



NEWSLETTER NO.8 – GOOD OLD DAYS MAY 2025

Good old days!

With the VE day celebrations this month, it made me sit back and reflect on the good old days. Makes me sound old doesn't it, but when I say 'good old days' I mean when I was a child and I rallied with Mum, Dad, Clair and Tom. One rally that will always hold a special place in my heart, is the VE day rally, at Middle Wallop Air Museum in 1995. Dad wrote a 'dug out' show that so many people (children and adults) took part in. Dad asked Claire Port (now Claire Hall), my sister Clair and me to open the show as the Andrew Sisters. We were given dresses from a second hand memorabilia war shop (that were really itchy), made up routines (swing your arms to the left to the right – that kind of thing) and sang a few songs. I actually did not sing at all, I only agreed to be the third Andrew Sister if they agreed to turn my microphone off, so I did the best miming a 13 year old could do. No stories and explanations of the rally will ever come close to the feeling that was there all weekend. The venue was perfect, the time and effort that went into building and painting things for the show was an immense amount. The effort of everyone involved was so special, whether that was the singers, dancers, aeroplane carriers, bomber bobbys, script writing, poem reading, story telling, lighting, music, role plays and more.

Andrew Sisters / Vera Lynn / Marlene Dietrich / It aint half hot mum / Dads army / Dam Busters & Spitfires

We went to a rally at Middle Wallop Air Museum last year which was brilliant, watching the planes drive past before taking off on the runway, as well as all the gliders being towed high up in the sky. We are looking forward to going there again in September.



Have you purchased your whistle yet?

Fire Safety – Have you bought your whistle yet?

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.**

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

The previous 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

THE YOUTH SECTION YAPPIES



Hi, my name is Annabelle and I am 12 years old. I have been in the youth section for 2 years and really enjoy caravanning while in the youth section. I love going on rallies with my family but especially enjoy Chideock. My favourite part of this is walking to the beach and being with my friends. At home, I play the flute and have a lesson weekly. I also go to scouts which is really fun because I love seeing my friends there. I hope to see you soon on the rally field come and say hello!

Hi my name is Max, I am 12 years old. We have been rallying for 8 years with West Hampshire. I have been part of the youth section for 3 years. I always look forward to playing football and games on the rally field and having a lot of fun with my friends. In my spare time I enjoy playing cricket for Ampfield and North Baddesley Cricket Club.



Jokes

- 1) Why did the banana apply sunscreen?
- 2) How does the sun drink water?
- 3) Where do Bees stay on holiday?

THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN MIKE

May seems to have flown past! We started the month reminiscing over the 80th anniversary of VE Day, although we are just too young to remember the original VE Celebrations at the end of WW2 (honestly), we do personally have great memories of the 50th anniversary celebrations in 1995 and our favourite ever rally at Middle Wallop. We had hundreds of people seated in the Air Museum for what turned out to be a four hour “dug out show” (Wartime concert) followed the next night by a “Big Band” in full swing and finished off the final day with an Air Show. Although the anniversary celebrations are a great memory for us, it is also important that we remember the bravery and resilience of the generation who lived through the wartime years and thank them all because our lives could have been very different without their sacrifices!

In the Centre our committee team have been very busy, and under Alvin, our equipment officer's guidance, we have moved our storage facility to another more suitable container and depot. Thank you Alvin and all who helped make this happen so efficiently. Impressive work, thanks from us all!

Now all the reminiscing and work is done, it's time to pack all the SOLAR lights and head for Chideock for the first time this year. I say first time, because for those of you who can't get enough Chideock time, we are heading back there in August for another holiday rally this year. I have to admit to a secret addiction, I love sitting outside my van spotting how many people are walking over the hills, I think, not so secretly, I am still reminiscing over when I was young and fit enough to be up there as well, nowadays the view is enough to keep me happy!

We hope we will see many of you on the Rally field soon, with your Solar lights wherever you are!

Happy Rallying – Mike

chairman@whampshirecc.co.uk

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Make up your own caption.....

A fun addition to the Newsletter.
Here is a picture and now you can enjoy adding a caption to it.



'yellow car no returns' - punch to the arm (if you know you know)

'Dad was laughing in this photo until Mother reminded him the toilet needed emptying.....Dad realized at this point he had too many children...'

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



Upcoming

EVENTS

WHAT'S COMING UP IN JUNE

- 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 June:
Relaxing Dorset – South Lytchett Manor
Play in the Park – Royal Victoria Country Park
Chill at the Farm – Brocklands Farm
By the Canal – 3 Magpies PH
Canal Life – Basingstoke Canal Visitors Centre

CARAVAN WINDOWS

How well do you know your caravans? Can you guess the caravan make and model, just from the front window?



CALENDER PERSON OF THE MONTH

Mr and Mrs May



Alan & Anne Port come as a pair.

We joined the Caravan Club in 1988 and started rallying with West Hampshire the same year. Since moving to Devon eight years ago, we've remained West Hampshire members but due to distance, we can't get to weekend rallies any more. We've run nearly 100 rallies and our next one will be at Devizes in June.

We enjoy lots of barbecue meals. A couple of hours before writing this we had a very nice rib eye steak marinated in Teryaki Sauce, but any nice meat from a proper butchers goes down well.

We enjoy socials where everybody joins in and enjoys the entertainment. A barn dance such as the one at the Centre 60th Anniversary Rally comes at the top of our favourites and we've enjoyed many of them over the years we've been members.

Anne loves a glass or two of Chardonnay. I have been known to drink most things in the past but now I stick to a small cider or bitter.

So many stories spring to mind from rallies over the years. At the Centre's 2000th Rally at Broadlands, we had a very wet long weekend. The band finished their act early as the marquee was leaking making anything electrical hazardous. When the band's gear was packed in their van, it simply sunk in the mud. I offered to give them a tow in my new Discovery. With no towing eye on the van, it was suggested that the tow rope could be fixed to the bull bar on the front of the van. I slowly pulled away and initially thought that the tow was going very easily until I realised that the van was still sitting firmly in the mud. The only thing that was on tow was half of the front of the van. Whoops! 😬

West Hampshire Caravan and Motorhome Club - A G M

Saturday 4th October 2025 - 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 Saturday 23rd August 2025

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 - Saturday 23rd August 2025

RALLY BOOK COVER DESIGN 2026 (Members vote at AGM)

Email PDF entries for the Rally Book Cover Design 2026 (which must include the official CAMC and West Hampshire logo) to be received by the Centre Secretary by: **12.00 noon - Saturday 23rd August 2025**

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 30th August 2025**

Nominations for CENTRE OFFICERS and COMMITTEE to be received by the Centre Secretary by: 1.30pm on Saturday 20th September 2025

Nominations for YOUTH SECTION OFFICERS and COMMITTEE to be received by the Centre Secretary by:

12.30pm on Saturday 20th September 2025

secretary@whampshirecc.co.uk



RALLYING FUN IN APRIL

Youth Section Fun – Little Metlands

The children did an amazing job running their rally at Little Metlands. They did everything from preparing the envelopes, pegging out, siting the vans and entertaining everyone day and night. All the ralliers enjoyed rounders, a pub walk, a music quiz, bacon rolls, tuck shop and competitions.



Youth Section Fun – Little Metlands (continued)



Youth Section Fun – Little Metlands (continued)



Youth Section Fun – Little Metlands (continued)



The Youth Section have been working hard this year to raise money for their two chosen charities. They have raised £471.30 so far. Thank you to everyone that has and continues to support them.



Wild West Showdown at the Mary Hare Saloon – Mary Hare School

Everyone was fully up for a fun and fabulous weekend from the minute they arrived Thursday. Thursday – drinks and chatter evening in the hall (with some games of snakes and bladders thrown in) – if you know you know

Friday – Kids club followed by hot cross buns/tea. In the evening everyone enjoyed lassoing the cows, the cups game and throwing coins to the bottle to raise money for the YS charities.

Saturday – A sunny pub walk followed by a fancy dress party in the evening with a live singer.

Sunday – Happy Easter time, with a childrens and adults easter egg hunt, followed by an egg toss game (with some interesting throws – on the school roof, and splatter catches). In the evening there was a quiz for all and a glow in the dark easter egg hunt for the children.

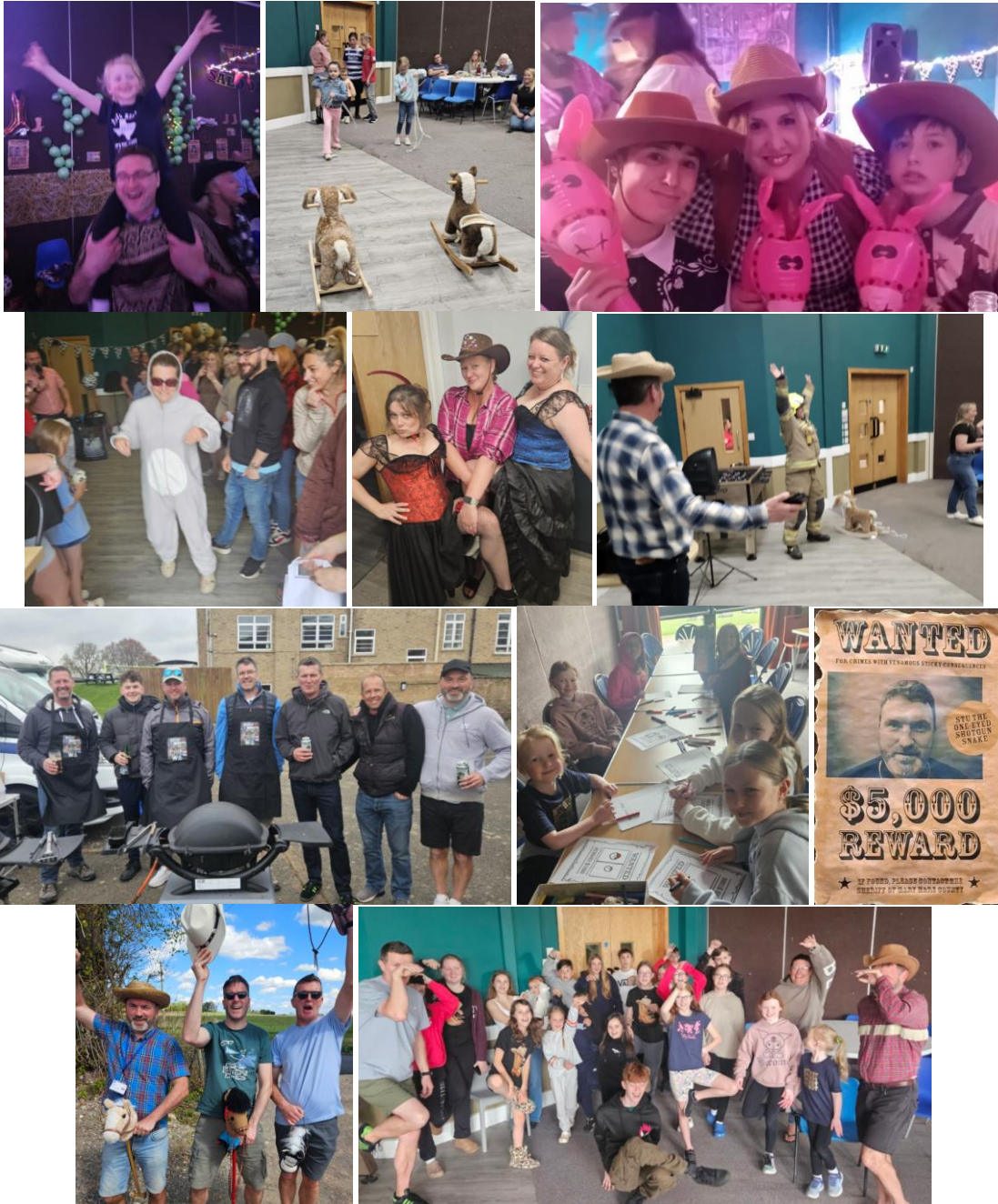
All this was fun with full bellies from the plenty of food that was cooked for all ralliers – hot cross buns, bacon rolls, sausage baps, chilli, burgers, cowboy pie and desserts to top it all off.



Wild West Showdown – Mary Hare (continued)



Wild West Showdown – Mary Hare (continued)



Wild West Showdown – Mary Hare (continued)



Wild West Showdown – Mary Hare (continued)



Spring in Dorset – Wilksworth caravan park

Lovely site where the park is a gateway to some of the most spectacular countryside in Britain, with the beautiful Cranborne Chase, historic New Forest, and Hardy Country all on its doorstep. It's centred around Tudor Rose House, a five-bedroomed 16th century Grade II listed building once owned by King Henry VIII and listed in the Domesday Book. The ralliers all enjoyed the lovely site and quiz night that was put on.



Feedback is a gift....

What would you like to read about?

Do you enjoy the amount of photos I put into the Newsletters or is it too many?

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

Youth Section Jokes – 1. because it peels 2. Out of sunglasses 3. At an Air bee and bee

Guess the caravan – 1. Bailey Ranger 2. Bailey Unicorn 3. Swift Challenger 4. Coachman VIP
5. Adria Adora 6. Buccaneer Cruiser

Thank You, from your editor Emma Elsey



GIVE ME A YEEEEHAAAAA X