



The Midland Centre of the Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS



Summer 2021



Chairman's Chat

Hello to you all, it's been a while, I hope you are safe and well. Thankfully since the last Chairman's Chat we have been allowed to return to our much loved hobby and get out in our vans, which after the amount of home improvement that's been happening at Chateau Downs is much needed.

Our first rally out was as Stewards running Hampton House Farm with our Co Stewards Mathew & Gaynor Hart. I do like this site nice and quiet with some great views across the rolling countryside and some nice walks, which remarkably led to a nice hostelry where our thirsts were quenched with particularly nice ale. It was good to see kids out playing on the rally field and enjoying themselves. It was so good to be back out and I look forward to returning there later in the year when we can celebrate Gaynor's birthday in true Midland Centre style. Thank you to all that came and especially to our co stewards Matthew & Gaynor.

The following weekend we made our way to Riverside caravan park in Bridgnorth, always a well attended rally we had over 30 vans out. This weekend was all the more special as it was my birthday so I got lots of presents. On Saturday we enjoyed a leisurely stroll into Bridgnorth where would you believe it, we again ended up in a pub. I feel it is my duty to support the local economy with such endeavours. My thanks to our hosts for the weekend, The Akys and The Grants with assistance from our JLO James Harris.



The following weekend unfortunately it was back to the DIY but only for 1 weekend, the following weekend we made our way to a new venue for us, Statfold Barn Railway near Tamworth, a cracking venue with a railway museum onsite, loads of space and some good walks, I'm pleased to say we will be returning next year. Thanks to our Stewards for the weekend Andy & Suzanne Pickrell and Martyn Reynolds.

We missed Eastnor as we spent a week in Brixham beside the seaside however we stopped off at the following rally at Wyre Piddle on our way home for 2 nights where we enjoyed glorious sunshine. It was good to catch up with people that we haven't seen for a while. To our stewards Mick & June Hale and Kevin & Diane Stokes, thank you for a lovely weekend.



Outstanding Rallies

(aren't then all ??)

Rally 39: 15-17th October

Glendale Farm, WR9 0AP

Rally 43: 5-7th November

Top Barn Farm, WR6 6NH

Rally 44: 12-14th November

Warwickshire Marching Band.
CV34 6JW

If you are interested in taking on any of these rallies please contact **Andy Pickrell** on:

07853 930369 or
andypickrell@googlemail.com



Chairman's Chat

From one great venue to another we made our way to Weston Park the following week, this time we used a different field which was perfect, nice and flat but more importantly right by the adventure playground which was ideal for the little cherubs and some of us bigger kids. As it was dearest Bethlehem's (The Wife's) birthday on Saturday I treated her to a sophisticated luncheon at the Granary restaurant. I know she doesn't know how lucky she is. In the evening we played on the adventure playground before enjoying a walk around the beautiful gardens. Thank you again to Andy & Suzanne Pickrell and to Mummsy and Daddy for being our hosts, it was a most enjoyable weekend.

The following weekend we travelled to another new venue Dodderhill Equestrian Centre in Droitwich, on Friday night we watched a rather limp performance by England against Scotland, not the triumphant performance we expected. On Saturday it was time to explore, With our intrepid Steward Sir Ranulph Grant taking the lead we went for a nice walk on the canal past Droitwich Marina up to the Hanbury Turn, where would you believe it a pub, again always keen to bolster the local economy it would have been rude not to partake. It was that nice a walk we stopped at another pub called the Gardeners Arms on the way home. Most pleasant. Saturday night it chucked it down with rain. Oh well at least we had sunshine throughout the day. Well done to Phil & Lindsay for a cracking weekend. A splendid venue that we will be returning to.

Unfortunately Mayall's Farm was cancelled due to a lack of interest so guess what, I ended up doing DIY. We have also had to cancel the fishing rally at Carney Pools again due to a lack of interest. I would urge people to book well in advance for rallies as we have to give landowners sufficient notice if a rally needs to be cancelled.

I need to do a bit more urging as well, this time regarding rallies requiring stewards. At this point there only 3 rallies that require stewards. If people don't volunteer to run rallies they will have to be cancelled. As a club we cannot rely on the same people to run rallies week in, week out. If you have never run a rally before but are interested in taking one on please reach out to other members or committee members for guidance and assistance. We need your support.

Your committee are working hard on planning events for when lock down measures are relaxed further, these include the Fireworks Rally at Catton Hall, the AGM and also the Family Christmas Party. We are also exploring possible incentives for new members who are yet to rally with us. Further details will be released in due course. Until then continue check the clubs website and the Facebook page for updates, remember you can catch me on Facebook live every Sunday morning at 11am whether I'm on a rally or not.

Well that's me done, a few more weekends at home decorating to come but we have Raphael's Restaurant in Evesham to look forward to in the coming weeks along with many other popular sites including Clays Farm, Clows Top, Green Hill Park and Hoar Park Craft Centre. Show your support to the club and more importantly to the marshals who have taken on these rallies.

I look forward to seeing more of you over the coming weeks on the rally field.

Until then..... stay safe.

Mike Downs

Chairman

A few pics from the Editor.....

Closing Flag takes place at the end of every rally and is beamed live to our Facebook page at 11.00am every Sunday morning! Feel free to watch but just in case you have better things to do....here are a few pictures of our 'shy' and 'retiring' chairman doing what he does best on a Sunday morning



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

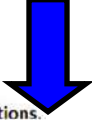
Junior Chairperson	Ellie
Junior Vice Chairperson	Martha
Junior Secretary	Mollie
Junior Treasurer	Lanis
Junior Committee Members	Charlotte Aston Ellia Eleanor
Junior Liaison Officer	James Harris



Midland Centre Business

Rallying Rules for 2021

**WE ARE FINALLY
HERE!!!!**



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

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 household, so people can sit together from two units outside.
No one can meet inside a caravan or motorhome

STEP 3
No earlier than 17 May

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.

STEP 4
No earlier than 21 June

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	29 MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person Household only indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	29 MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wraparound care, including sport, for all children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	29 MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home No holidays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	
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

In Memory of Lin Moseley



Your local children's hospice

We have received an email from Chris Moseley letting us know that a donation of £500 was made to Acorns Hospice in memory of Lin Moseley which came from donations at her funeral. We are unable to show the receipt as it has information that we cannot display on the website, however if anyone would like to see a copy please contact the website officer and we will share with you.

Chris apologised for the delay in asking the Centre to share this information but he has been very busy dealing with his Mother's estate. He also mentioned that the donation had helped Acorns to keep providing its vital services as their fund-raising has been severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.



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

WESTON PARK RALLY

Well, we have been allowed to use our vans for just over two months now and it has been great to see more and more people venturing out. Each week we have endeavoured to support the local economy which has been fantastic.

This weekend (11th - 13th June) Midland were at Weston Park which we had decided was part way to Matt's parents, so we arranged a catch up which we haven't been able to have for a while. So we were off and out fairly earlyish to Wales, not before wishing Beth a Happy Birthday though.

On our return we went for a walk in the amazing grounds and picked up a close geocache.

The weather could not have been better (Thank you Andy and Suzanne for booking the weather for us) we had a fabulous relaxing couple of hours sitting outside the van with a bottle of fizz.

Beth's birthday celebration continued and we all ventured over to the adventure playground with the kids. A great time was had by all.

Even with how close we live to Weston Park we have never rallied here before, lovely location especially with the weather that Andy and Suzanne arranged.

Till the next one.

Gaynor



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

Statfold Barn Railway 21st to 23rd May 2021

Despite this venue being within walking distance of our house we had never visited. The railway used to be a private collection and was only opened once or twice a year for railway enthusiast weekends. However, a few years ago it was put into a trust and now opens more often, for summer holiday activities, Santa specials etc.

Due to the inclement weather, we were parked on the carpark, but the rally field looks great. We arrived around 4pm and the carpark was filling up nicely. We got ourselves sorted out and Daniel arrived after he had finished work.

As the lockdown rules had relaxed, we were also able to have other people in our caravans for the first time in ages. So, after we'd had our dinner, Martyn came round for a catch up as we hadn't seen him for a while.

In the morning, the museum was opened for us and wow! What an amazing collection of locomotives. The size of the collection took us totally by surprise. We definitely intend to return when we can see some of them in action.



After our look round the museum, we set off for a walk. A few people were walking to a nearby pub in Shuttington, but we had planned a slightly longer walk to the village of Wigginton where Daniel went to primary school to go to the pub there. The walk was lovely, passing some familiar places and we arrived in sunshine at the pub so sat out and had lunch. Half-way back there was a sudden sharp downpour which left us a bit damp, but we'd nearly dried off by the time we got back.



Then we spent a nice evening chatting to Jim and Chris Porter who we hadn't seen since before the first lock down.

On Sunday morning Mike entertained us all with his virtual flag and then it was time for the 10-minute journey back to storage and home after another great weekend.

Gordon, Helen & Daniel Mitchell

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

HAMPTON FERRY RALLY

Hampton Ferry holds many memories for us, we ran our first AAOCC rally here and our first Midland Centre one too! It is such a great site especially with good weather. This time though we had an amazing sight on the first night, obviously arranged by Scott. It was great to see some rallies that we haven't seen for quite a while, as well as others we have seen since we have been allowed to rally again. The River festival had been cancelled which was a shame, but we totally understood with everything that is going on.



Friday night we spent chatting with friends sitting outside the caravan, it was just starting to get a little bit too cool for me when we decided to go inside – you know how I like to be warm and not too cold!



Saturday morning arrived and it was time for a walk into Evesham along the river to support the Local Community (which we are getting pretty good at). This time though a few shops too, one that I obviously couldn't walk past called 'The Shoe Emporium' and purchases were made! (I quite like this supporting the local community). We then choose a table at a local drinking establishment for some lunch and a couple of drinks. A number of people from the rally field stopped for a chat too whilst we were waiting for our food.



Unfortunately we missed the hook a duck and Cornish skittles which were on the rally field. Once again though we were able to sit out all night, two nights in a row the weather being kind to us – long may it last!

It would be rude when visiting Evesham not to pat a visit to Evesham Vale so after flag we headed out. Yes before you say it once again supporting the local community.

A big thank you to Scott and Louise for stewarding the rally.

Gaynor & Matthew Hart



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

North Devon Holiday Rally.
Warcombe Farm Camping Park.
12th June - 26th June 2021

For the 8th consecutive year, an achievement in itself, Mick and June have run the 2 week holiday rally at Warcombe Farm situated on the North Devon coast between Ilfracombe and Morteohoe. They were accompanied by Assistant Rally Marshalls Colin and Pat Wood.

With Covid restrictions in place all Government and CAMC rules and advice was strictly adhered to throughout the rally. "Hands, Face and Space" was the order of the day with regrettably no opening or closing Flag possible.

The rally was attended by 57 outfits in total with Ralliers from other Centres including South Staffs, Worcester, Upper Thames, South Lancs, West Hampshire, Bucks, East Warwicks, Derbyshire, Devon and Cornwall, Norfolk in addition to 34 Midland Centre attendees.

Within Covid regulations some outdoor activities, appropriately spaced, took place. Mick and June ran a daily bingo game and lucky pitch draw which had members rushing (well almost!) to their van to check off numbers posted on the board! Valuable prizes (chocolate that is) were at stake.

During the first week an exciting Lawn Darts contest saw John Franks from South Staffs Centre walk away with the cup (or should I say bottle). Also during the holiday saw Mick lead a socially distanced walk from the site across the beautiful scenery of fields and wonderful cliff top scenery to Woolacombe. Mid route we rested (very necessary for some) in Morteohoe for a well deserved pint. These events went some way to restoring the social nature of rallies by enabling some measure of meeting whilst following guidelines.

Throughout the rally members enjoyed the excellent Warcombe facilities and many spent fishing the site lake which contains good sized Carp and Roach. The coastal towns of nearby Ilfracombe and Woolacombe easily accessed by regular buses provided shopping, pubs and restaurants as well as the usual seaside harbour and beach activities.

Our weather was kind with some sun most days and it only rained on one or two days (yes, honestly!) and for North Devon, the winds stayed calm.

Thanks to Mick and June and your Assistant Marshalls for a great rally and when can we book for next year?

Dave Turner, -South Staffs

On arriving on the Saturday we were welcomed by Mick who asked if we wanted help setting up. With these times with Coronavirus the Stewards did a fine job to entertain people who wanted to enjoy participating in different games.

It was great to see everything was sanitised before any game took place. The Stewards did well to make sure we all had a lovely time. The weather was really good for the two weeks.

David & Mary Glass - East Warwickshire Centre

Midland Centre Junior Challenge 2021

With how the last eighteen months have been the children's challenge we have changed the Children's Challenge for 2021 with twelve activities for the children to complete. Please send any photos or evidence to me gaynor.juniorchallenge@gmail.com. I will put everything together for the AGM as I did in 2019 and presentation will be made to children that participate.

I look forward to seeing your creations.

If any 'big children' want to have a go at any of the activities email them over too.



Gaynor



Go welly wandering ... jumping in puddles	Prepare and eat a picnic outside	Make something with sticks	Grow a sunflower or another flower in your garden.
Use a map to find your way on a walk.	Take a photo of a sunrise or a sunset.	Paint a stone with a picture of a caravan or motorhome.	Roll down a hill
Make an A to Z of things you can find on a rally field.	Make a scarecrow to go outside your caravan or motorhome when you are on a rally.	Write a rally report for the bully newsletter. Could even be a drawing.	Find a great place to read a book on the rally field and get someone to take a photo of you.



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

Porth Holiday Rally

How wonderful to get away in the caravan again after such a long time. This rally is on a lovely site over the road from the beach and lovely cliff top walks to Newquay one way and Watergate bay the other. Over the road is also the Mermaid Inn for outdoor dining which was very popular. It was great to be able to sit overlooking the beach with a long awaited beer/wine smelling the sea air. The pub also does take away meals which quite a few people enjoyed. Beautiful views surround the site too.

It was lovely to meet up with old friends we hadn't seen for such a long time. We had to observe social distancing but that didn't spoil the joy of seeing everyone. Some fit and healthy ralliers joined a socially distanced walk to Watergate Bay with a well deserved drink at the pub on arrival there. We didn't partake in this, relaxing on site seemed a better option!!! Heeheehee!

We had lots of sunshine, though as usual for Porth the wind was cold but we sat outside protected from it everyday at some point. Bank holiday Monday was the only bad day with rain and high winds a lot of awnings were taken down on Sunday on hearing the forecast but we all survived the overnight battering.

We really enjoyed our holiday so thank you Mick and June and Jo and Tony for stewarding the 'Twirly Rally' very much appreciated. Looking forward to our next break away which we aim to do very soon.

Chris and Dave Pitt



And the winner is.....



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.

March 2021 Article Winner

The winner of the best article from the March Edition of the Bully was Lynne & Martin's 'Memories of Stevo' write up which was very entertaining to read. 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.



Bradcot active 1020 full awning



Wine coloured, comes with curtains, fibre glass poles and pegs.

Little used excellent condition.

Collection Walsall area.

£350.00

Contact Joan Cooper on 07854 282679



Bulldog Hitchlock & Wheel Clamp



£30 each

Contact Helena Mandefield on 07891 656687

From the Editor.....

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.

Please can I have any articles for the autumn edition sent to me by mid September.

Stay safe.

Kerry

