

# DURHAM NEWS.



Welcome to the July 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 **27/07/2016** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Hopefully you have all received your Caravan Club magazine and you will have seen that once again Durham Centre had a good write up for the Easter rally at Unthank Stanhope, great publicity for the club. Regrettably due to work being undertaken on the access road we had to cancel our May Bank Holiday rally at Northallerton. Hopefully anyone who had booked did manage to get away for the weekend at another venue?

Our rally programme for next year is in progress, if anyone would like to assist with being a Marshal or Co-Marshall could you please contact the Rally Secretary or any member of the committee. Remember without willing volunteers we will not have any rallies to attend to next year. So please do consider given a little bit of your time back to the centre.

Can I please ask that members do not tie their water barrels to the back of the car when going for water? Don't think I really need to advise anyone that if the barrel does come loose of the potential damage that could be done.

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.

**9 – 13 June – Seaburn Camp**

July 2016

Colin arrived late Friday afternoon to a warm welcome from the Marshals, Barry, Angie, Harry and Christine. After setting up and having a catch up with everyone he came to pick me up from the station. We arrived on site rather late so missed the get together at the Marshal van. However, thankfully Deb and John had the tea on and the wine chilling!

Saturday we went to stock up on supplies, as Morrisons is very handy next door. Late morning everyone helped to erect the gazebos ready for the stalls, to raise some money for our centre charity. A great afternoon was had by all. Several stalls were set up and the ralliers happily parted with their money and took part. Hook a Duck, Roll



the penny, Hidden treasure, balls in jars, knock the cans over, raffle and bric a brac. In total we raised £130 which was great, considering there were only 22 vans on site. Thanks to everyone who took part and gave up their time to man a stall and raise funds. 4pm cream teas were served to all, which everyone enjoyed and sat and chatted for a while. Saturday night we all got together in the gazebo for bingo and a quiz. We did have the football on in the background as there was a match on that quite a few wanted to watch! A buffet supper was provided for all. Sunday the rain came, but at least the gazebos were still up so we kept dry for flag and announcements. Some members remained for another night lucky things, regrettably we had to go to work so had to leave after going along the sea front for fish and chips. A great rally thanks to all who helped to make it a success.

## **16 – 20 June – Herrington Country Park**

When we booked this rally we were slightly concerned as to how long it will take us to get to the site. We even thought we might have to travel through the night. Lol. It actually took



8 minutes in total to get from home to the site. What a fantastic venue for a rally. Under the watchful gaze of Penshaw monument. We are all set up and went into the marquee for a welcome meet. Back in the marquee for the evening. Kids were entertained by Steve

drawing, painting pictures and making cards, while we played bingo and tried to answer the sports picture quiz. David thought he was the king of picture sports picture quizzes, but Deborah and John stole the show. Met some new ralleyers who were made very welcome and appeared to have a great night. It was 11pm when we left the marquee. Off to bed..... What a sight was waiting for us. Penshaw monument light up in the rainbow colours. Brought a tear to my eye. (That may be the gin) lol. Thoughts with those and their families who were in the nightclub atrocities.

Up on Saturday morning. Fantastic walk around Herrington country park led by Steve, Michael and Aaron not forgetting Jackson. The kids were entertained along the way by Bernadette and Amy singing songs. Back to the site to bacon and sausage sandwiches made by Carol and Margaret.

Ella Luca and myself climbed To the top of Penshaw Monument! What a fantastic view we could see the site from the top and it looked amazing

On Saturday afternoon Carol and Margaret organised an art Attack, we gathered flowers grasses and stones and made a collage picture. We were also treated to decoupage card making. I had a great time as crafting is my favourite. I think Ella and Luca had a great time also.

It's great to see the kids playing out. The Sun came out on Saturday afternoon riding their bikes up and down the path along the side of the caravan site. And playing with the outdoor toys Swingball, table tennis and football even the adults had fun playing table tennis. I am not sure who won out of Colin and John but it was competitive!

Had another fantastic evening in the marquee with a great quiz then sat and enjoyed chatting with our friends.

What a fantastic weekend, all I can say is a massive thank you to Steve, Carol, Michael and Margaret Aaron and Jackson for making this such an amazing weekend. We have had a great time, the venue is perfect and I can't think of a better way to spend my weekend

with all of the friends we have made being members of the caravan club. I look forward to many more great weekends away with you all. Thank you. The Wilkinson.

## 24 – 26 June – Thirst Racecourse

### THIRSK RALLY REPORT

This was our first caravan trip without any children, oooo how exciting (sorry Riley and Rhys). We thought we would make the most of it and get down prompt around rally opening time, turns out we arrived at 2.10 and there were already 2 vans and a motorhome there. As we pulled onto the field Bernadette emerged from the half erected gazebo to guide us to our pitch, leaving John and Debra to continue erecting the gazebo. It was a little breezy but we were just hoping for the glorious sunshine we had on the way down to come back out. We got the legs down and all setup and then there were a steady stream of arrivals – and with them arrived the sun!

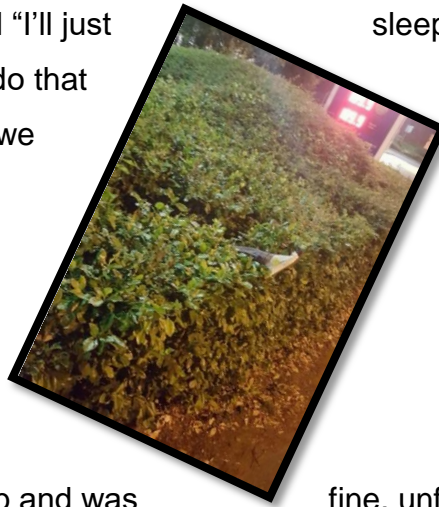
We decided that seems as though we were child free we would make a beeline for the pubs in Thirsk, have tea out and see where the night took us. We were not disappointed there were some really nice pubs of which all the ones we visited had beer gardens to sit and enjoy our drinks in. As we were moving from pub to pub we heard that the pub we were in at that time has a 'locky back' later religiously on a Friday night but you had to be there for no than 10.30 p.m. or else the door gets shut and you don't get in! We set off again on our pub crawl and after a bit of time I realised it was 10.25 p.m. I said "Neenor (Anita's nickname) quickly we'll have to get going", so I downed my drink and off I went to 'hold' the door. I got in the pub and explained to the doorman that my fiancée was following, he said "she better hurry up cos I'm shutting this door and then no one will be getting in!" I quickly sprinted across the square (after drinking since 3 in the afternoon may I add) burst into the pub and shouted "come on Neenor, there gonna shut the door". At last she burst into action and we quickly scarpered across the square, got in the pub and then "slam" the



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door was shut. The rest of the night beyond this was a bit of a blur until the legendary 'bush diving' on the way home – I did not try this however Anita did and was very comfortable, at one point she said "I'll just sleep here this is nice and comfortable". I couldn't possibly do that so I managed to recover her from the bushes and we staggered back to Daisy.



### 'Bush Diving'

The morning after.....I got up and was fine, unfortunately poor Anita wasn't well at all – in fact she was so bad I thought that she had more than a hangover. Never mind the sun was out so I went and chilled outside of Daisy with the new Caravan Club magazine. Colin came over and we chatted for a while and offered me some sun cream though I declined as there looked like there were some big clouds approaching, what a BIG mistake – I got rather burnt! Anita spent the full afternoon on the couch and I spent the full afternoon out in the sun with my first can cracked open at 12 o'clock, I even got fed off the rally marshals' barbeque – how's that for service!

### Spot the Casualty....



Gazebo time – this bit of the rally is always fun and Saturday didn't disappoint, the gazebo was full so there was a good turnout, there were attendee's from Lincolnshire and Yorkshire Centres and four very special visitors, The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and Lady Camilla! We played two games of bingo of which I won and a dice game of "left, right and centre" involving using 3 coins each. This was a very fun game with children and all playing and was won by Dave (Ben the dog's owner), must have had some kind of premonition as he brought out him a little tub referred to by him as a change tub – it was certainly brimming by the time he left the gazebo! There were some nibbles provided by the rally marshal's and Bernadette was showing everyone her little rabbit trick which was only possible to demonstrate using whole peanuts. The usual die-harder's were still in the gazebo coming closing time at 11, no prizes for guessing who those were (Debra, John, Colin, Bernadette, Me, Anita and of course Carol and Steve Door).



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Sunday morning was nice and sunny so Flag was held in the sun with the sides zipped out of the gazebo for the lucky van prize table – again it was well attended including my bad head off the night before! There were some new ralliers in attendance at the weekend however they left before flag commenced so missed out on their 1<sup>st</sup> rally plaques. I was presented with a birthday card from Debra on behalf of the Durham Centre which was most appreciated. Following flag we sharp got the gazebo down and one by one started to get packed up and leave – excluding the marshals' we were last off the field, I think it's safe to say we had a brilliant weekend!

Stephen Clarke & Anita Hamilton

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

8 – 10 July - Wynyard Station – Marshals: Peter & Kath Clemments

14 – 17 July – Thornton Watlass – Marshals: Dave & Carol Adamson

22 – 24 July – Sunderland Air Show – Marshals: Barry & Angela Dodd

29 – 1 Aug – Jervaulx Abbey – Marshals: Harry Thompson



## **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: 8<sup>th</sup> Emma Simon Hanson, 9<sup>th</sup> Barry Dodd, 21<sup>st</sup> Sandra Dowson

Anniversary

12<sup>th</sup> Barry Angie Dodd

## Remembering our dearly departed friends



Our condolences go to the families and friends of: Geordie Plender

With deepest sympathy remembered with great affection

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

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