



We are delighted you have chosen to join the 'Cheshire Centre' of the Caravan and Motorhome Club and on behalf of the Members and from the Committee we welcome you to our Centre.

The Cheshire Centre is one of the largest and most active centres, organising rallies throughout the year. Events are organised for all ages and at times you may see three generations of a family out on the field. Some rallies are quiet, 'free and easy' events whilst others more lively with fun and games or rallies may be planned to coordinate with other local events. Events are organised by and for its members who appoint a Committee to coordinate their programme (more Committee details on the website or in the Rally Handbook). My name is Bill Taylor and I, along with my wife Chris, have been in caravans and motorhomes for about 35 years. I am your New Rallier Liaison Officer

COVID 19 Restrictions. The description of Rallies below is in 'normal' times. The Centre operates under guidelines provided by the CAMC. These are updated each time the Government issues new laws or guidance. For the latest details please check the Cheshire Centre website.

and its my role to make new members feel welcome.

What is a Rally? – Rallies are gatherings of members who share the pleasure of being out and about in their Vans (caravan or motorhome). At a basic level they are opportunities to get away to different venues (often much cheaper than campsites) and enjoy time on your own or to meet up with other likeminded people. On 'free and easy' events there may be a short gathering of members at the start or end of the rally to share information about local amenities or Centre events but then its up to you how you spend your time. Other rallies are planned around particular events (village fetes, dancing, sporting or leisure activities, bonfire night, murder mystery, Cheshire Show, Food Festival etc) though its still up to you how much you choose to take part. Some rallies will be on recognised campsites with facilities whilst others more basic, perhaps on a field, where the only facility is a water tap and a place to empty your elsan (Make sure your battery is charged up!).

We do hope you will find and make friends on a Rally and the purpose of this letter is to make it as easy as possible!

How do I get started? – You can start to look at the year's programme on our website: cheshirecentre.co.uk or you can get a printed copy of the Rally Handbook available at Rally events or you can download a copy of the Rally Handbook through the website. Most people will find the public website a good starting point which will show you basic details of forthcoming rallies. For more detailed information you may need to enter the secure log-in page where you can apply to the 'webmaster' for fuller access that will allow you to contact the people directly who are organising the rally (ordinary members who act as Rally Officers). Either on the website or in the Rally Handbook you will find the Rally Booking Form to complete and send off to join the rally. Before sending off your form just check on the website in case you rally has been marked as FULL (as some rallies are very popular). However, you might still contact the Rally Officers as some rallies hold a WAITING LIST so that if someone drops out, their places are offered to those on the waiting list. Most rallies are paid for by sending a cheque with the booking form to the Rally Officers but if you look on the website in future we will be trialling a new 'on-line' payment method on some rallies.

Getting There – Follow the directions in the Handbook! It will normally include a postcode but the rally details sometimes include a warning for NO SATNAVS because some routes may be difficult for towed or long vehicles. As you approach the venue you will see signs like this to guide you into the correct location.



On Arrival – You will be greeted by one of the Rally Officers (ROs). These are the ordinary members who volunteered to arrange and run the rally. Let them know you are a new rallier and they will help you. They will direct you to a particular parking spot. This is important to ensure compliance with fire safety and to avoid those areas where parking could be problematic. They will point out any key facilities (water points, elsan disposal or other facilities). The Rally Officers may have prepared a printed programme for you and there is often a short meeting once others have arrived – ‘opening flag’ where the Rally Officers will share any information about the rally. (sometimes tea and biscuits are offered to lure you in!). This is a great opportunity to say Hello and introduce yourselves to others. We have all felt a little awkward on our first rally so we are always keen to welcome new members and make them feel welcome.

During the rally if you have any concerns please speak to the ROs first. Constructive criticism is welcome as we always try to improve. Also on the rally will be a member of the Committee who will act as Rally Chairman and complaints and compliments can be directed to them. If you see a yellow flag flying it means that movement of vehicles on site is restricted – the commonest reason being when ground is soft or wet, to avoid churning up the field. If you need to drive speak to rally officers first, who will advise. At the end of the rally there is usually a short gathering, referred to as ‘Flag’ to round off events. If you must travel earlier then please let the ROs know and try to avoid leaving during Flag. When you leave please leave your plot clean and tidy as we like to return the site to the landowner as we found it. Thanks.

Photography and drones - Should you take pictures throughout the weekend on a rally field, courtesy should be shown to those who won't want to be recorded or published via social media. If there is doubt, please speak with the rally officers and rally chairman. Details of the centre policy can be read on the Centre website
The use of drones above the caravans on a rally is not permitted. Please follow the drone code.

You can contact me for more information at – newrallierliaison@cheshirecentre.co.uk . I look forward to meeting you soon.

Bill Taylor