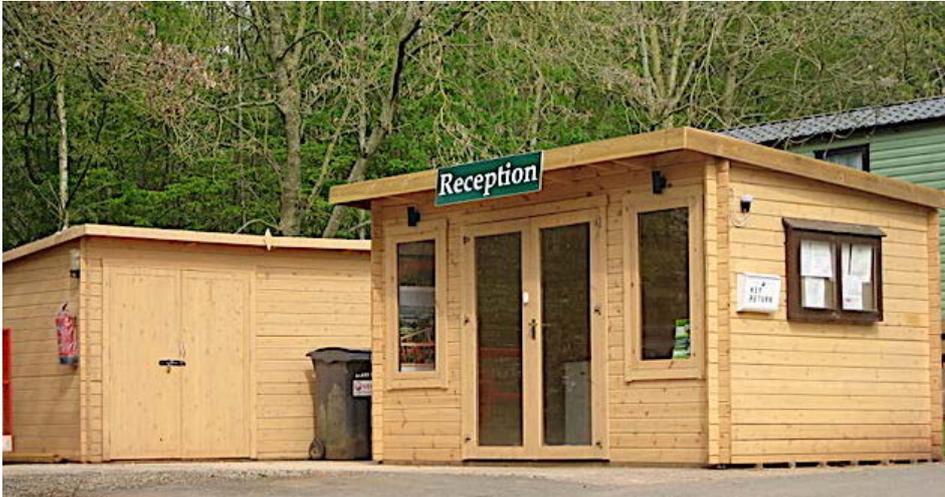




The Hopbine

News from Wigley Orchard Caravan Park • April 2019 • Issue 67

What John did in the winter



We've had a busy winter – perhaps it's lucky that Easter was so late this year.

You'll have noticed some changes on the park, like the new reception building and the new rubbish, recycling and glass centre and store shed, all lit up after dark. We've also re-sited the notice board and the fire extinguisher from the house. If you need our attention please ring the reception door bell.

There's a new fence replacing the hedge at the top entrance (below) which makes for easier access for transporters carrying new caravans – and it should look better and be easier for Liz to mow.

We've introduced two new caravans to the letting fleet, both with new timber decks, and we've refurbished several other decks around the park, including the one on

pitch 160, shown below with some holiday-makers enjoying the view.

The star is the Willerby Granada on pitch 136 with its new parking area.



Tree felling

This project started when a large tree fell onto the park from our neighbour's land last year. Since then we have taken down several more of his ash trees and removed two large elderly oak trees. Much of the oak has gone to a good home because Sam has been helping John and he is currently rebuilding a very old and sickly listed cottage near Tenbury. We hope our oak will keep the house in good heart for a few more centuries. We have also removed the large Wellingtonia which was next to the gas compound and this has opened up the views for several caravans.



Gas checks

Gas checks cost £110 – phone Brian on 01568 750665 and pay and we will get the work done during May, on a first come, first served basis.

Remember, if you choose not to have a gas safety check you should ensure that your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms are in working order.

Care of your decking

Treat your decking with oil, **not** paint and don't leave treated decking boards covered – **they will rot**. At the very least lift the artificial grass during the closed winter period.

A lifesaver in Wolferlow

Thanks to some generous donations there is now a defibrillator in Wolferlow.

The defibrillator is mounted on the wall by the garage door at Meadowside, the home of Tina and Colin Edwards, on the corner of the turning to Wolferlow church. An emergency call to 999 will give you the location of the nearest defibrillator. A light will come on when you approach the bungalow and the machine is in a box with a light inside.

As the average time for an ambulance to arrive is around 16 minutes, this could be a real lifesaver.



John's new toy

After John and Sam had built a new tractor shed (below), John needed something to put in it. So he bought a 1968 International B275. It's a bit tired at the moment but in the fullness of time it will be winning awards for best in show. We hope ...



Condolences

We were sad to learn of the death of Geoff Bratt during April. He has been a friendly face around the park for some years and we extend our condolences to his family, especially his wife Maureen, sister Mary and daughter Donna and her family.

Pensons – the new restaurant everyone is talking about!

When my Glamorous Girlfriend and I decided to be Ladies who Lunch for the day – a gloriously sunny February day – there was only one place to go, the new restaurant that everyone is talking about – Pensons at the Netherwood Estate, possibly the most exciting thing to have happened in Stoke Bliss since Wigley Orchard Caravan Park!

The restaurant opened in February, located in derelict farm buildings which have been given a fabulous new lease of life.

As Glamorous Girlfriend and I approached the restaurant, the door was opened by an immaculately white jacketed waiter who, along with the charming French maître d', welcomed us to Pensons, took our coats and seated us at a table near (but not too near) the open kitchen, where we could see the chef and his team quietly weaving their magic.

The restaurant is stunning, the original stone and brick walls and oak beams contrasting with huge new metal framed windows and a metal staircase giving the ancient building a modern industrial vibe. The tables and chairs are understated, plain pale wood, the crockery a mix of dark coloured and white, the cutlery plain and stylish.

We chose from the £32 à la carte lunch menu. For dinner there are two tasting menus at £60 or £75.

Our starter was scallop with a yeast emul-



sion, finely sliced pickled apples and monk's beard, an unusual bright green herb with a salty flavour that complemented the scallop perfectly. Absolutely delicious.

We followed this with Herefordshire Herdwick lamb, perfectly cooked with a deep flavour, turnip, onion and a fondant potato, crisp on the outside and meltingly soft inside. Another triumph.

And then dessert. Creamy chocolate and beetroot mousse, smooth Netherwood dam-

son sorbet and crunchy chocolate rubble, all topped with a wafer thin beetroot crisp. Definitely the star of the show! Service was exceptional, efficient and discreet. As our waiter brought the dishes to the table, each one an exquisite miniature work of art, he explained the different elements in his charming French accent. (Some nuances may have been lost in translation but he had a lovely smile!) We were left in peace to chat over coffee so by the time we got up to leave the afternoon was nearly over.

Before we left we explored the upper rooms at each end of the barn – a private dining room with long oak table and doors opening onto a sunny patio at one end, a cosy snug with squashy sofas perfect for pre-dinner drinks at the other.

When we were ready to leave we were shown to the door and sent on our way by the unfailingly charming maître d' and our still smiling waiter. We went away feeling well fed and very pampered!

Sandra

Pensons Restaurant, Pensons Yard, Stoke Bliss WR15 8RT, telephone 01885 410321, email bookings@pensons.co.uk or visit the website www.pensons.co.uk.

Caravans for sale

2015 ABI Oakley 38 x 12, 2 bedroom
£24,000

2014 Willerby New Hampton, 35 x 12,
2 bedroom £19,000

2007 Cosalt Sandhurst 32 x 12, 2 bedroom
£POA

2002 Willerby Granada 35 x 12, 2 bedroom
£9,850

All the above caravans have double glazing, central heating and a timber deck

2006 Atlas Ruby 35 x 12 2 bedroom
£8,850

No central heating but electric warm air plus double glazing and timber deck

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

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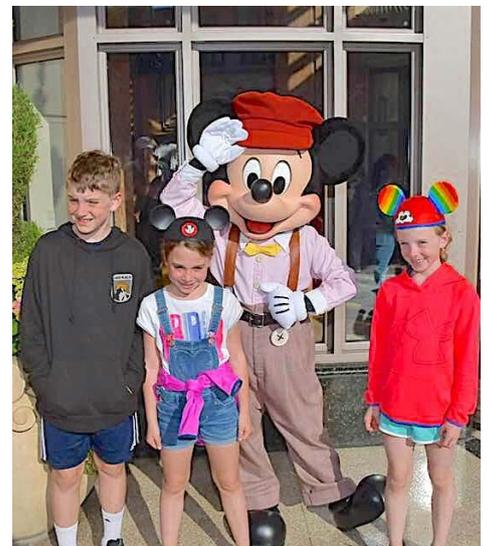
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Family news



A trip of a lifetime for our American family during spring break included a visit to Disneyland in California where they met Mickey Mouse (above). They also visited Universal Studios and the Grand Canyon and did lots of walking and some horse riding. Oh, and David managed to squeeze in a round of golf!



Wigley Orchard Caravan Park

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