



The Hopbine

News from Wigley Orchard Caravan Park • August 2022 • Issue 72

New project up and running



Although we had to wait until May for the new Europa Maple one bedroom caravans to arrive, after placing orders in March 2021, they were quickly sited and connected and decking added. So in less than a month we were ready to welcome guests.

The feedback since has been excellent as everyone has been delighted with the accommodation and the views.

Our new house



On Friday 13th May we completed the purchase of Wigley Cottage, the little cottage next to Bank House. It was occupied for about fifty years until December 2020 by tenants Elton and Grace and is in need of some improvement. For example there is one only electric socket on the first floor, on the landing at the top of the stairs.

We plan to work on it gradually though 2023 and have it ready for holiday lets in 2024.

Caravans for sale

Following the strong demand for privately owned caravans we intend to reduce our letting operations for next year to ten units only. This allows us to release three ex-hire caravans for sale without the problems of ordering new when the market is so difficult. For example, the empty pitch facing down to the house was scheduled for an ABI Wimbledon, ordered in June 2021 for 2022 hire. We are now told this will be available before Christmas – just. Fingers crossed.

So if you have any thoughts of upgrading to a new caravan please let us know, even if you are thinking a couple of years ahead. The market is still extremely tight with manufacturers running at half pace trying to keep up with twice their normal demand. Waiting times are longer than ever so if you let us know your wishes we may be able to help you achieve them.

Have your say

If you have any stories or photographs for the next issue of The Hopbine, please send them to ronsmum@btconnect.com.

Welcome

Welcome to our new owners in 2021 and 2022:

Karen Barnett from Newcastle under Lyme
Helen Morgan from Telford
Simon and Jayne Blakemore from Halesowen
David and Patricia Wright from Newcastle under Lyme
Karl and Karen Bate from Cheshire
Michelle and Robert Evans from Tipton
Wendy Evans from Bristol
Chris and Jean Edwards from Tipton
Samani and Jay Patel from Slough
John Laban from Willenhall
We welcome you all to Wigley Orchard and hope you enjoy the park and your own caravan holiday home.

We have also agreed upgrades with these long-standing owners:

Donna and John Pyatt
Bob Gough and family
Paula Noble (and dad)
Ian and Karen Scarrott
John and Lois Arrowsmith
Valda Dawson

We hope you'll continue to enjoy Wigley Orchard and your new caravan.

Keeping up appearances



Mark started work with us in early spring and has now become a regular presence on the park. He works three days a week and is responsible for keeping us tidy. We hope you agree he is doing very well.

And Duncan came and laid £10,000 worth of tarmac to spruce us up in May.

Tractor Club



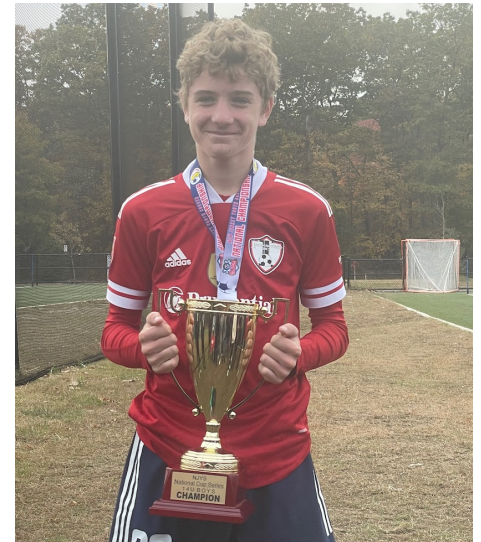
Moving on from racing lawnmowers, John and Hannah are now involved in the local tractor club. If you have a tractor, or are just interested, they meet on Wednesdays at The Baiting House at around 5.30. They also arrange charity tractor runs. On the last one John drove his 1955 Fergie up the Shelsley Hill Climb track, but broke no records.

Pictured are John and Hannah with fellow tractor club member Neil Sparey.

Family news

Brian had a new hip in October and is now fully recovered, although he has a slight limp sometimes. Sandra earned full marks for nursing him through his recovery period which included not being able to drive for a month and not being able to fly for three months.

So when they visited their American family in February, it was the first time they had seen them since October 2019. They were amazed to find that Henry had grown nearly as tall as his dad! Now 14 he is officially 6ft 1in! He plays soccer for a top club in New Jersey and in November they won the State Cup.



The girls are just 12 and have recently been on Summer Camp for two weeks, where they learnt to water ski.



Bins

If you are using our bins to dispose of items too large to fit in a normal refuse sack please fold cardboard flat and take bulk items to the local recycling centre. The Tenbury site on the Bromyard road, WR15 8DB, is open from 8am to 6pm on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays

Energy costs

We have benefited from a three-year fix on the prices we pay for energy. These expire for both gas and electricity before the start of the 2023 season. We anticipate a big increase in rates, but we will do our best to find a competitive supplier.

TV licences

We continue to receive letters from TV Licensing addressed to random caravans and threatening to send their van to check that the owners have a licence.

As you know, if you have a licence for your television at home and no-one is watching it while you are away, you are entitled to watch television in your caravan without a separate licence.

If we had saved all the letters we've received from TV Licensing at both parks we would have enough to build another house, but so far no van has appeared!

Auto drain down

If you would like us to supply and fit a FLOE auto drain down kit in your caravan ready for winter, please speak to Brian or John. At its present price this should pay for itself within three years.

Eating in Tenbury ...

You've probably all sampled Mr Thom's delicious chocolates, bread and cakes.

Now you can eat in or take away breakfast, brunch, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner at **Mr Thom's Café and Grill**. It's open from 8am to 10pm and has been receiving rave reviews, so give it a try!

If you fancy something a bit more exotic, try **Unwined Bar and Bistro** in Market Street – comfy sofas, delicious food and a friendly ambience. Unwined serves brunch, tapas and paella – perfect for a lazy morning, a laid back lunch or a candlelit dinner.

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Drones

As a courtesy to other park users we ask that you do not fly a drone on the park

Details of caravans for sale are published on the website. Go to www.wigleyorchard.co.uk and follow the links to the For Sale page

It's h-Art week!

This is h-Art's 20th year, with 130 artists exhibiting in Herefordshire and its borders from Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th September. Local venues include St Michaels Church in Tenbury where 12 artists will be showing their work, Shelly Perkins' studio in Hanley Broadheath and Mel Williams in Eastham.

Go to h-art.co.uk for your programme and enjoy a feast for the senses – and often cake too!



Member

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