



Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan and Motorhome Club

Spring 2019

Issue No:104



Editor Ann Holdway
 3 Moorhen Close
 Staverton
 Wiltshire
 BA14 8UT
Tel 01225 765658
Mobile 07901 557346

Welcome to this the 104th edition of the Wiltshire Centre Newsletter. There has been a mixed bag of weather so far this year but let's hope that as the season progresses we have fine caravanning weather to enjoy our hobby.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of your Newsletter. Rally Officers are volunteers and writing a Rally report is a great way to thank them for the hard work they do, so please keep them coming. If you think that you might like to run a rally please contact the Rally Secretary, Phil Sambrook or a member of the Committee for more information

Ann



CLUB QUESTION TIME

The weekend 22nd September myself and my wife met up with Mark and Liz Tolman and joined appropriately 100+ other Club members for a Club Question Time, sponsored by the SW Region. The venue was held at the SS GREAT BRITAIN HERITAGE CENTRE, Bristol.



The topics were varied from many members and answers were with a good amount of knowledgeable information. The meeting lasted for a couple of hours with a light refreshment afterwards.

The nice side of this meeting was that we had complimentary tickets to go around the SS Great Britain which was an absolute treat. It was some years ago since I had been on the ship; then I found it just a rusting hulk but now, after 45+ years, she can be seen with many interesting features along with restored cabins & decking to give an insight to how the Victorians would travel.

The day was wet and miserable but being inside was appreciated by all and to spend an afternoon at the SS Great Britain was well worth it, educationally and informative along with gentle exercise going up and down steep stairways.

Bill & Caroline Sanderson.



Semington - Fun Quiz 28th- 30th September

Friday: We arrived at 6.30pm with the last of the day's sun with 2 extra people, our 2 grandchildren, Lana & Daniel.

We were sighted by John and set up. After tea we went up to the Scout hut for an hour for a natter with other ralliers before it was time for bed with the little darlings.

Saturday: We were up at 8.30 (a little bit of a lie in) for a bacon sandwich breakfast before the chorus of I'm bored started. After a bit of thinking we went off to Boomerang soft play for three hours in the hope it would tire the kids out. Well I know I was afterwards but don't know about the kids. The weather was lovely and sunny all day.

After tea it was over to the Scout hut for the evening quiz with our rally officers there was 4 teams taking part.

They were:

The good bad and the ugly

The Loonies

Berridge and Co

And our team; Bossman

The rally officers took it in turns to do a round of questions on various topics. We had 1 round on music themes of shows in the 1970's & 80's and it was amazing how many of the shows I could remember (I knew the many hours of television watching I did when I was a kid would come in handy). We had a round on Disney films...Good job we had Lana on our team.

It was mid-way through the evening that Daniel decided he wanted to go to bed so in true caravanning spirit we set up a couple of chairs and wrapped him up and off he went to blissful sleep. We had a round where Ann & Chris did some charades of jobs people did. We had an observation round where we had to answer questions on a scene from 'Allo 'Allo.

After a spot the difference round it was time for final scores and 3 of the teams were separated by 6 points I think and our team Bossman beat the Loonies by 1 point.

With that it was time for bed so I carried a nicely wrapped Daniel back to the van and off to bed.

Sunday: Flag was taken by Chairman Mark Tolman and then it was time to take the Grandchildren back to Mum & Dad (Phew)

A great weekend was had by all thanks to our Rally officers John & Ann Holdway & Nigel & Chris Riley.

John and Tracy Mason



Corsham, AGM – 5th -7th October

We had planned to just attend the AGM meeting, but, two days before the rally Sue suggested going to the rally and then on to the New Forest for a week. A phone call to Rally Officer Chris confirmed a space was available, so our first thank you goes to Chris and Nigel for accepting such a late booking.

We arrived on Saturday morning in pouring rain, so Geoff donned his wet weather gear to see us to our peg (thank you number two!)

Plenty of time before the meeting to read the minutes from the 2017 AGM. The minutes were so good that despite not having attended the meeting I could follow the debates and understand the arguments for and against the motions, so thank you number three goes to Hon Sec Nigel.

Thank you number four goes to Chairman Mark – not just for running an efficient and good humoured meeting, but also for keeping his Chairman's report short and sweet! It was good to meet so many old friends at the meeting – now that we don't rally so much it was an excellent opportunity to catch up. The meeting marked the retirement of Rally Secretary Jim and Competitions Officer Derek – thank you number five goes to them for all their hard work over many years. A long and happy retirement to you both.

A special presentation was made at the AGM to Ray & Jose Kirk to mark their 50 year membership of the CAMC and the Wiltshire Centre – I thought they were going to keep the White Horse and put it in their van window with a light up it's bum (we all had one in the old days and very nice they looked when all lit up after dark!)

Thank you number six goes to Charlotte for her excellent performance at the social on Saturday evening – a great voice covering a wide variety of songs to great effect. She was joined by soprano Chris for an impromptu duet to close the show.

Sad news from Doug Haddrell on Sunday morning to tell us that May had passed away – a time to remember the many rallies where we had enjoyed their company, and the holiday rallies we had run with them.

Sunday morning flag saw a presentation to Geoff & Jan Randell for their 600th rally, and we look forward to seeing the photo in the Club Magazine of the three generations of Randell who attended the rally (hopefully

Nigel can Photoshop out the photo bomber who was lurking in the background!)



All in all a great rally, so thank you number seven goes to rally officers Nigel & Chris and Geoff & Jan.

The final thank you is number eight, and that goes to me (!) for volunteering to write this newsletter, but I am more than happy to do so given that we enjoyed the rally and the meeting so much.

Steve Greenfield



At the AGM Nigel and Helen Ballamy were presented with the German Trophy by Competitions Officer Derek Owen. Nigel and Helen gained the most points at Wiltshire Centre Competitions.



Corsham, 1918 - 2018 Remembrance 9th-11th November

Arriving on site on Friday night in the dark, pouring rain and strong winds, a poor start to this special weekend marking 100 years since the end of the first World War I thought.

However after getting set up and refreshed with a hot meal I dually went to the rally office to collect my envelope and pay. The first surprise came with a lovely special rally plaque instead of our usual triangular type and an envelope quiz with questions relating to the Great War. Retiring back to my caravan to attempt answering the quiz questions and seeing what was happening over the weekend. It said that we had a free evening and also Saturday morning and afternoon to do what we wanted.

I went to Melksham to the Wilts & Berks Canal restoration Cider Beer and Sausage festival (put on by my local Branch) raising funds for future work on this project. It was very well supported despite the poor weather.

Back at the rally site the programme said that we would be having a light supper with some singing, music and dancing in the school hall. On arriving we were greeted with a table plan and a truly beautifully decorated hall which the rally officers must have spent hours planning and setting up to reflect the weekend theme. Two video screens with pictures of the conflict and music to match played as we went to collect our LIGHT SUPPER!!! Soup to start with followed by Corned Beef Hash, beans, peas and gravy and to cap it all a lovely sweet.

The next item on the agenda was community singing of wartime popular songs with the words on the screen so there was no excuse for not joining in. This was followed by more modern music for dancing and generally enjoying the company.

Flag was at the earlier time of 10.45am so that we could watch the cenotaph parade in London on screen and stand for the two minutes silence at 11am.during which

we were showered with red squares of tissue to represent poppy's blown out above our heads ,



A truly moving experience for me.

This was Jenny's first time for a long time as flag officer and she did an excellent and different job. Well Done Jenny.

I think we owe our rally officers a big round of thanks for an unforgettable weekend.

John & Ann. Mark & Steph .Geoff & Jan. not forgetting Nigel & Helen.

Thank you all

Basil Raddy



Remembrance weekend

As the only visitors at Corsham this weekend we thought it only right to share our thoughts on this very special rally.

Arrivals on Friday seemed to be timed with the arrival of driving rain and high winds leaving the rally officers working hard in the worse of the weather and darkness. The rain and wind were with us all night and most of Saturday with occasional glimpse of sunshine.

Saturday evening included a light supper (soup, corn-beef hash, and pudding), lovely and seconds!!!! The hall was a mass of poppies and a parachute hung from the ceiling. It really set the tone for the weekend. After supper a World War 1 sing a long that everyone joined in singing, followed by more up to date music to dance to.



Sunday flag was earlier than normal and was linked to the live broadcast from the Cenotaph in London. Poppies fell during the 2 minute silence in Corsham Primary school.

The whole weekend was a true reflection on Remembrance and all 6 Rally Officers should be exceptionally proud of their efforts to make it something to remember. Well done.

Pam & Tom Handy

Berkshire centre



Longleat, Festival of Lights 16th – 18th November

We arrived on a most beautiful, autumn afternoon. The sun was shining and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. Perfect. Steve and Peter showed us to our pitch and we were soon sorted out. After dinner, we settled in for a few drinks and a catch up with dear friends.

Saturday morning brought the same wonderful weather, so we set off to have a look at the exhibits for later on that evening. Personally, I like to see them in daylight so that I can really appreciate the magnificence of them at night. They never fail to impress. We went into the Bat Cave which was quite an experience. It houses 32 male Egyptian fruit bats who have now been placed in retirement, hence the Bat Cave. They were quite still, a few flew but generally all was ok until they realised it was feeding time. I got wee'd on by a passing bat, no harm done, just caught me off guard! They get fed fruit on skewers and are very good at sharing. Tracy wasn't convinced they wouldn't get caught in her hair! We stopped for lunch at the Cellar café which was very nice and continued our walk round. We returned to our vans for a while before setting off to see the lights in all their glory. They were fabulous.



The tree was absolutely beautiful, which at times had snow coming out of it, which delighted not just us but the children who got so excited, they squealed. What a world journey we were taken on, it was brilliant. We decided to take our lives in our hands and try the maze. It was hilarious, such fun. We went round and round in circles but finally made it out, with a little help from the signs within the maze "Lift me if you're lost". We returned to the site and went to see our rally officers, who had been working very hard whilst we enjoyed ourselves. Hot dogs, soup (chicken and tomato) mince pies and mulled wine were on offer. Lovely and warming after being out on a chilly evening. There was so much left over, we had some soup, hot dogs and mince pies at flag. It was nice to see so many people gathering to chat and enjoy the food. Once we had eaten and drunk, we returned to our vans to end the evening with another drink or two and a chat. The perfect end to a lovely day. I would like to thank our rally officers at this point, it was all very yummy. THANK YOU.

Up early for Flag which was to be held at 10.30, as we were originally due to be off site by 12 noon. Everyone arrived on time and had a mince pie or soup which I think

pleased our rally officers as they would have been eating it all this week!!

There was a fantastic raffle and a very special one for a superb prize which was a “behind the scenes” tour of Longleat. I have to say a special thank you to Adi and Joanne who organised this wonderful raffle prize for us and despite many protestations about not running the rally again, did a wonderful job! It was lovely to see Wendy, who was accompanied by her lovely daughter Mackenzie and her gorgeous little granddaughter. Smiles all round. Both raffles raised a large amount for the Dorothy House charity, a sterling effort indeed.

Adi and Joanne (with support from Steve and Sandra) seemed quite at ease with this rally officer lark. I’m glad to say that they are running at least 3 rallies for us next year. You did a grand job. Roll on next year!!

Thank you all so much for a wonderful time at Longleat. Well done Ady and Joanna and Steve and Sandra and their lovely families. We had a super time.

Chris Riley





Bishopstrow 1st – 3rd February



The forecast wasn't good but we collected our van from storage and prepared it for the rally and packed the car. Jim and Linda's packed and ready on their drive. All Rally officers were prepared! Soup bought. Desserts bought. Raffle prizes bought. Raffle tickets checked and envelope competition printed. Rally letter prepared and printed. Plaques ordered and ready to put in the envelopes. Saturday Quiz night questions prepared and prize bought. We agreed to decide on whether the rally could go ahead on Friday morning. A little snow was forecast but it never comes to much here.... Does it!?! It Did! And we weren't going anywhere!



Following a conversation and a decision to cancel we then rang all the ralliers with our decision. No one was surprised. We tried to reschedule but unfortunately the hall was not available to us on the dates we suggested.



We returned our van to storage on Sunday afternoon in glorious sunshine, the roads were clear, if not the storage. Monday morning dawned, the snow was all gone!! Timing!!!

We still have the questions so we'll try again next year!

Jim & Linda Gilchrist and John & Ann Holdway

Booking a Rally

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.



Brookfield School, Swindon 8th–10th Feb

Arrived on Friday to be greeted by Jan and Geoff Randell. Barbara was in the staff room setting up to take our dues. Derek, even though he is no longer the caretaker at the school, was going around with the keys checking that all we needed for the weekend was available with the new caretaker Sam. Unfortunately some of the staff were still there with their cars so siting the vans was a slow process with lots of unhooking and motor moving or man handling the van into spaces.

Fri night we were invited into the staff room for a natter and a coffee or your own beverage. Nigel Riley was trying to set up the large screen ready for the rugby on Saturday afternoon. I was not in the staff room when this was happening as I was with Dave and Sandra Lush and Steve and Nicky Jefferson having a glass of something alcoholic. Well it was Friday and I had been working all week.

Saturday came and it was a do as you please day. The television would be on and urn hot for the rugby matches. Well this had to be done. With Mark and Liz Tolman supporting Wales. (He is Welsh you know) There was lots of banter for most of the afternoon.

Then back to van quick wash and brush up ready for the evening in the school hall. Arrive at 7pm and food about 7.30pm. Well we had jacket potatoes, served with cheese and /or beans, Chicken Curry or Chilli con Carne. This

was pre ordered so the rally officers knew how much food to purchase. Followed by Fruit Crumble and Custard. This I was told was a Sandra Lush recipe for the crumble. It was all delicious. Some went for seconds but I was full.

We then had music played by Geoff Randell. He would play, we had to guess the singer and in some cases the year. If you were correct you got a mini mars bar. Well after a time people did start to dance to a couple of the tunes and I would like to say Mr. Steve Berridge and the group on his table started to sing to the tunes. Some were very good others well not so. Unfortunately that's when the mars bars stopped being given out as Geoff could not hear us shouting the answers. Well Steve's table was the closest to Geoff.

A very enjoyable evening. Also it was good to see Doug Haddrell and Pete Wiltshire on the rally. John Howlett came to visit Saturday evening to give us all an update on Wendy who is in hospital.

Then back to the van to be woken by strong winds. Over to Flag in the hall and raffle and competitions. Jan set the competition and it was pictures of musicians and you had to say if they were dead or alive and how old and whose birthday was on the 8th March. Well only 3 people put entries in, the winners where Chris and Nigel Riley. But Nigel did say it was Chris not Nigel. Sandra Lush said the only birthday she knew of on 8th March was her Grandmother.

Well what a lovely weekend. The Rally Officers Jan and Geoff and Derek and Barbara worked hard. They did have some helpers in the kitchen on Saturday and I am

sure they will want to say thank you to them and they know who they are.

We must have made a good impression on the new Caretaker Sam. As I was leaving he asked me if I was ok hooking up and said he hopes to see us all again.

Thank you to you all.

One Happy Rallier

Jenny Newman



Henstridge, 29th - 31st March

We arrived on Friday afternoon in the sun after a little tour around the industrial site as Adrian had got his turn left in 100 yards mixed up. He thought 100 yards was half a mile. As we passed the first turn left in 100 yards sign we travelled about 1000 yards and the same again as we passed the 2nd turn left in 100 yards sign, hence the visit into a dead end industrial site. We weren't the only ones caught out.

All this from a Taxi drive!. Adrian got a lot of ribbing over the weekend all in good jest. We were welcomed by our rally officers, Adrian & Kevin.

Once sited and set up we sat outside in the sun with a few drinks (of tea) and watched the planes take off and land. We were about a genuine 50 yards from the runway Adrian. Friday evening we went in to the hall/café for a chat with friends and some visitors.

Saturday morning dawned to about 150 people getting ready for a 5k park run. One rallier had a personal best even though she did not run this race (your secret is safe with me Janice). Our Rally Officers came round to ask if anyone would like to go over and have a look round the air ambulance, so off we go across the air field making sure no planes were coming, met with the crew and what a lovely crew they were. They told us it costs £1500 an hour to keep the air ambulance flying all paid for from donations. We had a look round the helicopter and give a donation and left, back across the air field. To see this crew hit home as this helicopter was called out 4 times over Saturday and Sunday while we were there, once taking off at 11pm returning at 3am waking a few caravanners I think, it did me but I did not mind as they do a fantastic job.



Saturday afternoon we went to the garden centre and brought some plants and headed back to the rally field for a sit in the sunshine and watch some more planes.

In the evening it was back over to the hall/café for a 3 course meal, a choice of starter a carvery main and choice of pudding. All feeling stuffed we sat and chatted with background music, a big thank you to Geoff and his team for our lovely meal and evening even though Mark did call him Graham while thanking him for us (it's an age thing Mark). We retired to bed making sure to move our clocks forward an hour.

Sunday morning after the clocks went forward a hour we were woken up by the air ambulance going out at 8am. Thanks boys we're awake now! (Keep up the good work boys and girls).

Up and ready for flag with tea, coffee and the raffle with a bit of a chuckle as Sandra Lush won a raffle prize and when she went up picked up the coffee jar by the urn mistaking it for a prize.

Mark (Tolman) presented our rally officers with their rally bars and a site finder plaque.

We had a lovely weekend thanks to our rally officers Adi, Jo, Kev, Claire and all the kids.

John, Tracy and Bailey Mason

Obituaries



Mrs. Gillian Wiltshire - *14 January 2019*

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Mrs. Gill Wiltshire on the morning of January 8th 2019. Our heartfelt condolences to Pete and all the family and friends at this sad time.

The funeral was held on Thursday 31st January at 11.00am at South Oxfordshire Crematorium and a gathering after the service at Sparsholt Village Hall, Wantage.

There was a large turnout with standing room only at both the Crematorium and the Village Hall.

We have been asked by Mr. Pete Wiltshire to thank all those who attended both the funeral and the gathering afterwards, as well as all those who sent cards and other good wishes. The family are extremely appreciative of the kindness and support they have received from friends and family.



MAY HADRELL

I would like to take the opportunity through this News Letter to thank Members for their help and support at the start of 2018 when May and I tried to carry on Rallying. Through that difficult time we did manage to get to six Rallies but unfortunately due to May's declining health we had to finish three rallies early, including Longleat in April which was Mays last rally. Her 1466th, not bad for someone who on our first rally in 1973 had said. "If you think I am going to spend my weekends in a tin box in a field you can think again" It was nice to see that in her last year rallying she won the Rally Book Cover Photographic Competition, and her photograph was on the cover of the 2018 Rally Book.

Over the years we have attended rallies all over the Country as well as in France, Holland, Germany and Switzerland. We have visited over Forty Caravan Club centres making many friends during our travels. During my twenty seven years on The Centre Committee May was always there to give support, for which I thank her.

Lastly may I thank all those Members and friends who attended Mays funeral in November and for their donations to Alzheimer Support. These donations reached an incredible £909.48. Thank you all.

After a lot of thought I have decided to carry on Rallying, so I hope to see many of you during 2019.

Doug Haddrell

Important Stuff

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.’

Wiltshire Centre Membership

Members are reminded that renewal of Centre Membership is NOT AUTOMATIC. Your Centre Membership expires at the same time as your Club membership, but when you renew your Club membership you DO NOT renew your Centre membership at the same time.

Centre membership MUST be renewed as a separate matter.

Instructions on how to renew your Centre membership are sent with your new Club membership cards, or can be found on the Wiltshire Centre web site at

<http://www.wiltshirecentre.co.uk/categories/noticeboard.aspx>

Which includes a link to the Club website page regarding renewal.

Confirmation of membership, and the earliest date for renewal, can also be seen on the Club website page.

The easiest and fastest method of renewal is “online” as confirmation of registration can instantly be seen. Renewal by post can take up to 6 weeks. It is possible to renew by telephone, but you may be held in a queue for some time waiting to get through.

If you fail to renew you will not be allowed to speak, vote or otherwise participate in the Centre AGM.

Those members whose renewal is due in August or September need to be particularly careful as failure to register renewal in time may lead to problems regarding participation at the Centre AGM.

The ONLY acceptable record of Wiltshire Centre Membership is the electronic database sent to the Secretary, by Club, at regular intervals.

If you have any problems with renewal, or any other questions regarding membership of the Centre, please contact the Centre Secretary.



The Wiltshire Centre Chairman & Committee

Extend a warm welcome to you and your family to celebrate New year at Clarendon Junior School, Tidworth.

**Rally opens Sunday 29th December at 10am
Closes Thursday 2nd January at 2pm**

Sunday 29th

Evening

There will be an evening social in the School hall, where jacket potatoes will be served. Full menu choice on back page. During the evening we have secured for your entertainment the very talented Mr. Christopher Nott who was a finalist in "Stars in their Eyes" for ITV as a tribute to David Essex.

Monday 30th

Afternoon

Masquerade Mask workshop from 2 – 4pm in the School hall for the children and adults (materials will be supplied)

Evening

There will be an evening social with a Ploughman's in the School hall.

Tuesday 31st — New Year's Eve

Midday

A three course lunch will be served in the School hall. Glass of Prosecco on arrival, Wine on the table.

Evening - Masquerade Ball - Wear a mask Come dressed to impress (smart)

We have a five piece covers band "DUKE BOX" to get the party swinging and keep it going into 2020. There will also be a finger buffet.

Wednesday 1st– New Year's Day

Afternoon

Flag will be held at 1pm

There will be a family film from 2.30pm in the School hall.

Evening

There will be an evening social in the School hall along with a Pizza and nibbles buffet.

The charges for this rally are;

29th – 31st December inclusive for 3 nights

Adults £60- and Children £15

1st – 2nd January (1 night)

£10 per caravan

A £5 deposit required with full payment due by 13th October. To assist with budgeting instalments can be arranged.

The Menu for the weekend is as follows;

Sunday

Jacket potatoes with a choice of 3 fillings. Cheese and Onion, Chilli con Carne or Baked Beans with Cheese.

New Year's Eve

Starters – Vegetable soup or Pate serve with crackers and chutney or Prawn Cocktail serve with bread

Main Course – Roast beef serve with seasonal vegetable, roast potatoes and Yorkshire Pudding.

Dessert – Chocolate Gateau served with cream or Apple Crumble served with custard or Cheesecake.

Followed by Tea and Coffee.

**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE
A FABULOUS RALLY TO WELCOME IN THE TWENTIES!**





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