



The Hopbine

News from Wigley Orchard and St Michaels Caravan Parks • November 2017 • Issue 64

Our grand design



After 32 years at Bank House, Brian and Sandra will move into their new house at St Michaels – The Gables – on 27th November. John and Hannah will move into Bank House and John will be on hand to manage Wigley Orchard.

Brian and Sandra will continue to deal with the administration of both parks so please make a note that you can contact Brian on 01568 750665. Our email addresses will stay the same.

When we reopen in March 2018 the caravan immediately next to the lower en-

trance at Wigley Orchard will be reception and we plan to be open on Friday, Saturday and Monday afternoons. Outside these hours please call to make an appointment or visit us at St Michaels.

We're very pleased with our new house – after all the months of planning and making decisions about door handles, paint colours, light fittings, bathroom tiles ... the list has been endless ... it's lovely to see it all come together. You're welcome to come and have a look!



The kitchen is partly finished with granite work-tops, the cooker and cooker hood already in place

Hello and goodbye

We welcome these new owners at St Michaels:

Roy and Lynne Isherwood, Chris and Kimberley Hammonds and baby Oliver from Tipton

Anita and Stephen Shilvock from Hale-sowen

and congratulations to

Jan and Archie Rippard, trading up to a new Willerby Avonmore

We welcome these new owners at Wigley Orchard:

Stacey and Andy Jackson from Rowley Regis

and congratulations to:

Mark Gordon, trading up to the Tingdene Lodge

At Wigley we say goodbye to:

Bryan and Susan Garner

Andy Goodwin

Mark and Rachel Brothwell (after 17 years)

Val Gilles

At St Michaels we say goodbye to:

Andy Boyden

Strolling on in the rain



Twenty one walkers and four dogs braved the wind and rain on Sunday 3rd September to take part in the ninth annual Stroll On! sponsored walk.

We've organised the walk since 2009, raising over £10,000 for various local charities.

This year's chosen charity is **Headway Worcestershire**, a charity based in Worcester which supports brain injury survivors and their families in Worcestershire.

Walkers included several caravan owners, plus family and friends. The first man

home was Paul Andrews who, at 80, was also the oldest. We were pleased to welcome Alan Purchon, former director of Headway (and Hannah's father), who accepted a cheque from Brian on behalf of the charity.

The walkers were joined after the walk by more friends and supporters for food, drink and some more fundraising opportunities. Unfortunately the terrible weather meant that the usual fun was curtailed, but the event still raised £1,125 plus gift aid for Headway with more to come.

Mandie Fitzgerald, Fundraising Man-

ager at Headway, writes:

"The kind donations will help us support our clients and their families. Please pass on our grateful thanks to all those involved in the walk ... for your amazing help and support towards all those affected by brain injury in Worcestershire."

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the walk or who came along afterwards and to everyone who donated so generously.

If you would like to make a donation to the charity, please go to www.just-giving.com/fundraising/sandra-griffiths15.



Caravans for sale, carols, lawn mowers in Finland – overleaf

Caravans for sale

At St Michaels we have two empty pitches which are available for new 2018 caravans.

At Wigley Orchard we are now trading in some older units with double glazing and central heating. At the time of writing there is a choice of three at bargain prices between £8,000 and £12,000.

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

Wifi

Next year we are offering all owners complimentary wifi at Wigley Orchard. (Owners at St Michaels already benefit from this service.)

If you would like to sign up please email Brian for a username and password to access the service.

We hope that you will use the wifi to update social media with good reviews for Wigley Orchard and St Michaels!

01568 750665

Winter draindowns

You may be interested in a draindown system for holiday caravans which we have recently discovered. It comprises an air compressor permanently fitted in your boiler cupboard. It is connected to your incoming water supply; to drain down the caravan, turn off the outside stop tap, start the compressor and then open one tap at a time through your caravan and finally flush the toilet to leave all water pipes and valves which are likely to freeze clear of water.

When you return to the caravan you just need to turn the stop tap back on to resume normal use.

Please contact John or Brian to discuss this option. The cost of supply and installation is around £500.

Carols at the Baiting House



Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat ... and Brian is busy practising his keyboard skills ready for his annual starring role at the Baiting House.

This year Carols at the Baiting House will be on Sunday 17th December at 7pm. As usual the pub will be full to overflowing with locals and visitors keen to sing all your favourite carols.

So come along and join us – it's always a fabulous start to Christmas, and there will be mulled wine and mince pies too.

Tenbury's famous Mistletoe Festival

Tenbury Wells is well known as the capital of English mistletoe and celebrates its unique heritage by holding an annual Mistletoe Festival on the first Saturday in December.

This year's Mistletoe Festival is on **Saturday 2nd December** and will include the Mistletoe Kissathon. Last year 250 people were recorded kissing in the official kissathon and this year will

feature the official Mistletoe Kissing Tree – so the festival organisers hope to have more people than ever kissing under it.

There will also be market stalls in Teme Street and at the Pump Rooms. The Druids' Thanksgiving Ceremony will be at 2pm on the Burgage – everyone welcome!

For more information about the Tenbury Mistletoe Festival go to www.tenburymistletoe.org.

Family news – home and away!



We were very proud of Hannah who was chosen to play tennis for Worcestershire in the inter-county over 35s championships in Eastbourne in August. Although the team didn't win, she and her partner acquitted themselves very well.

At the end of the 2017 lawn mower racing season, John travelled to Retford in Nottinghamshire to take part in the North West Midlands Lawn Mower Racing Association's six-hour endurance event. Despite qualifying to start second on the grid, he and his team failed to maintain their early lead although they did keep going to the end!

So to start the 2018 season with a bang, John and Hannah have arranged to take the racing lawn mower to Finland.

They will be taking part in the 12-hour Leikkuri Le Mans lawn mower Grand Prix. The race is held outside the rural town of Lavia in southern Finland on the frozen Lake Karhijarvi, 124 miles north east of Helsinki. Drivers have 12 hours to complete as many laps as they can around the 850 metre course. February in Finland is mostly dark, with daylight for only five hours a day, and temperatures can drop to as low as -4C.

It's not what you know, it's who you know! Our daughter-in-law Jailan works for Nasdaq, the New York stock exchange which owns the big billboard in the middle of Times Square. So when our twins turned

seven in June, Jailan's "people" arranged for them to appear in lights



Have your say

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

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