



Caravan and Motorhome Club - Suffolk Centre

It's what the weekends were made for!

July 2022 Newsletter and Rally Update

In this Issue....

- 2022 Centre Committee
- New venues for 2022
- A plea from the Rally Secretary
- News of upcoming Rallies
- Featured Rally
- Rally Reports
- Treasurer required!!!
- BBQ recipe
- Leisure Battery Guide
- Chairman's Ramblings
- A reminder from the Centre's Secretary

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2022

Following the 54th AGM on 17 October 2021, your new committee for 2022 is as follows:

Chairman	Ron King
Vice Chairman / Webmaster	Julian Fincham-Jacques
Secretary & Attendance	Janet Dobson
Treasurer	Paul Wade
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson
Centre Equipment Officer	Tina King
Publicity Officer	Melody Gosling
Competitions Officer	Alison Stammers
Newsletter Editor	Graham Gosling
Junior Liaison Officer	Sarah Aldis
Sports Officer	Karl Moles
Regional Representatives	Chris Stammers and Ron King

UPCOMING RALLIES

Here is a list of rallies being held over the next few months:-

- July 22nd to 24th — "Reeley Weeley Rally", Weeley, Essex. Relaxing, Do-As-You-Please weekend. Fishing available in the adjacent lake. 40 units.
- July 29th to 31st — "The Shotley Rose Pub Rally". Shotley, Essex. Lovely area for walks, eat and drink in the pub at your leisure. 36 units.
- August 4th to 7th. — "A Day At The Races", Newmarket Race Course. Do-As-You-Please weekend with possible social gathering.. Possible music and racing on the adjacent course. 45 units.
- August 12th to 22nd — "Cliff Top Holiday Rally". Thorpeness. Café, antiques, pub and boating lake nearby. Coincides with the Aldeburgh Carnival & Thorpeness Regatta. 82 units.
- August 25th to 29th — "60th Birthday and Charity Rally" Invitation from South Essex Centre. Latchingdon, Essex. 200 units.
- August 25th to 29th — "Holt Adventure at Gresham's Prep School". Rally on the school field, easy walking distance of Holt—shops, cafes, pubs, steam railway. 30 units. *** NEW VENUE
- August 26th to 29th — "North Essex Centre 60th Birthday Rally—Museum of Power", Langford, Essex. 50 units.
- September 2nd to 5th — "Long Weekend in Nowhere" Lessingham, Norfolk. - 3 nights. Behind 'The Star' pub. Relaxing weekend with possible social gathering. Ideal for the North Norfolk coast and Broads. 35 units. *** NEW VENUE ***
- September 7th to 11th - "Harnessing History V", Suffolk Punch Trust, Hollesley. ----
UNFORTUNATELY THIS RALLY HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
- September 16th to 18th - "46th Grand Henham Steam Rally". Henham. Coincides with the Henham Steam Rally—tickets must be booked online. 80 units.
- September 16th to 18th - "Inter-Centre Fishing Rally", Stonham Barns, Suffolk - Invitation from the North Essex Centre.
- September 22nd to 25th - "Autumn Berries and Leaves Rally", Forest Camping, Rendlesham. Electric hook-up on all pitches, toilet and shower block on site. Explore the forest or visit nearby Orford or Woodbridge. 40 units.
- October 14th to 16th - "55th Suffolk Centre AGM and Rally", Trinity Park, Ipswich. Pre-AGM rally with electric hook-up. Social rally with entertainment. 50 units

MOST RALLIES HAVE SPACES AVAILABLE - Please see the 2022 Rally Handbook or the Suffolk Centre website (www.suffolkcentre.org.uk) for more details.

MESSAGES FROM OUR RALLY SECRETARY

COULD YOU MARSHAL A RALLY?

Bit of an old saying - Your Centre Needs You - but it's true. Members that volunteer to act as Rally Marshals are the mainstay of the Centre - without them the Centre can't function. We operate our Centre by members either finding a venue - or being pointed in the direction of one via the committee - and with the help of the Rally Secretary and others, help is at hand to put it all together. Worried about the finance side - no need to be, our Treasurer is on hand to go through everything. Many marshals you will see return year on year so it can't be too daunting otherwise they would be running for the hills.

If you're interested for 2023 then either drop me a line at rallysec@suffolkcentre.co.uk,
Alan Dobson, Rally Secretary.

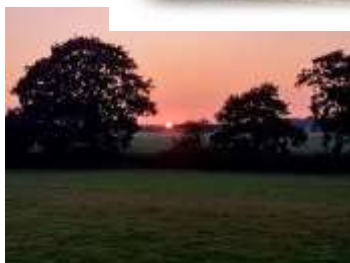
FEATURED RALLY

"Long Weekend in Nowhere"

Friday 2nd to Monday 5th September — 3 nights

The Star Inn, Lessingham, Norfolk

A new location for the Suffolk Centre, on a large field behind the Star Inn at Lessingham, Norfolk. The pub is well-known for its fine food and range of craft ales, and is close the Norfolk Broads and North Norfolk coast. Happisburgh, with its famous lighthouse, pub & cafe is the next village and Sea Palling, Eccles and Waxham, with their sandy beaches and dunes are just a short drive away. Seals may be seen at nearby Horsey Gap. If the weather is favourable, there are wonderful sunsets to be viewed from the rally field.



The rally is over three nights and is a relaxing weekend to give ralliers a chance to explore the lovely surroundings. A social gathering will be arranged one evening and bacon rolls will be served on the Sunday morning.

The rally is off-grid and own sanitation is essential. Rally limit 35 units.

SPACES AVAILABLE - contact Melody Gosling for more details 07305 644868

SITE LOCATION APP: www.what3words.com

This is a free mobile app or it can be accessed online. By details or postcode, you can go into maps and get a precise entry for the access to a site. Where possible sites have been given their precise 3-word address so you can look up a site before going.

A Trinity Easter Rally –14th to 18th April 2022

Kindly marshalled by Ron, Denise, Alan, Janet, Chris, Amy and Lilly. The marshals laid on a wide range of events, including quizzes, a race night, bingo, fish and chip supper and charity breakfast, with the proceeds going to the Chairmans Charity. The rally attracted visitors from South Essex and Buckinghamshire. There were 4 new ralliers in attendance and one 50th Rally plaque presented.



During the course of activities, some fund raising took place for Centre Charity, East Anglian Air Ambulance and a grand total of £280 was achieved. A massive thank you to all who made it happen and going to a good cause.

An amazing weekend was had by all those that attended.



ON THE RALLY FIELD PLEASE

Peewit Caravan Park — 22nd to 24th April 2022

Myself and Denise chaired 'Can You See the Sea Monster Rally' at Peewit, Felixstowe 22nd-24th April 2022. I had great pleasure in presenting a First Rally plaque to a new member to Suffolk Centre, Linda Sullivan. Also had the privilege of presenting Alan Dobson, Rally Secretary for Suffolk Centre with his two committee plaques for the years 2019/20.



Ron King
Chairman
Suffolk Centre

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Marshals will arrange siting in accordance with Club guidelines but do you have an extinguisher or fire blanket in the van. It may come in handy for any small fire in the van/motorhome, or barbeque, but anything larger just shout for help

Springtime In The Forest at Tangham — 6th to 13th May 2022

The rally was very kindly hosted by Tony & Karen and Alan & Janet. Seven days of wonderful weather for everyone to sit back, relax and do as they please, exploring the walks through the wood or playing games. Two new ralliers were presented with their First Rally Plaques along with a new rallier that did not receive their plaque at Trinity Easter. The rally also had three visitors from West Hampshire, North Essex and Norfolk. The excellent weather even encouraged some to stay longer than originally planned.



**All persons attending rallies and social events do so entirely at their own risk.
No responsibility for persons or property is accepted by the organisers of
The Caravan and Motorhome Club**

A Cheesy rally at Clopton Village Hall — 13th to 15th May 2022

Hosted by Trevor & Sue Smith and Joe & Sheila Holmes. The Saturday evening saw the marshals laying on a feast of cheese and biscuits with entertainment provided by Maria Sutherland who sang and played a mix of Jazz, Swing, Soul, Rock and Pop on the Saxophone. The rally had visitors from Southport, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Bracknell, Dartford and Burnham on Sea. There were also two new ralliers presented with their First Rally Plaques.



**If you are expecting visitors on a rally please ask them to report to the Marshals.
If you would like them to come to any social, please check with the Marshals first,
especially if there is a hall booked or entertainment.**

MIDSUMMER RALLY, BROMESWELL - 17TH - 24TH JUNE 2022

What a lovely week we had Bromeswell. The weather was on our side, with a drop of rain one night whilst sleeping.

It was one of the old-fashioned rallies where people got together every morning for Tea/Coffee and a chat about what they been doing or going to do.

Nothing was laid on as regards to entertainment, but nobody seemed bothered as it was said it's just great not to be tied to a programme.



During the course of the week a couple of dates had to be honoured.

Father's Day saw a novel way of celebrating, where every male was given a bottle of 'DADDIES' sauce at flagpole. Whose idea was that Mr Tony Reed?

Later in the week it was the turn to celebrate St Edmund, the true patron saint of England. Of course, we showed our allegiance to him by flying the flag and put bunting out in his memory.

It was a pleasure to be involved with the rally with a great team, Tony and Karen Reed and Denise keeping me steady.

Look forward to next year, where we can repeat it all again.

Ron King

Return to The Dordogne Holiday Rally, St.Leon Sur Vezere, France 27th June to 9th July 2022

We have just returned from running our Suffolk Centre 2 week holiday rally in the Dordogne in France. We chose a lovely little site called Le Paradis (via Alan Rogers) which we can highly recommend. It is run by a lovely Dutch couple and is an extremely pretty site, beautifully planted, with electric and water to each pitch. Shower block even had baths if you wanted them! It also boasts a lovely bar, restaurant, shop and several pools and much more.



It was a small rally this year with 15 outfits attending but what a great bunch of people. The rally started with meeting the owners and followed by a chaotic beetle drive night to get our group mixing. A couple of nights later we held quiz night with our own secret recipe "Suffolk Punch" (not sure if that helped or hindered the teams). A few days later time for Cheese and Wine. Amazingly the wine (20 litres) lasted the entire evening and we had a nearly full turn out. A boules competition ran across the 2 weeks which resulted in Raymond Herring delivering the winning shot for Suffolk amongst stiff competition from others including our visitors from Bucks, N. Yorks, N. Lancs, and Wilts. We also had a group canoe down the river (mostly in the canoes but there were a few mishaps and some stopped for lunch or to photograph the lovely chateaus alongside the river) but it was a long 13km in the sun. Luckily we had a group meal in the restaurant the same evening so we didn't need to cook. A lovely gift bag was presented to each of the marshals.

Casualties during the fortnight included:

2 blown caravan tyres on the way down

1 broken down car on the way back

1 caravan not making a 2m height restriction in the middle of Paris (don't you love sat nav's)

1 caravan sent up dead end street in Versailles which required manual traffic control (sat nav strikes again)

5 covid cases reported over the 2 weeks (despite isolation being observed)

2 capsized canoes (hot day maybe they just wanted to cool off)

.....but we'd all do it again next year!

From Diane Preston, Paul Fitch, Tracy & Richard Chipperfield)

COULD YOU BE THE CENTRE'S NEXT TREASURER?

The position of Treasurer is a key role in any CAMC Centre, along with those of Secretary and Chairman.

Our present Treasurer has indicated that he will not be continuing in the role after the next AGM, in October—the Centre is therefore seeking a replacement. If you are a member of the Suffolk Centre and feel this is something that you could do then please contact our Secretary, Janet Dobson by email at secretary@suffolkcentre.co.uk, or speak to any committee member.

Training can be given and there is the opportunity to 'shadow' the current Treasurer before taking over the role.

Nominations must to be with the Secretary by 2nd October at the latest.

**Does anybody have a manual
for a Man
— mine's started making a
whining noise!**

RECIPE IDEAS

Up for a BBQ but fancy a change from bangers 'n' burgers? Try this easy & tasty alternative

Sweet & Sour Chicken Kebabs

INGREDIENTS

- 2 chicken breasts, diced
- 3 tbsp sweet chilli sauce, plus extra to serve
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 300g pineapple chunks
- 1 red onion, peeled and cut into wedges
- 1 red pepper, cut into large chunks
- 1 yellow pepper, cut into large chunks
- Sesame seeds, to serve



Begin by marinating your chicken. Add your sweet chilli sauce, red wine vinegar and sesame oil to a bowl. Add the chicken and stir to combine everything together. Cover and leave to marinate for at least an hour, or ideally overnight.

Pre-heat the BBQ for a 3-4 minutes on a low/medium heat. Thread the veg, pineapple and chicken to your skewers and cook on the barbecue for 18-20 minutes or until the chicken is cooked throughout. Turn a few times during cooking.

Serve immediately with a sprinkling of sesame seeds and extra sweet chilli sauce for dipping.

**When was the last time you visited our
SUFFOLK CENTRE WEBSITE?**

www.suffolkcentre.org.uk

Why not visit us online

You will find Suffolk Centre news, rally updates, reports, tips, ideas and more.

Our Classified Ads page is now user friendly.

More will be added on a "need to" basis over time.

Feedback and ideas to the Webmaster at: webmaster@suffolkcentre.co.uk



A guide to choosing and using a leisure battery for a caravan or motorhome*

Owning your own caravan or motorhome means that you'll need to become well-acquainted with the importance of leisure batteries. With many rallies being off-grid, a good, well-maintained leisure battery is an essential requirement. So, whether you're wondering how to charge a leisure battery on a caravan, exactly what one is, or what size battery you need for your caravan, hopefully this guide will prove useful.

What is a leisure battery?

A leisure battery will be essential to power the appliances and equipment in your caravan or motorhome, providing a power source for the 12V appliances. It will be required to provide a steady level of power over a prolonged period of time, to power the likes of:

- The lights
- Television
- Kitchen appliances
- Water pump

There are various categories of leisure batteries:

Category A: This is for higher storage capacity when you frequently use your caravan or motorhome away from electrical hook-ups.

Category B: If you often use sites with electrical hook-ups but need a greater battery capacity to operate devices that require a lot of power such as motor movers.

Category C: This lower capacity battery will cover basic operation of the main equipment and appliances on board your caravan or motorhome, for short periods away from an electrical hook-up.

The most common type of leisure batteries are lead-acid batteries in the following forms:

- Standard starter batteries: Also called calcium or cranking batteries
- Standard leisure batteries: Also called auxiliary or deep-cycling
- Semi-traction and traction batteries: Also called deep-cycling batteries

There are alternative leisure batteries which include:

- Gel batteries: Often used in vehicles like quad bikes or jet skis that have a higher chance of crashing as the gel removes the chance of corrosive acid leaking from the battery. Gel batteries are starting to be found in some imported caravans and motorhomes.
- AGM batteries: Absorbent Glass Mat batteries have a longer lifespan than traditional lead-acid batteries although they are most expensive to produce.
- Maintenance free batteries: These batteries have sealed units that can't be topped up.

What size battery do I need for my caravan or motorhome?

Knowing what size of leisure battery you'll need for your caravan or motorhome will depend on how you use it. Specifically, how often your trips take you to sites without electric hook-ups or how often you decide to be completely self-contained, coupled with the appliances and devices that you use.

Factors affecting battery performance

How well a battery performs and how long it holds a charge are dependent on many factors, including:

Temperature – The stated capacity of a battery is expressed in Amp hours (Ah) but the quoted figure is only applicable when the ambient temperature is 25C. In reality, there are many occasions in the UK when it's much colder than 25C and for every one degree drop in temperature, there's an approximate one per cent reduction in a battery's Ah capacity.

Battery age – As a battery gets older, its performance deteriorates and it needs re-charging with increasing frequency, therefore, it is unlikely to last more than five years.

Rate of consumption – If numerous appliances are being used simultaneously, a battery's increased discharge rate affects its ability to provide power. This is not just a matter of saying that running appliances with double the wattage results in a battery becoming discharged in half the time. In practice, an extra demand on a battery has an even greater effect on its power-providing potential. Or to put it another way, the faster your battery is discharged, the lower its capacity will be.

You can, very roughly, work out what your consumption is going to be on the 12V equipment you use and for how long it is used then, if required, factor in what seasons you go away. An example is shown below:

Equipment	Current(Amps)	Hours of use	Amp hour rating
One fluorescent	0.75	5	3.75
2 halogen lights	1.50	3	4.50
LCD TV	2.5	4	10.00
TV booster	0.05	4	0.20
Water pump	0.7	0.5	0.35
Motor mover	30 (Average)	0.3	9.00
		Sub Total	27.8
(For winter use add an extra 10%)			
Add 20% safety margin			5.56
Total Ampere Hours required per day =			33.36

This gives your typical daily consumption. It is surprising how much power is required and how we take it for granted. Heavy consumption equipment like motor movers will have a detrimental effect on the battery performance

From this information decide what size battery will likely be needed depending on how long you are away from a charging source.

Using a good quality solar panel, either attached to the roof of the caravan, or connected to the battery and located outside, will help to reduce the rate of discharge by providing a low-level charge to the battery.

Unfortunately there are so many different factors involved in a battery's actual performance, its Ah capacity can only be taken as a guide. The type of battery design and construction, ambient temperature, battery age, and consumption levels have already been mentioned. In practical terms, nearly all caravanners find their battery seems to need recharging far sooner than they expected.

How do you charge the leisure battery in a caravan or motorhome?

Wherever possible you should charge your caravan's leisure battery from an external battery charger. Your caravan or motorhome will already be fitted with a charger, but this won't be effective enough to charge your leisure battery and is just in place to keep the onboard equipment running.

When to charge your leisure battery

Removing the leisure battery and charging it with a good charger will help it stay in good condition and working order. That means you need to know when to charge your caravan battery, how quickly, and how long for.

Your Voltmeter reading will help you understand the approximate level of charge along the following lines:

- ⇒ 12.7V or over: 100%
- ⇒ 12.5V: 75%
- ⇒ 12.4V: 50%
- ⇒ 12.2V: 25%
- ⇒ 12V or under: Discharged

How long do you need to charge leisure batteries for?

Leisure batteries should be charged slowly as they are designed to provide low current for long periods of time. It's not advisable to give your leisure battery a short, fast charge.

How long you should charge a caravan battery will depend on its level of discharge and the type of battery. As a guide, it could easily take one or two days.

Maintaining your leisure battery

The performance of leisure batteries decreases over time, meaning that they probably won't last longer than five years. To give it the best chance of lasting for as long as possible, it's important to:

- Apply a thin layer of grease or Vaseline to the battery's terminals.
- Check regularly that the electrolyte level covers the lead plates on the battery. If it doesn't, make sure you top it up with deionised water.
- Use high quality clamps to keep it in place and ensure that any steel surfaces don't rust.
- Continually check that the gas relief tube is fitted correctly and securely.
- Never allow the battery to completely run flat or leave it uncharged. Remember to stick to the 'below 50%' rule when it comes to recharging.
- If you're not using your caravan or motorhome, use a trickle charger to stop the leisure battery from completely losing charge when idle.

* The contents of this article have been compiled from various different sources, freely available in the public domain. The editor is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS ... (yes, he does!)

Since the last newsletter, myself and Denise have spent very little time at home.

We started our travels by going to the 'Can You see the Sea Monster' rally at Peewit Felixstowe.

The next six weeks took us north, making our first overnight stop at Catterick, North Yorkshire on the Sunday night. We then headed for Scotland via the A1 coast road to Kinross, where we joined Forth & Clyde Centre for a Pre-National Rally. While we were on the rally, I managed to meet my old army mate from forty plus years ago. As you can imagine a lot of memories came to the fore, as if it were yesterday.



Then it was time to move to Aboyne, Royal Deeside for the Scottish Caravan Club National Rally, hosted by North Scotland Centre at Coo Cathedral. A very different approach to a National Rally compared with the Caravan Club National Rally.

Our next five days was on the Dornoch Firth, north of Inverness. We used it as a base to tour the north of Scotland using some of the famous NC500, but using the cross-country routes to get to other coastal places, I think we had the best of both worlds as well as using the NC500, going across country on little narrow roads with numerous passing places was another experience and also beautiful scenery. Never seen so many 'PASSING POINT' signs.

From Dornoch we then went to the Isle of Skye, where the weather was not kind to us. It was reported that the wet weather was the worst in many a year. On the way to Skye the tow vehicle developed an engine problem, but with good advice and careful management we were able to carry on with the holiday.

From Skye it was onto Glencoe, to a Camping and Caravan site set in grounds of the National Trust for Scotland. Another good place to visit places like Fort William, Oban and Spean Bridge in the great Glen, known for its iconic Commando Memorial.

Once again it was time to move on. The last stop of our Scottish tour saw us at Culzean, south of Ayr over looking the Firth of Clyde. From our pitch we could see the Isle of Arran, Ailsa Craig and Ballycastle, Northern Ireland in the distance. We were surprised how much there was to see and do in the area. Robert Burns Museum, Cottage. Also, Rozelle Park Ayr where trees have been carved to depict WW1 sculptures done with a chain saw.

Our Scottish experience ended at Culzean. It was then south to Penrith, where we took in places like Carlisle, Keswick, Kendal and Appleby, famous for the Horse Fair. So many places to visit, just don't get the time to take them all in.

The last part of our holiday was to attend ClubFest at Belvoir Castle, where we were part of the siting crew for Anglia Region. As a team we saw 160 units onto their pitches for the event. This was a new format to the traditional National Rally and I think it went quite well from the feedback that has been given.

By the time we arrived at ClubFest, the tow vehicle was not responding as it should. Luckily, I have Mayday cover, who were one of the sponsors of ClubFest. It was checked and deemed dangerous to carry on and they arranged recovery home when ClubFest finished.

In all a brilliant six weeks away, glad we were able to do it.

Ron and Denise King, Chairman, Suffolk Centre Caravan Club.

DID I READ THAT SIGN RIGHT?

They say proofreading is a dying art ... Judging by these notices, maybe it's already dead.

- **In an office:**
TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW
- **In a Laundry:**
AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT
- **In a department store:**
BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS
- **In an office:**
WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN
- **In an office:**
AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD
- **Outside a secondhand shop:**
WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?
- **Notice in health food shop window:**
CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS
- **Spotted in a safari park:**
ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR
- **Seen during a conference:**
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

**This morning, I accidentally
changed the GPS Voice to
"Male." Now it just says,
"It's around here somewhere.
Keep driving."**

And finally...A 'NUDGE' FROM OUR CENTRE SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP

Just to remind members not to forget Centre membership is not automatically renewed, and to remain a Centre member you must contact the Club yourself when your Club membership is renewed, to remain with the Centre.

With rally books being prepared to go out even more important if your membership is due November or December as your copy may be delayed if you don't renew. If you are unsure drop an email to secretary@suffolkcentre.co.uk and I will confirm if you are a current Centre member or not.

Janet Dobson, Secretary



'Bye for Now

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Please feel free to comment and to let me know what you would like to see in future issues. Any pictures, rally reports, jokes or notices can be sent to me (Graham) at newsletter@suffolkcentre.co.uk

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