



Welcome to the December 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 **27/12/2016** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Well I for one just can't believe that it's nearly Christmas when has the time gone, it only seem like yesterday that the rally season was just starting. On that note full rally details are now available on the website, we do still need members to come forward as Co-Marshals, so come on Durham Centre members take the plunge and put your name forward. Honest you will enjoy it, it's fun and everyone appreciates it the rallies really don't run themselves despite what some may think! Several rallies already have quite a few booking so if you don't want to be disappointed make sure you contact the Marshal and get your booking slip to secure a place.

Everyone who attended this year's Dinner Dance had a great night take a look of the photographs on the website.

Don't forget our Christmas Party is to be held on Sunday 11 December at Sherburn Community Centre. Everyone welcome, live music carols and Christmas songs from our very own Tak Ya Bak, as well as children's games and a buffet along with a special guest appearance from Santa Claus for the children. Tickets are only £5 for children (which includes a gift) and £2 per adult. Full details on our website or contact Barry Dodd for further details.

Our get together in January filled up within 3 weeks, looks like a meal and disco seems to be our members prefers choice. If you have booked independently to stay at Durham Grange over the weekend of 20 January and are joining us at the Ramside, contact Carol Door if you want to be included on the mini-bus over.

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.

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



HALLOWEEN RALLY REPORT 28TH - 30TH OCTOBER MANFIELD

Friday

We pulled onto the rally field at about 3pm, we must have been one of the last ones to arrive. It was a mild bright afternoon and everyone was busy setting up, we were welcomed by Bernadette and Debra and showed to our pitch. As usual everyone made us feel very welcome, after setting up and catching up we had tea and a chilled out night knowing that we had a busy day ahead.

Saturday

Riley and Rhys woke up very excited for today's events, once again the sun was shining. Most people were out decorating their vans with Halloween tat – it has to be said they all looked spooktacular. All the children (and adults!!) were having great fun. The judges walked around the field with the difficult job of picking a winner for "best dressed van". At 5.45 p.m. all the children got dressed up and went trick or treating from van to van. The grown up's weren't left out either because it was party time at 7p.m. in the village hall....face paint, costumes, masks and wigs galore....it was fantastic. The hall had been decorated by John, Debra, Colin and Bernadette and looked amazing. We had music, a buffet, a quiz and best costume competitions (for which I won my category....yey...) and not forgetting the "mummy game" which involved an awful lot of loo roll and running around in circles to Benny Hill music, which I found hilarious.



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Sunday

.....And the sun had his hat on yet again which is just as well as everyone set about taking their decorations off their vans, I think a few people were a bit worse for wear (myself included). Flag was at 11 and competition winners were announced and deservedly best dressed van went to Paul Smith and family. We had a brilliant weekend and the effort everyone put in was excellent. It's a shame it had to come to an end – well done Durham Centre!!!



See you soon, Anita Hamilton and family.

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FIREWORKS RALLY REPORT

Last rally of the season, no, we can't quite believe it either, where has 2016 gone!!!! We arrived at opening time (shock, horror) and were met by Ang, Carol, Barry, Dave and Kim.

Legs down and off went Steve to aid with gazebo erecting with 'the gents' (see pics) whilst I attempted the competition (I wish I hadn't).

Friday night we all went to the gazebo and had a great night, all the kids played together and the adults had bingo and some rather good quizzes (especially the kids programme one Dave Wilkinson!!!). As always, superb Durham Centre Prizes on offer (no tat here).



Saturday morning brought some dodgy weather and the news that the roof came off the gazebo at some ungodly hour during the night. We of course didn't hear a thing (it might have had something to do with the lager) but we were told that Barry and Ray saved the day (or the gazebo for that matter). So off went Steve to do his gazebo duties with 'the gents' again and then we had a ride into Hartlepool and a bit of shopping.

Saturday tea-time we all got well wrapped up and gathered for the finale, yes, the annual fireworks display. Luckily the weather had calmed down a bit so they could go ahead. We were all kept happy with hot soup, hot dogs and mulled wine and enjoyed chatting together.



we see

The fireworks again were lovely, thanks to everyone who organised the night. Myself, Debs and Bernadette even managed to get 'tapped up' by some 'guys' (I think Bernadette's was more interested in his can though!!!).

Sunday morning again came far too quickly and even though it was cold and damp, Flag was well attended. Announcements made, Happy Christmas Greetings given to friends old and new (it will be 2017 when some of you all again) and time for legs up to get home.

We would like to thank Ang, Barry, Carol, Dave and Kim for a great weekend in 'not so great' weather conditions, as always, us Durham Centre Gang make the best of everything and it will take more than the 'Great British Weather' to dampen our spirits!!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all, hope you have a great time.

Carol, Steve and Aaron Door (and Jackson the dog).

PS I got 4 out of 20 in the competition, not my best effort!!!

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WHITEWATER CARAVAN CLUB (DINNER DANCE) – RALLY REPORT

Just to clarify we weren't actually on the rally being ran by Northumberland Centre as it was full but I couldn't let such a good weekend go by without writing something.

We were child free so we took the opportunity to get down on site a little bit earlier – 3.10 unlike the usual 5ish mark. We got setup chilled out for a bit and then put the tea on – which was very tasty washed down with a can. Dave and Helen Wilkinson joined us after tea in our van where we had a laugh and a couple more drinks. Helen suggested we try the pub for a couple so we set off at 7.45 and gave Karl and Vicki a knock who had already been to the pub and were sitting in their PJ's as the pub wasn't up too much. They got changed and come back over to the pub where we stayed until 10 ish. On the way back to the caravan's Helen popped her head in the games room and to our surprise the heating was on. We said we'll grab a few cans and pile in for a while and listened to some music (on low). We had some face shields in the van so made up our own game of "Speak Out" which was hilarious. We stayed there until 1.30 a.m. (apparently) – I can't remember going home but when I woke up on Saturday the bed was only made up with 3 cushions instead of the usual 4 so we had spent the night partially floating!



Saturday – we awoke just in time for the start of the afternoon (12.15 – well almost in time). After a spot of brunch and a brief visit from Barry and Ang we had a walk round the barrage in the crisp sunny afternoon. We made our way back to the van and watched our 1st Christmas film of the year "National Lampoons Christmas Vacation" – this is our number 1 favourite film. When the film finished it was time to get ready for the dinner dance. We got picked up in the second bus and headed off to the Masonic Hall just after 6. When we got there we mingled in the bar area with a glass of complimentary wine. To see everyone all dressed up was great, people had spent a lot of time making themselves

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looking very glamorous which was great to see. Following the mingling we queued up to go into the hall area for the meal – we were met by the dignitaries for the night and made to feel very welcome. There were a number of speeches made starting off with one to the Queen herself, there were some very funny stories which came out later on about Barry and Angela Dodd. The meal which was served was delicious and hot and I never heard anybody mention



anything about – the table service was great too. After the meal we went back into the bar area to allow the night’s entertainment “The Little Big Band” to setup. Bernadette and



Carol had one final push to sell as many raffle tickets as possible – hats off to them for their efforts. The music started at about 9.45 and they were fantastic they played everything from traditional dancing music to allow the lovers of the “waltz” to strut their stuff through to modern hits with even a “conga” train headed up by Helen Wilkinson meandering through the hall, corridor and bar area! The band had a break halfway though and the raffle was staged – there were loads of prizes, though the most coveted prize was the solar phone charge won by Stephen Door. When the music kicked off in the second half out came the phones and the Durham Centre undertook their very own Mannequin challenge which was posted onto the

internet for all to see (along with Barry, Helen and Anita’s very high pitched squeaks from the helium filled balloons).

Overall we had a brilliant night finished off with a game of how many caravanner’s can you fit in a tourer (Karl & Vickie’s) on the way home at 3 o’clock and Helen washing her feet in a puddle!



Thanks Durham Centre, Stephen & Anita

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Celebrations.

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

Birthdays

December

Dave Adamson,

Carol Adamson.

Brian Mottram,

20th Meg Leigh

8th Muriel Doig

22nd Sharon Hanson

23rd Dave Robinson

Happy Anniversary for the 23rd December to Dave June Robinson

Finally on behalf of all of our Chairman, Officers and Committee can I take this opportunity to wish all Durham Centre members and readers of our Newsletter a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year?



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

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