



# OYSTER NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

North Essex Centre



*For insertion into the Oyster  
please send your photos and information to:*

**melpotter4@gmail.com**

*For insertion into the Caravan Club Magazine  
Please send your photos and information to:*

**kathmurton@yahoo.co.uk**

## EVENT NO 12 VALENTINES RALLY

A cold and wet Friday at Langham Community Centre saw the start to our annual Valentines rally where ralliers were welcomed including some visitors from bedfordshire centre. The 'rally marshals meeting' and 'natter & chatter' took place as usual on the Saturday. Jackie handed out the envelopes to the rally marshals, and Rob outlined our programme for this year and reminded us all of the importance of spacing on the rally in field, following the sad news from south London of a fire in one of their units on their New Year rally. Fortunately they HAD adhered to club rules about spacing otherwise more people could have been injured. Our thoughts & prayers go out to those injured and those affected mentally and emotionally by this terrible accident.

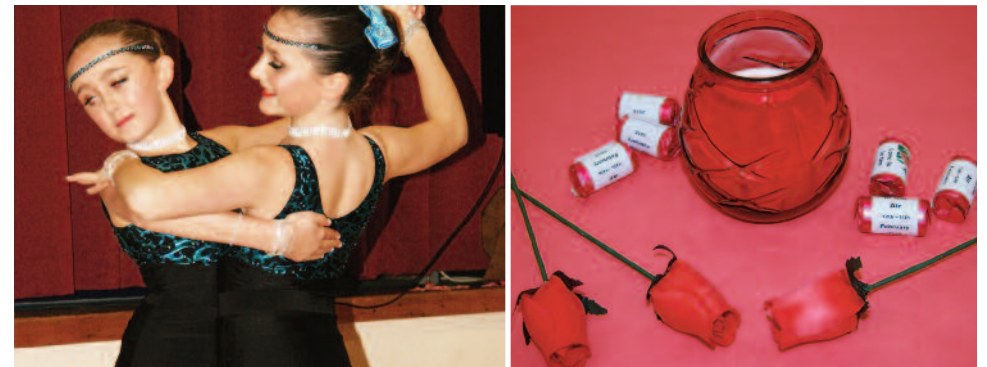
Please carefully read your rally packs and also the info in the rally kits about the correct spacing and adhere to them at all times.

Leanne & Gavin presented our new look website and answered questions from the floor about how to register. If you are having problems please give Leanne & Gavin a call or email (numbers on the committee page of the rally book) and they will talk you through how to register. How exciting that we can now book online if the rally marshals are happy to accept online bookings and if you wish to do so. Obviously you can still post a slip if you want to or email or phone as before.

Maz, Marion & Jackie worked tirelessly in the kitchen preparing our evening meal which was as usual fabulous. A starter of vegetable soup, followed by Lasagna then chocolate cake. And they managed to cater for those with allergies too. Outstanding!

We were then entertained by one of our junior members Abbie and her friend Maisie who showed off their ballroom dancing skills and managed to teach a few of us how to twirl on the dance floor. Fantastic show girls, thank you so much for doing this for us. This was followed by some tunes via the iPod where everyone got a chance to boogie the night away. Debbie & Keith did an amazing job organising our entertainment and a beautiful Valentines themed raffle too.

Well done Committee for yet another fabulous weekend.



*Top right: Valentines Roses  
Above left: A demonstration from our two delightful dance instructors.  
Below right: A change of costume but still the same style.*







*Top: Lady members taking dance instructions from our demonstrators. Below: its the men's turn.*



*Now its the men's turn to be put through their paces.*



*Rob & Maz and members of the committee with our two dance instructors for the weekend.*



*Most elegant pair of LADIES!! a bit less of the cake opposite might help fellas.*







*Members enjoying the meal at Valentines*



*The raffle prizes*

## **EVENT NO 13 PRE-SEASON DINNER RALLY**

We had 18 vans and 40 to the sit down meal. The food was excellent and served very professionally. Hannah our lounge singer received much praise as she had a really good voice. The venue is definitely of the higher class type and very suitable for this type of event. We will be running this again next year.

Les & Jackie were presented with their 600th rally plaque at the 2016 Pre Season Dinner at the Chelmsford City Racecourse. This is quite an achievement



considering they started to rally in 1983 and have averaged 18 rallies in each of their 33 years since. They have both been heavily involved in committee work during this time occupying various positions including Rally Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman and Regional Treasurer to name just a

few. Not content with just attending, they also regularly run rallies themselves and are always keen to help and assist when needed. They are indeed 1st class Centre members and I congratulate them on this tremendous achievement.

*Rob Rice Chairman*





*Literally under the horses feet!*



*Vans parked up for the weekend*



*Pre dinner drinks in the bar*



*Robert Ward and his wife Chris about to enjoy the evening meal at the Racecourse weekend*





*Robert Ward and his wife Chris, Rob & Maureen Whatling, Pam Rayner and friends.*



*The singer about to perform for the members and guests at the Pre Season Dinner rally.*

## **EVENT NO 14 WALDEGRAVES HOLIDAY PARK RALLY**

We had 8 vans, one of which was a visitor from Suffolk centre, John & Ursula Green. Waldegraves upgraded us all to hard standing pitches for no extra cost. These pitches were next to the 4 lakes in one direction and a short walk from the sea wall in the other giving the opportunity for some pleasant walks.

The site has made many improvements over the last couple of years, the lounge/sports bar was particularly eye catching and was a must for any Sky Sports fans.

We arranged a group booking for the Granary Restaurant on Saturday where we enjoyed an excellent value for money 2 & 3 course meal.

*Rob Rice Chairman*



*All seated in the restaurant at Waldegraves in West Mersea*





*An enjoyable meal was had by all the ralliers, including young ralliers of tomorrow*



*Blimey they make those seagulls big down at Mersea don't they? Maz Rice and Rob Whatling look a bit concerned as to what happens next!*

## EVENT NO 15 BOMBAY NIGHTS

Dave & Marion, Dave & Elisa Edney ran a curry weekend at the Room in the Rodings, we had 13 vans which included a 1st time rallying family. Dean & Sarah and their children enjoyed the event so much that they immediately booked on another 12 rallies! The marshals worked hard to produce a fantastic array of Indian cuisine, all of which was delicious. The venue was, as usual for here, comfortable and homely, the marshals added some background music to add to the ambience.

The sun came out on Sunday to warm the whole place up and round off a very enjoyable weekend.

Many thanks to all the marshals for a fabulous curry weekend.

*Rob Rice Chairman*



*The Rally Marshals looking resplendent in their Indian attire ready to serve up their curry*





*The marshals serving the members their rice and curry meal at Room in the Rodings*



*Members pose in their Indian dress for their Bombay Nights weekend*

## **EVENT NO 16H**

### **BULLY'S EASTER FUN RALLY - Brookfields**

A very inclement weekend put paid to the shorts and sunbathing for Easter but nevertheless everyone of the 18 vans in attendance had a good time for the Easter festivities.

Friday was set up day and because of the weather caravans pulled by cars had to be helped on to their pitch by the marshals with the aid of a couple of 4x4's. Friday evening hot cross buns were served up to the ralliers in the barn with tea and coffee which was enjoyed by all.

Saturday morning Brian took ralliers for a ramble through the village with a customary visit to the pub at the end of morning. Saturday evening the darts competition was started in the barn, with the final being carried forward to Sunday morning.

Sunday morning a welcome brunch was prepared and served by the marshals this included bacon butties with tea and coffee. The children, of which there were only 7 with an age range from very young to teenagers took part in the traditional Easter Egg hunt, the children were exemplary all weekend with their behaviour and so credit to them, and to their parents for bringing them up to be well behaved and courteous, well done children. Sunday evening flagpole was chaired by the Centre Chairman Rob Rice and Maz, this was followed by a musical quiz and a session of Play Your Cards Right, a large easter egg was awarded for the winners. The highlight of the night was the final of Bully's darts competition with Bob & Tash Terry taking on the pairing of Brian Skeet & Margaret Lamb with Bob & Tash coming out winners, better luck next time Brian & Margaret.

The rally finished on Monday but some vans had to be towed off site (*see pics*) a big thank you to the marshals who did a good job on a difficult weekend





*They towed them on and they towed them off a wet Easter weekend, but you can't keep a hardy rallier down!!*

## **EVENT NO 17H**

### **SHOULD BE A CRACKING EASTER - Dan's Meadow**

A glorious Good Friday dawned, 25 vans arrived at Dan's Meadow.

After settling in and the sun shining we were all sitting out in our deck chairs chatting, enjoying a cup of tea and a hot cross bun.

What a change in the weather. Saturday was very cold but a ramble to the pub didn't deter the hardy ones. By the evening it warmed up with fun and games in the hall. First, how many objects can you guess in 30 seconds, could the hula hoop be kept going for 30 seconds and roll the dice to get all the numbers up within a minute, throw 12 bean bags into the net within a minute. Lastly, who is the youngest and who is the eldest....can you guess, poor Meg she got just 2 wrong. Not easy.

After a short break it was time for Play your Cards Right with Brucie and 2 of his beautiful assistants. Lots of laughter going on we all had a brilliant night.

Easter morning, hot cross buns and teas were served. The children had a different Easter egg hunt. They had to get objects that started off with the spelling of Easter. The day was rounded off with a disco.

With the winds blowing a gale during the night and Monday morning, we all packed up ready to go.

Rob and Maureen Whatling got bogged down and true to form the men all got together to get them out. Kevin Flexman was black with mud, hope Sue didn't mind too much as it was for a good cause. Thank you to everyone who helped.

A big thank you to all the marshals you all worked so hard. Karen and Paul, Claire, Craig and Harry, Elaine and Ian.

A cracking Easter was had by all.





*Kevin in his bid to guess the items in 60 seconds*



*The bean bag competition in full flow*



*Above: Brucie and his two gorgeous assistants in Play Your Cards Right*





## EVENT NO 18

### FISHING AT THE FARM RALLY Hintlesham

15 vans attended. Two visitors from Mid Anglia. Barry and Virginia Huebler and Brian and Helan Fernihough.

We had several birthdays and an anniversary this weekend a 60th Birthday for Marion Brown, celebrated with much mirth and Tequila, Tony Murton, & Lynne Bell also had birthdays. Kevin and Dawn Lowrie were celebrating their anniversary. The weather was very kind to us and Sunday saw us sitting in the sun all morning.

The fishing was very good and everyone caught with John Murton catching the best weights for North Essex.

Dave & Marion Kemp were ably assisted by Andy and Sally Wade. A good weekend enjoyed by all.



*The marshals and Rob & Maz next to the lake at Hintlesham Fisheries*



*There were more than this in their Honest!!*



*One of our young fishing contestants with her catch*





*Les Youngs weighing up the days catch*



*Above: Flagpole meeting in the sun*



*Marion Brown and husband Mick with Rob Rice on her 60th birthday announcement*



*John Murton winning fisherman for North Essex*



**EVENT NO 20**  
**APRIL IN ASSINGTON**

31 vans attended the April in Assington rally this year.

Friday was set up day and a meet and greet in the event tent village was well attended on Friday evening where tea, coffee and biscuits were served to ralliers.

Saturday morning was very wet and a ramble through the bluebell woods at Arger Fen looked in jeopardy but a good number of ralliers braved the wet conditions and a ramble took place the bluebells were stunning among the trees but it was very wet and muddy, and quite difficult to maintain your footing in the very slippery mud.

Saturday afternoon sports was cancelled but the cakes tea and coffee etc was served up at 3.30 and everyone that attended enjoyed the usual Twirly cake samples made by Ann & Joan, once again this was a roaring success, well done ladies.

Saturday evening an impromptu Catchphrase quiz with super drawings by Dave Kench our marshal and those that did not attend missed a very good funny evening with both teams enjoying a good laugh a draw was the outcome on reflection, although Arthur Yeldham might not agree with that!!

Sunday flagpole was chaired by Rob & Maz Rice and our one visitor Mr & Mrs Atkins from Suffolk was formerly welcomed, and First Time ralliers Ray and Paula Preece were awarded their 1st ralliers plaque, and guess what the sun shone all day.

Thanks to the marshals for the weekend and to the members for supporting the rally again we look forward to seeing you all again next year when we hope to alter the format somewhat watch this space!



*Beautiful bluebells at Arger Fen*



*Bob Ward and Barry Bridges on the wet walk Saturday morning*



*Mel & Ann Potter lead the brave souls in the rain on their ramble*



*Great walk for dog owners Greg and Mabel seemed to delight in the rain*





*Rob & Maureen Whatling completing the ramble, Maureen's two replacement knees stood up to the wet and mud*



*Marshals Dave, Ann and Joan ready to serve the home made cakes*



*Members enjoying a cuppa and a slice of cake*



*Inside the event tents out of the rain taking pleasure in the cakes and tea etc*



**EVENT NO 22**  
**THE OLD ANTIQUE RALLY**

17 vans attended this weekend at Gosfield where the marshals were Allan and Jan Bass ably assisted by John and Kath Murton.

Unfortunately Allan and Jan had a family funeral to attend to on Thursday afternoon, which is when they would normally have been setting up the site for the weekend rally, so in their usual helpful way John and Kath set the site up on their own on Thursday so that Allan and Jan could attend the funeral, to those of you who are new to marshalling this is exactly what it is all about, lead marshal or assistant we all pull together and make things happen for the benefit of the members. Well done John and Kath.

Friday saw members arriving with everyone setting up for the weekend, meeting old friends for a chat.

Saturday was a bright sunny day and at 2 p.m. the competition for the Horse-shoes Trophy was contested. 32 entries battled away through the afternoon until we finally arrived at the final 2 pairs contesting for the Trophy.

Brian and Kerry Skeet were finally beaten by the eventual winners Linda Gray partnered by Brian Frost. Congratulations to them.

Flagpole on Sunday was chaired by Les Youngs, ably assisted by Jackie, where the usual prizes were awarded, van prize was won by Madeleine and Dave Offley, and the quiz winners were Rob & Maureen Whatling, well done to them and a big thank you to the marshals for an enjoyable weekend.

The trophy for the Horseshoes winners will be presented at the AGM.



*Enjoying the sun*



*Current Trophy holders*



*Getting the measurements correct*



*The finalists, Kerry & Brian Skeet, Linda Gray & Brian Frost*



*Another critical measurement*



*The winners Linda Gray and Brian Frost*



## BREAKING NEWS!!

### MAZ AND FRIENDS RESCUED BY HELICOPTER

Maz (the Chairman's wife!) took her 1st trip out in a rowing boat with 4 other ladies and headed up the creek just off the coast at Brightlingsea in Essex. This route was preferred as it provided calmer water and was sheltered from a cold wind. The day went very well as they enjoyed a 45 minute row up creek to its widest point of 1000 meters.

As they turned to head back to the mooring, they were caught in a strong current caused by the outgoing tide. Unfortunately this grounded the boat on a mud bank mid creek, although they desperately tried to row out of trouble the outgoing tide dropped away to leave them high and dry.

The safety precautions on board meant they were not in any immediate danger as they had warm clothing and some food and water. As the next tide was not due for 12 hours it was felt that this was too long to leave these ladies in an open boat in a cold wind. Two of the rowers were diabetic which was not of concern in the short term but may have been an issue after such a long spell out in the open.

At this point the RNLI were called to try to rescue them, they arrived very quickly and assessed the situation. One of their crew crossed the mud to check all on board only to find himself almost sunk as well. As a result they called the air sea rescue helicopter which arrived and winched all to safety and landed on a local golf range. Fortunately no one was injured or suffered any lasting effects, however it could have been much worse.

Although we often see reports of their heroism we never think it will happen to us.

We are in debt to the volunteers of the Clacton RNLI for rescuing the rowing crew and will always put some money in their collection when possible. They receive no government funding for this service and are a registered charity, the people involved give up their time to keep us safe.

On asking Maz if she would ever row again after this traumatic experience on her first trip she replied:- Absolutely I loved it!...oh dear.



*Top Right: everything started out ok*

*Middle: RNLI to the rescue as they get stuck in the mud*

*Bottom Right: a relieved Maz after the ordeal*



Members may well be aware of the fire that occurred at the New Year rally in South London.

The club has clear instructions (detailed below) on the requirements for spacing between vans.

In the light of events over the New Year, the Club has taken the opportunity to remind Centre's and their rally marshals of the importance of correct spacing on the rally field

