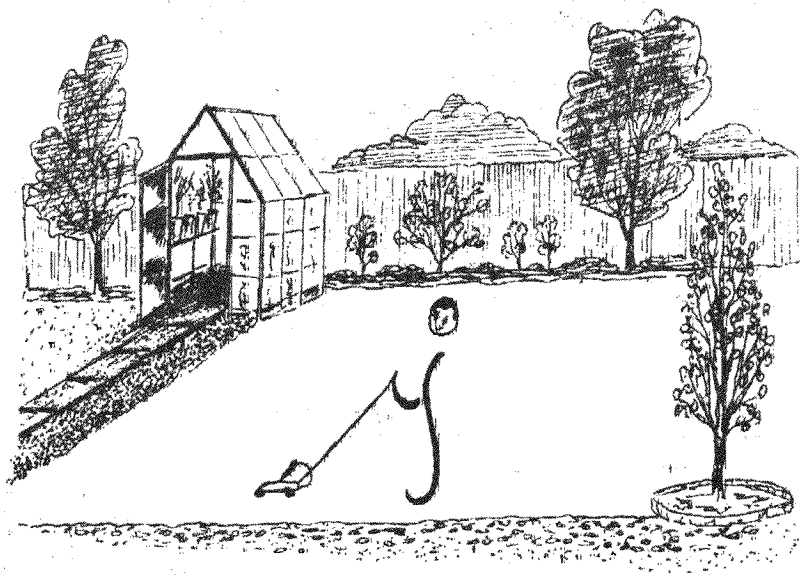


**TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

**AUTO-SLEEPER  
OWNERS' CLUB**

**1989 - 1999**



**NEWSLETTER 129  
JUNE 1999**

Hello.

## **Cover Pictures**

May I appeal to all you artists out there? I am running short of pictures for the front cover of the Newsletter. So come along, get your nice sharp BLACK pencil out and draw something to suit our hobby. The only requirement, other than it should have something to do with use of a motorhome, is that the letters "A", "S", "O", and "C" (whatever they may mean!) should appear in the picture somewhere.

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### **Unleaded Petrol**

Quite a lot of replies on this subject. So many that I have had to hold them over from this issue and will try to print them, or at least a precis, next month. There was an article of similar nature in the latest issue of the Caravan Club Magazine

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### **The Millennium Bug**

I read with interest the article in the April Newsletter entitled "Millennium Bug". I thought Club members would like to know that all our base vehicles are Year 2000 compatible (and thus bug free). Furthermore all our suppliers are in the process of informing us that the components that they supply for fitting into our models are also Year 2000 compatible. To date replies have confirmed that this is the case and thus we do not foresee any problems in this particular aspect.

Denzil Brunning - Homologation Engineer - A-S.

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### **Fuel Leak**

The experience described by *John Francis* reminds me of a similar situation my wife and I had to contend with when our Talbot 2.5 turbo-diesel Executive carried us to Portugal. As we drove onto a night's pitch we noticed the distinctive smell of hot diesel oil. I switched off the engine, raised the bonnet and searched around for signs of a fuel leak. Nothing could be seen, and rapidly the smell

disappeared. The following morning all seemed to be well: no smell of diesel; no tell-tale signs beneath the van. But as we climbed slowly through the streets of a small town the smell returned with a vengeance and it was clear that the problem was still very much with us. We pulled into a convenient lay-by and raised the bonnet again. This time, however, I left the engine running and used a torch to help the search. Success! Fixed high on the bulkhead, below the windscreen scuttle, are two black, small-bore pipes. One was split and diesel oil gushed over the back of the hot engine. We now knew the problem, but how to effect a cure? We can't speak Portuguese, nor Spanish, so had to seek out someone who could advise. We found the tourist information office in the centre of the town and enlisted the help of the lady on duty. She directed us to the nearest garage which was a Fiat agent. We asked the gentleman in the car showroom on the ground floor if he spoke English. He shook his head, but held up a finger to indicate that we should wait while he looked into the matter. He returned a few minutes later in the company of a young man who offered his help. He explained that he knew nothing about technical matters, but would act as a go-between with the workshop foreman. He suggested we follow him in the van as he walked up to the workshop situated on the first floor. The van was driven up the concrete ramp and we corkscrewed up to the workshop - with nervous glances to check that there was sufficient headroom.

When the foreman appeared neither English or Portuguese were necessary. With bonnet raised, the engine was started and the torch shone on the split pipe. Twenty minutes later both pipes had been replaced, the bill paid and our anxieties quite dispelled. And the bill? The equivalent of £7 and a few pence!

*Tony Hillier*

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## A Survey Of Crockery

Earlier this year, the Club was asked by our President, *Charles Trevelyan*, to help the Company by sending a questionnaire on the chinaware provided in new A-S motorhomes to 100 members. Although chosen at random, care was taken to ensure that these 100 members represented a cross-section of the Club by

selecting (via the computer database) 20 consecutive membership numbers from each of five bands based on the date of joining: some were members for almost ten years, others very recent new members. A-S received 91 replies by March 13th. Some results of the survey were:

Nearly 80% preferred mugs to cups. Both sizes of plate were popular, with the 9" taking preference. Nearly 40% of those replying would like egg cups. Cereal bowls were required by 97.5%. Only 27.7% required a milk jug. (A sugar basin was not included in the questionnaire, but was mentioned by one member.) Wine glasses were wanted by 65%, and tumblers by nearly 58% (some members would have liked both).

There were many general comments made, of which those made by most members were:

The crockery is too heavy in weight - but chinaware is preferred (10). Melamine would be preferred for lightness (2). A combination of two wine glasses and two tumblers would be useful (7).

Clearly, it is (as always) impossible to please everyone. Members may, however, be interested to know that what has come to be regarded as "Auto-Sleeper" crockery (Biltons, Spring Bouquet) is no longer available and new vans now have an different pattern. (Some Spring Bouquet may still be available in shops, but the dinner plates are slightly larger than the A-S size).

*Ray Whiley*

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## **Attempted Theft**

The attempted theft of ones motorhome is almost as traumatic an experience as having the house burgled. In spite of being protected by a P.I.R. system on the dwelling, parked near a street light, and fitted with a Van Bitz alarm and immobiliser, would-be thieves managed to wreak nearly £800.00 worth of damage before being disturbed. Repairs to steering column, dash board, electrics etc., took more than two weeks. Thereafter, a short-notice dash to Taunton resulted in a thorough check-up and

enhancement of the alarm system by Van Bitz. Together with a stern warning from Eddie Jones - thrice repeated - "Lightening does strike twice". It did - just 23 hours after the van got home "they" had another go and again damage, before taking fright at the additional alarm noise. Prospect of a further lay up for 3-4 weeks pending the replacement of frame and windows - more despondency. Hope was but a telephone call away - Auto-Sleepers to the rescue! *Charles Trevelyan* offered an almost immediate appointment for the work to be carried out. Prompt and courteous service, van handed back in two and a half hours, and no mess. Grateful thanks to Eddie Jones and *Major Trevelyan* for getting us back on the road so quickly.

*Doreen & Jock Hammond*

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## Security

I am writing to enquire if either the factory or any member has come up with suggestions for improving the security of the Duetto against break-ins, particularly with regard to the security of the offside window of the rear door. Last summer whilst our Duetto was parked in the car park of a nature reserve in Southern Sweden, thieves made a successful break-in into the locked vehicle. Their first attempt had been at the lock of the nearside door. They broke the stem of their key inside the lock and failed to unlock the door. They then attacked the rear door and neatly removed the entire offside window. After removing various articles, the thieves decamped taking with them the entire RH rear window and surround, leaving with barely a scratch to the paintwork of the rear door to mark their passing. The whole operation must have been carried out very swiftly and with great expertise.

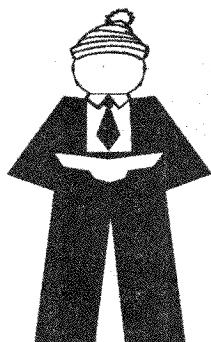
It was a shock to realise how vulnerable this motor caravan is to thieves. Subsequently I have noticed that most commercial Ford Transit vans, if fitted with glass to the rear doors, have some form of protective grid. None of these are particularly aesthetic and on those grounds are not suited for a motorcaravan. Has anybody any ideas of some temporary device that could be fitted to the rear window that would make it difficult to remove the glass? The device

would only need to be placed in position when leaving the vehicle parked in public. Ideally it needs to be small, or will pack up into a small space and is not too difficult to put into position.

*Norman Goodwin*

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### *Chairman's Chat*



Last month I was rushed to complete my piece. We had just returned from the AGM at Kettering and I had to be off for my operation. I am pleased to say I was only in the Hospital for two nights. When I came home my nose felt as if it were ten feet long and was very tender. I never thought that a nose could feel so huge and fragile. I found that out as I casually pulled a sweatshirt over my head and yes, I forgot to keep it away from my hooter! It hurt; it really did hurt as the material savaged that very tender part of my face.

Have you ever tried to wash your face without touching your nose? It is a little difficult. *Betty and I* would like to thank all of you who sent a card or called to check on my nose. I received some very interesting cards. Thank you all ,we appreciate your good wishes.

The Peterborough show this year actually experienced a fair amount of sunshine. It just didn't feel right to have that show without the rain! Most visitors came prepared for the rain and like *Betty and me* brought very few clothes for a near perfect weekend. But who is going to complain? We don't visit all the shows throughout the year. There are now too many for us, but what we do, and other members have similar strategies, we make them "pay" by waiting until the show if we are looking for anything particular and for those consumables we all use such as toilet fluid. We bought the years supply and saved about £4.00 per bottle. That saving alone paid for the weekends camping and entrance fee.

I must apologise for a comment in my annual report about our use of the Exemption Certificate. I did say that we had never

... We had a "working" break along with other committee

members when we visited Banham Zoo in Norfolk to begin planning for the Year 2000 AGM. The zoo has a proper caravan site with all facilities and is very well maintained. There is good equipment for the meeting too.

The toilets are available at all times, with full disabled facilities. There is a small but well stocked shop where newspapers can be arranged, a bakers shop for wonderful fresh bread and cakes, a coffee shop and a licensed restaurant. We all tried the meals that were available and were impressed with the high quality, choice and price. There is a cider makers to visit to sample Norfolk's apple crop. Gas is available on site, the zoo can be visited at a reduced price and there is the largest car boot sale in Norfolk on Sunday morning. After the weekend proceedings there will be a follow-on rally for those who wish to stay on and explore Norfolk. Raising the issue of the next AGM when it is some 12 months away may seem much too early but we must have all matters finalised by the middle of October so that all members may have the details for the New Year.

How much do you pay for your gas bottles? For many years I have used one of our local gas suppliers to buy ours at a much cheaper price than either Calor Gas or Camping Gaz. We use propane (red cylinders) all the year round and for a 6 Kg cylinder I pay £7.10 as against the Calor price of nearly £11.00. Over the weekend I visited one of our local agricultural suppliers. A 6.2 Kg cylinder of propane there cost me £6.20 quite a saving. The only advantage to Calor, as I see it, is that you can usually exchange cylinders nationally. Ask yourself how many occasions are you away from home for more than a few days and require to exchange cylinders? The same savings apply to Butane (blue cylinders) so look around at your friendly local gas supplier. You may save a few pounds each time you change cylinders.

If there is any thing to put a smile on this Yorkshire man's face it is the thought of saving money.

*Andrew Entwistle*

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## Vehicle Keys.

I thought it would be of interest to members, particularly those with, or contemplating the purchase of, second hand vehicles. The object of the piece is to bring to their notice the possible costs they might incur should they lose or damage a key fitted with an immobiliser chip. With the increasing sophistication of the immobilisers fitted by the base vehicle manufacturers, and the advent of keys incorporating electronic chips, it has become apparent that if some of these keys are lost the costs incurred obtaining replacements and re-programming the engine management systems can be prohibitive. So concerned are we that to reduce the risk of lost keys at the factory we now remove all, bar one, from the vehicles as soon as they arrive from the manufacturers and store them in a secure cabinet. These chip implanted keys are only reunited with the vehicles when the conversion process has been completed and the vehicle is ready for release to the dealer. Understandably each base vehicle manufacturer has a different immobiliser and very effective they are - try starting a vehicle with the wrong key - but after you have read what follows you may reach to the same conclusion I did. Life would be a whole lot simpler if they all got together and adopted a common system. So, who fits what, and what do you do when it all goes wrong?

### Mercedes-Benz vehicles without an Immobiliser.

Two keys are supplied with each vehicle. If you lose one, damage one, or just want another spare Mercedes-Benz retain five in Germany. These are available through your local commercial dealer who should be able to supply them as and when necessary. When asking for them you will need to provide proof of ownership and the chassis number of the vehicle. Only when all five of the spare keys have been used will it be necessary to replace both the locking system and immobiliser. I think you will agree that it is unlikely that this number of keys will be lost. The cost of a replacement key is approximately £5.00 plus VAT.

### Vehicles with an Immobiliser.

You will have to order a new key and again the chassis number is key - sorry about the pun - to the correct one being supplied. Having obtained the key it will then be necessary to re-programme the electronic control unit (ECU) so that it recognises the transponder in the new key. The approximate cost of the key is **£20.00** plus VAT and re-programming the ECU would, we are told by our local Mercedes-Benz dealer, cost **£34.50** plus VAT

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Volkswagen T4's are supplied with two keys, both of which carry a code which operates the engine immobiliser. Should these keys be lost, replacements are available from any VW dealer who will require the key number and the immobiliser code. Both of these are found on the black plastic tab supplied with the keys. The key number is five digits and usually begins with a zero, the immobiliser number is fourteen digits. The other number on the black tag is the VIN (vehicle identification number). We are told by our local VW dealer that the black plastic tab has a surface something akin to a scratch card - and should the immobiliser number be lost it can be "rediscovered" by scratching this surface off. Replacement keys, depending on their type, cost between **£17.00** and **£45.00** plus VAT. Re-coding normally costs a nominal **£5.00** plus VAT

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Ford Transits have previously been supplied with three keys, two regular and one red master key to program the system. With the introduction of the new system the red master key is deleted and is replaced by a new procedure which uses two "regular" black keys to programme it. Three black "regular" keys are now provided to the customer. Each of these keys contains a code and this activates and deactivates the immobiliser system. Replacement keys are readily available from any Ford dealer and provided at least one of the three originals is still in the possession of the owner, programming the new key is straightforward. Should all three keys be lost they can all be replaced and the immobiliser programmed by Ford dealers. The cost is around **£60.00** plus VAT.

*Charles Trevelyan*

This is part of a lengthy document and more will be contained in next month's issue of the Newsletter.

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## Spot Removal

I read *Fred Tottman's* request for advice in the April Newsletter. The black spots that he describes are quite probably due to industrial fallout and these are easily removed with a specialist abrasive polish manufactured by Farecla. This material is specially designed for use with glass fibre and is available in the form of a mild cutting paste to remove the black spots such as those described through to a quality polish which gives added protection thereafter.

This information is now published in each of our handbooks. To contact Farecla direct, their telephone number is 01920 465041. I understand they have recently made this available in small tubes.

*Charles Trevelyan*

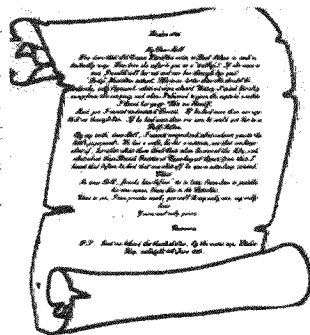
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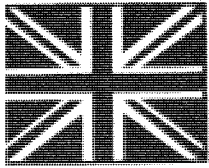
The following came as a scroll in reply to the item in January but as it was inscribed upon parchment and writ in olden English (as you may just see from the illustration) it was unfit for proper inclusion. I have therefore transcribed it into a more modern print style but without changing the words.

London 1802

My Dear Moll

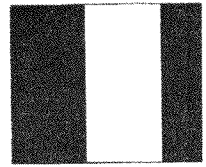
How dare that slut Emma Hamilton write to Lord Nelson in such a dastardly way. How dare she refer to you as a 'trollop'? If she were a man I would call her out and run her through bye gad! 'Lady' Hamilton indeed. She is no better than she should be. Gadzooks, only last week when we were aboard Victory I spied her slip away from the company and when I chanced to pass the captain's cabin I heard her gasp - "Kiss me Hardy".





# June 1999

## Rally Supplement



Ralliers please note that rallies start & finish at 12 noon, unless otherwise stated. Early arrivals and late leavers can invalidate our Exemption Certificate.

When completing a Rally Slip please complete BOTH sides.

If you require confirmation of acceptance for a rally please enclose a S.A.E.

*Please remember that only Club members are allowed to attend our rallies.*

*There are still spaces on this rally. Please contact the marshal ASAP.*

23<sup>rd</sup> June-3<sup>rd</sup> July. Le Logis du Breuil, Royan, France. (This site was used by the club in 1993). Rally marshals: Carol Bowler assisted by Viv & John Price.

10 nights-Arrive Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, depart Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Site Fees: 90FF per night including 6A electrics. These site fees are payable to the site owner at the rally.

The site is situated in farmland next to a forest, set back from the coast. The toilet block is adjacent to the rally area, it is up a small slope and includes disabled facilities. There is a swimming pool, tennis court & shop on site. Good for walking and cycling. Possible excursions-coach trip to Cognac, guided walk through forest for breakfast on the beach and possibly a "Gastronomic meal".

To book please send a SAE and £10.00 rally fee (non-returnable once booking accepted) to: Mrs. C. Bowler, "Applegrove", Whatcote Road, Oxhill, Warwickshire. CV35 0RA.

Ralliers must make their own ferry/travel arrangements. Please do not forget adequate insurance cover for your trip abroad whatever the rally.

6<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June 1999 Camping Le Bohat, Brittany, France.

This rally is now FULLY BOOKED.

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> June. (3 nights). Stokes Bay, Gosport, Hants. Please note the new dates.

Site Tel.No. Mobile 07979 800329 (Emergencies only).

Rally marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard.

Site Fee: £4.25 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.

Cheques payable to: Mrs. D. Wellard (Please include £3.00 each-cost of fish & chips, if required).

**Attractions:** Greenfield site with views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. Naval ships, submarines, nature reserve, sail boats, walks along sea front (bistro & café on front) & sea fishing.

Village of Alverstoke 400 yds. with small shops & 2 taverns. 2 miles away is Gosport easily

reached by bike, bus or van (no height barriers). Street market on Saturday so car parks busy. City of Portsmouth by ferry from Gosport. Fish & chip supper (£3.00 each) delivered on Saturday evening. Outside get together if the weather is fine!

**Directions:** Leave M27 at junct. 11 s.p. **Fareham Central A27 & Gosport A32.** Follow signs towards **Gosport (A32)** then follow signs to **Lee-on-Solent sea front (A3385).** At **Lee-on-Solent** sea front **turn left** along coast for **1 ½ miles turning right** directly after Army camp (RHS) into **Browdown Road.** At next roundabout take **2<sup>nd</sup>. exit** along coast road. At next roundabout take **3<sup>rd</sup>. exit.** Site gate on right in 20yds.

**3<sup>rd</sup>. -6<sup>th</sup>. June, Stratford Motorcaravan Fair, Stratford Racecourse.**

Site Tel.No. 07775 693 533 (Marshals' mobile).

Rally marshals: Stella & Ian Ross. & Evelyn & Ben Mansfield.

Site Fee (Special Club Prices) Thursday to Sunday £23.00. Friday to Sunday £18.00.

Saturday to Sunday £13.00.

Rally Fee: £2.00.

Send Rally Fee (£2.00) with a **Rally Slip** to: Mr. I. Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens,

Upminster, Essex. RM14 1DL. Tel.No. 01708 228 075. Cheques payable to I. Ross.

**It is now too late** to obtain a booking form from the marshals. If you book direct with the organisers and send your rally fee to the marshals you may still rally with the Club.

**25<sup>th</sup>. -27<sup>th</sup>. June (2 nights). Clare Priory, Clare, Suffolk.**

Rally marshals: Stella & Ian Ross.

Site Tel.No. 07775 693 533 (Marshals' mobile).

**Directions:** On the A1092 about 10 miles West of Sudbury. In Clare follow signs to Priory.

**This Rally is now full.**

**1<sup>st</sup>. -4<sup>th</sup>. July (3 nights). Chirk Caravan Club Rally Site, nr. Wrexham, North Wales.**

**This Rally has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>. -4<sup>th</sup>. July (2 nights). Prestwood Steam Fair, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Bucks.**

**Early applications would be appreciated.**

Rally Marshals: Ann & Norman Ailward.

Site Fee: £13.00 for the weekend including unlimited entrance to show. Rally Fee: £2.00.

This is a **GREENFIELD** Site. Cheques payable to Mrs. C.A. Ailward, 15 Earl Howe Road,

Holmer Green, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP15 6PU. **Tel.No. 01494 713 071.**

**Directions:** Off A413 at Gt. Missenden take A4128 to Prestwood, follow Steam Rally signs. **Please do NOT arrive before 1.00p.m.** This is a very popular Steam Show with so much to see.

A real family treat.

**7<sup>th</sup>. -11<sup>th</sup>. July (4 nights). "Silly Suffolk" Reydon Community Centre, Southwold, Suffolk.**

("Silly" Suffolk: from the Anglo Saxon saelig meaning happy, fortunate).

Rally marshals: Barbara & Ray Whiley.

Emergency Tel.No. 07899 853 988 (Marshals' mobile 9-10 a.m. & p.m., messages can be left 24hrs).

Site Fee: £4.00 per night. NO Electricity. (Wheelchair batteries may be charged).

Rally Fee: £1.00 per van plus 50p per adult.

This is a **GREEN FIELD** site --NO toilets. Only drinking water & toilet emptying point.

Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Whiley, 21 Elcar Rise, Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk. NR4 6HR.  
Tel.No. 01603 452 593. Please state the number of nights. Cheques payable to: R.E. & B. Whiley.  
The Community Centre is a former secondary school about 1 ½ miles from the centre of the ancient borough of Southwold (Charter 1489, Henry V11). The rally will be on the playing field and includes the use of a small hall for social gatherings. A short walk to the pub & village shops. Regular bus service to town and to Lowestoft. Centre of Suffolk Heritage Coast: award winning beach, Sole Bay (battle 1672), Church of St. Edmund (1640). Home of Adnams. Very close to Dunwich, Minsmere (RSPB) & Snape Maltings. Within easy travelling distance are the Norfolk Broads, Constable Country & Earsham Otter Trust.  
**Directions:** From North or South on A12 turn East from Wangford bypass onto B1126 (sp. Wangford). On outskirts of Reydon, soon after church on left, turn *right* into Community Centre.

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> July (2 nights). Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffs.**

Rally marshals: Tricia & Ted Pratt.  
Site Fee: £4.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £ 2.00.  
Booking slips to Mrs. P.M. Pratt, 3 Grafton Road, Stapenhill, Burton upon Trent, Staffs. DE15 9DN.  
Cheques payable to Mrs. P.M. Pratt. **Tel.No. 01283 538 818.** You may arrive on Thursday evening this is virtually a Green Field site although there are public toilets in Beacon Park.  
**Attractions:** Saturday evening get together, Jacket potato meal, desert & drinks £3.50 per head pay with booking slip. Beacon Park is adjacent to Lichfield City Centre & Cathedral. Park attractions small golf course, pitch & putt, tennis courts & bowls.  
**Directions:** Beacon Park is situated in Lichfield just off the A51 Tamworth to Rugeley road, go around the Island with the Bowling Green pub in the middle, take A51 Rugeley/Stafford road, turn immediately *right* down Walsall Road then *left* into Lower Sandford Street, follow signs for Car Park. Beacon Park through the car park looking to the right.

**23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July (2 nights). 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club & Company Rally,  
Three Counties Showground, Malvern.**

**Full details and booking form in May Newsletter. Please note the closing date.**

**29<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> August (3 nights). Abbeygate College, Nr. Chester.**

Emergency Tel.No. 01244 332 077.  
Rally marshals: Jean & Duncan Ellis.  
Site Fee: £4.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.50.  
Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. D. Ellis, 6 Tudor Close, Shotton, Deeside, Flint. CH15 1NY  
Tel.No. 01244 812 761. Cheques payable to: D. Ellis. Saturday evening buffet & desert £4.00 per person. Send money with booking slip.  
**Directions:** From North M6, M56, M53 take A41 sp. Whitchurch. In approx 2½ miles after entering Waverton turn *right* for Saughton. Beware humpback bridge, carry on through village then left hand bends down hill—gates of college on *left*.  
From South A41 Whitchurch to Chester. After entering Waverton turn *left* at Black Dog. At T junction *left* over bridge then as above.

**9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August.(4 nights) "Possible Eclipse Rally"**

You can start earlier or stay later on the main camp site,book through normal site wardens.  
Emergency Tel.No. 07979 800329 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard.

Site Fee:£8.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £ 2.50.

Booking slip to: Mr. & Mrs. B. Wellard, 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham,Hants.PO16 7UF.

Tel.No. 01329 231 259. Cheques payable to: Mrs.D.A.Wellard.

**Attractions:**GREENFIELD rally site attached to the main camp site at Roundhill, New Forest,Nr.Brockenhurst.Possibility of sighting the eclipse(next eclipse rally in 2090!).Site is in middle of the New Forest with many attractions including:-walks,plenty of good taverns, Exbury Gardens,Beaulieu Abbey/house and motor museum,waggon rides,Bucklers Hard period exhibition plus interesting villages.Southampton and Lymington can be reached by train from Brockenhurst.Weather permitting- a coffee get together,at the time of the eclipse,on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>. followed by a joint lunch(B-B-Q's,picnics,or whatever).

**Directions:** Leave M27 junction 1(Cadnam) and go South on A337 through Lyndhurst.

Three miles after leaving Lyndhurst turn left off A337 onto B3055 (immediately after the Balmer Lawn Hotel) following signs to Roundhill camp site in approx 1 ½ miles on the right.

Please bring membership card for entry.

**12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.(3 nights). August."Tom's Ome",Normans Farm,East Hardwick,West Yorks.**

Emergency Tel.No.01977 704 895.

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Vic Kaye & Evelyn & Ben Mansfield.

Site Fee:£ 3.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:£2.00

**GREENFIELD SITE.** A toilet and water, facilities for charging wheel chair batteries.

Booking slips to: Mrs. B. Kaye,14 Firthwood Road,Coal Aston,Sheffield.S18 3BW.

Tel.No 01246 412 679. Cheques payable to Mrs. B. Kaye.

**Attractions:** The Royal Armouries,Leeds, The Mining Museum,Wakefield,Medical Museum,Leeds.

Saturday night Pie & Pea Supper plus gateau in village hall. £2.50 a head.Please send money with booking slip.

**Directions:**Pontefract to Doncaster road A639 East Hardwick 2 miles from Pontefract.

From North turn left into East Hardwick.

From South turn right into East Hardwick.Site 400yds on left *very sharp left turn*.

**19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August.(3 nights).Waubdys' C.P.South Cave,Nr.Hull.**

Site Tel.No. 01430 422 523 (Emergency only).

Rally Marshals: Vera & Brian McLean.

Site Fee:£3.50 per night. No Electricity. Rally Fee:£ 2.00.

This is a **GREEN FIELD** rally.

Booking slips to: Brian McLean,47 Westlands Road,Sproatley,Nr.Hull,East Riding.,HU11 4XG.

Tel.No. 01482 813 791. Cheques payable to B.McLean.

**Attractions:**Humberside Country Park,Beverley Market, (Saturday),Hull Art Galleries, Wilberforce Museum,Streetlife Museum,Queens Gardens, Princes Quay Shopping

Centre. Trains to Brough/ Hull. Caravan accessories shop on site. Possible ramble (8 miles) on Friday and maybe a pub lunch.  
Saturday evening, weather permitting BBQs/ meal on site 7.00p.m.  
**Directions:** Turn off A63 at South Cave intersection, follow sign Brough, site opposite garage.

**19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August. (2 nights). Countryways Experience, Alford, Surrey.**

Emergency Tel.No. 01403 753 589.

Rally Marshals: Sally & Jerry Haxton.

Site Fee: £3.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £1.50.

**GREEN FIELD** site. Toilets, emptying point and water on rally field.

Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. D. Haxton, "Almond Tree House", Send Hill,

Send, Woking, Surrey. GU23 7HR. Tel.No. 01483 223 476.

Cheques payable to D.Haxton.

**Attractions:** Rally field in "Country Park" with well stocked farm shop, coffee shop, Victorian walled garden, farm museum, animals etc.

Large social club in main house with snooker and pool tables, darts. Fishing lake available for use. Bring licence.

**Directions:** Take A281 Guildford to Horsham road, at Alford Crossways turn off S.P. Alford. Immediately turn right S.P. Dunsfold and follow Brown Farmcart signs to site, approx. 1 1/2 miles.

**LIMIT 25 Vans**

**26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August. (4 nights) "Wonderful Wensleydale", The Wensleydale School, Richmond Road, Leyburn, North Yorks.**

Emergency Tel. No. 0589 145 874 (Marshal's mobile switched on 8-10 morning & night, messages 24hrs).

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers.

Site Fee: £3.00 per night. No Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.50

Booking slips to N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough-St.-John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325 374 540. Cheques payable to: N.C. & P. Rogers.

**Attractions:** Hardstandings. Possibility of access to room in evening. Details not yet finalised. There may be a small extra charge.

Wensleydale Show during the weekend. Market day Friday. Cheese making at Hawes, violins at Leyburn, Aysgarth Falls, Middleham and Bolton Castles, Jervaulx Abbey, Racehorses on the gallops. The Black Sheep Brewery, the Teddy Bear Workshop, Tea Pottery and Dairy Ice Cream at Brymor.

**Directions:** From A1 North/South take the A 684 at Leeming Bar S.P. Leyburn/Hawes. Go into town centre at Leyburn and take A6108 S.P. Richmond. School on right in approx. 300 metres.

**1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September. (5 nights). Shoreham Air Display, West Sussex. (Limit of 30 vans).**

Rally Marshals Yvonne & Barry Loveland. Emergency Tel.No. on site mobile 07801 692 518.

Site Fee: £2.00 per night. Rally Fee: £2.00. Air Show tickets £10.00 per adult. £5.00 per child.

These tickets are for Saturday & Sunday inclusive, payable in advance, money with slip.

**GREEN FIELD** site with water and Loo emptying.

Cheques payable to A.N.Fowler.Booking slip to (*Please note new address!*):-  
*A.N.Fowler 20 Hawkins Close,Shoreham by Sea,West Sussex.BN43 6TL.*  
*Tel.No.01273 594 479.*

**Attractions:**2 day air show with on ground entertainment,bike rides & dog walks from site.  
Saturday evening Buffet meal available @£2.50 per person.

Thursday evening Airport tour available @ £2.00 per person.

Thursday fixed wing flights available(groups of 3 in plane) @ £32.00 per person.

Please state and pay in advance if requiring any of the above.S.A.E. for confirmation.

Please state van model for organisational purposes.

**Directions:**On A27 between Brighton & Worthing leave A27 at traffic lights opposite Sussex Pad Hotel and turn into airport(this is the *only* entrance for vans).

**Please do not arrive before 2.00p.m. Wednesday**

Other September rallies

**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Faversham Hop Festival.**

**10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Northern Motorcaravan Show, York.**

**17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.Shepton Mallet Motorcaravan Show.**

Full details next month.

**Advance Notice.**31<sup>st</sup> December-2<sup>nd</sup>.January,"Millenium Rally",Hidden Valley,North Devon.  
If you are interested in this extremely popular rally to be held later this year then please contact Sandra & Bernie Wisely on 01271 346 400 or write,please include a SAE, to:  
12 The Laurels,Roundswell Village,Barnstaple,North Devon. EX31 3QY.

As usual rallies can still be arranged during the year.If you are interested in running a rally then please think ahead.Good advance publicity is essential for a successful rally.Please remember to check the availability of dates with me **BEFORE** booking with a site.

New or possible rally marshals should contact me, or the area assistants, for further information or advice on running rallies.It can be fun and a very fulfilling experience.

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*

*E-Mail. ncr@thisisthenortheast.co.uk*

Local assistants: Jerry Haxton ( 01 483 223 476 ) Woking,Surrey.

Jeff Worley ( 01 935 424 049 ) Yeovil,Somerset.

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes  No   
Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

Names of Children (including ages).....

**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:-

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.  
**POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!**

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes  No   
Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

Names of Children (including ages).....

**Extras:** Please indicate which you would like, **if available:**  
Electricity: Yes  No  Saturday night meal if any: Yes  No   
Have you any special needs? Yes  No  If Yes please specify:-

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Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.  
**POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!**

Rally : ..... Date: .....

Your name and address(Please PRINT) .....

.....

..... Post code: .....

Phone No.: ..... Van Reg: .....

Membership No. .... Day/Time of arrival.....

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

Name..... Phone No.....

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

*g* .....

Rally : ..... Date: .....

Your name and address(Please PRINT) .....

.....

..... Post code: .....

Phone No.: ..... Van Reg: .....

Membership No: ..... Day/Time of arrival: .....

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*g* .....

Rally : ..... Date: .....

Your name and address(Please PRINT) .....

.....

..... Post code: .....

Phone No.: ..... Van Reg: .....

Membership No: ..... Day/Time of arrival.....

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

Name..... Phone No.....

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

Mind you, I cannot understand Horatio. If he had more than one eye he'd see through her. If he had more than one arm he could get her in a Half Nelson.

By my troth, dear Moll, I cannot comprehend what endears you to the little pipsqueak. He has a wife, he has a mistress, one that we know what of, but what about those Arab bints when he was at the Nile, and what about those Danish Pastries at Copenhagen? Apart from that I heard that before he had that arm shot off he was a mite limp wristed. What!

No, dear Moll, forsake him before 'tis too late. Leave him to paddle his own canoe, leave him to his Waterloo. Come to me. I can promise much. You will be my only one, my only love.

Yours, and only yours. Casanova.

P.S. Meet me behind the beach shelter, by the water tap, Stokes Bay, Midnight, 4th June 1999.

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## Cycle Racks

I hope, with a little help from Tiggers, to save some other Trophy owner from feeling as "ripped off" as I feel after having a cycle rack fitted. When I decided to have a rack fitted my local A-S agent did not have one on stock. However as I was going to Italy on holiday it was agreed that I could purchase one there and they would fit it. It was estimated the work would take two hours. It actually took three including the fitter's morning half hour break, during which period I happened to call in the workshop and saw, more or less, how the job was done. Firstly the upper panel on the rear wall of the toilet is removed simply by unscrewing six securing screws. The open shelf on the left hand side above the wardrobe is similarly removed. This exposes the piece of board through which the securing brackets are bolted. In the case of my vehicle, the full length of board was not there and a piece of scrap plywood about 3/8" thick and a foot in length had been inserted by the fitter. Now comes the bit where Tiggers can help. I did not see how the two bottom brackets were fitted, but as there was no sign of the lower interior panelling being disturbed I presume the bolts are straight into the fibre glass bodywork and I hope this is normal practice.

The reason I feel ripped off? The cost of fitting the rack was worked on an hourly basis; £105.00 - which to save you the trouble of working it out is £35.00 per hour, including VAT!. I reckon the fitters tea break cost me £17.50!

*John Johnson*

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## **Water Troubles**

I am afraid I am not one of the Club's more active supporters, not the rallying type at all and about to disappear to the north of Scandinavia for two months via Rotterdam in my beloved Legend GLE of 1989 vintage. It has already taken me north of the Arctic Circle and is a faithful friend.

However, just before Christmas I had problems with water leaking in below the nearside sliding windows and I couldn't track it down. Eventually I sought the assistance of Plymouth Motorcaravans who diagnosed a corroded window frame and said a new one would be needed at a cost in the region of three hundred pounds. One was duly ordered with a delivery forecast for the end of March which came and passed and no delivery date could be forecast at all. In the mean time the whole window was surrounded with waterproof tape.

As luck would have it I spotted a reference to water ingress relating to a Legend in MMM for April so I carried out further investigation and I had precisely the same problem. A hole had been worn right through the frame. The area was cleaned and degreased and the hole filled with plastic metal since when there have been no leaks and the order for the replacement window has been cancelled. There is no doubt in my mind that other owners are going to suffer similar problems in the future and it might be a good idea to examine one's window frames to see if trouble is developing.

*Peter Exell*

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## Gears, Springs, Vibrations

In April it was suggested that Waxoyl could be used between the leaves of springs on the Peugeot chassis. While this has a minor lubricating property it is primarily a rust inhibitor. It may or may not have an adverse effect on the rubber inserts on the leaves. I think a better bet would be to use an 'O' ring motorcycle chain lubricant. This is designed to work in extremely arduous conditions without attacking the rubber 'O' rings which seal the individual rollers. Normally these lubricants come in aerosol cans with plastic extension tubes which allow the product to be placed very accurately. As to opening the spring leaves, I use a trolley jack to lift from either end of the spring in question. If necessary I put blocks under the jack in order to gain enough lift to spread the leaves well.

The problems with the Boxer gear change could simply be a case of adjustment, where the clutch is not disengaging fully. An easy way to find out is to look at the "Biting Point" of the clutch. This can be done in two ways. Firstly, on a quiet stretch of road, get the van rolling at a steady speed in second gear then, whilst keeping the throttle constant, gently start to depress the clutch pedal until the engine revs start to rise. This should occur after about an inch or so of pedal travel. Secondly, with the van stationary, engage top gear, put on a few engine revs and gently try to pull away. Listen for the revs starting to drop as the clutch bites. The pedal should be in the middle third of its travel. If it is lower than this then the problem will probably be cured by a simple adjustment on the clutch cable at the gearbox end. This should take no more than a few minutes. This applies to pretty well all manual gearboxes with cable operated clutches.

Finally the brake vibration. Again this applies to most vehicles. If, on a gentle application of the brakes, there is a light vibration or tugging at the steering wheel then it is likely that either one or both discs are slightly out of true. Firm braking will mask the problem. Peugeot allow no runout at all on their discs and I imagine that the other manufacturers are the same. When I replaced the discs on a Talisman the cost was under £50.00 for the

pair. A Fiesta that we also owned had its discs replaced under warranty for the same reason.

*Peter Fisher*

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## Seat Belts

Members may be interested in the following incident we experienced with our Peugeot Boxer Symphony. On turning the ignition key a loud bang came from somewhere within the van, also an amount of smoke from an area of the driver's and passenger's seat belts. At first I thought it was an electrical type "explosion" but then remembered reading a Newsletter article about some Boxers being fitted with an explosive device intended to fire in the event of an accident and thus lock the seat belts. Both belts were in the parked position and had gone as taut as a bow string with no give at all. This happened in the evening and I intended to use the van over the Easter Monday. I contacted Tiggers who gave me some information on what I should do.

The next morning I took the van to my local Peugeot dealer, the one used by the company I bought the van from. I was advised to book the van in - two weeks away! They suspected the bolts had fired but they had no idea of cost and said they had never heard of it happening before. I decided to try another smaller, local, family-run dealer. They didn't raise an eyebrow when I explained the problem but didn't comment either other than to say they would contact Peugeot and phone me later. This they did, advising me to take the van in on the Thursday when the belts would be replaced at no charge. When I asked if standard belts could be fitted I was told that it was not possible under the arrangement they had with Peugeot.

When I phoned on Thursday to enquire how the job was going I was told they were having difficulty fitting the replacement belts. Would I mind if Standard Inertia Seat Belts were fitted!! Of course, I agreed. The van was read by 5.00 pm and I was able to use it for Easter. I'm just thankful that the incident didn't happen whilst I was driving the van.

*Kelvin Brown*

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# Dogs

Newsletter 127 - Chairman's Chat.

I'm afraid I have to take our Chairman, and any other dog owner in ASOC who throws sticks for their dogs, to task. If Poppy, the Red Setter, had grasped the stick by the pointed end at the speed suggested (or any other speed!) it might well have gone into her throat with consequent severe lacerations, swelling of the oesophagus and an immediate life threatening situation and this probably some distance from veterinary assistance. Another version of this is the hard ball stuck firmly in the throat with death often resulting within a minute or two. I know personally of several situations of this nature including one where the stick went into the roof of a dog's mouth. If you **MUST** throw articles throw 'squeezables' which are too large to swallow. Red Setters are lovely, exuberant and fast! This time Poppy was lucky. I know you are a caring owner, Mr. Chairman, but think **DOG**, not human!! If Poppy picks up a stick take it away gently with praise and a treat or fuss and place it carefully in a safe place away from other dogs who might pick it up - until she's got the message. You, I'm sure, already have!!

Happy dogging.

*Colin Plum*

This came from the Journal Editor of the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers so I must assume that he knows what he is talking about. So remember - Always **Soft Or Cuddly** things!

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## **Donation to a Hospice**

Mrs Gill Wade wrote to *Ena & Roy Coleman* to thank them, on behalf of Demelza House Children's Hospice, for the donation of **£80.00** which was collected from members who were at Los Gallardos in February this year.

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## Exchange

I am a member of the Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia. I am seeking an exchange motorhome for a proposed three week holiday in the UK in September 2000. My motorhome is a twin single berth unit on a Toyota Coaster bus chassis, thus making it quite a spacious unit. I have just returned from 11,000 kms trip around Australia, trouble free. This unit would be available for any period of time during 1999 or 2000. I would be prepared to meet anyone utilising this facility at the Adelaide (SA) International Airport and return them there at the completion of their holiday. The best months for visiting Australia are October to December and February/March.

For my holiday of three weeks only in the UK I would need a twin single berth motorhome (or larger) and would be prepared to insure it comprehensively for the period. I lived in Beccles, in East Anglia for forty years before emigrating to Australia and have relatives in Norwich. I sincerely hope my request can be passed on to your members and, hopefully, a successful response received in due course.

Peter Clarke

The address to write to, if you are interested, is 37 Chamberlain Road, Willaston, South Australia 5118 and the telephone number is 08-85230562. If you do take the offer up, please let us all see the result when you write it up for the Newsletter!

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## France Passion

Following the interesting article by *Denise & Eric Stow* in April we wrote to this organisation and have now obtained details of their scheme. Although family circumstances are such that we are having to confine our travels this year to the UK, we shall certainly consider joining next year.

In the meantime it would certainly be of interest to us, and possible to others, to hear of the experiences of anyone who has already used the facilities. It certainly sounds a good scheme but we would like to know if there are any major draw-backs or pitfalls that have not yet occurred to us. Any offers?

*Jean & John Peters*

I shall welcome any contributions on this subject - it will make a refreshing change from Boxers!

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## OBITUARY

We have just been advised that *Brian Abrams* died of pneumonia on 13th April. Our condolences and sympathy are offered to *Doreen* and his family.

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## Special Offers

P & O Events have notified us of some ticket price reductions. For the Caravan and Outdoor Leisure Show, Earls Court, 26th November - 1st December you need only pay £5.00 for adults and £3.50 for Seniors if booked by telephone to 0870 901 0600 before Friday 19th November and quoting Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. Normal prices are £7.50 and £6.00 respectively. For the Caravan and Holiday Home Show at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester, 20th - 23rd January 2000 the prices will be £4.00 and £2.50 (instead of £6.00 and £4.50) by telephoning the same number and again quoting the name of the Club. On the Thursday and Friday the latter show will stay open until 10 pm.

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## FOR SALE

One set of 'Isovolet' internal window insulation kits to fit Talbot/Peugeot 1991 onwards. Excellent condition. £35.00. Contact Sheena Wardrope on 0154 066 1625 (phone/fax) or write to Fairholm, Gynack Road, Kingussie, PH21 1EU

#####

Silver Screen to fit Talbot Express face lift model, exterior fitting. Excellent condition. Cost new £85.00 + VAT. Accept £40.00 ono. Cassette blind for same model, sliding door fitment, complete. £10.00 ono. 2 wheel trims for same. £10.00 ono.



Anti-snake/anti-dive trailer stabiliser by Witter. Excellent condition. £20.00. Anti-theft (A-bar) caravan trailer lock. £15.00. Tel: Geoff Rothwell on 0128 270 2249 or write to 86 Lower Manor Lane, Burnley, BB12 0EF.

#####

Talbot Express Symphony, 2 litre petrol, 1993 'K'. 30,872 miles. MOT to March 2000. Just serviced, full service history. 4 new tyres, Air-Ride suspension, 2nd battery with ZIG charger, Omni step, mains hook-up, outside TV point, Thetford swivel-bowl toilet, Spy Ball alarm. Many extras. One meticulous owner. £14,300.00 ono. Phone Doreen Abrams on 0186 588 0229 or write to 12 The Tennis, Cassington, Witney, Oxon, OX8 1EL. Reason for sale - bereavement.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Vespa 125cc scooter, first reg 19/2/87. Total mileage 2,202. has only done 130 miles since last MOT. Very nice condition. MOT to 16/7/99, tax to end of July. £700.00. Also scooter rack for above - Rack and Roll type. £250.00. Tel: Jim Faulds on 0146 374 1414 or write to Airdens, Glaickbea, Beauly, Inverness, IV4 7HR.

#####

Talisman GL, 2.5 TD, 1992 (J). Taxed till Jan 2000. Well maintained, 21,000 miles. 2/4 berth, Company built arrangement of 5 over-cab cupboards, removable. Air-Ride, dual water heating, toilet/shower room, space heating, full size oven and hob all gas. 3 way fridge and all Talisman amenities. Lockable ladder guard. 2 LPG cylinders inc. Non-smokers, no pets. Illness reason for sale. £18,500.00 ono. Tel: Joy Say on 0188 432 782 or write to 51 Clove Drive, Cullompton, Devon, EX15 1SR.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Flair 'F' reg, automatic. 2 x 2 berth. Propex heater, H & C water, fridge, mains hook-up. 1 owner. 65,000 miles. Tax & MOT to March 2000. Non smokers, no pets. Many extras. £9,000.00. Available July. Tel: Pam & Peter Stroud on 0148 327 6355 or write to West Firs, 6 The Mount, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 7LX.



Thanks for the donation.

#####

Omnistor Safari Room, grey. 3.5 metres long. 1 month use only. £275.00. Omnistor Top Box. 135 litre capacity. "Tatty" - hence price. £75.00. Tel: Gordon Stephens on 0182 261 6536 or write to 63 Oak Road, Bishops Mead, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9LT.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Excelsior 2.5 diesel automatic. Feb '96, 'N' reg. 22,000 miles. One owner, PAS, FSH, MOT to 14 Feb 2000. Gas certificate, alarm/immobiliser, Air-Ride, Fiamma F45 awning and two bike rack. Twin settees, obscure bathroom window, passenger swivel seat, extended boot box, 2 gas bottles. Non smokers, no pets. A superb 'van. £25,500.00. Phone Brian Spackman on 0139 283 3112 or write to Tall Trees, Barton Lane, Shillingford Abbot, Exeter, EX2 9QQ. E-mail: spackmanbd@tesco.net.

#####

Legend GL 1992 (J), Beige/White Ford Transit 2L petrol, 28200 miles, super compact coachbuilt motorhome. Fiamma foll-out awning, twin swivel captains chairs with lumber pumps, twin propane cylinders with change-over valve, portable remote colour tv, new exhaust, MOT to Jan 2000. Original excellent condition. Non-smokers, no pets or children. Any inspection invited. £15,495.00. Tel: Terry Wallis on 0162 542 7398 or write to 13 Newlands Road, Broken Cross, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 3LW.

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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

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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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Janet Sutterby	Minutes Secretary	0150 746 2449
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