

The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

Dear Friends,

It's that festive time of year once again but this year is a bit special as it is the start of the new Millennium. May I wish you all that which you wish for yourselves and that you have a peaceful and enjoyable year.

At least it's peaceful at the start of the year until the rallies start and awaken the traveller in you! This last year we have had a tremendous number of our members coming on to the rally field and I'm sure I can speak for all of them that they have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. So please, if you've never tried rallying before, give me or any other committee member a call and let us convince you to join us.

May I thank you once again for allowing me to continue as your Chairman for the forthcoming year. Lorna and I (and Donna) have thoroughly enjoyed our first year and look forward to meeting you again soon. In the meantime, I drink a toast to you and yours for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Alan Sparling -- Chairman

A New PRO

It is both with pride and some regret that I have taken on the role of PRO for the Centre. After a sterling year in the post Benny Baldry has had to step down due to **not** being exiled back to England, yet. Apparently somebody found the escape tunnel and filled it in. What away to get out of the job! Most people just resign! I am sure the rest of the centre will join with me in wishing you all the best when you actually get around to going.

So here I am, a slightly new look and name to the newsletter and ready to take the flack, I hope! I will be introducing another new item as well, with direct access to the Youth Committee Chair I hope to be able to bring the long promised youth view of rallies, heavily edited to protected the guilty of course. It is to be hoped that I can keep up the standards set by my predecessor and bring you the tales of what we do at the weekend, but of course I cannot do this without your help, so watch out for the PRO pointing at you to be the guest writer. This issue features Lorna, Lindsay and me plus the Petty Teletubbies.

DINNER DANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE -- NOW

The annual Centre Dinner Dance will be held at the Loch Ness Hotel next year. The date for the event is 5th Feb 2000 and tickets are available now from Alan Sparling or Cath Sutherland.

Forres Rally School Reunion -- 1st - 3rd Oct

Our Marshals for this Rally were Amy, Emma, Sue & Benny Baldry and Craig, Lindsay & Dave Benison who did everything possible to make it a Rally to remember. Avril & Jim Ferrier opened the rally on Saturday morning. Unfortunately, the BBQ Chef competition was cancelled due to the strawberries turning "blue" with the cold. The "School Reunion" on the Saturday evening had 100% attendance; with super black & white photos of some pupils, but there were not many had us stuck guessing. A group photograph was taken of the "Bash Street Kids". There were conker competitions; skipping displays and a lovely packed "T" supper. Sunday service was by Sue & Dave. Rainy weather meant the closing and sales were done in separate awnings. I am glad to report that there were no lines handed out at this weekend. A big thank you to the marshals for bringing back memories of our youth.

Lorna

Competition Results:

Due to the weather at closing the competition results were not read out, because they were so good here goes!!!

Adults:

Compose a 26 word story using all the letters of the alphabet, in order, to start the words.

**The Winner -
Petty Teletubbies**

A	Alan,	N	nice
B	berserk	O	ordinary
C	clampers	P	pranksters
D	demand	Q	quaked.
E	extra	R	Released
F	funny	S	Sparling's
G	games.	T	tied
H	He	U	up
I	ignored	V	van
J	joke.	W	while
K	Knowing	X	xcitedly
L	Lorna,	Y	yelling
M	Marshals	Z	zippeeee !!!!!

Teenagers:

In keeping with the rally theme the teenagers were set Homework. They were asked to write in not more than 200 words about a typical day at a Caravan Club Rally. The winner, first time rallier Alex, is reproduced below but I for one would like to know how he sussed us so quickly!

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A TYPICAL DAY AT A C.C. RALLY  
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The typical day at a Caravan Club rally starts with the opening ceremony where the wardens make a complete fool of themselves and guests. After the opening ceremony there is a small social talking about the day ahead. The rest of the day until about 6 or 7 o'clock, when the main social event starts, is yours to get rations or see the local scenery. Sometime between 6 and 7 o'clock the main social event starts and everyone taking part takes it in turn to make a complete fool of themselves in front of the rest of the group. The social event finishes around 10 p.m. and everyone makes their way back to the site and changes out of their theme clothes. Around 10:30 p.m. "MOTHING" begins (hangovers imminent for the next morning).

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Not bad for a first rallier!! Seems to have settled right in!! I'm sure the identity of the Petty Teletubbies is not a great secret, hopefully Alan is still speaking to them, and myself, now.

**North Alves Halloween Rally – 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October**

Our Marshals for the weekend were Alan, Lorna & Donna Sparling with Bert and Lillian Bottom ( who stepped in when John and Pauline could not make it). We had two celebrations this week, Ian and Jean Menhinick (50<sup>th</sup> Rally) and Donald and Libby Stuart (200<sup>th</sup> Rally). A lovely spread was put on by both couples, wine flowing and good cheer all round. Congratulations and grateful thanks to both couples. Saturday morning saw Andreas opening the rally for us, the sun was shining but it was a bit windy. A quiet time was enjoyed by all before the guissing at 4 o'clock. Never before did I know that so many ghouls, ghosts and witches stayed in the area. Well done to everyone who joined in the "spirit" of this night. The evening social was full of surprises, apple dunking for both children and adults alike, with more ghouls and ghosts we're still not exactly sure who was who. The Sunday service was admirably done by Lorna and Donna, followed by a welcome cup of tea. The wind had picked up and things outside were very chilly. Many thanks to the Marshals who made it a very memorable weekend, their hard work did not go unnoticed. Well done to them all.

**Lindsay**

**Inverness Christmas Party Rally – 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Our Marshals for this Christmas weekend were : Bob & Mamie, Doug & Pam and not forgetting Roy & Sheila our Chief Marshals for the weekend. Twenty eight caravans gathered on a cold snowy night at Torvean including a warm welcome back to the rally field for Jimmy Black. I am sure that you will all join with me welcoming Jimmy back to the rally field and we hope to see him out again in the next rally season. Hot soup at the marshals awnings was very much appreciated on Friday night. The rally was opened on Saturday by Lillian Bottom then I think everyone disappeared Christmas shopping as the field was very quiet! Saturday evening saw us all clamber aboard the bus for the Party at Raigmore Social club. The evenings entertainment saw the ini .. imit ... inni .... Fabulous Frankie Fraser providing the fun and with a visit from a Highland Dancer the children were eagerly awaiting a visit from Santa. The kids must have been good this year because true to his word Santa arrived. After the social communal singing on the bus was lead by Benny upstairs. Sunday morning saw the church service lead by Bob followed by tea & coffee, competitions and closing. Not many vans stayed for long due to the Council closing the A9 in an attempt by the folk of Caithness to keep Alan out!

Thank you to the Marshals for another cracking Highland Rally.

**Thanks**

Donny and Libby Stuart would like to thank everyone for the kind thoughts, cards and gifts on the occasion of the 200th rally.

**The End**

I would like to finish this my first newsletter by echoing Alan's sentiments in his opening words. If you are not a rallier and are reading this strange document that arrived with your rally book wondering what on earth it is all about come along and find out. Any age from 1 day old (and younger) are welcome and the program has many and varied venues. A typical weekend can be both a quiet retreat in a beautiful part of the Highlands or an uproarious party or even both at the same time!

If you are a regular rallier please can I send out a call for Rally reports and articles for future newsletters.

Dave Benison P.R.O.