

DURHAM NEWS.



Welcome to the first quarter of 2020 issue of the Durham Centre Newsletter – our newsletter is aimed at all members of Durham Centre and any visitors to our site.

Our Newsletter is published quarterly and includes any news articles, rally reports, messages, successes and celebrations. If anyone has anything that they would like included do get in touch.

The deadline for the next newsletter is **27/06/2020** please forward your articles or celebrations to [The Editor](#) .

Our rally season started to get underway and regrettably the weather at the beginning of the season was not very favourable with all the rain and wind. The safety of our members must always come first and the high winds were against us resulting in the cancellation of our first rally of the season 'Durham Fire and Ice'. We hoped we had seen the last of the severe weather and had several very well supported rallies with a good attendance after the first disappointment.

However; it is now Coronavirus that has put a stop to all our rallies. As always the welfare of all our members must come first, hence the decision to cancel all of our rallies and committee meetings for the foreseeable future. Do keep an eye on the website as there are several new venues on the rally programme and hopefully we will be able to get out and about some time and make memories in our caravans and motorhomes.

We are saving used crisp packets for our charity this year 'If U care share foundation' (details on our website). So keep a hold of your empty packets and give them to any member of committee. To raise funds for this very worthy cause we are doing a sponsored walk at Seaburn Chairman's rally 4 – 7 June all being well! If anyone would like to sponsor everyone doing the walk collectively please see any member of committee and make your pledge no matter how much it all goes towards our fund raising.

We have an end of season event planned for 20 November 2020 which is being held at The Mayfair Centre Seaton Carew the rally fee is only £10 for the weekend. On Saturday

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evening there is to be live entertainment and food provided all for £15 per person. A limited rally will be held during the weekend with priority given to anyone attending the evening event. A new entrance is in the process of being installed so that caravans no longer have to go through the main car park. A beautiful brand new B&B is also on site if anyone didn't want to take their caravan or they have family/friends who want to attend. Full details are on the website. So do support the centre and get your booking in, we may have to use this end of year event as a well-deserved get together and have a great party night to let our hair down following this terrible time with the Coronavirus

Once rally booking resume could we remind anyone paying by cheque to make your cheque payable to 'The Caravan & Motorhome Club Durham Centre', cheques will be returned if not properly address, this is not our centre rule this is the banks request. Please also don't forget to put your name and the rally name on the back of the cheque. Likewise when paying by bank transfers your surname and the rally name as reference allows us to reconcile the payment.

Stay safe everyone and do keep an eye on the website and Facebook for any updates. If anyone does need any assistance during these terrible unprecedented times do get in touch.

Now for something good a light read for everyone three reports following the three rallies that have managed to go ahead so far:

Rally Reports:

Whitewater 28/2 – 1/3/20

And we're off, can't believe this is our first trip out in the caravan of 2020.

The weather forecast was poor with high winds but we were determined to get out this weekend as the caravan withdrawal symptoms were setting in.

We were keeping a sly eye on the weather forecast whilst at work and keeping fingers crossed. Fortunately the high wind didn't arrive so we had an uneventful journey and were met by our marshals who gave a hand getting onto our pitch. We had an evening sorting out the van and making a list of all the things we needed to put back in for the next trip. A few of our fellow ralliers got together in the club room on site.

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Saturday we went on the organised dog walk along the river Tees that included a good laugh in the back room of the Green Dragon and a very interesting and moving visit to The Don war memorial bar, a veterans pub again with great craic.

The evening saw use in the club room for flag and were announced the winners of the quiz. The Marshals provided another quiz and nibbles followed by a game of Left Right Centre, always fun especially for those new to it and when you never know who's going to win till the last throw of the dice.

The wind picked up overnight and warnings were issued , some chose to remain another night but we headed home avoiding the flyover and exposed roads got home safe and sound.

We thoroughly enjoyed our first rally and outing of the year. Our thanks to our Derek and Joanne for running their first rally and their co-marshals John and Joan.

Debra & John

Houghal College 6 – 8 March

Well, we've just returned from another BCDJ organised weekend. BCDJ you might ask? Bernadette, Colin, Debra and John, the fab foursome. It was a perfect mix of relaxation, 'do as you please' and fun, and this is exactly what weekends should be about.

We arrived at our venue for the weekend, Houghall College, about 6 pm on Friday evening and it was great to set up while it was still light. It was only the second time out in our new van, with quite a time in between, so it took us a bit longer than usual to get organised, but we had a plan!! Earlier in the week we'd researched eating places and hostelrys in Durham City which are dog friendly. Off we set to walk there with Sarah, Eoin, Kye and Buddy....a fair distance, but a drink at the Tin of Sardines Gin Bar, the smallest bar in the city, more than made up for our long haul! From there we sampled some lovely food and drinks at Bill's and enjoyed one for the road at the Boatclub! To prove we were made of strong stuff (or not!) we walked back to Houghall. Colin was quick to point out that he'd done 21,000 steps on his Fitbit since beginning work that morning, which wasn't bad for someone with back trouble! Sarah and Eoin confessed that they are not used to hills living in York! They joined us for a night cap to revive and finish off a lovely night and a great start to the weekend.

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After a slow start the next day, (despite having a fridge full of bacon and sausages!) Colin and I decided a walk to the Secret Garden for breakfast, after recommendations from the Marshalls/ Co Marshalls and a promise of 10% discount with our club card! The rustic, tiny cafe was set amongst trees with a host of picnic benches outside for the hardy types. We opted for the crispiest of bacon rolls and only managed to stop ourselves having a gigantic slab of cake each to follow....the sweet treats looked amazing, but the Secret Garden's not such a secret now and we'll be back!

After walking back to the rally site and a further ride out to collect a few bits and pieces, it was time for us to relax and unwind. Sarah and I decided to do some rally planning in the afternoon since we live at a distance from each other and needed to finalise some ideas.

Time passed very quickly and before we knew it , it was time to congregate in the Conference room for fun and games. The room was inviting with banners, balloons etc which created a party atmosphere. We were invited to spend at the Tombola to raise funds towards the excellent programme of live music planned for the Thornton Watlass August Bank Holiday rally. Ang came round with the bonus ball sheet which is always popular as people try their luck at 'raking in' the proceeds. We were joined at our table by some of Eoin and Sarah's friends from East Yorkshire Centre, who were totally at ease with the mad antics of Durham Centre! In the run up to the rally we'd been invited to bring a wrapped prize up to the value of £3 for a Chinese raffle. Little did we know that these prizes would provide the entertainment for a full evening of laughter and fun as numbers were read out and people chose to select a present from the table or steal a present of their choice from someone else! Babs was the proud recipient of a Minstrels Easter egg early in the raffle, and countless people tried to steal it from her. Dave was drawn to a rather large present with many layers of wrapping paper only to discover that inside was a small photo frame which he tried all evening to swap. These were just a couple of examples which generated much hilarity. You had to be there to fully appreciate the lengths people were going to to secure their favoured gift....all done with good humour of course! Mid raffle everyone enjoyed a lovely selection of nibbles to accompany their drinks and provide fortification for later present snaffling! We all sang Happy Birthday to Ang and Ray who were both celebrating their 70th birthdays and prove that age is just a number!

On this rally Flag, announcements and competition results took place during the Saturday evening get together. Bernadette told us she was not impressed by the number of competition entries- 2:) and reminded us that the internet is a really useful tool for filling in

quizzes! As the evening came to a close, we all dispersed back to our own vans and I think we can speak for everyone when we say it was another great, fun night

Because Flag had already taken place, Sunday morning was freed up to do our own thing. We weren't in the normal rush to leave early and enjoyed a leisurely breakfast followed by a bit of social time chatting to our rally family. Slowly but surely people packed up their caravans/ motorhomes, said their goodbyes and left for home, feeling happy and refreshed after another great weekend.

Thank you Bernadette, Colin, Debra and John for the effort you always make to give us the best time!

Norma and Colin.

Redcar 13 – 15 March

Friday 13th March 2020 might have been unlucky for some and it was for Durham Centre as this was the last date for a Centre Rally until further notice, because of the Coronavirus but hopefully for not too long.

It was also the date for which Dianne & Butch Young and Paula & Kenny Heslop were to run their first Rally for our Centre.

Considering the present climate and social problems they did very well to have 13 vans in attendance.

I must compliment them on their signage which was well out from the site so visitors and members alike had no trouble getting to the destination. Two or Three vans had arrived before us but we were quickly shown to our "peg". By the gents who helped us to get set up.

It was a lovely afternoon and we even managed to sit out with a "cuppa" and biscuits for a while, although it did come in chilly around 4pm.

After Dianne took our money we didn't see much of her or Paula but found out the reason for that later on Saturday night.

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Saturday morning Ang & myself set off for a walk into Redcar to get some good North East fresh air (wind was straight off the sea) but thoroughly enjoyed it ,I even took her out for lunch (a bag of chips between us sitting on the prom), they were grotesque, wondered why nobody were in the shop. We should have took Barbara and Dave's advice about the shop they went to as theirs they say were beautiful , feeling hard done to we went back to the van and had a (NANNA NAP).

Saturday night we went to the social where our marshals had arranged for some quizzes for us all and one or two games of Bingo.

This is where the Fun started ,our Bingo Caller was Dianne and she was doing really well until the bingo wheel dropped to bits and she dropped her balls all over the floor , we managed to get her going again and she did very well. But in the future she will not be borrowing any bingo machine from (The Chairman).

After two or three games she passed over her (Balls) to Butch. (Hope that doesn't sound too rude).

Don't think he was too pleased because the MARSHAL, S table we're doing very well winning lines and full houses. This was when my luck changed as I won 2 lines.

After the bingo finished we then found out what Dianne and Paula had been up to , they served up to us all IRISH STEW WITH CRUSTY BREAD which Paula had been busy making ,i must say it was DELICIOUS and we had to have seconds and in some cases thirds.

The rest of the evening we just chatted on (and drank) until about 10.30pm.

During the night & Sunday morning it was very windy so Butch had FLAG a bit early so people could get ready for home although one or two were a bit worried about travelling.

Sid & Mary Gray weren't worried too much as unfortunately they had problems with the car and were getting a lift home on the back of a low loader, I am sure they got home ok.

I was I bit concerned about going over the Teesside Flyover so Butch offered to take me through Middlesbrough so I didn't have to do that , we managed that and I was very

grateful (went above and beyond MARSHALS DUTIES) but that's what we do in Durham Centre ,help each other.

Well ,we thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and the company and the new Rally Marshals did very well ,let this be an example for anybody who are thinking of running a rally for the centre and don't forget YOU WILL GET HELP if you need it ,so contact our Rally Secretary if you think you can help the Centre.

Butch,Dianne,Paula and Kenny have offered to do this Redcar Rally again next year, Ang & I will be going , hope more members will be also.

Well done to all the Marshals

ANG & BARRY DODD

P.S.

Hope to see you all on a Rally as soon as we possibly can, but please follow the national guidelines and be responsible towards other people and I am sure we will get out again in the not too distant future. Keep an eye on our Centre Website & Facebook Page where we will keep you updated as much as we can .

Barry



Celebrations:



Happy Birthday to:

April:

- 1st Bernadette Smith, 9th Karen Simmons, 10th Ian Leigh, 20th Harry Thompson

May:

- 2nd John Atkinson

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June

- 11th Jenson Patton

Happy Anniversary

April

- 1st Sharon & Stephen Hanson

May

- 17th Ken & Karen Simmons

June

- 9th Ian & Meg Leigh

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter, if anyone has anything that they would like to be included in the next one please do get in touch. You can view all Durham Centre activities on our website <http://www.durhamcentre.co.uk>
Bernadette Smith (Editor) – newsletter@durhamcentre.co.uk