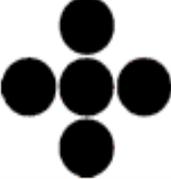


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 **Southern Area Plus**

**DUE SOUTH**

The Southern Area Magazine

**Summer 2011**



# Southern Area Beach BBQ



**T**his year's beach BBQ was back in Sandbanks, Poole, on 25th June and attracted a good crowd. The weather started off cool and overcast and then the sun broke through in the evening and it got quite hot, with the midsummer sun shining until after 9pm. As is always the case at the beach BBQ, we avoided any rain!

Things kicked off at 2pm, with some of the more active guests opted for cricket and football on the beach, whilst others chatted in and around the gazebo. The BBQ itself started at 6pm. Chicken, burgers, steak & sausages were accompanied by salad, potatoes and crisps, and all was washed down with various drinks (including for 1 un-

named guest, 5 bottles of wine!). The meal was then finished off with a selection of donuts.

Most of the guests departed about 9.30pm when darkness eventually fell on the beach.

Adrian Partington

Fareham Plus



# King's Lynn Midsummer Weekend

A good weekend was had by all, despite the best efforts of the weather!

After a long drive up to Totenhill in Norfolk on Friday (irritatingly, I missed the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel by weeks and had to trundle through the town on the soon to be removed old road) I arrived at 4.30pm. Just time to put up the tent in the woods, pop to Tesco for food and drink and then order a takeaway.



Saturday started with light drizzle at 4am, which steadily turned into torrential rain. After sheltering in my tent for a while, I made a dash for the village hall, where everyone spent most of the morning sheltering and drinking endless cups of tea, like survivors of an air crash.



Luckily the rain finally stopped at around 2pm, and several of us made a dash for the hallowed 'Beers Of Europe' megastore nearby to stock up for the evening, and to Tesco to buy food

for the BBQ. Once the clouds had cleared, it was a wonderful evening with clear skies and bright sun. The BBQ got going just after 6pm, and then the disco powered up soon after. Some extra plussers then arrived for the



disco, which made quite a big group in total. After much eating and drinking, people either went home or crashed through the wood to their tents.

Unfortunately, due to too much food and drink, I didn't sleep that well, so once it got light at around 5am, I packed up and headed off home, enjoying swooping along the pleasantly deserted A10 as the sun came up. Thanks to the organisers, here's to the next year's weekend!

Adrian Partington  
Fareham Plus



# Solihull Plus Camping Weekend in Gloucestershire



15 Plussers from around the country converged on the Gloucestershire town of Tewkesbury for this weekend break in August organised by Solihull Plus.

After arriving on the Friday at the campsite on the banks of the Severn, we put up our tents and retired to the pub for a meal and drink. The rest of the evening was spent chilling out by our tents with a selection of drinks.

The following day (Saturday), we were led on an 8 mile walk along the Severn and through a selection of picturesque villages. After summoning the ferryman and crossing the river, we walked along the Severn and stopped for lunch at a local pub on the riverside. We were sobered to see the extent of the river's flooding in the recent past. The boathouse we passed at the start of the walk was raised on stilts, and had the flood levels of the 1947 & 2007 floods marked on its wall. The 1947 level was up to chest height, and the 2007 level was well over my head, meaning that a normal building not on stilts would be flooded right up to the ceiling of the ground floor. Indeed, the landlord of the pub we stopped at told us that the Severn was 2.5

miles wide during the 2007 floods. The buildings in the area dispense with carpets and use stone floors which can be jettied clean once the waters subside, and have all the electrical sockets near the ceiling.

The remainder of the walk was spent walking through the village of Appleby, and admiring the architecture there. We got back to the campsite and then relaxed, whilst the organisers went into 'Tewkers' (as it is probably not known by the locals) to buy food for the evening BBQ.



After the BBQ and a few drinks, we turned in.

Next day, dawn came, and we got up and prepared for the off. Some campers were taking part in a treasure hunt in Plus' ancestral home of Newent, however I decided to head home at this juncture, dodging (or failing to dodge) the showers on the way home.



It was an enjoyable weekend, with the walk held in humid sunshine , and luckily when it did rain we were always undercover. The location was ideally suited for access by Plussers from across the country, being just off the M5. My feeling however was that the venue was a tad overoptimistic in the number of people it felt it could accommodate, and with no marked pitches it was pretty much a free for all on the campsite, with cars outnumbering tents and parked hither and thither. Unfortunately there was no way of knowing this would happen beforehand. If there is one lesson to learn, it is that it is worth its weight in gold getting exclusive use of a venue if at all possible for Plus events even if it means having to go off season. This way the special atmosphere that we all cherish at Plus events can thrive.

Adrian Partington, Fareham Plus

# Southern Area Committee

Chair	Kath Good	Abingdon
Administrator	Nicky Ansell	Andover & Newbury
Treasurer/Membership Officer	Leo Glover	Andover & Newbury
Diary Keeper	Simon Good	Abingdon
General Committee Member	Susan Glover	Andover & Newbury

## Find your Local Plus Group

Abingdon	Most Mondays from 2030	The Brewery Tap, 40-42 Ock Street, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 5BZ .
Andover & Newbury	1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 2000;	The Star Inn, Newbury Road, Kingsclere, RG20 4SY.
	2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 2000	The Coronation Arms, St. Mary Bourne, Hants, SP11 6AR.
Fareham & Gosport	Tuesdays from 2030	The Fareham, 54 Trinity Street, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7SA.
Oxford	Tuesdays from 2000	The Fairview Inn, 16 Glebelands, Headington, Oxford, Oxon, OX3 7EN.
Reading	Every Friday from 2000	The Toby Carvery, Richfield Avenue, Caversham Bridge, Reading, RG1 8EQ.
Southampton Friends	Every Wednesday except last of the month from 2000	The Slug & Lettuce, 103-105 Above Bar Street, Southampton, SO14 7FG
South Bucks Quest	Most Tuesdays	The Magnet Leisure Centre, Holmanleaze, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 8AW.

# Southern Area Hedgehop 2011



38 Plussers from as far afield as Sutton Coldfield & Milton Keynes attended the 2011 Southern Area Hedgehop in March. The event took place in at the Traveller's Rest pub in Newtown, Hampshire, this year and was organised by Fareham Plus.

After arriving at the pub in the early evening, the contestants were taken by car and dropped off approximately 4 miles away. They then had to make their way back to the pub, answering questions and correctly navigating the route. In addition to the above, they had to avoid being seen by any of the 'spotters' who were lurking along the route.

After a very long pause, the teams all arrived at my checkpoint almost together. The camouflage clad Tracy's Special Forces arrived first,



yomping at double pace, and then the other teams arrived afterwards in short order. Lost & Found adopted the clever ruse of ensuring that they were in a safe zone when spotted, so that the spot didn't count. The A Team from Sutton went one further, and waited till the spotters had given up and returned to the pub before completing the route, in order to avoid spotting penalties. Unfortunately this meant that they were awarded a lateness penalty, which meant they came last.

Once everyone was back at the pub, everyone tucked into their food, and the winning team (Tracy's Special Forces from Dunstable) were awarded the winner's prize.

I am please to be able to notify everybody of the results of the 2011 Southern Area Hedgehop:

**1st Place:** Tracy's Special Forces (Dunstable: Tracy, Stuart, Ryan & Sean) 109 points;

**2nd Place:** Lost & Found (Thatcham & Newbury: Leo, Steve R, Nick & Steve S) 108 points;

**3rd Place:** We Got Mike (Oxford: Adrian B, Huw, Noam & Mike S) 78 points;

**4th Place:** Dirty Boots (Fareham: Dan, Peter, Mark & Iain P) 62 points;

**5th Place:** The Avengers (Fareham: Kamila, Mark & Richard) 56 points;

**6th Place:** The A Team (Sutton Friends: Chris, Matt & Dan) -5 points.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and those who helped organise and run the event.

Adrian P  
Fareham Plus

## Upcoming Plus Events

Saturday 10th - Sat 17th September 2011	<a href="#"><u>National Holiday Abroad</u></a>	Turkey
Saturday 22nd October 2011	Southern Area Council Meeting and Web Training Da	TBA
Friday 4th - Mon 7th November 2011	<a href="#"><u>WASH</u></a>	Norfolk
Sunday 20th November	<a href="#"><u>NEC Meeting</u></a>	Coventry
Saturday 26th November	Southern Area Xmas Party	Lee-On-Solent
Sunday 4th December 2011	Southern Area Chess	TBA
Saturday 31st December 2011	Southern Area New Year's Eve Party	TBA
Saturday 21st January 2012	Southern Area Skiing Holiday	Finland
Saturday 18th February 2012	<a href="#"><u>National Annual General Meeting</u></a>	Northants
Friday 15th—Monday 18th June 2012	Southern Area Centre Parcs Weekend. £20 deposit required	Sherwood Forest