



# Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan and Motorhome Club

**Spring 2020**

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Welcome to this the 106<sup>th</sup> edition of the Wiltshire Centre Newsletter. After a very wet winter we now should be looking forward to some warm sunshine and Bar B Ques on the rally field. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus restrictions, Rallies and social events are currently cancelled until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Hopefully, as time passes, we will all be able to go out and about to enjoy our hobby. No doubt there will be many happy reunions and enjoyable times to come. Please keep safe in these uncertain times.

Unfortunately, there are some Rally reports missing from this edition. If you volunteer to write a report please send it to me as soon as possible after the Rally. Thank you to everyone who have contributed to this edition, without you there would be no rally reports. Please keep them coming.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic this edition is only available on line.

*Ann*

**Semington,**



**&**



**27-29 Sept**

It was with mixed emotions that I attended this rally as it was exactly one year since Wendy was able to attend her last ever rally. I was unsure if I was doing the right thing in going back but in the long run, I needn't have worried as the welcome I received overcame my concerns.

The site itself has changed the roadway into it for security reasons, so it was a bit of slalom getting to the field. Nothing tight just several twists and turns. Having been sited on my pitch the heavens opened and I spent the next quarter of an hour sheltering in the car before I could even get the legs down. It was going to be a weekend of dodging the showers.

Friday night was into the Scout hut for a noggin and matter and it was good to catch up with people I hadn't seen in quite a while.

Saturday morning was back to the hut for coffee and cake. There were enough cakes of all types to sink a battle ship but I found the bread pudding particularly enjoyable. Once again, we were back in the hut for the quiz evening. I find these particularly enjoyable as the variety of questions is so wide that there is something for everyone. We also discovered that the roof leaked in the hut, it was still raining, but fortunately nobody got wet. Well done to the Honnor and Hawkins' table for winning the quiz.

Sunday morning flag was held in the hut, it was not raining. The list of nominated names for the 2020 committee were read out, it being noted that there were still 2 positions as yet unfilled. The hard envelope quiz was won by John and Tracey Mason.

A big thank you to John and Ann Holdway along with Nigel and Chris Riley for a most enjoyable weekend.

Just as flag finished the rain came back and I along with many others left the field slightly damp.

P.S.

This is a very big thank to everybody who sent messages, cards and attended Wendy's funeral. She would have been both pleased and embarrassed by your thoughts and wishes. I miss her terribly. I also have to thank all you Centre members who have encouraged me and helped me in getting back out onto the rally field. I very nearly packed it all in. I'm glad I didn't.

John Howlett



**Norton St. Phillip**

**Music of the 80's, 4th- 6th October**

Friday: We arrived just before 5pm in a lull from the rain. We set up then helped Derek & Barbara Owen set up. We could see the marquee being set up by the 2 Steve's and their helpers. We had a big stew casserole for tea courtesy of Derek & Barbara.

Saturday; As the day had started off dry, I took Bailey off for a walk around Norton St. Phillip. In the afternoon we went with Derek and Barbara to Prior Park Garden centre near Bath for some shopping therapy for Tracy & Barbara.

In the evening we dressed in our 1980's clothing and went over to the marquee. We were served a fabulous 3 course meal and entertained with music from the 1980's. Unfortunately, the rain returned later in the evening but it did not dampen down the spirit of all dancers.

Sunday: What a difference in the weather in the morning, lovely sunshine. At flag it was announced we had won the 80's pop quiz with 32 out of 34. How did I not get question 8 right about a nuisance at the seaside, A Flock of Sea Gulls.

All the rally fees and raffle money were kindly being donated to Dorothy House and the air ambulance.

What was also nice was the number of children on the rally field. It was nice to see and also, they helped out on Saturday evening tidying up. Well done kids. A very enjoyable rally.

Thanks go to Steve & Nicky & Steve and Sandra

John, Tracy & Bailey Mason

## Music of the 80s Rally

*The Rally Officers for the "Music of the 80s" Rally at Norton St Philip (Steve and Sandra Berridge and Steve and Nicky Jefferson) would like to express their sincere thanks to all the ralliers who assisted in taking down the marquees and putting away all the equipment used. Due to the amount of help it all went away very quickly and remained dry!*

*So many thanks to everyone involved.*



**Corsham, AGM - 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October**

The weather had been raining off and on for what seemed like days ahead of the rally, but we knew that the field at Corsham School didn't really have a problem with the rain. Ok.... there is a slight ramp to get onto the field, which was a little soft, but other than that, no problem what so ever. Nigel & Geoff were waiting for us, but after having had our brakes changed, they didn't hear us coming!

We arrived in the rain, and in the dark on Friday night but after a spot of tea, it was time to relax with our friends after a hectic week.....oh! and some more rain on and off for the rest of the evening.

Saturday morning, time to sort the hall for the AGM; paperwork and the like, whilst also cooking some chicken

to share with our fellow ralliers for the evening “Safari Supper”.

Then the main event of the day; the AGM. This is your opportunity to hear and question your committee on how the Centre is run, hear all about the activities being undertaken in our region and also be the first to see and book your rallies for the coming year.

It is also the last opportunity to compete for the German trophy, with the rally book cover trophy up for grabs, plus decide what you'd like the Illuminated Window and Photographic competition themes for 2020 to be.

The rally book cover was won by John Mason; a beautiful picture, capturing not only our pastime, but also commemorating the 75h Anniversary of the ending of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War next year.

The German trophy scores were then so tight; this needed to be resolved on a technical point, with Nigel & Chris Riley winning – much to Chris' delight.

Sadly, it was disappointing that there was a significant drop in numbers at the meeting, with a long list of apologies. I know it isn't the most riveting way to spend your Saturday afternoon, but as many of our local Centres are finding out, without a band of volunteers, not only running the Centre or the rallies, there will come a time when we're not around, and you'll miss it when it's gone!

Anyway, no votes or questions were asked..... really...??? Do you have a burning question that you want to raise? Please think and come along next year, or

Speak to one of the Committee during the coming twelve months.

After the meeting, time to clear the hall ready for the social. Each year, we have a different soloist who provides us with live music covers from a variety of artists, and this year was no exception.

CJ (his real name was Clive) didn't disappoint, and kept us dancing, singing or just bobbing in our chairs. Oh, and then, we needed to demolish the piles of food that everyone had brought with them.... there really was a lot! We needed to keep dancing to work off the food!

Anyway, bedtime came, and the rain...again!

Sunday morning was a little better weather wise, but not hugely....

Flag and time to go home, taking a little bit of Corsham School mud with us.

Thank you as ever to our amazing rally officers; Chris & Nigel with Geoff & Jan.

Phil & Ange Sambrook

## 25 years of Wiltshire Centre Fellowship

Presented at the AGM



**John & Ann Holdway      Dave & Sandra Lush  
Jim & Linda Gilchrist**



**Corsham, Halloween 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

As Avon members we really enjoy visiting with the Wiltshire Centre, they always make us feel very welcome and always put a great deal into their special rallies i.e. Halloween and this one was no exception. The hall was dressed to impress and so were a lot of the ralliers us

included. I think my Cruella DeVille was very special and some ralliers said that the wig looked so good I should keep it like it, but I don't think black and white is really my thing ha ha!

Thanks so much to all concerned and we're looking forward to new year so see you all then.

Dave and Sue Provis  
Avon Centre



**Yatton Keynell, Bell Inn**

**29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> November**

The Date - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The place - The Bell Inn. Rally Field behind the pub Yatton Keynell. Rally Officers - Adi & Joanne Berridge, Rob and Heather Hawkins. Rally opens at 2.00pm.

I arrived at 2.05pm. The sun was shining, it was Black Friday but the roads were empty. Not what I expected.

I was greeted at the entrance to the drive to the side of the Pub by Adi running towards me advising the field is waterlogged. He asked me to park in the drive to stop anyone else coming in.

WELL I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO BLOCK A DOORWAY TO STOP PEOPLE COMING IN. BUT NEVER BLOCK A GATEWAY/ DRIVE TO A PUB CAR PARK. GUESS MY DIET IS NOT WORKING. So, I stopped my car and caravan to block the entrance.

Tony and Judy Ranger were the first to arrive and were stuck in the field. Adi had tried to tow them off and he got stuck too. Nicky and Steve were second to arrive and they were in the courtyard with their van still attached. The landlord and the chef were ringing various places that had hard standing. One on the land line one on their mobile. Both trying to find places for the vans.

Rally officers next job to ring all the caravanners and try and stop them. To help with organization I said the first thing to do was to get out all the slips, take out the ones who were arriving on Saturday and also the ones going to the overflow site. We knew that site was all okay. Then take the rest and phone. I took the ones who I knew I had numbers on my phone. I managed to stop Chris and Nigel Riley leaving home and said once sorted we would ring again. Then I had Jan and Geoff Randell waiting in a pull in by the shop. The Gilchrist's and the Vintens in a lay just off junction 17. Marilyn and Stuart turned the gas on and made themselves a cup of tea. Jim said he was not invited to join them. Also, Dave and Sandra Lush were in a layby. As time passed Dave and Sandra decided to go home and come Saturday night only. Time went on and not much further forward except the Surgery said we could park in the car park but not until after 6.30, Village hall had a function on. Landlord and his chef still trying to pull in favours that the village owed them.

Then after many repeat calls to and from ralliers. **Eureka.** Extra room at the school and The Fox and Hound pub said we could park on their car park. Unfortunately, it was a six-minute drive away. And some people said they would cancel the rally but come for the dinner on the

Saturday. In the end because of this we did not have to use the surgery car park.

Everyone had a pitch even if we were on three separate sites. Joanne Berridge offered to ferry people down and back on the Saturday as she has a seven-seater vehicle.

Saturday 5.30 all into the pub for the meal. To be served at 6.00. Well the meal had been pre ordered so we all knew what we had chosen. And what a delicious meal it was, hot, well-presented and the quantity was excellent. On the table I was sitting on only John Mason cleared his plate. And the dessert, I had Almond and amaretto roulade, was to die for. Then all across the courtyard to the barn. We had decorations which were very Christmassy and a smoke machine. I was sat close to the socket where the smoke machine was plugged in and the youngsters were pressing the button for the smoke to come out. Me being the naughty person I am kept turning the socket off. None of them realised and thought they had broken it. Their faces were a picture.

Flag was held on Saturday in the barn during the social even though it was planned for Sunday. Mark Tolman did flag and presented me with my 500<sup>th</sup> Rally plaque. Quite an achievement for one on their own.

What I would like to say is a BIG, BIG thank you to the rally officers. You did a wonderful job even if everything did not go to your original plan. Put it down as a learning experience. We still had a lovely meal in the pub had a disco in the Barn. Everyone turned up for the meal. We had a raffle, a week end envelope competition. The children had a visitor from a man in a red suit. They also had a workshop in the barn on Saturday. You all worked like little Trojans.

Please don't let it put you off, we have all run rallies that were not as we wanted them to go. I ran one many years ago, on the Saturday Morning Doug Haddrell opened the door of his van and there were ducks swimming in a lake round his van. Then on the Sunday we were all towed out by tractors pulling four-wheel drives pulling vans and Wendy and John Howlett went home with their van and came back with spades for us to clear the road of mud.



**Jenny Newman with her 500<sup>th</sup> Rally plaque that was presented by Chairman, Mark Tolman and his wife Liz,**

You all did very well. We all enjoyed the rally. The food was good. Only one person got stuck. Your site owners helped with finding alternative parking places. So we were all on your side and we are caravanners after all. We all help one another.

Thank you, Adi, Joanne, Rob, Heather and all Santa's little helpers (well it is Xmas)

One Happy Caravanner.

Jenny Newman.



**Christmas Cracker - Yatton Keynell and other places! 29<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December**

To be or not to be, that was the question! Let me tell you a story, are you sitting comfortably, then I'll begin.

There was to be a festive get together at The Bell in Yatton Keynell. The rally officers had been too said pub and had decorated the hall on our behalf, for the festivities after the meal. They were waiting for the guests to arrive and then much to their dismay, a caravan got stuck in the gateway of the field we were supposed to be using! What to do? What did they do? They spoke to the landlord of the pub who phoned around to see if he could help. Whilst all this was going on, many phone calls were made by the rally officers, who at this time were panicking! There were people in laybys, some were on their way. We were at home and were advised to stay

there until something had been sorted out. Adi phoned us, Jenny phoned us, and eventually so did Tracy, who asked if we would go to Acton Turville, in order for the rally to go ahead, we agreed and set off in the dark. I have no idea how our rally officers managed to find somewhere for us all to site our vans but they did. I congratulate you all on a job well done, that must have been the ultimate nightmare scenario! THANK YOU!

We were to be sited at The Fox and Hounds at Acton Turville, a very pretty village, about 7 miles from the initial rally field. It was freezing cold and windy. What do you do when you are in a pub car park, you go for a meal, that's what you do! We had a delicious meal, in a lovely warm pub which was beautifully decorated for Christmas. This pub is owned by the people who own The Bell. We went back to the van for a drink before bed. What a lovely evening it was.

On Saturday, we went shopping in Yate, after popping to Chipping Sodbury caravans. Had a lovely Christmassy hot chocolate and a piece of cake for lunch which went down a treat. We then returned to our vans to chill before getting ready for the evenings' festivities. All dolled up off we went. Our rally officers greeted us all, apologised for the delay in getting us all sorted, no apology needed, you sorted it!!

We were shown to our table which was nicely decorated. We were all soon sat down and ready for our meal. I had breaded brie, followed by belly pork (yep exactly the same as the Fox and Hounds and equally as good!) but then I had THE best ever ginger sponge with stem ginger pieces in it. It was to die for. Absolutely scrumptious! I

must say a huge thank you to the landlord, his staff and the amazing chef(s) who cooked and served 60 people with the most delicious food. After dinner, we went to the hall on site and entered a wonderful Christmas grotto. There were lights, decorations, a Christmas tree and a Santa Grotto for the children. It must have taken hours to put it all together. It looked amazing. Thank you rally officers and your many helpers, job well done! We had a disco which the children mostly enjoyed, as the adults were still full from the meal.

Flag was done on this evening, as we were spread far and wide and would have been impossible to do. We had the usual raffle with some very nice prizes too. A thank you in the form of a small piece of gold plastic, is certainly not enough for these rally officers. You worked very hard and way out of your comfort zone, to enable the rally to go ahead and to make sure we all enjoyed ourselves. It was definitely "initiation by fire" for you all.

Congratulations! Thank you Adi and Jo and Heather and Rob, you did us proud.

Chris and Nigel Riley





## **Tidworth, New Year 2019 -20**

We have today, returned from your Centre's New Year rally and would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those who made this rally such a success.

Having been dealt the difficult blow of needing to cancel our centre's New Year rally, we as rally officers understand the efforts time and passion that goes into running such an event- it is certainly not for the faint hearted!!

After making very "hopeful" contact with your head officer Jan- I can only say that from that point on, you made everything possible for us and several of our centre members too and led to all of them having a great time as well.

Our spirits were lifted from the start, with the friendly and encouraging way you all welcomed us as we confirmed our booking.

You were swift in replying and creating our menu options and so we felt so fortunate to be able to join you and your centre members.

On arrival at the rally, we were warmly met and supported to safely get our vans in place for a safe and damage limitation to the school field. The rally went from strength to strength throughout, we were made so welcome by everyone in attendance and had such fun,

sharing discussions experiences and chats with you and your kind members.

The organisation and programme gave activities and things to do for all ages and skills, from the great quiz and masking making to the games and dance competitions that we all entered into over the time.

The food was amazing and gave huge spread for everyone, catering for all palates. It was carried out so professionally, and presented in great appetising ways with alcohol supplied in plentiful quantities too! The meats on New Year were exceptional in that cooking on limited resources for vast quantities is a very tough position- however these tasted professional and delicious.

The last night, was an impromptu night for us, and anyone who went home early, really missed a fabulous night- we are hoping that you will try out the chair game as long as you remember its Pauls baby!! Ha ha ha and we will re-use the "Women are better than men when lifting chairs"!! Ha ha ha.

The DJ`s played great music which catered for all ages and musical tastes and a great asset to your centre to have such skill and equipment available to use.

Wiltshire Centre, thank you to you all for your warm welcome throughout the rally and we look forward to rallying with you all again. Wishing you a very Happy New Year and a successful season ahead.

Now, rally officers I hope as you are all reading this, you are resting, have had a take-away and have a glass of something in hand, soaking your worn out limbs and reflecting on what a truly wonderful celebration you have given us and your members- Huge Well done to you all.

Helen and Paul Hopkins  
West Hampshire Caravan and Motorhome Centre

# 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Tidworth - New Year 2**

We were fortunately able to attend this rally as visitors and are pleased to provide a short review of the event.

The weather leading up to the rally was exceptionally wet with many floods reported. Therefore, it was no surprise to be advised vans would be sited by rally officers with no cars allowed on the rally field at all. Getting vans on and off the field appeared to go like clockwork. The field at the end of the rally showed little if any damage at all.

We were treated to an entertainment programme that was really good, but for us the soloist on the first night was exceptional. However, the highlight of the rally was the food. Buffet tables were covered with such a choice you had to go up more than once.

The New Year Eve lunch was the star event, starting at midday the food and wine kept coming, well cooked, hot and plenty of it. We retired to our van at 4.00pm, a time to snooze before starting again for the black-tie masked ball.

We are not sure what the rally officers got out of the rally, other than little sleep, wash day red hands, sore backs and the satisfaction of running an amazing rally. Our experience of the Wiltshire Centre is that they know how to party, this rally proved it. Well done.

Pam & Tom Handy

Berkshire Centre



### **Tidworth 3**

My husband, my daughter and myself attended the New Years rally at Tidmouth. I think this was the first time we had rallied with the Wiltshire Centre which seems crazy as we live in Wiltshire. We were not disappointed. From the moment we arrive the Rally Officers were welcoming and chatty. The rally itself was fantastic - great entertainment, especially the band jukebox and the food that was supplied was so good! It was clear to see that the Rally Officers worked so hard, especially in the kitchen to make sure everyone was made to feel welcome and have the best time,

Thank you all so much for a really great New Years Eve rally,

Mark and Debbie Airee with daughter Ellen



## **Bishopstrow, Quiz and Supper**

**7th – 9th February**

Once again, a great weekend was had by all those who attended this year's annual Bishopstrow Quiz rally. As we arrived on site Jim and his co rally officers made us welcome and directed us to our allocated pitch. Friday evenings for anyone that knows me well normally consists of me falling asleep but on this occasion, we had a family meal planned and I excelled myself, well almost!!

The quiz is held in Sutton Veny village hall so on Saturday evening a convoy made its way to the hall for a 7pm start, which was slightly earlier than previous years as flag was to be held during the evening as the weather forecast for Sunday predicted high winds as storm Ciara was due.

We had a great evening which ensured the grey brain matter got to work overtime so much so that I even gave the answer to one question unintentionally about a pig called Babe!! But even so out of four tables of between six and eight persons we came last, but the scores were very even. During the evening we were served vegetable soup with a nice chunky serving of bread with cheesecake to follow. Very nice too!

As predicted the winds arrived during the early hours of Sunday which ensured our sleep was disturbed like many others as the van rocked and the rain crashed onto the roof. This rally has been held on this site for 25 years and

although it's been cancelled due to snow twice, I think this is the first-time high winds have been an issue. Due to storm Ciara the owner of the site Peter Rice permitted those that wanted to, to leave their vans on site and arrange collection the following week which was a very kind gesture to make.

Security arrangements were ably executed by Peter who walked the area Sunday evening and first thing Monday, then on through the week until the last van was collected on Thursday. Photographs were also taken of the number plates to ensure the vans could be matched to our cars when we came to collect as arranged and keeping Jim informed every day. So, a big thankyou to Peter for all that you did to avoid any potential disasters that may have happened had there been no choice but to tow our vans.

Thank you to our rally officers Jim & Linda, John & Ann for another great rally.

Thanks again

Steve Berridge

*A letter of thanks has been sent to the farmer, Mr Peter Rice, by the Chairman, Mr Mark Tolman, for his kindness and consideration shown to the Rally Officers and Ralliers.*

# **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.

## **Notice from The 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 organizer 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.

## Obituaries



### **Mr. Tony Haines - 21 February 2020**

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Tony Haines, a past Chairman of the Wiltshire Centre, on 21st February 2020 following a long illness.

The funeral was held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm at Semington Crematorium. Mourners were invited to Trowbridge Rugby Club following the ceremony. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus restrictions, many fellow caravanners were unable to attend.

Our sincere condolences go to Shirley and all the family, and to the many friends he made during his long association with the Wiltshire Centre

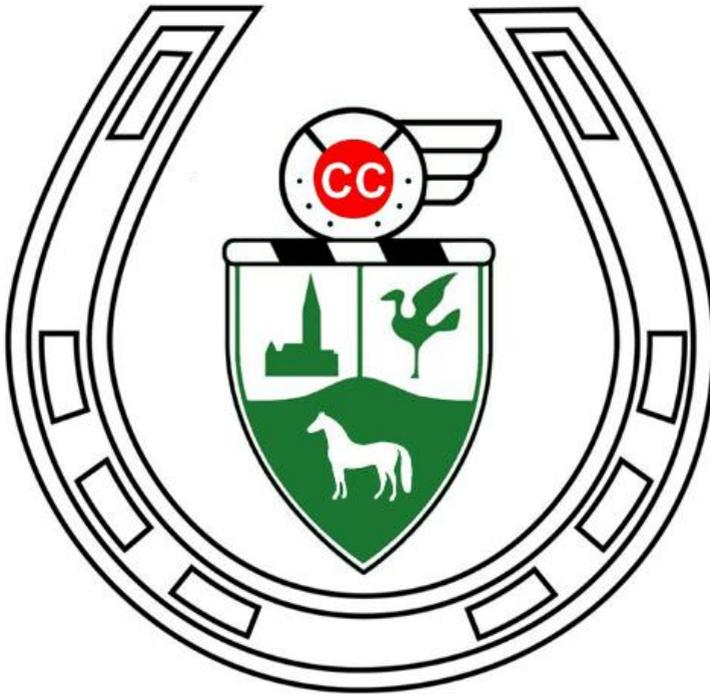
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### **Sales Equipment**



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.....



# Wiltshire Centre

Wiltshire Centre Website [www.wiltshirecentre.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirecentre.co.uk)

For web articles [webmaster@wiltshirecentre.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@wiltshirecentre.co.uk)

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