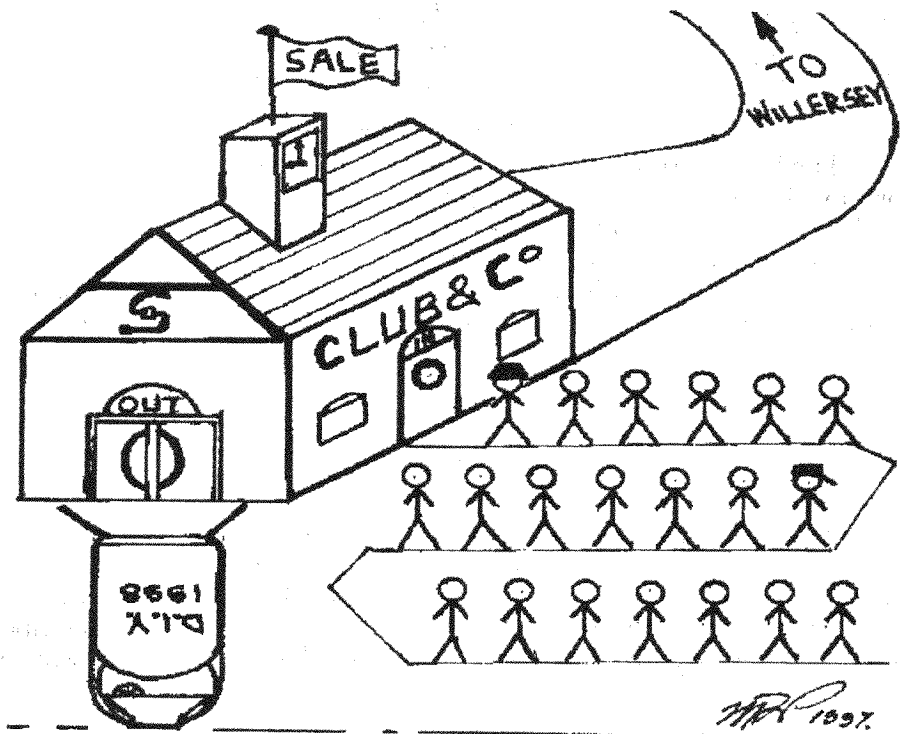


# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**



**NEWSLETTER 109  
OCTOBER 1997**

Hello.

We certainly have had a long, warm, or even hot summer. In some places there was plenty of the wet stuff too. But now that the winter is getting close - the temperature today is down below 70°F (that's 21° in new money) - it is time to check out your van. Have you started to take the winter precautions? Drained the water tanks - all of them including the loo? Drained the Cascade, an essential as I know to my cost last year. Don't forget that when you have drained all the water, you should give a healthy blow through the pipes to clear the last bit and then open all the taps. That way, if Jack Frost should come around a bit suddenly, you won't have any problems with water freezing in the wrong places. Perhaps you should check with earlier copies of the Newsletter to see whether any suggestions have been received from the Technical Information Group regarding winter use of your particular model of van.

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The latest issue of the Newsletter Index, covering issues 103 - 108 is now available. Usual routine, please. A stamped, self-addressed envelope of a size suitable to take a copy of the Newsletter (even the one which brought this issue to you will do - provided you put a new stamp on it!) sent to your Editor will bring an index to you. Don't worry if you have slit the end of the envelope, I can usually find some sticky tape to seal it again!

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**GOOF!**

I'm glad that I am in good company, even the professionals get things wrong. You may have read in the commercial press that the winner of "The Best Turned Out A-S pre 1990" at the Club and Company Rally was Mr M Viveash. The item goes on to say that Martin was not a member of the Club. In fact Martin was a member and still remains a member. Now I can honestly say that I'm not the only Editor or Publisher wot gets fings rong!

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**VW T2**

A note from *Charles Trevelyan* included a letter from a non member who had bought a ten year old van on this chassis. The buyer complained of the poor road holding of the van and a member of A-S

staff provided the address of manufacturers of front spoilers. The non-member bought the device and has found them very effective and is both surprised and impressed that something so simple could improve road holding. The supplier of the spoiler was Mr Ellicott, Onexe Products, 7A Shutterton Industrial Estate, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 0NH. The telephone numbers are 0162 686 5568 and 0162 689 0772. The cost, including delivery (in June 1997 anyway) was apparently £89.00. So if you have a similar vehicle with wandering problems this may be your answer.

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## FLATTENING MATTRESSES

I read with interest *Bryan Orchard's* problem with his cushions. I too have had this problem in my Executive and I know of another Executive with the same fault. I also know four owners of the Clubman who are similarly afflicted. In most cases the problem seems to occur during extended use, night after night for 6 - 12 weeks or more. The foam doesn't get time to recover. In all the cases I have mentioned replacement cushions were provided free of charge by Unique Furnishings who supplied the original upholstery. My advice, *Bryan*, is to consult your dealer and then take it from there.

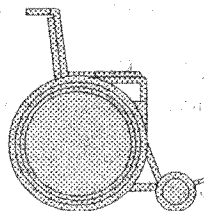
The problem only seems to occur on the Executive and the Clubman which both have the front edge of the mattress screwed down to form a hinge at the front.

*Geoff Scholey.*

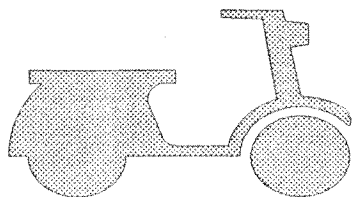
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## Carry a Wheelchair or Electric Scooter?

As some members will know, for some time we have had a Top Box Carry-All unit fitted to the back of our Talisman. We used this to carry *Betty's* wheelchair. She has gradually come to rely more and more on its use and we have therefore had to look for some way to carry her electric scooter rather than the 'pushchair'. At Malvern we were wandering around and spotted a Duetto owned by *Sally & Guy Gaskin*. They had something on the back of their van which carried a BEC scooter and which we thought would "do for us". The search for the answer to ALL the problems



leads us to write the following. We hope it may help others who would like to travel the highways and byways complete with the necessary means of transport for the less able members.



Tracking down the manufacturer of the carrier was easy as the one we saw at Malvern had a label on it. It was made by CAR GO UK Ltd. It required a standard tow ball at the rear of the vehicle and this is where the story gets a little involved. The only tow bar attachment we had previously seen was the Hope Safe-T-Bar, such as used to tow a small car behind a motor van. This, however, proved rather expensive and would have required us to make a journey to Dorset to have the work done. We contacted the manufacturers of the CAR GO unit and they gave us the telephone number of Trojan Towbars who make "one off" bars for any vehicle. A quick call to make contact and we had the confidence to go to Northampton, where both companies are located, and have the job done. We stayed at a Caravan Club CL in Sywell (excellent, and electric hook-ups too!) which was just three miles away from the Trojan workshops.

Mike Andrew, at Trojan, said he wanted if possible to use only the existing securing points under the vehicle. He did not want to remove the stainless steel bar at the rear of the Talisman. In this he succeeded. He made the towbar on the first day which was then painted with Hammerite and left to dry overnight. Next morning we went back where he fitted the towbar and wired the socket for extending the lights, indicators etc. The CAR GO unit, which had been delivered to him, was fitted and we were back on the CL in time for lunch!

For anyone worried about modifications to their most prized possession, let us say that apart from having a towball at the rear, no visible change takes place. The CAR GO unit just fits on to the towball and sits in a channel at the bottom of the drop plate which is behind the ball. Keys are supplied to lock the unit for complete security. This means that it is possible to remove the unit whenever it is not required.

The CAR GO unit comes complete with a ramp which is 1 metre long for side loading/unloading and it has a small extension piece to make light work of the odd times when a longer reach is required. Everything stores within the unit for travelling and the whole thing is

enclosed inside a nice waterproof cover which is held on with several Velcro fasteners. They even include two superb ratchet straps for safely securing the scooter whilst travelling.

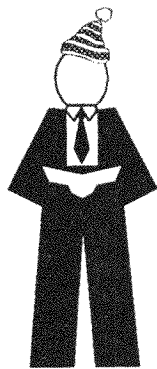
As you may have guessed by now, we are delighted with our purchase and *Betty* looks forward to 'scooting' around many rally sites in the future. If you spot us (H 441 KAD) on a field somewhere in the future, do stop and have a chat. We would be delighted to give you a demonstration of the ease with which you can carry an electric wheel chair around when you travel in your van. If you have a car as your second vehicle, the unit will transfer to any standard 50mm towball. This means that you will not have to struggle, sometimes dismantling the wheelchair, to get it into the boot. The CAR GO unit will even hang on the garage wall should you wish to store it in winter!

Trojan Towbars, Unit 2, Sandy Hill Farm Industrial Estate, Overstone Road, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7JB. Tel: 0160 467 0760; (mobile) 0374 884 678; (evenings) 0160 440 7755. Car Go UK Ltd, 1st Floor, 3 Heathfields Way, Northampton, NN5 7QP. Tel: 0160 459 0595; Fax: 0160 459 0596. We have no connection with either firm, other than as a VERY satisfied customer.

*Betty & Joe Jacobs*

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### *Chairman's Chat*



October already! How did this year manage to pass so quickly? Autumn is with us and my conscience reminds me that now is the time to check ALL the caravan equipment. Replace any items that are suspect or obviously damaged. I suppose that having spent my working life seeing the mistakes or neglect of others I am very careful when it comes to servicing the various items that require an annual check or service. I certainly don't wish to be a Job's Comforter but when it comes to our safety and peace of mind then I don't believe in cutting corners.

Check the rubber tubes on the gas system and if there are any sign of splits or perishing then replace it. Make sure that any new pipe you buy is the correct replacement. I remember finding a piece of plastic pipe, the type used for windscreen washers, connecting a gas cooker to the cylinder! Via a very dubious regulator that looked as if Noah

used it in the Ark! Needless to say I disconnected the whole lot and took them away with me. Have a good look around the van at all connections, taps and piping. If in doubt use a soapy solution to test for leaks. Please don't use a match or any type of flame, for that is a tried and tested route to the Almighty! Memories return to me of one man who did just that and managed to demolish half a dozen houses, severely damage many others, shatter over a thousand windows and put many good people in hospital. Oh! What happened to the culprit? He came wandering back several hours later with no clothing of any size left on him nor any hair. He had been blown out of the house and then wandered around the neighbourhood not daring to return even though he was badly injured. Make sure while looking at the gas system that the ventilation holes in the floor of the gas locker are free of obstruction. Contrary to what most folk think, the proportion of gas to air that will explode is very small, between 2% & 11% by volume. To my mind there is no such thing as an acceptable leak. I have heard all the excuses but never an acceptable reason. **SO DON'T LEAVE IT, CHANGE IT!**

Now that I have your attention, check also that you have **PROPER** ventilation for all your gas appliances as inadequate ventilation can be **FATAL**. If you don't check your own then ask your dealer to give the van systems a check for your own peace of mind. Remember, it is easy to be wise after the event, but what price do you put on your life or the lives of your loved ones?



All my fireman's memories are not gloomy or upsetting. One night the front doorbell rang at about 00.30 hrs and we found a very nice young lady standing there. She was a little upset and when I managed to make sense of her story I struggled to keep a straight face, for her boyfriend was outside in his car, naked! Lying on his stomach with a jacket over him and with a foot stuck in the glove box! Was his face **RED**? The rest of him certainly was. We quickly released his foot with great hilarity and left it to him to explain the damage to the dash and his lateness of arrival home to his parents!

Don't let my tales of disasters put you off using your van, just be sensible and have the various systems checked. I am a great believer in preventative maintenance, it really does pay.

We held our committee meeting at the beginning of last month but I'll let *Geoff Scholey*, our **PRO**, tell you about that. I just want to say that we reviewed the work of the Constitution Sub Committee and after

discussion agreed to place the proposed changes to the membership next year. Phew! One more piece of work finished only 999 more to go?

Remember the questionnaire I asked you to complete at Malvern and the promise of free camping at 1998's AGM? I doubt you will believe me when I tell you who won the prize. It was all fair and above board. *Betty and I* placed all the forms in the usual bin liner, stirred them, up tossed them around and generally did our best to ensure a good mixing. Then *Betty* reached in to the bag and stirred them all up again. Out came the lucky winner! Club No. 1 member, *John Cox* himself. I said you wouldn't believe me! Thanks to all of you who completed the form for this has provided us with good information to use when planning for next year. That is it for this month so, as ever, travel safely and smile!

*Andrew Entwistle*

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## P.R.O.'S JOTTINGS

*Barry Crawshaw* passed me a letter telling of a service offered by Thomas Cook, the travel agents. Members of clubs using the Dieppe - Newhaven ferry may get a discount on currency exchange. Any member using the route who wants to find out more should contact Jackie Howard, Customer Service Manager, Thomas Cook Group Ltd., Car Ferry Terminal, Railway Approach, Newhaven, East Sussex, BN9 0DB. The telephone number is 0127 351 7255.

As you will recall, 6th September was the day of the funeral of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. After much deliberation and heart searching, it was decided to go ahead with the committee meeting which had been planned for that day. Committee members were all around the country and the camp site had already been booked. The meeting started at 9.45 am and we took a long lunch break to enable us to hear part of the service on the radio and to observe the silence. We hope that nobody was offended by our actions which we regarded as the most practicable in the circumstances.

*Sheila Henthorne* advised that there had been no response so far to the request in the Newsletter regarding attending the Earls Court show on Owners' Club day, 2nd December. She, with *Harry*, agreed to attend to represent the Club. As Membership Secretary, she advised that at the

beginning of September we now have 1,544 members (i.e. vans) or over 3,000 people. 91 members had joined since the last committee meeting. *Harry*, the Newsletter Editor, reported a steady influx of items including pictures for the cover. And he reminded us that the closing date for items is the 10th of each month.

*John Tidbury*, our Treasurer, told us that the finances are in a healthy state but that the cost of printing and posting the Newsletter each month is now about £1,000.00. Then *Ian Ross*, our Regalia Officer, reported that the stock value was now down to around £2,000.00. Well done, *Ian*, the stock value was worrying the committee when you took over. *Neil Rogers*, our Rally Co-ordinator, has got to grips with the supplement and apart from the extra rallies arranged towards the end of this year, he was able to report that about 15 rallies had already been fixed for 1998. There are, in addition, the Spanish Rally in February (for the fourth year) and the Dutch Bulbfields Rally in May (for the third time). He also said how well the boilers were working for the tea/coffee mornings/evenings at rallies. To end, *Neil* asked if members could be reminded to be extra vigilant with their dogs and to keep them on a lead at all times when on a rally field or camp site.

My own job, as Press and Public Relations Officer, seems to be working out OK. I have a problem getting any continuity in my accounts to MMM. They only print Owners' Club news every three months. The other two main commercial publications are still printing Club news each month. Now a plea to all members with cameras. I am desperately short of photographs of our Club activities rallies etc., which I can include with contributions to the three commercial magazines which may publish reports. Please help me try to get your pictures into the press. Many thanks to those who have already sent me pictures.

This year's Club and Company Rally was discussed. A special vote of thanks was expressed to the sub-committee chairman, *Brian Hooton* for the work of the sub. Arrangements are already well in hand for next year. His sub-committee will be meeting before the next meeting of the main committee.

The committee received two requests from widowed ladies who no longer have vans but have remained as "Newsletter Only" members. They asked if the rally supplement could be included in their copies of the Newsletter. We have some 40 "Newsletter Only" members and it was decided a long time ago when this form of membership was inaugurated

that the rally supplement would be omitted. The reason for this was so that ex-members who had changed to another make of van would not turn up and try to join in a rally. To permit that would invalidate our insurance and compromise the Exemption Certificate we hold. It was decided not to alter the existing arrangements which have stood for a number of years. It was felt that if these two ladies were to be invited by other full members to attend as their guests and in the member's van that would not compromise anything. Similarly, if a member invited someone in these circumstances to come along, as their guest, for the day, perhaps in a car, nothing would be invalidated. But arrangements should be personal between friends rather than general from the Club.

*Geoff Scholey*

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## Riding Lights

In the June Newsletter details were given about these trips and the supplier, Noyna Safety. Unfortunately, the telephone number quoted was the FAX number! So if you should want to contact them the correct TELEPHONE number is 0161 748 2724. In addition, they were inadvertently referred to as "Ltd" and I now learn that they are not a limited company. Sorry about that, but I am indebted to Mr Ralph Birtwistle of Noyna for the correction.

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## Club & Company Rally

We recently received a letter from *Harry Entwistle [sic!]*, our Chairman, thanking my wife and myself for our assistance during the rally. I acted as a marshal and was thanked by *Ben [Mansfield]*, the Chief Marshal, and by innumerable people in their various speeches. Really all I wish to say in my turn is a very big thank you to all the members who met me with a huge smile, parked exactly as asked and never once questioned their allocated space. Obviously they had all come determined to enjoy a splendid weekend. I am sure that few of them would have been disappointed - everything was beautifully organised and went off wonderfully. Our thanks to all the committee and officials for a job very well done.

*Eirwen and Ben Cox*

I think our members have got a little confused between *Andrew Entwistle* who is our Chairman and Harry Enfield who most certainly is not. They also suggested that I put any comments on letters in italics to

distinguish from the letter itself. But I use italics for the names of members and my comments always follow the signature to the letter. If there is a P.S. from the writer it is shown as such!

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## **Harrogate Rally**

I just had to write to tell you how much we, *Adrian, Jake and I*, enjoyed our first ASOC rally marshalled by *Doris & Harry Bowker*. We were on our way to Scotland and the warmth of the welcome from everyone made for a fabulous start to our holiday. We were placed right in the middle so as to be able to meet as many people as possible. We were glad to demonstrate our Fiamma Caravan Store which seemed to cause a lot of interest. Not to mention the round of applause when we put it away after coffee morning. Thank you to everybody, too numerous to name but particularly to "*Cuffy*" for keeping *Jake* so well entertained.

*Andrea Newitt*

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## **Whitby Rally**

10 vans gathered on top of the cliffs by the Abbey for *Alan Guest's* Monday to Friday rally. Two lovely days greeted the start but the weather faltered on the Wednesday. It recovered again on the Thursday. A small group walked to Robin Hood's Bay and on the way noticed a fishing boat sending up distress flares. When viewed through binoculars the crew could be seen on deck waving towels. Our group telephoned the lifeboat and were later happy to see the fishing boat being towed back to Whitby. *Alan* had arranged a carvery dinner in the middle of the week which was enjoyed by all attending together with the usual coffee mornings. Well done, *Alan!*

*Geoff Scholey*

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## **Running a Rally**

So - you would like to run a rally. Your committee is delighted to hear this and as PRO. and on behalf of the committee I will set out a few guide lines to help you. These are not rules to be obeyed - just a guide to help you get started.

The expenses that the Club incurs include insurance, the exemption

# RALLY SUPPLEMENT

OCTOBER 1997

## 2nd.-5th.October.Camping & Caravan Club Site.East Horsley,Surrey.

Rally Marshals: Sally & Jerry Haxton.

Site fee:£ 5.90 per night. Electricity:£1.70 per night. Rally Fee:£1.50

Booking slip to:D.Haxton,"Almond Tree House",Send Hill, Send, Woking,  
Surrey,GU23 7HR.Tel.No.01483 223 476. Cheques payable to: D.Haxton.

Attractions:Recreation room with darts,table tennis etc. and available in the  
evenings for our use.Fishing lake on site that is well stocked.Trains to London  
and Guildford half hourly with a large and safe car park at station (one mile).  
R.H.S.Gardens at Wisley, two miles,with large car park.

Coach trip to Hever Castle on Saturday if numbers warrant,coach and entrance  
fee £10.00,please send money with slip if interested.

**Directions:**Leave M25 at Junction 10,take the A3 South towards Guildford,  
approx 1/2 mile take slip road B2039 s.p. Ockham & Horsley.Site on right.  
Camping & Caravan sign at entrance to site.Please report to Wardens on arrival.

## 9th.12th.October.Waldergraves Holiday Park,West Mersea,Essex.

Rally Marshals:Inge & Jack Britton.

Site Fee:£4.00 per night (Not £5.00 as shown in newsletter).

Electricity:£1.00 per night. Rally Fee:£2.00

Booking slip to: Jack & Inge Britton,2 Melrose Road,West Mersea,  
Colchester,Essex,CO5 8JB. Tel.No. 01206 384146.

Cheques payable to J.Britton.

Attractions:Restaurant & shop on site.Use of club house Saturday night for  
American Supper.Pitch & Putt and fishing on site.It is hoped to arrange a  
boat trip to 'Packing Shed 'Island on Saturday.Please indicate on slip if interested.

Also Nature Reserve & Country Park within short drive.

If possible please book before 26th.August.

**Directions:**From Colchester onto B1025 to West Mersea,2nd turning right,  
follow Tourist Board signs to Park.

**10th.-12th.October.Whitchurch Cricket Club,Whitchurch,Shrops.**

Rally Marshal: Audrey Crouch & Team

Site Fee £3 00 per unit per night. No Electricity Rally Fee:£1 50

Booking slip to: Mrs.A.M.Crouch,"Sydney",Sylvan Close,Higher Heath,  
Whitchurch,Shrops.SY13 2TB. Tel No. 01948 840894

Cheques payable to:A.M.Crouch.

Attractions:Clubhouse open for the rally,all facilities.Bar open on Saturday  
evening.Pies, peas & jacket potatoes & sweet £2.00 per person.

Send money with rally slip.

Saturday coach trip to Oswestry,please indicate on slip if interested.

**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.

Limit 40 vans.

**NEW RALLY**

**15th.-19th.October(Wed.-Sun.)Ferry Meadows,Peterborough.**

Emergency Site Tel.No 01733 233526 (Caravan Club Site Office).

Rally Marshals: Gill Hardwick & Bob Brindle

Site Fee:£4 50 per night. No Electricity. Rally fee: £2 00(Singles £1.00).

Booking slip to Mrs G Hardwick,Rose Cottage,Chestnut Lane,

Barton-in-Fabis,Nottingham,NG11 0AE. Tel.No. 01159 830193.

Dedicated rally field owned by Nene Country Park,but operated and part  
of the Caravan Club Ferry Meadows Site.Site use of water,waste&rubbish  
but **NO USE** of site amenity block **OWN SANITATION ESSENTIAL**.

Attractions:Nene Country Park,500 acres,lakes(coarse fishing) and wildlife,  
watersports,horse riding or leisurely walking Miles of walks & cycleways.

Nene Valley Steam Railway or bus service to Peterborough.(market Tues.-Sat.)

Pay & Play Golf course (18 holes) or pitch & putt,near Beefeater Pub/Restaurant  
plus large garden centre.Enjoy a late break in this lovely location .

**Directions:** From A1 turn off at signs for East of England Showground.  
Then follow brown & white signs for Nene Park then Ferry Meadows,or  
follow route in Caravan Club book.

## **NEW RALLY**

### **23rd.-26th.October.Bronte C.P.Keighley,West Yorks.**

Site Tel.No. 01535 691746.(Office hours).

Rally Marshals: Betty & Andrew Entwistle.

Site Fee: £ 7.00 per night. Electricity: £1.75 per night.(14 available).

Rally Fee: £1.50. Cheques payable to:M.A.Entwistle.

Booking slips to: Mr.M.A.Entwistle,8 The Dell, Mytholm,Hebden Bridge,  
West Riding of Yorkshire,HX7 6DP. Tel.No. 01422 843 057

Blocks will be required on parts of the site.

Attractions:Worth Valley Railway,Howarth,Skipton,Bradford,(National  
Museum of Film,T.V. and Photography.),Riddlesden Hall,Halifax,(Piece Hall)  
Mill shops.

**Directions:**From Halifax follow Keighley signs.Look for Site sign on left  
shortly after Crossroads roundabout.

From Bradford follow Keighley signs.Pass Railway Station along Worth Way  
turn left after 1/2 mile at traffic lights following Halifax & Haworth signs on  
A629 and look for site on right.

### **30th.October-2nd.November.Eastham Hall C.P. Lytham,Lancs.**

Site Tel.No. 01253 737907

Rally Marshals:Kath & Norman Benyon / Barbara & Vic Kaye.

Site Fee: £ 10.00 per night (including electrics)

£ 8.50 per night ( No electrics)

Rally Fee: £1.50. This year we have to pay for the use of the hall,  
hence higher fees.

Booking slips to: Mr.&Mrs.V.Kaye,14 Firthwood Road, Coal Aston,  
Dronfield,S18 3BW Tel.No. 01246 412679.

Cheques payable to:B.Kaye.

Attractions:Friday night coach trip to Todds Motor Caravans.

Saturday p.m. pre-booked trip to Ice Drome,Blackpool(full details in July  
Newsletter).

Saturday Evening,Hot Pot supper in hall,cost £2.50 per person.

NO fireworks this year but remember to bring your Christmas cards for  
distribution.

**Directions:** A584 to Lytham.On entering Lytham at first mini roundabout  
turn right over railway bridge to next roundabout.Turn right again s.p..Kirkham.  
Site on right after 1/2 mile.

**31st.October-2nd. November.Chesildene C.P. Bournemouth.**

Emergency Tel No.for site 01202 513238

Rally Marshals:Linda & Trevor Hargreaves.

Site Fee: £3.50 per night. Electricity: £ 1.50 per night. Rally fee: £ 1.50

Booking slip to: Mr. & Mrs.T.Hargreaves,13 Churchmoor Road,Colchill, Wimbourne,Dorset,BH21 2LN. Tel.No. 01202 886855.

Cheques payable to:T.D.Hargreaves.

Attractions:Bus stop nearby with regular bus service to Bournemouth town centre and Christchurch.Old fashioned games evening on Friday with Beetle Drive,Scrabble etc.A fish & chip supper will be arranged for Saturday evening.

**Directions:**On A3060 north of Bournemouth,near Hampshire Centre.Full details will be sent with confirmation.(Please send SAE).

**LIMITED TO 25 VANS MAXIMUM**

**NEW RALLY**

**7th.-10th.November Larmer Tree ,Rushmore Estate,Tollard Royal, Wilts.**

Rally Marshals: Rosie & Terry Ball.

Site Fee: £ 16.00 per van for weekend. NO ELECTRICITY. Rally Fee: £ 2.00.

Booking slips to: Mrs.R.Ball,61 Merley Ways,Wimbourne,Dorset,BH21 1QW. Tel.No. 01202 883050. Cheques payable to: Mrs.R.Ball.

Rally is from Midday Friday 7th to Midday Monday 10th.Please do not arrive before Midday on Friday.Stay any number of nights.

We have managed to book the whole grounds for our exclusive use for the weekend,ground suitable for wheelchairs,dogs welcome ON LEADS(but not in gardens) Hall available for wet weather use and meetings.

There is hard standing for over 50 vans plus extra grass field.

**TOILETS** are available from about 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

Attractions: Licensed bar for Saturday night.A home cooked meal has been arranged if sufficient people show interest. There is a choice of Chicken, Steak & Kidney Pie or Vegetarian @ £8.00 per head for two courses including a sweet.**Please send money and state choice when booking**

Send S.A.E. for leaflet on Larmer Tree and/or confirmation of booking.

Visit Wiltshire this weekend and go on to Weston-Super-Mare for the following weekend.

**Directions:**Situated just off the A354 between Blandford Forum and Salisbury. From either direction on B 3081 between Shaftsbury and Sixpence Handley follow the BLUE & White sign in Tollard Royal to the Larmer Tree.

Map ref. 943169.

## **NEW RALLY**

### **14th.-18th.November Weston -Super -Mare Rugby Club .**

For Highbridge & Somerset Carnival **Note Friday to Tuesday**

Site Telephone No. 01934 682530 (**Emergency only**)

Rally Marshals:Linda & Brian Ellis.

Site Fee:£5.00 per night,including electricity Rally Fee: £2.00

Booking slips & cheques to: Brian Ellis, 26 Chelston Road, Northfield,  
Birmingham,B31 5BU. Telephone No. 0121 608 4261

Attractions:Toilets,clubroom,bar.Beer & Skittles Saturday night.Carnival in  
Weston on Monday evening.About an hour and a half of fantastic floats in  
procession that passes a view point about 5 mins short walk from site,or can  
be watched from the streets of the town.The site is on Weston-Super-Mare  
Rugby club ground near the railway station and town centre,about two miles  
from Junction 21 M5 , within walking distance of town centre shops and sea front.

**Directions:**From J21 M5 take Weston-Super-Mare new link road.Over three  
traffic islands,past the sports ground on right along Herluin Way.At next island  
bear right on one way system-Marchfields Way.At next island the rugby club  
is in front of you.Go straight on about 100 yds.,take the small road on your  
left-Sunnyside.After about 100 yds. turn into club car park and site.

**There is a LIMIT of 20 VANS on this rally.**

### **27th.-30th.November.Briarfields C.P.Cheltenham,Glos.**

3 nights Christmas Shopping Rally.

Site Tele./Fax No.01242 235324.

Rally Marshals:Dorothy & David Ellis.

Site Fee: £5.50 per night including electricity. Rally Fee:£1.50.

Booking Slips and cheques payable to D.Ellis,25 Thornhill Road.

Upper Cymbran,Gwent, NP44 5TF. Tel.No. 01633 862 558.

Attractions: Level modern site,frequent bus service stops outside gates  
to Cheltenham and Gloucester.Extra night at same rate.

**Directions:** Leave M5 at Junction 11 towards Cheltenham.At first  
roundabout turn left onto B4063.Site on left.

## **NEW RALLY Christmas Special at the "HOLLIES"!!!!!!!**

11th.-14th December (3 nights)The Hollies Touring C.P.,Little Budworth,  
Cheshire.

Rally Marshals:Brenda & Don Sampson.

Site Fee: £2.70 per unit a night. Electricity: £2.00 per night Rally Fee: £2.00.

Booking slips to Mr & Mrs.D.Sampson,5 Churston Road, Childwall,

Liverpool,L16 9LS. Tel.No. 0151 722 9379.Cheques payable to:B.M.Sampson

Attractions: Newly built clubroom, well stocked farm shop/garden centre. Herb garden/pub meals 600/800 yds. Other pubs with food within 2 miles. Saturday night-Country & Western, £1.50 per person. If interested please send money with slip. American supper, come prepared. Chester 12 miles, Tarporley 4 miles, Little Budworth 2 1/2 miles. More next month. **Directions:** From M56 Junct 10 take A49 towards Whitchurch, continue past A556 (Chester). The Hollies is on the left after 1 1/2 miles.

**30th December-3rd January. NEW YEAR'S RALLY, Hidden Valley, Ilfracombe.**

*If you are interested in attending this popular rally with a full programme of meals and entertainment and require full details please telephone Sandra & Bernie Wisely on 01271 46400 or send a SAE to Mrs. S. Wisely, 12 The Laurels, Roundswell Village, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 3QY*

**Please note that the 1998 Spanish Rally is fully booked.**

**Details of the Dutch Bulbfields Rally (1998) in the September Newsletter**

**Rallies for 1998**

*As you will all know only too well time passes very quickly. I am already taking provisional and definite bookings for rallies in 1998. If you wish to run a rally, whether as a Rally Marshal from this year or as a new Marshal and you have a specific date in mind please contact me as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment. The provisional programme already includes some 15 rallies.*

Please note that **ALL** information ie. dates, rally bookings and rally details for the Newsletter should be sent to the Rally Co-Ordinator,

**Neil Rogers,  
3 Appleby Close,  
Aldbrough St. John,  
Richmond, North Yorks,  
DL11 7TT.**

**Tel.No./Fax. 01325 374 540**

Local Assistants: Jerry Haxton (01 483 223 476) Woking, Surrey.  
Jeff Worley (01 935 424 049) Yeovil, Somerset.  
Ray Whiley (01 603 452 593) Norwich, East Anglia.  
Bob Brindle (01 777 711 588) Retford, East Midlands.

Rally Supplement prepared by Neil Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John Richmond, North Yorks.

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!**

✂-----

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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!**

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: .....

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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!***

certificate (for green field sites) and the cost of the rally plaques. This latter cost varies with the number required - say 50p to 60p each.

In the past the committee has indicated that rallies "do not have to make a profit". Possibly as a result of this statement some rallies have been making a loss and in some cases quite a big loss. So the new indication from the committee is that "rallies are not expected to make a loss".

Rally Marshals are expected to have their camping or site fees, plus any phone calls, postage and printing etc., paid for out of the rally fees charged to members attending. That is their right for running the rally and everyone should understand that. Marshals can set their own rally fee depending on the number expected, but as a guide £1.50 - £2.50 for a 2 to 4 day rally seems about the norm. Most rallies hold a raffle which members seem to like. If you do intend to hold a raffle, and you indicate that you will, most ralliers will bring a prize. If you feel that you are a bit short on prizes - use some of the raffle takings to buy a few more prizes. This does not mean spend all the money as you have your expenses to cover. Also, I must point out that all money is collected under the banner of the ASOC and so it would be wrong to send the money raised to any other cause, however deserving.

I hope that by now I have covered any queries that you may have had regarding the running of a rally and that you are still keen to carry on. OK, pick out a site - be it a green field site or a camp site - talk to the owner or warden, fix the number of nights and the fee that he/she will be charging per unit per night. You may be asked how many units you expect and here you may feel at a loss. But if you have attended a rally or two you will have seen the numbers present, so make a stab at it and leave it open till nearer the date to advise the exact number.

Now is the time to get in touch with the Rally Co-ordinator, *Neil Rogers*. Telephone him on 0132 537 4540. It is important to be early, both to claim your date and also to get your rally details into the Newsletter supplement in good time. Then your bookings will start to come in and you will be able to keep the site owner informed. It will also be good for your own peace of mind as to how the arrangements are going. *Neil* will also send you a rally organising pack.

It is usual to open the rally with a tea/coffee evening. Please make a special effort to introduce and integrate any new members attending

their first rally. It is also the usual practice to close the rally with a tea/coffee morning together with the drawing of any raffle. It is not essential to organise meals, bus trips or other events, especially on your first rally, unless you particularly wish to do so. If you do organise any outside event please watch the finances. This is where money has been lost in the past. Make every effort to get cash for such events prior to the rally unless the arrangement, such as the meal, can be paid for individually at the time. If the weather is good, perhaps put on coffee and tea and invite everyone to bring their own meal for a get-together. This works well, costs little and is easy to organise.

Finally, produce a simple balance sheet - something along these lines:-

<b>CASH</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>CASH</b>	<b>OUT</b>
30 Vans @ £1.50	£45.00	Tea/Coffee Milk/Biscuits	£14.00
Raffle	£48.00	Marshal's Site fee	£16.00
		Post & Telephone	£4.00
		Raffle Prizes & Tickets	£23.00
	£93.00		£57.00
Less Cash Out	£57.00		
Balance to Club	£36.00		

All figures are, of course, purely fictitious and are shown as a guide. The invoice for the rally plaques will be paid by our Treasurer,

*John Tidbury*, but marshals must remember that the cost of the plaques, as well as the other costs, must be covered by the rally fees. Using the figures above, it would be expected that the net credit balance to the Club would not fall below about £18.00 - £20.00 so that the plaques would be paid for.

I hope that these notes will help prospective marshals to run a rally and to clear up some points for regular marshals. Please remember any member of the committee and the Rally Co-ordinator is only a phone call away and all are willing to help.

*Geoff Scholey*

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*Thank You*

To all our friends who came to the Shoreham Air Show Rally. We sincerely thank you for your support in helping to raise funds for R.A.F.A. We hope to see you all again next year.

*Yvonne & Barry Loveland, with Lyn & Tony*

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*Thank you (2)*

May I take this opportunity, through our Newsletter, to thank all my friends in our wonderful Club for kindly supporting me on my "Morecambe Bay Walk". I took part in this on August 10th in aid of "Arthritis Care". Last year I did it in aid of "Research into Arthritis". Having decided to get myself sponsored this time with your support and generosity I have been able to raise £400.00 so far. Thank you all again, very much.

*Daisy Wane*

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*DAISY WALK*

There is a place called Morecambe Bay. Oh! It's a lovely spot.  
Lots of people go there, especially when its hot.  
Most just go to lie there, to swim or play or talk  
But every now and then some people go to walk.

The walk, it is a special one. It goes across the bay.  
It's seven miles through shifting sand and usually takes a day.

*Daisy* decided to do it. "It'll be a challenge" she said.  
*George* said "I'm not going! You need someone to look at your head!"

*Daisy* set off doggedly and soon she'd left the shore.  
With lots of other walkers, the guide was to the fore.

The sand was hard and hurt the feet and then she hit the sea.  
The day was fine but the water cold and *Daisy* cried "Dearie me".

As deeper they went the guide cried out "Don't worry. I'll take care of  
you",

But *Daisy* was cold. Her only thought was "Blimey. My nose has  
turned blue".

The water got deeper the further they went and soon it was over the  
knee,

*Daisy* thought "Well, when it gets to me bum, at least I can stop for a  
P...

No one will know just what's going on. This surely is the best place.  
It'll warm me legs and no one will know if I keep the smile from me  
face".

So on and on dear *Daisy* went and achieved her final goal,  
She thought, as she took the last few steps, "I could murder some tea  
and a roll".

Her skin was turning purple. She was as cold as could be.  
A man took pity. "You're perished, love. Here, have a drink of this  
tea".

*Daisy* sipped it gratefully then rang *George* to come in his van.  
This he did because, you know, our *George* is a gentleman.

So *Daisy*, this poem is coming your way to tell you how proud we all  
are.

You did it! You walked the whole seven miles.

*Daisy*, you are a real star!

*Jean Burdin-Sellers*

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## Technical Information Group

We, in the Tiggers, have now been joined by *Stuart Lamb* who is a practising engineer, a radio ham, a computer buff and has experience in light commercial vehicles! The Group now has available the A-S manuals for the following vehicles and they are available on loan to members.

**Peugeot-Talbot Express:** Symphony, October 1992; Talisman GL, October 1989; Sportsman, December 1990; Harmony, April 1992; Rambler, April 1992; Rhapsody, October 1992; Executive, January 1992. **Peugeot-Talbot Boxer:** Harmony, September 1994; Symphony, September 1994. **Renault:** Rimini, April 1992; Rapport, July 1990; Recro, January 1992. **Ford:** Flair, October 1986; Frisky, October 1986; Legend, October 1986. **Volkswagen:** Trident, October 1989; Trooper, October 1989; Clubman, February 1992.

These manuals are available on loan from the Technical Information Group - telephone 0131 336 3384. Leave a message on our answering machine if we do not respond.

*Maurice Payne*

I feel that I must gently enquire what experiences *Stuart* may have had in light commercial vehicles and what sort of engineering is he practising! Have another look at Chairman's Chat! The mind boggles!!!

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## Duetto Talk

Nine weeks ago I acquired a Duetto. Since then we have enjoyed nine weekends away from home. The Duetto is my only vehicle, doubling as holiday home, everyday runabout and motorway limousine. We are planning, unless prevented by exceptionally bad weather, to holiday in the van every weekend throughout the year. And most definitely for a two week break in England or Scotland over the Christmas period!

The instruction booklet gives full advice on the drainage of all water systems, etc. Taking into consideration our normal British winters, I doubt if draining will be necessary for more than during a very few weeks - and I do hate carrying water. Can any member advise on the Duetto's susceptibility to frost etc? And also how the van performs in snowy and icy conditions? I am most reluctant to use only major roads but equally

encountered on more than one occasion during the same weekend!

Anyone able and kind enough to give me any advice can contact me on 0190 972 1238 (answer machine when I am not available) or by writing to 24 Hangar Hill, Whitwell, Worksop, Notts. S80 4SD.

*Rosemary Handley*

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## **Don't set the House on Fire**

Did you spot the letter in the Caravan Club magazine for August/September in which a reader stated that serious burns had been caused to a melamine table by a Fresnel lens fitted to the rear window of his motor caravan? He later experimented with the lens focusing the sun's rays onto a piece of newspaper which burst into flames within a few seconds. Recently one of our members had just taken delivery of a new van when the cab headlining, over the driving seat, was badly scorched by the sun reflecting off the polished table leg support in the floor. If you must leave your vehicle in sunlight, why not pull the curtains? And don't leave glass or polished articles exposed.

By the way, if you have trouble with blind spots with your internal rear view mirror experiment with a "stick on" mirror in the top right hand corner of the windscreen. It works for me!

*Brian Smith*

[one of the Tiggers! - Ed]

This item was also sent in by *Derek Illing*.

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## **FAREWELL**

*Mary & Gerald Cross* want to say "Goodbye" to all the friends they have made with ASOC. They will be very pleased to see them in their 564 now that they have a bit more space for dogs and people!

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## **Obituary**

We have been advised that *Rosemary Williams* passed away recently. Our sympathy and condolences are extended to *George* and her family.

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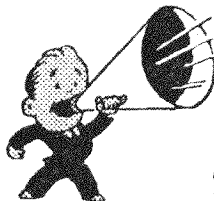
====ooo000ooo====

## ADVERTISEMENTS

May I remind members that no charge is made for advertisements in the Newsletter, However, if you wish to make a small donation, please ensure that any cheque is made out to "Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" and NOT to "ASOC". Thank you.

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## WANTED



Talisman or Legend. Diesel, preferably turbo. Low mileage and good condition. 'G' - 'J' reg or later if around £16,000.00. To replace our much loved turbo-diesel Talisman GL stolen 6 weeks ago. Please ring Dorothy & Tom Huntingdon on 0124 641 7159 or write to 4 Gainsborough Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, Sheffield, S18 6QT.

#####

I would like to obtain a workshop manual for a Renault Traffic T1000 1721cc petrol, 86/87 or to hear from anyone who has a Renault for interchange of views on any problems encountered. Telephone Ronald Barrow on 0127 081 1953 or write to 14 Festival Avenue, Buerton, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 0DB.

Thanks for the donation.

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## For Sale

Atala Mini Califfo 50cc motor cycle. Brand new. (Unused because of eyesight problems.) With helmet and lock. £575.00. (See article in MMM June 97. Cost over £775.00.) Phone Brian Betterton on 0123 482 2364 or write to The Thatched Cottage, High Street, Pavenham, Bedford,

MK43 7NU.

#####

Silver Screens - external. Plus internal sides and back. For Duetto. £80.00 plus postage. Tel: Mary & Gerald Cross on 0118 941 6673 or write to 195 Fairford Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 6QT.



#####

Eurovent Auto-Villa (side entrance) awning. Used seven times with A-S Duetto. Can be used free-standing or fixed to side gutter. New June 1996. £200.00. Silver Screen (external) for Duetto. £35.00. Tel: Pat & Bob Scarfe on 0154 856 2017 or write to 5 Leonards Close, Thurlestone, Devon, TQ7 3LE.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Eurovent free standing drive away awning. Burgundy & Grey. Full sleeping inner tent. Used once - as new. £250.00. Tel: Andy Bone on 0130 578 0157 or write to 3 Ferndale Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 7QZ.

#####

Two wheel trims for A-S Clubman 1995 model. New and unused. £15.00 the pair. Chrome tubular table leg and tripod feet, as new. £15.00. Large vacuum pump pot, unused. £5.00. Tel: Annie & Brian Underdown on 0193 581 4772 ; mobile 0468 591 128 or write to 56 Quarr Lane Park, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4JB.

#####

Free standing NR Raleigh awning for side rail fitting. In brown/cream colour. As new, hardly used. Suitable for Talbot Express Harmony. Complete with curtains. £280.00 ono. Also wooden bench seat, folding item for berth cushion between front seats. £10.00 Complete set of Harrison side panels etc. to fit Fiamma F45/2.5m sun blind (Clubman GL) £150.00. Unused enclosure as Safari room. Tel: Roger Yeatman on 0120 248 5063 or write to 173 River Way, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 2QN.

[This is a corrected entry - last month the price of the NR Raleigh awning was shown wrongly. Ed]

#####



Legend GL, 1991, 'J' registration. 26,000 miles. Full service history. MOT to June 1998. 2.5 litre diesel engine on Ford Transit chassis with p.a.s. This was a top of the range model in 1991 and is in excellent condition with many extras including a Cabanon "Apache" free standing awning, Silver Screen, Air-ride rear suspension, TV table and 12v electric & aerial sockets in cab. Non-smoking owners. £18,950.00 ono. Tel: Leighton Jones on 0126 371 2002 or write to "Heathlands", Pineheath Road, High Kelling, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6QF.

#####

Clubman GL, 2.4 litre VW diesel. August 1996. Turbo fitted by TB Turbos, Lancaster. 9,000 miles. Code alarm, Fantastic fan. £27,000.00. Phone - daytime -Ray Nicholls on 0170 981 2408 or write to The Barn, Grange Close, Brampton en le Morthen, Nr Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S66 9AY.

#####

Set of pink cushions for Talisman. £100.00 ono. Full cooker, Voyager. £75.00 ono. Pair twin door mirrors for D arms. £50.00. All in very good condition. Telephone Derrick Bailey on 0125 254 4291 or write to 57 Salisbury Grove, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 6DA.

#####

Talbot Express Talisman, 'J' reg (December 91). 2.5 litre turbo diesel with p.a.s. Taxed, MOT to end November 97. Air-Ride suspension, good tyres, Silver Screen, electric cable. Non-smoker, no pets. Many extras. Ready for the road. £17,750.00. Tel: George Greenwood on 0142 387 2404 or write to 23 Westminster Crescent, Burn Bridge, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1LX.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Duetto, diesel, p.a.s. 1995 'N' reg. 16,000 miles, full service history. Fridge, Oven, heating etc. with extras - new Fiamma awning, cycle rack, Van Bitz alarm, 2-way 3-speed fan, Silver Screens. No pets, non smokers. £22,500.00. Tel: Roy Hughes on 0170 487 7307 or write to 29 Lingdales, Freshfield, Formby, Merseyside, L37 7HA.

Thanks for the donation.

*Sheila Henthorne*, our Membership Secretary, has asked me to ask you to let her, or in a little while her successor, know when you change or sell your van. The information is needed to keep the Club records up to date. There have been a number of cases where a new member has given details of a van which, according to the records, is owned by an existing member. So please, help her to keep the records straight.

See you next month - safe and happy travelling to you all.

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

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

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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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Committee Members:**

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Sheila Henthorne	Secretary & Membership Secretary	0181 808 9112
Harry Henthorne	Newsletter Editor	0181 808 9112
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Arthur Irving	Vice-Chairman: Joint Chairman AGM Sub-Cttee	0114 236 5698
Ben Mansfield	Chief Rally Marshal	0172 336 9769
Neil Rogers	Rally Co-Ordinator	0132 537 4540
Ian Ross	Regalia Officer	0170 822 8075
Geoff Scholey	Press Officer	0175 675 2303
Janet Sutterby	Minutes Secretary	0150 746 2449
John Tidbury	Treasurer	0123 552 5730
Ray Young	Vice-Chairman	0150 752 3467
Charles Trevelyan	President	0138 685 3338