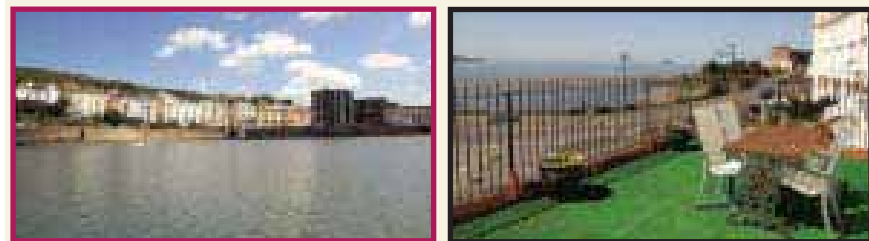


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HOLIDAYS FOR 2009

Fabulous Four Day Holidays Amazing
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Friday 16th Oct - Monday 19th Oct	WAS £139pp	NOW £119pp
Friday 30th Oct - Monday 2nd Nov	WAS £136pp	NOW £119pp
Friday 6th Nov - Monday 9th Nov	WAS £135pp	NOW £119pp
Friday 13th Nov - Monday 16th Nov	WAS £140pp	NOW £119pp
Friday 20th Nov - Monday 23rd Nov	WAS £140pp	NOW £119pp
Friday 27th Nov - Monday 30th Nov	WAS £140pp	NOW £119pp
Friday 4th Dec - Monday 7th Dec	WAS £140pp	NOW £109pp
Friday 11th Dec - Monday 14th Dec	WAS £140pp	NOW £99pp
Sunday 27th Dec - Wednesday 30th Dec	WAS £157pp	NOW £125pp

All include en-suite bedroom with tea/coffee and colour TV, full English breakfast, four course evening meal, coach travel (if required) and nightly entertainment AND FREE BAR DRINKS (from 6pm-10pm)

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Monday 19th Oct - Friday 23rd Oct	WAS £145pp	NOW £125pp
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All include en-suite bedroom with tea/coffee and colour TV, full English breakfast, four course evening meal, coach travel (if required) and nightly entertainment

Turkey and Tinsel Holidays

Monday 2nd Nov - Friday 6th Nov	WAS £156pp	NOW £125pp
Monday 9th Nov - Friday 13th Nov	WAS £156pp	NOW £125pp
Monday 23rd Nov - Friday 27th Nov	WAS £156pp	NOW £125pp
Monday 30th Nov - Friday 4th Dec	WAS £156pp	NOW £125pp
Monday 7th Dec - Friday 11th Dec	WAS £156pp	NOW £125pp

All include en-suite bedroom, full English breakfast, four course dinner, light lunch, sherry reception, Christmas Bingo and mince pies, visit from Santa, full entertainment programme to include 'Christmas Eve', 'Christmas Day' and 'New Year's Eve', optional fancy dress on 'Christmas Eve' with a mystery prize for the winner

Festive Holidays

23rd December - 27th December (FULL BOARD)	£394pp
30th December - 2nd January (FULL BOARD)	£264pp

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holidays

Skye's the limit

The latest addition to the Camping and Caravanning Club's books is on the Scottish isle of Skye. On the eve of the International Caravan & Motorhome Show at the NEC, PAUL COLE reports.



T was, reflect David Weller and Nicky Sellier, fate that led them to the Good Life.

Sick of the nine to five grind, they set off for the Hebrides on holiday.

As they drove across the Isle of Skye, they passed a picture postcard setting – a white-walled farmhouse on the shore of a scenic sea loch.

A smattering of caravans seemingly in storage suggested that a campsite was attached.

"Cor! Wouldn't it be nice to live down there?" said David, who worked in his family's camping supplies store.

The couple thought no more about it until they returned to their Sussex home.

Then, almost on a whim, they looked through a book of campsites and ticked the ones they'd like to live on.

"There were four on Skye and maybe another six on the West coast of Scotland," recalls David, 44. "I wrote to them all, asking if they wanted to sell."

"One of the replies was from the place we'd seen from the road that day."

"How did you know I was thinking of selling?" the owner asked. I was gobsmacked!

David and Nicky flew up to Inverness, got a hire car and a tent – and stayed on one of the other campsites on Skye.

"We wanted to get a feel of what life on the island might be like," says David.

"Then we came here, stayed four nights and found it was run by ever such a nice couple. The husband was away working on the oil installations and only came back at weekends."

"He gave us a tour of the campsite. We had a good look round then told him we had to get going."

"Hold on," he said. "I've got to show you the other 120 acres over there yet!"

Croft

Although the Loch Greshornish campsite, on the road from Dunvegan to Portree, is just a tad less than eight acres, there's another 200 acres of croft land.

"We did the deal for the house – and the campsite and the croft came with it," recalls Nicky, 41, who was a carer in her old life.

"We inherited some sheep and some hens – it's a working croft so you do need to have some livestock – then we bought two pedigree Highland cows. One was in calf, and 24 hours after she arrived, we had a little one too!"

"They have proved very popular with the tourists because they are so iconic.

We also now have some ducks – there are fresh duck eggs at the shop each morning – and we got some more sheep at a livestock auction.

"We had lambing on the same day we opened the campsite. That was a busy day, I can tell you. We were working out how to use the new computer system, then running back to the stable where the lambs were being born."

"Soon, the lambs were jumping all over the garden, and over the wall. We even had one in the shop one day!"

The couple have big plans for the site, which is the latest addition to the books of the Coventry-based Camping and Caravanning Club.

"We went to Coventry for the interview, armed with a map of Skye," says David. "The guy there said it looked as if they were going to go ahead and give us a franchise. We told him we'd already found a place, and showed him the map."

"That's good," he said, 'because that's one of the places we have earmarked for an ideal location in the future.' It was as if fate played a hand."

David and Nicky's dining room is wallpapered with plans and architect's visions of the future. They've already installed a couple of Camping Pods overlooking the loch.

Among their dreams for the site, just outside Edinbane, are a new toilet block, new roadways and terrace pitches, a jetty and moorings on the loch. There's even talk of a rare breeds area to help attract the tourist trade.

And the couple have been in talks with local tourist attractions on the island with a view to putting 'discovery' package holidays together.

It has, they admit, been hard work. Syke can be as unforgiving as it can be beautiful.

"We've both suffered with chilblains and, yes, there are midges," admits David. "They come out when there's not much wind about – and eat you alive."

"But if you're prepared to use repellent sprays or whatever, it's not so bad. In the whole of last year we had only 22 occasions when we thought the midges were bad. Dutch campers told us it was nothing compared to what they have to put up with back home."

Nicky interjects: "One lady asked me: 'Do you know when this wind's going to die down?'"

"You don't want that to happen," I told her.

The site, currently attracting steady bookings from the motorhome crowd but also popular with caravanners and

campers, is ideally placed for discovering Skye – easily accessible since the bridge from Kyle of Lochalsh was built. Leave the site and turn left for pretty Portree or head right for dramatic Dunvegan, with its castle stronghold of the clan MacLeod. The few main roads that cross the island make round-trip exploration a delight.

The thing about the island – largest of the Inner Hebrides – is that you can make it your own. There are hidden places you can enjoy in splendid isolation. We pulled up by a high moorland brook, brewed up and stayed most of the day.

Beaches

You can also venture further afield. Take the Caledonian Macbrayne ferry from Uig and you can sail to the Outer Hebridean islands of Uist and Harris, with their almost Caribbean-like white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters.

If you take the motorhome, you'll find that wild camping in stunning surroundings is permitted, within reason. If you just want a taster, the company offers a passenger day-trip, taking in the highlights of North Uist and Harris by coach.

Our home from home on this island adventure is very much made in the



GREAT ESCAPE: David Weller and Nicky Sellier, below, at home on Skye.



fact file

● Paul Cole travelled in an Auto Sleeper Hampshire motorhome, with automatic gearbox and an Option 2 Anniversary accessory pack, priced £56,995 on the road.

● Auto Sleeper motorhomes are built in Willersey, near Broadway, Worcestershire. The test vehicle was loaned by Marquis Northants. Call free on 0800 026 7777 or click www.marquismotorhomes.co.uk.

● Marquis will be introducing new models in the Auto Sleepers 'County' range at the International Caravan & Motorhome Show, which runs from October 13 to October 18 at Birmingham's NEC. Head for stand 7-31.

● Contact Loch Greshornish Caravan & Campsite by calling 01470 582230 or visiting www.skyecamp.com.

● The Camping and Caravanning Club, based in Coventry, can be contacted on 024 7647 5442 and 0845 130 7632, or hitch up at www.campingandcaravanning-club.co.uk.

Midlands. Built in the Cotswolds, the Auto Sleeper Hampshire offers motorhome freedom and versatility with caravan-like comfort.

A Mercedes 150bhp CDI diesel engine powers it effortlessly along twisting highland roads, its 9ft 1in width and 23ft 11in length ruling out only the narrower one-track carriageways where passing places are welcome sights.

As you'd expect the Hampshire includes all mod cons, including three-burner hob, cooker and grill, generously-sized freezer, microwave, flatscreen TV and aerial, hot water and heating, and a bathroom with electric toilet and separate shower compartment.

What you might not expect, however, is the Forlexus Orthopaedic Electric Bed System which gives you hand-held remote control of tilt and bend beds, both of which are larger than the average motorhome equivalent.

Our stay on Skye coincided with some of the best nights' sleep we have ever enjoyed on the road. Ideal if you want to rise refreshed for those early morning photo opportunities with the other who frolics on the Greshornish shoreline.

That Auto Sleeper tag never seemed more appropriate...