

Glebe Garden Centre
Countesthorpe

29th June – 1st July 2007

Three weeks of rain and a severe weather forecast for the weekend. Were we defeated – **OF COURSE NOT.**

Well not until we arrived at our venue for the weekend. Part of the field was roped off –under water, and the rest, well it was a bit boggy. Were we defeated – **OF COURSE NOT.**

It was a case of find a dry-ish, flat-ish pitch and get your van on quick – before somebody else grabbed it.

Alan had found a reasonably level-ish spot for the party tents, was he defeated – **NO OF COURSE NOT.** He had even brought his lawn mover and mowed the grass inside the tents. He had also brought some lovely standard Fuchsias from home for the party tents – to distract you from the muddy conditions.

We started the weekend in the party tents, with the F.N.Q. and it was great to meet up with all our friends, as we hadn't seen some of them for many months.

Saturday morning – rain – rain –rain. Were we defeated – **OF COURSE NOT.**

We had Saturday afternoon to look forward to. Margaret and her friend Pat held a flower arranging demonstration, we all found talents we didn't know we had, Chris Goddard was so chuffed with her arrangement, she is considering giving up her day shop and going to work for Interflora. It was a great afternoon and all the ladies enjoyed it. Meanwhile Don had organised a Golf and Bowles tournament in the other half of the party tent. By the sound of all the noise they must have been having a good time.

What must not be overlooked, we were celebrating Andy and Jackie's joint 60th birthdays (they don't look that old – or do they???) There was wine and cake for everybody during the communal barbeque.

Then it was Alan's turn to do what he is good at – music. First a music quiz and afterward music to suit everybody, which had us all singing and bopping, finishing up with a wonderful rendition of "Land of Hope and Glory". It was a truly brilliant night, just what was needed for a very wet mid-summer Saturday night.

It was a smashing weekend despite the rain, the boggy uneven field and all the cleaning up we have done since getting home.

Thank you Pauline, Alan, Margaret and Don – it was great.

Sue & Peter Cranage.

Glebe Garden Centre
29th June – 1st July 2007

What a lovely rally it was!
It was fun
It was interesting
It was friendly

Yes we had lots of laughs, as some of the things the men got up to was like being with a lot of naughty boys. Not just naughty but noisy.
And it was FUN!

Saturday afternoon Margaret arranged a flower arranging lesson for the ladies. Some of the flowers were picked from the garden and others from the shop. Kath and I paid £1.00 between us, and we were both proud of our arrangements. At the choosing of the winner, we all stood hoping ours would win. It was Sheila! One thing I learned, I will pass on to you.
Roses – take bottom leaves off, dip in boiling water for about 10 seconds, and then dip in cold water. Doing this stops them from drooping. Are you listening men?

Yes it was INTERSETING!

Don organised games, Dave, Jackie and Andy had birthdays making an excuse to start the singing. Jackie and Andy supplied wine and cake (which was very nice of them). We did a communal barbeque followed by Pauline and Alan's music quiz, then finished off with a sing song and dancing.
What a lovely FRIENDLY rally it was!

Well done to Pauline, Alan, Margaret and Don.

P.S. Shame about the field but we can't help the weather can we?

Billie



Footy At The Palace

Friday night, and we have a big black sports bag and a full squad of under 14's and six of those attended the practice session at Bitterswell. Saturday morning, it is nice and bright, and the lads turn up in full kit socks, shorts, and shirts. Courtesy of the big black sports bag, thanks to Nick and Jude, because the lads looked the part!!

Lots of teams so the organisers say only group winners to go through. Me thinks bit too much for our lads, mostly aged 11-12 year olds, but we'll give it a go. In our first game we won 1-0 but lost our second game 0-2. Wait till Sunday now.

It's Sunday and it's raining! but the organisers say, "Top two teams go through." Now we've got a chance! We won our third game 5-0, and we're on a high. Last group game against S. York's, a draw will do! They need to win and in the best game played, in their group we lose 1-0 and we're out...! Disappointed, cold and wet, the players congratulate their opponents and leave the field, some in tears. Thank you; Jacob, Sam, Simon, Richard, Elliott, Dylan, Ryan and Josh, you did the centre and yourselves proud.

Under 19's, we had a team that looked good on paper and Saturday morning the lads turn up in full kit as well. Smaller groups but organisers say, "Only group winners can go through," But that don't matter, cause we're gonna win..? Errr No! First game, we score! and me thinks we're on our way but No, Ref disallows the goal and it's a start of a downward spiral. Same game, a player off injured a second disallowed goal and it ends 0-0. Second game, we loose 0-3, and we're just about out. Sunday, we have a lifeline, its the top two for this age group too. Win and we might progress, sadly we loose 0-4 and we are out. The lads tried their best, but fore Callum, Ross, Ashley, Mark, Ben and Chris it wasn't to be, they to were a credit to the centre and themselves, Thank you, and to all those who supported the lads and a special thank you to John Euston the organiser of the Junior Football. it was a disappointment this year to not have at least one side through to the last eight, but there's always next year.

P.S The adults Thank you; Martin.S, Paul.N, Pete.S, and Dave.S, who were ready to play in the mud and rain if we could have found the last player, before entering.

The Footy Manager - Paul Ottey.

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Ratcliffe College Rally

The *Barbara Arthur Boules Trophy* was won by Gaz & Pat McCabe in an exciting final, narrowly beating Keith Weston and Barbara Hodson.

The Photographic Competition results are:

The Leslie Dalby Cup

'Rally' 1st Tony Hooper, 2nd Jackie Haigh, 3rd Andrea Barber

'Portrait' 1st Phil & Steph Hodson, 2nd Jackie Haigh 3rd Gina Hooper

'Scenic' 1st Andy Pilkington, 2nd Gina Hooper, 3rd Keith Weston

The Overall winner of the cup was Andy Pilkington, on his first rally, congratulations Andy.

The Alfred Chapman Cup for under 16 year olds

1st Alex Goode, 2nd Joe Barber

A new trophy will be presented to Megan Roberts in the new Grandchild Category.

High Cross
3rd – 5th August 2007

After a summer of rain, rain and more rain the sun was tempted out by the Goddard's and Jarvis's for their rally at High Cross and stayed with us for the rest of the weekend.

On Saturday morning some of the girls spent their time doing charity work (keeping the Per Una factory shop afloat – an arduous job but somebody has to do it) then in the afternoon Arthur took us on a wonderful leisurely walk through the fields and lanes. The only complaint was that normally the pubs are shut when he walks us to one, this time the pub was open but he wouldn't let us in! Someone whizzed in to buy a small bottle of water and at £1.60 perhaps he had a point. Chris welcomed everybody back with tea and a cake which was very much appreciated. Photographs were circulating of rallies years ago, which caused a lot of interest to those who remembered being there ("ooh look, there is *****, do you remember him/her? Blimey, look at ***** in a dress!!! Etc etc) and newer ralliers are now giving the older ones a very wide berth!

We had almost forgotten how to barbeque so it made a nice change to sit out and crack open a few bottles as well – isn't this what rallying is all about!

Then the Skattles came out and we had a lot of fun playing until the light faded. Because of the small attendance on the rally we all fitted comfortably into a single party tent for Bingo (wobble-quack!) and a quiz so a good time was had by all.

Thank you C & A, and J & J for a lovely weekend.

Prestwold Hall
22nd – 24th June 2007

Chairmans Charity Rally

We arrived on Thursday night, with numerous other Committee members. Not the field we had used before! No - that was a bog!

We had been given another field and although it was not as good in the lie of the land we would be ok, we would make the most of what we could.

The party tents were erected and I left the site. I had to be at home to get the girls to school.

Friday around mid day I returned to the site after making cakes and getting the last few bits together for the charity event. On my arrival Roy advised me not to take my car on the field, then looked inside it was loaded to the gunnels with things for the next day and I really did need to be near the party tents. He told me not to stop on the field until I reached my destination.

Job done!

The next minute it was decided to move the party tents as they had been erected in a dip in the field, and this area was now flooded, we'd had a constant rain over night and all morning.

The party tents we taken one by one up onto the next field everyone grabbed a leg. Edward the land owner had been by and brought us some plastic flooring and a lot of cardboard boxes to soak up some of the moisture.

The boys got the vans sited, a lot of the caravans were sited on the hard standing areas, there was no rhyme or reason to the sighting of the vans this weekend, everyone being so fed up with the amount of mud over the last few weekends were glad to have tarmac instead.

The girls got ready for the tea and coffee in the newly positioned party tents, and we had a FNQ courtesy of Andy Haigh. No rain! and quite a warm evening we sat out with our group of friends and had a pleasant drink on the hard standing area, and then we went back to the van fighting our way through the long grass and the squelching mud!

Saturday morning we took all our things we needed over to the party tents, as my car was now nowhere near them, it all had to be transferred to the 4x4, the stalls started to set up, Dave with his sale of club items, the box for find the key next to the ladies doing the cake stall, and the café. The soft drink stall was next to the pancake gang, and not far away from the wine and water (that got everyone guessing). Beat the bleep, Play your cards right, pick a lolly, massage chair, tombola and numerous other stalls, hand made cards, jewellery, and Paul the optimist with his sun glasses, another stall selling smokers chewing gum in anticipation of a sell out due to the new law being introduced in a couple of weeks, and the hedgehog lady with a baby she had to feed every couple of hours, (cute).

The afternoon went by without a hitch, once the charity stalls were cleared away and the party tents were empty it was decided that the party tents would have to be moved yet again due to the ground becoming extremely boggy, a mammoth operation ensued and everyone grabbed a leg, we moved three party tents in one move, (see video clip on the web site).

The evening entertainment was the auction with Kev as the auctioneer and with fill in music from Plinky Plonky Pauline. Some people got some good bargains, whilst others like Sheila and Roy who bought the chairs that they didn't like when they got them home (not so good)! Beware of the next auction because you could always end up with something you don't want, but then that is the charm of the Immediate Past Chairman coming into play, thanks Kev, I really didn't need that watch!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sunday morning with flag and the biggest raffle I have ever seen for a long time, and then the caravans disappeared after a very successful rally, raising £933.17 from just 42 caravans.

Thanks to everyone!

Glebe Garden Centre (Countesthorpe in the Marsh)

I don't believe it !!

How can one forget to thank two people at flag,
The y put on their own 60th birthday celebration, getting everybody to bring down their barbeques and giving us a drink and a piece of cake.

THANK YOU – ANDY and JACKIE

Sorry once again Alan and Pauline



Buckingham Palace July 23rd 2007.

What a swell party it was ! Donned in our glad rags our chauffeur Tony Hooper and his ably forearmed navigator, Gina drove up outside those grandiose golden gates just before 1 p.m. Guests were already queuing. After showing our I.D.'s we went into the Quadrangle, then through the Grand Hall, the Marble Hall and the Bow Room, nice china in the cabinets, finally into the garden. The marquees were magnificent and adorned inside with large vases of flowers and as you may say 'a banquet fit for a queen'. If you would like to see a menu ask Gina. She may show her other acquisition if you know her well enough. Sadly it started to rain, but as caravanners we were used to that.

Prince Philip arrived at 4 p.m. Dawn Lomax had the privilege of having a word with him, she was quite taken aback!

Despite the weather we listened to the bands and toured the beautiful gardens. It was soon time to depart, but before that a visit to the very posh loos, sorry lavatories! Then time for Tony to take us back to our humble hotel. Once again 'what a swell party it was'.

Janice Bygrave.

Kilworth Sticks **6th – 8th July 2007**

Leaving home, once more in the rain. to go to Kilworth Sticks. We were sited on hard standing in the barn, great no mud in the van.

Friday night tea and coffee was provided and everyone joined in for the get together with background music.

Saturday, what a good time the fishermen had with Dave Simms winning, Dave Harding second and Kev Harvey third. The sun was shining and everyone got together in the afternoon, talking and drinking. In the evening we were all provided with Fish, Chips and mushy peas or beans or cooked on the field by the marshals. We enjoyed a good evening of games and music. Well done Sharon, Dave, June and Dave.

Jenny Sutton



Lyndon Top
27th -29th July 2007
3rd Annual Golf Competition

The 27th July weekend saw a disappointing number of only 20 vans turn out at the lovely site at Lyndon Top. It had been very wet on the lead up to the rally and the golfers amongst us were wondering if the nearby Rutland course would be in any fit condition to host the annual ball losing contest, but we needn't have worried as it proved to be in excellent order.

The budding "Tiger Woods" of the centre went round in scores more akin to a round of crazy golf at Skeggy, but they all enjoyed it, until the realisation that the winners were in fact a couple of "ringers" sorry, visitors ,from the midland centre. I knew they would be good when they turned up with electric trolleys each!!

Anyway, the results were fixed sufficiently to allow Roy (TIGER) Wills to at least keep the green jacket in Leicestershire for the coming year. Well played everybody and thanks to Martyn Garnham for organising the event and trying to teach me how to putt.

Saturday evening saw a game of skittles which was won by Val Howden who wasn't actually on the social but had a go as she walked by! This was followed by a cheese and wine supper which was much appreciated. The wine didn't help the concentration though as Martyn went on to ask questions relating to cockney, scouser and geordie slang in the quiz, most of the contestants have trouble understanding Leicester speak so what chance with the rest.

Anyway ,it was a lovely weekend with people just happy to at last see a bit of sunshine and be pitched on a field that was actually green and not a sea of mud!

It did seem a shame that it was on a weekend when so many people were away on holiday so consequently only a few got to enjoy the wonderful views across the lake and to take part in the annual golf comp. Well done to Martyn, Liz, Gail and Bertie!



Eye Kettleby
31st August – 2nd September 2007
Inter Centre Fishing Rally

Friday night we arrived and tackle talk commenced. We met up with a few of the regulars for a chat around the van. No tea and coffee! So when needs must – we had a few glasses of wine in the van.

Saturday early start – but not for the fishing – but for the centre reps to have a meeting `cos some of the centres were not happy!!!! Gripes were solved and the draw was made. Leicestershire drew pegs 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 not a bad draw as it is always good to have an end peg (no1), down to the bank side ready to tackle up and commence fishing at 10.30am. The sun shone, the wind blew, the clouds came and went (no rain), but one from Notts got very wet when he took a head dive straight in the water, trying to help someone put his rod rest in. The fishing was hard work for most anglers with the biggest weight being 15lb and the lowest 4oz. The Leicester lads put up a spirited fight, with everyone catching 1lb plus. The final whistle blew at 3.30pm and the weigh in started.

The first to weigh in for Leicestershire

Peg 1 – Ross Crane 4lb 11oz – what a start, section winner with maximum points

Peg 5 – Stu Crane 5lb 4oz – 3rd in section

Peg 9 – Dave Harding 1lb 4oz – 4th in section

Peg 13 – Nick Rosen 1lb 8oz – 4th in section

Peg 17 – Kev Harvey 2lb 8oz – 4th in section

The rest of the day was just all talk of the ones that got away!

Social in the evening in the barn with a Ploughmans Supper and home made wine, which was very nice. Followed by flag and results of the days fishing.

Lincs - 5th

N & R – 4th

Leics – 3rd

Derby – 2nd

Notts - 1st



Well done to the fishermen and thanks to the spectators, especially Ash (the F.O.T) who encouraged Ross throughout the match. (*Shut it Sutton!*)
Next year we will be at Emberton Country Park on the river.

Ratcliffe College
10th – 12th August 2007
Photographic and 2008 Rally Launch

Friday afternoon I arrived at this wonderful site, with two of the kids, no husband as he was away with the lads on a volleyball weekend. No arguing over who put the legs down, who fetched the water, and who held the dog! The caravan was level – ish, enough so no one would fall out of bed.

We set the van up like we'd been doing it for years!

The girls got their competitions and I looked at mine, then, put it back in the envelope.

Tea and Coffee was as usual at 8pm with the FNQ strategically positioned around the party tent. We got kicked out at around 10.30.

Saturday morning was a mega sunny day, Lisa and the girls came to visit and we had a picnic lunch, before the boules competition started.

The rally board had been brought out in the morning at the usual time of 10.00am but not enough queuing up so - no need to do the cooked breakfast anymore! What a shame this used to be a Leicestershire Centre ritual.

Everyone seemed to congregate around the boules area and we all seemed to have a good afternoon, with plenty of banter. The photographic competition was held in the party tent and the judges made their final decisions, rather than me!

Keith decided it would be nice to have afternoon tea so on went the boiler and out came the biscuits.

Saturday evening we were invited to join our marshals for a chill out evening with a couple of quizzes and background music. The older ralliers who are near to getting their heating allowances took this to mean they needed their woollies and blankets, see internet for photographic evidence.

Great night – Phil got it right, ask three questions and keep everyone going all night. There is always one cheat though – Nick Barber who went to get a map to lean on – I think that was his excuse!

Sunday proved to be another great day, what a shame we have to go home when the good weather has finally arrived.

Thank you Keith, Barbara, Phil and Steph for a wonderful weekend.
And thank you Kev for changing the gas for me.

Jude and the girls



A little verse all about our marvellous holiday from
David, Karen and Chloe Young, North Yorkshire Centre

It was time to set off – if only we could
But the roads were closed because of the flood
Armed with map in hand
We just had to find another way around
Other people's journeys were a complete nightmare
And in actual fact, it was a miracle they actually got there
But all our troubles were soon forgotten
The minute we arrived at LITTLE COTTON

We received a friendly welcome and were shown to our pitch
Then were left in peace, to get on and unhitch
What a surprise when we opened our welcome pack
All quizzes and activities, our brains we would have to rack
A real good mixture of things to do and see
Leisure Centre, mystery tour and even a cream tea
A disco at the Community Hall
With bingo, dancing and fun for all

The first week's quiz was a lot of fun (nothing to do with the fact that we won!!!)

Each caravan had a tv programme to draw
And you had to visit each one to add to your score
The second, a treasure hunt around Dartmouth, you had to explore
Looking everywhere, high, low, even on the floor

Round corners and even a knocker on a door What a way to get you to see,
so much more! A flag and all the meetings you had a chance to familiarise
And have a good time, as well as socialise We met new friends and were
invited to a party BBQ It was my birthday, Kelvin and Mel's fortieth too!!

What a beautiful setting, what a lovely place
You could not find a better base
In the first week there was a little rain
But there was park and ride, the ferry or even a steam train
The second week the weather was fine
In fact, better than that, full of glorious sunshine
There only remains one thing left for me to do
Which is to say, a massive THANK YOU
To Rosey, Krysta, Martin and Mick
If they do any more rallies you'd better book quick
And they put in so much effort which was no easy feat
And provided a holiday which would be very hard to beat
So hip, hip, hurray, three cheers to them
THANKS, THANKS AND THANKS ONCE AGAIN

Brooksby College
Sports and Open Forum
7th – 9th September 2007

Having never been in a touring caravan in my entire life, this has been a great new adventure for me. My fiancé has had much experience with tourers and has attended many rallies and has also served on a Caravan Club Centre committee, so whilst I am totally green at all this, he is a great teacher so it has been made much easier for me to learn all the essentials. Even how to cook a full roast dinner with only two rings on the cooker!

Well having attended a 'newcomers' rally with another club, who's name I shouldn't mention except to say it is supposedly 'the friendly club', after the rally, I knew only one person's name, and wouldn't have known a committee member from a total new comer, so I was looking forward to my first Caravan Club rally with perhaps quite a heavy heart, I suppose expecting the same lack of welcome and enthusiasm as I had received elsewhere. However, what a difference. Whilst this report is certainly not meant to be a comparison, as a total novice undertaking a new hobby, first impressions really do count.

As we have only just joined the centre, we booked on the final day. The following day we had an email from Nick and Andrea thanking us for booking onto the rally and saying they were looking forward to meeting us. Impressive!

On our arrival, before we had even stopped at the marshal's caravan, Krysta (hope I've got the right person!!!) came to meet us with our envelope as we pulled up. Martyn came and welcomed us and told us he would show us to our pitch. Impressive again. Nick also came over and spoke to us. As soon as the caravan was set up, I opened the envelope and like a child, I had to show Steve the plaque that was in there – never had anything from the other rally! It's the little things like this that make a difference.

After we had set up, I went to get water, and was quite surprised at how many people said 'hi'. What a difference that made.

In the evening, we went to join in the gathering for tea and coffee. I'm not sure how many people came up and spoke to us, but it was a fair number of both experienced and newer members. Brian had our names down as new members and made a point of coming to introduce him to us. Impressed again. We joined up with another couple who were on only their second rally and then another couple who were on their third rally. Then we were whisked away for a 'Friday Night Quickie'. Well, all I can say is what a laugh that was. Not that I talk much!!!!????? But I think we were some of the last to leave the gathering.

Saturday we spent the day in Grantham, neither of us are particularly sporty, so decided that we would explore a new town whilst we were over that way, rather than make a total fool of ourselves at the sports. We had planned on going swimming in the evening, but didn't quite make it.

Sunday, we watched out the caravan waiting to see if anyone bothered to go over for 'flag' - a new concept to me, at the other rally, only a couple went over for coffee, so I wasn't really expecting much. As others started to drift over, we went and again, people came up and spoke to us and actually asked if we had had a good day on the Saturday. I was impressed by the fact that people were genuinely interested. Eventually there were three rows of campers there. Wow, that was impressive. Then a whole host of awards were given out. I was surprised to receive a 'first rally' plaque, what a lovely touch that was. It meant such a lot.

After the presentations, there was an open forum. This was a useful insight into how things ran, and was good to see that anyone could take part and the diversity of questions. It is good to be able to have a say in an informal way without having to file triplicates for a committee! I was impressed with the committee though, and how friendly they all were, and it certainly appeared as if they were passionate about the centre.

So the forum closed and afterwards we started chatting to a few of the committee members. How refreshing to be able to have a chat and ask questions and start to get to know people. I feel that I have started to make a whole new circle of friends and am certainly looking forward to the next rally. We had decided not to go to the rally next week as we are busy planning all our wedding celebrations, but I enjoyed this rally so much, I can't wait for the next one.

So thank you to everyone who made the effort to talk to me, thank you to all who were actually interested in us as a couple. Thank you to the committee members who made us feel so welcome and thank you to the marshals for all their hard work in making it such a successful event.

Now please can anyone tell me how I have managed to get roped into writing this report, or more importantly, how on earth have I managed to get put down to be a rally marshal next year?????!!!!!!

Sue Jackson



Woodland Waters Bank Holiday Rally 24th to 28th August

We arrived on site late on Thursday night, and was greeted by Jude in her sexy 'Choose Life' nightie!! (nice tan Jude, and sorry about interrupting the book though).

By the time we got up there were sunny bright blue skies, and plenty to get on with - a walk in the woods with the dogs, Jodie, Jess, Hannah, Megan etc. By this time Petes need for food had taken over, so a BBQ'd breakfast was on the cards.

As Pete helped with putting the party tent up I felt the need to BBQ myself under the midday sun!! Unfortunately I forgot to do both sides, and was burnt to a crisp within a couple of hours. Mmmmm, didn't I look good afterwards?!! (not)

That evening we all got '*plastered*' on lots of wine (with cheese of course), but some more than others, aye Phil? The party went on way into the early hours where Phil decided to see if he could jump over Nick & Judes new table, but didn't quite make it. He smashed face first onto the ground, meeting with a chair on the way, and finishing off with his glasses taking off a good layer of skin, just for good measure.

The next morning Phil got up, still plastered, with a very sexy looking band aid across his swollen, and blooded konk!!! Nice look - tee hee hee!!

Saturday afternoon me and Pete started off the Darts tournament, and we were knocked out in the first round. We had tried to put our opponents off, I turned up in my bikini top and shorts, and Pete in just his shorts; but it didn't work unfortunately!! I thought we were going for topless darts, oh well nevermind. Even by bad sunburn didn't put them off!!

That evening we all went to the social where there was the Donkey Derby. In the adult race one of the donkeys felt the need to lighten his load before the race commenced. I hadn't realised that it was due to be a full moon that night.....! It turned out to be a gambling frenzy, but we still didn't manage to put off the Christian Caravans next door, and they were still up very early with their morning service, with hymns.

Sunday morning was yet another stunningly sunny day, which was a god send for a massive hangover, which most of us were wearing like a badge of honour. Everyone was chilling and watching the next rounds of the Darts Tournament, which was followed by the potted sports. A new sport was introduced, which was 'Getting Plastered'. Everyone who went turned up wearing a plaster on their nose, just so Phil didn't feel left out!! The look on his face when he saw us all was a true picture!! The rally collapsed with laughter; potted sport ensued, followed by cream teas. What a great afternoon.

In the evening we attended another social, where we appeared to have won sweets in each round of the quiz.....Mmmmm, very yummy!!

Monday, of course, was a very special day for me as it was my birthday (one under double top), and thanks to Pete, and everyone on the rally I had a fantastic day. We went go-carting with some of the gang, and even though I was lapped on numerous times I had a great time. About 30 or so of us had agreed to meet at Woody's for

lunch after, but we arrived 5 minutes after 2pm, so instead of food for lunch we had more alcohol instead (of course). That evening more drinks were involved, so we thought it would be rather rude not to attend the party tent as was it was becoming the place to hang out, chill, chat & drink.

Thanks so much Jude, Nick, Paul, Lisa & all of the girls for a fantastic weekend. It just wouldn't be the same without you guys. When's your next rally? Can you book us 2 places please?

Jenny & Pete

Holiday Rally
At
Little Cotton Caravan Park
Dartmouth
21st July – 4th August 2007

I went on this, my first holiday rally with my family Kelvin, Mel and Alex and I had a brilliant time. (Even though Mel had decided at one point that I was going to stay with Grandma and Grandad and NOT even go on holiday!). We were luckier than some as we left Leicestershire on the Thursday afternoon and stayed just outside Bristol (humans wanted to go and see the S.S. Great Britain). This meant that we missed the flooded motorways and a night sleeping in the car like Krysta the assistant marshal had to. We arrived at Little Cotton on Saturday lunchtime and I spent a lazy afternoon watching the humans set the caravan and awning up in between the rain showers. Later in the evening we went to flag for a drink and a biscuit – well in Kelvin's case a few! The Marshall's Mick and Rosey, their assistants Martyn and Krysta, helped by Kerys and Eryn told us all about the program they had put together to keep us entertained over the holiday. Listening to all that they had planned I could see that the humans were going to be out a lot.

In the first week the humans played Bingo, went on a mystery coach tour to Plymouth and didn't get back till late. They went to the local leisure centre one evening and played rounder's – they lost, tennis, badminton and roller blading. They came back having had a great time and it was that good that Rosey booked again for the second week.

The next event was a social in the local village hall. The marshals had done a superb job finding this as all evening it threw it down. The humans played Bingo again and didn't win again! They then had a Hot Dog supper prepared and cooked by Rosey, Mick and Krysta. Martyn providing the music throughout the evening which then led to a disco. I decided that as they were serving Hot Dogs it was probably safer to stay at the caravan just in case they needed any spares.

The humans also took me off sightseeing to Buckfastleigh Abbey, Dartmouth Castle, and The Valiant Soldier which was a really old pub which has been changed into a museum (yawn) and the BEACH – Hooray!

It was during this first week while walking round the rally field peering into everyone's windows – well that's what it looked like to me, apparently the humans were doing a competition about T.V shows. Every van was given a title to a TV show and they had to draw a picture which showed this and then stick it in their window. Everyone then had to wander round and try to work out the TV shows. I thought peering into other peoples vans was more interesting but, the humans had a good time.

Any way getting back to me, it was while the humans were doing this that I had my holiday romance and fell in love with Toby (a King Charles), from Darlington. He had come on the rally with his humans David, Karen and Chloe.

The second week held just as much fun- we had a cream tea on the Sunday and the children had a teddy bears picnic followed by a craft session with Krysta, where Alex and Chloe made birthday cards for Kelvin, Mel and Karen who all had Birthdays during the second week. On the Tuesday evening the humans went on a bus trip to Salcombe which they enjoyed and apparently they had a wonderful meal to celebrate the Birthdays.

Have I mentioned that it was Kelvin's Birthday?

The humans then had their second go at the sports centre and this time they won (only just) at rounder's. This was because they had Martyn on their side this time!

Alex found the delights of crabbing and actually foregoes trips to the beach to spend hours in Dartmouth sat on the Harbor side. Alex and Chloe caught 30 crabs on one trip. This was a good activity as it meant that the grownups could try and do the Treasure Hunt round Dartmouth which was the second weeks quiz.

We also went on a trip to Paington with the Young family and Toby of course. This meant that I went on ferry and a steam train for the first time which I enjoyed.

Have I mentioned that it was Kelvin's Birthday?

We finished the holiday with a Ploughman's Supper superbly put together by Rosey, Krysta, Mick and Martyn. We then partied till late with music provided by Martyn.

Have I mentioned Kelvin's Birthday?

I would like to finish by thanking Rosey, Mick, Krysta and Martyn for all their hard work organizing this rally. My humans and I had a fantastic time –it was the best holiday we have been on. Thank you also to Kerys and Erin who were so well behaved.

Report by Poppy Goode and her humans Kelvin, Mel and Alex

P.S. Have I mentioned that it was Kelvin's Birthday? - Sorry but you really needed to be there!

P.P.S. Toby I still love you! Xxxxxxxxxxxx

Brooksby Sports and Open Forum Rally **7 - 9 September 2007**

The Sports and Open Forum Rally held in the lovely grounds of Brooksby Agricultural College started in glorious sunshine that we have been sadly lacking this year. The barbecues came out in force and the relaxed atmosphere set the scene for the weekend.

New ralliers and visitors from East Warwicks were welcomed at the refreshments session on Friday evening along with the unusual FNQ – plastic butterflies blown into the air for unsuspecting adult couples to catch in a net, this caused great hilarity especially amongst the butterflies! (the game was originally intended for 3-5 year olds)

Saturday started for some of us at 5.28 am when a goods train came thundering passed vibrating the caravans - once we realised that it wasn't an earthquake we dozed off again. Despite the overcast weather on Saturday everyone enjoyed the children's sports, Cyclo-Cross (which also attracted some adventurous adults) and the evening Splash at Melton Leisure Pool, with flume, floats and "inflatable toys and bubbles" – the mind boggles. Many thanks to Nick Rosen and all who assisted with the sports events.

Those who didn't want to get wet barbecued and drank the evening away.

Over the weekend an enjoyable walking treasure hunt was arranged in Hoby with some very cryptic clues, especially 'Rover's treats', which turned out to be a pile of bones and not 4 tree stumps, and we never did find 'Rod' but suspected that he was in the local pub with the rest of us.

Sunday turned out to be a much brighter day which enabled us to sit in the sunshine for Flag and the Open Forum. Various issues were raised and debated some of which would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Another great rally from the Barber/Stevenson combination – thanks to Nick, Andrea, Joe, Martyn, Krysta, Kerys and Eryn.

Keith Weston and Barbara Hodson



Stowford Farm Meadows
1st - 8th September 2007

Saturday – Vans arrived steadily all day. Some travelled through the night arriving at 7.45am and caught one of the marshals still in bed. Ralliers were welcomed by the marshals and Chairperson with the customary tea coffee and biscuits. There were five visitors and one first rallier. A bonus ball was organised and Anne or is it Margaret Reed won it for the second consecutive rally.

Sunday – A free day, some ralliers visited various places of interest while others lounged around in the sunshine. The golf competition was started and then abandoned as a cold breeze set up and later in the afternoon mist and drizzle engulfed the site.

Monday – A walk was arranged and a band of ralliers met at the HUNTERS INN and walked down the valley to the mouth of the river HEDDON. The sun was shining and it was very humid in the valley. People were admiring the scenery and marvelling at the steep sides, we arrived at the mouth of the river, the sea was so blue and the ragged cliffs beautiful and after a rough track everyone was very impressed with the view. On return to the Hunters Inn all sat on the patio taking in well earned refreshments. Ralliers made their own way back to the site taking in some well known places. On return the golf competition continued. A very good day!

Tuesday – Beautiful sunshine again this morning as 49 members boarded a coach for NEWQUAY stopping on the way for elevenses. We arrived in the centre of Newquay, after taking the scenic coastal route which everyone appreciated. We all met again at 4.30pm after taking in the scenes around the harbour and watching the seals performing and participating in a few refreshments, as we waited for the coach at the nearest pub, which would have been empty if it had not been for the ralliers. We set out for the next stop JAMAICA INN where we enjoyed an excellent carvery. A bottle of wine was presented to birthday boy MIKE HOWDEN ex – Chairman 1985 – 86. All were congratulating the marshals on another good day. A free raffle was given on the coach with numerous prizes. As we journeyed home we were treated to a spectacular moorland sunset changing red to orange to yellow and it filled the whole sky. We returned to our vans well fed and watered but tired after a long day. A good day!

Wednesday – Most ralliers met at 3pm for Tea and Coffee. The boules, golf and lawn darts competitions got underway the eventual winners being,
The Boules – Gary and Pat McCabe

The Darts - Howard and Gwen Johnson

The Golf – Pete and Jo Cadwalher

5pm brought the wine out and plenty of succulent hot dogs which kept Dave busy on the barbeque. The weather was again very good and as the sun went down we had another EXMOOR sunset and that was an excuse to retire to the bar to recharge after another good day!

Thursday – Glorious weather again. Ralliers went their own way. We all met up at 7pm on the field for a concert by the STOWFORD STOMPERS four employees of the site (three played guitar and one played a banjo) who like playing for free. The banjo player was originally from Bristol. We were joined

by other caravaner's on the site who came to listen. All was going well until one misery from the back of the field came to complain about the noise at 9.30pm. All agreed it was a good evening!

Friday – More good weather. We had a visit from the site official as the misery from the back had complained to the management, but we were told not to worry about him. Ralliers again did their own thing, then met up for flag at 4pm, £75.00 was raised from the raffle and bonus ball for the charity. During the flag Mrs Bucket was given two pairs of pampers as a consolation after losing her knickers from the washing line, much to the amusement of her husband SHREK or is it ONSLO. Her knickers were eventually returned to the line with a note thanking her for the loan. After flag finished 35 of us went into BARNSTABLE for a meal and an evening with JETHRO.

Saturday – Brought a misty morning as ralliers prepared for home. 14 Vans stayed for a second week but not as a rally. All were of one mind, it had been another excellent WRINKLIES rally. Thanks must go to Dave, Billie, Don and Margaret for their organisation and time given to the rally.

Looking forward to next years WRINKLY rally!



Graham

Special Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who has given up their time to write a rally report for me to publish in the Tow Torques over the last twelve months. As I said in my first edition I would beg, grovel and twist arms. But you have all been superb and we have read about some wonderful weekends. Sheila received an email from a chap in another centre who reads through centres newsletters, he stated that although he felt reading some he could fall to sleep, ours kept him laughing and entertained him that much, he was going to book onto the holiday rally. That compliment is to all of you who have made my job on committee not only pleasurable but possible.

Thanks again

Jude

Desford Bird Gardens
14th 16th September 2007

A glorious, sunny weekend brought 14 vans out. There were 13 children present, all having a great time with the birds (feathered variety). It was nice to meet some old ralliers from the past, Mr and Mrs Lockhart.

The owner Richard Hopper gave us permission to use the shelter inside the bird garden for the social. We duly gathered, moved a few tables, had a drink, got everyone into two teams, had a drink, and with our own resident disc jockey (John Pegg) playing background music. Sue started us off, (after another drink) with a game of charades. I have never been any good at this game, but after another drink, I did rather well!

Sunday Dylan was up at the crack of dawn and off to see his parrots again. When flag started the children appeared with parrots on their shoulders. We quite expected to see them flying around their caravans as they left.

I must thank Mick Bradshaw, Sue Williams and John Pegg for a fabulous weekend.

P.S. Could you please order the same weather for your next rally

John Beadman



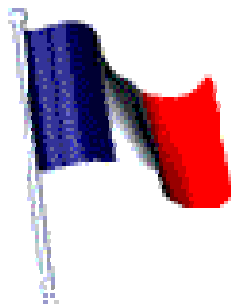
It was fun at the Desford Bird Garden we had to pay to get in but only once. When we had paid we could go in as many times as we wanted. There is a maze, we didn't go in but we got told it was really good. There was a variety of birds and when we walked round there was a "Chameleon Cockatoo" we tried to find it but then we read it eats "chocolate covered raisins and nuts" we said "What a load of rubbish", we had realised it was a joke, but I have to admit it's a good joke. Also at the Desford Bird Garden they will take donations of birds, you may also adopt a bird. There was a dog called Ted that eats bad boys and girls – so be good! When we were holding the birds Jack Pegg kept getting pooh on him. Some people put their hands near the birds and wondered why they got bit. Liam got bit a few times. Dave Shuttleworth got bit also. "He got attacked", well so he said but it was only a little bite. Desford Bird Garden is a really fun and I would recommend it for a must go next year.

Xx Charlotte Wright xX

Ullesthorpe Garden Centre
28th – 30th September

Friday was a nice day, the caravan was duly packed by the time children and hubby got home and we hitched up and left for the rally nice and early, it's the arriving in the dark I don't enjoy. On arrival we were put on electric that kept the children happy with the TV and the GHD's for Jodie. It started to drizzle and was really quite cold so I was more than happy to put my electric fan heater on. The tea I prepared earlier was put in the microwave, and the drizzle kept coming. Tea and Coffee in the party tents with the Friday Night Quickie, it was nice to see who was on the rally, and have the usual chat. Saturday the weather was nicer and we went for a leisurely stroll around the garden centre, we could have spent a fortune, but refrained. Nick bought some beer from the little shop (or rather I did), and we went back to the caravan for a lazy afternoon, in fact so lazy I went to sleep. In the evening we made our way over to the bistro (party tents) for the French themed evening which was very colourful. A lot of people dressed up and John K excelled himself by whizzing off his whiskers and sticking on a false moustache (knocking ten years off him). A lot of hilarity as everyone was given a balloon to make a French poodle, there were toy poodles, standard poodles and balloons that did not resemble a poodle at all, but everyone had great fun! Next we were given some play-dough. we had to make something referring to France, a little man with onions around his neck, escargot, berets, croissants, the Eiffel Tower and the Arch de Triomphe to name a few. Supper was tres bon. Cheeses, Pates, various breads, crudities and much more was served with French Wine. A great night was had by all. Sunday and we were up for flag, and just enjoyed the rest of the day with friends. Some did their last bit of shopping in the garden centre. The only thing left to say to the marshals, John, Gill, Arthur and Chris

MERCI et TRES BIEN!



Jude

Drayton Manor **21st-23rd September 2007**

We were approaching Hinkley via the M69, when we got the usual Friday night phone call from Nick Rosen asking if we were going on the rally at all this weekend, we explained our lateness and asked him to find us a flat pitch for the motor home. (This year i will be buying Nick a spirit level for Christmas.) We arrived at the park at about 7.30pm and were greeted by the marshals who pointed us in the direction of Nicks saved flat pitch!!!. Due to our late arrival we missed tea and coffee but later joined a group sitting outside under a chestnut tree and enjoyed the warm evening, catching up on the latest news and drinking far too much vino. By about midnight it became cold enough to break out the blankets and we resembled a bunch of wino's. A great night was had by all.

Saturday (far to early o' Clock)

There were a lot of excited children and a few adults waiting in anticipation for the park gates to open. On entering the park it soon became apparent how well run and how well kept it was. All the rides seemed too scary for us oldies, but after about 10 mins Jue and I became 14 again. We jumped on our first ride, a shooting game from a carriage. (Did anyone else's gun not work? or is my wife one hell of a good shot?) Next came the big wheel, closely followed by splash canyon. Do not sit at the front unless you want a drenching. We had the usual snacks of hot dogs and burgers and enjoyed watching our fellow ralliers being thrown this way and that. We spent a fantastic couple of hours walking around the zoo with Jenny and Pete and rounded off our day with an ice cream and a game of volleyball in the parks splendid surroundings. At night the wino's appeared again under the chestnut tree and all agreed that a great day was had by all.

Great rally,
Great weather,
Great company,
Well done all.

Thanks Stu, Jue and Ross Crane.

