

The Rallier

West Warwickshire Centre Newsletter

April 2006

www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk

Issue 2/2006

Editor

I think Spring has finally arrived – as I am writing this, the sun is shining, the temperature is in the low teens and I can see a shower coming over! We were away last weekend at Elmdale (a very nice little site in my opinion) and it was noticeably warmer than it has been of late. We all managed to gather in my awning for a meal and a drink and it really did not feel cold – quite a change from the last few cold and grey weeks.

I hope that the improving weather will encourage a few more of you to get out on rallies at the weekend. We are getting more and more comments from site owners that it is really not worth opening up a rally field if we can't attend with at least 10 vans. I think we are rapidly approaching the "use it or lose it" situation that has shut down so many small shops and other businesses. So, please take note, and if you want to be able to carry on your caravanning at weekends without the expense of commercial, full facilities sites, you need to come out and join us.

I am going to miss one or two rallies in the not too distant future as I am going over to Ireland with my van, so please don't accuse me of being too hypocritical – I am still rallying, but in a different place! My thanks to all who turned out for the Rally and or Social at St. Peter's School during the NEC Show. Gail and Mark laid on an excellent Social for us with very good food. Our visitors from other Centres seemed very happy to have been with us and have declared intentions to join us again in the future. I could not attend the Skittles evening, owing to a prior engagement, but it was extremely well attended (56 people, I believe) and was apparently a great success. Everyone I spoke to said what a good venue it was, particularly as we did not even have to set up the skittles for ourselves. Congratulations to Mervyn for putting on such an excellent event, particularly as he was off to Europe in his motorhome on the following morning!

I have not had any response from anyone to the idea of having a list of volunteers who would be willing to open rallies early so that members can have a longer weekend – starting at lunch-time or earlier on Fridays. A number of Committee members are willing to do this, but it would be nice if other members were willing to assist. The Committee members already do a lot of work on behalf of the members, and it would be nice to get some assistance on things like this. Very little is involved, other than getting to the site early, making contact with the landowner to inform him that we are on site, and putting up a few direction signs. Many of

you like to turn up early, so why not help yourselves and the rest of the membership by taking on this very limited piece of responsibility on the odd occasion.

Neil Taylor.

Rally Secretary's Report.

There are still 2 rallies without stewards.

Monks Barn Farm, Stratford – 19 – 21 May.
Cooperage Farm, Meriden – 15 – 17 September.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to steward either of these rallies can contact myself or any committee member.

Jane Clarke

Future Rallies

Riverside Caravan Park, Stratford. 21 – 23 April

This rally coincides with both St Georges Day, and the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford. It is on a level site within easy reach of Stratford by road and river. Decorate your caravan accordingly.

If you are planning on coming to this rally please note a change of route. As the Shakespeare Festival starts on Thursday and Stratford may be busy it is suggested you approach the site from Wellsbourne. Off the A429, take the B4086 towards Tiddington, Stratford. After passing the shops in Tiddington the site is on the right opposite the NFU building. Follow rally signs.

Thanks ,

Jane Clarke

Charity News.

Please don't forget our Charity rally at the end of June. Our Charity Co-ordinator, Gail Wiltshire is already asking for us to start saving to help towards this main Charity Fund-raising event of the year. She needs the following items to sell or for people to assist with during the weekend of 30th.June- 2nd. July :-

Tombola prizes – Good second-hand books – items for a Bric-aBrac stall - Raffle prizes – Volunteers to bake cakes – help to man stalls on the day – Sponsors to pay for Neil's leg-waxing (I am not sure that I should be putting the last one in – after all, if no-one sponsors me, I don't have to go through with it, do I? Ed.)

Please give any items and names of helpers to Gail or Margaret Wiltshire.

In the meantime, of course, Books will be on sale at most weekend rallies, so please support Gail with donations or purchase of books throughout the year. She and Margaret have also been making lots of cards and small craft items for sale during the season, so have look next time you are out. The cards are superb value, so look up your Birthday books and get in some stocks while you can. They are much nicer than the ones from most card shops and they are a lot cheaper too!

Centre News.

WARNING - BBQ points are designed as a gas outlet point only

There have been concerns over recent months that caravan users are misusing BBQ point gas outlets as inlets. This has been brought to the attention of and discussed by the NCC, the Caravan Club and the Camping and Caravan Club.

Prior to September 2003, the LPG pressure was 37mbar for Propane and 28/30mbar for Butane. Since this date, with the introduction of EN1949, the fixed working pressure of LPG has been set at 30mbar and appliances within the caravan set at a maximum pressure (pmax) of 35mbar. If an LPG propane cylinder is connected to the BBQ point and the gas fed into the 30mbar system at 37mbar, this could over-pressure the appliances, in turn producing a "flame envelope" larger than it should be. This could then generate bad combustion that may lead to Carbon Monoxide gases escaping into the caravan. It is important on the grounds of safety, that this unsafe practice is brought to the attention of caravan users, as they may be unaware of the consequences.

New caravans built to EN1949, should display the warning label shown here, inside the BBQ flap.

Kevin Kirwan,

National Caravan Council.

Rally Prices – Please note that there may be slight variations on the price to pay at certain rallies. As you must realise, we have to prepare the Rally Book well in

advance and there are occasions when the situation as regards the VAT status of the landowner changes or is unclear, and this may cause a slight change in the price we have to charge. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Centre Website

With a great deal of help from Dave Waring I've re-launched the Centre's website (www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk). Please visit and let me know if there is any information you'd like me to add. Perhaps you have an item for sale or want to advertise an event. Maybe you are running a rally and want to expand on the information printed in the rally book. Whatever it might be, let me know.

Also, I'd like to compile a list of members who have e-mail addresses. E-mail is a very fast and effectively free way of communicating with members. If you have an e-mail address please send it to me (webmaster@westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk) so that I can add you to the list.

Thanks,

Dave Varley.

CENTRE LINES

Following the recent 'Question Time' event it became evident that the flow of information regarding the removal of 'Centre Lines' from the Club magazine is not reaching the membership. I hope the following will help clarify the current situation.

The original proposition was part of a presentation entitled "The Way Forward". This was given to the Club Council in May 2004 by the Northern Home Counties Region. "The Way Forward" was intended to start discussion and thought about the way Centres were perceived by non ralliers and offered several suggestions for the way forward. One of these was for the removal of 'Centre Lines' from the Club magazine. It was thought that in it's current form, 'Centre Lines' passed on very little useful information. The space made by removing them could be then used to promote Centre events to a larger cross section of the membership. The proposal was adopted by the Club Council with the proviso that 'Centre Lines' would not be removed until an acceptable alternative had been found. One other important fact that seems to be missed is that 'Centre Lines' only refers to weekend listings. All holiday rally and foreign rally listings along with items sent in by Centres will remain.

Currently several methods to pass on the information to the membership are under consideration by the

Club Council. Once a decision is made the information will be passed on to you.

Within the Central Region we have prepared a document entitled 'At a Glance'. This brochure contains a full 2006 rally list for the ten Centres within the Central Region. Also included are the contact details for all the Centres to help with finding out further information. Copies are available through your Centre, from www.centralregion.co.uk or by contacting me as detailed below.

To summarise:

- ◆ Weekend Centre Lines listings will be removed **BUT ONLY** when an acceptable replacement has been found.
- ◆ The intention is to improve the information presented to the membership to make it easier to enjoy our hobby – caravanning.
- ◆ All holiday rallies, both domestic and foreign, will remain.
- ◆ Articles and photographs sent in by Centres will still be included.

Dave Waring, Central Region Secretary
Email: secretary@centralregion.co.uk
Telephone: 01788 569252

Rally Reports

Elmdale, Studley - 24th to 26th March 2006

Only 5 vans joined the rally on a very cold and blustery day but the welcome from the Stewards was warm. The rally kicked off on Friday Evening with mulled wine and a good natter in Neil's Awning. Neil advised that we were all invited on Saturday Evening to a Hot Supper, provided and cooked by the man himself with a little help from Mary and Sam..

On Saturday Mary invited all the children for a craft afternoon making things for Mothering Sunday, Mark was also bullied into attending but Neil seemed to have other ideas and disappeared. *(Mervyn turned up to see me on Club business – honest. I'll send you the cheque later, Mervyn! Ed.)*

In the evening we duly attended Neil's Awning with our plates, bowls, cutlery, and of course our glasses. There was a choice of Shepherds Pie or Chicken Curry and rice or of course a taste of both depending how greedy you were, followed by Chocolate Flan or Cherry or Apple Strudel, cream, clotted cream or custard followed by coffee and cheese and biscuits. I nearly forgot the wine which encouraged so much talking the evening just flew by. Our Stewards said we had to go to bed early because we were losing an hour with the clocks going forward

Sunday morning the Children and Mark went over to Mary's to collect their Mothering Sunday gifts and much to my surprise Mark walked over with a posy of flowers he had arranged for me. It was a joy to see Shaun carrying his posy he was so proud as he crossed the field to Gail.

Thanks to Neil, Mary and Sam for another wonderful weekend.

Margaret Wiltshire

Social Reports

Winter Ramble 2006

One bright and sunny morning in late February an eager band of 12 (including 2 new members) gathered in the Clent Hills visitor centre car park for a wee ramble round the hills. It was freezing, so after ensuring that all our electric undies were in good working order we headed off. The initial downhill stretch gave us an opportunity to get the blood pumping before the climb which took us to the top of the first hill, where we stopped briefly to make snowmen and to take-in the great views of the surrounding countryside. "Not the old snowball down the back trick again", she cried! It was downhill then all the way to the pub, where we stopped for a long lunch and enjoyed great beer, good food and a warm fire. With some difficulty, we dragged ourselves away from the comfort of the pub to brave the elements again. Soon came a very steep climb to the top of the second hill. After the relaxation of lunch at the pub, this really came as a shock to the system but eventually we all made it to the top (some of us needed a push). There then followed an easy downhill walk back to the car park. A good time was had by all.

I've put pictures of the walk on the centre's website (www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk). Thanks to Vic and Rosemary and Dave and Marion and of course 'er indoors (Allison) for help with planning the walk and selecting a suitable pub. If you fancy joining us next

year, you'd be very welcome. In the meantime, flip through the 2006 Rally Booklet or the rally details on the website, you'll see that the Centre has several rallies planned which include a ramble.

See you out there!

Dave Varley.

Recipe Section

Recipe -Diabetic Carrot Cake

½ Cup Grated carrot
1 ¼ Cup Chopped Dates
1 Cup Raisins
1 1/3 Cup Water
¼ cup Applesauce - unsweetened
1 tsp Cinnamon
1 tsp ground cloves
1 tsp Nutmeg
2 cups Whole wheat flour
1 tsp Baking powder
1 tsp Baking Soda.

Preheat oven to 350F.

Place carrots, dates, raisins, water, apple sauce, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg into a saucepan, bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Cool. Stir the dry ingredients together. Combine the wet and dry mixtures and stir until well blended. Spoon the batter into an 8 x 8" non stick pan and bake for 45 to 50 minutes.

VARIATION you may add ½ cut chopped nuts to the wet ingredients before combining with the dry.

Margaret Wiltshire

Members' Adverts.

Land Rover Discovery Tow Bar (Adjustable Hitch Height) – Land Rover factory fitted part, complete with 12N and 12S electrics and all instructions for a post '99 caravan.

Bargain at £125.

Eurovent awning to fit Award Brightstar or similar van (awning length 8.75 metre) Excellent condition, 4 zip out panels, polyester 10 cate fabric and no tears or rips. Best offer over £100 secures, available to borrow on trial if required.

Contact: for both of the above items

Neil Taylor, 0121 707 6981 or 07721 426001 or e-mail neil.kay@virgin.net

Useful Tips Section

Nothing has come in this time, but I strongly suggest you go back and read the article on the use of Barbecue outlet points. It could lead to a disaster if ignored and none of us want to see this happen

Page Filler

Hey guys, need money? Come to America and sue someone. Read below!

It's once again time to review the winners of the annual Stella Awards.

The Stellas are named after 81 year old Stella Liebeck who spilled coffee on herself and successfully sued McDonalds. That case inspired the Stella Awards' for the most frivolous successful lawsuits in the United States.

THIS YEAR'S AWARDS GO TO:

5th Place (Tied)

Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas was awarded \$780,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving toddler was Ms. Robertson's son.

5th Place (Tied)

19 year old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently did not notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal the hubcaps.

5th Place (Tied)

Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He could not re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for 8 days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The Jury agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

4th Place

Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbour's Beagle dog. The Beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been a little provoked at the time as Mr. Williams, who had climbed over the fence into the yard, was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

3rd Place

A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier, during an argument.

2nd Place

Kara Walton of Claymont, Delaware sued the owner of a Night Club in a neighbouring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and knocked out two of her front teeth. This occurred whilst Ms. Walton was trying to sneak in the window of the Ladies Room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

1st Place!!!!

This year's runaway winner was Mr. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City, Okla. Mr. Grazinski purchased a brand new Winnebago Motor home. On his trip home from an OU football game, having driven onto the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee.

Not surprisingly the RV left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. G sued Winnebago for not advising him in the owner's manual that he could not actually do this. The jury awarded him \$1,750,000 plus a new Winnebago Motor home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit just in case there were any other complete morons buying their recreational vehicles.

To CAP it all!

It time for a little humour folks! This gem, reflecting as it does on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), is currently 'doing the rounds' on Internet forums! Enjoy.

Dear Under Minister,

My friend, who is in farming at the moment, received a cheque for £3000 from your Government for not rearing pigs. I now wish to go into the not rearing pigs business and seek your informed advice.

In your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to rear pigs on, and which is the best breed of pigs not to rear? I want to be sure I approach this endeavour in keeping with all Government policies, as dictated by the 'EU' under the Common Agricultural Policy.

I would prefer not to rear bacon pigs, but if this is not the type you want not rearing, I will just as gladly not rear porkers. Are there any advantages in not rearing rare breeds such as Saddlebacks or Gloucester Old Spots, or are there too many people already not rearing these?

As I see it, the hardest part of this programme will be keeping an accurate record of how many pigs I haven't reared. Are there any Government Local Authority courses on this?

My friend is very satisfied with this business. He has been rearing pigs for twenty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was £1422 in 1968, until this year when he received a cheque for not rearing any.

If I get £3000 for not rearing 50 pigs, will I get £6000 for not rearing 100?

I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4000 pigs not raised, which will mean about £240,000 for the first year. Then I can afford to buy a peerage or honour from your party which, I understand, are available on a sliding price scale.

Another point. These pigs I plan not to rear will not eat 2000 tons of cereals per annum. I understand that you also pay farmers for not growing crops. Will I qualify for payments for not growing cereals to not feed the pigs I don't rear?

I am also considering the not milking cows business, so please send any information you have on that too. Please could you also include the Government information on set-aside fields? Can this be done on an e-commerce basis with virtual-reality fields?

In view of the above you will realise that I will be totally unemployed, and will qualify for unemployment benefits.

I shall of course vote for you at the next general election and encourage others to do likewise.

Yours faithfully,

SMILING

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu;
when someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
when he smiled back I realised that I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile and realised its worth,
a single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.

OLD FOLKS

The Vicar came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him I do. All the time. No matter where I am -- in the bedroom, the kitchen, or out in the garage-- I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after".

CHOICES

I'm Lemon Meringue

(There's always the exception that proves the rule!-Ed.)

If all of the desserts listed below were sitting in front of you, which would you choose ?(Sorry, you can only pick one!)

Pick your dessert, then look to see what psychiatrists think about you.

After taking this dessert personality test, send this on to others, but when you do, be sure to put your choice of dessert in the heading.

Here are your choices:

1. Angel Food Cake
2. Brownies
3. Lemon Meringue
4. Vanilla cake with Chocolate Icing
5. Strawberry Short Cake
6. Chocolate on Chocolate
7. Ice Cream
8. Carrot Cake

No, you can't change your mind once you scroll down, so think carefully what your choice will be.....

OK - Now that you've made your choice this is what research says about you...

1. ANGEL FOOD CAKE -- Sweet, loving, cuddly. You love all warm and fuzzy items. A little nutty at times. At

the end of the day. Others perceive you as being childlike and immature at times.

2. BROWNIES -- You are adventurous, love new ideas, are a champion of underdogs and a slayer of dragons. When tempers flare up you whip out your broadsword. You are always the oddball with a unique sense of humour and direction. You tend to be very loyal.

3. LEMON MERINGUE -- Smooth, sexy, & articulate with your hands, you are an excellent after-dinner speaker and a good teacher. But don't try to walk and chew gum at the same time. A bit of a diva at times, but you have many friends.

4. VANILLA CAKE WITH CHOCOLATE ICING -- Fun-loving, sassy, humorous, not very grounded in life; very indecisive and lack motivation. Everyone enjoys being around you, but you are a practical joker. Others should be cautious in making you mad. However, you are a friend for life.

5. STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE -- Romantic, warm, loving. You care about other people, can be counted on in a pinch and expect the same in return. Intuitively keen. Can be very emotional.

6. CHOCOLATE ON CHOCOLATE -- Sexy; always ready to give and receive. Very creative, adventurous, ambitious, and passionate. You can appear to have a cold exterior but are warm on the inside. Not afraid to take chances. You will not settle for anything average in life. Love to laugh.

7. ICE CREAM -- You like sports, whether it be cricket, football, basketball, or soccer. If you could, you would like to participate, but you enjoy watching sports. You don't like to give up the remote control. You tend to be self-centered and high maintenance.

8. CARROT CAKE -- You are a very fun loving person, who likes to laugh. You are fun to be with. People like to hang out with you. You are a very warm hearted person and a little quirky at times. You have many loyal friends.

Well, that's the end of my waffle for now. I'm looking forward to the next few months, when I can get out in the caravan most weekends. I'm just off to Ireland for a fortnight, to meet a friend and go off to the Irish National. Roy and Margaret have told me what a marvellous rally it is and how friendly the Irish Centres are. Hopefully I will be able to put in a report about it in the next Newsletter, which I plan to put out sometime in July. Please send me some contributions -- don't leave it all to the Committee! Have a good season and help boost up our attendance figures!

Neil Taylor.