

South East Region AGM, 11-13 November 2011

Because of the school location, entry to the rally site was not available until 1800 hrs by which time it was dark. However we were met at the entrance by Carol Wightman and together with others were directed to where within the location we were required to go. It all seemed to run like clockwork and considering there were approx 60 vans expected, that was no mean feat in itself.

After the usual setting up and evening meal etc, those that wished met up in one of the school's halls for the usual noggin and natter, greeting old friends and making new ones.

Saturday dawned a fine day and many from the rally took advantage for a stroll into Midhurst Town and its surroundings during the morning.

At 1300 we were all invited to a ploughman's buffet luncheon to precede the AGM.

The AGM itself started fairly promptly and was attended by members from the seven centres of the South East region plus the tellers from Northern Home Counties. Also present were the vice chairman of the caravan club, Rodney Lambert and his wife Diane, together with the executive secretary of the CC whose name I can't remember.

The meeting was chaired by the SE region chairlady Maggie Scrase, who was standing down after the meeting.

The meeting followed the usual format, of chairman's and treasurers report etc. there was an addresses by George Davey, Rodney Lambert, and the exec secretary of the CC and nothing much was said or queried of a contraversial nature.

The only election required and dealt with was for a new SE region treasurer.

The meeting closed after about 90 mins, and we all adjourned to our caravans to prepare ourselves for the important part of the rally.

Having got into our finery we assembled in the usual hall for an evening meal of coq au vin, (or perhaps coq au van), various veg and new potato's, followed by either tiramisu or black forest slice and cream.

Chris Jackman's technique on the squirry cream had to be seen to be believed!

After the meal we then danced the night away to music by the very excellent "Forever Young". The dance floor was full all evening, with an interval for R&R and the raffle. The evening ended shortly after 11 pm.

Sunday morning was beautiful weather, clear blue sky and sunshine.

Flag commenced at 1030 because it was Remembrance Sunday, and the two minutes silence was observed with the rest of the UK at 1100.

The rally closed at 1500.

To say that this rally was a triumph for our centre is an understatement.

Some of our visitors from other centres told Anne that they could not remember a better Saturday evening.

Well done West Sussex officers, committee, and other helpers, who are too numerous to mention.

Our centre is well and truly on the map.

John and Anne Lawrence.

Southern Centres Rally, Apps Court, 26-29 August

Please see the Southern Centres page to read the rally report.

Shoreham Air Show 19-21 August

What a show!

This was a first for the current committee, running a rally for 100 vans/motor homes with attendees from numerous other centres. We had 110 units booked on but several failed to appear without letting Carol know which was annoying as we had a waiting list too.

Still on a more positive note the rally officers arrived Thursday evening so come Friday morning the field was laid out, extra fresh water taps were put in place and the sun came out.

Sandy and I with Terry and Chris arrived in time to assist in greeting and parking the arrivals. As usual a mad rush at midday then a quiet spell. Dave Massey sited the motor homes and ended up flattening the battery on his 'go faster' which has a range of 25 miles!!

Due to the air show nothing extra was planned except we did manage to get an ice cream van to come each day. The vendors of both vans donated a percentage of their takings to the charity which is now £55.00 better off so we managed to shift an enormous amount of ice creams between us.

The air show itself was really good and I am told the weather was the best for some years. I wish we could claim that we arranged that too!

The rally officers did really well policeing the entrance all weekend as some unwanted visitors were in the area and made it clear they wanted to park in our field.

I was very pleased to hear many positive comments on how well the whole weekend went in relation to the siting of vans and organisation of paying fees etc.

Thank you very much to all who helped make it such a lovely rally and in particular Dave and Sue Massey, Antony and Marie Waterhouse, Geoff and Lynne Lamb and last but certainly not least Dave and Carol Wightman for all your hard work and enhancing the good name of the West Sussex centre.

Nick H

Stedham Mill, 12-14 August

I received a frantic call from Dave and Sue Nicholls (or should I say 'Elvis' and Pricilla) at about 7:30 am on Friday advising us not to come via Storrington and Pulborough as road works in both locations were causing severe delays. Taking their advice, we eventually arrived at Stedham Mill Farm shortly after 4pm. On our way in, we passed an

elderly man who I later found out was my cousin whom I had not seen for many years.

Once sited and settled, Moya got the tea from the already bubbling urn and I sipped on a coke as I was on medication and forced to avoid alcohol. A short while later I was warmly greeted by our Hon Sec whom it seemed had christened me with a new nickname due to a breakout of spots the previous week. Lots of hugs and kisses later (it's nice to be liked), we got on with finishing our setting up duties.

Dave Nicholls had told me it was going to be an Elvis experience I'd never forget and I got the feeling he really meant it as we sat down to the noggin and natter that night. Nearly everyone turned up and the party tent was full to bursting (great job as usual Wally). The boom-box was bashing out "ELVIS" songs. We did not hear all 600 songs Elvis recorded (shame on you Dave).

We left early to erect a bed in my awning and to put up some curtains (to maintain my dignity and avoid upsetting the neighbours) as this is where I would be sleeping for the weekend as my mum was coming to stay with us. It bucketed down most of the night which disturbed my sleep somewhat and it seemed Mum and Moya were having a battle to see who could snore the loudest, both denying it the next morning, until someone else said they had heard it. No Names but we know who you are.

Saturday started a bit drab but soon gave way to sparks of sunshine so things were looking up but I lazed in bed listening to my audio book (much to Moya's annoyance). Breakfast was casual and soon over, the silver cleaned and put away.

In the afternoon, we played Black 5, rummy-cub and a game Moya loves to call BONK, luckily relieving the rally officers of most of contents of their copper tin. I even managed a walk down to Stedham Mill. Early evening we had a fine BBQ cooked by my own fair hands and served with salad. Lovely jubbly! It was a lazy day which passed very pleasantly.

Dave ran around like a man possessed, getting things ready for the evening. Enlisting the help of Wally and myself, the boom box was hung up higher in the party tent (which had been christened Dis Gracelands for the weekend) as people had complained they could not hear the music. People started to arrive about 8pm and I wasn't sure they were all going to fit. They were arranged in teams of 6 or 7 to answer 20 multiple choice questions about the real Elvis and his life and recordings. Although we were warned to swat up on our Elvis facts, it was evident that most of us had not bothered as most of the teams only managed a modest score of 11 or 12. The winning team scored 19 so clearly, they had been revising!

We were then doled out with a wonderful slice of A'HA Victoria sponge cake, well done Sue expertly cooked and it tasted delicious.

Dave had hinted that Elvis would make an appearance and sure enough, Dave could be heard outside the party tent welcoming the King to our rally. Following a short pause and an almighty uproar from us all, Dave walked through the entrance of Dis Gracelands holding a full sized cut-out of the King himself. Cameras flashed and lots of ralliers jostled to stand next to the cut-out having their pictures taken. A great time was had by all.

Once again, I did not get much sleep as round two of the snoring competition was taking place and foxes could be heard baying near the Mill.

Sunday's glorious sunshine woke me up. What a wonderful start to the day. At Flag, Nick's speech was short but made it clear it was a great weekend, due in part to Elvis (the real one) being one of his favourite entertainers. After a cut of cards Moya and I won the envelope Quiz which was a great surprise. The raffle was well supported and seems to grow each week with donations of prizes.

All to soon, it was time to pack up for our journey home.

Thanks to all the hard work Dave and Sue put in, we had a great weekend. Many thanks and we hope to see you all soon.

Moya and George

Hog Roast Charity Rally 5-7th August 2011, Butcherland Farm Ebernoe

Wow! What a fantastic weekend! Where do I begin? Thursday started rather wet and as my wife Sandy will tell you I was having my doubts about how this weekend would pan out. We arrived early Thursday afternoon and she left me alone at my request, to ponder about how to fit everybody in comfortably and where to site the vans of the people who were running the stalls. Terry and Chris arrived and helped to space the field out and as the vans arrived they were man handled into position. David had the brainwave of charging everyone 50p for the Charity to fill their water barrels up and he stitched Dean up to do this on Friday also Lee! Wally and Carol arrived and he got on with putting the hog roaster together in the barn that Ivan had provided for him to use. We put our awnings up so that the soft toys, raffle prizes and all the scones, hot dogs and paraphenalia had somewhere to go so that we could make our beds! Friday dawned nice and bright and the urn was sited and the rally envelopes compiled by Carol were stuffed with the welcome letter just in time for the midday opening. This is where the attendance sheet comes into play as it has the registration numbers of the vehicles arriving on it – or does it? No! Some of you play tricks and change your vehicle without telling us ha ha! Terry, Tony and I spent the afternoon walking up the field siting the vans and pointing out where the water and Elsan was, the lads filled up a lot of the barrels but this was their weekend too and they retired. Tia was going to paint nails this weekend so I had mine decorated with the England flag to show how it was done and didn't have the mickey taken out of me much! Among the last vans to arrive were the 3 who had travelled up from St Austell having closed the holiday rally so they were glad to arrive!

Saturday at approx 4a.m. Wally and Carol together with Terry, Jay and other sleepwalkers, were in the barn getting the pig on to roast – thank you. Wally spent the rest of the day there receiving visitors and tea. Lynsey, Jay and I served hot dogs at midday and they soon ran out – we needed to get the tables ready for the stalls which were opening later. The rain played teasing games and we had a few showers – mainly just as the stalls were set up, down

it came and we had to put them away. Ethan helped with the soft toys and proved to be very helpful in carrying things to each of the stalls as they opened, thank you Ethan. At 2 p.m. the stalls were open and everybody came and we hope had an enjoyable afternoon. George and Moya with their helpers had the cake stall, Bob (from Cornwall too) did the tins with Rosemary, Ted, Ruby, Bill and Mo the tombola, Lynne, Geoff, Antony and Marie the books and puzzles. Tia's nails were very busy and her entire family had the noisy stall - maggot racing what gruesome fun! Kevin was massaging for England and the bottle stall by Dave and Sue sold out. The refreshments came thick and fast with Terry, Tony, Chris and Jill working their socks off and Sandy and Lynsey did the soft toys. Jay and I raised extra with our ping pong game and Wally's wires.

Now onto Saturday evening – Carol and her splendid team did all the preparation for the evening meal and went on to serve it too – thanks to every one of you. Guests were seated and served with a glass of wine or juice while we waited for the hog to be sliced. All agreed that this was the nicest one that Wally has done even Ivan who was busy roasting two lambs in his garden for his guests! Sandy had taken him some crackling up at his request and he reciprocated by sending down some lamb for us to taste – yum! Bill Sholl was amazing with his magic tricks and “Elvis/Mr. Solo” entertained us with over 2 hours of music and we danced the night away – well done both of you. Freda very kindly donated a doll which she hand made. It was auctioned and went home with Doug Hatchman. Unfortunately on Sunday at flag the rain thought it would spoil this for us – as requested I carried on through it but felt that I wasn't able to say enough thank you's to everyone who helped make this such a special weekend. This was a team effort by everyone and you all deserve a big pat on the back and a round of applause. Over £1,200 raised – the final figure will be known in the next few weeks when everything is banked and accounted for.

Well done one and all.

Nick H

The Laughing Fish, Isfield, 22-24 July

The laughing fish and a dead cow!

The weekend saw the West Sussex clan, together with visitors from East Hants, gather in the rally field behind the Laughing Fish pub.

To our surprise we shared the field with a group of folk music enthusiasts and the Suzuki owners club!

The folk singers sang their hearts out all over the weekend and the motorcyclists seemed to be enjoying themselves and making their own entertainment.

The theme of the weekend was to lay back and chill out. I have to say that is what happened. Friday saw us arrive set up and switch off. Saturday we played Hagar's Chess in the sun. Later on we all got together and had a bar be que.

Much to our surprise the weather stayed fine and we sat outdoors chatting until 11 o'clock.

Sunday dawned fine and sunny. Terry and Chris assisted by Tony and Gill Nash were laying on sausages in rolls at 10:30.

Sandy and I left the van at 08:20 to take Jethro and Denzil for a walk before flag. At 10:20 and seven miles away we had to call for help and were collected in a car and returned to the rally field where of course nobody took the mickey at all!

Oh, the dead cow. Yep Denzil found one but luckily decided not to do anything other than sniff it! Brilliant weekend thanks to you all for making it so.

Nick H

Loxwood Sports Club, 8-10 July

41 vans were booked on this rally but only 34 vans turned up as a number of members cancelled prior to the event.

The weather was awful on Friday and the forecast for the weekend was not brilliant, however the forecast didn't dampen the spirits of our members who once again did us proud on this return visit to one of our favourite sites. The social club was open for the weekend and some ralliers used the facilities on Friday evening whilst some gathered in the party tent. On Saturday, the morning was free to do as we pleased and at 2pm there was a darts competition in the club. Lots of people joined in and Pete Dales played Tony Nash in the final which Pete won. There was also a childrens darts competition which was won by David Sykes. On Saturday evening, following a communal BBQ, we all went over to the club for a disco.

At Flag on Sunday morning, we welcomed 4 new members on their first rallies and 5 visitors from other centres. We also wished 4 people "Happy Birthday". The darts trophy was awarded to Pete Dales who swiftly handed it to Tony Nash as he felt he could not accept it as he was not a West Sussex member. We hope to rectify that one day! David was awarded a set of darts for his win and prizes were awarded to Jack Steedman and George & Moya Hickman for winning the envelope quizzes.

Following flag, a number of helpers took down the party tent, just in time to miss quite a heavy shower. Several people got together for a communal breakfast, by which time the sun was blazing in the sky.

It was a super weekend and thanks to Del & Zoe, assisted by Tony, Gill and Mick for all their hard work and effort in making the weekend a success.

Carol

Ecclesden Farm Angmering, 1-3 July

I arrived on Friday with Grandma & Grandad (Ivan & Terri Browne). It was my first rally and my first time in their caravan. I got the water and helped get the caravan ready. We had a BBQ and then went over to the clubhouse to say hello. Everyone was friendly. On Saturday after breakfast, we went to Littlehampton beach. After that we went back to the campsite and had lunch. The rally officers had organised a big walk to Highdown Gardens. It was a good walk and

when we got there, I had an ice cream. On the way back, Ted showed us the quick way back but it was a long long way back because we got lost. When we did get back, it was time for the get together BBQ. I ate mine and was so tired I went to bed at 8 o'clock. Sunday I did not wake up until 9 o'clock and after breakfast we had flagpole. I was 2nd in the competition and got some sweets and then I was given a "First Rally" plaque. We packed up and went home after lunch. The rally was lots of fun.

Thank You.

Robert Etherton aged 7 Loseley Estate, 17-19 June

Chris and I really enjoyed the Rally at Loseley Estate, Godalming last weekend, beautiful setting. We managed to set up in the dry on Friday afternoon and were joined by our friends from East Hants, their first time rally with West Sussex.

As always we looked at the competition, usually too hard for us - we take no TV or laptops with us as we always like to chill out, eat, drink and chat, but found we could answer the questions.!

Saturday the rally officers did a fantastic job putting up a make do marquee, in between awnings - The venue wanted £85 to put up our own party tent!!! Luckily in the evening the weather brightened up and we all enjoyed the quizzes prepared by Stan & Angie.

Bacon butties were served before flag pole with coffee or tea and guess what, for the first time in 27 years Chris and I actually won the competition, nearly fainted.

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic weekend in spite of the weather and hope to see you all again soon.

Pam & Chris Cork

Goffsland Farm, 10-12 June

On Friday afternoon as we were driving to Goffsland Farm, my mobile beeped with a message. It was from our friend Val who had already arrived on site. "Tight entrance" was the message and my heart sank. We have a bit of history with tight entrances & I was dreading our arrival! We turned into the farm entrance & drove up to the farmyard. We needn't have worried - the rally officers were out in force - Jill, Ashley, Kim then Malcolm made sure we were guided safely into the field - our thanks to you all!

And what a lovely field! Surrounded by beautiful views. And cows. And the noisy bull in the neighbouring field! But it is a great site on a working farm with a CL beside the old farmhouse.

The weather was warm & it was lovely to be able to sit out in the sun until dinner watching everyone arriving. There were about 25 vans/motorhomes in all, of which 3 units, I think, were visitors. A large group of ralliers got together when Dave & Carol arrived, to help unload the party tent & erect it, which was completed very quickly. The new tent is really swish - we're very lucky! After dinner we all congregated in the tent with our chairs & "refreshments" & had a great evening. As the cool night air started seeping in, Dave came to the rescue with the gas fires & we were soon cosy & warm.

Saturday morning dawned bright & sunny & after some had visited the farm shop for fresh goodies, we all set off for a walk, with dogs, led by Kim & Ashley. Kim told us the walk would take us via the local pub to the Shipley windmill. We would stop at the pub for a drink and/or lunch, and as we were getting closer to the pub, two walkers handed their dogs to their "other halves" & began to increase their pace until they had overtaken everyone in front & by the time we had all reached the pub, these two (can't remember their names) were coming out with beers in hand! They were quite understandably concerned that the bar would be too crowded if everyone turned up together!! A few returned to site and everyone else left in their own time and continued at their own pace. The walk to the windmill & back to the site was really enjoyable & then we enjoyed a quiet cup of tea & rest - until we were woken up by Jill knocking on the door to tell us the communal BBQ would have to be cancelled as the weather was looking too dodgy! As it turned out, the weather brightened & most of us were able to bbq at our vans. We had a fab evening with a quiz in the party tent. Kim & Ashley are definitely the West Sussex centre quizmasters! It was first class with all the feeley bags & close-up pictures!

Sunday morning brought the rain and it was grey & cool. We had flagpole in the party tent & afterwards another group got together to take down the tent - which was done & dusted within about 15minutes! We'd had a lovely, relaxing weekend, and our thanks go to Kim Ashley, Malcolm & Jill, for all their hard work & giving us such a good time. And for us, guiding us safely back out through that "tight entrance"!

Diane Penfold

Springbok Estate, 27-30 May

When we arrived at Alfold farm we had a bit of trouble unhitching the caravan from the car, fortunately Grandad and Wally came to our rescue. When we finally finished unhitching and levelling the van I took my dog, Jack, for a walk to explore the fields. When I got back the caravan was all sorted so Dean and I went to look for the water tap. After dinner we went for a natter and noggin in the brand new party tent. We were the first ones there so we gathered around the big heater for some warmth! Gradually the rest of the caravanners came to join us so Wally had to get some more heaters. We stayed there till bed time, which was really late for me.

Grandad went fishing on Saturday and was already gone before I went to the rally office to collect my rock that I had to paint a ship on, which was the childrens competition. I painted a rainbow viking boat which took all day to do; many thanks to Anne for the loan of the colouring pens. The afternoon was spent showing people round our caravan as John arranged for an open viewing session for anyone who wanted to take part. In the evening we decided to go to the club house for a game of darts and so Dad could watch the football! I made a new friend and we chatted and drew on the chalk board. On the way back to the caravan David decided he could jump the fence but completely missed

and got his trainer stuck on it; he was fine but we laughed so much and apologise if we woke anyone up. On Sunday morning I had a party to go to but when we got back just after lunch we joined in the games, which was great fun. The urn was on for those who wanted tea or coffee. In the evening we played Bingo in the club house and Sandy won the big prize. It was great fun even though we didn't win. After Bingo Mum and Dad went to the party tent but I went back to the caravan to watch telly in Mum and Dad's bed!

Monday was flag pole where all the children won a prize for the competition as the judge couldn't choose a winner and said they were all brilliant. John and Anne donated the raffle prizes and the takings all went to the charity. After flag we packed the caravan up, said goodbye to everyone, and made our way home, but not before Dad reversed the caravan! Well done Dad, finally.

The rally officers organised some great games, including bonus ball and lucky pitch peg.

Thank you to John, Anne, Bill and Maureen for a great weekend!

Tia Phillips, age 10

NATIONAL RALLY, SLEDMERE HOUSE, DRIFFIELD, YORKSHIRE 27-31 May

West Sussex had their usual turnout of loyal National attendees plus a couple of new vans/outfits. There were 8 in total including 6 West Sussex members and 2 non-centre members.

We'd been up and waiting from 7am when the gates first opened with the earliest members arriving at 9am. All the vans had arrived by 3 pm, thus leaving us free to walk down to the arena where all the activities take place.

The weather proved ok but windy with only one day of rain which, of course, was Bank Holiday Monday. This was Vicky's first experience of rain and she took full advantage to wallow in the mud!

As usual Joan Redman (the Redman's are one of the oldest centre members, if not the eldest) won a number of awards for her wine and her baking – 1 gold, 3 silver and a certificate for her wines and a gold for her Pilchard Pizza (Oh yuk!) Pauline Pegden, North Lancs member, but who prefers to rally with West Sussex was on the winning team for the Inter Centre Quiz, unfortunately not West Sussex.

The Clarks and the Toveys were suitably dressed for the Sunday night entertainment which had a 40's theme with Glen Miller music.

The National closed with the announcement of next years' venue – Eastnor Castle, Ledbury but to coincide with the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations it will not be the bank holiday weekend but the following week.

I must just point out that Malcolm had help every day in raising and lowering the Centre Flag.

You can view photos taken at the National Rally on our Facebook page ([The Caravan Club - West Sussex Centre](#))

Jill Webb

Fort Widley Rally 13th- 15th May

We arrived at the site just after midday. We were greeted by Terry and Chris as the rally officers (Sue and Dave) and several committee members had gone to Chichester to the funeral of Ruth Windsor.

The vans were placed in a circle around the rally field. From the ramparts spectacular views could be seen of the Solent and South Downs. The weather stayed bright and dry over the weekend but it also lived up to its name of Windy Widley.

All vans had arrived by late afternoon with a few vans cancelling for various reasons. Early evening saw some people going off to the pub, some (who we won't mention)

went to the MONSTER BURGER van, others opted to eat in. Later that evening we gathered in the party 'tent' which was cleverly built to British Standards by Capt. Dave (Wally) and his motley crew using two awnings, a tarp. some bendy poles, duct tape and a prayer. With lots of heaters, a gas cooker and a drop of alcohol for medicinal purposes! This made for a very convivial evening.

Saturday morning was free to do (or not to do in our case) as we pleased. Some made use of the local retail outlets others relaxed and dogs were taken for walks (ours was quite happy to stay in the motor home). After lunch the games came out this included Hagar's Chess, Lawn darts, Aunt Sally and Boules. Nearly everyone had a go of at least one of the games (even John the Treasurer). Aunt Sally a game most of us hadn't played before was provided by George. Hagar's chess proved very popular and was still being played till long after the delicious cake and tea was served. Just a conspiracy theory but initially we thought Jay was being very generous offering to have the children on his side however it turned out that the children were playing far better than the adults especially the little demon going by the name of Harry who seemed to hit everything he aimed for.

For the evening we had the use of one of the rooms in the fort, for indoor games this time. Firstly was team darts quiz, in turn 1 of a team of 4 threw a dart and the team answered a question. The team that won were Terry, Chris, Dave and Carol it couldn't have happened to a noisier sorry nicer foursome. This was followed by 2 games of prize bingo with a pair of watches and a garden clock up for grabs with all monies taken going to the chairman's charity. Finally there was the 'dice game' played down 2 rows, our 30p stakes circulating round till the person holding the last 10p won the kitty. Which happened to be Nicola and Dave (Wally). A great night was had by all so much so that a few gate crashed the divers disco next door and were welcomed in.

Before Flag on Sunday bacon butties were served up and after flag people dispersed at their own pace before close of rally at 1600.

A very big thank you to the Rally officers Sue and Dave Nicholls and the supporting cast of the W. S. C. C. for all their hard work which made for a most enjoyable Rally.

Nicola and Kevin

Leasam's Farm, Rye - 28 April - 2 May

My first rally was celebrating the royal wedding at it was a very memorable experience. When we arrived Geoff came to meet us and he knew all our names. He told us to find a spot to camp anywhere we liked and made us feel very welcome. We were given a brown envelope with all the details about the weekend but we were told not to worry about attending everything if we didn't want to. I still wanted to do everything though!

On Friday morning we went down to the marquee to watch the wedding. We met a few people but we spent most of the time watching the wedding. After having a snack back at the motor caravan we met up with some more people to have a street party. We forgot to bring a table but someone quite happily lent us one so we could really enjoy our meal. That was when we realised that everyone was really friendly and we could really enjoy the rest of our holiday. That evening we went down to the marquee to get to know some more people. Everyone seemed really interested to hear about some of the stories we had to tell and I quite enjoyed listening to what everyone had to say and all the adults were very friendly to me as well as my parents so I didn't feel left out in any way.

On Saturday we decided to walk down to the local town. The dog really enjoyed looking at some new scenery and it was great to be able to explore the site. It wasn't long before we got back to see people playing some field games. I had never heard of some of the games before but it wasn't long before my dad was playing along. I think he even won a game as well!!! At about 4 o'clock we all met outside the marquee to have a barbeque. It was a really nice day and to top it all off we had a family fortunes quiz night in the evening. It was a lot of fun and some of the things people said were really funny. It was really nice to see everyone talking together- and to bring out their competitive side!

On Sunday we were given a walking quiz which took a good 1 hr 30 mins. Some of the clues were really tricky but it was a lovely day so I didn't mind. The quiz ended at the pub and I had some lunch there with everyone else. We were going to go back to the marquee in the evening but the wind was so strong we had to take the marquee down. Instead we could get to bed early for the journey home the next day.

'The flag' is something that they do every time to say thanks to the people who have helped out and give out prizes to the winners. We were given an 'our first rally' token and I got a pack of smarties so I was happy. Believe it or not we actually won the walking quiz and got a prize for that as well. At the end everyone said goodbye and asked us to come back again. We have already booked our next rally and I am really looking forward to meeting everyone again. Thank you to everyone who made us feel welcome, we are all really glad we came to the rally and I am sure it will be the first of many.

Selena Burfield, aged 12

Loveders Farm, 8-10 April

We arrived at the fields about 6.30 and were directed to our pitch by Terry and Tony, impersonating aircraft landing crew (wearing luminous safety jackets)! They directed us to our pitch and offered tea/coffee. After we were settled, many of the caravanners met in the already erected party tent for nibbles drinks and laughter.

Saturday saw the arrival of the sun which meant all the kids were able to keep themselves occupied outside in the fields. Meanwhile, the usual suspects were creating a delicious meal that all were looking forward to having later that evening. At approx 6:30 everyone headed over to the party tents again with cups and plates and everything needed for the meal. We were all seated in 2 long lines up the party tent and table by table were directed to 'collect our meal'. This was bacon and onion roly-poly! Terry & Tony had the job of cutting the puddings up (straight from the boiling water which left them without much skin on their fingers) and it was served by Carol, the potatoes by Chris and the beans by Gill. There was more than enough dinner to fill up the hungriest of people and there were many clean plates! Pudding was cream and fruit salad.

After a quick clean and wash up we all gathered again in our teams of 6 ready for the 'Pub Quiz'. Tony was a great Quiz Master and the winning team were presented with a lovely box of choccy's – which were then shared out! The evening saw the heaters come to life and the ralliers (depending on how much alcohol was consumed)!

Sunday morning was more glorious than Saturday and meant Flag-Pole at 11:00 was held outside. Tea, coffee and biscuits were available and of course, the raffle was drawn. Ruby ended up with a lot of 'prizes' for her Tombola – to be held at the Charity Rally/Hog Roast on the 5th to 7th August at Butcherland Farm, Ebernoe.

The Party tent was packed away, and loaded into Dave's van and shortly after, the smell of brunch filled the field as people gathered in groups to enjoy the sun. I would like to thank the Rally Officers at this point for arranging the weather – it was glorious!

A lovely weekend was had by all and thank you to everyone who had a hand in putting it all together. We very much look forward to the next!

Lynsey Harris

Rowan Park, 25-27 March

Rally Officers Jay Parks and Lynsey Harris (assisted by Nick and Sandy)

A healthy complement turned out for this glorious spring weekend on the reopening of this lovely venue near Bognor Regis.

Signed in and through the barrier we arrived on the rally field to the sight of Jay standing amongst the daffodils. He duly sited us in a favourable sunny spot. Once the awnings were up and rally fees paid we settled back to the whiff of barbeque (or was it Geoff's clutch???) and a glass of wine (for some the bargain bucket (KFC not wine) from across the road was also popular) we had a chance to relax and recharge our batteries after a hectic week before joining friends in the chairman's awning for an evening's chat and refreshments.

New additions to the WSCC animal entourage were Florence our Bichon Frise puppy and Jill and Malcolm's Labrador Vicky, the Trainee Guide Dog Puppy. Both provided lots of affection, conversation and entertainment.

The Early Mothers day gathering on Saturday saw the ladies each receive a lovely card, hand crafted by Lynsey. Thanks to Sandy for the cake and to Jay for providing the waiter service.

Van quizzes were held on Saturday night with Sandy and Lynsey dropping by to each team with different stages of the competition. Half time saw a gathering for hot dogs cooked by Rally Officers assisted by John Lawrence and served under a host of gathered lamp lights. Florence attempted to clear all of the onions that fell out of the hot dogs. She was extremely windy after that and has decided that as the humans laughed at these smells she would do it again next time!!

Over the course of the weekend the envelope walking quiz provided those that took part with a chance to exercise their brains and feet, even our psychic abilities were tested for the answer that had gone missing.

After a slight rain shower overnight we gathered again to fine warm dry weather for tea and biscuits at flag with raffle and competition results. The weekend's competitions had been hotly fought out with tie breakers required for both the Van competitions and the walking envelope quiz.

Despite the signs at reception Di and Terry still managed to miss flag forgetting that British summer time had started! Finally as this was Jay and Lynsey's first time as rally officers, may we congratulate them both on an enjoyable and fun rally and encourage them to take up the reins again in the near future.

Marie & Antony Waterhouse

Orchard Farm, Chidham, 11-13 March

Not Egg and Spoon racing but Pancakes and Pans!

The rally at Orchard farm, Chidam was attended by 20 units. There were electricians on site but not enough for all and it was good fun working out who could use what electrical devices without causing a black out! The electricians are not up to the same standard as Caravan Club sites!

Friday evening saw some of us gathering in the rally officers awning for a natter. On Saturday morning quite a few of us went out for a 2 hour meander along side the sea aiming in the general direction of Emsworth before returning and getting ready for pancake racing.

John and Anne Lawrence opted for a train ride and mini cruise! The train took them to Southampton and the Isle of Wight ferry formed the main part of the cruise, the Cowes chain ferry forming the other part!

Saturday afternoon saw loads of us, children included, cooking pancakes and then having all sorts of games such as who could throw the pancake the furthest and running races devised on the hoof by Ted. Dave Wightman was the race winner and won a whisky surprise. The surprise being the whisky was only virtual.

Saturday evening saw us taking part in a van to van quiz the final part of which was probably the hardest questions I have ever seen.

Flag was held in a sudden burst of lovely sunshine which ended the weekend nicely.

Our thanks to all who came for supporting the centre and to Ted and Ruby for running it.

Nick H

Muntham House School, 25-27 February

Rally no 4 on our agenda saw us return to Muntham House School at Barns Green, an old favourite with many of us and an opportunity for us to give our units a good old shake down after a short winter break.

Rally officers were Antony and Marie Waterhouse who should have been assisted by Geoff & Lynne Lamb but as Lynne was unwell, Stan and Angie Brown stepped in at the last minute to help.

18 Vans attended including 3 first timers, some with young children who seemed to be enjoying themselves and were very well behaved. It was really nice to see youngsters on the rally field again. They were kept busy with a competition to see who could fit the most things into a matchbox.

On Friday evening a group of us ventured to the local hostelry where the food was good and the ale even better. We then adjourned to the clubhouse near the school to meet up with others attending the rally. Saturday saw some go off for a walk to enjoy the lovely scenery whilst the rest of us stayed on site and had a natter with our friends. Saturday evening was spent in the local clubhouse.

Sunday began with egg and bacon rolls for breakfast, courtesy of the rally officers and a band of willing helpers which was followed by flag. The weather was not great but as we approach spring we are hopeful that 2011 will be a good year for caravanners.

Maureen & I wish to thank Antony, Marie, Stan and Angie for the hard work and planning which took place to ensure that the weekend went off well See you again soon.

Maureen & Bill Brown

Valentines Rally, Midhurst, 11-13 February

About 30 vans attended and got settled in on Friday evening with everybody doing their own thing after paying the usual fees and greeting friends. Some then had a meal at a very local hostelry and were later joined by others who strolled down for a natter till closing time when it was uphill back to the vans.

Saturday was a free daytime to enjoy a stroll into Midhurst town or the lovely local countryside.

Bob West was our rally officer, and he and his band of helpers decorated the hall and started to prepare the food for the evening's festivities to celebrate Valentines Day. (Yes, we know it's not till Monday).

1800 hrs we congregated in our finery in the school hall to find tables decorated with tablecloths, candles in bottles, and large red hearts to fit the occasion. We were treated to Jacket spuds (to go with dinner jackets I suppose), with fillings of a choice of chilli, tuna, cheese, coleslaw, and baked bean and sausage surprise. Well Bob was surprised

when he realised he had bought tins of beans with cocktail sausages in them! They were jolly good though, more next time Bob please. This was followed by a choice of chocolate or strawberry gateaux and "help yourself" coffee or tea. Flag followed the meal with the usual announcements, presentations, and raffle. No new ralliers this time but a couple of returnees to the fold. Well done!

We were then entertained by Dave "Mr Solo" Nicholls, and his box of musical backing groups, with a very varied programme of excellent music. Well done Dave. It was good to see the dance floor frequently full and everyone having a good time.

At the interval Bob had generously donated a large bottle of whisky and we were invited to throw our pound coins at it with the nearest winning the bottle. The money raised to go to the Chairman's nominated charity. A total of £63:00 was raised. Well done everybody and thank you Bob.

Music and dancing then resumed till 11 pm. All in all a very enjoyable evening.

Special mention must be made to Sue and Dave Nicholls who as co rally officers worked tirelessly throughout the weekend.

John and Anne Lawrence

Northbrook Farm, 28-30 January

What an amazing turn out, considering the time of year. We had 35 vans booked, 3 cancellations and 32 vans arrived. 6 first time ralliers, 5 visitors and 7 children. Dave and I would like to thank you all for your support. Here is a rally report from one of the first timers:

Our First Rally was a great success. We have four children aged 9, 6, 3 and 1, all of which were really looking forward to going on our first caravanning trip of the year. We were slightly nervous about what to expect, having not been involved in any rallies before. We arrived at the campsite just as the sun was beginning to set. Dave came to greet us as we aimlessly drove our caravan into Northbrook Caravan Club site. He knew exactly who we were (I think the fact that we had an Espace and a large number of children probably gave him a big clue) and welcomed us to the rally. We pitched up and started cooking a meal for our hungry big and little babies. While it was cooking I took all of them to meet the Rally Officers who made me a much needed cup of tea. The rally officers provided details of what would be happening over the weekend.

Our children were very excited and they all wanted to get into their pyjamas and clean their teeth ready for bed. They didn't stay in their own beds for very long! Just as we were getting settled, we had the added excitement of the power failing and us trying to work out if our van was broken or if something was wrong with the electricity box outside.

However it turned out to be the main fuses on the electricity cable as most of the housed residents in the area also had the same trouble. Most of the evening was spent with our headlights on until the problem was fixed by the local electricity supplier. The 'going to bed' task didn't take too long for the first night.

Saturday morning was spent on the caravan site playing in the trees. After lunch we went for a long walk up to Highdown Hill. Our youngest fell asleep for a very long time and we were all shattered when we got back to our nice warm caravan where most of us then also fell asleep.

We had been invited to join everyone at the Sussex Yeoman pub/restaurant on Saturday evening but, trying to keep the weekend as cheap as possible, we decided not to go. With hindsight, we wished we had gone. Next time, maybe.

The 'Flag' on Sunday morning (something we were unfamiliar with) was at 10.30 and it was great to meet all of the other Caravanners on the Rally, all of which were very friendly and helpful. We were given 'Our First Rally' token and welcomed again. The children loved it as well, and each received a Creme Egg and a Mars Bar. What more do children want? Our 6 year old was chosen to pick a winner for the quiz, which she loved doing. The Rally was then finished but we stayed for a picnic in the wooded area before packing up to go home.

We loved it, the children loved it and we can't wait to go on our next one to Muntham House at the end of February 2011.

Thank you so much, it took us a year to pluck up the courage to come along to a Rally, and we're really glad we did.

Cath Watson

Jack Frost Rally - 14-16 January

We arrived at the school about 5.45 and immediately spotted Kim wearing her luminous safety jacket, directing drivers into the site via a short detour around a small island which appeared to have been built for the job. Once settled and fees paid, some of us wandered down to the local pub where we enjoyed an evening meal and some liquid refreshment. We were expecting several other ralliers to join us later in the evening, however they decided to go hiking to another establishment in Midhurst.

On Saturday, several people worked extremely hard in the kitchens preparing the evening meal whilst the main function hall was crowded with helpers who adorned the hall with lights, setting the scene for the evening. The tables and chairs were set out and the disco equipment and lights were tested to ensure everything would run smoothly.

The evening meal consisted of delicious cold meats (ham and turkey) served with baked beans and bubble and squeak cakes. There were several home made desserts to choose from for afters, all of which were well received.

After the meal, we danced the night away, trying to work off some of those Christmas calories.

It was a lovely weekend and it was clear that a lot of effort had gone into organising the event. Many thanks to Kim and Ashley who were the rally officers for this event and to Liz, Laurie, Sue and Stuart (and all the other helpers) who contributed to making the weekend such a success.

Carol