



The Midland Centre of the
Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS

MARCH 2020

Chairman's Chat

Well, aye it been wet? Its fair to say Mother Nature has thrown her worst at us over the last few months. The good news is that we have still managed to enjoy our hobby.

At the end of January our hosts Phil & Lindsey Grant assisted by the Akys were our hosts for the 80's weekend at Yew Tree Farm. Friday night we enjoyed an 80's Quiz hosted by Phil. Saturday night we dressed up in our outfits and made our way to the barn for the ultimate 80's party. There was a choice of drinks from our hosts including Lambrini, Hooch and Malibu. As expected I chose the most manly drink Lambrini. A great night was had by all and the kids were mesmerized by the sight of us adults getting on the floor for 'OOPS up Side your Head'. Well done to our hosts Phil, Lindsey, Aky & Kelly—a truly fantastic weekend



The next week we were back in the saddle, this time with The Akys running our Quiet & Cosy weekend at Astley Village Hall. Friday night we enjoyed a chippy tea and a chinwag. On Saturday Morning Bacon baps were served to the ralliers, in the afternoon we watched Toy Story 4 on James' movie screen, thanks James. Then Saturday night a 2 course meal was served before enjoying the evening with some fun and games. Thanks to our co stewards The Akys and to Graham Bird for helping us site vans and mostly to all that came along. We hope you enjoyed.

Unfortunately Fillongley was cancelled due to a waterlogged field. We were unable to get out for Binton Social Club but thank you to Terry & Lesley Probin for stepping to run this rally.



RALLIES REQUIRING STEWARDS

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

30th Oct- 1st Nov

Hyde Farm
WR10 2DX

13-15th Nov

Top Barn Farm
WR6 6NH

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 Pickrell** on 07853 930369

Chairman's Chat continued...



The next time we were out was the Dinner Dance at Drayton Manor, one of the most prestigious events on our calendar. This was to be Lindsey Grant's first major event as Social Secretary. Friday night we enjoyed a get together in the Carousel Bar.

Saturday was spent making last minute preparations for the evenings festivities. As ever Lin Wood prepared beautiful table decorations. A Fantastic evening followed with entertainment from Andy Plimmer supported by the ever present Mix & Match, Well done to Lindsey on her first Dinner Dance as Social Secretary and thank you to all the people that supported her, especially Matt & Gaynor, June, Beth and most importantly her Lindsey's other half Phil. You were all great.



Next up Warwick, to a venue that The Midland Centre hasn't used for a while, Warwickshire Marching Band. The sun was shining as we left storage and it wasn't pitch black when we arrived which means spring is finally on its way meaning lighter nights. Friday night was Kelly Atkinson's Birthday so obviously we had to celebrate with a few beverages. Saturday we enjoyed a walk around Warwick, which appeared to be shut, luckily there were a few hostelrys open so we could wet our whistles and grab a bite to eat. On our return to the van a gentle nap was required before resuming service for the social for a game of Beetle followed by a music quiz, I won neither even though we came a closely fought second place in the quiz. Well done to Stewards Mick and June and first time Midland Centre Co Stewards Roger and Barbara. Feel free to view the outstanding rallies Barbara and take your pick.

I was just thinking to myself 'so that's it, the 2020 rally season is in full swing, hopefully the weather will start to improve now'. Famous last words.....

Hope to see you all out on the rally field in the not too distant future!

Mike Downs

IMPORTANT.. IMPORTANT.. IMPORTANT.. IMPORTANT

Coronavirus (Covid 19) Update

The Midland Centre Committee has, following advice from the Government and The Caravan and Motorhome Club, taken the decision to cancel rallies for the next month.

This includes;

Rally 10 - **Newland Meadows**

Rally 11 - **Willows Farm**

Rally 12 - **Easter at Ukrainian Centre**

Rally 13 - **Wyre Piddle**

Rally 14 - **Porth Beach** - Mick Hale will be in touch with all ralliers booked onto the Holiday Rally at Porth Beach. As this site remains open there may be a chance for people to book onto this site independently.

The Fishing Rally at The Cob House currently remains on the program, but this and following rallies may also have to be looked at as future updates are received.

At this point the CAMC has advised us that rallies do not need to be cancelled but social events must be cancelled. The Governments advice is to avoid social contact and avoid unnecessary travel has led us to this difficult decision, as all of our rallies for the next month all include a large social element. While there will be some sites still open and possible a few other Centres/Clubs running rallies we would like to remind you to keep an eye on updates on Government and CAMC Websites.

Our rallying friends are often more like family and over the coming weeks and possibly months we are going to miss each other. Our Chairman has asked me to remind you all to keep in touch with each other. Please remember some of our more senior members will probably be advised to isolate for 12 weeks and will appreciate a phone call now and again.

We will update you as more information is released.



Midland Centre Business

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 Pickrell
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

Midland Centre Business

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
Junior Liaison Officer	James Harris

Junior Liaison Officer Notice:

Upon the news of cancelled rallies, I will be scaling back my ideas for this year's Junior Rally.

We will still have plenty going on but without rallies happening before the junior rally it will be hard to get what I need into place with juniors help and asking the right people for involvement.

James Harris—JLO

Midland Centre Business



Midland Centre Membership

Most Caravan and Motorhome Club memberships automatically renew, and your annual payment is taken by direct debit. However, your membership of a local centre needs to be renewed annually.

You can renew your membership in two ways:

- ◆ You can do it online on the club's website www.caravanclub.co.uk/caravanclubapps/applications/my%20club/centre-membership/details.aspx
- ◆ You can call the Club on 01342 318813 or by filling in the form that your new membership card was attached to.

As your Centre Membership expires inline with your Club Membership, your membership card is a good reminder it is time to renew your Centre Membership.

As long as you are a Caravan and Motorhome Club member, you do not need to be a member of a local Centre to attend ours, or other Centre's Rallies.

Joining our Centre annually means you will receive our rally book and updates on rallies and Centre Events. You will also be eligible to attend, speak and vote at our AGM and stand for positions on our committee.

Our Centre also receives a grant from Caravan and Motorhome Club, our grant is linked to the amount of members we have.

Please support your Centre and renew your membership when it becomes due.

Matthew Hart
Secretary (Acting)

Updates from the Junior Challenge.....

Junior Challenge update

Congratulations to Alfie and Lottie Campbell in completing the first of their challenges by holding a Family Film Night ... with Popcorn by the look of it!



Gold stars for the first completed challenge of 2020.

All juniors can enter the '20 challenges for 2020' just do not forget to send your photos to me when you have completed the challenges.

Gaynor

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

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

Yew Tree Farm 24th to 26th January

With it being the first rally since the Christmas festivities, I feel it was much needed weekend away. My first of 2020

With having arrived in the dark as the last of the daylight was fading as we were heading to the site, I was greeted by Phil and Aky who offered me one of the few remaining flat spots in the field. Much needed with the motorhome. Feeling the wet of the field through the tyres at what, in the driver's position felt the most level is where I parked. For the fear of been stuck on a slope been unable to level out. Home for the weekend.

With a damp evening the family enjoyed our caravaners meal in the van awaiting the evening's entertainment. What a fun night it was, chilled and relaxed. Heading down to the hall it felt like the rally had started. A warm welcome along with the usual tea and coffee was available, it was nice to see the juniors doing their part and collecting the bonus ball at the same time as the fees being collected.

Starting the evening entertainment on Friday was Mr P Grant playing background music warming up for the musical quiz. Great outfits by the way. Giving a chance for catch up with great friends and meeting new ones. Once people had settled and paid it was time for the quiz. I was useless at the quiz but being born in the mid-80s I have trouble remembering the half that I was alive hahaha. Saying that, I was able to sing along to a few, but artist and title was a struggle. It was the same with the adult competition, I knew very few answers but was more than terrible. Only one I probably got right was Tango and Cash.

So, Saturday was a chilled-out morning no rush to get out the pj's. Was glad for the electric hook up had the heaters on taking the crisp chill out of the air. After breakfast we had arose properly and the kids wanted to get out straight away and play. Giving myself time to get on with the cleaning and prep for the evening ahead.

I did think about popping into the Plough for dinner after how good the food was when we last went but I went to check and see if the stewards needed my backdrop. Ended up helping blow the balloons, only to be called away as Skye had made her usual escape artist trick of the weekend. Due to the kids wanting to take her on a walk.

The evening rolled round fast and with me trying to peek at how far people had dressed up for the 80s event. The turn out of effort was brilliant from costumes to outfits that were personal clothes from the 80s. With sweets and 80's theme drinks available like hooch and Lambrini the night was well in its stride. The music and room were on point, with everyone's attitude it was like a time warp to a 40th birthday in the 80's. Phil did a very good job behind the decks, as did the girls who maned the bar. As always, the kids and bigger kids had a great time dancing the night away.

Sunday flag was short and sweet, and everyone got off early. But this was not the end of my journey, I had trouble starting the motorhome which was sorted by Mr Tony Probert. Then with that sorted I couldn't get off the pitch resulting in Phil coming to the rescue and pulling me free. Heading back was all the norm with the kids asking are we home yet? Then at being a mile from home everything cuts out, no power to the engine and coasting down the dual carriageway. Luckily my work was at the bottom and managed to roll 200 yards from the gates. With the kids picked up and help arriving I managed to get it parked up in the compound of work to look at the next day. Turns out the needle was stuck at quarter of a tank. So, a trip to the petrol station and a jump start and all was good to get home.

Thank you to all who made it a fab weekend and especially to Linz, Kelly, Phil and Aky for being our stewards and giving your time for others enjoyment.

Happy Rallying

James Harris JLO

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



Midland Centre Dinner Dance 2020

The time of year came around when a number of us abandon our children with Grandparents. This is one of the only weekends of the year that our caravan isn't out of storage!

Quite a few of us were in the hotel and a number of people were in their vans (this year on the club site after the horrendous flooding that had happened at the park).

Drayton Manor always do us proud with a superb venue and how they look after us, this obviously being carefully monitored by the Social Secretary of the Centre. This being Lindsey's first Dinner Dance as Social Secretary and she did a wonderful job.

The evening was fabulous, the food was amazing and I think most people cleared all of their plates - which is a sign (in my opinion) of an exceptional meal, especially with so many being served.

I managed to get around and take photos of all of the tables so we have a record of the prestigious event in 2020.

We had a fabulous weekend and Matt enjoyed his breakfast each morning too!

Gaynor Hart



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

MCCC Annual Dinner Dance

Well it's that time of year again when we all get to dress up and hit the dance floor. With the terrible weather over the past few weeks and the imminent threat of an apocalyptic virus it was so good to see so many people turn up to support the MCCC annual dinner dance.

As the committee lined up to welcome everyone it was clear to see that a lot of effort had gone into making this event happen, from the beautiful table decorations through to the planning of the menus and entertainment.

We took to our seats and welcomed Mike and Beth Downs with a standing ovation, it was only right that before dinner we gave a toast to her majesty the Queen. The food was fantastic and the staff at Drayton Manor really looked after us. I would like to thank Lindsey Grant for her hard work in organising her first Dinner Dance. I would also like to say a big thank you to Lin Wood for the table decorations which were amazing.

After dinner it was time for the entertainment to start and Andy Plimmer was amazing and got everyone in the party mood. As the dance floor quickly filled up it gave Mike Downs the perfect opportunity to strut his funky stuff (not that he needed much persuasion).

Mix and Match finished the evening off with his disco where we danced the night away.

Everyone had a great time and it was good to see so many happy smiling people.

A big thank you goes out to everyone involved in making this event happen and I would also like to say a big thank you to the Drayton Manor staff for looking after us so well.

See you all at the next one!

Suzanne Pickrell

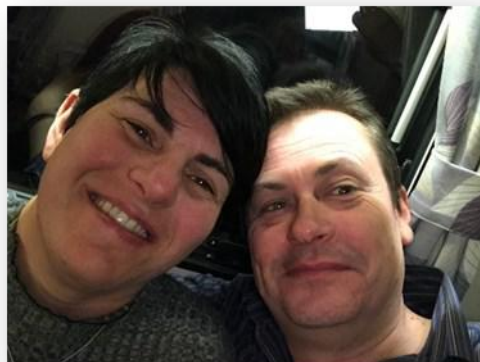
P.S Thanks Craig for the Tabasco Sauce

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

Warwickshire Marching Band

We were really looking forward to this weekend. A new location for us and at last what looked like a break in the terrible wet weather. The site is only a few minutes off the motorway, and for once the M42 and M40 were both clear and we arrived in little over an hour so for once we had time for dinner and still got to social before it had started.

Fridays social was a get together with some background music. But with Gordon's birthday earlier on in the week, and Kelly's on Friday there was a party atmosphere right from the start.



Saturday's weather was mild as forecasted so we walked our hangovers into Warwick. Though the shopping was not what Gaynor hoped for the refreshments were worth the walk and after lunch in Wetherspoons we like many others walked back with the hope of an afternoon snooze before the evenings entertainments.

When we arrived into the hall the tables and chairs had been re arranged all set up for the Beetle Drive thanks to our newest members and stewards, Roger and Barbara. The beetle drive was great fun and very well organised, and as with most things got a bit hectic and competitive. Even our grumpy teenager enjoyed it, I think winning the cash prize also helped.

We followed the beetle drive with a music quiz, which got even more competitive, especially as it ended in a sudden death playoff!

Another great Midland Centre weekend.

Matthew Hart

March 2020



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

Binton Social Club

We haven't been to Binton Social Club for a number of years as it had clashed with a rally near Banbury that we go on every year. This year our fabulous rally Secretary booked it for a slightly different weekend. John Nicholls always liked running this rally so we wanted to come in his memory too.

Obviously we arrived in the pitch black (we are looking forward to the light nights returning), we were welcomed by Terry who turned us round to come in through the second entrance to avoid a mega pothole.

After a quick bite to eat we were into the Social Club for a few drinks, game or two of pool and a catch up with friends (including our neighbours that we only seem to catch up with on rallies!)



On the Saturday we were all at the Caravan Show, after a stop off at McDonalds for breakfast. We returned in time for the evening Social which started with the infamous Binton basket meals, which were even better than I remember - well I can say that for the scampi anyway.

The bowling competition was fiercely contended by all those present, including Mick and June who had come over for the evening. Terry kept track of the scores. The overall winner of the 2020 Midland Centre Binton bowling competition was Calvin with an amazing 64 points, second place was Kirsty with 55 points. So Well Done Calvin!

I was at the show again on the Sunday leaving Matthew and Cal alone to have breakfast, go to flag, pack the van up and put it back in storage. The photo below they sent to me whilst they were packing up (hence car being on the wrong side of the caravan), just an amazing photo.



I think they managed everything ok ... they even returned with a bottle of white wine for me as I had won the van competition.... Bonus!

A great return to Binton and thank you to Terry and Lesley for running the rally.

Gaynor Hart

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

Village Hall – St Patrick’s Weekend

Another new venue, and another one close to us.

The rally started with a phone call from the Co-Stewards Co-Steward wondering where the water tap was, luckily, we knew as we had been there a few weeks back with another club.

Although only 16 miles from storage, still a 40 minutes’ drive as it was all cross country, so we arrived early (for us) and actually arrived only a few moments behind our Chairman and Steward for the weekend, luckily they had co-stewards and co-co-stewards.



Although not there to site the vans (remember if you are thinking of running a rally there are always people there to help) our Stewards had arranged in advance a pre-ordered and discounted deal at a local chip shop, so we were all soon sat in the hall eating fish and chips along with some liquid refreshments which lasted hours after the chips had been finished.

Saturday morning saw some heavy rain in the early hours, apparently, we had no memory of this but did awake late to find a large puddle on the car park so assume it must have been true. When in this area a trip to Jacksons is a must, not finished with Jacksons we continued our shopping trip in Coventry.

We arrived back to site for afternoon tea, after tea and cakes the chatting ran well into cocktail hour so a few gins we consumed too. By the time we had helped Nick (cannot cut a straight line in banquet roll) and Debbie (that’s not level and that tables cover drops too far) we only had 10 minutes to get ready for the evening.

The evening started with Irish Stew cooked by Beth and helpers (some a little camera shy) and puddings. The stew, both portions, was awesome.

Although no planned entertainment the evening was superb, chatting, drinking and a fashion show as only our Chairman could pull off from the charity clothes rail. Throw in some music and late night trolley racing and you soon have an evening and a weekend to remember.

While so much of the evening was spent talking about how Coronavirus may curb our plans and rallying spirits where high. Did we finally agree on our long-term self-isolation rally site?

Another awesome weekend with a great bunch of friends, and a great lead up to Cal’s 16th Birthday on Monday

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.



Far Forest	Aston Grant	238	£28.50
Astley Village Hall	Lyndsey Grant	283	£28.50
Drayton Manor	Beth Downs	224	£29.00
Warwick	Dave Davies	260	£33.00

Best Bully Article Winner— January 2020

Past Bully Article winner Ian Sutherland chose Chris Smith's New Year Article as the winner for January 2020. They win £20. Well done Chris!

Bully Article Prizes for 2019/20

Just a reminder that the cash prize for the best article from each edition has been raised to £20 per winning article, however there will no longer be an overall year winner.

2021 Rally Book Cover Competition

The competition for the Rally Book Cover will form part of the Junior Challenge this year! 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.





[Isabella Ambassador Full Awning](#)

Colour: Charcoal and stone. Size 1070cm (fits Coachman 620) with bedroom annex and inner tent. Excellent condition. Very little use. Carbon lite poles. Curtains. Isabella ceiling light shade with fittings. Isabella awning carpet.

Cost over £2000. **BARGAIN at £750.00**



From the Editor.....



Thank you to everyone for their contribution to the March 2020 edition of The Bully News and as always, many thanks to Gordon Mitchell for uploading it onto the website.

Sadly this will be the last edition of The Bully until our rally programme is back in full swing but please continue to send in any articles you wish to see appear in future editions to kerry.silver@hotmail.com.

Please keep checking the centre website for further updates at www.midlandcentre.co.uk

