



The Midland Centre of the Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS

December 2018

Chairman's Chat

It seems an age since the last issue, so much so I am having to go back through the rally programme to remember where I have been and more importantly what I have been up to.

Following on from Catton Hall, we made our way to Croxall Farm for a nice quiet and relaxed weekend, the weather wasn't half as tropical as we had enjoyed the previous weekend. Friday we were very un-rock n roll, following a bite to eat, flag and a few drinks I was in my cot for 10pm. Saturday a few of the ralliers enjoyed a nice walk to the pub. The idea of a walk didn't float my boat so we drove to the pub, after a few sherbet's we took a ride to Raymond James then Jacksons just for a look obviously. On our return we were visited by the Dudley's. Even when having a weekend at home they couldn't resist visiting the rally. After a bite to eat the Dudley's went home whilst we ended up having another early night. Thanks, must go to Jo and Tony Harrison for putting on such a relaxing weekend this was their 3rd rally in 4 weekends' as stewards. They are in danger of becoming serial stewards.

The following weekend we made our way to Cuckoo's corner in Romsley which for me is nice and local, very local less than a mile from storage, in fact I don't think we got past 3rd gear. Our stewards for the weekend were Barry and Sandra Hodgetts and Jim and Chris Porter. On Saturday afternoon we were treated to an afternoon tea laid on by our stewards, the weather was kind to us all weekend, a beautiful little spot, who would have thought we were only a stones throw from Brierley Bonk. Well done to the stewards it's good to see you back in the hot seat again. Looking forward to more next year. The following weekend the rally at Barton Marina was unfortunately cancelled.

At the end of September, the annual stewards meet was held at Wilmcote. The Juniors held their fundraising event on Saturday afternoon, this year a table top sale helped raise money for the nominated charity. Saturday night we enjoyed Micks game of Quizingo followed by some dancing to the sounds of Mix & Match. Sunday morning it was the stewards meet where for the first time in a long time all rallies were taken. Thank you to everyone who has committed to running rallies next year, Just the 16 rallies in total that we will be involved with next year including committee run rallies so we have managed to scale back, a bit! Brilliant weekend well done to the stewards Mick & June, Mum and Dad. And well done to Beth and Andy for organising the Stewards meet.

Next up Greenacres Farm at Fradley, Friday night began with Flag where our stewards were serving up Hot Chocolate and a selection of Gins and liqueurs, nice! Saturday was spent at Ventura Park doing a spot of shopping. The stewards had arranged a walk which the other ralliers enjoyed. Another great weekend which saw me spend too much time on the A38 as I got completely lost a few times, which is a worry as I have been here many times before. Well done to the Stewards for laying on a great weekend.

The AGM at Drayton Manor followed luckily this year I had no issues with the caravan. Friday night we were treated to one of Paula's quizzes, this time theme tune related. Damian was quiz master, rising to the occasion as ever. Saturdays AGM saw a good attendance, the Juniors AGM followed where they announced their fundraising total of £3000.00. On the evening we enjoyed excellent entertainment from Andy Plimmer who stepped in at the last minute (literally Saturday Afternoon) supported by Mix & Match. On Sunday the heavens opened which meant for the first time in 5 years I didn't have to spend the day walking around the theme park. A fantastic weekend in all thanks must go to the committee for all their hard work.



FORTHCOMING RALLIES

CHRISTMAS RALLY
23rd-27th December
Cookhill Village Hall—FULL

NEW YEAR RALLY
28th December —2nd January
Henley in Arden School
ONE SPACE LEFT

Lenchford Inn
11th-13th January

Binton Social Club
25th-27th January

Astley Village Hall
1st—3rd February

Yew Tree Farm
15th —17th February

Fillongley Village Hall
22nd-24th February

DINNER DANCE
1st—3rd March
Drayton Manor Park
BOOKING FORMS ONLY

**For further information please
contact the Rally Stewards
directly (details found on our
website) or our Rally Secretary ,
Beth Downs at
beth.downs@ymail.com.**

.....more Chairman's Chat ...

We weren't out at Kings Bromley as we were in preparation for our Holiday rally which followed this weekend. Friday night we made our way down the M5 with a stopover at the Caravan & Motorhome club site at Caeside. Saturday morning, we were on the road early to get to Mevagissey. After setting up we had an hour to plan who was to go on what pitch, our co stewards had unfortunately broke down on the way, but after a ride on a break down truck a replacement car was sourced and they arrived with half hour to spare before the rally opened. At 2pm the majority of the ralliers turned up at the same time. Wowzers, sighting that many vans in a short space of time is no easy feat. Later on, the Mitchells and the Preston's arrived with very, very muddy vans. There was a lot of head shaking between them and to be fair Gill looked like she needed a stiff drink, and she doesn't drink. I won't go into detail but Sat Nav can be cruel at times. Any road up, a great week followed, the weather was very kind to us. We enjoyed a stew night, Halloween fun and frolic's. The site was great, with fantastic site managers. Thank you to everyone who came, to Damo and Dawn who unfortunately broke down on the way home. Thanks for being our co stewards, I'm not lending you my car though in case you break that.

The following weekend the Campbells and Steeds were our hosts at Top Barn Farm. On Saturday we enjoyed a walk to the pub and tea and Toast on Saturday night. An early night followed after such a strenuous walk. Thanks, must go to the stewards for a great weekend.

Next up Kev Dudley's 60th celebrations at The Cob House, Friday night we were in the shelters with hosts supping the drinks, god bless them. Saturday morning after a trip to Henley in Arden to measure up in readiness for the New Year rally we made our way into Worcester for guess what, yes, a bit of shopping. Saturday night was party night in the Mayfly Café, our hosts had laid on Pork & Stuffing Baps, Chips and a drink, Mix & Match laid on the tunes. A cracking night well done to our stewards, hope you had a great Birthday Kevlar, thank you for letting us be part of it. Also, well done to your Co Stewards Phil & Lindsay Grant.

The weekend after, it was our turn to be co stewards again with Damo & Dawn in the hotseat. At Astley we went Back to School. Friday night Registration (flag) was followed by a game of "are you smarter than a ten-year-old" where 3 of our ralliers had to pit their wits against 3 ten-year olds. Well the adults lost so it was the dunce's hat for them. Saturday afternoon there was cross country with a strict rule that anyone without their PE Kit had to do it in a pair of pants out of lost property. Stewth that was strenuous, board games followed. On the evening we were treated to a school dinner from our dinner ladies Doreen and Beryl. A school disco followed where everyone was on the dance floor. Sunday, we had assembly (flag) where we all took part in a spot of singing. A truly brilliant weekend, thank you to everyone who came, joined in and dressed up it was fantastic. And to see Beth dressed up as a head Mistress, well worth it, I've been a very naughty boy miss.

The following weekend was cancelled, so we were looking forward to getting back in the van for the Family Christmas party. Unfortunately, Bonham was taken ill so were unable to get our van to the rally. We managed to get to the socials though. Friday night Beth & myself hosted a cryptic auction where we raised a fantastic £200 for the junior's charity. We weren't able to attend in the day on Saturday due to taking William to Bristol for University open day, but I am told the children party was a great success with a children's entertainer and a visit from Santa and his elf. Saturday night we enjoyed games including Santa's beard, The Reindeer Game and the After Eight game. Mix & Match played music in to the night for people to dance to. Well done to the committee for their hard work during the weekend, thank you to Gordon for filling in for me at flag in his first committee run rally as Acting Vice Chairman. There is so much that members don't get to see when organising and putting on these rallies. The effort put into this is to be highly commended, I am truly grateful for the support and hard work of this committee. And as for the dog he ended up back in hospital, undergoing major surgery and what was the cause of this I hear you ask, Corn on the cob, stuck in his intestines, in the u-bend if you like. Who would have thought corn on the cob be so dangerous?

Oh well another year over, Christmas and New Year rallies to look forward to, I'm going to need a lie down in January. We have a lot to look forward to in 2019 most notably the Easter Rally, which this year we are overhauling. On Friday night your former junior Chairman will celebrate his 18th Birthday, Saturday night will be a gala night for our inaugural Bully awards, where we will celebrate you the membership with entertainment from our own members and show our appreciation for your continued support. We will also be holding a Rocket Rally where you will need to make Rockets out of 2 litre pop bottles more details will be released in the coming months. Sunday night we will be entertained by a 9-piece Soul Band The Commandments. There will be other events organised throughout the weekend of which we will update you in due course. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible. Booking forms are due out in the coming weeks so don't miss out.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, I look forward to seeing you all on the rally field soon.

Mike Downs

(P.S. Be careful with corn on the cob, dangerous stuff, just ask Bonham)

Senior Committee Update

Welcome to our Senior Committee line up for 2018/2019

Chairman	Mike Downs
Acting Vice Chairman / Website	Gordon Mitchell
Secretary	Gill Preston
Treasurer/Plaque Officer	Mick Hale
Rally Secretary	Beth Downs
Assistant Rally Secretary	Andy Reynolds
Regional Representative	Martyn Reynolds
Sports Officer	Danny Steed
Junior Liaison Officer	Damian Campbell
Social Secretary/Regalia Officer	Paula Dudley
Bully Editor (non-committee)	Kerry Silver

Committee Meetings:

The Committee Meeting dates for 2019 are as follows: 8th January, 19th February, 19th March, 23rd April, 21st May, 18th June, 16th July, 17th September and 22nd October. If you would like anything to be discussed at a committee meeting, please email the details to the Secretary or Chairman at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Your Senior Committee would like to wish all Midland Centre Members a Merry Christmas & a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Junior Committee Update

A very warm welcome to our 2018/2019 Junior Committee!

Junior Chairperson	Laura
Vice Chairperson	Ellie
Secretary	Martha
Treasurer	Alfie

Committee Members	Eleanor
	Kierah
	Charlotte
	Lanis
	Jake
	William
	Mollie
	Aston

...and not forgetting support from our Junior Liaison Officer, Damian Campbell.

Fundraising News

The Junior Committee and their JLO raised the brilliant sum of £3800 for Community First Responders who they will continue to support for the 2019 season. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your kind donations and support during the year.

The Charity for 2018/19 is once again Community First Responders. This is a voluntary organisation that is trained by the West Midlands Ambulance Service to a nationally recognised level and provide lifesaving treatment to people in their local communities. Community First Responders are always backed up with the nearest available emergency vehicle.

Junior Challenge 2019

For the 2019 season we will be holding a ***Junior Challenge*** for all the junior members to participate in, details to follow. If you would like more information please speak to Gaynor Hart.

Over To You! articles and rally reports from our members out on the rally field....

Easter 2019

Hi thrill seekers, during next years Easter rally we are going to have some fun with rockets! So all you budding rocketeers and NASA rocket scientists out there you will need to save 2 x 2 litre plastic bottles. .



There will be more details in next months bully and the website for how to build your challenge or Apollo rocket.

To infinity and beyond!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Damo

Thank you!

May I take this opportunity to thank those of you who sent me well wishes, get well cards and flowers since falling and fracturing my shoulder. It was much appreciated and heart-warming to know that so many people care.

I am now on the mend and should be back in action in by Christmas.

Also thanks to my husband (Pilko) who has been very patient, and a great help to me by covering the household chores and driving me around etc. I think I could get used to this pampering.
Thanks again.



Brenda Pilkington

.....more Over To You.....

Rally 49 Astley Village Hall, Nr. Stourport. 23 – 35 November, 2018

Well what can I say! What a fantastic rally. From beginning to end the Stewards Damian and Dawn, Mike and Beth did a brilliant job of taking us all “back to school”.

From Registration on Friday evening the inhabitants of the 22 vans were entertained by the Head Teacher – Mike Downs as he led a quiz with 2 teams comprising three 10 year olds (or nearly 10yr olds) against three adults. All based on the TV series. “Are you smarter than a 10 year old?”. The children won!!

Saturday saw a cross country run with Mike Downs bringing up the rear in his pink pants whilst Damian led the run around the site. Following on from this we had “wet play”!!!!!! In truth this was playing indoor games as happens in schools when the weather is inclement. Great fun and a time to socialize and enjoy our milk and biscuits.

The jewel in the crown so to speak was Saturday evening when most of the caravanners arrived in the hall for the school dinner and disco. What a sight – lots of knobbly knees on show with most men wearing short school trousers along with ties, caps and school shirts. In addition, lots of mini school skirts were on show too with various footwear and lots of pigtail hairstyles, a couple of wigs and a few school hats.

School dinner ladies Dawn and Beth dressed in their pink dogtooth tabards served us to bangers and mash with baked beans and gravy followed by chocolate pudding and coconut and raspberry sponge with either mint or pink custard. Yummy.

Each rallier was asked to complete a form saying which school they had attended and to choose 3 tracks that would have been played at their school disco. Quite challenging for those of us of mature age for whom the school disco was only a dream, however we were asked to choose tracks that would have been played if we were lucky enough to have had school discos back in the day!

What a trip down memory lane that was for many of us, and great fun. Mick did us proud.

The dance floor was hardly empty all night which just goes to show what a winning formula this rally was. Another factor was that all ages joined in which was great.

Sunday morning. We were all present and correct for morning Assembly, all sat in neat lines whilst the music teacher told us to put “fingers on lips” whilst he introduced the morning’s hymn to be sung by all. And yes everyone joined in with “One more step along the road I go”. The head teacher then took over and gave out the notices and the prizes for best homework.

A huge thank you to Damian, Dawn, Mike and Beth for their hard work and brilliant ideas.

Lynn Todd

Christmas Wishes

Chris and I would like to wish all the members of the Midland Centre of the Caravan and Motorhome a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jim Porter



.....more Over To You.....

Kings Bromley, 19th to 22nd October

At the AGM, Colin Wood promised us “some weather” for the rally but didn’t specify what type of weather. Well, what fantastic weather we had! Bright sunny days and cool, crisp nights. Perfect autumn caravanning weather.

After the stress of the 15-minute journey from storage on Friday we had to relax with a cuppa before popping dinner in the oven. After dinner the stewards Colin, Pat, Paul and Julie provided some lovely hot chocolate at Flag with a tipple for those who wanted it. When it started to get a bit chilly we headed back to the caravan with Andy and Suzanne for a chat and another cuppa.

On Saturday we had a quick snack to keep us going before heading in to Burton for a bit of shopping. On returning late morning we fired up the cadac for the proper breakfast we hadn’t had time for earlier. Then it was time to try out one of the local walks from the information pack provided to the stewards by the landowner. It was a lovely warm sunny afternoon and we really enjoyed the walk along the canal, finding a couple of geocaches on our way. We finished up in the pub for a well-deserved drink.

Dinner ended up being slightly later than we originally planned so Gordon ended up cooking the burgers on the cadac in the dark! Then we went back over to the pub to meet up with Paul and Julie and some of the other ralliers who had gone for a meal. Apparently, the meals were excellent. We all had a very enjoyable evening.

All too soon Sunday morning arrived, and it was time to pack up, attend closing flag and set off for home – another long 15-minute journey.

Thanks to the stewards Colin, Pat, Paul and Julie for a lovely relaxing weekend.

Helen, Gordon & Daniel Mitchell

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to everyone in the Midland Centre.

Have a good one, Happy Caravanning in 2019, see you on the rally field

Best wishes from

Chris & Dave Pitt



.....*more Over To You.....*

Thank you!

I would like to say a very, very big THANK YOU to everyone who visited me in hospital, rang Graham and Michael to ask how I was, sent Get Well cards, visited me at home after being discharged, and sent me emails and best wishes during my recent illness. It was a lovely thought that so many people were thinking of me, thank you.



I am much better now and on my way to a full recovery. I consider myself very lucky that the consequences were nowhere as bad as they could have been.

I am still a little bit wobbly on my legs but if you see me wobbly on the rally field, it's **NOT** due to too many G & T's, it's the result of the stroke!!

Jane Downs

Family Christmas Party Rally—Stratford Racecourse

Congratulations must go to Committee and all helpers for the hard work they put into the Christmas Party held at Stratford Racecourse. Very enjoyable for all. Children especially seemed very happy after the visit from Santa lots of smiling faces.

However when I was on Committee (many moons' ago) I remember working all day to assemble the food for the two parties on the Saturday, and at the end of it there was a lot of food wasted because of over estimation. Now we have "Jacobs Table" which must still be very difficult to organise for the Committee and a worry with regard to display and distribution.



This year there was a worry voiced with regard to allergies, also, for whatever reason, the selection and quantities became very depleted when it came for later tables to participate and I am wondering if, in future, it would be less stressful if families brought their own first course, and perhaps the sweets could still be brought, displayed and shared, which is always nice to experience. Just a thought.

Joan Herbert

And the winner is.....

Tote Winners

If anyone would like regular numbers please contact Mick Hale.

Romsley	Les Manderfield	51	£25.00
Wilmcote	Jeff Barrett	394	£35.00
Fradley	Danny Bryan	276	£25.00
Drayton Manor	Jeff Barrett	387	£40.00
Kings Bromley	Lesley Palmer	28	£25.00
Avon Bank Meadows	Carole Clarke	112	£28.50
Fillongley	Martyn Reynolds	105	£25.00
Holt Heath	Gordon Mitchell	21	£26.00
Cob House	Kevin Dudley	299	£25.00
Astley Village Hall	Damian Campbell	61	£28.00
Stratford Race Course	Adrian Grant	357	£45.50

2019 Rally Book Cover Competition— 'Anything Goes'

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry for the rally book cover competition. As always, the standard was extremely high. The winning entry was Beth Downs with a photo taken on this year's French rally back in the summer.



Bully Article Winners 2017/2018

The winners of the best bully articles for 2017/2018 were as follows:

- December 2017 - Gaynor Hart for the Stowford Half Term rally
- March 2018 - Martin Campbell's Well Man Clinic
- June 2018 - Jim & Kath Brothwood, Josie & Albert Alsop's Junior Rally write-up
- September 2018 - Emma Fox's Catton Hall Rally

The overall winning bully article for 2017-2018 was judged by myself, Beth Downs & Paula Dudley. The winner was Martin Campbell's 'Well Man Clinic'. Martin received £30 prize money so the drinks are on him (if he hasn't already spent it)! Well done and thank you to everyone who has taken the time to send in articles—judging the winner is never an easy task!!



FOR SALE

**Isabella Sun Blue Canopy Size 20ft (1000 cm) Poly carbonate poles.
Good condition with breathable groundsheet**

£150.00

Breathable groundsheet for Porch awning

£10

Telephone Chris Pitt on 01905 451584

Please email:

Kerry.Silver@hotmail.com

if you have any caravan / motorhome items you wish to advertise here!!

From the Editor.....



Thank you to everyone for their invaluable contribution during 2017/2018— long may it continue! As always, many thanks to Gordon Mitchell for uploading it onto the website throughout the year.

Please email details of any caravan / motorhome related items you wish to include in the 'For Sale' section of the bully and remember to contact me once the item is sold so I can remove them.

The copy deadline for the March edition of the Bully is 10th March with publication on or around 15th.

Please email your articles to me at: kerry.silver@hotmail.com

***Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & A Very
Happy New Year!!***

