



Cover4Caravans
Specialist Caravan Insurance

Cover4Caravans e-Newsletter

Issue 9 December 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the Cover4Caravans newsletter.



2012 is nearly upon us.

This introduction will be all about thank you's!

I would like to start by thanking all of you for your business.

You are not numbers to us but individual people whose business we value greatly. I hope that the way we deal with you demonstrates this belief.

Secondly I would like to thank Amtrust for their generous donation of an iPad for our Christmas Caption Competition – this really is a prize worth winning. I love my iPad and I am really looking forward to judging your entries.

Finally a big thank you to my Cover4Caravans team. They have performed fantastically during 2011 and I am very proud of them all.

Keep it up team!

Watch out for our new branding in 2012 – January promises to be a very exciting month for us here at Cover4Caravans.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard

Richard Burgess

Director, Cover4Caravans
richardb@alanblunden.co.uk

Keep on blogging at Cover4Caravans!

Here at Cover4Caravans we like to keep our customers informed and there is no better way to do this but on our very own blog!

Here you can read the news and often bizarre views from Director Richard Burgess, Manager Michael Stammers and Assistant Manager Sophie Morris as well as helpful hints on caravanning, customer testimonials, frequently asked questions and much more.

You can also tell us about your favourite caravan destination in our "Wish You Were Here" category, you never know you may help other caravanners in choosing a breakaway!

Log on and see what all the fuss is about at www.cover4caravans.co.uk and our blog is on the right hand side!

Cover4Caravans coming to Facebook & Twitter!

If you thought Facebook and Twitter were only for youngsters then think again. You may be surprised at the number of people you know who use these social networks on a regular basis to communicate with friends and colleague.

You may also like to know that we at Cover4Caravans are also on these sites and we provide information, news and views from the Caravan Insurance world.

Why not log on and connect with us at www.facebook.com/cover4caravans <<http://www.facebook.com/cover4caravans>> or on Twitter @Cover4Caravans



Exclusive AmTrust (Europe) Caption Competition

For your chance to win a brand new iPad2 Wi-Fi 3G 32GB,
have a look at the picture below and give us a caption:

Please submit your entry by email to sophiem@alanblunden.co.uk or post to our address, shown in the contact information section.

Closing date for entry is 31st December 2011



It's all change next year. Look out for our new branding in 2012!



Caravan Winter Advice

Now that winter is upon us, many will be preparing their vans for winter. Below are some useful tips to follow to protect our valuable assets.

- Ensure that all water is emptied, including draining the heater, cleaning the toilet and emptying the liquid flush if applicable.
- Wrap pipe lagging around any filters.
- Remove the battery and take home to charge over the winter period.
- Wash and give a coat of polish it will make it a lot easier to clean next spring.
- Remove all clothes, sleeping bags and electrical equipment.
- Gel crystals or table salt left in a couple of saucers around the van help to soak up any moisture in the air.
- Leave all doors, wardrobes and cupboard doors ajar to allow an uninterrupted flow of air to circulate throughout the interior.
- Stand seat covers up on end to allow air to circulate around them.
- Leave curtains open. This will show would-be thieves anything of value has been removed.
- Remove the shower head and leave all taps turned on.
- Wherever you are storing your van, it is essential that the gas valves on top of the cylinders are closed or the regulators (if a clip-on type) are disconnected from the cylinders and caps or cloths are fitted over the ends of any open pipework.
- If possible move your caravan every 6 – 8 weeks to help preserve the tyres.



Caption Competition Winners Issue 8

Thank you to everyone who entered our last Cover4Caravans Caption Competition, we received a record number of entries! Here is a quick reminder of the photo.

Our runner ups were Mr Martyn Thomas from Doncaster, with:

'As battle time loomed Steve the stormtroopers nerves got the better of him!'

and...

Malcolm Douglas from Newcastle Upon Tyne, with:

'Ten seconds to blast off'

But the overall winner was Mr Jim Owens from Belfast, with his fantastic entry of:

'Make sure your insurance is up to date as severe wind can damage your caravan.'

Many congratulations to Jim Owens who has received his Kindle.



News From The Pitch

Love it or hate it!

A lorry carrying over 20 tonnes of Marmite, crashed into a caravan in South Yorkshire. The contents of the lorry spilled all across the motorway, causing the M1 to close between junctions 32 and 33. A huge clean up operation went under way to prevent any further damage to the area and wildlife. This was a major concern for the Environmental Agency, who was called out to deal with the mess. There was no note of anyone being hurt in accident.

Twister comes to Wales!

Wales is a wet country at the best of times; end of November you anticipate freezing temperatures, strong winds and heavy rain. But when an 80mph tornado whips through Sandy Beach Caravan Park in Anglesey, I don't think anyone could prepare for that! The tornado destroyed 6 caravans and ripped through the park leaving a path of ruin. Luckily being out of the caravan season no one was hurt, and the staff ran to safety.

Christmas Markets in Graz, Austria

Austria has plenty to offer around this festive time of year. The gleam of Christmas lights, the atmospheric advent markets, the ice manger and the giant advent calendar in the Graz city hall are just a few of the many highlights visited each year.

Visitors can come to this beautiful and cultural city of Austria to look at the stunning handmade Christmas tree decorations, handicrafts and gift ideas for family and friends. Whilst taking a stroll around this magical place, the smell of Christmas cookies, mulled wine and punch wafts through the air getting everybody into the festive spirit. The atmosphere is bustling but relaxed at the same time and there is something for everybody.

Graz also has a very cultural feel to it. There are a number of concerts which take place during this season, performed both in the concert halls & churches. Choirs and folk music groups bring the Christmas traditions to the city.

The magical ice manger is a must see for both locals and visitors. Life-size figures are surrounded by a manger which has been skilfully carved out of 50 tons of crystal clear ice. So much time and effort is put in to create this beautiful scene as individual parts have to be replaced every year.

Visitors gather in front of the city hall each year where a small village square is transformed into a Christmas market offering treats for the body & soul and other handicrafts. Children can enjoy the carousel which is a popular and much loved tradition in Graz. Along with the carousel, children are able to enjoy the toys and nativity scene with real sheep which really add to the Christmassy atmosphere!

Another must see is the Styrian Arts & Crafts Market on Faerberplatz which has been running for over 25 years! The pottery sold here is only of the finest quality and is a must have to purchase when visiting this magnificent city.

Want to be part of this magical experience? Hurry! Book your flight and accommodation today!





Get away to...

Robin Hood Caravan & Camping Park

2011 has been an award winning year for Rebecca and Damian from the Robin Hood Caravan & Camping Park, situated in the heart of picturesque Ryedale. Having started the year with an award for Outstanding Customer Service from the local Malton and Norton Awards, they were recently named as winners for the same category at the highly coveted White Rose Awards by Welcome to Yorkshire.

Robin Hood Caravan & Camping Park is ideal for young families and couples wanting a relaxing break in a peaceful, countryside location. Close to the magnificent Castle Howard, 10 miles from the thrills and fun of Flamingoland, 15 miles from historic York and 10 miles from the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and Heartbeat country makes Robin Hood Caravan and Camping Park an ideal touring location.

With a wide range of caravans for hire and for sale and with fully serviced pitches for touring caravans there is something to suit everyone.

Facilities include a play area to keep the kids amused, fully heated shower block, laundry facilities, a small off-licence/shop catering for your basic needs and a mobile fish and chip shop calling every weekend. Within walking distance of the park there is also a local pub serving evening meals, a restaurant and a larger village shop.

Follow their antics at www.twitter.com/robinhoodpark and www.facebook.com/robinhoodcaravanpark to find out what improvements are being made to the park over the winter period.

Contact Details:

Robin Hood Caravan Park
Slingsby
York. YO62 4AP

Tel: 01653 628391

Email: info@robinhoodcaravanpark.co.uk

Web: www.robinhoodcaravanpark.co.uk



*Get away to....
Tell us about your favourite "Get away" for a chance to see your article published in a future edition of our e-Newsletter. Email your review, with photo's, to sophiem@alanblunden.co.uk. If we publish your review you will also receive a £20.00 M&S Voucher!*



A – Z of Caravanning

V – Vehicle Identification Number often called a vin number

All caravans manufactured since 1992 by NCC members are recorded on the CRIS database by their unique 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). This VIN and the caravan description are recorded on a Touring Caravan Registration Document, which is sent to the caravan's registered keeper.

W – Water Carriers

Water carriers come in all shapes and sizes from foldaway collapsible ones to sturdy ones that come with a handle and can be rolled along, don't forget when looking to purchase a carrier to remember the weight of it when it is full. It is a good idea to get into the habit of washing out all containers using a suitable cleaning chemical before you fill it with fresh water at the start of the trip.

X – Xmas

Well...we realise it isn't caravan related but as they say 'tis the season to be jolly'

Christmas Pud Cupcakes!!

These great cupcakes will amaze your family and friends and are simple to make!

Preparation time 15 mins – Cooking Time 20 mins

Serves 12 (and you are able to freeze them un-iced)

Ingredients

- 50g dark chocolate , in chunks
- 140g butter , plus extra for greasing
- 100ml soured cream
- 3 eggs , lightly beaten
- 140g self-raising flour
- 140g caster sugar
- 100g ground almonds
- 6 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 85g dried sour cherries , plus a few extra to decorate

To decorate

- 250g Icing sugar, sifted
- 1 tsp custard powder, sifted
- 12 small bay leaves

Method

1. Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5. Place a 12-hole silicone muffin tray on a baking sheet or butter a non-stick 12-hole muffin tin, and stick two criss-crossing strips of baking parchment in each hole.
2. Melt the chocolate and butter over a low heat. Cool a little, and then stir in the soured cream and eggs. Mix the flour, sugar, almonds, cocoa and baking powder in a bowl. Pour in the chocolate and stir until smooth, then stir in the cherries. Spoon into the muffin holes so they are 3/4 full, then bake for 20 mins. Cool in the tins. Can now be frozen in plastic bags for 3 months.
3. To decorate, mix the icing sugar and custard powder with 2 tbsp water to make a thick icing. Remove the muffins from the tins and cool on a rack. Cut off any rounded tops, stand upside-down on the rack, then spoon icing over. Leave to set, then top with bay leaves and cherries. Best eaten on the day.



Vote for your favourite Caravan of the Year and win a Kindle

Each year caravan lovers are bombarded with recommendations of what the best caravan of the year was, but surely it's much better to ask the people who actually live with these tourers all year round?

Well, this December you can vote for your favourite caravan of the year with CaravanTimes.co.uk. CaravanTimes is an online magazine that covers everything related to touring, with daily news updates, in-depth features and video reviews.

This year the CaravanTimes team are asking their readers to vote for their favourite camp site, dealership and towcar, as well as deciding which tourer is crowned of Caravan of the Year 2011.

What's more, if you take the time to share your thoughts on what was this year's best caravan then you could be in with a chance of winning a free Amazon Kindle e-reader.

Runners-up prizes include a classic caravan calendar to help you plan your 2012 adventures and a book on the history of Sprite Caravans.

If this sounds like a perfect Christmas present for you or your loved ones [click here](#) to enter the competition before the closing date of Friday 16th December.



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Crystal Warrington – Account Handler
Daniel Watson – Account Handler
Natalie Hill – Account Handler
Sarah Clarke – Account Handler
Tony Thorne – Account Handler



Meet the Team – Ann Thompson

Q1 What is your role at Cover4?

A *I am the Personal Assistant to Cover4Caravan's Director, Richard Burgess*

Q2 How long have you worked here?

A *I have worked for organisation for 9 years and have been Richard's PA for the last 5 years.*

Q3 What's great about working here?

A *Management and Directors are very supportive and encourage staff in their self development.*

It is a great environment to work in and the Cover4Caravans team have a strong bond.

Q4 Favourite Food?

A *Chocolate! I love all types of chocolate – white, milk or dark.*

I could quite happily eat chocolate all day long

Q5 Favourite holiday destination?

A *Anywhere in the USA – have only been to a couple places in America and Las Vegas has to be the best place so far!*

Q6 Three Wishes?

A *Continued health of all my family and friends*

To get married before I am 30! Not long to go.....!!!

To win the lottery

Q7 Favourite football team?

A *Sorry but I have no interest in football itself so not able to answer this question.*

Q8 Tell us a joke?

A *So I was getting into my car, and this bloke says to me*

"Can you give me a lift?"

I said "Sure, you look great, the world's your oyster, go for it."

This newsletter was produced by Aura Design.

We are a design and branding agency based in The Old Truman Brewery on Brick Lane. Our clients range from market leading global brands through to start-up companies, and we tailor our services and approach accordingly. We fill a genuine gap in the marketplace: we provide top tier external agency experience and services, but with the approachability and accessibility of an in house design team.

Our clients enjoy the best of both worlds.

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