



Newsletter Issue 18 Spring/Summer 2024

The Holiday Homes Trust

Chairman's message

Hello and welcome to the Spring/Summer issue of our newsletter. We have had a very positive start of the season, with our caravans helping our guests create happy moments and memories. We are so grateful that so many of our guests return to us year on year, and feel very connected to us. Hayley and Vandita enjoy hearing about your holiday highlights, and love seeing your holiday photos and videos. We offer a discount of 5% if you book another holiday with us the year before and during the current season.

We have made it easier for you to provide feedback about your holiday, with an easy to complete online feedback form. This is sent to you by email the week after you return home from your holiday. Please complete and send your feedback to us, so we can continue to improve your holiday experience in the future.

As you can see from the newsletter The Holiday Homes Trust is based at Gilwell Park, a wonderful location steeped in history. We have outlined only a very few of the significant historical features of Gilwell in this newsletter.

We are also so proud to have the opportunity to celebrate the inspirational lives of Ken and Iris Wynne. Iris sadly passed away recently, and we are grateful to the Wynne family who have shared their parents' story and to have us as the supported charity at Iris's funeral.

If you are still thinking about a summer holiday, we still have a few weeks available during the summer months, so please get in touch with us and we can let you know what we have.

Thank you for being a part of The Holiday Homes Trust community, and we look forward to helping you with your holiday arrangements now and in the future.

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

Start of the 2024 season

The weather this year has been so changeable, but bookings are still coming in. Thank you to our regular guests who return each year, some, multiple times in a season! Please remember if you are returning guest you will get a 5% discount.

Our recently purchased caravan at Littlesea, Weymouth is proving to be popular with guests, and it has the benefit of an additional small TV in the main bedroom and full sized singles in the second bedroom.

Do keep an eye on our social media messages as you may pick up a last minute bargain, when we promote our discounted available weeks.

Gilwell Park

(Reference: *Gilwell Park Guidebook*, Scouts Heritage Service, The Scouts 2023)

Many of you will know that The Holiday Homes Trust is very lucky to be based in the Scouts HQ Gilwell Park, Chingford, on the outskirts of East London. Gilwell has beautiful natural surroundings, and a rich history, that includes an infamous highwayman, royalty, wealthy industrialists, including the inventor of Gibbs toothpaste, and the military.

The earliest reference to the site is in 1407. The name Gilwell emerges around 1430 and comes from the words: *gill* meaning glen or woody area and *wella*, meaning spring.

The Farm House building on the site dates back to 1600, and there is a water well close by with ornate iron surrounds.



Farmhouse



Water well

In the grounds an unexpected historical artefact is the balustrade from the old London Bridge 1209-1831. It was acquired in 1830 by the then owner of Gilwell Park, Thomas Usburne, as a decorative garden feature.



Balustrade from London Bridge

Who would have guessed that Dick Turpin, the infamous Victorian highwayman, is linked with Gilwell! He had a relationship with a woman who lived on the edge of the estate and his son was born in Gilwell. Dick Turpin's association with the Gilwell is marked by the barn's weathervane, which features a highwayman holding up a coach.

The Leopard Gate is the first thing that visitors see when they drive to the end of the driveway. Carved in 1927 by Don Potter, the gate is topped by the Gilwell symbol of an axe and log. On the swing gate is a pair of curved leopards, hence the name of the gate. In 1997 one of the leopards disappeared and Don Potter, aged 97, came out of retirement to replace the curved leopard.



Leopard Gate

There is a very tangible connection with caravans in Gilwell. In 1929 the 3rd World Scout jamboree celebrated the 21st anniversary of Scouting for Boys. A fundraising campaign was launched to buy Robert Baden Powell a gift. Over a million Scouts donated a penny, and with the money collected, a Rolls Royce car, nicknamed *Jam Roll*, a caravan named *Eccles* and a portrait of Baden Powell were purchased. Up until recently the caravan could be found on the Gillwell grounds.



Eccles, Baden Powell's caravan

In Memoriam

We have mentioned before in our newsletters the difference leaving a donation or legacy can make to our work, as we are such a small charity. The Holiday Homes Trust is very grateful to the Wynne family who have very graciously supported our work by naming us as their charity of choice for monies collected at the funeral of Iris Wynne and the legacy we received from Ken Wynne's estate. Ken sadly passed away in 2000 and Iris this year. Both Ken and Iris were active members in The Scouts Association, and were recognised on several different occasions for their amazing work throughout their time by the Scouts. A tribute to Iris and Ken is below.

Iris Wynne 1929-2024 and Ken Wynne 1924-2000

Iris was born in 1929 in Dalston, East London, she attended Latymer Grammar School just after the Second World War started. At 16, in 1945 she began working for Hulton Press, and by the time she left, she was promoted to stationery supervisor.

Iris met Ken after the war, he joined the Royal Navy at 18, in 1942 and was part of the D-day landings, as well as serving on warships as a signalman.

Ken was the Scout Master of the 94th North London Group, and Iris started helping with the cub pack, eventually becoming Assistant Lady Cub Master.

They married in 1951, their son Stephen was born in 1955; and in 1957 Iris was pregnant with twins – daughters Janet and Mary - recorded as the third heaviest and largest set born in Barnet General Hospital at the time!

Iris and Ken attended the 9th World Scout Jamboree in Sutton Coldfield in August 1957. The Jamboree went down with Asian Flu, and the Finnish contingent were too ill to travel, Iris and Ken took care of them; the Finnish group awarded Iris and Ken the Iron Medal for their services.

The Wynne family moved to Gillingham in 1960, where Iris became a part time sales representative at the Chatham News and Standard, and Ken worked for Royal Mail in London, raising to senior management before he retired.

When Iris and Ken moved to Kent, they heard the local 8th Gillingham Scout Group needed help and as they were both fully trained scout leaders, they offered assistance. Iris became Akela, and Ken became the Group Scout Leader. The Group went from strength to strength. Iris and Ken were with the 8th Gillingham from 1964 until 1975. In that time, the Scout group's numbers increased from 40 members, to 170! A Venture/Explorer Scouts was established. They left 8th Gillingham Group in 1975, by which time Iris was Assistant District Commissioner, and Ken, District Commissioner - Iris was known as the lady vice!

They were both presented with the Silver Acorn Award in 1979 and in 1989/1990 they were presented with the Silver Wolf which is the highest award made by The Scout Association "for services of the most exceptional character."

They retired from work in 1984 and retired from scouting a few years later. They enjoyed their retirement by holidaying in all parts of the world, though their favourite destination was France. In 2000 at the age of 76, sadly Ken died whilst on holiday in Normandy. Iris continued with scouting and her friends and scout colleagues were a wonderful community for her. She was a member of the Scout Active Support - supporting young people and voluntary leaders. She became District President of Gillingham Scouts and continued to coach new scout leaders up until 10 years ago.

We feel very privilege to have been contacted by Iris and Ken's daughter Janet, and to have this opportunity to pay tribute to a truly inspirational couple.

Iris and Ken Wynne throughout the years



Legacy and fundraising

Rosemary Kibblewhite

We were very kindly remembered by Rosemary Kibblewhite who left a legacy in her will to the Trust as well as The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The Society of Technical Analysts (STA)

We are delighted to be the nominated charity supported by the runners representing the STA at the JP Morgan Challenge fun run. This is a 5k fun run by City workers fundraising for a number of charities and causes.

If you would like to consider donating to the Trust, leaving a legacy, or a donations in memory for funerals, please contact us on 020 8433 7290/1 if you would like further information. A gift of any amount can make a huge difference to our work.

Spring/Summer recipe

Pizza inspired jacket potato fillings, Source BBC Good Food website

Preparation time **less than 30 mins** cooking time **1 to 2 hours**

1 large baking potato, scrubbed and dried per person

Olive or sunflower oil, to drizzle and salt and black pepper

For the American hot

60–65g/2¼oz diced chorizo

1 large garlic clove, crushed

1 x 200g/7oz tin chopped tomatoes

25g/1oz mature cheddar, coarsely grated

Few green jalapeño pepper slices from a jar

For the margherita

60–65g/2¼oz fresh mozzarella, torn, or 55g/2oz grated mozzarella

12–14 cherry tomatoes, halved

Pinch dried oregano

2 tsp extra virgin olive oil

1 tsp red wine vinegar

8 large basil leaves (or equivalent small), roughly torn

Pinch of sugar

For the green goddess

½ lemon, zest plus 1 tsp juice

1½ tbsp basil pesto

1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil or oil from the artichoke jar

75g/2¾oz artichoke hearts from a jar

Few green olives, stones removed and halved or quartered

Small handful spinach leaves

Parmesan shavings (or similar hard cheese), to serve

Method

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Rub the potato all over with a tiny drizzle of the oil and bake for about 1 hour, or until soft in the middle.

For the American hot filling, cook the diced chorizo in a small frying pan and fry until crisp, golden and it has released orange oil into the pan. Remove about a third of the chunks and set them aside for serving. Add the garlic to the remaining chorizo and fry for 1 minute add the tomatoes. Simmer for 5 minutes, partly covered. Season with salt and pepper. Cut the top of the jacket and pull apart a bit. Spoon the chorizo sauce over the potato, then scatter with the cheddar, jalapeños and crispy chorizo.

For the margherita filling, preheat the grill to hot and split the potato in half. Scatter the mozzarella over the split jacket. Grill until the cheese has melted and started bubbling. Toss the tomatoes, oregano, olive oil, vinegar and basil leaves in a bowl. Season well with salt, pepper and the pinch of sugar. Spoon on top of the potato and serve hot.

For the green goddess filling, whisk together the lemon juice, zest, pesto and oil in a bowl. Add the artichokes, breaking any larger chunks into smaller pieces, and the olives and spinach. Toss together so everything is coated in the pesto dressing. Split the potato and pile the filling on top. Scatter with the Parmesan and serve hot.

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.

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 this 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.

Feedback

We are always keen to hear your feedback from your stays. For anyone who is good with their phone, any videos of the caravan on arrival or of any site facilities are always useful for other interested guests to see more details about their choice of caravan and Park location. If any videos or photos are used, we issue a £25 credit to be applied for your next booking. We have also set up an easy to complete online feedback form that we will send to you after your holiday.

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.



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Contact us if you would like to contribute to our Newsletters or would like to become a member of the Holiday Homes Trust

Board of Directors

Chairman - Roger Hurron MBE Jim Gerety Mike Hebden Sarah Kennedy Ian MacKenzie	Treasurer - Roger Neville David Ranger Administrators Hayley Butcher, and Vandita Chisholm
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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)

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We at The 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, or by telephone 020 8433 7290/1