

# The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

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**Dear Members,**

I hope you all had a happy and enjoyable Easter wherever you spent it. It was very unfortunate that the Easter Rally at Reay in the west of Caithness had to be cancelled, this was due to lack of support, but in these times of financial constraints some difficult decision have to be taken. Let's hope that this will not happen too often so come on all you ralliers book early, get out and enjoy your Highland Centre rallies.

To give you flavour of what we missed; Reay is a small village in the northwest tip of Caithness only a few miles from the Sutherland border. It has a caravan park, a shop, a garage, a links golf course, school and village hall, all of which straddle the A836 main road from Thurso to Tongue. I can assure you the scenery is quite stunning and the further west you travel the more rugged it gets, if you have never been to this part of Scotland it is well worth a visit.

**The Scottish National Rally** will be hosted this year by the East of Scotland Centre at the Border Union Showground, Springwood Park, Kelso and will take place from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

This is without a doubt an outstanding venue, enjoying short flat grass with all the necessary amenities, including the Dinner Dance being on site and all this within walking distance of the town. The lively programme of events will include; the inter-centre sports, a Dinner Dance on Saturday night, followed on Sunday night by a traditional Scottish Ceilidh. For the family members there will be a children's party and a junior disco. Kelso Pipe Band will also be in attendance at the opening ceremony.

The real Scotland starts right at the borders, from the north or the south, the area has three major trunk roads linking England and Central Scotland. Kelso is a picturesque country town in a fine setting at the junction of the rivers Teviot and the Tweed. It is a town full of architectural and historic interest with some of the finest salmon fishing in Scotland.

Overlooking the Tweed stands Floors Castle, (Scotland's largest inhabited house) inside you will find a superb collection of paintings, porcelain, furniture and tapestry's. The Duke of Roxburgh is a close friend of royalty; it was here, apparently, that Prince Andrew proposed to Sarah Ferguson in 1986.

West of Kelso stands Teviot Water Gardens, where you can enjoy various spectacular

riverside walks and some exceptional landscaped gardens.

By visiting Kelso and the Scottish National Rally, you can be sure of a real Scottish experience.

[Book Now.](#) Booking Forms can be obtained from the **SCC handbook**, or from the **SCC web page**

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## Rally Reports

### Brodie 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March

It was a good feeling to be heading off to the Centre's first rally of the season held at The Old Mill Caravan Park, Brodie, courtesy of Mike Jamieson the site owner.

Following the usual Friday night's socialising the rally was opened on Saturday morning by Hazel Taylor the site manager who gave us a verbal 'guided tour' of places of interest in the area. As this was our first visit to this venue a site finders plaque was presented to Lindsay Benison. A total of nineteen outfits attended including three from SCC – Ian & Christine Maclean, Fiona & Robbie Murray and Patricia & Charles Young – and Eric & Valerie Noble from the North Centre.

The remainder of the day was our own until it was time for the social, which was held in The Old Mill. Due to the nature of the area allocated to us the Marshals had decided to hold a games/quiz night. In true Highland Centre tradition this involved quite a degree of 'rule bending' but this all added to the enjoyment of the evening.

The Sunday Service was conducted by Lindsay with the collection of £26.49 being donated to Marie Curie in line with the daffodil theme of the rally. Pam Ross said a few words about the sponsored cycle run that her grandchildren intended to do in memory of Dave and Fiona took the sponsor sheet under control to get the maximum possible donations.

Tea and coffee were accompanied by a delicious array of home bakes for which thanks are due to Lindsay's friend Audrey.

At the closing ceremony a birthday card was presented to John McKechnie.

The members were advised of the change of location of the Wick rally to Reay and asked to book as soon as possible to give an indication as to how many were to attend so that a decision on the viability of the rally could be made.

A show of hands was requested to indicate probable attendance at the Scottish National and an explanation of the Centre's proposed contribution to the Sunday social given. All present were sent home to drink the required quantities to make a set of bagpipes – there were no objections to this instruction!!

Finally the Marshals were presented with their reward – that all-important bit of plastic.

Thanks for a DIFFERENT weekend to Dave Fleming , Dave Benison & chief marshal Lindsay Benison.

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**Reay 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> April**

Unfortunately as indicated above this rally was cancelled,

**Letters**

Mrs Pam Ross  
New Elgin

Dear members,

I enclose a photocopy of a cutting from today's local paper, which may be of interest to friends in the Highland Centre. *The cutting entitled "Charity Tribute to Grandad" is held by the PRO, please ask to see it.*

The children have raised in excess of £500 for the Mallaig Lifeboat and I would be very grateful if you could include my thanks to all our members who contributed so generously (at the Brodie rally) and raised £80 of this total.

I am amazed that the four of them could raise so much and I am so very proud of them. It is of course a very fitting tribute to the love they have for their Grandad and of how much Dave was thought of by everyone.

I am not sure which rallies I will manage, as the stabilizer is still not fixed up yet.

Kindest regards,

Pam.



The following was received from Phillip & Gillian Davies of South Essex Centre

***Continental Holiday Opportunities for 2004***

May we begin by introducing ourselves as South Essex Centre members, Phillip & Gillian Davies. We work in association with the Caravan Club of Great Britain and you may have heard of us as Caravan Safari Holidays.

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Last year together with Alan & Jane Leslie, also South Essex members, we were delighted to have organised a South Essex continental rally in the Dordogne region of South West France. We enjoyed a maximum turn out and provided a bespoke 14 day all inclusive activity holiday with interesting things to do and see, together of course with wonderful French gourmet meals in hidden away rural restaurants that only the locals would normally find.

For 2004 we have three South Essex rally tours to offer which we would be grateful if you would distribute to your members:

For July 10-24, a 14 day tour/visit to the little known area of the Rioja wine region of green Spain. (Brochure available and also see p36 of the March Edition of The Caravan Club magazine).

For August 1-28, a 28 day tour of northern Germany, Denmark and Sweden.(again a detailed brochure is available).

For December 20th – January 3rd 2005, a very special Christmas and New Year rally tour in the Dordogne, including a spectacular New Year gala Dinner.

Although, perhaps a little late in the “Holiday Selection period” we would very much like to offer your Centre the opportunity of either joining us in Rioja, Scandinavia or Christmas, or perhaps a bespoke Dordogne tour in either May, June or September for which we are currently preparing a very special offer for any Centre rally participation.

We would be delighted to receive any of your centre members on any of the tours mentioned for which more detailed information can be obtained by contacting:

Alan & Jane Leslie at the above E-Mail address or by phone on 01268 752008.

Thank you for your time in reading this e-mail and we look forward to perhaps meeting some of your fellow centre members in the near future.

Our very best wishes.

Phillip & Gillian Davies  
Alan & Jane Leslie.  
alesli@blueyonder.co.uk  
Caravan Safari Holidays

**Other Snippets**

- ❖ Just in case you missed this years AGM the 2003/2004 committee members are as follows :-

Mr H Stuart	<i>Chairman</i>	Mr D Benison	<i>Vice Chairman</i>
Mr N Buchan	<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs L Benison	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs Joyce Stuart	<i>Rally Secretary</i>	Mr D Aird	<i>Equip Officer</i>
Mr A Carson	<i>PRO</i>	Mrs L Aird	<i>Sales Officer</i>
Mrs E Carson	Mr G Duncan	Mr A Fisher	Mr L McCall

- ❖ If you have access to the internet I can recommend the following sites:-

1. SCC Highland Centre at [www.benison.co.uk/SCCHighland](http://www.benison.co.uk/SCCHighland)
2. The Scottish Caravan Club at [www.thescottishcaravanclub.com](http://www.thescottishcaravanclub.com)

- ❖ Top Tip For Caravaners No.4  
Remember to raise the corner steadies before towing off.

Letters, replies and comment may be sent to the PRO  
Address as in the SCC handbook  
or e-mail:- ac831491@aol.com

**Now remember; if you are new to the Centre or have not rallied before, why not give rallying a go; you can always be assured of a warm Highland welcome. With your welcome letter, is a voucher, which gives you, your first rally free, so why not make use of it, you've nothing to lose and you will almost certainly enjoy it.**