

## **Ladies Rally doon at The Woods 20-22 April 2018**

If you have not yet been to a rally, please do read this!

I am new to rallying and have only had my campervan for four months. A long-held dream finally realised after 23 years! I am a member of the Highland Centre and I travel on my own. This was my second rally and my first with the West Centre.

On arrival it was easy to find the Marshalls. There was a reception area awning with bunting which stood out and Marshalls were on the look-out for new arrivals. They walked towards my campervan with welcoming smiles as I drove up to the rally entrance.

There was a pack at reception for each rallier with details of what was happening and when, along with what to take such as a mug and / or plate to arranged activities. I could join in as much or as little as I wished during the rally.

At the opening on the Friday evening there was tea, coffee and soup. We were asked to take a mug and a spoon. The soup was great! Lots of West Centre members came and spoke to me and I felt very included. Linda the West Centre chairperson then welcomed us all and outlined what would be happening over the weekend. Fraser raised the flag on the flagpole ...the rally had begun!

I was invited to join everyone under Linda and Eric's capacious awning later on. We all chatted the evening away. I discovered that many members had been rallying for a long time and knew each other very well. There was warm-hearted bantering which was enjoyable to listen to and I laughed a lot!

The next day nothing was organised until late afternoon. I chose to have a relaxing time reading. There was a really interesting general knowledge quiz in the rally pack so I spent some of the time mulling over answers.

At 5pm there was afternoon tea with a glass of prosecco in warm sunshine with members' tables and chairs under Lesley and Mike's bedecked awning. Wow! What a spread had been laid on. Val had done an incredible job. Tables were groaning with piles of sandwiches, cakes and meringues. Mike poured what seemed like endless glasses of prosecco . . . sorry Eric for occasionally forgetting that it was your prosecco and not mine. I'll bring my own recognisable glass next time!

I had accidentally forgotten to include in my written booking that I was gluten free. We were originally going out for a meal on the Saturday evening but - due to unforeseen problems with the venue - catering was done onsite by the Marshalls. The Marshalls were already catering for someone else with the same requirements and luckily had

enough food to cope with me too. Being gluten free, I often find there is very limited choice available at any event. This time I was a very happy Carrie with my own tray of egg, salmon, cheese and meat sandwiches, sponge, fairy cakes, macaroons, meringues and a variety of other delicious morsels!!! Thank you soooo much Val 😊😊😊

Later on we gathered in Lesley and Mike's awning. Again another enjoyable evening spent chatting. Some of us played Rummicub - a version of rummy with tiles. Mike kindly shared his lovely homemade red and white wine.

On the Sunday we met for the last time at 11am. We took our raffle tickets and mugs for tea / coffee and biscuits. It was a great raffle and nearly all / all of us went away clutching one or more prizes. There were seven entries for Mike's excellent words and pictures quiz. A couple won the prize - my apologies for not remembering who you were!

The Marshals Val and Robert, Lesley and Mike put so much effort into making this a really great rally. I have been involved in organising events in the past in a very different capacity. I know just how much time and effort goes into making a good, well run event. My deep thanks to Val, Robert, Lesley and Mike. If I have unintentionally missed anyone out who was involved in making this such a good rally, my thanks go to you too!

A very heart-felt thank you to the West Centre members I met. This was such an enjoyable rally for me. I had a lovely time. Thank you all for being so friendly and welcoming. I will come back again...and again...so I can spend more time with you!

A very happy Carrie😊

Report No. 2

I have just arrived home from the Ladies Rally. First thing I would like to say, that it was great that not only the Ladies Rally has been resurrected, but also the venue, it's been a few long years since we were at the Woods Caravan Site.

The Rally was fully booked and we were treated to lovely homemade soup on Friday evening. Saturday the sun came out and everyone took advantage to sit outside. I was sorry that I couldn't attend the social as I'd made other arrangements, but all the reports made me jealous. The afternoon tea with the mountain of cakes,

scones,sandwiches etc. all homemade, along with prosecco, beer or juice was enjoyed immensely.

This was Leslie's first time as Rally Marshal and she passed with flying colours (gold star) and Val as the (old hand) should also receive one as they worked so hard to ensure that everyone had a good Rally. Great work ladies and I suppose Mike and Robert helped just a little so maybe silver stars for them.

Margaret