



WELTON OWNERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

Ray Parsons

It is with deep regret that I have to report that Ray Parsons died on 24 June after suffering for over three years. Ray was a well liked member of the Club who enjoyed rallying with his wife Ann and Maureen and Allen Williams, and he will be missed by all the members who knew him. Our condolences go to Ann and her family.

Message from Ann Parsons

I would like to thank all the members and committee of the Welton Owners Club for the kind donation to Hospice at Home in memory of Ray, and also for the supportive telephone calls I have received.

Rally Report: Bletchingdon
22 April – 2 May 2013

Rally Officer: Audrey & David Reynolds

New Ralliers: Julie & John Cavey

Julia & Paul Burden, Sue & Rik Mellor

Report by: Gerry Smith

No of Vans: 16

Weather: A lot better than Bentham!!!
For the most part great.

Hallelujah! Brudders – an – sisters! At last, we have got the legs down and we is, living in a field!!!!

After such a disastrous start to the 2013 Rally season, with the first rally at Alderwasley having to be cancelled due to heavy snow, it was such a pleasure at last to see sixteen vans turn out to rally at Bletchingdon, Oxon. The rally field and all its facilities were excellent, as was, for the most part the weather.

As usual, Audrey and David Reynolds with their little helpers Chris and Ron Sugden, ran a happy, well organised, and tidy rally. Although, it was immediately evident to those of us in, 'The know'. The amount of relief on our little David's face when at last Terry Squires turned up and brought him his, **proper flag pole. Oh Joy !! (Serious head back on):-** It was also extremely pleasant to welcome six new members to the Welton Club:- John and Julie Cavey, Paul and Julia Burden, (with their dog May), and, Rik and Sue Mellor. All of whom were officially welcomed at flag, where they were presented with their lapel badges and hopefully made to feel at home. Welcome aboard it really was nice to meet you all.

Now, I don't know if it was because we had new members and we all wanted to set a good example, or what ! but, no one seemed to do anything particularly daft, or noteworthy. It could have been because word got out that I was doing the rally write up. I don't know. But, I'm afraid there's not much to report.

Oh! Except that. It had been noticed that Terry (Tarzan) Squires, had been observed each morning driving the lady members wild by charging, near naked to and from the showers. (Well, he did have his shorts and shoes on. But, yer know !!)

And. Oh yes ! As is the tradition on rallies we had a quiz, and what a quiz. Audrey found this quiz, we don't know where, but she must know some clever people. This quiz was all about animals homes, (No, not the RSPCA.) Places like Drays, and Burrows, and Sets, things like that. Now, we

all know that there are some clever people in the Welton Club but nobody had much idea about this. However, it's all in a rally so inuff said for now. Then, at last came the day for 'Flag'. Wendy, bless her was the first to dive in and help Audrey prepare the food and, she prepared loads of delicious sandwiches which we all enjoyed immensely. Then, eventually it was time to announce the winner of this incredibly hard, Quiz of the year. And, the winner was, yes you've guessed. Wendy ! Now, I am not casting no Nasturtiums. (But, yer know, Audrey was ever so grateful for those sarnie's). Also at flag whilst I was doing my David Bailey bit and snapping away with my camera taking pic's for future use. One of our new members, Rik, arrived with a camera the like of which is seldom seen. This piece of kit has got a lens which in size and shape closely resembles 'Gipsy Rose Lees' Crystal ball. (We were looking for a coloured tent going up) The pictures which this thing produces are incredible. RESULT:- I put my toy away then went and sat quietly at the back.

Oh yeah! And, we also had a raffle which was brilliantly organised by Wendy and Terry, with the prizes being donated by the members. This was so successful that no one went home empty handed, in some cases two hands ! It also raised £35.00 for the club funds. Well done Terry and Wendy. David and Audrey also organised a couple of Sunday lunches at a nearby hotel, this gave all of us the opportunity to sit down and eat together and they were a great success.

This rally site at Bletchingdon is just on the fringe of some really interesting places, not the least of which is Oxford and, this is served by some wonderful 'park and rides'. Eleven hours free parking and use your bus pass to your hearts content, **bliss**. Some of the sights we saw will stay long in my memory. I'm thinking about the bearded young man walking thro' Oxford on May day, wearing, cut away shorts, ladies patterned tights with suspenders, and pink six inch high stiletto heels !!!

Well, I said there wasn't much to report.

Well done Audrey & David for running such a memorable rally. Best wishes to all.
Gerry and Myra Smith.

Rally Report: Womanswold
18 May – 2 June 2013
Rally Officer: Maureen & Allen Williams

Report by: Wendy Woods
No of Vans: 11
Weather: Mixed



We arrived on Sunday 19 May in glorious sunshine and a warm welcome from Maureen and Allen, everyone set up and relaxed with the hope of a warm and sunny 2 weeks! This rally was a stepping stone for the French rally and some members only stayed a few days or just for one night. However, we had 6 outfits at Womenswold for the full 2 weeks.

The weather however did not play ball because it became very wet and a bit soggy but didn't deter the happy campers who still went out and about to see the beautiful Kentish villages and the countryside, not to mention the outlet centre and WW11 museums and monuments.

Bank Holiday Monday was so sunny that several of us overdid it and got burnt! The BBQ's came out and we all enjoyed an outdoor evening but not for long as the weather closed in again.

Luckily the rain did not stop any of our afternoon teas but to play safe we had lunchtime BBQ which lasted till afternoon tea! The end of the second week we had a good meal at the local pub and the landlady laid a table up just for our group in the conservatory which helped to make it a very pleasant evening with good food, beer and company.

Terry soaked himself trying to empty the awning of a large puddle of water which didn't go in the direction he thought it would much to the amusement of everyone. Mick had to change a caravan tyre and we had to fit new leisure batteries for the motor home (no TV for 10 days so read a lot of books). This all kept the men amused and happy, not sure if it was 'too many cooks spoil the broth' or 'many hands make light work'!! Still it all got fixed in the end.

Thank you to Maureen and Allen for an excellent rally on a great site with a very helpful owner who hopes we will return soon.

Rally Report: Camping Le Raudierre
27 May – 9 June 2013
Rally Officer: Val & Bob Clark

Report by: Tony Munday
No of Vans:
Weather: Mixed

Well, my first rally with the W.O.C club and I get to write the rally report.

We arrived on site to see most people were already there and were set up, just two more caravans to arrive and we would have our complement of ten.

Bob and Val, our hosts, assisted by David and Lynne had arranged for tea and biscuits at 16.00hrs, this gave Marian and I the chance to get to know our fellow campers.

Keith gave a short speech on behalf of the Welton club and distributed out our badges and sticker for our caravan.

Pete and Tracy, the site owners, had opened the restaurant especially for us on the evening so that we could all have a meal or take a glass or two to help us unwind from our journeys.

The location of the campsite was quite rural, but had all the amenities required (i.e.) toilets showers and electricity.

The nearest large city was Saumur and I think everyone visited it when they were out and about exploring. Saumur is an important regional town on the Loire River towards the southeast of the historical Anjou. Although the town is best known for the Chateau du Saumur, the town itself also contains some other places of interest.



Tuesday sunshine and showers during the day it did not stop us getting out for a good leg stretch as Marian and I both like walking.

Pete the site owner came round to Keith to enquire if he knew who had borrowed his glasses last night to view the menu and not returned them, all he knew was it was an elderly gentle man, Keith popped along to enquire of Bob if he had borrowed them!! After a bit of back and forth the culprit was identified as Derek who had quite a collection in one of his caravan drawers. (Say no more)

Wednesday more rain than sunshine, but our rally officers had organised a cheese and wine afternoon under the bar veranda, so a quick trip to the local supermarket and back before settling in to a nice and sometimes noisy afternoon.



Thursday the weather took a turn for the worse and it was constant rain, the highlight of the day was a celebration of Alan's 76th birthday. He and Rosemary had organised wine and cake under the veranda, which took our minds off the weather.

Gail and Richard were involved in a vehicle accident while out and about and while the vehicle was badly damaged they both escaped serious injury. Richard had a sprained wrist. The offending car lost its engine, which finished up on the road about 20 metres away.

Friday **At last the sunshine appeared and the opportunity to get the barbecues out and enjoy some much needed sunshine Paul and Julia + Rick and Sue had discarded the motor home awnings due to high winds but had managed to procure two new ones delivered from the UK, not bad considering they were not requested until the Wednesday. As all caravanners do people who were on site watched them being erected.**

Julia clever girl needed to alter theirs slightly to stop it fouling the door.

Saturday another fine day and most people went out and about to visit places of interest, for example Japanese Gardens, Breze Chateau, Montreuil- Bellay, Fontevraud Abbey, The Rose Gardens, Pathanay, or the local markets.

We took Richard and Gail into Cholet to pick up a hire car so that they could continue with their holiday (Thank goodness for Red Pennant Insurance and the Caravan club), Arrangements were made for them to have a car of the same type to tow their van home back to the UK.



Sunday more blue skies and at the coffee and tea event organised by rally officers it was decided on a couple of things to do in the following week one was cheese and pate evening and David and Virginia had spotted a Le-Routier restaurant where they thought we would all get a good meal if we all wanted to go. It was agreed we would go Wednesday at 13.00 hrs. David and Virginia also had problems with their vehicle and it looked like they may have to have the engine replaced, but again they had a hire car to use.

Monday and Tuesday due to good weather most people out and about with a chat at night where they had been over tea and coffee, this was good as it gave people different ideas where to go.

Wednesday The hot weather continues and the meal at the local Le-Routier restaurant was excellent and good value for money.

Thursday Out and about sightseeing.

Friday As promised the rally organisers had arranged for the cheese and pate event to be at 14.00 hrs again under the veranda, this time to keep the sun off of us. Paul had rigged up via his computer and some speakers a music quiz and he hosted the event, some did well others not so good, however it was very enjoyable. (Thanks Paul).

Later on in the evening flag was called and while thanks were spread especially to our rally officers for a great rally it was cut short due to a heavy thunderstorm. Some people were leaving the following day so goodbyes were said before we dashed off.

Saturday saw four units leave, and others are making preparations to leave the following day, as the journey to Pors Peron in Brittany was about 230 miles away.

Thanks to Bob and Val + David and Lynne for a successful rally and I am pleased to say that Lynda will be writing the report from Pors- Peron.

Thanks to Rick for some great pictures.

Tony Munday

Awaiting the rally report for the follow-on French rally.

Rally Report: Rockley Abbey Farm, Worsbrough **Report by:** Ann Nicol

16 – 18 June 2013

No of Vans: 9

Rally Officer: Myra & Gerry Smith

Weather: Mixed

What a wonderful rally. The rally field was situated in the most peaceful idyllic setting. Located on the edge of Wentworth Castle estate we enjoyed wonderful walks through beautiful country side.

Being on the edge of the Peak District and the Pennines there was lots to see and do, beautiful villages, stately homes and interesting industrial heritage centres. We were also close to Sheffield and many of us enjoyed the pleasures of Meadow Hall with all its shops and places to eat, and once rested more shopping.

The weather was largely kind to us, we did have some rain but as it was largely overnight it was no problem. I always think it is so cosy to be tucked up in bed listening to the rain. We did have a couple days that were a little breezy but what is nicer than being rocked to sleep.

Although only ten vans attended the rally, some staying for the full length of the rally, others staying for shorter periods we fitted in the celebration of a number of birthdays and enjoyed delicious birthday cake. Happy birthday to Gerry, both Terry and Wendy, Yvonne and Ron. Myra provided a special cake with all the names of the members celebrating. She also treated us to a lovely tea complete with strawberries and cream. Many thanks to Myra for a delightful afternoon.

There was a lovely pub in the village with many special offers for both lunches and dinners, needless to say we got together for two meals and enjoyed good food and great company. I think everyone enjoyed two very nice evenings.

As fairly new members of the club we would like to thank everyone for making us feel so welcome, with special thanks to Myra and Gerry for a great rally and a wonderful time.

Rally Report: Yarwell Mill

14 – 28 July 2013

Rally Officer: Jean Yates

Report by: Jean Yates

No of Vans: 10

Weather: Extremely hot

Our first visit as a club to this site on the river Nene. The mill leet turns the site into an island and with a large lake in the middle of the island, there are plenty of opportunities for fishing, watching the swans and geese or just messing about in boats. The weather was hot every day and one large tree in our field provided us with welcome shade every afternoon for a flop out and several cups of tea. Every day we watched the parachutists paying £100 a time to be taken a few thousand feet up just to drop out of a plane and hurtle to the ground. Not my idea of a relaxing hobby, back to the shade!

Mick brought all of his fishing gear but pronounced it too hot to go, and the dogs enjoyed several paddles a day in the ford next to our field.

Our numbers just crept up to ten for the middle weekend, when we had the unusual sight of a Welton caravan amongst us. The Colmans last rallied with us nearly 40 years ago!

The heat meant that none of us strayed very far, but I got as far as Flag Fen Bronze age site, Longthorpe Tower's medieval paintings and Prebendal Manor, all within ten miles. Also nearby, Fotheringhay castle mound is all there is left of Mary Queen of Scots execution site, but the church has an exhibition of the village history. Some members visited Burghley House, and some took a ride on the Nene Valley railway. Stamford was our nearest town and everyone made a trip here. A lovely main street with individual shops, a large open air market and some interesting architecture.

AGM

For those members who have not yet booked in to the AGM rally at North Somercotes, Louth, Lincs, in the rally book the final booking date is stated as Sunday 1st September. The Rally Officer, Gerry Smith has asked that all booking be sent to him by **Monday 26 August at the latest** as he is going on holiday and needs to advise the site owner of numbers attending before he goes away.

For full details of the AGM and dinner please note all details are in the rally book..

I'm Fine Thank You

There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,
'But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street,
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm alright.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The morale is this as my tale I unfold –
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say 'I'm fine' with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my 'Get up and go' has got up and went,
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,
'Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?'

When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels over my head,
When I was older my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through.
Now I am older my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and puff my way back.

I get up each morning and dust off my witts
And pick up the paper and read the 'Obits',
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead,
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

I would be very grateful to receive any articles, recipes, ditties etc. for the Newsletter. At present I have no input from anyone and more is needed to make an interesting Newsletter.

Yvonne Gibbs – Secretary
27 Prinknash Road, Mowsbury Park
Bedford MK41 8DJ, 01234 346986
c.y.gibbs@btinternet.com

