

# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS. JULY 2010



Est.1985

# ROMA

The Journal of the Roma Club  
[www.romaclub.org.uk](http://www.romaclub.org.uk)

Issue 94  
JULY 2010

# REVIEW

MOTORCARAVANNING AT ITS BEST-IN ROMAHOME UNITS. [www.romaclub.org.uk](http://www.romaclub.org.uk)

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## What have Eastenders, Microsoft Windows, the Dolly Parton theme park 'Dollywood' and the Roma Club in ?

**Answer:** They are all celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year and they are all still successful in doing what it says on the tin – bringing together people for entertainment, information and friendship.

Over 120 Romahomes were gathered at the 25th Annual Meet of the Roma Club at their special lunch and technical



sessions , (afterwards renamed 'Snack & Spanners').

Roma Club Chairman, Bill Steers, enthused

...overleaf.....

## The Romahome Experts

Large Stocks of New & Used Romahomes!  
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i.e. the very latest date any editorial contributions must reach the Editor for OCTOBER REVIEW is FRI. AUGUST 20th



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THE ROMA CLUB ©

Issue 155 Winter  
January 2026

# REVIEW

MOTORCARAVANNING AT ITS BEST IN ROMAHOME UNITS.[www.romaclub.org.uk](http://www.romaclub.org.uk)

## [www.romaclub.org](http://www.romaclub.org)

It's a Romahome R20, but not as we know it !  
That's because it is a Ford, not a Citroen.



See inside for more on this unusual conversion.

**Official Notification.**  
**The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
of the  
**Romaclub**  
**will be held at 11.00 am, Sunday 1st June 2026.**  
At  
**Woodland Waters Ancaster nr. Grantham.**

***Membership Matters.***

A warm welcome to

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Emma Shelly<br/> Paul Hill<br/> Peter Cunningham<br/> Joanne Kelly and Gary Evans<br/> Lucy McDowell<br/> Amelia Murray-Lindsay<br/> Helen Workman<br/> David and Anne Wills<br/> Fran Hutcheon and Maria Codd<br/> Christine Pearson<br/> Stephen Osborne<br/> Steven Cherry<br/> Keith Tempest</p> | <p>Powys Wales<br/> Solihull<br/> London<br/> Llanelli<br/> Devon<br/> Perthshire<br/> Devon<br/> West Sussex<br/> Lancashire<br/> Newtownards<br/> Gosport<br/> Birmingham<br/> Tavistock</p> |
|---|--|

# WANTED

## SINGERS/ENTERTAINERS

As you will have gathered, plans are taking shape for the 2025 AGM Rally. This year we are moving away from the trend of booking 'west-end singers' for you. After all, the feedback from members is that 'they are too loud' and ' they don't sing the right songs'.

So for this rally we are going back in time to the days of 'Home Grown Entertainment'

If you feel that you have something to offer then get the hairbrush out and start practicing in the bathroom mirror.

In the past we have had musicians, singers, poetry readings and stand up comedy. If there is a special requirement that you need to make your entertainment memorable then please let us know!



A husband and wife had been married for 60 years and had no secrets her husband from ever opening except for one: The woman kept in her closet a shoe box that she forbade g. But when she was on her deathbed—and with her blessing—he opened the box and found a crocheted doll and \$95,000 in cash. *"My mother told me that the secret to a happy marriage was to never argue,"* she explained. *"Instead, I should keep quiet and crochet a doll."* Her husband was touched. Only one doll was in the box—that meant she'd been angry with him only once in 60 years. "But what about all this money?" he asked. "Oh," she said, *"that's the money I made from selling the dolls."*

At the end we crossed the bridge and rode along the bridleway to Walberswick. There is a ferry (a small boat rowed across the river) but we felt our cycles would be a bit too much for the guy. A return to site completed an enjoyable short break away.



A week later saw us on the road again, still to Suffolk but to Polstead near Hadleigh, via the National Trust house at Long Melford. A tour of the house and grounds passed a pleasant hour or so. The Polstead site was formerly part of the CCC franchised network but is now privately owned and run. The next day it was out with the bikes

again, through the lanes and villages to Lavenham and back in a loop to the site. This part of Suffolk has many 'must see' chocolate box villages, and Kersey is typical. Old buildings abound along the main street, and although cyclists might not appreciate the steepness of the approach roads and main street, this is one village that seems to epitomise this part of England's historical ambience.



Lavenham is perhaps the more famous of the Suffolk villages 'frozen in time'. At one time one of the most thriving wool towns in England, the trade moved on leaving the town behind. The Moot Hall (National Trust) is well worth visiting, including, as it does, a tea room as well as various exhibitions relating to its past. There are other old buildings dotted around, some open to the public at certain times.



The following three days saw us riding to Hadleigh, Dedham, Flatford, and many villages along the lanes, continuously tripping over well preserved houses, both large and small, all contributing to the landscape.

By contrast, one ride took us along a former railway line into Hadleigh, emerging into a 1960's housing estate. This was familiar territory to Maureen, so we followed her nose and found the house where her grandparents had lived many years ago.



All good things must come to an end and so we hit the road for home. These two trips away showed that long journeys are not always necessary to achieve a relaxing break. For those who have never toured in Suffolk, I can only say 'you don't know what you have missed'

**From Your Editor.....**

**First of all**, lets try to have a Happy and prosperous 2026.

Your committee have been working hard, making arrangements for the 2026 AGM National Rally, but this year, you will find from items in this Review, that we are asking for help.

There is interesting news on page 5, and very interesting details of exploits in a Romahome, from Barry and Maureen. They have several pages, but other club members also share their adventures with you. Barry has more. In the next Review.

It's sad news that our ex-secretary, Bill Hayes-Allen has passed away.

You will know from previous Reviews, that our President, Bill Steers, has not been enjoying good health, but Val and Bill had a pleasant Christmastime with the family. Whilst no longer enjoying travelling the 'mainland' (they live on the Isle of Wight) with a Romahome, Val says they enjoy reading of your adventures.

We need more for them to enjoy, so send details of all you adventures to me, and we can continue to fill these pages.

At the last AGM National Rally, we were entertained by Miriam and Eric Umpleby, with singing and a few jokes. This year, we are again asking for entertainers.

*Allan.*

*I had a spare page, so I thought you might like to see my very first Roma Review cover from, July 2010..This was when we changed from an A4 size to A5. Neater, A handy size, and cheaper to post.. AH*

**Inside your Review**

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**COPY DEADLINE**

**We very much welcome your contributions. Get them to me as soon as possible, but the very final collation date is the 10th MARCH. for the SPRINGREVIEW. Editor, Roma Review, 23, Fairmile, AYLESBURY, Bucks.HP21 7JS. Tel. 01296 428580**



## IS THIS YOUR LAST ROMA REVIEW ?

Most members now pay by a standing order, so there is no need for them, or you, to do anything. Your new membership card, together with the code for the member's page of the website will be in this Review. If you have forgotten, please forward your £20.00 to **Treasurer, Romaclub, 16 Felix Road, RAMSEY, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE26 2YH.** quoting your membership number.

**Better still—BACs payment. 30.97.21 a/c 00393737**

If you don't have internet banking, forward a cheque with your membership number on the back.

*We look forward to a Happy New Year with you.*

### Your Romaclub committee.

Club contact Tel. No. 07863 414017.

<b>PRESIDENT.</b>	Bill Steers.	
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Sheldon Mahn.	chairman.romaclub@gmail.com Tel. 07771364801
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN and EDITOR-</b>	Allan Horne -	editor.romaclub@gmail.com Tel 01296 428580
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Paola Dorigato	secretary.romaclub@gmail.com
<b>TREASURER</b>	Chris Godfrey	treasurer.romaclub@gmail.com
<b>M/SHIP SECRETARY</b>	Susan Sheriff.	membership.romaclub@gmail.com
<b>DESPATCH OFFICER</b>	Anne Graystone	despatch.romaclub@gmail.com
<b>RALLY OFFICER</b>	Vacant.	rally.romaclub@gmail.com
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER.</b>	Tamara Gouding.	tamara.romaclub@gmail.com
<b>WEBSITE  :-</b>	www.romaclub.org	or just Google Romaclub.

The password for the members only section is on your membership card.

## Round and about.....

### Sauntering in Suffolk. *More from Barry and Maureen.*

Approaching the end of Summer, not to mention having multiple upcoming

Autumn home commitments, we felt the need for further short breaks away.

In view of limited time available, fairly local destinations were required. Suffolk fitted the bill.

We decided to return to a CS outside Southwold for our first site. We had been there in October 2023 during a very wet week but had enjoyed our stay. I won't name the venue as 2025 was the final year before the owner's retirement and, sadly, closing the CS.

Arriving in Southwold, we parked on the seafront and strolled around the town for a while before driving out to the site. Southwold is one of those places that does not seem to change as the years go by. A small seaside town with a pier and little shops, tearooms, pubs; all as it has been 'forever'. No doubt changes are happening but the character does not seem to.

Our ambition is always to park the van on site then explore the area by bus or bicycle. And so it worked out this time. The following day we cycled to Beccles through the lanes following an established cycle route. This took us into the town centre where we had lunch, followed by a stroll round town. The trip back was equally easy, the wind now on our backs to help us along.



In contrast to the previous day's sun, the next day it rained. We caught the bus from the end of the lane into Norwich. We certainly saw Suffolk and Norfolk countryside and villages on the hour and a half journey! Norwich was bustling, as to be expected, and after having lunch and looking round the shops and market, we embarked on the excursion back to the site. A word of warning; entry to the castle would have cost the two of us geriatrics £38. We gave that one a miss.



Our final day involved the bicycles again, to Southwold to go on the nice old-fashioned pier, down to the harbour entrance then out along the gravel track through the fishing folks working area and past the various establishments selling all sorts of produce from the sea (including fish and chips).

The seafront at St Helier has a good cycle path all the way to St Aubin, from where the route of the former railway (yes, Jersey had a railway) is now a walking and cycling route out to La Corbiere lighthouse at the south west corner of the island.

Other highlights included Gorey harbour and castle, after which we walked (pushing the bikes) up the extremely steep path to re-visit a notorious establishment (Haut de la Garenne) at the top of the hill.



This in earlier days had been a residential institution for children until 1986, then after brief fame as the 'police HQ' in the original Bergerac TV series and a short period as a youth hostel, it became the centre of a major investigation into alleged child abuse at the former

institution. A vast amount of time and money was spent, much demolition took place and, as far as I can remember, nothing specific concerning abuse was found, but the subsequent inquiry found that a harsh and inappropriate regime had operated there. When we went past this time it seemed once again to be in use for young people's activities. What goes round, comes round.

We also walked down to Rozel harbour and village, found a couple of dolmen sites, watched the harvest of Jersey Royal potatoes (noisy machines and chattering female operatives), got lost trying to cycle through St Helier looking for the tourist information centre, which for all intents and purposes no longer exists, and a lot more besides.

All too soon, it was back to the ferry, reverse up the ramp, back to Poole and the drive home.

**All in all, a good two weeks and I thoroughly recommend for Romahoming.**

*Barry and Maureen Brazier.*  
Essex.

# View from the Chair. Winter 2025.

## 2026 is going to be a momentous year.

Here at Mahn Mansions my husband and I complete our 40<sup>th</sup> year together. 20 in sin, and then the government changed the rules so we could do it legally for the past 20 years! Many memories and many happy times. The world has come a long way in 40 years and life is very different for a same sex couple than it was way back in 1986. Also this year Tony is approaching his 90<sup>th</sup> year and is still going strong with the help of our wonderful NHS who seem dedicated to keeping a close eye on him.

We are of course not the only people celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. There is a small club of Romahome campervan enthusiasts who are also reaching that milestone. Life has changed for them as well. Back in the day the vehicles were rudimentary by today's standards. No diesel heaters back then. To warm the van it was required to put the stove on and make a cup of hot chocolate. No LED lights, just strip lights or halogen spots. No showers, just a sink and a kettle and a strip wash in the morning. We have moved on in a big way with our centrally heated, washroom equipped and technologically up to date vehicles. But which were more fun? I leave it up to you to decide.

Plans are being made for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual rally at Woodland Waters at the end of May. Do try and come along and let us make this one to remember.

On a slightly sadder note. As I mentioned, Tony is approaching his 90's and although fit and healthy at the moment, a few trips to our local hospital for scans and MRI's this year remind me that we are not immortal and good health is not something we should take for granted. I have always thought that having a Chairman of the club for an extended period of time is perhaps not the best thing. There should always be the opportunity for fresh blood and fresh ideas. I have been chairman for 5 years now and maybe it is time to let that fresh blood have a go. As I cannot guarantee total commitment to the club in the coming years it would be wrong of me not to stand aside. Therefore it is with a heavy heart that I have to advise you that I will be standing down as Chairman at the 2026 AGM.

I wish the new regime on the committee all the best, the club is in good hands.

And I hope to be involved as much as I can in the future.

I haven't hung up my BBQ tongs for good!

*Sheldon, Tony and Sherlock.*



I thought you might like to see 'The Witch', my very unique Romahome.

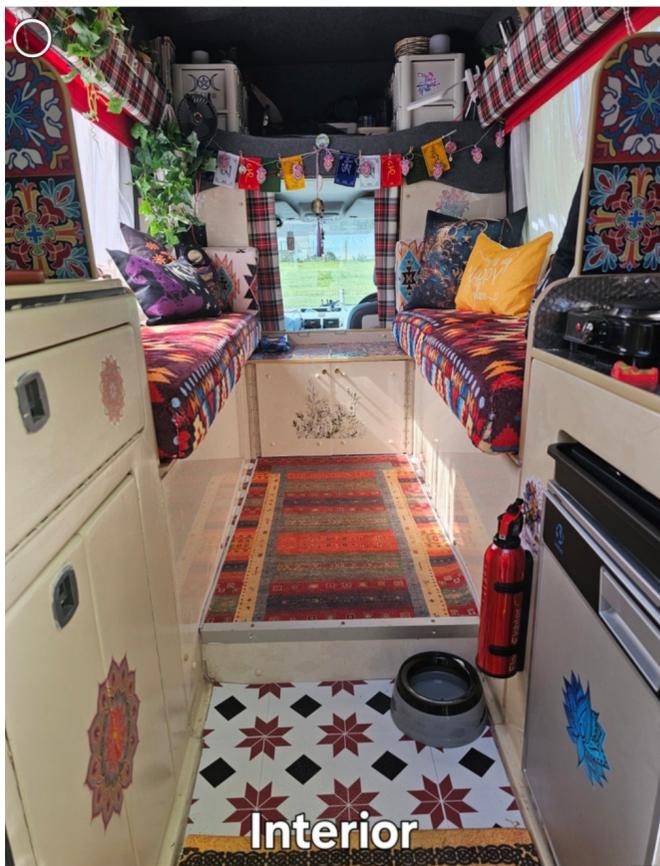
She's unique in that she is a Ford Romahome. The pod has been transferred to a Ford Transit Connect chassis, long before I bought her in October 2024.

She was given a complete makeover inside the pod last winter and thoroughly checked mechanically. After sailing through her MOT - One advisory - a loose exhaust bracket, now fixed - we have toured all over our home country of Scotland this year with many, longer, trips planned for 2026.

I met up with another Scottish Romahome earlier in the year but in all my travels, well over 3000 miles, I have only seen one Romahome and that was on the Isle of Mull.

Hopefully I'll see a few more next year

*Irena  
Krasinska-  
Lobban*



Most of the lanes were narrow with hardly any traffic, so ideal for cycling or walking, taking in the 'villagy' atmosphere. The housing was a mixture of old and new, traditional and modern, yet it all seemed to blend happily together.

We ventured down the west coast to Lihou Island which is reached by walking across a rough cobbled tidal causeway. Note – even after the tide had receded, the surface was very 'puddly' so boots, spare shoes or bare feet are the order of the day. The island is basically a nature reserve with a study centre in the only house. Tide times are published so all visitors must leave before the water returns.

We also visited St Peter Port (the main town) where there was some sort of festival happening. Lots of stalls, loud music etc., enticing us to seek the tranquillity of the Candie Gardens and Cambridge Park before making our way back to the site. Having cycled round much of the island, it was time to pack up and rejoin the ferry queue for onward travel to Jersey.

This was our second visit with a van to Jersey, so we knew the way from St Helier to the Rozel campsite without needing instructions. One missed turning later and we were lost. We got there in the end, were met by the owner and pitched up. The topography of Jersey is flat along the south coast, hilly along the north with a series of ridges and valleys running north to south. Rozel campsite is on the high ground at the north east corner, so all roads are uphill returning to site, not so good for cycling at the end of the day.

Jersey also has an established network of marked cycle routes, many utilising 'green lanes' where pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists have priority over motor vehicles. Generally, this seems to work despite the occasional motorised idiot. However, being a small island, it seems that hills are squashed so that the rate of incline becomes ridiculously steep for even a modest ascent.



Places visited include Fliquet Bay, arrived at via steep hairpin bends down to sea level then up a near vertical climb back to the higher ground, St Catherines harbour which was intended to house the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic wars, but having been half built some one noticed that the sea there was too shallow for the navy's ships.

Government incompetence is nothing new.

## Round and about.....

### Channel Migrants – June 2024

'Are you OK reversing this' The first words we heard on preparing to board the ferry to Guernsey. Amazingly Maureen (the driver) kept her cool at this apparent male chauvinism, but it was actually a necessary and reasonable question.

The ferry loaded vehicles through the stern ramp and whereas cars then drove round inside to face back ready to depart. Motorhomes needed to reverse up the ramp ready to drive off later. The second amusement came when Maureen was told to follow the directions given by the crew, to which she asked 'which ones' in the face of contradictory hand waving from three yellow jacketed marshals.

This was a good start to our expedition to the Channel Islands.

In due course we arrived at St Peter Port, disembarked and, following the detailed directions issued by La Bailloterie campsite, we drove northwards. As we entered the site down a very narrow track, we failed to see the site map showing the pitch layout. The site was a series of fields with no obvious pitch markers, nor any sign of a reception building. Another motorhome followed us in, similarly baffled. Eventually all became clear when the reception was located on the other side of the lane, and we pitched up.

This was our first visit to Guernsey since the rules were relaxed and motorhomes were admitted.

As is our usual practice, we opted to explore using our bicycles, aided in part by a series of designated cycling routes recommended by the 'Visit Guernsey' tourist people. These were marked on signposts, garden walls, lampposts etc., with small coloured disks, fixed in inconspicuous places, sometimes missing at crucial junctions. Paper maps and the guide book usually saved the day and, in any case, it is a small island so not easy to get seriously lost.



The north and north west part of the island is generally flat, with amazing beaches which were almost deserted. This may have been due to the cold north wind (despite it being June with clear blue skies).

## Round and about.....

We have just come home from a three night stay at the Devizes campsite where we met up with Judy Foxwell.

Eric and I walked up the canal path beside the Caen hill locks, 29 in all and 16 in one block and chatted on the way to various boaters and walkers. We stopped for a welcome coffee and snack at the little café alongside the canal before we set off downhill for home.



Judy took the opportunity to visit



friends in the area that day and in the evening we all enjoyed a meal at The Three Magpies.

We were at Devizes at the time of the storm Amy but we had a sheltered pitch so got away with no damage. We did go home with a soggy awning but put it up in the garden to dry and put away for the winter.

In the middle of September we had a few more nights away. We camped at Clent Hills for three nights, then Ebury Hill for one night.

It was my turn to choose where to go. I wanted to visit the Black Country Living Museum at Dudley, We had planned to go there the next day but the forecast was for rain so we found an alternative – Forge Mill Needle Museum and Bordesley Abbey, Redditch – a fascinating piece of history.

The weather improved so on the following day we spent a good four hours at The Black Country Living Museum with its reconstructed streets with properties from the 1920s, 30s, and 40s., a mine, school, factories, brickworks, and a funfair. We enjoyed the best fish and chips ever, cooked in the old fashioned way.

## Round and about.....

We drove across to Ebury Hill for the last stop so we could go to The Black Country Metal Works and Sculpture Park, near Oswestry, Shropshire. I was looking for a new knocker for our front door and found the one I wanted. The sculptures were amazing, mostly made from metal parts and larger than life. Some were serious – The Knife Angel – made entirely of knives, endangered animals, and others were just fun. The weather was against us so we had to give up without seeing it all but it would be worth another visit.

Black Country Living Museum.



## Sculpture Park.

*Ann and Eric Beard*



8

# Romacooking.

## DIY CHRISTMAS SUNDAE

Christmas is over! Time for turkey curries and other leftovers. Here is a recipe that makes use of leftover Christmas pudding.

There is always leftover Christmas pudding!

### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons cranberry sauce

2 clementines

50g leftover Xmas pudding

200g natural yoghurt

2 shortbread biscuits

2 tablespoons blanched almonds

25g chocolate.

### Method:

1. In a bowl mix together the cranberry sauce and the zest and juice of 1 clementine. Peel and slice the remaining clementine into rounds and set aside.
2. Crumble up your Christmas pudding and divide between two glasses.
3. Layer up with yoghurt, bombs of cranberry sauce and clementine rounds.
4. Crumble over the biscuits, chop up the nuts and scatter over and finish by shaving the chocolate on top.

Enjoy.

*Sheldon.*



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## Dear Members..

Hi everyone,

In the beginning, as many believe, in six days God created our planet and all that is contained therein. Self-contained and able to sustain human life, He saw that it was good and called it 'Earth'. On the seventh day, rest was decreed, and to this end God created another self-contained object capable of encircling the Earth whilst sustaining human life. He saw that this too was good and called it 'Romahome'.

I'm delighted to have joined the Romaclub at last with my 'new' elderly Duo. After nearly 50 years there is still a special 'something' about Romahomes which simple earthly logic cannot entirely explain. There's little room of course, but the design is ingenious; the build quality exceptional; it's 'go-anywhere' driveability combines with car like economy, and once you arrive, the real magic is that there is every bit as much outside air, space and sunshine as the very largest and latest motorhome!

I have previously owned C15's, both Hi and Lo, and a later Duo, but only for relatively short periods, the last being in 2012. I regretted the parting ever since, but I have managed to keep interest alive via the visitor magazine issues and the web's 'Small Motorhome' site.

We all have differing reasons for our choice. Although I look forward to meeting fellow enthusiasts, my real motive is to achieve a peaceful day or two cut-off from the tumultuous world in which we live.

To this end, my first CL site visited was 'The Moat' just outside Stratford on Avon. Just up my street as it were – modern toilets and shower, but no electricity; no internet; no wi-fi; no phone signal! To this bliss, add no tv and a vast field screened by hedges with no immediate neighbours. A little traffic noise during the day perhaps, but the evening brought silence and dark starlit sky. And in the morning, the aromas of an indulgent leisurely breakfast of bacon, eggs and black pudding cooked outdoors. For company, a passing pheasant trod its well-worn pathway through the hedge, whilst magpies and crows argued some little distance away, and overhead, a kestrel hovered in search of its very own warm breakfast .....

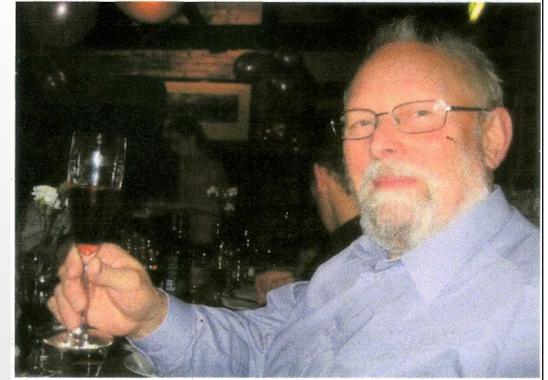
After all that effort it was time for a rest .....

*Paul Hill.*



## William (Bill) Hayes-Allen

Longer serving club members will recall the years when the club was run by the committee led by our President, Bill Steers, our Chairman, Norman Hughes and our Secretary, Bill Hayes Allen.



It is with great sadness that we write to tell you of Bill Hayes-Allen's passing on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025

After suffering the loss of his beloved wife Marian in October 2024, he began adjusting to life at home on his own. With the loss of his wife, he had sold his C15 Romahome. His daughter tells us that he started 2025 with two huge goals, one to reach the age of 90 and the other to have his hip replaced as it was causing him constant pain. He achieved both with a fabulous 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party surrounded by his family at the end of July. He then had his hip replacement operation in mid-August.

Bill was a great character, efficiently looking after club matters, but he will be remembered more than anything, for his sense of humour.

**Woodland Waters. Grantham.  
Site of the National AGM Rally in 2026.**



**Put this date in your diary NOW.  
29th May—1st June 2026.**

**What is Woodland Waters?...**

Welcome to the Idyllic Fishing and Touring Park in Lincolnshire

Nestled in the heart of Lincolnshire, the tranquil fishing and touring park is designed to meet all your holiday needs, making it an ideal retreat for both couples and families seeking peace in stunning natural surroundings. Spanning 72 acres within a picturesque wooded valley, we offer five well-stocked fishing lakes, luxury lodges, and a dedicated caravan touring area.

*From their website. No mention of our visit for our next National AGM Rally. AH.*

**Your club needs YOUR help.**

**At previous events, your committee members have worked their socks off, not only organising things, but shifting and lifting etc. etc. not to mention serving tea and coffee.**

**The committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the smooth running of the event - in particular- Helping with the Welcome Coffee on Friday Morning from 11am and helping with the clearing up of the marquee on Monday**

**Plenty to do... Yoga, Outdoor and indoor games. Our usual barbecue, bring and share supper, raffle, and our needlework crafts get together. Also, as requested, Bingo.**