Summer in the Chilterns Rally

Hill Farm Campsite, Chivery, Tring

1st – 7th July 2026

Marshals: Martha & David McCarthy

Assistant Marshals: Sheila Hone & John Birchall

This six-day rally was set on a peaceful site with beautiful views of The Chilterns. It had been agreed that we would use this rally to trial a new lightweight Coleman Shelter to use alongside the blue marquee so our first task was to erect them both, which was easily accomplished.

This was the first rally for Carole & Peter Collins; Georgina & Michael Giles and Anne & Edward Steward who were presented with “First Rally” plaques during the week.

Two very special, exclusive excursions were arranged for us during the rally. The first was to "Bomber" Harris's Office in RAF High Wycombe, which served as the headquarters for Bomber Command during WWII. We enjoyed a very informative, guided tour of this historical site which was designed to appear as a village from the air during the war. The tour rounded off in the meticulously preserved Harris Room.

The second visit was to the Trenchard Museum at RAF Halton where we learnt of the early history of the RAF and in particular, the Aircraft Apprentice Scheme. On display was everything from tools to a complete aircraft and a vast range of memorabilia. We also observed present day recruits at the beginning of their basic training - learning to march on the parade ground. This visit incorporated the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre with its hands-on look at aviation science and engineering where a number of us tried our hand on the interactive flight simulators.

Friday evening saw us all at The Bugle Horn, Hartwell, enjoying an excellent group meal organised jointly by Alan White and Martha.

On Saturday evening we gathered in the marquee (ladies) and shelter (men) for Sheila's "Battle of the Sexes" Quiz which, of course, brought out the 'competitive' spirit in us all with plenty of banter. Do you want to know the outcome? Oh, alright, the men won by a hair's breadth.

Early on Sunday evening we all gathered together in the sunshine and thoroughly enjoyed a 1940's Vintage Tea of sandwiches, pork pies, sausage rolls, a variety of cakes & scones followed by strawberries & cream and sparkling wine – all lovingly prepared by Martha, Sheila and their small crew.

More wine followed before we settled down for a game of 'lawn' Right, Left & Centre. One third of the prize money was to go to winner and two thirds to the Leukodystrophy Charity. The game was won by Mike Fry who donated his prize money of £31 to the charity thus making £93 in total. Alan received a further £62 during the week, making a total of £155.

During the week visits were made to Hughenden Hall (NT); Tring; Aylesbury and Wendover Woods but most of our free time was spent watching red kites swooping on to the field, collecting any tasty morsels they could spot and watching gliders soaring low above us from the comfort of the rally field - in glorious sunshine.

Flag was held on Monday morning and the marquee and shelter proved invaluable, shading us from the hot sun. Sweets were presented to 4-year-old Lexi, who picked up all the dice during the game of RLC – saving a few backs and knees!

The van prize was won by Nicola & Chris Prescott.

Two couples shared equal points in Sheila's stinker of a riddle van quiz – Georgina & Mike and Nicola & Chris and Georgina & Mike were drawn from the hat as winners. All other names were entered in a draw for entering and Margaret & Alan McLinden collected a prize.

The 'Wally' was well earned by Colin Pretlove for a very funny story of Motorhome Madness.

An excellent raffle concluded ‘Flag’.

The marquee was then taken down and we spent a pleasant evening chatting beneath the shelter. In the morning the shelter was swiftly and proficiently taken down and packed away, ready for its next outing.

A fantastic rally, enjoyed by all. Thank you to Martha, David, Sheila & John for all your hard work and organisation.

Liz & Mike Fry

VALENCIA
UNICORN