

Rally Report

The 800th Celebration Rally hosted by the West of Scotland Centre at Bridge of Allan between Thursday 12th and Monday 16th July 2018

At the Strathallan Games Park in Bridge of Allan, it was with great anticipation that most people started to arrive at the rally on the Thursday. The weather looked promising the field was in excellent condition and there was a clubhouse on site that we could use for our socialising. The fact that there was no EHU did not matter, as the local village was so close with all its lovely shops, cafes and other amenities. This rally was going to be special as it was the 800th that the West of Scotland was running. The Rally Marshalls were Catherine & Graeme Hollingsworth with Linda & Eric Williamson and the ralliers were from many other Scottish Centres and SCC. Even Grenville Chamberlain (Chair of the UK Caravan & Motorhome Club) and his wife Liz travelled up to join in the fun all the way from Cambridge.

Linda (Chair of the West Centre) opened the rally thanking everyone for attending to support our Centre and highlighting the varied rally programme that was to come over the next four days and evenings. These included exploring the local area, gin / whisky tasting in the local shop, several quizzes and games in the clubhouse and of course, good conversation and catching up with friends over some "drink". The Saturday Social comprised of an excellent meal in the local Westerton Arms pub and our thanks goes to the owner for ensuring that we (over 40 of us) had a great time in the private dining area. The meal was lovely and was finished off with a piece of the "800th celebration cake" for all. An extra special mention (and gift) was given to two couples from the West Centre as this was going to be their last rally – Nan & Norrie McLeod and George & Ellen Philips.

Although the rally officially closed on the Sunday, many stayed until the Monday and the Sunday evening get-together in the clubhouse proved to be even more fun as husband and wives proved how well (or not) they knew each other in the Mr & Mrs game. There was even a game of "Play Your Cards Right". The evening finished off with a Scottish Piper (Alan Beith) playing some toe-tapping tunes culminating in everyone joining him while he played "Auld Lang Syne". It was a fitting end to a memorable rally where friendship and good cheer was abundantly and widely evident. On behalf of the West of Scotland Centre, I take this opportunity to thank all who attended and supported this rally with particular thanks going to the four Rally Marshalls.

Here's to the next 800!!!

Report prepared by Maria Murray, West of Scotland Centre.