



The Midland Centre of the Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS

Chairman's Chat

Happy New Year to you, I hope you had a fantastic Christmas. Hard to believe that the festivities have been and gone so quickly. I need to find out when my next holiday is.

The latter part of 2019 has been a somewhat soggy affair. Since the AGM back in October, where we were looked after to our usual high standard by the Drayton Manor Staff, caravanning has been somewhat restricted by Mother Nature.

The holiday rally in Hendra looked set to be particularly wet and wild. On the Friday night we made our way south in convoy with our co stewards Damian & Dawn. Conditions were somewhat challenging with strong headwinds and rain lashing down, the fuel consumption took a bit of shoeing. Saturday saw ralliers arriving throughout the day with last van arriving at 20.30, fair to say a long day. Sunday was probably the only day where it didn't rain, the rest of the week consisting of rain, wind, rain and mud. Still we enjoyed days out taking in the local sights. A meal at a local pub with our fellow ralliers, a Halloween night including trick or treating and dead mans fingers (Hot dogs from a Jar) No thanks!

Saturday's forecast promised 70-80mph winds, oh the joy. With this in mind there was mass exodus on Friday to avoid such hairy driving conditions, me included. A challenging yet enjoyable rally, thanks to our co stewards Damian & Dawn for their hard work.

The following rally at Fillongly was cancelled due to a waterlogged field, therefore the next rally was at Yew Tree Farm this time with us supporting the Campbells. This was billed as a Pre-Christmas rally. Bingo on Friday was followed by a Black Country Nativity and Christmas Disco on Saturday night, Mince Pie & Sherry included as well to boot. The nativity was acted out by us stewards and the children. From the moment Dawn came up with the idea it was obvious that I was destined to play Mary with my love of a good dress and heavy make-up. Good fun was had all round, thank you to everyone who came, to Dawn for coming up with the idea of a Nativity and making such brilliant props and everyone else that helped, especially Kerry for stepping in at the last minute as 'propmaster'. If not it would have looked even more chaotic than it did.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2020



RALLIES REQUIRING STEWARDS

14th - 16th February

Fillongley Village Hall, CV7 8EQ

21st-23rd February

Binton Social Club, CV37 9TU

20th-22nd March

Alveley Sports Club, WV15 6LN

3rd -5th July

Monks Barn Farm, CV37 8NA

17th-19th July

Button Oak, DY12 3LE

21st-23rd August

Wellfield Pools. DY12 3DF

18th-20th September

Dayhouse Farm, B62 0EX

31st Oct- 1st Nov

Hyde Farm, WR10 2DX

13-15th Nov

Top Barn Farm, WR6 6NH

28th Dec-2nd Jan—NEW YEAR

Henley in Arden, B95 6AF

If you are interested in running any of these rallies please contact our Rally Sec. Mike Downs on 07806 780265 or Assistant Rally Sec. Andy Pickerell on 07853 930369.

Chairman's Chat continued...



The following week we once again were co stewards to the Campbells. Off to Astley Village Hall which is our favourite rally venue, you would never guess would you. Friday night was a free & easy, whilst on Saturday ralliers decorated T-Shirts for the evenings UV Party. It was also a Festival of Light, where ralliers decorated caravans with as many lights as possible. Saturday night Troubadour returned after a lengthy absence from the Midland Centre to entertain the crowd. As it was a UV party my daughters thought it would be a good idea to paint the faces of a few of the members of the band. A great night, and a great rally. Thanks again to our Stewards Damian & Dawn and everyone who came we hope you enjoyed!



Unfortunately, again due to the weather this year's family Christmas party had to be cancelled as the venue was flooded.

Our next foray in the van was Christmas at Cookhill. Five days of none stop hard work. 32 vans booked on, 31 turned up for the 29th running of this rally. On the 23rd we enjoyed a meal together at the Neville Arms followed by Micks Festive Quizingo back at the hall. On the 24th after catering for some 70 plus ralliers we were entertained by Charlotte Hale (No relation to Mick)

Christmas Day saw us in the hall for 7am to unwrap presents and put Turkeys in the oven. 84 meals served, a quick nap and it was time for a visit from Santa, followed by a game of Play Your Cards Right before sitting down to watch a Christmas movie. Boxing day followed with 99 meals to be served, then entertainment in the evening from Jonson. This rally wouldn't be possible without the help of numerous people. Our Stewards Craig & Kerry, Mick & June, new comers Phil & Lindsay, Lin Wood and Beth. Also thanks to Nick & Deb helping with serving on Christmas and Boxing Day and to Jim & Shirley Walker for booking in and managing the veg peelers. Next year we celebrate the rallies 30th Anniversary, I'm thinking free & easy, that was a joke by the way, could you imagine, Pot Noodles all round.

New Year was spent sleeping away from the rally field. Well done to the stewards of the New Year rally. I am informed it was a good rally, thank you for taking on the challenge of running such a big rally. Feel free to collect the paperwork for next year from me.

So there you go, it's January 2020 folks. We have a number of rallies in the coming months including Fillongley Village Hall, Binton Social Club and Alverley Sports Club without stewards. These rallies will have to be cancelled if nobody volunteers, so please if you want to take on any of these rallies contact either myself or my trusty sidekick Andy Pickrell and we will gladly supply you with paperwork.

See you soon.

Mike Downs, Chairman & Rally Secretary

Committee Business

Welcoming your new Senior Committee for 2019/2020

Chairman/Rally Secretary	Mike Downs
Vice Chairman / Website	Gordon Mitchell
Acting Secretary	Matthew Hart
Treasurer/Plaque Officer	Mick Hale
Assistant Rally Secretary	Andy Pickerell
Regional Representative	Martyn Reynolds
Sports Officer	Danny Steed
Junior Liaison Officer	James Harris
Social Secretary	Lindsey Grant
Regalia Officer	Graham Bird
Ex-Officio Bully Officer	Kerry Silver

Welcoming you new Junior Committee for 2019/2020

Junior Chairperson	Ellie
Junior Vice Chairperson	Eleanor
Junior Secretary	Martha
Junior Treasurer	Lanis
Junior Committee Members	Charlotte
	Jake
	William
	Mollie
	Aston
	Rubi
	Ellia

Along with support from our Junior Liaison Officer, James Harris.

Updates from the Caravan and Motorhome Club.....

Updates from Caravan and Motorhome Club



Welcome to a new section to the Bully! As I'm sure you will be aware CAMC send out lots of communications to your committee to help in the smooth running of the Centres and to update them on things happening within our Club.

Most of this is added to the flag notes but no one attends every rally so we thought we would add a new section for things that our membership needs or may want to know.

Obviously if you have any questions then please get in touch.

Matthew Hart
Acting Secretary

In the latest update of Centre Guidance in August, CAMC have increased their policy on the flight of drones to cover Centre Rallies and not just Club Sites. (Yes I do see the irony of this)

"Drones are banned from the rally field and any Centre event unless you have prior agreement from Head Office. This rule reflects the Club's rules for the use of drones on all Club sites, which are also banned without prior agreement from Head Office. Any unauthorised use of drones by members on the rally field or Club sites will face disciplinary action."



As a Rally Steward the Club arranges insurance on your behalf. The club going forward will require any Stewards 80 years or older to complete a confidential insurance form which will need to be sent directly to CAMC. I will be writing to all Stewards for 2020 over the coming weeks but please contact the committee if you have not received the paperwork.

And Finally a piece of sad news. The Hereford Centre voted at their AGM on 12 October a notice of Hibernation having not been able to form a Committee. This means that unfortunately the Centre which was formed in 1976 will close in three months time if people do not step forward to take on the committee roles required to run a Centre.

Herefordshire Centre
Caravan Club

Hello & Welcome to our new Junior Liaison Officer.....

Hi All, Welcome to 2020. I thought I would take this new start to the year to update you all on plans for the coming year for the Junior Committee.

So, as the new JLO I have big boots to fill after the amazing job Damian has done the last 3 years. I have already been shown great support since the AGM from members offering help with the position and it is greatly received and I will be calling upon this throughout the year.

As I started caravanning with the Midland centre 29 years ago with my Mom and Dad (Diane and Dave) along with my brother, I have great memories of been a youth in the centre. I hope to use this experience to filter down into this year's great team that has been brought together with Ellie Atkinson at the helm providing a great start.

It has been decided at the AGM the juniors will be fundraising for Acorns Children's Hospice. This is a great charity working with children and their families to improve quality of life with the services they provide.

The family Christmas Party was going to be used as a meeting time to get all the junior committee together to discuss the year ahead. Due to this been cancelled nothing has been finalised or agreed. So this will be the first a lot of people will be hearing of plans.

We have 2 rallies this year where we will be pushing for support.

We have the junior rally at Alcester rugby club from the 12-14 June. There is a plan for something on the Friday evening. Juniors armed with buckets and sponge's Saturday morning for a car wash to compete with the guys on site. 😊 There will also be a BBQ selling hotdogs and burgers weather permitting as the UK forecast can never be trusted. There will also be 2 socials happening on the Saturday evening.

The first will be organised by the Juniors, they are going to be working together to set up everything. They are planning games, music and sale of soft drinks and in a hope giving them responsibility to give them skills for the future.

The other social will be more adult based filled with comedy and talent. An open mic night so prepare your talents. Tell a joke, sing a song, perform acrobatics and not forgetting to book on as it won't happen without support.

More info will follow as things finalise and will change.

Then after the success of Catton Hall in 2019 we will be coming up with ideas to utilise the field as was done last year. More info will follow on this as the year pans out.

Also if anyone would like to put themselves forward for a gruelling challenge that everyone can get behind please contact me with your ideas.

I also would like to make some 'thank you's' - To the team at New Year for raising £149 on the raffle and irish bingo—that is amazing. Also to Daniel Mitchell for his contribution of money raised from the photographs. Then Ade Croft for his generous contribution of tote winnings further adding to the donations.

Many Thanks

James Harris, Junior Liaison Officer

jamesharris76@hotmail.com

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

Midland Centre Annual General Meeting 2019

We hadn't seen everyone for a while so was great to be welcomed onto the rally site. We hadn't stayed on the hard standing car park before and there were some amazing puddles! After we set up we sorted out our evening meal then headed up to the hotel.

We spent the evening catching up with everyone and having a few drinks.

Saturday arrived (AGM day) I love AGM's attending two last Saturday where I was involved it was great to attend an AGM and not be involved with the running of it. The best bit is to get to be a proposer or a seconder as those present at the meeting probably witnessed.

I very proudly spoke about the Junior Challenge 2019 and awarded the children their trophies which they were very proud of (and so they should be). Once again a big thank you to the parents / grandparents who supported the children on their quest.

We had some time to ourselves after the Chairman's lunch before we needed to get ready for the evening. The time went quickly and in what seemed like no time at all we were all suited and booted and on our way up for the evening.

We were greeted by the line up of new committee and past committee before making our way to our table and our first drink. My meal was amazing, Matt and Cal's curry looked pretty good too. The singer and of course Mick kept us all entertained and up and dancing all night. Including my new favourite dance (which I was annoyed I hadn't put on a CD for Mick to play, but he already had it!) The 'Git up' by Bianco Brown. It was a fabulous night with wonderful friends.

You just have to love an AGM rally - Well I do anyway!

A big well done to Mike and both his past and new committee and I wish them all well in the year ahead.

Gaynor Hart

Congratulations on your New Arrival

Congratulations to Sandra and Dave Noake on the birth of their new grandson, born to daughter Kate and Paddy on 29th Jan at 15.30, weighing in at 7lbs 4oz.

Both are doing well and we wish them every happiness

Regards to all



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

Thank you to Chris Smith for sending this in

Wanderings of a Mad Caravanner - By Trevor Raveller

I thought I'd overslept. The caravan was very light for 7 o'clock in March and that was even with those orange and blue curtains that looked so good, at the time. Trousers on, top on and off to the loo. Opened the door to see the loo. It was a blue bucket with a white lid. The posh part was the sealing lid that you had to be Desperate Dan to open and which meant urgency could never be thought of.

The loo was there but the toilet tent wasn't. Instead there was 6 inches of snow on the loo lid. Hence the brightness. The wind, from the gale, overnight had blown the tent away completely and was never found. I was on a CL near Bath at the time and there were no facilities but I can't remember what arrangement I made. I know I couldn't tow home, certainly not with a Fiat 850, so left the caravan until the following weekend. I do remember noting never to visit that CL again as the farmer charged me a week's fees!

The caravan a Sprite 400 had been bought in 1969 for £290 new. Four berths, a sink, no water, 2 hot plates and a grill was the total. Anticipating year round touring I had a gas pipe fitted and bought a heater which with the 2 gas bottles added £9 to the bill.

It was in the mid-seventies that I lost the toilet tent and by then I had fitted a water pump. It was a Whale tiptoe. Fitted through the floor you pushed the plunger up and down with your left foot and cold water came out of the pipe over the sink. It made the caravan rock and if the curtains were drawn your neighbours gave you knowing looks when they next saw you.

I didn't rally in those days. It was rumoured that you were pitched in caravan make order so I imagined that with a Sprite 400, now getting older, I would be pitched in the next field. For a couple of short periods the caravan was home and everything went in including work stuff. Why do I need a big car and big caravan now and only for holidays? Was everything smaller in those days?

I sold the 400 in 1993 for £80. I am horrified to remember that the tyres were the original. I had serviced the caravan myself. To make sure the wheel bearing were tight enough you put the wheel on the jacked up caravan with the valve at 3 o'clock. If the wheel spun to the valve at 8 o'clock it was tight enough. Brake adjustment was not so accurate!

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

Something a Little Different

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, we had arranged to meet up with our friends Pete and Deb Crockett from South Wales. One of the great benefits of rallying that we have found is that you can make friends from other Centres. They had booked two pitches on Holly Mount CL near Ross on Wye as it was about halfway between where we both live.

Due to work commitments we arrived 'lateish' on Friday evening, but the CL owner has a notice board as you enter the CL indicating which pitch you have been allocated. Our friends were already setup and waiting for us.

Once we were setup it was time for a catch up and a good natter.

Saturday we all explored Ross on Wye, this being a town we had driven past many times but had never been into. It is a great place and has managed to retain much of the traditional town character with lots of shops. As is often the case, when meeting friends, we ended up in a local watering hole, The King Charles II, which allows dogs (so Peppa, Pete and Debs adopted Springer Spaniel was allowed to join us), for a couple of jars before a bit more exploring. Then we found a dog friendly coffee shop, Miffy's Tea Room, which we can highly recommend, we had some lovely cakes and the owner spoilt Peppa with some treats. She also enlightened us to what was on in Ross on Wye over the Bank Holiday weekend.



We had not realised when the CL was booked that the Ross on Wye rowing Regatta was on and the OllieFest Music Festival, which was set up by the friends of a local young rugby player who passed away in 2015. We missed Friday and Saturday night where the headline acts were an ABBA tribute and a Queen Tribute.

However, on the Sunday night the headline act was a Madness Tribute, so we managed to get ourselves organised and went to the Sunday evening concert. To date this music festival has been free to attend, but they do ask for donations etc to help fund the event and raise money for charity. (This might change in 2020 as it is becoming more popular and bigger).



We arrived early evening and listened to some of the other acts as the sun was setting before moving to the main stage for the Madness Tribute which includes some of the original band members from the 80s. I had forgotten how much I enjoyed Madness, being a fan in the 80s, and it brought back a lot of memories of my time as a student at University.

Sorry but I was so engrossed in enjoying the concert that I forgot to get any photos of the band.

The finale on Sunday Evening was a free firework display after Madness had finished. This lasted for about 15 minutes and was excellent, although not quite at the level of the Catton Hall fireworks.

As with all good things in life, enjoyable weekends with friends come to an end far too quickly. We will be back in Ross on Wye for OllieFest, hopefully in 2021.

Gordon, Helen and Daniel Mitchell.

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

New Year 2019

It's fifteen years since we joined the centre and we've only missed two new year rallies. All those we've been to have been good rallies and varied greatly, from large turnouts with almost every meal provided to the smaller more intimate affairs. The 2019 rally was somewhere in between.

35 units turned up at Henley in Arden school. Easy access, and careful pitching by the stewards gave an impression of space, and not far to the services. The school building created a shadow and with the heavy cloud on most days the solar panels struggled. A generous centre friend came to our rescue with an hour or so of generator mid-rally that got us and others through without a battery change.

First night was a French evening with cheese and wine. Lovely subtle touches gave the right atmosphere even the serviettes were arranged as tricolours. Of course the wines were French! Lots of variations on French costumes with Pilko looking very authentic in his Gendarme's uniform. When snail racing was advertised I wondered if it involved how quickly we could eat them, but it turned out to be a game with betting. I lost 40p!!!!

Day time activities included a family walk, which proved to be a muddy experience and a family film. The village of Henley is an easy walk away and ralliers enjoyed some pub lunches there and also the Italian coffee shop. Another advantage is that the bus to Stratford runs by the site. There's also a first class fish and shop which supplied the fish and chip supper on the second night.

Rachel Cooper entertained us on night 2 along with Mix n Match. Sound volume was excellent and both artistes had the floor full of dancers. Roger, the barn dance caller has a cruel streak! His routines the following night were brilliant and those wearing Fitbits had to change the batteries! Someone asked him to play Strip the Willow, which led to

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball started at 8 p.m. This meant the evening shot by and in no time Mick was playing those Big Ben chimes. We arrived to a glass of fizz and when each time zone flipped into the New Year we toasted, so Moscow New Year was at 9. At midnight there was abundant fizz to celebrate. The midnight pop was Austrian which went down well, generally I think nicer than the better known Prosecco. Grand buffet was superb. Salads, cold meats and a salmon were complemented by hot new potatoes and variety of gorgeous breads. Puddings came in a variety of styles, I had the hot apple pie, and there was cheese to follow. So difficult to decide just what to have.

After a late night the stewards produced a brunch on New Year's Day followed by flag, raffle, tote etc. and the juniors raised a good sum. Throughout the rally the stewards' attention to detail was impressive. We had a great time and thank the stewards who worked so hard.

Chris Smith

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

Lenchford Rally Report January 2020

Well Christmas and New Year all over and back to the routine of going back to work and school for a week. We know that it is time to head back to Lenchford for the first Midland Centre rally of the year.



As usual for winter rallies we arrived in the dark, but, we had an excellent run from storage. Quick bite to eat and was soon time to head over to the pub. Obviously the three of us entered the pool competition, just the one of us through to the second round and of course Matt didn't gloat at all about Cal and I being knocked out in the first round!

The weather forecast wasn't good for the weekend so matts proposed walk changed to a shopping afternoon at Gloucester Quays. I came back empty handed but for the boys a successful trip - very unusual!

The carvery in the evening was once again superb as usual for the Lenchford the Chocolate fudge cake was amazing to follow too. The staff looked after us very well.

After we had been fed the final stages of the pool competition started, as I said earlier only one of us was still in so both Cal and I were there to cheer Matt on (well Cal with the occasional sarcastic comment which of course added to the banter! - like father like son at the moment!). The matches started all in fairly good humour with some of the ladies being coached by the standing by gentleman.



Terry did an awesome job of referee as the matches progressed which gradually started to become a little more serious. All of a sudden we were at the final which was between Matt and Dave. After ten years Matt had finally reached the final.



Terry ensured that the table was in tip top condition for such a prestigious event - taking his role of referee very seriously. Both

Dave and Matt played some fabulous shots and some not so good ones too, which, as you can imagine added to the humour and banter as the balls started disappearing off the table. Eventually the black ball went down and Dave was the winner for 2020.

Flag on Sunday morning was outside Jim and Kath's van where Dave was presented with the new trophy for the competition.



Well done to Dave on being the pool champion for 2020 and a big thank you to Jim and Kath for running the rally and organising the pool tournament ... Until the next one.

Gaynor Hart



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.

Wilmcote	Gordon Mitchell	252	£29.00
Wyre Piddle	Margaret Hughes	7	£26.00
Drayton Manor	Beth Downs	234	£37.00
Forest View	Phil Grant	64	£25.00
Fradley	Damien Campbell	40	£25.00
Far Forest	Adrian Grant	293	£30.50
Astley Village Hall	Lesley Palmer	24	£33.00
Cookhill	Jim Brothwood	297	£29.00
Henley In Arden	Adrian Croft	206	£29.00

As the snowball is over £100.00 another snowball has been added 900 & 1000
Anyone wanting regular numbers on tote see Mick Hale.

Best Bully Article Winner— September 2019

Past Bully Article winner Helen Mitchell chose Ian Sutherland's write-up on Hoar Park as the winner for September. He won £10. Well done Ian!

Overall Best Bully Article Winner for 2018/19

A small sub-committee chose the winner of the Best Bully Article for 2018/19 to be Lynn Todd's write-up on the 'Back to School' rally at Astley in November 2018. Lynn won £30. Well done.

Bully Article Prizes for 2019/20

As an incentive, the cash prize for the best article from each edition has been raised for £20 per winning article, however there will no longer be an overall winner.

2020 Rally Book Cover

This years Rally Book Cover competition was won by Debbie Allen. The photo was chosen by a sub committee from the entries submitted to the rally secretary during the year. Debbie wins £25. Well done Debbie.

2021 Rally Book Cover

The competition for the Rally Book Cover is a little different this year as it will form part of the Junior Challenge! The Junior will need to design the cover and it can be anything you like, a photo, artwork you have drawn or created on a computer or tablet, or anything else you can think of. The only condition is that it must be submitted as a j.peg file and in portrait. All entries (or queries) need to be submitted to gaynor.juniorchallenge@gmail.com by the Stewards Meet. Each entry will form part of our very own gallery exhibition and everyone who attends the AGM will get a vote.

Best Weekend Rally 2018/2019

Following a vote at the AGM, the best weekend rally for 2018/19 was awarded to Steve & Heather Lloyd who, with the assistance of Mike & Brenda Pilkington, ran the rally at Cuckoos Corner. Steve, Heather, Mike & Brenda win £50. Thank you and well done.



FOR SALE
Caravan Carpets & Ground Sheet



Set of **loose fitted carpets** for
(transverse island bed, end

Lunar Clubman SI 2011
bathroom model). Colour Beige

good condition.
Price: £25

ALSO **Grey breathable ground sheet** 18ft x 8ft approx. V
ery good condition (too small for new awning).

Price: £20

Contact: daveandchris0908@btinternet.com

FOR SALE
Awning Bedroom

I have an **awning bedroom**, which hooks to poles across awning. Very clean as new condition.
If anyone could use it, I could get it to them, for perhaps a **small donation to the juniors' charity**.

Thanks Joan Herbert - 01297 625018

From the Editor.....



Thank you to everyone for their contribution to the later than planned New Year 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 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

Happy Rallying for 2020!

