



Welcome to the January 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 **27/01/2018** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year. On behalf of the Chairman and Committee can I wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous New Year hope that 2018 is a great year for everyone?

2017 was an excellent year for Durham Centre with numerous new members joining who have now become firm ralliers and are often seen out and about, long may it continue. Hopefully 2018 will see the centre go from strength to strength with even more new members and their families joining. I think if anyone looks at our website photographs they will be able to see what a friendly centre we are with everyone joining in and having a great time no matter what the weather. As we are getting more regular members attending our rallies it has been necessary to purchase another large gazebo for our get together to provide shelter for all members on the rally to make for a fun packed weekend away.

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that the 2018 handbook is on the website and can be downloaded to your mobile. Our rally program for 2018 is extremely popular and several rallies are already fully booked. So to avoid disappointment later in the year do make sure that you complete a rally slip or fill in the on-line form and secure your booking.

We have several new Marshals' this year who have kindly volunteered their time and effort to run rallies for the centre. However, we do still have a couple of rallies that require a Marshal or Co-Marshal so please if you are contemplating giving something back to the centre contact our rally Secretary Karl. Remember without the willing volunteers the rallies can run, it is fun and there is always someone who will help and assist.

January 2018

Our Chairman and committee are already looking towards 2019 when Durham Centre will be 60 years old having been established in 1959. So do keep an eye on the website for any updates as we are we thinking of celebrating this event.

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

New Year Rally Monkwearmouth:

Ang & I arrived at the rally on Friday like many other vans with 2in of snow on the roof of both car & caravan wondering if we were doing the right thing at this time of year . It's many years since we have been to a new year rally but as the need arose for a second DURHAM CENTRE NEW YEAR RALLY VENUE we decided to give it a try.

Although the weather wasn't very good the venue and welcome we got was excellent.

We got settled in then met the members who were to be our companions for the next few days ,everybody was very jolly and seemed to be ready for the good time we were about to enjoy.

Our rally marshals Paula, Vicky, Kevin and Karl have only been in the club for two years; Kevin & Karl are vice chairman and rally sec respectively and were very keen to do this rally.

Friday night we went up to the hall and just had a gentle evening " chitchatting" telling each other what we had done over Christmas and what SANTA had brought "sadly mine wasn't a new caravan".

Saturday was a bit warmer as the weather started to improve Ang still had the fire on though as you would expect, many people had a walk along Seaburn sea front to blow away the cobwebs. In the hall there were games for both children and adults that lasted for about 2hours. Saturday night was DISCO

TIME with buffet included but not too energetic as we didn't want to peak too early. The evening also had the theme of SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS in fancy dress (check out the photos)?

Sunday was a slow gentle day or as we thought, the rally marshals were not to be seen, (they were preparing the evening

meal) until there was a knock on the door and presented Ang & I with four large bags of potatoes that needed to be peeled so we didn't get our afternoon snooze, 5pm it was time



to get ready and glam up for the night ahead Ang reckons "POLYFILLER " takes longer to set these days so it took her a bit longer than me .

We all arrived at the hall at 6.30pm ready for meal at 7pm, with the room well decorated and tables beautiful laid.

The meal of Pork, Yorkshire puddings, roast potatoes and veg was cooked by the rally marshals (no wonder they were missing all day) and everybody commented how lovely it was, and there was seconds for them that wanted. The evening continued with our own favourites TAK YA BAK who once again had us all on the dance floor all night then the 2K DISCO continued for the rest of the night, seeing in the New Year.

Monday was the normal News Years Day, sleepy people and sore heads and much "down time" again quite a few members went for seaside walks to clear the heads.

Tuesday was unfortunately time to go home.

As well as our rally marshals I must thank the small army of helpers who not only helped clear the hall after we finished the new year party before going home ,but also returned New Year's Day early to finish off the cleaning. WONDERFUL TEAMWORK.

PAULA, VICKY, KEVIN & KARL you did yourselves and DURHAM CENTRE very proud and I am sure your rally will be full next year, we will certainly be back.

Finally can I take this opportunity to wish all Durham Centre members a Happy New Year & safe caravanning?

Angela & Barry Dodd



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

23rd Peter Clemments

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