



The Midland Centre of the
Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS

July 2019

Chairman's Chat

Well it seems like an age since my last chat, I've had to go through the rally calendar to remember where I have been. Is this what being 40 is all about? Well since my last musings there have been 14 weekend rallies, should have been 15 but Mother Nature intervened and got that one cancelled.

Following Bretford, we were due to run Hyde Farm with Graham and Stevo, however the wife went and had her Wisdom teeth removed on the Friday so got out of doing any work. Luckily our co stewards saved the day or weekend should it be, meaning I could tend to the patient in the comfort of the caravan. A relaxed affair for me but quite painful for the wife who was given just paracetamol to numb the pain. Cheers to Graham & Stevo for running the rally.

The following weekend we stayed at home whilst every one else enjoyed tropical sunshine at Himley Hall which is in the Royal District of Dudley don't you know. Never mind

Next up was a new site in Malvern, Newland Meadows. This weekend the juniors and some of the adults set about preparing for the junior challenge of walking up Pen Y Fan. For this we decided limber up by walking up British camp and across the Malvern Hills to Eastnor Deer Park and back for the fun of it, because we can. After all that exercise a trip to the boozer was on the cards for some much need liquid refreshment. A great weekend on a new site, well done to Mommy & Daddy and Andy & Jayne for a good job.

Five days later we made our way to Willows farm for Gaynor's infamous Chinese Auction. During the day on Saturday the kids went to the snow dome as a reward for their hard work raising money the previous year. This meant a nice walk, which involved a nice stop at a quaint hostelry (that's a pub to you and I). On the evening we enjoyed the Chinese Auction, hosted by Gaynor, great fun for the adults, maybe not so fun for the kids. Great weekend, well done Matt, Gaynor, Craig & Kerry.

So, after a year working out what to do with the Easter Rally to shake things up, it was finally upon us. All those ideas, all those additions to my wardrobe, it was time to see if it would pay off.

The first thing I did was order some good weather, bingo! Which was a huge result as the central heating had been condemned on day 1. Thursday was eldest boy child's 18th Birthday so we went for a slap-up meal at the 'Ungry 'Oss. On our return we sang happy Buffday to boy child and had a bit of chat with friends.

Friday night was party night for William, a great night with tunes supplied by Mix & Match, Saturday morning was the annual Chairman's forum followed by Damian's Rocket Launching Spectacular.....thing. Great fun with adults and children joining in alike.

Saturday night saw the inaugural Bully Awards, with everyone in their best bib & tucker, we were entertained by centre members in between dishing out awards to centre members voted by centre members. A great night, great fun, hard work but great fun. Thank you to everyone who took part be it entertaining, giving out awards, voting even watching thank you.



FORTHCOMING RALLIES

For steward contact details, rally information & to book online please visit our website at www.midlandcentre.co.uk.

Our Rally Secretary, Beth Downs can be contacted at beth.downs@ymail.com

Rally 30 - 19-21 July
Buzzards Valley, Tamworth

Rally 31 - 26-28 July
Cuckoo's Corner, Romsley

Rally 32 - 2-4 August
Greenhill Park, Stafford

Rally 33 - 9-11 August
Hoar Park Craft Centre, Nr Nuneaton

Rally 34 - 16-18 August
Glanfar Stables, Burntwood

Rally 35 - 23-26 August (BH)
Lyndon Top, Rutland Water

Rally 36 - 30 Aug-1 Sept
Hatton Country World, Warwick

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

Sunday, I did nothing, did the walk and soaked up some sun, whilst Paula was hard at work with her Crafting afternoon in the hall. On the night we were entertained by the Commandments, an eight-piece soul band who were fantastic. This rally really was a team effort, the committee did me proud, I am truly grateful to them all for everything they and their respective partners did.

A few days later we made our way to the Cob House for the annual fishing rally. Fishing's not really my bag, so I went shopping with the ladies in Worcester. At flag prizes were dished out to the winners and losers. Well done to Danny, Pauline, Kev and Paula on running your first Fishing competition, Had a great time.

The following weekend was Bank Holiday weekend, it was also my 40th Birthday party weekend. Friday night a few of us enjoyed drinkies in Mommy & Daddies awning. On Saturday morning I wondered why my head hurt, then soon recalled that Nick Allen had been sat in Mommy & Daddies awning armed with a bottle of port, when will I ever learn? So, Saturday afternoon a few of us went go karting, this was extremely competitive, I thought my slender physique and aerodynamic nose would give me an advantage, but it would appear that this is not the case. James Harris obviously must be a closet go Karter as he wiped the floor with us time and again. Great fun! I think we should have an annual competition..... a go karting rally? Let me know what you think. On Saturday night we gathered in the party tents with embarrassing photos and video footage of me in my younger days supplied by mommy & daddy. I had a great time thank you to everyone who contributed. Sunday was spent in Bridgnorth before returning for flag and more celebrations. Thank you to Steve & Gill and Gordon & Helen for laying on such a great weekend it took until Wednesday to recover.

And by the time I had recovered it was time to do it all again, On Friday we rolled into Barton Marina for more fun. This I thought would be a relaxing quiet affair, however an on the spur of the moment trip to Raymond James to purchase a kettle turned into quite an expensive afternoon following the purchase of a Bailey Unicorn Paloma Faith, something like that anyway. Well there was more excitement in the evening when Nick & Deb laid on a chocolate fountain for people to enjoy with exotic fruits. Martha wanted to up the ante by encouraging people to try ready salted pringles coated in chocolate, the pork pie was a step too far me thinks Martha.

Brilliant weekend, Nick & Deb aided and abetted by Bodie & Doyle (Stevo & Birdie). Really enjoyed it!

So up next Granty's maiden voyage as a steward, and he turned up which was good, a bit stressed mind. Luckily for him Lindsay was cool as cucumber with assistance from Lyz Fox. Saturday afternoon we enjoyed boules and Pimm's, very sophisticated. Another great venue and the weather was kind as well. Well done to our newbie stewards I luck forward to more.

The good thing about the month of May is 2 bank holidays. This year's Bake Off was at Weston Park, somewhere our centre has never been before, a great place, miles from any main roads, plenty of walks, an amazing adventure playground and a train as well. There weren't as many budding Mary Berries this year with just 9 entries. Hopefully this number will grow again next year. But we enjoyed a cracking afternoon tea with some amazeballs cake. We had a new winner this year in Dawn Campbell who even made the cake in the caravan, top that if you dare. What a woman! On Sunday we celebrated another top woman, Deb Allen on turning 60. Happy Buffday love! Thank you to our co stewards Andy & Jayne and to Mommy & Daddy for standing in for me until I could get there on Friday night.

On Tuesday we made our way to Top Barn Farm where we were running the follow on. We normally use this venue in the winter so to see it in glorious sunshine made a welcome change. The weekend was spent trying to empty the caravan as we were due to take it in on the Monday after the rally to exchange. A quiet affair with just a few vans on Saturday we enjoyed fruit and Ice Cream in the marquee. Thankyou to our co stewards Graham and Stevo

So, after collecting the new van, it was time to make our way to Stoke Prior for the Junior Rally, a Peaky Blinder of a weekend. Saturday afternoon we enjoyed a buffet laid on by our stewards, this was followed by some gang warfare with a Nerf Party, which basically us adults shooting the kids with some foam bullets. Great fun!

.....yes...even MORE Chairman's Chat ...(dow eee goo on....)

In the evening we enjoyed a spot of gambling on the 'Osses. It was great to see everyone in fancy dress for the occasion. The juniors did us proud taking the bets all evening. A top night and plenty of cash raised for a worthy cause.

Well done to Damian and Dawn, Ade and Lucy together with the Junior Committee for there hard work. A great weekend once again with a fantastic amount of money raised for charity.

The following weekend we made our way to Mayalls Farm. This weekend saw the Juniors and some of us adventurous adults take on the challenge of walking up Pen Y Fan. Sounds easy when you say it quickly. An early start on Saturday morning with a quick diversion to McDonalds for a breakfast saw us arrive at Pen Y Fan for 10am. As we would say in Brierley Hill, It's a Mossive Bonk! And steep an all. After 2 hours we reached the peak, where we all collapsed and took in the scenery. After half an hour the descent was just as challenging. What mazes me is after all that walking when we got back to site the kids had a water fight. I had no such energy, so collapsed in the sun and re hydrated myself. A fantastic achievement for all those that took part, it took a few days to recover I can assure you. Well done to Kelly & Jason Atkinson and Phil & Lindsay for running such a great rally and arranging such great weather.

Well, the next weekend the weather looked like it was going to be hot and by Jove it was. On Saturday temperatures peaked at 33C, that's hot, during the golf competition one of the participants had to have a lie down after the 15th hole. It was that hot whilst others chose to go into Stratford, I took the decision to stay and do absolutely nothing other than soak up the sun. Monks Barn Farm is a lovely site, normally we are there when the river festival is on in Stratford but due to a date change by the organisers, we were a week early. With only 3 playing the golf was won by Jim Brothwood, who if I'd let him put a dress on would have won all the prizes. Luckily Kath was playing so at least Jim couldn't win the female golf trophy.

And there we are, time flies by when you're having fun. Before you know it, it will be Christmas. What a thought?

See you on the field soon !

Mike



YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!



As a centre, we need new committee members to bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to take the club forward. If you are a team player and interested in helping, please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the committee to find out more.

You do not have to wait until September to express an interest. Though we all love this club and the hobby we enjoy, it can only continue with members volunteering their support.

Committee News.....

Senior Committee 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:

Forthcoming Committee Meeting dates are as follows: 30th 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

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

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

Easter 2019

The Easter rally is one of the main 'committee run' rallies in the year.

Some of the committee arrived on Wednesday to set the hall up and get the field pegged out ready for ralliers to arrive on Thursday. We still work so couldn't arrive until after work on Thursday. Mick Hale organised a Bingo evening for all those fortunate enough to be able to arrive early. We missed this as we were still getting set up.

On Friday we had booked to go out for lunch at The Malt in Aston on Trent to celebrate my Dad's 80th birthday. Really nice village pub which does amazing food! After a fabulous meal we returned to the rally and were able to sit outside as the weather was warm and dry. Later in the afternoon Chris & Kath Smith joined us for tea & birthday cake. Was lovely to see them as it had been a while.

On Friday evening we were in the hall for Williams 18th Birthday party with Mick providing the music.

Saturday started with the Chairman's Forum when centre members can ask questions to the committee and the committee can let us know of anything causing them concern. This was all dealt with quickly and then it was time for the rocket launching which appeared to go down well.

Saturday evening it was the inaugural "Bully Awards" which got off to a fantastic start with the most amazing dance performance by the Juniors and the chairman, Mike, to "The Greatest Showman". Given the limited time they had to rehearse, they put on a very slick performance. Credit to Laura Crofts for the choreography.

With the standard having been set there were several other performances during the evening (William Downs on drums – Amazing!), a slide show "A year of Rallying" (well done Daniel) and awards to various people for their hard work over the year. Well done to all those who organised this event.



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

Easter 2019 continued...

On Sunday morning, after the Easter egg hunts, it was time for the traditional walk to the pub. Gordon was down on the rota to lead this and we normally get around 20 participants. The weather was lovely, and more and more people kept arriving. We soon realised that this was going to be a record-breaking number of ralliers going on the walk. Fortunately, Mick Hale agreed to follow on at the back, so we didn't lose anyone. Think the pub were slightly overwhelmed when we arrived but they managed to serve everyone and it's a good boost to their income.



When we got back from the walk, I quickly went over to the Hall to help Paula & Dawn with the craft session. Lots of glue and glitter. A great afternoon that everyone enjoyed.

In the evening we had "The Commandments". Great musicians and a fantastic evening.

Closing flag was on Monday morning and then most people gradually left for home. A few remained on Monday evening for the quiz Gordon had organised.

On Tuesday morning Gordon and Mike finished tidying the hall and returned the keys. Easter over for another year. Time to start planning for next year.

Helen Mitchell

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

Mayalls Farm & Pen y Fan

After the rally we were scheduled to run the previous weekend had been cancelled due to torrential rain and flooding we had kept a close eye on the forecast hoping for an improvement in the weather. Fortunately, there was a significant improvement and when we arrived in Malvern on Friday evening the sun was shining and the forecast for Saturday was for a dry day with some sunshine – ideal conditions.



After an early night we were up and ready by 8am (I hadn't realised 8am happened on Saturdays!) and the convoy set off to Brecon, ready for the charity hike.

By the time we had all arrived, parked and sorted out boots, backpacks etc it was nearly 10.30am and off we went. It's quite a steep ascent so frequent stops were required to admire the spectacular views. The path is very well defined and there was a convenient stopping place for our picnic lunch just before a rocky outcrop which all the juniors enjoyed scrambling over. Then

it was the last short push to get to the top! We did it!

Once at the top there was a queue to join to pose at the sign. It's a popular place and there were several other groups doing the hike for charity too.



Finally, it was our turn and we managed to get everyone together for the photo.

Going down was faster and we were back at the cars by around 2.30pm for the journey back to the rally field. The drivers all reported very quiet passengers on the way back, apart from some snoring!

We stopped for a coffee in Monmouth on our way back so by the time we arrived the juniors had recovered and were running around playing.

Well done to everyone who took part. A fantastic achievement.

Helen Mitchell



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

Photos

Early in 2018, as part of the plans for the Awards night at the Easter rally, Mike Downs asked Daniel to take some photos for a slideshow with the theme “A Year of Rallying” showing what rallying is all about. He was busy all year taking photos when we were out on the rally field, at socials and on walks. The slideshow was shown as part of the awards evening and again at the Junior rally. However, if you missed it and would like to see the photos, we have now had a photobook made. This includes most of the pictures from the slideshow, and a few newer photos, and it will be available to members when we are on the rally field.

Gordon, Helen & Daniel Mitchell

And the winner is.....

Tote Winners

As the snowball has now reached over £100 another two snowballs have now been added (900 and 1000). Anyone wishing to have regular numbers please speak to Mick Hale.



Pinvin	Graham Bird	297	£27.50
Himley Hall	Lottie Cambell	201	£26.50
Malvern	Gaynor Hart	99	£29.00
Tamworth	Jake Fox	328	£30.00
Easter	Beth Downs	41	£43.00
Martley	Damien Campbell	40	£27.50
Bridgnorth	Jason Atkinson	294	£34.00
Barton Marina	Beth Downs	41	£29.00
Wyre Piddle	Dave Davies	80	£26.50
Weston Park	Jim Clarke	115	£30.50
Holt Heath	Margaret Hughes	50	£25.00
Stoke Prior	Steve Preston	208	£30.00
Mayalls Farm	Kevin Dudley	TBC	TBC
Monks Barn Farm	James Harris	TBC	TBC
Button Oak	Damian Campbell	TBC	TBC
Rafael's Restaurant	Damian Campbell	TBC	TBC

Bully Article Winner March 2019

Thank you to Lynn Todd (article winner for December 2018) for choosing Helen Mitchell's write up about the New Year rally as the best article in the March issue. Helen 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!



And the winner is.....

Bully Awards Winners 2019

Four Legged Friend Award

Winner – Oakley

Four Legged Friend		
Polly	For always being so friendly and sharing her ball with all the other dogs on the rally field.	
Dilly	The slowest and laziest greyhound in the Midlands.	
Bess	For bringing ethnic diversity to the rally field.	
Bonham	For teaching the other dogs the rules of the rally field and checking that all fire buckets are full.	
Oakley	For being a true gentle giant and being the dog all the children can adopt at the dog show.	
Claude	For the best impression of a spring lamb.	
Jeeves	For being friendly & welcoming to all other doggy visitors	
Poppy	For her love of everything water based and for excellent retrieval skills.	
Sky	For the best ears in the centre	

Best Male Junior

Winner – Archie Silver

Best Junior Male	
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.

And the winner is.....

Bully Awards Winners 2019

Best Female Junior

Winner – Martha Downs

Best Junior Female	
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!!

Best Visitors

Winners - Roger Phillips & Barbara Beckford

Best Stewards

Winners - Mike & Beth Downs

Best Stewards	
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	

And the winner is.....

Bully Awards Winners 2019

Best Female

Winner – June Hale

Best Female	
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.

Best Male

Winner - Steve Preston

Best Male	
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.

Outstanding Contribution Award

Winners - Mick & June Hale

Guidance for Rally Stewards.....

Guidance Notes for Rally Allowances & Free Stewards

A brief reminder from our Treasurer 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

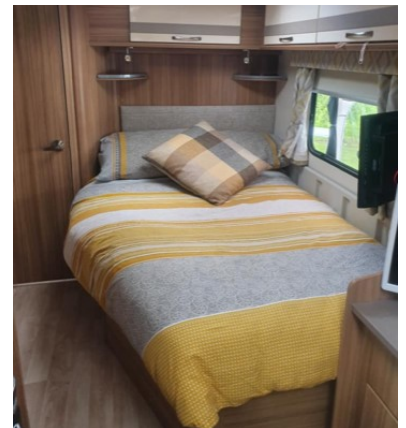


2018 Lunar Cosmos 544 (Dealer Special)

Fixed Bed, End Washroom

Lovely van only 12 months old.

Fitted with powertouch evo auto engage motor mover, LED mood lighting, handle lights, large rear washroom, fixed bed, panoramic roof light, Truma blown air heating & CD radio.



Like
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only selling
needing a

£14,995

Contact Chris Thompson on 07968 598419

From the Editor.....



Thank you to everyone for their contribution to the June/ July 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 September edition of the Bully is 10th September with publication on or around 15th.

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

Happy Rallying!

