



Welcome to the June/July Edition of the Durham Centre Newsletter.

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

Firstly a fitting tribute to one of our members Deb Atkinson who will be sadly missed by all involved with Durham Centre kindly written by Bernadette & Colin Smith.

“It’s with a very heavy heart that I write this as we both just still can’t take it in that it’s actually real, which no doubt many of you reading this will feel the same. However, I’m writing this as a tribute to Debra Atkinson who sadly and suddenly passed away on Monday 31 May 2021

Debra was a beautiful lady both inside and out someone who we are proud and honoured to say was our friend. Saying goodbye isn’t for us. Instead we will say that we look forward to seeing Debra again, each time we are reminded of her through a phrase, a song, a joke, even an article of clothing. These are the things that will keep us to her.

A great friend is something to be cherished and Debra was our best friend. Our partner in crime of many pranks, laughs and just plain being silly.

Debra loved life and one of her favourite places was being away in the caravan where the four of us spent many a night plotting what to do on our next rally. It’s funny but our best and most creative ideas usually included a night of absolute hilarity, laughing so much at what we were proposing to do we couldn’t speak. (before anyone thinks it, it had nothing to do with 🍷 and 🍷!!!!!!).

When we look back at everything, we got up to it lifts our hearts and spirits as we cannot think back to anything without smiling or laughing out loud and that’s what we shall always do and remember her as the fun loving, game for anything person she was. The memories we have made together on rallies, holidays, day/night out and overnight stays at each other’s homes dancing until the early hours, ‘The Snake and Lion of Love’ what a hoot thank goodness no one else could see us that night! Will never be forgotten Deb has created a lasting impression on us all, as everyone who knew her became a better person for having such a wonderful person as Debra in their lives.

A true friend is never truly gone, their spirits lives on in the memoires of those who loved them, and Debra will certainly live on in our memoires.

To lighten the mood I have included a selection of great photos and memories many more can be found on our website and I know we will have fun, laughter and tears looking through them all.

RIP Debra you will always be with us love Bernadette Colin xxx”



Latest News

The Durham Centre Marshals have been doing a grand job of getting everyone back out and into the fields again which is just what the Dr ordered for most of us. It's been fantastic seeing everyone again even if it's a socially distanced environment!!

Eoin, Sarah, Colin and Norma ran an exceptional Rally at Whitby in April and was enjoyed by all that attended.

Bedale went ahead in May and as usual Barry and Ang did a sterling job entertaining the troops.

Bradley Burn hosted by Mr Dave Morgan again was a great rally and his homemade pies were a huge success !

Oakleaf Golf Tournament is always a huge success and again thanks to Barry and Ang who looked after everyone there and congratulations to the winner of the Golf – Mr Kevin Showler – although no surprise there !!

Seaburns' Chairmans rally was a huge success for our charity the If You Care share foundation and a big thank you to Barbara Joyce who did a sterling job in getting balloons and decorations sorted and thank you to everyone who set up a stall and everyone who contributed making it a huge success.

Ang and Barry have also just completed our first holiday Rally of the year and it looked fantastic – A huge thank you for running this for our members.

Rally Reports – I hope you enjoy reading what are members are saying about us.

YORK HOLIDAY RALLY

Our first holiday rally of 2021 saw us arriving at Earswick caravan park, just outside of York, and on arrival we were met by our Marshal's Sarah and Eoin, and Norma and Colin, who took us to our site.

After legs down, and hello to the neighbours, it was time to relax and enjoy the sunshine. That evening we were invited to a welcome meeting, where the rest of the planned week was explained to us.

The next day (Tuesday) was a free day to explore York, (which the rest of the world also seemed to be doing) or just have a chat and a little drink with our mates.

Wednesday, was another easy going day with an evening BBQ.....very tasty !

On Thursday, it was the children's turn, and they had water fights and swing-ball on the field, decorating stones with paint and crafting twigs, while the adults played a few games of " big money " bingo, and just relaxing in the brilliant sunshine.

Friday, the marshal's provided us with an afternoon cream tea, with lovely scones topped with cream and strawberries, and chocolate buns.....and only 10 calories the lot, I think !! The evening entertainment was

“ Quizzes and Cocktails “ whose ingredients were a closely guarded secret , and it was a great way to end the day.

Saturday was a do as you please day, and some people took advantage of the bus stop just outside the gates, to have a trip into York for a swift half, and of course the cultural visit, as it was another red-hot day. The evening was again in the “ Arabian Bedouin camp, set up outside the marshal's `vans, where we had flag, followed by quoits and boules in the evening sun.

We had two new ralliers, who joined us, then joined Durham Centre, while on the rally. Also welcome to visitors from East Yorkshire and Gloucester.

All in all our marshal's did extremely well as this was their first holiday rally, and they kept us entertained through-out the week.

So on behalf of all the ralliers, we would like to say a huge thank you to Sarah, Eoin, Norma and Colin, hope it happens again in the future.

Dave & Ben.

Upper Largo

Upper Largo Rally Report 2021

This June saw 17 vans and 27 intrepid voyagers set off to the north of the Firth of Forth, to the Kingdom of Fife. Monturpie, in Upper Largo, was their destination, where they found remarkable views over the Firth. The level rally field was immaculate, better than many lawns, mown to within an inch of its life and all the grass clippings collected. There were plenty of electric points. The weather was predominately sunny with only a handful of showers over the holiday week.

Rally Marshals, Barry and Angie, ably assisted by Dave, Ray and Linda, led a full programme of events. Highlights included the sunny BBQ, a fancy dress afternoon tea party as well as the entertaining quiz/bingo nights. Extra special care had been taken over the Scottish Covid restrictions.

There were number of quizzes and competitions held throughout the week; the hotly contested dominos was won by Ray, Angie won the darts, the boules was won by Lynette and the lawn darts by Dave.

The BBQ was up to its usual high standard but the chefs complained when they found, after serving everyone else, there were no chicken fillets left for them. When clearing away, you can guess what was found under the lid of one of the cooling BBQ grills. Yes, the missing cooked pieces of chicken! No wonder, one chef scored 'nil' points from his fellow cooks!

The site sits on the Fife Coastal path, with beautiful towns and fishing villages along its route, including Elie (where local teams, in full whites, played cricket in the harbour at low tide – not something you see very often), Pittenween, Anstruther (home of Scotland's Fishing Museum), Crail, and of course, St Andrew's. All worth a visit.

A challenge was set early in the week and 6 hardy souls set off one sunny morning to climb Largo Law, the distinctive rounded 900ft hill overlooking the rally site. It was a very steep climb and only Ray and Michael made it to the top. Onlookers cheered as they marked their conquest by planting the Durham flag. Photos taken en route can only do so much to capture the amazing view. They all said it was easier coming down, but only just.

For the afternoon tea party, it was suggested that the ladies wore hats and the gents dickie bows. There was a rush to the local charity shops to see what could be found. The photographs show what lengths some went to.....

The rally field is sited on a working farm. Many watched as three tractors turned the adjacent field of meadow grass into hundreds of neatly wrapped bales of hay in only a few hours – just beating the forecasted rain shower. Another pastime was watching the local birds of prey find their breakfast each morning; some of us searching Google to identify the birds - two Buzzards and a Kestrel.

This farmer has diversified his business to include not only a rally field but also a CL, a B&B, a restaurant and a takeaway, which was appreciated by many ralliers. Some tried the haddock and chips, others the steak and ale pie. The authors can thoroughly recommend both!

The Flag ceremony was held on the Sunday evening, followed by a 'proper' hot dog supper.

Many thanks to all who made this a great holiday rally.

Roland and Sue Wood

Durham Centre newbies.



Celebrations: April May June and July



Happy Belated Birthday to our fantastic members below.

April

Bernadette Smith

Harry Thompson

Karen Simmons

Ian Leigh

Happy Anniversary to Stephen and Sharon Hanson

May

Joyce Flounders

John Atkinson

Happy Anniversary to Ken and Karen Simmons

June

Jenson Paton

Happy Anniversary to Ian and Meg Leigh

July

Emma Hanson

Barry Dodd

Happy Anniversary to Barry and Ang our Chairman and Chair lady.

Up and coming Rallies.

The spaces are filling up now so please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment. Keep up to date on our very own Durham Centre Facebook page or the website.

9-11th July Mainsforth Sports complex near Ferryhill- David Burnside and Barbara Joyce

16-18th July- Manfield – Shaun and Julie Haworth

22-25th July- Lizard Lane Whitburn- Barry and Ang Dodd.

Don't forget we are looking for new committee members this year so if you would like more information or are interested in joining us please feel free to contact one of the team who will be happy to assist with your query.

Happy Caravanning and we will hopefully see you out in the fields.

Durham Centre.

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>

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