



The Caravan Club
Bedfordshire Centre
Rally Goer

EASTER 2013

15th to 17th November 2013

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Saturday Evening performance

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Book Early!



Your Committee 2012—2013

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Neil Hannon
Vice Chairman

Tom Gilks
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Pat Darlow
Hon. Treasurer

Maureen Gauge
Hon. Rally Secretary

Jo Gray
Social Secretary

Andy Gray
PRO

Committee.

John Cooper

Win Eaton - Equipment

Dale Findlay - Junior Liaison/Sports

Martin Findlay - Events Co-ordinator/Rallygoer Editor

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Saint Vincent sur Jard is separated from the ocean by a pine forest. La Bolée d'Air welcomes its visitors in a peaceful setting on over 6 hectares, with 280 flat pitches clearly demarcated by natural hedges for your undisturbed enjoyment.

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St-Vincent-sur-Jard is located near the harbour town of Jard-sur-Mer. This region is well known for its menhirs, the large rocks and megaliths that are known as dolmens by the locals. Most of them can be found in the village Le Bernard, a few kilometres inland. Make sure to at least visit the Dolmen de Frébouchère.

Discover Clemenceau museum, Avrillé & Talmont Saint Hilaire castles, Cour d'Aron flower gardens, La Pointe du Payré... Indulge, at your leisure, in the many sports activities, including watersports (surfing, sailing, diving, fishing...), golf, horse-riding... And there are some beautiful walks to be had via the pedestrian trails & cycle paths...



Special booking form required, please speak to Colin and Diane Richardson.

Mobile 07802 187292

Email:

chair@bedscentrecc.com

Bedfordshire Jours



A few of our members had a trip away without their caravan up to sunny Scotland, a good time was had by all with a superb hotel and a good coach driver, I think there are thoughts to return to sunny Scotland next year and in true Bedfordshire style they held a short flag pole where plaques were presented to travellers as a memento



Welcome to *Chairmans Chat*

Dear All,

Welcome to 2013 where we have already experienced some truly great Rallies. We toasted in the New Year at Gamlingay and returned a few weeks later to celebrate Burns in true Beds style. Despite the fall of snow this didn't dampen the celebrations with many thawing out on copious amounts of whisky!

Valentines and the Murder Mystery were both well attended with over 30 outfits. With many of these rallies growing in popularity please book in early to avoid disappointment.

For those of you who are dusting down the caravan and preparing it for the new season ahead our 2013 programme sees us returning to some old and classic venues along with some new to explore.

We return to Etonbury Academy for our events so ferment your wine and flavoured spirits, create your chutney and get ready to bake those cakes in the van or motorhome! We also return to the prolific water front setting at Great Barford for the HCIR and its infamous Saturday night entertainment.

With new additions including Trimmley Suffolk, Marston Moretaine Forest Centre and May Day away to Tattingstone Suffolk and a summer holiday rally to La Bollee in the Vendee France.

This year hosts the Chairman's Charity Rally at Maulden in aid of the British Heart Foundation which promises some fun and games for all at its charity fete.

The officers, committee, Diane and I wish you and your families all a very happy Easter and an enjoyable season wherever it takes you, look forward to seeing you soon on the rally field.

Kind Regards

Colin Richardson

Chairman

Bedfordshire Centre of the Caravan Club

Where was you?

It's Friday evening, the 25th Jan 2013, The car and caravan are fully loaded and when I say loaded I mean loaded. We have the food and drink to feed 110 people a five course meal for Burns Night. Caroline is following in her car, again fully loaded. As we arrive at Gamlingay, we are greeted by the Siting team, who I might add on this very cold and wet night, still had a smile for us as we arrived. How do they keep smiling when it's so cold and wet?

The caravan was very quickly in place with some help and all of a sudden the bodies arrived to unload the food & wine, pots & pans and the caravan and cars are very soon empty.

As we go into the Kitchen and the hall, the work has already started, tables & chairs are being put out, the kitchen is being got ready and the ovens are warming ready to take the beef. Very soon the warm aroma of beef roasting in the oven fills the air, and I think it's good to be back at Gamlingay A lot of work done, it's now time to have a sit down, a drink and a chatter.



Saturday morning arrives and it's all hands on deck as vegetables are prepared, Billy the Beef, slices the beef, ably assisted by Jill. There's a team in the Kitchen working hard and a team hard working on the hall, there's some fun and banter as we all muck in and work together getting ready for the evening.

Times getting on and I must have a shower and shave and get my kilt on. That done and back in the hall ready for the start, Colin & Diane at the ready to welcome the ralliers, and away we go.

A five course meal, speeches and toasts, one to the lassies, one to the laddies, one to the queen and many more. The haggis is piped in and then addressed, the scotch is passed around, as is the sherry. The meal complete the toasts all done, it's now time for Scotch on the Rocks and as the music starts. There's no time for sitting down as the dance floor fills with people just ready for some fun and to dance the night away.



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Steve's big four 2013 In memory of Rita Kennedy

Between April 14th and September 1st 2013, Steve our eldest son, probably better known to all the Beds Centre as "Oliver's daddy" will be taking part in four long distance running events in memory of his beloved Nan who passed away in November 2012, after a long battle with Wegener's Granulomatosis. This is a rare condition, with around 500 people diagnosed each year in the UK. It does not currently receive any direct NHS funding, so donations to the Wegener's Trust are vital for treatment and research into the condition.

Charity Registration No: 251983 The Wegener's Trust under the umbrella of The Guy's and St Thomas Charity, uses donations to fund research and treatment.

You can help by making an online donation using the link below

<http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/stevehorton-wegeners>

Or by sponsoring Steve on a sponsor form; which we as his parents have in the caravan, all donations however small are most gratefully received.....every little helps and will make a difference to somebody suffering with this awful disease.

A Centre member for over 30 years, Rita would have been extremely proud of Steve, we know we are as his parents, finding the time to train at this level with a very young family and a full time job in no mean feat in itself.

What Steve describes as a few hours of physical exertion is a mammoth undertaking for even the hardiest of runners.

Brighton Marathon – the first of the four events

Coniston marathon – the marathon takes in a complete circuit of Coniston water, described by runners as the most scenic trail marathon in Britain

Adidas thunder run – 24 hour road relay race, testing tactics, endurance, speed and teamwork

Ring of Fire – is an annual **131 mile** coastal ultra marathon, circumnavigating the Isle of Anglesey, North Wales

Thanks for your support for this worthy cause, we know it won't help mum now, but if it helps the 500 people that are diagnosed this year, then some good will come out of Steve's commitment to a good cause

Thanks again

Tom & Caz Gilks

The Burn's Night Rally is one on the best rallies in the rally programme, and I don't want to mention names, but feel I must offer a big thank you to all that spent the weekend working behind the curtains to make this rally so successful, this rally is a credit to the Bedfordshire Centre and the team that make it work. If you want to be there next year, you need to book in very quickly.

My thanks to all.

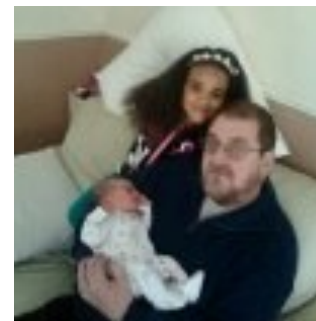
Tom Gilks,

Hon Centre Secretary.



CONGRATULATION'S

To Janet & Lawrie Coleman on the birth of there second grandchild
Darnell Lawrence Paul Hogg
weighing in at 8lb 10oz on
1st March



Rally Report



New Year Rally 2012/13

On arriving at the rally its always good to catch up with old friends & new to talk about how Christmas went.

Over a nice cup f tea, and a baked potato, we paid our rally fee, and found out what exciting things we would be getting up to in the next few days. The theme for the rally is back to school.

The next day brought us a school diner at lunchtime, I wish our school dinners were as good in my day, and in the evening it was the prom, it was nice to see all the ladies dressed in there best dresses and the men in suits, how smart they looked.

The next day we had a lovely Sunday roast dinner with all the trimmings which was really nice, followed by a quiz by Kathryn everyone had a good time, later that evening we had a great night of entertainment.

New years eve started with a full English breakfast with tea & coffee and in the afternoon we took part in a activity with sticking of pictures and making play dough caravans and trying to make parachutes for eggs “a smashing time was had by all”

It was school uniform night with all the “girls & boys” looking good in their gym slips and shorts, Beds Got Talent was a great good variety of acts with lots of laughs for all “well done Win Eaton & crew” ...cheese & port was served to the tables. Toms disco finished new years eve off perfectly, bringing 2013 with fun and laughter and hugs from good friends.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER AMAZING NEW YEAR

Maureen, Tom, Carolyn & Dale.

Contact your Rallygoer Editor

Martin Findlay



123 Dells Lane
Biggleswade
Beds.



SG18 8LD
01767 222097



rallygoeditor@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

RALLY FEES UPDATE.

12—14 April	Etonbury	£22.50
3— 6 May	Gamlingay	£32.50
16—20 May	Wansford	£10.00 per night
24—02 June	Drayton Leisure	£ 9.00 per night
28—30 June	Grafham	£25.22
2— 4 Aug	Kimbolton	£22.50
10—23 Aug	Happisburgh	£ 9.75 per night
23—31 Aug	Kings Lynn	£12.60 per night
20—22 Sep	Alameda School	£15.00
11—13 Oct	Alameda School	£23.50
17—21 Oct	Brighton	£57.90
25—27 Oct	Arnold Academy	£23.50
22—24 Nov	Caroline Haslett	£14.50

WRITE TO THE SECRETARY

If you have a concern about a Centre matter, a complaint or just a question regarding any Centre Business then please write to me as the CentreSecretary to:~ Tom Gilks, 4 Stratford Way, Lower Shelton, Beds MK43 0LJ
or email me at secretary@bedscentrecc.com I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Tom.

New Year Rally 2013/14

This rally is now full, but we have a waiting list in place and therefore if people wish to be on the waiting list they should still send rally slip to:-

Tom Gilks, 4 Stratford Way, Lower Shelton, Beds MK43 0LJ



My name is Carrie Irvin and I have been a member of the Beds Centre for many years, as a child with my parents Jim and Barbara Pallett and for the past 17 years with my husband Mike.

At the end of this year, 2013, I turn 40 and I thought it was time to do something a little bit different!

I am in training.....serious training.....for my MoonWalk on Saturday 11th May 2013. Ok, so I'm not actually going to walk on the Moon, but I am going to walk 26.2miles, at night, in London, in my bra!! I am part of a team and I walk with three very dear friends and 2 new friends. The six of us, as the Sandye Strollers, are walking to raise money for charity, a charity close to all our hearts.

Since 11th November when I got the official notification that I'd paid my entry fee and my place was confirmed I have walked over 166 miles.....that's already over 6 full marathons! I have a long way to go still in building my stamina to walk the full distance in one go, but with my training plan, I know I can do it!

I have an online donation page and if you could spare a pound to sponsor me, I'd be very grateful! (please see the link above). If you sponsor me online, it gets straight to the charity and the generous tax man will give that extra 25p for every £1 donated. If you are allergic to donating online, I will have a paper sponsor form with me at all times!

In 2012, I donated and supported a group of 7 inspirational ladies from Clifton and Henlow who did the MoonWalk.....little did I know then that I'd be following in their footsteps. They raised a staggering amount of money, fantastic when you think that each and every one of them has been affected by cancer, either being affected themselves, or having loved ones affected.

Walking has changed my life and I hope that my MoonWalk on Saturday 11th May will help save lives and change someone else's life, like mine has!

I have become a little bit addicted to walking, so have no fear, you will see me in my bright pink walking gear on the rally field....very soon!

Many thanks for reading,

Carrie Irvin



Rally Report

Valentines Rally



Where do I start, in June 2012 our caravan was hit by a massive hailstone storm while away on holiday in France. This cause thousands of pounds worth of damage and we have been waiting nine months for Bailey's to get it back to new. New Roof, sides front and back panel. Total make over. Having arranged for this to be sorted out by February we booked into the Beds Centre Valentine's weekend. Having enjoyed last years so much we thought we would give it another bash. So Wednesday last week we travelled down to Bristol to collect the caravan, having not been to enamoured with Baileys, (That's another big story). On the way down we got a phone call to tell us on moving our caravan into the Collection Bay, guess what they damaged the new side they have just replaced. Having now collected our caravan as we had told them we needed to go away for the weekend, we dragged it home and they were to collect it again on Tuesday to take it back to Bristol.

We get home lightly pack for the pending weekend, and guess what when hitching up at 5 pm Friday the car would not start, we were doomed to say the least. I was really getting browned off. Not the most romantic of weekends.

After counting to ten on Saturday morning, Alan fiddled with the stuff under the bonnet and hey ho it started up. By this time I had gone off the whole idea.

So we decided to go the rally just for the evening just in case anything else went wrong!!.

We are so glad we went as the evening was really superb.

Dinner piping hot and very tasty, served well by the handsome gents in their finery. The tables looked beautiful.

The singer, well what can I say the chap sung all night, no breaks what a star. The tunes were from the 60's and we all knew the words.

I can safely say all the Herts members whom attended the rally had a really great evening. Well Done Beds Centre, you never know we might have better luck next year.

Many thanks again

Sandie & Alan Evans

Social Fees

It is the centres policy that junior social fees apply to all children from the age of three to sixteen unless stated otherwise. On reaching sixteen a full adult fee applies.

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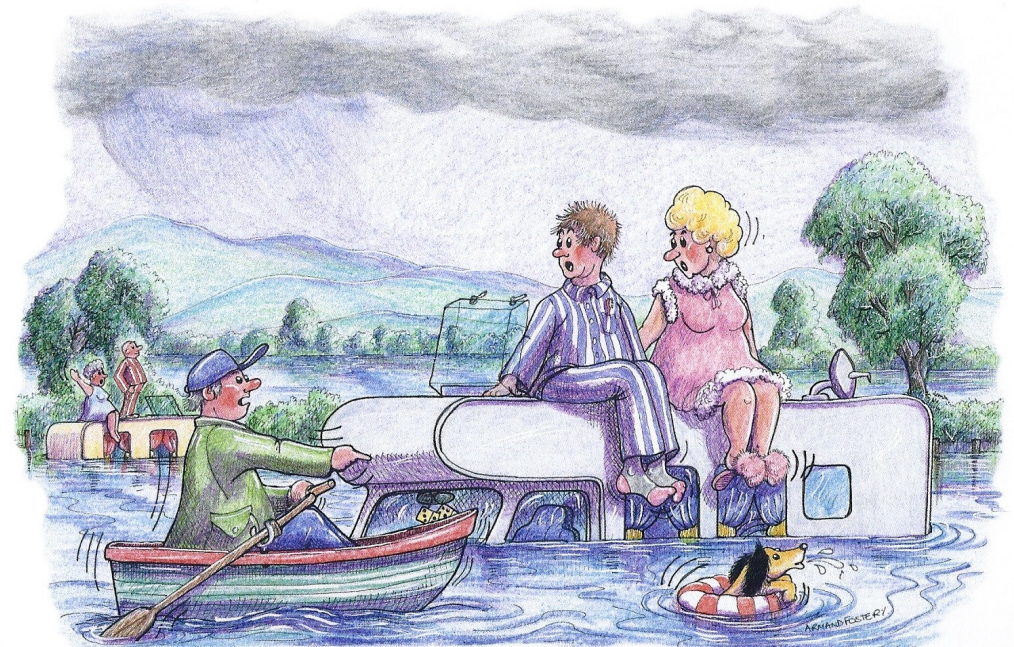
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"If you don't put that dog on a lead, I'll have to ask you to leave the site."

Rally Program Update

Rally 21 24 May—02 June Bambury—Drayton Leisure
Rally officers have been found for this rally.
Rally Officer: Maureen & John Gauge/Jenny & Les Lambert
Please send slips to Mr J Gauge Tel: 01480 383579

Rally 26 28—30 June Grafham Water
Rally officers have now been found for this rally
Rally Officer: Maureen & Tom Leath/Dale & Caroline Findlay
Please send slips to Mr T Leath Tel:- 01767 312439

Rally 34 16-18 Aug Little Staughton
Rally officers have now been found for this rally
Rally Officers: Clive & Brenda Burgess
Please send slips to Mr C Burgess Tel:-01582 416615

Rally 39 30 Aug—01 Sept Ashwell
Rally officers have now been found for this rally
Rally Officers:- Bronya & Martin Findlay/Jenny & Roland Wagstaff
Please send slips to Mr M Findlay Tel:- 01767 222097

Rally 46 11 13 Oct Amphil Alameda Academy
Change of rally officers & now this is a barn dance, see message below
Rally Officers:- Caroline & Tom Gilks/Jo & Andy Gray
Please Send slips to : Mr T Gilks Tel:- 01234 765245

Rally 54 22—24 Nov Milton Keynes—Caroline Haslett School
Rally officers have now been found for this rally
Rally Officers :- Teresa & John Wilson
Please Send slips to :- Mr J Wilson Tel:- 01908 503224

"Harvest Supper Rally ~ 11 - 13 October 2013. Due to a change in Rally Officers, please note that this rally is no longer a Harvest Supper Rally, but will now be held as a Barn Dance with Bangers & Mash Supper. Rally Officers are Tom & Caz Gilks with Andy & Jo, Rally Slips should be sent to :-
Tom Gilks, 4 Stratford Way, Lower Shelton, Beds, MK43 0LJ.

RALLY OFFICERS REQUIRED.

22-26 August Clapham Twinwoods Airfield



**Attractions Intercentre Challenge,
Dog Show, Children's Entertainer,
Ploughman's Lunch, Trade Stands**



**Scarecrow Themed Friday Night
Fancy Dress, M & J Disco**

**Other Attractions Crafts, Mutt Run, Fun Run,
Country Stalls.**



**Dress up in 60's Style for
Saturday Night**

**Contact your Centre Liaison Officer or
email :- alangpevans@gmail.com**



Northern Home Counties Region

As you will know the Northern Home Counties was put in suspension at the Regional AGM in November 2012 the reason for this was because no nominations were put forward for the position of Vice Chairman & Secretary, Diane Cook as Treasurer and myself as Chairman, had the job to find two people to fill these positions, not an easy task, but it was before we left the Rally that some Beds centre members had come forward to ask if they could help, after speaking to them, they decided that they were not able to take up the position, may I thank them for taking the time to consider being a Regional Officer.

The week following the AGM was a busy time for Diane and myself along with the caravan club officials sorting things out, then two people put their names forward, Phil Batchelor past Hertfordshire and Regional Chairman put up for Vice Chairman and Ray Daniels also past Chairman of the Hertfordshire Centre put up for Secretary, they were considered and co-opted on.

A very positive Regional council meeting was held in January and the officers and delegates discussed the future of the Region and it has been decided we will be holding 'Meet the members' weekend (formerly called a road show) at the Burford club site 22/23 June this year, and on the 5th October we will be holding a 'Your club in your Region' (formerly called question time) at a venue yet to be confirmed, but hopefully it will be on the borders of our county, you will be informed as soon as possible.

Speakers will attend some Regional Council meetings, usually they are Club Officials explaining their role within the Caravan Club this is reported via the centre Delegates back to the Centre Committee, but some are from the caravan trade with an insight to their workings.

The region is there to also help you, recently you would have received a copy of 'Your guide to Centre rallies' the Region worked hard to get this put back in the club Magazine but after some time passed it was decided by club to print it as a separate booklet, it's back but in a slightly different format. If you have any issues with caravanning contact the Region you never know we may be able to point you in the right direction for help.

I'm the council Representative for your region and I attend club council meetings in London reporting back to your Centre Delegates, and it is possible for me to speak directly on your behalf at these meetings, if you have any issues or questions please contact me .

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support shown to me

Kind Regards,
John Moules
Regional Chairman.

Holiday rally 24th May - 1st June 2013



FREE WIFI

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT :-

MAUREEN & JOHN GAUGE OR JENNY & LES LAMBERT

www.draytonleisure.co.uk

EDITORS NOTES

If you are arranging a social event on your rally that is not advertised in the rally book, then let the secretary and myself know.

I'm hoping to put out every month a flyer sheet telling ralliers what is happening on rallies over the coming months. If you require the Rallygoer mailed out to you (Easter, May & September) please supply me with 3 x 1st class stamps & your address.

Martin Findlay
Rallygoer Editor



CHRISTMAS ~ NEW YEAR ~ BURNS NIGHT

December January February is a time of the year when we have most expensive rallies and a number of people have asked if they can pay for these rallies month by month and not be hit with a big bill in November, December.

This is not a problem if you would like to attend these rallies, firstly you should send me a rally slip as soon as possible as these rallies are now filling fast.

You should also contact me to let me know you want to pay for them monthly etc, and we can then sort this out for you. The best way of course is to give me a number of post dated cheques that I can then bank as and when they are dated for. You may want to pay a different way and of course we will see what we can do for you, but please get in contact with me so that we can discuss the best way for you.

Please remember to send me your rally slip as soon as possible, to:~

Tom Gilks, 4 Stratford Way, Lower Shelton,

Bedfordshire, MK43 0LJ

Letters/E-Mails

Your chance to communicate with your fellow ralliers

"Just back from another fantastic weekend away in the caravan (despite the venue that made me think I had awoken at the services on the M25 this morning) I just wanted to drop a note to say a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to Jerry and the Cast of the Murder Mystery (including the mystery witnesses!) What a **FANTASTIC** evening we had (despite the cold hall).

Well done Jerry for pulling together an excellent weekend of entertainment! I am not a lover of American Suppers.....but that was excellent too. Thank you to everyone for such an amazing spread of food and for Mo and Karen working hard in the background.

All in all, a fab weekend. Thank you Beds Centre for being so amazing. 2013 should be an amazing year if this is how it starts!!

Carrie Irvin"

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Rally Report



Murder Mystery Weekend Rally

We arrived at Redbourn school on Friday evening and after wining and dining in our vans met up in the school hall for the start of our Murder Mystery weekend. Gerry Waite introduced us to the members of the finance dept of Phatal Pharmaceuticals, who looked a dubious bunch from the start. They all then gave us a brief outline of their positions in the company and other relevant information about themselves. Sir Maxwell Moneybags, Chief Executive of the company was, one of these, but unfortunately was very soon found dead at his desk, poisoned by a new medicine "Heart Humper" which had been developed by a rival company. Gerry then handed out packs containing information on each of the characters and invited us to solve the heinous crime which had been committed. After a day pondering over the relevant information we had been given, we met up on Saturday evening and was introduced to Inspector Shilling, who incidentally looked remarkably like Gerry, who had been brought in to find the killer. There was then three acts, between which we enjoyed our American supper, with all the characters protesting their innocence establishing alibis and trying to pin the blame on each other, and with a good deal of banter from the floor. With Inspector Shilling questioning the suspects, we set about trying to ascertain who had murdered Sir Maxwell Moneybags. Eventually after much deliberation each table gave their decision of who had done it and the motive. With many different names put forward, Inspector Shilling gave his reasons behind his decision as to who the murderer was. This turned out to be Molly the secretary with the help of an accomplice, who was a surprise witness, who incidentally she had been having a bit of a fling with. The winning table was duly rewarded with a well earned prize. We must thank Gerry and his team for all their hard work in putting together a great weekend of intrigue and fun which was enjoyed by us all.

Teresa & John Wilson.

May Day Bank Holiday Weekend 3rd to the 6th May 2013 At Tattingstone Suffolk

Come and enjoy a long weekend in the pictures region of the Stour Valley Suffolk, with fabulous walks and a wide variety of places to visit and things to occupy the whole family.

We rally in the back yard of the White Horse Public House in the Suffolk village of Tattingstone, which is located within walking distance of the Alton Water that offers an eight-mile cycle or a brisk walking track around the Anglian Water Reservoir. Take in the sites of the wildlife including wild Muntjac Deers and a variety of birds native to Lakes and Forests, together with the fresh country air of Suffolk, and on your return to your caravan, be rewarded by the real ale or pub grub and local hospitality of the White Horse Pub. Close by, which is less than 5 miles in any direction, is Jimmy's Farm, the TV Personality Jimmy Doherty who owns the famous farm who hosts a very close friend of his on many occasions, Jamie Oliver, who now has a say in the menu of the new restaurant and cafe which has just opened on the farm. The kids will love the animals and the experience of the farm and the adults will love the food and the events of that weekend which is "Steak Night with Red Wine Pairings" in the Restaurant on Friday the 3rd May or "Produce and Craft Market" on the farm on Saturday 4th May.

Also close by in one direction is Dedham Vale, which is famous for the painter John Constable whose famous pictures include the Flatford Mill and the Essex Village of Dedham and its surrounding countryside. The new Suffolk Food Hall close to the Orwell Bridge, offers more local food and its adjoining Garden Centre. Along the way from here is the town of Shotley, famous for its Naval Training Base and its protected dry land ships mast. In the other direction is Ipswich with its new marina waterside for even more good food and entertainment. If you want to go slightly further a field approximately 10 miles out is Woodbridge with its old town and quaint waterfront full of activities along with antiques and local craft centres.

Given all these delights and more, see the rally officers for full details of the surrounding area activities, how can you afford to miss this Mayday Weekend with the Bedfordshire Centre of the Caravan Club in Suffolk?

See you all there then!!!

*Rally Officers Vic and Cathy Saunders, Pete and Andrea
McDonald and George and Val Atkinson, better known as the Essex Gnomes.*