



Welcome to the November 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 **27/11/2017** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#)

Following our AGM details for the new committee and officers are now available on the website.

If anyone would like to donate a prize for the Dinner Dance raffle please contact our Chairman Barry Dodd or any member of the committee.

There are still a couple of places left for the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Year Rally at Monkwearmouth School, contact Kevin & Paula Petty for details or book via the booking button.

Durham Centre raised £3140 this year for our charity Great North Air Ambulance. Thanks to everyone who helped fund raise and to everyone else who support this very worthy cause. We are to present a member of the Great North Air Ambulance with a cheque at the Whitewater Club Site rally in November.

The 2018 Rally programme is now available on the website and bookings are coming in thick and fast. If you do wish to attend a rally next year, make sure you get your booking slip and deposit into the Rally Marshal.

It has been agreed by the committee that the charity for this next year 2017-2018 will be 'Daft as a Brush' Cancer Patient Care. A very worthy cause offering staffed custom-made vehicles to transport outpatients, free of charge, to and from hospital who are undergoing Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy cancer treatment. There is no charge to patients for the service which entails collecting and transporting the patients in a safe and comfortable environment from where they live to where they have their treatment.

We do hope members will support us throughout the coming year with our fund raising as much as they can for this charity, further details can be found on their website:

<https://www.daftasabrush.org.uk/>

## Durham Rally: Doe Park, Cotherstone 2-9 October 2017



It was with a little bit of trepidation that we set off from home on 3<sup>rd</sup> October to take part in the rally at Doe Park, Cotherstone. Why the trepidation? Simply because we had just returned home from a 4 day stay in rural France where the weather was warm and sunny and here we are in October in Blighty. Also unfortunately we do have a knack of hitting bad weather when we go away in our tin home!

No problems on the journey out although going through the centre of Barnard Castle can hold potential problems. On arrival directed to our pitch where we were welcomed by rally marshall Harry (although we did have to wake him up from his mid-afternoon slumber!).

Decided against taking the large awning and probably the right choice because it was a bit windy and the porch awning was less problematic in the wind.



The first evening was a wild one with high winds and lashing rain, no surprise to us with our reputation when out and about with the van! Fortunately the awning held firm but took the extra precaution of re-fixing all of the pegs the next morning.



November 2017

Wind and rain dropped so had an opportunity to meet our fellow attendees when gathered for a welcome cup of coffee and biscuits. A very relaxed group indeed (probably reflecting the fact that everyone was retired!) and a mix of areas attending with representatives from Cheshire, East Yorkshire and North Yorkshire Centres.

The weather soon moved into an equivalent 'Indian summer', wind dropped and sun out.



Plenty of time to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of Teesdale; a walk between Low and High Force (just 8 miles away) almost a no brainer but plenty of walking directly from the site with easy access onto the Tees Railway path.



Relatively easy access into the nearby village of Cotherstone but Barnard Castle is a drive away but well recommended and has all of the conveniences including large supermarket and a claim to fame (see below).



Based on the age group attending the entertainment was understandably geared up to suit and included lottery, quiz and 'feely' bag. Harry did have some games up his sleeve but that's where they stayed! Co Marshall Dave led a small walk and Christene and Carol headed up the soup kitchen (scrumptious) and other refreshments. We had the bonus of the arrival of the travelling fish and chip van.



This was our only our second rally, the first having been the Sunderland Air Show and there couldn't have been a greater contrast between them. However thereby stands the success of the Durham Centre Rally programme, with its varied arrangements for everyone.

We were made to feel very welcome but it is really down to each individual to decide what level of involvement they want. Also you have the added bonus of a willing group to help when needed and in my case the use of an adjusted to align the 13 pin electric connector!

Finally, I am going to take the opportunity to mention my outing on Saturday afternoon to Shildon to attend the non-League game against the mighty Marske United. Whilst England were stumbling through to the World Cup Finals and Scotland and Wales found the exit door, we were treated to value for money down to earth, no frills and no histrionics grass roots football and Marske winning 2-1 with the winning goal coming with the last kick of the game from the half way line!!



Happy caravanning everyone Dave Hodgson

Hargill House, Richmond

Visit Durham Centre and don't have to go out of Yorkshire, can't be bad, new marshals greeted us after paying the customary visit to the site wardens, and we noticed how young they were, and they had gone on committee and it made a change to meet new blood as well as old friends including their brand new chairman, Barry, seems to have been round for years, but congratulations on him becoming chairman.

Opening flag was in the new marquee just big enough to hold all on the rally and it stood up despite the wet and windy weather, well done to all those who put up.

November 2017

Saturday was a much better day and you could disappear into Richmond or a quick trip into Darlington, if you didn't mind the traffic, road works on the A1.

At night it was back to the marquee and we found it was full of Irish, or Durham Member dressed like Irish for Irish night and the young marshals had a lot planned, starting with Irish cream shots followed by a sort of dingbats but they were all Irish pop groups and they certainly had some funny names, this was followed by Leek and Potato soup with crusty bread, and they hoped to do some Irish dancing but the dance floor was a wee bit small, a square yard I think, it was a very good night with good company so well done to the marshals.

Sunday and time to take the marquee down, 6.30am the Chairman sad for the dismantling but I was the only one there but not to worry it was taken down, dried, and packed up and then taken away before the flag so thanks to all who helped.

I would like to personally thank the marshals, Karl & Vicki, Kevin & Paula for a superb weekend and we certainly hope to visit one of your rallies again you all worked very hard to keep everybody happy and there was not a wrong word from anybody so thanks to all you did a great job and you are a credit to Durham Centre.

On a final note I know all the rally send their best wishes and I am sure Durham members will to Chairman's Lady, Angela, who is going into hospital for a short stay so get well soon Angie and I am sure someone will teach Barry how to iron.

David & Hazel Ferdinand, Northern region Chairman.

PS; Thought I had finished doing rally reports but how could I refuse new marshals.

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

**3 – 5 November** – Dalton Piercy Fireworks Rally - **Marshal:** David & Helen Wilkinson

**17 – 19 November** – Whitewater Caravan Clubsite - **Marshal:** Karl Davis & Vicki Metcalf

**24 – 26 November**- Mayfair Centre – Dinner Dance - **Marshal:** Dave & Carol Adamson

November 2017



## Celebrations

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

November Birthday

22<sup>nd</sup> Debra Atkinson

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

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