



Chairlady's Message - Marie Woodward

Fellow Ralliers and Members of the Berkshire Centre,

Thank you to all those that attended the Blue Nose Rally in January and for the feedback and questions that myself and my Committee are now considering for action. In response to some of the points raised, we have made the following changes:

- The Webmaster will send out this Stag Newsletter monthly from now on;
- The Stag will include a summary of the last Committee Meeting minutes to keep Centre Members updated;
- The Centre 'Guide to Rallying' and 'Rally Officers Handbook' that are being currently revised will include references to the Centre Byelaws for further clarity.
- The Fellowship Plaque qualifying guidelines have been updated and more information can be found later in this newsletter.

We have had a terrific start to our Centre Rallies this year.

It was fantastic to attend and help run the recent Burns Night Rally in Padworth. It was a great success with all attendees planning to book again if we hold it in 2024 - Watch this space!

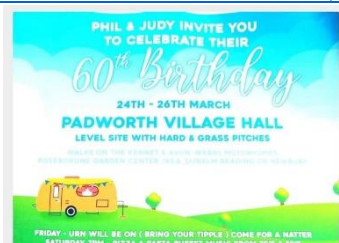
The Valentines Rally last weekend was also a great success according to those that attended. Well done to the Rally Officers and Ralliers for a great weekend.

I look forward to seeing you all at a Rally soon.
Marie x

Upcoming Rallies -

Visit www.berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk/DBScripts/RallyDisplayWeb.php for details

**Judy & Phil's
Birthday
Bash Rally**



Rally Secretary Update - Marie Woodward

The 2023/24 Rally Board has had a few changes over the past few weeks due to unforeseen circumstances and lack of Rally Officers coming forward. Changes include:

- 24th - 26th February - The Kilm, Badshot Lea is **CANCELLED** due to no Rally Officer Volunteers;
- 26th - 30th May - Peachcroft Farm, Abingdon is now the 'Kids Versus Adults' Rally;
- 2nd - 4th June - The original location at Mytchett was cancelled by the Site Owner, so a new site at Brocklands Farm, West Meon has been booked.

It was great to get volunteers to fill some of the Rally Officer slots at the recent Blue Nose Rally, but we could do with more. The 2023/24 Rallies still missing Rally Officers, and in danger of being cancelled, include:

- 23rd - 26th June - Friars Court, Clanfield;
- 29th December-1st January - Padworth Village Hall, Reading.

I am currently planning the 2024/25 Rally Programme and there are a number of exciting locations and ideas already coming forward. If any Centre Member has a location idea or theme, please get in touch.

Easter Rally



Berkshire Centre Committee 2023

The Rally Secretary post is still Vacant and being covered by the Chairlady, Marie Woodward. We would really benefit from someone coming forward to take on this role.

Volunteers are requested to contact either:

Marie Woodward

chair@berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk

Or

Carol Gallagher

secretary@berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk

or any other BCC Committee Member.

Update from the BCC Committee Meeting 7th February 2023:

- The Centre Zoom account has been cancelled as all Committee meetings are in person post COVID restrictions.
- The few remaining Centre Fleeces as part of the saleable goods are to be made available for sale to Members at the next few Rallies.
- Trophies for 2023 have been ordered. At each Competition Rally, opinion will be gathered from Centre Members as to the use of the traditional Trophies.
- The Rally Officer Folders have been updated for issue at the Blue Nose Rally.
- Future Flag Officers and 200 Club Draws were finalized (see other parts of this newsletter).
- A Rally Book 2023 draft is being produced through Committee and should be available in the early part of the year.
- The Centre Byelaw regarding rally cancellations, which was suspended due to COVID in 2020 has been reinstated. *“Cancellations of bookings for events and non-arrivals will be reviewed at the next available Committee meeting. The Treasurer will write to members (and visitors) who cancel their booking within seven days of an event, or fail to attend an event they have booked for. The letter will charge the Rally Fee, the Admin Fee and an appropriate proportion (if any) of the Social Fee and Site Fee for the event based on information given in the paperwork received from the Rally Officers.”*

Berkshire Centre Committee 2023 Appointments

- **Chairlady** - Marie Woodward;
- **Vice-Chair** - Vacant;
- **Secretary** - Carol Gallagher;
- **Treasurer** - Ian Grover;
- **Rally Secretary** - Vacant (Covered by Marie Woodward);
- **200 Club Officer** - Colin Moore;
- **Assistant Rally Secretary** - Vacant;
- **Communications Officer** - Vacant (Covered by Vinnie Vincent);
- **Competitions Officer** - Mark Parker;
- **Entertainment Equipment Officer** - Ian Grover;
- **Equipment Officer** - John Woodward;
- **Regional Representative** - Chris Bevan;
- **Health & Safety Officer** - Stuart Bradley;
- **Webmaster** - Vinnie Vincent.

Details can be found at:

<http://www.berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk/committee.php>

New Ralliers Rally - 12th-14th May

This is the first Berkshire Centre Rally aimed at New Ralliers and will be held at Swiss Farm, Henley. The intention is to get BCC Members on to the Rally Field that haven't attended a Rally before or haven't attended for some time. It is hoped that active BCC Ralliers will also attend and share their wisdom and experience of Rallying in general and the benefits of rallying with the Berkshire's. The Rally Officers themselves are in their first year of rallying, so will be able to share experiences too.

We are also encouraging Ralliers that have Caravan, Motorhome or Camping equipment that they no longer need or want, that is in good condition, to bring it along with a view to selling to others on the Rally that may want it. This is not a 'Car Boot' or 'Jumble' sale, but is a way of 'recycling' rallying equipment around your fellow Ralliers.

The Committee would welcome ideas from BCC Members as to what they would like to see included or if they would like to volunteer to assist.

From The 200 Club Officer - Colin Moore

The 200 Club 2023 Draws will take place on the following Rallies:

Padworth 26th March; Holybourne 16th April; Swiss Farm 14th May; Swiss Farm 18th June; Wellington Park 31st July; Cheddar 31st August; AGM/Twyford 1st October; Cookham 29th October; Middle Wallop 12th November; New Year 1st January 2024.

From The Secretary - Carol Gallagher

We are still finding Ralliers, and even volunteer Rally Officers, that have forgotten to re-register with the Berkshire Centre. Centre registration is only valid for one year and must be renewed through the Caravan and Motorhome Club each year, regardless of how you pay your membership subscription. Your new Caravan and Motorhome Club membership card will be attached to the Annual Centre Registration Form. Please either return the advice slip in the envelope provided, contact Member Services, or register online at www.caravanclub.co.uk/centres.

We would like you to continue your Centre membership with the Berkshire Centre, so please remember to do this.

If you do not re-register your Centre membership, whilst you may still attend Berkshire Centre Rallies, you will not be able to act as Rally Officers, vote at the AGM or receive any circulated information.

Life Members of the Centre, the rules on Centre re-registration are slightly different however the Committee are putting in place a method to send out reminders annually.

From The Equipment Officer - John Woodward

The Centre have purchased replacement electric Urns recently to replace the 2 x Urns that were leaking and beyond repair. These are available to book by using the form contained within the Rally Blue Folder and email me at equipmentofficer@berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk. Please give me at least 2 weeks' notice so that I can arrange for the equipment to get to you.

News About Calor Gas Bottles. This has been released from Calor (www.calor.co.uk/news-and-views/press-release-cylinder-range) - "From 1st February 2023, the Cube, 3.9kg Propane, 4.5kg Butane, 6Lite Propane and 12kg Butane will be discontinued. This means that customers won't be able to buy new cylinders or exchange existing cylinders of these sizes for a refill."

From The Competitions Officer - Mark Parker

As many Members will know, several of the rallies during the year host Centre competitions. The Centre Competition year runs from AGM to AGM and all competitions are organised on an amateur basis, for fun within the Centre. Each competition is organised within a simple set of rules and these will be explained by the event Rally Officers.

Most of the competitions in the Programme are exclusive to Berkshire Centre Members., so please follow the Centre Secretary's advice and stay registered with the Centre.

Whilst there are trophies awarded at each competition, there is also the annual competition, the Wightman Cup Family Trophy which is awarded to the Family that have participated and done well in all the Centre Competitions for that year. The current Champions of 2022 are Steve & Lesley Moulds, so they are the ones to beat this year.

Already this Competition Year, we have the winners of the Lantern Rally - Steve & Lesley Moulds - and now we are getting ready for the March Hare Observation event at Hurley in early March. The Golf Competition at Holybourne is in April with the Fishing Rally at Farley Hill and the Chairlady's Rally (lawn darts, pétanque, pub darts, photography, baking, & flower arranging) at Swiss Farm both held in June.

There is also an inter-centre fishing competition held in September between the Berkshire, Gloucestershire & Upper Thames Centres.

Good luck to all in this year's competitions.

Fellowship Plaques.

The Committee were already looking at the issue of Berkshire Centre Fellowship Plaques for attendance at Rallies by Members and Visitors when the topic was raised at the Blue Nose Rally by recipients.

The qualifying criteria and style of plaques had been rightly changed due to the COVID era by the last administration and we have taken on board comments from the floor when revising the process.

It has now been agreed that a fellowship plaque is presented to Berkshire members who complete 15 rallies and events and visiting members who complete 8 rallies and events with the Berkshire Centre in one Calendar Year. The Diamond shaped plaque will be in the current year's plaque colour. Each Fellowship plaque will be presented at the qualifying Rally or the next attended Berkshire Centre Rally. Those that believe they qualify are requested to submit a 'Fellowship Form' (found online at <http://www.berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk/downloads.php>) to the Rally Officers of their Fellowship Rally so that a plaque can be presented at Flag.

From the Safety Officer - Stuart Bradley

Every Rally held by the Berkshire Centre has a Risk Assessment in place to ensure that any Hazards on the Rally Field have been assessed and appropriate mitigations in place. Whilst Rally Officers complete this document as part of their Rally administration on behalf of the Centre, it is unrealistic to expect them to see everything on a site. Can all Centre Members please help their Rally Officers by notifying them of any potential hazards or incidents at the earliest opportunity. This will enable the Rally Officers to deal with any potential or actual issues and also allow the Rally Field Risk Assessment records to be updated.

This will go a long way to keeping us all safe whilst having fun on a Rally.

Trial - Tents Welcome on Berkshire Centre Rallies.

The Berkshire Centre Committee have decided to allow its Centre Members with tents to attend on short Rallies (5 days or under). Tents must have their own facilities for water and sanitation and cannot be reliant on other members outfits.

As background to this decision, there was additional guidance received by Centres last year from CAMC Governance regarding tents on rallies: *"Tents are now permitted on Short rallies (5 days and under) but only for members. Guests will have to stay within the member's outfit (or tent) as this complies with the regulations stipulated by Natural England which only allows a short rally to be run as a member's event. Tents are permitted on Long rallies (over 5 days/120 hours) and this can be for members and guests."*

It is clear from the CAMC Governance email that individual Centres are free to set their own policy regarding tents and we stated at the AGM 2022 that we would be allowing tents in accordance with the guidance received, and if they had their own on-board facilities.

This does not change the current CAMC and Centre Guidance on siting PUP Tents, Gazebo's, etc within a Rally pitch, but allows Centre Members with tents to Rally with us if they have their own facilities and the Site Owner allows tents.

Rally Officers have in their folders the revised siting guidance from the CAMC that shows where tents are positioned on the Rally Field (i.e. at end of rows or in their own row with the same distances in place - not in between caravans or motorhomes). This may need careful planning initially, but it is hoped that this trial will become permanent after a few successful Rallies.

It may also be worth noting that only ourselves and the Buckinghamshire Centre have taken this up in our Region and this may make us more attractive to families with children.