



NEWSLETTER NO.11 – THANK YOU SEPT 2025

This is my last newsletter, so I would just like to say THANK YOU to you all. Thank you for all the laughs on the rally field, where I've been able to capture the moments on camera, for the newsletter! I cannot begin to imagine how many times I have said, 'can you all look this way for a picture for the newsletter please'. I have thoroughly enjoyed annoying you all on rallies, appearing in places with my camera (phone), and just generally sharing thoughts with you every month. I have loved it when you have sent me pictures, and I have known in that moment that you have thought about the newsletter and things for me to put in it. I genuinely thank you for that.

A big thank you goes to the Youth Section who send me pictures and wording every month, as well as my calender women/men, thank you so much.

A huge thank you to Pauline (Mum) and Helen, for proofreading the newsletter every month, with a very quick turnaround time.

My last thank you, has to go to the husband, Shaun Elsey. I sit at the laptop for hours, shouting through to him in the lounge, asking him for inspiration, and funny captions, and if things look ok....

I'm not silly, I also know he enjoys the peace of me working and not pestering him, with the clicker to himself, without me sitting right by him (too close no doubt!).

20 years together, we are still going strong, because he is an awesome human. It's selfie time Shaun!



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

ETHAN'S FINAL WORDS, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE YOUTH SECTION



I've had a great year as the youth section Chairman and I would like to thank everyone that came to our rallies for continuing to support us and help us develop important skills like public speaking through things like flagpole. I'd also like to thank the whole of my youth section for their hard work and dedication to our charities this year, one of which is quite close to me as it links to the trip I went on to Malawi that so many of you helped me get to. Finally, I'd like to thank both my parents and the youth liaisons for their continued support and ideas throughout this year. I'm happy to be handing over chairmanship next year but that doesn't mean anyone is going to be missing me as I'm staying on youth section for as long as I get to annoy you all. Thanks again everyone,

Ethan

This incredible team raised £1183.60 for their chosen charities this year.



FINAL THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN MIKE

Well, here we are! This is my final newsletter article as your chairman, as my term of office is completed in early October, and you will have a shiny new chairman to greet you all next month. It will be strange for me, not being at the helm, but it feels like it is the right time to hand on to a keen new leader and team.

I have been very lucky (and so have all of you) that we have had a wonderful set of officers and committee members throughout the last three years, and they have managed and run the Centre, very effectively and hopefully, in an inclusive and family friendly way, the West Hant's way! **Thank you all!**

I have also been delighted that we have had a thriving youth section, throughout the last three years. I take great pleasure and pride in seeing the way our young people develop, and I wish them and their families all the very best for the future!

At this time, I wish to single Pauline out for my thanks and praise! Pauline has the unenviable task of being my wife and the Centre secretary, a role I know must be challenging, and I also appreciate that I could not have operated successfully without her love and support so it's a big thank you for all you do dear xxx.

Being your chairman twice, with a twelve-year gap between my tenures, I guess I have a unique view of the way the Centre has evolved during this time, and there has been much change! The first time I was chairman: you booked rallies with a paper slip from the Rally book, you paid when you arrived, you filled in Rally Returns then passed them to the treasurer, and meetings meant meetings, when you got together for an evening and talked to each other directly. This time everything is done "on-line" and instantly, and we never see a rally slip anymore, and at our virtual meetings, it takes more time to all get logged in (if we can) than to discuss what's happening.

OK I may be exaggerating a bit (progress is inevitable, I suppose) but I have a serious plea to those who follow us, both in the immediate and longer-term future, **PLEASE KEEP IT REAL**, please don't rely purely on email and social media, the old ways are still sometimes the best!!

And finally! My very best wishes to all of you who are picking up the batons to run the Centre, I wish you and all the members of West Hampshire all the very best for the future and

I hope, we see many of you, very soon, on the rally field with West Hant's.

Happy Rallying – Mike

chairman@whampshirecc.co.uk

07976 825051



The amazing women, behind the man.

I love that Mike put a thank you to Pauline in his 'thoughts of chairman Mike' section.

Yes Pauline is quieter than Mike (most people are quieter than Mike!) but she runs the ship (aka motorhome), she has everything in order, and everything organized. Pauline is very good at helping (reminding) me with things too, to keep me on track and 'organised'.

Thank you Mum xxx

Not only does she nudge us, and help us, she is also super funny, super kind, super caring, super clever and one hell of a super woman.



Mike and Pauline Firmager

Thank you Mike and Pauline for giving your time (a lot of time) and effort, love and care, to run the West Hants centre for the last 3 years. We really appreciate you and everything you have done, and continue to do.



Upcoming

EVENTS

WHAT'S COMING UP IN OCTOBER

- 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 October:
 - AGM rally – Awbridge Village Hall
 - Centres AGM – Awbridge Village Hall
 - Moors Valley in Autumn – Woolsbridge Farm
 - Spooky Fun at Minehead – Hoburne Blue Anchor
 - Spooky Parley – Parley Glade

STUNNING VIEWS

Where were these pictures taken - guess the venue?

1.



2.



3.



4.



CALENDER PERSON OF THE MONTH

Mr September



Nick Randell

I have rallied with West Hants for a year, before with the Wiltshire centre for 10 years.
I've been caravanning with my Mum and Dad since I was age 10.

Favourite BBQ meal: Chicken wraps

Favourite type of social: Good laugh, with music and drinks

Favourite tippie: Madri or flavoured vodka

The name Sicky Nicky came from when I made myself a vodka and lemonade, however I put too much vodka in 😊 and was a little sick in the caravan bowl, which then went up the other side and all up the kitchen – oops! Sorry Laura and thank you for cleaning it up x



IT'S A DOGS LIFE

Our lovely pets, our family, have an amazing life. Visiting wonderful places and going on lots of adventures.



Make up your own caption.....

If you can't quite see what is happening here – Clara is being posted through the motorhome window!



RALLYING FUN IN AUGUST

Summertime at Summerlands

Lovely site in Salisbury, where everyone had fun in the sun. Music quiz with a difference, cocktails, human battleships, kubb and a Chinese raffle. The envelope quiz (send me a selfie/pic) put a very big smile on my face.



Summer at Chideock

Lovely time on the Jurassic coastline, with stunning views, and walks. Golden Cap is a favourite walk, and depending on your route, can be very difficult.



Summer at Dawlish

5 minutes walk to the beach, via shops/arcade/fair rides, is the perfect location for a summer holiday. The famous black swans in Dawlish Town as well as the trains/buses from the site, makes for boozy day trips out as well. Who goes on holiday and enters into the local town's carnival – West Hants do! Incredible memories made.



Late summer at Hayling

Fantastic location with a bus stop outside, a pub and a beach not too far away. What more can you ask for.



Canalside

Fun in sun and the rain! Chinese raffle Friday. Paddle boarding in the sunshine and a pub walk, and then music bingo in the rain (under umbrellas) with DJ Neil in the awning dry as a bone, playing some banging tunes for everyone. But no one left the bingo...everyone was fully committed to the game/social.



New Role and responsibilities

I have been saying all year, in every newsletter, that feedback is a gift so gift me your thoughts. Thank you to those that have shared thoughts and memories with me, as well as photos.

Newsletter days.....

What would you like to read about? I don't care any more!

Do you enjoy the amount of photos I put into the Newsletters? I will still annoy you on rallies taking photos for the newsletter, to help the new editor. And you thought you were getting rid of me.....!

Rally Secretary days.....are coming for me!

I am moving on to a new role, to better understand the centre and the running of it.....soooo I have put myself forward as your new Rally Secretary. Please feel free to email me (or call me) about rallies you would like in the programme. I would love to hear from you about that....and especially contact me if you would like to be a Rally Officer for a rally, any rally at all.

emma.elsey@whampshirecc.co.uk

Answers

Stunning views :-

1. Kiln
2. Middle Wallop
3. Three Magpies
4. Pyesmead

Thank You, from your editor Emma Elsey



WORKING BEHIND THE BAR AT THE SOUTHERN CENTRES (JUST TO HELP OUT).
I AM NOT SURE HOW MANY CUSTOMERS WERE HAPPY WITH MY 'HELP' WHEN
THEY SAW THE HEAD ON THEIR BEER. 'WOULD YOU LIKE A FLAKE WITH
THAT?' HAHA

Signing off, in true 'me' style, with a photo.

I should have done a competition in the newsletter all these months/years.....what is the ratio of photos to words in Emma's newsletters hahaha

Much Luffff to you all

xxxx