

## Swanage Holiday Rally

27<sup>th</sup> July - 5<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Arrived Friday and it was in heavy rain, so we were drenched after putting awnings up. Woke Saturday morning to sunshine, which stayed for most of the week, just one blip on Thursday morning and that cleared for the afternoon. An "adverts" quiz was set by Joanna and Rachel, which was very enjoyable, on Sunday evening. On Monday evening everyone was treated to wine and nibbles by Andy and Alison, who were celebrating their 19<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. This also included Tacky Seaside bingo and a music quiz. Thursday evening we had another game of bingo and a quiz. These were very popular.



The rally was really enjoyable, free and easy. A shame for those who weren't able to make it. The Rally Officers were helpful, great fun and entertaining, as always. Thank you very much for a great rally and holiday.

**Sue, Julian, Kian Park + Chris and Kevin.**

**PS.** The holiday was only marred by the theft of Joey's generator. Graham and Fran Birch came to the rescue with the loan of theirs.

Rowdeford School

3rd-5th August 2007

A return to this lovely site at Rowdeford School, with its beautiful trees and mown lawns, the weather could not have been better, sunshine dawn till dusk.

On Friday having settled in, ralliers met up with friends to enjoy the summer evening with a tot or two (no doubt) and catch up on recent news. Some of us were a little more adventurous, and attempted the new game KUBB, which Doug Haddrell had brought along to the Rally. After a restless night Doug decided to read the rules again, and by Saturday afternoon the game was going well, with Dave Lush and Jim Gilchrist winning over Doug and Ray Kirk, 2-1!

Saturday evening we were invited to a communal BBQ followed by a game of curling. This is always well attended and such good fun, with lots of banter and laughter. Sheila Dunn and I actually scored this year! We have graduated from the nil point club! Not to mention a few others who joined it!! A great evening was had by all and thanks go to Doug and Tony, for their hard work in keeping the soapy water flowing! The winners of the curling: for the ladies Michelle Chamberlain with 330 points, and the men, Nigel Ballamy with 370 points. Well done to you both.

Flag was held on Sunday morning in brilliant sunshine, and with the profits from the raffle going to help Rowdeford School, I would say this was a great weekend all round.

Our thanks to the Rally Officers Doug and May Haddrell, with Tony and Shirley Haines for organising such a well run rally.

**Lesley Shorthouse**

## Frome Cheese Show

7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2007

It was more by luck than anything else, that we found ourselves able to attend this excellent rally, at the West Woodland Showground. We had thought that we had put our rally slip in some time ago, but only found out on the night before the rally started, that this was not the case, and was informed that the rally was full. It was only because the rally officers took a cancellation on the Friday morning, that we were able to attend.

As a regular attendee of this rally, we were not disappointed by this years' show. In spite of the fact that there were no farm animals in attendance, due to the recent foot and mouth scare, (the organisers took the wise decision to cancel this part of the show,) I do believe that this years' show was bigger than ever. It was certainly difficult to see everything in one day, and believe that by the number of people attending, there is an argument for this show to be become a two day event.

Once again our rally officers had been wearing out the prayer mat, for we had really good weather. They had set out the field so that everybody had a good sized pitch, and even supplied grass rakes to clear up your pitch, as the site owner had cut the field prior to the rally, and there was a lot of loose grass around. Thanks guys, it certainly helped to keep the van a bit tidier.

On the Sunday morning, everybody appeared for flag to be greeted with hotdogs and a cup of coffee/tea, care of the rally officers. How do you cook 150 sausages in a caravan? They weren't cooked on the barbecue. Flag was taken by John Shorthouse, the immediate Past Chairman, as the original flag officer Derek Owen had suffered a wheel bearing collapse on his caravan, as he got off the drive to come to the rally. John admitted it was some two years since he had last done a flag and felt nervous, but in truth, he did a really good job at such short notice. Well done!

The envelope competition was won by Wendy Hayden who got 25 out of 25, and we also found out that Sandra Lush had won a class at the show for her ginger cake. It looked very nice and I hope she and Dave enjoyed it afterwards.

Thanks very much to Dave and Sandra Lush, along with Jim and Linda Gilchrist for once again running this very successful rally, and they did say that they would run it next year. Hooray!!!!

**John and Wendy Howlett**



We have been to every June Pentewan rally for over 10 years. This has been our first September rally. It's like going home as we drive down the familiar roads, to our destination. The weather forecast was good, so we looked forward to an "Indian summer"..... Which we had! It's great to meet the Rally Officers who greet everyone with tea or coffee. To meet old friends from previous rallies. We also made some new friends and look forward to seeing them next year!!

The Rally Officers work very hard and organised several events, card bingo, chase the ace, etc which is held in the Clubhouse. with kind permission of the site management. Trish and Dave made sure we had tea and coffee during these evenings. Brian and Mary organised a ploughman's' evening on our last night together. Food was plentiful, wine also flowed to help with the "sing along". There was dancing if you wished, to music from the 1940's and 50's. Each week we had a quiz and bingo, for which there were prizes.

There is so much to see in Cornwall and its wonderful; to be at Pentewan, and being right on the beach, gives easy access to the rest of the county which has such a lovely coastline.

**No- one claimed this rally report. Thank you for writing it whoever you are!**





On Friday we arrived early - as Liaison Officer, Pete helped site the Wiltshire Centre vans. There were 90 vans in total, of which 12 were from Wiltshire.

Friday evening we collected our pork rolls, and a few of us settled down in the awning for a chat and a drink or two!!!!. We could have gone to the marquee to listen to music, but the company was more inviting.

Saturday lunch time, Pete and I were invited to the Chairman's reception and were made very welcome. This was followed by the opening ceremony. Their chosen charity was Macmillan Cancer Support. The first balloons of the charity balloon race were released. Other events were a bouncy castle and member's dog handling. At 4.00 pm a popular Classical Quartet played wonderful music during tea. Tables were set with sandwiches and cake. The birthday cake was cut and taken round. Many of their members were dressed from the Mad Hatters Tea Party. Saturday evening the variety show was held in the marquee. A comedian and group entertained.

Sunday morning there was a ramble for those who wanted to go. Also during the day was a falconry display, gun dog display and ferret racing. In the afternoon there was a good children's entertainer and bouncy castle. The Middlesex fete was held with the usual stalls, and tickets for a big raffle were sold.

Sunday evening was the Summer Ball. We were greeted with a sherry reception, prior to taking our seats for 7.30 dinner. The tables of 8 were set with place names and glasses. A 3-course meal and wine was served. The glasses were engraved with the Middlesex crest and were given to us as a memento of the weekend. As this was their 40<sup>th</sup> celebration, many of their members were given long service plaques. After dinner we were entertained by a group to dance to. Our table of 8 slowly crept up to a table of 13.

Monday - The closing ceremony. The raffle was drawn. Thank you's were said and more charity balloons were released. We were presented with a Liaison Officer bar.

What a wonderful weekend was had by all.

**Gill and Pete Wiltshire**