



Welcome to the June 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 **27/06/2018** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Well finally we managed to get a rally and what a Bank Holiday weekend it was with fantastic weather. As usual Wark proved to be a popular rally with a full turn out and reserve list in operation, so don't be disappointed again make sure you do get your booking into the Marshals for any future rallies.

The Chairmans rally at Seaburn during the weekend of 17 –20 May was a great success once again lovely weather and everyone celebrated the 'Royal Wedding' and think there was a mention of a football match! With the help of all the ralliers who attended the centre managed to raise over £250+ for our chosen charity this year 'Daft as a Brush', so thanks to you all.

As is usual at the Airshow rally during the weekend of 27 July 'Doddies Real Deal' will be taking place. If anyone has any items that they would like to donate to be auctioned during this event for our centre charity please contact Barry Dodd or any member of committee.

2019 Durham Centre will be 60 years old having been formed in 1959. We are proposing to hold a rally to celebrate this landmark event. The venue has been **changed** to what was originally advertised. The celebration rally will now be held at **Stanhope Show Ground** during the late May Bank Holiday 'Whit Week' 24 – 27 May. We do hope that our members will support the centre and attend this landmark event in a beautiful place. Please do contact our Chairman Barry Dodd to register your interest.

Calling all your rail enthusiasts it has just been brought to our attention that Shildon Railway Museum has one of the biggest event of their year in September the Autumn Steam Gala. This is a free event held on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September 2018

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which features guest steam locomotives for a moving celebration of steam power. Guess what? This just happens to coincide with our nominations rally at Midridge Meadows a lovely 20 minute walk away along country lane and tracks. So anyone interested in attending this free event at Shildon Railway Museum or just wanting to attend the rally and chill get your booking slip into the Marshal as this is a limited rally.

Wark Rally Report 04/05/2018

Well what a weekend that was! We were disappointed to hear that Bernadette and Colin couldn't make the rally as Marshalls, since with Debra and John, we're always guaranteed a good time and a bundle of laughs, but were delighted to hear that Colin is making good progress after his operation. We were also grateful that Debra and John took over as Marshalls and that Eoin and Sarah stepped in as Co Marshalls, to enable the rally to go ahead. And what a great job they did!

Usually last to arrive and floundering about in the dark to set up, Colin and I were lucky enough to get off to an early start for Wark, having already spent a couple of days in Otterburn, just 'up the road'. We arrived after the rally had just opened to be greeted by a sea of smiley faces - Debra, John, Eoin and Sarah, and this yellow thing in the sky - SUNSHINE! Surely we couldn't be this lucky after all that had gone before!?

After settling in next to Dave Morgan and enjoying a quick catch up, Colin set to work putting up the air awning for only the second time, with a few grunts and groans. Following a threatened cardiac arrest using the manual pump, it was decided that an auto pump is a necessity for the decrepit! When we were all sorted we went off to Hexham to stock up on provisions so that we could relax and stay put for a while. By this time more people were arriving and setting up their 'encampments' in front of their caravans with high expectations of wall-to-wall sunshine – lovely to see and strange since only a few weeks earlier we had been caught up in snowdrifts!

Time passes quickly when you're enjoying yourself and before we knew it, it was time to meet up in the Sports Club for fun and games. Little things please- not normally bingo lovers, we were ecstatic when Colin won a packet of jellybeans and me a multi-colour pen from Staples and not the Pound shop- no tat there Bernadette! There was a general buzz in the sports club with friends old and new enjoying each other's company. For many it was their first rally after the long spell of wet weather and everyone appreciated getting together again.

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It was lovely to wake up, lift the blinds and see the sun again on Saturday morning. We enjoyed an early coffee outside and a lovely chat with our new caravan neighbour Steve from near Southport. He, his wife Lindsay and friends were on the rally at Wark before joining the next rally at Beamish. After a full English which set us up for the day, we joined



Barry and Ang for a walk along the lane and over onto the island to see the bluebells which were just beginning to bloom. I would imagine they would be in full glory after a weekend with higher temperatures than the Costa del Sol but we didn't venture back as we were too busy on our caravan chairs with eyes closed, pretending we

were there! Busy doing nothing - just like the doctor ordered.

A few red faces later we all congregated once more in the Sports Club where the atmosphere was electric following such an unusual phenomenon on a rally- perfect weather. Sunshine, beers and relaxation had put everyone in a good place and I pitied the Marshalls having to control what looked like a class full of exuberant kids! However they rallied through (excuse the pun) and we were soon totally engrossed in a Catchphrase quiz which was so difficult that teams were trading answers! This was followed by a game of Blockbusters, with teams on the stage in hot competition and lots of heckling from the audience. Dave Morgan and I were nominated to represent our team on stage and Dave fully deserved the title of Mr Blockbuster at the end as he impressed us all with his general



knowledge. Strangely enough I wasn't given the same honour! One group of fairly new ralliers from Middlesbrough added to the authenticity of the game by singing the theme tune consistently between rounds. Great to see everyone entering into the spirit of things! Along with a beautiful buffet, the evening was perfect.

We couldn't believe our luck as we woke up to yet another sunny day on Sunday. Colin and I spent some time filling in the quiz over coffee but it was rock hard- we managed all the questions but daren't hand it in as we'd found most of the answers on the internet! At

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1pm everyone congregated for a fun, inclusive sports day. I was itching to join in but happy to see four teams of equal numbers and easily persuaded to join Colin in cheering from the side with a cool drink. It was brilliant entertainment watching Mams, Dads and children demonstrating their skills and sportsmanship in the egg and spoon race, 3 legged race, sack race and bean bag balancing. For the rest of the afternoon adults enjoyed BBQs, chatting, relaxing and avoiding dehydration (!) on the field while the children enjoyed just being children away from technology.

Flag was planned for 7 pm and it was time to celebrate successes, and give our appreciation to the Marshalls and Co Marshalls who had all worked so hard to give us a great time. Debra, John, Eoin and Sarah were prepared with more fun and games up their sleeve but decided to go with the flow as it was quite clear everyone was just enjoying being together and sharing stories with friends old and new. Photographs from the weekend were there for everyone to enjoy on the laptop as well as the amazing footage from Dave's drone.

Monday arrived and it was with heavy heart that we all began the less enjoyable task of packing up to go home. A number of weather related rally cancellations in previous weeks, gorgeous weather and good company all played their part in ensuring that everyone made the most of a fabulous weekend.

Many thanks to Debra, John, Sarah and Eoin for all your hard work.

Norma and Colin

Wark Sports Centre 4th-7th May Rally Report

Where do I start, Friday we arrived in glorious sunshine which continued on over the weekend. The Marshalls John, Deb, Sarah and Eoin met us at the gate and got us settled onto the field. The field was beautiful and Wark itself is an idyllic little place. Friday Evening was a pleasant social evening where everyone could catch up and say Hello.

Saturday we awoke to blazing sunshine, a walk had been organised to Bluebell Island for those who wished to go, everyone else sat out in the sunshine enjoying the weather and doing their own thing. Some of us played Lawn Darts, some of the guys had an outdoor disco and some just enjoyed the sunshine. The evening brought us back into the club house where we had games and supper and what a spread the Marshals put on. It was fabulous and enjoyed by all.

Sunday brought lovely weather again and a sports day had been organised for the afternoon, the kids and adults loved it – well done to the Marshals and the helpers for making a smashing afternoon. Sunday evening brought us back together for supper and a game of blockbusters won by Mr Dave Morgan however I'm sure the Hindenburg question was made up !!



The rally closed on Monday and everyone seemed to enjoy the weekend and the weather, I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Marshals for another fantastic Durham Centre weekend.

Julie & Shaun

Seaburn Camp Chairman's Rally Report 17TH-20TH May

Seaburn is a smashing site and it was nice to be met by various club committee for the annual Chairman's rally. We got our legs down and did the normal wander round and say Hi to everyone, Friday evening took us into the marquee for a catch up and then an early night ready for Saturday's festivities.



Saturday arrived and so did the lovely North East Sunshine. The Marshalls were all busy setting up the stalls for this year's Charity Daft as a Brush. 10.30am arrived and the stalls opened with various themes including a soft toy stall, cake raffle and tombola. The morning went well and once the stalls had finished the marquee was set up with a full screen so we could watch the Royal wedding and the Cup final later

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in the day. The flags were flying on the vans and it was a lovely morning / afternoon.

Saturday afternoon brought us the Royal Garden party and everyone was served tea and cakes and lots of other goodies .It was lovely as everyone sat together and had a good old chin wag eating their tea and enjoying the sunshine. Saturday evening brought us games and fun in the marquee which went down well after the weather unfortunately closed in on us.

Sunday morning came and it was time to go home another rally down in this year's calendar but one definitely worth visiting next year – Well done to the Durham Centre Committee

Durham Centre, Beamish Museum, May 10th to 14th. 2018.

Arrived at the site to be greeted promptly & warmly by the co-marshals & allocated our pitch. A bit of a slope to contend with but coped with a little thought & care, spent the afternoon of arrival saying hello to fellow ralliers & receiving our "program notes' & museum discount vouchers.

The rally was blessed with excellent weather, dry & warm during the daylight hours & the necessary rain for dust control falling during the night on a couple of occasions.

Some interesting things to take part in had been devised by our marshals which added to the museum wanderings which fully occupied 3 full & interesting days.

Beamish Museum is getting better all the time & future schemes look really promising also.

An eclectic mix of vastly experienced & new ralliers were with us, all expressing their enjoyment of an excellent rally & intention to 'Do It Again'.

Yes Please !

Dave & Maureen Cheshire

OAKLEAF SPORTS CENTRE 25 – 18 May 2018

I arrived at the rally field around lunchtime to find our marshals, Angela, Sharon, Barry and Kevin waiting to show me to my pitch. It was a beautiful field and surroundings, and the weather wasn't too bad. So after legs down and set-up, it was time for a coffee and a catch-up, during the course of the afternoon everybody else arrived and said hello to their neighbours.

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Saturday morning saw the sun splitting the trees, and the golfers met for a pre-match get together and photo-shot, then it was onwards and upwards down to the first tee for the start of the tournament, with everybody saying “ Oh! I haven` t played for ages.” (Bandits)



The game got underway on a sunny day, and a really immaculate course and took around 4 hours, with some funny moments and sometimes, a little bit of swearing (not too bad)

Shaun won the longest drive, Kevin won the round with the fewest shots, with David Burnside coming second. It was such a success that I believe Barry is going to do it again next year, so that gives you one year to prepare,

no excuses !

Saturday afternoon was the turn of the lawn darts and boules on the rally field. It was a laid back, but very competitive competition, but every-one had great fun.

7.30 saw us all in Angela and Barry`s awnings for games, quizzes and nibbles and a rather strange game of Barry`s Barmy Bingo, it`s called that because although we had most of the numbers, we didn`t find out until half way through the second game.....that we didn`t have them all.



Sunday was another beautiful day and most just sat outside with a glass of light refreshment and getting the bbq ready. Some took advantage of the bar and restaurant in the leisure centre where you could get a Sunday roast with good size portions for a very reasonable price.

The evening again saw us in the “ Gazebo “ for a nice spread put on by Angela and Sharron, and naturally some more entertainment from our hosts.

All in all, it was a very busy but relaxing time, and everybody enjoyed both the venue,(which was chosen by Karl) and the company.

So on behalf of all, I would like to thank Lady Angela, Barry, Sharon and Kevin for the hard work and effort they put in, to make this a successful rally, also thanks to everyone else that helped in any way.

Dave Morgan

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

25 – 3rd June – Scarborough – Rigghead Holiday Rally - Marshal: Alan & Mildred Morrison

28 – 3rd June – Eskdale School Whitby Holiday Rally - Marshal: Kevin & Paula Petty

8 – 10 June – Bradley Burn Caravan Park - Indoor Sports- Marshal: Brian & Pauline Pounder

15 – 17 June – Canada Fields - Outdoor Sports – Marshal: Kevin & Paula Petty

22 – 24 June – Tynedale Rugby Club Corbridge – Joint with Northumberland - Marshal: Barry & Angela Dodd

29 – 1 July – Farnless Farm - Marshal: TBA

10 – 15 July 2018 – Tall Ships Rally to be held at Lizard Farm Whitburn – **Marshal:** Barry & Angie Dodd – the ships start to arrive on the 11 July and the race starts on Saturday 14 July. This is a great venue to watch the vessels arrive or to visit Sunderland harbours for a close view and various activities.

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

Following the funeral of Jean Plender on 2 May 2018 the following e-mail was received from the family:

Can we thank everyone who attended the funeral of our late mother, Jean Plender. Also for all of the cards and messages of condolences sent.

It was lovely to see so many of Mam and Dads good friends at the church service and it was greatly appreciated.

Some of the most happy memories were in their caravan, rallying with the Durham Centre and meeting so many lovely people.



Thank you
Susan, David & Families



Celebrations

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

June Birthdays

11th Jenson Patton

Anniversary

9th Meg & Ian Leigh

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

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