



## NEWSLETTER NO.6 – MARCHING ON MARCH 2024



We march on, through the sun, wind, rain and snow to go out in our caravans and motorhomes regardless. I was just thinking back to our first caravan that had no shower or hot water and we used to have to carry the toilet through the van to empty it, but my gosh did I love it. You never forget your first caravan or motorhome do you? Are you thinking about yours right now? We bought our first caravan from ebay, without even seeing it. But it did the trick. It meant we no longer needed to put the pup tent up next to Mum and Dads van. Dad was happy when we bought our first van, as it meant less toilet emptying trips for him! How many caravans have you owned? Did you love each one the same, but for different reasons? You have your deal breakers don't you, when you go caravan shopping, and then there are things you are happy to compromise on. What's your deal breakers - a separate shower, a full size fridge, a fixed bed..... We are on caravan no.4 now and we bought it because we needed a new caravan step (yes just a new step)! We popped down to Winchester Caravans to buy a step, and like many of you I am sure, we couldn't resist a look around the vans while we were there. Then I saw our van, I stepped inside, and it just felt right. So Shaun(husband) got the look from me, and the smile and then I think I started clapping my hands "I really like this one Shaun, sit here, look, full size fridge for your beer, no more making up the bed, what do you think...." and the rest was history as they say. I don't always get my own way – pinocchio nose!! She is a beast though (twin axle, extra wide, 3 double beds). I love her and I am so proud when I am towing her along (yes that's me, Emma, a female tower).

**Power to the women, Power to the female towers** (Helen, Clair, Zecci, Steph, Paula, Dela, Lorraine, Linda, Kate, Emma C and Emma R – to name a few).

**"March, when days  
are getting long,  
Let thy growing  
hours be strong to  
set right some  
wintry wrong."**

## THE YOUTH SECTION YAPIES

My name is **Luke**, I am 13 years old. This is the second year I have been in the youth section and I have many happy memories from caravanning. I really enjoyed the youth section last year and am really looking forward to another year of it. When I am older I would like to be an aerospace engineer and work for NASA

Favourite food: Lamb Rogan Josh  
 Favourite school subject: Computing  
 Favourite thing to do: Reading  
 Favourite film: Star Wars episode six



Hi, my name is **Grace**. I am 14 years old and this is my first year in the youth section.

I am looking forward to being in the youth section, helping people on the rally field, along with my friends.

I like going out for dog walks with my friends. Recently I have been studying for my mock exams as I want to be a PE teacher.

Favourite food: Pesto pasta (Stephs cooking is better than Dads)  
 See you on the rally field.

### Key Dates for March:

**19th World Sleep Day** - No excuse for yawning that day as you should all be sleeping!

**28th World Piano Day** - happens on the 88th day of the year as there are 88 keys on a piano!

**28th Wear a Hat Day** - For all those coming to the Easter rally we expect to see you all turning up with hats on! Sea themed ones!!

**31st British Summer time begins** - This means you will lose an hour's sleep, so make sure you get extra sleep on the 19th and the sun probably won't come out until June!

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### Joke Corner:

I sold my hoover the other day, it was just gathering dust.

Five ants live in a house. Five more move in. Now there are ten-ants!

I hate static caravans, every time I stick my key in my hair sticks up.

### Guess what I am:

#### What am I

I roll along, being pulled by two legs.  
 I carry something that is needed everyday.

I will be refilled every day you are away!

#### What am I

I am used in the morning and in the evening.

You will put stripes on my head each time I am used.

I will keep you feeling fresh and minty

## THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN MIKE

Well, it is Spring, and I suppose we have had a few nice days, but when is it going to stop raining for a while so the ground can dry out a little.

We have had some good rallies in the last month, but sadly we still had to cancel another event because of ground conditions. Very luckily for us, Mary Hare School have built some more parking areas, so we can be on hard standing for Easter, which is a great relief!

After Easter we have our first youth section rally of the year at Little Metlands Farm near Bishop's Waltham. The Youth Section Rallies are always inspirational, and I greatly look forward to seeing what our young people are going to put on for our entertainment. If you can get to the rally, please give them your support and I guarantee you will be pleased you have done so.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Rally in August, is nearly full, with over 80 units booked. If you have not done so, please can you pay your deposits to confirm your places and avoid disappointment. We are all very much looking forward to celebrating this great milestone in West Hant's history.

I hope we see you all soon!

### Happy Rallying

Mike

[chairman@whampshirecc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@whampshirecc.co.uk)

07976 825051



Marching into March with a drum and a smile.  
Strum-diddly-ump-tum

This was Mike Firmager strumming away at the VE Day celebration rally, at Middle Wallop Air Museum, in May 1995.

Mike got his drum out again in lockdown and went over to the care home near to where they live, and played for the residents whilst Pauline sang war time songs, to entertain them all. Mike and Pauline volunteer their time, for the joy of others.

#TashOnMikey

## WHAT'S COMING UP IN APRIL



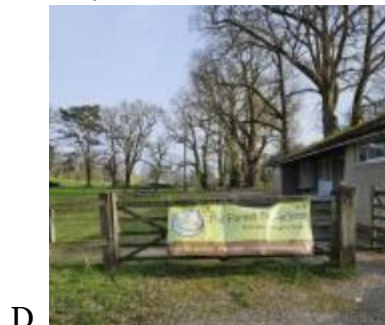
### April 2024

- Please see our website - [www.whampshirecc.co.uk](http://www.whampshirecc.co.uk) - to book your rallies and keep updated with the latest news (Posts, Newsletter and Focus)
- Rallies coming up in April:  
**Youth Section Fun – Little Metlands**  
This rally is organised by the Youth Section, who are children that decided to put themselves forward to volunteer for our centre. They work as a team, come up with ideas/games/fun, and they learn how to site the caravans and motorhomes. They do something for everyone. This is a rally worth going to.

## GUESS THE SITE

What rally were these photos taken at?

Answers are on the last page of the newsletter



## CALENDER PERSON OF THE MONTH

### Mr March



Name: Nigel Palmer

Age: 70+

How long have you rallied for: Joined the centre in 1991. My first rally was at Bashley Park. I have been a committee member for 2 spells, 7 years and 3 years

Favourite tippie: Up until a few years ago it would have been Real Ale but now may be Gin and Tonic or Good red wine

#### Sharing a story.....

1. Being towed into an easter rally at Longleat by 2 4-wheel drive vehicles in series and wondering whether we would ever get out.
2. Watching Pauline Firmager removing Mike's Whiskey glass when he falls asleep in the chair and replacing it when he starts to wake up.
3. Looking for Doug Ede when he couldn't find his caravan on a Longleat rally and finding him curled up in a stranger's awning fast asleep. Yes, he was a bit intoxicated.
4. Seeing a young husband and wife having a row and then finding he had hitched up the van and driven off leaving wife and 4 kids behind at Holborn Park.
5. Our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary at Wellington Country Park where we ran our first rally as rally officers, we got through 13 gallons of home-made wine at the social that night. There were a few sore heads next day.
6. Ray Carter ploughing his way out of a rally at Cheddar, they could have planted potatoes in the furrows.
7. Angela Carter losing her keys at a rally at the Millbury's Pub and Ray at home Sick. We forced a window and were wondering who to get to climb in when Tony Mabbett picked up Carol announcing she was the smallest and thrusting her through the open caravan window to open the door.
8. Losing our Cocker Spaniel Pepper and found him in a stranger's awning staring at a dead Guinea Pig in a cage. Did it die of fright or was it already dead ??? who knows but we got out quickly (not a West Hants rally I should add.)
9. An identified lady tasting and blending home-made wine at one of the competition rallies at Bursledon and sleeping in the toilet all night.
10. The team barbeques that we used to do at Mary Hare School with Dave Huntley, Stuart, Mattie, Gary and Mike Firmy . Mike never did move up to cooking the steaks he was always the Sausage King. Yes, even though he set his apron on fire once he never made the grade in Dave's eyes. Stewart not being allowed to Barbeque without supervision and his comment " I am married got 2 kids and Dad still doesn't trust me to cook steaks without being supervised??"

Hope I haven't upset anyone with these comments if so, that wasn't my intention.

Would I do it all again – **Absolutely**

## **CALENDER PERSON OF THE MONTH.....RAISING AWARENESS**

### **On a more serious note.**

Gents do you know that once you reach 50 you should be having PSA tests done every year to check the risk of getting Prostate Cancer.

Sometimes it's difficult to get the Doctors to do it however never fear there is help out there.

There is a group called PCaSO who run drop-in centres at various places in Hampshire run in conjunction with Lions clubs or Masons.

Generally, they are at Shopping centres and handy locations and its Free!!!

Go on the PCaSO web site click testing choose a venue by selecting **here on the web site** then go to booking page and make a booking.

[PCaSO - Prostate Cancer Support Organisation](#)

It's very professionally run with trained Phlebotomists and sent into hospital Laboratories.

You then get a risk rating which is confidential, and you can be referred as necessary.

Caught Early its very treatable so Don't delay, do it, the risks for us Guys is huge.

Nigel



**\*MORE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT HAS BEEN BOOKED\***

**PACK YOUR DANCING SHOES AND COWBOY HATS**

**22<sup>ND</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**THE WEEKEND IS GOING OFF WITH A BOOM  
EXPLOSIVE ACTS / CELEBRATIONS / PARTY**

**BOOK IT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE – [WWW.WHAMPSHIRECC.CO.UK](http://WWW.WHAMPSHIRECC.CO.UK)**

**WEST HAMPSHIRE 60TH Celebration**

August Bank Holiday  
Little Metlands 2024

Steve Cherelle

Live entertainment  
for all the family

Woodsiders

Boom Town

Fast food

kids club

Help us celebrate 60 years,  
Don't miss out, limited  
numbers, book now visit our  
Website  
[www.whampshirecc.co.uk](http://www.whampshirecc.co.uk)

SINCE 1967  
**CARAVAN AND  
MOTORHOME CLUB**

## ALCOHOL – GUESS HOW MANY UNITS ARE IN EACH DRINK?



1.5 UNITS



1 UNIT



0.5 UNITS



2 UNITS



1 UNIT



1.5 UNITS



1 UNIT



1 UNIT



1 UNIT



1 UNIT



1.5 UNITS



1 UNIT



1.5 UNITS



1 UNIT



1 UNIT



1 UNIT



1 UNIT



1.5 UNITS



1 UNIT



## **I REMEMBER WHEN.....BY CLEM FELLOWS**

In 1988 and 1991 Bridget and I along with John & Sheila Hunt and Tom & Eunice Porter ran two 14 day holiday rallies at Crackington Haven in North Cornwall, which was a lovely site between Boscastle and Bude. It was a 7 acre field with a slope towards the bottom of the field, the top was fairly level for about 100 feet then the slope began.

On both rallies among the things we organised were cream teas and barbeques on the field, off field events included an evening mystery tour which was organised with the local coach firm, there were enough people to hire two coaches.

The coaches arrived around 6pm and the ralliers boarded the coaches and settled down in their seats, it was then, OH DEAR, CALAMITY, we found THERE WERE NO SEATS FOR THE RALLY OFFICERS, so after speaking with the drivers who would not tell us where they were going, it was decided to follow the coaches in our cars. This got quite interesting at times with other traffic. At the first stop a lovely country pub, ralliers asked us where we were going next, they didn't believe us when we said " We haven't got a clue, we have to follow the coaches". Once again, our little convoy of two coaches and cars got underway. We dutifully followed the coaches until the last stop which was at a Fish & Chip Shop, they sold the best fish and chips in Cornwall. (found out later it was at Lanivet) Everyone enjoyed the evening.

Especially as it was a mystery trip, whereby apart from the coach drivers none of us knew where we were going or where we had been!

Another trip we organised on both rallies was a day trip to the Scilly Isles from Penzance by sea. Whilst organising the content of the rally programme for the fortnight, John Hunt contacted The Isles of Scilly Steamship Company and was quoted a price of £19 return, he then contacted the coach firm and asked the price of a return coach to take us to Penzance in time for the ships departure, to our amazement they quoted us a price of £19 for the coach and ship, but it would entail an early departure from the rally field and a late return, we asked if they could stop at the Fish & Chip Shop on the return from Penzance to which they agreed.

On the allotted day the ralliers who had booked the trip congregated at 5-30am to board the coach which left at 6am to arrive in Penzance for a 9-30am sailing. In those days the main A39 road was single carriageway all the way to Penzance passing through all the towns and villages, no bypasses in those days.

We all boarded RMS Scillonian 3 (RMS means Royal Mail Steamer) and after approx. 2 hours arrived at St Marys where we disembarked to explore the Islands, some went to Tresco and other islands, some took the island bus tour with the hilarious drivers commentary. He was really happy at one stage as he actually got into third gear!

Later we embarked again for the return voyage to Penzance and the coach home to the rally field, after fish and chips, arriving just before midnight, what an experience.

## **I REMEMBER WHEN.....CONTINUED...**

In 1991 it had rained for about three weeks before the rally and the field was soft, but the rain had stopped three days earlier and the sun was shining, it never rained for the rest of the rally.

We all arrived and decided where we were going to site our vans which we did, but after unhitching my car sunk to the depth of the tyres, and Roger the farmer said he would bring a tractor for us to use, as we had decided that everyone would leave their cars at the top level part of the field and we would tow the vans down with the tractor, so into the field came a big John Deere tractor,

Roger explained the controls to us and it was decided that I would drive it with Tom hitching and unhitching vans and John organising the car park. Funnily enough no one objected to leaving their cars when it was explained why, and later on ralliers told us they thought it was wonderful not having cars passing their vans whilst they were relaxing, also it was peaceful and that children could play without having to dodge moving traffic.

The tractor he loaned us, was the latest model with a quadraphonic sound system, hydraulic hitch, etc with only 7 (SEVEN) miles on the clock over the fortnight we towed all the vans in and out of the field and flattened the ruts with a 4 ton roller as the weather improved. During the time we had the tractor I managed to put 14 miles on the clock, just going around a seven acre field.

There are other stories from these and other holiday rallies we have run, maybe for a later date.

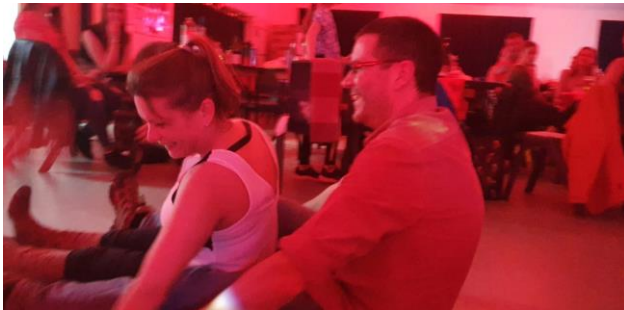
Clem Fallows



## RALLYING FUN IN FEBRUARY

### Burgate school - Valentines

What a wonderful rally so early in the rally season, with traditional Friday night shenanigans. Saturday we took a lovely walk into Fordingbridge to clear our heads, where it felt like we bumped into most of the rally. Back on the rally field, the children could be heard playing basketball, riding on their scooters and just being children. Saturday evening, we danced the night away to the disco, lots of fun and laughter which we come to expect on a West Hampshire Rally. Thank you Dan, Zecci, Steve, Michelle, Evie, Clara, Ethan and Ella.





**Feedback is a gift....**

What would you like to read about?

Do you have a memory you would like to share in the 'I remember when' section?

I would love to see and share your pictures from rallies you have been on....

Please email me - [emma.elsey@whampshirecc.co.uk](mailto:emma.elsey@whampshirecc.co.uk)

**Answers**

**Guess what I am** – 1. Aqua Roll 2. Tooth paste

**Guess the site** - A. Little Metlands B. Centenery C. Sunnydale D. Copythorne

**Units (from left to right)** - Row 1- 3units, 1.6units, 1unit, 1.7units. Row 2 - 1.4units, 1.5units, 1unit, 2units. Row 3 - 2units, 2units, 1.5units, 2units. Row 4 - 2.8units, 1.4units, 1.3units, 2units. Row 5 - 2.3units, 3units, 10units

*Thank You, from your editor Emma Elsey*



*#FuelledWithGin*