



Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan and Motorhome Club

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Welcome to this the 100th edition of the Wiltshire Centre Newsletter. It looks very different to the now yellowed A4 typed sheets of the first editions from the early 80's. This is also the first Newsletter as the Caravan and Motorhome Club.

The daffodils are out, the trees are blushing green and Easter is here. The busy Rally season has begun. I hope that you all enjoy your summer and we have a good one.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of your Newsletter, without you there would be no rally reports. Please keep them coming.

Ann



Lotmead, Wanborough 1st - 3rd July

What a lovely weekend we have had at Lotmead, Wanbrough pick your own, what a shame only 10 vans on site. We arrived at 2pm for a change Derek had time off work it was dry but very windy. After tea we were invited to rally office for a few drinks.

Saturday morning Derek was up at 7am for work all day - school fete. After breakfast went with John, Tracy, Nigel, Chris, Colin and Heather strawberry picking. One for the basket and one for me! We sat and had a coffee, it was nice and relaxing. Nigel and Chris then went gooseberry picking. Weather; a lot of rain. John, Tracy and I then went to school for the summer fete.

Saturday night everybody was invited to the Rally office, they had put an extra gazebo on the end of their awning. We split up into two group's men verses women. For a quiz Nick used his laptop for music and television adverts. We had an excellent night with plenty of friendly banter between the two groups. The winners of the night? It was a draw I think. Saturday night reminded us all of the excellent time's we have had in the past in gazebos cable tied together with wind breaks around the sides.

I would like to thank Nick, Laura, Geoff and Jan Randell for a very great weekend. Weekly at flag we request for new rally officers to come forward, so why not support them.

Barbara Owen

Hoburne Rally – Bashley Park

This year was the 25th year that Tony and Shirley Haines have run a rally on a Hoburne site. First they did seven years at Hoburne Christchurch, when that site was closed to touring caravans and made over to Statics and Park Homes. Eighteen years ago the Rally was moved to Hoburne, Bashley near New Milton where it has been run by Tony and Shirley ever since.

Over the years many members from all over the country have attended this rally (some for over twenty years) and become personal friends of Tony and Shirley. A lot of them spent quite a bit of time whilst on this rally looking around the area for an alternative site to visit in the future.

This year Tony and Shirley decided to make it their last rally here mainly due to Tony's failing health. In the event this decision was made easy for them as Hoburne have decided to close this site to touring Caravans and make the whole site over to Static Caravans.

For the last few years this has been a three week rally and on the middle Wednesday of this year's rally Shirley and her helpers put on a farewell buffet lunch for 126 members attending the rally. A very good spread it was too. Thank you to everyone who helped.

A sale of books, puzzles and DVDs went on through the three weeks of the Rally and over ninety gifts were donated to the Raffle. Through all these events over £450.00 was raised for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

May and I stepped forward to assist Tony and Shirley on this rally. We have known Tony and Shirley for over thirty years, having presented them with their first Rally plaque at Longleat in September 1985 when I was Chairman. Since then we have run thirty Rallies with them including seven here at Bashley. Tony went on to join the Wiltshire Centre Committee and was elected Chairman from 1994 to 1997.

Having given Tony and Shirley their first Rally Plaque all those years ago it was a privilege to present them with their last Rally Officers plaque at closing Flagpole where a glass of wine was given out and a toast given to Tony and Shirley. In response they toasted the Rally Members for their support over the years. We wish them good luck in the future.



Doug and May Haddrell



Masquerade Ball **Didmarton 30th Sept - 2nd Oct**

This weekend saw us return to Didmarton Village Hall for The Masquerade Ball. We arrived on the rally field quite late (the last to arrive I believe) and were greeted and sited by Alan as the rest of the rally officers were getting ready to go to the village hall to start preparing for Saturday evenings masquerade ball.

Saturday was a day of mixed weather, heavy rain at times with sunshine in between. We only ventured as far as the village pub at lunchtime for a drink and a light lunch.

Saturday evening arrived and we had to be in the hall for 7 o'clock. Most people had to return to their vans after arriving as STUART !!! forgot to put on the welcome letter that we needed to bring plates.

What a fantastic sight met our eyes when we entered the hall. It was decorated throughout and videos of ballroom dancing were being played on two large screens which were positioned so that everybody could see them from wherever they were sat. Everybody was dressed up, the ladies in their ball gowns and the gentlemen in their dinner suits and dickie bows and everybody wore a mask. There was a fantastic collection of masks all different colours and types. Everybody looked fantastic.

The rally officers had made 4 large bowls of punch (2 different flavours) which were very tasty. I had to try them both !!. I think there was quite a lot of alcohol in them !!

After everyone had had their first glass of punch (I say first as there was a lot of it and it lasted all evening) the rally officers were ready to serve us dinner and what a delicious meal it was. We had chicken chasseur with potatoes, beans and carrots followed by trifle. It was absolutely delicious, the best chicken chasseur I've ever tasted. THANK YOU Sally and Alan & Marilyn and Stuart and all of your helpers for a fabulous meal. You all worked very hard.

After dinner the evening entertainment began with a wide range of music being played, including Ballroom, Barn Dancing, Line Dancing, Rock & Disco to name just a few courtesy of Nigel Ballamy and John Holdway. You both did a fantastic job and had everybody up on the dance floor most of the evening. What else can I say? A fantastic night was had by all. THANK YOU.

The weekend's competition was types of dance, and was won by John and Ann Holdway. A bonus ball was run and was won by Nigel Ballamy. All of the proceeds from the bonus ball and the raffle went to Alzheimer's Society, leading the fight against dementia.

A huge THANK YOU once again to Alan and Sally and Stuart and Marilyn and all of their helpers for a fabulous weekend. You all worked so hard and it was much appreciated. Saturday night's Masquerade Ball will be one to remember.

An excellent weekend

Sandra Berridge





Rowdeford School Curling & BBQ 12th – 14th August

We returned again the lovely well-tended playing field at Rowdeford School for the annual Curling Rally.

We arrived on a lovely afternoon and did all the necessary things that you do when you arrive on site – level up, put down the steadies, put the water on, put up the sun canopy, have a beer, put up the windbreak had a beer etc. We then settled down to the serious business on having a Barbeque with our friends (with more beer). Later in the evening there was a beautiful clear night and we looked out for the promised Perseid meteor shower, but without any luck.

SATURDAY; The morning started a bit grey with a fair amount of cloud and it did not look good for the main event of the day, the Curling Competition, but things improved rapidly to a lovely warm sunny afternoon. At the appointed time we all congregated at the rally office to take up the challenge of trying to win one of the superb trophies on offer. There was, as usual, a lot of barracking when certain players took up the “curling stones” to do their bit. But what a game it was with some really high scores being achieved.

After the game we returned to the rally office for a communal Barbeque and a few glasses of wine (to celebrate Jim’s forthcoming 70th birthday). We then sat and chatted until the witching hour of 11.00pm when all had to be quite.

SUNDAY; Flag was held on Sunday as usual.

Unfortunately the Chairman and his good lady could not attend the rally due to loo problems – not physical, just that the loo in their caravan would not operate and so the Rally Secretary was appointed to take flag.

Here the competition results for the weekend were announced.

BONUS BALL - with 50% of the money going to Children in Need (Nigel & Helen's chosen charity for rallies they are running this year). The lucky winners were David & Margaret Blissett who then very kindly donated their share to a Cancer Charity proposed by Malcolm Lyndsay from the Gwent Centre whose daughter is currently undergoing treatment.

CURLING

The Competition winners were -

Mens – Doug Haddrell with 340 points - the first time he has ever won (and it is his game).

Ladies – Sue Lyndsay with 300 points (Sue won last year and came all the way from Gwent to enter).

Childrens – Joe & Amellia Randell with good scores shared the prize.

ENVELOPE (themed around sports and games) was won by Paul & Janet Allen.

All in all a super fun weekend, well organised with good weather and good company and thankfully in the 2017 programme again. Our thanks really must go to our Rally Officers– Nigel & Helen and John & Ann for all their hard work and an excellent weekend. Also a word of thanks to

Doug Haddrell for providing a game that produces so much enjoyment.

Linda & Jim Gilchrist

Wessex Report – Meeting October 12th 2017

Wessex 2016 although there were rumours it would not be successful, it proved to be a friendly meeting with all Centres involved.

Friday night fancy dress Wiltshire was represented by Marge. Followed by the Barn Dance with the Old Pull and Push everyone enjoyed the evening. Peter Pod s Peas kept us on the dance most of the evening Sunday.

Saturday Sunday and Monday all went off without a hitch Walking Football was amazing creating the Wiltshire wiggle. 5 a side was a family affair with fathers and sons. Centre Entertains was truly holding up the Wiltshire end. Wessex competitions were well represented by Wiltshire Centre but it would be lovely to see more entries next time please. I would like to mention everyone who entered or took part but I might miss someone out.

Thanks to everyone who attended, helped or took part. Wiltshire had a good Wessex. I hope we are all looking forward to the 25th Rally of Wessex 2018 and we will have a record attendance by the Wiltshire Centre.

Geoff Randell

Wessex Rep



Halloween

Corsham 28th - 30th October

Corsham School, half term and a Caretaker who is very helpful. I arrived early as I was going to help the Rally Officers. This year was going to be slightly different for them. They wanted to try to decorate the hall a bit earlier to give them a bit of time on Saturday before the evening to at least sit down for 10 minutes.

As it was half term caravans were allowed to come in a bit earlier than the normal time for a school. John and Mark were in and out of the hall siting vans. By 5 most of the vans were in. So back to the hall for them both.

Saturday dawned and back to the hall for the rally officers and their witches and wizard helpers. Steph was in the kitchen making her spells for the evening Shepherd's Pie, with peas and extra gravy for those who wanted it. Tomato soup was opened and Ann had made toasted ghosts croutons to float in the top. Jelly with blackcurrants and raspberries had been made the day before and the custard and cream added on the day. It was topped by sprinkles and little black skulls.

There were Chocolates on the table a good alternative to nibbles. Some were eating them before their dinner.

This year Geoff (Randell) was not able to go up and down the ladder. As most know he is waiting for a hip operation and by the time you all read this it will be over and I am sure he will be back climbing ladders soon.

Geoff did come into the hall and we gave him the title of Stage Manager. He told us if decorations were not straight, matched the height of the opposite sides of the hall. So he did get a job.

Both ends of the hall were decorated, there were projections of ghosts, witches, haunted houses, on to a sheet at both ends and ghosts projected on the ceiling. There was also music being played by the disco which was run by Nigel Ballamy although at the beginning of the evening when he walked in I was not sure who it was. He was accompanied by John who was sat next to him with his laptop to project music videos of the artists to compliment Nigel. Around the room were lights shining on various ghost and ghoulish shapes. There were free standing inflatable witches around the hall.

Message to Dave Lush who always says at his rally's quote "I do nothing" John was the opposite. He was compere, hall decorator, part time music man, hall planner. That is not saying that Mark and Ann did nothing they were busy decorating the hall and Steph was in the kitchen.

Almost everyone dressed up. It was good to see all the different costumes. Because of this the rally officers decided to present the best fancy dress to Jasmine Howlett and Olly Howlett. There were only 4 children there and they all dressed. They were given sweets at flag which were chocolate lollipops with witches and ghosts on.

Weekend comp was anagrams of words associated to the Halloween theme. It was won by Sue and Reece Searle. There were lots of correct entries and Olly pulled their entry out.

Jim Gilchrist was the representative of the Chairman. Good flag Jim even though there was lots of banter going between John and Jim. Timing one another on how long they spoke. Well what more do you expect and of Course John stole Jim's phrase. My flag, my rules! We had Cookies at flag served with tea and coffee.

A lovely rally; we had visitors from East Dorset and Avon and they all enjoyed themselves. I asked someone from East Dorset where they had come from. They had good friends who are my parent's next door neighbours. Small world.

Well done John and Ann not forgetting Mark and Steph. Hard work for you all. Your witches and wizards helpers will all be on the next one to help I am sure.

Big thanks to you all. Good food. Good weekend and Good rally officers.

Thank you from Dracula's Bride (Jenny Newman)



Fireworks, Coombe Caravan Park, Salisbury
4th – 6th November

This well maintained site benefits from picturesque views of the surrounding countryside and is well located for visiting Salisbury and the New Forest. On arrival as usual we had a warm welcome from our Rally Officers and got

directed to our pitch. After getting set up we had just settled down for the evening when another caravan arrived and was shown to the pitch next door.

Time had moved on by now and the rallier and single man on his own appeared not to be familiar with the pitching and setting up of the caravan. So I went to enquire if we could be of assistance in any way and introduce ourselves to Clive Reid to be told this was his first outing with his newly purchased caravan and also his first rally as a new member of the Centre.

On Saturday evening a group of us planned to wander down to the race course to view the firework display just like we did when we were last here back in 2011, Clive was also invited. Well all I can say is that Clive being severely disabled had a challenging initiation to the Centre as we had to climb over barb wire fences to gain access to the viewing point where we watched the fireworks from back in 2011, but, needless to say, all our efforts in getting there were thwarted by the fact the trees and scrubland had grown and nothing could be seen of the display.

On arrival back on site, the rally officers had arranged for us to meet in the newly constructed hall for us to enjoy hot soup served with fresh bread and for us all to catch up on the day's events.

Thank you to Ange & Phil, Gill & Pete for a great weekend.

Steve & Sand Berridge



Dinner Dance, Westbury 13-14 Nov

We arrived quite early in the afternoon and were greeted by John Holdway and Mark Kelly. We were shown to our pitch and were very quickly set up as we had no awning to put up! Settled in and had drinks with friends. A very pleasant evening.

Up on Saturday, earlier than usual, as we had a Wessex meeting to go to. I'm sure the remaining ralliers busied themselves with shopping or some relaxing pastime. We were back by 4 so had a cuppa then set about getting ready for the evening's main event! Posh frocks, heeled shoes, lovely jewellery (and that's just the men)..... no I digress. The men also looked very handsome in their tuxedos.

We entered the main bar adjacent to the room for the dinner dance. Now if you'd seen the outside of the building, there would have been no way you would have believed they could pull off what was indeed a miracle transformation. The outside is very ordinary looking but what was inside certainly wasn't. The tables were decorated in white and silver with candelabra as the centre piece. It looked amazing. *Please have a look at the website; there are some great photos for you to look at.* Our food was served by very smart and efficient young ladies. Beef with all the trimmings, chicken in a very creamy sauce and a vegetarian meal. Vegetables were served separately. The profiteroles were lovely, can't speak for the other desserts but there was very little left! The food overall was of a very high standard. We

then had speeches from our very own Phil Sambrook followed by Grenville Chamberlain, who gave a very funny performance as he re-iterated some old and well-known jokes. Very entertaining.



After the speeches we had our live band who were very good and after a slow start, kept the floor full until we were asked to leave basically.

What a great night it was, great food, great company and great entertainment. Job well done. Thank you to the committee for their input and to our rally officers, Mark and Steph Kelly and John and Ann Holdway.

Sunday morning at flag, we held two minutes silence for those who had fallen in the war. The sun shone brightly which seemed fitting for those two minutes.

Presentations were made, one being to John & Ann Holdway for running their 100th Rally and one being to Jenny Newman for attending and getting her 400th rally plaque, on her own. Well done, I'm sure there will be many more rallies in the future.

Well, that sums up a fabulous weekend. Again, thank you to all who made it possible and to our rally officers for running it for us.

Chris Riley



Children in Need



Figheledean 18th 20th November

We returned to this site after an absence of ten years. It was nice to be back, it's a lovely little village. We were sited by Reece and Nigel and once sorted and settled we went into the hall to see Helen and Sue. As we paid for the weekend we were asked to choose a hand knitted 'Pudsey' and a cross stitched 'Pudsey' keyring. Helen had knitted all the bears and Sue had sewn all the cross stitch key rings. Well done ladies, they were superb, thank you.

In the evening, we were all invited to go into the hall for drinks and a game of 'Left, right and centre'. I can't remember the last time I played this. It was great fun. Ray Kirk was the ultimate winner. Well done.

Saturday, we went into Salisbury on the park and ride. Far easier than trying to find a parking space. As it turned out it was a good choice, the place was heaving with shoppers. We bought what we needed and left. We had a light lunch as supper (?) was being served to us later that evening. We were served with a chicken stew with dumplings and new potatoes and this was followed by apple strudel and custard. Supper? It was a lovely

warming winter meal. It was yummy, thank you Sue (and her helpers x)

After a short break, we were treated to some fun games, at 20p per go. There was hook a duck, shuttlecock into a net, hoopla, bounce the ping pong ball, magnetic darts, feely bags, putting, and many more I can't remember. It became very competitive at one point. Certainly, when the whisky bottle came out. I've never seen so many men with 10p's in all my life. Nigel Ballamy won the bottle in the end, with a well-aimed shot placed very early in the opening stages. Congratulations! A lot of money was raised on the night and the games kept us all entertained. Well done to all those people who donated their money.

On Sunday morning at flag, we had tea, coffee and the most scrumptious muffins. Very nice! The raffle was quite a size so that generated a lot of money too. Most people had donated a prize for this worthwhile cause. Thanks to everyone who did so.



Over the year, our rally officers had run several rallies and at each of them, had donated the raffle money to Children in Need. The grand total was £496 ?? and the rally officers decided to make it up to £500. I do believe since the rally, that this amount was surpassed. Great job!

What can you say about four people, who worked so hard and all they get is a plastic gold coloured bar. I will tell you, you get dedication, hard work and a willingness to please us, the ralliers. You did a fantastic job all of you and I thank you for giving us a great fun-filled weekend with a worthy cause to boot. Very well done.

Chris Riley

Nigel, Helen, Reece and Sue would like to thank everyone who helped raise the money for Children in Need, we are so proud of all the ralliers who gave so generously. The final total will be on the centre website in a few days time once the figures have been checked.

The final total is £503.91, more details of the breakdown is now on the entre website home page.

Thank you all
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx



Longleat 50th Anniversary & Festival of Lights, 25th-27th Nov

Now, I couldn't wait for this weekend to arrive, as I absolutely adore Beatrix Potter books and characters. It was also another chance to stay at this lovely site. Steve and Peter greeted and sited us, right opposite the waterfall which is just beautiful. It also gave us the chance to see the Santa train and hear the sea lions at 4.30am lol. In the evening, we stayed in the van and chatted, catching up on the previous weeks' events. Gossip really 😊 A good laugh.

Up early on Saturday, as we wanted to do a tour of the lanterns by daylight. They were superb. It took a large team of people from China, 10 days to erect all the lanterns and install the lighting. Heaven only knows how long it took to assemble the three elephants, who were made up out of china tea cups, saucers, egg cups and jugs. They were then encased in chicken wire to keep their shape.

We had intended to go back to the van, but we booked bus tickets to go around the safari park, so we just HAD to stay for lunch! It was yummy. The bus tour was just about 2 hours long. I wish we had gone in the morning, as by the time we went around, a lot of the big cats and the giraffes were safely installed in their paddocks for the night. However, we did see them and very magnificent

they were. I love how the giraffes move, they kind of swagger, almost unbalanced. Such gentle creatures. They say you are never too old to learn something new. I learnt that giraffes don't have vocal cords, so when zebra are around them, they watch the giraffe's body language so they are alerted of nearby predators. Clever huh.

Watching the monkeys on other peoples' vehicles was hilarious. These devilish little apes go 'no holds barred'. Aerials, windscreen wipers, water pipes ripped off oh and the occasional free deposit! Glad I was on the bus.

Once we had arrived back at the site, we had a cup of tea, got warmed up and then off we went again. We reached the large Christmas tree in the main square, for a Christmas story about a little boy, who was searching for the ultimate Christmas present. It was a moving little tale, with the end result being that we all have exactly what we need at Christmastime our families. The story was told by a film show projected onto the walls of the out- buildings. Very clever and very impressive. That done, we went to join a large queue of people waiting to walk round Mr. McGregor's Garden. Wow, it was a total transformation from the lanterns we saw in daylight, absolutely magical. I felt like a kid in a sweet shop. I honestly didn't know where to look first. I loved every single one of the lanterns but I have to confess that the Jemima Puddleduck and Peter Rabbit lanterns were my favourites. It was just amazing. We saw absolutely everything there was to see and then headed back to the site for soup, hot dogs and mince pies with mulled wine.

Our rally officers had been beavering away, whilst we were all out enjoying ourselves. There were two flavours of soup, tomato and chicken. The hot dogs were yummy, served with lovely soggy onions. Pudding was equally delicious, mince pies and mulled wine. Thank you all so much for preparing all this while we were out, it was very much appreciated by us all. It can't have been easy in vans and awnings but it was worth all your time and effort. Thank you. It was nice to see some ralliers having visitors, in the form of family and new babies too. It made it all the more special.

Up on Sunday and still our rally officers are working hard. Tea, coffee and biscuits. There was a large raffle which was speedily dealt with. There was a lovely atmosphere over the whole weekend and with 60 vans and 120 people to look after, I can honestly say a very big **'congratulations'** to Steve, Sandra, Pete and Gill on a very, very successful and amazing weekend.

Thank you so much.



Please see the website for more pictures of these amazing lanterns.

Chris Riley



Bishopstrow Fun Quiz Feb 2017

We haven't had the opportunity to do many of these, but this year the calendar meant we could!

We were also lucky enough to arrive in the "semi-daylight" that we get in the early part of the year. The new rallying season always seems such a long way in the future, so it is nice to get back out and just hope the weather plays ball!

We were met by Jim on a blustery afternoon, with our marker being blown around the yard at Bishopstrow, and he was thankful not too many more were due to come in after us, as it was a bit chilly!

Set up and time for tea...oh and a glass of wine!

Friday evening was a night for catching up with our neighbours, before being rudely interrupted by the alarm on the barn! Jim wanders up but there is nothing he can do until someone arrives with a key fob to silence it! His parting words were "if it goes again, I have the fob, come and knock me up!" Well, that just jinxed the whole night.....

4.30AM Saturday morning – off it goes again....and so Jim's slumbers were interrupted, as were ours.....Several more times, the same noise was to be heard from the barn...oh and then, bliss...it goes silent.....only to be replaced by a slightly less annoying 4 tone alarm. However, that one wasn't too bad; you could actually drop off to that one!

Anyway, daylight arrives, bleary eyes from those around us and the man from the farm summons someone who can sort the alarm – who finally manages to turn it off – FOR GOOD!

Time for some fresh air, sunshine beckons and we set out for the day.

We return to the site to get our brains rested for Jim and Dave's "fun quiz". We set off for the hall in mass convoy, and arrived in good time to be met by Jim and Dave, ready for the evening teasers...

It started well, with the teams evenly matched, before a delicious pasta bake supper and pudding were served by Sandra, Linda and Liz.

Back to the quiz, but it gets a little more devious with a "not going over" round. This was designed to split up the team points a little, but in the end, the points were really close between all 4 four tables. A fun evening was had by all, and we were all on our best behaviours – heckling saw your team with possible point deductions.

If you are reading this and thinking that the noise emitted from the alarm spoilt our weekend, far from it! It just added to the fun, and a great weekend! As Jim pointed out, this was the first time in the all the years they've been running the rally, that they've ever had a problem – just our luck this weekend!

Sadly during the evening, Dave announced that this year will be his and Sandra's last year as Rally Officers.

Their efforts and support to the Centre should be applauded and we thank them for the time spent running

this rally for over 20 years. But long may it continue with Jim & Linda and another set of rally officers???

For those who have attended one or more of their rallies, if you've enjoyed it and want to ensure that this and other rallies continue, please talk to Jim, or we may see other rallies disappear from our calendar.

Please give back some time for the enjoyment of us all!

With grateful thanks to Jim & Linda, Dave & Sandra.

Phi & Ange Sambrook



Bishopstrow Fun Quiz

February

A Rally Officers Perspective

Who would have thought that we would still run this rally after 23 years – It was a boozy evening in 1994 when the four of us (Myself, Linda, Dave and Sandra) and Dave came up with the bright idea to run a quiz rally at the start of the year - he usually comes up with rally opportunities late on a Friday night!

Over the years that we have run this rally it has always been fully booked either at the AGM or certainly before the New Year. With only a couple of exceptions, it was also one of the first Wiltshire Centre Rallies in the Rally Book.

So here we are again.

The Rally was declared full in early December but between then and the start of the rally we had several cancellations – a Broken Ankle, an Eye Operation, a Car Crash and the Common Cold.

The Friday started in very much the same way as the previous 21 rallies we have run on this site – cold and usually wet. Fortunately the promised remnants of a tropical storm stayed somewhat west of us. This still meant due to the wind and driving rain we could not actually ‘Peg Out’ the site as the pitch markers were blown about the site. Each caravan had to be individually sited using a measuring rope (having to space the caravans very differently from previously years due to the new spacing requirements). Spacing requirements also meant that we unfortunately had to reduce the numbers of ralliers this year.

All of the Ralliers were onsite by 7.30pm which should have given us a bit of time to relax, but no, the latter part of the evening was punctuated by the sound of the burglar alarm going off on one of the farms barns. We called Pete (The Farmer) who came out of the farm house and switched it off. Unfortunately this did not solve the problem as it went off every hour or so during the evening. Finally it seemed to settle down until about 4.30am when Geoff Randell knocked on our door and said “Jim the alarms going off again”. I got out of bed and took the ‘plonker’ over to the alarm control on the building, the ‘plonker’ being the farmer supplied electronic control key for the alarm – not Geoff Randell. The alarm had been making a variety of quieter noises through the night. Some people suggested that when the

sound was a regular bleep, bleep, silence, bleep bleep etc. that they found they could put up with it as it had rhythm to it? It was about 11.00 on Saturday morning when the farmer could actually sort the fault out but by then everyone close to the alarm was probably deaf anyway.

The Quiz

The Fun Quiz was held as usual in Sutton Veney Village Hall. We have seen lots of improvements in this facility over the years and it suits our purpose well with good kitchen facilities for the girls to prepare the meals and serve it out to the quizzers. The evening's quiz questions seemed to be well received with the four tables scoring equally through the evening with a range of questions being asked. Some of the funny ones from ITV's 'The Chase' brought a few laughs. As a matter of interest we calculated that at least 2,500 questions have been asked over the years and we could count on one hand the number of times Dave & I have asked the same questions at the same event!

The Food.

This year's meal prepared by Sandra at home was a 'Pasta, Cheese and Meat Bake'. It seemed to go down very well with seconds being taken as soon as they could be dished out to the hungry throng. This year's pudding was a tangerine crumble and custard that again seemed to go down well. One thing about Sandra's culinary offerings, we never seem to have any waste at the end of the evening. Well done Sandra, another triumph. Linda & Liz have over the years provided the much needed help within the kitchen, peeling potatoes, cutting up veg etc. and then washing up all of the pots and pans associated

with cooking meals for around fifty people each year. Their work always seems to go very easily to us men who only have to sort out a few tables and chairs, the girls working as a well-oiled machine – it just seems to flow! In reality they are never 'well oiled' during the social as they have to drive the 'Question Masters' back to the caravans as they have knocked back a few beers themselves during the evening. The girls then tend to make up for their lack of drinking early in the evening by staying up late when we get back to the caravans.

The Results

This year's quiz ended with the points totted up only to find we had a draw for first place (Only a couple of points separated the four teams which was good to see). After a tie break the team on table three won – no names here as everyone who competed was a winner! Unfortunately Dave announced during the evening that he did not feel physically able to continue running the rallies, so we will have to see what happens with this rally in the future. It would be a shame to lose such a good winter site and hall venue from the rally programme.

OUR THANKS

We would like to thank all of our regular Quiz attendees for their support on the 21 rallies held here over the years. Some of our ralliers have attended every one of the events we have held here.

We have only had to cancel one rally in that time due to heavy snow, though we do advise people at flag that Snow/Rain/High winds are on the way. It is amazing how that motivates most people to go home.

Regards, Jim on behalf of Linda, Dave & Sandra (and of course Liz).



(This photo should appear in the Club magazine in April.)



Romantica
Royal Wootton Bassett Feb 17th - 19th

We arrived at 2.45pm at this new site for the Wilshire Centre in the sun . We were sited by Geoff on his electric scooter and set up and had a catch up with fellow ralliers In the evening 10 of us walked down the high street to the Ganges Indian restaurant for a meal and a drink. We got back about 10.45 and turned in.

Saturday dawned to sun and cloud but no rain (whoopee) summers here (well spring nearly)! Phil Sambrook went off to Lydiard Park for a park run (after coming back for car park money) while Tracy and I left to go to our grandson's 2nd birthday party.

We entered the school hall at 7.30pm to it bathed in soft romantic lighting. Nigel and Geoff kept us entertained with romantic music all evening and Helen and Jan feeding us a lovely ploughman's supper along with a picture quiz.

Sunday flag was quite quick with no birthdays or anniversaries or visitors to welcome. A nice new site well found Nigel Helen Geoff & Jan. Hope we are back soon

John Tracy & Bailey Mason

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.....



NEW SIGNAGE



In the interests of Rally safety you will begin to see these new signs on the Rally field. Please do not drive between the caravan lines unless you are asked to do so by the Rally Officer. Thank you.

RALLY SLIPS

Please note that a large number of "home made" Rally Booking Slips are being submitted to Rally Officers, often with required information missing. Members are advised that only official Centre Booking Slips, from the Rally Book, the Centre Website, or any Committee Member should be used. Thank you.

Obituaries



Joyce Mugford

Joyce was a regular rallier with the Wiltshire Centre and passed away on 31st October 2016. Unfortunately the only details known are from the Gazette & Herald as follows:

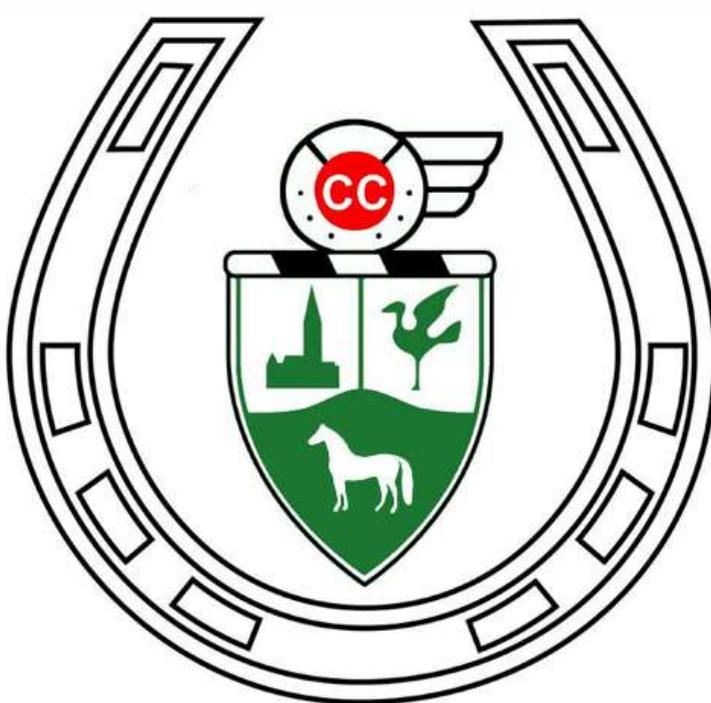
MUGFORD Joyce Peacefully at the Great Western Hospital, Swindon on the 31st October 2016 aged 90 years. Joyce will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Saint Edmund's Catholic Church, Calne on Wednesday 23rd November at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired will go to 'The Samaritans' c/o E. Wootten & Son, 1 North Street, Calne, SN11 0HQ. 01249 812258.



Peter Blake

It is reported with sadness that Peter died on 19th February 2017. He was a past Committee member and Treasurer serving the Wiltshire Centre for over 20 years and earned a place on the Wiltshire Centre Roll of Honour. He and his wife Mary ran many rallies and he will be fondly remembered by many Centre members. His funeral took place at Shipton Bellinger on March 14th and was attended by over 200 mourners including many Caravan Club members. Our condolences go to Mary, his family and friends

(If anyone has any anecdotes of Joyce or Peter they would like to share in the next news letter, please let me know – Ann)



Wiltshire Centre

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