

The Rallier

West Warwickshire Centre Newsletter

March 2007

www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk

Issue 2/2007

Editor

I have been sitting here this afternoon, watching the tips of the grass finally beginning to show above the country-wide lake that seems to have surrounded us for the last few weeks. It is finally beginning to feel as if Spring, if not actually here, is at least on its way! I would love to say that I am looking forward to the next couple of rallies and getting away with you all at Easter. However, this is not the case, as I will not be joining you until at least the Catton Hall rally. I am going over to Ireland for their National again – I had such a wonderful time last year that I decided to repeat the experience. This year the rallies are in the Killarney/Shannon area, which I did not get to see last year. I am really looking forward to it, although I must confess that I was shaken when I saw the ferry prices this year. The Holyhead/Dublin crossing was almost double last year's price at nearly £400. In the end I settled for the Pembroke/Rosslare route, but it was still 25% more than I paid last year. I wonder if anyone out there can explain to me how the ferry companies can justify a nearly 100% increase from one year to another. Maybe we need a "chunnel" under the Irish Sea to create a bit of competition!

All this of course depends on me getting my caravan back in time. After the first year, the floor started to delaminate at the rear end, which I had repaired under warranty. The rest of the floor has now gone, so I took it in for repair, along with a few other minor jobs that needed to be sorted before the 3 year warranty expired. Unfortunately, as soon as we started to look round the list of jobs I had prepared, the Service engineer at the dealer pointed out that the front bulkhead had also come loose from the chassis and that the whole front of the van would have to come off. Naturally I was concerned that such major faults should have developed in quite an expensive van in less than three years, so I e mailed the Manufacturer to express my concern. I got a message back saying that all would be OK and that the dealer was perfectly capable of carrying out an adequate repair. I was not very satisfied with this and asked that the Manufacturer inspect the van before I had it back, because if this was a common occurrence, I was surprised they were still in business, and if it was not, surely they might want to find out why it had happened.

I got a very curt note back from the MD, suggesting that neither of us wanted to get involved in a protracted e mail dialogue and pointing out that the dealer did not need checking but that he would be asking for a report

on the condition of the van and that if there were any contributory factors, he might well be coming back to me. He did also offer me a further one year's warranty. I must confess, I took this as veiled threat along the lines of – stop making a fuss or we will find some reason why we don't have to carry out the work free of charge. I have left it with the dealer at the moment, and have been assured that I should get it back in time for Ireland, but I have kept all the paperwork and will be taking things further when I have got the van back.

Why do caravan manufacturers think that they can treat their customers like this? Car manufacturers rarely seem to get away with just dismissing major faults like this, and after all is said, even a simple modern car is a far more complex piece of engineering than even the most expensive caravan. I object to the way that dealers will not carry out warranty work on a van that they have not initially supplied, which frequently means that if you buy at a show, you end up having to travel large distances to get work carried out. Am I alone in my moaning and just being a grumpy old man or do any of you out there share my views? I would love to hear from you if you have any printable opinions on this. Maybe it is the sort of thing where we should be asking the Caravan Club to play a role in representing disgruntled customers – let's hear your opinions or experiences!

Anyway, that is the miserable old git bit out of the way, so why not turn to the Future Rallies section and see what we have to look forward to over the next few weeks.

Rally Secretary's Report.

Despite an excellent response at the Stewards meeting, there are still two rallies for which we do not yet have stewards. (We have already taken the decision to cancel Hoar Park, partly because we are concerned that the ground there may still be waterlogged and at the time of writing, no-one had come forward to steward the weekend).

Lowe Farm, Hunscore – 13th – 15th. April
Hill Farm, Pebworth – 22nd - 24th. June.

Anyone willing to take on any of these rallies, please contact me or any Committee member by phone or e-mail (See Rally Book for details)

Jane Clarke

Rally Report

St Peter's School

A small but select band of 6 units attended this weekend. I must confess that I was a little disappointed with the turn-out, particularly as we had laid it on for members of other Centres to rally when they attended the NEC Show. Still, we had a pleasant weekend, and it gave us a chance to make sure that everything on the van was working properly at the start of the season. We appear to have gained a new member as a result, so all was not lost. However, next year, we are going to advertise the first few rallies from the following year in the rally book, so that members have some real foresight of what is happening in the first few weeks of the year, before the Rally book arrives. Hopefully, this will encourage a few more people to come out and support this first rally of the season.

My thanks to Gail and Mark Wiltshire who organised the Social on Saturday evening and to Sandra Burden, who produced us a wonderful finger buffet, even though she was unable to attend herself.

N.J.

Charity News.

After last year's magnificent total of £1400 raised for Macmillan Nurses, the team is already hard at work preparing for this year's effort. We are supporting the Warwickshire and Northampton Air Ambulance (W&NAA). Funds have already started to roll in, supported handsomely by the kindness of Margaret and Roy Wiltshire, who, when they threw their Golden Wedding Party, stated that they did not want any presents but would welcome donations to the Charity Fund. They have already collected over £300 and anyone else who wants to make a contribution will be very welcome.

Plans are already in hand for the Charity rally, so please start collecting useful items such as unwanted Christmas gifts for Tombola stalls etc. It will be held at Wilmcote this year, so hopefully a lot more Centre members will be able to attend the day, even if not actually rallying for the weekend. We will be continuing to raise money through Book and Craft Sales throughout next season, so please let Gail have any books you have finished with.

I know a number of members enjoy the Page Fillers. As most of you know, I receive a lot of these items from various friends through the Internet. I am only able to use a proportion of them, sometimes because they are a little 'strong' for publication in a family News Letter. However, it has been suggested that I might publish a "Rag Mag" version under plain cover, again for sale as a charity fund raiser. I will be careful about what I include, but some of the material could possibly offend some people, so please don't but a copy if you are of a sensitive nature. I haven't started work on it

yet, but I hope to start going through some of my old e mails after Easter to see what I can come up with.

Centre Website

I hope as many of you as have access have had a look at our revised web-site. Dave Varley (with help from Dave Waring) has done an excellent job on our behalf. He would still like to compile a list of members who have e mail addresses, so please drop him an e mail with your address. It will make it so much easier and cheaper to contact you if we have this information.

He can be reached at
(webmaster@westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk).

Recipe Section

I am not including any recipes this time, as Margaret Wiltshire is hoping to produce a book of favourite recipes from members and which can be sold in aid of the Charity Fund. Please send her any suitable favourites in good time, so that we can get copies printed and on sale as soon as possible.

Future Social events.

Owing to the snow and very wet conditions, Dave had to cancel this year's Winter Ramble. I don't know whether he is going to resurrect it on another occasion, or maybe we will hold it over for next year. Everyone who has gone along in the past has always enjoyed it, so we will look forward to a re-run when practical.

Christmas Party 2007

I know this is a long way ahead, but why not put it in your diary now – our Christmas Party for 2007 is already booked for Saturday 8th. December at the usual venue – Bentley Heath Community Centre. Tickets will be on sale for this and other winter social events for Winter 2007 well before the end of the rallying season.

Sandra Burden.

Future Rallies.

Catton is a nice venue and is ideally suited to another Terry/Wiltshire curry night. John Terry (no, not that one!) does a mean curry as any previous attendees will know, but I am sure there will be an alternative for any non-curry eaters, so don't be put off.

At the end of April, we will be at Riverside for the Shakespeare Festival. This is a great site, within easy

walking distance of the Town Centre, but with the added advantage of the half-hourly river taxi which drops and picks up opposite the Theatre. This will be another Varley/Waring production, so I can guarantee some fun and frolics, especially once the sun is over the yard-arm!

At the beginning of May, we will be at the lovely Mansel Lacy site near Hereford for the Bank Holiday weekend. If you want peace and tranquillity, this is the place. Last time we were there we all enjoyed a wonderful communal barbecue, so keep your fingers crossed for nice weather. I can promise that the weekend will be well lubricated – I have just finished bottling my third 5 gallon batch of Damson wine, with another 5 gallon ready to bottle, batch 4 ready for clearing and filtering and batch 5 bubbling away gently in its container. That should see us through the first Bank Holiday, so I must get busy for the rallies later in the year.

I have never been to the Bowling Green, but I must try to get there as it is a new venue for me and I am certainly not going to miss Horley. This rally is almost beginning to achieve cult status due to the tremendous effort that Jackie and Steve Green and Sue and Gary Donald put into it. The food is always superb and very good value for money and I can honestly say that their rally last year was one of the best I have ever been on. The centenary National will be at Blenheim this year and stories are already out that over 4000 vans are booked in. I am sorry to say that I will not be going as I much prefer a small rally, but each to their own.

Geoff Fulwell and Ailsa Craft will be running our own National alternative at Napton. This is another pleasant site, with lovely canal walks, and the farmer breeds water buffalo and sells wonderful Buffalo Burgers. When I went there a couple of years ago and saw these enormous animals in the next field, I was beginning to wonder if I had had a little drop too much on the previous evening!

Mary James, Jean Moody and I will be running the national follow on rally at Charlecote Park and while this is principally laid on for visitors, we will be delighted to see our own Centre members there. It is a nice opportunity to enjoy a mid-week rally without the pressures of weekend traffic. We hope to have a Charity raffle during the rally, so I would welcome any donations towards this.

The second weekend in June sees us return to Riverside as hosts of the Three Centres rally. This year we will be running with a MASH theme, so dig out any old military type gear, or your white doctors and nurses coats and come along to support your committee on this one. There will be plenty of fun and games over the weekend, along with some military themed food, so please support your Centre when they host this event.

Harbury Fields Farm sees “the Return of the Rudies” – I dread to think what that will entail, although I am assured that it is to celebrate last year’s very successful Rudesheim rally and that it will be based on a German theme. However, knowing the

Waring/Varley/Wiltshire team, I cannot believe that it will be that simple.

We are still looking for Stewards for Hill Farm Pebworth. This is another nice little site with very friendly owners (and it is also one of the cheapest sites we ever see, so let’s not lose it – someone out there must be able to take it on.

Finally, we come to our Charity rally at Wilmcote. We really need your support for this one. Please start collecting items to use as tombola and raffle prizes and save up your pennies to sponsor Dave Varley and Mark Wiltshire who will be having their chests waxed to raise money. They have my utmost sympathy – I know how much it hurt having my leg done – they deserve every penny you can contribute.

Neil Taylor - Rallier Editor.

Page Filler

DICTIONARY FOR WOMEN'S PERSONAL ADS

40-ish	-	49
Adventurous	-	Slept with everyone
Athletic	-	Flat chested
Average looking	-	Ugly
Beautiful	-	Pathological liar
Contagious Smile	-	Does a lot of pills
Emotionally secure	-	On medication
Feminist	-	Fat
Free spirit	-	Junkie
Friendship first	-	Formerly very *friendly*
Fun	-	Annoying
New Age	-	Body hair in the wrong places.
Open-minded	-	Desperate
Outgoing	-	Loud and Embarrassing
Passionate	-	Sloppy drunk
Professional	-	Bitch
Voluptuous	-	Very Fat
Large frame	-	Hugely Fat
Wants Soul mate	-	Stalker

WOMEN'S ENGLISH

1. Yes	=	No
2. No	=	Yes
3. Maybe	=	No
4. We need	=	I want
5. I am sorry	=	you'll be sorry
6. We need to talk	=	you're in trouble
7. Sure, go ahead	=	you'd better not
8. Do what you want	=	you will pay for this later.
9. I am not upset	=	of course I am upset, you moron!
10. You're very attentive tonight	=	is sex all you ever think about ?

MEN'S ENGLISH

1. I am hungry = I am hungry
2. I am sleepy = I am sleepy
3. I am tired = I am tired
4. Nice dress = Nice cleavage!
5. I love you = let's have sex now
6. I am bored = Do you want to have sex?
7. May I have this dance? = I'd like to have sex with you.
8. Can I call you sometime? = I'd like to have sex with you.
9. Do you want to go to a movie? = I'd like to have sex with you.
10. Can I take you out to dinner? = I'd like to have sex with you.
11. Those shoes don't go with that outfit = I'm gay

And finally.....

A recent scientific study found that women find different male faces attractive depending on where they are in their menstrual cycle. For example, when a woman is ovulating she will prefer a man with rugged, masculine features. However when she is menstruating, she prefers a man doused in petrol and set on fire, with scissors stuck in his eye and a cricket stump shoved up his backside.

Twenty Nine Lines to make you smile

1. My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't!
2. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
3. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
4. Don't take life too seriously; no-one gets out alive!
5. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
6. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me.
7. Beauty is in the eye of the beerholder.
8. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
9. I'm not a complete idiot – some parts are just missing.

10. Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
11. Ever get the feeling that your stuff strutted off without you?
12. God must love stupid people – he made so many.
13. The gene pool could use a little chlorine.
14. Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.
15. Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
16. Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!
17. Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.
18. Procrastinate now!
19. I have a degree in Liberal Arts and Media studies: Do you want Fries and Mayo with that?
20. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
21. A journey of one thousand miles begins with a cash advance.
22. Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere.
23. The call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken.
24. He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless Dead.
25. A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.
26. Ham and Eggs. A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.
27. The trouble with life is there's no background music.
28. The original point and click interface was a Smith & Wesson.
29. I smile because I don't know what the hell is going on.

If you mated a Bulldog and a Shitzu, what would you call it?

People our age can still enjoy an active, passionate sex life! Provided we get cable or that dish thing!

Why, for heaven's sake?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?

Why do they use sterilised needles for death by lethal injection?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets? Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word Lisp"?

What is the speed of darkness?

Are there especially reserved parking spaces for able-bodied people at the Special Olympics?

If you send someone 'Styrofoam', how do you pack it?

If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

If it's true that we are here to help others, what are the others doing here?

If someone with a split personality threatens to commit suicide, is it a hostage situation?

Can you cry under water?

What level of importance must a person have, before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on bigger suitcases?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors, when they ask you to strip, leave the room or close the cubicle curtain while you change? They're still going to see you naked anyway.

Corporate Lessons

A man was getting into the shower just as his wife is finishing up her shower, when the doorbell rings.

The wife quickly wraps herself in a towel and runs downstairs. When she opens the door, there stands Bob, the next door neighbour. Before she says a word, Bob says "I'll give you £500 to drop that towel."

After thinking for a moment, the woman drops her towel and stands naked in front of Bob. After a few seconds, Bob hands her £500 and leaves. The woman wraps back up in her towel and goes back upstairs.

When she gets to the bathroom, her husband asks "Who was that?" "It was Bob from next door" she replies. "Great" the husband said, "Did he say anything about the £500 he owes me?"

Moral of the story: If you share critical information pertaining to credit and risk with your shareholders in time, you may be in a position to prevent unavoidable exposure.

A sales rep., an administration clerk and their manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp.

They rub it and a Genie comes out. The Genie says "I'll give each of you just one wish."

"Me first. Me first" says the Sales Rep. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on a beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Coladas and the love of my life."

Poof! He's gone.

"Me now" says the admin. Clerk. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world."

Poof! She's gone.

"OK, you're up" says the Genie to the Manager.

The manager says, "I want those two back in the office after lunch."

Moral of the story: *Always let your boss have the first say.*

A crow was sitting on a tree, doing nothing all day.

A rabbit asked him, "Can I also sit like you and do nothing all day long?"

The crow answered, "Sure, why not."

So the rabbit sat on the ground below the crow, and rested.

A fox crept up, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Moral of the story: *To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very high up.*

Dear Alcohol.

Dear Alcohol,

First and foremost, let me tell you that I'm a HUGE fan of yours. As my friend, you always seem to be there when needed. The perfect post-work cocktail, a beer at the match, and you're even around in the holidays, hidden inside chocolates as you warm us even when we're stuck in the middle of endless family gatherings.

However, lately I've been wondering about your intentions. While I want to believe that you have my best interests at heart, I feel that your influence has led to some unwise consequences:

1. Phone calls; While I agree with you that communication is important, I question the suggestion that any conversation of substance or necessity takes place after 2 am. Why would you make me call those ex-boyfriends/girl-friends when I know for a fact they do not want to hear from me during the day, let alone in the middle of the night?

2. Eating: Now you know I love a good meal, but why do you suggest I eat a Kebab, a Butter Chicken Curry, along with sausages and cheese, onion and mustard (washed down with wine and topped off with a Kit Kat after a few sweet Chilli and Sour Cream Crisps)? Now I may be an eclectic eater, but I think you went too far this time.

3. Clumsiness: Unless you are subtly trying to tell me that I need to do more yoga to improve my balance, I see NO need to hammer the issue home

by causing me to fall down. It's completely unnecessary and the black and blue marks that mysteriously appear on my body the next day are beyond me. Similarly, it should never take me more than 45 seconds to get the front door key in the lock.

4. Furthermore, the Hangovers have got to stop: This is getting ridiculous. I know a little penance for the previous evening's debauchery may be in order, but the 3 pm. hangover immobility is completely unacceptable. My entire day is shot. I ask that if the proper precautions are taken (water, Vitamin B, bread products, aspirin) prior to going to sleep/passing out face down on the kitchen floor with a bag of popcorn, the hangover should be minimal and in no way interfere with my daily activities.

Alcohol, I have enjoyed our friendship for some years now and would like to ensure that we remain on good terms. You've been the invoker of great stories, the provocation of much laughter, and the needed companion when I just don't know what to do with the extra money in my pockets.

In order to continue this friendship, I ask that you carefully review my grievances above and address them immediately. I will look for an answer no later than Thursday 3pm. (pre-happy hour) on your possible solutions and then hopefully we can continue this fruitful partnership.

Thank you, your biggest fan.

Things that are difficult to say when drunk.

1. Innovative
2. Preliminary
3. Proliferation
4. Cinnamon.

Things that are very difficult to say when drunk.

1. Specificity
2. British Constitution.
3. Passive-aggressive disorder.

Things that are downright Impossible to say when drunk.

1. Thanks, but I don't want to have sex.
2. Nope, no more beer for me.
3. Sorry, but you're not really my type.
4. Good evening Officer. Isn't it lovely out tonight?
5. Oh, I couldn't. No one wants to hear me sing.

Right, that's it for now. I've just got my van back and it looks as if they have done a pretty good job on it, so fingers crossed that it is OK when I set off for Ireland. Enjoy the next few rallies and I'll see

you out on the rally field soon.