

The Lynton Herald

The best Newsletter that money can't buy.

And now for something completely different.....



SPRING 2011
Bumper Edition

From the Editor....

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathryn for all her hard work in producing the newsletter in previous years, and hope that I can live up to her high standards. Thanks to those who kindly sent photos for inclusion.

This is *your* newsletter, so if you have any suggestions, information to share or items to advertise for sale, please email me @ sjb100@btinternet.com

Also if you would prefer to receive future newsletters electronically, please let me know and I will send it in adobe 'pdf' format. For those members who choose this option, there may be the added bonus of more photos as it is not possible to print all of the ones you send in.

Steve



“The Chairmanship hasn’t gone to our heads...” say Lord & Lady Phill

2010

Rally No. 359 **Nether Alderley, Cheshire** August Bank Holiday

The weather leading up to the Bank Holiday had been a little inclement so it was a great relief that the sun was shining as the twelve vans arrived to enjoy the extended weekend.

It was also great to see the return of previous members Ted and Jennifer Newell in their brand new motorhome. Ted and Jen had spent a period of time living in Portugal and hadn't rallied with us for some time so we were all very pleased to see them.

The owners of the farm where we were staying are into Micro cars and own a considerable number of these, mostly old Bond marques. Over the weekend they were having a Micro car rally and we shared the field with lots of micro car enthusiasts displaying their vehicles.

The celebration also meant that there was a large marquee erected and on the Friday night a social had been arranged to which Lyntoners had been invited. A significant number of members made their way over to the marquee to listen to the live band. As the night wore on some got into the swing on the dance floor including the shy and retiring Colin (Neville) who proved to be a big hit with the ladies.

The weather was good again Saturday morning as some members had a mooch around the village, particularly taking in the charity shops. Many premier league footballers live in the surrounding area and there is always the chance of picking up a valuable piece of designer wear on the cheap. I'm not sure if anyone got themselves a bargain.

During the Saturday many members had a good look at the display of micro and vintage cars including Peter and Mary Grimes. To Peter's delight there was an ambulance which was identical to one

which he had driven years before. It was owned by the site owners who very kindly opened it up for him to sit in and have a photograph taken.

Over the weekend we had the usual socials with a quiz on Saturday night and a Cheese and Wine on the Sunday. In addition to Ted and Jen we also welcomed back Jonathan Bowring whom we hadn't seen for some time who attended with Janet.

The sun was still shining on Monday morning when we assembled for coffee morning. The raffle was conducted with great aplomb by Maria and Zoe. The quiz had been to complete as much information as you could remember from the Monopoly board. The winner was Colin who just happened to find a Monopoly game on the site! Longest tow went to Sally and David for their 130 mile trip up from Northamptonshire.

Mike & Gail Smith

Rally No 360 [Home Farm CL, Stoke Bruerne](#) 17-19 Sept

7 caravans turned out for the rally which only went ahead at the last minute due to Andy and Barbara Craft being unable to marshall the rally, as Andy was working abroad and was unable to get back for it. Fortunately Steve and Helen Ball stepped in to marshall the rally so it would go ahead but could not get there until Fri pm. David De-Schoolmeester put out some Lynton signs for us which he made at home and under licence, and was given the assistant rally marshall award for his efforts. Everyone arrived ok - apart from yours truly, who followed my Sat Nav and ended up going down the tow path along side the canal. Luckily I had just enough room to unhook the van and turn it round, then squeeze the car through, put the van back on and got back up to the road. We should have gone right instead of left to reach the field. So much for Sat Nav's! Oh and don't forget to follow the directions on the rally sheets...

There was a small get together with the marshalls on Friday night where we had a chat and a few drinks.

On Saturday some of us went shopping in Milton Keynes and others enjoyed a nice walk along the canal. Barbara Craft and her son Adam also paid a visit to the rally in the afternoon and it was nice to see them.

Saturday night everyone gathered in the marshalls' awning to enjoy a nice relaxing evening where we chatted and had drinks and nibbles. Although Gail Smith had already christened me Neville she tried to change it by going to call me TREVOR? Then after telling everyone about my little excursion along the canal, Helen thought up a new name for me "SAT NEV" which everyone thought was highly amusing.

On Sunday morning at 11 o'clock we had coffee morning with the marshalls and the customary raffle and awarding of prizes for the competitions. The longest tow went to Mike and Gail Smith who did 139 miles. The adults' competition was won by Ron and Mary Beers. Everyone had a great time and a special big thank you goes to Steve Helen Tom and Katie Ball for stepping in to marshall the rally at such short notice.

Neville and Doris *alias Colin & Jacqui Willis* 877

Rally No: 361 **Yew Tree Farm, Kidderminster** 15th – 17th October

We set off to the rally on Friday afternoon and decided to take the M42 all the way, we were about half way into journey when I said to Jo "oh look there is a caravan broken down"... as we went past Jo shouted "STOP! It's Helen". Obviously towing a caravan does not allow you to stop very quick and we eventually pulled up a few

hundred yards away, I got out of the car and run, yes run... all the way back to Steve and Helen. When I got there Steve was changing his near side rear tyre as it was flat. He had almost finished so I ran all the way back to my car as I was very aware of the dangers of stopping on motorways. I WAS KNACKERED!!!!!!

We arrived at the Yew Tree Farm on Friday about 5.30 ish; the site is quite large but the rally field was at the front of the site and was very quaint. We were greeted by Dave Milward (Marshall) who directed us to our pitch, almost everyone else was already there and there was still plenty of space. As we were setting up Steve and Helen arrived from their scary experience of changing a tyre on the hard shoulder.

New members Craig and Simone were just in front of us and were setting up, they had decided to set up on the part of the site with the largest slope and it was quite funny watching them trying to get the caravan level. After using most of the wooden blocks and levelling aids from the front of my caravan they finally managed to get it level, although the door opening was about 2 feet off the ground and Craig and family are not exactly the tallest people in the world.

On the night we all got together in tent city which consisted of Dave's awning and a very nice gazebo, I introduced Craig and his family to everyone and we all sat around chatting, eating snacks and drinking one or two beers, well it would be rude not to. It was rather cold that night and I think we were all more than happy to retire to our warm caravans.

Saturday we awoke to lovely sunny morning, I was probably up before most as Shasta (the Husky) likes to go walkies at 08.30 every morning, although thinking about it I did see Lynn walking Sophie every morning also. By 11.00 am everyone was up and milling around, we could not make the rally in September so it was nice to catch up with our friends, even if it feels like I work with most of them these days. After the traditional cooked breakfast Jo and I took Zoe and Katie swimming, the pool was great! It had 2

water slides and a wave machine; the kids loved it and were in there for 2 or 3 hours. On the afternoon Craig, Daniel and I took Shasta for a walk down to the lakes; Daniel loves dogs and handled Shasta really well, which is good news for me as I can see a good dog walker for the future. Jo did what she does best, TALKING!!! - although I think she has now got competition with Simone.

On the evening we all met up in a small room for our evening meal and a quiz, Christine excelled herself with regards to the meal, we had baked potatoes, chilli and salad followed with cheese and biscuits or a variety of desserts, it really was delicious! After dinner we had the quiz. Jo and I were consistent and came last, and I think Craig and Simone realised not to team up with us ever again if they ever want to win. The winners were the Balls and the Crafts who made a formidable team. A good night was had by all, Neville was up to his usual tricks and turned up in his new t-shirt which was black and had NEVILLE in bold white letters on the front of it and LYNTON CARAVAN CLUB on the back.



2011

Rally No.362 **RED LION FARM, STAFFORD** 18th-20th March

Graham and I welcomed everyone to the rally at Red Lion Farm. To top it all the sun was shining, those prayer mats must have worked.

The rest of the weekend was free and easy, everyone having a trip into the café for shopping and goodies, and of course the inspections of the new toilet and shower block. The children were amused feeding llamas most of the weekend.

Lots of places of interest around including The Trentham Gardens retail park with the usual clothes outlet stores and places to eat. The gardens are usually quite lovely, but I think the only flowers were in the garden centre.

Coffee Morning came all too soon and our very able assistant Maria, soon whizzed round selling raffle tickets, collecting raffle prizes and giving out other competitions with the help of Zoe and Katie.

The girls' competitions were very well done, with Zoe being the outright winner, but we found a prize for all of them. The adults' competitions were won after "tie breakers" by Mike and Gail. Well done to all who took part. Dave and Sally won the longest tow.

Our assistant plaque was awarded to Maria together with chocolates for all of her hard work (I was well informed about how she went home and made a chocolate cake instead of putting her feet up). So well done to her and the rest of the young ladies for their help was much appreciated.

Thanks to all who came and we'll see you all soon.

Graham and Sheila Brunt with Maria 017

Rally No.363

EASTER, KINGS BROMLEY

21st – 26th April

Fifteen caravans turned up at the Kings Bromley Showground, all having followed the 3 mile diversion around narrow, winding back lanes to avoid the ROAD CLOSED signs. The weather was lovely, there was much sitting about doing nothing over the six days and, to keep them cool, cars were parked in the shade of a large tree covered with very pretty yellow blossom.

We arrived Friday afternoon, just in time for hot cross buns, a catch up with friends old & new (check out the new slimline Brunts.....keep it up guys) and to learn that the road works were over but the council had forgotten to take the signs away.

Friday evening young and old Yates went to the local pub for tea and managed to drink enough to acquire a pair of pink & white bunny ears each. These we wore with pride all evening, much to the envy of everyone else.



Saturday was the AGM, which passed swiftly and smoothly.

We were amazed to see Dave Milward there, he'd driven all the way from holiday in Woolacombe to attend. Above and beyond the call of duty Dave but it was good to see you. The floor voted in favour of keeping our Chairman for four years rather than two to maintain consistency then the committee was re elected unopposed. Mary Beers handed over the position of Membership Secretary to Dennis Kempson after more years than she can remember and was presented with a beautiful Dartington Glass Vase in thanks for a sterling job done. Colin was 'persuaded' to join the committee and after a brief bout of fisticuffs between myself and Steve Ball as to who would take over the newsletter I won...
...it's all yours Steve!

7pm saw us all back in the hall eagerly awaiting our evening's entertainment. We'd all taken nibbles and lots to drink and Phill & Anita started the quizzes off with a round of Dingbats – won by the Balls (though I still can't see the difference between 'missing U' and 'without U'). We then played several rounds of Absolute Balderdash, which was hilarious and saw a Lynton First as it was won outright by the kid's table. Well done juniors - our club is in good hands. In between rounds we enjoyed SingalongaMike, with the odd (very odd) bit of piano accompaniment from Neville.



“Ice Mell”the winning team



The Easter egg hunt on Sunday morning was much enjoyed by the young ones, then we all went off to explore the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas; boats & shopping at Barton Marina and the city of Lichfield, buzzing on a sunny St George's Day rather than the torrential rain of two years ago.

Coffee morning saw a 75th rally plaque presented to Graham & Pam, 100th to Phill & Anita and a special gold 275th plaque for Graeme & Sheila. We got the longest tow with 101 miles. The Easter Bonnet competition was won by Katie and Kirsty; decorated eggs by Zoe and Sam. The adults competition of matching songs to shows saw no less than six 30/30 correct answers (yes, we admitted e help) and Howarths won the draw. Janet talked about making the informal 'Christmas Rally' in November available to all members, which was well received.

Those people staying for the extra day went back to lounging & watching whilst the rest of us packed up & hitched up. The next couple of hours saw a steady stream of yellow, pollen covered cars slaloming past the ROAD CLOSED signs heading for home or the next rally. We much appreciated the help of Mr Howarth in hitching up our caravan and the advice of Mrs Howarth to check he'd done it right just before she left in her car. Shortly after we departed one member, who shall remain nameless, quietly hitched up ready to go. Once done he set off in his 4x4 but unfortunately the caravan dropped off the back and came to an abrupt halt as the brakes snapped on and the brake cable snapped off. Of course, it was the caravan's fault....a bit of shoving and lifting and it was re-hitched correctly. I'm sure you'll have no trouble buying a replacement jockey wheel, Dave.

Thanks to all involved in organising the rally, especially the weather, we had a great time.

Adrian & Jan Yates

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After such glorious weather at the Kings Bromley rally, could we dare hope for continued sunshine for Wrenbury? The forecasters said no – The BBC, The Met Office even the link to the local weather station from the Wrenbury website predicted thunderstorms for Friday and Saturday. It looked as though our planned street party to celebrate the Royal Wedding on Friday might be in jeopardy.

We should know better than to pay any attention to the forecasters though. Friday dawned a little breezy and cloudy but not a thundercloud was in sight and before long the sun was shining. From 10 o'clock, tea, coffee and biscuits were served in the bunting enrobed Marshal's awnings for those gathered to watch the Royal Wedding on TV.

By 1 o'clock there was a frenzy of activity as we donned our glad-rags and prepared the food for the party. Half an hour later saw a long line of tables and chairs and a mountain of food to be eaten. And didn't we scrub up well! There were Cross of St George caps, Union Jack braces, Union Jack knotted serviette hats, sparkly tiaras and even a crown. We did our best to polish off the food but there was so much of it that we had to admit defeat.



After a little rest it was time for a game of pin the tail on the donkey followed by musical corners and musical chairs. Some were so desperate to win the sweetie goodies on offer that the final game of musical chairs ended up with Steve lying flat on his back in the grass rather than sitting in a chair! Was he pushed or did he fall Mr Treasurer? *[He was definitely pushed....Ed]*

Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, *HEY NEVILLO*, a bouncy castle appeared (and no, Neville didn't use his balloon pump to blow it up). Kids and grown-ups alike had a whale of a time bouncing around. There was a slight glitch at one point when the generator cut out and the castle deflated, but thanks to the Lynton Elite Engineers Corps (LEEKs for short), it was soon inflated again

The children have fun on the bouncy castle....



.....when Dave lets them have a go.

The Friday night treat was a magic show by the *GREAT NEVILLO*, who spent hours entertaining us. The audience 'volunteers' did their best to outwit him but Nevillo is a M-A-G-I-K-I-A-N so they didn't stand a chance. Well done Nevillo!

Zoe pumps water from
Katie's elbow



Although quite windy, there wasn't a cloud in sight on Saturday morning which meant it was a perfect day for doing something or nothing. Some of us sat in the beer garden of the pub (to watch the canal boats go by of course) whilst others stayed on site and chatted.

Saturday evening was the turn of Mike and Gail and their hotly contested Smith's quiz. Goodness me, what a bunch of ultra competitive caravanners we are! There were so many conspiracy theories about cheating being bandied around that it was like something out of the X Files! The eventual winners were team Nevillo – Dave, Gill, Neville, Jackie and Ben.

Sunday was yet another lazy day spent in the sunshine, which was actually incredibly hot once you'd managed to get your wind break up and could sit out of the wind! The Cotton Arms had Sunday lunch on offer at bargain prices and a few booked tables for the feast.



Any captions to the Editor please - the best ones will win the next newsletter for free!

Sunday evening was fun and games in the Marshal's awnings. We were told that three teams were required so proceeded to sort ourselves out. All brain cells must have been well and truly fried at the previous evenings' quiz though as we couldn't even manage the simple task of counting, which resulted in the teams varying greatly in size! Mike then proceeded to hand each of the three teams a copy of the same newspaper, with instructions that the pages were to be split between the team members. Mike then asked questions relating to articles in the newspaper such as "What is the cost of the Nikon camera at Argos?" You then had to frantically search your pages for the answer and shout it out.

What an absolute scream! The game was eventually won by the smallest team (sorry, Steve made me say that) consisting of Phill, Anita, Steve, Helen, Thomas and Katie.

Nevillo then took over for the bingo session. With winnings on offer of 50p a line and £1.50 for a house, you just couldn't refuse! After three rounds Nevillo stood up and told us "For the next game, don't mark off the number until I've finished talking". What's that all about we wondered. Well, what then followed was the most confusing and hilarious game of bingo ever! "Key to the door" would shout Neville, but woe betide if you rushed in and crossed off 21 as his sentence finished with "Number 5". There were so many false calls that it was a wonder we ever finished.

Irish bingo followed (last man standing) followed by Brucie's Play Your Cards Right. The cards must have come from Nevillo's magic box as we've never seen so many two's in one pack of cards!

Monday was still very sunny and very windy. First order of the day was the raffle and with all of the prizes wrapped it was an added surprise when you won. Dennis, Jo and Zoe had had to leave on Sunday evening so left their raffle tickets in the capable hands of Jackie. Lucky for Dennis that they did as one of his numbers won a plastic water heater vent cover, strangely similar to the one he'd forgotten to put back on his caravan before going home.....

The children's Draw a Princess competition was won by Katie Ball and the adult's Kings and Queens competition was a three way tie between Lynn & John, Janet & Kathryn and Phill & Anita. The Yates's were victorious however after having our name's pulled out of the hat.

John & Lynn were awarded their 75th rally plaque and Dave & Sally won longest tow with 120 miles.

A warm 'welcome back' was extended to Malcolm & Dorothy who had taken the plunge and rejoined the Club.

A big thank you from all on the rally, to Graham Brunt for the generous gift of commemorative Royal Wedding bone china mugs. What a lovely surprise.

Well done Mike, Gail, Neville and Jackie for an absolutely fantastic rally.

See you all again soon.

Phill and Anita Yates

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And finally, a blast from the past.....

If possible, each edition will include a rally report from the past. As we are visiting Hoar Park soon, to start off here is the first and last time we were there during the petrol shortages of September 2000:

Crisis! What crisis? Who needs petrol anyway? All we did was fill up with a packet of Uncle Joe's Mintballs (lead substitute) dissolved into 2 gallons of bbq lighting fluid, and away we went. OK fair's fair, if the breweries had been blockaded then that would have been serious. Anyway we found a car that runs by burning ship's timbers: it does 22 miles to the galleon!

8 vans arrived, before us so I don't know when. One arrived after us, then went away, came back and arrived again, then went away and parked nearer to the other rally in the field than ours (have we really got the right man for rally secretary?) *[Kevin & Jane raced past the field several times in the dark and then parked with the wrong rally: Ed]*

The site was superb, a garden centre, drum exhibition, craft village and kids farm all a minute from walk from your van and a good car boot sale nearby as well. What more could you ask for? Andy Craft would probably say "a big caravan shop full of gadgets too please!" Apparently starved of such a facility near home, Andy set about emptying the local Jacksons

accessory shop of just about every item in stock. He vehemently denied that this had anything to do with the free food on offer at their open weekend. He was also lucky that Welsh radio did not get a whiff of his panic buying or we might all be in 3 hour queues for bog fluid by now.

Chief babysitter Karen won the “How weighty is Katie” competition with the first go and almost mucked it up for the rest of us. A brave move by Helen & Steve to allow their lovely new daughter to be used in this way (the danger money is in the post).

David Craft won the children’s competition and yours truly took the longest tow making the entry fee well worth while. (Sorry Adrian & Jan, so close, so close!!) But that’s what Jan likes about me..... nothing! We must thank Phill and Anita for looking after the site and all the kids while the rest of us assisted with Andy’s attack on Jacksons.

On Saturday afternoon the children, “sponsored by Tuck Shop Enterprises Ltd” headed off to the farm to feed or sometimes just plain scare the death out of the animals.

Saturday night and along came the quiz. My favourite moment was the question “who was the character played by Ian Lavender in Dad’s Army?” Well done to the heckler who shouted “Don’t tell him Pike”! Eventually won by Kevin, Jane & Adrian, it was a real goody that had us all on the edge of our seats until the end.

Well done, particularly for staying cool in the face of seriously fluctuating numbers, to Phill, Anita, Clare, Sam, Steve, Helen, Thomas and Katie. A smashing rally. To those who were stopped in their tracks by the fuel mess, many commiserations, you missed a good ‘un.

Peter June Graeme Suzy & Karen Rathbone

Sept 2000



Bye, see you again soon.....!

*Produced by Steve Ball
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