



NEWSLETTER NO.2 – BLOW IT Nov 2024



Is it this time of year already..... November 2024. Where has the year gone?!
Are you like me, and feel like you say that every year, and the years seem to be going even quicker.
Well they do when you are having fun whoop whoooooop.

What kind of November person are you?
Holly thinks Halloween is over, lets get the Christmas Tree up.
Hazel thinks it's only November, hush those lips about Christmas until December.

I am definitely a Holly, all day long. I love Halloween and really enjoyed the rally we ran over the half term break, celebrating Halloween in style..... but as soon as we were home, I was on Shaun's case to get the Christmas Tree down from the loft. Halloween decs go up, the Xmas decs come down.

Do you enjoy having a clear out.....I thoroughly enjoy having a good old clear out of the cupboards and drawers, finding things we've forgotten we have, and making space ready for the Christmas food/treats/presents.

Our tree went up on 17th November (would have been earlier if I had my way), when there was 38 days to go until Xmas. We did the traditional thing of lifting Poppy up to put the angel on top, with the Xmas music playing. I then took several photos of the tree, with the dog looking every other way, than at the camera haha



Fire Safety - MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT

1. **We are adopting Whistles as our Primary Alarm signal.**
2. Whistles will be supplied in Rally Kits and placed with the Centre Fire Extinguishers by the Flagpole/Feather Banner.
3. **We strongly recommend / ask that all members carry whistles** and have them readily available to use in the event of a fire.
4. Whistles are inexpensive and readily available from sports shops and on-line.
5. **The Alarm Signal is Sharp Intermittent Blasts on the Whistle.**

The present West Hant's rule is that in the event of discovering a fire we should sound a continuous blast on a car horn.

This has now been considered to be an inappropriate method for raising the alarm for several reasons!

- Most Cars are self-locking and need keys to access
- Most cars require the ignition to be turned on to operate the horn
- Many people are conditioned to ignore car alarms/horns sounding as this is often a false alarm
- Many members now have Motorhomes so sounding the horn when the vehicle is on fire is not practical

We are lucky enough to have experienced Emergency Services Staff in our team now, and recommendations are that we should adopt Whistles as our primary alarm/evacuation signal.



Emergency Survival Whistle

WEST HAMPSHIRE YOUTH SECTION



CHAIRMAN ETHAN WINSTANLEY

A huge thank you to Nick and Leanne Rogers, for sponsoring the Youth Section for another year. Nick and Leanne order and pay for all the childrens t-shirts and hoodies, that are personalised with each child's name on. This is really generous, and the children and the West Hampshire Centre are extremely grateful. Thank you.

Well done Youth Section on a fantastic first online meeting. Ethan did an amazing job leading the meeting and keeping it going, whilst letting everyone share their thoughts. The Poll Voting on the chat worked really well, and it meant the children were able to vote for the colour plaque they want with the motifs and themes.

Well done children.



THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN MIKE

I cannot believe it is nearly Christmas already and that we are already taking bookings for next year. We have had a great 2024 with West Hant's but it's gone so quickly (yes, I know I'm getting Old). Next year's program **Go live** went much better on the New Server, and as far as I know the system didn't crash while handling the busy booking period on day 1. (Thanks Peter). I believe we took over 300 bookings in the first few minutes and a couple of Rallies were full within the first 5 minutes and have significant waiting lists!

Managing the demand for places on some of our more popular events is difficult, but we hope by allowing everyone to start making bookings at the same time, that places are allocated as fairly as possible. It is important that you only book Rallies you are going to attend, especially where spaces are limited.

The New West Hant's committee is up and running and working hard to get us into good shape for the new season ahead. The first two meetings have been very well attended and everyone is contributing at the meetings in a positive manner, and I can already see we are going to have another positive season.

We have held an important major review/discussion regarding Fire Safety. In particular we discussed an issue raised at the AGM (by one of our Past Its MW) questioning if everyone new the fire alarm signal we should be using on the Rally field. Up until now the alarm signal, we are supposed to have used, in the event of discovering a fire, was to sound the car hooter. But due to the changes to modern Vehicles and the % of Motorhomes on site, this was no longer viewed as appropriate.

We have therefore adopted the Internationally recognised distress signal of "Sounding Blasts on a Whistle!"

Whistles are being added to the Rally Kits, but we are **asking** and strongly recommending **that you all carry Whistles in your outfits** and make sure they are readily available if needed!

As this may be the last Newsletter before Christmas, I would like to offer you my seasonal greetings and wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Happy Rallying - Mike

chairman@whampshirecc.co.uk

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Make up your own caption.....

A fun new addition to the Newsletter – thank you Clem.

Here is a picture and now you can enjoy a little joke to yourself about captions you would add to it. Clem started us off with....."I wonder if they take rallies"



'I know the fella said the storage price is cheap, but this is a joke'

'Saved me putting an awning up (divorce in a bag!)

If you have any funny pictures like this, I would love to receive them and share them in the newsletter for this new fun 'make up your own caption' section. Please email me:-
emma.elsey@whampshirecc.co.uk




We still have some rallies in the 2025 programme that need rally officers, so if you fancy running a rally, please contact Helen - rallysecretary@whampshirecc.co.uk

YOUTH SECTION CHARITIES 2024/25


We look forward to seeing what the Youth Section do to raise money for their chosen charities this year, and I know you will all join me in supporting them.

25% will be going to Malawi and 75% will be going to Naomi House

The fund raising for the charities will run up to the 2025 AGM at which time monies will be divided



West Hampshire Caravan & Motorhome Club
Youth Section Charities 2024-2025



We're Supporting **Ngomi House & Jacksplace**
hospices for children and young adults
Registered charity no. 1002832

In loving Memory of
Freddie Maddern

Friends of Mulanje Orphans
FOMO
Malawi

Friends of Mulanje Orphans is a community based orphan care programme supporting over 2,000 children through a network of 14 centres in Mulanje district

Donated By
FM
VALETING

COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

A good old Christmassy **Snowball**. Bringing some Christmas into your home, in November.
Sorry not sorry.

Advocat and lemonade – the simple way to drink it.....Why not add a drop of gin and a dash of lime with the advocat and lemonade – trust me on this one, it finishes it off lovely.

With a cherry on the top to finish it off nicely



WHAT'S COMING UP IN DECEMBER



December 2024

- Please see our website - www.whampshirecc.co.uk - to book your rallies and keep updated with the latest news (Posts, Newsletter and Focus)
- Rallies coming up in December:
Childrens Christmas Party – Plaitford Village Hall

GUESS THE SITE

What rally were these photos taken at?

Answers are on the last page of the newsletter



THANK YOU

TONY AND PAULINE CANE

Thank you for stepping in at the last minute to help run the Lytton Lawn rally with Lyn and Graham, after Dad (Mike Firmager) had a fall and could not drive. Actually he could not walk let alone drive, and seeing him on his crutches was hilarious. We can laugh about it now, but at the time it was a little scary..



CALENDER PERSON OF THE MONTH



Mr November



Name: Gavin Robinson

How long have you rallied for: Bampton 2022 but first rallied as a guest in the early 1990s with Denise's parent's Molly and Peter, which sowed the seed of the caravanning lifestyle!

Favourite BBQ meal: Salmon, hotly followed by steak!

Favourite type of social: Enjoy meeting everyone, but especially enjoy sharing a good quiz.

Favourite tippie: Doom bar or Star of Bombay gin.

Sharing a story.....

Enjoying the finer things in life these days after many years of camping with the boys!
One memory that stands out is a holiday to a very wet and windy Pembrokeshire to Broad Haven in 2009, where we had pitched in a field behind a hedgerow in our old blue and orange tent we called our hot air balloon. Nearly rained off I frantically reproofed the tent in between rain showers to continue our holiday. Nowadays we enjoy a more relaxing break, with hopefully many more to come! 😊

CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB MAGAZINE

I SPY AN ENTRY ABOUT WEST HANTS IN THE CLUB MAGAZINE

Did you spot it? Page 17 (top right) – West Hants Birthday Bash

In case you didn't see it, or the photo in the magazine was too small..., here's the photo in all its glory. Please go and check out the magazine. I felt super proud when I saw it and West Hants got a mention.

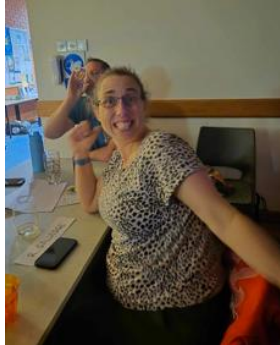


RALLYING FUN IN OCTOBER

AGM Rally - Awbridge

Credit where credit's due, these two did another fabulous social for everyone, that included music, jokes, stories and audience participation. Thank you Stu and Shaun, you are hilarious. Also very annoying!

The rest of the evening everyone enjoyed dancing the night away to the disco.



AGM Rally - Awbridge (continued)



Youth Section AGM – Awbridge

Huge well done to Caroline for running the whole meeting, standing in for Bethany as Chair Person. Congratulations to Ethan for becoming the new Chair Person, and to the 2024/25 team.



Adult AGM – Awbridge

Huge well done to Mike for running a great meeting. Congratulations to Mike for being Chair Person of another year and to the 2024/25 team.

Left to right in the picture below:

Clem Fallows (Vice Chairman), Paulina Holloway (Treasurer), Mike Firmager (Chairman), Pauline Firmager (Secretary), Helen Walton (Rally Secretary).

Committee team also consists of:

Alvin Holloway, Tony Cane, Emma Richards, Paul Hopkins, Julie Huntley, Rachael Salvidge, Steph Maddern and Emma Elsey.



Spooky Fun in Minehead – Hoburne Blue Anchor

Lots of fun had at Blue Anchor bay, with everyone enjoying the sites indoor swimming pool and location so close to the beach. Beach day was fab with a huge cricket match and football match. The Pool party was great and the children made the most of the play park (day and Night). The effort that everyone put into their costumes for the Halloween party, as well as their pumpkin carving and awning decorations was outstanding. Close by lots of people enjoyed the walks to Dunster Village and further. The Cider farm was a hit too, being able to feed the animals.



Spooky Fun in Minehead – Hoburne Blue Anchor (continued)



Spooky Fun in Minehead – Hoburne Blue Anchor (continued)



Feedback is a gift....

What would you like to read about?

Do you have a memory you would like to share, or your favourite cocktail recipe, or maybe you would like to share your pictures from rallies you have been on?

Please email me - emma.elsey@whampshirecc.co.uk

Answers

Guess the site - A. Summerlands B. Summerlands C. 3 Dawlish D. Dawlish

Thank You, from your editor Emma Elsey



#TheGiftOfGiving

