



The Midland Centre of the  
Caravan & Motorhome Club



# BULLY NEWS

March 2019

## Chairman's Chat

Well howdy doody to you all, I hope you have all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year, even though it seems like a life time ago. I think I may have finally recovered from running the Christmas Rally back to back with the New Year Rally.

When Beth suggested we run New Year as well as the Christmas rally, I questioned her sanity! The Christmas Rally at Cookhill is one of my favourite rallies, very hard work but great fun. This year Beth had many new ideas for themes for the rally. Christmas Eve, the theme was Elves. It was fantastic to see everyone dressed up. A memorable night was had with entertainment from Jamie Ashton.

Christmas Day was again great fun with fun & games and the Stewards Panto. Boxing Day for me was spent ill in bed. After some TLC and a special visit from Sandra and Lin, I mustered the energy to head into the hall to enjoy some food after the hard work had been done. I am truly grateful to those who stepped into cover me.

Boxing Day we were treated to entertainment from Buster. Again a brilliant rally, hard work as ever but fun. To everyone who came, helped, joined in, We hope you enjoyed it. Our visitors were overwhelmed and couldn't believe what we offer as a centre.

Onwards to New Year at Henley In Arden High School for our Great British themed Rally. Opening night we had The Great British Pub Night. With a Quiz hosted by Jeff and Janice, we then enjoyed Chaze & Onion Cobs, a can of Mild and scratchings before being entertained by Louis Bennet. A great night. The following day we had our great British seaside theme, with fish & chips, a gurning competition and a puppet show by Martin Campbell and Tony Probert. It was again brilliant to see everyone join in by dressing up in their seaside fancy dress.

Following this rally we have taken the decision not to run New Year as it is simply too much after running Christmas. Henley In Arden High School is a fantastic facility and it would be a great shame to lose it. I hope that some of you would consider taking on this rally to ensure it continues. If anyone would like to take this rally on, please come forward otherwise we are in danger of having cancel it.



### FORTHCOMING RALLIES

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](mailto:beth.downs@ymail.com)

29th-31st March  
Himley Hall, Himley

5th-7th April  
Newland Meadow, Malvern

12th-14th April  
Willows Farm, Tamworth

18th-23rd April  
EASTER RALLY  
[Booking Form Online](#)

25th April-9th May  
HOLIDAY RALLY  
Porth Beach, Newquay

26th-28th April  
The Cob House, Martley

3rd May-6th May  
BANK HOLIDAY RALLY  
Riverside, Bridgnorth

## *.....more Chairman's Chat ...*

After a few weeks at home recovering we returned at the Astley Rally where Beth had devised a winter warmer rally. On Friday night the Kids enjoyed freak shakes, whilst the adults enjoyed the Alcoholic Hot Chocolate bar. Saturday morning a full English was served. The hall was open all day and all night for people to use playing board games, or reading.. all in the comfort of their pyjamas and onesies. Saturday night jacket potatoes with a variety of toppings were followed by a selection of puddings.

Thanks to our co stewards Damo & Dawn and to Stevo & Birdie for opening the rally and siting the vans for us workers.

The next rally for us was Fillongly, a relaxed affair with social on Friday followed by a disco with Mix & Match on Saturday night. A nice laid back weekend, thanks to our hosts Steve & Gill and Stevo and Birdie.

The following weekend we made our way to Drayton Manor for the Centre's annual dinner dance. Friday night a quiz organised by Jeff and Janice was enjoyed by all. Saturday night we were treated to excellent entertainment from Soul Brother Soul Sister with support from Mix & Match. Well done to Paula Dudley and Gill Preston for organising their first dinner dance in their positions as Social Secretary and Assistant Social Sec. Thanks also to Lin Wood with assistance from her sister Chris for preparing the table decorations. We hope you enjoyed it.

Next up was Alverley Social Club, luckily with no snow this year. Friday night we enjoyed a few sociable sherberts in the bar before an early night. Saturday we enjoyed a walk from the Severn Valley Country Park to Hampton Load alongside the Severn Valley Railway. This meant a few more sherberts at the pub to enable me to complete the 7 mile round walk. On Saturday night we enjoyed a relaxed evening playing games and cards in the social club. Well done Kevin and Paula for a great rally.

So, the following week it was our turn to play host again, this week at Bretford Village Hall ably assisted by seasoned Veterans Mick & June. Friday night was a relaxed affair socialising and enjoying each others company, especially Nick Allen's as he was armed with a bottle of port. My god did I feel rough on Saturday morning. A breakfast of cereals and toast was served on Saturday, On Saturday afternoon a few of us watched the Rugby before decorating the hall in readiness for our St Patricks day Soiree. Irish Stew was served accompanied by a pint of Guinness then followed by a selection of puddings. We were treated to a spot of Irish dancing by Lanis and Laura. A great rally with just 12 vans out it was a nice relaxed affair, I think this is the nearest to a free and easy that Beth has ever come up with. Thank you to our co stewards Mick & June for you support.

So that's it, a relatively slow start to the year for The Downs Clan but with Easter coming up there is a lot to plan for. More of that later

See you on the rally field soon

*Mike*

## ***Senior Committee 2018/2019***

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

### **Committee Meetings:**

Forthcoming Committee Meeting dates are as follows: 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.

## ***Junior Committee 2018/2019***

<b>Junior Chairperson</b>	Laura
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Ellie
<b>Secretary</b>	Martha
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alfie
<b>Committee Members</b>	Eleanor
	Kierah
	Charlotte
	Lanis
	Jake
	William
	Mollie
	Aston

## ***Junior Updates***

### **Easter 2019 reminder.....**

For this year's 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. .



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

*Damo*

### **Junior Challenge 2019**

Hi everyone

I have had a few photos from children enjoying some of the challenges, great to see them and to tick off the challenges as the children complete them.

With half term here maybe you can get some of the challenges ticked off. I've attached a copy of the challenge sheet on the following page so you do not need to go searching for it.

Send in your photos.

Have a great half term and hope to see you all soon.

*Gaynor*



## Midland Center Junior Challenge 2019



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Fly a Kite.	2. Build a den.	3. Play in the snow.	4. Go bird watching.	5. Try stargazing.
6. Build a raft.	7. Paddle in a stream,	8. Run around in the rain.	9. Create some wild art.	10. Cook on a campfire.
11. Hold a worm	12. Have a snail race.	13. Explore inside a tree.	14. Go on a barefoot walk.	15. Find your way using a map!
16. Roll down a really big hill.	17. Catch a fish.	18. Hunt for bugs!	19. Play pooh sticks.	20. Put up a tent.
21. Make a home for a wild animal.	22. Make a grass trumpet.	23. Plant it, grow it eat it.	24. Play a game of conkers.	25. Catch a falling leaf.
26. Skim a stone.	27. Climb a huge hill.	28. Find a geocache.	29. Climb a tree.	30. Make a daisy chain.
31. Make a mud pie.	32. Pick blackberries in the wild.	33. Make a snow angel.	34. Jump over a wave in the sea.	35. Visit a farm.
36. Ride your bike.	37. Go for a long walk.	38. Have a water fight.	39. Plant and grow a sunflower.	40. Make a stick man.

Colour in each challenge as you complete it ... Don't forget to send Gaynor photos of your challenges and let her know what you have been doing.

[gaynor.juniorchallenge@gmail.com](mailto:gaynor.juniorchallenge@gmail.com)

## ***Easter Update.....***

Plans for the 2019 Easter Rally continue to evolve, our programme is finalised, and we look forward to seeing you all there.

As previously mentioned, we have taken the decision to make changes to previous programme to ensure that this rally continues to be one of our largest, action packed rallies.

The Rally will open on Thursday at 12 noon. In the evening opening flag will be followed by Bingo.

Friday afternoon at 15.00 there will be a tea dance in the hall, with tea, coffee and cakes being served.

This year Friday nights social we will celebrate past Junior Chairman William Downs's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday with tunes supplied by Mix & Match.

Following the annual Chairman's Forum on Saturday Morning, the first Rocket Extravaganza will follow at 11.30. Please visit the midland centre website to view the video to show you how to build your rockets in readiness for this. Our dedicated JLO has purchased a launching device from Russia of all places. Please don't panic we will not be launching rockets anywhere near the rally field.

Saturday evening sees the inaugural Midland Centre Bully Awards take place. This will be a Gala Evening with Champagne reception. We request a smart dress code with a no jeans policy. This is an evening where we celebrate the membership, the people who support the centre week in week out, year on year. Entertainment will be supplied by members of the centre including our Juniors. During the evening awards will be handed out for a variety of categories. Some of these will be voted for by the membership, nominations will be released on the website and at forthcoming rallies. Voting for these awards will close on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon. This will be a fun evening of Music, Dance Comedy and Awards. I look forward to hosting this ceremony to celebrate our fantastic centre and its members.

On Sunday there will be the annual Easter egg hunt for the younger children and the assault course for the older kids.

At 11.30am join us for a family walk to the nearby Coopers Arms.

In the afternoon Paula Dudley will be your host for Creative Crafts in the hall this can be for Children and Adults alike. This year instead of an Easter Bonnet parade there will be a best decorated egg competition so please remember to bring your hard-boiled eggs.

Sunday night we will be entertained by 9-piece Soul Band, The Commandments with support from Mix & Match. Make sure you bring a supply of 50ps for a whiskey shoot out

Throughout the weekend The Junior Committee will be raising Money for their chosen charity First Responders with various fundraising initiatives. Please support them to raise money for this very worthy charity.

Monday will see closing flag at 11am

For those staying on until Tuesday, On Monday night there will be a quiz.

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

### Astley 'Winter Warmer' Weekend

This was only our second visit to this venue, despite being centre members for 14 years. Snow had been threatened all week but there was none when we got up on Friday which was a relief. This time we managed to leave home a little earlier (Gordon worked from home) and arrived with a reasonable amount of daylight left to get set up.

Friday evening started with "Freak Shakes" for the kids. These are mega milk shakes with marshmallows, chocolate fingers and all sorts of extras. They looked amazing and went down well. Then it was Hot Chocolates for the adults – with a touch of baileys or bourbon if desired. Delicious. A lovely evening chatting to friends.



Saturday started with Brunch at 11. Full English, Yummy. Then, as it was a glorious, sunny, frosty day we went off in search of a few geocaches that Martin & Lynn had found the previous afternoon. As we arrived back on site, we found Damian trying to get the juniors organised ready to take them on a walk as part of their training for their challenge later in the year. We decided to join them as he hadn't got any adults to help him. It wasn't a long walk, but it was a good start.



When we got back to the hall again it was nearly time for the rugby to start. A TV had been set up in a corner of the hall for those who wanted to watch. There were craft activities and toys for the children to play with, so they had a great time. The rest of us spent a chilled-out afternoon chatting before the Uno game came out. Very competitive but good fun.

In the evening we were provided with baked potatoes with various toppings (Beans, Chili, Coleslaw, Cheese) and salad. These were followed by apple or cherry pie and custard. Again, a relaxed evening playing board games or just chatting.

It went very cold overnight so when we discovered we were out of water, we couldn't get more as the tap had frozen. Fortunately, I always fill the kettle before bed so at least we could have a cuppa. Paper plates for breakfast minimized the washing up.

A lovely, relaxing weekend. Thanks to Mike, Beth, Damian and Dawn.

*Helen, Gordon & Daniel Mitchell*

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

### **Henley in Arden New Year Rally**

As the weather was cold and dry, we spent most days out walking and looking for geocaches, with a few coffee stops in Henley in Arden. The first night we had a pub themed night with beer, scratchings and a singer who covered a good range of music.

The following evening was a night at the seaside, so we dug out our flip flops and summer clothes and headed for the hall which had been appropriately decorated. I now know why Dawn was collecting shells when we were in Cornwall in October! There we were provided with fish and chips (delicious) and there was a knobbly knees competition judged by Josie.

The following afternoon, after a few technical issues had been resolved, we had a movie afternoon watching "The Greatest Showman". Some of the kids knew all the words to the songs. Thanks to James for the fantastic pic'n'mix selection. In the evening we had entertainment from Squeaky Pete's Liquor and Poker Band who must be the best band I have seen on a rally. A fantastic evening.

Then it was the big day – New Years Eve. The boys put on their dinner suits and accessories and I put on my flapper dress and off we went to the 1920's themed evening. The hall had been decorated in a 1920's theme and looked great. It was lovely to see that so many people dressed up. Mick provided the music and we danced the night away.



On New Years day we all went over to the hall at noon for a "Great British Hangover Brunch" and closing Flag. The Full English Breakfast set us up for the rest of the day.

The final evening was a quiet evening as quite a lot of people had left due to work commitments. We were fortunate enough to be able to stay the extra night.

A big thank you to all those involved in running this rally. We had a great time and it was obvious how much effort and planning had gone into this event.

***Helen, Gordon & Daniel Mitchell***





## Midland Centre of the Caravan and Motorhome Club



### Bully Award nominations and voting slip

Members can only complete one voting slip each. To complete place an X in the box alongside the nominee you wish to vote for. Only one nominee for each category can be voted for. Please hand into a committee member ensuring you have written your name in the relevant box at the bottom of this form. Voting closes at 12 midday on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019

<b>Best Junior Male</b>		
Archie Silver	For his impeccable manners and always helping on the rally field.	
Alfie Campbell	For growing in confidence when speaking in public and always being conscientious.	
Calvin Hart	For growing into a confident and caring young man.	
William Fox	For his kind, pleasant nature and always helping his Mum on the rally field.	

<b>Best Junior Female</b>		
Laura Crofts	For all her hard work for the junior committee and always doing what is asked of her.	
Lanis Downs	For the way she makes friends with children new to the centre and always includes them in any activities.	
Ruby Harris	For her caring, polite and pleasant behaviour on the rally field.	
Martha Downs	For being helpful to everyone, Hardworking and always being good for a laugh!!	

<b>Best Male</b>		
Steve Preston	For all the work he does behind the scenes, helping at numerous big rallies and always willing to help anyone on the rally field.	
Martin Campbell	For always being willing to help and providing entertainment on rallies.	
Graham Bird	For covering as stand in chair on numerous occasions, use of storage for Christmas rally and always ready to offer advice and guidance to the committee.	
Kevin Dudley	Tool box Kev!! Always has the means to help anyone out on the rally field to fixing a problem to building a doughnut tree.	

## Bully Award nominations and voting slip

<b>Best Female</b>		
Gaynor Hart	For all the work has done with the junior members, including the decathlon and managing this year's new children's challenge.	
Dawn Campbell	For all the support she gives to Damian and the junior committee, helping at different big rallies throughout the year including Easter, Christmas and junior rallies.	
June Hale	For all the work she does over the year, supporting Mick in his role as club treasurer and resident DJ and for all the advice she imparts to the younger members.	
Linda Homer	For designing and providing the decorations for many of the events throughout the rally year, including Christmas and the Dinner Dance.	

<b>Best Stewards</b>		
These stewards always make people feel welcome and go out of their way to make sure people have a fantastic time away be it for a holiday or just a weekend, they make sure everyone leaves with a wealth of new special memories.		
Mike & Beth Downs		
Damian & Dawn Campbell		
Mick & June Hale		
Graham & Jane Downs		

**Member Name:**

**And the winner is.....**

## **Tote Winners**



As the snowball has now reached over £100, there are now TWO snowballs, 900 & 1000. Anyone wanting regular tote numbers please see Mick Hale.

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cookhill	Val Fairbotham	298	£36.00
Henley In Arden	Jenny McGivney	83	£36.50
Astley Village Hall	Terry Probin	79	£26.50
Far Forest	Sharon Brice	128	£25.00
Fillongley	Kevin Dudley	280	£25.00
Drayton Manor	Jim Porter	63	£27.00
Bretford Village Hall	Martin Campbell	6	£25.00

## **Bully Article Winner December 2018**

Thank you to Martin & Lynne Campbell (2017/18 winners) who chose Lynn Todd's write up on the 'Back to School' rally at Astley as the best article from the December edition of the Bully. Lynn will receive a prize of £10. Don't forget that there is a £30 prize up for grabs for best overall bully article for 2018/2019. This will be awarded at the AGM in October. So as always keep the articles coming!



# *Guidance for Rally Stewards.....*

## Guidance Notes for Rally Allowances & Free Stewards

This is just a brief reminder of the guidance notes regarding rally allowances and charges:



Up to **15** Caravans on Rally = 1 Free Stewards place. Usually if there are 2 Stewards on a rally the cost is shared, unless agreed otherwise.

**16** Vans and over = 2 Free Stewards places.

Payment to site owner is at site owner's discretion as some allow free stewards places and others don't. This should be shown on your rally paperwork.

Rally allowance up to 15 paying vans £20.00. Over **16** vans and above extra .50p per caravan if required.

## **Social Charges**

These remain at £2.00 per adult per night when a hall is used. These prices are to cover hall costs and Vat on social only. Following these guidelines some socials will make a loss and some will make a surplus.

If you wish to cater at your social you should charge extra to cover your costs.

*Mick*

## Website (To all Rally Stewards)

There are a number of rallies on the centre website which have "See Website" or TBA for the Rally Programme. If you put "See website" on the paperwork at the Stewards Meet, please try and remember to forward any updated information to me ([gordon@dumgoyne.me.uk](mailto:gordon@dumgoyne.me.uk)) and I will happily update the website.



Thanks

*Gordon* (Website Officer)



## **FOR SALE**

### **FOR SALE**

**Bailey Unicorn Pamplona 2017** model (registration October 2018)

Sale due to retirement. All ready to go with everything—gas bottle, porch awning, water barrel, waste container etc.

**Price:** £20,000.00

**Contact:** Alan Silver on 07506 554423

### **FOR SALE**

**Kampa Rally 390 awning**

Includes Monsoon poles and storm straps. 28 plastic pegs and 16 7" steel pegs. All in excellent condition .

**Price:** £150.00

**Contact:** Graham Bradley on 01902 674629 or 07875 529643

Email: [bradley.joan4@gmail.com](mailto:bradley.joan4@gmail.com)

*Please email:*

[Kerry.Silver@hotmail.com](mailto: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 contribution to the March 2019 edition of The Bully News and as always, many thanks to Gordon Mitchell for uploading it onto the website.



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 June edition of the Bully is 10th June with publication on or around 15th.

Please email your articles to me at: [kerry.silver@hotmail.com](mailto:kerry.silver@hotmail.com)

***Happy Rallying!!***

 hello  
spring!