



Newsletter

CARAVAN CLUB EAST KENT CENTRE
FEBRUARY 2011



Dear fellow ralliers

Albeit, a bit late, I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2011 and I hope you enjoy the varied programme laid on for this year.

It seems a long time ago, but thank you for granting me the honour of serving as your Chairman for a second year. I will carry out my duties again to the best of my ability to represent the centre and ensure that your interests are looked after.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's Officers and Committee for all their hard work and efforts throughout the year and to say a special thank you to Brian Mackender who retired as Hon. Secretary's after nine years of sterling service to the Centre.

This year's Committee and their responsibilities are listed in the rally book and on the website, please give them all your support in their respective roles.

My reports begin at the **AGM**. After the formalities of the AGM in the afternoon, we were treated to an excellent meal organised by our marshalling team of Darren and Cheryll Charnock, Brian and Sheila Taylor and Peter and Glynis Newman, many thanks to them for this which helped us wind down after the meeting. Later on, we were entertained by Les, our Time-Warp FM DJ who as usual played all the right tunes and kept the dance floor busy for most of the night. Thanks again to the marshalling team who unfortunately had to endure an extremely wet Friday night siting vans.

Halloween

Unfortunately, I had to miss this rally due to Pearl being under the weather, but from reports it went very well and everyone enjoyed themselves.

South Essex Bonfire Rally

Unfortunately there were not many vans from East Kent this year, but we still received a very warm welcome from South Essex.

The Guy competition was very well supported with some of them rather spookily lifelike, it was a pity that they all ended up on the bonfire. The hot soup and burgers went down extremely well on Saturday night which helped to ward off the cold.

The firework display set up by Chris Stockwell was as always spectacular with lots of oohs and aahs as they lit up the night sky. My thanks go to Chris for organising this on behalf of South Essex.

My thanks also go to the South Essex Committee and their helpers for their hospitality and organising the weekend.

Christmas Dance

Due to the weather conditions, the Christmas Dance had to be cancelled which was extremely disappointing as it is a very popular rally which starts off the festive season. My sincere thanks go to Margaret and Kevin Kinchin for all their efforts and hard work which had been put in preparing for this rally.

Christmas Rallies

Unfortunately, the Christmas rally at Folkestone had to be moved to Gillingham due to the bad weather and I would sincerely like to thank Peter Oliver and Becky Watson for all their help in arranging things with the school. Both the Christmas rallies at Addington and Gillingham were fully booked and enjoyed by all who attended. There is a lot of planning, organisation and hard work that goes into these rallies and I would like to thank both marshalling teams for their efforts in providing an enjoyable Christmas for all.

(Continued overleaf)

New Year

This was our first visit to Dover Christchurch Academy for the New Year Rally, which proved to be an excellent venue with plenty of hard standing and a lovely hall. There was a full programme of events laid on over the five days with our traditional celebrations to bring in the New Year. It was nice to see the children's Christmas Party so well attended and the Emporium Party people kept the children entertained for the afternoon followed by a visit from Father Christmas. My thanks go to everyone who helped in the preparation of the food for the party. Although the temperature was below zero, the barbeque on New Years' Day was well supported with shorts being worn by a few brave souls. The race night was again very popular and provided a lot of fun, though the Chairman's handicap was a definite fix with too many 'water hazards', but I have a long memory, so watch out in future Gary! I have seen some dodgy quiz nights in my time, but the one on the last night is right up there for bias towards the female participants. There was absolutely no way that Ann and Cheryl were going to let a man win, but it was still good fun.

My thanks go especially to our Social Officer Margaret Kinchin and her husband Kevin for all their efforts and hard work leading up to and during the rally and also to all the other Committee members and helpers who worked extremely hard to ensure that it was a successful rally.

Saltwood

When you mention St Trinian's as a fancy dress theme, it gives a lot of scope for dressing up (or down) and there were certainly a variety of costumes on display from school masters to Flash Harry and of course the St Trinian girls. The Department of Education school inspector, Shelley Whittam must have put in such a bad report that the school buildings were actually condemned in the local media as reported in the Folkestone Herald – "A Herald investigation revealed the Hythe School faces a repair bill totalling more than £1.7 million – the highest in the county." My thanks to the marshals for organising all the weekend activities, especially the games on Saturday evening which were a lot of fun with the best team winning in the end and to DJ Kev (Flash Harry) for providing the music.

Greatstone

This was billed as a Mid-Winter party and with strong winds blowing all weekend together with the driving rain, it certainly felt like it. The party was to celebrate Bob and Doreen Watt's retirement and I would like to wish them a long and happy retirement which I'm sure much of that time will be spent in the caravan. Another excuse for a party was to celebrate Chris and Mary Stockwell becoming grandparents again. My thanks to the Marshals for organising the party and for running the rally in very difficult conditions.

St John Ambulance

We received an invitation to attend a presentation evening at St John Ambulance in Sittingbourne back in December. They had received the two defibrillators purchased with the money raised by the Centre when they were our charity in 2009. The presentation was attended by myself, past Chairman Darren Charnock, Margaret Kinchin and two Youth members, Ricky and Craig Bailey. The bags have our name on them as shown in the photograph.



As mentioned previously, Brian Mackender retired from the Committee at the AGM after serving the Centre as Hon. Secretary for nine years. To mark this, it was decided to present Brian with a token of our appreciation for the work he had put in over the years.

I therefore had great pleasure in presenting Brian with a certificate of Honorary Membership signed by the Caravan Club Chairman, Grenville Chamberlain and myself in recognition of his service.



45th Birthday Rally

Our 45th Birthday rally is being held at The Queen Elizabeth School, Faversham over the weekend 10 – 12 June. There is a full programme of events including our charity fete in aid of the Oliver Curd Trust which has been chosen as the adult charity this year. There will be hot food available on Friday evening, breakfast on Saturday morning and on Saturday evening we will be dancing to Unit Five.

Unfortunately, it has been noted recently that members are booking into rallies but not including payment. This can cause problems for Marshals. Please note, if the rally fee and

social charge are in the book, or advertised in advance of the rally, payment must be included when booking in. It is only in cases where the rally fee or social charge is not known until just before the rally that payment can be made on arrival.

Although there are not that many smokers in the centre, it has been decided that a designated smoking area with a bucket provided for the cigarette ends will be set up away from the entrance to both party tents and halls so as not to inconvenience non-smokers and especially the children. In future, can smokers please use the designated area and the bucket provided as we don't want to upset landowners, especially schools.

Jay Williams has kindly offered to provide First Aid training for East Kent members. The course is 'Emergency First Aider at Work' and would be held over one day at a rally, if anyone is interested, can they please let me know. The date and venue will be announced in due course.

Congratulations to Craig Bailey for submitting the winning entry in the Rally Book Cover Competition and thanks to everyone else who took part - the entries were all very good.

Best wishes for the year and please enjoy your rallying.

John

Available Now! Available Now! Available Now! Available Now! Available Now!



EKC Rally Gift Vouchers are available for purchase by ralliers and non-members (ie your family and friends!) The perfect gift for EKC members!

The Gift Vouchers can be used as full or part payment of Caravan Club East Kent Centre UK rallies only (excluding Christmas Rallies) You can also use EKC Gift Vouchers to pay for the Centre's Dinner and Dance.

To purchase a rally gift voucher, please contact Chris Allen (Hon Treasurer)

Summary of September 2010 Committee Meeting

To protect individuals, any item that is identified as confidential by any one member on
Committee will not be published

9 Committee Members Present

- Approval of previous meeting's Minutes
- Centre accounts discussed and agreed.
- New party tents had been purchased and had been colour coded. The Centre would run a competition for the 2011 Rally Book cover. A prize of £25 would be awarded to the winner of the competition.
- 2011 Rally Programme discussed.
- The Centre would compile a list of members who were willing to open rallies for marshals who were unable to arrive until later. This would be advertised on the website.
- The 2010 Dinner Dance was discussed. A further discussion took place with regard to future Centre Dinner Dances.
- A new set of lawn darts would be purchased.
- The Sports Officer proposed a new award which could be given to recognise continuing support of sports events for the Centre, Southern Centres and the National. It was unanimously agreed.
- Agreed to purchase new hammers for the party tents.
- The Southern Centres rally was discussed.
- An extension for the social at the AGM Rally was agreed.
- Agreed that the Centre would ban the use of Chinese lanterns on the rally field.

Summary of October 2010 Committee Meeting

To protect individuals, any item that is identified as confidential by any one member on
Committee will not be published

10 Committee Members Present

- Eileen Killick and Dave Edmonds were co-opted onto the Committee.
- The Chairman welcomed Committee members and allocated duties.
- The New Year rally was discussed. Due to the location of the water tap, ralliers would be asked that only adults fill barrels.
- The 2011 Rally Programme was discussed. 5 rallies still required marshals.
- A discussion took place with regard to the Club's Exemption Certificate and related requirements. Enquiries would be made with the Caravan Club to confirm the exact ruling with regard to where/when the Certificate should be displayed.
- The Christmas Dance rally was discussed. An extension for the social at the Christmas Dance was agreed.
- Possibilities for the Centre's charity for 2010/11 were discussed, as were the advantages and disadvantages of National and local charities.
- Feasibility of purchasing a box trailer to store Centre equipment was discussed.
- Agreed that known additional costs for rallies (e.g. travel expenses to collect tents, diesel for the generators) should be factored into the social rally fee. This to be included in the Guide to Marshals.
- Agreed that a Marshals Meeting would be held at 3.00pm on the Saturday of the Christmas Dance rally.
- Marshals to be reminded to provide the Rally Secretary with an attendance list from their rallies.

MARSHALS

Please can you ensure that you contact Gary Fisher on the closing date of your rallies to inform him of the number of plaques you require. The Centre has incurred unnecessary late ordering costs and over ordering of plaques which, in some cases, have caused rallies to run at a loss.

Please also ensure that you provide Gary Fisher with a copy of the attendance list for your rallies.

Thank you.

Summary of November 2010 Committee Meeting

To protect individuals, any item that is identified as confidential by any one member on
Committee will not be published

10 Committee Members Present

- The bags had been received for the new party tents.
- The Exemption Certificate was discussed. Laminated copies of the certificate would be kept with the flag poles and displayed on all noticeboards. A copy would also be carried by all Committee members.
- Duplicating costs were discussed in respect of letters to AGM paperwork.
- Agreed that fixture cards would not be sent out to members unless requested.
- Service, repair and running costs of the Centre photocopier were discussed. Agreed to purchase a new printer/scanner in the new year.
- Agreed to trial the Committee telephoning new members and members that had not re-registered .
- Progress with the rally book was discussed.
- Reports of problems caused by ralliers who did not send payment with their booking slips were discussed.
- Arrangements for the Christmas Dance rally were discussed.
- Arrangements for the New Year rally were discussed.
- Agreed that the Centre would adopt the Oliver Curd Trust as its 2011 charity.
- Following a detailed discussion, it was agreed not to purchase a box trailer as suggested at the 2010 AGM.
- Four entries had been received for the Rally Book Cover Competition. Agreed that the entry submitted by Craig Bailey should be adopted as next year's rally book cover.

Please remember that EKC members need to re-register with the Centre every year.
You can check your Centre registration details online at the caravan clubs website
www.caravanclub.co.uk/local-groups or by contacting East Grinstead. This is especially important if
you wish to speak, vote, stand for Committee or propose or second a notice of motion at the AGM.

Summary of December 2010 Committee Meeting

**To protect individuals, any item that is identified as confidential by any one member on
Committee will not be published**

9 Committee Members Present

- A new set of lawn darts have been purchased for the Centre.
- Following the trial, it was agreed that the Committee would contact new EKC members only (and not members who had not re-registered).
- Next year's rally book would be sent to the printers shortly.
- A thorough discussion took place with regard to the viability of the Christmas Dance Rally. A number of options were considered including running the Lenham rally with the hall/without the hall, an alternative venue. The deposits provided to the disco and Emporium parties were discussed. Agreed not to progress with the rally.
- Arrangements for the New Year rally were discussed.
- The requirements for the new sports kit, with the sponsor's logo, was discussed.
- The updated Guide to Marshals was discussed.
- The proposed first aid training was discussed.

Article in the October Newsletter (Chuff Chuff Rallies)

There was an article published in the last Newsletter, that I feel as Rally Secretary, it is appropriate to respond to.

Despite the Newsletter article stating that the site owner had no correspondence from the East Kent Centre, the Site Manager had been contacted by myself by telephone and she had also returned an EKC contract.

In response to there being no insurance or exemption certificate as a result of no correspondence, the Centre

carries Public Liability Insurance which is renewed each year and all Centre Officers carry a copy of this.

If it is required by a marshal then a copy of the Certificate can be requested from myself before running a rally. A copy is also displayed on the Centre's Noticeboards.

Moving onto the Exemption Certificate, we as a Centre have to fly the new red Caravan Club flag. This signifies that we rally under the Caravan Club's Exemption Certificate.

Following the matter being raised at the AGM, we have ensured that a copy of the Certificate has been laminated and placed on the Centre Noticeboards. Each Committee member also carries a copy and further copies will also be kept with each of the Centre's flag poles. The Marshals' Guide has been updated.

**Gary Fisher
Hon Rally Sec**

Halloween Rally

My wife and I were on the Halloween Rally at Sturry, nr Canterbury. We decided to walk to the local caravan shop, a few hundred meters away, just something to do in the morning. Whilst in the shop we spoke to some people who were going to buy axle stands so they could store their van for the winter. I said that we rallied all year round, and were across the road at a

school for the Halloween Rally with our Centre, the East Kent Centre. After explaining things in general, they then left and went to the school for more information on joining. They said they were in the Caravan Club, but it turns out they weren't and that they were members of the 'other club'. They were told they could not come along unless they joined the Caravan Club. They went

home, went online, joined (the Club) and brought their caravan to the rally just in time for the evening entertainment. Now members of the East Kent Centre, they took the axle stands back. "The best thing they ever did", he said ...Is this a record?

Martin Brooman

Christmas Rallying with EKC

Although white Christmas' are sung about and the snow looks lovely on cards and photos, the reality of icy, treacherous roads and footpaths meant the cancellation of the Christmas Dance. As the snow continued to fall during December we began to think that our first EKC Christmas would also be cancelled. However with a change of venue we got a phone call to say it was going ahead so we headed off with our caravan to meet our friends in Gillingham at Brompton Academy. When we arrived at the site it was icy underfoot but the men set about clearing paths

to the main building. Mal and I greeted members inside with a hot bowl of soup with crusty bread which warmed everybody up and put us all in a mood to enjoy the Christmas celebrations which were to follow.

Thanks to the very hard work done by the marshals, this was one of our best Christmases ever. The food was first rate and plentiful, entertainment was excellent. We even got a very good present from "Santa." I must thank Terry MacDonald who made my nun's "Sister Act" outfit which won me the Fancy

Dress Competition. Also thanks to Martin Brooman for driving me and Mark to and from the pantomime in Maidstone on Boxing Day. I shall remember this Christmas as probably the most fun I've ever had at Christmas since childhood.

Once again thanks to all concerned, but especially to the Marshalls who worked long exhausting hours in the kitchen and hall without whom there would have been no Christmas Rally at all.

Pat and Mal Johns.

New Year's Eve

I would like to say thank you to Margaret and the Committee for this rally. Although I didn't attend with my van, my family attended New Year's Eve which was great - a nice touch to be served cheese, pate, cold meats and crackers. We also came to the bottle game on the evening of the 1st which was very entertaining,. Well done Anne and Mick. This was a new venue for EKC and I would recommend it. The school had a nice hall and access was easy - A good find!

Shelley Whittam

Saltwood

Our first rally of 2011 at Saltwood was very enjoyable. Sue and Peter and their Assistants did an excellent job with their interpretation of back to school.

We were kept on our toes with a few good games and choir practice, not many of us would get into the Caravan Club choir however!

Most of the ralliers dressed up to suit the occasion and the school games and choir practice was

followed by a school disco brought to us by our very own DJ (SPIV) Kevin.

A great evening.

**Jennie and Tony
Beaney**

To John and the Committee
 Thank you sooooo much for our
 vouchers. I put mine towards a
 game, Danielle bought some build-
 a-bear clothes and Chantelle hasn't
 decided what to get. Thanks again
 Craig, Chantelle and Danielle



St Trinian's Rally

This was great. As usual DJ Kev provided the disco or was it some dodgy geezer by the name of "Flash Harry"? He was far too good at it - it makes you wonder who he was in a past life.

Lots of people dressed up. There were some very naughty school girls and boys and a very

mischievous caretaker, headmistress and a school inspector who tried to get the school closed down.

She soon changed her mind when she was met with a lovely bunch of people whom she had great fun with and thoroughly enjoyed the house games.

This rally was well organised by Peter and Sue and their Assistants and was a lovely change from the "Burns Night".

Thank you.

Shelley, David and Ben Whittam



RUCKINGE
14TH - 19 JUNE
ITALIAN THEMED RALLY
SATURDAY EVENING COME DRESSED AS YOUR
FAVOURITE ITALIAN TO A 3 COURSE ITALIAN MEAL
WITH MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Rally charges 5 nights	£36-00	
4	£29-40	
3	£22-80	Social charge
		£ 5-00 per head
2	£16-20	
1	£ 9-60	

Bookings to Jennie & Tony Beaney East Kent Centre

Contact details available on request

50s & 60s MUSIC
By Mr BOSEMAN





ADULT CHARITY 2011

Hello fellow ralliers

This year we have chosen the OLIVER CURD TRUST as our Adult Charity. The Trust was set up in January 2008 by Richard and Sarah in memory of their son Oliver.

Oliver was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer, a Ewing's Sarcoma in April 2006 but sadly lost his brave fight with the disease in November 2007 aged just 9 years old.



The Trust buys and equips static caravans in order to provide much needed holidays for children and young people suffering from cancer and other terminal disease throughout the UK, at the moment they only have two.

If you would like further details you can find them on the trust website

www.theolivercurdtrust.co.uk

Keith and I would be only too pleased to receive any donations for raffle prizes. If we are not on the rally field please pass them to any member of the Committee who will kindly forward them onto me.

Happy rallying.

Eileen Killick
Charity Officer