

South Staffs



Snippits

Issue 16

Editors Forward

Hello everyone, well the first rally this year at Yew Tree Farm, after the lockdown, was a success thanks to our marshals Wendy, Steve, Heather and Alec with 22 vans attending together with good weather and enjoyed by all.

It was good to see our many friends again after such a long time and to have a chat even at a small distance. It seems that now the majority of people have had the jobs that we may be able to get back to some sort of normality, hopefully with indoor venues and entertainment towards the end of the year.

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New Committee News

A big thank you to Anne and Steve Bell they have been co-opted to the committee.

Anne has come as Social secretary

Steve as Advertising secretary

When in the future we can have indoor socials etc; and you need pot and pans just ask Anne.

If you know of anyone who would like to advertise on our web site just pass them on to Steve.

Contact Nos are.

01543 879857 and Mob: 07484 292016

First an update on the outcome of the death of our friend Brian Humphreys.

It appears that a Jamie Bridgwater from Stourport pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown court in June and was Jailed for 18 months for causing the death of Brian through careless driving while over the prescribed limit for drugs.

For further information go to Express and Star published June 25th 2021.

It seems that the last 12 months or so have left ralliers a little unsure of what is needed for the weekend as most had taken things out of their vans during the lockdown and others may now need new glasses as this has led to an early spate of embarrassments.

1st Embarrassment

Yew Tree Farm 22nd April.

As usual Trevor Watkins always seems to be 1st in the book. This time he brought the TV but left the aerial cable at home.

2nd Embarrassment (still at Yew Tree Farm)

Sylvia & Trevor set out early from the rally on Friday morning to go to a funeral. For some reason they went home first and then went from there to the funeral. They forgot about the busy work traffic in a morning, got stuck in the traffic and missed the funeral.

3rd Embarrassment (still at Yew Tree Farm)

We held a Committee Meeting on site, Trevor McG bought the tape recorder but the batteries were flat.

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4th Embarrassment Kings Bromley 14th May

Trevor McGowan went to pay the landowner but forgot to bring a landowners' signature form with him, fortunately Chris O always carries spares.

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Please note that a Fire Bucket is now a mandatory requirement on South Staffs Centre Rallies.



5th Embarrassment

White Lodge 21st May

Rodney H (ME DUK) Killed Anne & Steve's Purple Fire bucket then Trevor W rode over it again just to make sure. Rodney did replace the bucket but Anne said it wasn't purple, you know what women are like!

6th Embarrassment

Still at White Lodge

Ray G had spent some time towing one or two vans off the very wet field in his Landrover except when he hooked up to leave he got stuck and had to be towed off himself.



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Lichfield Cruising Club. 25th-27th June.

Arrived Friday greeted by Marshall's Steve and Ann Bell nice flat field by the side of the Canal with great view of trains passing by at high speed. Lovely pub next door with great outside seating which also overlooked the canal and

the Marina. Nice walk along the canal to Kings Orchard Marina which is also a CL.

Although not allowed tea and biscuits due to Covid it was great to catch up and chat to everyone.

Saturday we jumped on the bikes and rode along the Canal to Whittington, good view of the back gardens overlooking the canal. 🚲🏠 🚲🏠 🧑🏠 Whittington also had an open garden event on the week end which I would have liked to do but we had our bikes. Missed out on tea and homemade cakes. 🍰🍰

Saturday afternoon Trev and Sylvia put on an afternoon tea to celebrate Sylvia's birthday. 🍷🍷 🍷🍰🎂🎉 We even had strawberries 🍓🍓 and clotted cream ice cream yummy. Sue made Sylvia a strawberry and cream birthday cake which we managed to cut into 14 slices. The sun came out ☀️ and we had a lovely afternoon chatting and a little sing song. 🎵🎸. We all prepared to take pictures of the steam train but it was going so fast even Trevor Watkins missed it. The steam engine was taken off and replaced by a Diesel, very disappointing.

Sunday was a little dull so a relaxing morning then set off after lunch as rain was forecast. Thanks to the rally Marshall's for opening and shutting the gate and looking after us all. A great week end had by all.

See you all again soon. Gina and Graham.

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All persons attending rallies and social events do so entirely at their own risk. No responsibility for persons or property is accepted by the organisers or the Caravan Club

Hartington 2nd July

Arrived on Thursday evening to find 4 motorhomes on the site, after speaking to one of them they said they were regulars and came and went as they pleased, as it happened it was a large field easily coping with our 10 vans.

Friday morning 3 of the outfits left leaving only one. The landowner arrived and said that as we had only a few vans he had said 3 other outfits could come for the weekend and would not affect us, Not very pleased about it but nothing we could do at so late a date. Most of our vans arrived with one new meeter. 2 had phoned the day before to say they were not coming plus one who arrived on spec. Friday evening and a car arrived with a young lady driving to be followed by a caravan. They stated the landowner had said the field would be empty and they were having a Birthday party with about 3 or 4 caravans and several tents, about 30 people in all.

They asked if our rules were quiet after 11pm as they were going to party into the night. Unable to do anything immediately we asked our people to move to the top of the field just in case we could not sort something out which they all did without a single grumble from anyone. This would give as much space between us and them as possible.

Meanwhile the man in the party van had got in touch with the landowner and told him that neither them or us were happy and the landowner found them another field owned by his Brother in Law. Sanity on the field but a little frustrating at the time especially as so many of our ralliers had already settled down.

Sunday went to pay the landowner and complained again only to find the partygoers had been pitched very close to their farmhouse and they had had no sleep for most of the night.

Don't think we will be going there again although it is a perfect site for the cycle trails.

Chris & Keith Orchard

10 Minute Quiz (answers on page 19)

1. In which Canadian province is the country's capital, Ottawa situated?
2. What is the name of the Russian who gave his name to the famous AK47 rifle?
3. Which primary colours are mixed to make purple?
4. What is the name of the sedative drug which caused the deformities in babies in the late 1950s and early 1960s.
5. Tarabulus is the Arabic name for two cities. One is the capital of an African country, the other is a port in Lebanon. By what name do we know these cities?
6. Writer P.L. Travers created the character Mary Poppins, What does the P.L. stand for ?
7. A hexagon is a polygon with how many sides?
8. IN which country did the dance, the gavotte, originate?
9. In Roman numerals, what number is represented by L?
10. In the 1950s, which company marketed the first Japanese transistor radio?

Towing Rules of the Road

- Tow bars must be 'type approved'. This means it meets EU regulations and is designed for your car. This doesn't apply to cars first used before 1 August 1998.
- Give yourself more time and space for everything, especially taking corners.
- [Check your car and caravan's tyres](#) before setting out on a trip.
- Never exceed 50mph on single carriageways and 60mph on dual carriageways.
- Never carry passengers in the caravan when you're towing it.
- Your number plate must show your car's registration number and be illuminated at night.
- Your rear light panel must always be working and visible so check before driving off and keep an eye out for any changes during your journey.
- Any trailer weighing over 750 kilograms, including its load, must have a working brake system.
- If your trailer is unbraked, the maximum you may tow is 750 kg or half the kerbside weight of the towing vehicle – whichever is the lower.
- Try to keep the caravan as light as possible with the heavier items low down and close to the axle. Read our [caravan packing tips](#).
- To prevent snaking and pitching make sure you have a well-matched car and caravan and try using stabilisers.

Towing mirrors. The law says you must have an adequate view of the road behind you, so if you have a caravan or a wide, tall trailer that obscures your view

(i.e. wider than the rear of your car), the chances are that you may need to fit extendable mirrors. If you're stopped and a policeman thinks you can't see properly, you could get 3 licence points and a £1,000 (maximum) fine.

Motorways

It is an offence to drive a vehicle in the outside lane of a motorway which is towing a trailer.

Minor traffic offence fines given government go-ahead

In London, up to one million minor traffic offence fines are handed out each year by local authorities. Now, MPs have confirmed that the extra powers enabling London authorities to do this will be extended over the rest of the country in the coming months.

This means that in addition to fines for offences like speeding and parking, motorists will now be at risk of being fined for smaller contraventions like driving in cycle lanes, failing to follow one-way systems, failing to adhere to no-entry signs, entering yellow-box junctions and failing to give priority to oncoming traffic.

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Newspaper fopors.

Typhoon rips through cemetery, hundreds dead.

Red tape holds up new bridges.

You mean there's something stronger than Duct Tape?

Chris's Cooking Corner

FLAPJACKS

100g Butter or Margarine

50g Demerera Sugar

2 Tbs Honey

100g Oats

50g Flour

¼ Tsp Bicarb

100g Fruit

Cook Gas Mark 3 35 mins

Mix all together in a bowl and press it into a flat tray tin and cook on Gas Mark 3 for 35 mins

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The Loss of a few Local Businesses

A local Bra Shop has gone bust.

A Mining Company has gone under.

A manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation.

A Dog Kennels has had to call in the retrievers.

An origami book company has folded.

An Ariel Installation company has called in the receivers.

A Key Company has gone into lockdown.

A Clockmaker has wound down and called time.

An Iceland store has had its assets frozen

A Shoe Factory has been sold and employees given the boot.

The Heinz factory has been canned as they couldn't ketchup with orders.

The tarmac company has reached the end of the road.

The bread company has run out of dough.

The laundrette has been taken to the cleaners.

And finally the AA Recovery Service are on their way to a breakdown.

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A note to all marshals and kind people who fetch in the SSCC road signs early. Please don't as some people may have visitors coming and need to follow the signs. The signs will be collected by the marshals at the end of the rally.

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Rally 20 Riverside Bridgnorth



Rally 20 at Riverside Bridgnorth

This was the 1st South Staffs Rally marshalling for Heather and Alec Watkins and it was also the first proper opening and closing flag together with a competition since the start of the Covid 19 lockdowns in March last year. It seemed like we were starting to get back to normal at last (perhaps tea and coffee at one of the next rallies).

There were 31 outfits attending with visitors from other centres and some not attached to any centre.

The weather was mixed but not enough to stop people chatting with friends they have not seen for nearly 2 years.

No embarrassments were spotted this weekend so if there are any can you let me know.

Thanks Heather, Alec, Wendy and Steve
Chris & Keith



Riverside Bridgnorth

What a lovely weekend we had at Riverside, weather was ok, spots of rain here and there, but we managed to sit out and chat.

It was our first almost complete rally with opening and closing flags, we did however miss our tea and biscuits...think Steve drank the tea.. how many miles did you walk up and down siting people? think he needs a bike. We had to provide our own tea and biscuits, bang goes my budget for this next week.

Trevor missed his dancing, but then again don't think we have the stamina anymore...we sing with Lexi instead, less tiring but who needs dancing when you can sit and chat!!! although we all try talking at the same time, 2 or 3 subjects... think I am going to get a recorder so I can backtrack.

Many thanks to our Marshall's for a lovely weekend. You all worked hard and your friendly welcome to a new beginning... let's continue to wear our masks and keep social distance and get jabbed...

Enjoy our freedom and keep rallying... Trevor and Sylvia.

Payment for weekend rallies – cash payments only would be appreciated, this will enable marshals to pay for halls and artists.

Can members who pay by BACS transfer kindly notify the marshal of the rally that they have used this method of payment. Also let them know the amount they have paid. This will assist the marshals with their paperwork.

South Staffs Webb Site

If you want to put anything on the Webb site give Norman a ring, a letter or an email.

This can

etc;

He also copies of more

Rally Book so that you are never without it.

It is now so easy to book a rally, only a few seconds on the 'book now' section. Don't forget to wait for the 'Booked Now' wording to come on the screen before you close it or the booking will not go.

You will find him on the centre Webb site



include Photo's, advertisements

puts on the Snippits, and especially the

Rally Book so that you are never without it.

webmaster@southstaffscaravanclub.co.uk
southstaffscaravanclub.co.uk
mob: 07971 201269

For three days Denzel had been standing stock-still in his field.

Baz was a bit worried so he eventually approached Denzel.

“What’s on boy?” he said.

“Go away,” said Denzel.

“But you’ve been standing out here for three days Denzel.”

“I’m waiting to get an MBE from the Queen,” he replied. “Now go away”

“How is it that you think that’ll ever happen?” asked Baz.

Denzel looked him in the eye and said.

“I read that if you’re outstanding in your field, you’ll get awarded an MBE. Now Go Away!”

Paignton Holiday Rally

Not an embarrassment but just funny.

Day one after we had booked everyone in it was time for tea.

Trevor lit his barbeque and put his sausages on together with a can of beer opened ready to drink.

He went to the caravan for a piece of kitchen roll.

On his way back a seagull was just flying off, he looked at his barbeque and to his dismay a sausage was missing and his can of beer had been knocked over, he was not amused, although we thought it amusing, he never left the barbeque unattended again.

The Paignton holiday rally seemed to go ok, but a bit of a shock when we arrived on Friday afternoon to find at least 20 vans on site which were not leaving until the next day, it worked out ok in the end.

We had cakes and a cuppa one week and a punch / beer and cakes the second week which went down well.

The daily bingo, always a favourite, until at closing flag the last numbers to be called out, a rallier said she only needed number 32 but had thrown her ticket away, I told her number 32 had already gone, panic on her face, she made her husband go to the site bins to try and find it, a few funny looks later he arrived with it, the embarrassing thing is she needed number 23 (she still didn't win)

Only one incident thank goodness, John Severs had to have an ambulance visit, he was still not well from when he was ill at the Bourton on the Water rally so they thought it best to go home.

Keith drove their motorhome (when he remembered what a gear stick was for) to Bristol to their sons' home and Joe the site warden went in his car and brought him back.

The weather was quite good to us and with the bus stop being right next to our rally it was great.

I think it went well and everybody enjoyed it.

Thanks Sue, Trevor and Keith
Chris Orchard

Don't forget even if you havn't marshalled a rally you can still come to the Marshal's Supper Rally and pay the normal site and Social fee, book in as usual.

The Half Term Rally at York, No. 29, has been cancelled.

Rally No. 30 at Stratford (Bonfire Rally) is going ahead, limited electric hook-ups, and don't forget to book in for rally No. 31 at Park Grange HP, Nr Bridgnorth, again limited EHU so book early.

Rally No 32, The Christmas Party,
Book early for this one as there are only 22 caravan pitches around the hall.

The cost is as per the rally book plus the Saturday evening social which includes food etc:

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Again I am putting in a pull out copy of the centre rules as there is not a hard copy of the of the Rally Book anymore.



YOUR CENTRE
NEEDS YOU



**WITH REGARD TO
HEALTH AND SAFETY**



**PETS ARE NO LONGER
ALLOWED TO GO TO ANY
INDOOR EVENTS
INCLUDING THE
COLEMAN SHOWERS**



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As I am not going on committee again this will be my last issue of Snippits. I have enjoyed writing, editing and printing all 16 editions, I hope all of you have found something of interest in them too and thanks for your support with your inclusions.

Best wishes to all for the future and to the committee and hope to see you all on the rally field in the future.

Keith Orchard
Editor.

Answers to the 10 minute Quiz

- 1. ONTARIO 2. KALASHNIKOV 3. RED AND BLUE
- 4. THALIOMIDE 5. TRIPOLI 6. PAMELA LYNDON
- 7. SIX 8. FRANCE 9. 50 10. SONY

Drones on Rallies.

Please remember that Drones are not permitted to be flown on a rally without prior permission from the Governance Office. A drone operator must provide evidence of insurance and a certificate that they have registered the drone with the CAA.

(see www.dronesafe.co.uk for more information.)

The Centre also needs to ensure that the rally attendees have provided permission/and are aware of the drone being flown under GDPR.

Calor Gas Hose - Safety Technical Data

Orange coloured gas hose to BS 3213 Type 2 and BSEN 1763 Type B is less durable and resistant to weathering and ageing than the former Black hose, particularly, when used in external unprotected applications ie; pigtails

Experience to date with the heavy duty Black hose to BS 3212 type 2 suggests that the weathering resistance of this hose is excellent, however this hose is usually found with factory fixed fittings.

Although Red hose has a date of manufacture stamped on the side, no shelf life is given but the recommendation is that it is replaced at 5 year intervals from the date of purchase or application and regular inspection to check for cracking of the outer wall.