

Please remember to keep me informed of the status of your rally, so that I can up date the website. May be its nearly full or is full, or is there some other info you want adding . Just let me know...

webmaster@bedscentrecc.com



BACK TO THE 40's & SLEEP OUT

Firstly we have a change of Rally Officers for the Back to the 40's weekend in June 2008. You Rally officers are now Tom & Caroline Gilks with Steve & Karen Waite. Please send all rally slips to Tom Gilks, Second Chance, 16 Evelyn Road, Dunstable, Beds LU5 4NG. Also at the Back to the 40's rally we will hold the

Great Bedfordshire Sleep Out.

This will be in aid of our Centre Charity, Sue Ryder at Moggerhanger. I would like as many people as possible to join me in spending Friday Night under the stars. I intend to get sponsors to sponsor me to do this. I would like you to join me. The more the merrier I think we can have a really fun night, so if you're up to it, please let me know so I can get a sponsor form to you.

I look forward to spending the night with you.

Tom Gilks



Have a fantastic Easter, we look forward to seeing you all on the Rally Field in 2008

THE BEDFORDSHIRE CENTRE OF THE CARAVAN CLUB

EASTER RALLYGOER



**The Chairman, Officers
& Committee
Would like to wish you
all
A Very Happy Easter**



Chairman's Chat



As the nights are getting lighter, and hopefully the sun will be shining, we have a full program of events over the coming season to hopefully please all, so please help our rally officers by booking in early. Even though we have just started this rallying season our rally sec is starting on next year's, so if you have any idea's for rally contact our rally sec Jo Gray, hope to see you all out on the rally field over the coming season, happy caravanning.

Martin
Centre Chairman.



Where you born in the 40's, 50's or 60's?

We survived being born to mothers who smoked and or drank whilst they carried us. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a tin and didn't get tested for diabetes. After that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids or doors and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets, not to mention the risks we took hitch hiking. As kids we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bag, riding in the back of a van loose was fun. We drank water from the garden hose, not a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends from one bottle and no one actually died from this.

We ate cakes, white bread and real butter and drank cordial with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because.....We were always outside playing, we would leave home in the morning and play out all day, no one could reach us and we were okay. We would spend hours building our go carts out of scraps and ride the hill with no brakes. We did not have play stations, Nintendo's, X boxes, video games, 99 channels, DVD movies or surround sound, no text messaging, no pc's, no internet or internet chat rooms, we had friends and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We played with worms and mud pies and the worms did not live in us forever. We rode bikes or walked to friends, local teams had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of; they actually sided with the law! This generation has produces some of the best risk takers, problem solvers and inventors ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility and we learnt how to deal with it all and YOU are one of them.

Congratulations.

Rally up dates:

28th – 30th March White Horse, Husborne Crawley is **FULL**
4th - 6th April Love Lane Farm Rally slips to Tom Leath
11th -13th April Ferry Meadows **FULL**
18th – 20th April Dunstable Rally slips to Morris McDowell
Please no arrivals before 5pm.

I would like to thank every one that has run or is running a rally this year. And for all the help and support I have had as my first year as Rally Sec. I am working on 2009 programme so I am looking for Rally Officers if there is anyone out there that would like to run or help run a rally I would like to hear from you.



Rally Sec

Winter Walk

It was a lovely sunny day, we all met at Tempsford for our walk at 11am; Maureen was aiming to leave at about 11.30. We started our walk there was 28 of us, every one was chatting and catching up as it was the first time we had seen anyone since New Year. We walked along the river bank and across some fields, then came to field where there was 4 very friendly horses well they made a bee line for those in front (Photos on website). Some of us could not get out of the field fast enough, we crossed over a bridge at the weir and we stopped for a cup of coffee or water that we had taken with us. We rested for about 15 minutes and then we started off again we made our way into the village of Blunham and then we picked up the river again and started to make our way back. When we arrived back there was a little garden where we went in to have flag that Jerry took and then most of us went in the Wheatsheaf for a lovely meal.

I would like to thank Maureen and John Gauge for finding the lovely walk and organising the pub. We look forward for the winter walk next year!

Sandy's Cherry Muffins

Ingredients:

8 ozs Caster Sugar
8 ozs Margarine
2 eggs
8 ozs Sieved Self Raising Flour
4 ozs of glace cherries, cut into small pieces
A little hot water
Paper muffin cases
Muffin baking tray



Method:

Cream together the margarine and sugar until nice and fluffy
Add eggs one at time
Fold in the flour and gently add the cherries
If mixture is a little dry, add a little hot water to make a dropping consistency

Put paper cases in muffin tin and spoon mixture into them

Bake in hot oven, 180° centigrade for about 15 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean.

Easy to make

Please try your hand at Sandy's Cherry muffins, this is the recipe for this years competition at our Centre Events Weekend. There is not a Centre Trophy for the baking but the Competition is normally pretty tough and standards are high.....have a go !





News from around the table

Well, we as a Committee have been pretty busy over the Winter months. The Centre party tents have been reinforced and new pegs purchased so they are all ready for the warmer months. Please see Lawrie Coleman if you require them for your Rally. Equipment is Currently being serviced but let Lawrie know if you have an issue.

Colin Richardson has a stock of saleable goods so if you require any please see Colin. Colin has also been busy with the Juniors so watch this space for events going on throughout the year for the youngsters.

Jo Gray and her supporting sub group are working on the 2009 Rally programme, it is filling up fast. Jo is doing a fabulous job so please give her some support and put your name down for a Rally.

Andy Gray is our new Webmaster , what a credit the Website is to the Centre. User friendly, full of the latest information....the feedback is great. Send your contribution to Webmaster@bedscentrecc.com

Centre Charity fundraising is in the hands of Tom Gilks this year and he has been ably assisted by Steve Waite who has been out with the Bonus ball and Raffles this year, there will be a fundraising event later this year in June.

The Centre finances are in the hands of Sue Morgan who works hard to keep the figures accurate. Many of us look at a Rally Return and shudder so it is great we have a treasurer who is happy to do such an essential job within the Centre Committee.

We have formed a Marketing sub group who are looking at promoting the Centre and attracting new Ralliers. Tom Gilks, Colin Richardson

The August Bank Holiday period at Twinwoods Airfield, Twinwoods Road, Clapham, Beds.. MK41 6AB.

Last year Tom & Caroline Gilks, myself and Hubby, Morris spent the Bank Holiday weekend as Event Officers at Twinwoods, for the Glenn Miller Festival.

The campsite is a really nice field with water and Elson point and a lovely vista. It is fairly near the main arena, but for those who may find the walk a little too far, the event organisers run a free bus service throughout the whole weekend on a continuous basis. There is only one way to express this event and that is, 'Fabulous' from start to finish. It is a weekend of wall to wall big band sound and sights.

The event started early on Friday morning, music from many different bands. The main host for the weekend was John Miller, Glenn Miller's nephew, his band as you would expect was fantastic, and also on the bill were Lindy Hoppers who were giving lessons in the Lindy Hop and Jive. There was also a tribute slot to Elvis Presley which went down very well. Many people come dressed in period costume, a lot of thought and effort goes into this as they are all very authentic. There are trade stalls where items of clothing and memorabilia can be purchased.

The Glenn Miller museum is also open all over the weekend showing the time that Glenn was stationed at Twinwoods and also coverage of the fatal last flight out of the airfield. Also over the weekend in the surrounding woodland areas, camps are set up to show how the men would have had to live during the war. Mess huts are also open for inspection, and a NAAFI is open for refreshments. Talking of which, there are plenty of eating and drinking options open all over the weekend. During the afternoon of each day the RAF sent a Spitfire aeroplane who gave an amazing air display showing the pilots breath-taking skills.

Saturday gave way to another splendid day of music which went on till well into the twilight hours. Sunday morning a Service was held, very well attended, followed by yet more music. Of course we were blessed with absolutely super weather which made the event even more special.

This year looks set to be even better than last, we will be there as Event Officers and would extend a warm welcome to you all, unfortunately we cannot guarantee the weather, but I am sure a drop of rain would not dampen the enthusiasm of all who attend.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Sandy



Reminders for the Rally Field



Please have the courtesy to stop at the Rally Officers van and wait to be sited on arrival. Please remind any visitors that they should stop and notify the Rally Officers of their arrival.

Rallies open at 4pm unless prior arrangement is made with the Rally Officers to arrive early.

Please remember that the Rally Officers decision is final and that some rally Officers have to work and early opening is not always possible.



Please keep your dog on a lead no longer than 10 feet and ensure that you always clean up after your pet



And Jerry Waite are working as a great team, we hope to see the results of their work over the Rallying Season ahead.

Tom is also our Events Liaison for the Centre and we look forward with enthusiasm to the four Events we are hosting this year. The Peterborough Motor Home Show, The Bedford River Festival, Glenn Miller Experience and The Organ Festival of Steam.

Sandy McDowell has been busy with her book exchange, you can borrow a book for free or donate 25p per book to the Centre Charity should you wish to buy. We are relying on your honesty and donations of books for this to benefit all. Sandy also arranged a fabulous thank you evening for our Rally officers in February and I am sure all who attended will agree it was a great evening. Morris McDowell is always out and about with his camera catching those precious moments on film for the Website and is enjoying the role reversal now he is the Social Secretaries gofer!

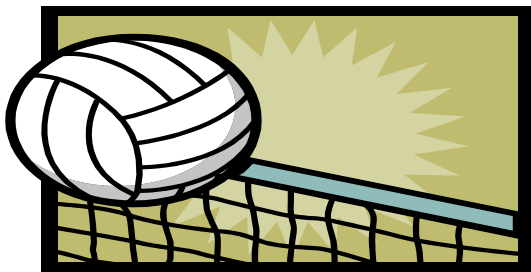
Jerry is putting together sports for the National so keep an eye out for updates as May approaches.

Caroline Gilks and Martin Findlay are working hard on representing the Centre at the Regional Council so if you have any input or questions you wish to raise please let one of us know and we will take it forward for you.

Caroline has taken on the role of Regional Events Co-ordinator so please put forward any ideas or comments you have regarding events as the feedback is necessary to take the whole concept of Events forward.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, constructive feedback, questions or just want to know what goes on around the Committee table please do not hesitate to ask as it is impossible to feed all the information back in a short write up. We are looking forward to the warmer rallying and hope to see you all on the rally field very soon.

Centre Secretary



As the Bedfordshire Centre Sports Officer for the coming year I am keen for the centre to enter as many of the sports competitions as possible at this years national rally. As I am sure you are all aware this year the National is at Holkham Hall, Norfolk and is therefore only a couple of hours away for most of us. I am aware that the centre is expecting a good turn out for next year's national and if we can field teams in many of the sports we may be in with a chance to walk away with a trophy or two?

Therefore I would like to hear from any members who are interested in representing the centre in the below sports:

Football ,Netball ,Volleyball, Lawn Darts or Tug of War

Once I get an idea of numbers, ages and what sports members are interested in I will look to put some teams together. You can catch me on the rally field, give me a call on 01582 751036, 07968 018517 or send me an email:

Sports@bedscentrecc.com

Please support your centre and join me in some of the teams at this years National rally.

Jerry Waite - Bedfordshire Centre Sports



BEDFORDSHIRE CENTRE OF THE CARAVAN CLUB

FESTIVAL of FAIRGROUND **ORGANS & CRAFT FAYRE**

**60 Plus Fairground, Concert, Dance,
Street Organs Playing and on Display
Full size and Model Steam Engines
WW2 Military Transport
Fire Service Museum
Catering and Licensed Bar
Handmade Craft Stalls**

Glenn Miller Museum, Twinwoods, Clapham, Bedford.



10th to 12th October 2008

For more information, please contact Tom Gilks:~
events@bedscentrecc.com or Tel: 07742 556 482



BEDFORDSHIRE CENTRE OF THE CARAVAN CLUB

MOTORHOME SHOW

25th to 27th APRIL 2008

Peterborough Showground



Thursday to Monday. See the latest motor homes and accessories.

Seek expert advice and help from the experts

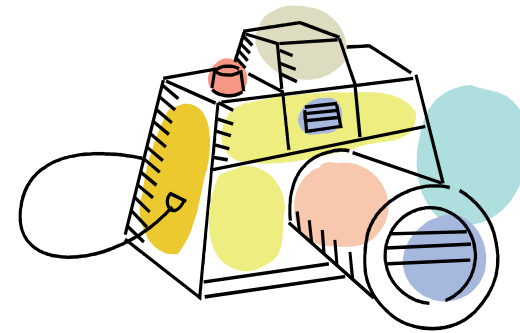
Entertainment in hall every evening. Saturday night is chargeable

**For more information and a special booking form, please send a
SAE for a special booking form to Martin Findlay, 123 Dells Lane
Biggleswade, Beds SG18 8LD Tel: 01767 222 097**

Life on the Rally Field

Thursday evening arrives and the stage is set to get everything ready for the weekend rally. Get out the list, Clothes, food, nibbles for party tent essential, drink, (not that we are alcoholics), but a good way of letting your hair down.

Friday morning pack everything into the car, freezer box and rest of the list items, don't forget the dogs, did we pack the dog pen, so many things to remember, bound to forget something, always do. Oh no, forgot the camera, can't leave that behind.



Around 10.00 and we are set to leave, up to the caravan store and pull out, another weekend is up and running.

Arrive at site 12.30, some have already arrived, rally officers come out to welcome us and take us to our allotted pitch. Steadies down, water fetched, kettle on, Deckchair out, coffee in hand, all the stresses and strains of the week pale away if only for the weekend.

God bless the Rally field.

Morris Mc Dowell

Book Exchange

Social Secretary, Sandy McDowell

Has started a

'Book Exchange'



The books will be carried in the car, the idea being you can either

Purchase a book for a nominal fee for the nominated charity

Or exchange a book, so you will always have access

to a good book for those lazy afternoons in the sun.



Remember this is your RallyGoer
Please send in your articles, news, Rally Updates to Centre
Secretary by either email or just plain old 'pigeon post'.



BEDFORDSHIRE CENTRE OF THE CARAVAN CLUB

BEDFORD RIVER FESTIVAL 2008

11th to 13th JULY 2008

**30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BEDFORD RIVER FESTIVAL**

- **PARADE**
Decorated vehicle
Procession through the own Centre
- **RAFT RACES**
Home built rafts racing teams down the river.
- **DRAGON BOATS**
16-20 paddlers racing in traditional style Dragon Boats
- **IT'S A KNOCKOUT**
Teams of 12 people battling in the Main Arena
- **COMMUNITY STAGE**
Singers, magicians and other performers

For more information and a special booking form, please contact
Tom Gilks at: events@bedscentrecc.com or Tel: 07742 556 482





I am not sure which one of these guys is a future Chairman of the Centre but I am sure of one thing they are a fantastic pair of lads ! They served in the region of 250 breakfasts over the New Year Rally, cleared tables, scraped plates, washed pots and generally helped wherever they could, they even designed all the placemats.



New Year 2008/2009 has been moved back to Gamlingay , this will enable us to provide a fantastic Rally once again without increasing the cost to you the Ralliers. We have a new team on board, Caz, Sandy, Jo & Gill, Tom, Morris, Andy, Mick, Emma & Matt. Please forward your slips to Tom Gilks to ensure a secure place on the Happy Rally !!!!!

Thanks to everyone who made New Year 2007 possible especially to our Compare John Moules, disco Martin & Bronya Findlay all of whom gave their time freely to make New Years eve a success.

CENTRE EVENTS WEEKEND

Dear All,

May I thank all of you that have already sent rally slips in for the **CENTRE EVENTS WEEKEND** in May 2008. I look forward to receiving more rally slips from those of you that have not yet sent them in. Due to a problem with the hall being double booked at Cardington we have had to move the rally to the **EDWARD PEAKE SCHOOL**. Please remember that this is a school and therefore the rally will not open until 5.00pm

Over this weekend we will run the normal Centre competitions, Photography, Wine Making, and the Illuminated Van. This year we have put a theme on the Illuminated Van competition,

WEST END SHOWS.

I hope that this will get your imagination going.

All the above are for the Centre Trophies, if you are a holder of a trophy from last year can you please get it back to me as soon as possible.

Lastly, and just for fun we have changed the Victoria Sponge competition to Cherry Muffins. You will find the recipe in the Rally Goer, and let me remind you they must be made and baked in your caravan. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tom Gilks
Vice Chairman



Events are open to all members of the Caravan Club who want to make the most out of their caravan or motor home and enjoy parking in the near vicinity often on site at major attractions. The Events planned for 2008 by the Beds Centre are to be held in a variety of attractive locations, well located but basic, so you will be required to use your onboard facilities. You will need sufficient gas and remember that there is no electric hook up available. The Events are excellent value for money and an excellent way of visiting new places, great attractions and making new friends. Do take a look at the Adverts for events in the forthcoming year and feel free to contact me should you require further information or booking forms.

Tom Gilks
Events Liaison