



# Newsletter Issue 17 Winter 2023

## The Holiday Homes Trust

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### Chairman’s message

Hello and welcome to The Holiday Homes Trust’s winter 2023 newsletter.

2023 has been another very successful year for the Trust with bumper number of bookings. It is also great to see the number of guests who return to us year on year, and guests who make multiple bookings in a season. We feel very grateful that you place your trust with us to help create happy family moments and memories. You will see in the newsletter some photos sent by guests of their 2023 holiday highlights. I am amazed by what is available on the holiday parks, and it is a delight to see our guests making full use of these activities.

You will notice that we have done a feature on our Board of Trustees in this issue. Our trustees are so important to the running of the Trust. At the moment, they are busy doing the end of season’s inspections of the caravans, and in some cases driving over 200 miles in a round trip, when visiting the caravans. All the trustees are volunteers, bringing their expertise and experience contributing significantly to the future direction of the Trust’s work.

I am pleased to welcome a new trustee to our board, Jim Gerety, who has a very successful business career and really values the work of the Trust. We are very sad that one of our longest serving trustee, Bob Panton, is stepping down from the Board at the end of the year. His wise counsel and sincere commitment to our work will be missed by all the board members.

I also want to thank our amazing cleaners and managers who work so hard throughout the year, often going way above and beyond. I know Hayley and Vandita are so grateful for all that they do for us.

Anyway, I do hope you enjoy reading the newsletter, and perhaps try out the winter recipe featured. So all that remains for me to say, is thank you for supporting our work. Have a peaceful Christmas and a very happy new year.

**Roger Hurrion MBE,  
Chairman, The Holiday Homes Trust**

## End of the 2023 season

The 2023 season has ended and it has been another fantastic year with regards to bookings and hearing guest feedback about the lovely moments enjoyed whilst on holiday. Please see photos below. We love receiving photos, so remember to send us images of your holiday's special memories. They can also be so useful for new guests to help make their choice of destination. If we use any photos, we issue a £25 credit to be applied for your next booking.

We are taking bookings for the 2024 season. If you holidayed with us this year, you will get an automatic 5% repeat guest discount. Once again, our caravan at Seashore Great Yarmouth, remains the most popular. In fact, the Seashore caravan almost hit 100% occupancy, with just one week vacant the whole of the 2023 season!

## Photos shared by our guests in 2023.

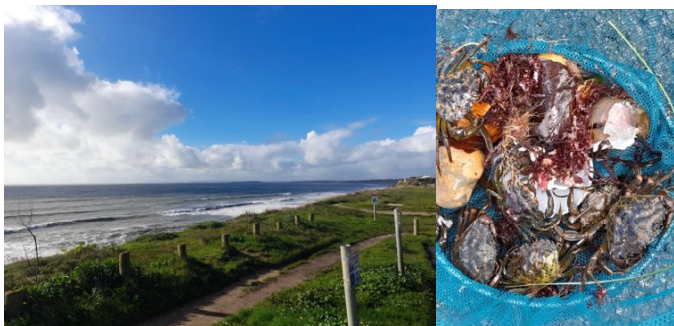


Church Farm sea gazing and circus skill

Golden Sands Seal



Devon Cliffs tree walking and archery



Hoburne Naish coast and successful crabbing



Littlesea nerf training, archery and entertainment

### **Caravan upgrade at Littlesea, Weymouth**

We are pleased to tell you about our recent purchase of a replacement caravan at Littlesea, Weymouth, a 2016 Atlas Pearl. This is an adapted caravan that sleeps six guests. The location of the caravan has changed to 25 Wey Valley, very close to our original position and the main facilities. We decided to take the opportunity to upgrade as its three years newer and slightly larger than our current caravan. The single beds in the second bedroom are full size singles, the same as in the main room. We hope guests will welcome this upgrade and enjoy their stay in this caravan. We will post details and photos on our Facebook page when available, so keep an eye out!

### **Flexible payment option still available**

We understand that money pressures are continuing, but we also know what a difference a holiday to everyone's health and wellbeing. So we have made it easier for our guests to spread payments by making paying in instalments an option, as long as the full balance is paid a month before the holiday date. If you decide to take advantage of this you will receive receipts each time you make a payment, which will help you track your outstanding balance.

### **Scout members**

Please let us know if you have ANY connection with the Scouts, as we can offer you a 5% discount. Also please feel free to let your friends and family know of this special discount we offer.

### **Our trustee board**

Our trustee board members are volunteers that bring their wealth of experience and knowledge to guide the direction of our work. Their advice and support is invaluable, so we thought you may be interested in finding out more about them. If you want to find out more or would consider joining our Board, please get in touch.

**Roger Hurrion MBE, Chairman**, I joined the Trust in 2012, and have been chairman since 2014.

I am a retired primary school deputy head, but still work part-time in schools, advising, and coaching in physical education.

I have a keen interest in sport, mainly cricket and football and officiate in both. I am also a season ticket holder of Crystal Palace FC. I was awarded MBE for Services to Young People New Year's Honour list 2014.

I have a long standing association with the Scout Movement, and have held a variety of adult appointments, before becoming a County Commissioner for ten years and County Training Manager.

Since retiring from teaching full time, my wife Linda and I have developed the travel bug and visiting foreign parts has become a keen interest

**Jim Gerety**, I joined the Board of Trustee in September 2023.

My professional career has varied between retail and brand-management positions covering merchandising/buying/supply chain management in various roles for Marks and Spencer, House of Fraser, Pringle of Scotland and Aquascutum. I have been the managing director at Lee Cooper Jeans and latterly, Vispring Beds - stepping down in December 2022. I am still a non-executive director of Vispring Beds and president of the National Bed Federation, the trade organisation for the UK bed-making industry.

I have been very fortunate in my career and life opportunities and want to give something back - so bringing my commercial/business experience to contribute to the sustainability of HHT seems to be a great opportunity. I have been a school governor for 16 years and most recently I am on the governing body of a local primary school.

I like to keep fit and enjoy walking/hill-walking and fair-weather cycling.

**Mike Hebden**, I joined The Holiday Homes Trust Board in 2016. I first found the Trust as a customer of the services nearly 30 years ago when our third daughter was born with Aperts Syndrome. I worked in a Government IT position, having moved from support teams to the newly flourishing data security

specialism. Following early retirement in 2012, I spent two years in the Othona Community as core community member mainly on maintenance work, including a couple of caravans, I am now self-employed on computer support and minor building work locally.  
I have worked in most Scouting sections, including terms as District Commissioner and currently as a Group Scout Leader.

**Sarah Kennedy**, I joined the Board of Trustees in May 2022 and have I work in contract management and procurement.

I have been active in the Scouts Association as a Beaver and Cub Scout leader over the past ten years. I joined the Trustee board as I believe in the ethos of the Trust - providing breaks away for those on low incomes and with health conditions/disabilities.

**Ian Mackenzie**, I have been a Director of the Holiday Homes Trust since 2013. My profession is actuary, I am chief operations & technology officer for a FTSE100 company. My passion is to transform lives be that through involvement with the Trust, the Scouts or my wider activities.

I have been involved in Scouting since a very young age. I am also a Governor of the University of the West of England and a Director of the Scout Association Trust Corporation.

I have two grown up daughters, love travelling, I run and active in my local community.

**Roger Neville, Treasurer**, I joined The Holiday Homes Trust in February 2019.

I am a qualified chartered accountant, and have been a partner of successive firms up to Alwyns LLP from 2010 to 2018. I was treasurer of St James United Reform Church, and remain a member. I am finance director and co-founder of Advanced Bacterial Sciences Ltd, a company that develops environmentally friendly solutions to get rid of waste on this planet.

I was a cub and as a scout awarded the Queen's Award. I was a cub master for many years. I was treasurer of the Grange Farm Centre Trust where I helped oversee its growth from £3m to £14m. Projects include building a community centre, creating playing fields and a wildlife meadow and helping to finance Roding Valley Nature Reserve as well as handing out grants of up to £100K per annum.

**Bob Panton**, I joined the Holiday Homes Trust Board of Trustee In the early 1990s as treasurer. I was chairman for two years in the 1990s. Professionally I qualified as a chartered secretary and have been involved in accountancy both employed and self-employed for all of my working life.

I and my family have been active in the Scouts Movement since 1970s, I became involved in the Henlow/Clifton Scouts as with three sons I had more boys in the group than anyone else. I joined the Committee and became chairman for a few years. I re-joined as chairman in 1985 but retired from that role in 1990. I was awarded a Thanks badge after my first stint and A Chief Scout's Commendation after the second one. My daughter-in-law is currently AGSL, and one son and one grand-daughter have Chief Scouts Awards.

I became a founding Trustee and Hon Treasurer of The Road Victims Trust in 1994. I still remain as a trustee. I am active in the Rotary movement and I have recently become the treasurer of my parish church.

### **David Ranger**

I joined Holiday Homes Trust in 2010. I am a retired maths teacher. I was introduced to the work of the Trust by my close friend, Roger Hurrion, who is now the Trust's Chairman. I was involved in scouting during my teenage years. I was a member of the parochial church council and was lay vice chair for about four years. I was also a trustee of another parish charity. Currently I volunteer at Westminster Abbey and Winchester & Salisbury Cathedrals.

## Winter recipe

Source BBC Good Food website

### Chilli con carne recipe and vegetarian version

Prep: 10 minutes      Cook: 1 hour    Serves 4

#### Ingredients

1 large onion  
1 red pepper  
2 garlic cloves  
1 tbsp oil  
1 heaped tsp chilli powder  
1 tsp paprika  
1 tsp ground cumin  
500g lean minced beef or carton of green lentils for veggie version  
1 beef stock cube or vegetable stock cube for veggie version  
400g can chopped tomatoes  
½ tsp dried marjoram  
1 tsp sugar /or add a thumbnail-sized piece of dark chocolate along with the beans instead  
2 tbsp tomato purée  
410g can red kidney beans  
Plain boiled long grain rice and soured cream, to serve

#### Method

Step 1 Chop 1 large onion into small dice, cut 1 red pepper and peel and finely chop 2 garlic cloves.

Step 2 Heat 1 tbsp oil in a large pan on the hob

Step 3 Add the onion and cook, until the onion is soft translucent.

Step 4 Add the garlic, red pepper, 1 heaped tsp hot/mild chilli powder, 1 tsp paprika and 1 tsp ground cumin.

Step 5 Combine the ingredients in the pan and leave to cook for another 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

For veggie version go to Step 7.1

Step 6 Add and brown 500g lean minced beef in the pan and break up with spoon or spatula.

Step 7 Keep stirring and prodding for at least 5 minutes, until all the mince has browned with no pink bits.

Step 7.1 Drain the green lentil carton and add to the pan

Step 8 Make the sauce. Dissolve the beef stock cube into 300ml hot water. Pour into the pan with the mince mixture. For veggie version go to Step 8.1

Step 8.1 Make the sauce, use the vegetable stock cube to make the stock with 300 ml hot water. Pour into pan

Step 9 Add the can of chopped tomatoes, dried marjoram, sugar, salt and pepper. Add 2 tbsp tomato purée and stir the sauce well.

Step 10 Bring the pot to the boil, stir and place the lid on the pan. Turn down the heat until it is gently bubbling and leave for 20 minutes.

Step 11 Check on the pan to make sure the sauce doesn't catch on the bottom of the pan or isn't drying out. If it is, add a couple of tablespoons of water. After simmering gently, the saucy mixture should thicken.

Step 12 Drain and rinse the can of red kidney beans in a sieve and stir into the chilli. If you are using, add the small cube of plain chocolate to the mixture. Bring back to the boil, and simmer without the lid for another 10 minutes, adding a little more water if it looks too dry.

Step 13 Add seasoning to taste

Step 14 Replace the lid, turn off the heat and leave your chilli to stand for 10 minutes.

Step 15 Serve with soured cream and plain boiled rice

### **Ways you can support us**

Any money raised to support our activities makes a huge difference to our work. So please consider us if you are looking for a charity to support. Contact us if you would like further advice.

### **Leave a gift in your Will**

It is only through additional fundraising and donations that we can continue to provide affordable and accessible holiday for people with disabilities or families who are disadvantaged, whether through circumstances and/or low income. You will help us make a difference to people's lives by providing the chance to have a proper holiday.

### **Giving in memory**

If you are organising a funeral for a family member or a friend and would like to offer donations instead of flowers in memory of your loved one, then please consider our charitable works. Please call us on 020 8433 7290/1 if you would like further information.

### **Discounts and special offers**

Scout and Guide Associations members receive a 5% discount.

2023 Holiday guests also receive a 5% discount if book with us again next year.

*Only one discount can be applied per booking.*

Last minute discounts and special offers are promoted on all our social media networks, so make sure you don't miss out. Follow us by clicking on the links below.

### **Spreading the word**

We are always looking for new ways to promote our holidays and will be delighted to provide editorial copy on our services for your organisation or community newsletters. Just let us know the number of words and copy deadline and we will send appropriate copy.

### **Social media and website**

[The Holiday Homes Trust | Facebook](#) like our Facebook page to ensure you get the latest information about our bookings, activities and offers.

Bookmark our website to keep up to date with our latest development. There is also an option to leave us a review. If you enjoyed your stay with us this year, we would be grateful of a review passing on details to other potential guests. And if we do fall short, please contact us as soon as possible while away, so we can do our best to put things right.



[The Holiday Homes Trust | Facebook](#)



[The Holiday Homes Trust \(@holiday.homes.trust\)](#)

[Contact us if you would like to contribute to our Newsletters or would like to become a member of the Holiday Homes Trust](#)

### **Thank you to our local managers and cleaners**

At the end of season, our cleaners and managers finally take a well-earned break themselves. They often go far beyond for us for example, taking deliveries, or buying replacement items, as well as reporting any maintenance issues they notice. Our cleaners and managers are the key to us being able to provide guests with their holidays and we thank them for another year's hard work.

## Board of Directors

<b>Chairman</b> - Roger Hurrion MBE Jim Gerety Mike Hebden Sarah Kennedy Ian MacKenzie	<b>Treasurer</b> - Roger Neville Robert Panton David Ranger  <b>Administrators</b> Hayley Butcher, and Vandita Chisholm
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we will reply to ASAP  
Office hours are 8.30 a.m. -1.30 p.m. Monday to  
Friday.

Website: [www.holidayhomestrust.org](http://www.holidayhomestrust.org)



[The Holiday Homes Trust | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/holiday.homes.trust)



[@The Holiday Homes Trust \(@holiday.homes.trust\)](https://www.instagram.com/holiday.homes.trust)

## Locations-

- Blue Dolphin Holiday Park, Filey, Scarborough (Haven)
- Church Farm Holiday Village, Pagham, near Bognor Regis, West Sussex (Haven)
- Devon Cliffs Holiday Park, Exmouth, Devon (Haven)
- Golden Sands Holiday Park, Mablethorpe, Lincs (Haven)
- Hoburne Devon Bay Holiday Park, Paignton, Devon (Hoburne Holidays) not adapted
- Hoburne Naish Holiday Park, New Milton, Hampshire (Hoburne Holidays) not adapted
- Littlesea Holiday Park, Weymouth, Dorset (Haven)
- Pentewan Sands Holiday Park, St. Austell, Cornwall (Independent)
- Rockley Park Holiday Park, Poole, Dorset (Haven)
- Seashore Holiday Park, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (Haven)

## Unsubscribe

We at Holiday Homes Trust love to share our news with you, but if you do not want to hear from us, please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list:

[holiday.homes.trust@scouts.org.uk](mailto:holiday.homes.trust@scouts.org.uk), or by telephone 020 8433 7290/1

Season's greetings and a very happy new year

