


The MURVI Club Newsletter

Winter 2022

 Fforest Fields Campsite (See Page 2)	Contents:		Page
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Editorial

This edition is about a month late coming out for which I can only blame myself being distracted by Christmas, which inconveniently appeared in the diary just when I should have been seeking input.

I was planning to write an article about Murvi storage solutions, specifically for our Morocco. However, since returning from France last year our Murvi has been stuck in a local garage awaiting repair. The automotive Industry has been plagued by spares shortages, particularly electronic items and the lack of a throttle sensor has been the cause of the delay. Fortunately, the garage have now said the part they were waiting for has turned up, sadly they are snowed under with work and are not sure when they can complete it. I shall keep badgering them as the Webasto water heater also failed on the same trip and needs the electric elements replaced. It will work on diesel so this won't stop us getting away at the end of March to Spain. Once we do get it back I can take the photographs I need for the article!

Sadly, although my part has arrived the component shortage continues and production of vans at the Sevel plant in Italy where the Fiat Ducato is made, alongside the Citroen and Peugeot versions, was halted again earlier this month because of parts shortages.

On a more positive note, many thanks to Christine Flitney who despite a broken wrist following a cycling accident and subsequent surgery on it has put together a piece about her and Robert's trips into Wales.

The Joy of Wales

Christine Flitney

Way back in spring we were sitting at home watching the rain and getting miserable, when inspiration struck, we hatched a plan to go and watch the rain somewhere else. We live in Shropshire, so Wales, in particular the Camping Club site at Rhandirmwyn is not that far and for some reason not full.

When we arrived, the lovely wardens offered us a pitch right by the River Towy, warning us it was also right next to the long-distance footpath and the track to the dog walk. It was perfect, if it continued to hammer down, we had a great view, we had a steady flow of friendly people walking by and waving, we had the heating going and the kettle on; what's not to like.

And blow me, the rain stopped. So we went for a walk,

If you look hard in the photograph below, you can see Robert's head sticking out the side of an ancient oak. The hollow in the trunk has been put to several uses over the years and apparently the tree is the only one in Wales where live music has been performed inside it.



“Standing in a hedgerow just outside the village of Rhandirmwyn, the Pwllpriddog Oak is a giant, with a girth of some 8.4 metres. Some have estimated it to be 600-700 years old, while local historians believe it was planted to commemorate the Battle of Bosworth. Voted Wales’ Tree of the Year in 2018: the tree, finally has a little recognition. Not Hollywood glamour. But perhaps due respect for the stoic fortitude over centuries. It has seen Kings, Queens and politicians come and go. She has avoided being demolished to build ships, farmhouses, or bridges. She has suffered the indignity of having a road laid across her toes. She saw the felling of much of the ancient forest around her giving way to grazing. Who knows how she has survived; she has not

done so in the protected space of a stately home arboretum. She has seen off so many storms and survived the lead mining industry that decimated so much else in the valley including its people. Derwen Pwllpriddog (the Welsh name for the tree) has done this with

little apparent pastoral care; has survived despite lorries bumping into her, and ramblers climbing her. She looks across the valley keeping secret the story of all she has seen and heard for hundreds of years. She truly is a survivor in the real world and an old lady who deserves the respect bestowed upon her!"

We've been here twice now, I suspect we will return, it serves as a bolt hole to run away from life for a few days rest when needed. If you visit, give the tree a hug.

Come May time, we were back over the border for a visit to the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells. This is a view from the hills down into the site at Fforest Field, just a few miles from the showground.



Quite a big site that manages not to feel big. Straight out the back of the site you're soon up into the hills and open moorland. And for those into cold water swimming, there is a swimming lake on site as well as a fishing lake. There's a good programme of agricultural events on the Showground, we like the Spring Show which is aimed at smallholders and has abundant demonstrations of the smaller bits of agricultural and forestry equipment which we apparently can't live without, plus all the animals. 'We' also like the Wonderwool Show, where I can get anything and everything to do with turning a sheep into something useful and / or beautiful.

Murvi Club AGM 2023

23 – 27 March 2023

Karin Sumption

The 2023 AGM rally will be held from Thursday 23rd March to Monday 27th at Norfolk Coast Caravans & Camping, The Racecourse, Fakenham Norfolk, NR21 7NY. The AGM will be held at 6pm on the Saturday followed by a shared supper. We have the use of a room at the racecourse every evening so that we can get together.

The cost will £23 per van, per night. All the pitches have electricity. There are 26 hardstanding pitches and 28 grass. Please fill in the booking form below if you want to attend.

Click Here for Booking Form: <https://tinyurl.com/39y4ymrk>

Here is the website of the campsite. This is just for information, please do not try to book using this website:

<https://norfolkcoast-caravancampingholidays.co.uk/>

Murvi Club Newsletter – Spring 2023 Edition

Mary and I are hoping to get away to Spain at the end of April and from past experience trying to compile a Newsletter when away in the 'van isn't easy due to too many distractions!

It would therefore be ideal if I could receive contributions for the Spring 2023 edition by 20 March 2023 if at all possible although if someone can send me later in the week a photo or two from the AGM I will squeeze them in.

Previous editions of the Newsletter can be found on the Club website:

<https://www.murviclub.org.uk/newsletters/>