



# Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

≈ The Caravan Club ≈

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

My how the time flies!! It's July already ..... will we ever get any REAL sun!! I hope you all have enjoyable holidays, wherever you may go. Be it far off places or good old United Kingdom, may the sun shine on you and yours!

May I ask that if YOU have asked someone to write a report for your rally, give them a reminder to do just that! If YOU volunteer, please write it up as soon as possible after the rally, and send it to me by post or email, that way we all get to read them. They are here for you to enjoy.

If you have any items or articles of interest, items for sale etc, or even some funny anecdotes or stories, please let me know. You can email or post items to me, I'll be pleased to receive them.

Chris ☺

## Quiet weekend, Lyneham

11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007

We journeyed to Lyneham and joined other travellers on the verge, at the side of the farm lane, in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside. Were we in the right place? Was this gypsies or tinkers? No, it was a Wiltshire Rally - the farmer thought we were due a month later, and had to find us somewhere PDQ! No matter, we settled in, opened a bottle and bade farewell to a miserable working week and celebrated that it was Friday.

Saturday dawned, and we were rudely awakened by a phone call from our son, Andy, who had had his car broken into. Quick change of plan, back to Trowbridge, sorted him out and returned to the Rally field, where our Rally Officers were putting up the gazebo for the evening get together. It was a blowy day and rain threatened. We caravanners are of stern stuff, no rainstorm was going to stop our party. Up went the gazebo, storm straps were sourced, and chairs and tables moved in. Logs had been collected and the bonfire was lit. Geoff and Jenny looked after it and some of the logs Jenny found, were still burning in the morning. We all cooked our sausages in the pouring rain, sharing some of the more unusual varieties and had a great feast of hot dogs, nibbles, dips etc. We stayed up very, very late. Some of the ralliers had been to Tony and Diane Hardiman's farewell party in Cricklade, and joined us for night-caps. Super atmosphere and good company - what more can you ask of a weekend.

Sunday morning was not so jolly. It rained. It rained some more. Then it rained harder and more persistently! We had flag in the gazebo where we drank coffee, chatted and thanked our Rally Officers. Some were in need of painkillers and some were remarkably sprightly considering the late night/early morning. After flag we all helped get the gazebo down and packed up our cars and vans in the heaviest downpour of the day. Being close to the lane was very handy as no-one had to be towed far, and the ground was relatively unmarked when we left. All packed, said goodbye and thanked Rally Officers and we were off. But, no we weren't. Sods law dictates that when you get a flat tyre it will be raining - and yes it was. Eventually we were on our way home to dry out. A super weekend, despite the initial site problems for the Rally Officers, our family dramas and the awful weather, we had a super time. Another excellent Wiltshire Rally. Thank you Geoff and Jan Randell with Jenny Newman

**John and Ann Holdway**



## Hawks and Crafts, Weyhill

23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Just a short hop down the road for Linda and I, to this beautifully kept field, behind the Weyhill Fair public House.

We arrived in light rain, that was obviously not enough to dampen the spirits of our rally officers, as they directed us to our pitch. A few noggins settled us in for the evening.

Saturday morning saw us making our way, along with most of the rallier's, into the lovely town of Andover for some well earned retail therapy. Upon our return, we were greeted by the Rally officers who encouraged some of us to play a game of Lawn Skittles - the wiser ones stayed inside whilst the participants braved near arctic conditions (it was just a bit cold and windy). The game was eventually won by Elaine Burley, with Keith Pankhurst following up a close second. Well done to the brave ones who braved the cold winds, to play a keenly fought game!!

Whilst all of this was going on, our rally officer ladies prepared a cream tea. Fortunately, we were able to retire to the comparative warmth of our caravans. It was delightful, thanks Mary and Janet.



Saturday evening again saw many of the rallier's in one place, namely the Weyhill Fair Pub. I don't think I have ever seen such large plates of food and at very good prices!!

Flag was taken with a fair amount of banter by Sheila and John Dunn. Sheila at one stage threatened a much taller man who kept interrupting her (and it wasn't me!). She also spent much of her time this weekend encouraging people to run rallies next year, with some level of success - we have been suckered again! I hope her hard work pays off, she deserves it for the time and effort she is putting into the programme generation. I think we all need to remember, the Rally Programme is only as good as we are prepared to make it.



The competition for the weekend was to identify the names of birds from cryptic clues; this was won by Dave and Marion Beakhurst. Pete said answers to the competition would be obvious to anyone who went to a rally at Breamore House in 1993, as he used the same one then. Perhaps we should all save our old competition answers just in case they come around again in 10 or 15 years.

A great weekend was had by one and all, and our thanks must go to our rally officer team of Janet and Owen White, very well supported by Peter and Mary Blake - a good team at a great venue.

Super pitch for a summer rally Owen. (Get on to them Sheila!!)

**Linda and Jim Gilchrist**

## The 50-50-90 rule

Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

I disagree with unanimity.

I have my doubts about disbelief.

Always Avoid Alliteration.

Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.

One should never generalize.

Avoid cliches like the plague.

Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.

Profanity sucks.

I have a twin brother; he's identical, but I'm not.

Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

Death to all fanatics!

An oral contract isn't worth the paper its written on.

If we do not succeed, we run the risk of failure.

I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous!

You can't have everything, where would you put it?

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Drugs may lead to nowhere, but at least it's the scenic route.

Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.

Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of your life.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

Don't hit a man with glasses...use your fist.

When everything's going your way, you're driving in the wrong lane.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything

Some people say that I'm superficial, but that's just on the surface.

On one hand, I'm indecisive; but on the other, I'm not.

If there's one thing I can't stand, it's intolerance.

The world's full of apathy, but I don't care.

Perspective is in the eye of the beholder.

Prejudiced people are all alike.

What is the probability that something will happen according to the odds?

Evil isn't all bad.

I'm still not sure if I understand ambiguity.

Always be on the lookout for conspicuousness.

There's no such thing as nonexistence.

Cooperation can only be reached if we work together.

As far as I'm concerned, treachery will sometimes bring loyalty into question.

He doesn't have much of a reputation...or so I've heard.

I always wanted to be a procrastinator!

Rehab is for quitters!

The shortest distance between two points is how far apart they are.

Don't be redundant by repeating yourself.

Grammar has got to be one of the most importantest things ever?

My identity lies in not knowing who I am.

I am becoming increasingly worried that there isn't enough anxiety in my life.

I have this nagging fear that everyone is out to make me paranoid.

Free advice is worth what you paid for it.

Entropy just isn't what it used to be.

I keep telling myself that I am a pathological liar, but I am not sure if I believe it.

There are only three kinds of people in the world: people who can count and people who can't.

Reality is a big, nasty, vicious dragon, but I don't believe in dragons.

Life is full of uncertainties...or is it?

Not only am I redundant and superfluous, but I also tend to use more words than necessary.

If you lend someone £20, and never see that person again...it was probably worth it.

Do you know of any more? If you do, please let me have them. Chris :)

## **Junior Fishing, Witherington**

**4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

Witherington Farm was the venue; junior fishing was the weekend when they compete for the Harris shield.

It's a nice site, next to the fishing lakes, with a tackle shop and café. There was also plenty to do for the non-fishing ralliers, with Salisbury nearby or the Downton Cuckoo Fair approximately 3 miles down the road, which was also on this weekend.

The juniors fished on Saturday and Sunday mornings on different lakes. There was a good turnout, with all of them weighing in. Chris Rust showed his experience by winning the Harris Shield with his catch on Sunday. Après fish we were all invited to a communal barbeque, for the usual banter and tipples.

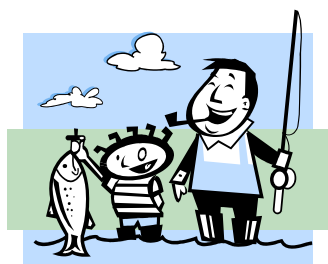
During the two evenings, the increasingly popular duck race took place. John Harris dressed up in his (sexy) rubber suit, and marked the finishing line, approximately 30 yards from the start, which was the bridge where Joe emptied the box of numbered ducks we had drawn out earlier. With slow moving water, a few rocks were thrown in supposedly to make the ducks swim faster, but Jim Gilchrist was trying to get John wet. When the ducks crossed the finishing line, the winners were declared Jeff on Saturday and Rachel on Sunday.

Flag on Monday morning, was amusing and informative, with presentations made, even a few spots of rain didn't dampen the spirits.

A good weekend was had by all. Thanks to John, Ann, Joe and Lynn.

With special thanks to John and Ann, for their continued support of the juniors, with the award of The Harris Shield.

**Andy, Alison, Rachel and Nicola Harrison**





We all arrived on the Friday to a glorious day. Was this weather going to be kind to us all week-end? The competition was going to be on grass. Alan and Geoff sited the vans while Jan did her bit of taking the money.

Saturday morning arrived, and I had to go to work. I had signed on for the competition on the Friday, the same as some of the others and I had asked that if I was drawn for an early slot, to see if someone would swap with me. I arrived back at about 2.30 to be told Linda Davis had been drawn as a late slot, and had swapped. I was now driver number 15.

The sun was still glorious and everyone had their sun hats and sun creams out. The marshals were all walking round and doing their jobs. Alan was looking quite calm I thought, considering it was his first driving competition. We all had the same chance to win, as it was still dry.

The tests looked quite good. I started to do my bit and as there seemed to have been a few jokers in the pack during the afternoon, I sat on the start line with my co-driver John Holdway and brushed my hair and put lipstick on. First test over and it was very near the time limit. Both the stop watches were checked and they were at exactly the same time. I was so excited I kissed the competition officer Alan Wilcox on the cheek; poor chap had to walk around for the rest of the afternoon with red lip marks on his cheek.

Prior to my turn, Fran Birch completed the first test, and then her co driver got out and said the second test would be faster..... as Fran would let the hand brake off! And just to mention a few of the other jokers..... Andy Harrison was beating his car out of the window, as he was completing the test, to try and make his vehicle go faster. Joe Day was shouting instructions to his vehicle.

The final winners of it all were:-

**Sarum Trophy** ~ John Holdway

**Blunsdon Abbey Rose Bowl** (I have to clean it for another year) Jenny Newman

**Ladies Track Novice** ~ Fran Birch

**Fairford Cup** ~ Joe Day

**Jewel Cup** ~ Joe Day

**Ramseyer Cup** ~ John Mason

We also have to say a big “thank you” to Nigel Riley and Michelle Chamberlain. Unfortunately, Alan had mis-calculated scores and told us all at flag. Both Nigel and Michelle gave their cups back, when it was all sorted out.

Now I also have to admit to cheating this week-end, and I think there are others that have to admit to cheating also. The weekend quiz was all about cars and dates of vehicles. Well I went to work as previously mentioned, on the Saturday, and put the second question into my computer at work, and would you believe that all the questions came up with the answers, plus one extra one. So I handed mine in with my name as “Jenny Newman went to work c/o [www.Google.co.uk](http://www.Google.co.uk) and the last answer is Mercedes”.

Well, the answer sheet was handed round the rally field, and some of the culprits were Ann Holdway, Sue Greenfield, John Shorthouse, Gary Davis, Jose’ Kirk, May Haddrell (Doug said he does not cheat) to name but a few. But they all admitted to cheating on the tops of the question sheets. There was a final winner, and that was Gary Davis, after a tie breaker. Anyway we all had a good time and Jan took the cheating in good spirit.

So I would like to thank Alan Wilcox for such an excellent competition, and also his many helpers all over the week-end, well run!! Also to Jan and Geoff, the other rally officers.

Let’s all hope that if it is on grass again next year, the weather will be as kind to us or we will all have to buy 4 wheel drive vehicles.

Thank you again, Alan, Jan and Geoff.

**Jenny Newman**



As we were driving to Brinkworth for the golf rally, I asked Derek how long did he think it would take to put up our new porch awning? By 6.00pm if you're lucky said Derek. Oh says I.

We arrived about 3.00pm, Gary showed Derek to our pitch, and as usual Barbara is chatting to Lynn and Sheila. Anyway, Derek is still struggling with the awning; it took help from Gary and Steve to erect it. By this time it's about 6.00 pm. Then what a nice surprise, the Holmes family pulled up next to us. It's nice to see them back on the rally field again. After tea it was into the party tent for a natter and drink.

Saturday, the sun was shining. The Gents, Ladies and the J uniors had gone to play Golf. We went to look at a venue for a future Observation Rally. Got back about 11.00am, asked Sherry if she needed any help but she had it all in hand. The Cheese, crackers and wine was at 12.00 in the party tent. This was well attended by those of us not playing golf, thank you Sherry.

The afternoon went by quickly, what with the wine and all of us putting the world to rights. We covered subjects like HRT and men's hormones, what a good laugh we all had. Sherry was the perfect hostess, keeping the wine flowing and the cheese replenished.

Sue Holmes came back with some jam doughnut s, as some of us are trying to slim, we had one doughnut between five of us. Sheila had to eat one without licking her lips; the expressions on her face had us all in stitches. Well done Sheila.

The wine was still flowing well, as the golfers come back. Some did 9 holes, some 18 holes. Some joined in the chat, but some had to go to bed for a nap. They all seemed to enjoy the golf, but it was a bit to hot for some.

The communal barbeque was in the sun, a nice change after the National last week. Later on as it got a bit cooler, so it was back into the party tent. By about 11.00 pm all had gone back to their caravans. Even Jenny went back, I said t hat's not like you Jenny, her reply was "I am very tired, too much wine and sun".

Sunday, another nice day. Lynn, Gary, Sherry and Ian busy getting ready for flag, with a few helpers to take the party tent down. Sheila did flag with John by her side. The presentations for the golf were done by Ian Lever

**The Men's winner was Steve Oxley**

**The Ladies winner was Liz Tolman**

**The Junior winner was Lewis Tolman**

**The Longest Drive was won by Pete Holmes**

**The nearest to the flag was won by Pete Blake**

Thank you all for the donations to the J unior Link up Rally.

Before I forget ..... Ian, Sherry, Ben, Lynn, Gary, Lee and Megan ..... a big thank you for a great weekend!

**Barbara Owen x**



PS. The porch awning came down in minutes !!

Friday Gorgeous sunny day, met with a smile from the rally officers. A nice quite evening of Bingo had been organised in the hall for this evening, well not too quiet because Ian Lever was the caller, so for those of you who know Ian, nothing is quiet. Although it was not meant to be charity bingo, some of those who won, donated their winnings back and some of you DID NOT ( you know who you are) ☺.

Saturday Another gorgeous sunny day, but this was not just a normal day, it was my birthday, 28 years old. (No comments please!) How better to celebrate my birthday, on a rally field. It started with a (well 2 actually) bacon rolls cooked by Ian Lever, served by Mark Tolman with a cup of coffee from Sherry Lever..... what more do you want. Yes I know I can hear you all screaming "Wher e's t he eggs?". Ask Ian Lever, I am sure he will have the polite answer for you.

At 11am the stalls were open, spend, spend and more spend. Cakes - loads of yummy cakes. Guess the name of the teddy, little duck and of course the Easter chick, Ben Lever's favourite. Sadly Ben, Sheila Dunn has given Stupid a home, (Stupid was the name drawn from the hat). I am sure Ben, if you ask her nicely you could have visiting rights (a long story, ask Ben). Eat sugar doughnuts without licking your lips, eat 3 dry crackers the quickest, guess the pennies, find the golden lolly, guess the weight of the cake, whisky rolling, pick a string for whisky, Sherwood Forest treasure map, tuck shop and the tombola. Spend, spend keep spending. Teas and coffees with your cakes and lunch time, Ian cooked burgers and sausages. At one point there was a real buzz going on, and that had nothing to do with the buzzing horse game we also had. Money was being spent and fun was being had.

In the afternoon, we went on the field and again we had welly wanging, netball, Aunt Sally and curling, all with fantastic weather. Spend, spend and more spend. My parents visited with a ..... Oh! did I mention it was my birthday today, yes I did, but I won't delete it because I have typed it now ..... birthday cake, a big chocolate cake. I cut it up and gave a piece to everyone, hopefully, sorry if I missed you but it was nice. Sat in the sun with a cuppa and a bit of birthday cake watching the curling. Voting for handicrafts was held in the hall and the winner of the "The Freshbrook Trophy" , 7-12 years girls was Abigail Starsmear e. "The Wilt on Trophy" 13-20 years girls was Zoe Tolman. Well done all of you who entered.

Saturday evening in the hall, the theme was Robin Hood and the compere was the Sherwood Forest Sheriff himself, Ian Lever. Loads of people dressed up, Friar Tuck (skinny ones and a slightly bigger one ☺) Maid Marian, Laid Marian and anyone marry-on. Robin Hoods, Ms Robin Hoods, Baby Robin Hood, Robin Red chest, and not forgetting Wobbin Hood who was a very nice man, who had his merry men behind him....hmm enough said.



A game was played where everyone HAD to join in, or the Sheriff would get you. At 9:30 we went out and voted on the Illuminated Window , 2 official entries and they were both very good, BUT only one winner I'm afraid, and it was for "The Kirk Shield" won by Zoe Tolman. Well done.

Back in the hall for a disco.

Sunday Again Ian and Sherry cooked bacon, sausage rolls (still no eggs) this time it was FREE because none of us had any money left. Much appreciated, thanks.

Flag The juniors thanked everyone for their support and donations throughout the weekend, they worked really hard and so did their parents. Raffle was huge, so took some time again. Some winning more than others (Gary Davis). The whole reason for this weekend was so that the Juniors could raise some money for their chosen 2007 charity, which is the Prospect Foundation in Swindon, which helps in all aspects of cancer ie: research, respite, equipment and support etc. This weekend we all helped raise about £500.00. Wow that is a lot of money, boy did we spend! Well done everyone who spent and spent and spent.

I had a fantastic weekend, couldn't think of any where better to celebrate my birthday weekend, and can't wait to go back to work, as I am skint now. But it was worth it.

Well done and thank you to all the Junior committee, Mark Tolman and Ian and Sherry Lever, who worked really hard to give us all a fantastic weekend.

**Jane McGurk**



## St. Patrick's Day

16<sup>th</sup> ~ 18<sup>th</sup> March 2007

We arrived Friday evening, and were greeted by our rally officers who were windswept, but in good spirits. After the meeting of the neighbours, it was time for tea and settle down to the envelope quiz (too hard for us) but Nicola found hers better.

Saturday, after a windy night, was our time to do as we pleased, shopping and visiting was our thing. The evening was dressing up time, in an Irish theme. At approx 6-45, we made our way to the hall where we were greeted by 3 rally officers in skirts, offering Irish Cream or whiskey with some Irish music playing in the background. The hall was decorated in the Irish theme, with leprechauns, Guinness, shamrocks and trimmings in the colours of the Irish flag, with Blarney Castle, the stage for the music.

Fun and games then started with: - the best dressed eejit, fishing for gold from pots, riverdance, kissing the Blarney Stone and the young ones had to scramble on their hands and knees blind folded, to find the four leaved clover in amongst the shamrocks. Fun was had by all.

Our appetites were now ready for food; this did not disappoint..... Irish stew with nuggets of bread and a dessert, which looked like a small Guinness (Compliments to the chef Jenny, and her helpers).

With our bellies full, a sing song of Irish songs echoed out by our fellow ralliers (out of tune most of the time). After the sing song, we returned to the disco music including our favourite dance tunes, before going back to our vans fed, watered and in good spirits after a fabulous evening.

Sunday morning came along after another windy night; Flag followed with Alan Wilcox's first flag. (Excellent job Alan!) a lot of announcements for him to make, with a bit of humour from the floor.

Time then to go home. (Still windy with hailstones).

Thanks Alan, Jane and Jenny for a great weekend, those that didn't or couldn't make it this weekend, missed out.

TO BE SURE!!

**Andy, Alison and Nicola.**



P.S. revenge for this write up will be sweet!



Enjoy yourself . It 's later t han you t hink!

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid of standing still.

Better to light a candle, than to curse the dark.

Forget injuries, never forget kindness.

He who asks is a fool for 5 minutes, he who does not ask is a fool forever.

A book, tight shut, is but a block of paper.

A fall into a ditch makes you wiser.

An inch of time cannot be bought with an inch of gold.

Talk does not cook rice.

Indecision is the key to flexibility.

I think herefore I am..... I think.

Artificial intelligence is no match for stupidity.

Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts.

Laugh alone and the world thinks your an idiot.

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, in case you have to eat them.

Lead me not into temptation, I can find it myself.

Even the smallest candle burns brighter in the dark.

A true friend walks in when the world walks out.

Nostalgia isn't what it used t o be.

A proverb is the wisdom of many and the wit of one.

Be bold in what you stand for, and careful what you fall for.



## Observation Tour, Maiden Bradley

15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Friday** - Arrived to be greeted by the Rally officers with a smile. Set up and settled in just as Barbara and Derek Owen, the Competitions Officer, came back from his last chance walkabout for the Observation tomorrow. 13 squeezed into the John and Ann's caravan (but we have had more in there) for a drink or two. We all had a few to drink; Ann started talking Spanish very loudly followed by Geoff. It was a good night.

**Saturday** - About 11ish set off for the observation, down the muddy track onto the main road by the Church. It was a lovely village with the pub in the middle, a little post office and shop; everyone was really friendly and very interested in what we were doing. Derek did his thing again, some easy and some very hard. Half way round very cleverly brought us to the Pub, The Somerset Arms, very nice food, drink and service. I think their takings doubled with us lot in there. After a pint of cider, it helped us get into Derek's head and we got the answer for the clue 2.6666, and then we could carry on with the rest of the tour. Back to the site, hand in quiz and have a coffee and cake in the sun.

Rally Officers hummed and harred, shall we, shan't we have a barbeque, yeah why not, so we go up the hill and set up, start cooking and the heavens opened..... BUT some of us had come prepared. Big fishing umbrellas, we huddled under while eating our meal, the rain was hammering down and we got soaking wet. The Rally Officers and the Chairman ran into the awning while we stuck it out. Barbara's wine was turning into water, crisps went soggy. But still we battled on, huddled under the brollies, in the end you just had to give up, we were wet right through to our knickers and jocks! Looking over at Barbara with rain dripping off her nose eating and whinging about being wet, Derek says "Barbara Mae, I take you away for a lovely weekend, cook you a meal and you do nothing but whinge". She nearly choked on her steak, and Alan nearly had to perform the Heimlich manoeuvre. Dave Lush said it was the first time he had seen the washing up done in front of his eyes without having to do anything. Everything was wet but good job it didn't dampen our sense of humour. Then the sun came out, down came the brollies and out came the rally officers and the Chairman Boooo! It was their idea to have a barbi and they deserted us for a bit of rain. Ended a good night again.

**Sunday** - Flag, Chris and Nige Riley were not only the Rally Officers, but it was also their 300<sup>th</sup> rally, well done you's **and** they did their first one with Jenny Newman all that time ago. So it was weird how she was the other Rally Officer for this rally as well.

Alan and I came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jan and Geoff Randell came 2<sup>nd</sup>, and John and Ann Holdway came first in the Observation Tour. Derek says it was very tight this year on the markings and if dyslexic rules KO hadn't come into it, we would have come joint 2<sup>nd</sup>. I put my 50 as 05, never mind, we had a fun time, well done Derek, can't wait for next years'!

Thanks to the Rally Officers, Chris and Nigel Riley with Jenny Newman, and to Dave and Sandra Lush for finding the site.

Another good weekend had by all!

**Jane and Alan McGurk**

