

BEDFORDSHIRE



# Beds Birthday Celebration

BEDFORDSHIRE



**21st — 23rd September 2012**  
**Maulden, Beds, MK45 2AA**



**Come and Join Us To Celebrate 45  
 Years of The Bedfordshire Centre  
 and Over 1500 Rallies.  
 A Fun Packed Weekend of  
 Entertainment, Including Hog Roast**



**For More Information &  
 Special Booking Form  
 Please Speak to a  
 Committee Member  
 Or Contact:  
 Colin Richardson  
 07802 187292**



BEDFORDSHIRE

The Caravan Club

# Bedfordshire Centre Rally Goer

# Happy Easter





Welcome to  
**Chairmans Chat**

Dear All,

We ended 2011 on a high with some great rally memories. The Christmas Rally took on a new format with a brass band and carols Christmas Eve (Fri), followed by a traditional Christmas Day lunch (Sat) and an afternoon of laughter had from the children's entertainer! We went out of eleven and saw in twelve with some fantastic food and entertainment at the New Year rally.

With another great Burns evening under our belt and Valentines taking on a new venue 2012 started where we left off with all rallies being well attended. Another new venue Ramsey Manor School saw our very own Vernon Kay, Les Dawson, Roy Walker and Mr Chips (Jerry & Steve) presenting an evening of TV Game shows.

2012 also brings 45 years of caravanning and over 1500 rallies to The Bedfordshire Centre, to celebrate this prestigious occasion we will be hosting our Birthday Bash Rally at Maulden in September. A full programme of entertainment and activities are planned for the weekend. Please book in early it would be great to see you all there.

The officers, committee, Diane and myself wish you all a very happy Easter and an enjoyable season of touring where ever it takes you, look forward to seeing you soon on the rally field.

Kind Regards

**Colin Richardson**

Chairman  
Bedfordshire Centre of the Caravan Club

## Members Ads'

Do you have something to sell...

Let the PRO know, and it will appear here and on the Centre's Website.

If your item has been sold, or you no longer wish to advertise it, please let me know

**www.bedscentrecc.com**



### Landrover Freelander...

A Landrover Freelander 2 HSE genuine steel spare wheel including tyre to replace a M&S 235/60 R18 103V alloy wheel & tyre. Will fit in the boot tyre well. ....£130.00

**Brian Hornsby**

Tel: 01525 875203

### Trio Mexico SE...

Only used a couple of times in last 5 years. Steel poles. Fitted Eldis Avante 524 (Awning rail length 9431mm) .....£150.00

### Isabella Sun Canopy...

Including side panels. Blue/light grey. Fibre glass poles. Nice easy to put up canopy for weekend / summer use.

Fitted Eldis Avante 524 (Awning rail length 9431mm) .....£150.00

### Isabella Commodore...

Blue. Fibre glass poles. Extra depth awning. Hardly used and in exceptional condition. Was slightly too big for 9431mm van and would probably fit up to 9750mm. ....£550.00

**Linda Horn**

Tel: 01525 872973

### Venture Trident Awning...

Venture Trident Full Awning to suit an awning rail length of 875cm. Colour - Burgundy/Grey with Fibreglass Poles. ....£200.00 o.n.o.

**Andy Gray,**

Tel: 01234 302746

### Tyres...

175 x 13 (550x 13) Tyre, Brand New, never been on the road.....£30.00 o.n.o.

Winter Wheels, Heavy Duty Type.....£ offers

**Mick Challis,**

Tel: 01733 571332

**Contact your PRO:**

*Andy Gray*



91 Foster Road,  
Kempston,  
Beds.



MK42 8BT  
01234 302746



[webmaster@bedscentrecc.com](mailto:webmaster@bedscentrecc.com)

Please note, that the information contained within this update is the authors own opinion and does not necessarily reflect that of any other member of the Bedfordshire Centre.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or decline any items sent in for publication

## Green & Green Mobile Caravan Servicing



# Have you had your caravan serviced this year?

### Book now for on site service and repairs

**Annual Service   Chassis Service   Appliance Repairs**

**Damp Report   Electrical Checks**

**Gas Safety Checks (ACOP Certificated)**

**Pre-Purchase Inspections**

**Habitation Service   General Caravan Repairs**

## Letters

Your chance to communicate with your fellow ralliers.



### Thank You...

We just wanted to thank you all for a fabulous Christmas weekend. Christmas eve was a great build up to most enjoyable Christmas day.

The lunch was perfect as was the afternoon entertainment finishing off with the family disco.

Well done everyone a great success. Looking forward to next year.

Best wishes

*Jan and Nick Balaam*

*Pat and Alan Harvie*

*Lynn and Phil Harvie*

*Gail and Steve Coppitters*

### Thank You...

We would like to thank you all for an excellent Burns evening – the warm welcome from our friends in the Beds Centre, tasty meal along with the pipers and band we felt made it a true Scottish celebration (of course not forgetting the fine Scotch whiskey which went down well!!!). Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to all those who worked so hard from all of our party. Looking forward to next year.

Many thanks

*Lindsay and Patricia Teague*  
( Herts cc )

### Thank You...

Just a quick note to confirm what Lin and Pat Teague have sent you. Your Burns night was without a doubt the best one we have been to. The food was lovely, the Band Fantastic and the Whisky .....well !! You all did a fantastic job.

Thanks very much

*Graham and Viv Rowley*  
( Herts cc )



## Letters Continued...



### Thank You...

On behalf of my wife Maria and I, we would like to thank all of the people that came to our aid at the St Valentines Rally. I was taken ill during the early hours of Saturday morning which necessitated my being taken to hospital by ambulance. This was only our second Rally and I do not have the names of the people that helped Maria and I but we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. I do know that Peter & Linda Horn ferried Maria to and from the hospital and Peter even towed our caravan back to where we store it which relieved a great deal of anxiety as I am unable to drive for a while. Also thank you to the kind people who offered to assist Maria when the gas ran out on Saturday night. Rather than see her freeze there were offers of help from lots of people which again we both thank you for.

Best wishes & Thank you

*Colin & Maria Batchelor*

As Hon Secretary of the Bedfordshire Centre, there are times when I would like to go out to the membership with reminders of rallies, update you with information, notify you of changes to rallies or let you have important information as soon as possible. With this in mind I would like to hold a bank of email address for all Bedfordshire members and I would ask you to send me an email at [secretary@bedscentrecc.com](mailto:secretary@bedscentrecc.com) with your email address. I can assure you that the information I hold will be held by me in the strictest confidence and not passed onto a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

**Tom Gilks**

Hon Secretary

### Spare a Thought...

For the Rally Officers. They are **NOT** paid employees of the club. They do what they do because in an organisation such as ours the voluntary effort put in by such people is of paramount importance to its successful functioning. If you cannot honour your booking you are under a moral obligation to them to ensure at least there is no financial embarrassment.

**Happy Rallying**

Your Committee

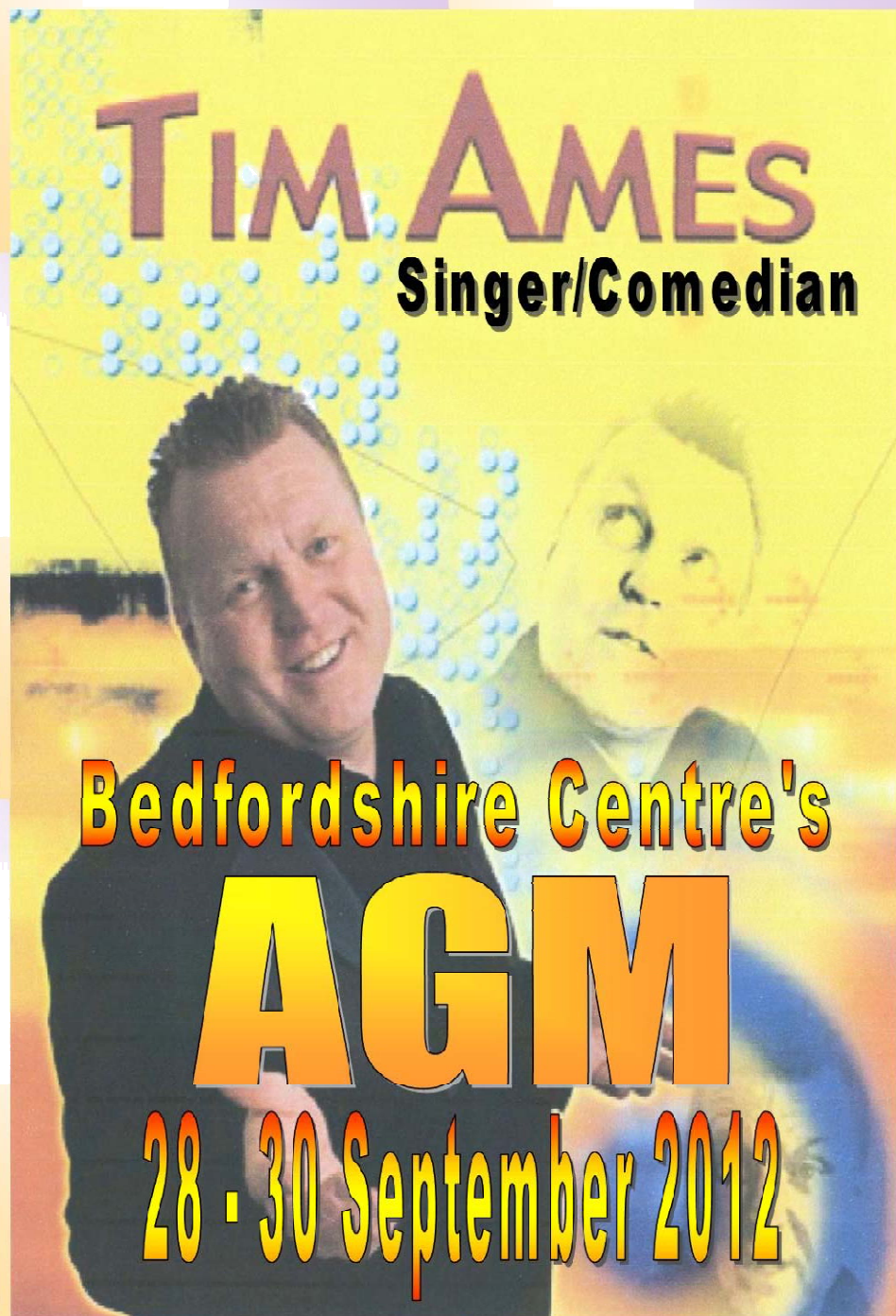
### Have you got something for the next edition?

Send your letters, rally write ups, jokes or whatever it may be to your Centre PRO by 17th June 2012

## 2012 Rally Programme Updates

The following rallies have either been changed or have further information added since the rally book went to print. For more information visit: [www.bedscentrecc.com](http://www.bedscentrecc.com)

- Rally 12**    **13 - 15 April, Ferry Meadows**  
This rally is now FULL, and a waiting list is now in operation.  
**Rally Fee:**    £22.90
- Rally 16**    **04 - 07 May, Gt Barford**  
The rally fee should be £ 25.10 and not £ 17.90 as published in the rally book.
- Rally 22**    **01 - 10 June, Caravans in Lavender - Norfolk Holiday**  
This rally has been cancelled. The committee took this decision as we have had no rally officers come forward to take on this rally.
- Rally 23**    **01 - 05 June, Bourton-on-the-Water**  
This rally has been cancelled, as the venue is having building work done and the site access will be very difficult for caravans.
- Rally 24**    **01 - 10 June, Bourton-on-the-Water**  
This rally has is now at The Dark Barn, Barbers Bridge, Gloucester, GL2 9DX.  
The dates have also been changed to 01 - 10 June 2012. The original venue had to be cancelled, as the venue is having building work done and the site access will be very difficult for caravans.  
**Directions:**  
From M5 junction 11, take the A40 towards Gloucester. At the next roundabout take the 4th exit and stay on the A40 around Gloucester. Go straight on at the next 2 roundabouts. Turn slightly right on B4215 (SP Highnam, Rudford). Follow for approximately 3 miles to site.  
**Rally Fee:**    £72.50
- Rally 25**    **08 - 10 June, Radwell Mill**  
This rally requires new rally officers. If none are found then this rally will have to be cancelled.
- Rally 30**    **13 - 15 July, Pecks Farm**  
This rally requires new rally officers. If none are found then this rally will have to be cancelled.
- Rally 41**    **14 - 16 September, Grafham Water**  
**Rally Fee:**    £25.09 with EHU  
                  £23.55 without EHU
- Rally 45**    **19 - 21 October, Darts**  
Rally officers have now been added to this rally.  
**Rally Officer:**    Mr Colin Pitts Tel: 07802 223699
- Rally 46**    **26 - 28 October, Who Spooked it?**  
This rally is now at Alameda Academy, Station Road, Amptill MK45 2QR.  
**Directions:**  
Take A507 towards Amptill. At roundabout take Flitwick Road and head in to Amptill. In approx. 1/2 mile at mini-roundabout turn left into Station Road. In approx 500 yds turn right, school at end of road.  
**Rally Fee:**    £23.50
- Rally 49**    **16 - 18 November, Regional AGM**  
Last two digits of postcode have been transposed in the rally book. The postcode should read MK42 9XA, unfortunately although it is correct for the school it will put you on the wrong road. For a better postcode please use **MK42 9UX**
- Rally 51**    **30 November - 02 December, Christmas Party**  
Please send all rally slips to Mr Win Eaton. Tel: 01234 302746



## Valentines...

Thanks to everyone that attended the Valentine Rally this weekend, with temperatures as low as -13 the support for this rally was tremendous. Lots of people struggled with frozen water pipes and some even had to take their water carrier's home full as they were still frozen! Our siting team were great as usual – thanks guys & girls you know who you are.



The rally itself was a fantastic success, Friday night everyone enjoyed the banter of the bingo quiz and on Saturday morning everyone tucked into a full English breakfast, some even managed generous helpings of seconds!

Saturday evening everyone enjoyed a lovely three course meal and danced the night away with Simon Phillips who entertained us for the evening. It has to be said that we, the Rally Officers would have been up the creek without a paddle without the help from Jo, Tegan, Matt & Dale.....thanks guys you were amazing and your help was so appreciated. Thanks to everyone who supported the raffle and Sandy & Morris we hope you get a lot of pleasure out of the first prize - a lovely flat screen TV, you so deserve it.

That's it for now folks.....it is our intention after a few big rallies recently to attend the next few and relax and enjoy some time in our caravan, as opposed to the school kitchen

See you all on the rally field very soon

*Colin & Diane*

*Tom & Caz*

## Beds Bygones...

We are collating bygone years of the Beds CC to be displayed at the Birthday Celebration rally, if anyone has photo's they would like to contribute



Please contact Colin Richardson  
07802187292

or

email [chair@bedscentrecc.com](mailto:chair@bedscentrecc.com)



For the latest information on Rallies, Centre News, Rally photo's and downloads, then why not visit our website.

**[www.bedscentrecc.com](http://www.bedscentrecc.com)**

The Best Place to be...



# Caravan Club Bike Ride...

## Ashwell to Billericay

Grenville Chamberlain Chairman of the Caravan Club is arranging a charity bike ride in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research (LLR) starting from Ashridge Farm Caravan Club Site, near Baldock in Hertfordshire, to Barleylands Temporary Olympic Site, near Billericay in Essex, a distance of around 65 miles. Ride is long but fairly easy and almost entirely on "B" grade or unclassified roads through South Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex. The route passes through some magnificent villages with beautiful rolling countryside, and importantly there is no Ditchling Beacon.

Overnight, weekend or even longer stays can be arranged at Barleylands which has excellent facilities (<http://www.barleylands.co.uk/>). Transport will be provided for both bikes and riders from there to the start at Ashridge Farm. There will be an entrance fee of approximately £32.50 each for taking part, which will include a T-shirt and transport for both bike and rider and refreshments at the finish

We require the help and support of a number of volunteers who can help marshal the route at key points, especially major road crossings, and hopefully provide refreshments for riders near the halfway point which is located near Takeley in Essex. John Moules has kindly offered to co-ordinate this on behalf of the Northern Home Counties Region. Please contact John by email [moules.john@yahoo.com](mailto:moules.john@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

If you are interested in participating in the bike ride please contact Grenville Chamberlain by email [grenville\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:grenville_c@hotmail.com)

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# Essential Information...

## "What rules and regulations are there?"

- ◆ Towing mirrors are a legal requirement if the caravan that is being towed is wider than the towing vehicle and rearward vision is restricted.
- ◆ Towing mirrors must be removed when driving solo.
- ◆ A caravan must have a rear number plate. This must match that of the towing vehicle and be illuminated at night.
- ◆ TVs used in caravans are covered by the owner's domestic TV licence as long as the caravan occupants are residents where the licence is registered and TVs at home are not used at the same time.
- ◆ Caravans do not have to undergo MoT tests, Basic safety checks and maintenance are the owner's responsibility.
- ◆ Caravan insurance is not compulsory but is highly recommended.
- ◆ Passengers are not permitted to travel in a caravan, Pets are allowed but we would advise against it.
- ◆ All safety regulations for car tyres apply to those on caravans.
- ◆ Tyres on the same axle must be of the same type and size, although not necessarily from the same manufacturer.

## "Is my combination of car and caravan legal?"

**X**  
Car  
Kerbweight

**Y**  
Maximum tow  
limit of car

**Z**  
MTPLM  
of caravan

Your car and caravan are a legal match if: **Z is equal to or less than Y.**

Your car and caravan are a recommended match if: **Z is equal to or less than 85% of X.**

Your car and caravan are an acceptable match for an experienced tower if: **Z is between 86% and 100% of X.**

As a general rule, the lower the laden weight of the caravan in relation to the towcar, the safer and more stable the outfit is.

## "What are the speed limits for towing in the UK"

Speed limits when towing are different from those when driving solo. The figures quoted below are only applicable where no local speed limit is indicated. Towed outfits are not permitted in the outside lane of a road with three or more lanes unless other lanes are closed.

	Solo (mph)	Towing (mph)
Built up area	30	30
Single carriageway	60	50
Dual carriageway	70	60
Motorway	70	60