

Suffolk Centre

Spring 2024

Newsletter



Update from Centre Chairman

by **Ron King**

I start my report with the sad news that Mick Prentice died peacefully on Saturday 23rd March 2024. As many people will know, Mick along with his wife, Eve were very active members of our club over many years. Not only supporting rallies, they organised and ran weekend and holiday rallies.

Over the Easter weekend myself and Denise were involved with the March Easter Bunny rally at Trinity Park, Ipswich. Thank you to our Vice Chairman Julian Fincham-Jacques, along with Donna and Sarah for chairing the rally.

It was an Invitation Rally to the other centres within the Anglia region and we had a full rally. Over the weekend, fund raising took place in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance, with a raffle and donations. Once again, the generosity of people amazes me in giving prizes and buying raffle tickets and donations. A total of £593.60 was donated to this worthy cause.

We did have a problem on Sunday night with the electric supply to the rally field and as a precaution, it was decided to terminate the supply, on the grounds of Health and Safety.

I had a meeting with Trinity Park and have agreed a compensated amount of money for the rally, for the loss of power and they have an investigation taking place.

Members who attended the rally have been notified of the compensation and given the option of a small refund.

Following on from Easter, Denise and I chaired and had a lovely weekend at the "Return to the Sea" rally at Peewit Caravan Park, Felixstowe. Another good turnout of units, enabling another full rally. The weather was windy, but we were all blessed with sun from the time we there.

We also presented a cheque to the East Anglian Air Ambulance at the Seasonal Launch for £1612.03! Well done to all our members for raising such a great amount for the Chairmans charity



Upcoming Events

The season is now in full swing and we have already had some great rallies including Saxstead Mill, Burns Night at Hallowtree, Easter at Trinity Park, and Peewit. So if you have not been out this year, now's the time to get the cover off and get out on a rally. We have some great spring rallies to choose from that need your support. Here are just a few to choose from but see the rally book for full details and all rallies:

Anglia Region Question Time and Rally @ Banham Zoo 19th – 21st May

See rally book for more details

There's Sutton Going On In Suffolk – 2nd May – Monday 6th May

Live entertainment with Tricks of the Trade, fun and games and a Chinese auction. Saturday morning market in the hall and lovely walks in the area. Contact Trevor Smith for more details or book via email using trevor@cherrylane.co.uk

ClubFest 2024 Weston Park Shropshire – 24th May – 28th May

See rally book for more details

Bank Holiday Break at Garnhams Field, Needham Market - 24th - 29th May

How about spending a Bank Holiday Weekend at a new site for us at Needham Market. A quiet do as you please break with plenty on offer in the area and a fishing lake on site. Walking distance to the village and all the amenities it affords and to the Needham Lakes which is great for walks or the play area and car boot. You can spend up to 5 nights at the site. For more information or to book reach out to Julian Fincham-Jacques or email garnhams.field@thesuffolkcentre.co.uk

Marshals and Advertisers Wanted...



The rally programme for Suffolk Centre is down to members coming forward to volunteer to organise a rally. Help is available, for venues, for organising it, the financial side, and all the current marshals started somewhere – either as a co-marshal or organiser.

I hold the list of dates for 2025 and pencil in possible rallies when approached. This holds a date for you, is always flexible, but gives others an idea what other marshals are intending to do, so we can have a balanced programme across the year.

If members perhaps know of possible venues, but can help if not marshal, please pass on the information which I will follow up, especially if in an area we haven't been to for a while, or even at all.

Another part of the handbook are those that advertise their company or services with us. Many have been part of this for years and new adverts are more than welcome. So if you know of someone please get them to email me and we can go from there. Get in touch – my details are in the book or email me at rallysec@suffolkcentre.co.uk

by **Alan Dobson, Rally Secretary**

Centre Updates

by Diane Fitch, Newsletter

Dog Lead Length Change



Due to a recent incident that resulted in a member being injured by a dog despite the dog being on a 10ft lead the centre has changed the required lead length to be 6ft. We realise that it may be more restrictive for your furry friends but as you all understand we have to look after our members safety on the rally field.

Responsible Disposal of Old Rally Books

As a centre we endeavour to protect our members privacy and details. When you are issued a rally book, and you reach the new year, can we please ask that you shred or destroy the old rally book responsibly please.



Admin Fee and Rally Plaques

As you are all aware the centre charges a small fee on each rally £2.40 (inc. VAT) this covers admin costs of running rallies and your rally plaque. The Admin fee has not increased for a few years now despite general costs increasing. After discussion the committee propose to have a vote at the AGM regarding potentially stopping production of plaques. This will serve two purposes it will allow us to keep our admin fee at its



current rate and it will also help reduce the centres carbon footprint by not using plastics. This will be a vote whereby you will be able to choose to keep the plaque and pay more admin, or lose the plaque and the admin costs will remain unchanged.

Secretary Updates

After a very bad case of the hiccups with the Club and it's IT system, we are gradually getting back to normal (whatever that is). There was a lot of confusion at the time as to what had, or hadn't been actually recorded, so if in doubt please contact the Club and check.



At this time, even with their new App, membership to Centres is not automatically renewed. We have not been advised of any changes, and I still get the monthly reports to take off those members who have not renewed their Suffolk Centre membership. Please also note that I can't change your details if you tell me – it has to come from the Club – especially important if you change your email contact address. I have also taken on following up members who don't either turn up at a rally, or cancel within 14 days (under Centre rules), something that we were mindful to step back from over the Covid period and as we adjusted to coming out of it. Marshals obviously worry about their rallies and the financing and are there to make sure your time on that rally is enjoyable.

We all understand those last minute life issues that happen and we do look at problems with discretion, but at the end of the day, communication is the keyword.

If members have an issue with a rally or something the Centre does or doesn't do, please contact me. Best way is to email me at secretary@suffolkcentre.co.uk so there is clear understanding of what has happened.

by Janet Dobson, Secretary

Ralliers Stories

We have been rallying for 40 years and our first Suffolk Centre rally was the 1984 Easter Rally at Cherry Tree Caravan Park in Belton near Great Yarmouth. Our first caravan was an Alpine Sprite and we towed with a blue Volvo 240 Estate. We kept the outfit for three seasons before taking a short break when our children came along. Sue and I had to leave the rally field late on Friday night in May 1985 at Sudbourne and only just made it to Ipswich in time. Daniel was born at 6am on Saturday 18th May and Trev came back to collect the caravan on Sunday morning. Since then we have attended over 300 rallies and owned 9 caravans and 2 motorhomes. We decided to celebrate our 40th milestone at a CL in Belton in April. Let's hope we have many more years ahead of us with the Suffolk Centre.



by **Trev & Sue Smith**

We would love to hear of any great stories about your experiences on rallies and any great photos would be lovely too. These can be recent events or blasts from the past.





And Finally...

Can you recognise your committee from their childhood photos?



by Diane Fitch, Newsletter

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