



NEWSLETTER

Christmas Social

52 Units arrived at Maplesden Noakes in Maidstone for the Christmas Social. The weather was very wet most of the week-end but that didn't dampen the Christmas spirit. The hall was open on Friday evening for noggin and natter. Saturday morning dawned early for the rally officers who were soon decorating the hall or hard at work in the kitchen.

The Post-box was available during the week-end for the penny post run by the youth section in aid of the Charity, Canterbury Oast Trust. All the cards were delivered to those on the rally during Saturday evening.

The festivities started at 6.30pm Saturday evening with the serving of a truly superb 3 course meal. A choice of Soup followed by Roast Turkey with all the trimmings then a choice of deserts. Well done you guys especially as all the hot food had to be carried up from the science block to the hall for serving. Father Christmas made a surprise visit midway through the evening bringing a present for all the children. The dancing went on until late, and I'm sure everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

Quite a few people decorated their vans. A prize for the best festive Caravan/Motor home was presented at flagpole on Sunday Morning.

As visitors to South London, we are always made most welcome on rallies.



A big thank you to Mark and Julie, Rod & Kim, Sylv and Michael and Trish.

Fiona Turnball –West Kent

Christmas –West Malling

We didn't arrive till the evening due to work, but when we arrived the hall and playground were all tastefully decorated. On Christmas day we all went to the hall and had a feast for a king, and then we had a visit from Santa himself. The evening took us to a little village in Arabia and we had a very unusual snake charmer and I think he had too much instant coffee on his face, but he made us laugh. Then Boxing Day was the panto and high tea with Woody and Kim arranging for us to build a caravan and it was interesting how many chiefs we have and not enough Indians. Then on the last evening we had a wonderful meal and then danced the night away.

Julie & Mark



New Year Rally-Wilderness School

Here are just a few thank you letters for the brilliant new year , sorry I can't publish them all but I have just picked a few out, the rest will be on the youth notice board for you all to read.

TO THE CREW OF "THE SOUTHERN BELLE"

2008/2009 NEW YEAR

Dear Brenda, Bob and crew,

Thank you all for a wonderful Cruise, visiting Hawaii, Mexico and Italy. Once again the entertainment and the food were excellent. We could have been on a real cruise the way it all came together! Well done.

We hope that next year 2009/2010 we will still be able to “Dock” at The Wilderness School and “CARRY ON CRUISING” (a theme?)

Thank you once again Judith & Tony (West Surrey)

This was our 24th New Year rally and it was up there with the best. The food was unbelievable, fantastic. When you put all this together with the warm family atmosphere it more than made up for the freezing conditions outside. Could not hope for more than the same team and the same very large group of lovely friends for our 25th.



Eileen & Ron Merriman

Dear Brenda & Bob

We would like to thank you very much for making the New Year Rally a great success; we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and were sorry that the Cruise came to an end. We did appreciate all the hard work of the New Year Committee, the food was amazing and the decorations in the hall, the entertainment was very good, especially the home grown evening. So thank you all so much.



John & Vivien

Australia Day

All the Cobber's arrived on the Friday and gathered in the barn for a few tinnies and stubbies.

The Sheila's tended to keep off the beer so that they would be fit and able to cook in the morning

On the Saturday most of the Pommies spent the day either sleeping or trying out the local brews.

At 6.30 all the Sheila's and Cobber's went back to the Barn for some more tinnies and a good old antipodean outback stew which was very tasty and moreish. For pud we had upside-down cake and custard.

Those who could still read and write took part in an Aussie Quiz which ended in a tie. The tie breaker question "What is the national flower of Australia" was not answered correctly by either of the winning teams so was offered out to the floor. The correct response was given by Irene Heavens of West Surrey so the prize was given to her. (We all hate a Smart Ass)

The evening then carried on with Aussie music, lots of chat and more Tinnies.

Mark conducted Flag during the evening as with the impending bad weather it was felt that the members would like the opportunity to leave early on the Sunday.

As a first in South London, I feel that it was an excellent themed weekend which could be repeated in the future.

Many Thanks to Rosalind, Brenda, Bob and their band of helpers for a "BONZA WEEKEND"

Gerry French

Mickey T and his Budgie Smugglers made it back to the UK in time to join us at Westerham for Australia Day and what a good one to get back for. Ros, Gerry, Jenny, Brenda and Bob made a lovely stew for Saturday night followed by a great Aussie quiz which we nearly won!! What are budgie smugglers?? For those of you not at the rally its Aussie slang for Speedos!!!!

Trish

Valentines Rally

On the Saturday evening we all dressed up in our hot and spicy gear, then joined the rally officers for an evening of hot spice. We were all given a beautiful turkey curry and rice and followed by a choice of pudding to cool us down. The curry made us feel very hot and spicy that I noticed Michael open the side door as it soon became very warm. Once the heat wore off , cupid then delivered our valentines cards and presents. Then we had romantic music supplied by our very own love guru Mickey T.Mined you iam getting a bit worried about Ken who was our very own Gay in the Village of Bethersden as the outfit suited him .Thanks to all the rally officers for a great love weekend .

Julie & Mark



Message from Gerry French.

Dear Mark & Committee,

I would like to thank you and the Committee for the presentation shield you gave me. I was totally lost for words, a situation I rarely find myself in. I have enjoyed my time on the Committee and will continue to support the Centre in whatever way I can. I do wish you and your Committee all the best for the future and if you have as much fun during your time on Committee as I have had you will have a good time.

Once again many thanks.

Gerry French

Get well Wishes

Bob Funnell - He has had his knee operation and is doing well. He is moving around with sticks at the moment.

Jo Turner - Recently spent a couple of days in hospital and had a small operation, she is back home and doing well.

Bobby Hayes – Getting over his hand surgery. All the best and hope to see you on the rally field soon.

FOR SALE

Brand new spare wheel, complete, 5 studs

£20 Contact: martin.brooman@yahoo.com.

Also we have in the South London Centre equipment box some lovely South London Centre Teddies and with Easter and Mothers Day just round the corner why not give a teddy it's also less fattening for only £10.

Please see Julie on these if interested.

Message from The Chairman of the Caravan Club

In a moment of complete and utter madness last summer I suggested that The Caravan Club should enter a team to cycle 58 miles from London to Brighton in aid of the British Heart Foundation. I have received overwhelming support and the incredibly enthusiastic Team CC is now complete with the maximum allowed team size of 50 riders registered and accepted. The team includes the club's immediate Past Chairman, Bob Black, who underwent triple by-pass surgery in May 2008, the Club's Director General, Trevor Watson, Director of Marketing, Nick Lomas, Club Regional Chairmen, several Centre Chairmen, dedicated Club members and Headquarters staff and, of course, myself as Club Chairman with my wife Liz. Team members ages range from 18 to 80 years and

all will proudly wear the yellow jerseys of Team CC on the day.

The ride takes place on 21st June 2009, when a coach with trailer will collect the team members and their bikes from Sheepcote Valley Caravan Club Site in Brighton at 4.30 in the morning and transport us all to the start at Clapham Common, South East London where will join with another 27,000 cyclists to ride back to Brighton departing at 6.30am. The journey is quite challenging and requires that we cross the South Downs, including a two mile climb up Ditchling Beacon, just before arriving at the finish along the seafront in Brighton, hopefully in daylight.

We all know someone who has suffered from heart disease at some time or other and thanks to the pioneering studies and research undertaken by BHF, many sufferers may today be treated when a generation ago they would probably have died. There is still much work to do to help solve the causes and find cures for a range of other, as yet unsolved, heart conditions and I would be most grateful if you will kindly show your heart of gold by sponsoring Team CC for this event. You can do so securely and easily by clicking on the link to my sponsorship page: <http://www.justgiving.com/grenvillechamberlainCC> If you are a standard rate UK tax-payer, please add Gift Aid as this will Please I am enormously grateful to the team riders for agreeing to undertake this incredible journey and am also most grateful to you for any sponsorship you can manage.

With kindest regards
Grenville Chamberlain
Chairman The Caravan Club

Calendar Girls" Calendar

The calendars have now virtually sold out and made an excellent profit of £267.00 which will go towards the Chrysalis Breast cancer support Group. For more information see www.chrysalisbreastgroup.org.uk. A big thank you to Jen Funnell and Phil Parker for all their hard work towards this.

Many thanks from Mark and the Committee

And Finally

Please could you support this year's Charity and Youth Rally in June as the charity funds needs a big boost. For anyone who doesn't know the centre is supporting the Rare Breeds Charity this involves given children with disabilities a chance to explore and develop their skills. This year's rally will be having a bring and buy sale so please go through your lofts and support us with your unwanted and good condition items.

Many Thanks The Committee

The Charity Rally

The charity rally this year, we are aiming for **each** caravan / motorhome to partake, by having a market place in the middle of the field, for you to sell your where's and raise money for charity (bring & buy / home baking / bat & trap / maggot racing / tomboller / face painting etc) the wackier the better, so think now, of what you can sell for charity. <Please let Graham & June know what stall you are thinking of fronting, so we don't all have the same stall> All profits to go to charity

Please partake in this once a year event

Graham & June

And Finally I Promise

I am hoping to sell Fire Buckets as part of the equipment box, if any one has any other ideas of items to sell please let me know.

Please could I ask that if you kindly run a rally please could you either email me (juliewhittaker66@yahoo.co.uk) or post your Rally attendance form as soon as possible as it keeps my records up to date?:

Have a wonderful spring and here's looking forward to the Summer

Julie