



Welcome to the January 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 **27/01/2017** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year. On behalf of the Chairman and Committee can I wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous New Year hope that 2017 is a great year for everyone?

2016 was a great year for Durham Centre we saw several new members join the centre who have now become firm ralliers and are often seen out and about, long may it continue. Hopefully 2017 will see the centre go from strength to strength with even more new members and their families joining. I think if anyone looks at our website photographs they will be able to see what a friendly centre we are with everyone joining in and having a great time no matter what the weather. We are in the process of purchasing another gazebo for our get together as the others have passed their best as they have been used constantly to provide shelter for all members on the rally to make for a fun packed weekend away.

It was great to see Durham Centre annual Children's Christmas party being resurrected in 2016, and what a success it was with over 60 members and their children attending. A great day was had by all who attended; take a look at the photographs on the website. A visit from the big man himself which proved very popular with the kids as they all received a gift from Santa. Music was provided by our very own Tak Ya Back, Brian and Pauline Pounder thanks again for this. Our Children's Christmas party will be repeated again this December (2017) so keep an eye on the website and the handbook and make sure you get your placed booked for a fantastic day for all adults and kids alike.

It's not long now until our annual after Christmas get together, which this year is being held on Saturday 21 January 2017 at Ramside Hall. Regrettably, if you have not already booked then you are going to be disappointed as the event is full. This should be another great night as we have over 60+ members attending a two course meal and disco. We have re-booked the venue for 2018, as scary as it sounds it will be here before we know it! So if you don't want to be disappointed make sure that you get in touch to secure your place for January 2018.

Don't forget to complete a rally slip or fill in the on-line form and secure your booking for our rallies in 2017. We do have a full programme on offer and several of the rallies are already proving to be extremely popular with bookings coming in fast. [2017 Rally Programme](#)

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

Caravan Trivia:

Q. How many caravans are there in the UK?

- Over a million! Of the three main types for leisure use, there are:
- 500,000 touring caravans
- 330,000 caravan holiday homes and
- 135,000 motorhomes

Source: National Caravan Council statistics

Which means that a couple of million British people take caravan holidays every year (the Caravan Club alone has 850,000 members). In 2004, nearly one in five (18.8%) of adults whose last holiday was in the UK took a caravan holiday (source: TGI/Mintel).

And if all the touring caravans in Britain were put end to end, they would stretch from Land's end to John O'Groats three times (3,000 miles).

Q. Where can you stay with a touring caravan or motorhome?

A. There are more than 3,000 parks for holiday caravans in the UK (source NCC). And the most popular destination is the West Country (source: TGI/Mintel).

Caravan parks vary from huge centres with on-site entertainment, leisure centres and multi-sports courts to tiny Certificated Locations (CLs) where there may only be running water and a stunning view.

Q. Why do people do it?

A. When you ask caravanners what they like about it, they say that it is the freedom and meeting similar minded people that attracts them.

Q. When were caravans invented?

A. Caravans as we know them evolved rather than were invented. It is known that they were used in Marco Polo's time (13th century), by a character in Charles Dickens's Old

Curiosity Shop (1841) and during the First (1914-18) World War. However, the caravan for leisure use seems to have taken off in the beginning of the 20th century (source W. M Whiteman in 'The History of the Caravan'). It was then a pursuit for the wealthy and leisured - Harrods and Fortnum and Mason used to hire them out! The National Caravan Council was founded in 1939 and caravans were used during the Second World War.

Note: The word caravan does not come from Romany, where they are a relatively recent addition, but from the Persian (karwan). It is the origin of the word 'van'.

Wacky facts:

One round trip in a jet across the Atlantic is likely to keep 2,000 caravanner's in extra petrol for the year (working on an average of 2,000 caravanning miles p.a.)

An oil sheikh has ordered what is thought to be the world's largest (and possibly most expensive) motorhome. The 40ft Desert Challenger cost £1 million and has a 13-litre engine - it carries 2,500 litres of diesel. (Source: Channel 4 news)

Rather unlikely caravanners include Wayne Hemingway, founder of Red or Dead, Jay Kay of Jamiroquai and Robbie Williams, who both used motorhomes whilst on tour, Dame Helen Mirren, who is not perhaps a prime suspect, and Will Smith, who (allegedly) has a two-storey motorhome complete with dance floor .



Celebrations

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

Birthdays

23rd Peter Clemments

23rd Carol Doors it's a BIG birthday this one so enjoy and have fun Carol.

26th Aaron James Doors

Bernadette Smith (Editor) – newsletter@durhamcentre.co.uk

January 2017