



# Caravan and Motorhome Club - Suffolk Centre

## In Tribute to Vera Lynn - We'll meet again, some sunny day

It's what the weekends were made for!

## July 2020 Newsletter and Rally Update

This is your Third Newsletter for 2020, and contains some updates and information from your Committee, who are still working from home.



### Volume 5 - Issue 3

#### NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT

This is the latest edition and I trust you will find something of interest. We will be issuing a regular Newsletter on the website, outlining any upcoming rallies and any other matters you should know about, around every Two/Three Months, the next in September 2020.

#### CHAIRMAN'S BLOG

As I write this we are into week 12 of the lockdown, from today some shops can open, looking at the queues on the news channels confirm to me that I am still better off at home and keeping safe.

Unfortunately we are getting mixed messages from the Caravan and Motorhome Club and that is not helping, whilst they are staying ahead of the PM's instructions, they are opening up most of the Club Sites on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, but we are not getting any clarity about rallying and Centre operations.

Like most of you, we are really looking forward to being on a rally, however we must remember that rallying is by essence a social activity and with information that no activity can take place inside a building or marquee etc., being mostly impractical, then that will have a major impact on a lot of the remaining rallies for this year.

The Committee has the responsibility to ensure a 'duty of care to all our members' and if and when we get some relevant information from the Club, we will need to discuss and carry out some risk assessments; for sanitation, cleansing and the exchange of rally fees & envelopes etc., all the things we currently take for granted on a rally, to ensure we are all kept safe and I would ask that you have this mind whilst we are busy working in the background to ensure you can return to a safe environment.

Whilst I accept that most of you are chomping at the bit to make use of their units, we must look at this sensibly and also be mindful of how many members will want to attend certain rallies, which could decide if this makes them viable or not.

I hope you have been able to catch up with a lot of the jobs around the house and garden, whilst not being able to be away in your vans.

We have all seen the number of shows, festivals and events that have been cancelled, so caravanning is not alone in the current situation.

I hope you enjoy the jokes etc. Peter is adding to the Newsletter, especially as we are starved of rally reports.

Connie and I are trying to keep in touch with several past and present members for a chat and see how they are getting on, however, please feel free to give us a ring, our number is in the rally book, it would be nice to hear from you, we are missing your company.

Please stay positive and above all Stay Safe.

Garry - Suffolk Centre Chairman - July 2020

#### CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Due to the ever changing complexities with our previous method of distribution of the Newsletter, we had to stop using this method and the September 2019 Newsletter didn't happen as a result. I decided to take up the cudgel again and this is the third Newsletter of 2020, which is now only available on the Centre Website until we can find a method of distribution to my 1200 avid readers, that will not immediately declare any email address used, as a 'Spammer'. This brings about all sorts of problems, but we will overcome these in due course. Peter - Editor

The Reports and Images below are from two great rallies around this time last year. Included not to tease you, but as a reminder of the wonderful times that can be had, rallying with the Suffolk Centre of the Caravan & Motorhome Club.

Lets hope that we can get back to those times again, soonest.

### SUMMER SOLSTICE IN SUFFOLK RALLY - 21st - 23rd June 2019

After arrival on Friday, we ended the day with a superb Cheese and Wine (all donated by the Marshals) with a Crafty Quiz, which was won by The Brain Box (Maybe) Team with a score of 51; well done. Saturday ended with music from New Era Disco after Flagpole, where we welcomed past Chairman Derek & Sheena Pannell, which was rather special as Sheena was to celebrate her birthday on the 24th of the month. Copious refreshments were provided by the Marshals during the evening. A splendid £63.40 was donated to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Charity, from monies raised from the raffling of the Teddy Bear at Peewit and Tangham Rallies, (see the report in the May 2019 edition of the Newsletter). Well done to Tony, Karen, Alan & Janet for a very enjoyable weekend. Peter & Ineke.



### HARNESSING HISTORY RALLY - 26th - 30th June 2019

Garry our Chairman was down to Marshal this rally, but as you might be aware, his caravan developed a serious fault and needed to be returned to the factory and to top it all, Garry finally had his operation, so it was left to Karen, Tony, Simon and Lynne to step in at the last minute and take the reigns; well done to the Marshals for a job well done in trying circumstances. This was designated as a 'Free and Easy' weekend, with 'free' entrance to the Suffolk Punch Horse Trust. We had 2 First Ralliers, who I'm sure will join in with us again soon and also welcomed Past Chairman Graham & Wendy Noye. It was my honour and pleasure to present Tony & Karen Reed with their 650th Rally Plaque; what an achievement. Peter & Ineke.



### COVID-19 AND RALLIES

Whilst we still at the time of writing (18th June) await the announcement of when Club sites and CLs can open, we recently received the long-awaited Covid-guidance drawn up for Centres for when rallies can commence again. The Club gave the Centre Committees the task of deciding how this guidance would work with the rallies in their programme and the Suffolk Committee studied this at length against each of the remaining rallies for July and those in August. By the guidance rallies would not be what members know and enjoy. After deliberation it was felt that we could not put members and marshals at risk and that we could not be 100% sure of meeting Government requirements. We do not have the luxury of a fixed site, with same wardens, with same amenities so each venue had to be risk assessed. There is a document now on our website detailing why the Committee took the hard decision that the rest of the July rallies and the two Suffolk ones in August are to be cancelled. The rally marshals were informed and will be contacting those booked on. This was not a decision taken lightly and we know all members will be very disappointed but we are a social side of caravanning (or motorhoming) and with no socials allowed, no gathering of members, even down to no paperwork or plaques and no visitors allowed onto the rally field as some of the points raised - it left us with no alternative.

September rallies will be discussed later in July with information at that time in the sincere hope we can run those.

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS

A lot of members are not currently renewing their Club membership and we totally understand the many comments with regard to no extension to Club membership being offered while they are closed. This has a knock-on effect in that Centre membership is also then cancelled. Some have indicated they may well renew later. Looking ahead for rallies when they are allowed, we wish to avoid the situation that members may have booked and not told the marshal, presume they are booked, and our exemption certificate states you must at least be a member of the Club to attend. We do not normally ask to see Club membership cards on arrival, unlike other Clubs and actual Club sites, but the Committee has taken the decision that for the rest of this year you will be asked to show your card on arrival at a rally. Marshals will be asked to make a note of your renewal date, purely for the use of the Secretary, and we will be able to check Suffolk membership. This will be vital especially for our AGM as only Centre members can attend and speak or vote, and only Centre members will receive the handbook for 2021 and we will only be ordering numbers in relation to actual members.

Marshals will be asked to contact those booked on initially to confirm they still wish to attend and to advise to bring cards. Those subsequently booking on are to be contacted by the marshals to remind to bring cards.

### NEW FACEBOOK GROUP – Suffolk Centre, Caravan and Motorhome Club

The new Facebook Group, open to all registered Suffolk Centre members, whether the main or joint member, now has over 100 members. When applying to join the Group please remember to answer the questions – certainly about your membership number, so we can identify you and avoid delay or having to decline the request. All relevant updates will be on here, marshal and rally information, messages from our sponsors and advertisers in these difficult times and we welcome members postings their thoughts and pictures on rallies attended so rather than just a description in the handbook we have visual opportunity to “visit” the venue.

### RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

It is appreciated that members may find themselves having to decide whether to renew Club and/or Centre membership in the coming months. An email reminder is usually sent to those who supply an email address and for not only the sake of data retention (GDPR) but for knowing membership numbers for ordering books, if members could reply it would be really appreciated. We do keep data for a very short time in case someone comes back in to renew but if we know you have made a decision not to renew, then your data will be removed earlier.

### AUSTRALIAN HUMOUR — A Farmer and a Yuppie

A farmer is overseeing his herd when suddenly a brand-new car appears out of a cloud of dust and starts advancing towards him. The driver, a young man in a suit, leans out the window and asks the farmer: “If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?” The farmer looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers: “Sure, why not?”

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his computer, connects it to his mobile phone, gets on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo on his computer and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a database through an Excel spreadsheet with email on his phone and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturised printer. He turns to the farmer and says: “You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves.”

“That’s right,” says the farmer. “Well, I guess you can take one of my calves.”

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the he stuffs it into the trunk of his car. Then the farmer says to the young man: “Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?” The young man thinks about it for a second and then says: “Okay, why not?” - “You’re a politician,” says the farmer. “Wow! That’s correct,” says the yuppie. “But how did you guess that?”

“No guessing required,” answered the farmer. “You showed up here even though nobody called you. You want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of dollars worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are, and you don’t know a thing about how working people make a living, or about cows for that matter.

**“This is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog.”**

## TREASURERS TINKERINGS

The Account are in Lockdown at present, just like the Virus, so I presently have nothing to report. :-)

Regards

Mark Terry - Centre Treasurer

## RALLY SECRETARY RAMBLINGS

### Advertisers and Supporters

We are grateful to those that support and advertise with us and we will look at putting updates of offers on the Facebook Group to help support them as they re-open for business. If you use one of the Advertisers, please mention you saw the advert in the handbook, or are a Suffolk Centre member, so at least they get feedback that the advert was worthwhile.

### RALLIES FOR 2021

A list of dates and rallies booked in for 2021 are on the Centre website and updated regularly. As we are now in June, we are hoping our marshals and members will be looking ahead to next year and as Rally Secretary, I welcome any contact to reserve a date or weekend. We appreciate sites may be closed or difficult to get hold of but any indication is appreciated.

Alan Dobson - Rally Secretary - June 2020

## WEBMASTER/VICE CHAIRMAN'S WEBDINGS

Whilst this dreaded virus may be affecting what we can do this year, so long as we all stay safe, we will be meeting on a rally field again sometime soon.

As I am sure many members are aware, the Centre runs as a not for profit organisation and tries to keep costs at a minimum for the members. The only income the centre receives, is a small grant from the Caravan and Motorhome Club, the admin fee from rallies and income from the advertisements in the rally book, whether in a PDF or printed version.

The costs of printing and posting out the rally books is partially covered by the income from advertising and the centre meets the remaining costs from the other income, along with the cost of rally plaques.

In recent years, this has left limited funds for maintaining and replacing some of our equipment which is beginning to show inevitable signs of ageing; like some of us.

Some members may be aware that last year I started selling glass toppers at some of the rallies with all the profits being donated to the club, of which there are still some available if anyone would like some, when we can return to the rally field.

During the course of this, several members also suggested that perhaps the Centre could sell some branded merchandise, for example: glasses, fleeces, and other items of equipment as it has done previously. The profits from the sales being used to increase income for the Centre.

I have identified some potential suppliers for various items and am keen to get, from Centre members, some idea of what demand there is for this and also suggestions of items members might be interested in purchasing.

My contact details can be found in the rally book or I can be contacted via [vicechairman@suffolkcentre.co.uk](mailto:vicechairman@suffolkcentre.co.uk) or [webmaster@suffolkcentre.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@suffolkcentre.co.uk) email addresses for anyone that would like to express an interest in and / or, suggest items that we may be able to make available to members.

Julian Fincham-Jacques, Vice Chairman & Webmaster

## PUBLICITY OFFICERS PUBLICATIONS

It is hoped that during the later half of 2020 the caravan dealers will be opening their doors to receive customers, albeit with different welcoming techniques. The Publicity Officer of the committee will be approaching each of the dealerships to tentatively arrange to have a presence on site to answer any questions regarding rallying with the centre; these are called Dealer Days.

Any member who would be willing to assist, (dates and venues to be agreed and published at a later date), should provide their Contact details to any member of the Committee, who will get back in touch with further details as they become available. By registering your interest you are not under any obligation, but your help would be gratefully received. Duties would include handing out leaflets, making teas, handing around biscuits and chatting with potential new members.  
Melody Gosling - Publicity Officer.

Arguing with a women is like reading  
the Software License Agreement.

In the end, you ignore  
everything and click  
"I agree".

An elderly, but hardy cattleman from Texas once told a young female neighbour that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her oatmeal each morning.

She did this religiously and lived to the age of 103. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and a 40 foot hole where the crematorium used to be.



## AS I GET OLDER, I REALISE:

- #1 - I talk to myself, because there are times when I need expert advice.
- #2 - I consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.
- #3 - I don't need anger management. I need people to stop p\*\$\$ing me off.
- #4 - My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- #5 - The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- #6 - These days, "on time" is when I get there.
- #7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
- #8 - Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
- #9 - "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why I'm there.
- #10 - When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it feels like a mini holiday.
- #11 - I thought growing old would take longer.
- #12 - Aging sure has slowed me down, but it hasn't shut me up.
- #13 - I still haven't learned to act my age.

## EQUIPMENT OFFICER EXPEDITIONS

We are nearing the time when we can all hopefully get out on the rally field again, providing Boris give the okay.

Rally Marshals, if you're requiring equipment to help run your rally, don't forget I'm only a phone call or an email away.

The equipment is ready and it is available as soon as you need it.

Examples such as: Tea Urns, Coleman Shelter, Rally Bag or Centre Flag.

If there are other things you want, just ask and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Ron King - Equipment Officer

## EQUIPMENT BOXES - WHAT'S INSIDE ONE?

I expect you have heard the Rally Chairman at Flagpole state 'I have my Equipment Box with me if anyone want something from it' and not given it a thought as to what actually there is in The Box!

Well, here is a list of the typical contents, with a photo and prices for you:

SCCC Horsehead Decal  
Each at £1.50

Tablecloth Clips  
Set of 4 at £2.00

Groundsheet Pegs  
Pack of 5 at £1.50

Luggage Hooks  
Pack of 2 at £3.00



8" Red Pegs  
Bundle of 12 at £2.50

LPG Sticker  
Each at £1.00

Rubber Awning Toggle  
Each at 40p

LED Keychain  
Each at £2.00

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Questions or Comments? Email us at [newsletter@suffolkcentre.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@suffolkcentre.co.uk)

Please send any reports, pictures, rally reports and notices for future Newsletters to me (Peter) at [newsletter@suffolkcentre.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@suffolkcentre.co.uk)

## THE DARWIN AWARDS ARE OUT FOR 2019

### SADLY, ALL THE STORIES BELOW ARE ACTUALLY TRUE

1. When his .38 calibre revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach California, would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.
2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.
3. A man who shovelled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. He shot her.
4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.
5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.
6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer...\$15. [If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?]
7. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.
8. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."
9. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 5 A.M., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast... The frustrated gunman walked away. [\*A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER]
10. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street by sucking on a hose, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police sokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline, but he plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had and the perpetrator had been punished enough!

Remember.... They walk among us...they can reproduce...and, they **VOTE !**

Yes officer, I did see the 'speed limit' sign, I just didn't see you.

New Government Guidance about 'social distancing' of courting couples, they are not to stand too close, not to hold hands, no kissing and definitely no petting.

Similar guidance to married couples, just carry on as normal.



Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly.

Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.

## SPORTS & JUNIOR JELLY BEANS

Just a reminder that we are still wanting your drinks and food can Ring Pull Tags. Please save them and give them to any of the Committee when we are back to (sort of) normal again, which we all hope will be sooner rather than later.

The last target of a Wheelchair for a disabled child was met, (well done everyone), but we still need them to raise funds for the Junior section of the Suffolk Centre of the Caravan & Motorhome Club.



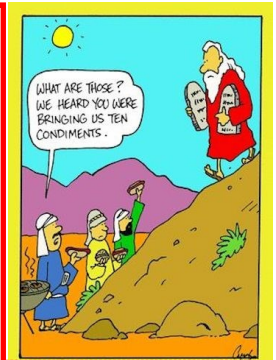
*(Q) What do you call a woman that throws her gas bills on the fire? - (A) Bernadette!*

*I had a go at Rugby the other day.... Thought I was doing well, but all anyone could say was "Nice try" - Patronising gits!*

*I went to the zoo and was shocked to see a baguette in a cage. I said to the keeper "that's a bit cruel!" - He said: "No, it was bread in captivity"*

*To the scumbag who stole 100 cans of Red Bull from my shed last week. I just want to say this: "I don't know how you can sleep at night"*

*I said to the wife: "Now call me lazy! - I've walked all the way to the Job Centre and found a job. - It's 12 hour shift, and you start next week."*



## Fundraising

Chairman's Charity - Supporting the East Anglian Air Ambulance