

# THE PAST RE-VISITED. A REFLECTION OF THE EAST KIRKBY RALLY

For some, a trip down memory lane, for others, a look into the past or a history lesson. The rally held at the old World War 2 bomber airfield at East Kirby was located within the museum area itself, amongst the buildings of the old airbase, an excellent location.

The usual fun of getting everybody sited was not helped by part of the field having been underwater earlier in the week and out of bounds. However a super job was carried out by our marshals Geoff, Gina, Ian and Marriane. Also a special well done to Annie and Chris Smith who spent hours manning the entrance "security" gate allowing us ralliers access to the airfield.

Once settled, Friday evening saw a sociable get together in the marquee, which was still attached to the ground despite the efforts of a blustery wind during the erection phase.

Saturday arrived, later for some than others, to welcoming blue skies and sunshine. A stroll around the museum looking at the sights and hearing the sounds of times gone by, but never to be forgotten, was followed by the highlight of the rally. At 1pm, the Lancaster Bomber which is hangared at East Kirby burst into life, the four mighty merlin engines "music" to many an ear. Unfortunately due to the still saturated grass runway which would not hold the weight of this magnificent aircraft, a full length taxi was not possible. we were however, still treated to the sight of this beautiful machine moving under its own power. Following this was a low-level flying display by the Spitfire which is also kept at East Kirby museum. To round the afternoon off, for those who needed another "fix", the Lancaster again motored gracefully around the tarmac.

Evening arrived and the planned entertainment of 1940's fancy dress and music proceeded without a hitch. A magnificent effort was made by those entering into the spirit of the occasion, from refuges to Spiv's and their ladies in their finery and many a uniform from the "past", including a Yank trying to impress with a pair of nylons. Rumour has it he got nowhere, so better luck next time Ray. The musical entertainment for the evening was superbly led by Ellie Dolan and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Many thanks to our marshals for all their efforts, I am sure a good time was had by all.

Colin