

THE CARAVAN CLUB CHANGES NAME



You might have spotted something a little different on the front cover of the March 2017 issue of The Club Magazine - and indeed the Club - has changed its name. After being called The Caravan Club for 110 years, they have become the Caravan and Motorhome Club. This change better reflects their modern Club - motorhomers now account for half of new joiners and well over a third of the membership. They are a Club for everyone, and their new name now acknowledges that. Let's face it, no matter what vehicle you own, your desires are the same - to enjoy the great outdoors and to create great holiday memories. And, as always, the Club - the Caravan and Motorhome Club is here to help you do that, and more. They have lots of exciting developments in the pipeline, so keep an eye on the magazine and the Club website.

The wonderful thing about going on an adventure is the excitement that lies ahead - the thrill of hitting the open road, the sense of discovery, the enjoyment of the great outdoors.

So it is with great pleasure that the Club is announcing the beginning of a new adventure for members. They are embarking on a journey of change, to better reflect their diverse membership and to help you get the most from your time when touring.

They appreciate that change can seem daunting, so they want to reassure you that this is still the same Club you know and love - they are just investing in their future so that they can better reflect the changing needs of their members. This does not mean they have forgotten what they are - they are proud of their history, dating back to the merry band of outdoor

enthusiasts who formed a Club for like-minded caravanners in 1907. In fact, it is this rich heritage of love for the great outdoors that underpins this change.

By being more relevant, friendly and inclusive to all of our members, they can face the future with confidence.

The most noticeable changes are to their name and logo. By changing their name, they are better reflecting the diversity of their members.

The logo change is a symbol, a badge of honour for the journey they are continuing on and a promise of what lies ahead - to make their Club more open and inclusive, to help everyone get the most from their time in the great outdoors and to forever inspire a pioneering spirit of adventure.

COVERT POLICE CATCH DRIVERS

The law regarding using mobile phones without the use of totally hands free whilst driving any vehicle have been changed recently.

From the 1st of March 2017 any driver caught using a mobile phone whilst driving will now incur a penalty of six points on your licence and a minimum of a £200 fine. The Police are using unmarked vehicles including vans, large vans and lorries to catch drivers out.

The Police have already been using these vehicles larger lorries to be able to see into HGV cabs to see if drivers were driving carelessly/dangerously (for example by using mobile telephones, watching DVDs or doing anything else that could take their attention away from the road).

The Police have been using this vehicle with two officers, one driving and one using a video camera to take evidence of any illegal activity by another driver.

Following the success of this operation it is expected that the Police will continue with this operation in the future, using an unmarked HGV. This reinforces the need to ensure all drivers are aware of their obligations on the road. If you are caught you could lose your driving licence and your livelihood.

CHEQUES TO BE PHASED OUT BY 2018 OR WILL THEY?

It was announced by the UK's Payments Council, back in December 2009, that cheques will be phased out by October 31 2018. The 15-strong body, comprising members of the banking industry, said cheques were in "long-term, terminal decline".

Chief executive Paul Smee said: "There are many more efficient ways of making payments than by paper in the 21st century, and the time is ripe for the economy as a whole to reap the benefits of its replacement."

The Payments Council has faced opposition from businesses and charities who argue that they will lose out when individuals can no longer use cheques for payments or contributions. But it vowed to work over the next nine years to "promote and explain" alternatives.

"The goal is to ensure that by 2018 there is no scenario where customers, individuals or businesses, still need to use a cheque, and the Board will be especially concerned that the needs of elderly and vulnerable people are met," the Payments Council said in a statement.

Cheque usage has been falling by around 10% a year as debit cards gain ascendancy. But, despite that, some four million transactions a day are still carried out by cheque.

The Federation of Small Businesses said it was disappointed by the decision to phase out paper payments. "It's something that's going to impact heavily on small businesses and their customers," said a spokeswoman.

The needs of the elderly and the disabled must also be considered, the charity Age Concern warned. "Chip and pin is problematic for many older and housebound people and we know 6.4 million over 65s have never used the internet," said a spokeswoman. "Without cheques, we are very concerned people will be forced to keep large amounts of cash in their home, leaving them vulnerable to theft and financial abuse."

Cheques are very infrequently used in countries such as Sweden and Norway and their use is under review in Ireland, South Africa and Australia.

In Britain cheque use peaked in 1990, when an average of 10.9 million cheques were issued per day in 1990. By 2008 there were just 3.8 million a day.

Will this change really take place?

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