

TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

**AUTO-SLEEPER
OWNERS' CLUB**

1989 - 1999



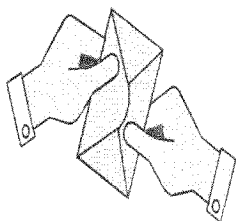
**NEWSLETTER 131
AUGUST 1999**

Hello.

Not a lot of time available this month. The Club & Company Rally takes place at about the time when the final prepared sheets are needed for our printer to produce the Newsletter for us. So we shall have to see what we can do.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

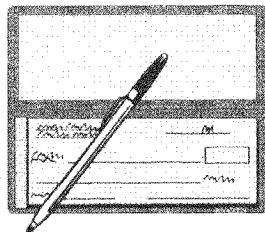


Will you please note that any changes of address should be sent to **The Membership Secretary, Ian Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex, RM14 1DL** and not to your Editor. All I do is put the Newsletter together and prepare it for the Printer. *Ian* prepares the labels and our friendly printer does the rest. So if you send a change of address to me it only has to be sent on thus delaying any changes and it might cause you to miss a copy of your favourite Newsletter!

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CHEQUES

This is rather an old chestnut but, unfortunately, it still occurs. The Club's account with the bankers is in the name of "**Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club**" and cheques **MUST** be made out that way. I know that we all refer to "A S O C" or even "Aysock" but neither of these is valid on a cheque. As one teller told us the letters could stand for "Any Silly Old Club". Nor is "Auto Sleeper Club", "A.S.Owners' Club" or any other variation allowed. So please, if you have to make a cheque payable to the Club, such as for booking for the two main rallies **ONLY** (not the ordinary ones), to pay your subs or to send a donation, please make sure that you write the full, complete and



correct title. To repeat, it must be "Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club".
Many thanks.

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Lead Substitutes

Following on from the recent items on this subject. The latest issue of the Good Motoring magazine from the Guild of Experienced Motorists shows that 12 substitute products were tested over identical 70 hour programmes by the Motor Industry Research Association. These tests were independently reviewed by a technical assessor representing the RAC. Four products were found to have passed the test. These are: Millers VSP-plus; Red Line Lead Substitute; Superblend 12/Zero Lead 2000 and Valvemaster. Shell UK have stated that they will provide Lead Replacement Petrol at its service stations and their technical fuels manager has confirmed that there will be no need to modify engines.

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Newcomers

We're new to this motor caravanning lark, having popped over to Berkshire Motor Caravans just "have a look" and came away with a brand new "T" reg. Boxer based Harmony! "We are definitely not buying one", we said; "too much to do at home first", we said; but they made us an offer we just couldn't refuse. How many times have you heard that one before? In just a few short weeks gardens have been uprooted, tarmac and paving laid, borders shortened. Normally such changes take months or even years but patience has been sacrificed to the great god AutoSleeper. I've decided that motor caravanning is an aquatic pastime because whenever I go to "sort the 'van out, dear" I come back soaked from either ritual washing of the 'van or filling/emptying the various water tanks! Inevitably the green garden snake (hose) wins every time.

Having read the June Newsletter I'd like to add a few things to various debates:-

PROTEC of Winnersh near Reading have fitted a superb alarm including a microwave detection device to cover rear entry. All for **£359.00**.

My friendly printer did a roof top vinyl number plate for airborne detection in the event of theft.

Master keys for Peugeot Boxers can cost **£1000.00** to replace - yes **£1000.00!**

Now I have some questions:-

1. How does one safely wash the roof of a hightop other than by standing on the very top rung of a stepladder on a sloping drive?
2. Why does my Boxer emit a fizzing noise from the relays 3 minutes after a cold start? Our local dealer and Peugeot assistance seem unable to help.
3. How do you keep the carpet blemish free? The clear sticky stuff that comes with a new van will have to come up sooner or later.
4. Should I be paranoid about tyre pressures, water ingress and exploding seat belt bolts?
5. Where can I get additional handrails to help my 84 year old mother in and out of the 'van'?
6. How many times will we bump our heads on the overhead front locker before we remember its there?
7. Will I ever get more that 27mpg from the Boxers 1.9 TD engine (850 mile on the clock)?

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As an addendum to that letter the following appeared:

As I said, we have been having problems with the diesel pre-heat relay which gives the disconcerting bussing noise. My

brush with the Peugeot dealership network in the form of the now defunct Reading garage was less than successful. Their imminent closure obviously affecting their "Commitment!" However I am now in touch with Marshalls Garage who have a far more professional approach, although their first attempt to fix the problem has failed. Marshalls, by the way, are quite happy to service motorhomes provided that they are on un-modified chassis, e.g. high-tops etc. They can be found in Oxford Road, Reading.

Pat & Terry Hammond

In answer to the question about washing the roof when the ladder is on a sloping drive, the answer must be "Don't!" Safety must come before everything else. And answer to question 6, you will bump your head(s) many times, even after you know where everything is. I still do, but we've only had the van for seven years!

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Executive Dampness

Have any Club members experienced damp patches on the underside of the long seat cushion behind the passenger seat? The damp patches are directly over the gas compartment. I have been concerned with the amount of water found in the gas compartment. This is due to the high rear suspension dampers making the vehicle slope 6° downwards. Rain runs down the outside of the window and then in between the hinges of the gas compartment door and into the bottom of the compartment. My dealer has tried to adjust the rubber seals of the gas compartment door but I still suffer from these damp patches. My theory is that damp is rising from the galvanised gas compartment, through the wood base and onto the cushion. There is no damp on any other part of the cushion or any of the other cushions. The dealer has removed the panel inside the van under the window and there is no sign of rain ingress. The cushion dries out when left standing up. I have purchased a damp meter to prove that if the cushion is left on the wood base when not in use this will cause the damp patches.

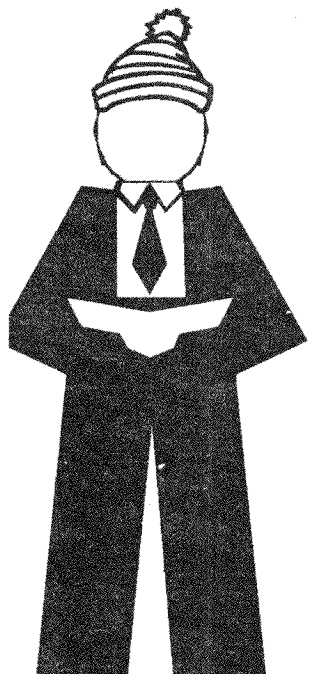
My solution is to place corrugated packing card between the wood base and the cushion as we did in our caravanning days when condensation was a problem. This is my third Executive van and I have never had this problem before. I should be grateful to hear if other members have suffered a similar dilemma and how they solved it.

Eric Jones

This is not the first time that I have heard of the problem of dampness underneath cushions. Various suggestions have been made as to the cause which often seems to be the lack of ventilation between the cushion and that on which it sits. So it seems that your idea of the corrugated card would be a good one. Maybe our Tiggers can offer advice and guidance.

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Chairman's Chat



I don't know what happened in printing of June's Chairman's Chat but it cut off my apology to our founders who first negotiated our Exemption Certificate. In my Annual Report I stated that we had never complied with all the rules of that document. I should have qualified that by pointing out that a revision had taken place some 4 or 5 years ago, it was these revised regulations we had not complied with and not the original. Any one who deals with such bodies knows that there are periodic changes to the rules, as in this case, which were swallowed up in reprints and not highlighted. Yes! I do know ignorance is not a valid reason for missing such issues. It was by chance when we were bringing the constitution up to date we came across these variations. The AGM accepted and voted to amend the constitutional changes with an eye on any future revision of the regulations. After

all, prevention is better than a cure, as my mother is always telling me.

I don't know if any one else has had a shock on renewing the van insurance. I certainly have! My quoted increase is over 1/3rd! In excess of £100.00. I know the representatives of the various companies will tell us that there has been a big increase in claims etc. etc. We have heard it all before!

I had not realised just how dangerous it was throwing sticks for Poppy to chase or catch. A good point though raised by *Colin Plum*. Prevention is better than a cure, now where have I heard that before?

I read with interest the article on Carbon Monoxide detectors, as this particular product of combustion is a real unseen killer. I do not jest; Carbon Monoxide is a colourless, odourless gas that has a very low narcotic threshold. That means there needs only a relatively small concentration, 5% or 6% I think, to first put a person to sleep and then suffocate them.

This should be a timely warning to us all. Interfere with the ventilation in our vans at your peril! I think I would prefer to be a little cold rather than a little bit dead.

As *Betty* has decided that this year we have to finally finish her garden, as we euphemistically name our piece of the Hebden Bridge mountainside we purchased with the house. She began this work some 13-14 years ago when others, not I, said forget it! It is impossible or too much hard work. All her work came to an abrupt halt 12 years ago at the time of my accident and had to wait until she could once more find the time to battle with nature. The slope on the garden varies from 45 to 60 degrees to very nearly 90 degrees. I jest not when I tell you she requires a safety line in places. In her small but productive kitchen garden the vegetables grow on at an angle, so much so they require trimming to stand level on the plate. *Betty* decreed this year we will attend fewer rallies in order to complete the garden. I have to admit that now; at long last, all her hard work has produced her vision of what a cultivated mountainside jungle of colour should be. I know I am

biased but it is a genuinely a credit to her.

That's it for now folks, be happy and smile as you go.

Andrew Entwistle

As to what happened to the printing, I don't know either! And I was amused to read about being "a little bit dead". I thought it was all or nothing!

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Stratford Rally

Ian and I would like to thank all the people who supported us at this rally in spite of the terrible weather. We are very sorry that no facilities were provided within a reasonable distance of our rally site. We have written a letter of complaint to the organiser of the show and have told him that because of the lack of facilities we feel unable to run a rally at any Stratford show in the future.

Stella Ross

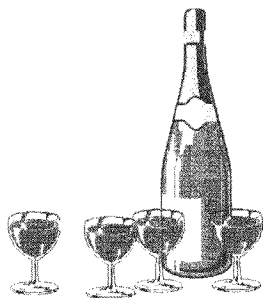
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France Passion

We have used these sites over the last four years. The sites have very little in the way of facilities, usually a water tap and a rubbish bin. Some have a toilet and if the toilet is part of the shop you can sometimes use the facilities whilst the shop is open, all as listed in the guide book. Snags. None really if you are prepared to talk in French and to buy the produce of the site, although this is not a prerequisite. Only on one site has the Proprietor been really blatant and more or less dragooned us in to looking at his wares. One word of warning. Expect to be sited on car parks and other sundry sites and don't expect a welcome if you arrive at lunch

time or at a winery if it is the grape picking time. We always ensure that we have an alternative at hand because the site may be fully occupied or not what you are looking for. We usually try to use the sites at least 4 times, that way you get your money back. The following sites we have used and can say what they are like.

Domaine du Haut Pecharmant - just outside Bergerac. Out in the countryside in the midst of the vineyard, idyllic and the wine can be recommended too. Our favourite find and this is a site we've used on a number of occasions.



Chateau Taffard de Blaignan in the Bordeaux wine region with an English speaking owner. No pressure to buy and we had the left over tasting bottle as he was not open the next day. The owner was developing a new site for the camping cars and also allowed visitors to use his toilets when the cave was open for business.

Chateau Segonsac Blaye also Bordeaux area. Nice flat site with room for 3 or 4 units, again out in the countryside and very quiet. Wine to be recommended, although we missed out on purchasing a good number of bottles because we left buying to the morning but the owners had disappeared to Blaye with a load of vegetables to sell at the market. We saw them at the market.

La Mude in the Midi Pyrenees. This was the site where the owner insisted that we viewed his wares. The site is right out in the wilds and available for one vehicle but not that easy to site as it is up a steep incline onto a level parking spot at right angles to the approach. It was just about OK for our Talisman. When we were there it was blowing a gale but perhaps that was the time of the year. I think that we must have been the first of the year as the children were very curious. This farm site sold tins of cassoulet, pates, pate foix gras, confit de canard etc. I can also recommend these home produced items, if a little expensive.

Le Demaine Neuf Aquitaine. We were parked alongside the

cowsheds, not the most salubrious places but the weather was wet and I think the ground where the owner normally sited the camping car was water logged. We called in and stayed as the incessant rain didn't encourage us to drive any further. This was a farm site but we didn't find out what they sold, when we went to say goodbye there was no one at home.

We failed in the Cahors region because the owner was redoing the parking area and we completely missed in the Loire in Bourgiel when we couldn't find the site.

Wendy & John Pearce

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Camp Site

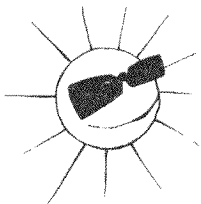
I have often visited a attractive caravan site situated on the Cumbrian/Northumberland border in a delightful small village called Slaggyford. The site has approximately twenty pitches. Electric-hook ups and toilet facilities are available and adjoining the site is a fast flowing salmon river! The site is rural and very scenic. The owners are extremely friendly and helpful and on my recent visit said that due to ill health they proposed putting the site, together with their own detached bungalow situated in its own grounds and adjoining the site, on the sale market. Anyone interested who wishes to contact me, I will gladly put them in touch with the owners. My address is 24 Hangar Hill, Whitwell, Worksop, Notts., S80 4SD. Telephone 0190 972 4238

Rosemary Handley

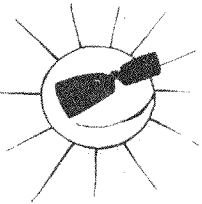
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A Pat on the back for A-S

We have recently had a holiday in Germany mainly staying with relatives. On our way to the south we camped for two nights at a site at Koblenz. Some of you may know the site. It is by the



AUGUST 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.

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

Some people have contacted me concerning VAT and how it affects rallies. Do not worry about it. All that is required are VAT receipts for services or items used at rallies. You only have to ask for a VAT receipt when you purchase goods. The important thing is that the receipt has the shop's VAT number on. Also, when paying the rally site fees, ask the site owner for a VAT receipt. If meals or coach trips are arranged then either arrange for the ralliers to pay the supplier ie the landlord, or coach driver, direct or ask for a VAT receipt when paying the invoice.

NEW RALLY 28th - 31st October. Eastham Hall, Lytham, Lancs
NEW RALLY 1st - 3rd October. Burford School, OXON.

29th July - 1st 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 Saighton. 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.

9th - 13th 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 Lyndington can be reached by train from Brockenhurst.Weather permitting- a coffee get together,at the time of the eclipse,on Wednesday 11th. 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.

12th-15th. August. (3 nights). "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.*

19th-21st. August. (3 nights). Waudbys' 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.

Please note dates. 20th-22nd. 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 ½ miles.

LIMIT 25 Vans

26th-30th 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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOW A GREENFIELD RALLY, NO TOILETS.

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

Wensleydale Show during 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.

1st-6th September. 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

3rd - 5th September. (2 nights). Faversham Hop Festival, Abbey School

London Rd., (A2), Faversham, Kent.

Rally Marshals: Joyce & Gordon Matthews.

Site Fee: £10.00 for the weekend. (Fixed payment, NO reductions for individual days).

Rally Fee: £2.00. NO Electricity. Toilet facilities.

Booking forms to Joyce Matthews, 35 Preston Park, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8LH.

Tel. No. 01795 538 913. Cheques payable to G. Matthews.

Attractions: Visit the historic market town of Faversham and enjoy the Annual Hop Festival.

A weekend of entertainment-music, dancing in the streets and pubs. Leave your van on site-only 10 min. walk into town. Plenty to do and see in this part of Kent, Canterbury-20 mins. drive, coastal areas only 30 mins.

Directions: Leave the Southbound M2 at Junction 6 bear **left** onto the A251 to "T" junction, ¼ mile. Turn **left** onto A2, Abbey School 200yds on **left**.

Arrival time AFTER 2.00p.m. Friday.

10th - 12th September. Northern Motorcaravan Show, York Racecourse.

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers & Evelyn & Ben Mansfield plus assistants.

Rally Fee: £2.00. Emergency Tel. No. 0589 145 874 (Marshal's mobile available 8.00-10.00 morning & evening).

The special Club rally fees are £22.00 for up to 4 nights.

To rally with the Club it is **ESSENTIAL** that you fill in an application form from MMM or Which M'Van using the special fees and mark the form **A.S.O.C** in large letters. Send this form back to the organisers, Warners, **before 20th August**. Applications after this date cannot rally with the Club. Alternatively send your rally fee with a S.A.E to the marshals and receive an application form in return. This still has to be sent to Warners by the closing date.

Please send a rally slip with a cheque (payable to N.C. & P. Rogers) to N.C. & P. Rogers,

3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel. No. 01325 374 540.

17th - 19th September. Shepton Mallet Motorcaravan Show.

Emergency Tel. No. Marshals mobile. 07775 693533

Rally Marshals: Stella & Ian Ross, Dorothy & Baz Wellard, assisted by Marian & Philip Longstaff

Site Fees (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 Rally Slip and S.A.E. to:- Mr. I. Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1DL. Tel. No. 01708 228 075. Cheques payable to: I. Ross.

By return you will get a special booking form which should be sent to the Organisers with the site fee to obtain tickets.

There will be a "For Sale" board, bring along your motorcaravan related items for sale, and put up a postcard.

1st-3rd. (2 nights). October. Burford School, Burford, Oxon.

Emergency tel.No.(Marshal's mobile) 07775 693 533.

Rally Marshals: Stella & Ian Ross, Dorothy & Baz Wellard.

Site Fee:£4.50 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:£ 2.00.

Booking slips to:-Mr.I.Ross,33 Grosvenor Gardens,Upminster,Essex,RM14 1DL.

Tel.No. 01708 228 075. Cheques payable to I.Ross.

Attractions:GREENFIELD SITE-hardstanding available,if weather bad,levelling blocks could be useful.Heated hall for evenings.5 minute walk to pretty Cotswold village of Burford and Garden Centre.Simple meal available Saturday evening consisting of Jacket Potato,Baked Beans & Sausage with Apple Pies & Custard.Price £2.60 each.Vegetarian Quorn Sausages are available. State if required.Please send payment with booking form.Applicants for meal must have a lot of patience and a good sense of humour as the meal will be cooked and served by Stella & Dorothy and their team of volunteer ASOC Chefs???

Directions:On the A40 at Burford,turn South onto the A361 towards Swindon,within 100yds turn right into School rear access road.Then follow ASOC signs.

Important:Definitely NO vans to arrive before 3.30p.m. Friday.

Limit of 35 vans.

8th-10th.October. (2 nights) Meathop Fell Caravan Club Site,Nr.Grange over Sands, Cumbria.

Site Tel No.(Emergencies only).015395532 912.

Rally Marshals: Jill & James Bertlin.

Site Fee:£5.00 per night. Rally Fee:£2.00. Both of these fees are payable to the Rally Marshal with rally slip. Electricity:£2.20 per night. ***This is payable on arrival to the site office.***

Booking slips to:James & Jill Bertlin,"The Rockeries",Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.LA11 6LQ. Tel.No. 015395 34500.

Evening meal Saturday at Woodlands Hotel (5 minutes walk)Main Course,Sweet & Coffee £10.00 per person.

Attractions:A picturesque Caravan Club Site,hard standing,heated toilet block with privacy cubicles.An ideal base for visiting the many wonders of South Lakeland.18 hole Golf Course (very flat!)2 miles.

Directions: From M6 Junct.36 follow A590 s.p. Barrow for approx 10 miles.At Meathop Roundabout turn left onto B5277 s.p.Lindale & Grange and then immediately left s.p. Meathop-- follow Caravan Club signs.

Limit of 20 vans.

8th-10th.October. (2 nights).Hidden Valley Touring & Caravan Park,Nr.West Down, Ilfracombe, North Devon.

Ste Tel.No. (Emergencies only). 01271 813837.

Rally Marshals: Sandra & Bernie Wisely.

Site Fee:£7.00 per night inclusive.Hardstandings,electric hook-up & T.V. connection.

Rally Fee:£2.00.

Booking slips & enquiries with SAE to Sandra Wisely,12 The Laurels,Roundswell Village, Barnstaple,North Devon.EX31 3QY. Tel.No. 01271 346 400.Cheques payable to Sandra Wisely.

Attractions:A meal will be available on the Saturday night with entertainment.The choice of meal will be Roast Dinner/Vegetarian-£3.50. Sweets.-£1.50. Tea/Coffe extra.

Directions:Take A361 signed Ilfracombe,West Down is about 5 miles before Ilfracombe.

Limit of 25 vans.

28th.-31st.October.(3 nights).Eastham Hall C.P.,Lytham,Lancs.

Site Tel.No. Emergencies only.01253 737 907.

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

Site Fee:£9.50 per night.(includes electric hook -up). Rally Fee:£2.50.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs.B.Kaye, 14 Firthwood Road,Coal Aston, Sheffield.S18 3BW.

Tel.No.01246 412 679.

Attractions:A weekend at the sea-side,a few miles from Blackpool with its many attractions.

Friday night.A coach trip to Todds,Motorhomes,Preston where refreshments will be provided.

This will be followed by a trip round the Blackpool Illuminations.Cost about £3.50 each

depending on the number of people wishing to go.Please indicate on booking slip if you wish to go, on this trip.

Directions:A 584 to Lytham.On entering Lytham at first mini roundabout turn right over railway bridge to next roundabout.Turn right again s.p. Kirkham.Site on right after ½ mile.

November rallies.(Details next month)

5th.-7th. Chatham Dockyard. 18th.-21st. Oxon Touring Park,Shrewsbury,Salop.

Advance Notice.31st December-2nd.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.

I am now taking rallies dates for next year,2000.If you are thinking of running a rally then please contact me. 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.

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!

f.....

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!

f.....

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!

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:-

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.
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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!

side of the Rover Mosel where it meets the River Rhine at the Deutsche Eck (German Corner). There were many (retired) Dutch people camped there who looked well settled in for a few weeks. One Dutch man spoke to us in good English asking about our camper. He wondered where it was made. Well, of course, "In England", we said. His reply was "What? They make something as good as this in England?" We had many admiring glances at our VW Clubman all the time we were away.

On a completely different subject. While we were in Munich *Bill* decided to buy a pair of Lederhose. We were in the right area for such a purchase. He has been hankering after a pair of real leather shorts for a long time and he has the right legs for them!! The receipt and subsequent entry on our bank statement looked like this: Deutsch Marks - 642.00; Euro - 328.25; Sterling 218.78. This was our first bit of shopping using the Euro.

Elizabeth Grimsley

"...he has the right legs..." - I hope one of them is a left one!

====ooo000ooo====

CYCLE RACKS AND WATER

I read, with interest as always, the June Newsletter and I was particularly interested to read *John Johnson's* letter entitled "Cycle Racks". Trophy's built up to A-S production number C257, did not have timber reinforcement fitted in the rear body shell for the fitting of the recommended Fiamma 200 CL cycle rack. From production number C258 they had four sections of reinforced timber fitted, two in the lower section of the bodywork either side of the Volkswagen badge and a further two immediately above the rear gutter and beneath the rear transverse embellishment tape. In designing the Trophy, we ensured that the inner wall of the rear of the shell was easily accessible for the retro fitting of the cycle rack as was clearly seen by *John Johnson*. I hope this information is of interest, particularly to Trophy owners who can now determine whether their rear bodywork has the reinforcing timbers fitted or not.

I read also with interest *Peter Excell's* letter entitled "water troubles". I would not wish members to feel in any way that we, Auto-Sleepers, were unable to supply spare parts, particularly items such as windows for a 1989 Legend. We do indeed have these in stock and with a minimum of delay can meet customers needs. Indeed when our stock of parts for the more older vehicles begins to be depleted, we re-order so that once again we can meet the needs of owners of less than new Auto-Sleepers. On discussing this with Alan Curry our Quality Manager, neither of us have ever in the past been aware of corrosion of a window frame - these are anodised units and have always found to be very corrosion resistant.

Charles Trevelyan

====ooo000ooo=====

Cycle Racks

John Johnson's unfortunate experience highlights two things.

1. The cost of having a cycle rack fitted permanently goes a long way towards the cost of having a towbar fitted.
2. Only mess with the body of your van if there is no alternative.

Reg Rogers

====ooo000ooo=====

FRIDGE PROBLEMS

Below is an extract from a letter written to Electrolux by *Maurice Wright*. I hope he will keep us posted if there is any reply and/or rectification:-

For the first time this year we have suffered a fridge fault. It has been serviced once, failed again and I was told that it was "probably furred up" - which I have difficulty in believing. On a recent 12 day break it worked for five non-consecutive days and didn't for seven. My reasons for non-belief are simply these.

AT 17.20 on a 'non-working' day, while standing close to the unit, I heard a "Poof" sound. It sounded as though a pocket of trapped gas had ignited. Incidentally, through the tiny window a flame was to be seen at all times - defrost or not. At 19.20 tray was nicely iced. Vehicle not moved. 06.00 the following day - water, no ice.

First, I don't believe a firm like Electrolux would fill the cooling coils with ammonia and water knowing that the coils would suffer adversely. Surely some anti-rust/anti-fur additions would have been made. Second, I cannot comprehend how the coils can 'fur' and 'un-fur' at random.

Only one solution occurs to me, other than someone trying to sell me a new unit. You must have 'bugged' the thing so that the fluid refuses to circulate as soon as fresh food is put into the fridge!

The fridge is currently being tested again at Taunton Caravan Service Ltd. Your assistance would be appreciated.

---==ooo000ooo==---

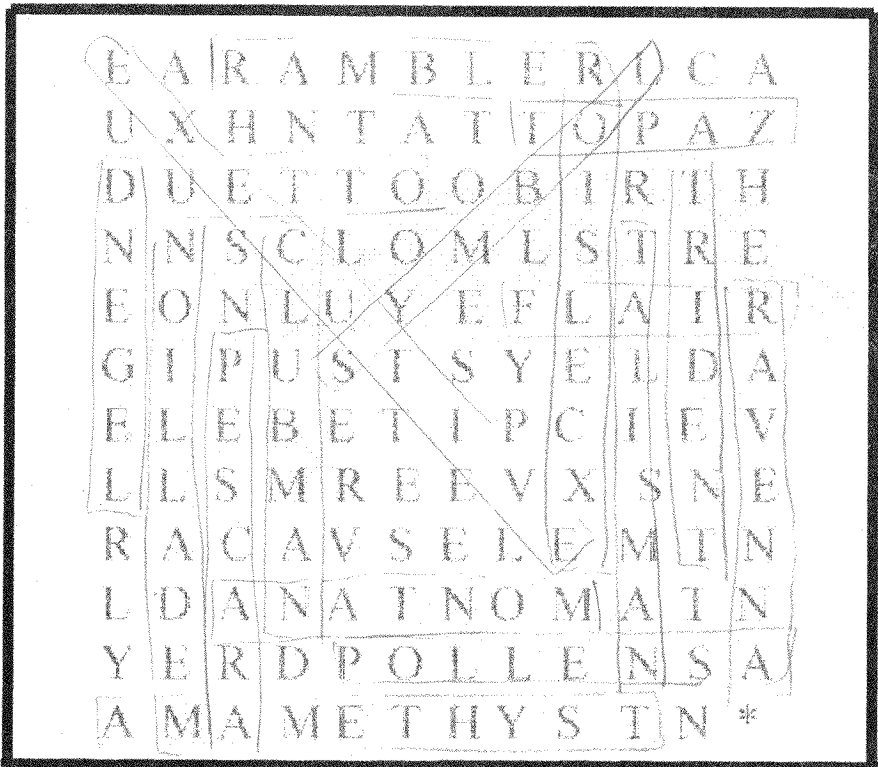
Fuel Cap Trouble

I recently had a problem with the fuel cap lock of my 1997 Amethyst. It had become difficult to turn the key, and once, after filling up with diesel, I wondered whether I should ever get the key out of the lock to be able to drive away. I have to travel twenty miles for a service as my local Ford service agent has too little space above his hoist to accommodate a motorcaravan. But he knew about fuel cap locks on the Transit base vehicle. Yes, he could supply a new fuel cap and could set it up for my existing key - for somewhat over £20.00. But he thought the barrel of the lock was seizing up and might respond to a drop of oil. I tried WD40. It worked like magic and the key now turns as easily as it did two years earlier. Owners of motor caravans on Ford Transit base vehicles would do well to apply a little oil or WD40 to the locks of fuel caps from time to time, before their keys become trapped. Other base vehicles, too?

Bernard Spurgin

Word Search

A little light relief for you. Within the square below you will (or should!) be able to find the names of seventeen A-S Motorhomes. The full list is shown on the next page. When you have finished and found them all, the remaining letters can be arranged to spell certain other names which are associated with them. Have a go.



✓Amethyst	✓Clubman	✓Duetto	Excelsior
✓Executive	✓Flair	✓Legend	✓Medallion
✓Montana	✓Pescara	✓Pollensa	✓Rambler
✓Ravenna	Symbol	✓Talisman	✓Topaz
✓Trident			

The missing names which you can make from the remaining letters will be found on page 19.

---===ooo000ooo===---

CROSS STITCHING

Some of our newer members may not be aware of the availability of cross stitch patterns for some of the A-S vans which were prepared by *Betty & Joe Jacobs*. As these two stalwarts have not been too well for the last year or so there have been no additions of the later models. But if you are interested please send a couple of second class stamps to your Editor and you will receive a copy of your chosen pattern. Those available are:

Amethyst	Bedford CB22
Clubman	Duetto
Excelsior	Executive
New Executive	Flair
Frisky	Harmony
Original Legend	New Legend
Mercedes Medallion	VW Medallion
Omega	Rambler
Rapport	Recro
Rimini	Romero
Sportsman	Symphony
Talent	Talisman
New Talisman	Trident Mk 1
Trident - T4	Trooper Mk 1

Trooper
VW LT 28

Trophy

====ooo000ooo====

Kipper Problems

In reply to *Rolf Payne's* problem in finding a good quality pyjama material. May I suggest that the best possible material is SKIN. Simple, but effective!

Peter Jeffery.

====ooo000ooo====

Observation

Seen on a "Bambi" motorhome in the vicinity of Bournemouth:-

"0 - 60 Eventually!"

(This little gem was sent in some while ago and, being a "tidy" individual, I have unfortunately lost the name of the sender. Sorry!)

====ooo000ooo====

Help!

I have an 'E' reg Legend that is fitted with a Sigma alarm system. The handbook gives their address as "England" which is a bit vague. Does anybody know where they are, please? My telephone number, if anybody can help, is 0159 955 5363.

Roger Inglis

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Obituary

In sending her advertisement *Margaret Ashfield* advised that she lost *Mike* very suddenly in March this year. Our sympathy and condolences are offered to *Margaret* and her family.

====ooo000ooo====

FOR SALE

VW. Clubman 2 ltr petrol, K reg, 28,800 miles, very good condition. MOT & taxed March 2000. £19,000.00 ono. Reason for sale, deteriorating eyesight. Tel: Mervyn Potter on 0127 587 3315 or write to 'Bilbury', 5 Sunnyside Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 7TE.



#####

Top Box (S class) only one year old, perfect fit for Executive. Good condition. Cost £350.00 will accept £200.00. Silver Screens for Peugeot Boxer, good condition, one year old, will accept £50.00 ono. Contact Ann or Rod Ireland on 01772 455 775 or write to 24 Kingswood Road, Leyland, Lancashire, PR5 1UN.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Amethyst, N reg, February 1996, 2.5 Turbo diesel, ABS brakes, Fiamma awning, spyball alarm and immobiliser. Headlight jet washers, heated windscreen, heated driver and passenger seats with lumbar supports. Twin bike rack, 19,000 miles, excellent condition. £27,500.00. Tel: Ivor or Jean Thomas on 0179 289 4742 or write to Strathmore, 1 Bryn Dafydd Close, Penllergaer, Swansea, SA4 1BX.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

'Karrite' 250, Sports Top Box (Ski box style), dry weight 15kg (max. load 50kg) TUV approved. Dimensions 2.25m long, 0.45m wide, 0.35 high. Brand new, never used, ordered in error. £125.00. Tel: Ricky Smith on 0168 456 8207 or write to 25 Wilton Road, Malvern, WR14 3RG.

#####



Safari Room to fit 2.5 metre
Omnistor. Complete with inner curtains.
Excellent condition. £140.00 for quick
sale. Tel: Audrey Crouch on 0151 336
6836 or write to 25 Oxford Drive,
Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JG.

#####

'E' reg VW, 50,000 miles on clock.
MOT for 12 months, taxed till November.
Petrol As New. £8,500.00. Tel: Norma
Neath on 0124 641 4048 or write to 58 Barnard Avenue, Coal
Aston, Sheffield, S18 6BP.

#####

Talisman II, 'E' reg, petrol. All usual A-S features, fitted for
Propane gas. 52,000 miles, two owners - not used by second
owners due to bereavement. Excellent condition, FSH.
£11,999.00 ono. Also Rambler, 'G' reg, petrol. Usual features
plus fresh water filter, toilet, waste water tank, leisure battery,
awning. 90,000 miles. Two owners, excellent condition.
£9,000.00 ono. Tel: Margaret Ashfield on 0186 537 5196 or
write to 20 Chorefields, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 1SX.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Legend, May 1996 'N' reg. 2.5 T/D. 16,000 miles. Well
maintained. Cooker extraction fan fitted, also TV aerial and
booster, Van Bitz alarm and pager, Fiamma 4.5 plus roll out
awning, 2 cycle rack carrier, removable towbar and corner nudge
bars. Non-smokers, no pets. £26,800.00. Piaggio 125 Hexagon
LX scooter, October 1998. 1,500 miles. 3 year warranty,
complete with trailer. £2,100.00. Cara-Tow bar. £350.00.
Phone Jack Davis on 0197 770 8953 or write to Greystones, 59
Castlesyke View, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 4LY.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Free standing awning 12ft x 8ft suitable for a coachbuilt motorhome. Zip out fronts. Excellent condition. £240.00 ono. Tel Jan or Dave Benyon on 0163 326 3217 or write to 221 Bassaleg Road, Newport, South Wales, NP20 3PZ.

#####

For latest Boxer Executive. External Silver Screens (used twice). £60.00. Peugeot headlight protectors (new). £25.00. Ladder guard by Leros. £20.00. Wheel trims (new). £30.00. Tel: Ken Davison on 0191 386 5852 or write to 19 Rosemount, Plawsworth Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5GA.

#####

Paddy Hopkirk adjustable two bicycle carry rack. Fits most hatchbacks and rear opening doors on high tops. Good condition. £15.00. Phone Roger Whitting on 0130 526 2674 or write to 82 Casterbridge Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2AG or email: whitting@casterbridge24.freemove.co.uk

#####

Alloy wheelchair ramps new and unused, complete with all fixtures and fittings including wheelchair stay put floor fittings. Ramps take seconds to put up or remove. Cost £600.00, offer price £200.00. Tel: Reg Rogers on 0178 449 1778 or write to 11 Broomfield, Octavia Way, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 2QD.

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Answers

Did you manage to sort out the remaining letters? The names you should find are "AutoSleepers Ltd"; "Anthony"; "Charles" and finally "Trevelyan".

I hope that you had a bit of fun with this which was kindly prepared by *Sheila Henthorne*.

--- == ooo000ooo == ---

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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.

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