

# The Apple Tree

News from St Michaels Caravan Park • August 2021 • Issue 5

## Grey Gables in bloom!



John made the hanging shelves on the patio (above). Brian has some stunning poppies in his wild flower meadow on the front lawn (above right). The hanging baskets outside the reception office look glorious in the sunshine – and brighten up a wet day too!



## Welcome to the park

We welcome Ron and Angela Nipper (August) and Mr and Mrs Poole (October) as new owners on the park. We hope they will enjoy their holiday home at St Michaels for many years to come.

## No more holidays!

From next year we will no longer be offering caravans for holiday hire at St Michaels. It has been a successful venture since we developed the park, when it had just six caravans, and it has enabled us to continually order new units from the manufacturers.

On the plus side we will no longer be tied to the park on three or four days every week to deal with arrivals and departures.

On the minus side we will not (for much longer) have a ready stock of nearly new pre-owned caravans ready sited and connected and available for sale. In future the buying process will be more drawn out, involving stock available at dealers or dependant on manufacturers' build programmes.

## Accident on the park!

In early July Brian was manoeuvring the Land Rover and trailer and concentrating on avoiding Annabel, who was behind him, so he engaged forward gear and ran over Henry.



Miraculously Henry survived although wounded and carried on working. He needed a new plastic chassis and when it arrived Ray and Harry from Teme Valley Tractors operated on him on our patio table.

At the same time Sandra was entertaining a friend who is a nurse, so when I reported that Henry had completed his operation and was being sewn up, she thought I had a direct line to Worcester Royal operating theatre! She obviously thought Henry was a real person.

He survived his operation and is now back at work.

## Covid-19

We are continuing all our safety procedures after "freedom day" so please continue to let us know when you visit the park, use the sanitiser dispenser at reception and wear a mask if you come into the office.

Remember, in your caravan **ventilation** is your friend.

## Have your say

If you have any stories or photographs for the next issue of The Apple Tree, 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!

## Pat and Frank



After retreating to St Michaels when their house was flooded in February last year, Pat and Frank Tan finally returned home to Church Street in Tenbury Wells at the end of July after sixteen months in three different caravans on the park. They have celebrated two wedding anniversaries (one golden), three birthdays (one 70th), two mother's days and two father's days during their stay with us, as well as all the lockdowns and pandemic restrictions. We'll miss them, but we wish them every happiness in their "new" old home!

## Staycation boom!

Everybody wants a staycation this year – caravan parks across the country have never been so busy.

But the production of new caravans is suffering. The so-called pingdemic is asking workers to self isolate. Not only are manufacturers struggling because of shortages of labour and supplies they are increasingly worried about prices – especially of timber and steel.

The result is that virtually none of the manufacturers is prepared to make a call and set prices for 2022. We have ordered new models with no information on price. We hope sanity will prevail and the ones we have chosen will come at a reasonable rate eventually.

Our experience is probably typical of most UK caravan parks. We had sold out of available stock in June and holiday bookings are full through to late September.

If you are considering an upgrade to a new caravan, even in 2023, please speak with Brian as soon as possible. It will be a tricky process but if you tell us what you want we will make every effort to help.

## Electric cars?

Are you thinking of buying an electric car? Would you use an EV charging point at the park? Please email Brian if you are interested.

## CARAVANS FOR SALE

At the end of this season we will have the following units for sale priced from around £35,000. The present market enables us to offer generous part exchange values for trade-in caravans.

Pitch 18  
2019 **Willerby Shrewsbury** 35 x 12

Pitch 30  
2018 **Swift Biarritz** 38 x 12

Pitch 31  
2020 **Willerby Avonmore** 32 x 12

All the above have two bedrooms, are fully connected and have a timber deck, double glazing and central heating.

We also have the new long-awaited 2021 **Atlas Debonair** at £57,000 (see below).

## Rubbish

Please read and remember the notice about separating recycled rubbish from general "landfill" The notice is in the window next to the bins. Also pass it on to any guests who use your caravan.

## Sewage – remember P, P and P

What goes down your drain is only

### poo, pee and paper

Anything else should be separated and included in the waste disposal system. Our new sewage treatment plant is working well but it does not like material that will not decompose. We spent £25,000 on the new plant in February and hope it will continue to work properly for many years to come. You can help!

## Pitch fees

We understand the VAT rate for holiday businesses, which was temporarily reduced to 5%, will change to 12.5% on 1st October and increase to 20% next April.

We expect pitch fees for 2022 to attract the 12.5% rate.

If you have not yet switched to a 12 month pitch licence and wish to do so for next year, please email Brian before 30th November.

## LOCAL NEWS

### St Michaels College

The decision to close St Michael's international college (known as King's St Michael's College) in May last year means that the future of one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture is in doubt.

The college was home to students from all over the world and had an international reputation, but Covid-19 and restrictions on travel meant that the college was no longer viable and it was decided to close.

St Michael's College and the adjoining church, which are joined by a covered walkway, date back to the middle of the 19th century. They were designed by Henry Woodyer, who was also involved in the restoration of St Mary's Church in Tenbury. He had a very distinctive style based on designs for church buildings that were popular from 1250 to 1340.

The same building housed the former College of St Michael and All Angels, a boys school founded by Frederick Ouseley in 1856 to provide a model for the performance of Anglican church music. Financial difficulties forced its closure in 1985.

The 1986 film *The Worst Witch* was shot at the college.

So what now for this remarkable building?

### New village hall

St Michael's Village Hall was formally reopened with much pomp and circumstance on 19th July. The hall has been extensively refurbished thanks to a lottery grant of £68,200 – 70% of the total cost of the project. Go to [stmichaels-village.co.uk](http://stmichaels-village.co.uk) to see what's on at the hall.

### Tenbury Post Office

When Tenbury Post Office was moved from its original home in Teme Street, it could be found (with some difficulty) in the back of Bowketts. When Bowketts closed there was no post office — but now it's found a new home in the Spar in Teme Street, which means you can post a parcel or buy a stamp up to 10 o'clock at night!

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## The new Atlas Debonair

This holiday home is 13 ft wide and has comfortable free-standing sofas, a stylish gas fire and a contemporary sink unit in the fully fitted kitchen. Ask Brian if you would like to see inside.



## St Michaels Caravan Park

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