

# **YOUTH MATTERS**

Thorpe Park Winter Meet, October 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

While you were all 'doesie doeing' away our Dorset D.A. Youth (and 2 New Forest) were under canvas again.

The South West Region decided this year to take up the invitation from Southern Region to join them for their winter meet.

We arrived on Friday night... and couldn't understand why we kept slipping every few steps. When we got up the next morning we discovered why!

The main attraction was spending the day in Thorpe Park (how can we top that?). It is best going round in a group and our numbers swelled as we joined up with other youth from Yorkshire, Scotland, New Forest and North East. Mum decided that the other leaders were chickens so came round with us most of the day (but that was ok really). We went on most of the big rides although didn't manage to find time to go on SAW, the newest ride, we stayed till late and the Halloween fright nights were really exciting!!

There was a disco both nights to keep us entertained and 3 wood burners to keep us warm. Southern put on fantastic, tasty food all weekend which was included in the pitch fee. It was a lovely atmosphere, very relaxed and friendly, none of the competitiveness of the National. It was great to catch up with our friends again.

Marianne

## **STEWARD'S REPORTS / CAMPERS' COMMENTS**

**Lytton Lawn, Milford-on Sea**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>**

Being a new venue we were not quite sure what to expect, but we found the site was in a pleasant setting & not far from the sea-front. The weather was typical for the time of year, cold but dry, therefore the members were able to get off site to go for walks & even one brave couple ventured out on their bicycles. The favourite was Lymington open market which is held in the High Street every Saturday morning.

22 units came along to join us for the weekend and we all had a bargain. We were booked in for grass pitches with EHU but what did we get? .... premium pitches at no extra cost.

The weekend was a nice quiet one that ended up with flag-pole on Sunday morning.

See you all soon out on the field

Ray & Myra

**Birchwood Tourist Park, Wareham  
(Barn Dance) October 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

A total of 46 units attended the meet, consisting of 35 Dorset, 6 New Forest, 1 Gloucester, 2 Solent and 2 from Wiltshire.

The weather was good to us for the weekend and it is always nice to be able to have the opportunity of an electric hook up as the year draws on.

An impromptu gathering around Shaun and Kate's unit on Friday evening saw many of us trying our best to keep warm until such times as the alcohol did the rest!

Saturday saw the 'setting up' operation in the barn and I would like to thank Pete, Shaun, Kate, Alan and Dawn for their assistance in getting the barn ready for the evening. Pete, next year we will make sure that a ladder is available for your use rather than the 'flexible' metal bedstead we sent you up!

Those attending the barn dance that evening will, I am sure, say that it was a great evening of fun and a real test of your personal knowledge of left and right!

I would like to thank the many who stayed behind after the barn dance to clear up. Many hands do make light work.

One last thanks must also go to Pete and Carol for their assistance in stewarding the meet.

Dave & Dawn

**Silverwood Farm, Three Legged Cross,  
(Halloween) October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>**

We arrived on Thursday night hoping for the chance to relax. However our D.A. members must be getting used to us getting there early and asked if they too could take advantage as it was half term.

What I didn't expect, as I arrived was to be followed down the track to the site! I'm sure they must have been waiting in a layby keeping observations for my arrival.

A total of 28 units made the trip and I think all will agree that although we had to make a last minute change of field due to the lower field being waterlogged, the field we used was excellent. Our meet consisted of 27 Dorset and 1 New Forest.

On Friday night Nigel celebrated his \*!th birthday and a social gathering around their unit provided a great evening. Saturday was given largely to pumpkin carving and to work in the hall in time for our Halloween celebrations that evening.

I would like to thank everyone who made the effort to come down to the hall to help with the decorations and setting it up for the children's Halloween workshop in the afternoon.

Afterwards we gathered back on site to get ready for the evening events and don those fancy dress costumes. Prior to that a spot of trick or treating around the units provided two fire buckets full of sweets for sharing out later. As the trick or treating ended we were treated (sorry about that) to a firework display by the caravan site next door. Not being one to miss an opportunity we milked the credit for that as well.

The evening saw an enormous variety of fancy dress costumes of all ages. They all looked great. Shaun's disco got just about everyone on the dance floor, the hot dogs and soup were plentiful and the punch was enjoyed by many.

Saturday night brought with it a fierce storm with high winds and driving rain. Flagpole was held in the village hall the following morning for those still on site. As expected the ground in the area of the field entrance soon became very soft and muddy, providing me with an excellent opportunity to 'play' with the low ratio 4 wheel drive and pull a few members clear of the mud.

Our thanks must go to all who helped with the many tasks the weekend brought, I am glad to say that there are just too many to name.

Dave & Dawn

**Church Farm, Sixpenny Handley  
(End of Season) November 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

Listening to the forecast during the week we started to think we must be mad with gales and heavy rain on its way for Friday night and Saturday.

We arrived on site at 8.30am, the weather was still calm we managed to get the awning up in the dry even with a stop for coffee with Shirley and Dave who had gone up on Thursday. Dave and Dawn soon arrived for moral support but by late morning the rain had started and the wind was picking up.

However that didn't stop the hardened campers, by 6pm we had 18 Dorsets, 1 Somerset, 1 Gloucester plus some phone calls to say some members

would be out for the party on Saturday night but not camping. Unfortunately Mick & Jane were unable to camp due to Jane spending most of the week in Hospital. Most of us had a sleepless night due to the gales you could definitely say the van was 'rocking'.

Saturday wasn't much better but it did start to calm down. Another van arrived in the afternoon. The evening was a great success, the American Supper was up to its usual standard, we also had flag just in case it remained wet.

We woke on Sunday to sunshine, Dave and Dawn joined us for coffee outside soon others joined in and a pleasant hour was had by all.

Sheila & Dave.

## **DORSET POST**

Dear Dave & Dawn

We would like to say a big thank you for Stewarding two great weekends at Birchwood and Silverwood Farm. You were both very welcoming and it was much appreciated but I have to apologise for the horrendous singing outside Shaun & Kate's but a "cheers" for all who rushed with their inhalers when I couldn't breathe. It was lovely to see everyone again and do a lot of catching up!!!!

Yes probably too much catching up on the Friday at Halloween, for some of us. All the children seemed to have a good time though with Dianne's arts and crafts and the "Trick or Treat" around the caravans in the evening accompanied by pretty fireworks. Some Wizard's, Witches, Dracula's and naughty Wolves jumped out at the children and scared them half to death and some decided to "Trick" and throw flour and egg's at the children which was good fun and they collected two "Fire Buckets" full of sweets which was very generous of everyone.

Thanks to everyone for making Nigel's 48<sup>th</sup> Birthday one to remember.

Cheers

Michelle, Nigel, Grace & Sullivan x

Thank You

A big thank you to all of you who have donated or contributed items or money towards the shoe box appeal. This year we have been able to make up 29 boxes. This enables children from around the world to be able to have a Christmas present who otherwise would not have had anything.

We do collect items etc. all year round so if you still want to donate anything we will be pleased to have it.

Thank you from us both and also on behalf of the children.

Valerie & Elaine

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Nikki and the Dorset D.A. Youth

I just want to say thank you for allowing me to go with you to the meet at Thorpe Park.

I had a great time on many of the roller coasters and loved camping with kids of my own age. It was good to be able to experience youth camping and you all made me feel welcome.

Hope the New Forest D.A. can be there next time if we get a Youth Leader.

Many thanks

Aaron

\*\*\*\*\*

We would like to say thank you to all the people who gave us a lovely Christmas party at Furzbrook last weekend. We had a great time and the entertainer was very good and there was lots of food, fun and games.

Also we want to thank you for the lovely presents. Nannan and Gramps had a good time as well.

From Amber (9), Courtney (7) and Kieran (7).

\*\*\*\*\*

Big Thank You – Christmas Party weekend

Can I say a big **Thank You** to the members of the D.A. who gave me cards and made my birthday weekend special ... and of course Daron who I shall never forget. I still have the bite mark on my neck!

Thank you all.

Dave

(Editor's Note – Dave enjoyed a milestone birthday at the weekend and was surprised when none other than Geri Halliwell's (Spice Girls) Union Jack dress turned up to help him celebrate. It was just a shame that we couldn't get Geri herself so we had to get Daron in the dress instead!!)