

# DURHAM NEWS.



Welcome to the December issue of the Durham Centre Newsletter– this is a monthly newsletter aimed at all members of Durham Centre and any visitors to our site. It includes up to date news articles, rally reports, forthcoming events, messages, successes and celebrations.

The deadline for the next newsletter is **27/12/2017** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Well can you believe it we are once again into December where on earth has the last 12 months gone? Throughout this year our centre has been well supported and many of our rallies were full. Several of the rallies for next year are already filling up extremely quickly so do make sure you get your booking slip and deposit in.

Our Dinner Dance in November was held at the Mayfair Centre and was a great success everyone who attended did say they had a great time, thanks to everyone who supported it.

On behalf of all of Durham Centre Committee could I wish all our members and visitors a 'Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' hopefully we see you all on a rally field sometime in 2018

## **Rally Reports:**

### **Catrick Racecourse weekend:**

Arrived on Friday and once we were all set up we joined the rest of the ralliers in the club house. Had a great time playing bingo and quizzes while the kids played in the soft play area. Kids loved it and we challenge them to put all of the balls into separate colours in separate corners of the room and they did a fantastic job. Not forgetting that enormous butterfly that made its way into a room which Helen managed to catch and put outside, much to the delight of our fellow ralliers.

Helen felt a bit rough on Saturday morning, however after a brisk walk around the racetrack she felt a lot better and managed to make it through the day.

Barry brought the race cards around which meant we could study the form and choose the horses we were going to back.

After lunch we all made our way to the racetrack. Everyone made the effort and looked fantastic for our Day at the Races. There were many tweed jackets and flat caps to be seen.

We personally didn't have any winners however I know some people did have some big wins well done to them.



After the racing had finished we retreated to our vans to have some tea and a well-deserved hour snooze. We then made our way to the Clubhouse for another fantastic evening of entertainment. Topped off with a Disco with our very own resident DJs the 2 Ks.

On Sunday at the flag we were lucky enough to win a lucky van prize which was a fantastic pin poppy.

We had an amazing weekend thanks to Barry and Ang and Dave and Carol. Can't wait for this rally next year.

David, Helen, Ella and Luca x

### **Halloween Rally Report – Stanhope 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October.**

We arrived to the beautiful Stanhope showground site nestled against some fabulous scenery in glorious sunshine if a little breezy.

As always Colin, Bernadette, John and Deb were on hand to escort us to our pitch and get us settled and always were full of smiles and very welcoming.

Some of the caravans had already decorated some of their vans and it was great to see so many children playing around the field.

Friday evening took us to the Hall for some lovely hot chocolate and “no tat” bingo which was received well as always. A Karaoke disco followed on and it was great to hear some fab singers Lorraine was fab as usual, Dave Morgan gave us a canny chant and we will not discuss my efforts along with Mr David Burnside – “what happens on Halloween rallies stays at Halloween rallies”.

Some of the children also gave us some special performances which went down very well amongst the audience.

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Special thanks to Colin who played some guilty pleasure song choices and an evening of dancing and laughing ensued which was thoroughly enjoyable.

Saturday brought some strong winds which could be felt in the vans along with some drizzle however this did not dampen the spirits !! Everyone came out to decorate vans and try and win the coveted best dressed van prize, there were make shift graveyards , pumpkins, and masses of witches , ghosts and ghouls on display . The vans looked fabulous.

Saturday teatime brought the little ones out and they looked amazing , fantastic efforts had been made by parents and grandparents in dressing the children and it was great to see them trick or treating with the adults – Safety first!

Saturday evening the hall had been transformed into a “Hall o ween “Spectacular every bit of wall space and tables were decorated and everyone including the adults had made an effort with their costumes. The children’s competition was won by Cousin it and fab he looked too ! The adults competition was won by Olga and her Cruella outfit and Stephen Clarke – not sure what his was but he looked fab! .

Supper was served Pie and Peas and this was gratefully received by everyone – some people even having thirds.

The evening carried on with games not the usual games the children had to eat Doughnuts off a rope and little Cousin It was literally put on a pedestal to reach his doughnut bless him.



Then the adults began their challenge wrap the neatest Mummy with Toilet roll. This was hilarious and again the lovely Olga won but the others did make us smile especially Jerry and her dad Dave.

Sunday Morning arrived and in typical Durham Centre style the sun was glorious .

People were out strolling along the river and it was lovely and peaceful, Flag was in the hall and again as if by magic it had been restored to its former Halloween self. Clearly either fairies or our Marshals were up at sunrise deconstructing everything. Competitions were sorted , info given and everyone began to pack and leave for home.

This has to be one of the best rallies of the calendar and I would personally like to thank Bernadette, Colin, John and Deb for a fantastic weekend and one we will certainly go back to. Well ran , well received , WELL DONE !!!

## **Fireworks at Dalton Piercy**

Well where do we start .....  
we pulled in to the site and were greeted by  
Dave and Stu, who showed us to our peg.

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Very nice welcome from all who we spoke to while setting up, we got our rally envelope with quizzes for us all and the rundown of the weekend.

I popped over for a chat with the people around the rally marshals caravan and was met with a warm welcome from some new faces and some familiar ones, and a drink .

Although it was dark by now and cold the conversations was good and we all had a good chat.

Saturday morning we did our own thing around Hartlepool.

Saturday afternoon the kids had organised games, which burnt off some energy while we relaxed with a nice cup of tea (or beer)

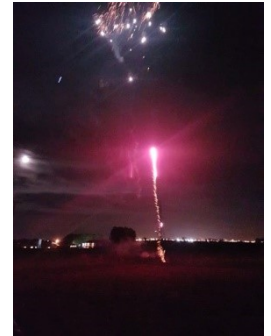
We popped over later on the evening again to a warm friendly welcome from all and we enjoyed drinks together and the marshals and co marshals had prepared some lovely food for us all.

We had fireworks and sparklers for the kids, they loved it.

The kids played man hunt with their new friends and haven't stopped talking about it !

Again the night was cold but the company was warm.

All in all a great well prepared weekend and we really enjoyed it. I hope everyone else did and look forward to seeing you all at the next rally



Thanks again for a great weekend  
Helen & Dave, Stu & Dawn.

Neil Sanders

## **Rally Report White Water Caravan Park Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Arrived at White Water to be greeted by Karl and Kevin the Rally Marshals. We were kindly supported onto our pitch and handed our Rally envelope containing the itinerary for the weekend ahead.

Once legs were down and the other half had set the caravan up we attended a welcome meeting at the Marshals Caravan. Here Kevin and Paula Petty welcomed everyone to the Rally and introduced Karl and Vicky as the Co-Marshalls. He explained the plans for the weekend and informed everyone that the communal room is available for all to get together for some drinks later (Friday).

Kevin announced that we had been donated some wine and cheese from Neil and Louise Sanders and all rallier's are welcome to attend from 7pm.

Neil and Louise really put on quite a spread, there were bottles of prosecco, White Wine, Red wine along with many different cheeses, crackers and chutneys. I do believe it was at some point during the evening that Neil broke my husband who was a little tipsy to say the least.

A wonderful evening was had by all the children played quite happily while the grownups chatted together. The Marshalls provided some background music not too much just enough to create the atmosphere.

On Saturday morning after a much-needed breakfast we had the presentation of the cheque to the Great North-East Air Ambulance. Everyone came from their vans to witness the glory of handing over an amazing amount of money to such a worthy cause. Everyone got together for photographs.



The remainder of the day was to relax in preparation for the fun and frolics of the evening ahead.

Saturday evening was kicked off with a curry, very accommodating Marshalls providing me an individual curry without the onions "This is much appreciated". From the responses from the room this was a hit even people were taking bowls back to their van for supper later in the evening.

There were then a couple of games of cash bingo before the evening was wound down with some general conversation and again back ground music.

As always, a fantastic weekend from Paula, Kevin, Vicky and Karl. These guys do their utmost to ensure that each and every one of us are catered for and kept happy (Where possible).

Well done guys cannot wait until the next one!!

Kevin and Sharon Showler

The following letter has been received from Harry Thomson who has proposed Christine Thomas for the George Clark Award. I for one fully support Harry and fingers crossed Christine wins the award:

Mrs Sylvia Moran

1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

Dear Northern Region Chairman and Committee

**REF: GEORGE CLARK AWARD**

The Durham Centre Committee has asked me to propose Mrs Christine Thomas, Durham Centre Member to be considered this year for the George Clark award.

Here follows a resume of the history of Mrs Thomas's activities with the Caravan Club and now the Caravan and MotorHome Club. Let's start at the beginning, the very beginning.

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Christine was born 77 years ago and became part of the Family Membership with the then Caravan Club when the area was known as The North East Group before it was split into two Centres Durham and Northumberland in October 1959, her Father was the first Durham Centre Chairman. Christine has been all these years an active member continually of both the Caravan Club and Durham Centre up to the present time. She was actively involved with the running and organisation of both the Annual Easter Centre Concerts and the Sedgefield float processions for a good many years until due to "Health & Safety" the float processions became no longer practical. A video of one of the Easter Concerts was made and she sent it to the television series You've Been Framed which was shown on television and the Centre received the princely sum of £250. To this day it still occasionally appears on the show. Christine lives and breathes the Caravan Club and attends most National Rallies as well as having represented the Club at International Rallies abroad, she acted as CLO at the National for Durham Centre until the change in procedures. The Caravan recognised her service and she was awarded The Caravan Club Loyalty Award for 50 Years continuous membership, presented to her by the Chairman Mr Grenville Chamberlain.

Over the years she won items at National Rallies and she passed onto the Chairman an engraved Silver Rose Bowl and embroidered cushion of the original Horse and Caravan for display in the Club Museum. Many people will recall Christine actively towing outfits off the National and the Then Northern Centres when ground conditions were very bad. Christine has served many years on the Durham Centre Committee, nine years as Secretary, three as Chairman and during that period Durham were the Host Centre for the Northern Centres Rally at Greystone where she was the Rally Chairman. She also has served as Rally Secretary as well as covering various Committee duties. At the Durham Centre 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Rally at Beamish Museum in October 1959 she fulfilled the role of Rally Chairman, as well as overseeing the organisation of our 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration Rally again at Beamish Museum ten years earlier.

She has run many Durham Centre Rallies and still does as well as having run rallies in both France and Germany on behalf of the Centre. Her health has become an issue recently but she still attends rallies and also runs rallies for Durham Centre and shows a willingness to continue giving her help and advice for the foreseeable future. Such commitment and consideration to our Centre over many years, we feel is worthy of recognition and are happy to support this application.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

*Harry* H Thompson, Durham Centre.

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

**29December – 2 January** - New Year Monkwearmouth School - **Marshal:** Kevin & Paula Petty



### **Celebrations**

If anyone has anything to celebrate, a birthday, anniversary, exam result etc. please let me know so we can all celebrate with you

December Birthdays

Dave Adamson, Carol Adamson, Brian Mottram, Meg Leigh, Sharon Hanson.

## Remembering our dearly departed friends



Our condolences go to the families and friends of Ann Morgan

With deepest sympathy remembered with great affection

Thanks to everyone who has contributed towards this month's Newsletter.

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