

Cheshire Centre Newsletter



2009 Bonfire Edition

Editor Tony Pratt

A message from your Chairman

Hello

Once again we have a few changes on the committee. Tony Pratt is the new face of the newsletter and Barry Chesterson joins us and has taken over centre sales please. Please join with me in welcoming them to the committee. I am sure their enthusiasm and talents will help build on the centre's success over the previous 12 months. Of course we also thank Mike Worth and Michelle Highton for their hard work during the year.

It seems ages since the summer and now with the dark nights closing in it seems a long time to next summer, however your rally officers have helped in producing the best years rally programme we have seen for several years, with over 135 to chose from and once again this is down to the efforts of our Rally Officers, who give up their time freely.

As well as 5 Easter holiday rallies there are 4 holiday rallies, 3 of them abroad.

Last year we had 309 outfits attending the Bonfire rally, this year it looks like we will at least equal that. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our friends from North Wales Centre who have brought quite a contingent and also to the Coachman Owners club who join us once again.

The Bonfire rally is the biggest rally the centre runs, but next year I am hoping that this will be eclipsed by the **Celebration Rally** to be held at **Arley Hall 16th-18th July 2010**. Come and join us and help celebrate 40 years of the Cheshire Centre. There will be live entertainment on both Friday and Saturday evening and lots of events taking place during the day. The rally has capacity for 450 outfits, so once again please book early. The cost will be £37.50 which has been achieved in no small way by the considerable sponsorship given to us by Glossop Caravans and TWG of Northwich.

Our centre once again has seen the membership increase with numbers around 2000, although the number of rallies scheduled has increased so has the demand, so book early to avoid disappointment. As rallies become full, the information is posted on the Web and made available at flag. Can I ask that if Rally Officers have cancellations to their rally and space becomes available please let the Rally Sec know so that he can make the membership aware that places have become available.

This is the last newsletter prior to the New Year, so can I take this opportunity on behalf of my Committee, their families and myself and Janet to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Caravanning

Brian

Centre Chairman

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Editor's Page

Hello and welcome to the 2009 bonfire edition of the Cheshire centre newsletter. As you may know this is my first edition of the newsletter and I hope it will be up to the same standard of the previous editors.

Since being appointed newsletter editor I would like to thank all those people for keeping me very busy by sending in all their articles which came in daily as the closing date approached.

As you know the newsletter is only as good as the people who send in their articles so please continue to do so.

News, Items for sale, Recipes (Trish), Quizzes, and anything else you would like to share with us.

I would also like to thank Michelle Highton for all her hard work on the newsletter over the past couple of years and wish her all the best for the future.

May I now take this opportunity to thank all my fellow ralliers who voted for me at the AGM this year. It is the first time I have undertaken this sort of roll and look forward to serving you over the next twelve months and good luck to the rest of the committee. Also a great big thanks to my wife Michelle for helping me set up the newsletter.

Please keep sending me your articles for the next news letter early on in the new year. A copy of this newsletter will be available on the club website shortly after publication.

Have a great bonfire weekend. Also a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tony Pratt

You can send any contributions for the newsletter to tonypratt@uwclub.net Or to the editor via the club website or call me on 07951618038

Isle of Wight Summer Rally

A misunderstood chance remark made by Nina (nee nor) Heath at the Pudding Club Rally in 2008, quickly resulted in the birth of the summer rally at Beaper Farm, just outside Ryde on the Isle of Wight.

Joined by hubby David, and fellow rally officers, Judith and Colin Williams-Day and Jan and Ray Woolgar, they agreed not to be too ambitious and go for a “free and easy” rally. I can still see the blood draining from the face of the Isle Wight Chairman, Dave Perry, when I mentioned to him at opening flag that they were all first time rally officers, with the exception of Jan and Ray.

The meticulous planning which had included a site visit, last October, and a residential weekend at Ray’s house (which by all accounts was largely wine tasting), was very quickly apparent. The 8 caravans from the Cheshire Centre and the 13 from various visiting Centres were all given a warm welcome as they arrived on site whether it was in early hours of the morning or late at night when their respective ferries had docked.

The large field offered good sized pitches for all with plenty of shelter at the bottom end which proved to be a sun trap for most of the day and panoramic views of the Island from the top of field.

A large tented area outside the rally officers ‘vans provided ample cover for all the ralliers to meet and socialise, either informally or for more organised events.

It became very apparent at opening flag that despite the large number of visiting Centres, friendships would be made that will no doubt last way past the end of the rally.

During the holiday various visits had been organised, including a visit to the local Vin Yard, a steam train ride, a beach barbeque and a guided ghost walk. The evening gatherings included various quiz nights, a rally meal cooked by the rally officers and a “cops and robbers” themed closing flag. David had been practicing for this for all of rally by running round the field shouting “nee nor, nee nor”.

There was also a cash bingo night organised by ralliers Ken and Debbie Stowell-Smith at which they won enough money to pay for their next ten years of rallying!! Most evenings finished with a few rounds of giant Jenga which included all ages and was frighteningly competitive.

The kids were entertained for the entire fortnight by our resident jugglers Anne and Terry Woodward, who also attempted to teach David Heath how to ride his unicycle. Apparently he managed nearly 10 yards, but sadly no one witnessed it! Good weather, good food and good company in an idyllic setting; for some reason no one wanted to go home!

My thanks to the ralliers who embraced the spirit of the rally so well and of course to the rally officers who made it all happen. Not bad for a first attempt.

Phil Heaton

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who have supported me whilst I was newsletter editor for the Cheshire Centre. Please continue to support our new newsletter editor, Tony Pratt.
Many thanks Michelle Highton



Cheshire Centre Charity Bookstall

The Beattie's are running a bookstall on most of the rallies they are attending, including the Bonfire rally (where they will be in the main arena) and the Charity Rally.

Books will be only 50p, so stock up for your weekend reading, Christmas break, and for your next year's holidays.

We would like you to assist us by donating books to us to sell.



Dear Nina, David, Jan Ray, Josh, Sophie, Judith, Colin and Alex,
We would like to thank you very much for taking on this rally. We have enjoyed the island and have enjoyed joining in in everything you have put on - even if the quiz had us beat!
Many thanks and we hope to see you again sometime on another rally
From
Sue, Chris, Daniel Emma and Joseph—The Worcesters!!

400 Up

Congratulations to Carole and John Lowe who recently celebrated completing 400 rallies. The plaque was presented at the recent Dinner Dance rally by Rodney Lambert, Chairman of The Caravan Club Events Committee.

" A very **big thank you** to all of the Rally Officers, especially those who don't like using computers, for returning all of your rally write ups electronically, you have all saved me a great deal of time and effort. Thanks. Andy Gibbs, The Rally Sec".



Dear Nina & David

We just wanted to say thank you very much for all the help you've given us and also for making us feel so welcome. We hope that we will bump into you again someday.

Please will you thank your co-marshalls on our behalf

Best regards

Marilyn and Alan Roebuck, and Annie and Roger

"I would like to thank all the members of the caravan club, who phoned, sent texts, get well cards and visited Margaret and myself, following my accident whilst on holiday. It makes you better when your friends let you know that you have not been forgotten. We hope to be back rallying very soon. Best wishes from Harry and Margaret"

Millau 2009

I would just like to say a great big thank you to the Rally Officers, Brian, Janet, John and Sue for organising a fantastic holiday rally.

We couldn't of asked for more, the weather was fantastic, the location was fantastic as was the company. A great time had by all. Even the fact we had no car for the majority of the time didn't dampen our spirits, and we saved on petrol as well! Thanks also to Pete, Kim and Amy for keeping us mobile.

Michelle, Tony, Daniel and Rebecca



THANKYOU LADIES!

A very special thanks to Denise Kilty and Yvonne Hardcastle for helping me run the raffle at the recent Cheshire Centre dinner dance rally. The money raised will go towards our two selected charities, Inscape and CAFT. The raffle raised a grand total of £223 on the night.

Thanks again Ladies.

Imelda

The Coachman Owners Club are pleased to be attending
The Cheshire Centre Bonfire and Fireworks Extravaganza again
this year. We would like to pass on our thanks to the Cheshire
Centre Committee and Members for allowing us to be here and
we know how extremely hard they work before and during this
rally to make it the success that it always is.
If any Cheshire Members who are owners of a Coachman Caravan
(age doesn't matter) and would like to know more about our
club then please feel free to visit us in the owners club area.
Thank you All once again.

*Alan and Maureen Hardman. Yvonne and Andrew
Ingham. Coachman Rally Marshals.*

*Cheshire Centre Members and Coachman Owners
Club Members.*



Newquay Holiday Rally

The rally officers would like to say a very big thank you to everybody for joining in and helping make the holiday rally a great success. We had a great time, we hope you all enjoyed yourselves. The weather wasn't the hottest and best Cornwall can offer but despite a few rainy days we did all go home with a healthy looking suntan so all wasn't that bad! Thank you for the lovely rally gifts presented at the closing flag.
We look forward to year 2011 when we can do it all over again.

Your rally officers
Chris, Angela, Alan, Sue, Laura, Natalie and Pat



WEST CENTRAL REGION QUESTION TIME

To be held on Saturday 20th March 2010 at 2pm
DeVere Daresbury Park Hotel, Warrington, WA4 4BB

INVITED PANEL MEMBERS TO INCLUDE:

Mr. Grenville Chamberlain

Chairman of The Caravan Club

Mr. Brian Savage

Director of Membership Services The Caravan Club

Caravan Manufacturer

Caravan Dealer

COME AND AIR YOUR CARAVANNING VIEWS

FREE TEA COFFEE/ FREE BUFFET/FREE RAFFLE

FOR FREE TICKETS CONTACT:

MR. S. HOLDSWORTH

7 ESCLEY DRIVE, REDHILL, HEREFORD, HR2 7LU

TEL: 01432 359117

EMAIL: COACHMAN422@AOL.COM

Saturday Night Live Rally

I would like to say a big thank you to the RO's and ralliers on the Saturday Night Live rally for helping me to celebrate my 18th birthday in style. Thank you for all the cards and presents received.

Laura Haig



DARTMOUTH
HOLIDAY RALLY

24TH JULY TO
7TH AUGUST 2010

BOOKING FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

CONTACT:
JULIE & MIKE WOOTTON
TEL: 01270 213403
EMAIL: jam@jwootton.fsnet.co.uk

Can we please thank all the ralliers at the Saturday Night Live Rally for helping us to celebrate Laura's 18th Birthday she had a great time & thanks to the Rally Officers for all there help

Chris & Angela Haig .

Thank You

Through the pages of the Newsletter I would like to say thank you to all the people who attended the recent A.G.M. and voted for me to serve on the Committee for 2009 / 2010. I will continue to serve the Cheshire Centre well throughout the year and carry out my commitments to the best of my ability. Once again thank you and hope to see you all on the rally field soon .

Mike Wootton



""The Rally Officers' would like to thank all the ralliers who were at Millau for their superb contributions to the rally **and the gift.** YOU WERE GREAT""

It was decided from the outset that the rally would be free and easy except for opening and closing flag. Other than that any activities would be run by the ralliers. Apart from a few yellow cards from the 'hush hush' man which we will gloss over, the rally was quite sedate. DON'T THINK SO!!! We had the 'welcome to Millau' lunch on arrival, the ladies' cocktail night, the 12 Cadac strong BBQ night, the Curry & karaoke night, opening flag quiz night, closing flag Mr & Mrs with classic music for Alan Collins' 50th. There was canoeing, and dive bombing in the river which Steve Benson emptied ! An ongoing boules competition. The velo-rail with free showers for one group! (the only day we had rain) The bus trip to redesign the Millau Bridge! The site and the region were superb and a wonderful time was had by all.

Thanks again. Roll on the next time.

Brian Janet John & Sue



Cheshire Centre Charity Year

Hopefully as you are all now aware the period from 20 September 2009 until 19 September 2010 is officially designated as the Centre's Charity Year with all funds raised being split between 2 charities selected by the committee from member's nominations.

These charities are Inscape a school based in Cheadle specialising in the education of children with autism www.togethertrust.org.uk and CAFT, the Children's Adventure Farm Trust, based at Mollington near Lymn www.childrensadventurefarm.org

As the centre's liaisons with CAFT I'd like to tell you a little bit about them and how the funds raised will be used.

The Children's Adventure Farm Trust is a Charity formed in 1985 by Tim Grundy then aged 24. You may remember Tim from his days at Piccadilly Radio, son of the broadcaster Bill Grundy, Tim used to volunteer at a number of Children's homes in the North West and through this was inspired to do something to help children.

After 4 years of fund raising Tim started to realise his dream when sufficient funds had been raised to purchase Booth Bank farm and a massive restoration programme followed with the farm officially opening in 1992.

The Trust provides free holidays and adventure breaks which are typically a week long for children between the ages of 4 and 14 from right across the North West. On occasion they also provide activities for toddlers or those with severe learning difficulties up to the age of 20 or 25.

What these children have in common is that they all deserve the opportunity to visit such a haven as CAFT. They are terminally ill, chronically sick, disabled or disadvantaged through poverty or children fulfilling the role of carer for their parents. In addition are the children who are either victims of or witness to abuse, many of whom have seen things we wouldn't even wish to imagine.

Approximately 50 children were lucky enough to experience a holiday at Booth Bank Farm back in 1992, this year over 3,000 children will benefit from the warmth of the team there and the safe haven that the farm provides. For many it will be their first and for some sadly their last holiday.

On site the facilities include an art room, a music room, an amazing multisensory suite, a sports hall, 10 acres of land comprising of a nature trail, an adventure playground, an assault course and a pond area. There is plenty to keep the children busy on site but trips and days out are also part of the holiday.

and currently the float allows them to look 6 weeks ahead. This is the tightest position they have been in financially in over 3 years.

It costs £590 per child to provide a week's holiday and our target is to see how many children we are able to cover the costs of a holiday for this time next year.

In addition to fundraising we can also help in other ways such as providing basic non perishables such as pasta or tins of beans or tomatoes, remember those 3000 hungry tummies that need feeding.

A highlight for many children will be attending a Christmas party at the farm. 21 such parties are organised from mid November this year so selection boxes are another great way to contribute.

Volunteers are also always welcome to help with restoration, painting, gardening or supporting key events.

More information about CAFT, answers to frequently asked questions, ways you can help, and the truth about those teddy bears is available on the Charity page of the centre web site www.cheshirecentre.co.uk You can also contact me with any questions or to discuss donations through an e mail link on this page.

I'd like to say a HUGE thanks to Andy Gibbs for the frequent and speedy updates he has made to the Charity page so you get to see the most up to date facts and figures.

Sadly CAFT's founder, Tim Grundy, died in February this year, aged 50, as they say from little acorns oaks grow. Tim has left a real legacy in CAFT and I can assure you it is in very safe hands. When I drive away from the farm even though the individual circumstances of the children bring more than a tear to my eyes invariably I have a huge smile on my face as I remember their excitement, their laughter, the adventures they will have and the memories they will treasure.

On behalf of both the selected charities thanks to everyone who has organised and contributed to the variety of fund raising activities held so far. My personal thanks go to those who donated prizes for the raffle at the dinner dance on Saturday 24th October and to those of you who bought so many tickets. You were brilliant.

Please keep those fund raising ideas coming and the money rolling in over the next few months. Inscape and CAFT support really deserving groups of children and it would be great if we could have a bumper fundraising year for them all.

For any additional information on CAFT please use the link on the centre web site or e mail me at imeldaboss@ntlworld.com

See you on a rally field somewhere soon.

Imelda

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me at the recent AGM, once again I was overwhelmed at the volume of support received. I will continue to represent the whole membership openly and equally to the best of my ability and support Brian, our chairman, in taking our centre onward and upward.

I would also like to congratulate all the other committee members on their selection and look forward to working with them throughout the coming year.

See you on the rally field

Jimmy Shaw

Cheshire Centre Dinner Dance

Many thanks to all who supported this year's dinner dance at Christleton. With excellent food, excellent music supplied by Ron Heywood and live music from The Good Time Combo, but most of all excellent company, what more could one ask for.

Brian and Janet



She's At It Again

Congratulations to Trish Shaw.

Trish had a 1st and 2nd place in the baking competitions at the (English) National in May this year with her Victoria Sponge and Savoury Scones offerings.

Now she has followed this up by winning the Bannerette competition at the Welsh National. Her entry is now the property of the Welsh National and will now go into production as the official bannerette of 2009.

Look out Scotland & Ireland, she has her eye on your silver-ware!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Dear Cheshire Centre Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who voted for me at the last AGM meeting. Your support has been much appreciated and I look forward to representing you all throughout the coming year.

My wife Glenis and I will be Centre Sales and we look forward to seeing you all on the rally field in the near future.

Best wishes

Barry and Glenis Chesterson

Need a Gazebo?

The Junior Committee have four 9m x 3m Gazebos for hire. They only cost £10 per gazebo per weekend. If you require any further information or wish to hire one please contact Natalie Haig, Junior Secretary. (Contact details are in the Rally Book)

Hi Nina & David,

Just to say a BIG thanks once again for a wonderful Holiday it was great.

Hope to see you again sometime - maybe in another holiday rally !!!

Just like the gentleman said in his thank you speech at flag - we were made to feel

welcome from the moment we phoned to make the booking.

Hope to see you again sometime - maybe in another holiday rally !!!

Thanks,

Karen and David
North Wales Centre

The Welsh National

Although small in number, The Cheshire Centre was admirably represented at the Welsh National held at Pembrey Country Park over the August bank holiday weekend. Everyone who attended took part in the competitions in one form or another and displayed true Cheshire grit and sportsmanship. **Well done all**

A big thanks should also go to the Welsh Centre's and the general population who all made us feel welcome. AGI AGI AGI

Jimmy Shaw

Willow Park Leisure rally.

The rally officers would like to thank everyone who supported the rally and for taking part in making the weekend a great success. Your participation & help was much appreciated. One of the many highlights of the weekend was the short stroll (8.9 miles short) visiting the DREAM on route. (see photo). DREAM is an impressive 20 metre-high sculpture, by internationally renowned artist Jaume Plensa

www.dreamsthelens.com or www.bigartsthelens.com



Isle of Wight Holiday Rally-Thank You

Can I give a big thank you to Ray & Jan Woolgar and Judith Williams & Colin Day for helping us make the Isle of Wight rally a big success. Everyone said we were mad to do a holiday as our first rally (and they were probably right), but the sun shone virtually every day, (just as I promised), which made it so much easier. We were also lucky to have a fabulous bunch of ralliers, who made the holiday special for us. Phil & Dorothy Heaton supported us as rally chairman, and Terry and Anne Woodward entertained us all with their games and juggling, plus teaching David to ride the unicycle had everyone in stitches when he fell off. A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL .

From Nina & David Heath (Rally Officers)

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DARES BURY RALLY

A Massive Pat on the Back to the New Organisers of The MayDay at Daresbury.

To take on and rescue our Mayday after losing Buglawton, the spiritual home of the May-Pole, was a big undertaking, but NTB, JK Andy Lowe, Steve Hardcastle and a cast of thousands not forgetting " Max & Paddy ! ", took on the Job and managed the whole Event fantastically from start to finish with special praise to the Saturday variety show which was controlled both musically and lighting to a very high standard.

The only down point of the whole 3 days was that there was only 1 official Team entered for the May-pole again ! This Rally draws over 100 Vans every year and there must be more teams willing to contest this event and make it more of a Spectacle for the Huge crowd who turned up to watch.

Please lets have more Teams entering and reward all the hard work put in by the organisers who have promised Bigger and better next Year - I don't know how !!

HAWKSTONE FOLLIES

A Big thank - you to all who supported our new Venue and Rally for The Hawkstone Follies at Lower Lacon CP at Wem.

The weather literally cracked the flags and the Saturday brought a Day of 2 halves! , with 40+ who braved the Trek around Hawkstone Park and amazingly they all survived!

The remainder stayed at Lower base camp and enjoyed the Perfect rally Field and the swimming Pool!

A vote of Thanks from the Manager for our layouts and behaviour over the weekend and Cheshire Centre are welcome back there at any time either as a rally or individually, so please feel free to use this as A Rally site if you wish. A warm welcome is certain .We will return again in 2011.

Thanks again from your RO's The Highton's and The Farrows

Committee Report, July 2009

- Entertainment for Celebration Rally, agreed.
- Plans for Charity Year, discussed
- Revision of Centre Rules and Bylaws discussed
- Rally gift for 2010 discussed
- Treasurers Report accepted. Rally Officers urged to be prompt in submitting Rally Accounts.
- Quotation for Rally Brochure 2010 accepted.
- Changes to rally venues noted and accepted.
- Report from Advertising Officer received
- Report from Junior Committee received.
- Report from Centre Sales received. High interest/response from ralliers, reported.
- New template for Web Site completed.
- Concern regarding people turning up on rallies who are not booked on.

Policy regarding the holding of rallies at the same venue on consecutive weekends was discussed.

Committee Report, September 2009

- Page to be added to the website publicising the Celebration Rally
 - Prize for Rally Book Competition winner agreed.
 - Revision of Centre Rules and Bylaws discussed
 - Rally gift for 2010 discussed with resolution.
 - Changes to website to be discussed at AGM.
 - Treasurers Report accepted. Centre funds remain healthy.
 - Quotation for Rally Brochure 2010 accepted.
 - Copy of Exemption Certificate to be available on all rallies.
 - Rules regarding eligibility in Centre Sports clarified.
 - Change of Dinner Dance Guest to Rodney Lambert reported.
 - Report from Advertising Officer received
 - Report from Junior Committee Liaison Officer received.
 - Arrangements for AGM discussed
 - Concern regarding late submission of Rally Accounts discussed.
 - Concern regarding people turning up on rallies who are not booked on.
- Availability of Gazebo for hire from Junior Committee, noted.

Committee Report, 6th October 2009

- Rally gift for 2010 agreed.
- Arrangements for Charity Rally finalised.
- Treasurers Report accepted. Centre funds remain healthy and all Rally Accounts are up to date.
- Request to cancel New Year Rally at Farndon 2010/11 discussed. Decided to leave open for time being in case others wish to take over the rally.
- Rally programme submitted to Caravan Club for publication in Magazine.
- Changes to 2010 Rally Programme, agreed.
- Laminated copies of Exemption Certificate distributed to Committee Members.

The following officers & sub-committees were appointed:

Advertising & Sponsorship: Ray Woolgar
Centre Sales: No appointment
Equipment: Paul Walls
Invitations: Andrea Gibbs
Junior Liaison: Mike Wootton
Music Equipment: Brian McMurray?
News Editor: Tony Pratt
Plaque Officer: John White
Sports Officer: Chris Haig
Assistant Sports Officer: Colin Wootton
Web Masters: Andy Gibbs / Paul Walls
Christmas Party 2010: Phil Heaton, Hilda Brett, Paul Walls, John White, Ray Woolgar
Bonfire Sub-committee: Will Shirley, Jimmy Shaw, Brian McMurray, Phil Heaton, Hilda Brett, Andy Gibbs, Andrea Gibbs, Chris Haig, Tony Pratt, Colin Wootton, Mike Wootton, John White
Celebration Rally: Full Committee

Charity Rally: Full Committee

Delegates to West Central Regional Council: Brian McMurray, Jimmy Shaw, Will Shirley (Reserve)

- Arrangements for Bonfire Rally discussed
- Minutes from Rally Officers Meeting & AGM discussed
- Matters arising from AGM noted
- Regional Open Day Noted, Saturday 20th March 2010

Wishing you all

a fantastic

Christmas and

New Year