



The Midland Centre of the
Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS



March 2021

In Memory of John 'Stevo' Stevens 1942 –2021

Chairman's Chat

Hope you are well. 2021 has started off as strangely as 2020 ended. The good news is that with the roll out of the vaccine we can look forward to a return to some sort of normality in the near future.

Whilst we have been in lockdown, the Downs clan have moved house, so life has been a time of decorating and discovery. The discovery being that I can demolish walls, demolish ceilings, damage radiators, damage myself, do you see a reoccurring theme here, but also I have learnt new skills, I have built a stud wall, removed artex, painted, I've impressed myself to be honest. This voyage of personal discovery was sadly tainted with the news of Stevo's passing just the day after our move. I am sure that we have all spent time in the last few weeks remembering our dear friend and the many memories we all have of him.

I was humbled to be asked to attend his funeral alongside his close friends and family and write a few words to be read out by Stevo's niece. I have asked that this be included in this special edition of the Bully which is dedicated to Stevo.

It is my intention that when social restrictions are eased we will be able to celebrate Stevo's life together on a rally, an opportunity to share our memories of a true stalwart of this club and celebrate his life. I'm sure there will be tears but also laughter and fun, everything that Stevo loved about rallying.

I will update you in the coming months as to when and where this event will take place so that as many of you can join us for this celebration of Stevo's life.

Until then I look forward to seeing you in the coming months on the rally field when life (hopefully, fingers crossed) returns to normal.

Stay Safe

Mike Downs

Chairman

Midland Centre Business

Senior Committee - 2020/2021

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



Midland Centre Business

Junior Committee - 2020/2021

Junior Chairperson	Ellie
Junior Vice Chairperson	Martha
Junior Secretary	Mollie
Junior Treasurer	Lanis
Junior Committee Members	Charlotte Aston Ellia Eleanor
Junior Liaison Officer	James Harris



Midland Centre Business

Rallying Rules for 2021



Details of what we can and cannot do through the steps of the Governments Road Map to easing lockdown restrictions.

Information taken from GOV.UK and guidance received from Caravan and Motorhome Club

STEP 1
8 March 29 March

STEP 2
No earlier than 12 April

STEP 3
No earlier than 17 May

STEP 4
No earlier than 21 June



Rallies can commence but as a campsite only. No social events

6 people or two households can meet outside. The CAMC have confirmed they consider a single caravan or motorhome classes as house hold, so people can sit together from two units outside.

No one can meet inside a caravan or motorhome

Out door social events can now have up to 30 people so we can start to have small activities on the rally field and larger groups socialising outside their Caravan or Motorhome.

6 people or two households can meet outside so you can have friends in your caravan or motorhome but visitors not on the rally are still unlikely to be allowed.

We still will not be able to hold indoor socials.

There are no longer any restrictions on social gatherings at rallies.

It is likely that there will still be a requirement to have Covid Risk Protocols in place on rallies and more details of this will be advised at a later date.

Reminders to ralliers about handwashing and compliance with any Government regulations are to be followed.

SOCIAL CONTACT

8 MARCH

- Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person
- Household only indoors

29 MARCH

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

At least 5 weeks after Step 1

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

At least 5 weeks after Step 2

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)

At least 5 weeks after Step 3

All subject to review

SOCIAL CONTACT

- No legal limit

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

8 MARCH

- Wraparound care, including sport, for all children

29 MARCH

- Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities
- All outdoor children's activities
- Outdoor parent & child group (up to 15 parents)

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays (household only)
- No international holidays

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel

TRAVEL

8 MARCH

- Stay at home
- No holidays

29 MARCH

- Minimise travel
- No holidays

EVENTS

- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events



Midland Centre Business

Rally Price Reductions to Continue

Following the extension of the reduction in Vat for the hospitality sector by the Chancellor, below are the reductions in prices for rallies where we would usually add VAT.

We are currently contacting site owners who charge us VAT to get reductions. There is an updated version of the Rally book available to download on the Centre website.

Hospitality VAT Reductions 2021

No	Dates	2021 Site	Per Night	
			New Price	Old Price
12	23-25th Apr	Hyde Farm, Pinvin	£11.50	£13.00
13	30th Apr-3rd May	Kineton	£9.00	£10.00
15	14th-16th May	Monks Barn Farm	£11.50	£13.00
18	1st-6th Jun	Avon Bank Meadows	£10.50	£12.00
21	18th-20th Jun	Dodderhill Equestrian	£8.50	£9.50
22	25th-27th Jun	Mayalls Farm, Nr Welland	£9.50	£10.50
23	2nd-4th Jul	Meon View	£11.50	£13.00
26	23rd-25th Jul	Clays Farm, Clows Top	£8.50	£9.50
27	30th Jul-1st Aug	Greenhill Park, Stratford	£11.50	£13.00
28	6th-8th Aug	Hoar Park	£10.00	£11.50
30	20th-22nd Aug	Cuckoos Corner	£6.25	£7.00
31	27-29th Aug	Button Oak	£8.00	£9.00
34	10th-12th Sep	Hampton House Farm	£9.50	£10.00
35	17th-19th Sep	Brooklands, Evesham	£9.00	£9.50
36	24th-26th Sep	Wilmcote (Stewards Meet)	£9.00	£9.50
39	15th-17th Oct	Glendale Farm, Chatley	£9.00	£9.50
40	22nd-24th Oct	Avon Bank Meadows	£11.00	£12.00
44	12th-14th Nov	Warwickshire Marching Band	£11.00	£12.00
46	26th-28th Nov	Astley Village Hall	£8.00	£8.50

Mick Hale - Treasurer, Midland Centre

Memories of John 'Stevo' Stevens (1942-2021)

In the 84 years since the inception of the Midland Centre of the Caravan & Motorhome Club, there have been many members over the years some into their 5th decade with centre. John Stevens or (as us his caravan family better know him) "Stevo" was one of those members. Starting out caravanning with his parents he carried on after their passing in the early 80's. During his time with the centre Stevo was a well known and much loved member and friend even serving briefly on Committee. He regularly ran weekend rallies and in the latter years alongside Graham Bird he sited vans for us younger members whilst we were at work, leaving us to take the reins running the socials.

On speaking to his close friend Lin, I spoke to her about Stevo and her many wonderful memories of weekend and holiday rallies with her family and Stevo and the extended midland centre family, In the early 80's he spent time with the likes of John & Sue Florence, Keith & Maureen Chester, The Jockey & Sue and Alan & Glenda Smith. It was Alan who gave Stevo the name Stevo, apparently he gave everyone a nickname, even himself Smithy.

And so that is how everyone knew John as Stevo. Stevo was known by members old and young, my close friends Damian Campbell and Phil Grant have known Stevo since they were young children and have grown up around him. He used to refer to Phil and his 2 brothers as the Whippersnappers or the Anklebiters or Freeman, Hardy & Willis.

He was known for cooking a leg of lamb on his charcoal bbq, usually attracting the female ralliers who prepared everything else for him.

The friendships that were born on the rally field led to boating holidays and trips to America with The Moseley's and The Homers.

His great friendship with Graham Bird and Lin Homer was wonderful to see. Known as the Three Musketeers they were always together on Holiday Rallies and Weekend rallies and they are both very much in all our thoughts as they grieve the loss of their dear friend.

Stevo spent Christmas's and New Year with his Midland Centre Family for many years, even when his health was deteriorating Phil & Myself went and hitched him up so he could be with us for the festive period.

I have known Stevo since I joined the centre in 2012, One thing that has stood out is the way Stevo was so welcoming and supportive of new members, especially young families, as he believed that our young families were the future of his much cherished club. He spoke to everyone and everyone knew him and respected him.

At the 80th Anniversary Rally held back in 2017, we as a committee asked Stevo to be our guest of honour, something I know he was incredibly proud of.

Stevo has always been a great supporter of this club. He loved this club and this club loved him. His absence from the rally field has been felt in the last year and his loss will be felt for many years to come.

To his family, our deepest sympathy from His Caravan Family

Mike Downs

Chairman

Memories of Stevo continued...

Memories of Stevo

We have known Stevo for around 35 years. To us 'older' ralliers he was Stevo, the 'King of the Coals'. His love of rallying and bbq cooking was always evident. The coals he acquired from 'Jockey', his mate from London, were fantastic and always made a perfect bbq! Whether it was breakfasts or dinners Stevo was cooking, there was always a group of friends ready to tuck in! Loved to see the joints turning on the rotisserie he had on his bbq and the table set out with all things fit for a banquet for Kings and Queens! Most folk eventually changed to gas bbqs, but as long as Jockey could provide the coals, Stevo was not to be persuaded to go gas. 🙅

On the rally when it was his 50th birthday, we were aware that no entertainment had been arranged. As we were taking our offspring back home on the Saturday morning, to have a narrowboat holiday with their grandparents, we decided to sort out some fancy dress for Martin to do a 'stripagram'. We had bought Stevo a mug with 'King of the Coals' on and I had written a poem in his card. Before we returned to the rally, this poem was written on to a scroll and a few accessories collected. On the evening, friends gathered outside Chris and Bernie Hancox's caravan, windbreaks were erected and chairs arranged in rows. As music played, out came Martin, the 'French Maid', carrying the scroll and a small bottle of fizzy pop. With the whip round from friends, we told Stevo this was all we could afford, so no champagne! Lol. 😂 If you want to know what happened, John Price videod the evening and it has 'done the rounds', both near and far. I believe Stevo had the poem framed. The evening continued with Martin doing his repertoire of jokes, some a bit risqué, so the youngsters were moved from peering over the windbreaks! Lol. What an enjoyable evening it turned out to be, and all at no cost, except for so many aching sides from laughing and bad heads next morning from the alcohol consumed. 😊

Stevo holds the 'honour' of being the first person we had ever done anything like this for. After this success, requests came in to surprise others on their special occasions. Any info provided was included in the scrolls, which often stretched the truth and got longer and longer! (Think 25 A4 pages was the longest!) 😊

Another memorable occasion was at a rally at Norgrove Court. Stevo was sitting outside his caravan with Alan Smith, enjoying the warm weather. I walked past them, wearing shorts and a top with a low back. Next thing I heard was "Lynne, you've put your top on back to front." My reaction was to take the top off and rearrange it, (knowing I had a bikini bra underneath!) Their reaction was, jaws dropped and eyes popped out on stalks! Lol. Another time, on a New Year rally at Pershore College, Martin and I were dancing when Stevo called me over. He was having a debate with 'Flossy' (John Florence.) and 'Smithy' (Alan Smith.) as to whether I had a thong on under my tight trousers, or, was I going 'commando'? Close up, Flossy said he could see it was a thong, to which I jokingly replied, " Wrong. That's my sanitary belt." It wasn't, but their reaction was priceless. Lol. Stevo knew we were always up for a laugh! Mention pink leggings and a paper bag and both Martin and Stevo would know what this meant! 😊 (Nothing to do with me!)

Continued....

Memories of Stevo continued...

continued.....

Early mornings on rallies would see Stevo, and others who had dogs, out walking to exercise their pets. One particular morning, they met Martin, who also liked early morning walks. Stevo's comment to the others was, "Beware of man out walking this early, who doesn't have a dog!" Quick as a flash, Martin asked if they had seen a little dog running around as he'd lost his! Lol. The next morning, Martin popped an ornamental dog into his pocket. On reaching the dog walkers, he showed them this dog and told them all was okay because he'd found his dog! Lol.

Stevo, along with good friend Birdie, (Graham Bird.) would always help out rally stewards who couldn't get to the rally field in time to receive ralliers, due to work/school commitments. He also came in handy when people wanted to put forward questions at the 'Chairman's Forum'. They gave him the 'bullets' and he would 'fire' them. He could be very argumentative, but made sure everyone heard his point of view! Upset him and you'd get the end of his sharp tongue! Lol.

Stevo was the 'font of all knowledge' when it came to caravanning, the MCCC and cars, particularly tow cars and many have benefited from his knowledge. For so many years, Stevo has been a stalwart of the MCCC, firstly with his parents and then with his much loved dogs. He will be greatly missed. Who will tell our son, Damian, that he's a 'chip off the old block' now? Never knew if that was a compliment or not, but we took it to be one! 😊

Stevo can join other ralliers who have passed before him. We're sure someone will have put a 'bucket' out for him! Flossy will be in charge of the bingo sessions. Johnny Andrews will provide the discos. Dixie (Dennis Linnington.) will be sports officer and his wife, Joyce, (The Duchess.) will bake the mince pies. Smithy will be in charge of cleaning. Derek (Mr Mose.) will sort out the paperwork. His wife Lyn (Mrs Mose.) along with Wal and Joan Perks, will be teaching line and sequence dances at the tea dances. No doubt Keith Jones will be showing everyone his 'Womble's' moves. We've also heard a 'rumour' that Martin Harvey has already started his 'controversial' magazine. Lol. Let's hope Norman Hirst will continue with the Family walks and remember which way round the map has to be! Now Stevo can revert back to being 'King of the Coals' because we're sure Jockey will have an endless supply of BBQ coals for him! Enjoy.

Now free from pain and released from 'lockdowns'. Just a shame the rules mean that the many ralliers who would have attended 'Stevo's Farewell' are prevented from doing so. Hopefully, at a later date, we will all be able to chat about our memories of Stevo, good and bad. Lol. He shared his birthday with Adolph Hitler. Now he shares his 'Farewell' day with Martin, whose birthday is March 2nd. We're sure Stevo will find that amusing! 😊

Missed but fondly remembered.

Lynne & Martin AKA Laird & Lady Campbell

Memories of Stevo *continued.....*

Stevo Meant So Much to So Many.....

I thought long and hard about what to write here, or whether I should write anything at all having personally only known Stevo for about 10 years (obviously for Craig it is much longer), but compared to others it is a miniscule amount of time considering the years he has been bringing joy and humour to the rally field. So rather than MY words.... I thought id share just a small selection of the comments and tributes made on the Midland Centre Facebook page following the sad announcement of his passing. The sheer number of tributes is a testament to the legend that was our Stevo!



"Truly heartbroken. One of my bestest friends on the rally field. Will miss your wicked sense of humour and kisses. Rest in peace"

"Heartbroken. Such a lovely lovely man. We really enjoyed chatting to him on rallies. You will be sorely missed"

"So sad. He was a pure genuine person and made us all feel very welcome when we joined the centre. We have lots of very happy memories"

"Such as sad day, a real character. Caring, supportive, welcoming and a pain in the rear to committees everywhere. Oh and not forgetting so funny. Ask the guys from a Land Rover owners rally on the field next to us....to quote Stevo 'if any of you guys get stuck tomorrow then give me a shout....ive got the Mazda with me'. God Bless. You will be so missed on the rally field"

"Stevo WAS the centre, always there first on a rally to help out. A great loss"

"A truly great man. And have great memories. May he rest in peace"

"A true gentleman and great club member, he will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him. So long friend, RIP"

"A true stalwart and gentleman of the Midland Centre. He will be missed by all you knew him. RIP Stevo"



"I have such fond memories of Stevo from my childhood, right through to now. Such a warm and friendly gentleman who will be very sadly missed"

"Such a great man. Funny, friendly welcoming, loved his caravanning. He always said to me 'I know you're here with that laugh' - loved to call me the dumb blonde! He gave us the best advice when we wanted to buy our 2nd caravan, Our first rally he involved Barry in the 'tug o war' We never looked back. Rest in peace our special friend, you will be missed. Hope you keep rallying up in the clouds, and show them how its done. Love always"

Memories of Stevo continued

"The loss of such a good friend who undoubtedly was an icon in the Midland Centre to all those young and old who knew him"

"The first person I met on the rally field when I was about 8. He always call me and my brothers 'the ankle biters'. Always remember his dulux dog Sam and his magic citroen that used to go up and down. And of course his smoke cooked breakfasts on a proper coal BBQ"

"Heartbroken. Have known and been friends with Stevo for 45 years. He will be missed very much but we have many fond and unforgettable memories of time spent together. He will always be in our thoughts"

"We will all have our own memories of Stevo. Ours go back a long time when our kids were young. He never refused when the kids used to call for him to play rounders and we enjoyed running holiday rallies and weekends with him. He has always been a huge character in the centre. Always fondly remembered and missed"

"Everyone in the Midland Centre and far beyond that will remember him with fondness in their hearts"

"Rallies will not seem the same without Stevo. Heart and soul of the centre. He always had a greeting and welcome for other members on the field. He was a dog lover, and numerous dogs have had a good life caravanning and walking the countryside. RIP"

A message for all at The Midland Centre from Stevo's niece Helen:

"Thank you for helping to make his life very, very happy. My grandparents and Uncle John gave my brother and I a fabulous childhood at your rallies and I have always enjoyed finding John in his caravan, wherever that was, in later years. I've had the privilege of spending a lot of time with him since he was unable to caravan and so loved hearing about you all and the great fun he had with you.

His sisters, Hazel and Jean, his nephews Steven and Nigel, and myself thank you from the bottom of our hearts" - Helen.



The tributes speak volumes. As a family, we will miss him more than he would ever thought possible. I will especially miss his cheeky comments about my nurses uniform and needing a bed bath! I remember worrying when Charlotte & Archie were out playing and making a noise. Stevo once told me off for asking them to keep it down. He said "dow worry about it bab, kids av gorra be kids, let um play, its what caravanning's all about ay it". There will never be another Stevo! Requiescet in pace xx

Kerry Silver—Bully Editor

Over to You..... articles and rally reports from our members



RETURN TO RALLYING!

We were last away in our caravan just before the end of October last year. We stayed at home the last weekend in October to prepare for our holiday in Devon which was due to start on 7th November. Then we were put back into lockdown, so that didn't happen, and we had to make do with a couple of days off at home, unable to go anywhere, instead.

Since then, we've been in Tier 3 and another lockdown so the only time we've seen the caravan is when we've been to storage for a visit.

Hopefully, if the timetable doesn't change, we will be back out in our caravan on 12th April and back on a rally from 16th.

Having never left the caravan unused for this length of time its going to be quite strange getting ready to head back out. Cupboards need restocked (they were emptied on one of our visits), the water system will need flushed though, the towball probably needs a clean and various bit and pieces will need to be checked.

We have really missed our weekends away as it's our time to chill out after busy work weeks, without the noise/aggro from our neighbour at home. We've missed the chats on the rally field, the walks to the pub, catching up with friends, borrowing a dog for a walk, meeting new people, being entertained in the evenings with bingo, music or other activities organised by the stewards and just spending time in the countryside. (I've also missed the fish & chip evenings and Beth's stew - love it when I don't have to cook all weekend.)

It may be a while before we can do some of the organised activities that we enjoy, but at least getting back on the rally field able to socialise in small groups is a step on the way back to being able to do what we love. Looking forward to meeting up with friends old and new on a rally field soon.

Helen, Gordon & Daniel Mitchell



HELLO ALL!

Hope you are all keeping well. The lockdowns are so scary, because nearly one hundred thousand people in the UK have sadly lost their lives currently. However I feel safe inside my King Street Leonard Cheshire Care Home near Loughborough in Leicestershire, where Dina, the Manager of our home has effectively locked the home down since the end of last March, so we have not been able to do any form of caravanning outings following my birthday weekend rally away at Astley Village Hall, so it is nearly one whole year without any caravan adventures, however, with no resident movement in and out of the home and all of our staff are being ultra-careful when in the outside world has meant that our home has kept Covid free throughout this dreadful pandemic. So I feel almost 100% safe following Dina's strategy of continuing to keep the our King Street home Covid free.

Rich Hine

Over to You.......... articles and rally reports from our members

Willows Farm – The First Rally of 2021

Just over a year ago we entered lockdown and all rallies were cancelled, including our annual trip to Willows Farm. To say we were gutted was an understatement as this site has seen some memorable times.

A joint Hen and Stag weekend with a beer tent with draft lager (which lead the Stewards to have to answer questions at a parents evening), juniors crying during the Chinese auction, trips to the snow dome and not forgetting the Chairman's questionable fashion sense (Borat style) and that's just the years it ran. Martyn has never forgiven me for his new Shogun getting so stuck along with my car and our caravans that the site owner needed to get his tractor out to rescue us.

And just to make things worse the weather was great last year so we were sat at home in glorious sunshine wondering how much trouble we would have gotten into!

Fingers crossed we have good weather for the first outing of the year. The Rally will be run in line with the Government regulations so there will not be any social events, we will move the Chinese Auction to Gaynor's birthday rally in September.

By the time the rally runs we will be in step 2 of lockdown easing so social distancing will still be in place but the rule of six or two families will be in place so you be able to socialise in very limited numbers outside.

We usually arrange a group walk to a local pub during this rally but this will not be able to do this. However on a more positive note the pub is planning to be open for food and drink outside so if you fancy a nice stroll there is a map below.



Matthew & Gaynor Hart

Porth Beach Rally - 22nd April to 6th May

We have had confirmation that the rally at Porth Beach from 22nd April - 6th May can go ahead. Due to current guidelines the toilet & shower blocks will not be open. The price is £98.00 per week including electric hook up.

Contact Mick Hale on 07510 270204 or book via Midland Centre Caravan Club website.



And the winner is.....

Obviously there hasn't been much happening in the way of competitions and prizes so this page is somewhat threadbare!

Bully Article Prizes for 2020/21

Just a reminder that the cash prize for the best article from each edition will remain at £20 per winning article.

Post Lockdown & December Article Winners

The winner of the best article from the Post Lockdown Edition of the Bully was Helen Mitchell and the winner of the best article from the December issue was Eileen and Ken Brown from the South Yorkshire Centre. Admittedly they are not Midland Centre Members however they were the only ones to submit a proper rally write up for that edition so felt it was well deserved. They will receive £20 for each article!

Tote

For information about the tote or to purchase a go on the tote, please see Mick Hale.





FOR SALE—ALKO WHEEL LOCK

Alko through the wheel hub lock number 26. Never registered. 2 x keys



Price: £60

Contact: Dave Palmer on 07961 019092

FREE PORCH AWNING!!

If anyone wants a Free Porch awning see details below:

- Trio Sombrero Porch awning green & white with curtains
- only used 3 times kept in a dry garage
- although this is 12 years old it is in very good condition
- Size 5 foot 6 inches wide 4 foot 8 inches deep

Price: Free

Contact: Colin Powell on 07759 015581

From the Editor.....

I am looking forward to seeing many of you (at a distance of course) at Willows Farm in a few weeks time and many other rallies over the next few months.

Remember, if you've been on a rally and loved it then let everyone know about it!! There's £20 in it for you if you write the best article for that edition.

Please send all articles and 'items for sale' details to me at Kerry.Silver@hotmail.com putting 'Bully' in the comments box. I plan to have the next bully out mid-June.

Stay safe.

Kerry

