

Welcome to this edition of the Murvi Club newsletter, the first under our new name, **the MURVI club**. At this year's AGM I took over the daunting task of editing the newsletter from Jess. You may be thinking that it's been a long time since you saw a newsletter, and you'd be right. Over a year in fact. I just hope I can match up to the previous high standards under Jess's editorship.

Of course what appears in the newsletter depends to a large part on all of you taking time off from the pure unadulterated enjoyment of your Murvis to put pen to paper (or rather finger to keyboard). So a big Thank you to those of you who were kind enough to send me items however big or small. Don't forget, you can send me contributions at any time during the year to adrian@sumption.me.uk - I will make sure that I save them for the next edition of the newsletter which will hopefully appear roughly every 6 months.



Multicoloured Murvis at Exeter

I've recently returned from an enjoyable, if rather windy, weekend at the Midsummer Motorhome Show at the Westpoint Showground near Exeter. It's a very pleasant setting in a lovely area, but can you believe it, a four day stay with no facilities to empty grey water - their advice is to 'take it home with you'! No wonder that some campers surreptitiously left their grey water taps just slightly open 'by accident'. What's more when one of our local members came to visit for the afternoon they wouldn't let him stay for the evening unless he paid the full £60 weekend fee.

The Murvi Club excelled itself at the evening entertainments with our display of dubious (not dirty) dancing - Angela, take a bow! It was a challenge finding sufficient of interest at the show to fill four days, so Di Johnson's recent article in MMM was a great help finding places of interest locally. The short cycle ride to Topsham via the delights of Darts Farm, then cycling on to the Turf Inn via the foot ferry was certainly the highlight of my weekend. However it was also just a short bus ride into Exeter, a city with a lot to interest visitors, so in the end there was plenty to do.

As a club we will probably only go to one show a year unless members feel strongly that they would wish for more, so let us know your views - which shows would you most like to go to?

Adrian Sumption, Editor

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

There are a number of Murvi meets coming up. Do come and join us if you can!

Scotland in September - We are planning a rally moving from site to site over a period of a couple of weeks. We plan to meet initially at Scone Palace Campsite on 4th September and then move slowly north, first along the East Coast ending up at Rosemarkie, and then Karin and I plan to carry on across to the North West. Contact Karin at karin@sumption.me.uk for more information. Plans are still fluid so it's always worth checking on the [Murvi Club](http://www.murvi.club) website to see if there is any further information.

Norfolk in November - A rally will be held on the weekend of 14-18 November at [Kelling Heath](http://www.kellingheath.co.uk) Campsite near to Sheringham on the North Norfolk Coast (see www.kellingheath.co.uk) - recently awarded "best holiday park" by VisitEngland. Further details and booking information will shortly be circulated by the organiser, Roger Pepper, but if you are interested in attending please put the date in your diary.

AGM 23rd March 2014 - Karin has been searching for suitable sites for next year's AGM. She has been looking for a venue further North and it looks as if we will probably be meeting at the C&CC site at Teversal in Nottinghamshire. As always we will make a long weekend of it from Thursday 20th until Monday 24th March 2014.

Buckler's Hard - September 2014 - Julia has organised for a Murvi meet at Buckler's Hard in the New Forest in September **next year**. For those of you who don't know it, Buckler's Hard is a delightful village on the banks of the Beaulieu River with a rich history of shipbuilding. The maritime museum in the village gives an insight into the history of this 18th century shipbuilding village focusing on its vessels including those built for Nelson's Navy.

Are you thinking of organising a get together with other Murvis? - If you are, don't forget that we have an exemption certificate which enables us to meet on land without a site licence (a farmer's field for example). If you want to know more about this please contact Roger Pepper.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

A FIRST EXPERIENCE OF THE EMERALD ISLE

We have just enjoyed two very interesting weeks in Ireland, but set off without much prior information. In contrast to trips to mainland Europe we have not seen anything much published on camping in Ireland. Observations were that there are not a lot of campsites, and they look expensive, but we also discovered the [SafeNightsIreland](#) stopover scheme. From the flurry of recent contributions some members obviously enjoy visiting regularly, but for the rest of you here are some of our experiences.

We all use our vans, and travel and sleep differently, so preferences for overnighing will be quite personal. Our usual holiday format is to park for two or three days and use our bikes and boots to explore the area. Hence, as relatively light sleepers, we prefer to use a reasonably defined site, with facilities being very secondary to location. The best source of campsite information we found is the Ireland Caravan Camping and Motorhome Guide which we obtained from Vicarious £4.50. This seemed comprehensive, fairly reliable and appeared to cover a large proportion of commercial sites. Safe Nights Ireland is a stopover scheme similar in principal to the motorhome scheme run for pubs in the UK. At €12.50 to join and a flat €10 per night stopover fee it seemed worth a try. For the joining fee access is provided to a downloadable file, and a website map of locations. The main problem is that it is, well, rather Irish. The addresses and location information is extremely variable and inconsistent, with co-ordinates in a variety of formats plotting in the nearest town centre rather than the location.

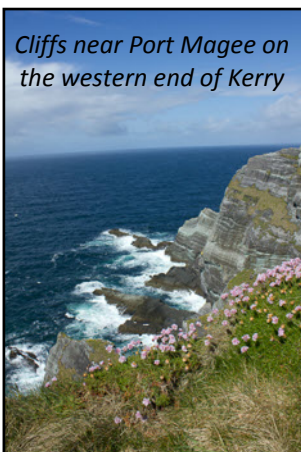
The other, interesting problem is of course the roads, which can be very narrow and bumpy. Any residual lusting that you may have for that large Hymer will be instantly dispelled when you meet an Irish lorry in a hurry, the slim profile of our Sprinter was very reassuring on occasions.

There are numerous ferry options, Pembroke and Fishguard to Rosslare, or the ferries from Stranraer in the north. We chose a midweek night crossing from Fishguard as being the cheapest, and also a pleasant drive through mid Wales from home in Shropshire. At 3½ hours the crossing is not really long enough for good sleep but we found a cabin usefully refreshing for the early morning start.

Leaving the ship at 06.30 the first priority was to turn along the coast and find a pleasant stop for breakfast. This highlighted a recurring problem, particularly in the south east, height barriers. It took us some time to find a reasonable pull off where we could park. There is a large traveller population and hence height barriers are common, and there are very few laybys or easy pull-off spots in many of the more populated areas.

After a very interesting day exploring the Wexford and Waterford coastline we chose a campsite at Tramore, to get a good night's sleep and plan what we might do next. The campsites that we used in the main tourist areas were friendly, clean and quite well equipped. Hook-ups and showers tend to be extra so it is possible to choose whether to use these facilities. They also generally had a kitchen plus dining area and lounge as there are quite a lot of cyclists and back packers.

As it was before the main holiday season we decided to head for the tourist hotspot of the Ring of Kerry and spent four nights at the far western end of the Iveragh peninsula on Mannix Point campsite enjoying some very interesting walking and cycling.



We then enjoyed a stunning drive around the remainder of Kerry and onto the less tourist infested Beara Peninsula and stayed at Castletown Bearhaven Golf Club site. This was rather like a well equipped Aire with hook-ups, toilet and showers etc. We signed in the book, put our money in the slot with golf green fees (€15/night) and enjoyed two nights in a convenient location with a day spent cycling the western half of this stunning peninsula which has amazing rock formations and an ever changing coastline.

And so on to our first test of the stopovers near Killarney National Park. We had worked out by now that even if the directions were rubbish, most stopovers are small businesses such as farms doing B&B, and these are well signposted. We were warmly welcomed in the yard next to the farmhouse, made to feel at home and the only disturbance was the arrival of the milk tanker at 5.00am, but that only happens every third day!



The Healy Pass, spot the blue Murvi

We then took the small ferry across the Shannon to Co Clare and spent three nights at a Flitney family stopover with Robert’s sister. In this area The Burren and Cliffs of Moher are well worth a visit.

Heading back east we stopped to explore The Rock of Cashel and local area, and again used a well signposted B&B stopover. This was very nice and quiet and our offer of the stopover €10 was refused as we had been “No trouble at all”.

The beauty of Ireland was proving to be that there are mountains everywhere, and so we moved on a little further to near Clonmel and the Comeragh Mountains. There were no sites or stopovers listed close enough for us to contemplate leaving the van on site for a day’s walking, but there was a tent symbol on the road map, so we headed for that. Sure enough we found what looked to have been a well equipped campsite which had been allowed to decay for a number of years. But, the friendly

owner turned out to be an experienced mountaineer and hill walker who furnished us with map and guide book for a stimulating walk, and again it was only €15/night.

Our trip finished with an interesting visit to the Irish National Heritage Park near Wexford, before parking near the sea for tea, once we had found somewhere with no height barrier, and catching the evening ferry home.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit, and whether you enjoy, walking, cycling, touring, visiting piles of old stones or just the relaxed atmosphere, there is something for you. Just make sure you traverse the Ring of Kerry in the same direction as all the tourist coaches.



Very friendly owners, and dogs at a stopover near Cashel – he really wants the marmalade.

From Robert & Christine Flitney

TOURING ROMANIA & BULGARIA WITH GB PRIVELEGE

In typical British fashion, I’ll start with the weather! It has been mixed but thankfully we didn’t suffer the flooding problems which affected Austria, Germany and Prague. We seemed to be on the edge of the system which caused those problems. So we have had very mixed weather with more wet days than sunny ones. Not quite what I was expecting, but apparently places like Transylvania normally have a high rainfall because of the Carpathian mountains. At least it is warm though, so I was able to pack away the thermals I was wearing all the way down through Northern and Central Europe. It’s currently 78 degrees in the van and despite an earlier thunderstorm the sun is now out again.



3 Murvis meet in Cegled, Hungary

At our overnight stop in Cegled, Hungary, we met up with Roger and Wendy Pepper, who are currently doing one of their extensive European tours and were staying on the same campsite. Before they set off, we were able to capture a photograph of three Murvis in Hungary!

It has been a very interesting trip. Romania is a beautiful country. It’s the size of the UK with only 20 million people, so has lots of green space. People are friendly, the roads aren’t too bad although most Romanian drivers seem to have a death wish – overtaking, undertaking and tailgating are art forms.

We went down a salt mine and explored Sighisoara, the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler, inspiration for Dracula. It is a world heritage site, with a lovely old town. We then toured Brasov, which is the tourist gem of Transylvania, with its baroque facades and one of Romania’s finest squares.

The campsites in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria have so far been impressive. A lot better than those I experienced in Turkey and Greece. They can become full even at this time of the year and the one we stayed at in Bucharest had a large French motorhome group, plus another from Slovenia, the inevitable Dutch and Germans and also some solo Brits.

Being in a group has its benefits as on our last night on one site the campsite owners give us a traditional meal with wine. They had a small barbecue area on the site where we all sat and ate a goulash feast. Transylvania has a high number of Hungarians, so at times it was more like being in Hungary.

Our visit to Bucharest, the capital, was interesting because of the Ceausescu era. The Black Sea and a beachside campsite provided a good contrast and our first spell of decent weather. It was cheap in Romania both for fuel and food, so eating out was painless. The wine was good at about £2 a bottle.

We are now in Bulgaria on the Black Sea coast. It is very different here compared with Romania. The tourism is very well developed and everything is less tired. It is obvious that Bulgaria has a tourism strategy, something lacking in Romania.

We are staying on a very nice campsite, only 200 metres from the beach and 100 metres from a very-well stocked 'Sparm' supermarket (it has the Spar logo!). Prices are not as cheap here as Romania, but I think that is the tourism influence. Apparently Bulgaria is generally a much poorer country than Romania, so I think we will see some differences as we head inland.

We still have some interesting days to come, with visits to medieval towns, the Valley of the Roses and a night staying in the car park of a winery! It has its own swimming pool, so I don't think it is a small one! The wine tasting starts in the afternoon, followed by dinner with wine in the restaurant. It's a good job we don't have far to stagger to the vans!

From Julia Wright

AGM 2013 OR ICE COLD IN WORCESTER



Brrrr.....

What a difference a year makes! Remember those balmy days at Abingdon in March 2012? This year's AGM near Worcester couldn't have been a more stark contrast. Freezing temperatures and a bitter easterly wind tested the resolve of those of us who stuck it out to the bitter end.



Intrepid walkers at the AGM

Thankfully the site we had chosen (Peachley Leisure in Lower Broadheath) had electric hookups and a heated toilet block with showers as well as a large room where we were able to get together each evening and where we held the club's AGM on Saturday evening. As has now become traditional we followed the AGM with a shared supper with members bringing along a wide range of delightful food - mostly home cooked - for us all to share and enjoy. If you haven't already done so, you can find out full details of what went on at the AGM by visiting the member's area of the club website at murviclub.org.uk.

Despite the bitter weather most people spent time over the weekend exploring the city of Worcester with its cathedral, museums and fascinating modern library building. And some of us even enjoyed, or should that be endured, a couple of walks in the area. Undeterred by snow and ankle deep mud in places we trudged across the fields to the banks of the River Severn where we all descended gratefully on a riverside pub which welcomed us, muddy boots and all. And then on Sunday we had a short walk over the fields to the Elgar museum in the village, Lower Broadheath being the birthplace of Elgar.

Let's pray for better weather for next year's AGM!



In the pub by the Severn

THESE ARE A FEW OF YOUR FAVOURITE SITES!

Garstang, Lancashire - CC CL and Caravan site/Caravan Club Handbook Page 402 North View

Good for a stopover on the way to Scotland or for exploring the local area Blackpool, Morecambe Bay and The Forest of Bowland. We were on our way to the Lakes for a long weekend. It was the end of November and so we were looking for hard standings and electricity. It is halfway between two junctions on the M6 a couple of miles off the road A6 which joins the junctions so easy for a stopover.

This is a small site with 15 pitches. There is a commercial section (10 pitches) and a Caravan Club CL section 5 pitches. The only difference is the CL has the pitches a bit further apart making for a more relaxed feel. The CL is open all year. The site has heated toilet and showers and frequent water points. There is also a small shop. Hard surfaced right onto the hardstandings. We spent a comfortable night there in a heavy frost. It was white over and the water points were frozen in the morning.

(Mr and Mrs McCormick £10 Inc. Electricity (November 2010) - see www.lancashirecaravansite.co.uk)

Fakenham Norfolk - CC CL Caravan Club Handbook Page 428 Barleywood

This was another site we dropped on, on our way somewhere else.

Lawned site with trees to one side and open views over fields and new tree planting to offer more shelter in the future. This site had shower and toilet facilities in two immaculate Portacabins, the showers had an honesty box system in place at 10p per minute. There was an information cabin which had a fridge and freezer in it. For sale were home cooked meals, cakes, ice creams and small bags of chocolates as well as other fresh produce. Most pitches had wooden picnic tables for use. There was also a fenced off area with a few Shetland ponies and chickens.

Miss L Goodhall £10 Inc Electricity (April 2011) - see www.barleywood.net

From Bob Moakes & Janet Parish

Beaulieu in the Dordogne - Les Isles, Boulevard Rodolphe du Turrenne, 19120 Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne.

We love touring France in our Camper Van. Our keen interest in water sports has led us to visit the west and south coasts of France. We also have friends in Brittany where we have enjoyed the splendid hospitality of our French hosts a friendship that has developed over several decades including weddings baptisms and fetes.

Last year we decided on our return from the South Coast of France to visit the Dordogne, close to the motorway was the medieval village of Beaulieu. We were especially lucky, fine sunny weather in May, a site on an island in the Dordogne and the Fete de la Fraise and the strawberry market and fair.

The camp site is conveniently situated close to the town but on its own island in the middle of the River Dordogne. We were able to walk from the site into the town for the celebrations and to visit the medieval village. The local cuisine was wonderful and just right to celebrate Jo's birthday.



We enjoyed a tour around the area and took the opportunity to buy some walnut oil from the local manufacturer. Now for the Strawberries. The Eight metre wide Tarte dela Fraise was a magnificent spectacular accompanied by celebrations from the locals.

It was a pleasure to enjoy water side campsite so close to the village attractions and historic buildings. Boat trips down the river and plenty of interests to enjoy - certainly worth a visit especially for Strawberry and Walnut lovers!

From Martin and Jo Cox

Chatsworth Caravan Club site - Baslow, Derbyshire

Set in a walled area/ large walled garden. Broken up into smaller areas and cul de sacs. Many trees and shrubs, green areas, small children's play area, reasonably well-stocked shop in reception. Baby/toddler bathroom (£5 key deposit). Direct access to the Park from campsite. Approx 20 mins walk to Chatsworth House and Gardens. Farm offers guinea pig handling, goat and cow milking demonstrations, tractor rides plus horses, sheep, pigs, chickens etc. Adventure playground excellently appointed with top notch activity equipment for young and older age groups, water play, treetop walkways, trampoline. There's a first aid post on site with magazines for parents/guardians to borrow and browse while the children play.

From Joyce Hopewell

Continued next page

Comps (near Beaucaire) in Languedoc-Rousillon - All the Aires France, Mediterranean region.

This is a delightful aire on the banks of the Gard near where the Gard and the Rhone join at Tarascon. There is a small charge for camping there (although nobody came to collect our money!) and the aire is very peaceful, set amongst the trees close to the village - in fact you have to drive through the bullring to get onto the aire. We were lucky enough to be able to park right on the riverbank where we watched the fishermen and saw a coypu swimming along the river.

Adrian & Karin Sumption



The aire at Comps

A WEEKEND IN A CAR PARK!

Orford – 27th to 30th September 2012



The ring of Murvis at Orford

Spend a weekend camped in a public car park! What a strange idea - or maybe not in this case. The car park at Orford in Suffolk is big, surrounded by trees and thanks to Ian Castle (a Murvi owner who lives in the village) we had a secluded corner of the car park to ourselves. But just to be sure we made a circle of wagons to guard against the marauding yachties.

Eight vans joined us there for the weekend, including Ian and his wife Joy, although for unknown reason they chose to make regular trips back to their house in the village (who needs a shower anyway!). Amenities in the car park were of course minimal (the public toilets closed at dusk in order to frustrate the drunks staggering from the pub across the road) but we're

pretty self sufficient in our Murvis, aren't we? That is, at least until your leisure batteries fail, as ours decided to.

For those who don't know it, Orford is a delightful small village on the Suffolk coast near Aldeburgh. It has a rich history with a castle dating back to the 12th century and a church whose origins lie in a similar era. A number of us did a village walk described in a leaflet supplied by Ian which took us round the village and highlighted the points of historical interest, most of which would have eluded us without the leaflet to guide us.

In many ways however it is the recent history of Orford which is most fascinating. Orford Ness is a bleak spit of shingle and marshland lying between Orford and the open sea and is now a nature reserve owned by the National Trust. But for much of the 20th century it was in the hands of the Ministry of Defence and was home to a weapons testing establishment as well as the 'Cobra Mist' cold war listening station. It was here that bombs were environmentally tested to ensure their safety when they were transported. They also had a sophisticated set up for monitoring and recording the trajectories of bombs when dropped from aircraft to help with more accurate targeting.



The lighthouse on Orford Ness

Many of us chose to brave the five minute boat trip across the river in order to visit the Ness over the weekend, but the major attractions of the village turned out to be the two pubs and the village bakery. I can vouch that their almond croissants are to die for! Saturday evening saw us all holed up in the Jolly Sailor for a meal to the strains of a local folk group, the Whalers, or maybe it was the Wailers, I never did quite work out which.



Orford village from the Ness

And finally, on Sunday morning, Ian, who is very knowledgeable birder and a stalwart of the British Trust for Ornithology, kindly led a group of us on a bird spotting walk around the village. Hidden amongst the stubble of a cornfield were not a host of golden daffodils (wrong time of year!) but a host of Golden Plovers – the only trouble was that they blended so well with their surroundings that they were virtually impossible to spot.

Adrian Sumption

AND THERE'S MORE.....

Since the last newsletter we've also enjoyed a couple more Murvi meets .

In November last year we had delightful weather for a get together at the York House campsite between Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby in North Yorkshire organised by club Secretary Roger Pepper. Whitby must be the fish & chip capital of the UK and who could resist? Apart from which it is a beautiful town with a rich history and a dramatic abbey and church perched high on a hill to the south of the town. The former railway line which ran near the campsite and towards Whitby has now been turned into a bridle path, so that as well as the local bus service we were also able to walk or cycle into Whitby.

We walked along the coast to the picture postcard village of Robin Hood's Bay with its steep winding streets and alleys. OK, it's a bit of a tourist trap but it in the most glorious setting nestled down in a deep valley amongst the sea cliffs. And as we discovered after painstaking research it does have some pretty good tea shops which are more than welcome at the end of a long and arduous coastal walk along the cliffs! So what is it with Murvi Owners and tea shops?

Then in February we had a reprise of last year's meet at the Setthorns campsite in the New Forest - what's more the weather was kind to us yet again.



GRANDCHILD ON BOARD

From Joyce Hopewell

Some members may have done this before, but for us, it was the first time

"Oooh, Audrey's got a TV too!" said granddaughter, as I removed the cover from the flat screen TV so she could watch her Mr. Benn DVD. Audrey is the name of our Morello, which we took delivery of 6 months ago.

When we put in our order we asked for an extra bunk so we could initiate granddaughter into the delights of going on holiday in our palace on wheels. Rex showed us how to set up the bunk on handover day, and I tried it for size and accessibility, but we had yet to use it for real. That was granddaughter's job.

At 3 years old, and rapidly approaching her 4th birthday, we took her away for her first trip - two nights at the Caravan Club site at Chatsworth in the last chilly days of May. Excitement was running high when we set off over what she called the "mountains" (Peak District), but she had yet to see where she would be sleeping. The van was set up for transporting passengers, which meant a bit of push and shove as the long sofa was transformed into a back seat with seat belts. The child seat was strapped into one of them, and I was strapped into the other; she wanted Nanny to sit next to her while Granddad got on with the driving. We were on familiar ground here as she'd already taken a preliminary trip in Audrey the Van with her dad sitting next to her.

On arrival, the seat was magicked back into a sofa while she and I took an exploratory walk around the campsite. She liked looking at the vans and asked why some of them had tents (awnings) on them. She also liked the walk we had in the grounds of Chatsworth, and the ice cream she had at the end of it. But would she like the bed?

She ate hungrily, watched Mr. Benn and had some stories. She liked having two tables in the van where she could do her colouring in, and was fascinated by the loo flush mechanism and the way the lights in the van could be changed to ambient blue. She happily got ready for bed. We made it up so that her head was on the driver's side, loaded it with the soft toys she'd brought and pulled the dividing curtain across, leaving a gap at the foot end for a bit of reassuring light to get through. Once in bed she made token gestures towards sleep but our expectations were realistically low. Rightly so too. She insisted on turning the whole lot around so her head was on the passenger side where she could peep around the curtain.

She proceeded not just to peep but to play, giggle, bounce, sing and generally be as naughty as she dared while we ate our meal and tried not to let on we were laughing too. At 10.25, her mum sent a text saying. "So is she asleep yet?!" and I firmly (but lovingly) read the riot act. She slept.

The next day we tired her out with a full day of walking through the parkland to Chatsworth House and a visit to the farm and adventure playground. That night she slept like a log. And she wants to go away in Audrey the Van again, claiming the bed is much better than the one she sleeps in at our house.



Mum's Chocolate Meringues (chewy and lovely!)

From Angela Emuss

From *The Times* "Eat" – extract from Katie Quinn Davies book called "What Katie Ate: Recipes and Other Bits and Bobs"
(With my observations in brackets!!)

- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tsp cornflour
- 1 tbsp espresso coffee powder
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder (plus extra for dusting – which I did not use, thought it would get messy!)
- 100g good quality dark chocolate finely chopped (that takes quite a bit of time)
- Half lemon
- 6 free range egg whites, at room temperature
- 300g caster sugar
- 1 tsp white vinegar (I only had white wine vinegar, but I think you can get white distilled vinegar)
- Whipped cream, to serve.

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 160c/Gas 3 and line two baking trays with baking paper. Place the cream of tartar, cornflour, coffee powder, cocoa powder and finely chopped chocolate into a small bowl. Stir to combine and set aside.
2. Wipe the inside of an electric mixer bowl with the cut side of the lemon to remove any traces of oil. Add the egg whites and beat on medium speed until soft and frothy and just starting to hold soft peaks. Turn up the speed and gradually add the caster sugar, beating until the mixture turns thick and glossy and holds stiff peaks.
3. Add the dry ingredients and the vinegar, then gently fold together using a large metal spoon - don't overwork the mixture – 5 or 6 folds should do it (I needed a few more stirs!). Take dessertspoonsful of the mixture and drop onto the prepared trays.
4. Bake for 1 hour or until the bases of the meringues are firm, then turn off the heat and leave them in the oven to cool - use a wooden spoon to keep the oven door ajar, if you wish. Serve dusted with cocoa (I left that off, as being a bit too messy for the ad hoc meal!!), with freshly whipped cream alongside.
5. Enjoy!!

Roasted Butternut Squash and Puy Lentil Salad

From Barry Tomlinson

Ingredients

- 2kg Butternut Squash, peeled and cut into cubes 2cm
- 1 tbsp Olive Oil
- Salt and Pepper
- 100g Puy Lentils
- 100g Rocket Spinach and Watercress mixed salad leaves
- 1 tsp Sesame Seeds, toasted
- 6 Spring Onions, sliced

Dressing ingredients

- 5 tbsp Olive Oil
- 3 tbsp Balsamic Vinegar
- 1 tbsp Tamari Soy Sauce
- 1 Red Chilli, seeded and chopped
- 1 Garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 tsp Clear Orange Blossom Honey

Method

Heat oven to 200C, Gas mark 6

Place diced squash on a baking sheet, drizzle with 1 tbsp olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast for 25 minutes or until tender, shaking the tray from time to time to keep it from sticking. Rinse the lentils, and simmer for about 15 minutes or until al dente, then drain.

Whisk together the dressing ingredients. Place the Rocket salad in a shallow serving bowl and arrange the squash and lentils on top. Pour the dressing over and top with toasted sesame seeds and chopped spring onion.

MISCELLANY

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS WITH ANOTHER MURVI!

From Penny McCallig

During a short trip to France in April, we stopped to visit an old walled town called Langres, parked outside the walls at a Camperstop spot and caught the lift up to the town. You can walk all around the walls - lovely views etc, but what caught my eye was a Fiat Ducato van parked at a tiny campsite, inside the walls. On closer inspection we ascertained it was a Murvi, but the owners were nowhere to be seen. Nearing the end of our circumnavigation we popped into Spar and overheard some English spoken by the cheese counter - Yes! we spotted the Brits, and sure enough on introducing ourselves as Murvi owners they confirmed our suspicions. However, they are not club members, so we told them what a jolly crowd we are, and maybe they will join. Incidentally, the town is well worth a visit if you are in the area.



(P.S. I can vouch for that. Karin and I have often stopped there on our way skiing - but not in the Murvi. Ed.)

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS?

From Angela Emuss

We have just booked in to go to the Shrewsbury Folk Festival (23rd - 26th August 2013) – 4 days with music and camping for around £275 if you are over 60 (!!) – very flat camping areas, and four days of music. We went a couple of years ago and really enjoyed it – not sure if there are any other Murvi ex-Lovers who might want to go too? It is over the August bank holiday, so maybe people will already have made their plans. There are still tickets left for the weekend, but not for individual days.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Grove Insurance we have a special scheme with Golf guard for ACCEO members (Murvi Club is an ACCEO member) giving cover for single or annual trips offering exceptional cover.

Single trips - cover has no maximum age limit. Annual trips - cover up to the age of 79.

For further details call them on 01767 681921 for a quote!

MURVI STOPOVERS

You may have seen on the club website that there are a few club members who are happy to allow fellow members to stay overnight on their property. Dick Constable who lives in Leeds says: “.... say someone travelling up from the South to Scotland wants a safe overnight halt? He is only a few miles from the A1M, so not much of a detour and we can plug them in and direct them 1/2 mile to a good pub to eat. Etc”.

So who else amongst our members is happy to offer a friendly driveway to park on overnight? If you want to add your name to the list then please could you let Nick Mawby know and he will add your details to the website.

And then there's always.....

MOTORHOME STOPOVERS AT PUBS IN THE UK

Dick Constable writes “Like all Murvi owners (I guess), we like a drink and a good meal from time to time. But the old drink and drive issues are a real nuisance! So, I'm suggesting we list all our favourite Murvi friendly pubs, who in return for a meal and a drink will let you sleep over in their car parks. If you are into that sort of thing.

We recently stayed at The Grapes Country Inn, Main Street, Eberston, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 9PA, Tel. 01723859273. They are new owners and are family run with the chef being 1 half of the team. Vicky and I had a really good meal with change out of 20 quid. They had 3 real ales (Theakson, Greene King and Tetley's) all in excellent condition. Toilets open from when the cleaner starts about 9'ish and there's an outside tap.”

For those of you who are unaware, there is an organisation called Motorhome Stopover who offer FREE stopovers at over 500 pubs in the UK. There is a membership fee of £30 a year for which you get access to the online listing of all the participating pubs.

So what's the catch? Nothing really - although there is an expectation that you will spend some money in the pub. Not really a great hardship! See motorhomestopover.co.uk for details.

INTARSIA

By Barry Tomlinson

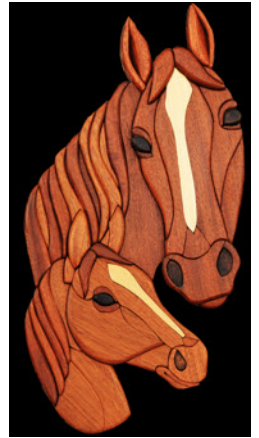
My time when not out in the van is spent in my workshop making intarsia, pictures made out of different coloured hard woods in 3D, not to be confused with marquetry.



I am self taught & got the idea after visiting America where it's big business. I have to send to America for the patterns as they are unobtainable in this country.

I have been doing it now for over 10 years, all the pieces of wood are individually cut on my electric fret saw & then shaped using various shaping & sanding tools. Until recently they were being sold in a craft shop in North Yorkshire but the owner has now retired due to ill health.

The time taken to make them varies from 2 days for the smaller ones to 3 months for the big one with 800 pieces, some of the woods I use are mahogany, walnut, poplar, oak, jelutong, basswood, tulip wood & maple to name but a few. I have to buy the wood at a specialist sawmill & this seems to be more expensive every time I go. When the pieces are finished I coat the whole thing with Danish oil to bring out the natural colours in the wood (this is when they really come to life), then when they are dry they get a coat of wax polish.



The photos show just a couple of the 40 different designs I have covering birds, animals, vehicles, horses & dogs.

THERMAL COOKING

Just thought you might be interested in my photo on this website www.thethermalcook.com. It's all due to Bob & Maggie Eley showing us their thermal cooker at the Abingdon AGM. We bought one straight away & have been using it to cook all sorts of things ever since.



The picture shows me having success cooking a carrot cake (at the fourth attempt) in the thermal cooker using a packet of Wrights cake mix. Apparently other people have had difficulty (including me) baking Wrights cake mixes in the thermal cooker, so I e-mailed the photo to Wrights to let them see I had finally cracked it. They then sent the photo to Mr D & he put it on his web site saying are we going to see Barry on the great British bake off with Marry Berry!!!

I was talking with Mr D on his stand at the Malvern show & I helped to convince a New Zealand couple to buy one of his cookers. For this he gave me the apron seen in the photo saying we were the only two people in the country with them.

Hope this makes sense I had a good laugh when I saw it

From Barry Tomlinson