

# The Lynton Herald

The best Newsletter that money can't buy.



**SUMMER 2013**

## ***From the Editor...***

Just to let you all know that I have a new email address:

[stevenhelenball@virginmedia.com](mailto:stevenhelenball@virginmedia.com)

Thanks for sending in your rally reports and photographs – I'm sorry that I can't reproduce all of your pictures, sometimes there just isn't enough room - but please keep sending them in. If you have anything at all you would like to share in the next newsletter, please just email.

*Steve*

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## **Message Board**

### **Rally Updates**

Lynn has the 2014 rally programme all booked up and is looking for Marshals. If you are interested in hosting one of the following rallies, please contact Lynn on 01335 370153 or email [birchlyn715@gmail.com](mailto:birchlyn715@gmail.com).

Also, Lynn is always on the look out for suitable venues so if you know of any rally fields in your area (especially if you would be prepared to marshal it), please get in touch.

## 2014 Rally Programme

March 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Packhorse Bungalow, Belper Road, Alderwasley, Derbyshire

Marshals: *John & Lynn Birch*

AGM 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April:

Cannock Woods, Rugeley, Staffordshire

Marshals: *The Committee*

May Day 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> May

Arden Fisheries, Snitterfield, Stratford upon Avon

Marshals: *Steve & Helen Ball*

Whitsun Holiday 24<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June

Llewellyn Parc, Mold Road, Denbigh

*Marshals required please*

20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Sycamore Farm, Nether Alderley, Macclesfield

*Marshals required please*

18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July

Carsington Water, Derbyshire

*Marshals required please*

August Bank Holiday 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August

Smeaton Lakes, Newark on Trent

*Marshals required please*

12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September

Great Heywood, Staffordshire

*Marshals required please*

10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October

Marston Caravan & Camping, Sutton Coldfield

*Marshals required please*

Rally No: 383

## **Petruth Paddocks, Cheddar**

25<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Eight vans made the trip to the holiday rally. We were praying for good weather as we were going to be there for the week.

The rally field was huge so there was ample space between each caravan.

Arrivals were staggered but Pam and Graham were there to greet us all and, as this was going to a laid-back rally, the instruction of “park where you want” came from Graham, so we all did.

Mike and Gail had the compulsory Volleyball pitch marked out.

The grass was a little bit long in the field, which the owner was quick to remedy, although we were a little worried the volleyball field would be taken out.

But no, he carefully cut inside the tape - phew the usual games can commence, or the at least regular exercise for those who wished to participate.



A few matches were held as Dennis, Jo and Zoe were only here for the weekend.

On Tuesday most decided to go to Street for a little 'Retail Therapy'. As we were going to a wedding the next month in Kent, I managed to get kitted out at a very knock down price, so I was happy.



...they drank the local Scrumpy Store dry

We were all a little worried since Dave and Sally arrived - we had seen Dave come and go, but no sign of Sally. Then I realised we had not seen the dog. I asked *my* Dave "Have you seen the dog?" "No..." came his reply. "Have you seen Sally since they arrived?" "No..." came his reply.

I was sure I had seen the dog, and I know I definitely saw Sally. As we saw Dave come and go, I really wanted to approach and ask if everything was OK, but then thought better of it. *If the dog has disappeared... and now Sally... no, I think I will keep my distance.* But thankfully, on Wednesday Sally re-appeared. She had picked up a tummy bug and had felt really rough for a few days - so that was my theory out of the window!

On Wednesday we had a 'Pasty, Potato and Pea night' with Cheesecake and Gateaux for afters, washed down with a few glasses of local Scrumpy. Paige entertained us with quiz questions.



A very  
relaxed  
marshal

On Saturday night we had a Pudding night and played a few rounds of Neville's Irish Bingo. As predicted, we all got confused but it makes it so much fun. Ryan was the last man standing. Graham, Pam, Paige and Ryan put on a quiz and Gail and Michael were the eventual winners.

Oh by the way, in case you were wondering where the dog had gone, he had not been there at all as he was on a "doggy holiday" at Dave's son's. Don't worry... I will not be applying for a CSI role in the very near future.

Dave presented Pam and Graham with their Rally Marshall Plaque. Paige and Ryan were awarded with the Assistant Rally Marshalls plaque by Graham, (check the records they must have made club history being the youngest Assistants) as they had been a great support to Graham and Pam throughout the week.

There was a three way tie for the Caravan Quiz completed throughout the week – Gail and Mike, Neville and Jacqui, and Den, Jo and Zoe - after a draw Neville and Jacqui won! Unfortunately they were not there to collect their prize (oh what a shame... please don't anyone tell them they won).

Maria won the children's quiz and was awarded with chocolates.

We won longest tow again! That 3 miles between the Smith's and us really makes a difference. They will be glad that we can't make all the rallies this year, due to Dave's work commitments.

Thanks to Pam, Graham, Paige and Ryan for sticking their hands in the air to run a week long rally.

## **Gill Howarth**

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Rally No. 384

**Lapwing Hall Farm  
Meerbrook, Leek**

21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June

Before venturing off with our caravan, we always 'Google' the site and 'Street View' any narrow lanes so that we are fully prepared before the journey - a bit over cautious maybe, but we don't like nasty surprises.

We were, therefore, a bit aghast & slightly amused that the directions in the green handbook were directing us to the nearby Roaches, a wind-carved outcrop of rock in the Peak District National Park, very popular with rock climbers. Surely no one would be daft enough to take a caravan up there!

Almost on cue, Lynn telephoned to say that she and John had been to suss out the route and, realising there had been a mistake, decided to see where the directions would actually take them.

Winding their way up the very steep narrow lanes and enjoying the amazing views, John remarked that only a fool would bring a caravan up there....round the next corner they came across a couple with their caravan trying to turn around, having religiously followed their SatNav to the sparsely populated village of Upper Hulme, instead of their intended destination several miles away! Some people never learn....*(you know who you are...)*



### The Roaches

We arrived at Lapwing Hall Farm late on the Friday evening thankful for the correct directions and the welcoming sight of yellow Lynton signs.

The field, although not mown and a bit lumpy underfoot, looked very pretty with its 3 foot tall carpet of buttercups; the sun was still shining and the views of the lofty Roaches were fantastic.

We were very sorry to hear that neither the Kempsons or Johnsons would be joining us after all, as sadly both Jo's Mum and Craig's Dad had been taken ill. That left just 5 vans, with no official marshals, to enjoy a free and easy weekend in this beautiful part of the country.

Neville appeared with two cups of tea and came to help Steve put up the awning. He and Jacqui joined us for the rest of the evening for a few drinks and a natter, when he let slip that **SatNev** had struck again.... Before setting off he had keyed in the details of the site and quite happily followed the directions... until he pulled into Uttoxeter Racecourse!! We did enjoy the laugh at his expense, bless him, but he really should invest in an old fashioned road atlas.

In spite of the poor weather forecast & an early shower, Saturday turned out bright and blustery and after a very pleasantly lazy morning we decided to head off to the Roaches for a bit of a drive. Taking a left turn out of the site we followed the very narrow, perilously steep, sharply winding track up to the top, still chuckling about SatNavs and SatNevs.

We were rewarded with glorious views and could just about make out the tiny white dots of our caravans down in the valley.



Katie loves to scramble over rocks, so we did venture a little bit higher on foot, but it was **really** breezy up there.



When we returned to the site, we found Neville sitting in the sunshine quietly reading his book (*hard to believe I know*), when a passing bird used him for target practice – isn't it amazing how you can be the only person sat in a field in the middle of nowhere and a bird still manages to splat on you from a great height?

After we stopped laughing, we joined him & Jacqui for a cup of tea reminding him that it really is supposed to be good luck, although he didn't believe it. Then to prove the point, Lynn appeared with a raffle prize and box of Cadbury's Heroes that he had won at the previous rally – so there you go.

In the evening, Lynn & JB, Ron & Mary, Neville & Jacqui and Sheila (Graham stayed in the warmth of their van) all gathered in our awning for drinks 'n' nibbles and a few laughs.



Katie had celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the previous Wednesday, so Nev bought her a cake which he carefully decorated himself with icing pens – what a star!

Like all teenagers, she squirmed with embarrassment at our rendition of "Happy Birthday to you", but she was really pleased and we all enjoyed a sliced of cake. Thanks very much Nev!

With Midsummer's Day falling just two days earlier, our awning became the much welcomed shelter from the biting wind and heavy rain that greeted us all on Sunday morning. What is it with our weather?

As there were no official marshals Sheila did the raffle, which offered a surprising number of prizes considering there were only 5 vans in total, although she did admit to having a bit of a clear out and recycling a few items she had previously won.

Ever resourceful, Lynn had re-used a picture competition from the Cheddar rally for the envelope quiz. As we couldn't identify a single one of the sports personalities, we decided there was really no point us entering!

In fact the only entry came from Neville & Jacqui with 6 out of 10 correct. It's the first time he's ever managed to win *(perhaps he needs birds to whoopsy on him a bit more often?)*. Mind you, I did help him with one of the answers, even if Oskar Pistorius turned out to be Jacques Villeneuve! Although it was a close call with Neville's racing detour adding many miles to his journey, we were awarded longest tow with 88 miles.

As is often the case with smaller rallies, they become more intimate and relaxed and everyone dwelled a bit longer than intended. Graham eventually asked what we were having for lunch. Thoughts then naturally turned to packing up and homeward journeys, when Mary caused uproar by remarking "...of course Colin, your journey home will be a lot shorter!!!"

Although they didn't take on the official title of Rally Marshal, Lynn & JB really did all the usual things like signage and welcome letters and provided the coffee and delicious choccie biscuits, so inevitably our thanks have to go to them for arranging an extremely enjoyable weekend.

However, special mention must also go to affable Neville – guaranteed to make everyone laugh out loud, and good natured enough to take it all on the chin!

**Helen, Steve & Katie Ball**

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Seven Caravans arrived at the Bakewell Showground on what turned out to be a scorching Friday. John and Lynn welcomed us all with tea, biscuits and a chat.



On Saturday we either visited Bakewell, sampling some of the local delights or just lazing around under awnings having taken both ends out, trying to create cool air.

In the afternoon we were invited by Mike and Gail, (who had been joined by Dave and Gill for the rest of the day) for 'Pimms'. Not before a couple who were wandering around looking for a site and asking if we were staying all week. They were invited to join us, and a membership form was produced. So it is welcome to John and Elaine and hope it won't be too long before we will be seeing you again.

Kathryn brought her very cute little daughter Charlotte, who behaved impeccably and entertained us ladies, slept well for Mum and Gran Janet, and she was visited by Uncle Jonathan too!





The more energetic went off for a cycle ride - some did as many as 14 miles, and some came back a bit 'saddle sore'.

A communal BBQ was had in the evening, followed by cheese and biscuits provided by our marshals who I have to say excelled themselves more than the call of duty, having a 'wash - up' doing everyone else's plates.

John was celebrating his 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday the Thursday after the Rally, so we hope he had a 'Happy Birthday'.

The evening quiz was won by Mike, Gail, Dave, Gill and Janet who generously passed the prize of the chocolates around to all.

Not forgetting the evening entertainment of Aerobatics of an aeroplane – someone must have told them at the Hall that it was John's birthday.



Then not long afterwards, a hot air balloon went off into the sunset.

The one thing that really amused our 'younger' members (yes including you Neville) was the electrical fly zapper, which created whoops of delight when it went off and fried the unlucky victim. John was that taken with it he waved it along his awning light several times and killed loads more.

### Graham does his Usain Bolt impression

Sunday morning came all too soon, (another hot, hot day). Mary Grimes came to visit us on coffee morning with her foot strapped up, as she had tripped and broken bones.

With the raffle, Mary G's and Mary B's numbers kept coming up, so did Neville's – in fact at one stage even his phone rang.

Mike and Gail won the 'TV Theme' songs competition after a tie break. Steve, Helen and Katie won the longest tow with 94 miles (second in a row). A "first rally" plaque was awarded to Charlotte Ashley Summerscales for her first rally and a Birthday card presented to John together with a Poem, specially written for him by Ron & Mary's friend, was read out whilst we all enjoyed a slice of Birthday cake with our coffee.

Thank you one and all, and for those of you who weren't able to make it you missed a good 'un', but hopefully we will see you soon.

**Graham and Sheila Brunt**



*John's Poem:*      Retirement?

Now, Mr Birch,  
It's time to research  
The joys that retirement can  
hold.  
Before you fall off the perch  
With a heart-rending lurch,  
You cannot deny you were told!

Retirement is not  
A dastardly plot  
To extinguish a knight of the  
road.  
You'd escape the old Adam  
In Mr Macadam,  
If you've failed on a critical load!

It is time Mr Birch  
That you did some research  
To find out what could be in  
store.  
In retirement it's fine  
To not toe the line.  
It makes up for being so poor!



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

**Halloween Rally  
Scarbrick Village Hall, Merseyside**

25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> October 2001

Appropriately, thirteen vans turned up at Scarbrick Village Hall for this Halloween Rally, the last one of the year. It was half term week for some, so we arrived on Thursday to make the most of the break. Unfortunately, so did the rain. On that first evening we decided to reintroduce the old Lynton custom of seeing how many adults we could fit in one van. We managed twelve, comfortably (ish), in our three berth and counted 22 beer cans and 8 wine bottles when people left. A good start then.

The torrential rain on Friday didn't stop people exploring the delights of nearby Southport: hair raising rides at the Pleasure Beach, the long stretch of sand, the Victorian parade of shops, but most of all B & M's Bargain Store! The children took over the small hall and decorated every available surface with scary stuff (and mud), which kept them busy and prepared the room for the joint birthday party followed by duck apple and bob apple....

Water everywhere! We all met later on in the big hall for a generous helping of home made local delicacy, which we had to request by saying "Ay Youze, giz me scouse" then on receipt "Ta la". When the lot had been polished off, all attention turned to Jackie's Big Quiz, a cracking multi-rounder won by 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly' alias Mike Smith, June Rathbone and my good self (though not necessarily in that order). The fantastic prize was entry for four adults into Liverpool's Beatles Experience. We're still trying to work out how to share it! The evening ended with a sing song, some new stuff, some performances and a bit of all join in!

Saturday's weather was much better and most people went into Liverpool to visit the sights and the shops, coming back early enough to prepare for 'trick or treat', decorate a pumpkin and get into fancy dress for the evening.

What an exhibition! We had witches and warlocks; ghoulies and ghosties; vampires and victims (and Buffy of course) cats, dogs and things that go bump in the night. Once again Brian excelled himself. During the evening performance he managed to remove Dracula Kevin Martin's white lacy briefs and pierce his daughter on a bed of steel knives.

In our absence the small hall had been turned into a House of Horrors with glowing skeletons, waking corpses and a vile monster, which jumped out when least expected. We were allowed in small groups, accompanied by a child and came out white and shaking. It was great!

Early Sunday the clocks went back and most welcomed the extra hour in bed. Not me though.... I forgot and wondered why everyone was so unconcerned about organising coffee! There were some great raffle prizes. Adrian's was the first number drawn followed by every single member of our family, including my Mum. It was pure coincidence and certainly didn't warrant the cries of "fix"! Other people got some too. A few.

Rally plaques were handed out to Kevin and Jane for the longest tow with 190 miles and new members Sue & Paul Rowe with daughter Rachel – friends of Sue, but despite that, good fun and I reckon we'll see them again. There were several competitions. The adults' "Know Liverpool" quiz was won by the Howarths and the "Decorate a Pumpkin" by the Harrops. The various children's quizzes were won by Karen Rathbone, Hannah Farron, Lucy Butterworth, David Smith, Hannah Prada and Maria with the Brunts. There was also a special thank you to May, our Mum, for keeping everyone well supplied with home made scones throughout the weekend and for all the clearing up she did behind the scenes.

Many congratulations to Sue, Brian, Jackie and Ashley and children for such a terrific first rally and may I pass on their thanks to all those who helped with the cleaning up of the kitchen and the two halls. Much appreciated.

**Jan Yates**



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

*Produced by Steve Ball  
stevenhelenball@virginmedia.com*