



Winter 2018



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INTRO - THOUGHTS FROM THE LAPTOP!

Welcome once more to the Quarter 4 edition of the AAOCC's Newsletter - a time when we can look back on 2018 and look forward to 2019.

The past year has been another challenging year for the club, with the membership numbers settling at around the very low-thirties point, and attendance at the AGM and New Year Rally down on the good old days. The New Year Rally saw the first of a new initiative for the club when the rally was "opened" to ACCEO members. We were very pleased to welcome four motorhomes with their seven intrepid owners onto our rally and, I personally believe that the impression from both "sides" was a very positive experience.

The committee continue to look at ways to reduce costs and improve the membership numbers and the attendance at rallies - your committee would welcome your views on any initiatives that could be considered going forward.

I'm sure that 2019 will undoubtedly bring more challenges for the club but we must remember why we rally and why we are members of the AAOCC.....



- it's for

the fun, and

friendship of meeting like minded souls,

in the middle of farm fields,

in all kinds of weather

- isn't it????



RALLY REPORTS

Rally Report - Naburn Lock - November 2018

We arrived around lunchtime, as other ralliers knew that I was attending a hospital appointment, (everything is ok), and we got set up - sorry, I mean Gary set up.

I walked to see if anyone was still in their vans - Cliff and Sheila were, so I went in to catch up with them. I made my way back to the caravan and helped set up the rest of the van. Steve & Val were there so we sat out in the lovely sunshine and were joined by everyone else. We sat catching up, when Mr Nicholls, (respect to the president), arrived with his friend Janet, They came over for a cuppa, and sat about with us.

Kevin & Eileen and Dave & Sue arrived back from their day out in York City centre.

Friday night we congregated in the awning but it wasn't very warm as we had gathered before the awning warmed up, Soon sorted, Gary put the gas heater on.



Saturday morning the weather wasn't very pleasant at all, sleet and rain storm clouds so Gary and I stayed on site. We had visitors, Mick & Christine - they were staying close by.

Later on in the evening we were in the awning for flag, Mick and Christine rejoined us for a catch up with everyone, The awning was lots warmer this time, everyone was pleased,



I do hope that everyone enjoyed their weekend, Sorry that I couldn't get better weather for you,

Many Thanks for supporting myself and Gary. x



Rally report - Lenchford Inn - November 2018

We arrived on Friday Night late as usual, Matt and Calvin greeted us and we were positioned on the field nicely.

Legs down, services connected and away we go for another busy weekend.

We were impressed with the festive caravan light decorations particularly by Roy and Carol.

We had arrived with our two dogs Harley & 12 week old first time rallier Lulu (Chihuahua).



A pleasant trip across the road to the Lenchford Inn seemed inviting so off we went with our Christmas jumpers.

At the Inn we met Matt and Gaynor, Mick and Christine and Mike and Alison who obviously had already made a good head start with their drinking!

Back to bed for a well earned sleep.

Awoke Saturday AM to the sound of kettle for early morning tea. Dog walking seemed very urgent and was successful. Discussed plans for couple of hours for our day trip out and chose Worcester to spend our hard earned money. After negotiating the bridge over the river we realised just how busy the town was, Christmas crowds were out in force. Parked near to the racecourse in a minute space skilfully tackled by myself.



Dog walking Harley was easy / Lulu carried in the sling!. Non stop interest in our small Lulu Chihuahua puppy was apparent at every turn with people stopping us and showing interest. Spent a little on much needed presents.

Return trip back home to the caravan was good, or so we thought until we found that we had a flat battery causing problem - also gas ran out was not so welcome! Generator helped us for a while and second gas bottle did the trick!



Saturday night began at 6.30 for meal and quiz at the Inn. Gaynor invited Steve and Karen from the Hampstall inn; they joined our table for Gaynor's festive quiz. Good job they did as their general knowledge was second to none. Our table and team became known as "Steve's Hampstall has the best stuffing" . Our team went on to win the top prize - first to the table to select a Christmas present!

We watched the best present being opened by Mick who had a miniature Christmas tree!

After our super meal from the carvery we had Flag. Amazingly the Hodges won "best in class" prize for the best Christmas jumpers on the Friday night. The selection box was consumed too soon by the girls. (well maybe the three of us).

The evening was finished predictably as we went back to caravan only to find flat battery again / no heating / dim lights / etc. Off to bed for quick cuddle and sleep.

Sunday AM came around too soon. Woke up with no overnight miracles with starting our heating. Plugged in the generator and life resumed with some normality once again. Bit more dog walking with Harley again along the river - who eventually did the business.

After several cups of coffee and watching the well practised Cliff & Sheila skillfully pack up in a jiffy for their escape home all became a well deserved entertaining weekend.

Thank you to Matt, Gaynor and Calvin for a great weekend at the Lenchford Inn. Our trip home with Chloe, Harley and Lulu was very pleasant.

Nigel, Kim and Chloe



New Year Rally, Robin Hood Activity Centre - December 2018

We'd arrived on the Friday (28th December) to help the Rally Marshals (Lynn and Alan Barnard) to get ready for the arrival of our fellow ralliers. We were very ably assisted by Leslie & Delphine (Kinley), Brian & Helen (Parnham) and Mick & Iris (Hipwell).

It didn't take long to sort ourselves out - it's not as if this was the first New Year Rally that we'd been involved in on a marshalling team!!

After we'd organised our own vans we set about sorting out the kitchen, set out the tables and chairs and generally did the usual cleaning, etc.,.

We had a walk around the site to check that all would be OK for positioning the attendees and making sure that we had hard standing for our expected guests with motor homes. This was to be the club's first ACCEO attended rally and so the guest's units were a bit of an unknown quantity!



Plans made, we set off for what has become our traditional pre-rally meal in a nearby pub - very nice!!

Saturday 29th December:

Alan & Lynn left to attend a family wedding leaving the site in the assistant's hands - **very brave!!**

The rally opened at half past 10 and then for the next 8 hours we had a steady stream of arrivals. All that were due to arrive were safely gathered in.

The hall was open and teas / coffees provided. The evening session the hall was open from half past 7 for drinks and a chat. Baked potatoes with beans or cheese were provided for those that wanted them.

Sunday 30th December:

The ralliers had a "go as you please day" and many left the site to enjoy the local area.

Our last rallier arrived and was settled in.

The evening came and we got ready for an evening of great songs provided by Rachel Cooper. Rachel entertained with songs from the 60's to the noughties.



Sunday 31st December:

It was "panto" day for a number of the bigger kids amongst the group and they went off to Mansfield to see Aladdin - thanks to Chris Whitehouse for organising the trip.



The marshalling team spent the day decorating the hall, setting up the tables and preparing the food for the evening meal. Anyone who has run the New Year rally will appreciate the effort that goes in to sorting it out.





The Masquerade Ball opened at 7 o'clock and a roast dinner with all the trimmings was served, followed by a range of puddings.



The evening's entertainment got under-way provided by Alan with a great selection of music which had the ralliers up and dancing the night away.

The New Year was welcomed in with the traditional Auld Lang's Syne and the Oakey - Cokey and the proceedings finally were drawn to a close at 1 o'clock.



Monday 1st January 2019:

The New Year was here and we all gathered again in the Hall for a cooked breakfast and to pay our membership fees for the year.

Flag was held and the raffle completed.

The Marshalling team spent the day tidying up the hall and getting ready to close the rally.

During the evening we gathered again and had a game of "sticky bingo".

Tuesday 2nd January:

Well the end of the rally was here. Throughout the morning our group grew smaller as friends set off on their journeys home.

We left site just before midday - Alan and Lynn stayed to hand the hall back.

Our thanks go to all who attended and made the rally a great event.

But our biggest thanks go to Alan & Lynn for the way they organised and planned the whole rally.

Peter & Lesley





TECHIE STUFF: DRIVING LICENCES

This section is written as a guide only - I'm no expert and I am willing to be corrected if any of the statements are wrong or misleading but all endeavours have been made to confirm the accuracy of the information. While I accept that most members will already know this information it sometimes pays to be reminded as it is all too simple to overlook some of these issues.

Driving licence rules and what you can tow.

The rules on what you can tow are different depending on when you passed your driving test.

Licences issued from 19 January 2013:

If you passed your car driving test (category B) from 19 January 2013, you can tow:

- small trailers weighing no more than 750kg
- a trailer over 750kg as long as the combined weight of the trailer and towing car or van is no more than 3,500kg (3.5 tonnes) maximum authorised mass (MAM)

MAM is the limit on how much the vehicle can weigh when it's loaded.

You have to pass the car and trailer driving test if you want to tow anything heavier.

Licences issued from 1 January 1997:

If you passed your car driving test between 1 January 1997 and 18 January 2013, you can:

- drive a car or van up to 3,500kg MAM towing a trailer of up to 750kg MAM
- tow a trailer over 750kg MAM as long as the combined MAM of the trailer and towing vehicle is no more than 3,500kg

You have to pass the car and trailer driving test if you want to tow anything heavier.

Licences held before 1 January 1997:

If you passed your car test before 1 January 1997 you're usually allowed to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8,250kg MAM. Check your driving licence information .

You're also allowed to drive a minibus with a trailer over 750kg MAM.

For those near seventy and over the following might be useful to read

If you passed your driving test before 1 January 1997, category B and B+E entitles you to:

- Drive a combined weight (car and caravan) up to 8,250kg
- Drive a motorhome without a trailer, weighing no more than 7,500kg
- Drive a motorhome with a trailer where the combined weight does not exceed 8,250kg



Driving at 70 years of age:

Upon reaching the age of 70 your driving entitlements change slightly Category B + BE is still retained, however you are restricted to driving a vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) of up to 3,500kg.

Please note this figure is based on the car alone and does not include the caravan. If you drive a motorhome, the Gross Vehicle Weight is restricted to no more than 3,500kg.

Should you wish to drive a vehicle weighing more than 3,500kg, you must pass the D4 Medical test and pass a standard eyesight test at 20.5 metres/ 67ft with glasses if used for driving.

If you passed your Driving test after 1 January 1997:

If you passed your Driving test after 1 January 1997, Category B entitles you to:

- Drive a combined weight (car and caravan) of up to 3,500kg. If the combined weight exceeds 3,500kg, the B+E test pass is required
- Drive a motorhome without a trailer up to 3,500kg. Passing the LGV test entitles you to drive a motorhome up to 7,500kg
- Drive a motorhome with a trailer, providing the trailer does not exceed 750kg and the combined weight is not more than 4,250kg. If the trailer exceeds 750kg, a LGV test plus the B+E test will need to be passed.



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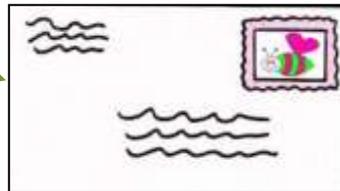
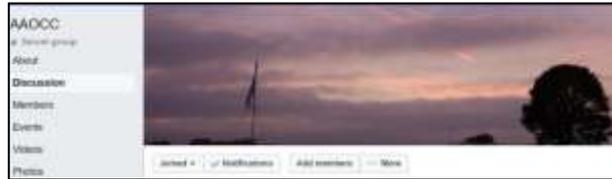
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AND FINALLY:

Remember that there are a number of ways that we communicate within the club:

- The Newsletter!!!!
- The Club's Facebook Page
- The Website
- By Post



Don't be afraid to communicate - after all, it is **your** club!!!

Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Cook

Publicity Officer

POSTSCRIPT:

If anyone has any items that they are wanting to sell, or are looking for help on any club related issue please contact the Newsletter and we'll do our very best to help.