

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB



**NEWSLETTER 114
MARCH 1998**

Hello.

Just a reminder request. If you dispose of your van, please let the Membership Secretary know so that the records can be kept up to date. If you want to stay as a Newsletter Only member of the Club that is quite OK but it does make us wonder when we discover that a van which we knew as belonging to Fred Bloggs is recorded to a new member Charlie Farnsbarns! And as there will be a new Membership Secretary soon (after the AGM when *Sheila Henthorne* stands down) it will be a great help to him/her. Thanks.

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PEUGEOT BOXER RECALL

Please note that the recall advised by *Janet Sutterby* in the February Newsletter is only applicable to some diesel engined Boxers. If yours is petrol engined then you are OK. If you have a diesel and you haven't had a recall notice, to put your mind at rest ring the help line on 0118 945 8484 with your chassis number. They will tell you if your motor is affected.

Brian Smith

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Ireland (Éire)

Are you going to Ireland this year for a holiday or for the Eleventh International Motorcaravan Festival Trade Show, Tipperary Racecourse? Public admitted 30th & 31st May. If you are, then contact the Motorcaravan Club of Ireland and they may be able to help you with special ferry fares (Stena Line) or bookings. Their phone/fax number is 00353-18251364.

Nial Rogers

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REMINISCENCES

On reading *Rita Daley's* item "1988 and all that" in the February Newsletter I was reminded about when *Frank* and I were starting from home ready for the Inaugural Rally. Having loaded our van *Frank* declared that we were overloaded. He said that he would not get any petrol and hoped that we had enough to get there. We would have to travel at about 20 mph! We could only get in the front doors.

Everywhere was loaded, even across the aisle. We trusted that we would not get "stopped". We were carrying 200 coffee mugs, 200 pens, 100 key rings, 50 telephone number pads, 50 car stickers, 1 large banner and about 20 - 30 sweaters, all with the ASOC logo. In addition we had £150.00 in change, 30 cardboard boxes with *Frank's* famous scrap pads, a lot of prizes for the raffle, two folding chairs, two tables, lots of paper work and The Bell. We also had two packed meals in the fridge that we could not get to!

We had been assured that there would be a large marquee and a small tent already erected by the time we arrived. We found NOTHING! *Neville Jelfs* and another member of A-S staff arrived in two company vans and helped us to unload enough into their van to enable us to get to the fridge. We then sat in the front seats for our meal whilst they went off to get their own meal. About an hour later the tent folk arrived and soon had the tents erected. *Neville* and his mate started to lay mats in the marquee and we unloaded into the tent. We were soon ready to welcome the new members who were arriving early.

Friday afternoon and Saturday morning I spent supplying folks with the sweaters they had ordered and taking orders for more, all done with a lot of fun and in good spirits. *Frank* was doing a roaring trade with all the logo-marked items and his scrap pads. There was lots of banter and he always had an answer. *John Cox* was busy at the gate to welcome everyone. *Rita and Philip Daley* went around many vans to make themselves known. *Anthony and Charles Trevelyan* were very helpful in everything to do with the Rally. A-S had a section of the main marquee selling various things to do with camping. They had vans old and new - and most of their staff there too! *Tony Johnson* was both organising and manning the information desk. He was kept very busy. *Neville Jelfs* was in charge of the Wine and Cheese party in addition to his many other jobs. *Charles Trevelyan* rang "The Bell" to start the Inaugural General Meeting and so began our Club. By the way, the bell came from the garden shed when we bought a sub-post office in Gloucester. It was dirty and the handle was held on by faith. Our son, Nigel, took it, repaired it and buffed it up and Hey Presto! One Stinchcombe Bell ready for use.

We met and made so many friends and folk were as enthusiastic as we were. They offered to help in many ways. It was an exhausting week-end but very rewarding. I'm sure that the Founder Members and Auto-Sleepers Limited will agree that our efforts beforehand had paid

off. *Frank* died in 1991. I am now an Honorary Member and I'm always blowing the trumpet for ASOC. Cheerio and good camping, folks. Drive carefully.

Dilys Stinchcombe - Member Number 002

For those members who don't know *Our Dilys*, she and *Frank* were responsible for getting together all of our initial stocks of regalia items and travelled far and wide in their quest. She is our one and only Honorary Member. The suggestion was proposed at our AGM and you should have heard the roar of approval which resulted. The Stinchcombe Bell is now traditionally rung to start and end every Annual General Meeting.

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A Scandinavian Tour

My wife and I will be touring in Scandinavia during May-June 1998 with our Duetto and would welcome the opportunity to join forces with any other Club member(s) who will be in Scandinavia during that time. This will be our 4th or 5th visit and we would be happy to guide along anyone venturing to that delightful part of the world for the first time. At present planning is not too advanced. We will be crossing to Esbjerg (Denmark) and then making fairly rapid progress to the Stockholm region with a view to crossing to the Aland Archipelago. Spend a day or two there, thence across the Gulf of Bothnia to Turku in SW Finland. We will then wander and zig-zag our way across central Finland and northwards to Lapland. The final objective has not yet been determined. Last time we did this sort of trip we aimed to reach the extreme north eastern tip of Norway at Vardo. However we encountered blizzard conditions when within thirty miles of our objective. Discretion took the better part of valour and we managed to find a turning place and took shelter in a road construction quarry. The northern summer was some three weeks late that year! So we might try that again. Anyway, the general plan would be to cross back into Sweden by road and work our way southward to Goteborg to catch the ferry back to Newcastle.

Our interests are more rural and natural history than urban. We tend to avoid the cities and large towns (but would be content to wait a day or two outside). We try to stop at least at one place of interest on every travel day. We only use the official camp sites when necessary for reasons of emptying the loo cassette and/or the need for a launderette is getting urgent. By the time we start on our tour we will have both celebrated our 70th birthdays. Anyone interested please get in touch.

Norman Goodwin

This sounds like a very interesting trip. To get in touch, please telephone or fax to 0158 484 1328; or you can "Email" to norman@goodstrw.demon.co.uk or write to The Mount, Aston Munslow, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9ER.

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Medical Form E.111

Members might perhaps be interested to learn of the expected delays in receipt of money spent for medical treatment in France when on holiday and Forms E.111 are used. My wife, *Sheila*, and I both had to seek medical help last May and early June. Nothing very serious but we each saw local doctors who were paid in cash. Plus of course the various medications from the pharmacists. In addition, in my case, there were taxi fares and laboratory fees. So in all we paid out around £80.00.

Before posting our E.111's and all the various receipts we took photocopies. Then all the originals were sent to the Paris address given in the booklet T5 "Health advice for travellers". This was done while we were still in France on 4th July. By 13th October, as we had heard nothing, we wrote to the DSS in Newcastle-upon-Tyne asking them to chase up their French colleagues. A month later - still no news - so a further 'chaser' was sent to the DSS.

On 14th January we decided to telephone the DSS for information and were rather abruptly dismissed by a clerk who told us it was really nothing to do with them and we weren't the only ones awaiting refunds anyway! They did admit they had written to France - on January 9th - well, that was only three months after our letter of October! So much for the EC and reciprocal health care.

We are now planning our 98 holiday in France and have already been in touch with the Caravan Club's Red Pennant brokers under our multi-trip policy in the hopes we can clear this all up before we next set sail!

And if we have to see any doctors etc. - will be use our E.111's? Well, what do you think?!!

John Read

Personally, I feel that I would write to the Director of the DSS to request a polite reply and if nothing happened within about a week or so then I would write (a) to the Minister in charge and (b) to my local MP for information. That might wake a few people up!

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A Little Story

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Everybody got angry about that because it was Nobody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Dorothy Ellis

Sounds rather like a call for Rally Marshals, doesn't it? *Dorothy* also included a sketch for use on a future Newsletter cover, so many thanks.

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Winter Usage

I have only recently joined the Club and already have found the answer to a problem in the pages of the Newsletter. This emboldens me to ask some more questions. I am not new to motor caravanning, having had my Auto-Sleeper for two years. Before that I had the same Commer Highwayman for twenty three years. Previously I had an ordinary caravan and earlier was into camping in a big way.

I have always gone in for all the year round use and at one time lived in the Highwayman in a field up in Scotland from June to the following April. The weather had a lot of snow and ice in the winter and I found that my under floor water tank and pump froze solid. Naturally I stopped using them but now, with the sophistication of my present Symphony, this is not a long term proposition. I have only once ventured out in frosty conditions. I then had an electric hook-up and used a 600 watt tubular heater under the water tanks and kept the water heater on all the time.

Seeing that the Club organises winter meets I would like to enquire how other members overcome the problem. I have bought an old fashioned paraffin sump heater and have made a metal "table" to go over it to avoid direct heat onto the tanks and to spread the warmth. But it is a bit primitive and I am open to advice. I have also tried a biscuit tin with two 100 watt lamps in it but hopefully someone else has a better idea.

Another problem is Blind Rattle. I now know about lubrication, thanks to an item in the Newsletter, but I am not in the league which changes its suspension to stop rattles. Has anyone come up with a simple solution.

The friend who suggested that I joined the Club said that it was worth it for the magazine alone. I now agree with him.

Neville Povey

On the subject of the blinds, *Ray Robinson* in the April 1997 issue had found a cure. He bought a pack of double length clear door guards (60p from a car shop) and cut them into 1½" pieces. Then he pushed one piece onto each corner of the down part of the frame. The blind can be moved up or down, open or shut and you travel in piece. For the water question we must leave it to the Tiggers, our Technical Information Group, for suggestions/answers.

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Zig Unit

Having only owned a motorhome for six months we are still finding our feet. I wonder if I can ask for help through the Newsletter. We have recently bought a second hand VW Trooper which has a Zig unit. Attached to the unit is the adaptor which we were told could be used to run a 12 volt kettle and other appliances. Though I have enquired at caravan showrooms that have an accessory shop I have been unable to find any such appliances.

Could anyone tell me what appliances I can attach to the adaptor and, if possible, where I can buy them?

Elizabeth Morgan

I wonder if the "adaptor" is in fact the socket for the 12 volt outlet? If that is the case, then all that is needed is (a) suitable plug(s) and (b) 12 volt appliances such as kettles, TV sets, radios etc. Some of the caravan showrooms I have seen have a very limited range of accessories so I would recommend finding a good accessory showroom - of which there are a good number around. But any suggestions in the area Stockport will be welcome.

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FROM THE FACTORY.

I often feel it is hard to appreciate, when visiting the Earls Court Caravan and Leisure Show, the enormous amount of work that goes into the preparation of the stand, both in stand fitting, the delivery and

position of vehicles and indeed much more. So allow me to give you a birds eye view of the build up of the stand, working backwards from the time at which the show is opened, this being 10.00 am on Friday 28th November.

It is at midnight, and not a minute before, of the preceding Sunday that our advance guard of Tony Johnson and Stephen Cant are allowed on to the proposed stand area which, at this stage, consists of nothing more than bare concrete marked out with chalk. Minutes later, the first load of vehicles, normally nine, are off-loaded in the Earls Court precinct and individually brought up to the stand area on the second floor in the lorry lift. All Auto-Sleepers, as so many of you will be aware, are transported to our dealers by Brian Edwards proprietor of Brian Edwards Deliveries Limited. Over the build up period (and run down period too) Brian and his staff spend some 98 hours in the delivery and collection of vehicles to and from Earls Court - for Brian a logistic nightmare in itself - yet always have our vehicles arrived, unloaded, exactly on time! By now it is approximately 1.30 am and these nine vehicles are positioned, grouped together on one side of the stand at which time the floor tiles, are laid. Once half of the stand has been tiled, the nine vehicles are driven carefully onto the tiled area, leaving the other half of the stand free to be correspondingly prepared. It is now 2.00 in the morning, the end of an eighteen hour day, and it is back to the hotel for Steve and Tony for a minimal four hours sleep, to be back at the stand at 6.00 am.

At this time the remainder of the vehicles arrive as do the stand fitters, electricians, plumbers and the erectors of the Trilite scaffolding for the stand canopy. Concurrently the stand counter, brochures, magazines, refreshments, pictures, entrance steps, spare parts and a wealth more is unloaded. It takes a full three and a half days for the stand to be fully prepared with teams coming from the factory on a daily basis for the preparation and cleaning of the vehicles, connection of mains wiring and a final check to see that all is in first class order.

It is at least three months beforehand, that the drawing office have prepared a scale plan of the stand on which each vehicle, drawn to scale is laid out to determine its best position. The aim is to ensure the stand is open, bright and roomy and of course welcoming to our many visitors. Likewise each and every vehicle needs to be displayed to its best effect, allowing a reasonable walkway between each vehicle and not least to allow each model to be inspected from all angles. It is important too to

ensure that from the desk, normally manned by either Tony or Stephen, that each vehicle is visible, directing as appropriate, stand staff in the direction of interested customers. Perhaps the most time consuming role for Tony and Stephen is the answering of queries, be they of a general nature, technical advice, or even weights and dimensions. Likewise they are responsible for ensuring that the refreshment area, at which of course tea, coffee and biscuits are always available, is maintained in a clean and tidy state, not least since it is here that customers can discuss in detail matters with the appropriate dealer representative.

Whilst, daily, the Show closed at 6.00 pm, work for these two was by no means over. At this stage the vehicles need to be locked up, the stand made secure, followed by evening entertainment for the stand staff. And it was back at the stand again at 8.00 am each morning for Tony and Steve to ensure that the vehicles, both internally and externally were clean prior to the Show opening.

This year our top selling vehicles were the Symphony, Clubman and Duetto. The new Styrofoam range of coachbults, particularly the Ravenna and Pollensa were also extremely well received and with the Pollensa winning, outright, the Caravan Industry Award for Motor Caravans, this was truly the icing on the cake. During the course of the Show, we sold over £4.4m worth of vehicles, our best ever result which perhaps underlines our desire to build as always the very best motor-caravans. Our sales exceeded by far those of our competitors - a just reward for all those who had worked so hard both in the setting up of the stand and its daily running, not forgetting of course all those back at Willersey whose hard work and help cannot be overstated.

Of the many visitors we received on our stand, an encouragingly large number were from the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club who of course, both at Earls Court and Birmingham, are assured a very warm welcome. Indeed it is largely the fact that we meet so many familiar faces that makes the time on the stand all the more enjoyable - a wave from an old friend is a tonic in itself!

Stephen Cant

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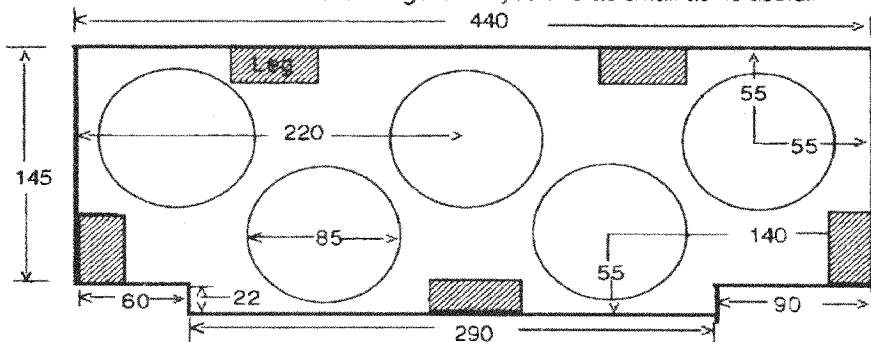
Wine

I'm not sure if the enclosed "Wine Cradle" idea counts as technical information but its use has proved very satisfactory to us. When on our travels every available space is filled and this device keeps bottles out of

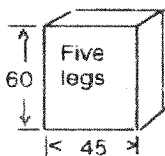
cupboards. The seat is in any case more comfortable when slightly forward so that is no disadvantage. We tend to brag about having a wine cellar in our Duetto but as you can see "cradle" is a more honest description!

Wine Cradle for A.S. Duetto

Designed to fit under single rear passenger seat when forward on first catch. The only crucial dimensions are boundary and the leg height. The size of the holes is about as large as maybe and as small as is useful.



Dimensions in millimetres
Material used was M.D.F. about 5mm. Legs were just a handy piece of deal. Screwed and glued, (belt & braces approach)



The legs are shaded as this is a plan view. Five seem to be more stable than four, and three are not satisfactory.

The 85mm diameter of the holes was chosen to fit the most common bottles in my cellar. Taller or fatter than average can be difficult, so if you have a particular favourite make sure it will behave. Because of the seat mechanism it can sometimes be tricky getting at a particular bottle, but just slide the seat out and your object will be achieved. If the legs are made much longer the bottles are very secure, but very difficult (almost impossible) to get in and out, if shorter they are easier to get out, so easy that they may do it themselves. Bon Appetit.

For carrying wine glasses, we have had the same pair in our various vans for over 35 years and about 400,000 miles. A visit to your friendly local pharmacists to obtain a hard plastic tablet container, such as is used for bulk supplies of about 500. Choose one to suit your glasses or glasses to suit the container. A close but not tight fit is ideal. Drill a 5 mm hole in the lid and the base to keep the inside fresh. At least if you do smash the glass the pieces will be confined and easy to mop up!

Molly & Harry Mackley

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March 1998
Rally Supplement

N.B. please add the following NEW rallies to your list. 30th April-4th May Burn Gliding Club, Selby, N. Yorks, details below, 4th.-7th June Driffield Showground, East Yorks & 31st July-2nd August Beacon Park, Lichfield.

27th.-30th March. 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 883 050. Cheques payable to Mrs.R.Ball.

Rally is from midday Friday 27th March to midday Monday 30th March.

Please do not arrive before midday on Friday. Stay any number of nights.

The whole grounds booked for the weekend, suitable for wheelchairs. Dogs welcome

ON LEADS (but not in gardens) Hall available for wet weather use &

meetings. There is hard standing for over 50 vans. Toilets available from about

8.00am. to 10.00pm..

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

Send SAE for leaflet on Larmer tree and /or confirmation of booking.

Directions. Situated just off A354 between Blandford Forum and Salisbury. From either direction on B3081 between Shaftesbury and Sixpenny Handley. Follow Blue & White sign in Tollard Royal to the Larmer Tree.

Map ref. 943169. Please support this re-arranged rally.

2nd-5th April. Wyeside, Rhayader C & C Park, Rhayader, Powys.

Site Tel. No. 01597 810183 (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals: Pat & John Bridge.

Site Fee: £4.50. Electricity: £1.50. (19 only) Rally Fee: £1.50

Booking slips to: Mrs.P.Bridge, "Ardwyn", Sun Hill, St. Harmon, Rhayader,

Powys, LD6 5LH. Tel.No. 01597 870 234. Cheques payable to: P.Bridge.

Attractions: Small well appointed site on the banks of the River Wye, with first class toilets & showers. Approx. 400yds from centre of Rhayader, a small town in the heart of the Welsh mountains, boasting a leisure centre with swimming pool. Royal Welsh Glass factory & Red Kite feeding centre.

A two course meal has been arranged, cost £5.95 + £1.00 extra for tea/coffee. If interested please state preference, Beef or Pork or Vegetarian.

Directions: From Rhayader take A44(470) signposted Llangurig. Site on left in approx. 400 yds. Limited to 30 vans

17th-19th.April. A.G.M./Annual Dinner,Kettering. Use booking sheet in January Newsletter.Note closing date 31st.March.Please support this rally as decisions affecting members are made at the A.G.M.

24th-26th.April.National Motorhome & Tourer Show,Peterborough.

Rally Marshals:Audrey Crouch & Team..

Complete booking form in MMM or Which M/van.Mark form **ASOC** and return to address on form.**Closing date to rally with club 27th.March.**Special Club rates: 4 nights £22.00,3 nights £20.00,2 nights £18.00,1 night £12.00.

Complete one of our rally slips and send,with £1.00 Rally fee to:Mrs.A.Crouch, "Sydney",Sylvan Close,Higher Heath,Whitchurch,Shrops,SY13 2TB.Tel.No.01948 840894.Cheques payable to:A.M.Crouch. If you are unable to get a booking form send a SAE with your rally fee and Audrey will send you one.(If you ask for one!)

No arrivals before 2.00pm Thursday.

New rally not on list.

30th.April-4 th. May Burn Gliding Club,Burn Village,Nr.Selby,N. Yorks.

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 Yorks,WF7 7DW. Tel.No. 01977 612 773(after 6.30pm.).

Cheques payable to:A.Guest.

Attractions:Meal to be arranged on Saturday evening.Please indicate on slip if interested.Gliding lessons over weekend(extra charge).

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

1st-4th.May.(3 nights) Stokes Bay,Gosport,Hants.

Rally Marshals:Dorothy & Baz Wellard.

Site Fee:£3.80 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.00.

Booking slip to: Mr.& Mrs.B.Wellard,18 Greenwood Close, Fareham,Hants, PO16 7UF. Tel.No.01329 231 259. Site Tel.No.(our mobile) 0467 398 393 (Emergencies only). Cheques payable to: Mrs.D.A.Wellard.

Attractions: *Greenfield site* with views across Solent to Isle of Wight.Naval ships and submarines;nature reserve,power boats and sail boats racing;walks along sea front(bistro & café on front);sea fishing.Village of Alverstoke 400 yds,with small shops and 2 taverns.Two miles away is Gosport,easily reached by bike,bus or van(no height barriers),street market on Saturday,car parks will be busy.City of Portsmouth by ferry from Gosport.Commercial site in 2 miles.Fish & Chip supper will be available on Saturday evening(outside get together,if fine).

Directions: Leave M27 at junction 11;SP Fareham Central A27 & Gosport(A32). **Follow signs for Gosport(A32)then,after going under second** flyover & railway arch,go straight across next roundabout taking right hand lane to **follow signs to Lee-on-Solent(A3385)sea front.**At **Lee-on-Solent** sea front turn left along coast for 1½ miles;turning right **directly after** Browndown Army camp into Browndown Road.At next roundabout take **2nd. exit** along the coast road.At next roundabout take **3rd. exit.**Site gate on right in 20yds.

3rd.-9th.May. Dutch Bulbfields Rally.Fully booked.

7th.-10th.May. Little Cotton Farm,Dartmouth,Devon.

Site Tel.No. 01803 833 675.(Emergencies only or bookings for additional nights).

Rally Marshals:Pam & Terry Holtom.

Site Fee:£4.50 per night. Electricity:£1.80 per night. Rally Fee:£2.00.

Additional nights arranged with site owner,Mr.Paul White.Tel.No. see above.

Booking slips and cheques to:Mr.& Mrs. T. Holtom,8 Courtland Road,

Torquay.TQ2 6LR. Tel.No. 01803 612 669.

Attractions:Dartmouth,a naval port/harbour,ancient holiday resort with boat trips up the River Dart to Totnes.Nearby steam railway to Paignton.Also close at hand Slapton Sands, D-Day practise landing beach.Totnes,old market town(Fridays), with castle and rampart walks. Park & Ride adjacent to site into Dartmouth. Licensed Club premises available **within** walking distance.Dogs permitted but must be kept on lead at all times.

Location and travel instructions will be sent to members upon booking.(SAE)

8th.-15th.May. Isle of Avalon Touring C.P. Glastonbury,Somerset.

Site Tel.No.01458 833 618(Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals:Marie & John Skinner,assisted by Phyl & Roy Hare.

Site Fees:£ 6.50 per night. Electricity:£1.85 per night. Rally Fee:£2.00.

Booking slip to:Mr.& Mrs. J.Skinner,10 Bramcote Gardens,Bromborough, Wirral,L62 6AH. Tel.No. 0151 334 9184.Cheques payable to:Mrs.M.Skinner.

Attractions: 5 minutes walk from town,buses to Street & Wells.Fish & chip evening.Meal with Beer & Skittles mid week.American supper.

Directions: A39 Glastonbury by-pass,site signed at Godney roundabout.

15th.-17th.May. Tudor Caravan Park,Shepherds Patch,Slimbridge,Gloucs.

Site Tel.No. 01453 890483(Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals:Hazel & Eric Wilton.

Site Fee:£4.50 per night. Limited electricity at extra cost possibly for disabled members. Rally Fee: £ 2.00.Booking slips to Mrs.H.Wilton,17 Rock Road,

Keynsham,Bristol,BS31 1BP.Tel.No. 0117 9860942. Cheques payable to:H.Wilton.

Attractions: Small picturesque site with showers, toilets & shop. Buffet (£4.00 per person) and skittles evening on Saturday in adjacent pub. Concessionary tickets available for famous Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, about 800yds level walk away. Pleasant walks (or cycle rides for energetic members!) along adjacent canal towpath. Fishing and boat trips also available. Gloucester Docks and Berkeley Castle are among the nearby attractions.

Directions: Site is situated between Junctions 13 & 14 of M5, just off the A38 and can be found by following the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust signs.

21st.-25th.May. Van Bitz.Cornish Farm,Shoreditch, Taunton,Somerset.

Site Tel.No.(Emergencies only) 01823 321 992

Rally Marshals: Betty & Andrew Entwistle.

Rally Fee: £ 3.00 per night. No Electricity. Rally Fee:£2.00.

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

Cheques payable to:M.A. Entwistle.

Attractions:Taunton the county town of Somerset with castle and many other historic buildings.Nearby is Wilton House.The Quantock Hills are in the area and there are many small villages worthy of a visit.From the crest of the Quantocks the Severn Estuary can be seen.

Directions: From M5 Junction 25 follow signs for Taunton.At first set of traffic lights at Creech Castle turn left s.p. Corfe B3170.Take 3rd. left into Ilminster Road again follow signs for Corfe.Bear right at roundabout onto Blackbrook Way.Bear left at next roundabout and follow road to the end 'T' junction which is the B3170.Turn right and then take the next left into Killams Drive.Take 2nd. left into Killams Avenue and follow the road passing housing estate and finally over motorway bridge.Cornish Farm is immediately after the motorway bridge on the left hand side.IGNORE the first entrance to the main house and buildings,proceed to the second entrance (with CL sign)which is a little further along the road (into the orchard).This will lead you to the gravelled area where you should park on the left hand side.

22nd.-26th.May. Caravan Club National Rally,Harewood House.

Those attending will have received information directly from the Caravan Club.

ASOC section Rally Marshal: Barbara & Ray Whiley.

No further booking can be taken for this rally.

22nd.24th.May. Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum.

Rally Marshals: Sheila & Harry Henthorne.

Site Fee: £2.75 per night. No Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.00.

Booking slip to:Mr.& Mrs.H.Henthorne, 144 Devonshire Hill Lane,

London,N17 7NH. Tel.No. 0181 808 9112. Cheques 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 numbers) on Saturday evening. Bluebell Railway and South Coast nearby.

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.

28th.-31st. May. Merseyside Police Sports Ground, Riversdale Road, Aigburth, Liverpool.

Site Tel. (Emergencies only) 0151 427 2208

Rally Marshals: Brenda & Don Sampson.

Site Fees: £2.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £1.50.

Booking slip to: Mr. & Mrs. D. Sampson, 5 Churston Road, Childwall, Liverpool, L16 9JS. Tel. No. 0151 722 9379. Cheques payable to: Mrs. B.M. Sampson.

Attractions: Grounds adjacent to and overlooking the River Mersey and beyond the Welsh mountain Moell Famma. Otterspool Promenade leads from the site to City Centre approx. 4 miles. Ideal for walking or cycling. Buses to City Centre, Albert Dock and elsewhere from A561 (Aigburth Road). Separate showers & WCs (Closed 11.00pm-7.00am). Bar open. Most pitches are on hardstanding.

Directions: From M62/M57 junction turn onto A5300 and cont. to end. Turn right onto A561. Runcorn traffic cont. A561 to this location. All vehicles travel west into Liverpool on A561 for 5.9 miles, which is now Aigburth Road. Turn left at traffic lights into Riversdale Road. (Liverpool Cricket Club is on corner). Continue to end of road and turn left.

29th.-31st. May. Colne Valley Railway, Castle Hedingham, Essex.

Rally Marshals: Stella & Ian Ross.

Site Fees: £12.50 per van for weekend. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £1.50.

Booking slips to: Mr. I. Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1DL. Tel. No. 01708 228 075. Cheques payable to: I. Ross.

Attractions: **Green Field Site.** Toilets available daytime only. Price includes entry to railway complex and unlimited rides, diesel train Saturday-steam train Sunday. Buffet carriage. Saturday evening meal in carriage if sufficient numbers. Ham or cheese ploughmans-dessert & coffee £6.00. Please send money and state choice when booking.

Directions: 7 miles Northwest of Braintree on the A604 between Gt. Yeldham and Sible Hedingham. Follow Brown signs.

1st.-14th.June.Camping Le Bohat,Brittany,France. Fully booked.

HELP!! Have we any volunteers to marshal the Stratford Motorcarvan Fair 5th.-7th.June & Shepton Mallet Show 17th.-21st.September? Ideally a group of two or three couples to help spread the load.If you are interested please contact me A.S.A.P.

New Members. Applying for a Rally. (With apologies to those who already know). If you are interested in any of the rallies in the Newsletter then fill in all sections on a rally slip(part of the rally supplement) and send it with a cheque for the correct amount of money(see site fee & rally fee) to the rally marshal (details in Newsletter rally information) as soon as possible.If confirmation of booking is required please enclose SAE.Many rallies book up very quickly so prompt action is required.If you have booked and are unable to attend the rally please inform the rally marshal ASAP.

Rally Marshals

If you are thinking of running a rally please get in touch with me or the area assistants for further information or advice (if required). Please do not forget to check the availability of dates with me before confirming a rally with a site.

Will rally marshals please send me rally information for the Newsletter as soon as possible to enable me to give rallies advance notice and publicity.This does not apply to those marshals who have already sent me the information.

Please note that ALL information concerning rallies,dates,booking of sites and rally details for the Newsletter should be sent to the Rally Co-ordinator:

**Neil C. Rogers,
3 Appleby Close,
Aldbrough St. John,
Richmond,
North Yorks.,
DL11 7TT.
Tel./Fax. No. 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,Norfolk.
Bob Brindle (01 777 711 588) Retford,Notts..

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

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

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

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

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

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

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

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

✂-----

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Number of people in your van: Adults Children

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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!**

Paint Sticks

The Company is regularly asked whether paint sticks are available for touch-up purposes. They now have in stock some which represent the most widely requested colours. This list does NOT cover all which may be available - they are simply offered to see whether they are truly required. Two are more expensive because they require an additional separate lacquer paint stick. Sticks can be obtained from Pat Niblett in the After Sales Department at Willersey. Prices are:

Peugeot Blue Galaxie (coachlines)	£3.82
Ford Ivory White (base vehicle)	£3.82
Honda Grey Metallic and Lacquer (coachlines)	£7.05
Jaguar Racing Green and Lacquer (coachlines)	£7.05

Charles Trevelyan

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PEUGEOT SYMPHONY

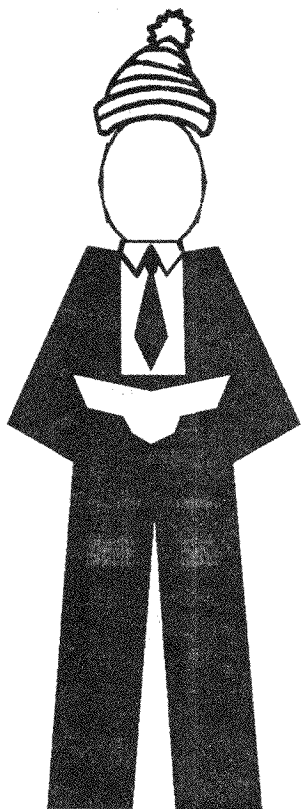
I read, with interest, the letter from *David Mayne* on the suspension system of the Harmony. My wife and I decided that it was time to trade in our VW Trident and selected a Harmony. The layout suited our needs and we struck a deal with the dealer but before signing requested a test drive. Within 200 yards both my wife and I said together "The Bedford Hop" sometimes called the "Kangaroo Hop". The deal was off as we could not consider a vehicle with a suspension system similar to our late 1972 Bedford A-S for our second planned trip to Poland. It would be interesting to hear how other members get on with their Peugeots on long distance tours.

I would have thought that after 25 years of development Peugeot could have come up with some improvement. After all, Ford have managed to do this on the Duetto. Unfortunately, an eighteen feet plus vehicle is incompatible with parking on a modern housing estate.

Brian Perrins

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Chairman's Chat



Betty and I, plus what seemed like half of the Club, took the opportunity to visit the Camping, Caravan and Boating Exhibition at the N.E.C. in Birmingham. We went on the first Monday of the show after attending the Valentine Rally near Bakewell in Derbyshire. Just across the road from the site is a restored Flour Mill which is powered by a water driven turbine. This in turn provides the electricity for the mill. Every time we are in the area it's a must that we call to buy flour so that *Betty* can make her bread. It is ever so edible!

Last month we managed to fit in a quick trip to France to visit our daughter Christine and her family. Whilst preparing the documentation for the trip I checked my insurance for a "Green Card". I was pleasantly surprised to find that my new insurance company had included in my details a statement, in five languages, declaring that my cover complied with the regulations and was valid for the E.U. Plus one or two more countries. At the Club and Company Rally last year I managed to sneak a quick look around the trade stalls. I then talked to one of the insurance people there and when it came time to renew my cover I gave them a call as I had promised. The quote I received was a little cheaper than my then insurance but the real saving came with the R.A.C. Recovery which was included. I checked the offer very carefully and could not find a difference between that which I already had with the R.A.C.

As you may have gathered, I took the plunge, so to speak, and saved myself a sum in excess of £100.00. This added together with the small saving on the insurance cost pleased this miserly Yorkshire man. This description of my attention to cost details I earned whilst in the Fire Service. There I examined every request for new uniform, repairs or cleaning very carefully. I refused more than one such request when all that was needed was a simple washing or a minor repair. My Lancashire colleagues came up with a very apt definition of we God-fearing men of the

White Rose. They defined this Yorkshire man as a Scot with the generosity bred out of him! I can assure you that I enjoyed living up to that definition!!

I hope that those of you who wish to come to the Annual Dinner and Dance and AGM Rally at Wicksteed Park in Kettering have sent in your completed application forms - with suitable cheques! We should, as always, have a very good event. On the face of it, it may appear to be a formal sort of weekend. The truth is just the opposite because we have a very relaxed weekend. The AGM itself only takes a couple of hours, if we drag it out. What is important is that this is the time when any member can ask questions of the Committee. During the Open Forum after the formal AGM you can raise any point which you may feel will benefit the Club.

Finally, by request, may I raise the wearing of name badges by all Club members? The idea of these badges was so that we would know who was who. In particular for new members who may find their first rally or two a little daunting with so many faces to put names to. I find that these name badges are so very helpful as I am just about the world's worst when it comes to remembering names and faces. So please wear yours and if you haven't got one then have a chat with the Regalia people who can arrange to get one for you.

Travel safely and smile, just for me!

Andrew Entwistle

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Experiences

As new Members of the Club we do not know what has been written in previous years, but here are a few technical experiences of our A-S Clubman of 1994 vintage with a 2.4 diesel VW chassis. On the whole we are very pleased with it. The vehicle has been very good, comfortable and reliable. Normally the gearchange is silky but this year in Germany on the autobahn we found difficulty in changing, especially out of fifth. We suspected the clutch and when we got home, although it wasn't obvious - no oil leaks (the clutch is hydraulic), we had the clutch slave cylinder changed and this cured the problem. This, apparently, can be a problem on a T4 so if you have trouble this way check your slave cylinder.

If you use non electric sites with the early Clubman there is a danger that you can flatten the leisure battery. There was a 30 amp fuse

in the charging circuit which prevented the alternator from charging up the leisure battery. Last year this problem was solved for us when A-S found a solution and fitted a 70 amp relay. So if you check the old fuse unit and find the middle 30 amp fuse blown, this is the problem.

Another problem, common to all motorhomes, occurred to us recently. Our main battery became faulty at three and a half years old. Apparently the life of a car battery is now only three years anyway. The battery is said to be happier being used every day, or at least frequently. Probably, I suspect, a lot of us don't use our vans all that frequently, especially in winter. An unused battery can sulphate up. Also if a battery is completely discharged and stored in the open on the vehicle it can freeze up, so I have been told. The VW handbook suggests taking the battery off when the vehicle is laid up for long periods. However, in the case of the Clubman it is not an easy task! The two batteries are crammed together in a very cramped space on the nearside of the engine compartment and the cables are also quite obstructive. I had fun replacing the battery and a 13 mm socket drive is needed to fix and remove the batteries. Incidentally I found the battery carrier very badly rusted underneath and took the opportunity to treat and repair it. If a nearside lamp bulb is inoperative it is probably necessary to remove the battery to gain access. One tip we have thought of which is simple to apply - cover the battery compartment with glass fibre wadding when frost is a danger. But don't forget to remove it before driving off. If the vehicle is laid up for a while and you are forgetful leave a note for yourself on the dashboard!

Kath & Dave Fulbrook

Our Clubman is the 1992 version with the leisure battery under the offside seat beside the Cascade - even more difficult to access. We had the main battery go suddenly on us as I reported at the time. It didn't go down slowly as I have known batteries fail in the past - it just went!

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Spare parts - Mechanical

As new members may we ask whether anyone can advise us where we may be able to get spare parts, please? We have a 1969 Commer and we are especially looking for brake parts but any advice about spares will be welcome. Our telephone number is 0142 865 3324 or you can write to 8 Merle Way, Fernhurst, Haslemere, West Sussex, GU27 3NB. Thanks.

Lorna & David Clark

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Snags

About two years ago I replaced my VW Transporter Dormobile conversion with my present 1982 Sherpa Leisure and, of course, joined the Club! The new vehicle is a vastly superior concern to the old one but there are a couple of snags.

The elevating roof assembly sits in the guttering of the steel body and the gap is sealed, thus blocking the gutter. In consequence there tend to be rainwater leaks above the doors and the risk of a deluge across one's knees when the front door are opened in wet weather. I suggest the answer would be to fit some self adhesive 'J' section plastic beating immediately above the existing join. Does anyone know of a suitable product? My other criticism is the slight unevenness of the two beds, caused by the varying thickness of the seat cushions. Can anyone suggest a remedy here?

Don Grose

You can contact *Don* on 0178 972 0375 or on his mobile phone 0370 777 916.

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Obituaries

We have just been advised that *George Flett* has died. We offer our condolences and sincere sympathy to his widow, *Jean*, and their family.

#####

We also learn that *Yvonne Clare* died suddenly on New Year's Eve. Our condolences and sympathies go to *Frank* and her family.

#####

Belatedly we have been told that *Alan Wilkes* has died. He was a member until ill-health forced him to resign from the Club. Our condolences are offered to *Ruth* and their family.

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The late *George Greenwood*

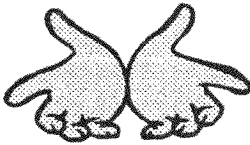
Many members of the Club were saddened to hear of the death of *George*. He had been a member for many years and was liked and respected by all who knew him. His quiet, friendly manner and his kindness will be missed at future rallies. He appeared to accept his illness

with the courage and stoicism what you would expect of him. We will, of course, also miss *Barbara* who is sadly no longer continuing to motor caravan. We all offer to her and her family our sincere condolences.

All ASOC friends at Los Gallardos.

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WANTED



Hella spot light and fog light grille for 1989 VW Trooper (to fit in radiator grille). Tel. Colin Hopkins on 0152 757 7032 or write to 52 Willow Close, Bromsgrove, Worcs., B61 8RF.

#####

Double cycle rack for VW T4 van. Phone Jim Ireson on 0181 863 6743 or write to 8 Rugby Close, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 1UB.

#####

Fiamma Safari Room to fit Fiamma 3.5m F45 roll out awning. Tel: Peter Worwood on 0168 986 2270 or write to 99 Southlands Avenue, Orpington, Kent, BR6 9ND.

#####

1990/91 Ford Legend GL. 2 litre petrol. Must be immaculate with fairly low mileage. Tel: Peter Jeffery on 0175 236 5396 or write to 63 Weston Mill Hill, Plymouth, Devon, PL5 2AR

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FOR SALE



Fiamma 1.9 metre Caravan Store roll out awning. £75.00. Witter bike carrier, 2/3 bikes. £25.00. Talbot Express facelift Silver Screen. Lightweight, unused. £30.00. BSA folding bicycle, 3 speed. £30.00. Tel: Adrian Newitt on 0129 673 0951 or write to 22 The Island, Steeple Claydon, Bucks, MK18 2NU.

#####

Immaculate Topaz. Due to other commitments Vivian and Sid Barlow reluctantly offer their Topaz 2.5 litre diesel - turbocharged by TB Turbo of Lancaster, 'P' reg, August 1996. Specification and coachwork to the

standard expected from A-S. Mileage under 8,000. Non-smokers, no pets. Cost new including turbo/intercooler approx. £30,000.00. Will accept £22,900.00. No offers. Telephone 01558 824 075 or write to 9 Ger-y-Llan, Cwmifor, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 7BU.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Raleigh awning de luxe. Approx. 3 metre, free standing, in good condition. £125.00. Ring Alf Wakefield on 0178 567 0920 or write to 2 Sopwith Close, Yarnfield, Stone, Staffs., ST15 0SY.



Thanks for the donation.

#####

Excelsior luxury 2 berth. 2.5 diesel. ABS, 4 speed automatic. September 1996. 9,500 miles. PAS, headlamp washers, front screen and both front seats heated. Both front seats swivel. TV and video (Ferguson), TV aerial. 2 way kitchen fan. Fiamma awning, drive away Safari room. Twin cycle rack. Henley top box with locking racks. Specially designed motor cycle rack including generator and m/c clothing. Air-ride suspension. Non smokers, no pets. Better than new. Offers in the region of £30,000.00 for quick sale. Tel: Pamela & John Northcott on 0179 887 5326 or write to Lickfold Farm, Wigginholt, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 2EL.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Eurovent drive away awning suitable for Duetto or similar. £100.00. 'Mistral' folding bicycle, 3-speed Sturmey-Archer gears. £40.00. Tel: Ray Lostak on 0170 875 6232 or write to 58 Hog Hill Road, Collier Row, Romford, Essex, RM5 2DH.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Boxer Executive, 'M' reg (March 95). 2.5 diesel with fitted engine immobiliser plus double bike rack, Status TV aerial, awning rail with free standing side tent included. Excellent condition inside and out. Owned

by non-smokers with no pets. 10,200 miles only. Due to illness a reluctant sale. £25,000.00 ono. Tel: Keith Hopkins on 0159 064 3335 or write to "Oakwood", 4 The Grange, Everton, Lymington, Hants., SO41 0ZR.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Rambler GL, 1993, 'L' reg. 2.5 litre Peugeot diesel, PAS, 2+2 berth. Usual A-S refinements plus oven, waste tank, Fianuma awning, polarity switch, JVC top of the range 4 speaker RDS radio/cassette, alarm. Full main dealer service history (Miller's XFE oil used since new). Tax and MOT to August 1998. 50,000 miles. Priced to sell quickly. £16,750.00. Telephone Stewart Powell on 0125 742 6140 or write to 2 Whiteacre, Standish, Wigan, Lancs., WN6 0SH.

Thanks for the donation.

#####



Taylor-made external screens, three piece, heavy duty. To suit latest Renault Trafic (large mirrors). £50.00. Free standing 'NR' awning suitable side or rear door of hi-top or elevating roof van conversions. Excellent condition, hardly used. £150.00. Tel: Barbara & John Henson on 0193 584 0120 or write to 33 Abbots Road, Ilchester, Somerset, BA22 8ND.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Back Box in GRP by Reco, made in Ford Ivory colour with added A-S blue stripe, "Duetto" logo and illuminated number plate. Enlarged rear step with secure fittings but box easily removed with built in carrying handles. Size 43" x 18" x 30". £225.00 ovno. Diamond screens for Ford Transit cab. £50.00. Tel: Don Thompson on 0163 423 3362 or write to 16 Tanglewood Close, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0PH.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

All to fit Duetto. Towbar and electrics, as new. £85.00. External Silver Screen, used twice. £60.00. Free-standing Eurovent Auto-villa awning, suitable for Duetto or any high-top side door. £135.00.

Folding bicycle, as new. £65.00. Tel: Charles Bowen on 0168 641 3348 or write to Ponthafren, Eastgate Street, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6HD.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Nearly new custom made mat for cab of VW Clubman. £10.00.
Purpose built motor bike rack for Clubman, suits small bike. £30.00.
Fiamma bike rack for VW T4, used once. £75.00. Brand new, still boxed, 14" wheel trims for VW T4. £10.00. Swivel for passenger seat for VW T3. £20.00. Telephone Keith Adams on 0180 352 7740 or write to 51 Wheatlands Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ4 5HX.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Renault Rapport Hi-top (2+2 berth), 1989, 'G' reg. 43,000 miles. Mains electric, h&c water, Propex blown warm air heating, double bed conversion, 3 way fridge. Fitted with 5 Michelin XC4S tyres and new battery. A treasured vehicle. Quadraphonic radio/cassette. Full set of mud flaps. Alarmed. No pets, non-smokers. A treasured vehicle! Reason for sale? Moving up to a Legend GL. Offers based on £9,000.00. Tel: Ann & Ricky Smith on 0168 456 8207 or write to 25 Wilton Road, Barnards Green, Malvern, Worcs., WR14 3RG.



Thanks for the donation.

#####

NR Awning "Raleigh de Luxe" model. Colours Brown/Green. Free standing or vehicle side rail attachment. Fits Talbot Express Harmony. Floor side 11' 3" x 6' 3". Height 6' 7". Used twice, so as new condition. (Vehicle sold). Bargain £299.00. Also set Harrison made side screens. Complete, unused, made to fit Fiamma F45, 2.5m sun blind. Drop 2.35m (7' 8") from side rail (VW Clubman GL). Surplus kit to make full enclosure. £160.00 ono. Telephone Roger Yeatman on 0120 248 5063 or write to 173 River Way, West Christchurch, Dorset BH23 2QN.

Thanks for the donation.

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The **TENTH** of the month is the last day for items to reach

Your Editor

Harry Henthorne

144 Devonshire Hill Lane

London, N17 7NH

Tel: 0181 808 9112

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

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:

Andrew Entwistle	Chairman; Joint Chairman - AGM Sub-Cttee	0142 284 3057
Sheila Henthorne	Secretary & Membership Secretary	0181 808 9112
Harry Henthorne	Newsletter Editor	0181 808 9112
Brian Hooton	Chairman C & C Sub-Cttee	0123 576 4782
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