

Bedale Camping & Caravan site September 19th -26th

This was the third of a trio of holiday rallies for us this year..... still being new fangled with retirement, after such an extended period of lockdown, I'm sure we were all desperate to get out to grass!

We were confident from the moment we arrived at Bedale that yet again we would be served up a perfect mix of relaxation and fun. And how right we were!

We were greeted by a host of smiling faces- our Marshalls Barry and Ang, Co Marshall Dave, Co Co Marshalls Ray, Linda, George and Ann were all ready and waiting to give us the best time. Wall to wall sunshine certainly set the scene for a glorious week.

We couldn't help noticing a rather grand looking gazebo in the background. We later discovered that Durham Centre had recently invested in two fabulous air gazebos which join together and provide the most fantastic light and airy, but draught free social space. This was its first unveiling and proved to be an invaluable hub for the whole week, with plenty of space for everyone!

After we'd finished setting up, out came the chairs for us to soak up the unseasonal, hot sunshine and enjoy catch up chats with our neighbours.

The format for the week was free and easy days followed by social get togethers in the evenings, all completely optional, which made for a very easy going week, great for us since Colin was mid way through his recovery from hip surgery and needed just one or two early nights!

However we were lucky enough to sample some of the delicious food on offer. One night Butch and Diane kindly provided some lovely vegetable soup, made completely from home grown veg from their allotment. I use 'their' as although I heard it's Burch's allotment I'm not completely sure who does all the digging!! :) Together with crusty bread, it was just what we all needed for a cool Autumn evening and I noticed plenty of people going for seconds! A mobile van pulled up on site another night selling pulled pork and Colin and I enjoyed one of its very well stuffed buns each! This week certainly wasn't good for the diet but good for the soul as on Saturday we were also treated to pies and home made mushy peas. Butch offered to prepare the mushy peas from scratch as to his mind the tinned ones don't compare :) I would agree and judging by the clean plates everyone else did! Top this off with a lovely selection of nibbles prepared by Ang and Linda, plus a visit from the ice cream man, and every taste was well catered for during the week.

Each evening ralliers piled into the gazebo to get together with friends and enjoy some good old fashioned entertainment. Barry and Dave shared the mic quite naturally and made a great double act, ad libbing and providing a barrel of laughs for us all. Dave's quizzes were very much enjoyed and definitely quizzical (!) bringing out our competitive streaks. Bingo was on the cards regularly throughout the week too and we all found out that I will never get a job in a bingo hall :) I'll thank George for that :) The race night was great fun with some studying the odds seriously and others like me just choosing horses they liked the sound of or those that matched their personality! People who got 1st 2nd and 3rd collected 'thousands of pounds' in paper money but after a swift count up, those with the most money were pleased to win the real thing. Karaoke featured on the agenda a couple of nights too. Sid seemed very much at home with the microphone and treated us to some good renditions of the real thing and others plucked up the courage to have a go too. I declined as I was once advised not to give up my day job :)

All in all the week flew over and as the saying goes 'time flies when you're enjoying yourselves' That was certainly true of the Bedale holiday rally. As we all packed up ready for home I'm sure that without exception, we'd all had a great time. Many many thanks from the attendees to those who worked tirelessly during the week- Marshalls Barry and Ang, Co Marshall Dave, not forgetting Ray, Linda, George, Anne, Butch and Diane who contributed so much.

Norma and Colin.