



# The Hopbine

News from Wigley Orchard and St Michaels Caravan Parks • May 2018 • Issue 65

## The house that we built



An aerial shot of Brian and Sandra's new house at St Michaels, taken by builder Chris Steventon

So Brian and Sandra moved into their new house as planned on 27th November and unbelievably have lived there for nearly six months. Far from being distraught at leaving her home of 32 years, Sandra says she can't now imagine living anywhere else! Many thanks to builder Chris Steventon, his dad Paul and assorted tradespeople for doing such a fine job of building the house, and of course to architect Rob Perrin for designing it exactly as we wanted it.

St Michaels is much closer to the shops in Tenbury – handy if you run out of something or just need one item for a special

recipe – but further from the doctor, dentist and our favourite fish and chip shop which are all in Bromyard! And further too from the Baiting House where Brian has been captain of the crib team for more years than he cares to remember. Although the views are less spectacular, the surrounding countryside is beautiful.

John and Hannah are similarly well settled in Bank House and are busy making it their own – there's lots of space to fill after living in a mobile home for so long. And Bramble is delighted to have such a big garden to run around in.

## New legislation – GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect on 25th May. This new law is designed to allow you to have more control over the data held about you and how it is used. All businesses within the European Union are required to comply.

We will send you a separate statement to let you know how we deal with the data we hold about you and what responsibilities we have relating to that data, and also what rights you have concerning your personal data which we hold.

## Gas prices

Gas prices are up 20% since 2017 and 36% since 2016 – so keep an eye on how much you are using!

## Bins

Last year we spent over £3,000 on having our park bins emptied.

It would help us a great deal if you could ensure you follow the rules about recycling.

- The bin with an orange lid is for recyclable materials which should be left in a clear bag.
- The bin with a grey lid is for general waste which should be left in a black bag.
- The small bins are for all glass.

If you need more advice we have an explanatory paper at reception.

## Have your say

If you have any stories or photographs for the next issue of Hopbine, please send them to [ronsmum@btconnect.com](mailto:ronsmum@btconnect.com) or telephone Sandra at St Michaels on 01568 750665. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Hello and goodbye

We welcome these new owners:

**Jonathan Fineberg** from Manchester at St Michaels

**Jane Jiggins** from Worcestershire at Wigley Orchard

We say a sad goodbye to **Jim and Val Chance** who retired from caravanning at Wigley Orchard at the end of last season.

Jim was evacuated to Stoke Bliss during the ~~Boer War~~ 2nd World War and went to school here. He grew up and joined the Marines. By the 1960s he had left the Marines, married Val and bought a caravan at Wigley Orchard – he probably knows more about Stoke Bliss than most of the people who live here.

He and Val are sorry to leave Wigley after so many years and plan to come to visit us and stay in one of our letting caravans.

(We have sited a very nice 2018 Willerby Granada on Jim's old pitch 136.)

## New tractor at Wigley



This is the tool (according to John) to finally subdue the briars and bushes at the top of the park and to open it out for access for visitors. It's designed to have a low centre of gravity and be stable and easy to manoeuvre on slopes – it was originally built for Italian vineyards which are often on steep hillsides but we doubt if grapes will thrive at Wigley.

On page 2 – a new caravan arrives and John dances on ice

## New caravans

At Wigley Orchard we have an **ABI St David** which is already on hire on pitch 146, and a **Willerby Rio Gold** on pitch 160 – up in the trees. Shown being craned into position in our photograph is:

**Willerby Granada** 38 x 12, 2 bedroom  
£46,600

At St Michaels we have a **Willerby Skye** £39,995 (including siting and connections) and a **Swift Biarritz** due for delivery in the next couple of months

Details of caravans for sale are published on the website. Go to [www.wigleyorchard.co.uk](http://www.wigleyorchard.co.uk) or [www.stmichaelscaravans.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelscaravans.co.uk) and follow the links to the **For Sale** page.



The new Granada takes off ...

## Used caravans

We have a good selection of used caravans available for sale at Wigley Orchard. All are ready sited with central heating and double glazing and with two bedrooms from around £10,000. Come and ask at reception if you are interested in any of these:

2015 **ABI Oakley**, pitch 113 £25,600

2014 **Willerby New Hampton**, pitch 121 £22,500

2003 **BK Lulworth**, pitch 116 £14,995

2004 **Willerby Manor**, pitch 149 £11,650

2002 **Willerby Granada**, pitch 13 £10,250

At St Michaels we offer a choice of models from 2016 and 2017 from around £26,000.



... and arrives on its new pitch

## It's not what you know ...part 2



Following our twin granddaughters' appearance on the Nasdaq billboard in Times Square last June (see Hopbine No 64), Henry's turn came when he went to work with his mother on "take your son or daughter to work" day in April.

Our daughter-in-law works for Nasdaq and not only did Henry have his starring role in Times Square, he also got to press the button to release the confetti at the closing bell on the stock exchange floor. It's a Nasdaq tradition to shower confetti when a new company is listed.

## Dancing on ice?



"The mower is going to Finland in the morning" – a sentence I didn't think I'd ever hear, or type, but off to Finland the mower did indeed go, on the back of a very big truck. John and his team mates Paul (Blonty) Clarke and Toby Grace followed by air a few days later.

They were taking part in the 12-hour Leikkuri Le Mans lawn mower Grand Prix. The race is held outside the rural town of Lavia in southern Finland on the frozen Lake Karhijarvi, 124 miles north east of Helsinki. Drivers have 12 hours to complete as many laps as they can around the 1900 metre course – a test of endurance for mowers and drivers alike.

February in Finland is mostly dark, with

daylight for only five hours a day, and temperatures can drop to as low as -13C.

42 teams started the race, including 18 from the UK. John and his team completed 129 laps – a total distance of 245km. Their best speed was 37.16 km/h. They finished 29th but were dropped one place for inadvertently using a non-sanctioned tyre with slightly long studs.

John said, "We had some trouble with punctures and lack of front end grip in left hand corners. At the end of the race our mower was mostly held together with cable ties and duct tape.

"But we all enjoyed it and we can't wait to go back next year!"

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