



# Bear Facts

The Newsletter for North Warwickshire DA

## Message from the Chair

I can never think of a better way to start my piece than by saying "Thank You". Your support to this DA and committee is vital to the success of everything we plan. If we all listen to the media, next year could be a tough one where we all have to watch our pennies—we will be doing our utmost to make sure that when you join us on weekends—we give you value for money and an enjoyable, get-away from it all time.

Our plans are already underway for 2009 with one very new addition to our fixtures—see the attached press release. We have only received confirmation from the Director General: Rob Loudon, from the Club this week, that we had the OK for the meet.

Our holiday sites have served us all well through the season and our thanks to George and Faye (IOW), Trevor and Mary (Rhayader) and Pete and Maureen (Binton) for their time as stewards.

Sadly, we had an old member: Jean Keene pass away after a long illness, you may remember her and Bill stewarding Sillesbourne a few years ago. One of her flower memorials was a caravan with an NWDA sash.

After another amazing year of raising charity funds, I would like to invite you to nominate a charity that is close to your heart. We will then consider them all and advise you at the AGM of the 2009 charity.

I hope you all enjoyed Halloween—what a weekend!

On behalf of all North Warwicks committee, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2009 Camping season. We look forward to seeing you all

back on the field in the New Year. *Steve*



## Thank you for helping The Guide Dogs

The Charity received a final push with the "Charity Race Night" at Knowle British Legion. The evening was well attended and supported by representatives from the Charity - bringing along a working Guide Dog and two puppies. The night got under way with everyone placing their bets, and Ade comically comparing the greyhound racing. With the racing all done - Steve and Ade began the auction. With items such as a litre and half of whisky, a driving experience in a Porsche 911, a large Guide Dog fluffy toy, each item creating a friendly bidding war.



All the prizes Auctioned or Ruffled had been kindly donated by local businesses in Knowle in support of the Charity. The evening ended with a disco and a closing balance of £870.35 towards our target.

The total at the end of November is £3,422.89 with only a month left to add any donations. The Guide Dog Association are thrilled at our achievement and will attend the AGM to receive their final donation. Thank you to everyone for your support—it has made a difference.

### Chairman

Steve Kennings

### Vice Chairman

Trevor Whitehead

### Secretary & Editor

Lin Kennings

### Treasurer

Aneel Khanna

### PRO & Charity

#### Co-ordinator

Jayne Bishop

### Entertainment Officer

Ade Houldey

### Sites Officer

Mark Nicklin

### Youth Leader

Andy Nicklin &  
Ruth Boardman

### Asst Youth Leader

Shaun & Caroline  
Roberts

### CCJ Leader

Charlotte Leivers

### Equipment

Mark Leivers

### Social Secretary

Sarah Edwards

### Holiday Sites Officer

Jan Wardle

### Regalia & Committee

#### Members

Michelle Leivers &  
Gary Bratt

### Webaster (Non committee)

Steve Davis

## AGM—2009

### A date for your diary

Saturday 28th February at  
Rowington Village Hall.

Limited camping available

Book with Mark Nicklin  
0121 247 0970

## Halloween 2008—Were you scared?

Where do we begin? This years Halloween meet was by far the biggest and the best. As the weekend approached, a few cancellations meant we were able to accommodate everyone on the reserve list. Our enthusiastic working party arrived on site during Wednesday and Thursday and started working immediately, building fascias for the marquee and a ghost train for the Ghost Walk.

It was a tall order to pull together all the ideas out of Ade's head for the Ghostly Marquee - which this year was blacker than black inside and very, very scary!

Friday morning the gates opened and each and every member was greeted on the gate by a cheery marshal and directed to their pitch.

As Friday night approached the site was already looking very spooky, so many members had entered into the spirit on things decorating their units and lighting up.

As darkness fell, the groups congregated for the Ghost Walks and were treated to an opening dance by members of the NWDA CCY and CCJ.



Saturday included all the spooky Kids Activities, Trick and Treating and the ever popular Halloween Fancy Dress - this year excelled with the amount of participating people dressed up—from witches to ghouls to standing vicars in coffins! Fantastic.

Sunday morning came and whilst the committee cooked breakfast for those who were up to it, the remaining working party began the mammoth task of dismantling everything, returning one trailer load after another back to storage.

Coffee morning got underway and presentations were made for the best dressed units, best Jack O Lantern, colouring and of course the raffle.

The field was pretty wet following a very heavy rain pour Saturday night, so many members were having to get towed off. By lunch time Sunday, the working party were starting to resemble the Ghouls' of Saturday night!!

Our thanks go out to each and everyone of the members who supported the meet and making this years Halloween the best.

## CCY Test—Four Passes

We are pleased to report that on the weekend of 26th-28th September, 4 of our CCY passed their youth test. The test is set by The Camping and Caravanning Club HQ with only a small list of qualified testers throughout the UK. The aim of the test is for youth members to learn and be tested on a set of modules that are taught to them by their youth leaders over a period of time. Once this test is passed, it proves the youth member is a competent camper able to fend for themselves; administer first aid; map read; cook a balanced menu of food and basically respect the countryside. Thank you to David and Marleen Wilkes (National Youth Chairman) for testing.

No small feat which is why NWDA are proud of their achievement.



Amy Bishop gives an account of the weekend: Grainne, Dale and Sam and I arrived on Friday— When we had all our tents up and inside unpacked we all sat together testing each other on all the different modules.

On Saturday morning it was a bit of a shock for Grainne because we had to be up at about 8.00! The first module we had to do was map reading. All of us thought it was the hardest followed by cooking. Marlene is not in hospital so it must have been nice (Phew). When we finished all of those modules, at about 5.00pm David said for the rest of the day we could have free time it was like been let out of a zoo. We all ran out shouting "We are free" but knew we had to be back after the disco by 10.45.

On Sunday morning after completing the final modules, David gave us the news .....we all passed!! We packed our rucksacks and walked over to coffee morning. Steve told everyone about the test and we gave David and Marlene a card and some chocolates for all their time and support through out the weekend. We would also like to say some thank you's to people who have really supported us through all this: Andy and Ruth, Shaun and Caz, Bernie and Maria and the committee.

At the Halloween meet we were presented with our Certificates, Pennons and our "wear with pride" CCY Hoodies, with our names on.