- Peterborough Motorhome Show thank-yous.
- Newbury Show date
- 'Crossings' video.
- Starter Tour photos.
- 2020 Brochure update.

Plus our regular features:

- Another great recipe from Dave.
- This month's motorhome tips.
- Keep in touch.

From the editor

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter with a big hello to everyone that signed up at a particularly windy Peterborough Show last weekend.

We have a brief show review and a few photos later. We also look forward to our next show, which will be down in Newbury next month.

Our Three-Country Starter Tour is currently somewhere near Brussels having a great time. We have a full review in next month's edition and a few photos to keep you going this month.

We have a few bits of 'internal' news too as we update the website, bring out the brochure and launch

our little corporate video onto the world.

We have another great recipe from Dave and this month's motorhoming tips are all about getting your boiler going after the winter break.

Finally, on a personal note, many of you know that Wendy has had a bit of a rough month with her 'angry' gallbladder. We are pleased to say that it is now an ex-angry gallbladder as it has been removed courtesy of our truly fantastic NHS.

Many thanks for all the messages and cards. Wendy is recovering well and will be ready for the Budapest, Prague and Vienna Tour later this month.



Also, a massive thanks to Colin and Sue, who were going to be on the Starter Tour as co-leaders and gamely volunteered to take over the tour as full leaders to give Wendy chance to recover.

As far as we can tell, no-one on the tour is missing us at all!

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



Keukenhof Gardens

Three-Country Starter Tour

Our Three-Country Starter Tour is well under way with the group travelling though Belgium, The Netherlands and France.

We are very jealous as we should be there and they have just been out to the best restaurant in the Utrecht area and sent us the photos to prove it.

So far guests have been enjoying the delights of Dordrecht, Gouda, Delft, Bruges, The Kinderdijk Windmills and Keukenhof.

We will have a full tour report in June's edition of the newsletter, but for now here are a few pictures.

We will be visiting all of these lovely places again next year either on Four-Country Starter Tour, or on our brand new Springtime in Holland Tour.



Colin preparing one of the legendary 'Tour Leader's breakfast'. Colin & Sue prepare it and the guests get to eat it!



A friendly welcome from our fantastic campsite close to Utrecht. Guests visited The Keukenhof Gardens and Amsterdam from the site.

“We are very jealous as we should be there and they have just been out to the best restaurant in the Utrecht area ”.



Enjoying a canal boat trip in the delightful city of Bruges.



An enjoyable group meal near Utrecht.



Peterborough Show (and Newbury)

There is a bit of a theory that if you come on a tour as a customer, before you know it, you will be working for us!

This has been the case with the Peterborough Show that took place over last weekend.

As we are usually away and our other tour leaders are otherwise engaged, 'Crossings' is able to attend the show courtesy of four of our lovely 'regular' customers, Garry & Shirley and David & Roma.

Many thanks to them and to everyone who came along to see them over the weekend to have a



Roma, David, Sandy, Garry, Anne, Shirley and Andy braving the cold winds.

chat about their experiences on Crossings tours.

It was a busy weekend, as Peterborough always is, being the first big event of the year.

As usual, the weather played its part. This year it was the wind

with gusts of up to 60mph. A few of the gazebos disappeared into the Cambridgeshire countryside and it was all a bit chilly (see photos).

Our next show is at Newbury later in the month. Dave & Sue will be on hand to give out brochures and chat about next year's tours. The event is on at the Newbury Show Ground from 17th—19th. We will be on Stand 129a.



Come and see Dave and Sue on Stand 129a

“As usual, the weather played its part. This year it was the wind with gusts of up to 60mph. A few of the gazebos disappeared into the Cambridgeshire countryside”.



Garry manfully holding down next door's stand.

2020

Website, brochure and video update

We have been busy doing all our 'behind the scenes' stuff during the non-touring part of the year.

There are three things to look out for.

1. In the next couple of weeks we will be updating the website and making all of the details of the 2020 tours publicly available. As regular readers know, all of this information is only available to newsletter readers for the first few months to give you, as regulars, the chance to book on the tour before they fill up.
2. We have had a little corporate video made for the website. This features several of our lovely customers saying lovely things about our tours, interspersed with lovely video clips of some of the tour destinations.



Crossings Motorhome Tours

All of this overlaid with some evocative music! If you want to have a look at it, we have put it on the home page of the website.

3. We also have a 'YouTube Channel' but are not entirely sure what that means. We do know that if you go to YouTube and type 'Crossings Motorhome Tours' into the search bar, then you can watch the video. If in doubt, ask a young person.
4. The 2020 brochure is now written and is with our talented designer lady, who is making it

look good. We will have it ready for the Norfolk Show in July. If you have already requested a copy via the website we will post it out to you as soon as it becomes available.

"We have had a little corporate video made for the website. This features several of our lovely customers saying lovely things about our tours"

Motorhoming Tips

Inspired by my own battles with the automatic frost valve on the boiler, here are this month's motorhoming tips...

In the winter you need to empty your boiler of its contents. If you don't you run the risk of water freezing in the boiler and something breaking. All modern boilers have a frost protection valve, which means that if you forget to empty the boiler, or if we have an unexpected cold snap, then the valve will trigger and dump the contents of the boiler anyway.

This valve triggers when the temperature sensor, located near the boiler, gets anywhere between 3 and 6 degrees C (depending on the boiler).

You reset it by turning the knob and pressing in the button (see picture).

The problem is that if the temperature in the van is less than 3 - 6 degrees, the pesky button will refuse to stay in and you cannot fill the boiler.

When this happens you



need to get the temperature in the van up, but you can't put the boiler on as there is no water in it! Catch 22.

Here are some things you could try:

1. Plug in a hairdryer or space heater and heat up the area around the frost protection valve until it is warm enough for the button to stay in.
2. If you are lucky your boiler may have a heating mode that does not require water. If this is the case, you can put it on this 'dry' heater setting until it gets up to temperature.
3. You can force the button to stay in

by physically jamming it with something. Then fill with water and put the boiler on. As soon as the boiler heats up it will heat the surrounding area near the frost-protection valve. Then simply remove whatever you jammed in. You MUST remember to remove it though so that it works when you need it next winter.

If your valve trips you need to twist Knob A through 90 degrees and press in button B. Button B needs to be held in if you want the boiler to fill up.

“All modern boilers have a frost protection valve, which means that if you forget to empty the boiler, or if we have an unexpected cold snap, then the valve will trigger”.

Coq au Van: the amusingly titled recipe section

Ingredients:

- 1 small cucumber.
- 6 sprigs of fresh dill.
- 100g smoked salmon.
- 1 ripe avocado.
- 2 tablespoons cottage cheese.

Preparation Method:

Use a speed-peeler to strip the cucumber lengthways into fine ribbons. In a bowl, toss it with a small pinch of

sea salt and 2 tablespoons of red wine vinegar, and scrunch to quickly pickle it. Pick and mix in most of the dill.

Drape and divide the smoked salmon between two plates. Halve, destine, peel and add the avocado. Pile the cucumber ribbons delicately to one side,

filling the avocado halves with the cucumber liquor. Spoon over the cottage cheese, then drizzle with 1 tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil, add a pinch of black pepper from a height, pick over the remaining dill, and tuck in.



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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