

Woodcote Rally (2009) – How it Happens

This year's Woodcote Rally (or to call by its full name the Woodcote Vintage Vehicle and Transport Rally) is now a few weeks away and takes place over the weekend of 10 to 12 July 2009 – how time passes!

Believe it or not the Woodcote Rally Committee has been planning the 2009 Rally since before the last day of the 2008 Rally.

We start by reviewing how the previous year's rally went and what was good and what was bad and what needs to be improved upon or changed. (Hence, our decision last year to limit alcohol intake to the site, the banning on the use of glass, and the limit on the opening times for the fair.)

These restrictions remain in place for this year's Rally but depending upon how this year goes we may be able to relax some of these restrictions for the 2010 Rally.

Of course, the rally fields available to us each year can vary which means we have to totally re-plan our site layouts, which is the case this year, as our main car parking field reverts back to where it was three years ago but the Rally field remains where it has been for the last two years.

We are now in the process of making the Rally happen: For the last few months I have been issuing reports to not only the Woodcote Correspondent but to many other advertising/media outlets letting people know of what we have planned for this year's Rally. Hopefully, you will have seen them so I do not need to repeat them here (but you can always visit our web site at www.woodcoterally.org.uk if you need a reminder).

Whilst as a committee we rely on our members to do most of the work we also rely on other volunteers and also heavily on the volunteer marshals to help us out over the Rally weekend and we are always grateful to receive further offers of help. So if anyone fancies the pleasure of wearing a bright orange fluorescent jacket over the weekend please do let us know!

We start the final, hard work around one week before the Rally by preparing the Rally site and marking out the boundaries and setting up the rings and display areas. We would gladly welcome any volunteers to assist us in this work and, of course, the dismantling afterwards.

As part of our publicity campaign Langtree School have agreed to help with a survey whereby attendees to the Rally will be asked a number of questions concerning their entry to the Rally and how they heard about it. Whilst this will provide a good project for the Langtree students it will also enable us to see whether our publicity is being targeted in the right areas. (In addition Langtree will also be providing a drum band which will be performing in between the Lightyears on Saturday night.)

We have the CAMRA beer tent as usual and a list of the beers can be found on our web site at <http://www.woodcoterally.org.uk/festivalofale.html>.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, our previously announced VIP guest Mrs Sheila Dibnah is now unable to attend this year's Rally and we do offer our apologies for that.

So, we hope that the weather is kind to us and that we get a really good turnout this year so that we can raise significant sums of money to give away to all the local charities and worthy good causes that the Woodcote Charitable Association supports each year, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Andy Crockett

Publicity Officer, Woodcote Charitable Association/ Woodcote Rally