



News and View



of East Sussex DA

Chairmans Chatter

As we come towards the end of the camping season the summer (which was late to start) appears to have gone so fast but then we did manage to get a lot of camping in and enjoy some wonderful weather and BBQ's.

Whilst it may be disappointing to see dwindling numbers at some of our meets conversely it has also been good to see an increase in numbers at others and particularly to welcome new faces to our meets.

Fifty percent of the Block Booked Region Units at Malvern were ESDA bookings, next year it is our turn to host the NFOL, and I know that many of you are going to be involved with the working party so thank you and well done.

Whilst Yvonne & I have not been able to attend as many of our meets as we would have liked to and in particular the THS's at Wylands & Stone Cross due to a three-week holiday in France followed 4 days later with an 11 day visit to Malvern, we have very much enjoyed those meets which we did make. In particular the quiet meet at Paddock wood (which turned into a big birthday celebration for Paul), the quintet of 70th birthday celebrations at Roy Hill Wood (including some visitors from France), (what a fabulous weekend that was) and just last weekend the FOL at White House Farm. Congratulations to Ben Smith for again winning the trophy for the best lighting up of their unit.

We do need more of our members to come forward to steward our meets, currently it is left to the few who cover them all, please contact Roger and offer your services, it does not take much effort and it is extremely sociable.

Roger has again worked hard to provide quality sites for 2017 albeit a few prices have had to increase due to the landowners increasing their prices however to the most part we have managed to maintain the same fee as this year thus again providing excellent value for a great weekend away from the stresses and strains of everyday life.

Our Christmas party is a not to be missed event on the 4th of December and I look forward to meeting up with a lot of our members there (see the details later in the newsletter).

Due to a double booking by the Hall we have had to change the location of the AGM to just across the road at St Lukes Church, same time same date.

I wish you all Happy Camping for the remainder of the season and I look forward to seeing you all again next season.

Camping Reports (in order of receipt)

Report Nr 1

These are just some of our experiences this year. We spent Easter at **The Laughing Fish** with South Downs and spent a horrendous night with winds up to 70 mph. We knew it was coming and sat in the van with Val and Kevin waiting for it to hit. Why didn't we just go home? The field was very wet and lots of units got stuck either getting on or off, so an interesting start to our camping season

We were at **Roy Hill Wood for MayDay** and had a great weekend, the weather was mostly kind to us and we had entertainment in the barn in the evening. The downside for us was Harriet deciding to go run with the deer in the woods. She was missing for nearly an hour but eventually came limping back. I had stayed in the same place whilst Jane, Roger and Mick all went off searching. The madam had a day's rest then did the same again even though there were no deer in sight. With the result of a ruptured cruciate ligament

Lin, Dave, Mick and I stewarded **Sharnfold Farm THS** for the Spring Bank Holiday. It was a good meet, as usual, with lots of old friends coming back to stay, and nobody needed towing out. It was very windy and we were quite relieved to see the marquee come down at the end of the week. We had some great entertainment during the ten days, and many thanks to Roger for coming over midweek to do a quiz for us.

The **Birthday meet** was cancelled as we all know, but the following week we had a call from Harry to attend a pseudo Birthday Meet at **Paddock Wood Farm**. A few of us turned up and in fact did have a birthday on site. Having been invited by Gwyneth to celebrate Paul's birthday with a cuppa and a piece of cake, we took some bottles with us, Harry cracked open a few and it became a great party. Under the awning with the rain hissing down outside. I think the bottle count in the morning was 14!!! Great weekend. It was lovely to see Emma and her little family come out and visit Paul on her 21st birthday, congratulations Emma

I think the next meet we attended was the **70th birthday bash** up at **Roy Hill Wood**. 30 something units on site, music from Kevin, and food provided by the birthday boys and girls. Really hot during the day and the barn for dancing later. Wonderful weekend, thank you so much to everybody for all their hard work and inviting the rest of us to celebrate with them. And Harriet very firmly on a lead with a very bad limp

The Airbourne THS at Sharnfold Farm started off a bit slow. Roger had booked it to start the weekend before the airshow but not many campers joined us. We did have our regulars from the Spring meet, and it was lovely to see Brenda and Roger out under their own steam this time. Once we got to about Tuesday more units came in and then it picked up really well, with a total of 54 units over the week. We decided not to open it early like that again but probably leave it open a bit longer after the show. Roger and I became very proficient at Sudoku. A group of girls brought a mixture of vans and tents and set up in a corner where they and their children had a lovely time with visits from dads when they weren't working, lovely to watch the children playing. And it was lovely to have campers from ESDA as well. The weather was brilliant and we heard that the air show was brilliant too. Harriet was due to go in for surgery during the week but I messed up the appointment time and we got there too late so that had to be done a week later. She is recovering really well so

hopefully next year down there she will be able to have proper walks around the adjacent fields

our next trip out was the bank holiday weekend at Wylands, another very pleasant weekend, in a delightful setting. Unfortunately, Mick cracked a rib whilst there (a long story but oh so funny) so we will not be using the caravan again

At the end of the month we will be picking up our new (year old) motorhome, and we should also have a new great grandson by then as well, woohoo. That brings the total to 20

Jeannie and Mick

Report Nr 2

"QUIET MEET AT SUSSEX FARM.....2-4TH SEPT

Well, Alex and I, having had a good time at the NFOL, came back via the club's Site at Chertsey where we spent 3 happy sunny days, before coming back to Steward the club's meet at Sussex Farm.

This is obviously a very popular site, [16 units in total] 14 units spending 2 nights, 2 spending one night despite a not too good weather outlook. Only 5 of the units were ESDA members. The other visitors, most of which knew the site well and came there regularly, were from Surrey and South Downs DA's. In fact , whilst we had quite a bit of rain, it could have been a lot worse, most people managed to get out on their bikes, or walk, before the rain 'stopped play'. It was a 'quiet meet' but no less enjoyable for that. It was good that the meet was well supported, thank you to those who managed to come and make it so." Sandra

Alex & Sandra

Report Nr 3

70th Birthday Celebrations - Roy Hill Wood

What a super weekend. We were sorry not to have been there for the whole time but we really enjoyed the Saturday afternoon. A big THANK YOU to Sue and her team for the brilliant catering and the guys for doing the cooking. Our French friends said it was a lovely afternoon, very friendly, a lovely setting and great weather. They kept saying "c'est superbe!" Thanks again. Hope to see everyone soon.

Terry and Val

Editor's Note – Many of you may not be aware that Terry & Val had their motorhome stolen off their driveway recently and just five days before they were due to go on holiday; Terry has also subsequently been unwell. We wish Terry a speedy recovery and hope that their motorhome is recovered and returned to them together with all their personal possessions ASAP.

Report Nr 4

Coarse Fishing Meet Wylands 16th to 18th July 2016

It was a bright sunny day on the Friday when a few dedicated anglers and campers came to Wylands Lakes for the DA's annual coarse fishing. Although we only had 4 units on site but we had a visitor who stayed for the Sunday night in their tent. Only 6 of us fished the competition which was fished on the snake lake. The day was very hot and we managed to get some shade during the day. It was a shame that no more campers decided to come to Wylands as the site has evolved over the past 10 years so those who remember what it was like then will now have a pleasant surprise as it has now matured into a beautiful site.

The results of the competition is as follows.

E.S.D.A. Cup

1st Reg Jeffrey 55lb 0ozs
2nd Berni Mighall 18lb 7ozs

Visitors Shield

1st Richard Jeffrey 57lb 0ozs Herts & West Middlesex DA
2nd Tony Titherly 24lb 0ozs Surrey DA

Ladies Trophy Junior Trophy

These 2 trophies were not contested as we had no Ladies or juniors fishing. I have had a lot of thought and as the numbers have been decreasing on a regular basis I have had a discussion with Roger to try and find another venue to hold the meet. I have booked Wylands for next year and have a couple of venues in mind for 2018.

Joan & Colin Pannell

Wylands THS 29TH July to 29TH August 2016

Once again we took up our places at Wylands for our 31 day THS in August. Before I go any further I would like to thank Mick May for coming out and helping us with putting the signs out for the campers to follow and help to find us easier. The weather as you must be aware was very hot and sunny for the THS. Quite a few ESDA members came to join us but most of them were not aware of DA camping which we tried to put right. For the past few years we have had quite a few campers return year after year and we have become friends with them all. Last year was the best year for a few years with over 500 unit nights booked through and again we hit over 500 unit nights this year. As you are aware the National is being run by the South Eastern Region next year although the site for it is not in our region it is close to our border. I do not think it will impinge on Wylands as we are approx. 40 miles away. This year was a very good year and we hope next year will be the same or better.

Joan & Colin Pannell

Brief Synopsis of the ESDA Committee meeting of 21 September 2016

Treasurers Report

This year has been a good year for camping. Last year we had a total of 1072 nights camped. This year it is already 1116.

This year May Day was actually down on numbers with only 53 camping nights, against last year of 74. However, Sharnfold Half Term was up from 113 to 171, which was pleasing.

Paddock Wood was an excellent weekend with the impromptu birthday party for Paul. Roy Hill Wood was another birthday celebration with several extras camping so we had 82 nights in comparison to last year of 15. It was a 5 day meet but not many stayed beyond the Monday.

Last year we had the first Air Show 5 day meet where there was 101 nights camped. This year it was a 10 day THS and 183 nights were camped mainly over the few days of the show

This last weekend at Sussex Farm was disappointing in regard to ESDA members camping. ESDA 5, WSDA 3, SDA 6, SDDA 2 This is a lovely flat site, well looked after by the land owner. There is good walking or cycling up the Downs Link. 4 of the ESDA units did cycle a fair distance up there.

There is a healthy surplus again mainly due to Wylands. The only weekend making a loss to date was the May Day meet at Roy Hill Wood where we hired the barn for £75

Report of Representative to the Region

All salient issues were recorded in the last newsletter

Report of PRO

The last scheduled marketing for this year was at Horsham on the 13th and 14th of August. Both days were quieter than previous, but this is only to be expected at the back end of the season & with holidays etc. despite this a total of 9 new members were signed up and others may join in the fullness of time.

I am most grateful to Allan & Chris Armstrong for their efforts on our behalf over this weekend whilst we were on holiday in France especially as no other members of Council, DA's or Sections were prepared to assist.

Trevor & Pauline Wilson will again be attending Caravan Tech later in the year when the 2017 units are being displayed for the first time

At the Malvern NFOL with assistance from John Hughes, Michael Froude, Trevor Wilson and Jill George, I spent a great number of hours marketing our 2017 NFOL along with the eight THS's that have been booked. We also met, members from our region who had not yet been out with a DA or section therefore we again did our best to persuade them to come out and try a meet.

I was attending a PRO seminar day at HQ on the 1st of October however this has subsequently been postponed. I am however attending the Club AGM in Grantham on the 22nd of October.

Further to a question being raised Harry confirmed that there had been clear evidence of some members who had either newly joined or had been members who had not DA'd before actually attending DA meets. Furthermore, he had spoken to members from our region at Malvern who had never been out with a DA where again he had taken the opportunity to market the benefits and try to persuade them to try a meet.

Report of the site secretary

Since our last meeting we have run three five day meets, the May Day meet was reasonably well supported (18 units) and we made good use of the barn at Roy Hill. The Sussex Farm meet (18 units) went well and attracted units from all of our local D.As. West Sussex, Surrey and South Downs, as well as our own. The July meet at Roy Hill although well supported, (30 units) due to a `birthday` event, disappointingly it did not justify all 5 days. The Spring Bank Holiday THS at Sharnfold Farm had good numbers considering the weather and as usual attracted return visitors. (41 units 171 nights)

Unfortunately, our Birthday meet had to be canceled this year (the first time ever to my knowledge) due to the damage done to the ground, having had the S.E. Region meet there the previous w/e. The meet at Paddock Wood Farm only attracted 5 ESDA units out of a total of 8, but we managed to do justice to a pseudo birthday celebratory drink incorporating Paul Harber`s birthday that w/e.

An early report from Colin Pannell suggests that the course fishing meet & competition is not attracting enough campers to warrant the continuation beyond 2017 and he is considering dropping this from our itinerary.

The THS `Airbourne` meet at Sharnfold Farm was slow to start which I found disappointing considering the number of inquiries we had prior to the meet, however it came good, and we had 54 units (a total of 183 nights) attending during the 10 days, and over 40 units staying for the air show w/e itself.

I have sent off an inquiry to Willingdon Shool for a quote for camping at Easter 2017 including the use of the small hall, but as yet have not received a reply. But it occurred to me that a school may exclude any `tent` campers.

The THS Sharnfold `Airbourne` 2017 We will still need stewards for the period 17th - 24th.

Upon further discussion it was agreed as follows: -

A provisional booking had been made of Roy Hill Wood for Easter and this would be confirmed, at the same time inquiries would be made regarding the possibility of moving the May Day meet to White House Farm. Willingdon School has again been booked for Christmas 2017. There will be a school Christmas fayre on the Saturday morning which our members may like to visit.

The fees for the 2017 meets were agreed as follows: -

Quiet meets would remain at £8.00 per unit per night

Easter & Mayday weekends would be increased to £9.00 per unit per night

The Birthday meet weekend will be £20.00 for the weekend

The THS at Wylands will be increased to £9.00 per unit per night

The THS at Eastbourne Airbourne will be increased to £11.00 per unit per night

The latter two reflect the increases imposed by the landowners.

Appointment of Treasurer and Youth Leaders for 2017

The only nominee was Jane Tanner Nominated by Harry Leach and seconded by Jeannie May with a unanimous vote in favour. Harry to advise HQ

Given our current lack of youth no nominations were sought for youth leaders.

AGM 2017

Harry advised that he had been advised by phone on the 6th of September that the originally booked Stone Cross Hall had been double booked and as the other booking was for a week long theatrical performance we were the ones to lose out. We could however have the hall on the Sunday however it is also the date of the St Georges Day Parade.

A number of halls around the region had been considered whereby they were either unavailable for the original date or very expensive. Consideration was given to whether we should hold the AGM on the Saturday of the Easter meet albeit the membership had not wished to do this when it was raised at the last AGM or we stayed with the Sunday.

After some discussion two alternative suitable locations were suggested vis St Lukes church (same location) or Berwick Hall. Harry would ascertain if St Lukes was available and Jeannie would check with Berwick if it wasn't.

Post meeting note St Lukes has been booked.

Any other business

Harry Advised that he would need help to run the SER Anniversary meet which he was also hoping to run as a pre NFOL 2017 working party get together, this was also being put to the Region Council.

The committee were reminded about the SER Seminar however as the current committee had attended the previous one it was identified by some members that they did not intend to attend a second time.

Harry also advised that if the Region PRO was going to be marketing at Retail outlets again that he would need assistance especially given his commitment to the NFOL 2017 – this was also being put to the Region Council.

Region & DA Events coming up

South Eastern Region Seminar 15 October 2016 Hadlow Agricultural College

It had been planned for this to be a full socialising and educational weekend however due to construction works at the college this will now be merely a one-day event.

The Programme is as follows:

MORNING		AFTERNOON	
Time	Event	Time	Event
9.30-9.55	Registration	1.30 -2.45	Secretary Treasurer Chairman
10.00-10.55	Auditors - Who, How, & Why! 10 min presentation Youth 10 min presentation NFOL Question and Answers		
10.55-11.10	Coffee	2.50 -4.00	PRO Sites Coordinator
11.15-12.10	Webmaster Region Representative		
12.15-1.25	Lunch	4.10 - 4.45	Teas Open Forum Question and Answers Finish

As you can see this is a must for all existing and particularly potential new committee members – come along, have some fun, let us remove the myths, find out how with the input of just a small amount of time and effort you can not only help to improve your DA/Section but also gain enjoyment and rewards.

Lunch will be provided for all attendees and travel costs will be paid although the Club suggests that shared transport would be preferable where possible. **Please remember to provide a VAT receipt for your fuel with your mileage claim**

ESDA Christmas Party weekend – 03 to 05 December 2016

This is to be held at Seaford Head School (**entry via the OUT gate or you will have problems getting in due to revised fencing**) and please do not arrive before **1700 hours on the Friday.**

The Party on the Saturday will consist of: -

American supper – please contact Yvonne Leach who is coordinating the food leachyvonne@btinternet.com or 01342 712835

Silly Games

Steve's Tropical Disco

South Eastern Region Dinner & Dance 14 January 2017

This again is being held at the Cumberland Hotel Eastbourne full details and a booking form have previously been circulated. You can stay at the Hotel and for a very good price you can also stay on the Friday and Sunday nights.

This is an excellent evening with club members meeting in an informal and enjoyable way.

Don't miss out if you have not yet booked get your booking in soon as places are limited.

ESDA AGM 22 April 2016

As noted above the Hall which we had booked was double booked therefore we have booked St Lukes Parish Centre just across the road with the parking entrance off Rattle Road.

The AGM will commence at 1400 hours sharp and refreshments will be provided

Further detail will be provided next year following the January committee meeting.

South Eastern Region Anniversary Meet & AGM

This will be held at Great Wigsell Farm in 2017 and it will also form part of a THS as well as holding the Region AGM on the Sunday.

The Main event will run from Thursday 15 June to Monday 19 June with the AGM being held on the 18th of June whilst the THS runs from 09 to 19 June 2017

This event is organised by the Region vice chairman and he will require some assistance with the setting up, running and refereeing the games, Admin etc. If you think you will be able to help please contact Harry Leach by email leachh@btinternet.com or phone 07710196831

More details will follow next year.

NFOL 2017 All England Jumping Course Hickstead 24-28 August 2017

Thankfully we now have a full list of team leaders albeit most do not have a deputy. Fred Blache is working hard in sorting out a wide range of entertainment to suit all tastes and age groups.

Working Party members are applying from around the country to supplement our local members, if you have not yet got your application in please do so, previous experience is not necessary albeit useful.

We have taken experiences from previous events (including this years) and we are looking to build on the positives and try to avoid the bits that were either less positive or just went wrong on the day.

Email jkg.nfol2017@gmail.com for a registration form if you can help – she is waiting for your email!

Happy Birthday

Firstly, my most sincere apologies for missing out Ben Smith's birthday in the last newsletter. Ben was 11 on the 14th of July 2016

We are pleased to send the following members our very best birthday wishes: -

On the 20th of October Brenda Tarrant

On the 31st of October Yvonne Leach

On the 7th of November Harry Leach

On the 10th of November Colin Pannell

On the 26th of November Pearl Goodwin

On the 27th of November Pat Baldwin

On the 12th of January Phil Grant

On the 14th of January Beryl Hovell

On the 7th of February Sue Bishop

On the 23rd of February Debbie Evans

Exchange & Mart

For Sale

No items have been submitted for inclusion in this newsletter

ESDA Committee for the 2016-17 Season

President	Arthur Hovell		
Chairman	Harry Leach	01342 712835 07710 196831	leachh@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Mick May	01323 489486	mick_may@ymail.com
Secretary	Yvonne Leach	01342 712835 07905 167993	leachyvonne@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Jane Tanner	01273 555910 07880 743310	jane.tanner@ntlworld.com
PRO	Harry Leach	01342 712835 07710 196831	leachh@btinternet.com
Site Secretary (non-committee)	Roger Wynn	01273 514998	rfwynn@talktalk.net
SER Rep	Yvonne Leach	01342 712835 07905 167993	leachyvonne@btinternet.com
Webmaster	Mick May	01323 489486	mick_may@ymail.com
Countryside Care	Vacant		
Youth Leaders	Vacant		
Newsletter	Harry Leach	01342 712835 07710 196831	leachh@btinternet.com
Ordinary Member	Joan Pannell	01424 431016	joan.pannell@btinternet.com
Ordinary Member	Colin Pannell	01424 431016	colin.pannell@btinternet.com
Ordinary Member	Jeannie May	01323 489486	jeanniemay73@gmail.com
Ordinary Member & Equipment support	David Abbey	01323 761661	dvabbey@btinternet.com
Equipment (non committee)	Geoff Baldwin		hydeaway6@fsmail.net
Auditor	Ian Kirbell		kirbell_ian@tinyworld.co.uk
Auditor	Wendy Dickson		wdickson@virginmedia.com

Provisional Sites List 2017

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>MAP REF</u>	<u>P/CODE</u>	<u>STEWARDS</u>
*****	13/1 - 15/1	S E Region	Dinner Dance	Cumberland	Hotel	Pre Booked only
MARCH						
TBC	24/3 - 26/3	Crowborough Club site	working party	188/520315	TN6 2TN	To be confirmed
APRIL						
TBC	13/4 - 17/4	Roy Hill Wood	Easter w/e	199/52122 6	TN22 5HU	D.A. committee stewards tba.
AGM	SAT. 22nd.	St Lukes Parish Centre	An. Gen. Meeting	no camping	BN24 5ET	D.A. Committee
MAY						
TBC	27/4 - 2/5	Roy Hill Wood	MAYDAY w/e	199/52122 6	TN22 5HU	D.A. COMMITTEE stewards tba.
	12/5 - 14/5	Sussex Farm	quiet meet	1988/18719 2	RH13 8JR	
JUNE						
THS	opens 26/5	SHARNFOLD FARM	Spring Bank Hol.	199/605051	BN24 5BU	Jeannie, Mick
	closes 4/6	SHARNFOLD FARM	2nd. w/e THS	DITTO	DITTO	Lyn & Dave
S.E.Region	9/6 - 19/6	Gt. Wigsell Farm	Anniversray + THS + AGM	188/761263	TN32 5SP	S E Regeion
***** *	23/6 - 25/6	White House Farm	BIRTHDAY meet	198/472229	TN22 2EA	D A Committee stewards tba
JULY						
	7/7 - 9/7	Paddock Wood Farm	quiet meet	198/183239	BN5 9AG	
	14/7 - 16/7	Wylands Lakes	Fishing Comp	199/737137	TN33 0SU	Colin & Joan

The next newsletter is due out in late January 2017 Don't forget to get those articles in to me.