



Welcome to the April issue of the Durham Centre Newsletter – our newsletter is 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 **27/04/2019** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#) .

Our rally season is now well underway and already we have had several very successful rallies.

Full details of all our rallies are on the website the following are a few examples:

- Our 60 Celebration Rally in May a great weekend planned all for the small fee of £35.
- Canada Fields in June still has places so get your booking in.
- Our ‘Music, Dine & Dance’ event in November is proving popular and there are only a few spaces left on the rally. So if anyone is interest in attending and staying on the rally please do get in touch. Remember you can attend the event without staying on the rally if that is your preference.

Rally Reports:

Durham Grange 23- 25 February

We arrived at THE GRANGE just after 2pm in brilliant sunshine.

It was DURHAM CENTRE,S first rally of the season and it was great to see old friends once again along with two first time ralliers.

Not only was it Durham Centres first rally it was a new experience for our marshals as it was their first time as “Being in charge” and what a great job they did .

Dave and Barbara were helped by Shaun and Julie and they made a great team (although Barbara said she didn't do anything) so that must mean it's your turn next Barbara.

They must have been a few lottery winners over the winter as it was noticeable that a few members had changed their caravans / Motorhome, and cars hope you are all pleased with your new acquisitions.

After settling in and saying hello to everyone Ang & I had a quiet night chatting to friends. Saturday morning after breakfast we took the park and ride into DURHAM with friends and had a great time visiting the FIRE & ICE exhibition what a great experience that was to see what people can do with frozen water, pleased we went early as with the weather the way it was some of the sculptures by 12pm were beginning to melt .

We returned to the site about 1pm as it was time for Ang to have her NANNA NAP.

After a relaxing night ,it was soon Sunday and time for FLAG ,a little earlier than normal as we had to be off the site by 12pm with it being a Club Site .

The usual announcements were made along with competition winners and van prize winners, all this went on in brilliant sunshine.

I must give thanks to Barbara,Dave,Julie & Shaun for ordering the sunshine and running a great rally (Dave Wilson has already got your name down for a 2020 rally) Well Done Ang & Barry Dodd P.S.

We look forward to seeing all our Centre Members old & new during the season

Houghall College – 8th-10th March 2019

We arrived on Friday Evening to be greeted by the “ Fab Four” Bernadette, Colin, Deb and John and were escorted to our hard standing pitch for the weekend. Even though it was cold this didn't deter our Marshals braving the weather and assisting people with their caravans even pushing some of them onto their respective pitches.

Friday evening was a nice quiet evening where you could relax and chat with the neighbours and complete the Geordie quiz.

Saturday was a mixed bag with weather but again nothing stops Durham Centre members from enjoying themselves.

Our envelopes contained a cryptic request to draw a Pidgeon and take it to the hall on Saturday evening. I for one wondered what we would be doing with the said pigeon and after 4 attempts at drawing one I was finally satisfied that it was as good as it would get.

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Saturday evening we were greeted by our Marshals who were celebrating their 60th birthdays respectively and they had put on a lovely supper for us for Geordie night including ham and pease pudding stotties and Birthday cake all washed down with drinks of your choice. Flat caps, headscarves and pinny's were adorned by the members and everyone was ready for our pigeon competition and whippet racing evening.

Flag and competitions were completed first then the pigeon competition was to be judged by crowd noise. A certain Mr Burnside won the competition although his partner Barbara duly took the credit as her make up kit completed their pigeon look, that said Mr Burnside had a secret noise ally Mr Bell who woke up half of Durham shouting for the said pigeon. There were some fantastic entries and everyone enjoyed the contest of then flying the pigeons. Dave Burnside was then presented with his trophy.

The whippet racing was brilliant, grown adults playing with wind up Whippets was a sight to see and became very controversial with a cry of foul play from the Chairman Barry as Barbara pulled his whippet over!! It was a great evening and the worthy winner Ray then picked up the winner's trophy.

The evening was finished off with some top tunes and plenty of dancing!

Many thanks for Colin and Bernadette, Deb and John for a smashing weekend as always and again thank you for allowing us to share your birthday celebrations.

See you on the Rally Field.

Julie

Whitewater 22 – 24 March

We arrived at the rally early afternoon ,got sited then said hello to those who had arrived. It was a sunny afternoon and some members were sitting out (what a nice change not having that that cold north wind) Our Marshal,s & Co Marshal,s had arranged for us to meet in the site room at 7pm for HOT PORK ,STUFFING & APPLE SAUCE SARNIES they were deeeeeelicious I even got seconds(diet out of the window for that day). A game of bingo was arranged but members were just enjoying the CHIT CHAT so we never got round to that .

Around 9pm there was great joy in the room when our Co Marshals SHARON & KEVIN SHOWLER announced they had just become GRANDPARENTS for the second time .

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BINGO ? no out came the BUBBLELY.

CONGRATULATIONS to them both and best wishes to Mam & Baby " POPPY"

Saturday morning Karl announced he was arranging a DOG WALK along the river to Stockton, well we haven't got a dog but it was a great excuse to walk off those Friday "Sarnies" so we went along .

Before we left Karl asked me to take my camera as there was something he wanted to show me .

There were about 20 members who took up the "Dog Walk " offer and as it was a nice morning so it was very enjoyable On reaching Stockton we called in at a small watering hole (Ang needed a rest to give her back some relief) after a couple of drinks we were taken to another WATERING HOLE and this was something really special.

It was called THE DON & the landlady who greeted us on arrival has dedicated her time while she has been in charge to collect memorabilia from families who have had someone lost in past warfare and conflicts.

I was just in awe of the dedication she has put into this project , she has over 100,000 Poppies & Crosses on view along with various Uniforms & Photograph,s.

She even has a mock BUNKER in a basement room which she took us down to see .

All in All this was a very moving experience and one that we should give members a chance to see when we go back to WHITEWATER rally again next year . Check out the photos on our website.

On behalf of all the members that went along I would like to thank Karl & Vicki for taking us and making it something we shall not forget.

Saturday teatime Karl had booked some tables in the Beefeater next to the site to have a meal which were taken up by some of the members, they then returned to the site room for the night time (still no bingo though just CHIT CHAT again.

After flag it was time to pack up and go home as with it been a CLUB SITE we had to vacate by 12pm.

Well done to our Marshal,s & Co Marshal,s a very memorable weekend ANG & BARRY DODD



April Happy Birthday:

- 1st Bernadette Smith – big 60!
- 20th Harry Thompson
- 9th Karen Simmons
- 10th Ian Leigh

Anniversary:

- 1st Sharon Stephen Hanson

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

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