

The Rallier

West Warwickshire Centre Newsletter

June 2005

www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk

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Editor

I expect that by now, many of you will have heard of the sad death of Pauline, the wife of our Vice-Chairman, Geoff Fulwell. Pauline was a lovely lady who always enjoyed her weekends in the caravan. She had been fighting cancer for a long time, but always remained cheerful and positive. She will be much missed by all of us who knew her and I am sure you would want to join with me in expressing our sincerest condolences to Geoff and Louise and the rest of their family.

Pauline was to be buried in her home town in Ireland, but a memorial service for her was held in Redditch. This was attended by a large number of West Warwicks members and a substantial sum was donated in her memory to Cancer UK charity.

Geoff has already announced that he wants to continue caravanning and I am sure he will be extended the same friendliness and kindness from members that Ray King and I both received last year when we lost our wives. The membership of the Centre has meant a lot to us and your continued friendship has been a significant help in getting over our loss.

Having expressed our sadness, I suppose I have given myself what the Radio people refer to as a 'link' into my next subject – Our charity appeal for MacMillan Nurses. We will be holding a Charity Rally on 5th – 7th August at Feckenham. There will be the usual stalls selling cakes, tombola, raffles etc. but I suppose the high-light (if you're into pain and suffering, that is) will be the ritual leg-waxing to be performed on Alan Clarke, husband of our Lady Chairman. The evil deed will be performed in full public view by Sam (Marquess De Sade) Terry and sponsorship for Alan is being sought from our members. Alan has agreed (reluctantly, after I told him that I was going for the throat!) that the height to which he will be waxed will be proportional to the amount raised in sponsorship. So, don't delay, get your sponsorship pledges in now. After all, half the pleasure is in the anticipation, isn't it!

Finally, I would remind you that we are approaching our annual Stewards meeting in September, followed shortly after by our AGM.

Please try to make an effort to attend these two meetings, even if you cannot get out for the whole weekend. We need you to take on rallies and to express your views at the AGM. We have had a pretty successful year so far, but it can only continue into future years if sufficient of you are willing to play an active part in the Centre. Margaret has asked me to point out that anyone wanting to attend the social at the AGM will need to confirm with her by the latest at the Stewards meeting as she has to confirm numbers and choices to the food supplier by that weekend.

Neil Taylor.

Charity News.

CHAIRMANS CHARITY RALLY

The Chairman's Charity Rally is to be held at Branton Brook Farm, Feckenham from 5th to 7th August. All funds raised from the weekend will go to the Centre charity - MacMillan Nurses.

On the Saturday afternoon there will be a range of fundraising activities. If you have anything for sale on a craft stall, or a white elephant stall, books etc: please pass them on to any committee member.

We will also be running a cake stall, so your home made cakes (or even bought ones) will be much appreciated, as would help on all stalls.

One of the highlights is Alan Clarke has agreed to have his legs waxed, providing we raise a suitable amount of sponsorship. Sam Terry has kindly agrees to do the dirty deed.

If you cannot come to the rally but can make it there on Saturday afternoon your support will be much appreciated.

I hope to see you there

Jane Clarke - Hon Chairman

Please don't forget that we are continuing to run our Book Stall for our Charity appeal. Most weekends, either Margaret or Gail Wiltshire will bring along a stock of books for sale. Your purchases will all go into our fund and any contributions of books for sale will also be very welcome.

Centre News.

Many thanks to Judith & Julian Grubb who took on the rally at Yew Tree Farm even though it was only going to be their second outing with the Centre. I gather that it was a very enjoyable weekend and that they put a lot of effort into it. Congratulations to you both and many thanks.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Rally at Marston Edge Nurseries at the start of July, as Geoff Canning is still recovering from his recent heart attack. You will be pleased to know that he is doing very well, and he was able to come to Pauline's Service, but common sense has dictated that he does not try to run a rally so soon after his illness. At the moment, no-one has been able to offer to take it on, so cancellation is our only option.

15th. – 17th. July. Alcester Rugby Club have now cancelled this venue as they will be carrying out ground works on the site. The venue has now been replaced by Umberslade Farm and will be the revised location for the Golf Rally, stewarded by Julie and Allen Shepherd

Other news which you may be interested in is that the 2007 National will be taking place at Blenheim Palace. It will be the Centenary Rally and it is hoped to include an exhibition on the history of caravanning. The Club would be interested to receive any old photos or information which members might have that would be suitable for inclusion in this.

Rally Reports

OAKLEAZE – CIRENCESTER – MAY BANK HOLIDAY

The sun shone on Friday morning and vans started to arrive and be sited. Arthur arrived after a tour of all the lakes in the Cotswold Water Park and also a trip to a quarry to turn round. I believe after studying the map and telephoning Jane, who incidentally was half way up the M5 on

her way to Stafford he found us and was made welcome.

On Friday evening we held a cheese and wine welcome get together, which was attended by everyone, Mark and Gail arriving just before the wine ran out. They had decided to leave home later after having tea and getting Shaun ready for bed. They thought he would go to sleep in the car and they would put him to bed as soon as they arrived - he had other ideas and was still awake at 10 o'clock.

There were plenty of places to visit and the weather was very kind to us so we were able to sit in the sun and have many gatherings for tea and coffee

Tea and Cake was enjoyed by all at the Flag. Phillip provided the competition and Jackie and Steve Green were the winners

A number of members had to leave on Monday as work called. They missed an excellent meal in the local hostelry, which was attended by those of us who stayed the extra night.

We only had one visitor from Upper Thames; they proved to be the star attraction arriving in a bright red large American Ford (1959 vintage). The boot (sorry trunk) would have accommodated our Jeep

We enjoyed the venue and the rally and would recommend a visit to the C.L. This site should be used again, the owners are so helpful.

Margaret and Roy

Horley Scout Camp

We arrived on the Friday evening having followed Jackie's detailed instructions to find posters on the trees along the track telling us "its not long now", "1 mile to go" and "nearly there". We were shown where to pitch, had our meal and then had tea & coffee by the camp fire served by the Stewards dressed as hillbillies aka. (Steve 'Jethro Bodine' Green, Jackie 'Elly May Clampett' Green, Gary 'Jed Clampett' Donald and Sue 'Granny Daisey Moses' Donald.

Saturday was a fun packed day. The Stewards worked hard all day cutting wood for the fires, cooking chickens in an earth oven, turning the pork over a fire (which was coated in an excellent marinade) and also cooking trays of stuffing and apple sauce. They also laid on Archery, which Mark and about 30 other people had a go at. The children and teenagers had a session on the climbing wall. It was then over to the Zip slide where under the supervision!! of Dave, Mark and

Vic the kids and adults alike had fun. Gail had a go and maybe didn't think it was much fun but Nicola had many goes & really enjoyed herself.

After all this activity we really enjoyed our pork and chicken baps. We would have sat by the fire but Chris & Matt Shepherd had built this one and had tried to build it as high as the Eiffel Tower. People soon moved when the flames got higher as it was like sitting in a sauna. As the evening was getting colder it was decided to use the hut on the site for the evening social. Not everyone attended which meant that they missed the highlight of the evening (& maybe the rally season!) when Dave performed the "Full Monty". We won't go into details here as children could be reading this but if anyone wants details I'm sure Gail will oblige.

The rally was finished off on Sunday morning with a very enjoyable ramble around Horley Scout Camp led by Steve and Gary.

Once again a very good rally which we are looking forward to going to next year. Thanks must go to the very hard working Stewards which without them this rally wouldn't be the same.

Gail & Mark Wiltshire.

FAR FOREST RALLY – 13-15th. May

We must thank Julian and Judith Grubb for agreeing to run this rally after only attending one rally (Ratley - Spring Bank Holiday 2004). We agreed to help at the last minute having never met Julian and Judith. We need not have worried, they did an excellent job with very little assistance.

A number of people who joined the rally only used the Centre to Caravan at this venue and did not want to join in the activities. For the rest of us our Stewards' hospitality was extended both on Friday and Saturday evenings. It was just luck but Roy and I won the Quiz on Saturday evening, - it must have been the wine. Julian led a very good ramble in the Wyre Forest on Sunday morning. We had visit on Sunday from Bob and Peggy Webb, it was nice to see them and they are now in their new home.

This is a very good site with Electric hook-ups for what appears to be for an unlimited number.

Once again our thanks to Julian and Judith and hope that we will see much more of them.

Margaret and Roy

The National at Burghley House, Stamford

Another excellent National Rally this year! Ally and I arrived on Friday about lunchtime and were immediately greeted by Margaret and Roy and offered a nice cold beer. Pretty soon the van legs were down and our feet were up enjoying the sunshine and the fabulous view we had of Burghley House. This year West Warwickshire's pitches were in a prime locations, not only a did we have a great view of the house but also we were very close to all the activities (stalls, arenas, bars, caravan sales, gadget shops and cowboy hat shops! -- lots of opportunities to spend money).

Attending various receptions, buffets, ceremonies, flag raising (well done Nicola), meeting old and new friends and sporting events (please don't ask how the Boule competition went this year!) kept several of the West Warwicks. contingent busy through the weekend. Mark, Nicola and I did the fun run and all finished within the time to be awarded a finishing medal (well done again Nicola, keep it up).

Thanks to Jane and helpers for an enjoyable social on Sunday afternoon / evening. Apparently photos. were taken to prove just how many blokes it takes to erect a sheet! Nibbles and wine and general chat (including much discussion about Alan's looming leg waxing ordeal) were followed by a communal BBQ -- thanks Gail and Mark for the spicy potato and Margaret for the pancakes!

For Ally and I the ramble organised by the Scottish Lines is always a highlight of the National, and this year was no exception. Dave Waring, Gail, Mark and Nicola joined us for the ramble on Monday morning. A nice gentle stroll around the nearby countryside was followed by certificates, pancakes and a drink.

All too quickly this year's National was over, with the announcement that the venue for next year is Tatton Park in Cheshire. If you've never tried the National, give it a go -- you might enjoy it!

Dave Parsley

HOLT FARM, NAPTON – 27TH to 31ST MAY

As usual, Viv & Malc, Liz & Geoff and Brian put on an excellent rally. The Aunt Sally competition was participated in by nearly everyone with great enthusiasm. Some of the ladies were very impressive, but I suppose you must put it down to years of practice at wielding a rolling pin (though I did not realise how many of them must have actually thrown it as well!)

We were treated to champagne and nibbles during the Social and the hospitality was excellent. We were joined by the farmer and his family for the evening and they obviously had a good time with us. We found that they were breeding water buffalo for milk and meat so a number of us bought some of their buffalo burgers. They were superb, very lean and with a real beefy flavour.

This was an excellent site, large and very flat, with easy walks along the canal and excellent cream teas at the farm-house. The stewards had even laid on Southam Carnival for us on Bank Holiday Monday – what more could you ask for. Thanks again to the stewards for a great (long) weekend.

Neil Taylor

Recipe Section

No entries so I'll leave this blank this edition – Come on Ladies (and Gents) – some of you must have good recipes to share with the rest of us!

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.

Old Porch Awning, quite serviceable but will not fit a very high van - £10 or best offer.

Contact: for all three of the above items

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

Isabella Porch Awning, 628 Green with Fibreglass Poles. Includes curtains and ground sheet.

Enquiries and offers to Geoff Canning on :- 0121 747 6525.

Isabella Sun Canopy, 2 years old. Size 875cms. Suits Swift Challenger 460 or similar. Light weight poles. Excellent condition - £225.

Contact Derek Chalmers on 07771 917627.

Trio Porch Awning £60

30l. Aquaroll £5

Whale Pump (new, bought as a spare) £5

All the above from Brian Collins in Olton

Tel: 0121 706 3174.

Fiamma Caravan Store 2.6metre long £20

2 x 30l. Aquarolls with covers and handles £15
(will split)

Both the above from Ray King, 01926 770994 or mobile, 07763 245109.

For Disposal

Honda Generator (400watt)

Salou Porch Awning and Poles

2 step caravan step

A variety of Fishing Gear, including rods.

I would like to dispose of all the above as one package. There will be no charge, but I would appreciate a donation to Centre funds.

Alex Reay, 0121 308 2247.

Technical Information

Thanks to Geoff Canning for the following:- To prevent 12S pin burn-out, and improve fridge performance during towing – Within the 12S plug on the caravan (the white one), link pin 7 to pin 5 and link pin 6 to pin 2, using the heaviest cable you can accommodate within the plug. Also, check that pin 5 (Brown) from the car is earthed.

(Put a test lamp, between pins 5 and 4, if 5 is earthed, it will light the lamp)
For more details, contact Geoff on 0121 747 6525

Page Filler

Blonde joke

A blonde girl calls her boyfriend and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get it started". Her boyfriend asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The blonde says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a tiger".

Her boyfriend decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a tiger".

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then", he sighed, "...let's put all these Frosties back in the box"!

15 PIECES OF ADVICE TO BE PASSED ON TO YOUR MUM, YOUR DAUGHTERS OR GRAND-DAUGHTER

1. Don't imagine you can change a man - unless he's in nappies.
2. What do you do if your boyfriend walks out? You shut the door.
3. If they put a man on the moon - they should be able to put them all up there.
4. Never let your man's mind wander - it's too little to be out alone.
5. Go for the younger man. You might as well, they never mature anyway.
6. Men are all the same - they just have different faces, so that you can tell them apart.
7. Definition of a bachelor: a man who has missed the opportunity to make some woman miserable.
8. Women don't make fools of men - most of them are the do-it-yourself types.
9. Best way to get a man to do something is to suggest he is too old for it.
10. Love is blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener.
11. If you want a committed man, look in a mental hospital.
12. The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years. Even in

Biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions.

13. If he asks what sort of books you're interested in, tell him cheque books.

14. Remember a sense of humour does not mean that you tell him jokes, it means that you laugh at his.

15. Sadly, all men are created equal.

It is good to be a woman:

1. We got off the Titanic first.
2. We can scare male bosses with the mysterious gynaecological disorder excuses.
3. Taxis stop for us.
4. We don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing.
5. No fashion faux pas we make, could ever rival the Speedo.
6. We don't have to pass gas to amuse ourselves.
7. If we forget to shave, no one has to know.
8. We can congratulate our teammate without ever touching her rear end.
9. We never have to reach down every so often to make sure our privates are still there.
10. We have the ability to dress ourselves.
11. We can talk to the opposite sex without having to picture them naked.
12. If we marry someone 20 years younger, we are aware that we will look like an idiot.
13. We will never regret piercing our ears.
14. There are times when chocolate really can solve all your problems.
15. We can make comments about how silly men are in their presence because they aren't listening anyway

Stress Test.

Read the full description before looking at the picture.

The picture below has 2 almost identical dolphins in it. It was used in a case study on stress levels at St. Mary's Hospital.

Look at both dolphins jumping out of the water.....The dolphins are identical.

A closely monitored, scientific study of a group revealed that in spite of the fact that the dolphins are identical, a person under stress would find differences in the two dolphins. If there are many differences found between both dolphins, it means that the person is experiencing a great amount of stress.

Look at the photograph and if you find more than one or two differences you may want to take a holiday.



Taken from the Guardian, an actual letter sent by the Inland Revenue:

Dear Mr Addison,
I am writing to you to express our thanks for your more than prompt reply to our latest communication, and also to answer some of the points you raise. I will address them, as ever, in order. Firstly, I must take issue with your description of our last as a "begging letter". It might perhaps more properly be referred to as a "tax demand". This is how we, at the Inland Revenue have always, for reasons of accuracy; traditionally referred to such documents.

Secondly, your frustration at our adding to the "endless stream of crapulent whining and panhandling vomited daily through the letterbox on to the doormat" has been noted. However, whilst I have naturally not seen the other letters to which you refer I would cautiously suggest that their being from "pauper councils, Lombardy pirate banking houses and pissant gas-mongerers" might indicate that your decision to "file them next to the toilet in case of emergencies" is at best a little ill-advised. In common with my own organisation, it is unlikely that the senders of these letters do see you as a "lackwit bumpkin" or, come to that, a

"sodding charity". More likely they see you as a citizen of Great Britain, with a responsibility to contribute to the upkeep of the nation as a whole. Which brings me to my next point. Whilst there may be some spirit of truth in your assertion that the taxes you pay "go to shore up the canker-blighted, toppling folly that is the Public Services", a moment's rudimentary calculation ought to disabuse you of the notion that the government in any way expects you to "stump up for the whole damned party" yourself. The estimates you provide for the Chancellor's disbursement of the funds levied by taxation, whilst colourful, are, in fairness, a little off the mark. Less than you seem to imagine is spent on "junkets for Bunterish lickspittles" and "dancing whores" whilst far more than you have accounted for is allocated to, for example, "that box-ticking façade of a university system."

A couple of technical points arising from direct queries:

1. The reason we don't simply write "Muggins" on the envelope has to do with the vagaries of the postal system;
2. You can rest assured that "sucking the very marrows of those with nothing else to give" has never been considered as a practice because even if the Personal Allowance didn't render it irrelevant, the sheer medical logistics involved would make it financially unviable.

I trust this has helped. In the meantime, whilst I would not in any way wish to influence your decision one way or the other, I ought to point out that even if you did choose to "give the whole foul jamboree up and go and live in India" you would still owe us the money.

Please forward it by Friday.

Yours Sincerely,
H J Lee
Customer Relations

That's all for now, folks (as they used to say at the end of the cartoons at Saturday morning flicks!

I will try to get the next Rallier out around the end of August (in time to remind you again about the Stewards Meeting and the AGM). If you want a copy and don't have access to e mail, send me a s.a.e, but E mail is preferable – no printing cost for me. *Neil Taylor.*