



The Midland Centre of the
Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS

POST LOCKDOWN 2020

Chairman's Chat

So I need to be careful what I write this time as I finished my last Chairman's chat by saying that the 2020 rally season was in full swing and that the weather was starting to improve.....Famous last words.

Fair to say I spoke too soon, Corley back in March was our last rally due to the Corona Virus. Some 5 months have passed since we were allowed out. Believe it or not I have learnt many new skills during lockdown. At first I became quite the culinary genius cooking for the family, ensuring hygiene was a priority even wearing a hair net whilst cooking.

Then came the decorating, painting, even building shelves, fitting a tv to the wall. I'm pleased tell you both are still intact!

And whilst doing all these handyman jobs and being the domestic god that I am kept myself sane and sophisticated with a few sherberts, even when out of ice

Now its not been all cooking, decorating and sophistication. There was the task of being a stay at home Dad, playing the part of teacher for the 3 Downs childlings, fair to say I'm no teacher. Eldest boy child William (Keith Moon 2) tried to give me drumming lessons, he realised this was a thankless task and he should leave me to my basic thump, bang technique.



VENUE CHANGE

Rally 37

4-6 September

**Hampton House Farm,
Kineton**

Please note the venue for this rally has changed as the Festival of Fireworks has been postponed until 2021.

Therefore there will be

**NO RALLY AT
CATTON HALL.**

**Please refer to the
centre website
(address below) or our
Facebook Group for
the most up to date
details on all
upcoming rallies.**

Chairman's Chat continued...

And at the same time as all of this extra curricular activity going on, your committee has worked hard to ensure that we are ready to get going once given the go ahead from Boris and CAMC HQ. As those who know me well know that technology is not my friend. Committee meetings have been conducted via Zoom, with me managing to sign onto one meeting twice and others via our secretary's mobile as I couldn't log on via 2 laptops, a tablet or an iPhone. So easier to ring Matthew, put me on loudspeaker and put his phone by his laptop. As calamitous as that may sound, we still managed to get constructive decisions made.....honest! Big thanks for the committee's patience with this especially to Gordon and Matthew for their technological know how. As Matthew says I'm more of a people person than a technology person!

The Midland Centre Facebook page has been launched and has proved to be a great success with people sharing many wonderful memories and some fantastic photos. Thank you to all who have spent time digging out old photos for us newer members to see.

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of Lin Moseley's passing in June, with husband Derek they were a much loved couple in the centre who contributed so much for over 30 years. All who knew them will cherish the memories they have of Lin & Derek.

After a few false starts I am pleased that we are now able to return to our hobby, yes it will be different but we will adjust to the new norm. I am sure people will return to the rally field, some sooner than others . I ask that we all respect each other whilst respecting the guidelines, We are all in this together, I look forward to seeing you all soon and welcoming the many new members that have joined during the lockdown. Hopefully we will return to normality in time, being the social, family friendly club that we are.

Stay safe, wash your donnies and I'll see you soon

Mike Downs

Chairman & Rally Secretary

Midland Centre Business

Senior Committee for 2019/2020

Chairman/Rally Secretary	Mike Downs
Acting 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

Midland Centre Business

We are finally ready to restart our rally program for 2020. We do not yet have answers about Winter Socials, our AGM, Christmas or New Year as we are still working on these alongside the CAMC. For now we can enjoy the remainder of the summer and make the most of the great outdoors - plus we are all much safer from the virus outside anyway! Under a separate document found on our website you will find our centre's guideline rules and regulations for all rallies in the near future. These may appear quite lengthy but the important thing is to stay safe while enjoying our hobby. We hope to be able to reduce this down to a shorter check-list type document in the near future.

Online booking forms and contact details

When booking onto a rally using an online form, please ensure that you list all adults in your group. This will help the centre if we need to provide details to the relevant authorities should there be any form of coronavirus outbreak detected amongst those who attended in the period after the rally. It would also be appreciated if the emergency contact section of the booking form is completed.

Rally non attendance

In the event that you are unable to attend a rally that you have booked onto, please contact the stewards and tell them you will not be attending. This will help the stewards ensure that the centre has an accurate list of all rally attendees if we need to pass on details for track and trace.

Rally Fees

All Rally fees must be paid before the Rally via online banking. If you are unsure of the amount to pay, then please contact the Stewards before the Rally. Should you not have access to online banking please discuss payment with our Treasurer. Your Payment should be made to: Barclays Bank, Sort Code 20-73-48 , Account 33213846 (Midland Centre Covid Secure Rallying) using your surname and rally number as a reference. So if our Chairman was paying for the rally at Raphael's in Evesham he would use the reference; DOWNSR28 If you cannot get this many characters on your reference, then please have the Rally Number and as much of your surname as possible. If you need to cancel, we will refund your payment provided you tell the Stewards before the start of the Rally. The Caravan & Motorhome Club have confirmed that rallies fall within the new 5% VAT rate until January 2021. We are no longer allowed to accept cash payments and therefore the rally must be paid for via electronic transfer in advance using the Rally No. as the reference. The centre website has therefore been updated with revised price details. If you are booking onto one of our rallies please check the latest prices on the website before making advance payment.

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

Post Lockdown Caravanning

When rallying was cancelled for July, we decided to treat it as an opportunity to explore somewhere new. We've been to two club sites and three CLs.

Our first outing was to Englethwaite Hall Club site near Carlisle on the day the sites reopened. This site was chosen as we needed to visit Gordon's Mum and Scotland was still on full lockdown. We spent a few days here, commuting to Selkirk daily, while sorting a few things out for his mum who had been ill during lockdown. It was our third visit to this no facility site and arrival was very professionally managed by the wardens. Like all club sites it's a bit pricey but it was convenient.



We had booked to stay for one night at Woodview CL on our way from Englethwaite Hall to what we had originally anticipated would be our first post lockdown rally at Raphaels Restaurant in Evesham. Sadly, rallying was cancelled for July. Fortunately, we managed to extend our stay at Woodview to 3 nights. It is a fairly new CL and is in a lovely location near Stone in Staffordshire. The pitches are grass with electric hook up and there are taps on most pitches. There was an information hut and fresh eggs were available. While we were there, they mentioned that they were planning to put in toilet and shower facilities, and I believe these are now in place. It was in a lovely spot and there were some good walks from site. It's on the list for a return visit

The following week we had a one-night stop at Poolsbrook club site in Chesterfield as we were taking our caravan back to the dealer for its first service. We were impressed with the site which is mostly hard standing and next to a country park which we would like to explore in the future. The facilities were open and operating on the band system that the club have introduced, but we prefer our own in the caravan so didn't use them.

The following weekend we went to New House Farm CL in Swinscoe, just outside Ashbourne. Lovely CL with Hard standing and EHU. When coming off the Ashbourne – Leek Road you go over a cattle grid to get on to the farm and through a field to the CL where you pass over another cattle grid at the entrance to the CL site. It's fine with a standard width caravan but would be tight with an 8' wide one. The pitches do slope slightly so levelling ramps are needed. The views are lovely and there are plenty of walks from site. There is a toilet and shower and I believe they were open. Another great value weekend away.



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

Post Lockdown Caravanning continued.....

Then, for our anniversary, we went to Tax Farm CL (appropriate choice for an accountant) which is near Darley Dale in the Peak District. The journey involved towing the caravan up a very steep hill out of Matlock, which fortunately the Santa-Fe coped with easily. After an interesting journey, with remarkably little traffic, we arrived at the entrance to the site. The site is terraced with 3 pitches on the upper tier and 2 on the lower. You drive in from the top and it's a steep slope. When you book on their excellent website, you choose your pitch and I would recommend the upper tier as the views are spectacular. The pitches all have EHU, tap and drain, and there is an elsan and bin on each tier. No toilets or showers, but we use the caravan ones anyway so not an issue. We walked from site to Darley Dale and back and the paths were fairly easy to follow.



The CL network has some great sites and, if you do some research, you can find some absolute gems for when you want a good value trip in the caravan. As it looks likely that the rally program will be affected by the COVID-19 restrictions we will be exploring the CL network on weekends with no rally.

Gordon, Helen & Daniel Mitchell

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

Wahey!!! After 20 weeks the Midland Centre is back rallying!!!!

Since the last Midland Centre rally that we were at back In March, we have all gone through such a surreal time. Who would ever of guessed that we would have all been in lockdown and struggling to get basic items such as toilet roll, pasta and flour? Let alone, not being able to use our units! Must admit when we were able to venture out (slightly) we did head over to storage just to make sure that the wheels hadn't gone square and to assure the caravan that we hadn't fallen out with it!

On Friday 7th August the first rally opened at Hoar Park Craft Centre with first time rally stewards Andy and Sue. It's daunting running your first rally (if we all think back) but the first being the initial post lockdown rally with all of the additional regulations in place.



We, as usual were last to arrive, warmly welcomed by Andy and Sue. Matt (after Andy giving him a variety of options) decided where our pitch was going to be for the weekend. Even without Calvin, we were set up fairly quickly and tucking into our evening meal. It is not very often that it is just the two of us.



It was still warm in the evening and the sunset was superb. We had a wander around the vans saying hello to everyone that we hadn't seen for such a long time. After a few rallies with different clubs we are getting used to not greeting people in the way that we are used to but it still feels strange keeping your distance from friends especially ones you haven't seen for a long time.

Saturday arrived with the weather being awesome from the start, Andy and Sue had definitely booked us the correct weather. Even though by lunch time Matt had extremely red legs! We had a walk over to the Craft Village which was fairly busy but unfortunately the butchers was closed so evening meal needed to be purchased elsewhere. We ventured out to The Swan in Nether Whitacre, we knew they had a fairly large garden so thought it would be pretty safe ... we were correct and ordered a couple of burgers (from the wrong side of the menu) that were fabulous. It was then time to pick Calvin up from Willenhall and back for what has become a weekly event over lock down ... Jays Saturday Night Virtual Quiz.



Sunday was a little cooler to start with but soon heated up. Was strange not having flag in the morning and one by one people disappeared until there were two vans left ... yes us and Andy & Sue!

An amazing first rally since lockdown, so a great start to our 'new normal' for a while with everyone respecting the guidelines the committee have put into place. A big thankyou to Andy and Sue though on their first rally especially with it being such a memorable one.

Looking forward to the next one.

Gaynor

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

Hoar Park Craft Centre

Finally, it was time for the first post lockdown rally at Hoar Park Craft Centre. This isn't far from home for us, so a quick journey after work. It was Andy and Suzanne's first rally as Stewards and the first rally with all the new regulations. Fortunately, Martyn was their assistant and he has plenty of experience. Unlike traditional rallies which are very social events, rallies are currently more like pop up campsites. On arrival we were shown to our pitch by Andy from a suitable distance. Then it was up to us to sort out parking the caravan and getting set up which was easily accomplished. Was strange to have no welcome tea/coffee and chat but people sorted out their own small groups and had a chat outside, appropriately distanced.

On Saturday we went off for a walk, arriving back mid-afternoon having done 7.5miles, with a stop at a pub for refreshments in the beer garden. In the evening Jane and Graham came and joined us (appropriately distanced) for "Jay's Virtual Pub Quiz" which is a YouTube Quiz we have been doing since just after the start of lockdown. It was a fun evening and good to be able to spend some time with friends we hadn't seen since the start of lockdown.



On Sunday, with no closing Flag to attend we just packed up after breakfast and headed home, having thanked Andy & Suzanne for being brave enough to take on the first post lockdown rally as their first rally as stewards.

Now looking forward to the next rally.

Helen, Gordon and Daniel Mitchell

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

Reminiscing.....

Sat here in lockdown and reminiscing about our very first rally with Midland Centre at the Ukrainian Centre at Easter 2003.

We had recently joined the caravan club and had been ringing round to try and find a pitch fairly local but all were fully booked. Lesley had been looking at our new rally book and saw the Ukrainian Centre listed. We made a phone call and because we couldn't get in anywhere else we joined the rally!!!!

When we arrived on the Friday, the field was heaving and we were placed close to the entrance to the field on the right hand side. A long walk to the water and elsan. From memory there were about 120 vans that weekend. I think the rally stewards were Graham Matthews and family but the chairman at that time was Norman Jones and he gave us Newbies a lovely welcome.

We attended the social and Norman chatted to us and sat us at the back of the hall with a few other couples from other centres. Norman came round a few times to see how we were all doing. Some of the couples had been out with the Midland Centre before and told us how much they enjoyed the socials. However we couldn't believe what we saw when the social got underway properly. Mick was doing his thing at the front and then a look alike Elvis appeared and did a turn!!! We didn't have a clue who this was - later found out it was Steve Wallis doing his thing. Fab. Then Mick played some sequence and it seemed the whole room got up to dance. We just looked at each other. Couldn't believe it.

We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and kept returning for other rallies gradually making friends. Eventually I was persuaded to join the committee and did that for 10 years.

This Easter at the Ukrainian is the first one we've had to miss for 17 years. Very sad but very necessary. Here's hoping we can have many more in the future.

Dave & Lesley Palmer

And the winner is.....



Tote

Snowballs 900 and 1000 have been added. Anyone wishing to have regular numbers please speak to Mick Hale.

Best Bully Article Winner— January 2020

Matthew & Gaynor Hart were chosen as the winners for best bully article for March 2020. They win £20. Well done Matt & Gaynor!

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. Each entry will form part of our very own gallery exhibition and everyone who attends the AGM (lockdown rules pending) will get a vote.





Isabella sun canopy—Slate Blue

Isabella sun canopy in slate blue. 1000cm. 250cm deep. Zip out sides. Fronts can now be bought to make into a full awning. CarbonX poles. Isofix fittings. Good condition—had little use.



As per stock picture above but in slate blue.

£150.00

Tel: (01905) 451584 Chris Pitt
or email daveandchris0908@btinternet.com



Calor Lite Gas Bottles

I have two Calor Lite Gas Bottles that are no longer required.

Anyone who needs them can have them they just need to collect from Tamworth.

Andy Reynolds

07834 826136

From the Editor.....

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

Please continue to send in any articles you wish to see appear in future editions to kerry.silver@hotmail.com.

