



Welcome to the August issue of the Durham Centre Newsletter– this is a monthly newsletter 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 **27/08/2016** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Can you believe it this is the August edition of our Newsletter already, where has the year gone. I for one just can't believe how quickly the time is going. We have continued to have good support for the rallies these past few weeks and long may it continue. They have all been fun and I think if you take a look at the photographs on the website you will see what a great time has been had by all who attended. Sunderland Airshow rally was once again very well attended with over 70 vans and visitors from 9 centers. During the weekend another £614.20 was raised for our charity.

The club does need volunteers to come forward and Marshal. Please do give it some consideration and contact our Rally Secretary or speak to any member of the committee, it's fun and can be very rewarding.

Can I remind members that it is important to book rallies in advance. This ensures that the rally marshals can plan ahead for the rally and control the costs which, in turn, help to keep the overall costs of our rallies as low as possible. Please remember to inform the rally marshal if you will not be attending a rally. Most have mobile telephone numbers so can be contacted even once on the rally field, if you cannot contact them directly, a call to one of the center officers will help them pass on the message.

After a recent incident at one of our rally's where there was some damage to the land owners property can we remind parents that they are responsible at all times for the behavior of their children.

The following message has been received by the family of the late George Plender a long standing member of the Caravan Club and Durham Centre:

- Sending a message to Durham Centre Members and Members from other Centres, up and down the country from all of us, to say 'Thank you' to all those who sent kind messages and cards of condolence following the loss of my husband, George. A caravan Club Member for 48 years. So many friends made. We miss him so much. We have sent a picture of the floral tributes from the family. The caravan was copied from his own.



From Jean Plender and Family.

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

Rally Reports - If anyone would like to submit a report about a rally they have attended please forward it, as our readers do like to read about what the centre has been upto

Holiday Rally Report for Moreton in Marsh 25th to 1st July 2016

The Journey down on the Friday was dogged with traffic delays encountered on the A19 A1 A1M M18 M1 including disruption at the roundabout from A46 / A45 with some caravans 'heading towards Coventry then re-routing themselves back onto the A46.

We travelled down an hour or so in front of Harold and Elsie Pauline and Brian, despite traffic delays I was feeling pretty cocky as my Sat Nav never put a foot wrong. The destination for the three of us was Lemington Lakes for the Friday night.

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When close to our destination my Sat Nav said turn left I obeyed, we were soon on a single lane road with the Sat Nav instructing me to turn left again I obeyed. We were then onto a very tight bend with well-placed huge pieces of slate right on the edge of the tarmacked road. I had to ask the navigator at this point to lean right out of the passenger window and shout if I was going to rip the side of the caravan during the left turn process. We both had misgivings at this point as we have never encountered such a tight turn into a caravan site as this one. With no option now to reverse back we soldered on down the single road until we came to a beautiful pair of ornate gates with a magnificent Manor House at the other side.

Out of respect and feeling a tad sheepish I stopped at the gates and entered the private manor driveway on foot to request permission to carry out a multiple turn. Permission was given by the housekeeper who had a wonderful foreign accent. Nine manoeuvre's later with not a blade of grass on the manicured lawns bent over, relations with the navigator were becoming strained. We were now pointing at the gates ready to leave when the Lord from the Manor appeared in his long wheel based Land Rover blocking our escape. No words were exchanged but a short Mexican standoff was experienced before the owner of the Manor reversed into a nearby clearing enabling us to continue our journey (bloody Sat Nav,s).

We were soon back on the main road and in quick order at the gates to Lemington Lakes, pass code entered into the reader the green gates slid open. The approach road was two lanes wide and tree lined, wow this place looks nice and it was. Should anyone enter this site for the first time look out for the unpainted speed ramps, I loosened a filling when we bounced over the first one. Now prepared for other speed ramps we made it to the caravan site which was set back off a large turning / parking area which turned out to be our pitches for the night. Fishing lakes could be seen on the right during the drive in each with a powerful water fountain at the centre. From memory I believe there are 14 fishing lakes in total, a fisherman's paradise.

We quickly dropped the legs set the van up then put the kettle on expecting Brian Harold and the girls to arrive. After our experience at the manor house I called car two to alert them to stay on the main road until they saw the entrance sign for Lemington lakes and to turn in at the large metal green gates. We found out later that the navigator informed the driver to go past the green gates which resulted in the need to perform a multiple turn further down the road, which unfortunately caused tail backs of traffic from both directions

until a multi manoeuvre was completed. It turned out that car one drove into a farm yard requiring the caravan to be unhitched manually turned and re hitched, with guidance offered from a lady who may not have been up to speed with the ways of a caravan. Eventually the three vans were re united and tales of our journeys passed around over a cup of tea with the promise of something stronger to follow. The three wise travelling men decided to drive round to the venue to ensure the next day's final part of the journey would complete as intended.

The final part of the journey on Saturday morning to Moreton in Marsh Cricket Club field passed well until we reached the entrance turn in, car one entered without issue. Car two was next, as the driver swung out into the other side of the road for the turn into the field an oncoming vehicle approached the driver wasn't happy, might have been the lord from the Manor. After meaningful communications were completed car two was in and through the entrance, I was stranded in the lane for a while, having learned from the endeavours of car two I entered the field without incident. Moreton in Marsh we have arrived.

We were welcomed by the Marshal co Marshal and their smiling partners, after greetings were given and received we were shown our pitches. Melvyn and Susan had already arrived and were setting up. Legs down water butts filled awnings erected lights run out flag poles sited time now for a small beer and a read of the week's itinerary.

The rally field was well situated grass short and in good condition, fresh water and Elson point could be seen in the distance. I considered this walk to be my daily walk in the country. The village of Moreton in Marsh was spot on with access to local shops small supermarkets charity shops bus stops and a rail station only a pleasant ten-minute stroll from the site.

Week 1 Holiday Itinerary

Saturday: - Legs down and meet your neighbours, which ended up as volunteer's turn to for marquee erecting after tea, followed by the first of many enjoyable evenings relaxing and socialising in the Marquee. That night I had a can or two the navigator had a noggin of wine or two, fellow rallier,s had relaxers of choice with nips of malt being savoured by weary travellers. Everyone probably slept well that night as we were lulled to sleep by the soothing sound of rain drumming on the caravan roof.

Sunday: - The first main event scheduled was Angie,s Afternoon Cream Tea, voluntary dress code being dickie bows for the men and hats for the ladies. This was our first visit of many to the village charity shops. The event was well executed with those participating enjoying a buffet of sandwiches sausage rolls plus jam and or cream layered scones prepared and served by Angie and Carol. Later that evening some rallier,s chose to dash to the marquee armed with umbrellas and drinks containers filled with liquid relaxer's, a good evening was had by all. Again we were lulled to sleep that night by the patter of rain on the caravan roof.

Monday: - After pulling round a little, after the night before we opened the van blinds to an overcast sky with promises of showers for the day said the lady on the radio. People tripped into the village or ventured out for the day. We travelled to Stratford on Avon for a shopping experience as a reward for the navigator. During our shopping experience we met Brain and Pauline who were enjoying the atmosphere offered by local buskers' street playing in an historic part of the town. That evening's entertainment was a night at the races, with a second television set up to follow the match of England against Iceland mmm. Yet again a lively and enjoyable evening was had by those participating with Carol & Brian joint winners by the end of the races.

Tuesday: - Was a free day in the Itinerary, a street Market in Moreton in Marsh was the port of call for many with a trip out on the afternoon an option. We visited Bourton on the Water on the afternoon which turned out to be a lovely village with gift shops to visit and a babbling brook routed through its centre to be enjoyed. The evening evolved with some enjoying the peace and quiet of their caravans, others gathered in the Marquee with refreshments of choice for a chat and whatever. The conversation and carry on peaked to a new level with everyone taking part enjoying good banter with plenty of merriment and laughter.

Wednesday: - We woke to an overcast day with the prospect of showers, determined to make the most of the day we checked the map book for places to visit. We were spoilt for choice with Royal Leamington Spa Stratford on Avon Evesham Cheltenham Cirencester Banbury Bicester and Oxford all within driving distance or connected to bus routes. We chose to visit Oxford which turned out to be well worth the effort. The barbeque planned for Wednesday was postponed till Thursday due to inclement weather. The evening in the Marquee was the Durham Centre darts and dominoes competitions with trophies awarded to the winners. The winners were both Ladies which dampened some male spirits a little.

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My wife won the darts causing a few comments when announcing she forgot to put her glasses on, Elsie won the dominoes completion with a faultless run of determination and opponent assessment. Michael did a good job supervising the darts helping one or two suffering from memory fade remember their score.

Thursday: - Saw an improvement in the weather with periods of sunshine. Time to tend to chores round the van and a bit of prep ready for our return home on Saturday. We returned to Bourton on the Water with a visit to Stow on the Wold thrown in for the Farmers Market which was over when we arrived. A visit to the out of town Tesco was required as we needed to replenish the drinks locker, the need to cut back when we get home was the theme as we loaded our trolley. That evening the promised barbeque was held with George & George Ray and Dave responsible for cooking the meats, Angie Carol and Evonne prepared and laid out the rest of the accompanying food including punch with bottles of wine and mixers contributed by many which went down well and lasted long into the night. Framed photographs were taken with period hats wigs and masks provided for that memorable picture. Bill kindly donated Budweiser for anyone who fancied a bottle. With the photo shoot over quizzes and Evonne's find the parcel bingo provided the entertainment for the evening. It could be said that rules and fair play become stretched by a number of competitive players during the find the parcel bingo. The evening was enjoyed by all with thanks and appreciation to all.

Friday: - Weather showing an improvement but still overcast, we dropped and packed the awning lights and flag pole. With the car packed time for our last visit to Bourton on the Water for a pleasant stroll round the village. The evening entertainment was Tak Ya Back who gave us yet again another night of excellent entertainment with almost everyone dancing inside and outside the Marquee.

Summary:- We had a number of visitors joint the holiday rally from other clubs from the Isle of Thanet in the south to Barnsley in the north, commenting that they appreciated the warm welcome received including full participation with everything going on. We had Ukulele players joint the rally who gave tuition during the day to anyone interested, resulting in a performance later in the week of songs accompanied by the Ukulele with new musicians taking an active part. The rendition of can't do it on a tractor was a bit of a Jaw dropper which was encouraged and enjoyed by the audience. It has to be said that the Marshal and Angie Co Marshal and Dave and Carol organised the site and events seamlessly. Barry was on top form for the full week with his cheeky comments and banter,

drink flowed in varying amounts with various rallies, which resulted in a very good holiday. Some happenings come under the heading of what happens in Morton stays in Morton and best remain there. The Cotswolds proved to be a beautiful part of the country with lots of interesting and excellent places to visit.

Saturday saw significant improvements in the weather, a few one week rallies upped legs and set off for home to be replaced by new members ready to enjoy the experience of the Cotswolds. Thank you rally Marshals on behalf of rallies & ourselves. From Maureen & Colin Watkins.

As two caravans from Scotland we were on our way to spend a week with the Durham Centre for a holiday rally taking place at Moreton in Marsh. This was our first rally with this centre. We arrived as strangers and left as friends. We had a very friendly welcome from Barry the marshal and after he had located our vans set about telling us the water and other things we needed to know.

The location of the rally site was first class and some form of activity was available each night provided by Barry Ang, Carol and Dave and 'Kim'. The approach was very relaxed and this made for a nice atmosphere on the rally. Help was always on hand if needed and everyone made us welcome. The water and elsan were some distance away but cars could be used if needed.

To conclude: Value for money a big yes. Site and location very good, level of activities provided very good. The balance of input from the Marshalls very good. In a word Relaxing as a holiday should be. Bryan, Janette Dave and Nan – Scotland.

Malcolm and I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to marshalls Angela and Barry and deputy marshalls Carol and Dave for the wonderful holiday rally in the Cotswolds. As the weeks unfolded we were staggered by all of the time and effort put into organising the rally, making it a huge success. All activities in and around the beautifully decorated marquee, the delicious bbqs, afternoon teas and "nibbles", sports days, musical evenings etc etc were well planned and prepared. Consequently the programmed events were wholeheartedly supported and huge fun. Throughout our stay we heard nothing but well deserved praise from all who attended.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt this was the best caravan holiday we have ever had. We really appreciate all of the work done to make us comfortable and to feel welcomed and included on our very first rally. It exceeded all of our expectations. We have a feeling that next year's Summer Holiday Rally marshalls will have a job trying to equal the quality of this year's event at Moreton in the Marsh, the standards were so high. Angela and Barry, Carol and Dave are a credit to The Caravan Club and the Durham Centre.

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Thank you all again ,

Best Regards,

Lynne and Malcolm Pringle

On behalf of Angela myself and our co marshals , Dave & Carol Adamson I would like to thank all the ralliers that came to the Morton In Marsh holiday rally with us .

We had special days and nights arranged I.E. ANGIES Tea on the Lawn, BBQ,s Race Nights and a performance from (Tak Ya Bak) Brian & Pauline.

Everyone took part in all these events & the sports and dressing up when it was required It makes it all worth while spending time and effort arranging these events when people join in as they did.

Please check out the photo,s on our Webb site to see what a good time we all had

Thank you to all centre members and our visitors that we had on the rally

ANGELA & BARRY DODD

THORNTON WATLASS 14TH TO 17TH JULY

On a nice sunny day, and after a very pleasant drive, we arrived at the Thornton Watlass rally field to be met by our marshals Carol, Dave, Ray and Kim and was given a choice of pitch. So for a small fee we opted for an electric hook-up (anything for an easy life).

It was a very hot afternoon, so between setting up the `van and putting the awning up I thought I had better check out the temperature of the lager in the fridge which proved to be just right.

As the other `vans arrived we started to meet friends, old and new and chat about what was happening in the local area, and as the Masham steam engine rally was just down the road, we decided to have a look around it and see some of the entries. There were traction engines of all sizes, plus all the old motor cycles and wagons and looking at some of the stuff on show reminded me of what I used to drive in the distant past. I enjoyed the show, and Ann couldn't care less about it, but we did cut it short a bit because all the noise of the steam whistles was starting to frighten Ben. So we made our way back to the caravan.

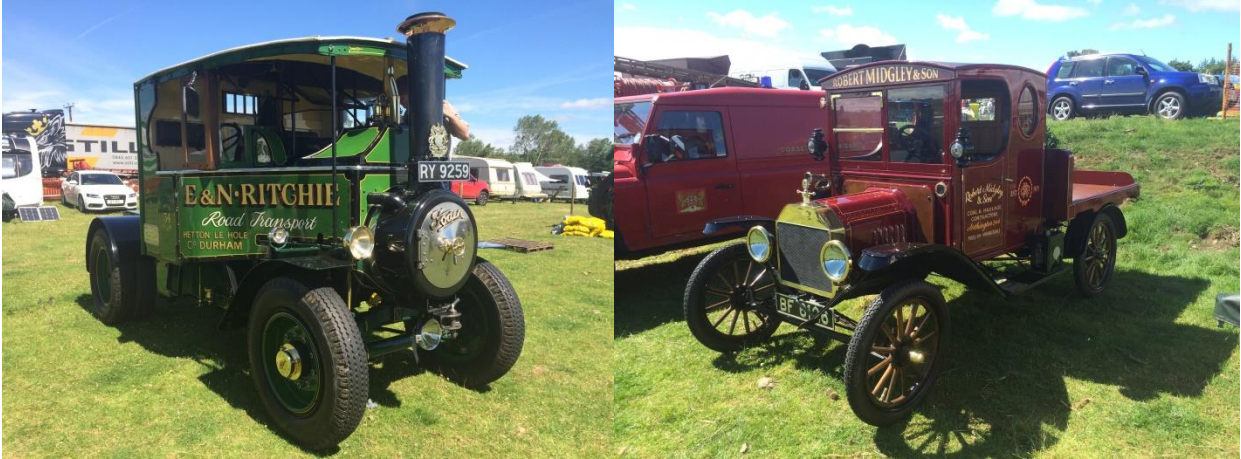
The evening saw us all gathered together relaxing in the sunshine with coffee, tea and biscuits provided by our hosts, then it was down to business with bingo and quizzes.

One particular quiz was called Dingbats, and if you got more than four questions right, you got an automatic place on mastermind !

Next day was a bit of shopping in Bedale followed by lunch and a pint, then onto the sun lounger by the caravan. The evening was again a relaxed affair over at the marshal's area where we were treated to hot-dog and onion buns and quizzes. Next day it was time to

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pack up and head for home, so we said our goodbyes to every-one and stopped off to thank Carol, Dave, Ray and Kim who put a lot of effort into getting everything just right for us to enjoy the rally. Cheers guys, Ann, Dave and Ben the dog.



Forthcoming Rallies – before you travel to any Rallies please check the website first for any updates?

5 – 7 August – Farnless Farm, Bishop Middleham – Marshals: Colin & Bernadette Smith

12 – 14 August – Bents Park, South Sheilds – Marshals: Barry & Angela Dodd

19 – 21 August – Middridge Meadows – Marshals:??

26 – 29 August – Thornton Watlass – Marshals: John & Debra Atkinson



Celebrations.

If anyone has anything to celebrate, a birthday, anniversary, exam result etc. please let me know so we can all celebrate with you

Birthday:

6th Ken Simmons

22nd Steve Doors

27th Muriel Mckitterick

Wedding Anniversary

Happy belated 60th Wedding Anniversary to Harry and Hilda Braddock



Thanks to all those who have contributed to this month's Newsletter

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