



Welcome to the July issue of the Durham Centre Newsletter – our newsletter is 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 **27/07/2019** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#) .

Well can you believe we are half way through the year already, where does the time go?

Our rallies are all proving to be popular and it's been lovely to see our members out and about enjoying themselves, long may it continue.

Apparently the weather is going to improve so hopefully we may be able to enjoy a little bit more sunshine rather than the rain of late. However the weather never puts us off and we just make sure we are suitably dressed so we can get out and about.

Take a look at the website photos to see what the centre has been up to and to book any forthcoming rallies.

Our centre does need a Treasurer and Secretary from the AGM in October our current volunteers regrettably have to stand down. If anyone would like to apply for either of these posts please speak to Barry Dodd.

Rally Reports:

Durham Centre 60th Anniversary Celebration Rally- Stanhope Showground May 23rd- 28th 2019

Wow Wow Wow ! What an amazing weekend !

I am finding it difficult where to even start here!

What an amazing turnout for Durham's 60th Celebration Rally with visitors from all around the country. The hosting was fantastic led by our chairman Barry Dodd, his fantastic wife Angela and all of the Durham Centre Committee who did an absolutely amazing job all weekend.

The weather was glorious on Thursday the opening day of the festivities, which allowed visitors to explore the beautiful village of Stanhope and take things at a nice leisurely pace which was just as well as the next 3 days would certainly not be leisurely.

Friday as always is a busy day with most of the visitors arriving. The sun was shining and the site was a hive of activity. The Committee greeted everyone who came with a lovely gift and itinerary's for the weekend. Visitors could relax around their caravans, explore the history of Durham Centre by viewing a fantastic collection of memorabilia or grab some bargains at the trade stands Teeside Caravans being one of them.

Friday evening took us up to the hall and it was decorated beautifully, rows and rows of tables and chairs were set up all focussed on the stage ready for the evening's entertainment provided by Daryl Todd. Daryl was brilliant and he sang something for everyone, he also brought along his son who ended up singing with him and doing a small solo spot- he was fabulous and a great night was had by all.

Saturday and Sunday were non stop the Anniversary ceremony was conducted and past Committee old and new were welcomed back to the centre. Cake and wine were given to all of the guests. The children were then well looked after with a fantastic children's entertainer and disco afternoon which went down really well – (I think some of the adults enjoyed this more than the children as they stood in line with the kids to get a balloon hat !) The afternoons duck race went down a treat and everyone enjoyed this activity- Well done to the lads that collected the ducks from the River as it was very cold and wet, all you could hear was laughter from around the River Banks. Supper was a fabulous free hog roast with all the trimmings. We were then entertained by a fabulous band called the Wish who played loud and proud!

Sunday brought another great activity the charity fancy dress fun run and there were some sights to behold here, young and old all enjoyed the run and I certainly enjoyed squirting them as they crossed the finishing line. Sunday also brought a great Silver band for entertainment in the hall and then a fabulous afternoon of the Military Wives choir – Thanks to Barry and Angela's daughter who kindly arranged the concert. The children
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were then catered for again with the children's entertainer and afternoon tea another lovely gesture from the Centre. George Burrell kindly arranged for some of his classic car enthusiast friends to attend with their cars and everyone enjoyed admiring them, thanks to George for organising this. Sunday Evening's entertainment was provided by the lovely Lily Grundy and again she was fabulous. Dancing and an unexpected dress the table competition ensued and a great night was had by all.

Monday morning brought us the closing ceremony which was a lovely moment for our centre as the Chairman gave thanks to his committee and presentations were done. You could easily see it was a very proud moment for all of them especially Barry who had a tear in his eye – I am sure he will say he didn't though!! .

I would like to say on behalf of the Durham Centre members we had an amazing time , and I would like to thank each and every one of you for an amazing weekend . You certainly did our Centre proud. Can we have a celebration Rally every week please? (Only Teasing)

Julie & Shaun Haworth

Monks Barn Farm Stratford

We arrived Saturday lunch time having made great time travelling, to be greeted by the Marshals and shown to our pitch. Half way through putting the awning up the heavens opened but it didn't last long and we were soon sitting outside. Sunday we visited family in the area and then met everyone on the evening in the Barn for a catch up.

Monday we decided to go on a guided walk around Stratford which was a great two hours of fascinating facts about the town. We stopped for lunch then decided to hire a boat for an hour and enjoyed messing around in the sunshine on the river. To finish off our day the four of us went on the Stratford eye which I for one didn't like especially when Colin insisted on spinning the thing around! On the evening everyone met in the wonderful Barn and what a really spectacular place it was for a race night. Once again everyone had a great night.

The week was well planned out by the Marshal and there was something for everyone.

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Tuesday off walking again then joined in with the sports on the afternoon, even in the rain spirits were not dampened with most people joining in, even playing law darts with bean bags! A quite night followed with everyone just doing their own thing.

Wednesday again nice walk around the area geo-caching then back to the field for a BBQ we were ten minutes late as it took us a little bit time to find the last one. The weather was kind and the sun was shining, once again thanks to the Marshals and their helpers for a great early afternoon/evening. No-one wanted to leave the field as the weather was lovely and everyone was enjoying just talking and having fun so we ended up putting windbreaks up to keep off the wind and had another great night.

Thursday we held the 'fort' whilst the Marshals had a well-deserved day off to go and do their own thing. On the evening we met again in the Barn for a 'Birthday Bash' 2 members had birthday Colin and Bill and their lovely partner/wife provided a great buffet and the entertainment for everyone for the evening.

Friday being our last day we decided to just have a quiet day on the field whilst we waiting to get dressed in our finery ready for Angies afternoon tea. Everyone joined and it was lovely to see everyone dress up, don't know what the walkers who passed the field must of thought when they saw us all dressed up having afternoon tea. Once again the Marshals and their helpers provided us all with a lovely tea. An impromptu sing along followed and everyone joined in, thanks to all involved for this, it was great. As we sat in the lovely evening sunshine a couple of air balloons flew around above us with one even landing in the adjacent field.

Regrettably Saturday came around way too soon and having to go back to work we left the rally earlier.

A fantastic holiday rally and our thanks go to the Marshals Barry, Angie, Ray and Linda and not forgetting Dave and little Ben who also lent a hand. I'm looking forward to next year's already.

Bernadette Colin

The balloon goes down on the Monks Barn holiday rally!

An explanation for the above heading will become clear if you read on.

We arrived late afternoon on Saturday 15th June, being the first day of the Summer rally located at Monks Barn Farm a couple of miles outside of Stratford on Avon. We were immediately welcomed by a torrential downpour but unperturbed we waited for the rain to ease before getting the awning up and everything organised.



The rally site was effectively 2 adjoining fields; the main field with about 14 Van's including the rally

Marshall's and a smaller field with 10 Van's where we were located and which we named the 'quiet zone' with only the sound being the occasional bleating from the sheep grazing in the adjoining field!

Although being isolated the site had a hidden gem which was the use of a historic thatched roof barn a short walk from the rally fields.



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This provided a great setting for the whole group to gather together to take part in a number of evenings whereby the rally Marshall's had everything arranged to ensure everything ran smoothly. At this point those hard working rally Marshall's deserve a mention; Angie and Barry leading ably supported by Co Marshall's Linda and Ray and Coco Marshall Dave Morgan. Their efforts were very much appreciated. Each event was accompanied by an endless supply of buffet/nibbles, the highlight of which must have been the ginormous marsh mellows which I think originated from Sellafeld!!

However with the weather now behaving itself the opportunity was taken to hold the BBQ



and Angie's Afternoon Tea events outside and these were well attended.

Now is the opportunity to explain the heading, whilst enjoying the afternoon tea and some impromptu music provided by some of the visitors, we were all treated to an exhibition from those magnificent men in their flying machines, or in this case hot air balloons. Various attempts were made to make ourselves stand out and it must have worked because to our surprise and entertainment one of the balloons made an unplanned landing in the adjoining field! Marshall Barry set off with a small band (reminded me a bit of Mr Mainwearing from Dad's Army) to offer assistance (no soggy chips and don't tell them your name Pike). Barry also in his role of Chair of the Durham Centre presented the intrepid aviators a bottle of wine (we come in peace) and was rewarded by being able to have a seat in the basket, which he was more than happy to do since the balloon was deflated and the basket was clearly on terra firma!



I must stress that involvement in any of the social events was very much left to individuals choice, Barry at the welcome evening stressing this was a holiday and everyone was free to come and go as they pleased. Being based where it was we certainly took the opportunity to visit the local area with many of the surrounding towns and villages being quintessentially Cotswolds.

We certainly thoroughly enjoyed our 10 day stay, with the Durham Centre and we were certainly made very welcome. We extended that welcome to visitors Barry and Marie from Derbyshire and Alan and Alice from Northumberland who were sited in the Quiet Zone near to us and who we were able to get to know better at the social events. Also we must own up to being rally novices, it was only our 4th rally and even though it is our 5th year with the caravan we had never previously had to depend on it for the essential facilities of the toilet and shower, so were more than pleased when we found that these were more than adequate and now feel more than confident should we need to rally off grid again!

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At the end the only problem was the horrendous rainstorm we got on the day we had to travel home but it certainly didn't dampen our enjoyment of a fantastic holiday rally.

Dave Hodgson



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8th Emma & Simon Hanson

9th Barry Dodd

Happy Anniversary

12th Barry & Angie Dodd

28 Harry & Hilda Braddock

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

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