



The Midland Centre of the
Caravan & Motorhome Club



BULLY NEWS

Summer 2022



Chairman's Chat

Hi Folks,

Hope you are all well, the months have flown by since my last chat, I can't believe that we are half way through the year already. Before you know it I'll have to start planning the Christmas Rally.

So since March we have enjoyed many rallies, sadly for me not as many as I would have liked due to DIY, yes I've been at it again. I took the decision to start decorating the marital boudoir, which took considerably longer than intended. To be honest I think the Sistine Chapel was decorated by old Michelangelo quicker than it took me to transform the bedroom from a vision of 1970's anaglypta to a more modern theme, but hey we managed it.

So back in mid March we enjoyed a quiet weekend at Clays Farm, Clows Top. A lovely site, our First time stewards for the weekend were Aidan & Sian Probin supported by Terry & Lesley. A nice relaxing weekend, just what was needed what with all the decorating.

The following few weekends were spent on operation Boudoir which meant missing out on Binton Social Club, which is a rally I do like, well done to Terry & Lesley I hear it was a successful rally.

The next time we were out was for the Easter Rally at the Ukraine Centre in Derbyshire. Lucky for us the Weather was glorious. Thursday night we welcomed ralliers with a game of Bingo, I only called for the 1 game which was probably for the best as I don't tend to do this in the traditional sense. What can I say, I like to keep the players on their toes.

Friday there was a tea dance with home made scones supplied by Sian Probin which proved very popular. Whilst the adults danced and ate the kids were busy planting Sunflower seeds under the supervision of Gaynor. Don't forget to post photos of your sunflowers progress on the Facebook page.

Friday night Mix & Match kept us entertained with a disco.

Saturday Morning was kicked off in the usual fashion with the Chairmans Forum, where you the membership grill me on Centre Business. Thank you for being gentle with me. Following this we enjoyed spaceship launching which was great fun, despite a few technical set backs on the launches, Martha's Space ship travelled the furthest distance so I'll take the plaudits for selecting the most aero efficient bottle to make such Spaceship.

Rallies Requiring Stewards

Rally 42 - 28th-30th October
Hampton House Farm, Kineton

Rally 44 - 11th-13th November
Warwickshire Marching Band

If you are interested in taking on any of these rallies please contact **Andy Pickrell** on:
07853 930369

or
andypickrell@googlemail.com

Payments for rallies can be made on arrival by credit/debit card or Apple/Android pay.

Please note that social fees may still need to be paid in cash.



CERTIFIED PARTNER

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Chairman's Chat continued.....

In the afternoon we all enjoyed a game of rounders, with players of all ages great fun and some of the ralliers enjoyed the return of the Volleyball, it looked far too energetic for my liking so I held back until the following day. Saturday Night we were entertained by the Ultimate 80's band who were fantastic, with Support again from Mix & Match it was a brilliant night.

Sunday started with the Kids Easter Egg hunt and the older kids Assault course. This was followed by the family walk to the Coopers Arms where we enjoyed a little light refreshment. On our return from the pub we enjoyed an impromptu game of Volley Ball with Under 50's taking on the over 50's. I would say it was a demonstration of technical skill and athleticism but I would be lying. Either way it was fun. Sunday evening we were entertained by Rachel Cooper, unfortunately due to the days exertion I was unable to bust any moves on the dance floor. It was a great weekend, thanks must go to the committee for all their hard work.

The following weekend we celebrated eldest boy child's 21st birthday party, which was very much like a Midland Centre Social as there were so many members there and with William choosing to play songs which he has grown up dancing to in our socials.

May Day weekend I made my way to The Cotton Arms at Wrenbury to run the bank holiday rally with the Martha & Lanis and The Grants. Beth was at a Hen do in Dublin so I had to fend for myself. Friday night we welcomed ralliers with Pimm's and Lemonade because I am sophistamacated don't you know. Saturday Steve & Heather Lloyd headed up a walk which saw us go to a nice hostelry for liquid refreshment, splendid!

The site was great, the pub is quite good as well, and the meals were spot on. Thanks to my Co Stewards Phil & Lindsay and to everyone who made there way up north, I hope you enjoyed.

Next up, The Junior Fundraising Rally at Riverside Bridgnorth. We were Co Stewards to our JLO James Harris. Junior Chair Lady Lanis led her committee off on Friday night to commence a 60 mile walk around the rally field to raise funds for the Midland Air Ambulance. Just to point out the fields is not that big so basically they were doing enough laps throughout the weekend to cover off the total mileage. Saturday we enjoyed some sports day games. Then in the evening, after Pork & Stuffing Baps, we set about the business of raising some well earned dosh for the kids charity by having an auction for some amazing caravan related accessories. On Sunday Morning the kids completed their 60 mile walk just in time for flag. Well done to James and your team of Juniors for raising in excess of £500 over the weekend and thank you for everyone's generous donations.

Sadly I haven't been able to make it to any rallies since due to trying to sell me motorcar and also in a flash of inspiration I decided to transform the garden at Chateau Downs, laying turf, laying a patio, shifting 3 tons of gravel and trimming many privies. Titchmarsh I aint, but it looks nice. Were due to go to Weston Park for the Airshow but unfortunately Bonham (The Dog) has been a poorly wammel so we endured another weekend at home.

As Himley was cancelled I decided to pay Mommy & Daddy a visit at Morthoe as they are on the holiday rally. A 370 mile round trip to deliver Daddy's fathers day card, just because I'm too tight to by a first class stamp. What a beautiful site, I cant wait for my kids to leave school so that I can go on this rally.

So there we are next weekend we are at The Cobhouse to run the rally, sadly the fishing competition is cancelled but I cant wait to get back on the proverbial 'Oss, good job really as I am running 4 of the next 5 rallies. This should have been 5 out of the next 6 but we had to cancel Himley due to low numbers. Can I please ask that people book in advance for rallies to avoid us having to cancel venues at short notice. Just remember the more rallies that you book on the more chances you have of winning the £10 monthly draw.

So Summer is here, lets get out on the rally field and do what we do best, making memories

See you soon

Chow For Now!

Mike

Midland Centre Business

Senior Committee - 2021/2022

Chairman	Mike Downs
Vice Chairman / Website/ Regional Rep	Gordon Mitchell
Secretary / Regional Rep	Matthew Hart
Treasurer/Plaque Officer	Mick Hale
Social Secretary	Lindsey Grant
Sports Officer	Chris Emms
Sports Officer	Aidan Probin
Rally Secretary	Andy Pickrell
Assistant Rally Secretary/Committee	Beth Downs
Junior Liaison Officer	James Harris
Regalia Officer	Graham Bird
Committee	Diane Stokes
Bully Officer/Committee	Kerry Silver

Midland Centre Business

Junior Committee - 2021/2022

Junior Chairperson	Lanis
Junior Vice Chairperson	Sophie
Junior Secretary	Charlotte
Junior Treasurer	Aston
Junior Committee Members	Ellia Layton Freya
Junior Liaison Officer	James Harris

Midland Sunflowers!!!

At the Easter rally, with everything going on the world. It only seemed apt to plant a sunflower with the juniors. For those that do not know, the sunflower is the national flower of the Ukraine. It was great to see the photos a couple of weeks after they had gone home! I do think there were a few mishaps on the way home.



Would be great to see any photos of what they are looking like now!

Email them over to ...
gaynor.juniorchallenge@gmail.com.

Coming up

Midland Centre's Summer of Sports continued...

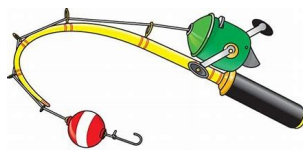
Rally 36 - Button Oak - 16th-18th September

Games Weekend



Rally 40 - Top Barn Farm - 14th-16th October

Fishing Available



Please visit the MCCC website (address below) for booking details and further information.

Coming up

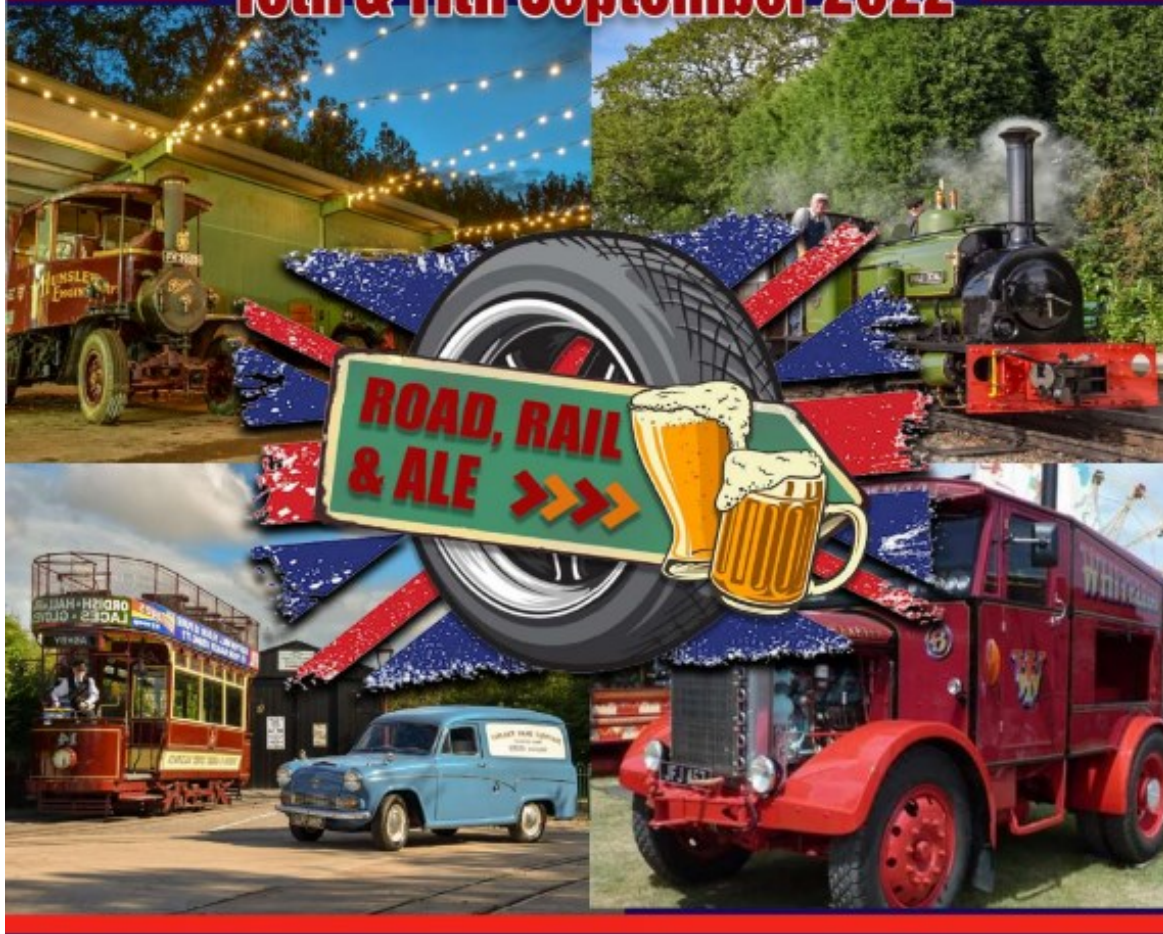
**FREE Vintage Bus Service
from Tamworth Town Centre**



STATFOLD

**Join us at the Award Winning Statfold Railway for
one of the best Road, Rail & Ale events in the UK!**

10th & 11th September 2022



**Midland Centre Rally Friday 9th - Sunday 11th
£57.00 including wristband to access all areas all weekend**

**A family fun event showcasing all things Road & Rail.
Enjoy unlimited rides on the railway and help us celebrate 100 years of
Scammell Lorries LTD with a fantastic display of trucks!**

Book now

www.midlandcentre.co.uk

Over to you.....

COTTON ARMS - WRENBURY

After what felt like a short week at home, after coming back from a week away in Southport after the Easter Rally we were obviously nearly the last to arrive at the Cotton Arms. It was another bank holiday rally so three whole days to relax and unwind! – well that was what Matthew thought!

There was a height restricted gate which needed to be opened for all vans when we got there, fortunately there was another van going through onto the site when we arrived so we piggy backed onto that opening. I think Phil was busy sitting at his look out post but we made it in before he could get there.

The weekend started at flag with a very welcoming glass of Pimm's and Lemonade served by the amazing Stewards. We were all welcomed to the Cotton Arms and reminded about ... dogs on leads with a human at the other end and fire bucket with water or a fire extinguisher at the front of the units.

It was great seeing so many people out and about in their vans and everyone kept themselves busy in the amazing weather – think the weather forgot it was a bank holiday!

What Matthew didn't realise was ... that I was on a mission to find a particular outdoor mat for the caravan. This was successfully acquired at the 8th store we went into in the third town we had tried!!!

A short walk up to the canal we 'found' another pub with a beer garden over looking the lock. It was great entertainment watching a stag party all dressed as Jonny Depp I Pirates of the Caribbean sail their boat whilst a parrot was trying to get on board (think that was the stag!) Only to return about 20 minutes later realising they had actually gone the wrong way! Yes the wrong way down the canal!!

A great weekend in a lovely location. Big thank you to Mike, Martha, Lanis, Phil, Lyndsey, Aston and Abbi.

Gaynor and Matthew Hart

Over to you.....

Mayalls Farm - 19th to 22nd May

It is a bit of a trek to this site for us, but it is well worth the effort, being situated at the foot of the Malvern Hills near Upper Welland. We arrived Friday evening after the road closure had been cleared to a warm welcome from Chris Emms and Phil and Lindsey Grant.



Once we had set up and dinner was sorted, it was over to the stewards for tea, coffee and biscuits so that all on the rally field could meet up for a chat. Friday evening was slowly turning into a beautiful evening so we felt that a leisurely stroll to the Marlbank Inn was in order. Oh dear, never been past the farm down the lane into Upper Welland before, what a muddy track. Once past the farm it is fine!

The Marlbank is a strange combination, Indian restaurant and pub, but you can be sure of a warm welcome. Apparently the Indian food is very good. On the way back the sun was setting behind the hills.

After a leisurely start on Saturday morning, we set off on a walk towards British Camp, the long way round. We are a little out of practice on hills but it was an enjoyable walk, reaching the Malvern Hills Hotel in time for some lunch and liquid refreshment.

The route back to Mayalls Farm is all downhill, just as well after a couple of drinks for lunch. Later in the afternoon, the stewards asked if anyone wanted to join them at the Marlbank Inn for a drink. As it was still a beautiful day, would be rude not to! This time we avoided the muddy lane, lesson learnt! A very enjoyable few hours were spent putting the world to rights, somehow I think it is still broken, but we keep trying. It is a great opportunity to get to know our centre members and visitors going on these ad-hoc trips to the local watering hole. Alas all good things come to a close and we headed back to site for some dinner and to watch the sunset over the Malvern Hills.



Sunday morning was closing flag and as acting chairman it fell to me to perform the Facebook live stream. I hope this is still enjoyed by our members who are not attending as many rallies as they used to, please do comment on FB, the feedback is always welcome, good or bad, we will try to improve where we can.

All in all a very enjoyable weekend, albeit with only 10 vans out. Many thank to Chris Emms, Phil and Lindsey for a very enjoyable weekend.

Gordon and Helen

Over to you.....

Bridgnorth Rally 2022

Bridgnorth rally is a great to have a wander into the town from and that was our plan. We arrived very close to last on the Friday evening, but we were in time for flag and witnessed the start of the juniors mammoth sponsored walk for the weekend. As the juniors started walking I went back to the van to start cooking our dinner ... as the juniors walked past could hear them chuntering and all of a sudden ... look your doing my head un already we've got loads more walking to do so come on. The juniors were amazing though, some times there were two others most of them walking around the field and the weather wasn't always kind to them.

Saturday was walking into town day and to find our usual establishment. This time though we took the Cliff Railway up I'm holding judgement still. But I will say was quicker and easier than walking up!

After a bit of shopping and a coffee in the town we headed to favourite establishment for a few drinks and their amazing pizza!!



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It was then time to head back to sit in the sunshine outside the vans and to contemplate cooking for this evening to get ready for the auction.

The auction room was tense, everyone there with their money ready to raise their hands to bid for a very worthy charity. Matthew enjoyed bidding we ended up with a new set of BBQ tools and a new chair for #thebaileybear.

Sunday, after flag we drove over to Ironbridge, to take a look in the vintage shop and see if there were any Ruby Shoos that were not in my collection. Two pairs of shoes later we sat in a bar with coffee and cake. This is what weekends are made of ... friendships, fun, Ruby Shoos, coffee and cake.



Big thank you to all involved in running the rally and of course Happy Birthday Mr Chairman!

Gaynor and Matthew Hart



Over to you.....

Monks Barn Farm

Once again, we were last to arrive, but were quickly set up and out to flag to see who else was on the rally. We like going to Monks Barn as we have had so many awesome times here and brings back very happy memories.

After we had eaten we ventured out into the village to the social club that we knew Trevor and John had walked to earlier. Once we had walked through the field chatting we suddenly nearly walked into an electric fence so had to take a few steps back to walk through the gate – which was in the middle of nowhere! The footpath meandered around a couple of ponds but we arrived safely in the social club and our reward was a nice refreshing drink. We sat with Trevor and John putting the world to right and then headed back to site. It did look a bit different in the dark but with the torch on the phone we soon made it back!

Saturday was wet, it rained, it rained some more, stopped for a while then rained again. We had a relaxing morning and early afternoon in the van and then walked out into the village to the local pub. All of the times we have been to Monks Barn we have never walked out from the site, so was something new for us.

We got back to site just in time for the cream tea that Mike and Lanis had prepared for us and we sat there talking with other ralliers.

Then the rain came back and it was time for dinner. We decided to cook in the caravan rather than getting the BBQ out!

On Sunday we managed to hold flag in the sunshine and say our goodbyes to people before the heavens opened once again!!

Thank you Mike and Lanis for stewarding the rally.

Gaynor and Matthew Hart

Over to you.....

Yew Tree Farm Rally: Number 26—Friday 15th July to Sunday 17th July

STEVO'S Memorial Rally

As we are both now "Twirlies" we decided to arrive at Yew Tree Farm a lot earlier than usual around 12.30pm to find that there were a good number of ralliers already there. We are obviously not as Twirlie as we think we are. Need to do better next time.

After several stops and starts, (due to welcomes from the twirlies), we finally got set up with the sun canopy around 3pm. We were glad we brought it as the sun was splitting the sky (not complaining) and the temperature rose to the dizzy heights of top 20's or early 30's. We were not the only one's to take their time setting up as rests and shade were required.

We spent the rest of the day relaxing, sometimes sleeping and other times talking to our neighbours.

At 7.30pm we were summoned by the bell to the hall on site for a wee drink and "chin wag" with old friends. It was great to see Roger and Jenny Bailey who have stopped rallying but now live a short distance from Yew Tree Farm in a static. It was also good to see Laird and Lady Campbell despite Martin's recent knee replacement operation. Get well soon Martin as we miss your banter on the rally field.

Saturday morning, we arose early as the sun was again splitting the sky and a certain dog, Henry, needed a walk before it got too hot. We sat in the canopy for a few hours and had breakfast while waiting for our guests for the day. Shortly before noon I walked down to the Steward's to see if our guests had arrived and as usual, I found our Honorary Members Norman & Zena Jones talking to other members of the MCCC. Ten minutes later, they finally joined us at our caravan.

After a drink and a gossip, we walked over to the Plough for lunch. We had to set off early, around 12.30pm as Norman is not too good at walking these days (and to give him time to talk to all and sundry). We had a lovely meal in the pub and good value for money at £12 for 3 courses, including their famous carvery.

Saturday evening at 7.30 we toddled down to the hall for the evening social, a memorial to our friend and fellow member John "Stevo" Stevens. Mike Downs had prepared a lovely speech and PowerPoint presentation (with the help of Martha Downs) to commemorate Stevo's long (50 years plus) membership of the Midland Centre. Thank you, Mike and all the speakers, Lanis Downs, Norman Jones, Jim Porter, Graham Bird and Lyn Homer/Wood, (depending on who is asking), Martin Campbell for their kind words and remembrances. The night continued with music from Mix and Match specially chosen by Mick Hale to commemorate John's life. Thanks, must also be said to Helen (John's niece) and rest of John's family for supplying some drinks for the evening. Other members were able to join us for the evening including John Todd, who also has had a knee replacement operation.

Sunday morning at 11am and flag and all too soon it was time to go home again.

Thanks to the Committee of the Midland Centre of the Caravan and Motorhome Club for organising the rally, which may be our last at Yew Tree Farm. What a pity if it is! As it is a lovely site.

Thanks to June and Mick Hale and Graham Bird for opening the rally at 11am and allowing the Twirlies to make a longer weekend of it.

Finally, thanks to all the ralliers, 25 Midland Centre and 3 South Staffs Centre, for making this a wonderful weekend. Just what Stevo would have wanted us to remember him by.

Jim & Chris Porter

Over to you.....

A nice 'tasteful' photo sent in by a 'respectable' fellow caravanner

No prizes for this one but can anyone guess who's 'rear is about to disappear'????



Answer on the last page!

And the winner is.....



Bully Article Prizes for 2021/22

The cash prize for the best article from each edition will remain at £20 per winning article.

Spring 2022 Article Winner

The winner of the best article from the Spring Edition of the Bully was Jim & Carole Clarke for their write up on New Year!! They will receive £20 for their contribution.

Tote Winners

Venue	Winner	Number	Amount
Easter	Jason Atkinson	255	£36.00
Bridgnorth	Keith Orchard	347	£25.00
Far Forest	Aston Grant	203	£29.00
Greenhill Park	Trevor Watkins	253	£25.50

Monthly Prize Draw

All those booked onto any of the next 6 weekend or bank holiday rallies will go into a draw to win £10 at the last rally of that month.

So the more rallies you book onto the more chance you have of winning!

Monthly Prize Draw Winners so far:

March	Andy Gibbs
April	Roy & Carol Abson
May	John & Margaret Poole
June	John & Val Fairbotham
July	Paul & Kim Smith

Midland Centre Regalia



Red Fire Buckets	£3.00
Hitch Covers Printed Centre Logo	£16.00
Hitch Covers Plain	£10.00
Midland Lanyards	£1.00
Midland Keyring	£1.00

Clothing

Midland Centre Polo Shirt Price

Centre logo on front and 'Midland Centre' on rear	£10.50
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Midland Centre Hoodie Price

Pullover centre logo on front and 'Midland Centre' on rear	£16.50
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Full Zip centre logo on front and 'Midland Centre' on rear	£18.00
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Personalise with your name on the rear	extra £3.75
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Midland Centre T-Shirt Price

Centre logo on front and 'Midland Centre' on rear	£9.50
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Personalise with your name on rear	extra £3.75
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Sizing Info

Label	Size (in)	Label	Size (in)
XS	36-38	XL	44-46
S	38-40	2XL	48-50
M	40-42	3XL	50-52
L	42-44	4XL at extra cost	52-54

We are able to obtain Umbrellas in Centre Colours and Logo at £18.00 if there is enough interest shown.

Contact Graham Bird on 07760 241792 or email grahambird40@gmail.com



Fiamma Caravanstore Zip Awning Canopy

As New – Used Twice!

Grey canopy and zip bag fits on side of caravan

Size is XL (310cm)

New Price £299

For Sale at £175

Contact Steve Farr on 07708 476099

Item located in Studley, Warwickshire – preferably buyer to collect



A Note From the Editor.....

Apologies for the lateness of this season's bully. I seem to have a few too many plates to spin at the moment! However, if you've attended one of our rallies and loved it then please send in a write up. The best article for each edition wins £20.

Please email all articles and 'items for sale' with pictures to me at Kerry.Silver@hotmail.com putting '**Bully**' in the comments box.

Can articles for the winter edition please be emailed to me by mid December.

Thanks, Kerry



For anyone ever in any doubt..... the 'disappearing rear' belonged to the one and only **Lyz Fox** of course!