



Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan Club

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Welcome to this my first newsletter. May I wish all readers a happy and safe New Year with lots of happy rallies along the way, I hope you enjoy it's content.

A special thank you to Chris Riley for her sterling work as Editor, enjoy your free time Chris.

The format of the Newsletter will remain the same but I hope to add a section from our archives dating back over the years to bring back lots of happy memories from years gone by.

If you have volunteered to write a Rally Report, or you know who was asked, please remind them to get them to me as soon as possible, email is best but the Royal Mail is just as good.

I am hoping the Junior Chairman and the Juniors will have a regular page in the Newsletter so we can give them lots of support.

If you the readers/ralliers have any articles or interesting stories to tell please feel free to send them in all contributions gladly accepted.

Mark

Well here goes another report on a rally from Jenny Newman. Sorry if anyone is bored already. I was given permission to arrive early on the rally as John Holdway was having to work on the Friday and I was fit enough to help site vans.

I arrived and got sorted and within a short time, John and Quita Withers came out to have a chat to the Rally officers. For any of you who don't know them they were Wiltshire members but had to give up due to John's ill health. But they like to keep in touch and offer their back garden for rallies. And what a lovely back garden.

Soon the vans started to arrive. It was sunny but quite windy and Sheila had put up a gazebo as a Rally Office for people to pay. Needless to say we did have to make a few alterations to Sheila's pegs as they were not holding and had to save it from blowing over a couple of times. But with Jim and Dave's help all was soon sorted. We did have a few showers but that is what the weather men had advised we would have.

Saturday morning we awoke to a lot of rain. I did advise it would get better and no one believed me. We set about erecting gazebos for the afternoon Shrewton Silver Band. Unfortunately Alan and Jane who would normally help had to dash into Salisbury as their pump split on their van and it spilled water in the front lockers and soaked the spare bedding. But we had plenty of helpers and it all went up well. By 2pm it was glorious and we all sat in the sun and listened to the Band. We had a collection for them but at this stage £101 was raised. Sheila has informed me the band was very grateful for this and are willing to play for us anytime. During the afternoon we served tea and biscuits to all the ralliers and the band. I don't think my aqua roll has been emptied so many times during a weekend or my kettle. The kettle being a back up in case the urn was not boiling. As the band was packing up Ann put a picture quiz up for all to do it was chocolates biscuits and cakes and you had to guess what they were. Then on Saturday evening light up for a communal bar-bi. This ended up being later than we all hoped. Some cooked in their vans but ate it under the gazebos. It was very nice.

Then the plan was to have a game of Left Right and Centre. But every one was disappearing to the vans to wash up and Sheila was trying to chivvy everyone along to get back for the game. Sheila in

here normal style managed to get us all organised, even though it was quite late. And the game was won on the inside by Steve Greenfield and the outside by Ann Holdway. Well they both donated their winnings to the Wessex Fund. A good time was had by all. Sunday yet again rain and the gazebos were wet. Flag was held under the gazebos, with volunteers to dismantle after flag. The competition for the weekend that was anagrams of musical instruments was won by Sue and Steve G. Quite a few winners but their name was drawn out of the hat. And the biscuit picture quiz was won by Quita and John Grandsons and the sweets and cakes was Josie Kirk with lots of helpers. Well I am sure they would all have ended up with half a biscuit and a sweet each.

Flag duty was Alan McGurk and he really had his teeth in back to front. All the words were coming out wrong. John Holdway was doing his Chairman bit by trying to correct Alans mistakes. Alan telling John to sit down it was not his turn. But they made a good team. They were like Bill and Ben bobbing up and down. The rally was very good. Most of the time good weather. An excellent Band. And a lovely site.

I enjoyed it and it seemed so did everyone else.

Thank you to the Rally Officers. Johns X 2 Sheila and Ann.

PS Next time I am arriving late, Not working my little socks off, and then I wont have to do the report. No only joking.

Jenny

*This report is an overflow
from
the last newsletter.*



AGM 2008

We arrived on Friday and were told we were to be on hard standing. It was a lovely surprise even though we were told the vans may be a bit closer than normal. Wendy waved me in as we had to mount the kerb and John Howlett sited me. I was between Chris and Nigel Riley and Mark and Tracey Hinton. So I knew I was going to be in for good banter throughout the week-end. Either about too much noise. Or something along those lines.

John Dunn was seen whizzing around on his motor buggy, but was doing less than the 5 MPH. He was helping with the siting of vans.

Friday evening was a do as you please and get to have a drink with your neighbours.

The tellers for the week-end were David & Judy Webb and Chris & Chris Palmer from the Somerset Centre. And a conversation was heard on Saturday that one of these upstanding Gentlemen had a hang over that even a cooked breakfast did not help. Friday evening they were being entertained by John and Ann Holdway. I think it was being the Brandy that took the blame for this.

Saturday of course the first of the AGM the Juniors. Zoe Tolman was not able to be there as the outgoing Chair person as she had other commitments. So Megan Davies did the necessary essential duties on Zoë's behalf. And I must say she carried out her duties very professionally.

Also congratulations to Megan as she is the New Junior Chair person. I would like to wish her the very best and I am sure she will do an excellent job. And the new Junior committee can be seen on the website or notice board. Then after approx 40 mins the Junior AGM was over and it all went very well, so lunch and then 2.30 pm Senior AGM.

Good Heavens is it really 3 years since John Holdway was selected by us all to be our Chairman. Well 3 years, 2 Wessex and a Junior Link Up later it is time to say Cheerio. This of course is to being the Chairman not to attending rallies. The meeting went

well and no hiccups. Were we being kind to him. I don't think so. And the new Chairman to take the reins is unopposed Glynn Ball. At the end of the meeting Glyn said thank you to John and Ann and presented John with his PAST IT badge. Ann was presented with a bouquet of flowers and then everyone stood up and gave John a standing ovation. Needless to say both Ann and John had tears in their eyes, and so did some of the ralliers. This was a very emotional moment for us all. The Juniors did their normal and went round with the roving mic. Thank you for this Juniors. The rest of the new committee you will see in you rally book when it comes out or on the notice board with their new positions. Except of course me Jenny. Well I am the new Rally Secretary. I have taken over the reins from Sheila.

Saturday evening was a social in the hall dancing to Spirit disco. This was very good and the floor always seemed to have various numbers of people dancing from a few to quite full. There were flowers on the tables which were done by Barbara Owen and they made the tables look good.

Sunday flag was at 11.00. Glynn said it would be a different flag, and he was correct. John said it felt funny sitting with his back to the ralliers instead of facing them. Some members collected their Fellowship Plaques. Nigel and Helen Bellamy got theirs half way through the flag. Perhaps this is what Glyn meant by different. John & Wendy Howlett collected their 50 Rally Officers plaque.

The weekend competition was won by Ken and Brenda Lever. I would like to thank the Rally Officers John & Sheila Dunn and John and Wendy Howlett and their helpers for a lovely week-end. The sun shone, the company was good and a very good AGM. And not too late. We were able to get dinner without rushing and being late for the social.

Thank you again.
Jenny Newman touting for



Thrupton Fireworks Rally Oct 2008

Arrived Friday afternoon in the sun. We sat in Phil and Ange Sambrookes van in the evening with a couple of fellow ralliers drinking. We got a knock on the van door about 8.30 from Bob the security guard to say there were people at the gate trying to get in (It was locked and nobody had told anybody even the rally officers). We went back to our vans about 11 in the cold (winter on its way). **Jumped** out of bed Sat morning at 7.45am by a air raid siren going off. The air field behind us were having a crash drill (why so early). They done the same again on Sunday (they did give us an extra 10 minutes in bed this time) Wow. Went in to Andover sat. morning for a bit of shopping. Went up to the firework display at the race track in the evening, wind and rain now the order of the day. After a good firework display we went back to the rally officers where there was a cup of hot soup and a roll waiting for us. (just what the doc. ordered). Sunday was a dry day for flag It was Katie Barnett's 1st flag duty, she had only joined committee 2 weeks earlier. Well done Katie.

A very nice rally and hope to come back again hopefully without the siren next time.

Well done Phil,Ange,,Richard,Matty. & Nigel & Helen

John,Tracy & Luke Mason



Dinner Dance, Hoburne Cotswold

What a Fabulous weekend I arrived about 3.30pm, caravan already sited had a chat with friends. Then went for a walk what a shock I got the other side of the camp site is now all mobile caravans is this a sign of the future. Back to the van for tea as Derek is still at work.

At night time had a few drinks with Ian & Sherry tea & coffee honest.

Saturday off to the local garden centre, just started to walk around when off went the fire alarm and everybody had to be evacuated.

Allowed back into the shop and the fire brigade arrived. This still did not stop me from buying a couple of Xmas gifts.

Back to the van for soup then a walk around the site to show Derek. A relaxing afternoon getting ready for the dinner dance.

Time 6.30pm into the bar for Bucks Fizz reception and photographs. Then into the restaurant for dinner an excellent meal plenty to eat and nice an hot. The band Mainstream was good, plenty of people dancing. All in all a good night was had by everybody.

Sunday morning we all had a full cooked breakfast. Then flag was held in the Lakeside Lounge.

I would like to thank everybody who donated their raffle prizes to the Pink Rally next year.

Thank you to the Rally Officers John & Sheila , Keith & Sandra. (will we be returning?)

Lastly a Huge thanks to Chris Riley a great dinner dance

Barbara Owen



Early Xmas Sing along Rowdeford School

What a super weekend. We arrived Friday evening had our meal then off to the hall for a noggin & natter with a few games. This is quite nice in the winter it enables the ralliers to chat to all those present, and saves on the gas. The R.Os faced a few problems i.e. the elsan pit location had to be changed, the key to the room with all the tables and chairs was not available. Toni's crow bar came in very handy. Watch him this could be part of his standard kit.

Saturday off to the shops for some retail therapy. In the evening we all met in the hall for a meal and the traditional Xmas sing along, the festive decorations were very good, the food was fantastic, when you consider the kitchen facilities are very limited and a route march across a yard to another building. Apparently we ate all the soup before the R.Os got their turn, then after some fantastic Cottage Pie they forgot to eat their sweet. Next came the Wiltshire Centre answer to the Merthyr Tydfil choir. We weren't as good as them but I bet we had more fun trying to translate the words on our song sheet into the ones Jan Rendell put up on the screen and Tony trying to follow us on the organ.

Sunday morning flag in the hall with coffee & biscuits, and collect our Xmas cards that were all sorted by José and her helpers. A brilliant weekend. Thanks to all who helped, especially our R.Os. Doug, May, Tony and Shirley.
Looking forward to next year

Dave & Sandra Lush



WILTSHIRE CENTRE

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE NOVEMBER 21ST 2009

DANCING LIVE TO

HEESHEE



LIVE CABERET

GARY DORSEY



ROBOURNE COTSWOLD

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR!

SEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR MORE INFO.  TICKET PRICES & SALE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

3 COURSE DINNER, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

BREAKFAST SUNDAY MORNING

ALL HARD STANDING PITCHES WITH ELECTRICS

Rally Reports sadly not received

Sutton Benger October 2008

Critchill School Oct/Nov 2008

Salisbury November 2008

Whilst we appreciate that rally reports are voluntary, both the rally officers and ralliers enjoy the feedback, it encourages more people to attend and join in with the centre and its events.

Please if you agree to write a rally report, send it in either via email or post and it will be included, no matter how large or small it may be.

Thank you.

Ed.



Christmas Lights at Westonburt

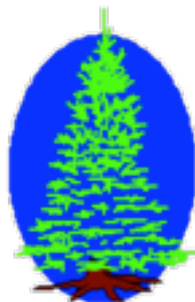
Arrived Friday after a tight squeeze, down a lane and through the village, we were met by Phil & Nigel who helped place the van. What a night it was, with the wind blowing and the rain pouring down all night, luckily for us Kian slept through it all.

Saturday we went into Chippenham and then onto Melksham as Kian had a party, after the party we went straight to Westonburt to see the lights. We were warned to take wellies, warm clothing and a torch, which we were glad we packed that morning, as it was all needed. To put you in the Christmas feeling, they had a band and carols but all Kian wanted was to see Santa, which he did and promptly told him he had been good, he was also pleased because he saw an ice-cream van and was promised one after we had seen the lights which if the truth be told we were a little disappointed with, I think we expected a lot more and it didn't help that Kian was racing around. What made the night was when we arrived back Helen, Nigel, Phil and Ange had put on Mince Pies and Mulled Wine. Unfortunately for me Kian was ready for bed but lucky for Julian, he could stay and enjoy.

Cold but dry Sunday morning, flag, the Christmas song quiz was won by Graham and Wendy Hayden, Well Done.

So a big thank you to Helen & Nigel, Ange, Phil & Richard for a great weekend.

Sue, Julian & Kian.



Round the World in 80 Questions.
16th – 18th January 2009

We arrived at Newton Mill Campsite on the outskirts of Bath on Friday afternoon, full of trepidation, this being our first rally. We shouldn't have worried; we were warmly met by Jenny, who put our minds at rest, she explained all that was to happen during the weekend then we were introduced to Glynn and Andy who showed us to our pitch.

The campsite is in a wooded valley and is very nice; we took a stroll around the site and beside the mill stream watched a Kingfisher preening itself. We spent the evening trying to work out what the pictures could be on the in van quiz.

Saturday dawned and with the weather due to take a turn for the worst we headed off to Bath to do some sightseeing.

On Saturday evening the weather broke, with gale force winds and lashing rain. We headed off to the campsite bar in which the quiz evening was due to be held. By the time we arrived we were soaked. We were introduced to our team partners Gill and Pete Wiltshire, settled in and the quiz began.

Now, I don't know if it was the numbingly cold wet denim clad legs that we were suffering from that effected our 'little grey cells' but some of the questions set by Glynn proved too challenging. To say the least our team didn't exactly excel, but we walked away with a trophy – ok not

THE trophy, it is more a kitchen utensil type of trophy, but a 'trophy' none the less!!! (Yes, the wooden spoon – well one team had to be bottom!!) *How embarrassing* for us for a first quiz!!! Even so the we enjoyed ourselves.

Congratulations go to the actual winners of the 'Ball & Blandon' Trophy, the 'Waggy Tails' Team consisting of Dave and Marion

Beakhust along with John and Margaret Goff. They finished with a very respectable score!!

Flag was held on a blustery, chilly but sunny Sunday morning. Presided over by Mark Kelly, we and another couple received first rally plaques and we were welcomed to the Wiltshire Centre. The raffle was held and there were lots of prizes up for grabs with proceeds going to the 'Pink' Breast Cancer Charity. With flag over we chatted to others, asked if we had booked other rallies and told 'see you there!', after lunch we made our way reluctantly home.

We had a great weekend, our thanks to the rally officers, Jenny & Glynn Ball along with Andy & Lynn Blandon and to fellow members for making us feel very welcome.

Colin & Elaine Baker.



Bishopstrow Rally – 23 – 25 Jan

Seeing the weeks weather forecast on Monday evening we thought we might not be getting to Bishopstrow this year, but by Friday it was a very pleasant day so off we went arriving at one minute past opening time. Oh! The joys of retirement, being able to arrive in daylight to most rallies in the winter months.

Running winter rallies is always a gamble for Rally Officers with the chance of bad weather and illnesses, of which there have been many this year. This rally was one which did indeed give the Rally Officers a headache. They had 27 'vans booked in and within ten days of the rally eight had cancelled. When you have spent out on food, and have the Hall to pay for this is indeed a challenge. But our Rally Officers met the challenge head on and gave us a most enjoyable Quiz evening with a very good meal at the Sutton Veny Village Hall on Saturday evening. Thank you Sandra, Linda & Liz.

This year they decided to have fewer but larger teams for the Quiz. There were five teams of eight (ish) and with a good variety of questions the scores were very close.

The winning team was the Holdways, Howletts, Randalls and Newman, who beat us, the Haddrells, Haines and two Kirks by two points, the rest were not far behind. Well done Quiz Masters Jim & Dave.

The envelope competition, also a quiz had joint winners, Tony & Shirley Haines and John & Ann Holdway. The winners on a draw were John & Ann.

Proceeds from the Raffle this weekend went to The Pink Charity and raised in excess of £27.50.

We thank Jim & Linda and Dave & Sandra for once again putting on this their fourteenth Bishopstrow rally and hope to be here again next year. With not so many cancellations, we hope.

Doug Haddrell



This letter has been received by Glynn/Committee and if anyone is interested then please feel free to contact Pip as per the details in the letter.

Ed.

Dear Glynn,

I am hoping that you may be able to assist me.

My name is Pip and I am writing from a charity based in Bath called jole rider. jole rider collects discarded or donated bikes no longer needed in the UK and ships them to Africa allowing secondary school children to get to school where ordinarily the distance would be too great. jole rider are committed to improving education both in the UK and in Africa. Bikes are collected at Hullavington and then loaded onto a van with a trailer whereupon they are taken to one of five UK prisons to be refurbished before being returned to Hullavington for shipping. We have so far managed to ship over 4000 bikes in this way.

We currently do all the driving to and from the prisons ourselves but due to the rate at which we are expanding this is becoming increasingly difficult. For this reason we are looking into help from volunteer drivers who may be able to share some of this driving. I have contacted you because we require people who have expertise in, and enjoy driving, larger vehicles with trailers. Your members will clearly have the skills to do this.

We currently take bikes to the following prisons for repair and refurbishment.

Risley (Warrington)

Walton (Liverpool)

Wellingborough

Cardiff

Gloucester

The driver would not be required to do any manual work (loading/unloading of bikes) if they did not wish to. The time required of a driver would be the time taken to get from Hullavington to one of the destinations above and back again with a load/unload time of less than one hour. If a driver had a preference over a particular destination, this is no problem, any help at all will be hugely appreciated.

I wanted to ask if you knew of any of your members who may be interested in carrying out this type of work. Ideally we are looking for four or five people but having even one additional driver will help us greatly. I would be really happy to come and talk to you or any of your members to give more information in order to move this forward. Please have a look at our latest news letter which I have attached. It will give you an insight into the work done by jole rider.

Please contact me on 07928 028000 (mobile) or 0870 609 2007.

Our website: jole1000.org

I look forward to hearing from you Glynn,

Warm regards,

Pip.

Letter received from Critchell School January 2009



6 January 2009

Mr G Ball
Chairman of Caravan Club
14 Burnett Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 0QA

Dear Mr Ball

RE: RALLY HELD AT CRITCHILL SCHOOL, 31/10/08 - 2/11/08

I am writing to thank you on behalf of our students, staff and governors for donating £557.68 to our school following a successful annual Caravan Club Rally held here during the above mentioned dates.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that this money will be put towards the development of a sensory room at our school. This is one of many projects we consider as a high priority to enable us to enhance the educational experience for our pupils.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr Dave Lush who kindly delivered the cheque to us in November '08. On this occasion he very much enjoyed a tour of our school. Should you wish to take a tour of our school to see how your fundraising will benefit our school and its students please do not hesitate to contact me at the school to arrange a convenient date and time.

Once again thank you very much for your kind and generous donation.

Yours sincerely

Mark Armstrong
HEAD TEACHER

CRITCHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mark Armstrong Tel: 01373 484148 Fax: 01373 453481 Email: office@critchill.somerset.sch.uk

LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

Co-ordinator: Dana Hale Tel: 01373 401837 Fax: 01373 453481 Email: lc@critchill.co.uk

Committee Page

At the time of going to press, the committee are running 3 members short, with one of the vacancies possibly about to be filled, if you are interested in joining the committee or would like further information, then please contact either the Centre Chairman, Centre Secretary or any committee member for details.

The **Fishing Rally** has had to change venue, it is now being held at Dogford Farm, Christain Malford, 19-21 June 2009. Rally Officers as per the Rally Book.

The **Junior Rally** has been moved to a new venue due to an issue regarding pets on site.
The new venue is Warnford School, Highworth. 3-5 April 2009 Bookings to Megan, Junior Chairman or Katy Barnett, JLO.

Does anyone immediately know of any suppliers of flame retardant material, or material that can be sprayed with flame retardant spray?
Please Contact Phil Sambrook or the Committee, thank you.

If you would like to write about anything centre related feel free to send it in.
See you in the next Edition.

Mark.