

DURHAM NEWS.



Welcome to the August/September issue of the Durham Centre Newsletter – our newsletter is aimed at all members of Durham Centre and any visitors to our site. It includes up to date news articles, rally reports, forthcoming events, messages, successes and celebrations.

The deadline for the next newsletter is **27/09/2019** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#) .

As I have work commitments and holidays coming up the next Newsletter will not be published until end of September. Please do send me any rally reports in readiness.

It's nearly that time of year again where we ask members to try and put something back into the centre and think about joining our committee. We meet once a month and don't worry if you can't make every meeting several of us can't due to other commitments. (That four letter word for me Work!). If anyone would like more information about joining the committee please do speak with our chairman Barry Dodd or any members of the current committee.

At members request we have put a rally on during the same period as the holiday rally in Skegness (have a great time all you lucky people who attend). Regrettably we have had to cancel Donnewell Farm as there were not enough booking.

Our members advised that they did not want a formal dinner dance this year. So at their request we have arranged a less formal alternative. This includes a three course meal live music and professional disco all for the sum of £28 per person at The Countryman Bolam. We are running a rally concurrently if anyone is interested please contact any member of committee or check the website for full details. The numbers are currently low and if these do not improve we will have to cancel what would be a great night/weekend.

Likewise if you would like to assist in being a Co-Marshal please contact our Secretary Dave Wilson.

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We do need a Treasurer and Secretary from the AGM in October our current volunteers regrettably have to stand down. If anyone would like to apply for either of these posts please speak to Barry Dodd.

Rally Reports:

Our Rally Marshals and Co Marshals described this rally as 'an all out Alternative Christmas' in the handbook. Never having enjoyed Christmas in July before I remember laughing as we arrived and remarking in fun that it 'seemed WRONG on every level'. How WRONG could I be?! By the end of the weekend we were convinced that it was the real Mc Coy!!

The rally opened at lunchtime and we arrived late afternoon to a magnificent welcome from Julie, Shaun, Sharon and Kevin looking like the cast from a Christmas pantomime! Entering into the Christmas spirit, Davy also pulled onto the site with Christmas carols blasting out from his open car windows. The scene was set for the most amazing, fun packed, and at times, hilarious weekend.

The rally field had beautiful views and was located adjacent to a lovely village pub and equally lovely village hall which we had the use of for our 'Christmas' festivities. On arrival Colin and I chose our pitch, and started to unpack. I very soon realised I'd forgotten the bag with my clothes in and Colin offered to go back home to get them. How do you do that? Easily if you're me. Rallying locally really is an advantage.

Luckily that was the one and only hitch for us over the weekend. We were soon enjoying a meal of pasta Bolognese, accompanied by a glass of wine to relax us. After all this WAS 'Christmas Eve'! All we needed to do now was get ready in our PJs and join everyone for a 'Christmas Eve' celebration in the Village Hall.

By this time everyone was beginning to get into the Christmas spirit. The atmosphere was happy and relaxed as we adjusted to seeing people ready for bed. The snacks came round and the room was buzzing as people caught up on their news and listened to both festive and disco sounds.

Half way through the evening we were invited to join in the Reindeer antler tournament. Two people at a time wore inflatable antler headgear and took turns at aiming rings at their opponent's antlers. Something seemingly simple turned into something really difficult and competitive whilst crowd participation was at an all-time high. As one of each pair was eliminated, people cheered until the final when Davy reigned victorious- good fun was had by all.

After a great 'Christmas Eve' we left the building and dispersed to our caravans where some of us continued our celebrations until well after midnight. 'Christmas Day' arrived and everyone was free to spend it as they wished. Late 'Christmas' morning, after brunch, Colin and I decided to have a run out to Thirsk. We'd been promising ourselves a visit to World of James Herriott for some time so a lovely warm 'Christmas Day' seemed the ideal time to do it! It was a fascinating experience which included the set for 'It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet'.

Time passed very quickly in Thirsk and we arrived back just in time to change into sparkle and Christmas jumpers for another event in the Village Hall- alternative Christmas Dinner. It was also Mary's birthday so this was an added reason for celebration. The hall was decorated to perfection complete with Christmas tree and festive tables. There's only one word to describe the food- wow! We were treated like royalty- a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. It was fantastic (including Barbara's mushy peas!) and people joked that for £2 they were going to turn up at the Marshals' doors every Sunday! We all appreciated the time it must have taken to prepare such a gorgeous feast and showed this with loud applause and repeated thanks.



In amongst the ralliers we had one small boy Fraser who the Marshals knew would appreciate a visit from you know who. To everyone's surprise and delight, Mr and Mrs Claus (Davy and Barbara) entered the room in full Santa regalia. The laughs that followed during the next half hour as they gave out presents could not have been scripted. Fraser gained in confidence and sidled up to Santa for his gift, which put the icing on the cake- one of those 'aww' moments.

We were all sorry to see Mr and Mrs Claus vacate the room but a game of Charades soon revived high spirits, as ralliers tried to act out the 'impossible' and other ralliers tried to guess the 'impossible'- just brilliant fun. Once again everyone lingered until the last minute, thanking our hosts for just the best Alternative Christmas.

Boxing Day (!) arrived and it was time to wind down generally before winding up the caravan legs. We all congregated for Flag at the Marshals' caravan where thanks were given to the Marshals and Co Marshals for all their hard work, competition winners were announced and forthcoming rallies were highlighted. Everyone agreed it had been a wonderful and memorable weekend. Christmas in July? Why not?! Many, many thanks to Julie, Shaun, Sharon, and Kevin.

Norma and Colin



August

Ken Simmons and Muriel Mckitterick

September

George and Ann Burrell

You can view all Durham Centre activities on our website <http://www.durhamcentre.co.uk>

Bernadette Smith (Editor) – newsletter@durhamcentre.co.uk

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