

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**



**NEWSLETTER 91  
APRIL 1996**

Hello.

A funny thing happened as we were travelling home recently. The warning light for the Glow Plugs came on and stayed on! When the VW Clubman GL went in for service I asked to have this problem checked thinking that it was probably a simple earthing fault. Wrong! Apparently the relay had blown. It was replaced at a cost of £80.00 plus £30.00 for checking and labour, all plus the dreaded VAT. Whatever happened to the simple, cheap to repair, motor vehicles?

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## The AGM Weekend

If anyone who is attending wishes to stay on overnight on the Sunday night, will they please contact *Ron Wilson* during that weekend! Do NOT try to book it either beforehand or on the normal booking form. Arrangements can only be made with *Ron* at the weekend.

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## Committee Meeting

Your Committee met at Willersey on Saturday, 2nd March. Things are well in hand for the AGM (see flyer) rally and for the Club and Company rally (see note from *Brian Hooton*). For the rest, it was necessary discussion of various things which would be extremely boring to report in these pages. One item of interest was that *Charles Trevelyan* told us that Richard Holdsworth is now a design consultant with A-S. We shall look forward, with interest, to the future.

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## COLOUR SENSE

Some of you may have been a bit puzzled by the Vice-Chairman's chat last month. He mentioned the green booking forms for the AGM and you quite possibly received a yellow form. You may be interested in the reason - and it's NOT colour blindness!

When we printed the booking form we had 1000 sheets of YELLOW paper, the colour we normally use for the AGM form, and we had 1080 members to supply. The cost of a ream of yellow paper from our local shop is very high and we had enough GREEN paper to meet the requirements over the first 1000, i.e. some for *Sheila Henthorne* for new joiners, some for *Jackie Claxton* and a few for those whose surname begins with 'W'. Only *Jackie* would know that we had cheated a bit! Wrong!! *Steve Bowler* asked everyone to fill in their GREEN forms.

I have apologised to him.

Incidentally, have you booked yet? This is a good weekend and the meal is good value for money. The AGM is usually fairly lively and the Open Forum which follows is even more so. Those with opinions on the Club, its running, its future etc., are not afraid to speak up. So if you have forgotten to book - do give *Jackie Claxton* a ring on 0142 471 4915 and then confirm it with a booking form. *Jackie* has kindly agreed to accept bookings up to Easter Saturday, 6th April but after that it will be too late!

*Rita Daley.*

If you do ring, please remember that *Jackie* is a working lady and she may not be on the end of the telephone all the time!

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## Club & Company Rally, 1996

Plans are well advanced for the rally at Malvern on 12th - 14th July. We can again look forward to a very entertaining weekend and I am sure that you will be pleased to learn that the basic rally fee has been reduced to £16.00. One reason for the reduction is that this year the raffle income will be used to subsidise the event. But we are still keeping to our tradition of making a substantial donation to charity. This year the proceeds from the various stalls, the cake auction and the quiz will go to the Alzheimers Disease Society. The booking form for the Club and Company Rally will go out with the May Newsletter and, as usual, there is no limit to the number of members who may attend. Come and join in!

*Brian Hooton*

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## A Word of Warning!

Just before the cold spell I drained the water tank in my Rhapsody. Next day I had a flat battery! Cause - the water pump works automatically when the water pressure drops. No water = no pressure and, surprisingly, the pump was still chugging away 24 hours later with the battery almost dead flat. It remains to be seen if the pump is permanently damaged. The switch isolating the pump was left on and the pump would have been heard had I re-entered the van after all the water had drained out. So, another lesson learned and maybe it could be a warning to someone else one day.

*Ron Wallis*

As a habit we turn off the pump and 12v switches before we leave the Clubman at home. This routine probably helps.

## Clubman GL Adjustments

Members of our Club, being human, will have chosen their particular Willersey model all according to their own set of reasons and requirements. We chose the Clubman because it represented practically everything that we could desire packed into a very compact space. We personally set great store by this compactness as it enables easier parking and storage so we accept the disadvantage of slight cramped-ness compared with the other coachbuilts in the range which are wider.

However one member of our partnership started wondering if better use could be made of what space there is. This person found the backrests to the bench seats rather bulky and caused one to sit closer to the centre line than desirable. They are also quite heavy and a bit of a liability if not required at bedtime. First the wooden flaps were taken off as thought to be completely surplus but that obviously didn't make a lot of difference. Then it was thought that if the depth of them could be reduced from 6" to 4" this would enable one to sit a bit further back, away from the centre line, and afford more support under the thighs. If then the wooden backing was totally removed and what was left cut in half one would end up with two much more manageable cushions. Pause for thought about this one!

The other partner next suggested that if the height of the cushions was reduced by 2" or so then they would wedge in under the window ledge which would obviate the need to make them less thick. This would mean that they could still be used for creating the double bed configuration if required. Sounded good in theory but beyond our skills to produce a finished article that maintained the high standard of the original. Difficult to find a material to tone in satisfactorily even if a local "cushion-er" could be found to make them.

Of course! Have a word with A-S. No problem. Could be made in exactly the right matching materials. And so it came to pass. We now have four cushions (without backing boards) each of which measures 11.5" x 26" x 6". They wedge in very firmly under the ledges even with the tables stowed, although we do prefer to store the larger table in the loo, suitable restrained. All this was it because it was such an effort to move the original backrest to get it out. Now of course even that is easier. It is a much more comfortable sitting position and although you may think it imagination we find it easier to pass down the car past a sitter. Clearly very easy to stow at night and the extra 4" gained athwartships makes the van look perceptibly wider. Weight saving around 12 lbs.

One partner to the other... "well, I wouldn't have believed it!"  
The reply... "I told you so..."

*Peter Bishop*

We don't find it much of a problem inside the van. When converting to the double bed we push the offside cushion down into the gap without any trouble. And because we don't have to move them very much we don't really notice the weight. But we do agree about the overall length of the vehicle. Our parking space is very limited. We had a glance at a new Legend and liked the layout. But the length is around 2 feet more than the Clubman. Our available space behind the van at home is just 17' - and that is optimistic. So.....

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### Advice, please.

Having had my 2.4 litre, 5 cylinder, Diesel Clubman for just over a year and having covered approximately 5000 miles, I am seriously considering taking it to T.B.Turbos of Lancaster to have a turbo and inter-cooler fitted. However the cost is around £1,900.00 and before I part with this rather large sum I would like to know the views of anyone who has had their own vehicle modified in this way. It does not have to be a Clubman as long as it has the same engine. My address is 37 Deer Park Crescent, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9HH and my telephone number is 0182 261 3234. Opinions would be very much appreciated, thank you.

*Tony Smith*

Having had the Clubman with the same engine for four years now I don't think I need a turbo. But if anyone can help...

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### *Chairman's Chat*



I was interested in *Doreen & David Palmer's* item, in the February Newsletter, on Green Cards and Eurocheques and thought the item cleared up the problem. Until I saw in the Daily Telegraph this morning (9th March) a report headed "French ban motorists without a Green Card". In this the AA. had said "motorists without international insurance green cards were being refused entry to the Channel Tunnel Shuttle by French police". The report goes on to say the AA. are checking but consider the French action to be illegal and that British private car insurance policies cover all European member states of the EC. at the minimum

legal level required by each country. They say that possession of a green card is unnecessary, whilst the French police say there is an "incompatibility" between British and European insurance documents. The item finishes with a comment from a spokesman for the Department of Transport "This is an insurance matter and not an issue we would become involved in."

As a Francophobe, I see this as a typical attitude of "Them" across the English Channel and can only repeat what I said in the January Newsletter - "a Green Card is recommended for most members of the EC. and is compulsory for the rest of Europe". I have asked my insurers for a card, for when I go on the Second Dutch Bulb Fields Rally, and they are sending one to me to state that they are extending my cover whilst I am in Holland. Do contact your own insurers and get them to state, in writing,

- a) Will they or will they not issue you with a Green Card.
- b) If they will not, will they state exactly what insurance cover you have whilst abroad, and
- c) Any comments they have on the French police action.

As for the non-acceptance of Eurocheques in France, I have spoken with my Natwest branch who contacted their Overseas Department. They said the non-acceptance was, generally, the case and French banks want you to use the cash dispenser rather than visiting the counter. Obviously, you must know your Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use the dispenser and for the life of me I can't remember my PIN. I must contact my bank, ask them to advise me of it and then hope I can remember it when required! *Winifred's* local branch of TSB. said they knew there were problems but you could use your Bank Card without trouble.

From the above there are two very clear points.

1. Contact your insurers and your bank long before you go over to France, and
2. Will the European Community ever function as it was originally intended to?

Perhaps if you have anything further on these points you could mention it/them in the Open Forum, following the Club's Annual General meeting on Saturday, 20th April 1996, for the benefit of other members.

I do look forward to seeing you at the Annual Dinner and Dance

and the 7th AGM at Wicksteed Park, Kettering. This is probably best reached from the A.14 by turning onto the A.6 northwards. Ignore all the signs to Kettering and look out for the familiar brown signs which will clearly indicate the way to Wicksteed Park. When through the entrance, follow the ASOC signs to the parking area.

Please do **NOT** arrive before noon on Friday (19th April) even if you pass the Park and see some vans already in position. Some members will have to be in earlier so that pitches can be marked out and all the other arrangements completed. Please assist the Marshals by not trying to get in earlier. No queues on the main road, the A.6, please. If you approach the Park entrance and see the queue inside reaches the gate, drive on, turn around a little later and then return. We don't want the Club to get a bad name with the local Police. Many thanks. Finally, please remember to carry your Membership Card at all times while at Wicksteed Park.

*Arthur Irving*

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## THE THINGS OUR MEMBERS DO!



At the gathering in Los Gallardos, Spain, the Members present sponsored me to have a haircut. As a result I raised £50.00 which will be sent to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. My daughter is going back to work at the hospital. Thanks to all my sponsors.

*Alan Guest*

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## Theft Check Register

As members of the Caravan Club we recently had our renewal notice together with the opportunity to send for any of a variety of leaflets on services offered by that club. I decided to find out more about the Theft Check Register which is free to members after a nominal fee of £3.00 to cover administration.

When I read the leaflet explaining all about it I was aware that it kept referring only to caravans. So I telephoned East Grinstead House to enquire what the situation is with regard to motorcaravans. When I asked whether we could apply to join the Theft Check Register the reply was "not yet". This, to me, inferred that it was a possibility in the future.

Although this club is full of motorcaravans I'm sure there are many

of you who also belong to the Caravan Club. What do you think? Would you like the opportunity of having your vehicle added to such a register? I know we would welcome this, especially as our vehicle is still very new. Can we put pressure on the Caravan Club to include our vehicles? Have a go and phone the Insurance Services at East Grinstead House. We should have just as many benefits from membership as caravan owners, I think.

*Elizabeth Grimsley*

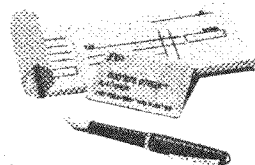
As I understood the register it was particularly aimed at trailer caravans because they have no VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) or Registration Number.

Incidentally, *Sheila Henthorne* has recently been "helping the police with their enquiries"! She had a letter asking whether we had any knowledge of stolen vehicles as one had been found. She was able to help from a list of stolen vehicles which have been notified to us and, so far as we can understand, the police may have found a vehicle which was stolen from one of our members. So if you suffer such a misfortune, please let your Editor know with full details so that they can be included on the list. Full details means engine, chassis and vehicle identification numbers, distinguishing marks such as dents etc., type and size of engine - you know the sort of thing.

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### **Eurocheques**

*Doreen & David Palmer* have kindly sent a copy of a letter received from the Caravan Club in response to their letter regarding these cheques. In part it reads:-



"I was rather horrified to read about Eurocheques no longer being accepted in France and have since spoken to the Lloyds Bank office in Southend which deals with Eurocheque problems. They advise that your statement is partly true, i.e. Credit Agricole banks in some areas of France are no longer cashing Eurocheques, Credit Mutuel, Banque Populaire, Banque National de Paris, Credit Lyonnais, Societe Marseillaise de Credit, Lyonnaise de Banque, CIC (Credit Industrielle et Commerce) and Societe Generale are offering encashment at some branches only. The most unfortunate piece of news is that neither the PTT (Post Office in France) nor the Caisse d'Epargne branches will cash them any more.

The positive news is that Credit du Nord and Banque Regionale d'Escompte et de Depots have guaranteed that they will continue to cash

Eurocheques for the foreseeable future. Also, 300,000 merchants, i.e. hotels, shops, car hirers, etc. will continue to accept them where the sign is displayed, plus ATMs (banks in the wall) can be used with some Eurocheque cards, VISA and Cirrus/Maestro cards.

I hope this puts some detail on the picture for you. Thank you again for alerting us to this situation.

Mrs J Tidy  
Information Officer  
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Perhaps I can help on some points as I do go to France regularly, my family are resident there. We have a Eurocard and Cheques plus a normal Switch card. When in France we just use a cash point in the street in the normal way. When you put your Eurocard in and enter your PIN the cash points automatically go into English for the transaction. You will also find, in most quite small towns, that the supermarkets take Switch at the check-out, just as at home.

Regarding vehicle insurance for the EC. I saw in The European newspaper that it is illegal for companies to charge us extra for EC insurance. So why do they still do it? Maybe we could find a company better fitted to our needs. Now that we have the EC and the Tunnel we should be able to go abroad without any problems at all, just when we feel like it. I for one would switch to a policy that allowed me to travel at any time.

May I raise a couple of points in regard to our van, please? We have a Talisman 2 Motor Home, great, but...! There is still no workshop manual available from Haynes. Could the Club put any pressure on them? We have quite a lot of members who would be potential customers. The other point is that my Peugeot/Talbot seems to have one problem. Despite having two large batteries fitted under the bonnet, when I turn the key the reaction is a weak UGHH and the engine just about drags over. As if the battery was either flat or duff! Most times the engine starts. What can be done to improve this? If anyone has any suggestions, my telephone number is 0145 381 1253. With thanks in advance.

*Mike Winbow*

This is from a very new member so any assistance will be gratefully received, I'm not entirely convinced that a publisher would listen to our Club - but perhaps the vehicle converters might be able to "have a go" at them as they use quite a few P-T chassis. As far as insurance for Europe is concerned, the green card system only gave the required third-part

cover for the countries visited. Many companies charge for an upgrade of cover to full comprehensive if this is required by the visitor. But it may be that gradually other companies will follow the lead of Norwich Union who, as reported last month, issue a pan-European cover and confirm it in their documents.

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## Computer Programmes

*Les Williams* kindly sent me a programme that he had written which will calculate the cost of your holidays, at home or abroad and with or without the ordinary running costs included. I suggested one or two amendments and he has now let me see the latest version which I must say works very well indeed. If you would like a copy you can send me (your Editor) a stamped addressed envelope and I will send you a print. Alternatively, why don't you write to *Les* at 4 Portland Close, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3DB? If you send him a fiver to cover the cost of the disc and post and packing he will be pleased to let you have a copy and save you the job of typing it all in. I must add, for the benefit of the initiated, that it is written in QBASIC, and if you don't understand what that means, never mind, just move on to the next subject!

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## Sierra Nevada

We saw in the March Newsletter that *Jack Dawson* has requested more details of this campsite that we recommended. We use the Red Michelin folding maps and toured around Portugal and Spain in March 1995. Camping "Puerto de las Espumas" is a lovely terraced site with views, spotlessly clean showers, toilets and laundry room etc., lots of hot water when we were there.

It is off the C.332 and with signposts from the village of Laroles, just before Ugijar.

*Rosemary & George Williams*

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## THE AGM

We read, with interest, the comments and hints in the monthly magazine and have, in the past, attended rallies where we have been made most welcome. We feel that we must answer one of the questions in the March "Vice" chat. Whilst we have enjoyed the AGM at Wicksteed Park, it is not always possible to attend as the dates are often after schools have 'gone back'! As many will probably be aware, the summer term starts with GCSE examinations and it is just not convenient to be away on

## Forthcoming Rallies.

12th - 14th April; The Ranch Caravan Park, Honeybourne, Nr Evesham, Worcs.

Your rally marshals: Felicity & Tim Goodfellow.

Site fee: £4.25 per night. Electricity (restricted number): £2.00 Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs T Goodfellow, Chiltern Heights, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire.  
OX9 5SX Telephone: 01844 351668

Cheque payable to: T Goodfellow.

Attractions: Good site in Vale of Evesham (Blossom Time?), clubhouse, bar, meals, shop.  
Stratford-upon-Avon and Tewkesbury near. Trains to Worcester.

Directions: Honeybourne is about 5 miles East of Evesham on the unclassified road between  
Bidford-on-Avon (Shakespeare country) and Weston sub Edge (near Willersey).

The Ranch is between the Domestic Fowl Trust and the railway station.

Limited to 45 vans.

19th - 21st April; Annual Dinner & A G M Rally, Wicksteed Park, Kettering,

Deadline for booking is now Saturday 7th April so there's just time, if you're quick.

Don't miss the excellent meal on Saturday evening or even a chance to air your views on Club  
matters on Saturday morning!

Spare booking forms from Mrs J Claxton, Flat 13, Albany Mansions, Upper Maze Hill,  
St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex. TN38 0YD Telephone: 01424 714915

25th - 28th April; National Motor Home & Tourer Show, Peterborough.

Our rally marshals: Audrey Crouch and Team.

Complete booking form in MMM, (closing date Friday 5th April). Special Club rates are: 4  
nights (Thurs - Sun incl) £19.00, 3 nights (any Thurs - Sun incl) £17.00, 2 nights (any Thurs -  
Sun incl) £15.00, 1 night (any Thurs - Sun incl) £10.00. Mark the form clearly "A-S O C" and  
send to:- NMTS, The Maltings, West St., Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH Cheques payable to Warners  
Group Holdings Plc. Complete one of our rally slips and post that with £1.00 rally fee to:  
Mrs A M Crouch, "Sydney", Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shrops. SY13 2TB  
Cheque payable to: A M Crouch. Telephone: 01948 840894.

If you have difficulty obtaining a booking form send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with  
your £1.00 rally fee (& booking slip) to Audrey and she will send you a form (if you ask for one!).

No arrivals before 2pm Thursday.

3rd - 6th May; Burn Gliding Club, Burn, North Yorkshire.

Your rally marshal: Alan Guest.

Site fee: £3.00 per night. NO electricity. Rally fee: £2.00

Booking slips to: Alan Guest, 27 Chiltern Drive, Ackworth, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF7 7DW  
Telephone: 01977 612773, after 6.30pm

Cheques payable to: A Guest

Attractions: Pie & Peas Saturday evening. Gliding lessons over the weekend.

Directions: From M62 junction 34 take A19 towards Selby. Gliding Club signposted in Burn village.

5th - 10th May; Bulb Fields Rally, Holland.

Your rally marshals Arthur & Winifred Irving. This rally is fully booked.

**9th - 12th May: Naburn Locks C. P. , York**

Rally marshals: Jim & Marion Henwood.

Site fee: £5.00 per night. No Electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slips to: Mr & Mrs J Henwood, 1 Fairfield Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesborough, Cleveland. TS5 5HB Telephone: 01642 821 983

Cheque payable to J Henwood

Attractions: Walk to York city centre, or take the river bus or the road bus. No parking problems. Toilets and showers on site.

Directions: Take outer Ring Road south of York (A64). Turn onto A19 North (to City Centre), in 100 yards turn left onto B1222. Site on bank of River Ouse next to Naburn Lock, ½ mile from Naburn, 4 miles south of York.

**NO VANS BEFORE 4pm ON THURSDAY, PLEASE.**

**10th - 17th May: Isle of Avalon T.P., Glastonbury, Somerset.**

Rally marshals: Ena & Roy Coleman.

Site fee: £5.50 per night. Electricity: £1.60 per night. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mrs E Coleman, 30 Kent Avenue, Minster, Sheerness, Kent. ME12 2DZ Telephone: 01795 873526

Cheques payable to Mrs E Coleman.

Attractions: Glastonbury, the Tor and Abbey. Saturday meal if numbers justify. Mid-week Beer & Skittles with meal. Lots of local interest.

Directions: A39. At Glastonbury by-pass turn off at s/p B3151 MEARE, WESTHAY, WEDMORE.

1st Right s/p GODNEY. Site on Left 100 yards. There is no limit on the number of vans.

Bookings can be for any number of days up to SEVEN. After that arrange with site owner.

**17th - 19th May: Long Hazel Caravan & Camping Park, Sparkford, Nr. Yeovil.**

Rally marshals: Linda & Trevor Hargreaves.

Site fee: £3.75 per night. No Electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs T Hargreaves, 13 Churchmoor Road, Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 2LN Telephone: 01202 886855

Cheque payable to: Mr T D Hargreaves

Attractions: Fleet Air Arm Museum, East Somerset Steam Railway.

Directions: At junction of A303 and A359 take A359 towards Sparkford village. Site in on the Left as you enter village.

**24th- 26th May: Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum , Halland, East Sussex.**

Your rally marshals: Harry & Sheila Henthorne.

Site fee: £2.25 per night No Electricity Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs H Henthorne, 144 Devonshire Hill Lane, London N17 7NH. Telephone: 0181 808 9112 Cheque payable to: H Henthorne

Attractions: The price of admission to Bentley will be discounted on production of your Club membership card. Walk through Glyndebourne woods (bluebell time).

A simple meal (limited number) on Saturday evening. Bluebell Railway and South Coast nearby.

(continued on page iii)

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!*

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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:-

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Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

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

X-----

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:-

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X-----

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Number of people in your van: Adults ..... Children .....

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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!

Directions: From London on A22 look for right turn (s.p. Bentley Wildfowl) just after end of Uckfield by-pass. From Eastbourne on A22 look for left turn just after Halland (same s.p.). From Brighton/Newhaven/Lewes look for right turn (s.p. Bentley Wildfowl) just before reaching A22. All Bentley Wildfowl signs are brown.

**30th May - 2nd June; Outdoor Alternative, Cerrig yr Adar, Rhoscolyn, Anglesey**

SMALL SITE:- 8 VANS ONLY.

Rally marshals: Helen & John Greenwood

Site fees: £2.50 per person per night NO ELECTRICITY. Rally fee: £1.50

Hot & cold water, toilets, showers.

Booking in the first instance by telephone call, before sending booking slip.

This rally will appeal to Bird watchers, rambles, sailors or canoeists.

Beach and cliff scenery close by..... very quiet.

No meal. Please bring a barbeque and food for a joint barbie! (if you have one!)

Telephone 01244 548882

Helen & John Greenwood, 55 Park Avenue, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Clwyd. CH7 6XR

**31st May - 2nd June; Woburn Abbey, Beds**

Your rally marshals: John & Janet Higgins.

Site fee: £5 per night NO Electricity, greenfield site Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs J Higgins, 92 Lowther Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 3LQ

Telephone: 01582 607796

Cheque payable to: J Higgins.

Attractions: Site in parkland with lakes, deer and rhododendrons. Historic house. Antiques centre & Safari Park. Walks, views, village ½ mile. Open Sunday Milton Keynes shopping 7 miles approx.

Directions: Junction 13 off M1 follow signs to Woburn turn left to Woburn Village then left to Abbey, pass church after 1½ miles, directly over cattle grid turn right follow A-S-O-C and 'Tony Wild Camping' signs, one way system, left onto field. OR, From South right on A4012 in Hockliffe. From A5 North left at Little Brickhill.

**No limit to number of vans**

**31st May - 23rd June; Irish Rally.**

Your rally marshals: Barbara & John Cox. This rally is fully booked

**7th - 9th June; Carrington Caravan Park, Millford-on-Sea, Hants.**

Rally marshal: Maureen Torah.

Site fee: £2.50 per night. No electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mrs M Torah, 14 Compton Road, New Milton, Hants. BR25 6EQ.

Telephone: 01425 618320 Cheque payable to: M Torah

Attractions: Level greenfield site with views of the Isle of Wight and Solent. Footpath to beach and village shops. Bus service to Lymington/Christchurch and beyond. Bring your barbeque (and food) for get-together on Saturday evening.

Directions: Turn off A337 Lymington/New Milton road to Millford-on-Sea. Turn by village green and take road towards Keyhaven. Turn right into New Lane approx. 200 yards past Elf Garage. Rally field is on right PAST main entrance to caravan park.

**13th - 16th June; Camping & Caravan Club Site, Canterbury, Kent.**

Rally marshals: Gordon &amp; Joyce Matthews

Site fee: £6.15 per night Electricity: £1.65 per night Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Gordon Matthews, Garden Cottage, Newnham Lane, Eastling. ME13 0AS

Tel: 01795 890368

Attractions: So much to see and do in historic Canterbury, site only 1½ miles from city centre. Not far from the city you can enjoy the coastal towns of Whitstable (oysters), Herne Bay, Ramsgate, or visit the Eurotunnel exhibition centre near Folkestone, Aspinall Park Zoo, so many more places of interest.

Directions: From the Dover bound A2 take the A2050 turn right at the 5th roundabout then left onto A257. Site on right S.P. Bekesbourne Lane.

**21st - 23rd June; Clapper Farm, Flatford Mill, Essex (Suffolk?)**

Your rally marshals: Stella &amp; Ian Ross

Site fee £3.00 per night. No electricity. Rally fee £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr &amp; Mrs I Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1DL.

Telephone: 01708 228075 Cheque payable to: I Ross.

Pub Meal Sat. evening, if required please send £5.00 per head deposit with booking slip.

Attractions: Green field site, 600 yard walk on footpath to Flatford Mill (Setting for John Constable's "The Haywain").

Directions: Turn Right off A12 (Colchester - Ipswich) onto B1070 (East Burgholt), follow signs for Flatford : at One-Way Road sign turn Left into farm.

Early booking requested.

**28th - 30th June; Guildford/Godalming Rugby Ground.**

Rally marshals: Sylvia &amp; Al Gatehouse.

Site fee: £5.00 per night. No Electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mrs S Gatehouse, 21, Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey. GU7 2JZ

Tel. No: 01483 422620. Cheques payable to Mrs S Gatehouse

Attractions: Lake & Sports Centre (indoor pool/tennis) adjacent; on local bus route; River Wey & tow path to Guildford/Godalming close by. Two-Hour Boat Trip on River Wey Saturday 4.30pm @ £5.00 per person. Supper in Club House Sat. evening @ £6.25 per head if sufficient interest. Please indicate numbers for both boat trip and/or meal when booking. Toilet facilities.

Directions: From South: A3 Northbound, turn Left at slip road signposted A3100, Milford/Godalming. Follow main road and Broadwater Lake with adjacent rugby ground is on Left just past the Manor Inn. From North: A3 Southbound, turn Left at slip road signposted B3000, Compton/Godalming. Follow straight through to roundabout, turn Right and rugby ground is on Right opposite Citroen garage.

Maximum 30 vans.

RALLY CO-ORDINATOR:

BOB BRINDLE 01777 711588

(Retford)

The Rally Supplement is prepared by Phil Daley, 46 Ulverley Green Road, Solihull, West Midlands. B92 8BQ.  
Telephone: 0121 706 1816

the first weekend after all the marking has been collected. For reasons of work it is also difficult to book rallies too far ahead, but if we phone and they are booked we accept this with equanimity and hope for better luck when we join that happy band of retired people. Alas! this will not be for a few years yet.

I would therefore ask the committee to accept apologies for non attendance; we do appreciate the hard work and we shall support events when possible. The Long Hazel Rally looks a distinct possibility; it has the advantage of being relatively near to the hawk sanctuary too.

Having served on many committees we are aware of the down side but thank you all for the good job you are doing.

*Liz and Tony Buzzard*

Your committee realises that (a) not everyone can and (b) not everyone wants to attend a general meeting. Compared with some, our meeting is usually reasonably brief and friendly. Afterwards in the Open Forum all manner of views may be expressed. Not all members of the committee are retired so we do appreciate the worlds workers!

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## **This Month's Lesson**

Although I know I must bow to the Pope

I feel that I have not lost all hope

Of seeking fortune and looking for fame

About the religion shown in our name.

Now Gloucester is known for "Dr. Foster"

But everyone waves to the "Deans of Gloucester"

*Pat & Bryan Dean*

As "Glou-ces-ter" is said as "Gloster"

Has the same thing happened to "Dr. Foster"?

Should his name "Forester" have been

To keep in with the "Forest of Dean"?

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## **Guidance Wanted, Please**

As a very new member with a Peugeot Leisure 1.9 Diesel I would like to hear of any hints and tips, do's and don'ts about using the vehicle. Any information would be most helpful. My address is 40 Mansfield Court, Riverside Close, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5TN and my telephone number is 0122 783 1121.

*Fred Dwight*

Apart from the specialised tips for the van, the best answer is enjoy it!

## Northern Spain

Information is sought on routes and good camp sites in Northern Spain. We intend to travel, in Spring or early Summer, via Santander to Cantabria Galicia and the Spanish Pyrenees (The Ordesa National Park). We are especially interested in features of natural history - alpine flowers, birds etc. Any information would be gratefully received at 47 Longford Road, Sheffield, S17 4LP or by telephone to 0114 236 8770.

*David Thornton*

Sorry, I haven't been able to include this before now.

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### WORKSHOP ADVICE WANTED.

Being the owner of a 1976 Bedford Auto-Sleeper and a fan of A-S in general I saw the Club notice in the A-S magazine. Unfortunately the engine & gearbox of our camper did not last forever and we are wondering whether anyone can help us. We consider that a complete overhaul of our CF250 (petrol engine) camper is needed. The bodywork is still in relatively good shape but the engine, gearbox and front wheel suspension will need to be refurbished.

The major problem encountered on the continent is the total absence of a service organisation and the consequent lack of spare parts. We assume that our best option would be to have the refurbishment performed in the UK. Obviously it is difficult for us to trace a reliable workshop from whom we can ask for a quotation. May we ask your assistance, please? We would very much appreciate it if any of your members have experience of such a project and could recommend a reliable workshop.

Robert van der Velden

This letter arrived and it seemed worthwhile to try to help. If you can offer advice and/or guidance, please write to Robert at Groninger Tjalk 4, 1991 MP Velsbroek, The Netherlands. We shall write to him and tell him that his request is being put into the Newsletter with his address. He finished by saying that he might join the Club once his A-S is operational again and provided that we accept non UK citizens. Of course we do!

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### Awnings

Many thanks to the members who took the trouble to phone me regarding maintenance and handbooks for the Renault T1000. May I now ask for some further assistance, please? I am interested in obtaining

an awning for the van, the Renault Trafic T1000 SWB and would appreciate any information from anyone who has used one with that van. My address is 10 Sefton Avenue, Lipson Vale, Plymouth, PL4 7HB and the telephone number is 0175 226 1488. thank you all again.

*George Parker*

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## **Chantal Roof Vents - Again!**

We have also had a problem with the straps on our Legend. When we phoned A-S about new straps they were out of stock but it seemed that replacing broken straps would only be a temporary solution. So we asked if there were any alternative roof vents which would be suitable. A-S recommended MPK vents which do not involve any alteration to the roof apertures apart from a slight easing of the roof lining in the toilet room. It was also necessary to cut away part of the flange on the toilet room vent.

The MPK vents are expensive but are much more substantially made than the Chantal; they operate in an entirely different way and left in much more light. They are quite easy to fit although no screws are supplied.

Another small problem we have had is with the clip which holds the worktop in the raised position. The tiny spring broke making the clip useless. We have now substituted a brass hook and eye which are much more substantial. They may be difficult to find in DIY stores but boat chandlers stock them.

*Ruth & Peter Harrup*

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## **VW Owners - Past and Present**

*Elizabeth Grimsley* send me a copy of a letter which she had received as Membership Secretary of the VW Owners Camping Club (G.B.). It is from Mrs Sue Brice who is a part-time researcher at the University of Teesside and who is working to produce a book about VW based motor caravans. If it is successful it will contains stories, views and anecdotes from owners.

Sue would love to hear from anyone who wants to share their views on their beloved VW's. If you have any photos of customising or conversion, so much the better. If the stories are used in the book the contributor will be named, provided that he or she agrees. Volkswagen UK is helping with the project.

YOU WANT IT  
WHEN?

The address is Mrs Sue Brice, 39 Lauderdale Drive, Guisborough, Cleveland, TS14 7ND so now all you erstwhile hippies can dig out those photos and get in contact with her!

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## 22,000 miles with a Topaz

I read some comments regarding mpg in the March Newsletter and thought that I would add my two pennyworth, if only to keep *Bob Measham* happy!

At the end of May 1994 we took delivery of a Topaz which is based on the long wheel base VW Transporter with the 2.4 litre Diesel engine. Bill Hayes was good enough to have "half a tank" of fuel put in on delivery but I had no way of knowing what was actually in the tank so later, with the odometer on 105 miles, I filled up until the pump cut out. Today (25/02/96) I have filled the tank again to the cut-out point and find that the total fuel put in, less that initial fill of mine, is 652.95 gallons. The odometer now reads 22,170 so, taking off the initial 105 miles, the fuel consumption works out at 22,065 miles divided by 652.95 gallons which gives 33.792786 miles per gallon (33.8 will do me!). The 22,000 on the clock has been achieved over all sorts of going, fast motorways, gentle French "D" roads, steep & hairy mountain passes in the Alps, Dolomites and, particularly, the Pyrenees. I know it is possible to achieve better figures but having bought the vehicle for pleasure I intend to get maximum enjoyment from driving it! I have worked out the cost of the 2968.38 litres used and, at a nominal 50 pence per litre, I don't really want to know the answer (which is £1,484.19).

Other Topaz owners may be interested to know I have had no service costs apart from oil \* filters (I have to get a new horn fitted this week which must be the first one in over 50 years of driving), the tyres are good for a thousand miles or so yet and I'm assured by the garage that the front disc pads will see me through to 30,000 miles at least. All in all I've been delighted with the VW Topaz from the first moment I drove it from Hayes (Leisure) Ltd of Darlaston. It's reasonably fast (85 mph on the clock on the autobahn) flexible, quiet and comfortable. The 205/65 Michelin low profile tyres and the relatively low tyre pressures make for a very sure-footed beast which we feel will go (almost) anywhere. We haven't got stuck yet but *Rita* is looking for even more "interesting" wiggly little white roads on the Michelin maps so - Watch This Space!

*Phil Daley*

## Safety First - and Second

In our Rambler GL, a net curtain eighteen inches deep hides the bedding and other items stored on the overcab bed base and (much more important!) acts as a visible warning of the danger of banging one's head on the edge of the bed base. This curtain hangs on a telescopic net curtain rod, each end of which rests on the curtain rail for the high-level windows and the curtain thus extends a few inches below the bed base.

Two similar telescopic rods are stored in the nearside 'trough' (where the support for the bench seat back is kept) and can be used for drying tea-cloths etc. They can be supported by the ledges in front of each high level trough. At the back doors we have hung a soft pompom-shaped air freshener; if we duck below this we again avoid head-banging!

*Ray Whiley*

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## SPECIAL OFFERS

Ultimate Design, who are at 37 Pytchley Road, Kettering, will offer to our members a 10% discount (excluding VAT) on all non special offer prices. They will be pleased to receive callers during the Annual Dinner and AGM Rally at Wicksteed Park. Among their products are Cruise controls, electronic compasses, route-finders, electronic pedometers, spotlights, weather station etc.

#####

Simon Epton of Caravan Life Magazine has made an offer of a £5.00 discount of the price of a year's subscription to MMM. If you are interested, please contact him direct at Warners Group Holdings plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 9PH and mention where you saw this offer together with your membership number.

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## BOOKS

*Marjorie Wilson* will be running the Book Stall at the Club and Company Rally at Malvern. If any member wishes, for convenience, to bring some books to the AGM rally she will be pleased to receive them.

Incidentally, did you know that *Marjorie* is now numbered among the published poets? Her poem about our Auto-Sleepers, originally sung at our big rally, has now been published as part of a book of poems. Fame at last!

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## ODDMENTS

I thought that I had the news story to end all stories. At our Committee meeting *Ben Mansfield* asked me to put a piece into the Newsletter for him. It appeared he had two bottoms! You know, the double skillet things. Apparently he had been working at a recent rally doing clever things with sausages and was using both halves of the *Mansfields* double skillet as were other members. Down in Childswickham, where we were camped for the meeting, he discovered that instead of a top and bottom he had "swapped" the top. But all is well, I understand, because he telephoned on his return home to tell me that he had found where his top was and would be getting the spare bottom back to its rightful home!

#####

*Barbara Cox* showed me a good and simple idea while we were in Childswickham. If you take the centre core from a roll of kitchen paper towelling you can use it to store four or five plastic carrier bags, provided that you roll them up tightly. As she said, you can tuck such a roll into any odd corner in even the smallest vans and it will help to keep a few spare bags tidily. She added that if you wanted to, you could use the cardboard core from a toilet roll which might hold three bags and would fit into a car. The more inventive, or decorative, amongst the members might want to cover the roll with a suitable paper just to make it look a bit "better" but it would be quite serviceable without..

#####

### *New Year Rally 1996/1997*

Arrangements for this rally have now been completed. It will be held, again, at Hidden Valley. For further details, please write to *Barbara Worley* at 26 Houndstone Park, Gunners Lane, Brympton, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8SQ and don't forget to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a reply.

#####

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The 1995 competition resulted in a win for *Sylvia Bryce*. The runners-up were *Kenneth Osborne* and *David Morris*. There were about 40 entries, including some slides. Don't forget to make sure you have some good pictures for the 1996 competition.

*Nial Reynolds*

(More details will be given next month. - Ed)

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## RECOVERY

*John Barrett* has written to tell me that his wife, *Josephine*, is recovering in hospital after a stroke. She is making good progress and is looking forward to rallying again in summer. I know I speak for everyone when I send our best wishes to her for a full, speedy return to health.

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## Thanks

I would like to thank all ASOC members for their kind thoughts, cards and support over the past few weeks following the death of *Brent*. Having been members of the Club for over six years, the times spent and the friendships made on the many rallies we attended have been a source of great enjoyment. I'll never forget the fun we had and the things we got up to! I know it's going to be a very big miss. I would like to express my thanks to you all. It is true what was said in the March Newsletter - ASOC does mean "A Society of Carers"

*Margaret Harrison*

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## Obituary

*Joy Snape* wrote to tell us that her husband, *Wal*, passed away on 22nd February 1996. She went on to say that she will always have happy memories of their times at home and abroad with ASOC. Our sympathies and condolences are extended to *Joy* and her family.

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## WANTED

Any amount of wool, any thickness, any colour. Soft toys, small or large. Dolls that can be dressed. These are for the orphanages in Romania. *Pam* knits clothes for the dolls etc. and then sends the finished articles out. As you know, *Pam* is disabled and this is one of her hobbies. We shall be at the AGM at Kettering and you will find us in a Ford Transit H 53 UVO. Many thanks for your help.

*Pam & Mick Robinson*

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## FOR SALE

Awning, N.R. Raleigh motor chalet. Grey/green. Side or rear fitting. Used 5 nights only. Price £185.00. Please telephone Bob Longstaff on 0129 755 3412 or write to him at 17 Thomas Bassett Drive, Colyford, Colyton, East Devon, EX13 6PN.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Paulchen 2 bike rack with locking arms. Will fit VW Transporter 2 and Ford Transit. £60.00. Telephone Neil Barnes on 0161 748 0294 or write to him at 28 Ullswater Road, Flixton, Manchester, M41 8PW

#####

Trio Highway free-standing annexe tent, 9ft x 8ft. Suit van up to 8'10" tall. Unused, genuine reason for sale. Excellent value at £300.00. Telephone Brian Crowe on 0120 287 6817 or write to him at Sugar Plum Cottage, 198 Victoria Road, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 9JE.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Talbot Rambler, 1990 'G' reg. 31,000 miles. Petrol, 4 berth, H & C water, shower, Porta-Potti, Alarm, 4 new tyres, oven. MOT and taxed. Very good condition. £12,500.00. Also NR de luxe drive away awning. Green with steel frame. Used once. £225.00. Telephone Alison Rawlings on 0130 526 9631 or write to her at 22 Edison Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1NY

#####

Ford Legend GL, 1992. Blue/White. 2 litre petrol. Low mileage - 15,500 miles. 4 berth, many extras including radio cassette, Silver Screen, TV aerial. Excellent condition. One owner, non-smoker. Full service history. Sale for health reasons. £16,000.00. Telephone Derek Unwin on 0166 376 4047 or write to him at 20 Chatsworth Road, High Lane, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 8DA.

#####

VW Talent, 2.4 litre diesel, PAS. 'N' reg. As new with extras. Cost over £25,400.00 - for sale at £22,500.00 or would part exchange for Topaz, Trophy or Boxer Harmony. Please telephone Stuart Cornes on 0188 959 1326 or write to him at "Dungarvan", Oak Road, Denstone, Uttoxeter, Staffs., ST14 5HT.

#####

VW Clubman GL, April 1995. TB Turbo Diesel with automatic transmission. Cruise control, electric cab windows, Omnistor awning. Under 700 miles from new. Cost £34,800.00 - for sale at £29,950.00. Telephone Ian Driver on 0120 282 0663 or write to him at 95a Lake Road, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 6BY.  
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Fiamma rear cycle rack to fit VW 1980 onwards. £40.00. Front cab bunk for VW 1980 onwards. £20.00. Phone or fax John Greenwood on 0124 454 8882 or write to him at 55 Park Avenue, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Clwyd, CH7 6XR.

#####

'M' reg (March 95) Duetto 2.5 litre diesel. 4,835 miles. 2 berth, lagoon green upholstery. Cupboard under grill in place of cooker (A-S fitted to special order). All other Duetto fittings. Pristine condition. Reluctant sale £21,750.00. Enquiries to Ann & Ken Painter on 0168 981 7227 or write to them at 6 Highwood Close, Orpington, Kent, BR6 8HT.

#####

Eurovent awning to fit the side door of a VW motor caravan although has been used very successfully on a Harmony. Change of van necessitates sale. In excellent condition, as is the inner tent which we will include. £180.00 ono. Contact Jan & Geoff Rawding on 0178 047 0258 or write to them at Hazelwood, 23 Main Street, Woodnewton, Peterborough, PE3 5EB,

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Complete upholstery set (bed/seat cushions) in beige/brown velour. Suitable for RCX or similar A-S van conversions c.1986. Good condition. £60.00. Front seats, same trim, some wear. £10.00 pair. Chantal roof vent and spare top. Good condition, good straps. £10.00. Folding step, plated steel. £10.00. John Chennells, 10 Lower Cippenham Lane, Slough, Berks., SL1 5DF. Phone/Fax 0175 352 0417.

#####

Omnistor Carry-All box 150 (large size). Fits all cycle racks. £150.00. Telephone Brian Betterton on 0123 482 2364 or write to him at The Thatched Cottage, High Street, Pavenham, Bedford, MK43 7NU.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

A volunteer is needed to run the popular bric-a-brac stall at the Club and Company Rally this year. If you could take charge, please telephone *Sheila Henthorne* as soon as possible. You will, of course, receive all the help that we can give. Now don't be shy, step forward and volunteer, please.

And that's about it for this month. The snow seems to have cleared so I suppose I shall have to wash the van now. See you at the A.G.M?

Your Editor  
 Harry Henthorne  
 144 Devonshire Hill Lane  
 London, N17 7NH  
 Tel: 0181 808 9112

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Bob Brindle	Rally Co-ordinator	0177 771 1588
John Cox	Vice-President	0128 371 2394
Rita Daley	Vice-President	0121 706 1816
Philip Daley	Vice-President	0121 706 1816
Sheila Henthorne	Club Secretary and Membership Secretary	0181 808 9112
Harry Henthorne	Newsletter Editor	0181 808 9112
Brian Hooton	Chairman, C&C Sub-Ctee	0123 576 4782
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Ben Mansfield	Chief Marshal	0172 336 9769
Nial Reynolds	Public Relations Officer	0185 843 2811
Ian Ross	Regalia Officer	0170 822 8075
Janet Sutterby	Minutes Secretary	0150 746 2449
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Charles Trevelyan	President	0138 685 3338
Ron Wilson	Chairman, AGM Sub-Ctee	0193 355 658