



Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan and Motorhome Club

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Welcome to this the 107th edition of the Wiltshire Centre Newsletter. After over a year of uncertainty due to the Coronavirus Pandemic rallies and social events have been sadly lacking. As restrictions ease and we feel safer to be out and about we now should look forward to catching up with friends, some warm sunshine and Bar B Ques on the rally field. No doubt there will be many happy reunions and enjoyable times to come.

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.

This edition is only available on line.

Ann

South West Region Quiz – 6th March

Wiltshire members took part on line (by Zoom) in the South West Region quiz on Saturday 6th March. The Team was led by our Chairman Mark Tolman supported by daughter Zoe, Heather Hawkins and Ann Holdway. Other teams taking part were Isle of Wight, East Hampshire, West Hampshire, and Devon and Cornwall.



Sheelagh Butler, the South West Regional Chairman, admirably hosted the event and acted as quiz master and computer whizz. The quiz rounds were set by various members of the SWR committee and were varied.

We had four rounds; General Knowledge, Pictures, Dingbats and anagrams. All very tricky. We were given 20 minutes per round of 15 questions. (We normally get a weekend to do a rally quiz!). It was a close-run thing until the last couple of rounds and, to our surprise, we proved ourselves to be pretty good at dingbats and anagrams.

It was very enjoyable and made even better because we won! There was a monetary prize which as a team we donated to the SWR charity Blood Bank. Thank you SWR for organizing the event, it was a lovely evening.



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.....



Upper Seagry 23rd – 25th April

On a Rally Again, At Last!

Van packed and ready to go after such a long break and we were very excited to catch up with ralliers again. Just to be safe we took the precaution of a Covid test before we left: Negative! Hitched up and arrived at this pleasant site in lovely sunshine. The first rally of 2021, after a lengthy lockdown was a small affair. Eight vans and Rally Officers, John and Tracy Mason and Derek and Barbara Owen. Unfortunately, John felt unable to stay but re-joined the rally Sunday morning. A lot of work and thought went in to preparing for the rally to ensure our safety in this uncertain time.

The sun shone and out of the chilly wind it was lovely to sit out (two meters apart) and chat with folk we hadn't seen for many months. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we were unable to be together in the caravans. So, after our barbeque, in the evening with several heaters, warm clothes, extra socks and blankets wrapped around us we sat out under the stars until nearly midnight on both nights.

Sunday dawned and time to pack down. It was extremely windy and we had to hold on tight to the canopy when we took it down.

We had a lovely weekend. Thank you, John, Tracy, Derek and Barbara for making it possible.

John & Ann Holdway

Coombe Bissett - 7th May – 9th May 2021

We arrived Friday evening before the heavens opened so we managed to have a catch up with fellow ralliers we have not seen for a long time because of Covid restrictions.

Saturday; We woke to the wind howling and rain lashing down so that put paid to any outside activities.

I needed some new washer jets for my car so we travelled down to Bransgore near Christchurch to get some. While I was there I decided to change the car instead, so it turned out to be a rather expensive day instead.

We got back to the rally field to see some ralliers had taken their awnings down because of the wind and rain (a wise move). Because of covid restrictions we were unable to have socials or friends in to vans so it was a quiet evening.

Sunday; It was a much better day weather wise; the wind had dropped and the rain had eased.

There was no flag because of Covid so we made our way over to thank the rally officers for putting on the rally all be it quiet, which actually was nice and relaxing, apart from the weather.

Many thanks go to our rally officers, Steve, Sandra, Dave & Nicky.

John, Tracy & Baily Mason

How exciting a rally

How exciting a rally.

We are off to Summerlands Rally run by Steve and Sandra. Dave and Nicky. Now we have to remember how to pack the van what order to hook it up. Hooray it's like riding a bike you never forget. Just over an hours journey and we arrived to be greeted by Dave. Think he was smiling but he had a mask on. Settled in legs etc done. Oh it was good to see other ralliers we haven't seen in nearly a year distance chatting and no hugs is really hard.

We had a lovely walk with the doggies with Nick and Laura and the grandchildren it was almost back to "normal".

Saturday flew by having visited family who live locally whom we again haven't seen in months.

Sat with Nick and family in his awning for a few juices during the evening almost social distance in our bubble.

Sunday came around far to quickly no flag or Raffle. Weather yes well best not say too much.

Thank you everyone for acknowledging social distancing.

Jan N Geoff.



Bank Holiday Rally 27 – 31 May - Highbridge.

We arrived at this lovely little site after a fairly torturous journey down a fairly busy M5. But things were about to change!

Summer had arrived! Our Rally Officers had been down on their knees for weeks it seemed. The sun was actually shining down on us, it was so welcome after a fairly grotty month. We were sited by our rally officers on a nicely mowed grass pitch.

Over the weekend ralliers disappeared on walks and trips with Highbridge Caravans seeing lots of visits and money spent.

On Saturday and Sunday evenings our Rally Officers arranged communal BBQ's (all socially distanced) followed by a quiz based on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'. The winners (on both evenings) who called themselves 'Doomed Bar' were nominated to provide this Rally Report.

At flag Steve Berridge thanked our Rally Officers for all their efforts.



As there were less than 30 people on the Rally, this was the first time since Bishopstrow in February last year that we have had the opportunity to hold a formal flag and Steve did it very well?

As part of Flag he gave a brief review of Dave and Sandra Lush's caravanning experience which follows this report. They are greatly missed on the rally field and a great loss to the centre.

It was a great weekend where we could get-together with good weather and on a lovely little site (with use of all facilities) in a lovely part of the country.

Our thanks to our Rally Officers John & Tracy, Nigel & Christine.

Jim Gilchrist



Dave and Sandra Lush



Dave and Sandra's first rally was at Cadley in June 1975 after they joined the Wiltshire Centre following Sandra's mother Gwen and her husband Don, who had joined six months earlier. They have fantastic memories and made some great friends in their time of 46 years of rallying.



They achieved an attendance of 1452 rallies in the UK and abroad including rallies in Germany and Spain. They crossed the Channel 28 times which they really enjoyed. 90% of the 142 rallies were run with their friends Jim and Linda Gilchrist and they came up with some great ideas - great memories! Dave served 12 years on the Wiltshire Centre Committee as Sports Officer Junior Liaison Office and Vice Chairman. Some of you may be aware of Dave's disability (one leg) but this hasn't stopped him. He is fondly remembered for going to a fancy dress social as Long John Silver complete with a special leg and parrot on his shoulder!

May I take this opportunity for us to wish Dave and Sandra a long and healthy retirement from caravanning.

(Steve Berridge, Vice Chairman and Flag Officer)



German Site Response to Rally Secretary

The following tale was sent to me by Steve Greenfield to share with you. It made me smile!

Rally Secretary wrote to a site in Germany asking for info about the site, and particularly about the WC.

Site owner unsure what was meant by WC, so he asked the local priest.

After much puzzling, they decided that WC must be an abbreviation for Wesleyan Chapel.

He then wrote back to the Rally Secretary as follows:

Dear Rally Secretary, many thanks for your enquiry.

I can confirm that we have a WC.

It is located in the woods about 5 miles from the camp site.

It's open every Sunday and Tuesday, but you can't go until the bell rings.

I advise that you book in advance if you want a seat, as it does get quite busy.

Tuesdays are probably the best day because we have a brass band playing, whereas on Sunday we only have a choir.

Hymn sheets are provided for your use – you will find them hanging up behind the door.

My wife and I used to go regularly, but we haven't been for about 5 years.

Because it is quite a distance, I would recommend that you make a day of it and take a packed lunch.

The seats are in pairs or rows of four, so you will be able to sit with your friends and fellow ralliers while using the WC.

The WC is sometimes used for baptisms as well.

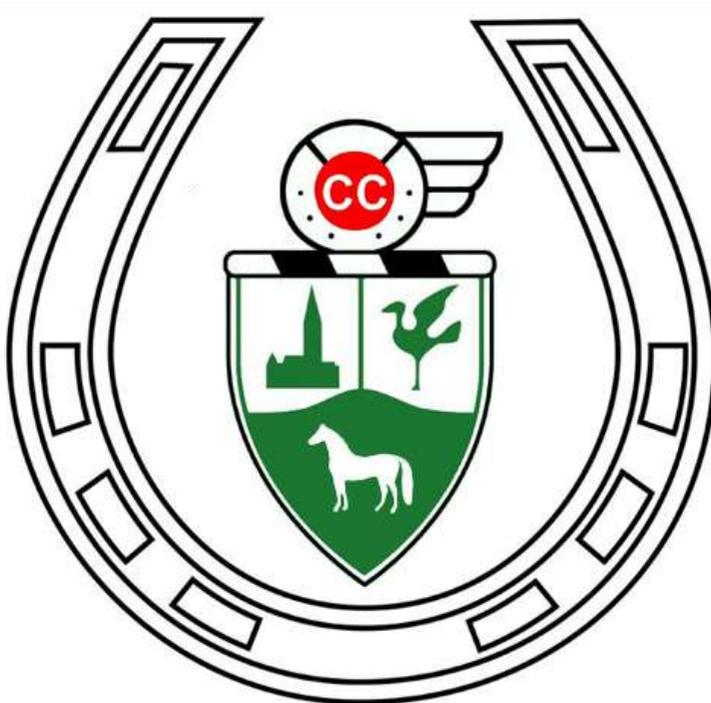
If you are lucky, you may be able to see one of these ceremonies, where a baby is dipped into the bowl.

I thank you for your enquiry, and look forward to meeting you.

If a lot of your ralliers wish to visit the WC at the same time, I could arrange for an organised outing by coach, complete with a guide.

Yours sincerely,

Site Director



Wiltshire Centre

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