

The Rallier

West Warwickshire Centre Newsletter

October 2005

www.westwarwickshirecentre.co.uk

Issue 5/2005

Editor

Well, that's another AGM done and dusted and a new committee elected to serve you for the next 12 months. At least, a newly elected committee because there has been no actual change in the people involved. I will list the new roles they have assumed and take the opportunity to thank everybody for their activity over the past year and to wish them well in their new role where it has changed.

WWCCC Committee for 2005/6 Season.

Chairman	Jane Clarke
Vice-Chairman	Geoff Fulwell
Secretary	Mark Wiltshire
Treasurer	Neil Taylor
Social Secretary	Mervyn Richards
Assistant Soc. Sec.	Geoff Fulwell
Social Sub. Cttee	Margaret Wiltshire
	Dave Varley
Rally Secretary	Jane Clarke
Assistant Rally Sec.	Margaret Wiltshire
Rally Sub. Cttee.	Peter Hodrien
	Roy Wiltshire
Booklet Secretary	Roy Wiltshire
Equipment Officer	Peter Hodrien
Assistant Equipt. Officer	John Burden
Rallier Editor	Neil Taylor
Plaque Officer	John Burden
Web Master	Dave Varley
Junior Liaison Officer	Mark Wiltshire
Regional Delegates	Jane Clarke
	Dave Varley

As you can see, there has been quite a lot of "doubling up" in order to cover all the necessary jobs. We still have room for some more on the committee, so if any one out there fancies lending a hand, please let us know, as we can co-opt members onto the committee if they are willing to serve.

I wasn't able to attend the Barn Dance at the AGM Social, but I am told that it was a great success. A number of people have also told me

how nice it was to see a significant number of children attending and obviously enjoying themselves (even if they did make more mistakes than *most* of the adults!)

At the time of writing, there are only two of our own rallies and the Regional AGM before the end of the season. I suppose that it is indicative of the recent lower attendances at rallies that only a relatively small number of members have achieved their Fellowship badges for attending 10 or more rallies this season. It would be a great encouragement for your committee and all the people who have put themselves out to run rallies for you if a higher number were to attend our events, both rallies and Socials.

Anyway, I would like to congratulate the following who either have already achieved their 10 rallies or have booked enough to complete their 10 by the end of the season.

Sandra & John Burden
Jane & Alan Clarke
Jan & Bob Ellery
Jackie & Steve Green
Viv and Malc Griffin
Carol & Peter Hodrien
Betty & Alex Reay
Neil Taylor
Sam & John Terry
Gail & Mark Wiltshire
Margaret & Roy Wiltshire

I feel I must make special mention of Roy and Margaret, who this year were presented with their 50th. Rally plaque. I felt quite chuffed when I received my 50th plaque earlier this year – it had taken me 5 years to get there! On that basis, Roy and Margaret must have been rallying with West Warwicks for 50 years? Surely not – they don't look old enough!!

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity, which I will probably repeat again in the New Year Newsletter, to encourage you all to book into rallies and social events in good time. There have been a number of occasions during this last

year when we have nearly cancelled events because of lack of response. It has only been due to the efforts of people like Margaret Wiltshire ringing round people to remind them of forthcoming events that we have been able to raise enough attendance to go ahead. In the past, we have cancelled rallies, only to be told a day or so before the event "Oh, I was going to come to that, why have you cancelled?" The answer is clear, I am afraid – If we don't know who is coming, we cannot take the risk of going ahead and losing lots of your money!

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and hope to see lots of you out on the Rally Field next season and at the various social events planned in the intervening period.

Neil Taylor.

A Welcome from your Chairman

Once again I find myself with the honour of being Chairman to the centre. Thank you for your support and encouragement during my first year; it has been an enjoyable year. I now look forward to another year working for the centre with the support of the committee, their families and of course Alan.

In this Rallier you will see we have a number of winter socials that have been organised by both the outgoing and incoming social secretaries. These are an excellent way of keeping in touch over the colder and darker winter months when we do not see each other on the rally field.

There are two that coincide with the last rally of 2005 and the first rally of 2006, while it will be nice to see you on the rallies, do come along to the social if you do not want to bring your van out.

Alan and I hope to see you at some of them, and we also look forward to seeing you on the rally field next year.

Jane Clarke

Rally Secretary Report

I have also been given the task of being the Rally Secretary. We will be working as a sub committee to complete the rally programme for 2007.

We are always looking for new ideas for venues, if you have any please let me or anyone else on the committee know the details, we cannot guarantee they will be included in 2007, but we keep them on record for the future.

Jane Clarke

Charity News.

At the AGM, the decision was taken to continue our support for Macmillan Nurses for a further year. Our Charity Fund now stands at over £1150 and we are planning to present a cheque for £1000 to a local representative from Macmillan's at the November Social at Henley High School. We are still continuing with our regular Book Stall and with the sale of Crafts made by various members and welcome your participation and support for these, both by bringing in items for sale and in buying the material we have collected.

Thanks go to Marion Waring for paying £15 for an autographed book on Birmingham by Pat Roach, the wrestler turned actor and to Alex Reay for his £22 offer for Ray Roberts handsomely framed original cartoon produced to publicise the leg-waxing at the Charity Rally.

Rally News

Thanks to all the volunteers who took on next year's rallies in order to give you a full season. At the time of writing, there are only two rallies not yet taken, so here is your opportunity to make a contribution to the Centre.

Monk's Barn Farm 19th.-21st. May 2006

Cooperage Farm 15th.-17th. September 2006

Centre News.

There will be a full programme of events over the Winter period, starting with the Henley High School Social and the Family Christmas Party. The back page of this Newsletter is a booking form and information sheet on the winter social events. Please make an effort to attend. I know from personal experience how much fun they are,

and also how much hard work goes into preparing for them. Help us by giving us your support so that we can continue to provide an interesting and varied programme over the non-rallying period.

Rally Reports

Weston Farm, 12th-14th August.

Friday started with a good trip out to the site in fair weather and we arrived at approx. 11.00am., closely followed by Alex and Betty Reay who kindly offered to stand in for Neil Taylor, who had had his vehicle pranged a week earlier and was off the road.

We had eighteen vans altogether, including one visitor from North Yorkshire and new ralliers Jane & Paul Sadley and their two children, who we hope will visit us again.

Saturday was a bit wet but when it came to our evening get together it cleared up and we were joined by Neil and friend Wendy for a brain teaser quiz (have you heard of a Retriever with short stumpy legs?) I think it was enjoyed.

Sunday was another nice day and the result of the Saturday night quiz and weekend quiz was wins for Gail and Viv.
Thanks to all who attended.

Dee & Ray Roberts

Mansel Lacy – August Bank Holiday

Although this site has been used a number of times it was our first visit. The site is delightful and we will certainly visit it again if it is in our rally programme. 11 vans attended the weekend and the rest of you do not know what you missed. It would appear that the landowner had cut down some more trees since our last visit and created a much larger open rallying area.

The Stewards started the rally on Friday evening with a Wine and Cheese Reception, which became an evening long party thanks to Neil and his delightful wine.

Saturday was out and about day with many people visiting Hereford. In the evening everyone joined in at a communal barbecue which stretched well into the evening with more of Neil's

Damson Wine. The landowner looked over the fence and was amazed how everyone had gathered together for what he described as supper.

Sunday morning gave us time to do the competition, which really tested our knowledge, it was won by a clever clogs! Neil had organised a walk for Sunday afternoon around the Estate. Nearly everyone walked, including the children. Near the end, when the caravans were only a couple of hundred yards away, Neil, Patrick, Mark and Roy decided to find the ruined castle in the woods. Not to be outdone, I decided to join them while the rest carried on back to the vans.

We found the castle (a Folly) and then had to find our way back to the vans. Being daft, I said "Look, the caravans are down there, through the trees", thinking they would find a path, but they decided to take the direct route, through chopped branches of trees and brambles. I slipped and of course, twisted my ankle and scratched my legs. Never mind, Neil, it was a lovely walk!

Monday dawned bright, with people sitting around in the sun or off sight seeing. Sadly, some people had to leave as work called. Some of us were lucky and able to stay another day.

Our thanks go to Neil, Sam, John, Fraser, Luke, Mark, Gail Nicola and last but not least, Shaun. – It was a lovely friendly and happy Bank Holiday

Margaret Wiltshire.

Cooperage Farm – Black Tie BBQ.

Only 5 vans attended so Neil decided that it was not practical to organise a Black Tie Barbecue as a competition and therefore we would have a communal barbecue with people from each van preparing one course.

The evening started with Bucks Fizz

First Course – Home made Tomato Soup and Garlic Bread, prepared by Margaret.

Second Course – Salmon in Ginger and Spring Onion Sauce, with a green salad, prepared by Gail and Mark.

Third Course – Chicken in a Maple Syrup Glaze (barbecued to perfection), salad, crusty bread and Coconut Rice, prepared by Wendy and Neil.

Desserts – Jaffa Cake Trifle, Cherry Pie and Apple & Blackberry pie, prepared respectively by Geoff, Wendy and Mary. (Geoff has hidden talents – he certainly makes a great trifle!) (See *Recipe Section – Ed.*)

This was all followed by a full cheese board, coffee and mints.

The table was laid beautifully in Neil's awning, with a damask table cloth, flowers and floating candles. I nearly forgot the copious amounts of various appropriate wines served with each course, making this a feast fit for kings. It was certainly a night to remember. Please Neil, if you organise another one, take my booking now. We are so pleased that this rally was not cancelled. There were lots of good things about this rally but I thought the food and friendship were both outstanding.

Margaret Wiltshire.

Recipe Section

Geoff's Jaffa Cake Trifle.

Take two boxes of Jaffa cakes and layer two thick in a large trifle bowl.

Make an orange jelly as per packet instructions. Leave to cool before pouring over the jaffa cake base.

Leave in fridge overnight until set.

Make custard and dream topping (or use whipped cream) as per normal instructions.

Leave custard to cool before layering over the jelly base.

Layer on cream or dream topping and decorate with orange and lemon segments.

(I can honestly say that this was one of the nicest trifles I have ever tasted, but I am sure that there must have been some sherry in there somewhere, wasn't there Geoff? – Ed.)

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

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.	

Abbey GTS Vogue 420, 2004 Model, Four Berth with fixed bed, L shaped Lounge area and fitted Motor Mover.

Many accessories for the above, including new Porch Awning, wheel clamp and all other standard caravanning equipment.

Land Rover Freelander Diesel Td4, 2003 (03) model. Full spec. with CD player, Air Con. Roof Rails and Land Rover Dog Guard and rubber floor mats.

Offers for any of the above to Hazel Carter:-
01789 762552 or 07800 697163.

Useful Tips Section

Several people have mentioned simple but useful tips which may seem obvious, but not everyone can have thought of them. I have already received a number, so here they are and please pass on any others you can think of and I will try to make it a regular feature.

We soon learn not to waste water or gas when caravanning, so here are a couple of ideas to save both.

Put surplus hot water from the kettle into a thermos flask and reuse next time the kettle goes on. (Thanks to Carol Hodrien)

If you need to let the hot tap run before the hot water gets through, don't waste it, use it to fill up the kettle for the next use.

Make a simple "Washing Machine" Half fill and empty large paint tin with hot water and soap powder. Put in small items of clothing, place the lid back on and put it in the car. As you travel, the car movement acts as an agitator and washes the clothes for you. (Thanks to Carol Hodrien)

If you have collected small chips or minor paint damage on your car or caravan, try "Chips Away" for the repairs. (Peter Hodrien recommends them very highly.)

Page Filler

Interesting Anagrams

MOTHER IN LAW
= WOMAN HITLER
SNOOZE ALARMS
= ALAS! NO MORE Z'S
A DECIMAL POINT
= I'M A DOT IN PLACE
THE EARTHQUAKES
= THAT QUEER SHAKE
ELEVEN PLUS TWO
= TWELVE PLUS ONE

A novel approach.

A man (name withheld to protect the innocent and because I don't know it) was going to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in his garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. He said he had not been in the shed that day. He looked himself, and there were people in the shed, stealing his belongings. He rang the Police who told him that nobody was in his area, so no one was available to catch the thieves. He said "OK", hung up counted to thirty and rang the Police again.

"Hello", I rang you a minute ago because there were people robbing my shed. Well, don't worry about it any more – I've just shot them both."

Within 5 minutes there were half a dozen Police cars outside, an Armed Response Team, the works. Of course, they caught the burglars red handed. One of the Policemen said to the man "I thought you said you had shot them!" He replied "I thought you said there was no-one available!"

Who does what?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said "You should do it, because you get up first and then we wouldn't have to wait so long to get the coffee." The husband said "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job and I don't mind waiting for my coffee."

Wife replies "No, you should do it and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Her husband replied that he just did not believe

her, but if she could show him, he would do it in future. So she fetched the Bible, opened the New Testament and showed him the top of several of the pages, where it said HEBREWS.

It's not always us!

The other night I was invited out for a night with "the girls". I told my husband I would be back by midnight – "I promise." Well, the hours passed and the champagne was going down far too easily. Around 3.00am., as drunk as a skunk, I headed for home. Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed three times. Quickly, realising that he would probably wake up, I cuckooed another nine times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick witted solution (even when smashed) in order to escape a possible conflict with him.

The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in and I told him midnight. He didn't seem at all disturbed. Whew, I had got away with it! Then he said "We need a new cuckoo clock". When I asked him why, he said "Well last night, our clock cuckooed three times, then said "Oh bugger" cuckooed four more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another three times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, the tripped over the cat and belched!"

Things that Hallmark Cards don't say!

My tyre was thumping,
I thought it was flat.
When I looked at the tyre..
I noticed your cat!
Sorry!

Heard your wife left you.
How upset you must be,
But don't fret about it -
She moved in with me!

How could two people as beautiful as you
Have such an ugly baby?

Looking back over the years
That we've been together
I can't help but wonder...
"What the hell was I thinking?"

Next Rallier in January – Please send me any contributions by e mail or snail mail!

Neil Taylor

WEST WARWICKSHIRE CENTRE
PROPOSED WINTER 2005/2006 SOCIAL EVENTS

11 – 13th. November 2005 Henley in Arden School.

A late rally to include a Social on the Saturday Evening. Please bring your vans even if it is only for one night to attend the Social. If this is not possible you will still be welcome at the Social. We are hoping to have a Fish and Chip Supper. Please book for Social with Roy and Margaret Wiltshire. Telephone 0121 430 4427. No later than 9th November 2005. At this rally a presentation will be made to Macmillan Nurses of over £1000 raised during the past year by Centre Members.

13th. February 2006.

In conjunction with the rally at St Peters School, Solihull. A Supper will be provided together with a Noggin and Natter style Social. If you cannot come to the rally you will be very welcome at the Social. If you are interest in the social please contact. Mark and Gail Wiltshire. Telephone 0121 707 6563, no later than 5 February 2006.

28th. January 2006

A Skittles evening with a Fish and Chip Supper has been arranged at HD.A. Social Club, Cherry Tree Walk, off Willow Way, Batchley, Redditch. There will be a licensed Bar and an excellent double lane set up for our Skittles Competition. For details and instructions how to get there, please contact Social Secretary, Mervyn Richards, Telephone 07879 673353, no later than 15th. January 2006.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND SUPPER
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2005
BENTLEY HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Name..... Telephone No.....

Adults.....@.£5.50 each Total.....

Children.....@ £3.50 each..... Total.....

Children's Names .. Age.....

..... Age.....

..... Age.....

Please note there will be a visit from Father Christmas and all attending children and grandchildren of Centre Members will receive a gift up to the value of £5.00. Come and see all your friends, have a drink and distribute your Christmas Cards to save postage. Tickets will be available from:-

Social Secretary Mervyn Richards Telephone 07879 673353. Applications on the above form to be in before 27th. November please.

There will be a Ramble, around late January/early February. Please contact Dave Varley. Telephone 01788 819083 if interested.

PLEASE HELP THE SOCIAL SECRETARY AND COMMITTEE BY BOOKING EARLY FOR ALL THE ABOVE EVENTS TO AVOID CANCELLATION DUE TO LACK OF NUMBERS.