



## NEWSLETTER NO.9 – GOLD JUNE 2024



Let's do the British thing and start with talking about the weather.....we have sun people, Sun Sun Sun 😊 . I am no sun worshipper (I'm a factor 30 kinda girl and I always burn at Chideock on the first couple of days even when it is not sunny) but my gosh didn't the weekend feel super great with the sun out. We can really enjoy the longer days and it makes me want to get to the rallies as soon as they start, to have longer there on the first day. Do any of you do what I do, when you get to a rally and you are one of the first to arrive...., you look at all the pegs and you can't decide where to go, there is too much choice haha. You try one pitch, then you might try another and then maybe you will decide on the third choice haha. What about if you are the one that is saving for your friends....oh the pressure of making sure you choose the right area. I am the same in a carpark, if there are too many spaces, too many options to choose a space!

When we run the Chideock rally (cheeky plug – end of May each year), we love it when everyone arrives, and you see everyone finding their spaces, and getting set up for the week ahead. We have done our set up the night before so it's great fun watching everyone else setting up. It's not annoying at all when you are setting up on a rally and your friends arrive after you, and are then set up before you, not annoying at all! You know who you are 😊 We have the best friends, because before we have even unhitched the van, we will more often than not, be handed a gin and a beer. This is when you know the weekend/week has begun, and all the work thoughts and home life have left your mind. One very happy lady at this point. Here's to our amazing caravan/motorhome life.



## THE YOUTH SECTION YAPPIES

Hi my name is David. Life can get busy and that's not taking account of the GCSEs that I've just finished. Next step college. When I'm not on the rally field it's hard to keep track of me as I'm time travelling here and there, forwards and backwards. One of my time zones is the 1940s and I'm in The Platoon - which supports the Blackout Buddies - which bears a very canny resemblance to Dad's Army. The photo was taken at last year's Chatham Dockyard's Salute to the 40s. I'm also an Explorer Scout - having clocked up 10 years in Scouts and achieved my bronze, silver and gold Chief Scout Badges. This weekend I'm camping in the wilds with the Army Air Cadets. Sleeping under a basher for a weekend makes you realise how nice a caravan is. I enjoy rallying - making new friends and catching up with old ones.



Hi I'm Toby. This is my first year on the Youth Section committee. When I'm not on rallies I like to play football, snooker and gaming on fortnite with friends. I like serving (and eating) Tuck shop! At Chideok I got to host my own 'joke' quiz round and now I'm looking forward to helping with the others to run the Youth Section rally in July. Hope to see you there!

\*\*\*\*\*



### IT'S JOKE TIME....

1. What do you call a 3 legged donkey?
2. How did the Barber win the race?
3. What do you call a man with a spade on his head?
4. What is brown and sticky?

## THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN MIKE

Well Summer so far has been a bit erratic, to say the least. We have had some great rallies and really enjoyed being out and socialising, but hasn't the wind been rather blustery on a regular basis.

For the last month, we have been lucky enough to have been away in our van, more than we have been at home, which is the way we like it. We have enjoyed three holiday Rallies: South Lytchett Manor, Dog House Farm Chideock, and Royal Victoria Country Park, and we had a great time on them all! We also spent weekends at Sopley Fruit Farm, a lovely venue we had not been to before, but we hope we will be able to go there again soon. We also had a long weekend at Exbury, with wonderful views, overlooking the Beaulieu River Estuary, the Solent, and the Isle of White. We had a wonderful time there celebrating our Golden Wedding with all the Ralliers (Yes, I know, how has Pauline put up with me for 50 years?).

July is looking just as busy for us, which is the way we like it. We are involved in running two Rallies, and we are very much looking forward to the next Youth Section Rally at Awbridge at the end of the month. It always lifts my spirits to see how our young people work together; they are a fantastic credit to us all in West Hant's!

August is looking pretty busy as well, with Holiday Rallies and at the end of the month, a major event in our Rally calendar this year, which I may have mentioned before, yes, the West Hant's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally is fast approaching, and we are starting to feel the excitement, and we very much look forward to greeting you all there.

Whatever you are doing this summer, I hope we see you on the Rally Field soon.

**Happy Rallying - Mike**

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

07976 825051



**IT'S NOMINATION TIME**  
West Hampshire Caravan and Motorhome Club

A G M

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Awbridge Village Hall – SO51 0GQ

---

**ANDREW PORT FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

This award is for members to nominate a West Hampshire member (young or old) for their fellowship / friendship to others at any given time during the year to the centre and / or its members.

**Nominations for The Andrew Port Fellowship Award to be received by the Centre Secretary by: 12.00 noon – 24th August 2024**

---

**THE OLIVER SHIELD**

This award is for members to nominate their most enjoyed rally run by West Hampshire in the current rally season.

**Nominations for The Oliver Shield to be received by the Centre Secretary by: 12.00 noon – 24th August 2024**

---

**RALLY BOOK COVER DESIGN 2024 (Members vote at AGM)**

Email PDF entries for the Rally Book Cover Design 2024 (which must include the official CAMC logo) to be received by the Centre Secretary by:

**12.00 noon – 24th August 2024**

---

**Nominations for CENTRE OFFICERS and COMMITTEE to be received by the Centre Secretary not later than 14 days prior to the AGM meeting - by:**

**1.30pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

---

**Nominations for YOUTH SECTION OFFICERS and COMMITTEE to be received by the Centre Secretary not later than 14 days prior to the AGM meeting - by:**

**12.30pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

---

**NOTICES OF MOTION (to be received 35 days prior to AGM)**

Notices of Motions, to be received in writing by the Centre Secretary by:

**12.00 noon - Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

---

[secretary@whampshirecc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@whampshirecc.co.uk) – 07973 326388

## CONGRATULATIONS

### MIKE AND PAULINE FIRMAGER - 50 YEARS MARRIED

They met on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1972 at the Court School of Dancing, Reigate, Surrey. Mike was very smooth back then and proposed to Pauline a year later on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1973. They got married on June 8<sup>th</sup> 1974 (May 8<sup>th</sup> would have finished off the story nicely, but they had to wait for the football season to finish, Mike says for the venue to be ready and available. Or was it so it did not interrupt with Mike watching the football!). They moved to Hampshire together in 1977, although Mike lived in Hampshire between the ages of 7 and 14. They had a boat at the time, and a frame tent for their holidays. 1984 was a wet spring and they sat in their Best Mans caravan and liked it (Pauline preferred it to the mirror dinghy/yacht) so they bought their first caravan. It was an old damp tatty van that Mike had to rebuild. It had purple curtains, real glass windows, gas lighting and plasticine in the corners to stop the leaks. It was a little rough but it did them for their first 4 years of caravanning life, so for all its faults, they loved the van, for the life it gave them. They joined West Hants the same year, in 1984. Their first rally was at Sparsholt competitions rally, and their second rally was The Wessex.



## **I REMEMBER WHEN.....MIKE FIRMAGER EDITION!**

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

I remember when Dad (Mike Firmager) walked the dog without the dog on the lead. When I say without the dog on the lead, I mean the dog was in the van and Dad was walking with the lead. Dad did decide to walk the dog after a social, so I think he was maybe (actually, no maybe about it), he was two sheets to the wind.

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

I remember when Dad (Mike Firmager) was driving along the motorway, in convoy with some friends on the way to the beach, and all of a sudden on the CB was 'scenic route scenic route your top box has flown open'. There were beach balls, and body boards and sun umbrellas all flying down the road. Think everyone behind him had to swerve to miss it all. Like a live game of donkey kong!

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

I remember when Dad (Mike Firmager), after a few drinks (surprise surprise) went door knocking to get people into their van for an 'after party' after a fab party at Naish Xmas Party once. Their friends got themselves re-dressed (as they were all in the pjs ready for bed) and went over to Dads van, for a few more drinks, and within seconds of sitting down, Dad had fallen asleep.

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

I remember when Dad (Mike Firmager), went into his friends brand new caravan, for a few drinks, and stretched out his legs (making himself comfortable) but only went and put his foot threw the cupboard under the front sofa opposite.

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

I remember when Dad (Mike Firmager) went on a fishing trip, which was several hours long, and threw up the entire time. Safe to say no fish were caught that day by Dad. But what did happen, is his friends changed Dads CB radio handle name from Scenic Route, to Sea Trip Puke.

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

I remember when Dad (Mike Firmager) had the snip, and was told to bed rest for a few days, but since when has Mike ever done as he was told. So what did Dad do, well he went and played volley ball the same afternoon. I think you can ask Dad what the outcome of that decision was.

## WHAT'S COMING UP IN JULY



### July 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 July:
  - South West Centres – Cirencester Park
  - Life on the Canal – Basingstoke Canal Visitor Centre
  - Explore Lymington – Bampton Farm
  - Relax in the Dales – Sunnysdale Farm
  - Youth Section Fun – Awbridge Village Hall

## GUESS THE SITE

What rally were these photos taken at?

Answers are on the last page of the newsletter



## CALENDER PERSON OF THE MONTH



Mrs June



Name: Heather Wolfe

Age: 63

How long have you rallied for: Rallied over 20 years, so long ago I can't remember the year

Favourite thing to do on a rally: Generally taking it easy and enjoying the company of friends

Favourite BBQ meal: Sausage and bacon, has to be well cooked (burnt) lol

Favourite type of social: I love the big get togethers, with a quiz, social banter, singing and dancing.

Favourite tippie: Tia Maria

Sharing a story.....Our worst rally arrival was at a Henley Regatta Rally. We took a wrong turn and ended up on the wrong side of the river. We had to get across the awkward bridge, negotiating through the Henley crowds. We finally made it to the rally at 9.30 pm, as dusk was falling. Phew!





**HAVE YOU BOOKED THIS YET? (BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)**

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

**STEVE CHERELLE – BOOM TOWN – WOODSIDERS – KIDS CLUB/DISCO – GAMES - FOOD**

**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

Boom Town

Woodside's

Live entertainment  
for all the family

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)

MARUCCI'S ICE CREAM  
SINCE 1954

SINCE 1957  
CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB

## THIS TICKLED ME.....

**IF YOU WERE AT THE EXBURY GOLD RALLY, YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD SHAUN TELLING THIS STORY ABOUT MIKE AND PAULINE..., BUT NOT REALLY ABOUT MIKE AND PAULINE – WELL IT WAS ABOUT THEM, BUT IT WASN'T!**

For his 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, a man decided to buy some lingerie for his wife. He went to one of the finer stores in town and asked to see some of their nightgowns. When the salesperson brought out the first item he asked how much it was and was told £100 "I'd like something a little more sheer" said the gentleman. The salesperson brought out a second item, whereupon the gentleman asked the price and was told £250. "That's still not sheer enough", replied the man – "bring me out the sheerest nightgown that you have." When the third nightgown arrived and he saw how thin it was he ponied up the £500 that was on the price tag. When he brought it home he excitedly asked his wife to try it on. She obliged and headed upstairs to change. She noticed the sales receipt for £500 in the box and thought to herself, "My goodness -this is so sheer that I doubt he'll even be able to tell if I'm wearing it. I'll just stand naked at the top of the stairs, return the item and spend the £500 on something that I really like." She shed all of her clothes and headed out to the top of the stairs, calling to her husband, twirling around and asking him what he thought of the nightgown. The husband looked at her for a second and then replied "Well shit, for £500 you think they would've at least ironed it first!".

## CONGRATULATIONS

**THERE WERE LOTS OF CELEBRATIONS AT THE GOLD RALLY, SO A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

### ANNIVERSARIES

Helen and Gary Walton - 35 years married  
Sammy and Tom Firmager – 11 years married

### BIRTHDAYS

Richard Fielding  
Sarah Walton  
Ian Rooke  
Dave Huntley



## RALLYING FUN IN MAY

### Sussex Stroll - East Ashling Nurseries

A lovely walk to the bluebell woods, pass a field and disturbed the deer, and Linda receiving her 600<sup>th</sup> rally plaque.



### Sussex Stroll - East Ashling Nurseries

Thank you to the units that came to East Ashling after Lower Tye Farm was too wet to use. Even a rabbit needs a drink.



## 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Invite – Wiltshire Centre

A fabulous weekend of dancing, singing, comedians, kids club, kub game and cocktails, and a visit to the beautiful town nearby where there was a re-enactment that the kids thoroughly enjoyed. Wiltshire 60<sup>th</sup> was a real celebration.



## Clubfest – Weston Park



\*\*\*\*\*

## Early Holiday – South Lytchett Manor

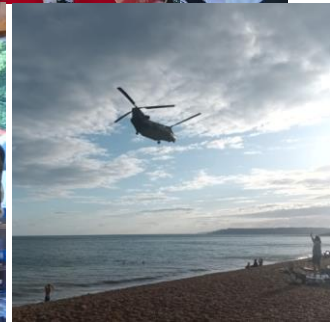


## Light up Chideock – Dog House Farm

10 days at this gorgeous part of the country. Fun was had by all at the beach, on site and on lovely countryside walks. The kids enjoyed rock painting, marshmallows on the bbq and a nighttime game of Armies and endless games of football and swingball. The adults enjoyed gin and rum, and games and music quizzes.



## Light up Chideock – Dog House Farm (cont)



## Light up Chideock – Dog House Farm (cont)





## Light up Chideock – Dog House Farm (cont)



## Light up Chideock – Dog House Farm (cont)



**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 the site** - A. Little Metlands B. Mary Hare C. Olivers Battery D. Little Metlands (I tried to catch you out by having two pics of the same site.....did it work)

**Jokes** - 1.Wonky 2.He took a short cut 3.Doug 4.A stick

*Thank You, from your editor Emma Elsey*



Get your sunglasses on, your body covered in suncream, and your pins out.  
Happy June My Friends

