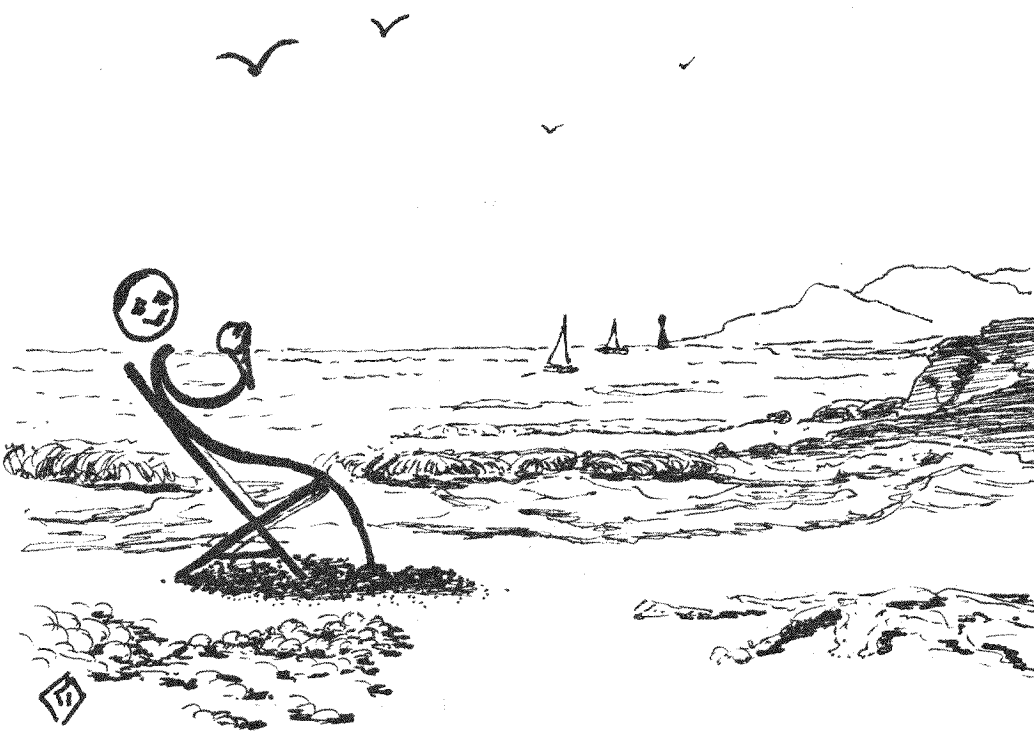


AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB



**NEWSLETTER 84
SEPTEMBER 1995**

Hello.

From most of the things I've heard the Club and Company Rally was a great success - but see one letter later on. The entertainment which the sub-committee managed to arrange seems to have been very well received and the atmosphere on both evenings was enjoyed by all who attended. As now seems to be the usual practice, some hot-air balloons arrived and got organised during the entertainment. I believe one took off and was last seen heading away from the field at a rate of knots in a fairly strong breeze. The weather was kind to us with plenty of sunshine but not quite as hot as it has been since that weekend. I was told that there was a little rain one night - but I certainly didn't hear it.

Your generosity in so many different ways ensured that the Club could make donations to charities as it has done in the past. And those who received the benefit were, as always, very grateful.

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STOLEN VEHICLE



Please keep your eyes open for a Trident High-Top which was stolen from High Wycombe. The registration number was E 148 CMV and it belongs to *Helen and Ken Nichols*. Distinguishing marks are a wavy scratch on the rear bumper near the ladder and a blue VW adhesive badge by the rear number plate. If you should happen to see this van, please contact *Helen or Ken* on 0149 481 6470 or tell the police.

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Club & Company Rally

As first time ralliers it was a great pleasure to meet you all at Malvern. The event was wonderfully organised, great fun and it was a privilege to be there.

Please convey our thanks to the lady who provided the ASOC cake. It was extremely tasty and was enjoyed by two other Club members to celebrate *Rose's* birthday.

We now look forward to the rally at Mold, and the New Year rally at Hidden Valley

Rose & Graham Stott

#####

We attended the rally at Malvern and want to say "Thank you" to

all the people who made us welcome. This was our first rally and we had a marvellous weekend.

We agreed that the male half of the team would do a spot of marshalling and so get to know one or two members. The female half would chat to whoever was handy. We quickly made friends and got involved. We approached one or two other members with a Symphony like ours to pick up any tips and all were only too pleased to show us their D.L.Y. efforts. We are looking forward to the next time.

Alice & Bill Buttery

#####

As new members of ASOC I am writing to say how much my wife, *Betty*, and I enjoyed our first (but certainly not our last) Club and Company Rally at Malvern last weekend. We were very pleasantly surprised at how friendly all the marshals were who greeted us and we were made to feel very welcome.

The site (and the weather) were perfect; the entertainment, particularly the Barn Dance on the Saturday evening were most enjoyable and they were ideally complemented by the other attractions. We were very impressed with the Falconry display, the A-S shop was an eye-opener (we bought two new seat cushions for next to nothing!).

Our thanks to all concerned for a most enjoyable weekend and we now look forward to 1996.

Betty & Peter Cressey

#####

Margaret and I have been members of the Club for less than a year and are quite new to motorcaravanning and we have both found a wonderful new world that contrasts delightfully with the rush of everyday life. So after a few months of ownership we felt we should investigate the social side of the club and attend a rally. There were a number of points I wanted to discuss with someone from the factory and there was the appeal of meeting other Duetto owners to see if there were any tips to pick up, so we decided to go for the big one, the Club and Company Rally at Malvern. While you read this please remember one very basic point: *Margaret and I* have never been to a ASOC rally before, therefore:

1. We know nothing of the procedure at rallies
2. We know no other members of the club.

So on Friday we travel to the Showground wondering what to expect (we remembered that on the booking form we were asked if this

was our first rally and thus expected to get some form of 'new member/rallier' welcome). The instructions to find the Showground were somewhat sketchy and may have been easier if we had a Ordnance Survey map of the area, but eventually found and entered via the yellow gate, no doubt all of you who have been before had no trouble. We were welcomed and directed by a string of helpers to a pitch. Welcome pack, acknowledgement of our first visit to a rally? Not a thing. Undaunted we had a quick wander and found the majority of people in the main hall. We hovered looking lost at a doorway. Did someone offer assistance on the basis that from the expressions on our faces we must be new to all this? No, nothing at all. We ate in the van that night and had an early night. We still work for a living and were very tired.

Saturday dawned with a short 'hallo campers' Tannoy message about 'your envelopes'. What envelopes? We determined to find out after breakfast and walked to the entrance and duly collected our envelope containing our rally plaque and a programme for the weekend (including Friday night, but late on Saturday morning!). Together with a welcome pack for new ralliers? No way. I took this up with one of the committee and he explained that there are too many attendees at this particular rally, "If you had gone to an ordinary rally then there would have been something to help you". Silly me, I should have known, shouldn't I? Perhaps the Club should point out that this particular Rally is really only suitable for the experienced rallier. We had by now made acquaintance with the couple in the van 'next door' so we had relaxed a little, but Saturday night was a real revelation. We eventually arrived at about 8.30 in the main hall just in time to witness the Dutch auction and the longest most drawn out raffle in the history of the universe. That over, the Barn Dance resumes, but does any one speak to us? NO. Do we speak to anyone? NO. Why? I hear you ask. Because they are all clearly with old friends and formed into special impenetrable groups. We both felt as if we had strayed unauthorised into a private club and were not at all welcome. We spent the rest of the evening in the van. We left on Sunday. Those of you who are reading this and feel we are unjustified in our comments can rest assured that we will not disturb your cosy little clique again for we obviously don't fit in. How many other new members go to this rally and are shunned by the privileged few? How many others will never return? Does anyone in ASOC really care? At home I read in issue 82 of the Newsletter the letter from *Mima & Roy Magna* who have had similar problems. Coincidence? You judge.

Malcolm and Margaret Collins

Again we have to show two sides of the coin. There are obviously

some lessons to be learned and your Committee will be discussing the problems. Personally, I met a number of first time ralliers and, I hope, made them welcome. I'm sorry that *Malcolm and Margaret* found things so difficult but I can assure them that this is NOT the normal procedure for any ASOC rally, big or small. We like to make EVERYONE, new rallier or old, welcome.

I'm not quite sure what could be included in a "welcome" pack but I have written to them asking for their suggestions. Nor can I see how the directions to the Malvern Showground can reasonably be improved. The site is signposted from all round the area and, as you approach, the individual gates are fairly clearly indicated. I would ask *Malcolm and Margaret* to give the Club another try, perhaps with a smaller rally, before they decide that we are a "cosy little clique".

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REGALIA SALES

We sold just over £900-worth of Regalia this year. A very good figure for the weekend considering that there were no new lines this year. This is in keeping with the decision of the Committee to reduce the range of merchandise in stock.

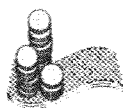


These sales could not have been achieved without the help given by the many members who gave up their time to help in the shop. *Stella and I* would like to thank all those who helped in this way.

Ian Ross

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RAFFLE



In addition to the many members who so kindly gave excellent prizes for the raffle at Malvern, may I thank the following companies who also provided prizes:

Aqua Marine Manufacturing; Auto-Sleepers Ltd; Beeny Bits; Comfort Insurance; Cotswold Motorhomes; D.D. Motorhomes; D&F Promotions; J & M Designs; Key Solar Systems; Propex Marketing Ltd; Stena-Sealink; Symonspeed Ltd; TB Turbos Ltd.

A big "Thank You" too to those many helpers who volunteered to sell tickets. It was due to their hard work that the raffle was such a success.

Daphne Normandale

#####

Nobody, apart from the Chairman in his welcoming letter, has mentioned the hard work that *Stella & Ian* and *Daphne and John* put in to running these affairs, have they? Or, for that matter, the entire sub-committee with the assistance of the showground staff although *Arthur Irving* made note of their efforts. Our thanks are due to all of them.

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Scottish (Oban) 7 day Rally

My husband having recently retired, we decided to venture over 600 miles to the Oban Rally. We were a little apprehensive, being fairly new to rallying due to previous business commitments. However, our Rally Marshals, *Beryl & Jack de Sadeleer*, were what we call down south "the salt of the earth" and nothing was too much trouble for them. They had lived in the area previously and had certainly done their homework regarding nearby attractions. This included:-

1. A wonderful evening boat trip on Loch Etive - we all took enough food for two and pooled it which turned into a small banquet! The weather was perfect, we even saw basking seals, and the ever-changing sky, with some snow-capped mountains in the background, made it an evening we shall never forget.

2. Another day (for the more energetic) was spent hiking in the foothills and we obviously ended up with food and drink in 'the local'.

3. For £12.00 each we were taken to the Isles of Mull and Iona. *Beryl* had arranged not only the ferry trips to the Islands but also a coach which was waiting on the quayside to take us on a tour of the southern part of Mull. The ferry then took us over to the peaceful Island of Iona to see its famous Abbey.

4. The local Highland Games was another most interesting feature of the holiday.

5. At the conclusion on Saturday evening *Beryl and Jack* had arranged a 'Scottish Night', including a meal and entertainment, which was enjoyed by all.

The object of this letter is to express our thanks to *Beryl and Jack* for their hard work and to say that it was certainly worth our 1200 mile journey. In passing I should say that no one was obliged to partake in any of these activities - you could just have admired the scenery, it was so wonderful. However, when you do take part is when you make new friends - which we certainly did!!

To conclude, I would love you all to have seen my husband's face last week at the Club and Company Rally when I asked the young man on the Omnistor Awning stand if 'I COULD HAVE A BIT ON THE SIDE!!!'

With this splendid summer we are having, happy rallying to all.

Pam & Terry Holtom

I wonder what Mr Omnistor said in return?

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Awnings etc.

Well! You did ask for letters so here is another one! This is really just to praise good service in our Newsletter. I have received excellent service from Rose Awnings and Blinds based in Poole, Dorset. I have just had a roll-out awning fitted to our static caravan in Weymouth. Everything from their first visit through to completion of the work was faultless. A service that I have not seen for many a long year. Not only that either - the cost of the work was so much cheaper than two other quotes from the "Big Boys" - I thought they had made a mistake.

I suggest to all our Club members who may be considering having an awning or Top Box fitted to try this brand new company. They'll save pounds and receive first class service. The owner is Mr John Rose who has been in this trade for 20 years - he deserves to succeed!

Val & Pete Fullick

#-#-#-#-#-#-#

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks for your kind hospitality over the recent weekend. It was very pleasing to be able to attend and to see the many customers and good friends made with ASOC. over the previous years.

As I may have mentioned before, my offer of a 10% discount to all members still applies together with that of a free fitting service at my work premises here in Poole. May I thank you once again and hope to meet again soon. Kind Regards.

John Rose.

Rose Awnings and Blinds

#-#-#-#-#-#-#

Two letters which arrived by the same post - how's that for a co-incidence?

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The Three Counties Agricultural Society

I was delighted to attend your rally on Friday 21 July at Severn Hall to receive the bench on behalf of the Society. I would express my sincere thanks to your Committee and members for the gift which is greatly appreciated by us all. I know it will be well used by many who will welcome a rest on the bench.

I trust the rally went well without any major hiccups.

Yours sincerely
Lyn M Downes
Chief Executive

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Auto-Sleepers Limited

Once again through the pages of the Newsletter might I thank most sincerely all those members who made the Club and Company Rally such a very great success. Not only was everything superbly organised - as usual of course - but the hobby stalls were better than ever, the book, bottle, bric-a-brac and cake stalls most comprehensive and the Club Shop surpassed itself. Furthermore wherever one looked there were cheerful marshals and others always so willing to help.

The very clear message I got from all concerned and our visitors in particular was of the superb organisation - right down to the timely announcements over the PA system reminding us all of forthcoming events.

To each and everyone who made this weekend such a success might I, on behalf of all at Auto-Sleepers, say a big "thank you".

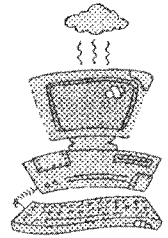
Charles Trevelyan
A C Trevelyan
Director
#####

Charles has also written to correct an error which appeared in "From the Factory" last month. The award for the Executive was received at "The National Motorhome and Tourer Show" which was held at Peterborough. The "Motor Caravan Show" is, of course, a different show entirely and will be held, as you have seen from the special booking form, at the Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet in September.

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Vice-Chairman's Chat

Another Club & Company rally behind us. I hope that those of you who attended enjoyed yourselves; at least the weather was kind. I would like to thank all members who gave up their time to help with the rally beforehand, on the day and afterwards. I would also like to say a big thank you to the staff of Auto-Sleepers who did a large amount of work, particularly the girls who answer the telephone. I understand that they fielded a number of calls from people who wanted to come to the rally but were told they couldn't because they were not members. Several members of the committee had similar calls. The reason we don't allow these people to attend is we want to keep the rally as a **CLUB** and Company rally, otherwise it would become another similar to Peterborough or Stratford, and the organisation would be beyond the band of volunteers who do it at the moment. If we brought in paid staff other problems would arise (what would happen to your subscription?).



Okay, I hear you say, let these people join at the rally. We tried this at the first rally. I (as Membership Secretary) had no time to relax. I went home from the rally absolutely shattered and I still had to sort out the paperwork. You may be interested to know that only two members from the twenty four who joined at the rally renewed their subscription at the end of year. Of course, if you think that people should be allowed to join at the rally, please feel free to volunteer to take over the position - I have had the odd comment that it's about time I gave it up! Another reason for restricting numbers is the envelopes that are handed out at the rally. These involve a great amount of preparation, printing, collating and envelope stuffing which takes time. If there wasn't a cut off date for bookings, we wouldn't know how many envelopes to prepare and our printers (*Rita & Phil Daley*) would be forever printing and have no time whatever for themselves.

At the rally, our two charities this year (the Salvation Army and St John Ambulance Brigade) each received cheques for £700.00. The Salvation Army also collected £271.00 at the service on Sunday morning.

I should like to compliment *Steve Bowler* (the other Joint Vice-Chairman) on the way he handled the Special General Meeting. The motion before the meeting was comprehensively rejected.

If you have any comments/suggestions about entertainment at the

rally (or AGM) please let me know (address and telephone number same as the Editor's on the back page) and I will forward them to the sub-committee. If you want to help on any sub-committee again let me know. We are (as you know) always looking for volunteers. Next month this section will revert to normal as *Arthur Irving* will have returned from holiday. We hope, *Arthur*, that you (and *Winifred*) had a thoroughly good time.

Sheila Henthorne

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Auto-Sleepers get Everywhere!

"Auto-Sleeper", we cried in unison as we drove round a camp site in New Zealand. When we'd parked our hired motor van we walked over to have a closer look. We hadn't expected to see one in New Zealand! The owners' were very friendly, as we found all New Zealanders, and we had quite a chat with them. Before we left the following morning they looked at the maps we had with us and suggested things not to miss and good routes to follow.

They told us that the husband had been sent to work in England for some time by his firm. Whilst there they had bought a second-hand VW Auto-Sleeper - a VT 20. They had liked it so much that when they were returning to New Zealand they decided to buy a new one. As the VT 20 layout is no longer available they bought a Trooper and paid the considerable cost of having it crated and transported home. They are still delighted with it and are planning to take it with them on a visit to Australia. Surely good evidence of the quality of Auto-Sleepers.

Sheila and David Smart

In an accompanying letter *S & D* told me that they flew to Auckland then did a coach tour from there to Christchurch. Then they hired the van and made their own way back. They went on to say "we had a wonderful holiday and did some exciting things that we'd not have done here!" The mind boggles!! Maybe a suitable topic for a future item in the Newsletter?

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

As relatively new Club members we read with some surprise the letter from *Mima and Roy Magna* in the July Newsletter. We think perhaps that such comments ought to be counterbalanced by our own experience.

Forthcoming Rallies.

1st - 8th September; Moreton Glade Holiday Rally, Moreton, Dorchester, Dorset.

Your rally marshals: Barbara & Jeff Worley.

Site fee: £4.25 per night Electricity: £1.60 per night. Rally fee: £2.00

Booking slip to: Mrs & Mrs J Worley, 26 Houndstone Park, Gunners Lane, Brympton, Yeovil, Somerset. BA22 8SQ. Telephone: 01935 24049

Cheque payable to: B Worley.

Attractions: A well-equipped site; our fifth year here. Extra days at same rates.

Trains to Poole and to Weymouth (via Dorchester). Lulworth Cove, Poole Harbour, Studland and other attractions nearby.

Directions: Site on B3390 by Frampton Arms pub by Moreton station (B R).

1st - 3rd September; White Hart, Old Leake, Boston, Lincolnshire.

Your rally marshals: Ray & Joan Young.

Site fee: £5 per van for the weekend (two nights). Electricity: NO

Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs R J Young, Sharnbrook Cottage, Main Road, Langton, Horncastle, Lincs. LN9 5JT Telephone: 01507 523467

Cheque payable to: R J Young

Attractions: This is a Pub & Caravan Site. Early Bird dinner on Saturday evening; choice of menu; meals available in pub at other times. Coach trip to Skegness on Saturday, £2 per head; pay on entry. Indicate if interested when booking.

Directions: Turn off A52 Boston/Skegness road about 8 miles north of Boston onto B1184, s.p. SIBSEY; pub in 200 yards on right before church. Enter pub car park and continue on to field at rear.

Limited to 25 vans.

8th - 10th September; Highland End Farm, Eype, Bridport, Dorset

Your rally marshals: Michael & Maureen Torah.

Site fee: £6.00 per unit per night. Electricity: £1 per night. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs M Torah, 14 Compton Road, New Milton, Hants. BH25 6EQ Telephone: 01425 618320

Cheque payable to: M Torah

Attractions: Meal on site Saturday evening. South West Coast Path passes site.

Views over Lyme Bay, West Dorset Heritage Coast.

Directions: Off A35 Bridport by-pass, follow signs to Eype.

8th - 10th September; Northern Motor Caravan Show, York Racecourse

Your rally marshals: Joan & Arthur Dewhurst.

You must complete the booking form to be found in the current copy of Motorcaravan Motorhome Monthly and post it with your remittance direct to the organisers. If you mark the form clearly "Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" you may deduct £2 from the total fee (NOT £2 per night!)

Then complete a Club rally slip and send it with £1.50 to: Arthur Dewhurst, 323 Dugg Hill, Heversham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria. LA7 7EF. Cheque payable to A. Dewhurst.

14th - 17th September; Beamish Museum, Chester-le-Street, Tyne & Wear.

Your rally marshals: Neil & Pauline Rogers.

Site fee: £3.00 per night Electricity: NO Rally fee: £1.50 Green Field Site

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs N Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough-St-John,

Richmond, North Yorkshire

DL11 7TT

Telephone: 01325 374540

Cheque payable to: N Rogers.

Attractions: Beamish Museum (The North of England Open Air Museum) Durham City, Metro Centre. Pub food available at nearby pub.

Directions: From North & South follow A1(M). Turn off for Chester-le-Street, follow signs for Beamish Museum on A693 (signposted STANLEY), approx 4 miles.

Limited to 35 Vans.

15th - 17th September; Motor Caravan Show, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet.

Your rally marshals: Stella & Ian Ross

Complete booking form with this issue, Members only, and send with fee to Show organisers.

Complete Club booking slip and send with £1.50 rally fee to: Mr & Mrs I Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1DL

Telephone: 01708 228075 Cheque payable to:- I Ross

22nd - 24th September; Chichester Camping, Southbourne, Hampshire.

Your rally marshals: Arthur & Jackie Claxton.

Site fee: £6 per night Electricity: Included in site fee Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs A Claxton, Flat 13 Albany Mansions, Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex. TN38 0YD Telephone: 01424 714915

Cheque payable to: A Claxton.

Attractions: Seashore walks, flat biking country, bus & train service to Chichester, Portsmouth & beyond.

A communal get together on Saturday evening - please bring your own barbecue & food

Directions: Site is on the A259, Chichester to Havant road, on the outskirts of Southbourne village.

Limited to 50 vans

27th Sept - 1st Oct; Cherry Tree Site, Sutton-on-Sea, Lincs.

Your rally marshals: Bob Brindle / A. N. Other

Site fee: £2.00 per night. Electricity, 25 only, £1.60. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: R Brindle, 43 Welham Grove, Retford, Notts. DN22 6TZ

Telephone: 01777 711588

Cheque payable to: R Brindle

Attractions: Level grass site, privately owned and run. Toilets and Showers (20p), water & Elsan. 10 minutes level cycle ride to sleepy Sutton-on-Sea. 15 minute level walk to Grange and Links Hotel/pub/restaurant. Bracing East Coast sea air, bring

(continued on page 3)

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name: Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name: Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name: Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

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

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

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

.....
Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

✂-----

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

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal, if any: Yes No

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

.....
Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

✂-----

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

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal, if any: Yes No

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

.....
Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

Rally: Date:
Your name and address (please PRINT)
.....
..... Post code:
Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:
Day/Time of arrival
In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?
Name: Phone:
Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:
Your name and address (please PRINT)
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.....
..... Post code:
Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:
Day/Time of arrival
In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?
Name: Phone:
Please complete both sides of the form!

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

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

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

Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

✂-----

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

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal, if any: Yes No

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

Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

✂-----

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

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal, if any: Yes No

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

Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

your bikes and walking boots. Good T.V. reception. Sandilands Golf Course.
Directions: Site on A52 Huttoft Road, 1.5 miles South of Sutton-on-Sea, 2.5 miles
North of Huttoft - look for brown Cherry Tree Site signs.

Limited to 40 vans.

29th Sept/1st Oct; The Old Kiln Rural Life Museum, Tilford, Surrey.

Your rally marshals: Sylvia & Al Gatehouse.

Site fee: £3.50 per night. No Electricity Rally fee: £1.50 Toilets available.

Booking slip to: Mrs S Gatehouse, "Celestina", 21 Eashing Lane, Godalming,
Surrey. GU7 2JZ Telephone: 01483 422620

Cheque payable to: Sylvia Gatehouse

Attractions: The Museum itself; Garden Centre with Tea and Gift Shop (don't forget
Christmas is fast approaching); Frensham Ponds, Gibbet Hill and The Punch Bowl
at Hindhead, all local beauty spots within easy reach. Supper on site Saturday
evening @ £5.50 per head - numbers please by 14th September.

Directions: Take A287 out of Farnham (s.p. Frensham/Minehead) turning left
opposite "The Mariners" P.H. From the South: A3 to Hindhead, turn left at cross
roads traffic lights onto A287 (s.p. Frensham/Farnham) turning right opposite "The
Mariners" P. H. From London: down A3 to Hindhead turning right at traffic lights then
as above. Site approx 1½ miles from "The Mariners" on left just past Garden Centre
Limited to 20 vans.

5th/6th - 8th October; Barnstones, Great Bourton, Banbury, Oxon.

Your rally marshals: Phyllis & John Bates.

Site fee: £4.00 per night. Electricity: NO Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs F Bates, The Cedars, The Green, Adderbury, Oxon.
OX17 3ND. Telephone: 01295 811106

Cheque payable to: J F Bates

Attractions: "Cheese & Wine" in Barn on Saturday evening can be arranged -
advise if interested.

Directions: 3 miles North of Banbury on A423 Banbury to Coventry road turn Right
s.p. Great Bourton. Site 200 yards on right.

6th - 8th October; Whitchurch Cricket Club, Whitchurch, Shrops.

Your rally marshal: Audrey Crouch.

Site fee: £4.00 for two nights Electricity: NO Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mrs A M Crouch, "Sydney", Sylvan Close, Higher Heath,
Whitchurch, Shrops. SY13 2TB Telephone: 01948 840894

Cheque payable to: A M Crouch.

Attractions: Clubhouse open for the rally, all facilities. Bar open Saturday evening,
meal £1.80 per head, send with rally slip. Saturday: Coach trip to Bridgemere
Garden Centre; book at rally.

Directions: From North on A49 follow Town Centre signs. At roundabout stay on
main road bearing left, over traffic lights past Mobil station then 2nd right (S P
WEM) . From South on A41 take road signposted Town Centre - B5395 (offside
lane). Over next roundabout then 1st left (s.p. WEM). Turn right for the Cricket Club.

Limited to 40 vans.

13th - 16th October; Camping & Caravan Club Site, East Horsley, Surrey.
Your rally marshals: Sally & Jerry Haxton.

Site fee: £5.35 per night Electricity: £1.60 per night. Rally fee: £1.50
Booking slip to: Mr J Haxton, "Almond Tree House", Send Hill, Send, Woking,
Surrey. GU23 7HR

Telephone: 01483 223476

Attractions: Toilets, showers, rec. room. Fishing lake on site stocked with carp,
tench, etc. ½ hour train service to London & Guildford. R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley 2
miles. Hampton Court, Claremont Gardens, Esher.

A mini-bus with driver will be available on Saturday for a set-down & pick-up service
to local attractions & station.

Directions: Leave M25 at Junction 10, take A3 towards Guildford, approx ½ mile
take slip road B2039 s.p. Ockham & Horsley. Site 2 miles on Right, Camping &
Caravan Club sign at entrance to site.

20th - 22nd October; Penybont Touring Park, Bala, Gwynedd.

Your rally marshals: Helen & John Greenwood.

Site fee: £5.00 per night Electricity: Yes (See Helen on arrival) Rally fee: £1.50
Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs J Greenwood, 55 Park Avenue, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Clwyd.
CH7 6XR

Telephone/ facsimile: 01244 548882

Cheque payable to: H Greenwood

Attractions: A meal will be organised on the Saturday night. Hardstanding, toilet
block, small shop on site. 10 minutes walk to town.

Directions: Approach Bala via A494/A5 from Corwen. On entering Bala turn left onto
B4391 at large coach & car park on left, follow road past end of Bala Lake; site is on
right just after sharp left hand bend.

NEW RALLY

**27th - 29th October; Watermouth Cove Holiday Park, Nr. Ilfracombe, North
Devon.**

Your rally marshals:- Sandra & Bernie Wisely.

Site fee: £4.20 per night Electricity: - £1.30 per night. Rally fee:- £1.50
Booking slip and cheque to:- Bernie & Sandra Wisely, 12 The Laurels, Roundswell
Village, Barnstaple, N. Devon. EX31 3QY

Telephone:- 01271 46400

Attractions: A meal & entertainment Saturday night subject to a minimum of Twenty
vans. On bus route to Combe Martin, Ilfracombe and Barnstaple.

Directions:- At Junction 27 of M5 join link road A361. Leave link road at Aller Cross
(roundabout) onto A399. Follow Combe Martin signs; go through Combe Martin
towards Ilfracombe. After about 2 miles site on right just before castle.

In September 1993, six months after taking possession of our Talisman, we met a very friendly couple, driving an Executive, on the St. Agnes Head camp site in Cornwall. They were a mine of information to two "green" motor caravanners who had 'tugged' for the previous twenty years. They introduced themselves as *Joan and Arthur Dewhurst* and their encouragement and enthusiasm were a strong influence in our decision to join the Club. We decided that if they were an example of the members of the ASOC it would be a very pleasant Club to join. We have not been disappointed and our membership has added a new and satisfying dimension to our lives.

Our initiation was at the Malvern rally in July 1994 where we found that virtually everyone we met were a friendly, informative, interesting and helpful lot. This was followed by a variety of other rallies, all northern ones as it happens even though we live near Oxford, and it has been a great pleasure to meet such a pleasant lot of folks on a semi-regular basis.

Very early on in our membership we were given the tip to book the rallies where numbers are restricted immediately they were announced as they often filled quickly. When this advice has been followed we have always been able to book a place. We would strongly advise *Mina and Roy* to try again. We are sure that their experiences must have been due to a variety of unfortunate circumstances. The rally organisers appear to be such a friendly breed who put enormous amounts of hard background work into the organisation of their rallies to ensure the smooth running for the likes of ourselves. Keep it up, rally marshals. Our thanks to you for your work and for the pleasure which this normally gives us all.

Val and Brian Hooton

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The New Year Rally

Please note that this rally at Ilfracombe is now FULLY BOOKED and no further applications can be considered.

Barbara & Jeff Worley

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The Fiamma Loo

We have received a letter from a new member, *Ray Marriott*, in which he says that he has been having problems with his Fiamma loo in his Symphony. It has been repaired 4 times and is waiting for the 5th

repair. After 14 months of battling he has finally managed to get a member of staff from Fiamma in Italy to come to England at the beginning of September to try to sort out the problems which have been caused by that toilet. He has seen the articles about loos in our Newsletter and he is willing to put any further questions to the Fiamma rep on arrival in the UK. So if you have any questions or comments you would like to put before Fiamma please contact *Ray* as soon as possible. His telephone or fax number is 0181 531 8248 and his home address is 159 Winns Avenue, Lloyd Park, Walthamstow, London, E17 5HB.

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FROM THE FACTORY

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY

A word from the Technical Manager

We have received one or two questions about the additional relay that we now fit on certain models. From 1996 there is some legislation concerning electro-magnetic compatibility (EMC) that will affect all electrical appliances (we shall call this "domestic"). There is another piece of EMC legislation that affects automotive electrics. Both become effective on the same date. As I write, the Automotive Directive (an EEC law) has not yet been published but the automotive industry believes it knows what the directive will contain.

Put simply, EMC is about one appliance or a piece of equipment producing an electrical disturbance that interferes with the operation of another. At Auto-Sleepers we have had one occurrence of this in the last five years. One piece of equipment failed and in doing so caused an electrical disturbance that switched on another piece of equipment. Many of you may have heard the anecdote about a driver who was stopped by a police motorbike. The driver got out of his car leaving the keys in the ignition. The policeman used his radio which triggered the central locking system, locking the keys inside the car. Whether this or any of the other anecdotes is true is unknown but this type of phenomenon does exist.

The electronics in vehicles are becoming more and more sophisticated and there are more of them. The appliances that we fit in vehicles comply with the domestic EMC directive but not the Automotive Directive. For a piece of electrical equipment, and this does include gas igniters, lights etc., to be operable whilst the vehicle is in motion and whilst used as a residence, it would need to comply with both directives. Our solution to this is the third relay, which disconnects the residential

(or second) battery from our appliances while the ignition is switched on. This ensures that they cannot be used whilst the vehicle is in motion and therefore they cannot interfere with vehicle electronics and hence the driver's control of the vehicle.

Which means that we comply with the law. However, we believe that it is also a sensible precaution to ensure that our appliances cannot interfere with the vehicle's electrics. You would not want the engine management systems being told to accelerate at maximum just as you are trying to park in that small space. Perhaps this brings you a little further up to date with EMC - an enormous subject in itself but in these days of increasing reliance on electronics, a vitally important one indeed!

Steven Riley

It must have been easier with a steam roller and a trailer van with coal fired cooking.

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GAS TANK FILLING

I am indebted to *Mike Sims* who, having obtained a list of Autogas sites from Calor, kindly passed a copy on to me. It extends to nine A4 sheets of paper containing over 70 towns so it is a little long to include in the Newsletter. But I can list the counties in which gas can (apparently) be obtained. If anyone wants addresses, please write to me and let me know the area in which you are interested. (S.A.E. appreciated.) I must stress, though, that you would be well advised to telephone the dealer before driving along to them because some, I believe, have stopped retailing gas.

The counties are: Berkshire (1), Cambridgeshire (2), Cheshire (4), Cornwall (1), Cumbria (2), Derbyshire (2), Devon (2), Durham (1), Essex (2), Greater Manchester (3), Hampshire (1), Herefordshire (1), Humberside (4), Kent (5), Lancashire (4), Leicestershire (1), Lincolnshire (1), London (2), Merseyside (1), Northamptonshire (2), Nottinghamshire (2), Somerset (1), Staffordshire (1), Suffolk (1), Sussex (1), Tyne & Wear (4), West Midlands (6), Wiltshire (1), Worcestershire (1), Yorkshire (8), Wales (3), Scotland (15).

The list was compiled in 1993 so changes may have occurred by now.

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DRIVING POSITIONS

My wife and I visited Plymouth Motor Caravans recently to inspect their stock and while there both of us checked out the Duetto. We liked it but we have one question. Is Ford Motor Company or Auto-Sleepers responsible for supplying the minuscule Filipino or Chinese driver - and does the company pay for their keep?



Neither of us could drive the thing for any distance. Granted that we are a bit overweight, but neither have any problems with our Express based Harmony. My wife had extreme difficulty getting her thighs under the steering wheel with the seat in its lowest position! Somebody started well, but failed to think far enough ahead.

It is apparently impossible to move the seat runners a few inches because, logically, A-S use all the available space left. As a matter of interest, Herald Motorhomes seem to have the same problem so perhaps the Ford floorpan is to blame. Comments from normal sized drivers would be appreciated.

Maurice Wright.

I wonder if it boils down to the position of the steering wheel which may be in a flatter plane in the Harmony than in the Duetto. Any views, please? See also the next letter.

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Turbo-Diesel

Last October I took delivery of a Duetto with a 2.5 di engine. Because we sometimes have other members of the family come away with us we occasionally have the need to tow a caravan. I therefore decided that I would have the engine converted to Turbo with intercooler by T.B.Turbo of Lancaster. The van was duly booked in and upon arrival at their premises we were shown to a 1.4i Vauxhall Corsa which was loaned to us for the period of conversion. I had some doubts about getting our luggage into the Corsa but it swallowed it with ease. An enjoyable couple of days was spent visiting the Lake District and Gretna Green and we then returned to collect the Duetto.

Before settling the bill I was shown the alterations to the engine and then drove the van, with one of their engineers, around their "test circuit" in Lancaster. The difference in performance was remarkable. It was like having the flexibility of a car engine. Although the top end speed

Safeways Security Products (0151-653-3414) did have them in stock. I ordered three at 10 o'clock of a Friday morning and our charming post girl got me out of bed before 9 on the Saturday to deliver them! The cost was £38.85. The good news was that I had saved £155.03, the bad news was that I had no idea how to set about fitting them.

The basic principle is that you need to make three holes for each lock, one in the edge of the door for the bolt to go in, one in the face of the door for the lock to go in and one in the door jamb for the bolt to slide into when you lock the door. These holes are all over 1/2" which is the biggest drill I can get into my drill. This is not really a problem because using a socking great drill on the thin metal of a van door is not a very clever idea, at the point when it pierces the skin it is liable to jam and tear the metal. It is much better to put a plain label over the point where you want to make the hole, draw a neat circle on it, divide the circumference into 8 sections and make a mark with a centre punch just inside at each of these marks. Then take a 1/8" drill and make a hole at each point. Then take a 3/16" and enlarge each hole. The holes will now more or less run into each other and you can get the centre bit out. Finally take a half-round file and smooth the hole to the required size.

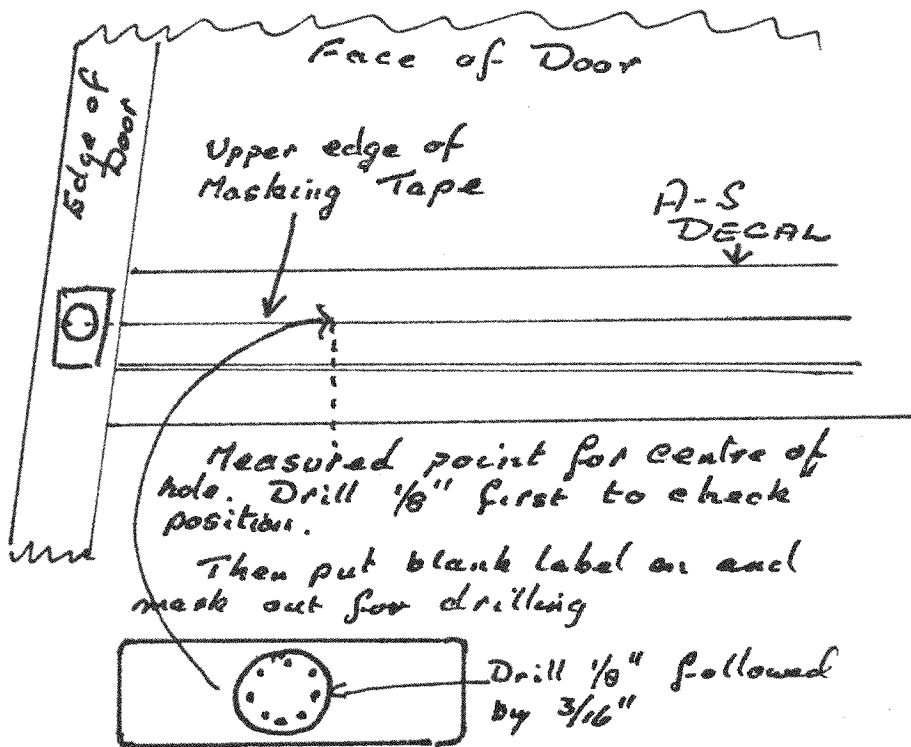
The most difficult part is getting the hole in the face of the door in the right place. The instructions tell you exactly how to get it the right distance from the edge. To get the right height take a line from the centre of the bolt (which is the first thing you put in) to the edge of the door. Measure precisely the height of this point above some useful datum. In my case the decal along the door was at the right height. Assume that the decal has been put on level and make a pencil mark on the door at the same height at a point at least a foot from the edge of the door. Place a length of masking tape so that the edge joins your two marks. Then measure the right distance from the edge of the door as described in your instructions. I then made my big hole at this point. I should have made a small hole (1/8") and looked very carefully to make sure I was in the right place. As it was I got it slightly wrong and had a bit of a fiddle to square things up.

It's not really too bad a job, and well worth the extra sense of security it gives. Allow yourself plenty of time, say at least three hours per lock. I also found that it was a help to taper the ends of the bolts slightly with a grinding wheel. It made fitting the plates on the door jamb holes much easier. Incidentally there is a slight problem with the back doors

of a van. The lock goes in the off-side door, and the near-side door has to be built out to take the bolt. I did it with Dexion, but a solid block of wood (oak) would be better. That would be bolted to the frame with a couple of 1/4" bolts.

Nial Reynolds

One thing we can say for our members - they are game to try almost anything!



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WANTED

Legend, 1992, 'J' reg. Petrol or diesel. Please contact Malcolm Taylor, 5 Pegs green Close, Reading, RG30 2NH or telephone him on 0173 459 8931

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Double bicycle carrier, purpose made to fit any Talbot with rear opening doors. £90.00. Please contact Clare Somerville on 0193 581 3310 or write to her at Tabard Cottage, South Street, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 3LX.

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Talbot Talisman GL 1991 'H' reg. MOT to February 1996. Alarmed. Excellent condition throughout. 28,000 miles. 4 berth. New exhaust. Recently serviced. 2 owners only. New style wing mirrors. Unleaded fuel. Economical. £17,500.00 ono. Telephone Margaret & Stuart Gibson on 0199 246 1967 or 0199 246 5443 or write to them at 9 Lyttons Way, Hoddesdon, Herts, EN11 9NH.

#####

Omnistor Light 2.6m pull out awning, complete with all brackets to fit Rambler, Harmony etc. Only used twice. Reason for sale - we have moved up to the Executive. Price new was £299.00 - selling price £200.00. Contact Ron Robinson on 0127 337 3263 or write to him at 38 Seaview Crescent, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 3JE.

#####

Trio Auto free-standing awning. Fitted my 1995 Trident beautifully. Used only twice and is as new. Cost £380.00 (and that was a rock bottom discount price!) - a bargain at only £250.00. Will fully demonstrate the ease of erection to the purchaser. Telephone any time to Reg Rogers 0178 454 4400 or write to him at 11 Broomfield, Octavia Way, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 2QD.

#####

As a result of a visit to the A-S shop at Malvern I now have available for sale at a negotiable price 3 Fiamma Roof Lights with the old 'straps'. Please contact Rose & Graham Stott (phone or fax) on 0160 676 099 or write to 32 Landswood Park, Hartford Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1NF.

#####

"New" Silver Screens (2) front and rear windows. Fit A-S VX50 VW Transporter. Reason for sale - change of vehicle. £60.00 the pair. Please telephone Albert Brown on 0181 300 6207 or write to him at 139 Bexley Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4JJ.

#####

FOR SALE

Harmony, 2 litre petrol, Jan. 1991. 21,000 miles. All mod cons - central heating, shower, swivel seats, auxiliary battery etc. Plus waste water tank, Ran-tastic 3 speed 2-way fan, remote alarm, large bed extension. Non-smokers, no pets. Immaculate condition. £12,750.00 ono. Telephone Ken Harris on 0138 437 1327 or write to him at 20 Greenfinch Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 7HY.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

VW T4 Front Bumper - almost as new. £85.00. Buyer must collect. Telephone Reg Rogers on 0178 445 4400 or write to him at 11 Broomfield, Octavia Way, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 2QD.

#####

Auto-Minder dual system immobiliser from Car Security (UK) Ltd. RRP £300.00. Unwanted, unused prize. £100.00. Phone George Chatfield on 0149 456 2154 or write to him at 21 Orchard Close, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 4PR

#####

Fiamma Top Box. Cost new £288.00 will accept £200.00. 1 set of cab insulation pads (Silver Screens) for VW. Cost new £68.00 - accept £40.00. Leros Designs rear ladder guard £10.00. Plastic Step £5.00. Telephone M (Sorry, we have no first name!) Jones-Evans on 0165 476 7567 or write to him at Bodwennol, Aberdovey, Gwynedd, LL35 0NT.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

'F' reg Turbo-diesel Talisman. Fiamma awning. New curtains fitted by A-S. Fresh and waste water tanks. Radio/cassette. Non smokers. Maintenance history. Very good condition. £12,500.00 or very near offer. Available after 2nd October 1995. Telephone Rita and Sam Leitch on 0198 463 3473 or write to them at 18 Halfacre, Williton, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4NX.

Thanks for the donation

#####

Daisy Wane wrote to tell me of a meet organised by *June & Tom Pycock* in aid of a local Scanner Appeal. I understand that a number of friends met and managed to raise £257.00 towards the appeal. Obviously, this did not constitute a Club rally so it cannot be reported as such. But congratulations to the *Pycocks* none the less.

And that's about it for this time. Now for another short break before the next issue. See you!

Your Editor
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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.

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