

# RAMS HEAD



**Huddersfield District Association  
AGM 2014  
Newsletter No. 324**



# HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

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## **LESLEY'S LAST**

Well, the time has come for me to write my last Lesley's Latest for you or as Anne, our Editor pointed out, Lesley's Last. I really don't know where the years have gone, it certainly doesn't seem like almost 18 years since I first joined our Committee.

We have had some great times over the years and I'm sure there will be many more to come. I feel the time is now right for me to hang up my boots and I am looking forward to relaxing a little more and enjoying some quality time with Peter and even perhaps trying something new - I hate to say it but we've just had a lovely weekend in Lincoln over half term on a Caravan Club site, dare I mention those words.....

Thank you all for your support over the years, especially Peter who has been my right hand man, doing so much for our DA behind the scenes. I have really enjoyed my positions as Events Co-Ordinator and Chair and undoubtedly will miss it at first although I will still be around to help out.

Best wishes to all at H.D.A  
Lesley Cobb  
H.D.A. Chair

Thanks Lads!

Thanks to Nick and Peter for all their hard work at York this weekend! That's a job well done. We camped at York Racecourse this weekend so we could get our new shed put up before the Easter Meet. Nick at the Racecourse had already told us that we needed to move our stores, currently kept in the poly-tunnel at the back of where we camp. The racecourse kindly agreed to let us put up a shed over in one corner. The base was laid a few weeks ago and finally, this weekend, Nick and Peter put it up, finishing it off on Sunday morning. Carolyn and I supervised before heading off to the shops!



# Nelson's Column

What a dreadful winter we have had this year so far. You have to feel sorry for all of those people down south who have been flooded for the past weeks. In comparison we have been quite lucky.

We decided to get away from it all for a few days and took a 5 day holiday to the Rhine. We went by coach on the ferry from Hull to Rotterdam and then on to Germany where we visited Koblenz, Rudesheim and Cologne. We also had a cruise down the Rhine included. The hotel which we stayed in was an old church and nunnery, very old fashioned, but very welcoming. We had a lovely time and I wouldn't hesitate to return.

Call me old fashioned, but I read with some concern about the Camping Club magazine and Big Sites Book now looking to change to 'on line'. I know it's a world of iPads and iPhones, but my form of social networking is sitting in my caravan on a weekend meet, with my friends and discussing which sites we can visit by looking in the magazines. We don't have electricity or wifi on the rallies, so it's not easy to use electronic devices. Fortunately you can still receive your magazines by not signing up to the new system. I for one was quite relieved when I read this. I am computer savvy, but I still prefer to be able to sit and read a magazine rather than staring at a screen. I would be interested to hear your comments.

Sign seen on a church in Tong.

Prayer for 2014

Lord please let me have a fat bank balance and a thin body and please don't get them mixed up like you did last year!

If you have anything you would like to include in the next publication, which is due out at Easter, please e-mail me at [anne.nelson3@ntlworld.com](mailto:anne.nelson3@ntlworld.com).

# Celebrations

## March Birthdays

3rd Laura Wood  
7th Sarah Richards  
7th Frank Pyrah  
10th Lesley Cobb  
10th Harrison Adkins  
12th Lesley O'Neill  
12th Imogen El-Zebedi  
12th Joseph Moodie  
15th Anne Nelson  
20th Anna Pyrah  
22nd Nigel Peake  
24th Pat Gibson  
25th Roman Borysalwskyj  
25th James Lockwood  
25th Janice Patterson  
31st Michael Boryslawskyj  
31st Judy Gledhill

## March Anniversaries

15th Jamie & Lisa Moodie  
17th Nigel & Elaine Peake  
20th Stephen & Julie Coley

## April Birthdays

2nd Nick Armitage  
3rd Ian Penn  
3rd Peter Scott  
6th Emilia Duffy  
11th Jonathan Gledhill  
12th Diane Pyrah  
17th Kate Patterson  
24th William Baldwin  
25th Harriet Inman  
29th Paul Hessey  
30th Nathan Penn

## April Anniversaries

1st Jeanne & Ken Baldwin  
5th Mike & Bernie Boryslawskyj  
2nd Joyce & Peter Scott  
21st Sue & Gary Pearson



**PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF ANY CELEBRATIONS BY  
E-MAIL [anne.nelson3@ntlworld.com](mailto:anne.nelson3@ntlworld.com)**

## [HDA WEB SITE](http://www.huddersfield-da.co.uk/)

**Don't forget that up to date information about our DA is  
Available on the web site**

**<http://www.huddersfield-da.co.uk/>**

**FORUM section now ready for members to chat and  
pass on information.  
Why not take a look**

## NEW YEAR MEET STORTHES HALL 2014

*Gosh its' the New Year meet again already, it comes round much too quickly these days, and it wasn't a good start weather wise what with the rain and wind and wind and rain, but we are not put off as we look forward to what will be another great meet.*

*Geoff went up to Storthes Hall on the Friday night to sign it and make sure the car park was clear of cars, he also spoke to the security staff and explained to them our usual routine re the site facilities and opening of the rooms, we usually go the night before but because of the weather had decided to go early on the Saturday morning.*

*We arrived early on Saturday morning and while I sorted out the van Geoff saw to the water taps, elsan points and put up the flag.*

*It wasn't long before the first vans started to arrive and we had a steady stream throughout the day, by teatime most vans had arrived and settled in.*

*The first night is a free & easy social to allow members to sort out their tables, we usually keep to these seating arrangements throughout the meet. We all have a welcome drink provided by the DA and then a little drink or two more and a chat among friends, with bingo and quizzes.*

*Sunday is free for everyone to do their own thing, walking or shopping for the all important fancy dress costume for our themed Party Night which this year was "A look back at the 60's & 70's".*

*We have the usual prizes for the best costumes and decorated table, everyone got into the spirit of things and there was some super costume ideas and decorations, we are never let down by the imagination of some people.*



*The best costumes were the Ghost Busters, aka the Walkden family from Roach Valley DA, Steve, Tracey, Alan, Joyce and Aaron, well done they were super costumes.*

*During the evening we had Chris and his magic box challenging campers to dance to specific routines which were projected onto the wall of the room, not easy but very amusing for the audience, well done to all who had the courage to have a go.*

*Monday morning arrives too early as we have to be full of energy today in order to compete in all the games that will be taking place, but we do start with lovely bacon sandwiches provided at the coffee morning, afternoon tea will be served also, so everyone can get really involved in the games without having to go back to their vans for refreshments. We would like to thank Carolyn and her gang for all the baking, preparing and serving these refreshments throughout the day. This makes for a great atmosphere as people can play, watch, chat away with friends, discuss tactics, and MAYBE have a little drink or two.*

*Our games of bowls and skittles are played by all with great enthusiasm and a lot of fun, our thanks go to Clive & Janice for organising and running the bowls and skittles this year they did a great job.*

*Winners of the bowls were Joe Patterson HDA and Anne Nelson HDA, with Margaret Inman HDA and Brian Marriot SYDA winning the skittles, well done everyone and thanks for the entertainment.*

*Tuesday is New Years Eve and our Party Night, everyone can relax today after yesterday's full day of games, and it gives us ladies time to pamper ourselves and the men time to get over their hangovers!!*

*The room is now transformed by the committee ready for the evening, the tables are decorated and the balloons are put into the net, thanks to those who blew up the balloons, it's not easy, I tried and failed miserably.*

Once again we are not disappointed when everyone arrives in the evening dressed in their finery and all looking very elegant ready for a great night. We were entertained this year by our ever popular 'Le Mans Disco' Harold and Jayne. They played a good assortment of music which I think covered all tastes and we all danced the night away waiting for the all important Big Ben to strike midnight. At 12 o'clock we all gathered into the centre of the room under the balloons and on the last stroke of midnight from Big Ben the balloons were released and we all welcomed in 2014, when there was the usual well wishes to everyone for the coming year. A great evening enjoyed by all.



Wednesday 1st January finds us having to get up at a reasonable hour, regardless of how late it had been when we went to bed, in order to get the coffee morning ready.

This is the morning when we have the big clean up and everyone chips in to help, this is greatly appreciated by the committee and thanks to all for cleaning the rooms and toilets to a very high standard.

The rest of the day is spent at your leisure, however some campers have to go home today as they have to work on Thursday. The evening social is once again a free and easy, when we can all unwind and take things easy.

Thursday we have our last coffee morning and farewell to friends, campers start to pack up their units and head off home, probably for a well earned rest!!

The site closed at 2pm and Geoff closed the water tap and elsan point, took down the flag, made sure everywhere on site was clean and tidy and we then headed off ourselves.

Another good meet at Storthes Hall.

*Happy camping and all the best for 2014*

Geoff & Doreen  
Stewards

## WEB SITE

In order to improve attendance by visitors and members alike, we would like to add photos of the sites at which we camp and their surrounding areas and local places of interest.

If you have any such photos, please send them to Christopher Wood, with details of the photographs , at:

[chris.4.wood@gmail.com](mailto:chris.4.wood@gmail.com)

**May we please remind parents of young children that, when camping with HDA, they are responsible for their children's behaviour, and must supervise them at all times. If we are in a room which is part of a larger building , children must not wander around, but stay in our booked room.**

**Dogs must be tied up at all times.**

*Thank you for your cooperation  
The Committee*

## Steward's Report - Skipton

We arrived Friday morning at Skipton after an enjoyable week in Bristol, Bath and the N.E.C. It started raining just as we were putting the signs out and it lasted on and off into the evening.

We didn't have many vans during the day, we thought the weather had put them off. As the evening went on more arrived so we finished with 27 units.

Saturday was a better day the sun came out so most people could walk into Skipton. Saturday evening we set up the room starting with quizzes/play your cards right and bingo. We had an American supper, it seemed popular with lots of lovely dishes to try.

We made the decision not to have a coffee morning due to the weather and time of the year, so we held the raffle on Saturday night.

We had quite a lot of visitors a few being on a rally for the first time. We would like to thank John and Margaret for help with the stewarding and doing the quizzes and also Sue and Gary for doing the food and play your cards right. It all seemed to go very well.

Sunday morning was fine but windy. Most left by lunchtime. Thanks to everybody that helped to make it a very good weekend.

Tony & Ann Fuller

**Carbon Monoxide Kills!**  
**NEVER** put a **BBQ** in your  
**Tent or Awning!**



**Carbon monoxide fumes from BBQs are invisible, odourless, and lethal. Even if you think it's safe, and the flames have died down, don't do it. The smouldering coals may be warm, but they may kill you. Even with the tent doors open. Even just in the porch. Please don't do it!**

**Winter Youth Rally**  
**Silverwood Scout Camp February 2014**

Well, February soon came round again and, with it came the Winter Youth Rally, one of our favourite meets of the year. The weather isn't always funny, but the Youth always are.

We arrived on Friday evening and set the van up in the car park. Quite a few of the Youth had already arrived from other DAs. The ground was, as usual, very wet from all the recent rainfall, but the camping area was relatively good. We saw Robert and Nola Baldwin's car pass, to drop Hollie off by the field and, a short while later, Paul and Charlotte arrived.

We went to the hall, where the usual welcome meal of burgers and hotdogs was being served, and saw Hollie Baldwin doing her tribute to cousin Danni by being centre of attention. I am always proud that, despite our numbers being much lower than those of some DAs, our Youth and, Hollie in particular, are always at the forefront of things. Paul and Charlotte, as usual, were enjoying the evening and the scene was set for a great rally.

Les and I were on breakfast duty with the EYDA leaders on Saturday morning, so had to be up early to start cooking the full English, by the end of which, the sports were almost ready to start.

I accompanied John Hawtin and a few other leaders to stores to sort out the marquee for the Yorkshire Region Youth Rally at Autherthaws Farm, whilst Les, Paul and Charlotte stayed and helped with the sports. Danni Baldwin turned up at lunchtime and paired up with Hollie to present, maybe not the strongest team in the sports, but certainly the loudest and one of the most popular.

Saturday evening saw tea, followed by Andy Wilson from Scotland entertaining with the DJ Pudz Disco, whilst we leaders adjourned to the

cold leaking hut next door. We checked in a couple of times to make sure everyone was okay and enjoying themselves; we didn't need to worry. Danni and Hollie still had the HDA Baldwin groupies laughing and everyone was full of the spirit of the meet.

Sunday morning saw Paul and Charlotte mucking in to cook breakfast, including some unsavoury looking fried eggs, then the Yorkshire Region Chairman's quiz, where the youth were tested by Christine Archer's camping and general knowledge questions.

Hollie and Danni had to leave before the closing ceremony, so we said our goodbyes and they left site, having had another great weekend. The closing ceremony saw John Hawtin thanking the youth, the leaders and representatives from Region Council for making the meet so successful, before Christine Archer replied and closed the meet. We now look forward to the Yorkshire Region Meet at Autherthaws Farm, near Selby, on 9th to 11th May and hope to see more of our HDA Youth attending.

Vince & Lesley O'Neill  
Proud Youth Leaders. HDA

## **Steward's Report - Marsh Farm**

Geoff kindly signed the site for us on Thursday, as we would be late on Friday, due to work and certainly did a great job, as several people commented on how easy it was to find the site.

We arrived at 7.15pm and were really pleased to see the field nearly full. We were told that a couple of units had experienced a bit of trouble getting through the mud just inside the gate, but nothing too serious. We got set up and directed a couple of latecomers to their pitches. We decided to collect fees in the morning, as it was quite dark and, with so many units, it would probably take a while to get round everyone.

Gerry Hawtin came to see us and we had a lovely, relaxed evening, chatting and having a laugh. When Gerry left, we retired to bed, but woke in the night to the van rocking like a North Sea Ferry and were unsure what view we would have in the morning, the rolling hills of Shepley, or Ostend Ferry Port.

Saturday saw the arrival of Peter and Lesley Cobb, who came to preside over her last meet as Chair of HDA. We set off to collect the fees at about 10am and managed to catch all but a handful by about 12.30pm. The weather was a bit cool, so it was nice nipping into people's vans, where everyone had their heating on. It was lovely to see so many visitors, with members of CYDA, MCS, BCC, YDA and a large contingent from Leeds DA, who had come to celebrate Lesley O'Neill's 50th birthday. Nigel and Elaine Peak arrived on site and were the final unit of the weekend to arrive. We had caught up with all but 3 people by Saturday evening and been out to get raffle prizes.

We adjourned for, supposedly, a drink at the pub for Lesley's birthday, but actually went to a surprise party for her, organised by our LDA friends, at 7pm down the road in the church hall, and had a great night, returning to site at 11.30pm.

Sunday saw a welcome change in the weather, with the previous chill wind having given way to a gentle breeze and the grey skies opening up to a blue sky and beautiful sunshine. We had the coffee morning outside and Lesley gave her final address of her term as Chair. The raffle ran very well and a few of our visitors won prizes. We closed the coffee morning and people dispersed to walks, shopping trips to Holmfirth, the pub, or just relaxing on site. I only had to tow one motorhome off the field and, when we left site at about 5pm, everyone had driven off under their own steam, with all our visitors saying what a lovely time they had spent with us.

Vince & Lesley O'Neill

## GUIDANCE NOTES FOR WEEKEND MEET STEWARDS

From January 1st 2008, Huddersfield DA weekend meets will commence at noon, 12.00h.

Stewards are not expected to arrive at 12.00h as they may have work or other commitments.

The first person to arrive at the meet must act as temporary steward until an Officer of the DA or appointed Steward for the meet arrives.

It is the responsibility of the appointed Stewards to ensure the site is signed.

Appointed Stewards may ask someone who will arrive at the site before them to sign the meet, giving thought to members who may never have been to the site.

Members arriving at 12.00h must recognise that signs may not yet be in place.

Members arriving on the site before the Appointed Steward must be prepared to move their units if requested as areas for Youth, Catering Teams and Marquees may be required.

A space for the Appointed Steward must be left vacant near the entrance to the meet, although the Steward may choose not to camp there.

Members on site (Each Unit) may reserve only **ONE** space for friends/family.

## Basic Camping & Caravan Club Rules

1. The steward is a volunteer. Help the steward to help you by observing the rules.
2. All vehicles to be restricted to 5mph on the meet field. Learner drivers are not allowed.
3. Try to restrict movement of vehicles when wet to prevent damage to the field.
4. Please do not allow your children to play ball games, fly kites etc. close to camping units, as damage is easily caused and expensive to repair.
5. It is strongly recommended that all units carry a suitable BSI and/or F.O.C. approved fire extinguisher. Fire buckets should be placed outside the front of the unit at all times.
6. Chemical toilets must not be taken/washed or primed at drinking water points and only emptied at designated elsan disposal points.
7. Motorhome owners should not open waste water tanks until they have left the camping field. Waste water containers should be emptied around the perimeter of the camping field, unless there is a designated waste water point. (DO NOT USE THE ELSAN POINT).
8. All animals should be kept under control and must not be allowed to run loose on the field.  
Recommended: length of lead when tethered is a maximum of 2 metres. Animals must be exercised away from the units.
9. Generators are permitted and must be used reasonably. It is expected that generators should not be used for more than 4 hours each day, unless for medical reasons. Generators should not be used between the hours 9pm to 10am.
10. There should be no noise between 11pm and 7am.
11. Each pitch should be left clear of litter at the end of the meet and a careful check made before leaving the field that nothing has been left behind.