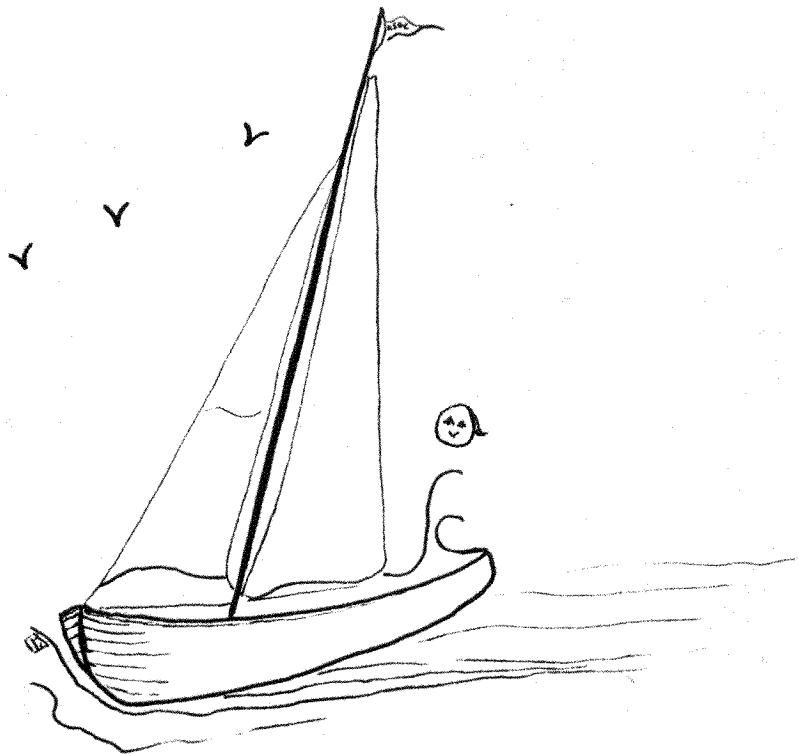


**A U T O - S L E E P E R
O W N E R S ' C L U B**



NEWSLETTER 36

SEPTEMBER 1991

Hello.

I've had quite a lot sent in for this month so some items have had to be fairly heavily pruned. I hope I haven't lost the sense of any of them!

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"CHAIRMAN'S CHAT"

I have had severe restrictions placed on my "Chat" this month - *Harry* has almost run out of space, thanks to our active contributors. On that point it was good to hear from *Barry & Sue Brown*, after all this time, on the subject of Cruise Controls - what else? My comments last month provoked *Barry* into taking up the cudgels on their behalf. No room to print his letter this month so just a brief reminder that he negotiated a 20% discount for Club members from Zemco - more details direct from him at 8 Heathdene, Burgh Heath, Surrey, KT20 6AW.

A little while ago I was talking to our one and only Life Member, *Dilys Stinchcombe*, and she told me that *Frank* had been awarded a posthumous Certificate of Recognition for his courage in dealing with an attempted burglary on the day of his death. He was nominated by the Parish Council and the award was made by Gloucestershire County Council Medal Committee. *Dilys* was presented with the certificate at a ceremony in the Shire Hall. Thought you would be interested.

Last month I mentioned our decision NOT to go to Trentham Gardens for the 1992 National Rally. In response to my letter confirming our decision their Sales & Marketing Manager, *Mike Beresford*, reminded me that they are currently hosting the Festival of Snooker and very kindly sent us 20 complimentary tickets for the evening session (7.30 pm to close of play) on Friday, 13th September. Snooker fans may apply to me for one or two tickets on a first come, first served basis. A stamp or s.a.e. please. Trentham is about a mile from M.6, jnc.15.

Charles Trevelyan has given me a handbook issued by Electrolux which lists telephone numbers to contact for service. A list will appear in a future Newsletter but if you are in urgent need of a contact let me know. It also lists current appliances and part numbers for components. Fascinating stuff!

All for now. Next month a report on the committee meeting due 31st August probably including places and dates for the next two A.G.M's and a progress report on the new "National with Works" rally which seems to be popular.

Phil Daley."

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You will remember that a suggestion had been made regarding a possible trip to Holland in spring time. The following sets it all out:

"DUTCH BULB FIELDS RALLY 1992

Are you interested in a short visit to the bulb fields in early May 1992, taking advantage of the 120 hour crossings?

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Sail, by P&O European Ferries, at 11.00 am from Felixstowe on either Sunday or Monday morning arriving in Zeebrugge and clearing Immigration and Customs by about 5.30 pm Belgian time. (Actual crossing about 5 hrs 45 mins.) Drive, for a gentle 18 miles, to Nieuwliet, near Breskens, in Holland to a pre-booked camp site for one night.

Next morning ferry to Vlissingen (25 minutes) then over one of the longest bridges in Holland, skirting Rotterdam and Delft, to stay for four nights in another pre-booked site near Rijnsburg in the bulb field area. About 115 miles.

Day 3 (Tuesday/Wednesday) - coach trip to Amsterdam leaving at 9.00 am and returning at about 5.30 pm. Evening meal in restaurant on site.

Day 4 (Wednesday/Thursday) - visit Keukenhof Park (about 10 miles from the site) to see the wonderful displays of daffodils, narcissi, tulips and hyacinths, both outdoor and indoor. You can spend all day here (plus many rolls of film!) - there are many snack bars and cafeteria - and you can order your bulbs for delivery in September in the U.K., ready for planting in your own gardens or pots.

This will leave two free days to tour the bulb fields or visit the Hague, Utrecht, Delft, Gouda, Leiden or perhaps the coastal towns of Katwijk-

aan-Zee, Noordwijk-aan-Zee or even Scheveningen, all within an hour's drive.

Leave the site on Friday/Saturday morning to drive to Zeebrugge (about 135 miles) to catch the midnight boat back to Felixstowe. After clearing Immigration and Customs you could be on your way home by about 8.00 am. You could book a two-berth cabin on this sailing for extra comfort if you do not like a reclining seat with rug. Personally, I think the extra cost is well worth while.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

These figures are based on 1991 prices, an exchange rate of 3.30 H.Fl. (Dutch guilders) to £1.00 and on two adults travelling 5 day (120 hour) returns. (Actually, on Felixstowe/Zeebrugge crossing you get 125 hours.)

Outward - 11.00 am sailing.

2 adults	£ 44.00
Motor caravan not exceeding 6.50 m.	90.00
2 berth cabin	22.00
	£156.00

(If you prefer to sail overnight it will cost £194.00)

Obviously costs will vary on other crossings or with other operators.

1 night at first site	H.Fl 14.00
Hot showers	2.00
Breskens/Vlissingen Ferry	15.00
Bridge Toll	10.00
4 nights at second site (including hot showers and electricity)	101.20
Entrance to Keukenhof Park	26.00
Parking at Keukenhof	2.00
Coach trip to Amsterdam	72.00
Meal on return, say	60.00
	302.20

302.20 H.Fl = £ 91.57

TOTAL £247.57

Petrol: Unleaded £2.30, leaded £2.39 per gallon;
Diesel: £1.44 per gallon in May 1991.

Additionally you will need Form E111 - obtainable free from Crown Post Offices to ensure

medical treatment comparable to NHS (if needed). Also a Green Card to support your own vehicle insurance - costs vary dependent upon your insurer from Free to £20.00.

Vehicle Insurance and Personal Cover from Europ Assistance (with ASOC discount), from AA, Caravan Club and others - costs vary - indications will be given. Camping Carnet from various sources again at varying cost. Saves handing in your passport at camp sites and gives third party cover on site.

It is NOT intended to travel in convoy. You may prefer to travel independently by one of the many alternative routes but every effort will be made to help those who have no "Continental Experience" to get assistance from an experienced camper on a one-to-one basis ONLY.

INTERESTED?

Please write, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Arthur Irving, 89 Pingle Road, Millhouses, Sheffield, S7 2LL and he will send you more information in early November 1991. He will then ask for a firm commitment so that bookings can be made.

If you intend to spend more than 5 days on the Continent you may join this rally but keeping to the suggested itinerary. Bear in mind that 1 May 1992 is a Public Holiday on the continent and it will be a long weekend break with, probably, many people about and many delays on motorways!

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In a similar vein I received a letter asking me to insert the following in the Newsletter:

"*Sheila and Norman Teasdale* of Taunton who are 'Young at Heart' O.A.P's (with a Talisman II) wonder if any other members would like to accompany them in search of winter warmth in Spain for 4/6 months commencing in early November."

If you are interested please contact them at 209 Galmington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4SS or telephone them on 0823 337501. But don't leave it too long - arrangements take time!

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"You might like the following as a help to those who view travel outside mainland UK with some temerity", writes *Jim Cresswell*. "Have you thought of a trip to Eire? They drive on the left, they speak English (although with a brogue), you don't need a passport most of the year and you can take your pet with you and bring it back without quarantine restrictions. There are duty-frees both ways too!

We tried it for a shake-down cruise with our Harmony. The 14.45 crossing from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire took 3½ hours and put us a comfortable 6 mile run to Shankhill C & CS in nice time to book in and make a meal. This site has old but cared-for toilets and pay showers, hard standing pitches, lots of water points and a hook-up if you want it. No bother getting in without booking (late May) - £5.00 per night without electric - and we were told we could leave the van till late next day if we wanted to go into Dublin with a strong warning not to take the van because it would be a prime target for a break-in. It is a 1 hour bus ride from the camp gate into Dublin where we had lunch, returning at about 4 pm and setting off for the Wicklow Hills. The top of a pass gave us our first wild site, peace and quiet with gorgeous views about 100 yards from the main road. We saw several very nice looking organised sites over the next week on the road to Galway and back but we always found somewhere good to be by ourselves. Whenever we asked if it was O.K. to camp that way we were reassured and told that if we were in anyones way they would just ask us to move.

A lovely country and welcoming people. Food may be a bit pricier but the Punt is worth only 90p or so which offsets things a bit. Petrol costs rather more - 59 or 60 Irish pence a litre (say 54p) for unleaded - Jet stations giving the best prices generally. We didn't need gas but that may be a problem as their bottles don't look the same as ours. Water came from asking at petrol stations, if they hadn't a hose they would direct us to a source. Lots of litter bins in the towns and plenty of public toilets.

Last thought - we filled up before embarkation on our way home as we were due in Holyhead just after midnight and then found two or three much cheaper all-night filling stations within 5 miles of the port!"

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"The comment about the charges for foreign currency in the August Newsletter prompts me to write about our recent holiday in France. The charges for travellers' cheques are even worse! Not only does the issuing bank make a profit on the currency rate differential and charge a fee, but when you come to cash them (and I am referring to cheques made out in the foreign currency - not sterling) the encashing bank will probably charge a commission too (in my case a 4% charge by Credit Agricole in France). This was our first trip abroad (in the motorvan) and we found that almost all petrol stations and restaurants etc. accepted La Carte Bleue (VISA), so this - plus a fairly generous bundle of francs (which we secreted around the van for security) - was more than enough for a 3 week touring holiday so we'll give travellers' cheques a miss next time!

Travelling during the second half of June, we found most camp sites half empty (some almost deserted and scarcely open) so had no trouble in finding somewhere to stay. All had clean toilets and showers (lots of hot water) but no loo paper and many had a preponderance of continental WC's. Most sites were well situated with plenty of tree screening: Camping Municipales were the best value - most being close enough to the town for an easy walk to a restaurant. We did not bother with electric hook ups as most were only 6 amps and could not cope with our kettle and fan. On the basis of eating out 1 evening in 2 we found that one Camping Gaz 907 bottle lasted 8 days; as bottles of this type are readily obtainable in France we had no troubles on this score. When we did eat in it was mainly from tins (sheer laziness!) and while we had no trouble replacing tins of vegetables, we found it almost impossible to buy tins of meat (stewed steak, chicken or even corned beef). Next time we shall take a lot more tins of meat with us. Fresh milk was almost unobtainable too but most shops sold Long Life.

Driving on almost empty roads (we used mainly D roads) was a delight and although we got lost in some of the bigger towns we found the locals most helpful in putting us right - one man even fetched his car and led us out for about 2km onto the correct road! It was a pleasure to find that most car parks were free and few had height barriers. On our last night in France we stayed in the car park in Ouistreham port (with the permission of the Port Authorities) as we were

sailing early next day. There were toilets and showers in the port reception area but with the ferry arriving at about midnight it was rather noisy until about 1.30 am. However it saved a lot of hassle.

One bonus for us golden oldies; many museums, chateaux etc. charge less for the over sixties - some reductions being quite substantial. *Bob Measom* may like to know that on a total mileage of 1,788 our VS High Top (1988) used almost exactly 300 litres of unleaded fuel - about 27 mpg by my reckoning - at a cost of just over £160. The Club Booklet "First Timers Abroad" we found most useful and we can recommend it for all who travel abroad.

Altogether we had a thoroughly enjoyable first trip and can assure *Derek Egleton* (page 17) that he and his wife need have no qualms about travelling alone!

Joan & Michael Badcock

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FOR SALE

One set of MAD spring assisters for Talbot Talisman. Brand new with fitting instructions. Originally cost approx £45.00 - Sale price £20.00 *Eileen & Gerry Woolley* have these available and you can telephone them on 0908 665165 or write to 1 Manor Close, Milton Keynes Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks., MK10 9AL.

'G' registered Ford Frisky, 2 litre petrol, converted for unleaded fuel. Rustproofed. Heated rear windows. Security radio/cassette with auto-reverse. All original fittings and many extras including drive away awning. Excellent condition, one owner, 21,600 miles. \$11,950 o.n.o. including 12 months road tax.

Telephone *Lesley & Ian Monaghan* on 0234 838481 or send your letter to 4, Beauchamp Place, Willington, Bedford, Beds., MK44 3QA.

Raleigh Hi Top Free-standing awning, rear entrance, unused. £150. *Mary & Peter Hester* live at 1 Grove Road, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9JS. or you can telephone 081 941 1172.

Legend, November 1988, Grey/White, 5 speed petrol, 2 berth conversion, double glazing, cassette toilet, Omnistor awning, stainless steel rear bumper, twin batteries, Silver Screen. Ill health forces sale by non-smoking owners who have done under 12,000 miles in this van and are asking £15,750. Telephone Lyndon Garfirth on 0536 722632; or you can write to him at "Woodcote", 16 South Street, Isham, Kettering, Northants, NN14 1HP

RALLY NEWS

Morton Glade - 6th-13th September

A local hall has been booked for the Saturday evening. We are having an American supper so please come prepared and please bring a pack of cards if you can. There is plenty to see in the area if you are staying for the follow-on rally on this site.

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Tanner Farm Park - 13th-15th September

Fuller directions: From Maidstone (A.20) take A.229 s.p. Staplehurst & Cranbrook and about 1 mile south of Linton fork right onto B.2079 s.p. Marden & Goudhurst. Farm on right about 3 miles south of Marden on Goudhurst road. From Sevenoaks/Tonbridge (A.21) turn left just before Lamberhurst onto A.262 s.p. Cranbrook & Ashford. In Goudhurst turn left onto B.2079 s.p. Marden. Site on left about 3 miles north of Goudhurst.

The farm is in lovely countryside close to Sissinghurst Castle with its famous gardens; Ightham Mote; Bodiam, Chiddingstone, Hever and Scotney Castles; the Whitbread Hop Farm and Museum; Bedgebury Pinetum; Bewl Water; Lamberhurst Vineyard and Tenterden Steam Railway.

The 'Motor Caravan World' people have sent in a reminder about the 6th Motor Caravan Show at Shepton Mallet on 20th-22nd September. Booking forms will be found in MCW and other journals or can be obtained direct from The Organiser, Motor Caravan Show, Andrew House, 2a Granville Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4BN. Evening entertainment includes top feature films, disco dancing, cabaret, a firework display and competitions - Best Dog, Best Cake, Best Knitted Item, and Best Model (are you entering, Bob?)

Those who went last year tell me that it was a very good show with plenty to see during the day and lots of accessory bits and pieces. You can book from Thursday to Monday for £18, Thursday to Sunday (£15), Friday to Sunday (£10) or Saturday/Sunday (£7). Awnings and pets are allowed (it would be a bit difficult to judge the best dog if they weren't). If you can only spare one day to visit, which probably won't be long enough, entry is only £1 per adult (accompanied children free) and parking is free.

When you send your booking form in don't forget to mark it clearly "A.S.O.C." and do, please, also notify our own Club Marshals (Barbara & Jeff Worley, 26 Houndstone Park, Gunners Lane, Brympton, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8SQ) so that a large enough area can be reserved for the Club.

Due to popular demand, *Daisy & George Wane* have agreed to run an extra rally at FELL END, CUMBRIA, on 8th-10th November. Full details as usual in the centre pages but BOOK NOW if you want to go because there is a limit of 40 vans. Telephone (0524 761657) before 7th November if you want fish and chips on FRIDAY night; a meal will be arranged for Saturday night.

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RALLY REPORTS

"We were not able to join the Scottish Tour but managed to fit in the start and finish whilst on our annual trip to the Isle of Lewis. We arrived at Woods C & CP on Friday afternoon to find several vans there already. *Helen & Douglas Denholm* made us very welcome and we realised that this was going to be a "good" rally. We had an electric hook-up at minimal cost as *Douglas* had negotiated a reduction in site fees so the saving was offset against the hook up charge.

The site is excellent with helpful owners, the grass is well tended and there are good firm access roads. It is not advisable to take short cuts across the grass to the pitches as one member found. He was retrieved by tractor after human and Land Rover power had failed. A word - and only one word fits - about the toilets. Superb.

Apart from the usual coffee sessions there was a Saturday Night Out attended by all 24 ralliers

present. This was at the Farriers, a newly opened hostelry. No, a convoy of Auto-Sleepers did not leave the site. Instead the Farriers mini-bus made three trips to take us there (and back!). It was driven with much verve by the owner's son who also assisted in the bar/restaurant. We had each ordered our starter and main course from the menu supplied during the afternoon so all was ready when we arrived. Our choice was soup of the day and Mexican Chicken & Rice. It was very good and all around seemed well pleased with their selections. Some delay and hilarity followed when sweets were offered some of which proved unavailable but all were served in time and this was followed by coffee.

Douglas was resplendent in his kilt. One member was found under the table apparently having dropped something, but why did he take his flash camera with him? The results of the quiz (a fiendish Scottish one) were announced and the lottery drawn. *Jeff Worley*, our esteemed Rally Co-ordinator, was due to celebrate his three score years and ten so an appropriate card signed by all was given to him. Don't forget, *Jeff*, you are not an "oldie" but, as a young lady recently told us, "you are a re-cycled teenager".

Bills were settled individually, a very satisfactory arrangement, and costs were reasonable especially when one considers that free transport was provided. The Farriers looked after us very well and we wish the owners and their staff every success in their new venture. They deserve to do well.

The weekend weather was good, in contrast to that during the previous ten days, and Sunday morning coffee and "good-byes" came all too soon. Congratulations and thanks to *Helen & Douglas*. They were admirable hosts and excellent organisers.

Lucy & Bill Dyson".

"After six weeks touring Ireland and Scotland we realised we were able to join the rally at Fishcross, near Stirling. It was great to get such a warm welcome from *Helen and Doug Denholm* and we soon settled in with coffee and biscuits on Friday night to meet the other members who braved the wind and rain.

The site had only been open for a year and offered first rate facilities with an up-to-the-minute toilet block. We were within walking distance of Alva with a good selection of shops including two mill shops where bargains were to be had in knitted items. Two country parks - Woodlands, with a super restaurant called 'Farriers' which we all enjoyed on Saturday evening to the north and a recreational and water park to the south.

Earlier on Saturday we had time to explore the villages along the foot of the Achil Hills - all with little glens and burns which years ago supplied water for miles around. On such a good day - sun shining and few clouds - we explored Tillicoultry Glen and managed to climb to the top where there were splendid views over the Forth Valley towards Edinburgh and Stirling way over to the west. We then decided we must see Rumbling Bridge Gorge which meant a long walk up the valley and down the other side. We had difficulty seeing the water at the foot of the 100 ft deep gorge.

By then we needed a rest, so returned towards Glendevon where there is a pleasant picnic area overlooking the reservoir. We had enough time to return to the site for the evening at 'Farriers' then came Sunday morning coffee, biscuits and raffle prizes. Amid the 'au revoirs' everyone declared that it had been a great weekend.

Doreen & Ted Stone".

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"I think I had better write this before I forget. Although Phil Daley didn't think so, it really was our first try at being marshals. On Friday we got up at 5 am, were on the road by six and, after stopping for coffee and a doughnut for breakfast, were at Lydiard Park just after eight. We had plenty of time to erect our awning and be ready for the members to arrive. We were so busy checking members in we hardly had time for lunch. Almost everyone (our apologies to the two who we missed) was invited for coffee at 7.30 pm by which time the wind was chilly. Woollies and jackets were 'evening dress'. It was suggested that everyone brought their Saturday evening meal and we made a party of it round our van. Some people brought windbreaks so we fenced off a cosy circle. Rita Daley had twisted an ankle; then, not content with just one, did the same to the

other one! Poor thanks indeed for helping another member get started on sketching and painting. She watched us from her van where she sat with her feet up and the ankles wrapped in cold compresses. On Sunday the sun appeared, ready for us to go home. Coffee, the raffle and farewells, then after a quick lunch we had to depart for our grand-daughter's confirmation.

Our thanks to all members who came and helped us make it a good rally, especially to *Barbara Worley* who helped at all the coffee times. (This report is also a first attempt, *Phil*.)

Molly & Ken Coombes".

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"*Maureen & John Edden* did us proud even including good weather for the rally at Kingsbury Water Park. 42 vans arrived (more plaques needed!) and 65 people sat down to food and drink in the Kingsbury Country Club on Saturday. The park provided walks, fishing or just plain lazing according to taste. This was our marshals first rally and I understand that they are negotiating with *Jeff Worley* to run another next year, perhaps a bit earlier.

Phil Daley".

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It is nice to see that a successful rally can be run by 'first time marshals'. At the risk of boring you I will repeat what I have said before, it isn't too difficult and all members attending invariably do their bit towards making a success of any rally. Ours, the week before Lydiard Park, was a great success. I had better tell you about it.

"*Sheila and I* set off at good heavens it can't be **that early** so that we could get to the site before anybody else. Wrong! When we arrived we found (a) another van already there and (b) we were not in the field we expected. The rains had come and the field was 'rather damp'. We were directed onto a car park which was entirely hard standing but unfortunately not very well sheltered from the strong wind. So strong that when we tried to put out our awning it blew over the top of the van. (Another repair job.) With heavy rain and wind in the afternoon we began to wonder whether the rally would run! But by

coffee time in the evening it was quite warm and we were able to sit around outside talking.

On Saturday we had arranged for the restaurant to provide a meal and they really did us proud! 61 members sat down around the various tables and spent a very pleasant evening. Raffle tickets were sold and the volunteer staff in the cafe joined in and bought some too. I'm sure that everybody present will long remember Stuart, the manager, bustling around to make sure that all was well. During the day members went hither and yon in the area, to the Tramway Museum, to Ripley, to Bakewell and to Codnor as well as enjoying what was on offer in the Midland Railway Trust itself.

Sunday arrived all too quickly and we had the use of the same room again for our coffee. Everybody came in, including our vice-chairman and his lady, and even some strange faces who were meant to be in the other part of the cafe (and who went back when they found out that this was a private function). *George Wane* said some nice things, we drew the raffle, *Wendy Fisher* had the Regalia on sale (and the new "woollies" seemed to be selling well) and again the staff of the cafe helped to make our day. We had three new Club members at the rally and met another couple who will become members so soon as they can find a suitable Talisman.

And so another very successful rally finished but those who came along can rest assured that, 'pursuant to instructions received from the assembled multitude' and with *Jeff Worley's* approval, I have written to the Trust to book for 1992. See you there next year?

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Phil Daley also reported on the rally at Redmire: "*Marion & Jim Henwood*, ably assisted by *Vera & Brian McLean*, organised this in their usual style, very relaxed and very enjoyable. the site is just below Bolton Castle which was floodlit in the evening and which 17 of us toured on Saturday morning guided by the son of the present owner. His forbears have owned the castle since 1057 so "present owner" hardly fits! The King's Arms in the village was practically taken over by us on Saturday evening (there were 22 vans on site) for an excellent meal and some pretty remarkable beer. The party mood persisted

until bedtime; we hardly noticed the weather!"

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RECIPE CORNER

"This is a quick and easy meal which we often make when arriving on site. It is tasty, wholesome and nice when served with crusty bread.

1 packet Knorr "Soups of the World". (Any of the range is good.) If you use Italian Soup Napolitan it is a tomato soup with pasta and herbs. Add a good handful of pasta shells or twirls. Follow directions on packet and add pasta to simmer with soup for 15 minutes. (We like the Austrian Cream of Herb soup too.)

Wendy Fisher".

Thanks to our hard-working Regalia Officer for a useful tip. Which reminds me, Regalia, -

"Woollies" are now available with "Rita's Little Man" embroidered on them and "Auto Sleeper Owners' Club" in a semi-circle above it. The items are available in Navy, Royal, Jade, Grey, Lemon, White or Black and the embroidery can be in a choice of colours. Sizes are Small, Medium, Large or Extra Large.

PRICES:	Sweat Shirts	£12.50
	Sports Shirts	10.00
	T Shirts	7.00
	Sweaters	Not yet known.

Also available shortly SCARVES - 27" Squares - made in polyester - available in blue, white, grey, cream, lemon and possibly other colours. These will be printed with a scene including "Rita's Little Man" and should cost about £3.00 each. Postage and Packing must be added in all cases.

Will you please telephone *Wendy (Fisher)* if you would be interested in buying a metal car badge to be priced at about £6.00 or so. This would be similar to the plastic windscreen badge we currently have. *Wendy's* telephone number is 0543 377777.

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Remember the 'Brabantia' Safety Boxes? For those newer members who haven't heard about them they are small steel boxes which can be fitted

into the van to provide a safe haven for small items, passports, travellers cheques, money etc. The outer casing is fitted permanently to the vehicle (and you can buy extra outers for other vehicles or home use) and the inner is the safe box which locks into position but can be removed and carried with you on its built in wrist strap. Rita Daley should be contacted if you want one and her address is 46, Ulverley Green Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 8BQ. Or perhaps telephone (021 706 1816) first to see if she has any left and to make sure of the price and postage costs.

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Two letters have arrived in response to the comments about service charges. Eileen and Gerry Woolley recently took their Talisman to a main agent for a 12,000 mile service and received the following bill:

Labour	£58.00	(£102.60)
Fuel Filter	2.40	(2.60)
Oil 15/40	8.30	(11.70)
Sump Ring	0.20	(- -)
Oil Filter	6.50	(6.00)
Screen Wash Sachets	0.50	(1.00)
Spark Plugs W7DC	7.80	(6.88)
Gasket Plug	---	(0.20)
Air Filter	---	(7.90)
Brake Fluid (500 ml)	---	(2.10)
Sundries	---	(2.50)
TOTAL	82.98	(143.58)
V.A.T. (17.5% for Gerry)	14.52	(21.54)
(15% for George)		
GRAND TOTAL	£97.50	(£165.02)

To save you looking back I've put the original figures received from Daisy & George Wane in brackets for comparison purposes. As Gerry says, it does seem to show that each garage has a different idea on what should be done in a service and what should be charged. He has compared the invoices with George who will no doubt take the matter further with his local garage.

The other letter came from Mervyn Potter who says that servicing and costs seem to be an on-going topic amongst motorists and in over 50 years of motoring he has stuck to a good, reliable garage when he has found one. Unfortunately, he continues, some change hands

and the quality of services and prices vary. He has had his present A/S a little over a year and has been agreeably surprised with the courtesy, quality of service and prices charged by his present garage. He asked them if they would object to him sending their name and address to me for inclusion in the Newsletter and they replied that they would be pleased to help any member in the area. They offer a special service price to Members of our Club who use the Volkswagen Transporter range:

Lube Service	£28.60	} Including cost of labour and materials } EXCLUDING VAT.
10,000 miles	67.21	
20,000 miles	91.13	

These prices could vary slightly for different engine options and they will, of course, service other A/S on different chassis. So if you are in or near Bristol the people to contact are Saville Truck and Van Centre, Unit 3A, St. Andrews Road, Severnside Trading Estate, Avonmouth, Bristol, BS11 9YQ and talk to Mr. C.P. Waters, their Operations Manager. Their telephone number is 0272 821467.

Thanks, *Mervyn*, that is the sort of information which could be very useful to our people in the area. By the way, I've received some words to be fitted to the tune of 'Sailing' as you suggested just after the National Rally.

"We are members of Auto-Sleepers and our outfits
we treasure dear.
When we rally, how we rally, with our friends
from far and near.
Summer, autumn, Christmas, New Year, we enjoy
it, never fear.
We're together in all weather. Hope to carry on
many a year."

These were composed by *Marjorie Wilson* in Oban during the Scottish Rally.

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Gerry Woolley also said that he has had a problem when the motor was pulling hard, e.g. up a long hill such as he found on holiday in Scotland. The vehicle started to judder badly and he had to release the accelerator to clear the problem. Dirt in the petrol tank was suspected as there had been many reports of this in the Motor Caravan press. Having nursed the vehicle home it was put in for a check up. The

fault was found to be the outlet stem of the petrol filter which had been crushed, preventing the free flow of petrol. Anyone with similar problems should check the filter first as they could save themselves both concern and cash.

While investigating this fault they happened to look into the filler tube to the petrol tank and found that most of the paint had come off and that the tube interior was coated with rust. The garage informed them that there had been a modification to the filler tube which was now plastic. They could order the part but there would be a charge of about £20.00 for it and they would then put a claim in to Talbot who might or might not accept it. *Eileen and Gerry* rightly considered this an imposition as the part originally supplied was not suitable for the job it had to do so a letter was written to Peugeot/Talbot customer relations department and, lo and behold, Talbots have advised that the part will be replaced f.o.c. It pays to complain when things are not as they should be!

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"Capuccino" on the continent (continued)

"I was glad to read that *Ian and Honor Mackichan* also had a good holiday in Spain and Portugal - their itinerary and observations overlapped ours.

This was our first visit to mainland Spain although we had previously flown to Majorca and Grand Canary for beach holidays and some places were already quite familiar to us. Our plan was to explore the Northern and Western coasts. We purposely avoided the Costas as we felt it better to make another visit, perhaps in winter. Our first day in Spain took us to the resort of San Vicente de la Barquera, a quiet little town with a fishing harbour where we wild camped for the first time and ate in a small fish restaurant which opened at 9.00 pm. The Picos area (mentioned by *Ian*) is certainly well worth a visit. We saw many signposts crudely altered to XIXON and realised that the Basques objected to the official spelling of the name of their town! After wild camping again at Foz we arrived at Santiago de Compostela which is a lovely old town with an impressive square, an enormous cathedral and beautifully arcaded narrow streets. We sampled tapas for the first time and particularly enjoyed octopus Galician style in a lovely garlic

and tomato sauce. Further south we enjoyed the coast around Sangenjo and Cangas and wild camped again at Bayona. We were almost engulfed by a cycle race next morning before we crossed into Portugal at Tui.

We had intended to explore Barcelos where the legendary Portuguese Cocks came from but were caught up in a big local procession so went on to Braga. One of the sights in this pretty town is the church at Bom Jesus which is on the top of a hill and approached up a series of elaborate steps - quite impressive. Daphne had read that the National Park of Peneda-Geres was very pretty so we set off towards Chaves. This was one of the highlights of the whole trip and the road up the Rio Cavado valley was most spectacular. If you are in the area this is a trip you shouldn't miss!

Then southwards and westwards to Porto, a lovely city and well worth exploring. There were no coach trips available up the Douro valley but the local tourist office suggested a train up to Pinhao, the centre of the port-producing vineyards. A wonderful trip which we thoroughly enjoyed on a "blue day" so we got a 20% discount and the total cost of the journey was about £4.00 each!

The road south from Porto is rather shabby to start with as it goes through a whole area which seems to consist of nothing but scrap yards full of wrecked cars! Soon it got better, however, and we were intrigued to see a large number of hikers trudging along. After a while we realised that they were pilgrims heading for the shrine at Fatima where the Pope was due shortly to attend the special annual festival. We visited Coimbra with its fine old university and spent a night at Figueira da Foz, an attractive resort at the mouth of the river Mondego, before we went to Fatima which we found interesting and attractive, very different from over-commercialised Lourdes.

We would liked to have spent more time Sintra but we pushed on to Colares - a very smart area where many people from Lisbon have their weekend homes. The coastline there is most spectacular - and very windy too! Our next stop was at Vila Nova de Milfontes, a beautiful small town on the mouth of the river Mira and a lovely place to spend a few days. I have already mentioned the superb camp site at Olhao, one of the best I have

ever come across in Spain or Portugal, owned and operated by the Portuguese Banking Trade Union! An all year site with magnificent facilities including a swimming pool said to be warmer in winter than in summer. As a bonus the fish market is only about 20 minutes cycle ride away. Seville was our first major stop and we really enjoyed three nights there. We were most impressed with the Giralda tower, the cathedral and the Alcazar. A river trip was disappointing but we thoroughly enjoyed a leisurely jaunt around the Maria Luisa park in a horse drawn carriage with a jolly English-speaking driver. Not far away is Cordoba, a very stylish old town with the incredible Mezquita, effectively a mosque with a Christian church in the centre. Granada is not as attractive as Seville or Cordoba but the Alhambra and Generalife gardens are extremely beautiful. This was about the only place on our whole trip where we felt that there were too many tourists around! Our trip northwards was uneventful except that we spent almost a whole day in Valencia tracking down the maker of, and buying, a free-standing awning.

Finally, I was glad to read that *Carol and Steve Bowler* are pleased with their Enflite cycle carrier. Ours carried our two bikes safely over a distance of more than 4,500 miles, many of which were on roads with very poor surfaces.

John Normandale".

Phew! That was close! See you next month.
Your Editor

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