



The Midland Centre of the
Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS

September 2019

Chairman's Chat

Bonnet Du Douche as they say in France, Mange Tout, Mange Tout!

Hope you have all had a wonderful summer and had plenty of fun times in your vans. Once again when I write this I have to refer to the rally programme to remind myself where I have been. Is this what being 40 is all about?

So since my last chat we enjoyed a weekend at Button Oak. This weekend coincided with it being 1940's weekend on the Seven Valley Railway. A walk to the local station to see the trains and the many visitors in 1940's outfits was followed by a visit to the local public house for a beverage. On the evening I had a gig with the band so I left the other ralliers to sit out and enjoy the evening. Thanks go to our hosts for the weekend Mommy & Daddy and Danny & Pauline Stead for making us so welcome.

The following weekend we were back in the saddle stewarding at Raphael's Restaurant with Jim and Shirley for the River Festival at Evesham. Wall to wall sunshine was the order of the day, with some 38 vans booked in, I walked miles on Friday sighting vans. Instead of competitions, we decided to ply the ralliers with drink at opening flag which seemed to go down well. Saturday Morning me and the wife darted across to Malvern for a friend's wedding. On our return we took a walk into town to enjoy the festival. In the evening we returned to the town to watch the illuminated boat procession followed by the fireworks. A great rally thanks to our co stewards Jim & Shirley and also to Graham Bird and Stevo for their help throughout the weekend.

The following weekend we spent at home as Bonham underwent surgery to remove his tackle. We also ended up having an incredibly expensive trip to Ikea. No wonder we normally rally, I couldn't afford to go shopping every weekend.



FORTHCOMING RALLIES

Rally 41 - Sept 27-29

Day House Farm, Romsley, B62 0EX

Rally 42 - Oct 4-6

Avon Bank Meadows, Wyre Piddle, WR10 2JF

Rally 43 - Oct 11-13 -

AGM - Drayton Manor Park, Tamworth, B78 3TW

Rally 44 - Oct 18-20

Kings Bromley Showground, DE13 7JF

Rally 45 - Oct 25-27

Top Barn Farm, Holt Heath, WR6 6NH

Rally 46 - Oct 26-Nov 2

HOLIDAY RALLY - Hendra Holiday Park, Newquay, TR8 4NY

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

Chairman's Chat continued...

Next up was Cuckoos Corner. Nice and local for me as its about half a mile from storage. Friday I was gigging at a cider festival, which was amazeballs. On Saturday we had a nice relaxed day doing very little, our stewards Steve & Heather and Mike & Brenda Pilkington laid on an afternoon tea in the Polly tunnel, very nice. We enjoyed a further get together in the polly tunnel on Saturday night. All in all, a chilled out affair. Thanks again to our stewards for a job well done.

Greenhill Park was our destination next. A lovely little site that I had never been to before. Saturday we enjoyed a walk along the Canal, over the Aqueduct. Then a sophisticated evening of Cheese and Wine was laid on by our Stewards, Tony & Jo Harrison and Danny & Janet Bryan. Well done for a top rally.

No rallying for a few weeks as we were off to Francais for over 2 weeks of Sun, Cheese and Wine. On our return we were back in the driving seat stewarding at Hatton Country World. A nice site with lots to do. The kids enjoyed the day in Hatton Country world on Saturday before retuning for a late afternoon tea. In the evening we enjoyed a walk along the canal. Thank you to James Harris for stepping in as assistant steward and siting vans on Friday. Thank you to all who attended, I will definitely be looking to return.

The next weekend we made our way to Catton Hall for what is now one of our centre's biggest rallies. This year, as well as the fireworks, the Juniors hosted a fundraising day starting with a cream tea. This was followed up with a fundraiser which featured Hook a Duck, Beer Pong, Lawn Darts, Archery, Welly Wanging, Face Painting and Splat a Prat. The latter gave attendees the opportunity to throw wet sponges at various members of the club as they were in stocks. Yours truly got a thorough soaking, this alone raised £50 for the Juniors Charity. In the evening an army of us cooked hot dogs and onions to cater for the masses. After this it was eyes up for 4 fantastic displays. Big well done to Paula and Kev Dudley and co stewards Danny & Pauline and Steve & Gill for orchestrating such a top rally. Also, to everyone else who helped a big well done. To the Juniors and their JLO Damian for their hard work, again well done, an amazing amount of money raised. Top, Top weekend.

So after a big rally, it was nice to follow it up with a quiet one. Mick & June were our stewards at a new site Brooklands in Evesham. A lovely flat field and only 2 miles from a Caravan dealership. Lovely vans, very tempting. But alas I didn't do anything stupid. A cream tea and Lawn darts were enjoyed on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to the stewards for a cracking rally.

So as I sit here typing this we have just got back from the Stewards Meet at Wilmcote. Once again Mick and June were our hosts ably supported by Mommy & Daddy. For the first time I got the chance to walk into Stratford along the canal. This weekend it was the Stratford Food Festival. Beth was in her element with Olives galore. In the evening we enjoyed Micks Quizingo in the club then Sunday Morning featured the annual Stewards meet with only 10 rallies not taken - a pleasing result. I have since managed to get takers for at least one more. Thank you to everyone who has taken rallies and thank you to the stewards for being such fine hosts.

So there you have it, Next up AGM, Holiday rally then it will be Christmas, Oh the joys!

See you on the Rally field soon....

Mike Downs

Committee Business



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.

Although we all love this club and the hobby we enjoy, it can only continue with members volunteering their support.

AGM Notice

Due to a printing error in the rally book the 'Notice' for the 2019 AGM on page 5 shows as Saturday 5th October. This is incorrect and the correct date is Saturday 12th October 2019.

In addition, the date for committee nominations to be submitted to the Centre Secretary should be noon on Saturday 28th September.

Apologies for any confusion.

Central Region Nominations

The following nominations have been received for the positions on the Central Region Committee:

Chairman: Sallie-Ann Griffiths

Vice Chairman: Craig Silver and Jason Rosamond

Secretary: Vince Mott

Treasurer: Lewis Torr

Both nominees for the position of Vice Chairman are Midland Centre Members. If you would like to vote for either candidate you will need to attend the Central Region AGM at the Kegworth Hotel, Packington Hill, Kegworth DE74 2DF on Saturday 30th November. The AGM will start at 14:30 prompt. PLEASE NOTE POSTAL VOTES ARE NOT VALID.

Committee Business

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

Junior Committee 2018/2019

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

Absent friends

LES MANDEFIELD

I would like to thank everyone who has sent me kind thoughts and wishes after Les' sudden death, they are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to say thank you to those who attended Les' funeral and to those who donated to Diabetes UK, the amount collected was £284.50.

I haven't been out yet in the caravan, I will be though, maybe at Stratford.

I intend to carry on with caravanning, it was a huge part of Les' and my life, we have been to so many places and have met some great people and have made many good friends.

Once again thankyou to everyone and hopefully I will see you on the rally field.

Helena Mandefield

Dear Mrs Mandefield,

Thank you for your kind donation of £284.50 in memory of your husband, Leslie Mandefield.

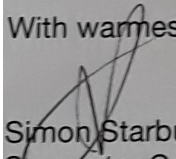
We are sorry to hear of your recent loss, and are grateful that you thought of us at this difficult time. We understand that nothing can take away the pain of bereavement; but we hope that you can find comfort in the work made possible by your donation, which benefits people who are affected by diabetes now, as well as future generations.

Every two minutes someone is diagnosed with diabetes. It affects 4 million of us right now and is the most potentially devastating and fastest growing health crisis of our time.

Your generous gift in Leslie's memory will help us towards a world where diabetes can do no harm: where fewer people get diabetes; where those with diabetes live well; and where ultimately a cure is found.

Thank you once again for your kind donation. Every pound will do something amazing for people living with diabetes.

With warmest wishes,


Simon Starbuck
Supporter Care Advisor

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

Hoar Park Craft Centre

9th – 11th August



The weather forecast was ominous to say the least with heavy rain for much of Friday and storm force winds expected on Saturday. Not ideal conditions for one of the centre's favourite sons to be stewarding his first rally. Maybe the Met office have got it wrong I thought to myself but as Thursday night turned into Friday morning the thunderous sound of heavy rainfall hitting the Birmingham Mail Centre roof like a five hour Downsy drum roll was proof that Michael Fish and his ilk had long gone and the current crop of weatherpersons are sadly far more reliable with their predictions. Fortunately there were some breaks in the precipitation's as the day wore on and when Doreen returned from work we hitched up the van threw in the water wings and set off for Furnace End and Hoar Park. We arrived at 6 after a trouble free journey and were greeted by Nick and Debbie Allen on a squelchy and soft rally field which seemed to have a very decent turn out of ralliers. Nick informed us that we were the last van expected and a very credible 22 outfits had braved the conditions for Richard Hine's inaugural stewarding attempt.



Dodging the showers we set up and examined the rally programme which looked very good and a rather testing competition which was very original. It involved solving clues that then provided letters which had to be entered onto a circular coding device. As a man who has more in common with the sleuthing powers of inspector Clouseau than the Enigma code breaking skills of Alan Turing I suspected that it was going to be a difficult test. Luckily Doreen was on the case and was merrily deducing answers and solving clues before we ventured along to opening flag at 8 o'clock.

Richard, Bob, Joan Nick and Debbie welcomed us with tea, coffee chocolate and biscuits plus a little tot of either Amaretto, Teachers whisky or an orange based Spanish liqueur to go in your cuppa which was very welcome in the damp conditions. Richard welcomed us and thanked everyone for attending. He looked like he was really enjoying his first taste of marshalling a rally and so far it was going very well. Even the rain stayed off long enough for everyone to enjoy their drink and have a catch up chat. There were a few old friends attending and we had a few drinks and a chin wag before the night ended.

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

Hoar Park Craft Centre continued

Saturday

Agatha Christie woke me up at 8.30 to continue our attempt at breaking the code. I was a tad sluggish after a night of strong winds rocked the van and whistled through the vents. That plus having to jump in and out of bed every ten minutes to let Ivy out didn't help. Our littlest Sheltie could not settle and was whining by the door to go out. Wishing to avoid any accidents I put her out in the pen only for her to look at me in an inquisitive manner and then sit down without a care in the world. After about 6 of these episodes Ivy was lucky not to be handed over to the Hoar Park Children's animal farm. I must apologise to anyone witnessing a half dressed chubby baldy banging caravan doors and standing cursing at a cute little doggie at 3 in the morning. Eventually I realised Ivy was probably too warm and opened the roof vent which seemed to work.

Doreen completed the clues, cut out the decoding device and had 3 sets of letters to work with for anagrams, that gave directions to the secret agent who was a Hoar Park retailer, We took the dogs for a walk across the soggy field to the craft centre and bumped into many Midlands members who were probably like us checking out the store names for our anagrams.



The weather was still showery but there were now extremely strong gusts of wind blowing through the site. A visit to Jackson's and eventually a bbq filled the afternoon with Mick and Marilyn accompanying us. This curtailed our sleuthing. The Gods were smiling on Richard and the stewards and the rain and winds abated enabling them to erect a couple of shelters for the evening social. By the time we arrived there was a good turn out packed under the covers.



Mick and Marilyn, Gary and Sandra and several unattached couples were sat in our corner and it was a nice night with Cheese, biscuits, crisps, salad, grapes and a glass of wine served by the Stewards. There was a good selection of background music drifting through the shelter and we had a pleasant chat and a few drinks before returning to the van.

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

Hoar Park Craft Centre continued

Sunday

A further look at the competition clues heralded an error we had made, Bob had sneaked in an S onto the end of Ukrainian Centre which had thrown us off the scent. We revised the anagrams and Doreen had an idea of where the agent may be but we had run out of time as Flag approached. The weather had improved dramatically and it was mostly sunny with an odd short shower punctuating the morning. We attended the closing ceremony and Mick Hale was in the chair for this. In the 20 years of my rallying all of which he has been on committee I think this was the first time he had taken this role at a rally We had attended. He thanked the stewards who had provided an excellent rally in trying circumstances and gave the usual rally details and announcements.

One sad note was when he repeated last weeks message of the passing of one of the Midlands longest serving members Les Manderfield, an old friend who we had run several rallies with in the past and will be sadly missed. Mick handed over to Nick who thanked his co stewards and Richard was given due praise. Nick had also received a text from Mike Downs, who was away on holiday, congratulating and thanking Richard which was a nice thought from the chairman. Nick then announced the competition winners and Karen and Kevin Page took the rally competition prize. Well done to them for being better code breakers and to the Stewards for putting on a great rally with an intriguing competition.

The field had dried out fairly well due to the high winds and luckily Nick didn't need to tow anyone off the field which was good. There was a slight scare when Mick and Marilyn's motor home was slipping on the wet grass but a couple of us put our considerable weight behind it and managed to keep it going onto the gravel path. As we departed the weather was warm and sunny which must have been galling for the stewards but they had managed to put on a great rally despite the weather and it could have been worse

Well done to all of them and Richard in particular deserved the praise that came his way and we look forward to his next rally



Pictures provided by Bob and Nick

Ian Sutherland

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

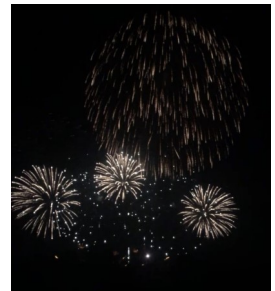
Catton Hall Festival of Fireworks

My absolute favourite rally of the year and once again it didn't disappoint. The cream tea on Saturday was a fantastic touch and the juniors were marvellous (especially Lanis & Charlotte) in keeping everyone in line! Thank you to the Community First Responders for taking time out of their day to come and talk about what they do and go through a CPR demonstration with adults and children alike. Especially well done to the poor male Responder who ended up in a battle of chest compressions with just him verses at least 5 of the juniors!! Unsurprisingly the juniors won, with the Responder almost requiring resuscitation himself by the end of it! I have to say the quality of the CPR being given by some of our younger juniors was absolutely brilliant considering their size and strength and this could most certainly be the difference between life and death in an emergency! WELL DONE ALL!



The fun & games on the field were great entertainment especially the SPLAT A PRAT* (*enter alternative word of choice here) and I get the distinct impression not everyone who got 'splatted' were expecting to be! Not forgetting the lethal 'welly wanging' competition – hard hats all round for onlookers next year!!

The evening hot chocolate and giant hot dogs were lovely as always and the fireworks were breath taking. The evening temperature went cool quite rapidly so I used the excuse of it being Skye's first experience of fireworks to watch them from the van to 'comfort and reassure' her. However, the little devil wasn't bothered one iota and slept through most of it – what a spectacular show!



Thank you to Paula, Kevin, Danny, Pauline, Kierah and all your amazing helpers for a fantastic weekend. WELL DONE!!!

Kerry, Craig, Charlotte, Archie & Skye Silver

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

Hatton Country World 30th August to 1st September 2019

As Daniel was only four days into his new job, we waited for him to get home before setting off. This also had the advantage of us missing most of the heavy traffic on the M42.

Once we finally arrived, we quickly set up and made it to opening flag while the tea was still hot. It was lovely to catch up with friends after we had all been out and about for holidays over the summer. We spent the rest of Friday evening chatting with Mike, Beth, Damian and Dawn and James in Mike and Beth's awning.

On Saturday a group headed off into Hatton Country World, taking advantage of the discounted prices. Meanwhile we had to do an emergency supermarket run as I'd left the burgers in the freezer at home. Once we got back, we set off for a walk through the fields and back along the canal, aiming to find some geocaches along the way.

We had a lovely walk and discovered loads of blackberries ready to be picked. Sadly, we didn't have any containers with us. It was a good walk, with a suitable pub stop before returning to the caravan for a bite of lunch.

We then had a bit of a lazy afternoon before gathering for the afternoon tea that Beth had organised. A great opportunity for everyone to get together and chat about the day.

Then it was burgers for tea before a relaxing evening in the caravan as the temperature had dropped quite a bit.

After flag on Sunday we gathered together some containers and set off to pick some blackberries. We hadn't even made it out of the field before all our containers were full. (I now have 2 jars of Bramble jelly in the cupboard and plenty of blackberry and apple pie filling in the freezer).

As it was such a lovely afternoon, we then went for a walk along the Canal with Damian, Dawn, Alfie, Lottie and James and the dogs.



Overall, a lovely great location.



weekend in a

Helen, Gordon & Daniel Mitchel

And the winner is.....

Tote Winners

As the snowball is over £100 snowballs 900 and 1000 have been added. Anyone wishing to have regular numbers please speak to Mick Hale.

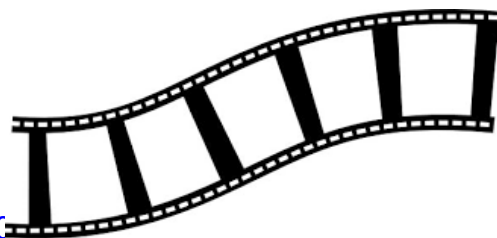


Stoke Prior	Steve Preston	208	£30.00
Upper Welland	Kevin Dudley	226	£32.00
Monks Barn farm	James Harris	208	£25.00
Button Oak	Damien Campbell	86	£26.50
Evesham	Damien Campbell	86	£40.50
Tamworth	Lesley Palmer	24	£25.00
Romsley	Helen Mitchell	129	£25.00
Stratford upon avon	Martha Downes	214	£25.00
Nuneaton	Dave Palmer	58	£25.00
Hatton Country World	Dawn Campbell	261	£25.00
Catton Hall	Dave Palmer	58	£40.00
Evesham	Ellie Atkinson	208	£25.00

Bully Article Winner— July 2019

Helen Mitchell will receive the £10 prize for being the only person willing to submit an article for July's edition of the Bully (other than the Chairman—but we wouldn't want it going to his head would we? The 'Chairman's Chuff' I mean 'Chat'.... is long enough!) . 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!

2020 Rally Book Cover



If you would like to submit a photo for the cover of the 2020 Rally Book Cover, please email it to Beth

Downes before the 2019 AGM. Photos must be in Portrait form and if it includes children then you will require written permission from the Child(s) parent(s) and submit this along with the photo.



2015 COACHMAN LASER 625 **Twin axle. 4 berth. AS NEW CONDITION!!**

Side dinette layout, end bathroom, motor mover, ATC. As new condition. Oven never used. Full service history. ONLY been used 4 times for 2 weeks each holiday. Giving up caravanning.

To include full Isabella Ambassador Moonlite awning with bedroom annex and Isabella breathable ground sheet. All usual equipment to include water barrels plus pump to connect from van to tap, wastemaster, flat screen tv/dvd player and roof mounted solar panel. Many top quality accessories. Most equipment is Isabella. Table, chairs, windbreaks, etc. some never used! Everything you need to start caravanning in luxury, including Corelle crockery, pots and pans, cutlery.

£17,000

Contact Chris Pitt for more info: 01905 451584





Breathable winter storage cover for 2017 Swift Challenger 530 SE caravan

Made-to-measure by Specialised Covers, specifically for this model of caravan, with door opening and solar panel window. Measures 7.00m long x 2.23m wide. Purchased in August 2017 but only used once from December 2018-March 2019.

Selling because it won't fit my new caravan!

Cost £349 new - Will sell for £180

**Seller lives in north Birmingham
Tel: 0779 681 7779**



From the Editor.....



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

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

Happy Rallying!

