

BAYVIEW CARAVAN OWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
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Newsletter 75 June 2016

**Next Association meeting**

2016 AGM - Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 5pm to 7pm (to include refreshments) at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage.

**Committee news**

An up to date list of committee members appears at the end of this newsletter.

**Future meeting dates**

2016 AGM – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October – 5pm (confirmed)

2017 General meeting – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April - 5pm (confirmed)

2017 AGM – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September (provisional)

**2016 Subscriptions**

**Subscriptions for 2016/2019 are now overdue. As agreed at our 2015 AGM subscriptions will be £10 per pitch to cover the period March 2016 to March 2019. We still have a small number of members who have not paid their subs. It is unfair to expect committee members to visit caravans to collect subs during their holidays at the park so could we please ask all members to renew their subs over the next week if possible. There are several ways you can pay your £10 subscription as detailed below**

- **cheque or cash payment to Marjorie Edwards at caravan number 66 (your caravan number on back of the cheque)**
- **Bank Transfer to Lloyds Bank. Payable to sort code 30-99-12, account number 01819778, please put your caravan number in the "reference" space**
- **cheque posted to - PO Box 5534, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2ZN - please put your caravan number on the back of the cheque**

**All cheques payable to "Bay View Caravan Owners' Association**

**Owners who do not pay their subs will shortly be removed from our mailing database.**

**New members**

It is vital that the Association has as many members as possible if we wish to be effective and represent the views of the majority of owners at SBV. Our target for this year will be to get 90% of owners at the park signed up as members. You can help enormously in this task by promoting the Association with your immediate neighbours, especially any new owners you see moving into your area. Attached to this email is a new member leaflet that you can print or email to a new owner. All they have to do is complete the form and pay their £10 (see notes at the bottom of the proforma of how to do this) and we will do all the rest

**Park Rules**

Following a discussion with Drew Campbell (Operations Manager for Darwin) all owners should by now have received a letter from the park manager Anne Foulkes regarding some proposed amendments to the park rules. It is very encouraging to see a new, customer

focused tone, of communication and consultation in the letter. It is unfortunate that the letter did not clarify more clearly which rules have been changed or added. Please contact the park manager if you require more information. **Please note that the deadline for your response to Anne Foulkes is 15<sup>th</sup> June.** If you are making a response could you also please send a copy to the Association so that we can keep a file of the comments made. Several owners have contacted the Association regarding the "storage box" rule. It should be noted that Dorset Trading Standards regard this as most probably being a "restrictive practice" rule which could not be enforced.

### **Meeting with Drew Campbell**

A very good meeting with Drew Campbell (Operations manager for Darwin) took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. A major part of the meeting focused on the changes to the park rules and to ways by which these could be worded and communicated to owners as a consultation exercise. We also discussed the tone of letters sent out to owners by Darwin. Hopefully the recent letter will be the style/model adopted in the future. Other items discussed included

- **Capital Expenditure.** It was agreed that any future Capital Expenditure items would be notified to owners in the Site Fee Letter that goes out at least 3 months in advance of site fees being due (usually at the end of November). Any large amounts would be split into to Annual Depreciation amounts (as per our licence) or the work would be carried out in stages. We discussed that CE items are for new items, not regular maintenance or replacing worn out items that are covered by the Site Fee.
- **Grounds.** After a good start to the year the grounds maintenance has sadly fallen behind again. Pictures were shared comparing the excellent grass cutting on the Shorefield site and that at SBV where long grass and weeds are currently flourishing. Drew agreed to follow this up with grounds staff. The week following this meeting the grass was cut across the park.
- **Barrier.** There have been changes to the road markings by the barrier and a new arm for the keypad is to be fitted hopefully within the next 2 weeks. Both of these should make reaching the keypad easier.
- **Restaurant and bar.** The lack of customers in the park restaurant one Sunday lunchtime was discussed. The Sunday lunch offered excellent value for money although there were only 8 diners on the day in question. It was felt that improving relationships between owners and the park management would increase the number of owners visiting the bar and restaurant
- **Email.** It was suggested that the park establish an email circulation for newsletters. This would reduce costs and staff workloads and, if done regularly e.g. monthly, could improve communication. The restaurant, bar and entertainment programme could be more effectively promoted. The Owners Association already communicates with members by email and sends out regular newsletters. The possibility of an annual survey, run by Darwin, similar to that organised at Shorefield next door was discussed
- **Work on site.** It was suggested that more advance information be given when major work is being carried out on areas of the park e.g. developing new pitches.
- **Gas bottles.** The price of large gas bottles at the park was discussed which are currently £10 dearer than those on the Shorefield site and £11 dearer than Flogas. Drew will look into this to see if a price reduction is possible at SBV.

### **Selling your caravan**

The Association is often asked if we know of any vans that are available for private sale. If you are selling your caravan and would like us to let other owners know please send all the details about the van, including the selling price, years left on the licence and your contact details to the Association email address and we will include it in our next circulation

### **Christmas social**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> SBVCOA Christmas Social will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 6pm to 8pm in the reception area of Emmanuel Baptist church. As last year there will be drinks, Christmas savory and sweet goodies to eat, Christmas music, a quiz and raffle. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow caravan owners. As it is the same day as the Swanage Christmas Street market why not book a weekend at your caravan to celebrate the start of the Christmas season. There will be no charge for the social for paid up members.

**Committee members**

Richard Swan – (189) – Chair  
Rosemary Burbridge – (311) – Vice Chair  
Marjorie and Richard Edwards – (66) – Secretary  
Rhoda and Damian Goodwin – Treasurer (19)  
Lisa Murray – (274)  
Michael Hardiman – (62)  
Val and Roy Gill – (244)  
Frank Carter – (84)  
Leslie and Linda Burgess – (226A)  
Ian and Phillipa Hills (90e)  
Trevor Bradbury (245)  
Harry Horton (210)  
Derek Keller (TBA)

(Poppy rep)   
(Bluebell rep)   
(Sunflower rep)   
(Tulip rep)  
(Sweetpea rep)   
(Sunflower rep)   
(Honeysuckle rep)   
(Daisy rep)   
(Buttercup rep)  
(Daisy rep)  
(Sweetpea rep)  
(Buttercup rep)  
(Rose rep)