



Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan Club

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Editor Ann Holdway
 3 Moorhen Close
 Staverton
 Wiltshire
 BA14 8UT
Tel 01225 765658

ann.holdway@wiltshirecentre.co.uk

Welcome to this, the latest edition of the Wiltshire Centre Newsletter. As 2011 draws to a close this edition recalls some of the late summer and autumn rallies.

As your new editor I hope that you will support me as you supported Mark Kelly with your Rally reports, photographs, poems etc. If you have an interesting tale to tell, have any caravan advice or things you would like to share with other ralliers please let me know and I'll do my best to include it in the following editions. Without your input there would be no newsletter.

Ann



Pentewan Sands Holiday Rally

June 14-25

Having been in the Caravan Club for several years we decided to go on our first rally to Pentewan Sands, Cornwall. We hadn't been to Cornwall for a while and decided it was time to sample the Cornish delights.

We headed off early Saturday June 11th and arrived at a good time. Just on entering the site not knowing anyone who should we see walking towards us but Sid on his "meet and greet", we were glad to see him! He directed us to our pitch which was in a very good position with a "sea view"

The weather turned out to be poor and we had a lot of rain but there was lots of things going on as arranged by Sid, Chris, Raymond, and Heather, all of which was very enjoyable.

Just outside the campsite is the bus stop which you can get to either through Pentewan village or through the campsite. An interesting village steeped in a lot of history of the Chain Clay pits and early railway. The bus service is excellent and very reliable and Mevagissey is only 7 minutes from the site.

We thoroughly enjoyed our 2 weeks in Cornwall and were very well looked after by Sid and Chris who seemed to be always available with the kettle on and helpful tips and advice.

We hope to return to Pentewan Sands next June to meet up with all the friends we made this year.

Thank you Sid and Chris for making us so welcome.

Jan and Pete (Motorhome)

Swimming and BBQ

Friday arrived and although rather wet the forecast predicted a glorious weekend ahead. We arrived and set up amongst friends in the cosy, compact field, 16 vans in total.

We rallied, thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Snook, who allowed us sole use of their pool and hot tub. Unfortunately the pool heater had broken down, our kind hosts had tried their best to get the boiler repaired, but following the disappearance of the engineer on the Friday, had been giving the boiler a "bang" every so often since 5.30am.....bless them. Feeling embarrassed, they had even emptied some urns of hot water into the pool in an attempt to raise the temperature!

The farm was like any other farm to look at, but the pool came as such a surprise. A short walk from the caravans, through a small rustic gate in a wall and there it was...a beautiful haven with a Spanish influence. A lovely place to relax with chairs, changing room and toilet. We all braved the weather and ventured into the pool for a dip despite its cool temp. The hot tub in comparison was a wonderful and relaxing 34 degrees. Communal BBQ at 6pm followed by flag at 8pm enabled everyone to make the most of the pool, sun and tranquility forecasted for our final day.

Sunday came and so did the sun, just as promised. The sky was clear, the sound of crickets in the grass and shooting in the distance carried across the fields of corn and grass swaying in the light refreshing breeze. The pool was a suntrap, some members swam, others sunbathed, but everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you John & Ann and Derek & Barb, it was a wonderful tonic, I will be sure to book again. One of my favourites to date.

Thanks Tim, Jaquie & Rebecca Pullin

Cream Tea Rally, Caen Hill, August 2011

We arrived on site on Friday afternoon to mild but over cast weather. Graham and Fran very quickly settled us in, and the weather improved later. We met our friends and had a good evening. On Saturday we walked along the canal

And the heavens opened, but despite that we had reached the café and were soon joined by other ralliers and it turned out to be very friendly and enjoyable. As caravaners we made the most of the café as it was still raining.

Eventually the weather changed for the better and we walked back to the paddock to get ready for the cream tea. Everyone had a lovely time

Fred Birch.,

Cream Tea Rally, Caen Hill Locks, August 2011

Mark and I arrived at the rally about 6p.m. just in time to get tea from the fish and chip van which came on site, Its so much nicer to have your tea cooked for you. After eating we finished setting up. We went around and said hello to our friends on site. I was up the next morning to walk the dog and I always enjoy the site because the walk up along the canal is very peaceful and very pretty. We had a day were the weather was a bit unpredictable and we were all hoping that the rain would stop in time for the cream tea. The cream tea was held as the rain stopped and everybody enjoyed the company. Lesley John and Jenny gave all the ralliers a quiz and were told

that the pieces of card which were on the table were the answers. Well the mad dash to the table was funny but it was when the wind picked up and blew a few answers off the table and people started chasing them that was hilarious. After the ralliers sat down we were asked to swap the competitions with other people to get marked. Quite a few people got all the answers right.

The afternoon finished we went back to vans for tea and then we went to our friends for drinks,

Sunday Mark was taking flag and the weather behaving itself so no coats needed.

Everyone had a good weekend and the company was good. Thanks again to Lesley John and Jenny.

Steph Kelly

THE CRAZY OLYMPIX RALLY 2nd -4th SEPT

The title of this Rally was somewhat scary, we are not very athletic to say the least, so we turned up with great fear, not knowing what to expect!!!.

There was football dribbling. Lawn darts, javelin throwing, crazy golf, darts, beanbag throwing, badminton and golf chipping. All of these games were collated by the Rally Officers to make playing interesting! Like foam javelins! Magnetic darts! Velcro balls! Weightless beanbags, they even arranged for the wind to blow, just to make it more difficult!!

EVERYONE on the Rally took part, it was good fun. Thank you.

Saturday evening a communal barbeque was arranged with gazebo's being joined together giving enough space for everyone to bring their tables and chairs inside while eating and having fun. The surprise of the evening was Bingo. Now I must say I am not a fan of bingo but I do enjoy the occasional game! Game one, line and house were called (lucky lady Barbara Owen) I only had two numbers marked off!! Game two Matty Sambrook was on a roll! Game three I won full house £10, really happy now, have another drink!

Flag on Sunday was taken very well by Ange Sambrook, then she handed over to the Rally Officers for the Olympix results, there were Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals. Ladies; I had a Bronze medal, Wendy Batson Silver and Tracy Mason Gold. Mens; Doug Haddrell Bronze, Geoff Randell Silver and Dave Lush Gold. Didn't we do well!!!

This is a small commercial site at the rear of The 3 Magpies Public House at Seend. We had Sunday Lunch there and I know a few others had meals over the weekend, it was very good food, a nice treat to round off the weekend.

There were only 14 outfits on site, but as one of the visitors said, 'the small rallies are often the best'.

Our thanks go to the Rally Officers Mark & Steph Kelly with first time Officers Dave & Nicky Bullock for a very good weekend.

Lesley Shorthouse

Sandy Balls - September 16th-18th 2011

We arrived early Friday to make the most of the facilities. This was our 1st time at Sandy Balls so we decided that we would bring our granddaughter. It was sunny when we arrived. We set up then asked Lana what shall we do now? Swimming she said. So off we went for a swim. She slept well Friday night. Saturday was swimming again but also time in the adventure play area. Saturday afternoon we set the Bar-B-Q up and me and Fran started cooking for 19 people. 5pm we were cooking under umbrellas when there was a big hail storm. Caravan and car alarms going off but we carried on cooking. Just after 6pm while we were sat down eating, when along came another cloud burst, thank goodness Fran had a TEC van as her door is on the other side of the van, good job as her awning would have been under 2 inches of water if she had a British van. Sunday started off wet but it stopped in time for flag where we received our fellowship plaque and a 100 rally plaque. Sunday afternoon was swimming again. This was a very nice site for a rally and hopefully a deal can be reached with the site management so we can come back again soon. Well done Glynn, Jenny, Mark & Liz a very enjoyable rally.

John, Tracy Mason & Lana-Raine aged 2

RALLY OFFICERS

If you need Centre Equipment/Catering Equipment for your rally please speak to and book via Andy Harrison, Rally Equipment Officer (01793 632844) and he will make the arrangements for you to collect it. This will enable us to keep track of the equipment. Please do not go directly to the people who are kindly storing and maintaining the stock for us.

Christian Malford , Sept 30- Oct 2 -Fishing

Arrived Friday pm to a lovely sunny site within easy walking distance to the lake for the next days competition. Before lights were out, excitement on the rally field as an escaped cow with very large horns on the loose, Pete to the rescue, better shut the gate.

Up early 7ish for 8am start of the singles 2nd leg, after 6 hours of fishing the whistle sounded to end the session. Alison & Andy did the usual weighing procedure and the outcome was Tony Ranger with 13-141/2, 2nd Reece Searle 13-61/2 and 3rd, Ian Lever with 13-001/2. Back to the vans to complete a lovely day, in beautiful sunshine followed by a communal BBQ.

Sunday morning, up early again for the start of the Pairs Competition, the teams were, Reece & Dave, Ian & Ken, Twink & Paul, and Tony & Andy. After 4 hours fishing the lucky winners were, Ian & Ken Lever with the winning weight of 22-121/2. Well Done!

Flag commenced at 2pm and the presentation took place for the overall winner of the two legs of which the first was at Cuckoos Rest earlier in the year. Ian & Ken Lever took the title of Pairs Winners & Reece Searle the Singles Winner over the 2 legs. Flag was concluded with the presentation of their gold bars with Phil & Joan getting their first Officers Plaque, we look forward to them running more in the future, well done for your first attempt. After lunch in the beautiful October sunshine (29C) it was off home. Thanks again Officers for a great rally and fantastic weather.



Sue and Reece Searle



AGM Rally

Having been to the school on a number of occasions, we know that when your rally officer says “round the back, I’ll meet you there”, it means a cosy playground with your fellow friends and neighbours and easy access to the hall! This is exactly how Nigel greeted us on that Friday evening, once he’d worked out who it was in the car, as it was dark by the time we arrived.

Sure enough, all the outer sides of the rectangle were filled, so it was a simple job of “drive straight down the middle” – I don’t think even I could get that manoeuvre wrong!

Friday evening we spent in the company of our fellow ralliers, discussing future 2012 rally plans, and what the events of the following day might bring.

Saturday morning dawned nice and sunny, and with a steady band of helpers, the seats were gathered in the hall ready for the meeting, Fran & John set up cups and trophies, and arranged rally book covers ready for voting later in the day, the school hall at Lavington changed ready for a slightly more mature audience than is normal.

The Junior AGM, having in the past been fairly brief, was destined for much the same, with the outgoing Chairman Richard Sambrook, thanking all those that had helped in any way during the previous year. At the start of the meeting, it was thought that the Juniors would be suspended following a reduction in available Juniors able to stand, but at the eleventh hour Rebecca Pullin stepped in to fill the position of Junior Chairman for the coming year with Louise & Michelle Birch assisting her. I’m sure that they will do a fine job and would encourage all those

“juniors” both young and old, to support the Juniors in whatever they plan over the next twelve months and beyond.

Juniors finished it was time to return to the van for a quick spot of lunch. We sat in the glorious sunshine outside our van never quite believing that it really was October. Then it was on to the main event, the Centre AGM. Voting took place for the rally book cover, which will become a familiar picture over the next twelve months with the winning entry from Glynn Ball.

Then at 2.30pm Glynn opened the AGM. This being his last year in office, there was the opportunity for a new Chairman and having had two nominees, Mark Kelly was elected, with Fran Birch being unsuccessful. Vice Chairman positions were voted on with Jenny Newman and Andy Harrison being elected with Jenny Ball unsuccessful.

Committee was voted on and this time Fran was not able to secure a position. Regardless of whether you were successful or not, sincere thanks and commiserations to all those who volunteered to help run the Centre for the enjoyment of all of us, and congratulations to those who now take up the mantle for the next twelve months. Full committee and roles can be found on the Centre website and will be included in the new 2012 rally book.

Meeting over, the hall was cleared for the evening social, again with a band of hard working volunteers. Music for the night was provided by a band called “3 Blind Mice”, who helped us to sing, be merry and dance the evening away.

Sunday morning dawned all too early, especially for those who'd seen just a little bit of the "falling down juice", and were suffering with a bit of a sore head.

Flag was taken by new Chairman, Mark, and having thanked all those who had helped over the course of the weekend, together with our tellers from the East Dorset Centre bid everyone a safe tow home.

Thanks to all involved, but in particular our rally officers – Nigel & Chris, and stepping into the breach right at the last minute – Geoff & Jan Randell. Thanks very much for your hard work!

Ange & Phil Sambrook

SALES EQUIPMENT

Did you know that your Sales Equipment Officer, Pete Wiltshire, has many useful items for sale. These items are carefully chosen as they may be useful to fellow Ralliers. They are available on the Rally Field most weekends. The small profit they make goes back into Centre funds. At present items include, Toilet fluid (blue and pink) Polo and Sweat Shirts, year plaques, visitor's plaques, etc.....



Charlton 21st-23rd Oct 2011 School Days.



Well many years since I was at school so decided to go on the rally and see what the New Head Teacher was like.

I arrived on the Friday and although it was 10 mins past the opening time I was the first to arrive. John Mason and Graham Birch sited me and Graham offered to get my water as no one else had arrived. I then went into the hall where Fran and Tracy were taking the rally fees. The urn was on and we were all invited into the hall for the Friday evening for a chit chat. Well it was all very nice.

Saturday during the day was do as you please and most people left the site to leave the Rally officers to organise the school bits. We had to be outside the hall by 7.00pm.

When arriving in the evening there were signs for girls to line up and boys to line up. I of course had to go in the boys line as I was dressed as a naughty school boy. Steve Berridge was in the girl's line cos he had a gym slip on and how smart he was. He must have been from a posh school cos he had pig tails and white socks and a leather satchel. We were then allowed into the hall. The gym Mistress was there (Tracy Mason) Head Mistress (Fran Birch) Head Boy (Graham Birch) and the Caretaker (John Mason) all of course suitable dressed. The tables were laid out with white paper and a tub of pencils in the middle. We had a bike shed at the end of the room and guess who was first to go behind the bike shed Jan Randell. She lost our table points for being naughty. We were told not to write on the desks. What a silly thing to say. Our table was made up of Mark and Steff Kelly,

Steve and Sandra Berridge, Jan and Geoff Randell, Ann and John Holdway and myself. And what a naughty table it turned out to be. We had games of Hula hoop, Blowing bubbles with bubble gum. And guessing what the Gym Mistress and the Head boy were doing behind the Bike shed. Whether they were kissing, chatting or smoking. All good fun. But I did not realize how naughty 9 grown ups could be. We cheated on the games, altered the score board. Made paper airplanes and threw them at the next table. During all this we were served with milk and a jammy dodger for break. And then Fish fingers beans peas and mashed potato, this was followed by jam roly poly and custard or semolina with a blob of jam in the middle. It was lovely. Then dancing to get all your dinner to go down. The music was supplied by Luke Mason and what a good job he made of it.

Then Sunday flag in the hall with Coffee and biscuits. Then the raffle well considering there were only 13 vans on site the raffle was excellent. They had been collecting unwanted raffle prizes from previous rallies but they were all good prizes. Some of which have been donated to future rallies.

Well rally officers, it was an excellent week-end I am very glad I booked in even if Head teach was a bit strict at times and threatened to use her cane. So Thank you Fran, Graham, Tracy, John, Luke Louise Michelle and Granddad as I am sure you all had a say in what was going to happen,



Jenny Newman





CHAPMANSLADE RALLY



28.10.11 to 30.10.11

This was another great weekend, to add to our rally memories. As usual we arrived at just past the opening time of 2.00pm on Friday and settled in. Once set up we went for a walk towards the village then turned down a bridle path that took us out into the lovely countryside around Chapmanslade and out onto the road towards Corsley. We turned left to take us back into the village main street and back to the site where the Rally Officers

Nigel & Helen Ballamy and Reece & Sue Searle were busy fitting caravans in to the limited room on the Village Hall car park.

Saturday morning there was much activity around the Hall with many people going in and out with bags and boxes, and lots of activity in the Hall kitchen as well if the steamed up windows were anything to go by

The Halloween Social was due to start at 6.00pm and with ten minutes to go there was a very motley crowd waiting for the doors to open. There were witches, warlocks, ghosts, devils and many other sorts of monsters waiting to get in. Once we got in what a sight the Hall was to behold. All that activity had turned the hall into a wonderful venue for our Halloween Social. There were monster spiders hanging from the ceiling. The walls were covered with clothes decorated with spiders, cobwebs and all manner of other creepy crawlies. Well done that team of hard workers led by John and Ann Holdway who worked up to midnight on Friday and all

day Saturday on this wonderful transformation for our enjoyment.

Once we had settled in we were asked to take our carved and decorated Pumpkins up to a table at the front of the room where we were given a cloak room ticket to go with our Pumpkins. This was to enable the judging to take place without the owners identity from the judges. The winners of the two classes were Junior winner, - Adam Powell, and the Adult winner – John Harding.

Next we had the judging of the Fancy Dress competition. What a task this turned out to be for the judges as there were so many great entries. The winners of the three classes were:- Junior – Abigail Starsmeare, Lady – Jan Randell and Gent – John Harding.

Once the judging was over it was time to see what delights the Rally Officers had lined up for us in the way of food to go with the three bottles of wine which had been put on each table, a Red, a Rose' and a White. The Starter was Pumpkin Soup "There's surprise!" very nice it was too. This was followed by Sausage and mash with carrots, peas and onion gravy, the sweet to finish the meal was Lemon Cheesecake. Wonderful !.

Following the meal there were a couple of games. The Rally Officers asked for a volunteer lady from each table to take part in a fun game. The ladies were blindfolded and had to select from a few numbered ball which were in six bowls which contained various mixtures which included cornflakes and unset jellies to mention just two. The lady who pulled out the six balls with the highest total was the winner and received a box of Jelly babies. (No expense spared!) During the game there were quite a few pained looking faces when they wondered what

mixers they were dipping into. Next it was time for two Male volunteers from each table who were split into two teams. They were then given a plastic rat on the end of a piece of string and on the command go! They had to pass it along the line going up one item of clothing and down an item of clothing on the next man. The first to get the rat to the end of the line were declared the winners. Due to a bit of cheating (Never!) There had to be a re run with the winners getting yet another box of Jelly Babies.

The rest of the evening was spent listening or Dancing to music played by Reece & sue son Connor, and a very good job he made of it too until the speakers packed up just after eleven o'clock. Members enjoyed the rest of an excellent evening chatting among themselves.

The profit of £55.38 from the Raffle this weekend is to be divided between The Wessex Fund and Critchell School. £25.00 was raised from a donated bottle of whisky which will also go to the School. Critchell School is a School for Children with special needs in Frome and they will receive a total of £52.69 from the rally.

Once again our hard working Rally Officers had given us an enjoyable weekend and we

give them our thanks and appreciation for all the hard work they had done in preparing our meal at their homes or with the limited facilities in the hall. Our thanks also go to all those members who helped to decorate the Hall so magnificently

Well done to Nigel and Helen, Reece, Sue and son Connor for such a successful Rally. No wonder your next rally in March of next year had only two places left at the end of this one. It's great that we have some younger

Rally Officers coming on and giving members so much pleasure.

Doug Haddrell.



Netherhampton – Bonfire Rally. 4th – 6th November

Hi, my name is Bill Sanderson, along with my wife Caroline and my younger daughter Lucy we went to our first Rally at the Coombe Caravan Park on the bonfire night weekend. We arrived on site and were welcomed by our Rally Officer, Phil Sambrook, who then showed us to our pitch for the weekend. After an hour we had set up our van in the dark avoiding hitting fingers, thumbs or even our toes which was certainly a blessing. By which time Phil had came round to check that we had settled on site. Saturday, during the day we visited Salisbury, along with its central market and many shops along with the "COMICAL TRIP" to Tesco!! (any further information contact the wife). Later that evening we went to watch the Firework Display from the top of the Race Course, which was very good, along with the soup and roll to follow, we certainly, had a good time and made new friends. We are now looking forward to our next Rally.....

From my point of view, as a young member I really enjoyed the weekend and hoping the next Rally we're to go on, I will find some more younger members my age to

interact with. I really enjoyed the firework display as we didn't have to go all the way down to it, at the live stock. I am really looking forward to the next Rally coming up!

Lucy.

Many thanks, to all made our weekend enjoyable.
Bill, Caroline and Lucy!



WESSEX 2012 – August Bank Holiday

2012, a Wessex year, is approaching fast. It's your chance to get really involved with Centre activities. If you can help in any way please let us know. You will find a list of coordinators on the flag board and on the web site. Also look out for the Wessex practice rallies in your new Rally book.

Information Page

**The Junior Charity fundraising for 2012 is for
Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital**



Centre Competition Themes for 2012

Illuminated Window Competition

Adults – Open theme

Juniors – The Queen's Garden Party

Photographic Competition

Golden

**Your weekend Rally plaque colour for
2012 is purple**



**The Chairman, Officers and Committee
would like to wish all members and
their families a very Merry Christmas,
and a Happy and Healthy New Year.**



Wiltshire Centre Website www.wiltshirecentre.co.uk

For web articles webmaster@wiltshirecentre.co.uk

**For all Rally reports and articles for inclusion in future
newsletters** ann.holdway@wiltshirecentre.co.uk

