

The Lynton Herald

The best Newsletter that money can't buy.



SUMMER 2015

From the Editor...

Thanks to those of you who have written and sent in rally reports promptly and for all the great photos – please keep sending them in.

If you have anything you would like included next time, please email:

stevenhelenball@virginmedia.com

Steve

Message Board

Rally Updates

2015 Rally Programme

18 th – 20 th Sept	Hoar Park Craft Village, Nuneaton Marshals: Colin & Jacqui Willis
16 th – 18 th Oct	The Smallholding, Rugeley Marshals required please

If you can help Lynn with either Marshaling any rallies, ideas for venues or even just setting up signs, she will be very happy to hear from you.

Tel: 01335 370153 Mob: 07976 826511

Email: birchlynn715@gmail.com

August Bank Holiday Rally

Janet has sent the following directions to **Lady Margaret Hall, Welbeck:-**

FROM M1 SOUTH

Take Junction 29A, turn right and follow A632 East towards Bolsover and follow this road for approx. 10 miles towards A60. At Cuckney turn left on the A60 towards Worksop. Site is approximately 1.5 miles from here on the right at Holbeck Woodhouse.

FROM M1 NORTH

Turn left off Junction 31 on to A57 signposted Worksop. In approximately 8 miles at 4th roundabout after motorway exit take 3rd exit on to A19/A60 towards Mansfield. Follow A60 for approximately 4 miles. Site on left at Holbeck Woodhouse.

NB - You can come through Mansfield, but the above misses the town centre.

PLEASE NOTE I WILL NOT ARRIVE UNTIL THURSDAY MORNING UNTIL APPROX 11 AM.

Janet Bowring

8 Caravans arrived on site for the Easter Weekend. Thursday we had brilliant sun - by Friday it decided to 'chuck it' down with rain. Spirits weren't damped though as we all met up in the hired room for 'Hot cross buns' with Lynn's home made damson and strawberry jam. All buns toasted to your particular taste and washed down with liquid refreshments. Great job - many thanks.

There were many places of interest to visit and explore including Uttoxeter, The Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stafford Castle and Visitor Centre and the Claymills Victorian Pumping station as well as Stoke-on-Trent, Derby and Lichfield etc.

Saturday was another sunny day and we found there was a car boot sale close by with all sorts of goodies for sale. Janet graced us with her company for the day.

In the evening we all went into the 'Chase Room' for 'Call my Bluff' which was eventually won by Mike Gail, Dave and Gill (the 'Blue Caps'). You could say that we were the *strongest* team (Graham Sheila, Lynn & John) - we held everyone else up!!

Dennis, Jo and Zoe joined us for the AGM meeting - it was nice to see you Jo, so get well soon.

In the afternoon we all had fun playing games of magnetic darts, balls in the bucket, quoits, mini pool and table football. Dave Howarth reined victorious but not before I managed to knock Colin out of the Semi Final... Ha! Ha! We all had great fun - Graham's dart managed to bounce and still hit a treble score on the dart board.

We all supplied ourselves with an 'American Supper' with delicious goodies from everyone.

Lily turned up in her beautifully made Easter Bonnet. Well done Lily you look lovely.



Then we had a rousing game of 'Donkey Derby'. The 'Grande Finale' (*the Gay Boys' Handicap*) was won by John and Craig, beating Dave and Steve Harrop by a head.

Thanks to Colin for his terrific commentating and organizing of games and some 'rude' names for the horses. The Club made £7.30 on the evening.



We finished the evening off with a 'Singalong' with Mike on his guitar. Thanks Mike. Lily had some unusual dancing exercises with her arms thanks to Gill, which kept us all amused especially Lily. Her dad did say she slept well.

Dennis and Zoe arrived on Monday on the new motor bike – terrific. When Graham went to have a view he had a slippery time in the mud. I just saw Dennis helping him up. Just a knocked knee and pain in arm that had now subsided, and his pride hurt too.

Coffee morning saw extra chocolate cake and cheese cake etc. leftover from the American supper, along with the usual coffee and biscuits. The raffle made £26.00. Longest Tow went to Dave and Sally clocking up 84 miles. The competition winners were Lynn and John. Well done to them.

Time to go came all too soon but the last day brought a few strange goings on:- ducks trying to escape from buckets; a man wandering around the field with a watering can to water flowers in the rain; and another man 'ferreting' in rubbish bins searching for 'goodies'??? Most strange Ha! Ha! (You had to be there!)

Everyone enjoyed the rally and I hope you all had a safe tow home in the brilliant sunshine.

Sheila and Graham 017

Footnote: Just for everyone who knows that we went to Blackpool for the rest of the week. Having arrived in cloud, the sun came out so we decided to go into Blackpool for a ride along the front, just to see the alterations on the promenade and the sea really, only to find it was quite foggy. We went along a road at Lytham St Annes and we could see the top of the tower and the big dipper above the height of the fog. Most weird. Just thought you would like to know. Also we had our own lights around the caravan, much to the amusement of our immediate neighbours. lol. Sheila



THE LYNTON 400TH RALLY

Kings Bromley Showground

1st - 4th May

What an honour to be asked to write the rally report for the Lynton 400th Rally, makes me wonder what the first rally was like...now there's a challenge if someone wants to take it up!

We arrived Friday evening to find 9 caravans widely spaced around the field so, of course, we tucked in right next to the young Yateses and shortly after the young Balls came in and tucked in right next to us. We were welcomed in the traditional way with a much appreciated cuppa - cheers Neville & Doris! That evening was a fairly quiet get together in the Ball's awning with most conversations centred around managing without hookup and fridges not working. At least ours switched on the next morning, all by itself. Relief.

Saturday morning we were joined by Andy & Barbara Craft in their very smart motorhome, taking our final total up to 12. As the planned afternoon Boules Match was rained off most folks had a fairly easy day visiting Lichfield, Barton Marina and the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas - a moving experience and definitely worth a visit next time you're in the area.





The evening saw us all dressed in our finery and off to the local pub restaurant for a celebration meal.

Despite having lots of different orders to fulfill everything went smoothly and an excellent time was had by all.



One highlight of the evening was when Graham and Sheila were presented with two beautiful, engraved crystal whisky glasses to mark their 300th rally. 75% attendance...amazing!



Sunday was another free and easy day, with at least one couple heading off to the local caravan dealers for a new leisure battery! That evening we all got together in the village hall for cheese and wine and a fiendish 'Wipeout' quiz organised by Helen. Winners were 'Katie's Quartet' - Mike, Gail and Janet, ably led by Katie Ball. I seem to remember it was here that Katie, as part of the junior Lyntoners team, won their first ever quiz back in 2011. Keep it up Katie! This was followed by some fun with Neville's charade games - eat your heart out Phil Tuffnell!

Coffee morning came all too soon. Lynn had made a fantastic 400th Rally cake (I hope someone got a photo of this masterpiece) and everyone was presented with a special 400th rally mug.



Longest **tow** went to the Crafts, who beat us by three miles - not that we're bitter & twisted or anything - and the annoying anagrams adults quiz was won by Jacqui & Colin. The raffle went on for ages, with the theme seeming to be tea towels, and I'm delighted to report that Lynn finally managed to win the one she'd had her eye on. I'm even more delighted to report that I won the Thornton's chocolate mints - result!

So, thank you Committee for organising a smashing and very memorable 400th Rally. Can't wait for the 500th!

Jan Yates.



Rally No. 401 **Lleweni Parc, Denbigh (part one)** 22nd -31st May

We set off at 6.00am on Saturday to avoid the inevitable Bank Holiday trawl up the M6 & A55 into Wales, especially as we were only intending to stay until the Monday evening. This proved a wise decision and we sailed up, apart from a *minor* detour when I took notice of the dreaded SatNav instead of our already planned route, directing Steve off the A55 two junctions too early. I was immediately gripped by a sense of panic - getting lost in Wales is not to be recommended when towing, with those dreaded narrow roads and stone walls everywhere. Fortunately, we were able to turn around at the next junction so that we could rejoin where we went wrong. NO! The only option was to get on the A55 heading back towards Chester! There was a grumbling from Steve and much derision from my dear daughter, but we got there eventually, having added about 10 miles to our journey, and it was still only 9.00am.

We followed the long winding lane up to the small tourer site on the Lleweni Parc estate and were a bit surprised to see the Lynton sign pointing to a woodland track at the end of the site (*thoughts of Nev and the canal tow-path*). Fortunately this opened up into a beautiful clearing and we were greeted by Mike (who was standing in for Dave & Gill until Sunday as they were attending Steve Harrop's wedding to his new bride Amanda. Congratulations to them both.) Gail made us a most welcome cup of tea whilst we set up the van and took in our lovely surroundings. The sun broke through and we began to chill. Graham & Sheila arrived later in the day having been stuck in nose to tail traffic on the A55. (So glad we made the effort to get up early). A lady turned up impersonating the warden, wanting to check our paperwork. She had already looked us up on the ACCEO website - turns out she was a neighbour who obviously has issues with the owner (and self-importance).



Lleweni Parc is part of an old 16th Century Estate and the owners have created an airstrip and some delightful woodland walks eventually meandering along the banks of the river Clwyd.

Every now and then you will come across a wonderful sculpture in either metal or skillfully carved wood, and not being open to the public, you will hardly see a soul. We thoroughly enjoyed our walks.



There were only 3 vans for the first night, but we spent a very pleasant evening with Mike, Gail & Ben.

On Sunday morning the cloud had returned, with the odd shower, but we were keen to get out and explore as we hadn't been to this part of Wales before. Rhyl seemed to be the closest of the seaside destinations so we headed off with great expectations - I had a particular yearning to find a *nice little tea shop* to have tea and cake. As we approached the town centre, what had appeared to be red & white bunting festooning the town turned out to be hazard tape.... We should have kept driving. What a disappointment! The town is obviously in decline with drab, unkempt, boarded up buildings dotted with garish slot machine arcades and greasy chip shops (and a clientele to match). Not to be deterred we headed for the "Promenade" for a bracing sea front walk. The view could have been better – hundreds of wind turbines out to sea and a tall grey concrete block wall to the other side. Determined to get a cup of tea we headed off to the centre and eventually settled on a little café attached to "Pound Bakery", which was attached to "Pound Land".... You get the picture.

It was good to see that John & Lynn, Colin & Jacqui and Dave & Sally had arrived by the time we got back, which left only our Marshals to come. Having pulled off their drive at home, a wheel came off their caravan and they had to be recovered. The mechanic had only managed to secure 4 of the 5 locking nuts on the spare wheel and so they were naturally apprehensive about making the journey. With assurances from Graham that this would suffice, they eventually arrived feeling a bit frazzled (and possibly still a bit hung over after the previous night's wedding celebrations).

Gill arranged a cheese & wine evening and we were all entertained by Dave recounting his Best Man speech and a game of Chase the Ace.

On Monday the Smiths got a visit from daughter Natalie, her husband Michael and two lovely boys William & James, who were staying in a static for the weekend somewhere in Rhyl (oh dear). Granny Smith was looking forward to having the boys stay for a few days whilst Mum & Dad went back for work, especially as Mike had to go back for work too.

Gill had done herself proud and organised a daily quiz which seemed to get harder throughout the week: dingbats, numbers quiz, anagrams of film stars, more dingbats, a harder numbers quiz and guess the pub name - which were won by John & Lynn, Mike & Gail, Colin & Jacqui (twice), Graham & Sheila and ourselves (not necessarily in that order) who all received chocolates.

We had, as I mentioned, been planning to return home early, but as Steve was able to get free (but frustratingly slow) WiFi from the estate office he managed to spend a couple of mornings online and on the phone sorting out his caseload which meant we could stay on longer - which was great as we were really “chillaxed” by this time.



It was lovely to travel around Wales to see the stunning scenic views, castles and coastline.

Conwy Castle from the town walls

We visited Llandudno, Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Betws y Coed, Llanberis Pass, Mount Snowdon and some other places I can't pronounce.

The weather was relatively kind to us too with lots of sunny spells. Although I did think it was a bit too chilly in Betws y Coed for those young local “boyos” to be stripped to just their boxer shorts and jumping off the bridge into the rocky river 20ft below – what they’ll do to impress young ladies these days!!!

Betws y Coed - we know how to pronounce it properly now, thanks to Dave D



Each evening Gill & Dave organised different entertainment so we had fun playing Bingo – including Nev’s Dyslexic and Irish versions and a Beetle Drive, which got surprisingly competitive (Nev does get a bit excited). My particular favourite was the “Who Am I?” game. Everyone took turns to pick a name at random that they didn’t see but everyone else did. They then attempted to guess who that person was by asking searching questions such as “am I male?” or “am I a pop star?” of the rest of us, who could only give “yes” or “no” answers.... It was funny how some of us struggled with that. Not Sally though, she guessed her name in three questions (no she didn’t peek, but it was Prince William). Steve narrowed his down to a famous 19th Century author – he knew who he was and that he wrote ‘A Christmas Carol’ and ‘Oliver Twist’ – but could he think of his name.....??? He got there eventually with a bit of prompting. Not all of the names were famous and even one or two Lynton Members cropped up.

Bracken was that desperate for a wee that he couldn't wait for Dave to unzip the awning, so dragged him through with the lead when it was only half way open – Jacqui and I were in bits as Dave was yanked through, tripped up and somehow got his shoe caught up in the awning zip, ending up sprawled on the ground still attached to the awning and being dragged by the dog – Steve *eventually* responded to his calls for help and got him free, much to his relief and the dog's! Sorry to laugh Dave but from where we sat it was hilarious!

Overnight on Thursday there was a lot of rain, which must have disturbed my sleep as I had troubled dreams about waking up to a flooded site – funny how the mind works. It was thankfully only a dream and apart from a bulge in the awning roof and a bit of a squelch underfoot, all was well. We decided that Friday was to be our last day as there was too much to do at home, so we had a leisurely day on site. The sun shone brightly again and we were thankful to pack the awning away dry. As luck would have it, Gill & Dave had planned for Friday night to be a “chippy” night so we joined everyone for our pie & chips in their awning, before the final hitch up and goodbyes. Although it's sad being the first to go, there is a bonus in leaving while everyone is gathered in one place – saying goodbye took a fraction of the time. We wished everyone a fantastic weekend, lamented the fact we would miss the meal that Gill was to cook for everyone on Saturday evening and by 7.00pm we were on the road. We had a smooth run back and it took us exactly the same amount of time going as it had coming, even though we took a longer route back (no detours this time).

Thank you Gill, Dave & Bracken, Gail, Mike & Ben for a lovely rally – we had a great time and are pleased we were able to stay longer. Thomas did admit that he had *'sort of'* missed us.....
(aaahh bless)because he hadn't any clean washing!!!!

For what happened after we left, you'll have to read Nev's report...Lleweni Parc *par deux!*

Helen, Steve & Katie

Rally No. 401 **Lleweni Parc, Denbigh (part two)** 22nd -31st May

Friday night we had the fish and chip night and after waving the Balls off we had a newspaper quiz which was won by Dave Howarth, Sally & Graham.

Saturday day time everyone did their own thing, and we all met up at 6pm to enjoy a lovely meal served up by our Marshals - chicken breast stuffed with goats cheese and mushrooms, coated in mustard and wrapped in Parma ham, followed by a choice of cheesecake. Very enjoyable indeed. We also watched the FA Cup Final but enough said about that. Boo hoo!

We had the coffee *evening* that night with the customary raffle, and longest tow going to Dave & Sally. Their grandson Charlie was awarded his first rally plaque and was also given a Denbigh rally plaque.

It was then a relaxing evening just chatting and drinking. During the evening someone suggested we all meet for breakfast on the Sunday morning which Gill, after a few glasses, agreed to. So the plan was for everyone to *cook their own food* and meet for a communal breakfast in the awning Sunday morning.

Sunday morning came and the plan must have got lost in translation as everybody brought their food to Gill and Gail to cook for them!!! They did without any fuss and everyone had a good breakfast before packing up and going home.

Another brilliant rally and many thanks to Gill, Dave, Gail and Mike for a superb job done.

Colin & Jacqui Willis

Cotton Arms, Wrenbury (or Glastonwrenbury)

When I arrived on Thursday evening the large field at the Cotton Arms had just one small tent, a (scabby) motorhome and an old caravan in it. The bottom half of the field was roped off as that was the area that the music festival was going to inhabit later in the weekend. I decided to take a position in the top corner of the field. If any of the few campers were around they would have had a good laugh at me trying to put my awning up alone in a very stiff breeze, but I managed anyway.

Friday morning and Gail arrived with Will and James who were staying with us overnight Friday, shortly followed by John and Lyn and Graham and Sheila. The sun was shining and the two grandchildren were having fun feeding the ducks on the canal, watching the bowls and throwing gravel at one another. The joys of grand parenting!

Shortly afterwards Graham and Pam, Dave and Gill and Ron and Mary arrived with Neville and Doris bringing up the rear. Due to Dave's caravan woes in North Wales Nev was kind enough to match awnings with us to make a space to get together. The pub was doing a great deal on fish and chips on Friday and a few ralliers took advantage.

Saturday morning was the usual slow start but the pub had a 'lunch club' offer on and again some ralliers tried it out. Great value was the feedback. The pub had organised a music festival from 2pm til 10. The stage was a big flat bed truck positioned towards the bottom of the field. The music was really good and formed a nice backdrop to the afternoon featuring school bands, young performers with guitars and later a few bands. The weather was a bit mixed earlier in the afternoon with showers but later the sun got out and it turned into a lovely evening.

At 4 in the afternoon we had coffee and cake and an impromptu boules competition which was won by Nev and Gill beating John and Lynn in the final. The evening was so nice that we all stayed out in the open air for the boys v girls quiz. To make it interesting you had to come up with lists of the most popular things or places with the highest populations, etc. The chaps won, but the quizmaster was criticised for having too many rounds which favoured the lads (cars and football). For next time I have the Cosmopolitan magazine dishiest men in the world list to even things up!

Sunday brought the usual coffee morning with celebrations for the Howarths who won the envelope quiz which was anagrams of things to do with caravanning (although we had a number of tied entries Dave and Gill got picked out). Longest tow went to Graham and Pam. Graham and Sheila didn't attend as they had an early start to get to the Isle of Wight however we were able to deliver their two raffle prizes a week later when we got together with them whilst on holiday on the island along with Janet, which made it feel like a mini Lynton rally.

Thanks all for coming and contributing to a great weekend.

Mike Smith

ITEMS FOR SALE



CARAVAN STORE CANOPY & PRIVACY ROOM COMPLETE 3.6M

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

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