

Summer 2017 edition

# Cover4Caravans



"These are the wonderful stroke team on Ward G8 at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds showing off chocolates I bought them - you can read more below"

## Welcome to the Summer edition of the Cover4Caravans newsletter

Summer is upon us (although as I write this is it raining outside!) and we hope you have some great trips planned both in the UK or abroad. Please do send your holiday photos and reviews to [richardb@alanblunden.co.uk](mailto:richardb@alanblunden.co.uk) - we would love to hear from you. Or share them on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Cover4Caravans](http://www.facebook.com/Cover4Caravans).

### Places to go

To celebrate 2017 being Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, why not check out our 4 day Ayrshire and Arran castles and culture itinerary, courtesy of VisitBritain.com?

Enjoy Ayrshire and Arran's majestic castles, inspiring country houses and birthplace of Scotland's national poet. This is a fascinating tour for anyone with an interest in art, architecture, history and culture.

### Win!

This edition you have the chance of winning a fantastic Amazon voucher worth £100! Simply come up with

a witty caption for our competition - and no rude answers please!

### Portable TV's, awnings and checking your policy!

We've got a mix of fun and important stuff this month, with our must-read seven things you need to know about your insurance as well as Al The Snail's review of some of our useful onsite guides.

### Thank you to the nursing Teams at West Suffolk and Addenbrooke's Hospitals

While not caravan related, as some of you who follow my Twitter feed may know, my wife Jayne was taken seriously ill on the first day of our holiday last month. Initially it was thought she'd had a stroke and she was admitted to West Suffolk Hospital. (You can see some of the nursing team in the photo above).

Jayne was then sent to Addenbrooke's Hospital where after lots of tests, she was diagnosed with the very rare indeed Bickerstaff encephalitis.

Jayne is thankfully now back home and while she has a long road of physiotherapy and re-learning how to do things ahead of her, she will make a full recovery within the next 12 months.

### Thank you to my Twitter followers

Also, a special thank you to my Twitter followers who really did support me through the dark days when Jayne was so very ill - thank you.

### Don't forget!

Finally, don't forget to keep checking out our website for useful articles and ideas.

That's all for now - we hope you enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter - and Happy Holidays!

Richard

Richard Burgess, MCIM, ACIEH, Cert CIM  
Director, Cover4Caravans

Follow me on Twitter [@cover4caravans](https://twitter.com/cover4caravans)

# WIN

## £100 Amazon Voucher

Find out how inside!

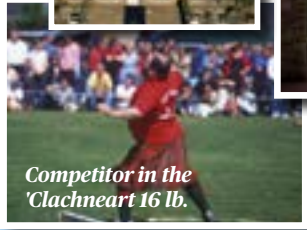




Clyde coast, Girvan,  
South Ayrshire,  
Scotland.



CASTLES &  
CULTURE  
AYRSHIRE



Competitor in the  
'Clachneart 16 lb.

## To celebrate 2017 being Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, read on for our Scotland, Ayrshire and Arran 4-day castles and culture itinerary, courtesy of VisitBritain.com

Enjoy Ayrshire and Arran's majestic castles, inspiring country houses and birthplace of Scotland's national poet. This is a fascinating tour for anyone with an interest in art, architecture, history and culture.

### Day 1

#### LARGS, KELBURN CASTLE AND WEST KILBRIDE CRAFT TOWN

In the north of the region on the A78 is Largs, a traditional seaside resort with Victorian promenade, sandy beach and ice cream parlours including the famous Nardinis.

Kelburn Castle and Estate lies just south of Largs on the A78. Home of the Earls of Glasgow and one of the most colourful castles in Scotland due to the graffiti project, Kelburn has something for all the family. Enjoy the magical 'Secret Forest', historic gardens, romantic glen, riding centre, indoor playbarn, adventure course and licensed restaurant.

West Kilbride Craft Town is 8 miles south of Largs, just off the A78. With a craft gallery, gift shop, and a variety of craft studios, visitors can see and buy quality craft in one easily accessible and picturesque location. At the centre of the craft town is the Barony Centre, a magnificent church transformed into a creative hub for major craft exhibitions and retail, craft and design classes and cultural events.

### Day 2

#### CULZEAN CASTLE, ALLOWAY AND BURNS

Culzean Castle is south of Ayr just off the A719. With its dramatic clifftop setting, Robert Adam architecture, fascinating history and beautiful surroundings, it's easy to see why the castle is one of Scotland's most popular visitor attractions

Surrounded by Culzean Country Park, a 600 acre encompassing lush woodland, landscaped gardens and rugged coastline, this 18th-century Scottish castle couldn't be better placed for a great day out.

Heading back to Ayr, on the A77, is the picturesque village of Alloway and award-winning Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. This fascinating museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland's favourite son.

The museum comprises of the famous Burns Cottage where the poet was born, the historic landmarks where he set his greatest work, Tam o'Shanter, the elegant monument and gardens created in his honour and a modern museum housing the world's most important collection of his life and works.

### Day 3

#### DUMFRIES HOUSE

On the A70 at Cumnock is Dumfries House, one of Britain's most beautiful stately homes and best kept heritage secrets. The House has something to delight and enchant visitors of all ages with its sumptuous interiors and magnificent furnishings, all set in 2,000 acres of land.

In June 2007, HRH, The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay headed a consortium of charities and heritage bodies to purchase this unique house, its contents and adjoining land in order to keep this historical jewel intact and accessible to the public.

### Day 4

#### ARRAN AND BRODICK CASTLE

The Isle of Arran is an hour's ferry ride from Ardsrossan. Brodick is the largest village on the island and offers a superb selection of services, with plenty of cafes, hotels, galleries and shops to choose from.

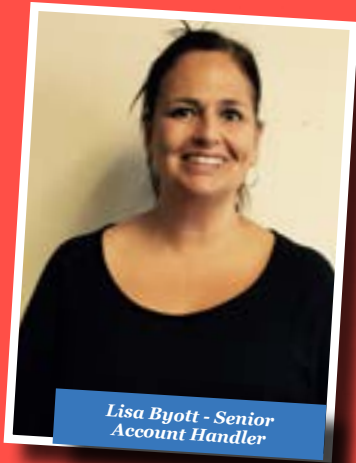
On the outskirts of the village is Brodick Castle and Country Estate, a grand, red sandstone castle with stunning views over Brodick Bay to the Firth of Clyde. The grounds and surrounds are worthy of a visit alone – from the W A Nesfield-influenced landscaped gardens to the woodland trails, wildlife ponds and waterfalls, there's plenty to explore outdoors in Britain's only island country park.

The castle is packed full of treasures too and is renowned for its impressive collections of period furniture, silverware, porcelain, paintings and sporting trophies.

# Get away to...

WELCOME TO  
**SCOTLAND**





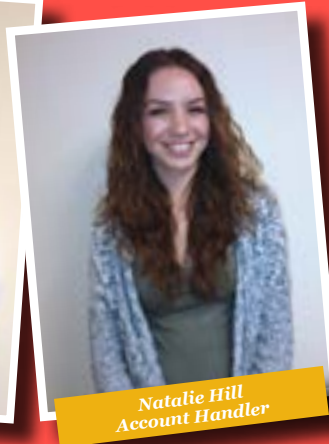
Lisa Byott - Senior Account Handler



Toby Moon Trainee Account Handler



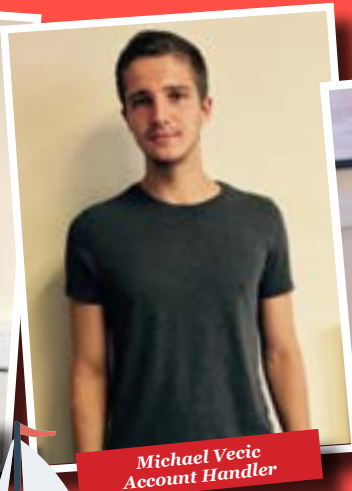
Megan Herbert Senior Account Handler



Natalie Hill Account Handler



Michael Stammers - Manager



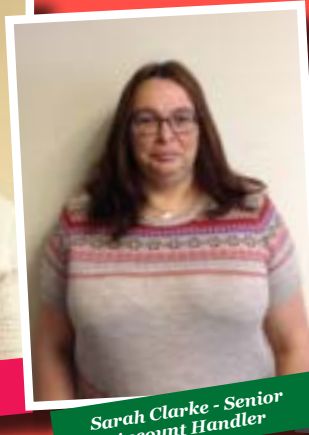
Michael Vecic Account Handler



Ben Evans Account Handler



Harry Hierons Account Handler



Sarah Clarke - Senior Account Handler



Sarah Reid Account Handler



Catherine Wright Account Handler



**Meet The Team**  
Now you can put a face to the name!



# Did you know...

## Portable electrical items left in your 'van are not covered? (And six other things you need to know about your insurance)

Here at Cover 4Caravans we are honest and direct - we don't hide behind insurance jargon and try to make sure you know exactly what you're covered for.

We try our best to tell you all about the key benefits and terms of our policy at quote stage, and questions can be asked at any time during the policy term.

You would also have received a policy booklet with your documents as a new customer, and with your new renewal. So, while it does take time, it is definitely worth a thorough read.

We have collated a few key points for you to remember and some of the questions we get asked that you may not even thought of!

### 1. What is new for old?

This basically means your existing caravan will be replaced with a new make and model of your 'van. All you have to ensure is the sums insured reflect the cost of a new caravan.

For example, if you bought your caravan for £10,000 4 years ago, is it still worth £10,000 - or would it cost £12,000 to replace it? Whatever the replacement value is, typically this is the value you should insure it for.

Do also note that claims will only be met up to the retail or market value of the caravan.

### 2. How do I qualify for New for Old?

Unlike some other cover from other providers which may have very restrictive conditions on getting a new replacement, at Cover4Caravans our policies will typically provide new for old in the following circumstances:

- if you have a caravan which is up to five years old then you will qualify for a new for old replacement. This will be the case no matter how many previous owners the caravan has had;
- if your caravan is older than this then you'll typically qualify for a replacement based on the Glass's Guide market value of your caravan.

### 3. Can I leave my awning up when I am not with the caravan?

Unfortunately not, when the caravan is not in use (left for more than 24hrs) we require your awning to be taken down. It might be a bit of a pain, but if you're using the caravan and there is a storm coming you are more likely be able to reduce the damage caused to the awning, rather than coming back after a week to find it's been blown away!

Further reading: [Do you insure awnings?](#)

### 4. Am I covered whilst towing the caravan?

Yes any damage caused to the caravan is covered under your policy (up to set limits of course), however you must be aware that any third party damage caused will typically be covered under your car insurance (because the car is actually in control of the caravan).

When your tourer is not attached to the car, the public liability element will be covered under your caravan policy.



# Did you know...Cont'd

## 5. Can I leave my portable television when I am not using the caravan?

Not many people will know that portable electrical items (including portable TV's) and other valuables are not insured for theft or attempted theft if the caravan is not in use.

Valuable are defined as: Any article made from precious metal, china, glass, porcelain, jewellery, fur, watches, video or photographic equipment, computers, (including laptops and tablet computers), binoculars, telescopes, phones, pictures, works of art, antiques, stamp, medal and coin collections, sporting equipment and portable audio equipment.

Fixed TV's are covered.

Please also note that each insurer does have a single article limit - make sure you know how much yours is.

## 6. Do I need to tell you when I change my storage location during the year?

Yes you do. Even if it is only a week you must advise us when the caravan is going to be somewhere else, other than the storage location on your policy. The reason is that we have certain limits on what we can deem as acceptable, and all caravan storage locations have to be agreed by us. However you do not need to advise us each time you are going away to a caravan park, as long as the caravan is in use.

For more information, watch our short video [Caravan Storage and Insurance](#).

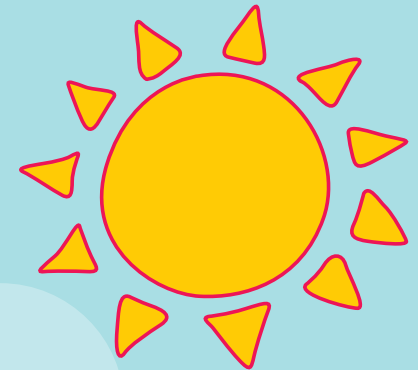
## 7. What is covered under caravan contents insurance?

This is basically standard caravan equipment and what you would reasonably take away with you, excluding any valuables. Many home insurers can cover contents away from the home so make sure you are not dual insured.

Any contents must be kept inside the caravan or the awning, and theft / damage can only be covered if there is evidence of forcible or violent entry or exit from the caravan.

Do you have more questions?

**We recommend if you are ever unsure about what is or isn't covered to contact us straight away - that's what we are here for!**



## Cover4Caravans



FOLLOW  
AL THE SNAIL  
ON FACEBOOK



## AL the Snail

*Oh boy, I'm seriously dehydrated. I'm stuck; get me a drink quick please.*

### What our customers are saying!

*At Cover4Caravans, our aim is not only to find you the most suitable and cost-effective cover for your 'van, but to provide a first class service.*

*Here is some genuine feedback via Feefo from some of our customers. To read more reviews, follow the link on our home page.*

*"Friendly staff and they know what they are talking about. Great service. Very professional and on the ball. Competitive prices, easy to talk to and explained everything I needed to know"*

*"Recommended. Fantastic service, reasonably priced"*

*"Both sales persons I spoke to were very professional, helpful and pleasant. Also, the quotation was a lot cheaper than I expected. I would not hesitate to recommend Cover4Caravans to any of my friends or colleagues. Well done"*

*"Competent & easy to deal with. I found them very competent, no unnecessary questions, understood my requirements and were very clear in telling me about the policy. Very impressed in general"*

*"A quick and easy experience. Service was very good, the whole procedure went very smoothly with no problems at all. Would use again myself and recommend to others".*





# My Secret Life

By Sarah Clarke  
Cover4Caravans Account Handler



## **Hi, I'm Sarah and I'm a Senior Account Handler at Cover 4 Caravans. In my spare time I am a Cub Scout leader (Akela) and assistant Scout Leader.**

Mondays are never dull in my life; I finish work at 4:15 and frantically dash home to gather the equipment and paper work I need for the evening. I leave home at 5:30 so I can open the hall up for the inevitable ones who arrive early. 6:00 and the Cub Scout meeting starts with between 19 to 24 children attending aged between 8 to 10. Tonight we are starting the Scientist badge so there will be lots of fun, noise and experiments. Cubs finishes at 7:15.

As the Cubs are leaving, the Scouts are arriving for their meeting. Scouts are

aged between 10 to 14 which is a large age difference at this age and it can be hard to keep them all entertained as they all mature at different stages. On average, we have 18 Scouts attending.

We are fortunate with the positioning of our Scout hut as it is opposite a large park. We begin our evening with a game over there with the hope that having them running around, they will tire themselves out.

As there are 3 other leaders going to the park, I take some time out to catch up on the paperwork of the evening. It seems no sooner than they left they are back, with noise levels on the rise. The Scouts are separated into 2 groups to do some work on their Communicator badge.

One group is learning about Morse code and sending each other messages, whilst the other group is learning the phonetic

alphabet. I designed a small quiz for them to do and also printed out some picture clues. 9:00 is fast approaching so it is time to clear up. We remind the Scouts about the District Badge weekend camp this weekend.

There is a joke between Scout leaders that the role is only 2 hours per week. Whilst the meeting may only be 2 hours, the work put in behind the scenes is a lot more. We have to plan the meetings, keep records of achievements, keep accounts, plan camps, go shopping, attend training and leader meetings and lots more. During the week before we are going to camp, it is not unusual for me to be tied up 3 or 4 evenings a week sorting stuff and going shopping.

The largest camp I have run as the leader in charge was for 64 children (with ages ranging from Beavers who start at the age of 6, up to Scouts who finish aged 14) which was catered for in a field using just

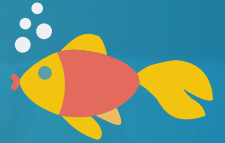
2 portable gas ring burners. This was fun and we still managed to cook a full English breakfast - although this was eaten in shifts.

Scouting is still very popular with children even though it started in 1908, and with our group which has been going for over 60 years. There have been many changes over the years but the fundamental ethos is still the same. I truly believe that a uniformed group like Scouts is good to get the children outdoors and away from the TV and computer games.

Although Scouting is a lot of work, the satisfaction to see a smiling face when they have achieved something or get a new badge makes it all worthwhile.



# Al's ideas ... for destination inspiration



Going away in your caravan with friends or family is a wonderful adventure taking you to some really fun and interesting places. Here are Al The Snail's round up of some of our very own guides designed to inspire your next trip ...

## *Are you a history buff?*

The British Isles is steeped in history. So, whether you are about to buff up on your history or are already a seasoned history buff, our guide entitled [Caravanning for History Buffs](#) may be a handy source of suggestions about what you might find at any particular destination - as well as places to pitch up during your visit.

## *Are you a foodie?*

Holidays are not always just about snatching some sunshine and relaxation - trying out different foods is also part of the fun!

So why not check out our two tongue in cheek guides to regional food, flavours and delicacies with our [Caravanners' Guide to Foodie Holidays](#) and [UK foodie holidays for caravanners - part 2?](#)

## *Ooh, la la and other continental trips*

Mainland Europe may only be a short hop across the channel, but once there, you can enjoy truly different cultures, food and - hopefully - sunnier weather!

Check out our [Guide to caravanning in Germany](#) covering destinations such as The Romantic Road and our [Guide to caravanning in France](#) where you can find out about the wild horses of the Camargue.

## *Adults only*

These days, caravan sites for adults only - those above a certain age and unaccompanied by children - may be found all around the UK and in Europe too.

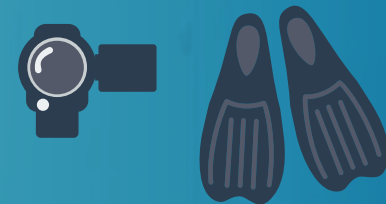
Our [Caravan sites for adults](#) guide suggests why adults only caravan sites might appeal to you and takes a look at just some of those sites on offer, their locations, and their facilities.

## *Are you an adrenaline junkie?*

One of the great things about the British Isles is that they are about a whole lot more than historic monuments, castles, ruins and the tranquillity of some rural idyll - there is also a mountain of adventures and activities throughout the country.

Some of the best spots for adrenaline-fuelled activities - whether extreme or otherwise - might be almost on your own doorstep, whilst others might be in new and untravelled corners of these islands.

Our guide for [Adrenaline Junkies](#) will introduce you to some of the locations where you can indulge a hankering for more adventurous activities - and where you will find a handily placed site for your caravan at the end of the day.



We hope you enjoyed Al's round up of some of our guides - to access all of our free guides, please visit the [Cover4Caravans Guides page](#).





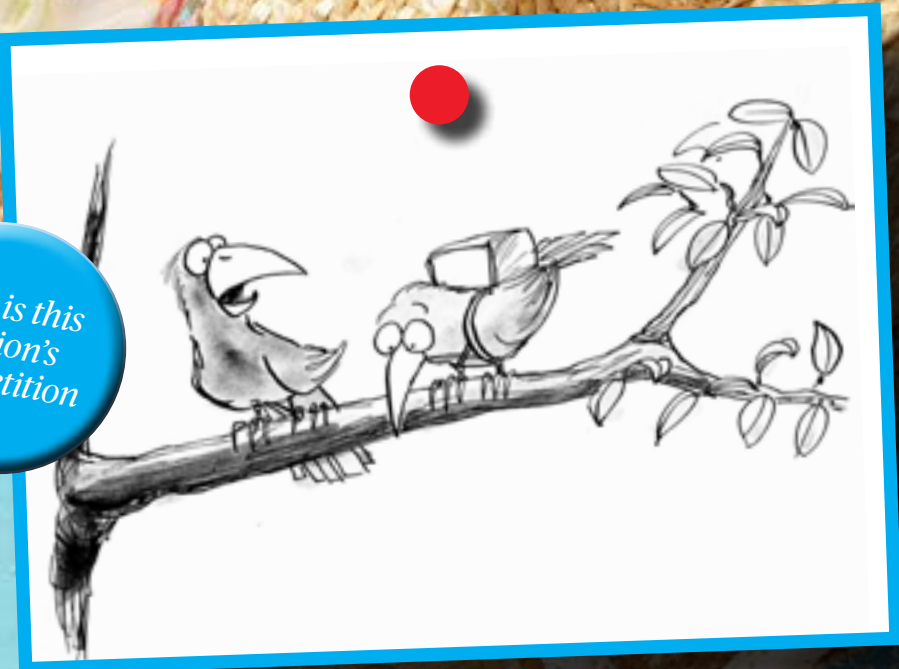
# CAPTION COMPETITION



"Any chance you could give me a hand you great oueuf."

*Last edition's picture...*

Here is this edition's competition



**So for your chance to win this fabulous prize, have a look at the picture above.**

Please send us your caption via email to [michaels@alanblunden.co.uk](mailto:michaels@alanblunden.co.uk) or post it to us as our usual address. If yours is the winning caption, you will receive a fantastic £100 Amazon Gift Voucher.

Closing date for entries is **Friday 15th September 2017.**

Good luck!



Thank you to everyone who entered our caption competition in the last edition! Congratulations to **Mr Derek Graham from Corsham in Wiltshire,** who won a £100 Amazon voucher

# Improve your tourer driving skills

There are those who think that towing a caravan is easy – and there are those who have a lot of experience and know differently. If you are in the latter group, then read on!

## Towing myths

Even experienced caravan owners can sometimes find their skills challenged in particularly demanding circumstances. That might include things such as tight parking, reversing at angles or reversing around corners. Even if you mastered those techniques once upon a time, it's a fact that you can become rusty if you haven't practised them for a while.

That's why, even if you're an experienced caravan tower, it might be worth considering a brush up on your specialist techniques.

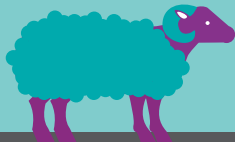
Enhanced caravan towing courses

There are a number of courses geared up to meet this need.

For example:

- the [Caravan Club's caravan manoeuvring course](#). This is aimed at drivers who are already experienced in the basics of towing a caravan but who want to brush up on some skills and master advanced techniques too;
- another similar course is [offered by the Camping and Caravan Club](#);
- [Trailer Training also provide courses](#) specifically for caravan owners.

There are plenty of others to choose from and there's bound to be one being run somewhere near your home. Typically they last around 1-1.5 days and the price is likely to be somewhere in the region of £200 or so.



## What you'll need

The requirements may vary slightly from one course to another but generally you should assume that you'll require:

- some evidence, probably by your own personal testimony, that you have already mastered the basics of towing a caravan. If you arrive for an advanced course and it becomes clear almost immediately that you're a complete novice, your instructor might decline to continue and request instead that you attend a basics course;
- your car will need to be fitted with a tow bar of an approved type. All electrical connections will need to be in place. There is usually a minimum space requirement between the tow bar and your rear bumper of around 80mm. Even though these courses are usually conducted on private property, your instructor will require that your vehicle is fully road-legal and ready to tow the caravan;
- you will need to have a full licence of the appropriate type to permit towing. If you're in any doubt about categories, it's a good idea to check everything in advance. Note that provisional licences typically won't be accepted;
- some course providers may have minimum age requirements;
- [you must have towing caravan insurance](#) of an appropriate type. You will need to be sure that it will cover you for towing a caravan that is not your property, as some courses of this nature will provide the caravan you'll be learning with.

## Is it worth it?

It's certainly true that many experienced and perfectly competent drivers with towed caravans have never attended a formal training course in their life. However, we've perhaps all seen examples of some less than inspirational techniques when on the road or watching others in caravan parks etc.

The trouble is that you don't really know how good (or otherwise) your complicated manoeuvring skills are until you need to deploy them one day. That's probably not the time you'll want to discover that they're rusty or to start wishing you'd taken that advanced or brush-up course!

Perhaps it's a case of better safe than sorry where this sort of training is concerned.



## Calendar of events ..... 2017



### What's on?

Here are some events coming up in the next few months that you may be interested in. All details are correct at time of going to press, but do check that an event is still running before you leave!

#### 22 – 24 July 2017

##### The Norfolk Motorhome Show

Norfolk County Showground, Norwich, NR5 0TT

#### 3 – 6 August 2017

##### BBC Countryfile Live

Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, OX20 1PP

#### 18 – 20 August 2017

##### The Western Motorhome Show, Malvern

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW

#### 2 – 3 September 2017

##### UK Autumn Motorhome and Caravan Show

Newark Showground, NG24 2NY

#### 8 – 10 September 2017

##### The Motorhome Show Shepton Mallet

Royal Bath And West Showground, BA4 6QN

Cover4Caravans is the trading name of Alan Blunden & Co. Ltd. Alan Blunden & Co. Ltd are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and our registration number is 309694

### Cover4Caravan Home

Baxter Building  
80 Baxter Avenue  
Southend on Sea  
Essex SS2 6HZ

#### Team Number:

0800 9707172 (freephone)

#### Fax:

01702 606 367

#### Email:

[cover4caravans@alanblunden.co.uk](mailto:cover4caravans@alanblunden.co.uk)

#### Website:

[www.cover4caravans.co.uk](http://www.cover4caravans.co.uk)

#### Follow us at:



### The Cover4 Team

**Michael Stammers**  
Manager  
**Natalie Hill**  
Account Handler  
**Sarah Clarke**  
Senior Account Handler  
**Megan Herbert**  
Senior Account Handler  
**Harry Hierons**  
Account Handler  
**Lisa Byott**  
Senior Account Handler  
**Michael Vecic**  
Account Handler  
**Catherine Wright**  
Account Handler  
**Ben Evans**  
Account Handler  
**Sarah Reid**  
Account Handler  
**Toby Moon**  
Account Handler  
**Ann Thompson**  
PA to Directors  
**Richard Burgess**  
Director



# Cover4Caravans

