



Welcome to the May 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 **27/05/2017** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

If anyone would like to send a rally report to be included in the Newsletter please don't hesitate to get in touch. It doesn't have to 'war and peace' just an overview of your time on the rally. Our readers do like to read about our adventures and hear about what the centre has been up to.

Our rallies are filling up quick this year which is great for the centre. However, if anyone is contemplating booking a rally, don't leave it too late or you may be disappointed when you're placed onto the reserve list.

The email below was received from The Salvation Army following a donation of toys from our centre to a very worthy local charity:

Dear Durham Centre Caravan Club members,

A huge thank you from THE SALVATION ARMY GATESHEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH for the lovely donation of 7 boxes of Brand New Toys. We have a huge Christmas Toy Parcel Programme each year and support more than 500 children at Christmas time. These children are identified as those most in need by ourselves, Social Workers, Health Visitors, schools and other organisations we partner with. Having such a lovely donation this time of the year helps us plan and profile ahead to consider how many children we can help at Christmas 2017 . You have given us a great start to our collection programme .I have selected some of the donations for a family we are currently working with who are surviving on less than £150 a month until mid-May. I know the children of this lovely family will be very excited when I drop these toys off. We rely heavily on the generosity of lovely people like your club members to support us in the work we do. As you

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would imagine requests for support grow each year whether it is for Christmas Support or food support, each donation is valued by us. Many many thanks and may God Bless you all for your kindness.

Anni - Anni Humes MBE Senior Elder, The Salvation Army Gateshead Community Church

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

Redcar Rally 31 March – 2 April

We arrived on Friday afternoon with the sun shining to be met by our rally marshals Bernadette and Debra who showed us to our pitch. We had a meet and greet at the marshals van with all the ralliers.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny but the afternoon brought thunder and rain so our walk was cancelled. The casino evening commenced at seven pm and what a night it was! The ladies in evening gowns and Tiaras and the gentlemen in suits and bow ties! Two roulette wheels were going and a black jack game and craps game were running as well. For the magnificent sum of £1 we all bought our “chips” and tried our luck! Sad to say it wasn’t my night. Half way through the evening we had an assortment of cheese and pickles with crackers and crisps. And as is the Durham Centre “no tat” tradition we were also served CAVIAR! Yes that’s right CAVIAR! I didn’t pluck up the courage to try it but was told it was



nice! During the evening Stephen Clarke produced a new £1 coin he had received that afternoon so Barry Dodd auctioned it off for the Centre charity and it was sold for £20! Thank you to Sharon Showler who bought it! At the end of the evening everyone counted how many chips they had won and the winner was Carol Door. Yet another fantastic evening.

Sunday morning and the sun shone for coffee morning and announcements! I did win one of the bonus balls! Then home time again!

Thank you Debra, John, Bernadette and Colin for a fantastic weekend!

Carol and Dave Adamson

Lockside Ripon 4 – 11 April

Friday

the weekend vans arrived as did my wife who was at work all week; it was a get together and a cuppa on and bingo which my wife won.

Harry passed around sponsor a form for the sponsored slim which is being done by Harry and my wife Sharon and £40 was raised for the Air Ambulance charity.

Saturday

was a free and easy day we went in to Northallerton to the market. On the evening it was soup and a light supper and games and quiz, this made everyone laugh especially Agnes.

Sunday

we went to the car boot sale at the racecourse to see what bargains to be had, before my wife went home and back to work while i stayed to enjoy the rest of the holiday. The rally is always a great holiday rally and Harry, Christine, Carol and Dave make the rally so much fun, looking forward to next year's already.

Thank you Stephen and Sharon Hanson

E-mail received from North Yorkshire members:

Hi

We would just like to say a really big thank you for a lovely rally at Ripon. Everyone made us so welcome to be part of the rally and we met some lovely people.

Thanks again

Steve, Marion Aaron and Gemma Smith

Easter Stanhope 14 – 17 April 2017

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Carol, Steve, Barry and Ang for their tireless work given over the Easter weekend at Unthank Park Stanhope. Also to all the other Durham Centre members that made feel so welcome and included all weekend.



us

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After many years caravanning this was the first Durham Centre rally we have attended and if this is the level of commitment and delivery by your members then we will be returning.

Many thanks for one of the most enjoyable weekends we have had for a long time.

Carl & Janet Wells - Yorkshire Dales Centre

21- 23 April - Dalton Piercy

This was Kevin and Paula Petty's first rally as Marshals, with Barry and Ang supporting them as co marshals - and what a successful rally it was! Arriving late due to work commitments, It was 9 pm by the time we got set up and had something to eat. Should we settle in for the night or poke our noses into the new gazebo for some social time? We decided to pop along for half an hour. Following quizzes and Bingo, what a full house it was in there, literally. Two hours later we left the gazebo much more informed about roof installed solar panels! There are always amusing stories to swap and something to learn on a Durham Centre rally!

Saturday was a free day with everyone choosing how to spend their time, whether it be going to Hartlepool Historic Quay, enjoying a bit of retail therapy at Teesside Park, or just relaxing on site. After breakfast and taking a chance on Paula's surprise tombola (in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance charity) we decided to head off to Teesside Park. We enjoyed browsing, looking for nothing in particular but coming away with more than we bargained for!

In the true spirit of the St George celebrations, England flags, bunting and other paraphernalia increasingly adorned our caravans during the afternoon, in preparation for the evening's high frolics. Our presence at the gazebo was requested at 7 pm on the dot. At five to seven I heard a commotion outside our caravan and not surprisingly, along came Bernadette, Colin, Deb and John in full fancy dress. Guess who was galloping along on a 'horse' and shouting " Where be the dragon?!" No special Durham Centre prizes for that one!



Everyone assembled for the grand opening of the new gazebo at 7, and people then made their way inside to their seats ready to be entertained by Tack ya Back- Brian and Pauline Pounder, Durham Centre members and our very own celebrities. There's a first time for everything and we hadn't heard them before.. Well worth the wait I would say. In no time at all people were up dancing or singing along in their seats, some letting go more than others! Maybe the highlight of the evening was Tack ya Back's rendition of the Buckin Mule which was hilarious by anyone's standards. Delicious Hot Dogs were served part way through the evening to keep us all going.

We woke up to a beautiful day on Sunday. The good weather seemed to encourage ralliers to sort out all their equipment and the field looked very much like a car boot sale! The weekend had flown over and before we knew it, we were meeting at 11am for Flag and Announcements. Some people packed up for home shortly afterwards while others decided to take advantage of the sunshine and stay later in the day.

Thank you Kevin and Paula, Barry and Ang for all your hard work and a great weekend!

Colin and Norma

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

28 April – 1 May – Walk May Bank Holiday - **Marshal:** Colin and Bernadette Smith

4 – 8 May – Beamish – Inv N. Yorkshire, Cumbria & Northumberland – **Marshal:** Harry Thompson & Christine Thomas – Rally Full Reserve list being taken

12 – 14 May – Wynyard Station – **Marshal:** Karl Davis & Vicki Metcalfe

19 – 21 May - Bedale Sports Club – **Marshal:** Dave & Carol Adamson

26 – 29 May – Manfield –**Marshal:** Michael & Margaret Mortimer

26 – 4 June – Scarborough Holiday Rally – **Marshal:** Alan & Mildred Morrison



Celebrations

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

May Birthdays

1st Joyce Flounders

2nd John Atkinson

May Anniversary Congratulations to you all

17th Ken & Karen Simmons

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

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

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