

THE CARAVAN CLUB LATEST NEWS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

The annual membership fee for The Caravan Club has increased from £48 to £49, effective from 15 December 2016. The price covers one member and one partner, living at the same address, while the fee for additional family members remains static at £8* for the third year running.

Members of The Club receive a number of benefits, including:

- Access to an extensive network of more than 200 Club sites and nearly 2,500 Certificated Locations
- 12 issues of The Club magazine
- The chance to take advantage of exclusive offers and discounts
- The use of our tailored overseas travel and insurance services

For more information visit

www.caravanclub.co.uk/membership

* Price is for additional family members over 18 years of age living at the same address as the member.

THE NATIONAL RALLY PITCHES SELL OUT

Please note that pitches for The National Rally 2017 are now fully booked.

However, if you wish to attend there is still a chance that you could secure a pitch between now and the event. Simply sign up to their waiting list, which can be accessed by visiting national and clicking on 'Book Today', and they will contact you if a pitch becomes available.

This web page also has information on day visitor and evening show tickets, which can still be ordered via the Club Shop, as well as details of alternative sites and rallies that are taking place nearby.

The 2017 National will be held at The Sandringham Estate from Friday 26 to Wednesday 31 May 2017.

CLUB CONTACT CENTRE OPENING TIMES

The Club helpful advisers are always happy to assist members with their enquiries. For your reference, here are the Contact Centre operating hours for 2017.

During January and February and from September to December their team will be available from 8.45am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. However, during their busier period from March up to and including August, their opening hours will be 8.45am to 6pm.

The Club would like to point out that Mondays are very busy, especially in the morning, so if a query is not urgent it may be best to call later in the day or week. We continue to operate our 'call-back' function, which is offered automatically on their main product lines, including membership, caravan insurance, overseas travel and travel insurance. If you use this facility, a member of the team will return your call within one hour.

HOW TO BEAT PARKING FINES

One in 12 drivers has beaten fines, despite being at fault. Here are their five best excuses.

Millions of British motorists have escaped parking fines, despite knowingly being in the wrong. At least, that's the conclusion reached by a car insurer, following a survey into our parking habits.

Parking (not) fine

Last year market researchers interviewed more than a thousand British adults to find out about their parking habits.

One insurer found that, in the past year, one in 10 sneaky drivers (10%) was

**THE PRESS DATE FOR THE
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There are also agents available online who can assist via web chats. There are also agents available online who can assist via web chats from Monday to Friday until 9pm. Plus, we now have team members checking our social media accounts for queries.

In addition to this, their Contact Centre will be open on Saturday mornings during January from 9am to 1pm. Any extra weekend dates will be published in advance.

WHY NOT STAY WITH THE CARAVAN CLUB AT THE NEC IN FEBRUARY 2017

Are you planning to attend the Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show in Birmingham this February?

If you are, why not stay at The Caravan Club's temporary site? As the exhibition centre is within easy reach, it's a great option for anyone driving a long distance or intending to spend more than one day at the show. Conveniently, there's a free regular return shuttle service between the campsite and the halls each day.

The temporary site has 205 paved hardstanding pitches, each including 6 amp electric hook-up. In addition, food and drink can be purchased from an on-site marquee, which will also host free evening entertainment from Tuesday to Saturday.

Temporary fresh water, black, grey and dry waste disposal facilities and a toilet block (no showers) will also be available.

Bookings can be made from 29 Nov 2016, and the site itself will be open from Monday 20 February 2017 to Sunday 26 February 2017 (inclusive). The price is £36 per night*. The show runs from 21-26 February 2017. For more information and to book, call 01342 336666.

*Price does not include show entry.

caught parking illegally, while hoping to dodge a fine or parking warden. What's more, one in 12 Brits (896) successfully appealed a fine, despite knowingly being in the wrong.

When it comes to dodging regulations, Londoners seem to be the least honest, with one in six (17%) contesting parking tickets even when they knew they were in the wrong.

This research also found that more than a fifth of drivers (22%) believe that flouting parking regulations doesn't count as breaking the law.

Highway robbery

Men were more dishonest when dodging regulations, with one in nine (11%) admitting that they often park illegally.

Sneakily, 11% of men have left a parking ticket stuck to their windscreen so that they can park illegally again without being stung with a second fine.

However, in our defence, many of us are puzzled by parking regulations. Nearly two in five drivers (39%) admitted to often being confused by parking rules, with a quarter (25%) choosing to completely ignore regulations during weekends and bank holidays.

Other parking tricks include regularly parking in customer-only parking spaces, despite not being a customer, which 7% of us admit to. Another 5% revealed that they often park on single yellow lines, while 13% of drivers get their children to look out for parking wardens while adults are away from the car.

Top excuses not to pay

Some motorists are much better at beating the system than others, especially those repeat offenders who know the system and look for loopholes.

The five top excuses drivers have used to avoid paying parking tickets:

1. The regulations were not clear (9%);
2. I was gone only briefly (6%);
3. I was looking for a ticket machine (5%);
4. I had a personal emergency (4%);
- and 5. My ticket went missing (3%).

The first excuse is fair enough: If parking rules are unclear, then any implied contract between driver and parking firm cannot be upheld and, therefore, any fine is invalid.

However, most parking rules state that you must clearly display a valid ticket inside your vehicle. If you fail to do this, or lose your ticket, then the weight of evidence is against you. Nevertheless, appealing the decision by producing a valid ticket will often win you a pardon.

Appeal and win

Each year, over eight million parking fines are issued, which nearly works out at one for every three UK households. As a result, councils make around £500 million a year from parking penalties, which comes to £15 per driver per year.

Then again, standing firm by appealing a penalty often proves successful. Indeed, a survey by Which? found that more than half (57%) of all formal appeals against parking fines are successful.