

THE RALLIER

West Warwickshire Centre Caravan Club

Newsletter

August 2016



The Editor Says

This is only my second Rallier and a lot has happened since my first.

I have to advise that Rita and Peter Hoults have resigned from the Centre Committee. Our thanks must go to them both for their services to the Centre.

It is with great sadness that Neil Taylor lost his battle with Cancer on Tuesday the 12th July, he will be missed by us all.

Many of his friends and family attended a remembrance service in celebration of Neil's life at St Margaret's Church, Olton on Tuesday the 26th July. It was so nice to see so many from the Centre paying their respects. It was a wonderful service. The Eulogy given by his four children, gave us an insight to his family life that we did not know. Good bye Neil you will be missed.

It is with great sadness that I have to advise Norman Guest died on the 31st July 2016. It was very sudden and he died where he would have wanted on a Rally. All our condolences go to Sheila, Jan and Dave and also his two sons and the rest of the family. Sheila and Norman had been together for 20 years. (see Meon View Rally Report for more details.)

Norman's funeral took place on Tuesday 16th August 2016 at Perry Barr Crematorium. It was well attended by family his friends and many friends from the Centre. It was a lovely send off and we learned something we did not know Norman liked Country and Western Music. He went out to "Trailer to Let". Good Bye Norman we will miss you..

IT IS THE END OF AUGUST AND THE AGM IS NOT MANY WEEKS AWAY ON THE 9TH OCTOBER. And thoughts must be given to the running of the Centre. The Centre needs MOST IMPORTANTLY A TREASURER. If you know of a Centre Member with Book Keeping and Accountancy skills we need them . We also need Committee Members who are willing to work for and on behalf of the Centre.

Rally Reports

Moreton Paddox 13-15 May

This Rally was held at Hill Farm, Moreton Paddox, a small place outside of Wellesbourne. It is a sloping field and when we arrived it had rained quite heavily on the Thursday and of course we got stuck but managed to site ourselves in the end. A Visitor from another Centre was not so lucky with his Motor Home he was really stuck and a 4x4 couldn't help, so he had to wait until next morning for the Owner to bring his tractor to do the job.

It was billed a Neil's 13th Damson Rally, but it proved to be unlucky for Neil as he was struck down by illness and had to cancel his attendance, fortunately Neil's Joint Rally Steward was Sue Donald and she stepped into the breach.

It was to be a Do as you Please Rally so we went to Wellesbourne Market, as we usually do when in the area, on Saturday morning. You can get some good bargains there. I wanted a new key fob for my car and I got one done, complete with new Battery for £13-00, the dealer charges £80-00 plus. If you were just visiting and going home the meat man was selling bagfuls of Pork for £20-00.

The programme said a joint BBQ but as our BBQ Gas is on the Van we BBQ'd at lunch time as the weather was fine then but we joined all the others at the allotted time and received our bottle of Damson Wine that Neil had sent for all to enjoy. We had a very good chat amongst the gathering until it got rather cold and the majority retreated to their vans.

Flag was held in the open on Sunday morning where we joined by the Site Owners, who learnt a lot about Rallying.

Thanks to Sue for taking over the Rally, she did a grand job, assisted by Peter & Rita. No doubt we will be going to Moreton Paddox again.

Brian & Sylvia Collins

Newlands Meadow CP Malvern 27th-31st May

We arrived at 12 noon on a beautiful warm sunny day. We were seen on to our pitch by Les and then more vans began to arrive in quick succession. All were pitched by Peter and Les in time for the welcome tea and coffee and biscuits. There were 11 West Warwicks and 11 visitors, from South Staffs, Midland, Glos and Derby centres and one non centre.

Saturday was again wonderful weather and there was the Italian theme meal in the evening, Spaghetti Bolognese followed by a "Cornetto". Then a lot of talking and drinking till time for bed at 11 pm. Sunday another day of Sunshine all the way, by which time I wondered if we had somehow landed in another place after so much rain, cold and mud.

Sunday evening a few gathered for a quiz and more drinks and talking. Monday flag 11.30 still warm and sunny. Les thanked everyone for coming and Dave and Jan for their help and Peter for helping him to site.

Monday evening was a bit cooler but the shelter was still up so there was more nattering and drinking and Veronica put out some nibbles. Tuesday everyone home but a very good rally on a lovely site and enjoyed by all who attended.

Margaret Hughes

Wilmcote 10-12 June

We arrived on a very damp field to find the steward's had done a good job of pegging out.

The steward's Margaret and Barry ably assisted by Mark, Gail and not to forget Shaun welcomed everyone with Coffee, tea and biscuits. Margaret introduced the members to our visitors from Gloucester and East Warwick's. People did not linger as it started to rain.

Saturday dawned and it was a damp but rallier's are never put off by a little rain. The sun came out and the Party tent was erected with the help of a few members. The evening meal was prepared and Barry sat there stirring a large saucepan in which he added various spices. He ground all his own but would not tell us what they consisted of. The sun had come out and we just sat and watched the pot cook with the lovely smell of the spices.

Turn to page 4

At 7pm we took our table and chairs together with plates, dishes and cutlery to the party tent. We did not have to wait long and the Steward's dished up a beautiful meal of Moroccan lamb tagine with boiled rice. Several people who will be nameless went back for second helpings. This was followed by Apple and Date pie and Date Flapjacks and Custard. It really was a great meal our thanks to Margaret and Barry for all their hard work. After the meal all people wanted to do was sit around have a drink and chat.

Sunday morning the sun shone but it was still a little chilly so we sat and had the flag in the tent. Thanks were given and notices read out. I won the slip draw which everyone said was a fiddle. The prize was Chocolates. Shaun's eyes lit up and what could I do being a good Grandma but to give them to him. Our thanks to all the Steward's for a very good rally.

M.W

~~~~~

## **THE GATE HANGS HIGH, HOOK NORTON, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> July.**

Bob and Dave were there ready to greet us on a very hilly and bumpy field. We were taken to a peg and eventually got pitched. While we were getting level the owner of the Pub came over to say Hook Norton Brewery had arrived to deliver the beer with the Horses and Dray, so we dropped everything and went out to see. It was quite a sight to see those great horses they were lovely. The drayman was quite a character and he told us they were given two pints of beer every day when they were working. (He didn't get 2 free pints). (See picture on back page).

During the afternoon more Vans arrived and Bob and Dave did a good job of siting every one. In the evening we had usual welcome meeting with Coffee, tea and biscuits members and visitors were welcomed and people sat around afterwards having a natter.

Saturday was a lovely day and of course it was Bob's Birthday. We all did our own thing many going to Banbury Shopping. Unfortunately we could not get a Brewery trip as they were fully booked, perhaps next time. Roy and I did visit the gift shop as he had gift voucher to use and we also purchased some beer. (great)

Saturday evening everyone went up to the party tent and Bob had his barbecue on the go and provided us all with Hot Dogs, Burgers and fried onions and to crown that off Brenda provided a sweet plus marshmallows for us to toast. We all sang Happy Birthday to Bob and he opened his Cards. It was another great night in the Party Tent thanks to Bob and Brenda.

We all met on Sunday morning for Flag and Coffee, tea and biscuits were served and the usual notices and thanks were made, Our thanks to Bob and Brenda and to Ally and Dave Varley for offering their services in Co-Stewarding, and all their hard work over the weekend.

M.W

**TOP BARN FARM. WORCESTER ROAD,HOLT HEATH. 15-17 JULY 2016**

We left home in pouring rain, we must be mad, but by the time we arrived at Top Barn the sun was shining. We were warmly greeted by Arthur and David and being the last to arrive we were put at the end of the line of 5 outfits. It was a beautiful but very large field and would have held at least 100 outfits. We met later for the usual Coffee or Tea and Biscuits at Arthur and David's Van. It got rather chilly so we did not hang around. Saturday dawned another lovely day and most people did their own thing but many found the Farm Shop where I understand Arthur found Liquorice Allsorts and he went back for several bags. We could not join the ralliers on Saturday evening as we spent the evening with my youngest son and his family who live at Holt Fleet we do not see them very often as he works in London. We had a lovely evening.

Before we left home Roy had found a bottle of Damson Gin that we had made many years ago to Neil's recipe . At Flag he told everyone that we had welcomed Neil to the Centre August Bank Holiday 2000, we had been co stewarding the rally with Eileen and Phillip Howitt and Neil introduced us to the gin. Roy gave everyone on the rally a small glass of the gin and we raised our glasses to Neil followed by a minutes silence.

It was a lovely rally and I would go back to that field anytime,

Many thanks to Arthur and David

M.W

~~~~~.

FOR SALE

Brian Collins has the following items for sale all he requires is a DONATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE CENTRE CHARITY

Siemens Model S10 Solar Panel, 10watt. mounted on a stand (would be useful if you have to store a Van) Size 15" x 13"
2 Off Continental 2 pin to HU Lead Adaptors.
HU Connector Van End to Van End (used to connect 2 HU Leads)
Whale Extension Hose 2 off, 7.5 long. Tap to Van,

He will bring all but the Solar panel to Caen Locks, just in case someone might be interested.

Brian Collins 0121 7063174

More Rally Reports

Meon View, Tramps Rally 29-31 July

This is a very nice site, flat with a few dips here & there. 9 units attended and apart from Friday evening when it rained and we were in the Shelter it was dry the rest of the Rally

At 06-00hrs on Saturday the sky was a cloudless Blue but by 08-00 it had clouded over so we visited Hidcote Gardens, which was only about 3 miles away, after lunch we relaxed outside our van for the afternoon.

The Tramps Supper was scheduled for 6-30 pm and those who were dressing up started to appear, but it was noticed there was a lot of activity taking place at Sheila & Norman's Van and shortly after an Ambulance appeared on the Rally Field. It appeared that Norman had been taken ill and the Para Medics decided that the Air Ambulance was required to take him to Hospital and that it would take them at least an hour to get him there in the Ambulance.

Within 10 minutes or so the Air Ambulance appeared over the Rally Field, aided by the Ambulances flashing lights, it executed a 270 degree turn landed just beyond the vans. It appeared that Norman had suffered a severe stroke and that it would only take about 8 minutes to get him to Wallsgrave Hospital in Coventry.

To use a show business term it was decided that 'The Show must go on' and so it did, although in a somewhat sombre mood. We had a superb 3 course meal, produced by the Stewards, which included Soup Sausages done on the BBQ, there were only 2 or 3 black ones, also Bread Pudding and Custard. Barry and Margaret joined us for the meal, they had booked to attend but their car was involved in an accident and could not be repaired in time. We had a couple of games, Balloon Bingo (that's a new one) and brought a lot of laughter into the game. It was won by the Visitors Grandson, Frankie. There was another sort of Game and Bob won this and also the prize for the best dressed Tramp.

On Sunday morning we learnt that Norman had passed away in the early hours, a very sad ending to what was an excellent Rally. At Flag we learnt that Mr & Mrs Rimmel the Site owners had made a donation to our Charity, The Air Ambulance, those attending the Rally found out at first hand what an important charity this is to support, especially if you are in a field, not close to any medical services and I would urge you the Members to give generously to this cause, in memory of Norman.

Our big thanks go to Margaret, Roy, Ally & Dave for running the Rally, we shall look forward to going to Meon View again.

Brian & Sylvia

Editors note: £50 was raised at this rally in donations for centre charity.

We do not make a habit of arriving last at rallies but many people been there the day before. We were greeted by Arthur and David and told where to park. There were 14 outfits with quite a few visitors from other Centre's. Coffee, tea and biscuits were served by Arthur and David, they did a grand job. We all sat around to chat and meet our neighbours when it got chilly people began to disappear.

Several members decided to go down to the pub at Ratley and we were invited to join them. I was very pleased with myself as it was rather a steep hill down to Ratley and I managed to walk both ways.

Saturday was again fine and warm and many people visited Banbury to shop or father afield to Upton House and Hidcote Gardens. We went for Hidcote but when we arrived it was so busy we did not stop so we had a lovely ride round visiting places where we rallied years ago.

We sat around during the afternoon in the sun having a drink and talking to Sheila she is being so brave, it is only two weeks since Norman's death, it was lovely to see her out with Ossie. He is like her shadow.

During the evening we had another walk down to the village and more people joined us.

Sunday morning we had Flag as usual and after coffee, tea and biscuits Arthur and David drew the raffle which had been held for the Centre Charity. £32 was made for the Warwick & Northampton Air Ambulance. One Van left early and they donated their night fee to the Charity.

It was a lovely rally many thanks to Arthur and David, and co stewards Rita and Peter.

M.W.

CENTRE CHARITY

**Warwickshire &
Northamptonshire
Air Ambulance**

Our books and card sales will be available at most rallies, always worth a browse.
Charity co-ordinator .

Gail Wiltshire

CENTRE WEB-SITE

Don't forget our Centre Web- Site where you will find all the most up to date information on rallies etc. Please check regularly as its the fastest means of communication for any changes.

Web Master - Dave Varley.
www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk



Getting ready for our Chairman's Birthday !!!!

The next Rallier will be out later in the year

I would like to thank those people who have sent me rally reports. Please keep them coming in. Also if you have any equipment you wish to advertise for sale.

My email address is: booklet-sec@westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk
Please let me have your thoughts on what you would like me to include, after all it is your Newsletter.

Margaret Wiltshire

Editor.