

£750 raised for charity  
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See page 7 for details



EDITION 2—APRIL 2011

# THE RALLIER

the newsletter of the West Warwickshire Centre Caravan Club

## THE EDITOR SAYS.....

I am writing this towards the end of February, having just spent several hours with three other Committee members stuffing envelopes with your Rally books, Rallier and slips. I hope that you will take advantage of the £2 voucher we included on the back of the Rallier – you can use it at any stage during the season, perhaps on the first rally you come out for. We hope that the voucher will encourage some members who are not regular ralliers to either come out again or give us a try for the first time. If you are a first time rallier with this Centre, please let the Stewards know when you send in or e mail a booking slip to them. I really would encourage you to make an effort to make a booking at least a week before the rally. We can take later entries, but it makes it so much easier

for your stewards to plan if they have a good idea on the attendance to expect.

Also on the back sheet of the first Rallier, we included a slip to post through the door of any other caravanner in your neighbourhood. Please do this if you can it's probably the best way we have at the moment to enable us to increase our active membership. If you feel that you are able to drop out a few more of these slips, please let me know and I will post or e mail more copies to you. It is a very small thing to ask, and it could help the Centre a great deal.

When I prepared the first Rallier of the new season, there were still several rallies without stewards.

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[www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk](http://www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk)

## THE RALLIER

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As I suggested, various Committee members have taken on more rallies when no-one else came forward, rather than see big gaps in your programme.

The end result is that Committee members are involved with running 23 out of the 27 rallies our Centre is running this year. East Warwickshire Centre have kindly invited us to two of their rallies, Midland Centre are hosting the 3 Centres rally, so we are left with only one rally without stewards – Brook Leys in September. I just hope that there is someone out there who will be willing to take this weekend on. If no-one comes forward, it will give me very serious doubts about the future of the Centre. Please restore my faith in the membership of your Centre.

Your editor

*Neil Taylor*



## Rally Costs —

### Keeping prices down for you

On a number of occasions, various members have asked why our rallies are expensive and I have always maintained that we keep our rally prices to the absolute minimum as a way of giving something back to our members. The truth of this was highlighted to me when a Centre member showed me the attached fee for a holiday rally attended in a Southern Centre recently.

6 nights @ £11.83	£70.98
Admin Fee	£ 1.50
Rally Fee	£ 3.50
Plaque	<u>£ 1.00</u>
Sub Total	£76.98
VAT	<u>£15.40</u>
Total	£92.38

We charge a rally fee of £3 for a 4 day or holiday rally and £2 for a weekend rally, and this includes admin. Plaque and VAT for these items. The above add-on cost was £7.20, ours would have been £3 only.

I rest my case!

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Our Secretary has asked me to point out that it is now possible to renew your Centre Membership on line, rather than by spending money on stamps. You can now do this by logging on to: -

[www.caravanclub.co.uk/centremembership](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk/centremembership), or ringing 01342 318813.

It is important to remember to renew your Centre membership each year. It is no longer automatically renewed by the Club so it does require you to either return the slip to the Club with your membership renewal notice, or, more easily, use the above processes.

[www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk](http://www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk)

**KEEPING YOU UPDATED**

If any of you have email addresses, it would be very useful if you could pass them on to our Secretary, Mark Wiltshire. It would make contacting you so much easier and cheaper than having to use the post and saving cost is something we all want to do. He can be contacted by emailing

[secretary@westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk](mailto:secretary@westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk). It will obviously be quite a major task loading all these addresses to our Centre records, but it would be a great help to have a database containing this information. We would appreciate your help in contacting him whenever you are able.

**Help us help you!!**  
**We want to raise funds for**  
**equipment for the Centre Charity**  
**We will fill your aquarolls for a small**  
**donation**  
**Find us on the rally field**  
**THE JUNIOR COMMITTEE**



**FUNNY!!**

A distinguished young woman on a flight from Switzerland asked the Priest beside her, "Father, may I ask a favour?"

"Of course. What may I do for you?"

"Well, I bought an expensive woman's electronic hair dryer for my mother's birthday that is unopened and well over the Customs limits, and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through Customs for me? Under your robes perhaps?"

"I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you: I will not lie."

"With your honest face, Father, no one will question you."

When they got to Customs, she let the priest go ahead of her. The official asked, "Father, do you have anything to declare?"

"From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare."

The official thought this answer strange, so asked, "And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?"

"I have a marvellous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused."

Roaring with laughter, the official said, "Go ahead, Father."

Keep up to date with the Centre Web-Site.

**THE GAY FLIGHT ATTENDANT**

My flight was being served by an obviously gay flight attendant, who seemed to put everyone in a good mood as he served us food and drinks.

As the plane prepared to descend, he came swishing down the aisle and told us that "Captain Marvey has asked me to announce that he'll be landing the big scary plane shortly, so lovely people, if you could just put your trays up, that would be super."

On his trip back up the aisle, he noticed this well-dressed and rather Arabic looking woman hadn't moved a muscle. "Perhaps you didn't hear me over those big brute engines but I asked you to raise your crazy-poo, so the main man can pitty-pat us on the ground."

She calmly turned her head and said, "In my country, I am called a Princess and I take orders from no one."

To which the flight attendant replied, without missing a beat, "Well, sweet-cheeks, in my country I'm called a Queen - so I outrank you. Tray-up, Bitch."

I know you do not all have access to the Internet, and I apologise to you if you feel we are leaving you out, but it does appear that the vast majority of our members do have this facility. Thus, it makes sense for us to make use of it to update our members wherever possible. I would encourage you to give it a check occasionally.



If there is any item of news to pass on to you, we will try to do it through the web-site first, so that it is immediately available to as many of you as possible. We will also try to update it regularly with recent photographs, and any details of changes to programmes or events. Such details will also be published in the Rallier, but not everyone will get to see later editions of this, so we will use the Internet to try to reach as many of you as possible, as quickly as possible.

You can log on at :-

[www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk](http://www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk).

Why not include the site on your "favourites" list so that you can check it easily and quickly when logging on for any other reason? Also, if you need to communicate anything to a lot of members in a hurry, get in touch with our Web Master, Dave Varley and he will endeavour to get it onto the Centre Web-site for you. For details, see early pages of Rally Book.

## RALLY REPORTS

### Barnstones 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> April

8 vans attended this venue near Banbury this weekend with all vans having electric hook-up. The weather was scorching hot all weekend with everyone seating outside and relaxing. Saturday afternoon Dave Varley (with the help of Dave Hawksford!) did a pleasant walk along the canal and over the fields which was attended by people from 6 vans. We then had time to relax and recover before the evening social run by Allison & Dave Varley in the centres party tent. For those that attended it was a hilarious evening. We were put into teams and had to do tasks that included throwing teabags into a glass by tossing it from your mouth, balancing sugar cubes on a ruler held in the mouth, throwing balls into a glass held by your team member, sucking up ping pong balls with a straw and putting into a glass and lastly stacking 3 beer cans up with flour. Allison & Dave got the idea for these games from watching a German television programme whilst on holiday in Gran Canaria. There were loads of photos taken amongst the laughter so they could appear on the centres website. Thanks for a great evening. The winning team was Dave & Marion Waring who received a bottle of wine for their efforts. Our thanks go to the main stewards Roy & Margaret Wiltshire and their assistants Dave & Allison Varley. What a lovely weekend in a wonderful spot.

*Gail & Mark Wiltshire, Nicola & Shaun*

### Button Oak, 15 -17<sup>th</sup>. April

I had forgotten just what a beautiful site Button Oak was. It was several years since I had last seen it and was immediately struck by what a beautiful surroundings it has: wooded hills, lush green fields, trees full of blossom and, for added entertainment, a field full of sheep and their lambs, with the youngsters bouncing around as if on springs. It was truly idyllic – a 'typical' English spring scene. I was unable to get to the site until Saturday morning but was immediately greeted by Carol (Hodrien) with a welcome cup of coffee. It was a free and easy weekend, with no formal arrangements other than coffee at Flag, but it was such a friendly atmosphere and with such glorious weather that it was a great opportunity for catching up with friends and walks in the beautiful woodland around the site, where the bluebells are just beginning to show their wonderful blue carpet scenes. It was noticeable that after Flag, no-one moved away for at least an hour, but just sat chatting with friends. Thank you Carol and Peter and Sandra and John for running a lovely weekend.

*Neil Taylor*

## BREAKING NEWS....

### NEXT YEAR'S RALLY PROGRAMME

Dave Hawksford has already booked a number of sites for next year. We aim to complete the planned programme by mid-year and then to publish the list both on the web and in future editions of the Rallier. We are hoping that this early availability of the programme will enable you to see what you might be able to steward or help with and get your name down against specific weekends. We aim to complete all arrangements immediately after the AGM in October so that the Rally Book can go to the printers early and enable us to issue them out around Christmas time. We are pretty confident now that we will be able to book a holiday week during the Autumn half-term holiday. This should be pretty popular with members with young families from other Centres, so if you want to go, get your booking in early!

## Photocopying/Printing.

At the moment, we (Samantha Terry and I) are the owners of the lease on a large and elaborate photocopier. In order to pay the lease, we are very keen to take on small printing jobs, which we are usually able to produce far more cheaply than normal commercial outlets. If you want flyers, stationery or multiple copies of any documents, please contact Samantha on **0121 764 5069** (evenings) or via email on

[samanthaterry@virginmedia.com](mailto:samanthaterry@virginmedia.com).

She will be happy to help and give a quote for production costs.

## incentive schemes—help us to keep your centre going

I have already mentioned the Centre Vouchers and the "Fellow Caravanner" slips. I hope these will bring results but we would welcome any suggestions from members to help either increase membership or to encourage more participation from existing members. We will consider seriously any constructive suggestions, whether they are direct to any Committee member or by a letter we can publish in the Rallier.

Many of you will be aware that one of our Junior Committee members, Fraser Terry, was taking part in a virtual Channel Swim for Charity and had chosen to ask for donations to the Centre Charity, the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. He took part during the Hoar Park rally the other weekend and completed the 6 mile, 384 length swim in 6 hours and 18 minutes. When they returned to site, I am told he had a drink and a sandwich and then went out on to the field to play football! It was a fantastic achievement for a 9 year old and we are all very proud of him. His efforts so far have raised over £620 , most of which will be paid in through the Centre account, although around £100 has been paid directly to his just giving website. Much of the money has been donated with a request for it to be gift aided so that the tax already paid on it can also be reclaimed by the Charity. All in all, we think his efforts should total to around £750 for the Charity. If anyone else

would like to make a further donation, it can be given to any of the Committee members.

**Well done Fraser!**



## *Future rallies.*

By the time you see this, five rallies will already have taken place and I hope we will have been able to include at least a couple of rally reports. Our next rally is at Long Itchington for the CAMRA Beer Festival. This should be a good weekend, especially for those of us who are able to extend our time to cover a few more days. Wilmcote follows with a very relaxed Free & Easy weekend. I don't intend to lay on more than the bare minimum on this occasion, so you will be completely free to explore the area or visit Stratford. Having said that, I am confident that we will be having an open awning policy on Saturday night with a plentiful supply of the dreaded Damson Wine.

Pershore College is a site not used for many years and should be a must for plant lovers, as there are opportunities to buy plants etc and Bob and Brenda are planning a Social and Quiz on Saturday night. Willicote Farm follows, run by the Wiltshire family, so I can guarantee a good weekend for anyone who goes out and then we come to Rutland Water over the Bank Holiday weekend. This will be run by the Committee, as no individuals came forward. Our programme for the weekend is still to be established, but it is a lovely site with plenty for all to do. The Bowling is a pleasant site, with lovely canal walks and excellent food available in the pub, and that is followed by the 3 Centres rally, hosted by Midland Centre at Heathcote Lakes. This is another very attractive site and very close to the big retail park at Leamington, so I hope it will appeal to plenty of you.

My Damson Delight rally will take place over a long weekend at Radway. There will be food on Saturday night, based on a Damson theme and plenty of Damson Wine. No charge for food etc. though we would welcome donations towards the Air Ambulance fund. Just before the end of June, the Junior Committee will be hosting a rally at Hatton Country World. Do please come out and support them, they are the future of the Centre and in years to come, they may be the ones you have to rely on to keep the Centre going!

## Caravan Servicing and Repair.

We would not normally include Commercial advertisements in this newsletter, but in this day and age, we all need to save money where we can. On that basis, I would like to advise members about the service provided by John Neal. John has a fully equipped van from which he provides a mobile servicing and repair service for caravans. I have used him (as have several other Centre members) for several years now and have nothing but praise for his thoroughness and attention to detail. Despite this, he charges only about half what dealers charge and comes to you to carry out the work.

He can be contacted on mobile 07747 864983 or at home on 01788 521366, but be warned, he is always busy, so if you want your van serviced, give him plenty of notice.

## YOUR ADVERTS

If you have anything you want to sell, especially if it is caravan related, please let me have the details and I will include them in the next issue of the Rallier. There will be no charge but if you wanted to make a small donation towards Centre Funds, it would be welcomed.



A normal weekend with the west warwicks!!!

## UNDERSTANDING WOMEN (A MAN'S PERSPECTIVE)

*I know I'm not going to understand women.  
I'll never understand how you can take boiling hot wax, pour it onto your upper thigh, rip the hair out by the root, and still be afraid of a spider.*



## TRIPLE CHOCOLATE BROWNIES

### INGREDIENTS

- 275g/10oz plain chocolate (70% cocoa solids)
- 275g/10oz unsalted butter
- 85g/3oz pecans, broken into pieces
- 85g/3oz milk chocolate, cut into large chunks
- 85g/3oz white chocolate, cut into large chunks
- 175g/6oz plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 325g/12oz caster sugar

**CHOCOHOLICS  
ENJOY!!**

1. Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas3. Line a 30x20x3.5cm/12x8x1½in tin with lightly buttered greaseproof paper or foil.
2. Put the plain chocolate and butter in a large bowl, place over a pan of simmering water and allow to melt.
3. Sieve the flour and baking powder into a bowl and set aside. Remove the melted chocolate from the heat and stir in the sugar. Add the eggs and vanilla essence. Fold in the flour, nuts and chocolate.
4. Pour the chocolate mixture into the prepared cake tin. Place in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes. The top should be firm but the inside should feel soft when cooked. Allow to cool in the tin. Remove the brownies from the tin and cut into squares.



**NOTHING CHANGES.....**

In the year 2011 the Lord came unto Noah, (who was now living in England) and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans." He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard, but no Ark. "Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark ?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval and I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site, even though in my view it is a temporary structure. We had to then go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark 's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many disabled carpenters I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only accredited workers with Ark-building experience. To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark.

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky.

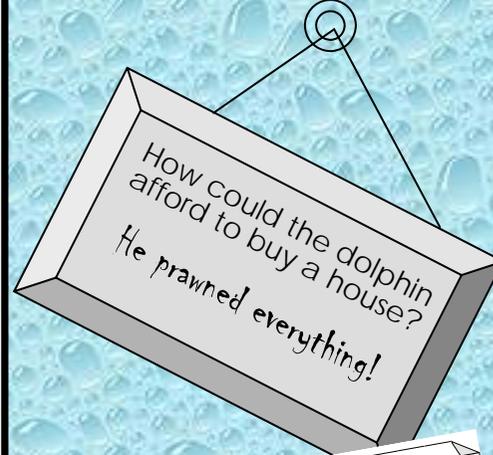
Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The British government beat me to it."



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**KIDZ KORNER**



**KNOCK KNOCK**  
WHO'S THERE  
**CANOE**  
CANOE WHO?  
**CANOE COME OUT AND PLAY WITH ME?**

*How can you double your money?  
Look at it in a mirror*

I have no voice yet I speak to you, I tell of all things in the world that people do. I have leaves, but I am not a tree, I have pages, but I am not a bride. I have a spine and hinges but I am not a man or a door, I have told you all I cannot tell you more.  
What am I?

