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EDITION 1—JANUARY 2012

THE RALLIER

the newsletter of the West Warwickshire Centre Caravan Club

THE EDITOR SAYS.....

Christmas is now (almost) cleared away, most of the nibbles have now made more than their fair share of contribution to my ever expanding waist-line and New Year is past. So, let me make it my first duty to wish all our members a very Happy New Year and welcome you to what I hope will be another good year's rallying. I have not used my caravan since I attended the Regional AGM in Ashbourne at the end of November, but I did find time to give it a thorough clean and wax before I put it away for a few weeks until we start again in March. I also remembered to drain down all the water pipes and the loo tank so I hope I will not be experiencing any problems when I haul everything out at the

start of the new season. As it happens, so far we seem to have had an extremely mild winter, with only a couple of real frosts, so I hope if any of you forgot to drain down, you will not have had any problems when you appear on the rally field.

Last year, because of problems with the staffing at the Club Headquarters, we were unable to get any of our rallies onto the Club listings each month. They have now changed their policy so that you will only be able to access information on the future activities of other Centres by through the Club website. Admittedly, this should be useful for those with computer and internet access, because

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The future on the rally field??

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THE RALLIER

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you will be able to search for rallies by Centre, date, area or theme. However, and this is a big one, owing to an administrative foul-up at East Grinstead, currently you cannot access West Warwickshire on the site, despite the fact that we were actually one of the first Centres to submit all their information. I have contacted the Club requesting immediate resolution, so I hope by the time the rallying season starts in earnest, anyone will be able to tap into our rally listing. If you do not have internet access, Mark Wiltshire should receive copies of all Centre Rally Books as soon as they are published and he will allow any Centre member to look through specific books if they need to. I personally am not happy about the loss of Centre Rally listings in the magazine because despite the fact that something like 80% of Club members have internet access, this certainly does not cover everyone and I believe that this is unfair to those who are outside the web.

Anyway, you should receive this with your rally book, so you will at least have knowledge of what West Warwickshire is up to for the next twelve months. I think Dave Hawksford has produced a really good rally programme for 2012 and has even managed to get good deals on holiday rallies, one following on from our Easter event and another to coincide with the Autumn half-term in

October. I personally have missed being out over the last few weeks and am really looking forward to getting out on the rally field again. The Braemar Winery has been in full operation for the last few weeks and already I have the first 6 five gallon batches of Damson Wine well on their way towards the 2013 season. (Needless to say, 2012 is already well covered with stock bottled up in 2011)

Once again, good wishes for the New Year, and please try to make the effort to get out a few times this season. After all, a caravan is a very expensive investment if it is only used for a couple of weeks a year, so why not get full use of it and spend some enjoyable weekends away in friendly company. You will be supporting your Centre and ensuring its survival to provide you with rallying opportunities for many years to come.

Neil Taylor



Oops, looks like the chairman has been practising her reversing again!

INCENTIVE SCHEMES

For a second year running, the Committee have decided to issue £2 vouchers to be used against the first rally you attend in 2012. I think most people who rallied in 2011 used their vouchers. We realise that £2 is not a great deal of money, but we run most of our rallies at break-even or at a slight loss, so it is all we can afford to issue at present. However, if it continues to have the desired effect of attracting out a few more new ralliers, or members who have not been out for a while, it will help to improve our financial situation for the future and maybe allow us to make further offers to our members.

We also intend to continue with the two £15 vouchers towards next years rallies which will be drawn by lottery from all members who attended a minimum of 8 rallies during the coming season. This is well worth receiving, so keep a count of your attendances and make sure we include you in the draw (which will take place at the AGM in October) if you have qualified for inclusion.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Centre 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/local-groups,

or ringing **01342 318813**.

However, there have been some reported problems with on-line bookings and the Leicestershire Centre have advised their members to use the phone number to ensure their Centre membership is maintained.

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.

Congratulations

Big Congratulations are due to centre members Gail and Mark Wiltshire who reached their 200 rally milestone with West Warwicks last season. They will soon be presented with their 200 Rally Plaque to mark this fantastic achievement.

Margaret and Roy Wiltshire also deserve our congratulations after they sailed past their 500th rally with the centre last season. Lets hope they continue to enjoy rallying with the centre for many years to come!

This Year's Rally Programme.

Take a good look at your new rally book to see the great line up we have this year.

Just to whet your appetite, I will mention the first few rallies which will take place before the next newsletter at Easter. We start off the season at Hampton House farm near Kineton. Hook-ups are available on a limited basis. These will be allocated, if requested, against the order in which booking slips are received (not on arrival at site) So if you want a hook-up, always useful in colder weather, get your booking slip in early. This rally will be followed by a return to Easenhall, a site not used for several years, but apparently very popular in the past. At Easter we will be at Wroxeter Vineyard. This is a nice site, almost next door to the considerable remains of the Roman Fort, where there are often re-enactments and exhibitions on Roman life, so at Easter we may well be lucky enough to have the chance to see some of these. The vineyard shop is always a good local shopping trip and in the past we have been able to enjoy a guided tour of the vineyard and hear about winemaking and its history in England which goes back 2000 years. Unfortunately, they do not produce Damson Wine, so you will have to suffer my efforts, but maybe I can pick up some general tips to improve my own brew!

For those of you who are able to take the time off work (or housework) we will be moving on to Tyn Rhos, a lovely site in Snowdonia for a few days, where once again, hook-ups will be available to re-charge batteries run down in Wroxeter. All of the above look like being good rallies, so why not come out early in the season – **and don't forget to use your Voucher!**

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 many 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.

We have invited him to include an advertisement for his services which you can see below.

JOHN NEAL CARAVAN SERVICES



- All aspects of caravan and motorhome servicing and repairs
- No job too large or small
- Fully qualified mechanic with over 20 years experience

A quality service at affordable prices

Call Sarah on
Tel: 01788 521366
Mob: 07747 864983



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.

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

Contacting You....

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 e mailing

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.



Booking In. I know you have heard this many times before, but please book in to rallies in good time. It is so helpful to the stewards to have a good idea of their attendance in advance. I know that sometimes situations change and you are able to attend (or have to cancel) at the last minute. Rest assured, you will never be turned away if this happens, but please do all you can to assist your stewards to give you the best time they can at any rally.



For certain rallies, mainly Bank Holidays and holiday events, we will be asking for cheques in advance of the rally. We need to notify sites in advance in some cases to ensure we get allocated the correct number of pitches and/or hook-ups and this is the only way we can ensure that we only take "real" bookings and that we have sufficient funds in the kitty to pay the account at the end. However, in the event of a cancellation with a good reason, the Centre will make suitable refunds to members as appropriate. So please do not hold back your bookings in case you have to cancel – if the reason is unavoidable, you will not lose your money.

Fantastic Fundraising!!

At our AGM last year we were able to present the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service with a cheque for £1500. This was a fantastic effort on behalf of what is a relatively small Centre. The Air Ambulance Service receives no Government funding but provides an essential service when accidents happen a bit off the beaten track or when victims need very fast transfer to treatment. As caravanners, we are amongst those who might need access to this service during our travels, so please continue to support us in our fund-raising efforts.

At nearly all rallies, books and cards will be on sale, thanks largely to the efforts of Gail Wiltshire and we encourage you all to collect your reading material and birthday cards from her, and to recycle finished books back into the system.

During 2011, we had a big cash injection from the efforts of 9 year old Fraser Terry, who did a sponsored 6 mile, 384 length, swim on behalf of the Charity. Some of you may have seen his photograph in the January issue of the Club magazine, where he and Gail were presenting our cheque to the Air Ambulance. As it was rather small, a further copy is included below.

This year, he is again going to attempt another fund-raising sponsorship event with an open-water swim. This will obviously be a shorter event, but held in unheated lake water, not a prospect I would look forward to! We will let you know when more details are available

Fraser was not the only one of our youngsters who has raised money for our Charity. They all continue to offer to fill water containers on the rally field for a small fee and 7 year old Shaun Wiltshire decided to de-clutter his bedroom and raised £20 for the Air Ambulance by selling his clear-outs. Well done, Shaun!



Rally Report

I hope to include at least one rally report in all future issues and would welcome input from any of our Centre members. It is much better for our members to receive reports from a variety of ralliers, as everyone has their own slant on what they enjoy (or dislike) about particular sites or events, so I would really welcome any items you might want to submit for publication, either for events you have attended or maybe about events you are stewarding yourself over the next few weeks.

Last year seems along time ago now, so I have not included any reports on the end of last season, but previous newsletters are available on the Centre website, so you can always check back if you want to.

WORDS

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day...30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men...The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

SELL YOUR STUFF HERE

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 toward Centre Funds, it would be welcomed.

Just a thought.....

Pensioners and Crime

Let's put all pensioners in jail and criminals in Nursing Homes.

This way the pensioners would all have access to showers, hobbies and walks.

They would receive free food, heating, board, prescriptions, dental and medical treatment, wheel chairs etc, and they would be paid a small wage instead of spending out.

They would have constant video monitoring, so they could be helped instantly, if they fell , or needed assistance.

Bedding would be washed twice a week, and all clothing would be washed, ironed and returned to them.

They would have family visits in a suite of rooms built specially for that purpose.

They would have access to a library, gymnasium equipment, spiritual counselling, indoor games and free education courses up to degree level.

Simple clothing, shoes, slippers, nightwear and Legal Aid would be available free on request.

They would have private, secure ensuite rooms, with an exercise outdoor yard, with gardens and allotments to work in if desired.

Each senior could have a PC, a TV, radio and daily phone calls.

There would be a Board of Directors to hear complaints, and the attendants on duty would have a code of conduct to which they would have to strictly adhere.

The convicted criminals, on the other hand, would get frequently cold food, be left alone and unsupervised. Lights off at 8.00pm and baths or showers once a week.

They would live in a tiny room and pay out £600 per week with no hope of ever getting out. Attendants on duty would be poorly paid, have little or no training and in most cases, little or no real desire to ensure that their charges received adequate care.

The above is very much tongue in cheek and probably insulting to many dedicated care professionals and care providers, but I think it does show up a real imbalance in

our society and the way it is dedicated to the needs and rights of the individual, whatever they may have done, until they reach the end of their "useful" lives.



Keep up to date with the Centre Web-Site.

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.

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.

Womens' Revenge

"Cash, cheque or card?" I asked, after folding items the woman wished to purchase. As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

"So, do you always carry your TV remote?" I asked. "No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."



KIDZ KORNER

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What did the 300
pound mouse say?

Here Kitty Kitty



See if you can find these
British cities in this word
search, see if you can find the
spelling mistake too!

- | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| birmingham | hereford | ripon |
| bristol | leeds | salford |
| cambridge | leicester | southampton |
| carlisle | london | sunderland |
| chester | manchester | truro |
| derby | norwich | wakefield |
| durham | nottingham | westminster |
| ely | oxford | wolverhampton |
| exeter | plymouth | york |
| gloucester | preston | |



£2

CENTRE VOUCHER

This voucher entitles any member of the West Warwickshire Centre a discount of £2 towards the first rally attended in the 2012 season.

DISCOUNT

FIRST
RALLY
2012

DISCOUNT

It can only be used once and must be handed in to the Rally Stewards with the balance of the Rally Fee. Only originals may be used and no photocopies will be accepted.



YOU ARE QUITE SURE YOU HOOKED UP THE RIGHT ONE IN THE DARK THIS MORNING?

