



LEICESTERSHIRE

Tow Torque Oct 2006



www.leicscentre.org.uk

Chairman's Chat Lines

Welcome to our 1st edition of Tow Torque.

First of all, may I say how honoured (and a little nervous) I am to be your Chairman for the coming year.

Your new committee is:

- Vice Chairman - Brain Ray
- Secretary – Andy Haigh
- Treasurer – Dave Shuttleworth
- Rally Secretary – Nick Barber
- Ass. Rally Secretary – Dave Daniell
- Advertising Secretary – Sharon Eason
- Rally Equipment Officer – John Beadman
- Sports Officer – Nick Rosen
- Ass. Sports Officer/Motor Sports – Martin Stevenson
- Social Secretary – John Jarvis
- Press Officer – Jude Rosen

My thanks go to them all for volunteering

I look forward to the coming year, which should be a little easier than the last one. I feel I must thank Kevin for the leadership and fun he brought to the Chairman's post. He will be a hard act to follow, but I'll do my very best.

The Inter Centre and Belvoir brought an unbelievable amount of work, a lot of it guess work. HELP!! was a word used a great deal during the planning stages and PANIC!! what most of us went through at some point during the rallies themselves. As some of you know Roy was taken ill during the Inter Centre, so I was torn between organising the Volleyball and putting another disinfected bucket in front of him. I was so grateful for all the help I was given during the weekend and it's at times like that you realize what rallying is all about, to me it says true friendship.

Nick has drawn up a great programme for next year so can I ask that you give the marshals all the help you can by booking on early. It will give them a much better chance to arrange their entertainment for you, so providing a more interesting weekend.

As your new Chairman, I have made my first executive decision. I have decided to have a Chairman's Charity.

- Rainbows
- LOROS
- The Air Ambulance

I feel are all very worthy causes and of course local to our area. We all hope we never need their services, but most of us know someone who has been very grateful for their help at some time.

Billie and Dave have agreed to organize it for me, so my thanks must go to them.

The first donation from the bonus ball at Desford has gone into the pot so we are up and running.

I've probably waffled on long enough now, so can I just say have a great rallying year, and don't forget my door is always open. (just don't let the rabbit out.)

Sheila and Roy.

Report on the AGM at Bosworth College, Desford

The attendance at this year's AGM reached an all time low, with only 49 Members and partners bothering to go (Full, Joint and Family). From that point of view it was very disappointing.

It was actually a really good meeting, well presented and at times quite humorous (did you know we won the Inter Centre *Alf Chapman Cup*?) but there was no vote, no questions asked, no comments made, no issues raised – *'there were no wrecks and nobody drowned, ' fact nothing to laugh at all,'* to quote Marriott Edgar's *The Lion and Albert*. Obviously the outgoing Committee was doing a perfectly wonderful job. No-one can say otherwise or maybe they might have put themselves forward for election. "NO!" I hear you say, "I don't want to get involved". Well you should. It's your Centre; you have as much say in its running as anyone else.

The evening entertainment, provided by singer Tammy (no not that one) was excellent. Even though there was a danger of the few of us who were there, rattling around the hall, she managed to get us all up dancing and filling the space and we had a really great evening. What a shame a lot of you missed out.

We must thank our guests from the East Warwickshire Centre, who, although they had little to do at the AGM meeting, joined in and I think also thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Andy Haigh
Hon. Secretary

Marshal Wanted

Your Centre Needs You!!!

We still require a Marshal for the rally at:

RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

August 10th – 12th 2007

There is 2 electric points on site for the Marshals to utilise, either for their own use or for an outdoor social – the choice is yours.

There is no limit for this venue, which is a beautiful site adjacent to the A46 North bound from Leicester.

There is a hall on site which will be available if required.

See Nick Barber as soon as possible if you are interested in putting your name forward for this wonderful site.

Treasurer's Talk

Hi I have been asked to pen a few words for Tow Torque, Just to let you know who I am and what my aspirations are whilst serving on YOUR committee. I say your committee because I believe any Committee is only there to help its electorate.

Firstly I have owned a caravan for about 13 years, and have been a member of the Caravan Club for the same time. I went on my first Rally about 10 years ago with a Club not associated with the Caravan Club. It was about 3 years later whilst caravanning at Butlin's Skegness that I got talking to a fellow caravanner who was on a rally being held at Butlin's. Whilst talking to this chap I found out about Caravan Club Centres and about Caravan Club Rallies. Upon returning home from Skegness I registered with my local centre (South Staff's, I lived in Stafford at the time). I then started to rally with the South Staffs. I moved to Leicester in Dec 2000 and soon after registered with the Leicester Centre. I have probably attended about 40 + rallies I am aware that this is not a high number, but I find I cannot do as many rallies as I would like due to other commitments at the Church I attend.

I applied for a position on the Leicester Centre Committee as I enjoy taking an active part in the running and organising of groups. I have never served on a Caravan Club Committee before but have served in most positions from Chairman, Treasurers PR Officer ETC on many other committees.

I am not afraid to stand up and be counted. I do believe that whatever committee I serve upon I am there to forward the views of the electorate and not just sit quietly and listen, sometimes this does not make me the most popular person round the table. I believe I am serving on your committee for the benefits of YOU and not for myself. I consider myself to be there to represent YOU! To that end if you have any questions comments or dare I say criticisms please give me a call and let me know. I may not be able to answer your questions or solve your problem immediately but I assure you that I will represent your views to the full Committee. That way at least we can say democracy has taken its course.

David Shuttleworth
Hon Treasurer.

Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about ten things teenagers will not learn in school. He spoke about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation with no concept of reality and how

this set them up for failure in the real world:

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it !

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something **before** you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will **not** make £30,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has **not**. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as **many times** as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to **anything** in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you **find yourself**. Do that in your own time.

Rule 10: Television is **not** real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Post script: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

Sent by Dave Shuttleworth

Rally Programme 2007 – 2008

| Date | Venue | Attraction | Marshal |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 16 th -18 th Mar | Hallaton | Mothers Day | R. Collings |
| 6 th -10 th April | ** Henley on Thames | Easter | P. Sutton |
| 13 th -15 th Apr | Stanford Hall | | P. Nealon |
| 20 th -22 nd Apr | Donington Park Farm | | D. Eason |
| 4 th -7 th May | ** Moreton in t Marsh | May Day | A. Haigh |
| 11 th -13 th May | Bitteswell | Sports/Motor Sports Open Forum | A. Barber |
| 18 th -20 th May | Woodhouse Eaves | | D. Simms |
| 25 th -30 th May | Blenheim Palace | National | K. Taylor |
| 8 th -10 th June | ** Quorn Lodge | | K. Weston |
| 15 th -17 th June | Oak Hill Leisure Norton Disney Lincs | Lincs Intercentre | T. Tyler |
| 22 nd -24 th June | Prestwold Hall | Chairman's Rally & Boule Comp. | S. Wills |
| 29 th -1 st July | **Glebe Garden Centre | . | A. Spencer |
| 6 th -8 th July | Kilworth Sticks | | D. Eason |
| 13 th -15 th July | Rempstone Steam Fair | | D. Shuttleworth |
| 20 th -22 nd July | Hatton Country World | | T. Hooper |
| 27 th -29 th July | Lyndon Top | Golf Comp | M. Garnham |
| 3 rd -5 th Aug | High Cross | | A. Goddard |
| 10 th -12 th Aug | Ratcliffe College | Rally Launch | Marshal Required |
| 17 th -19 th Aug | Conkers/Moria Miners | | J. Jarvis |
| 24 th -28 th Aug | Woodland Waters | August Bank | N. Rosen |
| 31 st -2 nd Sept | Intercentre Fishing | | No Marshal |
| 7 th -9 th Sept | Brooksby | Sports/Swim/CycloCross Open Forum | N Barber |
| 14 th -16 th Sep | Desford Bird Garden | | M. Bradshaw |
| 21 st -23 rd Sep | Drayton Manor | Zoo and Park | D Shuttleworth |
| 28 th -30 th Sept | Ullesthorpe GC | | J Jarvis |
| 5 th -7 th Oct | Seagrave V/H | AGM & Rally Forum | R. Wills |
| 19 th -21 st Oct | Top Lodge CCS | Club Site | K. Chapman |
| 2 nd -4 th Nov | Copt Oak | Hallowee & RMM | J. Sutton |
| 9 th -11 th Nov | Quorn Railway | Loughborough Fair | J. Pegg |
| 23 rd -25 th Nov | N&R to advise | CR AGM | No Marshal |
| 7 th -9 th Dec | Hose V/H | Last Fling | D. Daniell |
| 29 th -1 st Jan | Manor Farm Upton | New Year | N. Rosen |
| 13 th Jan | Social sec to Advise | Winter Walk | No Marshal |
| | Holiday Rallies 2007 | | |
| 21 st July-3 rd Aug | ** Little Cotton Farm | Holiday Rally | R. Gwynne |
| 1 st -8 th Sept | Stowford Meadows | | D. Simms |
| 20 th -27 th Oct | Blackpool | Half Term | M. Stevenson |
| | 2008 | | |
| 15 th -17 th Feb | Copt Oak V/H | Valentines | K Stevenson |

** New Venue

revised -21st October 2006

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 7th January 2007 – Winter Walk. Bradgate Park and Swithland Woods.

Meet at 10.30 am, Newtown Linford Car Park, for a walk taking approx 2 hours.

There is a Pub/Café in Newtown Linford, if you are interested in a meal after the walk, please let John know early to arrange a block booking, I need to know by the end of November.

Good Boots/Shoes RECOMMENDED.

John Jarvis (Social Secretary) 0116 284 9077

Press Officer

This is my first T T in my own right, as most of you are aware I have done the job before. Last time I begged and I chased, I grovelled and I bribed, just let me tell you – things won't change!!

Things will be different - I am hoping to work with the webmaster and get a lot of T T on the net, we will be careful what we put on ie. No addresses, No phone numbers, No pictures without your permission. This will be great if you have something to sell as it will be seen by many more people than those on the rally field at the time T T is given out.

I'm afraid it is the same old nag, I need things to put in the newsletter, the more you give the more often the next issue will be out. Don't worry about sending things early, if you wish to promote your rally in November next year that's fine with me. You never know, slips may come flooding in and you could be fully booked with a waiting list by the end of March! It's all down to you! If you send it to me either by e-mail or hard copy it will be printed. If you are unsure talk to me and I will help you out as much as I can.

Most of you know who I am but for those of you who don't, this is some of my background. I started caravanning with the Caravan Club when I was 3 years old, (Nottinghamshire), my Dad was on committee in the Nottinghamshire Centre for about 18 years, he was Chairman for 3 years. I was on the Teenage Committee and served as committee member and also Secretary. I stopped caravanning with my parents when I was about 18, wanted to go clubbing with my mates. In 1990, I went to Lowham Caravans and yes you guessed it, I bought my own little caravan (and it was little).

When I got it home I spent hours in it on my drive doing it up, new curtains, new carpet, new upholstery, even new knobs on my doors. I went out for my first weekend it was brilliant, but my little van would soon have to go 'cos I was expecting Jayde. Got my next caravan after Jayde was born and she did her first rally when she was 6 weeks old, Jodie came along and she didn't rally until she was about 12 weeks. I went on committee in the Notts Centre and served as Press Officer and Club Equipment. In 1997 I joined the Leicestershire Centre and moved in with Nick we had Jess and she did her first rally at 1 week old. I have helped Nick out with his committee jobs as Club Equipment, Press and Social Secretary and Sports Officer in the last 9 years. I have now decided to go on the committee, so I can keep an eye on him at the meetings held once a month (joke).

I did not put my nomination in for a badge or a plaque in my caravan window, it was to give something to the Leicester Centre, 'your' centre. I do believe that we all go caravanning for the same reason – to enjoy a leisure pursuit, and meeting people from all walks of life, it is human nature that we will not all get on or see eye to eye all the time – 'but that's life'. Everyone has an opinion, and opinions should be heard, it makes for a better understanding of life.

Jude

Sports Torque

Prestwold Hall 12 – 14 May

First time for us at this venue but not the first time for the Centre, what a brilliant place!

The Sports took place on Saturday lunchtime, it had to be finished in time for watching the F.A. Cup Final, so as Tony Tyer set up the satellite dish in the party tents, the sports took place. 22 children took part in the races, and as Jude had gone off in the car to take Jo to the hospital, Jackie Haigh came to the rescue and got her potatoes out, as it is rather difficult to do a potato and pail race with half the stuff missing.

I must thank the parents for bringing the children to the first sporting event of the year.

Megan and Hannah Bushell, Charlotte and Joshua Gwynne, Kerys Stevenson, Joe Barber, Emily and Joshua Wills, Blake and Bradley Sheffield, Jessica Rosen, Megan and Charlotte Davey, James and Jacob Hibbet, Ryan Davies, Hailey and Katie Fern, Lottie and Dan Harvey, Jack Pegg and Alana Yates.

I would like to thank the team who helped me at this event from marking out the track, starters, catchers and presentation team, (you know who you are!!)

Remember the National at Tatton ?

Yes that was the rally at the end of May, the very wet and boggy one, NOT within a stones throw of the arena but a hike or a bus ride.

I would like to thank all those who took part in the weekend out of 44 caravans that were Leicestershire members. We entered all but three events (Homemade Wine, Strongman, Tug 'o' War)

- Photographic - Jackie Haigh, Gina Hooper and Andy Haigh
- Baking Comp - Mandy Ottey and Kirsty Ottey (3rd in Group)
- Children's Fancy Dress – Erin Stevenson (1st Little Mermaid) and Kerys Stevenson (2nd Octopus) both in the 0 – 4 years.
- Junior Cycling - Jessica Rosen and Ross Crane (3rd in age group)
- Top Centre Quiz – Andy Haigh, Jackie Haigh, Jenny Lewendon and Team Manager Dave Berridge
- Fun Dog Show – Buster with Rob Lanning and Burtie with Gail Weston
- Darts – Alastair Lomax and Sharon Eason
- Lawn Darts – Arthur Goddard, Liz Garnham, Joshua Wills, Jessica Rosen and Emma Berridge
- It's a knockout – Martyn Stevenson, Steph Hodson, Callum Crane and Kathryn Berridge.
- Children's Sports – Megan Bushell, Jessica Rosen, Hannah Bushell (3rd), Abbey York (1st), Ryan Davies, Jodie Davies(3rd) and Kirsty Ottey.
- Petanque – Chris Cheetham, Arthur Cheetham, Kev Taylor and Martyn Garnham.
- Volleyball (open) – Nick Barber, Nick Rosen, Paul Bushell, Stu Crane, Pete Sutton, Phil Hodson, Roy Wills, Ashley Davies and Paul Wills.
- Ladies Volleyball – Andrea Barber, Krysta Stevenson, Rosie Gwynne, Nikki Wills, Louise York, Lisa Bushell, Jude Rosen and Nadine Weston.
- Fun Run – Ross Crane, Ashley Davies, James Hibbet, Jacob Hibbert, Kev Taylor, Andy Haigh, Martyn Garnham, Sue, Dave, Kat, Emma and Thomas Berridge, Nadine Weston, Kirsty, Callum and Nicole Ottey, Lisa Bushell and Rob Lanning.

The Organisers of the Volleyball Tournament was non other than 'The Wills Family' (Roy, Sheila, Paul and Nikki). What a sight seeing them crammed into a double toilet tent as base camp when the rain came.

The Walk-about which was arranged by Sheila and team, was based on promoting Leicestershire, and our 40th Birthday Bash. There are too many people to name who took part, (you know who you are!!!).

Prestwold Hall 9 – 11 June

We arrived on Friday night and there were a total of 18 vans out for the working party, we needed to get the rally field prepared for the following weekends rally. It was the Leicestershire Centre's turn to host the Inter Centre, the last time we actually hosted this rally was in 1996 at Bramcote Barracks, unfortunately the one we should have hosted 5 years ago was cancelled due to the foot and mouth (gosh! I hear you say "Was that 5 years ago?").

With all the vans in, and all the lawn mowers lined up ready for action, a team of MEN! went around doing the surveying with a bottle of amber nectar, (it was a wonderful warm evening).

Saturday morning the Blokes sprang into action, they had to do as much as possible 'cos at 4pm they were going to down tools ready for the World Cup First Round match for England against Paraguay. There were Football, Netball, Volleyball and Petanque pitches to mark out, a 16 lane running track 100m long and 5 Motor Sports tracks, B&Q did a good trade from us that weekend as every thing had to be white lined. This did not include Tommy, but he had lots of fun!

After the WC Football, Sheila had a bit of a do!!

Sunday we spent most of the morning finishing off and getting all equipment out of the way, a team also pegged out ready for next week, as we left on Sunday evening, all we were concerned about was the weather taking a turn for the worse and rain washing away the lines.

7pm Sunday night it looked good enough for Wembley!!!!!!!

Inter Centre Rally, Prestwold Hall, 16 – 18 June

Thursday afternoon we arrived, doesn't a lot happen in a week!

I ruptured my Achilles tendon and I will be in plaster for a while.

Everything looked good on the field, and the block marshals from the other centres started to arrive Notts, Derby, Lincs, and Nutty Ruts. The Motor Sports Officers came with their Tow vans and the centres who promised sports kit came with all we required. First days Panicking over!

Friday all the vans arrived, 40 for Leicestershire 120 in total.

Everyone who offered to help out was there and eager to do anything that was asked of them, and as I was neither any good to man or beast I needed all the help I could muster. My team managers were excellent.

- Football – Paul Ottey
- Netball – Krysta Stevenson
- Volleyball – Paul and Nikki Wills
- Tug 'o' War – Nick Barber
- Motor Sports Officer – Mick Bradshaw

Saturday morning saw the start of all the team events and I must thank my co-ordinators

- **Football** – Julia Crane, refs –Dave Eason, Nigel Griffiths, Mike Yeomans.
- **Netball** - Dawn and Alastair Lomax, - refs – Sue Shaw, Sue Berridge, Becky Garnham, Sally Gregory, Emillia Lenton, Nicola Worley, Ruth Cash, Christina Butler, Kat Berridge and Gill Elks.
- **Volleyball** – Sheila and Paul Wills (Roy in a new relationship with a bucket), refs – Paul Wills, Paul Bushell, Phil Hodson, Tommy Gwynne, Nick Barber, Nikki Wills and Andrea Barber.
- **Tug 'o' War** – Nick Barber
- **Petanque** – Sharon Eason, ref – Arthur Goddard
-

The Results of the Bill Peck Team Sports

Football – up to 11 years

1. Derbyshire
2. Leicestershire
3. Lincolnshire

Football - 12 – 14 years

1. Leicestershire
2. Nottinghamshire
3. Derbyshire
4. Northants and Rutland
5. Lincolnshire

Football – 15 – 19 years

1. Derbyshire
2. Nottinghamshire
3. Leicestershire
4. Northants and Rutland
5. Lincolnshire

Football - Over 35's

1. Lincolnshire
2. Derby
3. Northants and Rutland and Leicestershire

Netball – up to 12 years

1. Derbyshire
2. Leicestershire
3. Nottinghamshire
4. Lincolnshire
5. Northants and Rutland

Netball – 13 – 15 years

1. Derbyshire
2. Nottinghamshire
3. Leicestershire
4. Northants and Rutland
5. Lincolnshire

Netball – 16 years and over

1. Lincolnshire
2. Northants and Rutland
3. Derbyshire
4. Leicestershire
5. Nottinghamshire

Volleyball – Open

1. Leicestershire
2. Lincolnshire
3. Nottinghamshire
4. Derbyshire
5. Northants and Rutland

Volleyball – Ladies

1. Lincolnshire
2. Leicestershire
3. Derbyshire
4. Northants and Rutland
5. Nottinghamshire

Petanque –

1. Leicestershire
2. Northants and Rutland
3. Derbyshire
4. Nottinghamshire
5. Lincolnshire

Tug 'o' War –

1. Nottinghamshire
2. Derbyshire
3. Northants and Rutland
4. Lincolnshire

The Results of the Bill Peck Team Sports Trophy

1. 38 points – Derbyshire
2. 35 points – Leicestershire
3. 27 points – Nottinghamshire
4. 24 points – Lincolnshire
5. 21 points – Northants and Rutland
- 6.

The Alf Chapman Children's Sports Competition took place after all the team games, all the kids went to their allotted pen at the top of the track, all the proud parents and friends were spectating alongside the tracks. We were extremely well represented by our children.

Joe, Kerys,- Megan, Charlotte,- Milly, Jess, Megan, - Josh – Hannah, Abbey,- Chloe, Jodie,- Liam, Elliot, Joshua, Dylan, - Ryan,- Gemma, Charlotte, Lottie, Louise, - Jacob, Jack, - Kirsty, Sophie, Emma, Chelsea, - Adam, Ross, Daniel.

The Leicestershire Centre thank you all for taking part, for this, you won for us '**The Alf Chapman Trophy**'. This is the first time in the history of the trophy that we as a centre have won it!
So kids, be proud, 'VERY PROUD'.

Sunday morning at silly o'clock, the teams of marshals and drivers from each centre made their way down to the Motor Sports, we as a centre were represented by Mick Bradshaw, John Webber, Kev Harvey and Jude Rosen.

The results for the Escott – North Rose bowl

- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| 1. Paul Smith | Derbys |
| 2. P. Robertson | Derbys L |
| 3. Darren Robertson | Derbys |
- Best Leics. Mick Bradshaw (9th)

The results for the Pat Statton Trophy

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Gill Hitch | Notts |
| 2. Diane Hager | N & R |
| 3. Moira Bilton | Lincs |
- Best Leics. Jude Rosen (4th)

My thanks must go to everyone who helped in any way at all, so many people to name and I would not want to offend anyone by missing them out.
YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!!!!!!

Gaddesby 22 – 24 September

Plaster has now been off my leg for 11 days, talk about learning to walk before you can run!

This is my final sporting event for this year, Saturday afternoon we started with the Childrens Sports, this was not as well attended as the last rally at Prestwold, but the children were all ready and raring to go at the starting blocks.

Megan and Hannah Bushell, Charlotte and William Edwards, Kerys and Erin Stevenson, Joe Barber, Tom Marshall, Reece Goddard, Jessica Rosen, James and Jacob Hibbet, Sean and Sinead Nealon, Dylan Beadman, Joshua Wills and Megan Roberts.

I must thank all the parents and grandparents for bringing the children to these events, without them these things would not run! (Excuse the pun).

The Cyclo – Cross followed the races, and the children seemed to really enjoy themselves.

In the evening, we were supposed to be holding a swimming gala, unfortunately we were unable to do this as the pool had not been booked, the only thing we could do was book a fun pool, as everyone would be turning up with swimming costumes, trunks and towels. Now it is often said, 'we mustn't let the kids down', and I don't think we did. Even the big kids seemed to have a great night, not mentioning any names but you know who you are!!!

Again my thanks must go to everyone who has helped me out over the Sporting Events throughout the year, without you my job as Sports Officer would not have been a smooth ride, and would have been c**p for Jude, she says it was bad enough having me and the crutches under her feet. We would both like to thank you for everything you have done, and as I am Sports Officer again for the coming 12 months I know who YOU are.

Nick Rosen

We Are Survivors

(For those born Before 1940 . . .)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dish-washers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes. . . and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock Music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice-cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today . . . BUT

By the grace of God . . . we have survived!



I'M GETTING A ROOF RACK FOR HER BIRTHDAY, IT'LL SAVE HER HAVING TO STAND ON TIP TOES!