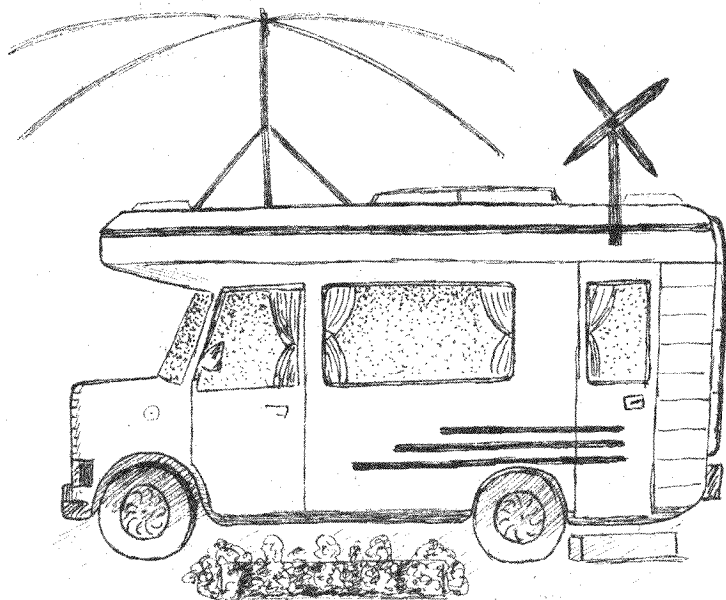




AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB



I wonder if you can fit a cruise control to that!

***NEWSLETTER 63
DECEMBER 1993***

Hello.

Here it is, December already. Where did 1993 go? Now is the season of goodwill, etc. Your committee hope that you like the calendar which we have prepared for you this year. Nothing too spectacular, but it does show the Annual Dinner & AGM, as well as the Club and Company Rally dates. There aren't many calendars that do that when you buy them, are there? Please accept it with the compliments of your committee and we hope you find it useful.

A member who has transferred his allegiance to another make wrote to say that he did not think that he could cope with more than one club at a time so will not avail himself of the Newsletter. He went on to say, in his very nice letter, that "surely your artist MUST run out of ideas for the cover sometime". Well, I'm happy to say that there is no shortage of ideas yet and doesn't look likely to be. We shall have to cross that bridge as and when we come to it.

His new van was made in Germany and although it is "winterised" and has all sorts of other advantages, it apparently has no grill or drainer! He was also very surprised to find that the delivery mileage on a brand new vehicle was 930 miles. Apparently the vans are driven from Germany to Preston in Lancashire, then to the local dealer. He commented that he was glad that he had not bought a Japanese vehicle!!

You will notice that I have put the For Sale and Wanted section right at the end of this issue. It was suggested that putting it in the middle of the newsy bits rather broke up the flow so, ever one to heed what the members want (ha! ha!), I have stuck it at the end. I hope you like the change - if not no doubt you will let me know!

With this issue of the Newsletter you will find your renewal form. Please help our Membership Secretary to keep the records up to date. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible *even if you are paying by standing order*. This is needed so that we can ensure that we have your correct address details (some people forget to tell us that they have moved), and your correct vehicle details. Don't forget also that if you have been a member of the Club but have changed your van for another make or given up the van, you can still keep receiving the Newsletter. Just fill in the form as appropriate - but ALL of the form, please! Non-members are NOT allowed to subscribe to the Newsletter, only previous members have that privilege.

Committee Meeting

As I mentioned last month, we held a meeting in Solihull in October and it turned out quite a marathon. It lasted just about five hours and we managed to cover the majority of items on the agenda. I shall try to report it rather more briefly.

The first thing to tell you is that *Jeff Worley* has resigned from the committee and that at the AGM next year, our current Public Relations Officer, *Phil Daley* will be standing down. For more information, read Chairman's Chat later on.

Offers are invited for people to fill these vacancies. Don't be put off by the suggestion that meetings appear to be held only in the Midlands area. It has happened that way recently but we have held meetings at Sutton-on-Sea, Willersey, Banbury and all over the place, even in the Forest of Dean. Meetings are arranged to be as convenient as possible for the majority of the committee. There hasn't been one in or near London (yet) but we have hopes! If you would be interested in joining the committee perhaps you would like to talk to any of the present members about it. Their telephone numbers (and now the posts they hold) are shown on the back page of this Newsletter and any of them will be pleased to hear from you. And if you fancy any particular job, please talk about it. The present incumbent might be only too pleased to let you take over. Don't be shy, have a chat. And come and join us!

We discussed the matter of rallies and certain problems arising from them. Not too serious, fortunately, but some members may cause embarrassment by booking rallies before they actually appear in the rally supplement. This is rather unfair, particularly for newer members who might like to attend a rally but find that they are unable to do so because it is already fully booked. So please don't book, or try to book, before the appearance of the rally in the supplement. This is particularly a problem with one or two other clubs which we know of where the membership has become rather "clique-ridden" (sorry, I couldn't spell 'Clicky!'). We have been very fortunate, so far, that this hasn't happened to our Club and we don't want to start now. So please **DO NOT TRY TO BOOK BEFORE THE RALLY IS ADVERTISED!**

Also remember that if you would like to run a rally, it **MUST** be agreed by a Rally Co-ordinator, (*Tony Jones or John Edden*) so that it can be added to the Club list and become an official rally. If this is not done, it is **NOT** an official rally and cannot, therefore, call upon the Club's Exemption Certificate for the site nor on the Club's insurance. And that could cause problems.

It has been noticed on the odd occasion that the 20 foot rule is not being kept. This rule, which is very simple, is to ensure that there is an **absolute minimum** of 20 feet between units. "Units" for this purpose means the motor caravan and any awning, windbreak or whatever attached thereto or used in conjunction with it. The reason for the rule is common sense; the 20 foot gap is there so that an emergency vehicle may pass easily between the units. So don't park with the two awnings adjoining (so that you can increase the covered space), or too close to each other. And if you have visitors who come in a car don't let them occupy the space between the vans. This particularly applies on some commercial sites where the owners try to pack as many vehicles into the space as possible and have little regard to safety, it seems. If any marshal should have a problem with a site owner who wants to overlook the 20 foot rule, they would have the full backing of the committee to pull out of the site and cancel the rally immediately. We shall be trying to implement a system whereby the Rally Co-ordinators will confirm any official rally by means of a standard letter to the site owner which will emphasise the rule and the needs for safety. It must also be remembered that if the 20 foot rule is broken, this invalidates any claim which might need to be made under the insurance cover.

I can give you an early warning now about the Annual Dinner and AGM. The Booking Form will come out with the FEBRUARY Newsletter and there will be a last date for receipt of bookings in early March. More information in January. We are strictly limited to the number of meals available and it will be first come first served - on the booking forms, of course, not at the meal! But, as I said, more of this anon. One point which I ought to bring to your attention now is the raffle which takes place at the Annual Dinner and also at the Club & Company Rally. If you have a raffle prize which you wish to donate, will you please contact *John Edden* and tell him. The Club is very grateful for the prizes which have been offered but as those who attended will be only too well aware, the raffle does take rather a long time. So we would like, if possible, to adjust the prizes so that it won't take too long in the future - leaving all of you with more chance to natter/dance/drink or whatever takes your fancy.

-----ooo000ooo-----

Obituary

I have been advised by *Jean Ansell* that her husband *John* died on 18th September 1993. He had been suffering cancer rather badly for the last four years and they had been unable to attend many

rallies. *Jean* tells me that they had only had their Talisman for about 2 1/2 years but it had given *John* enormous pleasure in that time. Elsewhere you will find a simple modification which *John* had designed. *Jean* would also like to thank *Maureen and Ted Vanesse* for their help, loving care support and friendship.

-----ooo000ooo-----

Retirement - and Roof Vents

Having just recently retired, I am busy catching up on all those jobs and hobbies promised to my wife and myself over the years. How true, those people who have said to me in the past, "I don't know how I had time to go to work". I am also finding that the hours and days simply fly by. (Must stop prattling on.)

The main reason for writing is to find if any member can steer me in the right direction to obtain some spare parts for my roof vents. The original vents on my 1986 Mark II Talisman disintegrated after about two years and A-S supplied three of the then newer type at cost. These have been excellent up till recently when the stalks which provide the four way raising started to break off at the top end which held the top on. All I need are some new stalks as the vents are easily dismantled and repairable apart from the stalks. The makers markings on the vents are:

ACI Sonabat Chantel. 44550 Montoir de Bretagne.
and
TUH (Lion motif in a square) Dachluke 87.200 SC Chantal

A-S tell me they no longer fit this type and gave me the number of the original suppliers. Unfortunately there was no reply when I rang and I've now lost the number. Perhaps if someone can pinpoint the factory for me I could visit them when next I am in France.

Bob Measom

Bob sent in a pencil rubbing of the marks mentioned above but I don't think it would come out at all well in print so I've omitted it. Does anyone know where the factory is, or the full postal address? Please let me know.

-----ooo000ooo-----

Irish Rally

We've just read about the proposed rally to Ireland and thought you might like to hear a bit about our enjoyable holidays there. We sailed Fishguard - Rosslare on the middle of the night ferry and returned via Holyhead.

We found the Irish people to be so very friendly and genuine. Wherever we travelled there was always someone who waved from their garden, stopped for a chat if we were parked (usually down some narrow lane off the beaten track). We even had a postman join us in the van for coffee as we sat in a little cove. He was waiting for his next deliveries to arrive on the school bus. This same man described Ireland as "An ugly picture in a beautiful frame" and that's about right. During our two weeks visit we only used sites for 6 nights - most tourists "wild camp". We had some lovely overnight stops with very nice fellow motor vanners.

Our route was Waterford - Cork - Kinsale, and of course around the Ring of Kerry. Along the route is a site which has a plaque for "The Motor Caravan Site of the Year" at Waterville which has a marvellous fish restaurant within walking distance - we used the beach to walk there. Before we reached this site we stopped in the most unusual village of "Sneem" - well worth a visit.

There are so many places of interest that it's obvious that a return visit has to be planned. For anyone thinking of doing this route there are a few "Must stop and see" places. Molls Gap for lovely scenery, then on through the National Park. Bunratty Castle and Folk Village are a definite stop. Aillwee Caves, on the way to Connemara National Park and of course the mountain passes where our van decided that anything a "Mountain Goat" could do, it could do better. Mind you, some of it is not for the faint hearted. I stood at the edge of a sheer drop so that hubby could see how far to reverse when we met like minded motor caravanners!

I could go on for pages; reading "Our Trip" record has brought it all back again. Maybe we will be able to meet up with some of you over there after our tour of North Island, New Zealand in January 1994 (if we can get more holidays off work!).

Jenny & Geoff Beer.

I can echo the comment of the friendly people. I have a very fond memory of my first greeting from a member of the Guarda (Policeman to you). He strolled across to where we had stopped and his first words were "Are you well?"

-----ooo000ooo-----



Tyre Pressure Gauges



Richard Melville wrote to remind me that he mentioned a pressure gauge in October 1991 and again in June 1992. For the benefit of newer members, he bought a gauge measuring from 10 to 120 psi from a company in Lancashire. They have moved but if you

want such a gauge the address is now: Mr T Feeney, Powerfit, Fylde Ice Building, Wyre Dock, Fleetwood, Lancashire, FY5 6NN and their telephone number is 0253 770 720. The price is still the same, £9.50 inclusive of VAT, post and packing.

#####

Chris Clayton asked for help in locating a gauge capable of measuring pressures in the 65/70 psi region; the answer probably lies in Halfords who have an electronic device with LCD readout for £9.99 (Reduced from £12.99) in their super store in Solihull therefore probably in others. This reads up to 80 psi if I remember correctly and claims to be accurate to within plus or minus 1 psi. I was surprised to find, with the help of the manager, that they have a gauge in the cycle section which reads up to 90 psi. This is intended for cycle tyres, obviously, but it has an adapter for fitting on those small valves and this can be unscrewed so that you can use it on van/car tyres. It has a clear dial and looks quite good but I have no way of knowing how accurate it is (I'm sure it conforms to some EEC directive or other!) but don't take my word for it, see for yourself!

Phil Daley

-----ooo000ooo-----



Caravan Club Sites



On reading "Chairman's Chat" in the November Newsletter I noticed that *Arthur* mentioned that some of these sites are lacking the facilities of waste disposal and fill points. I couldn't agree more and on this very point I have been in contact with Mr Beard, Development Manager of Club Sites.




The outcome of my complaint has been positive and perhaps members would like to know that Mr Beard has assured me that the whole of the network, perhaps with one or two exceptions, will be so equipped by the end of next year. This seems good news for motor-caravanners.

Doug Vaughan

I only hope that when they do provide such facilities they take some note of where they are. The emptying spot at the Culloden site is on the wrong slope. When you back the van up the hill, the lower end of the waste tank is away from the emptying tap. And at Tewkesbury, although it is on the flat, it is right in the way of passing traffic on the site at times.

-----ooo000ooo-----

WORDSEARCH

X	P	M	A	B	P	R	S	A	H	E	I	O	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y
Q	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	G	M	B	O	R	D		I	L	E
G	F	R	H	R	R	R	R	Y	G	N	I	D	D	U	P	S	A	H	K
L	H	N	A	C	T	E	H	R	N	A	E	E	I	M	A	E	H	O	R
E	R	T	I	N	S	E	L	B	R	T	O	E	L	I	N	C	C	L	U
	O	A	H	T	B	A	U	B	L	E	H	R	T	S	E	R	R	E	T
A	S	J	H	N	O	E	R	T	C	I	A	O	P	T	H	O	E	D	L
R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	A	I	A	Y	U	R	L	T	B	P	E	R
H	I	R	W	N	F	R	N	R	S	S	D	I	I	E	R	I	A	C	E
E	P	D	L	X	A	D	E	A	Y	T	I	V	I	T	A	N	P	O	P
P	E	R	V	N	L	G	N	E	G	S	I	A	U	O	E	O	E	R	A
R	C	W	R	E	A	T	H	B	N	E	A	M	T	E	Y	T	R	A	P
E	N	Q	S	P	A	R	X	Z	I	I	U	U	V	B	W	P	R	T	G
S	I	H	G	C	N	T	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	H	E	T	I	I	N
E	M	D	L	A	G	B	R	Y	C	I	U	U	A	E	N	L		O	I
N	C	A	I	R	E	H	F	R	O	L	S	D	R	A	E	N	L	N	P
T	U	G	T	D	L	L	A	A	T	E	G	O	O	S	E	A	T	S	P
S	R	A	T	S	R	V	I	I	S	T	O	L	L	E	N	L	L	N	A
E	E	Y	E	A	Q	Y	R	V	Z	B	R	P	S	C	D	F	G	Q	R
O	A	B	R	A	N	D	Y	Y	L	L	O	H	V	N	P	S	N	O	W

The usual rules apply. Words can be up, down, across, backwards, forwards or diagonal. Make a **LIST** of your answers and send to *Mrs Heather Tidbury, 26 Ferny Close, Radley, Abingdon, Oxon., OX14 3AN*. Answers **MUST** be in a list - entries ringed on the square will be disqualified. The winner and runner-up will each receive a "Ladder Guard" kindly presented by *Les Davies*.

Artistry

.....
John Greenwood tells me that the information last month was slightly incorrect. You don't have to go to France to get your drawing of your van. All you need to do is to send a photo to Mr Greaves at the address shown and ask him for the price. When you agree that, he will draw a picture from your photograph. Sorry about that but I had the information about third hand and you know what happens when messages are passed on.

#####

And there's More!

Betty and Joe Jacobs have sent me the patterns for the cross-stitch embroidered pictures of various Auto-Sleeper Motor Caravans. The various areas for colours are clearly marked but the choice of colour is entirely your own. I have visions of an A-S in Pale Cerise with Cauliflower Green trim, wheels in Turbo-Turquoise and maybe the luton in Vanishing Violet! Seriously, though, folks, the patterns available are for:

Executive: Talisman: Symphony: Harmony: Rambler: VW Clubman:
Trident: Trooper: Recro: Rapport: Rimini: Flair: Frisky: Legend:
Bedford CB22.

If you want a copy, please send me **TWO SECOND CLASS POSTAGE STAMPS**. One will cover the postage back to you, the other will cover the cost of the photo-copy and envelope. Please allow a reasonable time for delivery because it will take a little while to organise the copies - we won't keep them in stock - no room!
Betty and Joe tell me that other patterns may become available later - I'll let you know.

-----ooo000ooo-----



Van Exchange



Dear *Mrs Henthorne*,

My wife and I are planning to spend eight to ten weeks touring the U.K. sometime between May and August 1994 and we were wondering if any of your members would be interested in exchanging motorhomes with us during this period. We own a factory converted, rising roof Toyota Hi Ace campervan (which is similar to an Autosleeper type of motorhome).

The Hi Ace sleeps two adults quite comfortably and is fitted out with a gas cook top and griller, 3 way fridge, sink, storage cupboards and drawers, table and an awning. The rising roof (known

as a "pop-top" in Australia) is very easy to put up and down and, as the van has a diesel engine, it is very economical to run. Mt. Keira is approximately 100 kms south from Sydney and travel to and from the airport is easily arranged.

As the cost of accommodation and car hire (or hiring a campervan type of vehicle) forms the major cost of a self-drive holiday in either Britain or Australia, we see the idea of exchanging motorhomes as an ideal way of holidaying in another country at minimal cost to the participants.

Any of your members who may be interested can contact us at 4 Pinaroo Place, Mt. Keira, Wollongong 2500, New South Wales, Australia to discuss further details.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Mosman

If anyone is interested, please write direct to the address shown. If you are interested, don't forget to check your insurance to see that you would be covered.

-----ooo000ooo-----

INDEX MARKS

We have owned and enjoyed 9 different motor caravans plus 2 trailer caravans over a period of 13 years. We now own No.10 - a VW Trident. It is definitely our last one! The registration letters are "KYC" - "Keep Your Camper".

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Mary & Jim Groombridge

-----ooo000ooo-----

CAMP SITE

We have recently spent two lovely weeks touring Holland. We even found our way from Vlissingen to Camping Konigshof at Rijnsburg without getting lost as we did on last year's Tulip Rally. During our travels we stayed at a site we could recommend to any member wishing to visit the Arnhem/Oosterbeek area next September for the 50th Anniversary of "Operation Market Garden" (or at any other time of the year).

It is Camping "DePampel", Woeste Hoefweg 33-35, 7351 TN Hoenderloo; telephone 05768 - 1760. (See 1993 Caravan Club Continental Sites Guide, Volume 2, last entry on page 285.)

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

RALLY SUPPLEMENT

December 1993 - February 1994

Please make your cheque payable to the Marshal BY NAME and send it with the booking slip AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, preferably at least 14 days before the rally. Late deciders please telephone the marshal first. Last minute arrivals will be welcomed but there may not be room on the site.

This rally is fully booked.

CHRISTMAS RALLY, 24th-27th December 1993 Hidden Valley, Ilfracombe, Devon.

Bookings to:- Mrs S Wisely, 12 The Laurels, Roundswell Village, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3QY. Telephone:- 0271 46 400

This rally is fully booked.

December 31st/January 2nd. New Year Rally, Alderbrook School, Blossomfield Road, SOLIHULL, West Midlands. Warm schoolroom, good company, twenty minutes walk/shorter bus ride to town centre and B R station. Records, tapes, games, barrels, kegs, etc, welcome. Water, hard standing and chemical toilet disposal available, no electric hook-up.

Fees: Site fee £3.50 per unit per night, rally fee £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr S Bowler, 92 Welford Road, Shirley, SOLIHULL, West Midlands B90 3HT [Phone: 021 745 8369]

Directions: From M42 Junction 4 take A34 towards Birmingham. Turn Right at third island (by Calendar's Restaurant) onto B4102. Straight on over two islands, one set of traffic lights and another island; Alderbrook School on Right in 100 yards.

This rally is limited to 25 vans.

January 21st-23rd. Milestone Caravan Park, Great North Road, Cromwell, NEWARK, Notts

Fees: Site fee £5.50 per unit per night including electricity at all pitches. Rally fee £1.50

Booking slip to:- Mr M G Robinson, 16 Maid Marian Avenue, Bilsthorpe, Nr NEWARK, Notts NG22 8SR. Telephone:- 0623 870 635

Directions:- From North or South on A1 towards Newark. Turn off for Cromwell, about 5 miles North of Newark.

Meal on site on Saturday night - Hot Soup, Hot Pie & Peas, Hot Mince Pies. Charge £1.50 per head.

This rally is limited to 25 vans.

25th/27th February. The Leisure Show Rally, Alderbrook School, Blossomfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands. Co-incides with the National Boat, Caravan & Leisure Show at the National Exhibition Centre (19th to 27th February). Heated classroom, water, hard standing and chemical toilet disposal available, no other facilities.

Fees: Site fee £3.50 per unit per night, rally fee £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr S Bowler, 92 Welford Road, Shirley, SOLIHULL, West Midlands B90 3HT [Phone: 021 745 8369]

Directions: From M42 Junction 4, take A34 towards Birmingham. Turn Right at third island (by Calendar's Restaurant) onto B4102. Straight on over two islands, one set of traffic lights and another island; Alderbrook School on Right in 100 yards.

Since this is term time members must not arrive before 4.30pm on Friday

Note for marshals and intending marshals:-

When you have agreed the date and other details with the rally co-ordinator please let me, Phil Daley, have the other information needed for the rally supplement. This should include fees, facilities and directions to the site. You will see that the December supplement covers rallies up to the end of February and, space permitting, I hope to keep the information as far ahead as that. The supplement with the January Newsletter should include rallies up to the end of March and so on.

The organisation of rallies is *not* my department. Any help or advice you may need in that respect should be sought from Jeff, John or Tony and their addresses and telephone numbers appear on the back page of the Rally List. My address and telephone number is:-

46, Ulverley Green Road, SOLIHULL, West Midlands B92 8BQ
[021 706 1816]

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Send one of these slips to the Marshal named at least 14 days before the event. You can arrive at the site without booking and you will be welcomed but if the rally is limited you may be disappointed.

ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE MARSHAL BY NAME, PLEASE.

A-S O C RALLY SLIP

Site.....Date.....

Your full name and address.....

.....

Membership No:.....Telephone No:.....

Day/Time of arrival.....Van registration:.....

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES No

Number of people in your van? Adults Children

*Please complete **both** sides of the form!*

A-S O C RALLY SLIP

Site.....Date.....

Your full name and address.....

.....

Membership No:.....Telephone No:.....

Day/Time of arrival.....Van registration:.....

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES No

Number of people in your van? Adults Children

*Please complete **both** sides of the form!*

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

Requirements: Please note that some facilities may not be available at all rally sites. Your request for them will be met *if possible*.

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

.....
In the event of an emergency at a rally whom should we contact?

Name.....Phone:.....

Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to the Marshal by name, please.

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

Requirements: Please note that some facilities may not be available at all rally sites. Your request for them will be met *if possible*.

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

.....
In the event of an emergency at a rally whom should we contact?

Name.....Phone:.....

Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to the Marshal by name, please.

It is a large, level, shaded site with individual pitches, ample electric hook ups and water. The toilets and showers were first class and very, very clean. The staff are very friendly and speak English. The site is approx. 15 minutes drive from Arnhem and 2 kms from a National Park with its many wooded walks and cycle tracks. When we stopped there at the end of September the site was quiet but I can imagine that it is very popular in the high season.

Angela & Ray Wood

I'm sure that some of our members only tell me of these foreign sites to see if I can spell the names right! *Angela & Ray* kindly sent a brochure of the site and I must say that it does look rather nice, but will probably be busy in the high season. The pictures were pleasing but the words were all in Dutch - one language (among many, many others) that I don't understand!

-----ooo000ooo-----



RALLY REPORTS

Last weekend *Arthur & I* ran a rally in Bath. [That's a big bath - Ed!] It was only the second one we had done and we felt we would like to express through the Newsletter our sincere thanks to everyone who came and helped to make it a successful weekend. Whilst the marshals get the vote of thanks, it is the folk who come and give their support who really deserve it. Without them, it would be nothing. We had some really delightful people attend who were all very friendly and sociable. So much so that we have decided to hold next year's Christmas Shopping Rally there over the weekend of December 2nd-4th, 1994.

Once again, thank you, one and all.

Jackie Claxton

Now you can see that our marshals really enjoy holding a rally and that should encourage some of you who have been a little scared of the prospect. I hope our Rally Co-ordinators know of the Christmas Shopping Rally and, as I said before, don't try to book up yet, please!

-----ooo000ooo-----

CRIMESTOPPER WHEEL CLAMPS

TriClamp, who make these items, have offered our members a 10% discount on the price. If you should want one of these, the price will be £53.98 plus £3.00 for post and packing - a total of £56.98. The normal price is apparently £59.98 plus P&P and an independent survey, made by a motorhome dealer, of other wheel

clamps discovered that the average price of clamps for 14" wheels was about £105 ex VAT.

The Crimestopper weighs 7 kg and is available in four sizes (including 15/16" wheels to fit turbo-diesel motorhomes). Please quote your tyre size when enquiring. If you are interested, please contact Paul A. Edwards at Triclamp Ltd., Airfield Works, Foulsham, Norfolk, NR20 5SQ or telephone him on 0362 844 242.

-----ooo000ooo-----

Chairman's Chat

DALEY TO GO TO ITALY FOR £2,000,000

On the Friday evening preceding the last Committee meeting I saw the above banner headline on Teletext on TV and wondered if this was an omen. When we met prior to the meeting on the Saturday morning, *Phil (Daley)* said he wanted to stand down from the Committee and would not seek re-election at the AGM in April 1994. I challenged him about the TV headline and he laughed, saying he would go further than Italy for that sum of money!

I must tell you a little about *Phil* who has been active in Club affairs since before he produced the first Newsletter in September 1988. In fact it was soon after *John Cox* floated the idea of a Club for owners of Auto-Sleeper motor caravans that *Phil* with his wife *Rita*, became Founder Members. He was Editor for the first 26 editions except when he covered almost 10,000 miles (9,921 if you want to be exact!) on Continental touring, as he reported in Newsletter 26! He became Chairman in 1991-92 and has been PRO since April 1992. He, with *Rita*, prints the Newsletter each month - a mammoth task - and can quote you costs of production such as ink costing £0.000746 will print one side of the Newsletter. On behalf of all members of the Club, I thank *Phil* for all his work.

Just after returning from holiday I received, with considerable regret, a letter from *Jeff Worley* resigning as Vice-Chairman and from the Committee with effect from the date of his letter. Unfortunately *Jeff* has found 'that every time we (that is *Barbara*, his wife, or himself) made a long journey in the winter months, one of us is ill'. I wrote to *Jeff* accepting his resignation but could fully understand his reasons, as good health is most important. *Jeff*, too, has worked hard for the Club, being Rally Co-ordinator since the AGM in 1990 until April 1992 when he became Vice-Chairman, acting as Chairman when I went island-hopping last year and, again on your behalf, I thank *Jeff* for all his work for the Club.

More will be said about both these gentlemen at the AGM but one thing is certain - they both will continue to help the Club in many ways. Following on from the above, let me draw your attention to item 14 of the Club Constitution regarding nominations for the Committee as these vacancies will need to be filled at the April 1994 AGM.

The Secretary, *Carol Bowler*, and I (accompanied by our spouses) attended the Annual Meeting Rally of the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO) held at Stafford Showground in the middle of October when the overnight temperature reached -8C! ASOC is one of 133 similar Organisations and it was most interesting to listen to the many views expressed by Delegates. We mentioned to their PRO that little or no publicity on ACCEO had appeared in the Motor Caravan press, all had been directed towards the Caravan press. We were assured that this would be rectified. ACCEO receive Government Consultative Documents and after views of members have been sought replies are forwarded. So our attendance at these meetings is imperative.

ACCEO Insurance Services have introduced new Accident Insurance for Committee members and Rally Marshals when they are not covered by Club Insurances and the new Policy will give them nominal cover. (At ASOC Committee meeting it was agreed that we should have the insurance cover - this has now been effected.) Additionally, they are hoping to have full details of a new Insurance Policy for Motor Caravanners by May 1994 and we await further details.

Whilst on the subject of Insurance, it was reported to the Club Committee that some members find it difficult to accept the 20ft rule and I must draw their attention to the absolute need to abide by that rule. The Department of the Environment, when granting our Exemption Certificate, prescribed the Rule of Conduct for the Organisation of Rallies, viz: Recommended space to be a minimum of 20ft. between facing walls of adjacent motor caravans. A few members must **NOT** put the insurance cover for all other members at risk by ignoring the 20ft rule, nor must they cause the Club to be party to ignoring the Rule of Conduct and risk losing the prized Exemption Certificate granted by the DOE. Please obey the instructions of the Rally Marshal **AT ALL TIMES**.

It seems early (I am writing this at the beginning of November) to be thinking of Christmas, almost two months away, but this is the last Chat before the big day and *Winifred* joins me in wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

Arthur Irving.

P.S. When I sent my previous Chat I did indeed address the envelope to "Herrn. H. Henthorne". (Alliterative, don't you think?) On looking at my German/English Dictionaries I see that "Herrn" is used on envelopes". Sorry, *Harry*, finger not slipping!!

Just goes to show that German is another language wot I doan spik, like!

-----ooo000ooo-----



ALARM WARNING!!



You have an alarm on your van so it is safe. Or is it?

After having my car stolen in July (I got it back after 3 weeks) there was a lot of damage but what puzzled us was a side light which was broken but no paintwork was damaged. When I commented on it I was told "Oh, they broke the side light, put a wire across the contacts and blew the fuses". That puts your alarm out unless you have a back-up battery on the alarm. So we checked up the van with the people who fitted our alarm. Yes, we had one with the battery back-up. So we were safe, or so we thought.

Sunday morning we went out to go to church and there was our "Lucy Legend" with a broken quarter light and the driver's window down. Our radio was missing. Why had the alarm not gone off? Had we slept through it? This had us puzzled, then I said "I think they got under the sensors". *Frank* would not have it, so we got a chair and in he went, head & bum down. No only did he get in, he could crawl to the back of the van without the alarm going off. So if we had stored our goodies under the seat instead of the bedding, they could have taken the lot. As it was, they could not stand up because that would have sounded the alarm. Our friends tried it on their van and could also get to the back of it. Both vans have now received further attention and are fine.

So friends, be warned. Check to see if your alarm has a built-in battery and try getting in through the cab windows.

Winifred Hopkins.

Perhaps you should also try opening the side windows, not so difficult as you might think, and try getting in that way too.

-----ooo000ooo-----



Childrens' Corner



We arrived in Kirkby Stephen early on Friday morning and received a very warm welcome from *Kath & Norman (Benyon)* the rally marshals. At 6.30 pm we met up for hot dogs and Parkin. Us,

coming from the Midlands, didn't know what Parkin was until we tried it. It was lovely! I've been promised the recipe so that Mom can make me some.

At 7.00 pm the weekend started off with a bang, with fireworks (thanks to the brave actions of the Northern Firework Display Team). Everybody brought some fireworks so that the display went on for a couple of hours.

On Saturday we walked into the town and did a bit of shopping. We met up with some fellow A.S.O.C. members. Afterwards, I went along the river bank where there was a waterfall. In the evening we went to the nearby hotel where we had dinner and I had steak and kidney pie. I won two glasses of wine because *Norman* said there was a gold star under one of the place mats and it was under mine! Me being a good boy, I gave it to Mom and Dad. On the Sunday we went to the hotel for coffee and the raffle where I won two little conifer trees. Thank you to *Kath and Norman* for the present and for a nice weekend.

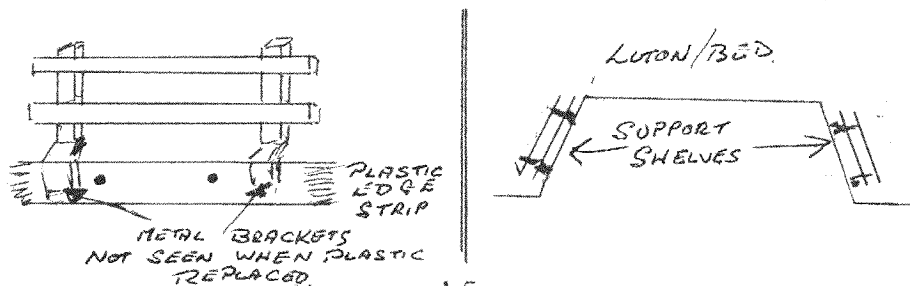
May I also take the opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I hope to see you all again next year.

Richard Northall (14)

-----ooo000ooo-----

John Ansell's Modification

In the last month before he died *John* made some tiny wooden slat fronts to clip onto the shelves above the cab seats in the Talisman - those onto which the bed extension slides. He was fond of putting papers and magazines on these shelves and then driving away!!! Fortunately the worst only happened once. The mod consists of a couple of metal strips which slot down behind the plastic strip around the edge of the bed which then hold the base of the frame. The frame is simply made with a couple of uprights and some thin wooden slats - the light wood which *John* used match the A-S cabinets beautifully. The sketches below, which *Jean* tells me are "definitely not up to male scale" will give you some idea.



It is, in fact, quite a simple job - I did something similar in our previous Bedford Clubman to keep the odds and ends on the bed (which wasn't in use). The mod was made after a radio slid off the bed onto my shoulder on a steep car park exit in Edinburgh! It hurt! But it made me think!!

-----ooo000ooo-----

Motor Caravan Insurance

The Motor Caravan Insurance Agency Limited wrote to *Sheila Henthorne* with some details about themselves. They are an established firm of insurance brokers founded in 1971 who specialise in Motor Caravan insurance. I won't go into all the blurb contained in their leaflet but if you want further details you can ring 0480 218 273 for a free, no obligation quote. The reference is MCIA/AU. They are at 34 New Street, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1NQ and they have a fax number which is 0480 403 807.

-----ooo000ooo-----

News from the Print Room

This month you will have noticed a lot of paperwork with the Newsletter. We have taken the opportunity to include an order form for Van Names. You might like to call yours "Gloaming" or the like, it will make it easier to find at the big rallies. Another form suggesting that you might be interested in running a rally is included - we are always hopeful - and a further copy of the Motorcaravan Code with the Country and Coastal Codes.

It was suggested by our Chairman that we send these codes out again as he had forgotten his and had been asked by ACCEO, our insurers, if we had ever issued them to our members. The codes are very important as they were sent, with a copy of our Constitution, to the Department of the Environment when we applied for our Exemption Certificate. This document gives us the freedom to hold rallies on non-licensed sites such as Rugby Clubs, schools, farm fields etc., and in order to keep the certificate we have agreed to run such rallies under this code of behaviour. We have no ulterior motive for re-issuing them, but some of us have forgotten that we ever received them. (Didn't you, *Arthur?*)

The list of 1994 rallies is also enclosed, but if last week is anything to go by, it is already out of date. Just as the final, final draft was drawn up our Secretary telephoned, at 10.30 pm, to say that she and *Steve (Bowler)* had just received permission to use a school for a New Year's Eve Rally so another revised final (well nearly final) rally list has been prepared.

Incidentally, the one-time Editor, *Phil Daley*, has taken over the rally list and supplement from *Harry* to lighten his burden somewhat. So last minute details should be telephoned to him on 021 706 1816 and there is an answering machine on the end if we are busy. But please clear all rallies with the Rally Co-ordinators FIRST, and also advise them of amendments.

The Auto-Sleeper 1994 Magazine will be despatched with the January Newsletter. Because we have the renewal paperwork with the December issue we did not wish to delay it so you now have something to look forward to after Christmas. Meanwhile, have a happy one - from the Print Room.

Rita Daley

-----ooo000ooo-----

For Sale

Talbot Express Workshop Manual covering all current models - Petrol, Diesel and Turbo. £35. Contact Brian Longworth on 0789 720 229 or write to him at Elmcroft, Welford Road, Long Marston, Warks., CV37 8RA.

Eurovent Coachman Free-standing awning for coachbuits, 12'0" x 8'0". Used twice. £225.00 or exchange for smaller free-standing awning. Contact Marie or John Skinner on 051 334 9184 or write to them at 10 Brancote Gardens, Bromborough, Wirral, L62 6AH.

1979 Bedford CF 250 with elevating roof. 2.3 litre petrol engine, undersealed from new. 67,000 miles. In good condition for the year. Fitted out with 2+2 berths, gas ring/grill unit, water system, 2-way fridge, sink unit and radio cassette unit. £2,750. Contact Ina or John Hanson, 117 Sunnybank Avenue, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 3PR or telephone them on 061 432 7002.

Camping & Caravanning Club magazines 1954 to the present time (9 missing) 476 magazines in all. M.M.M. No.180 to present. 46 other magazines. £35.00 all in - buyer to collect (poor chap!) Please telephone Howard Duart on 0825 840 411 or write to him at 6 Buttsfield Lane, East Hoathly, East Sussex, BN8 6EF.

J & M Insulated Silver Screen for windscreen and cab side windows outside fitting. Also inside fitting Silver Screen for rear tailgate window for VW T4 Trooper. Used 3 times. Genuine reason for sale. Please telephone Sid Staveley on 0754 611 472 or write to him at 30 Kingfisher Drive, Beacon Way, Skegness, Lincs., PE25 1TG.

#####

Bedford SV100 1983. 41,000 miles. 4 berth. Usual AutoSleeper refinements. Extras include Fiamma Awning with front and sides, 3-bike rack, TV aerial. Excellent condition. Long MOT and tax. £7,995. Please ring Jill and Steve Latter on 0344 869 069 or write to them at 1 Clacy Green, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 3EH.

#####

Silver Screen for Bedford CF. Never been used. £40 or would like to exchange for one to fit my Legend on the Transit chassis. Joe Milner, 6 Northallerton Road, Leeming Bar, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9AG or telephone 0677 423 853

#####

Thetford Porta Potti 265, Beige with brown trim. Almost new condition, little used. £45 ono. Delivery possible within a reasonable distance. Please contact Jean and Peter Frost on 0734 790 955 or write to them at 69 Acorn Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG11 1EQ.

#####

Ex Ford Legend. Internal Isovolet screens £40. External J&M Silver Screen £35. Air deflectors for cab windows £25. Top Box (1m x 80 cm) £85. Gimeg low wattage blower heater £18. Unused bed for Legend Luton FREE! Available from Susan & John Pretty, 10 Nightingale Avenue,, Reydon, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6XN or telephone 0502 724 631

#####

1980 Dodge A-S, lifting roof. 42,882 miles. MOT until May, taxed until 30th April 1994. Unmarked leather & cloth upholstery, 2-way fridge. Complete with Porta Potti, stool, waste water tank (slide under), bucket, funnel etc. Many bits & pieces. Full service history with receipted accounts. Reclining front seats. 2 foldaway bunks in roof have never been used. Has been resprayed at Three Counties Motors and is "Dodge Alpine White". Kept under carport. Non-smokers. £2,500 ovno. Please WRITE, to Emily & Frank George at 1 Woodcock Gardens, Woodcock Road, Warminster, Wilts BA12 9JH. [It is difficult for Frank to use the telephone due to deafness. He tells me that he is giving up motor caravanning now as he is 87 years young and Emily doesn't drive. Ed.]

#####

VW Trident, T4, Aug 93, L' Reg. 5,000 miles. 2.4 litre 5-cyl diesel. 35 mpg. Power Steering. Thermostatically controlled blown air heating. Zig unit. Fly screens. Unused toilet. Panasonic removable Radio/Cassette. Non-smoker, no pets, used by one person only. Absolutely as new. Cost £22,500. Accept £19,500. Please phone Tony O'Neill on 0789 470 435 or write to him at Meer Hill, Loxley, Nr. Warwick, CV35 9JW

#####

K' Reg Trident - 6,000 miles - New condition. 2 litre injection engine. £16,000.

Also brand new - unopened - 12v portable Gardner shower. Offers, please. Telephone John Williams on 0932 782 851 or write to him at 67 Stratton Road, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex, TW11 6PG.

#####

Legend GL. 1989 F' Reg. MOT to March 1994. 28,500 miles. 2 litre petrol. Twin batteries, radio/cassette. All usual Legend facilities. Reluctant sale £15,750 ono. Please ring Ann or Ken Painter on 0689 851 967 or write to 6 highwood Close, Orpington, Kent, BR6 8HT.

#####

Talisman GL. 2 litre petrol. 5,000 miles. 'J' reg. stored under cover for winter. Extras include H.D. rear springs, Overhead (Luton) Locker with bed alternative.TV marine antenna with booster. Superb condition. £19,500. Please phone Beryl and Derek Robbins on 0403 274 533 or write to 6 Uppark Gardens, North Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 5JN.

#####

Unused spares for 'G' reg Talisman GL May 1990 petrol model.

1 off - In line fuel line filter 1567-21

1 off - Alternator Drive belt 575063

1 off Pump Belt VFB217

1 set (4) Champion plugs N281YC

1 Rectangular Mirror Head complete.

There is in excess of £30 value and I would be happy to offer the above for £14 - buyer to collect, if possible, as posting the mirror would be risky. Please Telephone Norman Tamplin on 0243 512 380 or write to him at Herons, Westlands, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7HJ.

-----ooo000ooo-----

WANTED!

Mike Watson telephoned to say that he has had two offers from dealers for the Flair he wants. Unfortunately, in both cases, the prices asked were above his financial limit of £10,000.00. So he is still hunting. If you know of a Flair with automatic transmission at

that price, please contact him on 081 546 6116 in the evenings or 081 846 8430 during the working day. His address is 77 Latchmere Lane, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 5JF. The Flair is wanted to replace one stolen from him.

-----ooo000ooo-----



And that wraps up yet another edition. Just enough space for me to wish you all, on behalf of *Sheila and me*, a very Happy Christmas, and a safe and prosperous 1994. All the very best to one and all, and thanks for your support!



Your Editor
 Harry Henthorne
 144, Devonshire Hill Lane,
 London, N17 7NH.
 Tel: 081-808 9112

Any item appearing in this Newsletter may be freely used by other publications. Please acknowledge both Author and Source.

DISCLAIMER

All contributions from Members which appear in the Newsletter are published in good faith in the hope that they will prove useful or interesting. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy but none of the modifications has been tested by us therefore neither the Editor, the Club nor the Company will accept any responsibility for the consequences if you try them out.

Committee Members' Telephone Numbers:

Carol Bowler	Secretary	Tel: 021 745 8369.
Steve Bowler	Ferry Booking Officer	Tel: 021 745 8369.
John Cox	Vice-President	Tel: 0283 712 394.
Rita Daley	Vice-President	Tel: 021 706 1816.
Phillip Daley	Public Relations Officer	Tel: 021 706 1816.
John Edden	Rally Co-ordinator	Tel: 0827 65 850.
Sheila Henthorne	Membership Secretary	Tel: 081 808 9112.
Harry Henthorne	Newsletter Editor	Tel: 081 808 9112.
Arthur Irving	Chairman	Tel: 0742 365 698.
Tony Jones	Rally Co-ordinator	Tel: 0793 763 032.
Prudence Osborne	Regalia Officer	Tel: 0980 620 646.
John Tidbury	Treasurer	Tel: 0235 525 730.
Charles Trevelyan	President	Tel: 0386 853 338.
Bob Williams	AGM sub-cttee. Chairman	Tel: 0507 442 960.