



Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan and Motorhome Club

Spring 2018

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Welcome to this the 102nd edition of the Wiltshire Centre Newsletter. As spring moves into summer we look forward to warm sunny days relaxing by our caravans. I hope that 2018 is a wonderful caravanning year for you all whatever you may have planned.

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





Rowdeford School - 18th to 20th Aug.

My fiancé recently purchased a caravan and paid for the Caravan and Motorhome Club membership and we both thought it would be a good idea to keep an eye on my folks in-case they needed us! But we couldn't make it until the Saturday morning due to work commitments.

We went on this rally after hearing how good it was from my mum and dad (Malcolm and Sue Lindsay) who are also club members.

I've attended before, but not as a member and not overnight in my own van like this time. But I couldn't be trusted by my folks either as it seemed and my Nan came along for the ride and the chance to get away from the great grandchildren, and have a stress free holiday (but I reckon that was only an excuse because she would be left alone) which I don't mind. It was nice having the additional company.

Well, as I don't drive, my fiancé Martyn towed the van to the school grounds and my dad rang as he was concerned over the state of the ground as it had rained the day before and he thought we might have got stuck on the grass, but it was all fine. Oh, and it was our first outing in the van, EVER! We found our pitch with a little help from my dad... well how was we to know we had to meet the Rally Officer first to check in? We were complete novices. And just to add, the Rally Officers

Nigel and Helen were great. Then, after about half hour of me hiding in my mums and dads van with my Nan, we settled in for the rally - and in the nick of time too! We didn't have long to wait and we attended the curling event which was so much fun and it was really sunny but very windy and we had a Mary Poppins moment when our umbrella we used for shade was blown out of its stand. We managed to solve the problem by bungying down the umbrella to the hook in the floor.

I had fun watching my Nan play for the first time and almost knocking out the judges! (Joke). Mum and dad won the curling...again! (Not a joke). It gets a bit tiring seeing the plaques at every available opportunity. And the rally officer Nigel joked about engraving their names on the plaques for next year, but trust me I don't see it as a joke! In fact I swear dad is practicing for next year, so look out!

But I suppose people could say the same thing about me! I might not have won the curling, but I won in the raffle at flag...again! I might get banned from buying tickets next year. As punishment for our family winning so much, I had to do the write-up! But I don't see it as punishment as it has bought back so many memories.

On the weekend, short though it was, I drank, but not as much as Martyn and my dad. I joked with new friends, and got acquainted with old ones. And I had a few goes on the zip line (thankfully, I didn't fall off). But, sadly, as with any holiday, you can't have too much of a good thing and before I knew it we were packing up ready for our next big adventure. So, until next time... keep limber,

keep practicing as I don't want my folks to win again, and take care.

Emma Lindsay, Martyn Millership and Joan Davies

Iford – High Tea at the Manor – 1st – 3rd July

Our wonderful High Tea and Pimms at Iford Manor. It was really as good as it looks! Thank you to Rally Officers Alan and Sally Sperring, Paul and Janet Allen and all their marvellous helpers.



The Chairman's Duck Race at Iford – 3rd July



Purton Driving Competition, July 7th- 9th

Friday: We arrived about 6pm with the sun shining brightly and settled in with fellow ralliers. This weekend was going to be a rally with only a few vans on site as only 6 vans were here + Rally Officers.

We helped Derek mark out the 2 courses we were going to use this year. I say 2 as there were only 7 drivers the decision was made to only do the 2 speed courses.

We joined fellow ralliers at the Rally Officers' in the evening for a natter and a drink or two then the drivers who were going in the competition drew numbers for their driving position. I drew number 1 for the second year running (at least I will be in 1st place for a little while).

Saturday: We got up to another hot and humid day. We had breakfast then got ready for the driving. 1st up was the Swindon caravan cup: I was first up and I posted a time of 1 minute 58 seconds (not bad for me).

The final result was:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 st place Doug Haddrell | 1 min 8.6 secs |
| 2 nd place Mark Tolman | 1min 11.1 secs |
| 3 rd place Phil Sambrook | 1 min 24.9 secs |

Tracy Mason was the only women to enter but unfortunately was timed out. After a half hour break we started the Sarum Cup. I managed to post a time of 1 minute 41 seconds.

The final positions were:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 st place Phil Sambrook | 1 min 04 secs |
| 2 nd place Bill Sanderson | 1 min 06.8 secs |
| Joint 3 rd place Doug Haddrell & Nigel Riley | 1 min 18 secs |

It was then time for a bite to eat. As Pete Wiltshire had to go to Swindon Caravans he took the caravan back (I bet that's the first time the caravan has been returned in under 6 hours).

In the evening we all came over to the Rally Officers for a communal Bar B Q. We all stayed put for the evening having a natter and drink.

Sunday: At flag it looked a bit strange as there were 8 on one side of the table and 9 on the other side.

We had a competition where we had to ID cars from their headlights.

At the trophy presentations Doug Haddrell said it was 21 years ago that he last won the Swindon Caravan Cup. It was also noted that Phil Sambrook was having a lot of running around for Ange as she had a nasty fall out of her caravan (no she had not been drinking) and sprained her ankle so was unable to move around.



It was mentioned that the driving competition is in danger as the numbers continue to drop. It's a shame as a lot of work is put in by Derek sorting out the courses for us to go at and looking at this weekend with the amount of drivers we had. PLEASE everybody try to support this rally as it is put on for all of us.

Great rally Phil, Ange, Bill, Caroline, Derek & Barbara

John, Tracy & Bailey Mason



Charlton

Chairman's Farewell – 1st – 3rd Sept

Well as we've come to expect from your very friendly Centre we were made to feel extremely welcome, even though we were fleeced left right and centre by Tracey for the Centre's charity, not that we minded as she does it in the nicest way. Friday evening we had a cup of tea whilst picking up our envelopes which is always welcome after traveling even a short way as we did.

Saturday evening they surpassed themselves with an excellent buffet and pudding with wine and Prosecco supplied by Tracey and John who were celebrating 25 years of marriage, (you don't get that for murder by the way). This was followed by pin the hair on the chairman, which our table one thus winning lots of chocolate (so out the window went the diet!) and Play Your Cards right which no one won but John did come the closest.

All in all a brilliant weekend. Thanks Ange Phil Tracey and John for all your effort it is much appreciated by us all.

Sue and Dave Provis - Avon Centre



Semington Quiz – 22nd – 24th Sept

All in all I think a great weekend was had by all, we had great weather all weekend. Brilliant family quiz.

Arrived at the site at Semington late on Friday to find a warm welcome from John & Ann Holdway and Nigel & Chris Riley. There were lots of vans on site, it was lovely to see such a good turnout. Saturday the weather was lovely and sunny and it was delightful to sit outside the van and hear kids having fun climbing trees and playing in the grass.

Saturday night there was the great fun quiz. It was aimed at all ages (young and old) but the miming of the Disney characters was the best bit. Well done to Ann & Chris.

Sunday the weather held off so all was packed up dry. Let's hope the Scout hut is still there for the rally to go ahead next year. Think all that were there had a great time Thank you all who organised it.

Thanks
Adi & Joanne

AGM, Corsham, 7th October

We have no report for the AGM rally at Corsham. As we bid farewell to Phil Sambrook our outgoing Chairman of three successful years we welcomed Mark Tolman our new Chairman and his wife Liz to represent us. Congratulations to you all.

We also must congratulate Jim and Linda Gilchrist on attaining 1,000 rallies pictured here with outgoing Chairman Mr. Phil Sambrook and new Chairman Mr. Mark Tolman.





Biddestone, Racing - 13th – 15th Oct

We returned once again to this site on the Sports Ground on the edge of the lovely village of Biddestone. As this rally started at 12.00pm on Friday we arrived just after this time to make the best of the weekend.

Saturday was left free for us to visit the local towns of our choice. As the latest edition of the News Letter had just come out (We understand the courier lost it in transit and it was too late to make it in time for the AGM last week) I decided to slip home and get an A5 envelope and post a copy to Jose Kirk who as most of you know is recovering from an operation in Swindon Hospital. Get well soon Jose.

Saturday evening at 7.00pm we were invited to join the Rally Officers in the Hall for supper and Alternative Racing. We wondered what that meant but we were soon to find out after supper. What a supper that turned out to be. Our rally Officers had been busy all day preparing a Beef Stew. Large chunks of beef with carrots and onions and the best dumplings I have ever tasted. Seconds were enjoyed too. A sweet of summer fruits Cheesecake was served to round off a wonderful meal. Thank you Helen and Sue, assisted by Nigel & Reece.

Nigel and Reece had set up a system which played DVDs of Horse and Dog Racing. A preview was played of each race with descriptions of the runners and the odds of each runner and we then placed our bets on our choice of runner. Personally I decided at the start that I

would bet lanes 2 and 4 on every race. I didn't win but I wasn't far out of pocket on the evening. A twist in the proceedings came part way through the evening when Nigel and Reece decided that we would not be paid out on the winners, but by drawing a number from 1 to 3 they decided they would pay out on either first second or third place depending on which number was drawn. No good relying on the odds then! A most enjoyable evening was had by all, including the four children in attendance Josh, Emily, Joseph and Emilia.

The envelope competition was to find the link between two words e.g. Lobster and Luck. Link word POT. This was won by Dave and Sandra Lush with an all correct paper. Well done you.

At closing Flag on Sunday we were served with Bacon Rolls by some once again very busy Rally Officers. Flag was taken by our newly elected Chairman Mark Tolman and his wife Liz. Good luck in your term of Office Mark!

Thanks to our team of Rally Officers Nigel and Helen, Reece and Sue for all your hard work in giving us all a most enjoyable weekend.

Doug and May Haddrell



Corsham, Halloween 27th – 29th Oct

What a rally!

We arrived on Friday afternoon to be greeted by our rally officers John, Mark & Geoff who sited us very efficiently. The girls were kept busy taking money and gossiping. We had good company being sited by Jenny, Doug & May, Sue & Reece, Nigel & Helen.

Friday night saw us spend the evening with our other neighbours Dave & Sandra. We fed them Stew and then started a game of 'Train' (to be continued).

Saturday saw us pop into Trowbridge for lunch (as Dave & Sandra were not really on our plan to share our stew!). The evening saw the spectacular that is 'Halloween' in John and Ann's great plan. The school hall was transformed into a magical scene with smoke, ghosts and ghouls everywhere. It must have taken the Rally Officers hours to do it, with hours spent planning it beforehand. Tables were decorated with lots of spooky chocolates. Steve Berridge forgot to unwrap his before popping it in (and out of) his mouth causing a fair bit of humour from others on our table.

Most people made an effort to dress to suit the evening and we have to say there were some horrors in the room. To eat we had hot soup followed by delicious hotdogs. This was followed by a great evening of music and video

ably provided by DJ's Nigel, John and Geoff (who spent most of the evening on stage).

On Sunday morning we had flag. Some people came in still wearing some of the makeup that they wore the night before - one was a green faced lad who had tried but not quite got there. Our newly appointed Vice Chairman Steve Berridge ably supported by the very tolerant Sandra (who was hit on the head to check if the Mike was working) took his first flag in his new role - and did very well!!

Our thanks must go once again to this fine team - John & Ann, Mark & Steph and Geoff & Jan for all their hard work to make it such a success.

Jim and Linda Gilchrist



Corsham, Halloween 27th – 29th Oct

This weekend rally was to celebrate Halloween.

Saturday was a day to do as we pleased. As the daylight dwindled at the end of the day everybody retired to their vans to get their costumes and make up on for the Halloween party laid on by our rally officers.

We made our way to the school hall & it looked amazing. The rally officers had decorated the whole hall with a Halloween theme. There was a roaring fire (on a screen), as we walked into the hall. There were ghosts and ghouls

and witches and spiders all over the walls and hanging from the ceiling. It looked fabulous.

Almost everybody was dressed up. All of the costumes and make up were fantastic. There were witches, vampires, devils and other monstrous outfits. Everybody looked brilliant and a lot of effort had been put in to all of the costumes.

Nigel Ballamy and John Holdway kept us entertained all evening with a mixture of music ranging from ghostly Halloween songs to rock and disco. They kept a lot of people on the dance floor all evening with some good music.

During the evening we were served tomato soup and two hot dogs (with onions) each. It was delicious and very filling. I struggled to eat the second hot dog but it was too good to waste! The whole evening was brilliant and a lot of fun.

Sunday morning arrived and Steve had to do flag. This had a very comical start as a battery powered witch had been put on the floor and was walking around his feet. There was also a witch's cat nodding and moving around on the table. It took Steve 5 to 10 minutes to get going as everybody that could see what was going on were laughing. It was hilarious but I think it calmed Steve's nerves. The rest of flag went smoothly.

The whole weekend was brilliant and a lot of hard work was put in by our rally officers. So a very big thank you to John and Ann Holdway, Mark and Steph Kelly and Geoff and Jan Randell for a fantastic weekend

Sandra Berridge



Corsham Christmas Starts Here! 1st – 3rd December

Being a relative newcomer to the "rally scene" and by that I mean I have more fingers than rally plaques, I had no idea what to expect as we approached our destination, what I did find out was that the "long haired General" had a slight mix up with the timings which meant we had a lovely 3 hours of family time on a local industrial estate before we could enter the rally location Still, looking on the bright side we know where to go in future if we need high pressure injection moulded plastic trims for the automotive engineering industry!!

After hearing the dreaded "is it time yet" for the four hundredth time I decided that a few laps of the block would be in order to kill a few extra minutes and transitioned us nicely to arrive just on time to be received by John and his helpers (torches in hand and wearing hi viz) who showed us to our pitch. It was dark and fairly fresh but the field was laid out with civil engineering precision, well done to all involved in that one

Amenities were quickly pointed out to us and we were sipping cocktails in no time (Becks and Bombay respectively, not together I might add). The Rally location at Corsham School is just outside the town centre and is literally a 5 minute stroll, we were drawn to the sound of live music and having not done our local intelligence homework we quickly deduced that it was Christmas lights switch on time, haste was made and in no time we

were amongst the stalls and happenings of the annual street market come Christmas lights switch on ceremony.

Saturday evening came and it was time for the main event. We were again received at the entrance to the hall by John and his helpers who had a table plan in place so everyone knew where they were sitting. Once inside the hall it was clear to see the amount of hard work and effort that had gone into the physical preparation of the event, tables decorated, backdrops adorned every wall, Santa's grotto, you name it, it was there!

The highlight for me was definitely seeing the fruits of Ann's labour, the children went crazy for the snow machine (following a few technical difficulties which added to the effect) who would have thought that sixty thousand pieces of napkin cut into postage stamp sized pieces could entertain children (big and small) for so long!

We were lucky enough to get a visit from the big man himself and he dished out the presents and was on his merry way after the obligatory selfie or two.

The sustenance for the evening took the form of a buffet style ploughman's which was very nice indeed and plentiful, I'm still having nightmares following the amount of cheese that I consumed on that evening!!

Our elves on the decks did a sterling job and had something for everyone, at one point I looked around the hall and everyone was either smiling or laughing, to me a true sign of a job well done.

The event itself on Saturday evening was only the tip of the rally iceberg, the amount of effort, organisation and co-operation that went into this rally will probably remain an unknown quantity. What I can say is that from a personal point of view we had a fantastic time and appreciate all your hard work and effort it was fantastic so. Thank you very much indeed. We look forward to next year and especially the raffle!!

All that remains is to say thank you again to all who made this event such a success it truly was remarkable and with people stepping in to the breach at the eleventh hour it really encompassed the spirit of a club and its belonging

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all, here's to a cracker in 2018!

Rob, Heather & Poppy Hawkins



Corsham

Christmas Starts Here! 1st – 3rd December

Unfortunately at short notice Rally Officers Mark and Steph Kelly had to stand down due to family problems - their daughter Sarah's new baby girl (born on the Friday) another grandchild with Mumps, Measles or something like that. Dave and Nicky Bullock stepped in to take their place assisting John & Ann and Geoff & Jan.

What a night!

Excellent food,

Excellent Decorations,

Snow, snow and more snow!

We arrived on the rally in the dark and were sighted by our Rally Officers who, due to the restricted start time (due to it being a school), had a very busy time with caravans arriving one after the other.

Saturday evening we entered a winter wonderland. More lights than Oxford Street, an excellent display that included Santa's Grotto. We sat down to chocolates, biscuits and sausage rolls on the table. This was followed by the biggest Ploughman's lunch- but what a meal - plenty of cheese, onions, beetroot, pickle, cucumber, pate and nice chunky bread.

Entertainment was provided by our DJ Nigel supported by John who provided music videos. Father Christmas joined us to provide the children with a gift. (Well done Father Christmas for finding the time in your very busy schedule).

This was followed (eventually) by a large fall of snow from behind the stage. I say eventually because there must have been an iceberg or something in the system because Jan had to stick her arm into the 'works' to make it snow. Once it started to snow it really was extremely impressive and the 'kids' loved it. They continued to make the most of the snow, depositing it onto parents (and everyone else) and having snowball fights and

generally playing and having fun. Well done Ann for cutting up millions of bits of paper to make the 'Snow'.

A great evening enjoyed by all. Thanks to all our rally officers for all their hard work over the weekend (and all the planning that goes into a rally like this).

Again thanks to Nigel Ballamy for being D.J. all evening and Helen his wife for being so tolerant whilst he sat playing music for our entertainment.

Jim & Linda Gilchrist



Bishopstrow, Fun Quiz 2nd 4th February

The usual friendly and organised welcome greeted us on Friday afternoon along with some lovely sunshine, for the 22nd fun quiz rally here at Bishopstrow. The rest of the day was a time to spend with friends chatting over a cup of tea or glass of wine and catching up on any news. The prompt delivery by Steve of the Rally books enabled us to think about planning future weekends and also helped in completing the competition of anagrams of future rallies! This was won by Mark and Liz Tolman.

Although the weather on Saturday was cloudy and damp it was a good opportunity to get out and spend a few hours at Street doing some shopping and then to get back and have a relaxing cuppa before taxing our brains later on.

So of course on Saturday evening we all gathered at Sutton Veney village hall, got ourselves into teams, cracked open the wine, tucked into the nibbles provided and waited in anticipation wondering what brain teasers would be thrown at us this time. We weren't disappointed!

Both Jim and John kept our brains active all evening. We had a cryptic sports and games quiz to work on during the evening as if the rest of it wasn't enough! We were tried with general knowledge, cockney rhyming slang, morphed pictures and many others to keep us busy.

During the evening we were treated to a lovely bowl of soup with chunky bread followed by a selection of cheesecake followed by tea and coffee.

We were lucky enough to be on the winning team and all agreed to donate our prize to the raffle to help boost the funds for the MacMillan Cancer Charity.

Huge thanks go to Linda, Jim, Ann and John for a super, enjoyable weekend and to all the others who helped in some way to make it all go smoothly.

The good news is that the rally will be on again next year. Looking forward to it already!

Phil and Irene Kirk

Extra info:



Congratulations to Wiltshire rallier Andy Holdway on winning a £100 voucher in Wiltshire Caravan's free raffle that was part of the dealership's 5th anniversary celebrations at their new premises in Headquarters Road, Westbury over the weekend of the Bishopstrow Rally. The voucher is to spend in their accessories shop.



Royal Wootton Bassett, 60/70's weekend, 16th – 18th Feb

This was the first time we had been out in exactly a year due to the various health issues that we have had in Wendy's life and whilst very much looking forward to it there was a slight worry as to how it was going to work out. We needn't have worried.

We were greeted by Nigel and Geoff who told us they had especially set aside for us a spot which was not far from the hall but also gave us easy access if we needed to get out. Thanks guys this was much appreciated.

Friday we were visited by a number of people welcoming us back.

Saturday following a short trip to the shops our daughter and family came to see us for a short while. We then got ready for the evening and moved into the hall. This was an evening of 60s and 70s music played by DJs Nigel and Geoff and during the evening we were served with a light supper by Jan and Helen. Yet more people came by to say hello. Wendy tires easily and at 10 o'clock went to bed. I stayed over and took part in a game of musical bingo which I had never played before. Our table along with three others all got a line at the same time so a representative from each was invited up on the floor to try and identify the intro to some tunes the first one correct winning the prize. I am happy to say that this was me.

Sunday flag was taken by Steve Berridge, our new vice chairman and a very good job he made of it too. The competition had 15 vans put in answers of which 11 were all correct so a draw had to be made. The winner was the Vintens.

Thanks to our rally officers Nigel and Helen along with Geoff and Jan for a really pleasant weekend. Even the weather behaved itself.

On a personnel note we would like to thank everybody for their kind messages and phone calls in the past year in what has been a very difficult time.

John and Wendy Howlett

**A farewell message from
Maurice & Wendy Batson, Avon Centre**

Oct 31st 2017.

1, Deacon Close,
Winterbourne
Bristol.
BS361DT.
Tel 01454 850485.

Dear Ann, John & Rallies,

Just want to
say a big thankyou to all the
members of the Caravan club in the
Wiltshire Centre for giving us
so many happy memories of
wonderful times.

Sadly we have sold
our caravan and given up our adventures
with the club. We shall remember your
kindness to us both, and you will always
be in our hearts, our love to you all.

With love and special
memories

From
Wendy & Maurice
(Batson)

Important Stuff

Rally Bookings

Unfortunately Rally Officers cannot accept a booking without the required deposit. When booking a rally please remember to include a £5 deposit (Cash or undated cheque) with your rally slip. If no deposit is received you are NOT booked on the rally.

Rally Slips

Please note that a large number of "homemade" 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 Centre Website, or any Committee Member should be used. Thank you.

All Rally officers old and new.

Although it seems too early in 2018 to be thinking about 2019 rallies, please ensure that any completed pro formas for 2019 are sent to the Rally Secretary, Jim Gilchrist by mid-September for the AGM in October.

Heather Caravans, Swindon.

You may have heard that Heather Caravans in Swindon had finished. John Holdway (Dealer Liaison Officer) spoke to them recently and this is not the case. They have dropped the caravan sales side only, although they will still deal in the odd van if it comes up. Simon, who used to be in control of Heather Caravans, has moved over to Barry Heather Complete Towing Services and AJ has taken over the running of Heather Caravans,

Notice from Caravan and Motor Home Club, East Grinstead.

Photographs – please be aware

'Photography/videography may be taken at our Centre's events and rallies. The Centre and Club may use any photograph(s) and/or video(s) they take that includes you, your party and/or outfit in all and any media, including printed and electronic publications, e.g. websites, or promotional materials, in the advertising of its goods or services. The photograph(s) and/or video(s) may be stored for these purposes as well. If you do not want to appear in any shots, please advise the organiser if it relates to a specific event, or the Centre Secretary if for all events. They will do their best to accommodate this and ensure you are able to avoid the area being photographed/filmed.'

Sales Equipment

Did 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.....



Obituaries



Mr. Ivan Thompson

Sunday, 22nd October 2017

It is with sadness that we have been informed of the passing of Mr. Ivan Thompson.

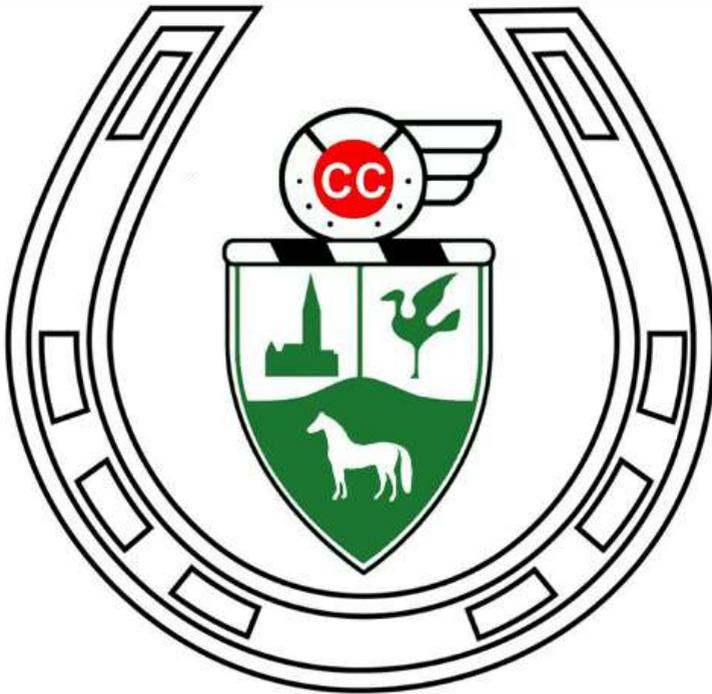
Mr. Thompson was a long-time, active member of the Centre, known to many members. Our sincere condolences to his family at this sad time. No further details have been given at this time.



Mrs. Janette Black

Tuesday, 27th February 2018

Janette Black, wife of former Caravan Club Chairman Bob Black passed away peacefully with her family at her side. We send our condolences to Bob, the family and her many friends.



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