

Berkshire Centre



October 2012 -January 2013



The Stag.

Your News & Views Mag.

Winner takes all

This was your chance to have a little bit more in your pocket for the festive frivolities.

Our winner Nick Eden was drawn out at the Christmas party held at Burghclere.

£262.00 jackpot.

It is, as the title suggests, all money put into the draw is taken by the winner!

It could be you this year.



200 Club Winners

October. Edward Young, Keith Stevens and Christina Swain

December. Grace Clark, Kayleigh Moulds and Pearl Young

Chris Bevan is the man you need.

He looks after all your entries and will issue you with the numbers.

You can enter at any time of the year just fill out a form.

The 200 club is held 11 times in a year; there are three cash prizes of £25, £15 and £10 every time it is drawn.

Cancelling a rally booking

If you need to cancel a rally booking, please **phone** the rally officers-don't send a text or email.

This is to ensure that no cancellations are missed due to technology failure or delays.

Please give the rally officers as much notice as you can. Cancellations cannot be accepted by text or email.

Tip for keeping your salt dry in the caravan; put a few grains of rice in the salt cellar. Stops having blocked holes. Works at home too!



Editor's Ear

Do you have something to say or share with your fellow ralliers? (Jokes, recipes, tips or a good bargain maybe) open to offers, polite ones please.

Did you have a good/not so good time when you were last on the rally field?

Maybe you would like to give the next rally you run a mention.

Let me know by phone, mail details in the rally book or next time you see me, I will do my utmost to get it in the next Stag for you. The Stag is here for you!

Newsletter Editor: *Jackie Stevens*



What's in a year?

Last year's rallying has to be one of the worst we have had in some time as a centre. The weather had not been kind, cancellations of several sites and venues pulling out. We have also lost two school sites in the past year.

A lot of work was done by your committee to relocate where possible. For those of us who did manage to get out, on the whole the weather was fair. Let's hope the coming year brings new skies and with it a return of more ralliers out on the field. Your Rally Sec. Team is always looking for new winter sites/venues that will help them to keep rallying all year round.

Primary Post

I would like this space to be used by the youth of the centre. Anything will do - something you did or enjoyed ETC. on your last rally out.

Lady luck

I have a paper round that I do and had been saving some money to purchase a Hamster. We were away on the lantern rally and came across a garden centre that sold small animals. My luck must have been in that day, as mum and dad let me buy one. It is a little girl and she is grey and white. Her name after many I had gone over; Muchkin, Lilly, Pickle & Poppy as it was 11/11/12 (Remembrance Day) but I decided on Muffin. She has a lovely new home (which mum and dad paid for) as a Christmas present.

Emma Young. Age 13

Forgiven

My nanny and granddad asked me if they could borrow my box of Olympic souvenirs. I had collected them when I went with my dad to the Para Olympics. I have a prized mug that is signed by Dame Kelly Holmes. This is my pride and joy. All stored in a safe place. So I said "no", but taken without my knowledge. (Hope they felt guilt) It was a great surprise to me when I saw my teddy wearing my Team GB t-shirt in the window of their caravan. Dad told me they were just looking after them while we were on the lantern rally, the same rally as my grandparents were on? (A little confused)

I now know why though! They became winners of the lantern trophy and that's all down to me and my special box.

Seth Beven. Age 4

Lantern rally winner

1st Place. Pauline and Chris Bevan (win the Upper Thames Challenge Cup)

2nd Place. Ann and Bob James

Joint 3rd Place. Pauline and David Saunders, Vivienne and Jim Young

Visitor's award went to Pauline and Ken Float of the Buckingham Centre



Some-thing's missing

I placed it in the caravan Dear or did I put it in the car?

Won't have gone very far.

It must be in that box you know, I'll find it in a minute or so.

Is it under there? It could be flipping anywhere!

Was it in the bag of food?

Well! There's no need to be that rude

I last saw it on its own, just after I answered the phone

Maybe with the keys, in my jacket

No I didn't forget to pack it.

Now thinking that the item is lost and adding up the over- all cost.

We arrive back home, someone must of lied!

Open the door to find it sitting on the side.

IT'S THE DOORS

Now this makes me feel so much better.....

At last an explanation: Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was?

Turns out, doors themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses. Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an event boundary in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale. It's not ageing, it's the door!

Phew! Thank goodness for studies like these!



Bobbington Holiday Rally report

20th -27th October Halfpenny Green Vineyards

We found our way and arrived at the site on a lovely sunny afternoon. Most of the other ralliers, holiday makers had already arrived. We were sited by the rally officers, they had wellington boots on (a bit wet underfoot).

Later that afternoon we walked across to the craft shops on site. (All good stuff, so I was told by Pauline and Lesley). In the evening we went over to the meeting room to meet our fellow holiday makers.

On Sunday we went to the NEC with Lesley and Steven (Dady) to the Caravan Show. Found my new van! (Pauline said No!!). On the way back we called into a pub close to the site for a meal. (Food very good). Back at the site we popped over to the room and played games with newspapers, Lottie won that one, well done!

Steven, Lesley, Alan, Lottie, Pauline and I spent most of the week together visiting local villages, glass works, steam train rides, working museums, locks and canals.

There were three birthdays that week - Joyce Grover, Marie Woodward and Robert Willis who was 65 years young - we celebrated with champagne and cake. On Wednesday night Joyce and Marie laid on a finger buffet to celebrate their birthdays.

Thursday evening was our last get-together as David, Joyce and Ian were leaving the next day to run another rally, we had flag that night.

On Friday night a few of us went to the local pub for a meal and a last get-together.

The weather could have been better, but it was late October. (Then I suppose it is England!). Would you believe it Saturday was bright and sunny, at least we packed up in the dry. We said our goodbyes, but later that day said hello again at the Furze Platt rally.

Thank you to the rally officers John and Marie Woodward, also David, Joyce and Ian Grover.

A very good venue, I must have a word with the rally secretary to see if Pauline can rebook for another holiday rally to be held there as we still had lots to do. Let's hope the weather is better!

David Saunders (Vice Chairman) Age 61



Carla's Christmas Caper

Carla Norris once again took the children of the Berkshire Caravan Club off the hands of their parents/grandparents for three and half hours for the children's Christmas party. They enjoyed decorating cakes, the antics of a clown and a visit from good old Santa himself.

I had a word with him as he left on his busy schedule and he said that the Berkshire children were all very well behaved.

The committee would like to thank Carla for all the hard work that is put into this event. Many thanks, well done!

800th rally

Danny and Peggy Traynor reached 800 Caravan Club rallies at the end of 2012. They were among many friends on the Christmas rally when Danny announced with a lump in his throat, that their tow home would be the last that the Berkshire Centre would see of their caravan on a rally field.

We hope that over the past 21 years of their membership they have more than enough memories to keep caravanning as a talking point with any new friends they make.

All the very best to you both. You will be hard pressed to find a new hobby as enjoyable as this, good luck.

Note to Rally Officers

Please make sure when leaving your rally whether it is on a field, in a local hall or school premises, that you should walk the field for rubbish and left behinds, have cleaned anything you may have used and wipe tables and surfaces down.

We are all responsible!

Denham Rally report

7th – 9th December Wyatts Covert CC Site

We arrived at Wyatts Covert CC Site. We were shown our pitch and stepped out of the Land Rover to be nearly pushed back by the wind, it was horrendous. We had taken our awning so we all (7 Vans) could hold the social evening in. It was far too windy, so it was decided not to put it up. We settled in, spoke to the rest of the ralliers; we decorated our van with white lights all round it. It was stated that it looked like the Coca Cola advert.

When we arrived at the site and went to pay, Jackie handed us 2 brussel sprouts, she said make something and name it whatever you wish; after a while I decided to make a Dutch Helga, with clogs and platted hair(string really) it's quite amazing what one can find in your van. I Won!!

On Friday afternoon Steven, Keith and David went out to see if they could find a pub to go to on Saturday evening, which they did. We had flag on Sat. afternoon, with hot mulled wine, hot crusty rolls, cold meats and pickles etc. It was great, very cold but we all wrapped up. On Saturday evening we went to Denham Garden Village where it was really warm, we had a man playing a keyboard, we all sang along, some ladies and gentlemen got up and had a dance, it was great, a lovely evening arranged at short notice.

Sunday we had to leave by 12.00, so we were all up and packed up by 11.00am; not heard of from the Saunders household - still there is always a first time.

A great weekend with plenty of laughs with friends. Well done to the rally officers.

Pauline Saunders (honorary rally secretary)

The Berkshire website (www.berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk) is a great place to look up any forthcoming rallies or up-dates/cancellations; also our very own David Bailey (Dave Tuthill) has lots of photos to browse over.



A Fond Farewell

On 11th Nov.2012 we heard the sad news of the passing of Christine Douglas.
Alan and Chris were regular ralliers with the Centre and many of her Berkshire friends old and new attended the funeral.
Chris was well loved and this showed on the day.

Alan would like to thank those of you who were there and also to others who sent kind words in their cards.

All our love Alan.

We all hope to see you soon.

Most Wanted

Please if you could spare 10mins. of your valuable time to run up a rally report it would be fantastic to hear from you. ***Your news/your reviews***

Rally Officers Meeting 2013

I am pleased to report that after this year's meeting all the rallies in the 2013 book now have rally officers.

Overton 22-24 March Chris & Pauline Bevan John & Chris Ward
Contact details as for the Bletchingdon rally.

Book online <http://berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk/2013Details/08Overton.php>

Bishops Green 10-12 May Peter & Jill Butler Jim and Vivienne Young
Contact details as for the Newbury Show rally.

Book online <http://berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk/2013Details/15BishopsGreen.php>

Change of Rally Officers

AGM 11-13 Oct **Phil & Diane Haynes** Gordon & Ina Baldwin

Book online <http://berkshirecentrecaravanclub.co.uk/2013Details/37AGM.php>

If at any time throughout the year you think you would like to run a rally next year at a venue you have attended or maybe a new one you have found; Pauline or members of the rally sec. team would love to know, as we will help you in any way we can to put this in place for you.

Many thanks from the rally sec. team: Pauline, David Saunders and Keith, Jackie Stevens.

Can You Help

Eddie Maguire needs your help to run the disabled lines at the National this year. Are you thinking of attending the National? Would you be willing to help Eddie; help fellow ralliers pitch at the rally? Eddie has taken on this role for many years past and would like to continue, but needs some help.

Please [contact us](#) if you are able to help.

Next issue

March/April any correspondence to me by mid-March please, many thanks.

Jackie.

Jane's Jottings – thoughts from the Chairman

Well here I am elected as your Chairman – a role I never thought I'd be in when I first joined the Centre! Even though I've been on the committee for ages it does feel very different to be in the hot seat but it's good to be working with a keen and enthusiastic team.

In the three months since the AGM there have been:

- 4 Committee meetings
- 3 funerals (2 Berkshire, 1 Upper Thames)
- 2 knee replacements (not mine)
- 1 Regional Council meeting

There has also been:

- Christmas Winner Takes All draw
- Advertisers for the 2013 rally book approached and artwork received
- 2013 rally programme finalised, rally book prepared and printed and the website updated. A huge thank you to everyone who delivered rally books by hand – saving the Centre over £300 in postage.
- Rally Officers Meeting – again a big thank you to all Rally Officers for running rallies during the coming year.
- Launch of the 200 Club for 2013
- 2012 accounts prepared for the auditors
- Stock check of saleable equipment
- This edition of The Stag newsletter

All in all a busy time behind the scenes.

Common misconceptions

- **Site xxx is expensive – I'm not going there.** Yes – some site fees are more expensive than others, but in most cases this is offset by the cost of hiring the hall being a lot cheaper. So, at first sight, the site fee may appear to be expensive but often the overall cost of the weekend's rally including the social works out to be the same or actually cheaper.
- **I need a degree in accountancy to be able to complete the paperwork if I run a rally.** Not true – read the Rally Officers' Guidance notes or ask Treasurer Ian for help.
- **I need to be a Masterchef to run a rally.** Wrong – cooking a meal is not a compulsory part of running a rally. If you want to then great but often, especially in the summer, ralliers are more than happy (and often prefer) to have their own barbecue and then get together afterwards.
- **The Committee are psychic.** We may be a lot of things (!) and we do try to be aware of our members' views but unless we are told of any issues (good or bad) we can't do anything about it. Please let me know if you're not happy about something or if you're really pleased about something or if someone is ill or in hospital.

So what next?

- We need to encourage more members to come out rallying. We have 440 members registered with the Centre – but why don't we see them on the rally field? How can we do this?
- We need to encourage members with young families to come out rallying – they are the future of the Centre. How can we do this?
- We need to encourage more people to run a rally. Did you know that 80% of the 2013 rallies have at least one Committee member acting as a Rally Officer? How can we do this?
- We need suggestions for new rally venues. Winter venues with hard-standing and with a hall nearby for socials are getting harder to find. Team Rally Sec has already started work on the 2014 rally programme.
- Although we have no control over this - we need to hope that 2013 is kinder on the weather front. A few warm, dry weekends will hopefully encourage people to take their vans out of hibernation (looking at the snow outside as I write this I know this is wishful thinking)!

Until next time

Jane