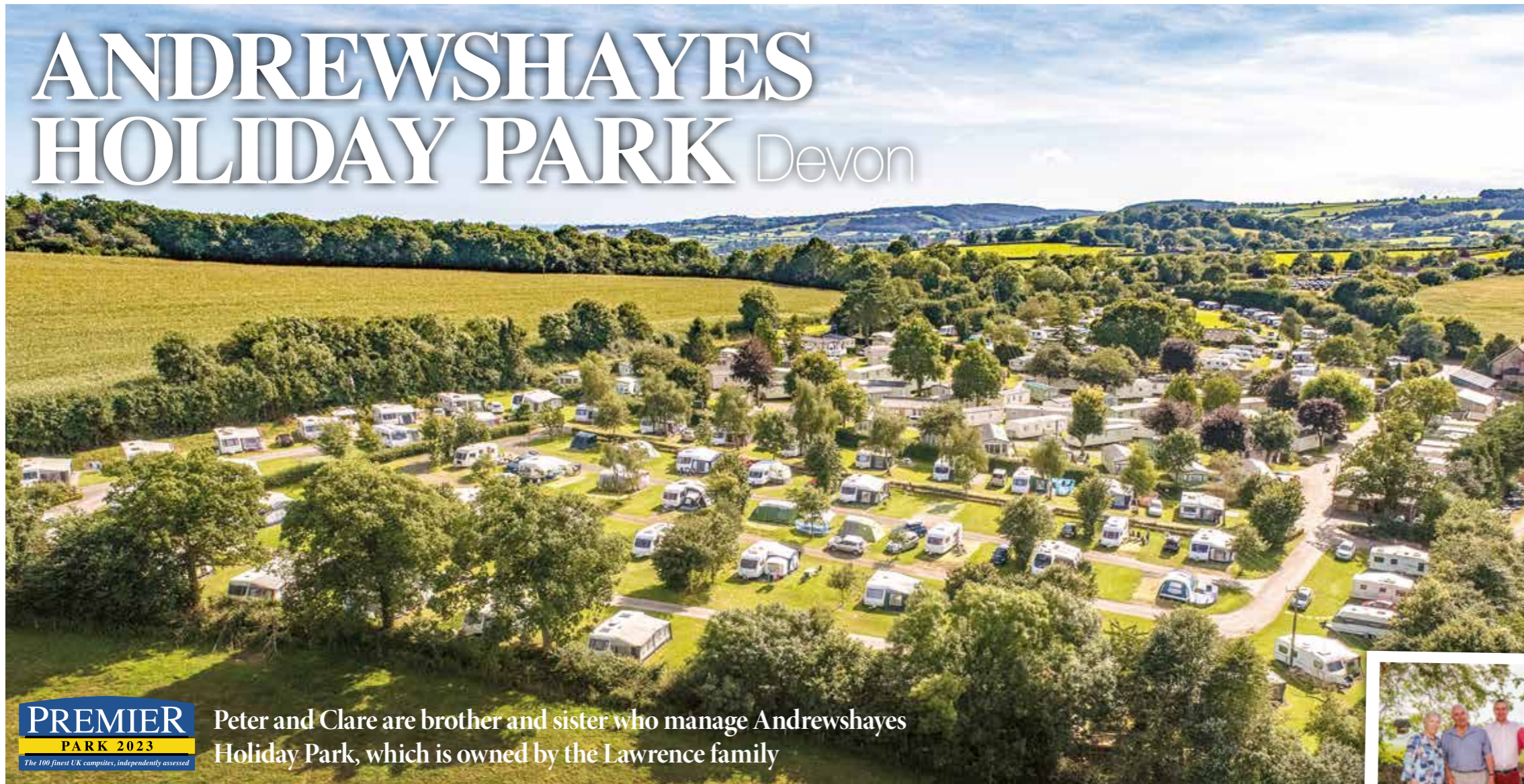


ANDREWSHAYES HOLIDAY PARK Devon



PREMIER
PARK 2023
The 100 finest UK campsites, independently assessed

Peter and Clare are brother and sister who manage Andrewshayes Holiday Park, which is owned by the Lawrence family



The team at Andrewshayes

A Andrewshayes Holiday Park is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in east Devon and is a medium-sized, family-orientated park. Customers return year after year to enjoy the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the site, its free to use pool, bar and restaurant.

The campsite is inland, with countryside views, but only 15 minutes' drive to popular seaside towns along the Jurassic Coast such as Lyme Regis and Seaton.

Andrewshayes has a mix of accommodation, from touring, glamping and holiday homes, to seasonal pitches, and static caravans for sale.

Q Tell us a little about your site and how it first began.

A Andrewshayes was started by our grandmother in the 1930s

as a side income to the then dairy farm. We had a public health licence granted in 1936, making us one of the oldest holiday parks in the country. The park has been developed over the years, most significantly by our parents, Harry and Stephanie, from 1960 onwards.

Q What did you do before becoming owners of this site?

A Having both had separate careers first, we have come back to Andrewshayes later in life. Peter was farming and Clare had moved away from Devon and into corporate marketing.

Q How long have you been running your campsite for? How did you first become owners of the site/what made you want to own and run a campsite?

Customers return year after year to enjoy the relaxed and friendly atmosphere...

A Being brought up helping on the site, we both feel very fortunate to have become formally involved and able to keep the business in the family. Peter has been the General Manager for the last 20 years. Clare has been part-time for 15 years running the accounts and marketing.

Q What do you like about being a campsite owner/manager?

A Day by day there's lots of variety, which keeps things interesting. Running your own business is a huge 24/7 commitment, there is also a great deal of flexibility with our time.

Q What are the main challenges?

A Keeping the site looking attractive and being on top of

the constant maintenance is a real challenge, especially when we are busy. As a business we also have to be looking ahead to the future of the site. Customers' requirements and expectations are constantly moving on, from the provision of things like WiFi and electric car charging, to the quality and size of holiday homes and pitches.

Q What is a typical day like for you?

A There really isn't one! For Pete, it ranges from still being hands-on with maintenance jobs or engaging with customers and suppliers, to making decisions about new holiday homes or upgrades to the site. Clare's role is a bit more routine, dealing with invoices and accounts; however, the marketing is more varied and keeps the day more interesting.

info

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Q What do you feel makes your site special and appealing to guests who return every year?

A Still being family run is a unique aspect to Andrewshayes. Although some guests may not realise who we are, being on site every day keeps us at the forefront of the business and helps make sure our customer service is excellent. We feel strongly that great service comes from having a happy staff team.

Q What do you love about the region your site is based in? Do you have any favourite locations/attractions?

A We have to agree that the beautiful countryside and the

changing seasons are something to shout about. We are, after all, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Add in the proximity to the coast and we feel we have the best of both worlds. The best places to visit are the free ones, like walking along the seafront or the coast path. Lyme Regis is always popular for a walk on the Cobb wall, or watching the sunset with a bag of chips is hard to beat.

Q What do you like to do on a rare day off?

A Peter enjoys a good pub lunch, especially a Sunday roast, in one of our cosy traditional pubs. Clare is a keen walker and can often be found out and about exploring the footpaths and local woods. She also writes a local blog with lots of helpful information for locals and visitors. ■