Before the Harvest Rally

Priory Farm, Kimbolton
10th – 16th July 2026
Marshals: Barbara & Brian Johnson
Assistant Marshals: Rona & Danno Boyles

This was Barbara and Brian's first rally as Marshals. They made everyone very welcome on the family farm. The new Coleman Shelter was erected side by side with their own similar shelter which served us very well in the hot sunny weather.

In our pack we received a Bingo ticket and numbers were drawn and displayed each morning on the whiteboard with the "Full House" winner being announced at Flag. Each evening a van prize was drawn – 16 in total. Lucky winners were:- Jenny & Mark, Ann & Steve, Margaret & Alan, Helena & David, Nicky & Chris, Liz & Mike, Sally & Terry, Heather & Dillwyn, Wendy & Chris, Judy & John, Maureen & Les, John B., Liz & Gary, Rona & Danno, Pam & Adrian and Julia & Alan.

Saturday was a relaxing day but we gathered for a Pimms Evening and a chat.

On Sunday morning sausage or bacon rolls were served for breakfast and further vans arrived from the Rempstone Steam Fair Rally. Brian brought an impressively large tractor to the field and some of us climbed aboard and had a photo shoot. I was lucky enough to go with Brian and put the tractor to bed – which was brilliant.

On Monday a group of us visited the Great Fen Project, where the Wildlife Trust are in the process of restoring and connecting over 9,000 acres of wetland between Peterborough and Huntingdon. Our guide told us about this very interesting project and included a film of the story

and recovery of a spitfire that crashed there during World War II, killing the pilot, Harold Penketh. We then walked on one of the many Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve trails, observing many species of butterflies & dragonflies and visiting Charles Rothschild's Bungalow in the heart of the Reserve which was built in 1911 as a base for his field trips to study moths and other insects.

The official visit completed, Brian, with his local knowledge then took us to see the Spitfire Memorial Stone and the Holme Post, where we could see where the ground level was in 1850 (at the top of the post that Mike Fry is standing beside).

On Monday evening Barbara & Brian arranged for a Pizza Van to arrive on site for us to buy our dinner.
On Tuesday a group of enthusiastic ladies went on a local wild flower walk and were enlightened by the knowledge of the owner of the farm where it was located. Some of us walked to historic Kimbolton. In the early evening we were treated with a delictable cream tea with Brian's delicious home-made sloe curd.

We then had a few games of Bingo - with one particular family having some very good luck. The evening culminated in "Last man standing" Bingo with half of the money going to Alan White's Leukodystrophy charity and half to the winner. This was won by Liz Fry – who donated her winnings to the charity.

And so to Flag. The Van Bingo was won by Sally Moore. The Van Quiz (where we all drew a picture depicting a song) was won by Nicky & Chris Prescott - who correctly guessed 19 out of the 24 songs. The most artistic drawing prize went to Patricia Gayle. The two Ordnance Survey Quizzes were won by Beverley & Alan and Bev & John. The Wally went to the Wally Marshal Alan McLinden for an “electrical” fault!

During the 6-days, ralliers also visited Flag Fen Archaeology Park, Twinwood Museum and the Shuttleworth Collection.
This was a fantastic first rally in a lovely part of the country enjoyed by us all. A huge thank you Barbara, Brian, Rona & Danno for all your hard work and for organising some lovely visits and events.

Liz & Mike Fry