

Club President JULIA BRADBURY looks ahead to an exciting year of camping - and a few other things - for both her and the Club

First lady

WELL, Happy New Year everyone! I can't quite believe I've been the Club's first lady President for two years already, but here I am about to enter my third year 'in office'.

I use the term 'office' loosely of course, because as you'll probably know I like to spend as much time outdoors as possible, whether it's heading to the park with my young brood or getting out on the hills for a rewarding walk.

The way I see it there's never a better time than the start of a new year to signal your intent for heading into the great outdoors over the next 12 months.

Having backed the magazine's Share the Outdoors campaign in 2015, I can wholeheartedly carry its message through to 2016 - namely to get out more, try something new and involve your friends in whatever you do.

As it happens I've got several reasons to look forward to the New Year, and I hope all of you do too.

I'm doing something completely unique this year that I can't tell you anything about, except it does involve the outdoors, a charity and a television crew. It's so top secret that if I say any more... well, you know what happens.

What I can say of course is that I'll obviously be out and about representing the Club at various points during 2016. For starters, I'm sure I'll see many of you at the major caravan and camping shows at Birmingham's NEC in February and October, where you'll find me chatting with members and extolling the virtues of a life spent out in the fresh air.

National Camping and Caravanning Week (NCCW) will be another week to remember. Last year's (2015's) theme

was Get Kids Camping. We already knew from our Real Richness findings in 2011 that children who go camping are considered to be generally healthier and happier than those who don't, and the more recent research with Plymouth University showed parents felt camping helped kids thrive at school.

The same theme will continue into this year and the camping roadshow that toured the country will be expanded, returning bigger and better this time. We're hoping to grab more people's attention than ever before with some really fun and exciting events, and maybe even something extra special to start things off. For that you'll have to watch this space. More secrets...

This year's NCCW will take place from Monday 30 May to Sunday 5 June. For many it's half-term week, which means there'll be loads of things for young people to get involved in. It would be great to see as many people as possible there, so why not suggest it to your non-camping friends? Who knows, maybe they could be the next new members of the Club.

Keep an eye out for more updates about NCCW, which are going to appear in the magazine as things develop.

I'm also incredibly excited to be heading back out on a series of walks that will hit your television screens

in the spring. These were all filmed at the end of summer and are currently in the production phase. We're all looking forward to seeing the end result. And guess what? There'll be more on that in a

future issue of the magazine too - an exclusive peek behind the scenes.

Let's not forget the National Feast of Lanterns this year (you can find more details about it on page 38).

It's over in Worcestershire, at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern. Get your diaries out now, block out 25-29 August and turn to page 87 to book your pitch there.

All in all, it's going to be a year of great excitement, with more than enough reason to keep returning to these pages to see what's happening.

Here's to a cracking 2016 - and a few big reveals along the way.

Julia B
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