

The Murvi Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on: 21 March 2015 at 18.00

Present:

Ian Baxter & Jane Senior
Pete & Anne Bland
Caroline & Mike Brankin
Judy Brookes
Brian & Sheila Cady
Virginia & John Castick
Gay Chamberlayne
Geoff & Barbara Clemens
Steve Coles & Jackie Little
Hugh & Jeanette Constable
Leigh & Annabel Darnton
Jane & John Day
Mike & Jackie Dill
Jo Durham & Hanneke van Deth
Bob & Maggie Eley
Angela & Robert Emuss
Anne & Nigel Evans
Robert & Christine Flitney
Jacquie Fournier
Mike & Sylvia Frew
Philip & Hilary Greenwood
Tony & Chrissie Gumbrell
Paul & Gay Johnson
Ian Leslie
Alan & Marilyn Major
Nick & Yvonne Mawby
Penny McCallig & Andrew Shewan
Pauline & Nic Nicholls
Roger Norman
Brian & Janette Norris
Roger & Wendy Pepper
Tony & Margaret Phillips
Penny & Nick Potts
Meg & Pete Privett
Trevor & Sheila Redman
Dean & Sarah Small
Philip & Anne Strong
Karin & Adrian Sumption
Martin & Penny Sweet
Alan & Chrissie Williams
Christine & Anton Woolford
Julia Wright

Apologies:

Robert & Carolyn Ash
Bill & Mandy Brotherstone
Steve & Maggie Butler
Dick & Vicky Constable
Roger & Anne Clough
Anne & Stewart Cormie
Martin & Jo Cox
Colin & Julia Davies
Campbell & Lorraine Dixon
Ellie & Simon Elsdon
Andy & Sylvia Embling
Sandy & Rachael Ewing
Alan & Jane Fletcher
Ingrid & Billy Gawthorpe
Terry & Margaret Gordine
Heather & Chris Gould
Barry & Joyce Hopewell
Barry Ireland
Ian & Pat Johnson
Pete & Di Johnson
Tony & Chris Lewis
Peter & Margaret Lloyd
Dave & Liz Nayler
Alice & Ian Palmer
Wendy Palmer and Lin Powell
Sue Quinlan
Chris & Nadine Reed
Karina & Andy Shire
Richard & Lynn Stevens
Roy & Kath Tipping
Alan & Marion Turner
Peter and Elaine Vincent
Mike Warburton
Val and Barrie Wood
Vince and Christine Wright

- 1 Julia Wright took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22/03/14 were approved and signed by the chairman.
- 3 There were no matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on 22/03/14.
- 4 Julia Wright, the Chairman, reported as follows:
Welcome to our 5th AGM. It's hard to believe that the Club is still relatively young, as I feel I have known some of you for much longer than the 3 years I have been a member.
Once again we have some new members joining us for their first AGM. The number of attendees this year isn't very different from last year, which is just as well, as we might struggle to find a suitable venue if we had many more of you to accommodate. However, although the number of attendees hasn't changed

much, there are 33 of you here who weren't at the last AGM.

I think it is very healthy that we see new faces and hopefully get fresh ideas on how we develop our club. There is a general discussion at the end of this meeting, where we welcome any suggestions or feedback. I know how daunting it can be to contribute to such a large gathering though and I'm sure that many of you would not welcome a delay of the shared supper. (I have no illusions that that is the real highlight of today, not this meeting!) So if you have any suggestions or feedback, please share them with me or any of the committee over the weekend.

One of the more onerous duties I have as Chairman is to report the deaths of members. This year is no exception and since the last AGM we have lost Wilf Harris, Ben Richardson, Phil Chamberlayne and Dick Jones. Gay Chamberlayne and Sheila Jones have decided to keep their Murvis and I am pleased to say that Gay is here with us today.

Last year I reported on the two forthcoming events I was organising – the trip to the Peloponnese for Easter and the Bucklers Hard rally. Thankfully both went very well and have been reported on in previous newsletters.

It was a challenge to organise the Greek trip because of the small number of members who wanted to go. It proved that most club members are happy to organise their own trips abroad, or to use the services of the escorted tour operators.

Finally, I'd like to thank you, the members for coming along and supporting us. Several of you here today have organised mini-meets since our last AGM. We really appreciate your efforts in doing so. I'd also like to thank the committee, for all their hard work.

- 5 Roger Pepper, the Secretary, reported as follows:
Committee meetings took place on 23 March and 16 November 2014. The committee have been in regular touch by email between the meetings.
Adrian Sumption was co-opted to the committee to act as our Editor
The following decisions have been taken:
 Photos will be included on the website membership list.
 Two club flags have been purchased to use at rallies.
 Advice on organising meets has been included on the Club's website at murviclub.org.uk/w/organise-a-meet.
Applications by members to continue their membership after selling their Murvi vans will be considered by the committee on an individual basis. Their previous attendance at rallies and the type of replacement van they owned will be taken into account. Where rallies are oversubscribed, members who own Murvi vans will be given precedence.
As requested by last year's AGM, I wrote to the Caravan Club asking what directions their staff have been given with regard to pitching rules. Neil Windeatt, the Club's Head of Site Operations replied and clarified the matter. I distributed his letter to members with the advice that they carry a copy when visiting Caravan Club sites. Further copies are available from me today should anyone need one.
Membership of ACCEO and our public liability insurance have both been renewed.
- 6 Alan Major, the Treasurer, reported as follows:
A copy of the 2014 accounts was circulated with the AGM papers.
The further growth in numbers of members has ensured that income continues to grow ahead of expenditure. Administrative expenses have increased due to the additional mailing costs associated with ensuring that contact is maintained with members who have not responded to email. While the increase in AGM expenses represents the cost of a larger venue and other associated costs of accommodating additional attendees.
There has been an increase in the number of transactions passing through the club's bank account related to the collection and disbursement of fees associated with events run during the year, but all these events were cost neutral for the club.
As the accounts continue to show that the club is financially sound I will be recommending to the Executive Committee that the annual subscription remains at £5.00.
As in prior years the accounts have been audited by Martin Sweet.
The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Angela Emuss, seconded by Ian Leslie and agreed unanimously.
- 7 Nick Mawby, the IT and Membership Secretary, reported as follows:
At the AGM in 2011 we had 89 vans, in 2012 there were 124, in 2013 we had increased to 163 and last year 191. Today we have 210 vans.
We have had 32 new members and have lost 13, 9 due to selling their vans mostly due to ill health or bereavement and four have not made contact.
I ran a statistical analysis to predict how many vans we would have by next year; my first result came up with 450 until I realised this must be a program used by the government to forecast economic growth. I now feel we will level off at 220-230 members. This is good news as if we get to 250 our insurance

premium would increase; I was thinking we might have to introduce a waiting list. We have 12 members have chosen not to share their details with only 2 of the 32 new members selecting this option.

I hope you have found the photo list useful, and although we have only two anonymous couples this year, some of the photos are now reaching antique status and could do with updating for next year.

The website redesign was completed last year and we really need members to contribute. It is now possible for members to be given rights to upload and edit their own posts, and there is information on the website (under info) on how you can send an email with photo attached and it will automatically be posted on the tips section.

It would be great if those who post a question on the chat group could summarise the responses and send them for posting on the website, with a photo where possible. We had 180 unique visitors in the last week with 1706 page views. 131 members are signed up to the chat group.

I believe Martin Sweet will be putting forward a suggestion for the website and I welcome all feedback.

8 Karin Sumption, the Rally Secretary, reported as follows:

Last year's AGM was held at the Camping & Caravanning Club site at Teversal in Nottinghamshire. We had 43 vans attending, most of them for the whole four days. There was lots to do in the area as it was next to Silverhill Woods Country Park, with trails for walking and cycling, and the bus to Chesterfield stopped nearby.

The first rally after this was a very ambitious month long tour of the Peloponnese by four Murvis and two other vans, on a trip tailor-made for us by GB Privilege, organised by Julia Wright. The tour was very successful.

This was followed in Mid June by a tour of Northeastern Scotland, which Ronnie & Suzi Leadbitter organised. Six Murvis spent a week near the coast, staying at three centres. The weather was kind, the midges almost non-existent and the walking and scenery were excellent.

Immediately following on, Geoff & Carol Wilkinson organised a four night meet in the Yorkshire Dales for a group of 6 vans. The Dales were as beautiful as ever and wonderfully decorated in anticipation of the Tour de France, which was coming through shortly after we left. We enjoyed some good walks and evenings in the pub, as the midges caught up with us there!

In July a group of four Murvis attended the Motorhome Show in Wadebridge, Cornwall, organised by Andy Bawn. The show was very small but the group managed a walk to a pub for a very convivial evening on Friday, doing their own things for the rest of the weekend.

Just after the August Bank Holiday Alan and Marilyn Major arranged for group of six intrepid Murvi vans to meet in a pub car park, to make their way to the Great Dorset Steam Fair. This turned out to be a very muddy affair! Despite this, a jolly time was had by all at what was, by all accounts, a very interesting event. I did hear talk of a delegation going again this year, presumably on the principal the conditions can't be that bad two years running.

Shortly after the Dorset mudfest, in early September, we had a glorious week in the New Forest, where Julia Wright had organised for 28 Murvis to camp in a field next to Buckler's Hard. The facilities were minimal but the surroundings were lovely. Buckler's Hard is a very interesting old village with a fascinating museum. There were lots of things to do, including a trip down the river, the Beaulieu Auto Jumble and plentiful pubs to check out.

In October nine Murvis arrived at the Griffin pub car park in Stockport where we stayed in return for spending our money on their food, beers and wines. Each day we caught the tram into Manchester centre as Steve Little took us to many historical sites, starting with the Romans, through the Victorians to the present day. All interspersed with refreshments at interesting venues. The weather was rather inclement but the rain didn't dampen our spirits.

In mid November the pretty Somerset village of Dulverton was the meeting place for eight vans for a rally organised by Julia Wright. We were there for four nights, involving quite a lot of muddy walking and an equal amount of "tea shopping" and pub drinking. We then drove on to Hidden Valley campsite in North Devon where we met another twenty five vans for the annual pilgrimage to the coast, organised by Roger and Wendy Pepper. Here we had the usual bus rides to interesting walks, trips to Ilfracombe and Barnstaple and evenings spent in the bar.

Late February brought a select group of Murvis to a small campsite in Ansty, Dorset, organised by Adrian and me. The village is near Dorchester and surrounded by interesting countryside, ideal for muddy walks. It also contained a pub for evening drinks and a village hall, which we hired for a Murvi shared supper. Following on in early March Penny McCallig & Andrew Shewan had planned a three day meet near Swanage. Here, at a campsite with all the facilities, including heated swimming pool, we indulged in trips out, walks and bus rides to Corfe Castle, all in beautiful sunshine!

Meet programme for 2015

John & Mary Laidler are organising a rally at Treloan campsite on the Roseland Peninsula over the weekend 9th – 13th April. The places for this rally have all been filled, I believe.

A small number of Murvi members are attending the Priddy Folk Festival from 10th to 12th July. Priddy is

not very far from here in the Mendips.

In September Vince & Christine Wright and Ingrid & Billy Gawthorpe have organised a two centre rally for the week 4th - 11th September. The first four days will be in the middle of the delightful market town of Hawes in the Yorkshire Dales. This will be followed by a three night stay at Appletreewick, which I am reliably informed is pronounced Apptrick, very near another Dales town, Grassington.

There will be another long weekend rally in Orford, Suffolk in October, staying in the village car park, as before. Ian Castle has arranged this and included is a guided tour of the parts of Orford Ness not normally open to the public.

Steve Little has agreed to repeat the Manchester mini meet either at the end of October or the beginning of November.

We have our two, now becoming traditional, meets in November, a three day get-together organised by Julia Wright to be followed by Roger & Wendy Pepper's long weekend, somewhere near the sea. Rumour has it, in Pembrokeshire on the weekend of 19-23.

All these meets either are or will be on the Events section of the website. An email or letter will be sent to all members when the meet is planned, then all communication is with the member organising the meet.

There is now information on the info section of the website for members who would like to organise a rally. If you need any extra help with planning a meet do feel free to contact me.

A list of motorhome shows is now on the events page of the website. These are all the ones that Murvi will be at plus some extras in more northern and eastern parts of the country. Members can post comments on whether they are attending so that people can meet up at shows to make the visit more sociable.

9 Adrian Sumption, the Editor, reported as follows:

During the past year there have been two editions of the newsletter published, one summer newsletter which came out in July 2014 and a winter edition which came out in December. I am very grateful to all those who contributed articles and would thoroughly recommend that route to anyone who wishes to gain literary acclaim. Once again the standard and variety of the articles has been a joy and the accompanying photos have added greatly to the impact of your stories - and I didn't even have to censor any!

All I need to add is to remind you that there will be another pleading email from me in a few weeks' time begging for newsletter items for this summer's edition. Anything goes - within reason - travelogues, hobbies, tips, recipes, etc. - anything you think might interest your fellow members. But just to reiterate my constant plea, do PLEASE keep articles to a maximum of 800 words - I don't find it easy editing your words down as I worry that I might edit out your favourite bit - and please make sure that any photos are at a reasonable resolution - 800 x 600 pixels at the very least.

One question occurs to me - do members think the timing and/or frequency of the newsletters is right? I would be interested to hear if any of you have any views on this.

10 Alan Major, Nick Mawby, Roger Pepper Karin Sumption and Julia Wright were elected to the Executive Committee.

Nic Nicholls proposed a vote of thanks to the committee saying that their work reflected the friendliness of the Club. This was greeted with a round of applause.

11 Roger Norman proposed Martin Sweet as Auditor. Robert Emuss seconded and his election was carried unanimously with the meeting's thanks to Martin for carrying out this function.

12 Martin Sweet proposed that each member includes details of a favourite campsite on the website to enable all members to share this information.

Nick Mawby said this was possible via the email function on the website which can also be used to include tips, places to visit and other items of interest to members. If there is sufficient response he will categorise the campsite entries into areas.

Robert Emuss suggested that video clips be included

Hilary Greenwood said it would be useful to post equipment used in Murvis including website links to the suppliers.

13 Karin Sumption said it was becoming increasingly difficult to find campsites of the necessary size and facilities to hold the AGM. This may mean that there will be a significant rise in camping fees in the future.

14 Julia Wright thanked Karin Sumption for organising the AGM weekend and Meg and Pete Privett for providing the sound system for the meeting.

13 The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 19 March 2016 at a venue to be announced.

The meeting closed at 18.40