



Wiltshire Centre Newsletter

The Caravan and Motorhome Club

Editor Ann Holdway
Tel 01225 765658
Mobile 07901557346
Email ann.holdway@wiltshirecentre.co.uk

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Welcome to this the 111th edition of the Wiltshire Centre Newsletter where we revisit recent Rallies and events.

I hope you are enjoying the summer sunshine and making the most of your motorhome and caravanning. It's been a busy spring and summer for our rally officers so far and we thank them for all that they do, in their own time, for our enjoyment.

Rally Officers love to see that you've enjoyed their rallies and welcome ideas for the future. 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.

Ann 





Curling and BBQ Rally, Langley Burrell 12th -14th August

HOT! 🌞 HOT! 🌞 HOT!

We arrived at a lovely field behind the village hall in Langley Burrell. The searing heat was very intense but we were glad to be away as there was a lovely breeze! Friday night was a hoot! Most of the ralliers got together for an impromptu chat and enjoyed the cooling wind, even some jumpers came out as it got actually cold after the days' heat. It was predicted that there would be a meteor shower so chairs went back into the relaxed position and we just watched. We weren't disappointed as we were gifted to a brief appearance of a few shooting stars!



Saturday late afternoon, we had three games of curling and much enjoyment was had by all! The Rally Officers were the sweepers for the curling stones which made things very bubbly fun. Flag was also in the cool of the evening so that no one had to sit in the searing heat and full sun the following morning.

The communal BBQ didn't happen due to the drought. There were a few BBQs still used but safely, the generated smells were wonderful and permeated around the site. Lovely!

The Rally Officers were (as always) wonderful hosts making everyone feel welcome, thank you to Nigel and Helen and John & Ann. Brilliant!

Many thanks

Nicky and Dave Bullock



Frome Cheese Show and Illuminated Window 9th - 11th September 2022

It had been a few years since we had been to the Cheese Show so with the added incentive of the Illuminated Window competition, we decided to go.

Friday, we arrived in warm sunshine and sat outside chatting for a while. Tea over with and with the air temperature cooling rapidly, we stayed in our vans.

Saturday dawned and it was a lovely day. The forecast was good but there was a threat of showers! Off we set with bags ready for our purchases (you can't go in and not buy anything lol) and we did buy..... from the very first butchery and cheese van close to the entrance. Faggots, three cheeses, a pork pie and 30 sausages. They kept them for us in the chiller.

We visited the rural tent then the handicrafts, cakes, photography, vegetables and everything else inside a tent or marquee. It was a great show. The area was condensed quite a bit but there was plenty to see and do. Loads of food stalls and caterers. We chose the Thai noodles, a little pricey but hey, they were there to make a living. They were very tasty I have to say. We tried some of the rum liqueurs (Phil Sambrook's favourite). A coconut one at 65% proof was very nice but nearly blew my head off! Phil bought some needless to say. After a very pleasant 4 hours, we decided to have an ice cream and head back to the vans. It was so lovely and warm that we sat outside and had tea and biscuits.

Our rally officers were laying on a ploughman's supper in the evening. Ham or cheese with pickles, coleslaw, crisps and a drink of choice. Wine, (red or white) cider or beer. As it wasn't too cold, we joined them at the rally office which was very nice. One of the last occasions we will have I think, as the evenings are drawing in and it gets cold and damp earlier. Thank you all for the lovely supper. We all enjoyed it.

I have to say that I have never done a window in 30 years of caravanning but decided I would do one this year. The theme was rallying/caravanning and as we had celebrated our Queen's Platinum Jubilee earlier in the year, I chose that one. I had knitted eight Queens for friends and eventually one for myself but I borrowed Barbara Owen's queen as mine was the wrong colour. At one point, when my "window" was almost complete, I nearly withdrew my entry, as the Queen had sadly died on the Thursday before the rally. After chatting with a few friends', I decided to go ahead, as it had been made as a celebration of the queen's life not about her passing.

It got dark quite quickly, so around 8.15 those of us entering, headed back to the vans to get them ready. There were two adult windows and two children's windows. They were all very good and a lot of time had been spent on them. Well done to Josh and Emily and Caroline and Richard Honnor for their entries.

By the time the windows had been viewed, it was really cold and damp so we dismantled them and went indoors for a few drinks. A lovely end to a lovely day.

Flag the next morning was held in brilliant sunshine. It was like a summers' day. Tea, coffee and biscuits were available as per usual, with a splendid raffle table. All proceeds going to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Nicky Jefferson was taking flag for us and I have to say she did a great job. She was a little nervous to start with but soon got into her stride. Well done, the first one is always the hardest. Thank you for our cards and Nigel really appreciated his "Happy birthday" song!

Our competition Officer, John Mason, announced the winners of each of the categories. Emily Honnor won the children's and to my absolute amazement, I won the adult one. I very nearly cried. Thank you to everyone who voted for me, it means a lot.

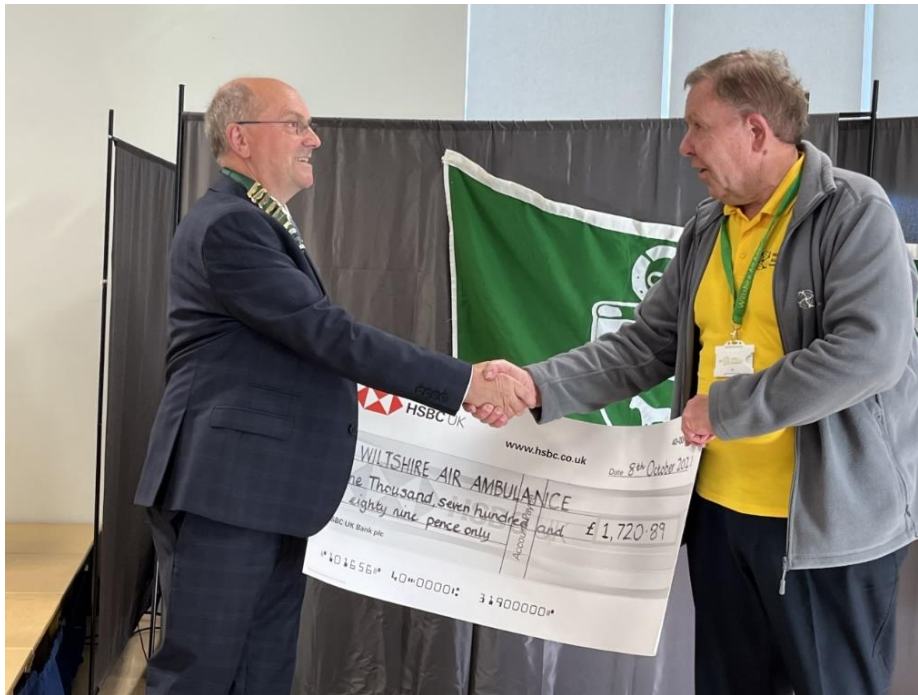


That leaves me with some more thanks, to our Rally Officers for running the rally, for the lovely supper on Saturday (and all the helpers) and to everyone for attending. Our rallies need the support.

THANK YOU!!

Chris Riley

AGM, Lyneham. 7th – 9th October



Air Ambulance Volunteer Mr Roger Tamplin representing The Wiltshire Air Ambulance accepting the cheque from our Chairman, Mr. Steve Berridge for the magnificent sum of £1,720.89 which was raised during the year by the Wiltshire Centre. Well done to everyone!



Mrs Chris Riley was presented with the Pickwick Shield for designing the 2024 Rally Book cover



Mr Nigel and Mrs Chris Riley were presented with the German Trophy for accumulating the most points awarded when competing in Centre competitions.



Kington Langley Skittles, 14th- 16th October 2022

The weekend started off a bit damp but we had a warm hearty welcome from the rally officers Nigel & Helen and Sue & Reece. The field is lovely and mostly flat so pitching up is a doddle. We were very lucky having a wonderful village hall to use for the forth coming events.

Saturday bought fine dry weather with mostly blue skies. The day was free and easy with plenty to see in the surrounding areas. The evening comprised an evening meal of stew and dumplings with a wonderful dessert of sponge and custard. Yum! We then followed with three rounds of skittles which was won by Pete Wiltshire and Sue Searle. We also had a killer round and Richard Honnor won and scooped the pot.



The kids had a wonderful time too with Elliot winning first position! He also did a sterling job as ball boy rounding up and sending back the balls for the next person to use.

Flag was also held Saturday evening as we were in the warm and dry which was very relaxed. Steve the Chairman gave his usual fun filled speech! A raffle was held raising a splendid £77 for the Chairman's charity, Macmillan.

This rally in Kington Langley is always a great event and such a wonderful place to meet new friends.

Thank you so much to the rally officers for all their hard work, it is really appreciated.

Nicky Bullock



Easter, Much Markle 6th – 11th April 2023

We arrived at the car park of the Royal Oak, mid-afternoon. The sun was shining and our rally officers were sat outside enjoying the warmth. It was a beautiful day. We got settled in and sat with them for a while. As it turned colder and darker many of us left them to it. They actually sat out in the eventual rainfall under umbrellas. It did get

heavier though and they had to admit defeat for around 10 minutes or so. After dinner, we all went in to the pub for a few drinks.

Friday saw another lovely sunny day, great for many of us, as we were heading to the Weston Cider makers for a guided tour and tasting session. We were shown around the site and brewing areas by a very nice lady named Jenny. She certainly knew her stuff and once the tasting started, it became obvious just how much she did know! We tried several very nice ciders but my favourite was Cloudy Pig. Not a fizzy cider but it has a very subtle taste. Thoroughly enjoyed it. We had also booked a cream tea which was much welcomed as the tour had taken 2.5 hours. Yummy!

Saturday daytime was a “do as you please day” so most people on the rally, headed off in different directions ours was to another brewery with Phil, Ange, Tracy and John. More money spent on beer! We then went on our own ways to explore this lovely county. In the evening we gathered in the hall for supper and skittles. Chips and sausage or scampi, very nice! The games of skittles were won overall by Paul Hopkins, (1st round) Doug Haddrell (2nd round) and Jenny Newman (3rd round). They all played very well. There was also a decorated window event judged in the afternoon, obviously with an Easter theme. Paul and Helen Hopkins (West Hants visitors) won and Jim and Linda won the envelope competition, congratulations to all the winners.

On Sunday we all gathered in the hall for a lovely roast dinner. Wow, the food was absolutely delicious and there was plenty of it. Feeling quite full, we had a look at the dessert menu and gave in too delicious to miss out on.

Thank you to Tracy, John and Phil and Ange for organising the whole weekend for us, we had a wonderful time and would most definitely go back to the Royal Oak.

Chris and Nigel Riley



Rode, Field to Plate, Rapeseed Experience 14th-16th April

Friday

We arrived mid-afternoon having missed the early morning rain. We were met by Phil who asked where we wanted to set up. As it had been wet, we declined the offer to be on the grass and instead opted for the hard standing by the food store. Apart from a few small flies this was a good choice. We had a little delay until the water container arrived then filled our water barrels.

In the evening we went out for a meal at the Rising Sun pub in North Bradly with fellow ralliers Derek & Barbara Owen & Steve & Nicky Jefferson. The food was really nice.

Saturday

We had a text at about 08.50 from Ange to say the tour was due to start at 10.30am. We quickly got up and had breakfast and left for the tour at Fussels Farm about 2 miles away.

We arrived to be greeted by Jackie who showed us to the room where we were to have the presentation on the sequence of the rapeseed growing cycle. We could smell the aroma of cooking food that we were to sample at the end of the tour.

Andy Fussel arrived and went through the sequence of the growing cycle and the process of getting rapeseed to the farm for pressing into oil. After the presentation Andy took us out to the adjacent field where there was rapeseed growing. It was very interesting listening to Andy explaining the problems the farm has sometimes with the unwelcome weeds and beetles trying to wreck the rapeseed.

We went back to the farm and Tim Fussel, Andy's brother took over the tour taking us to the press room to show us the press and filter system they use to press the oil from the rapeseed. Tim then showed us the bottling area they use to bottle their various varieties of different oils used for cooking and making into various oil-based sauces.

After the tour, Tim then took us back to the presentation room where he and Jackie prepared some chicken and Bacon cooked in the smoked oil with a mixed dress salad, a potato salad made with their mint mayonnaise with homemade Garlic bread made with their garlic oil, with pesto on top.

There was a little debate with the rally officers on what I would eat, I surprised them all by eating the lot except the peppers. I must say I surprised myself but it was very delicious and that is from a very fussy eater.

After the session had finished, we went into the farm shop to stock up on various oils.

We were told the tour would be about 2 ½ hours but by the time we had finished it was nearly 3 ½ hours (very good value for money). The time flew by which is a testament to Andy & Tim.

A big Thanks go to Andy & Tim and Jackie for their hard work it was a very enjoyable tour and taste experience.

I would recommend this tour to anybody as it is not as boring as some people might think.

After we got back to the vans we sat outside in the sunshine for a natter and of course the talk was about me and what I had eaten.

Sunday

We had refreshments with the rally officers at 11am where Chris announced the winners of the word search quiz about oils of the world. Me and Yvonne Rowlands had 15 correct (even though I had 20 on my sheet but were not on Chris's answer sheet) Yvonne knew that rapeseed was the missing oil on the word search so she won the chocolate.

We really enjoyed this rally

Thank you, Phil & Ange and Nigel & Chris.

John, Tracy & Baily Mason

Kington Langley, Skittles 21st – 23rd April

This rally was cancelled due to a water logged field.



Urchfont, Scarecrow 28th April – 1st May

In the absence of a Rally Report this excerpt is from the Committee Minutes Precis

The Scarecrow Rally at Urchfont was an excellent event with the field being good. As the entrance is not that great and can be muddy. However, the farmer went out of his way by putting in a new gateway which allowed the vehicles to come in at the bottom the field. The farmer had worked really hard getting the field cleaned up from the grazing animals. The theme for the Scarecrows around the village was based on the South West which was really interesting



Bibury, Coronation, Observation, Photographic and Children's Handicraft Competition 5th – 9th May

*In the absence of a Rally Report this excerpt is from the Committee Minutes Precis.
No photos available*

This rally was also the weekend of the Coronation.



The weather, although inclement on the Saturday, did not hamper anything as most were in the Hall. The Sunday was sunny which was perfect for the Observation which went well and thanks to John for all his efforts. Doug Haddrell had his 1500th Rally Plaque re-presented and he also mentioned that he has his 50 years from the CAMC



Norton St Philip, Burn Your Own Meat 12th – 14th May

What a great weekend! On arrival we were greeted by Steve and Jim who directed us to our pitch in the beautiful buttercup clad meadow for the weekend.

The weather wasn't great to start with but certainly improved as time went on. Saturday was a free and easy day culminating in a splendid get together to burn your own meat on a charcoal barbecue with delicious salads provided. Followed by wonderful strawberries and cream. The weather was amazing with clear blue skies and warm sunshine during the evening. The evening went on and we were treated to a quiz and live music performed by Hazel from the Devon and Cornwall Centre. What all.



sunshine) with the rally given by the always a a short talk by Richard (sorry no last Bike which was truly inspiring.



Sunday (still in the warm was the usual get together officers and the thanks was Chairman, Steve which is laugh. We were also treated to name) with his 1300cc Blood

Thanks to the Rally Officers, Nicky and Jim Gilchrist (not forgetting their little helpers too!) for all their hard work, it really is appreciated.

Nicky Bullock



Norton St Philip, Burn Your Own Meat 12th – 14th May

Leading up to the weekend the weather was not good. I know the rally officers were worried. The field was ok and the grass had been cut the week before so hopefully no cut grass in the vans.

The rally was the Burn your own meat. You take your own meat and cook it on a huge bar-b-q. which was given to Steve Jefferson by our well-known retired Wiltshire member Dave Lush.

Steve was worried about the weather so he put up his large party tent to keep us all dry. Well Saturday morning was chilly and windy. As lunch time arrived the sun came out and it got quite warm and it stayed like that for the evening. Linda and Nicky were working hard in the kitchen preparing the salads. Well what a display was put on long trestle tables. We had potato apple and grape salad, wild rice salad, tomato salad with basil and mozzarella, spicy tomato salad and egg mayonnaise to name but a few.

We then went into the party tent and had two rounds of general knowledge quiz. Jim did one round Nicky the Second round. I don't know if Jim planned it but all Nicky's

questions were relating to how many people were killed when the ????. How many people survived when???. We were all beginning to wonder if her last question would be how many people were killed in these last 20 questions but no all was ok.

Then a surprise one of the visitors from Devon and Cornwall played her guitar and it was very good. There is another rally report that will be covering this.

Sunday to the now called coffee refreshments with rally officers. Beautiful sunshine again and for those of you who love motor Bikes a really lovely throaty noise of a large motorbike coming up the field.



Well as most of us know Nicky and Steve donate the site fee to different charities for any rallies run on their land. The site fee this weekend was going to Freewheelers EVS. Freewheelers EVS is a registered charity which offers an out of hours, free of charge courier service to the NHS. Freewheelers transport blood, pathology and microbiology specimens, patient notes, X-rays, breast milk and other medical supplies, plus deliver every night to two local Air Ambulance bases.

Richard Bayliffe was their representative and he explained what they do. Firstly, all the riders are volunteers. The bike he was riding today was donated by the Calne Rotary Club. There are 18 motorcycles in his area. They don't own their bikes they ride for this job but he does have his own bike for his out of hours adventures.

It was a lovely end to a really good weekend,

Thank you to Jim Linda and Nicky and Steve. Wonderful weekend..

Jenny Newman.



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.....



COMBE BISSETT, Musical Bingo and Supper – 19th -21st May

I nearly didn't make it to this rally as my car was off the road. However, my Grandson Zach was coming camping on the same site, in the camping field so he volunteered to come and tow me to the rally. A good job he made of it too. Thank you, Zach. Friday evening, I spent in my daughter Carols, and husband Darrell's van with Zach and his girlfriend Lauren playing Golf (A card game.)

Saturday morning was left free for members to do as they pleased.

At 2.30 Saturday afternoon we all met up for a game of Aunt Sally. After five rounds a tie resulted between myself and Nigel Ballamy. This surprised me, as in one round Nigel hit Aunt Sally off her perch two out of three throws. I won the toss and let Nigel go first. He missed with his three throws, I threw two sticks, and with one left asked Steve "how long have we got"?. then proceeded to hit Aunt sally off with my last stick!

The Ladies winner was Aileen Goff. It was the first time she had played the game, and was on her first rally with husband David. Well done! Hope we see you both on more rallies. Prize for the winners was a massif bar of chocolate.

Saturday evening at 6.00pm we were served up a wonderful Ploughman's Supper, two pieces of cheese, a slice of ham and a great selection of salads. To accompany the meal there was a choice of various wines and beers of your choice. To finish off there was a slice of strawberry gateau. Bootiful!

The meal was followed by five games of Musical Bingo. Each player was issued with a laminated Bingo card containing the names of fifteen songs or tunes, in three lines of five. Music was then played and you crossed off the tune on your card as you recognised it. There were games of Four Corners, a Line or a Full House. We had a great singalong and prizes of mostly chocolate were won. I think this Rally should be called the Chocolate Rally.

Sunday 11.00 we all assembled for refreshments and results of competitions were announced. Winners of the envelope competition were the Honnor family, Richard, Caroline, Josh & Emily.

During this get together the Chairman Steve Berridge presented me with my CAMC 50th Year Membership plaque. This was actually due in March of last year, but I didn't receive it from Club until December, so decided to put away and ask Steve to present it to me on this rally.

Thank you to Steve and Sandra.



A great weekend was had, and the Rally Officers did us proud with what they put on, as well as a beautiful weekend of weather. Thank you, Steve, Sandra, Dave & Nicky.

Doug Haddrell



Highbridge – Fun in the sun, 25th -30th May

With our child away for a few days on a school trip, we looked for an opportunity to get away in our van, “Blue Betty”, and spotted the Fun in the Sun Rally. As new members of the club, we weren't sure what to expect. We did our usual research on the site and the area and thought it was worth a try.

Setting off in uncharacteristically warm weather, we were delighted to find that the rally's name had not in fact cursed us to a weekend of mud and drizzle! We arrived to a friendly and helpful welcome and were shown to our spot on the rally field. Parked perfectly level, so we were off to an excellent start.

We collected our rally pack and found a quiz and details of activities. We took a short walk up and down the river next to the site to get our bearings, then returned for a quiet dinner and relaxed.



A view across the River Brue to the rally field

From the site, it's a very easy cycle ride into Highbridge and Burnham on Sea. On Friday, we optimistically set our sights a little further and cycled to Brean Down. The route goes along the beach, which in the sunshine was a beautiful if slow ride. Once there, we walked up, over, down and around the amazing site including the fort. Then we remembered we had to cycle 13 miles back again. Happily, there are very few hills, so the ride back was not as difficult as we'd feared - we opted for the roads for expediency. The other ralliers were finishing their fish and chips as we returned (we ate chips while we were out, so opted out of this activity).



A view across Brean Down towards the fort

On Saturday, we decided to go fishing at the lake on the campsite. It was a beautiful lake, but we didn't catch anything. We made our way back to the rally for the communal barbecue and quiz night, which was a brilliant evening and with our teammate's uncanny bingo skills in the bonus round, we managed to win by just a point! It was a really good way to get to know our fellow campers, and immediately gave us

some people to sit with on the following evening's entertainment - lawn skittles. We had no idea what to expect, but it turned out to be an inclusive and surprisingly competitive game.

On Monday, we went to the eleventh's and heard all about other rallies coming up and found out a bit more about how the rallies are run. We then had to head home, as we had work on Tuesday, although the rally continued for another day.

We had an excellent time at the Fun in the Sun rally and were made to feel very welcome, from our first rally plaques to the games and quizzes. We really hope to attend another one in the near future.

Lizz & Jennifer Jennings



Gin Festival, Norton St Phillip - June 2023

The sun was shining on the lovely meadow on our arrival. Steve J had even trimmed inside our vehicles.

At this point the temperature ramped up to a balmy 19degC which quickly drew people out to have BBQs and get together with other ralliers and rally officers. What a lovely way to start the weekend. Although the evening of the Friday was cooling down fast, little did we know what Saturday was to bring in more ways than one!

Bright and early Saturday saw clear blue skies and lovely sunshine and a tad warmer than the day before at about 25degC! This was a free and easy day leading up to the festival in the evening. Again, this bought out everyone to chat and enjoy the much-needed sunshine. The rally officers were busily putting the final touches to



the evening's event as we all started to congregate on our allotted tables in the marquee with excited expectation of what was about to unfold. The food arrived of cold meats, cheese, bread and many other delights...yum! The many flavours of gin were served up in engraved gin glasses supplied by the Jefferson's daughter Bethany. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves just being able to munch splendid nibbles and drink wonderful gin. Perfect!



The venue was delightful, the welcome was warm and the gin and eats were spectacular, bring on the next one!

Thanks to the Rally Officers, Steve and Sand Berridge, Nicky and Steve Jefferson for all their hard work, it really was appreciated.

Nicky Bullock



Pentewen Sands 10th – 24th June

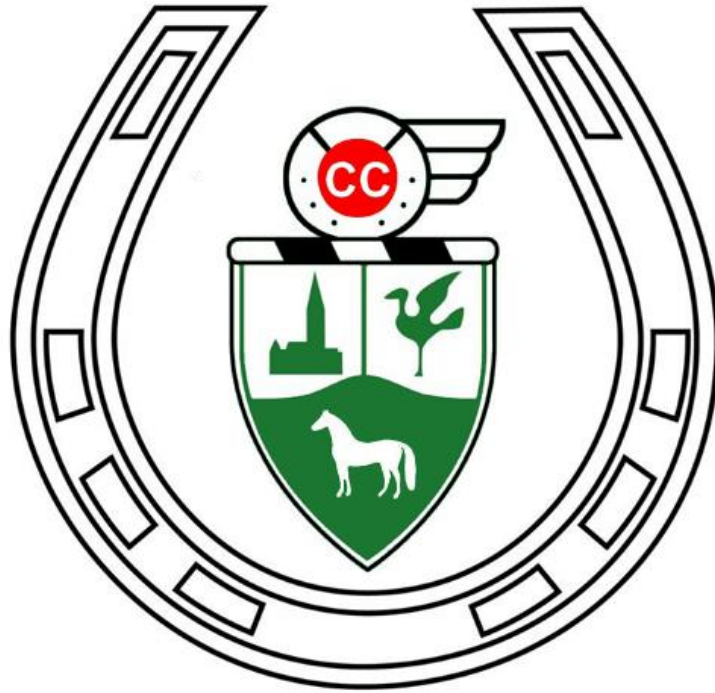
On arriving we were greeted by rally officers and given an itinerary of the two weeks, this was really useful as you could plan your holiday. Inside the pack were bingo cards for the two weeks, this meant that every morning you could check off your numbers, this gave first timers a chance to meet others this always was a good way of meeting other like-minded people.

The rally officers did a grand job organising a lovely cream tea, and also an American supper on the last Thursday this proved to be an outright success. Lovely food. everyone made an effort and most spent the evening socialising.

It was a great rally very well organised and most will be back next year.

Glenda and Tony Hunt

This Newsletter can also be viewed on the Wiltshire Centre websit



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