

The Rallier

West Warwickshire Centre Newsletter

March 2005

www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk

Issue 2/2005

Editor

Finally, the weather appears to have started to improve, now that the first two rallies are over and they are actually promising temperatures in the high 60s by the end of the week. Let's hope it stays good for the Easter Rally!

The rally at St. Peter's School and the accompanying Social were both enjoyable and the Supper and bowling Social at Woodbourne was great fun. As usual, just a pity that more did not make the effort to attend. Mind you, there would not have been room for many more at the Bowling night, but that's just a good reason for making sure I get my booking in early for next year.

Wilmcote was, as normal, very well attended, with 19 of our own members and 2 visitors. Everyone seemed to have a good time, although I missed out on a lot of it as I had to be in Solihull for Saturday afternoon and evening.

I will be out for Easter and will take the opportunity to see some old friends near Gloucester while I am down in Tewksbury. I hope this will be a well attended rally because Tewksbury is such a lovely town.

Then of course we have Avon Dasset – there should still be time for you to book in if I get this out in time. There will be a party on Saturday to celebrate a number of birthdays of those attending and I can assure you that the food and wine will flow free. Modesty forbids me from mentioning the Stewards on this one!

One thing I did forget to put in the January Rallier was the list of those who attained various landmark attendance records last year, so here they are.

100 Rallies	Gail & Mark Wiltshire. Jackie & Steve Green.
150 Rallies	Helen & David Cheshire.
250 Rallies	Janet & Frank Bridgewater.
300 Rallies	Sandra & John Burden.

Please let us know if you are approaching a landmark attendance so that we can make a presentation, either on the appropriate rally or at the AGM.

Geoff & Liz Parker have just informed me that Easter will be Their 400th. Rally, so congratulations to both of them

Neil Taylor.

Charity News.

As most of you know, we are continuing to raise money for your nominated Charity, Macmillan Nurses. So far we have paid £95 into the Bank, mainly through the sales of books that are running throughout the season. The Book Stall will operate at most rallies during the year so please support it, either with books to be sold or by buying from it.

Also, please don't forget our Chairman's Charity Rally in August. I don't know quite what Jane is arranging yet, but I am sure we will be asking for contributions to various stalls or activities as the year passes. AND – don't forget Alan's Leg Waxing. (He's already beginning to look worried) At the Easter rally, Peter and Janet Houghton want to run a cake stall to raise money for Macmillan Nurses. They would welcome donations (and buyers) to raise plenty over this weekend.

Centre News.

Many thanks to all those who took the rallies for 2005.

There are a number of changes which have taken place since the Rally Book was published, so please take note and maybe you will feel you can help to fill some of the gaps! :-

Brook Leys, Bidford, 15 17th. April – Stewards are now Wendy & Mervyn Richards. Please note that this will now no longer be a Golf Rally.

Yew Tree Farm, Bewdley 13 – 15th. May. – Stewards will be new members Judith & Julian Grubb. This will be only their second rally with

the Club and they would welcome experienced co-stewards if anyone is willing to help them.

Greenhill at Bearley Cross, 17th. – 19th. June. Stewards now required due to illness.

15th. – 17th. July. Alcester Rugby Club have now cancelled this rally 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

If anyone is interested in taking them on, please contact your new Rally Secretary, Dave Varley. His details have changed since his move, so here are the latest :-

Telephone: 01788 819083

E-Mail :rally-sec@westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk

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.

Winter Ramble

The weather forecasters told us that the weekend was going to be very cold and frosty with a possibility of snow showers – just the job for a winter ramble, but we set off to Warwick Racecourse on a dull wet Sunday morning. The gloomy weather was soon forgotten when we joined our fellow walkers, making up a group of fourteen, and we set off over the racecourse towards Hampton Magna and through the housing estate to Budbrooke Church. There is very little in the area to remind us that it was the home of the famous Royal Warwickshire Regiment, save for the graves of soldiers in the churchyard.

We continued our walk, meeting up with the Grand Union Canal in the direction of Warwick. The tow path was excellent and I commented on this to Pauline but soon was to learn that I wished I had not spoken – it became very slippery, with two steps forward and one sideways each time. Lynn nearly had an early bath in the canal.

The sun was beginning to shine now and it was not long before we had arrived at our lunch stop “The Cape of Good Hope”, where our leader Vic

had booked tables for fourteen Sunday lunches. After an excellent Sunday Roast, aided with some liquid refreshment, it was boots back on and set off for the afternoon section after carefully negotiating the lock gates to reach the tow path on the other side of the canal. The walk took us through suburban Warwick, eventually joining the River Avon which we followed with the Castle in sight through the park and part of the Castle grounds back to our cars.

It was an excellent day out, well planned, so our thanks to organisers Dave and Vic.

Reg Wiltshire.

HOLT FARM, NAPTON – SPRING BANK HOLIDAY RALLY – 27TH to 31ST MAY

A PREVIEW

This is a quiet family farm site situated in the parish of Napton on the Hill which is well known for the Napton flight of locks on the Oxford Canal



and also for its windmill. Approached by a hard road, it is level, with a small toilet block which has separate ladies and gents washing facilities with hot showers. There is a footpath directly from the farmyard to the canal towpath just 100 yards away and free coarse fishing is available. Napton village is just a short walk away by road or towpath and has an extensive Post Office Stores and two pubs. For a fuller range of services, Southam is just two miles up the road. There are many local attractions and although you are free to do whatever you please (within reason!) we will be organising some evening get togethers – an Aunt Sally Knockout Tournament and Sunday Supper Social - plus a ramble. We hope to see you there, but please book in early as we may have to limit the numbers to twenty outfits.

*Viv & Malc Griffin (07958 599133) Liz & Geoff
Parker and Brian Gunningham*

Recipe Section

This time, I have decided not to include a recipe as such, more an antidote to food (of sorts) My thanks to Betty Rea for this very useful information!

Dieting Under Stress.

Ten rules on how to combine a successful diet with life as a normal human being!

1. If you eat something and no-one sees you, the food has no calories.
2. When you eat with someone else, the calories do not count if that someone eats more than you do.
3. If you drink a Diet Coke with a chocolate bar, the Coke cancels the calories in the chocolate bar.
4. Broken biscuits contain no calories, the process of breaking them causes extensive calorie leakage.
5. Food used for medicinal purposes never counts – e.g. hot chocolate for relaxation, brandy for fortification, cheesecake as a n anti-depressant.
6. It is recommended that you fatten up everyone around you so that you appear slimmer.
7. Food licked off the cutlery or out of the bowl has no calories if you are following a recipe. e.g. butter iceing for a cake, the remains of a scone mix, cream left over from the top of a trifle.
8. TV and Cinema food contain no calories as they are integral parts of the entertainment package.
9. Foods of the same colour contain the same calories e.g. spinach and mint ice cream, mushrooms and white chocolate, water and a large gin & tonic.
10. Athletes eat huge amounts of pasta before a race like the Marathon. It's a myth that you have to run 26 miles to work it off. One brisk trot around the settee is quite sufficient to wipe out one bowl of spaghetti. Twice around the living room will use up so much energy that you will need a chocolate bar to rebuild your strength.

Thank you Betty – I don't know how you manage to get through all those chocolate bars with your tongue stuck so firmly in your cheek!



Members' Adverts.

Harrison Porch Awning, good size, Grey and Burgundy

Very good condition - £175 o.n.o.

If interested and would like to try on your caravan, contact John Burden on 0121 706 7650.

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.

Also Alko 2000 stabiliser hitch, complete with new friction pads. Easy to fit and adjust on any van with two horizontal fixing points in the draw bar for the hitch. £75.

Contact: for all four 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 :- 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.

Wanted.

A young local family are looking for a 4-berth van in good condition for around £4000. If you know of one or have one you are preparing to sell, please contact the Editor. (details in the advert. section.)

Page Filler

This is totally amazing, but you can actually read this!!!

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My thanks to Viv Griffin for the above. You have to think about it a bit, but most of it is amazingly easy to understand.

The National Highway Safety Council has done extensive testing on a newly designed seat belt. Results show that accidents can be reduced by as much as 45% when the belt is properly installed. Correct installation is illustrated in the next column:



Mayo Jar And The Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough. Remember the mayonnaise jar and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him.

When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it up with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes".

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now", said the professor, as the laughter subsided. "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things, your God, family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions, things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car.

The sand is everything else, the small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first", he continues, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another round of golf. There will always be time to clean the house, take on extra work load, work extra hours, even to tidy the garage or fix the fence.

Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and enquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

Please share this with someone you care about. I just did.

Anyone for coffee?

How To Clean Your Toilet - The Fun Way

Instructions on how to clean your toilet

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.

2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.

3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close both lids. You may need to stand on the lid.



4. The cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.

5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "power-wash" and rinse".

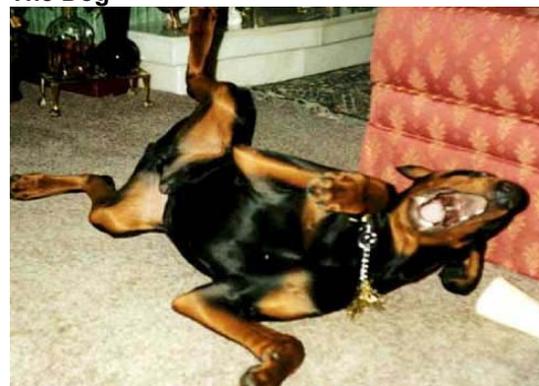
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.

7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift both lids.

8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.

9. Both the commode and the cat will be sparkling clean.

**Sincerely,
The Dog**



Parents Beware

They're so cute at that age . . .
For those with no children - this is totally hysterical!
For those who already have children past this age - this is hilarious.
For those who have children at this age - this is not funny.
For those who have children nearing this age - this is a warning.
For those who have not yet had children - this is a form of birth control!

The following came from an anonymous Mother in Austin, Texas: "Things I've learned from my Children (honest & no kidding):

1. A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 3 bedroom house about 4 inches deep.
2. If you spray hair spray on a nylon duster and then run over it with roller skates/blades, they can ignite.
3. A 3-year olds voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
4. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42 pound boy wearing Batman underwear and a Superman cape. It is strong enough, however, if tied to a paint can, to spread paint on all four walls of a large room.
5. You should not throw balls up when the ceiling fan is on. Using the ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit. A ceiling fan can then hit a ball a long way.
6. The glass in windows (even double-glazed) doesn't stop a ball hit by a ceiling fan.
7. When you hear the toilet flush and the words "uh oh," it's already too late.
8. Brake fluid mixed with Bleach makes smoke, and lots of it.
9. A six-year old can start a fire with a piece of flint even when a 36 year old man says they can only do it in the movies.
10. Certain bits of Lego will pass through the digestive tract of a 4-year old.
11. Play dough and microwave should not be used in the same sentence.
12. Super glue is forever.
13. No matter how much Jelly you put in a swimming pool you still can't walk on water.
14. Pool filters do not like Jelly.

15. VCR's do not eject toasted sandwiches even though TV commercials show they do.
17. Marbles in petrol tanks make lots of noise when driving and are very expensive to remove.
18. You probably do not want to know what that smell really is.
19. Always look in the oven before you turn it on. Plastic toys do not like ovens.
20. The average response time for the fire brigade is about 20 minutes.
21. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earthworms dizzy.
22. It will, however, make cats dizzy.
23. Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.
24. The mind of a 6-year old is a wonderful and amazing thing. One day the infant school teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to accumulate the building materials for his home. She read . . . " And so the little pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said, Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?" The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think that man said?"
One little boy raised his hand and said, "I think he said...'Holy xxxxx! A talking pig!'" The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

Finally . . .

25. 60% of men who read this will try mixing the bleach and brake fluid.

I hope you enjoy this copy of the Rallier. I would be very grateful for any contributions you may care to send in. Rally reports and pictures would be especially welcome - so that the non-attendees can see what they have been missing!

I plan to prepare the next issue for around the end of June, then a further at the end of August with a final issue for the year just after the AGM. Please help with your contributions!

If you want future copies of the Rallier, they will be published on the Web-site, hard copies will be distributed at rallies, or you can send me an A5 self addressed envelope and I will post you a copy.

Neil Taylor.