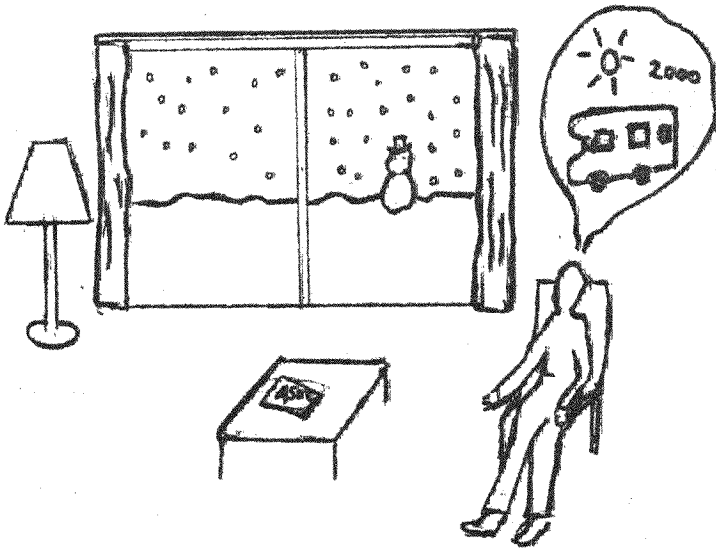


# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**



**NEWSLETTER 137  
FEBRUARY 2000**

Hello.

At the last Committee meeting it was suggested that I was either "demob happy" or had that "end of term" feeling. I don't understand that! Perhaps it was because I was a bit irreverent in places but it was all in good fun. A report on the meeting appears later.

--- = = ooo000ooo = = ---  
**My Christmas List**

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book  
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look  
For that is when I realise that these names are a part  
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path  
sometime,  
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm of the rhyme.  
So whilst it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,  
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

And whilst you may not be aware of any special link,  
Just meeting you has shaped my life far more than you can  
think.

For once you've met somebody the years cannot erase  
The memories of a pleasant word, or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas greeting is just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between  
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,  
It is because you're on that list of folks I am indebted to.

For I am but a total of the many folks I've met  
And you are one of those that I prefer not to forget.  
And whether I have known you for many days or few,  
In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.

And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew,  
The biggest gift that life can give is meeting folks like you.

So may the spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures,  
Leave its richest blessings in the heart of you and yours.

*Chris & George Jago.*

who copied the poem from the Stradbroke Magazine. Although Christmas is now a little way behind us I thought that it was worth including because it shows what our Club is all about. See next letter!

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

## THANK YOU

Unfortunately we have had to sell our Symphony and, of course, can no longer be members of the Club. May we thank everyone in the Club for the welcome and good fellowship that we have received. We have thoroughly enjoyed being members, attending rallies and receiving the monthly Newsletter. We will really miss you.

*Rona & Brian Irwin*

Don't forget that, having been members, you are permitted still to receive the Newsletter if you would like to maintain some contact.

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

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2000

Judging of this year's photographic competition will take place at the Club and Company Rally which means you have until 30th June 2000 to get your entries to me. I already have one delightful entry which came in too late for last year's competition. So, my friends, get snapping! Let's see if we can make the year 2000 the best yet. The prizes will be the same as in 1999 and entries should be sent to me at 4 Southbrook Road, Havant, Hants., PO9 1RN.

*Pam Davies*

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

## Lead Free or Not Lead Free

That is the question. Please could anyone offer good information regarding the use of the now lost 4 star petrol? Is it better to use lead free or the lead replacement petrol? Is there anything else we need to do to keep our van healthy? Any

information will be gratefully received.

*Babs & Mike Surridge*

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

## WHAT HAVE THE ROMANS EVER DONE FOR US?

The more (or less!) discerning may recognise the phrase from the film 'The Life of Brian', but instead of the Romans, let's look at the team behind the Club and Company Rally and what they do for you. *Charles Trevelyan and I* have been overwhelmed by the amount of positive feedback and support we have received since the 10<sup>th</sup> C & C rally and thought it may be an equitable time, as did the main Committee, to give an idea what goes on behind the scenes.

The organisation is shared between the Club and the Company in fairly well defined areas, but of course there is a great deal of interaction to try to ensure that the weekend goes as smoothly as possible. By having team members responsible for specific tasks, as well as helping overall, it is easier to ensure that we can keep control over the very many on going activities. Organisation for the year 2000 rally started on the Monday after the 1999 rally, where the general logistics for 2000 were discussed with the Three Counties Staff, and also the dates for the 2001 rally set!

Looking at the Company actions first. Very soon now you may be lucky to see *Charles*, on his classic motorcycle, with leather helmet and goggles, going out to wring donations from his various contacts in the Motorhome industry in his usually successful way. He arranges all the day time outdoor entertainment as well as, in 1999, the fireworks. Supporting him are the dynamic duo - Neville Jelfs and Phil Bennett - their contribution covers a very wide field including; the music for the fireworks, the Friday night quiz; the rounders match (with *Jean Sellers* - ASOC); the ever popular Company shop and the lighting and audio in the Severn Hall for Friday and Sunday. Over the weekend, approximately 25 loyal A-S employees voluntarily come over to Malvern to help in a variety of ways, be it in manning the stores shop, helping with the new vehicle display or even answering technical questions - and a

lot more too! They also organise the tea and coffee in the Avon Hall where they are valiantly supported by wives from the Company. The Company also kindly allow us to use these facilities to meet the 'first time' ralliers on Friday afternoon. We must not forget, of course, the immaculate presentation of all the Company Motorhomes by Steve Cant and his team. And finally, from the Company side, the large floral displays are the artistic work of *Angela Trevelyan*. As with the Club side, it is not possible to identify everyone who volunteers and contributes but without whom the weekend would suffer.

On the Club side, in your sub committee, we have *John Cox* who gives us the advantage of his knowledge as well as general help (e.g. *Barbara and John* organised all the cakes for 1999). We also have a slim young fellow called *Ben Mansfield*. *Ben* organises his team of helpers and marshals to mark out the pitches; man the gate and directs members to the required place on the rally field; whilst *Evelyn* fills all the envelopes ready to be handed out at the gate. Last year the marshals positioned 180 motorhomes in the first hour i.e. 3 a minute - perhaps we can try to avoid the crush we had at the gate in 1999 - there is no need to come so early as there is plenty of room for everyone! We did have comments from local farmers that our members were parking in the gateways to their fields whilst waiting to come in - this we cannot condone! *Stella Ross*' responsibilities includes arranging for the traders to attend and identifying their needs. Plus arranging for the Salvation Army service, issuing the limited number of early passes and the rally plaques. *Dorothy Wellard* has taken on the task of receiving and actioning all the rally applications, organising and leading the volunteers on the raffle and arranging for the 'mobile shop'.

Although not directly on the sub-committee (it is intentional to keep the sub-committee itself as small possible) there are many others who take a leading role. For instance *Oz Jones and Jim Henwood* are the Senior Stewards for the Severn and Avon Halls respectively. They, and their teams, provide the mandatory security; supervision; layout and ongoing tidying. In 2000 they, and their teams, will be easily identified by their new armbands.

*Brian Thomas and Ben Cox* meanwhile look after the 'outside areas' which includes the positioning and providing the requirements for the, traders, and entertainers. The charity stalls are run and organised by *Sheila Henthorne; Margo Lumb and Carol Hooper* providing, respectively, great bargains:- in books; bric-a-brac and cakes. We do have a vacancy for someone to take on the bottle stall - any volunteers please? These stalls contribute greatly to the sum that goes to charity each year. We also have *Maurice Payne* and his helpers running the Tiggers stand and *Harry Henthorne* who owns the main voice you hear over the loudspeakers. And finally, but no means least - *Pam Davies* will run the 2000 photographic competition and we can look forward, I hope, to even more hobby stands.

That leaves me with chairing the various meetings and progressively bringing together all the necessary logistics for the weekend (halls, water, toilets, security, external audio system etc.), as well as resolving any problems that arise throughout the year and particularly at the weekend itself. I also organise the entertainment for Friday and Saturday evenings as well as making provision for members to have evening meals in the Severn Hall. This year, for the first time, Severn Hall caterers have also agreed to offer a cooked breakfast on Saturday from 0800 to 1000 - so why not come along, with your friends, and start the day off in good company with a fulsome British breakfast. And finally *Charles and I* work very closely together, all the time, to ensure that the two areas complement each other, and to agree such logistics as the overall timetable and to produce the brochure. For the 2000 rally very advantageous rates have again been negotiated for the hire of the two halls and as the Three Counties are a charitable organisation themselves we will be making a contribution to their charity, as a way of showing our appreciation for their generosity. For our main charity we already have nominations from members which meet the ideal of being a lesser known National Charity but with which someone in our club has an involvement.

I hope that the above gives you some idea of what goes on behind the scenes. However none of the above would come to fruition if it weren't for the many volunteers who help out over the

weekend but are too numerous to mention individually. We are always looking for more volunteers - in 1999 we were short - perhaps you could help out for an hour or two for the 2000 rally please? *Charles and I* are always willing to consider fresh ideas so if you have any please contact either, or both, of us.

*Baz Wellard*

We must not, of course, forget the un-named "Romans" from previous years who together gradually brought this rally up to the present standard.

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

## AGM 2000

As you will have read in Chairman's Chat in January, this will be held at Banham Zoo in Norfolk and promises to be a good weekend. There is plenty to do so get your applications in early! Please remember that you **MUST** carry your Membership Card at all times, especially to gain entry to the Applewood Hall for the welcome on Friday, the AGM and the Dinner/Dance on Saturday and the Salvation Army service on Sunday and also to get into the Oak Room for the Regalia and the Tiggers. The latter will be present from 2.00 - 4.00 pm on the Saturday. There will be a short presentation on topical subjects and members will be available to answer questions. The Tiggers are volunteers trying to help you enjoy your motorhome to the full.

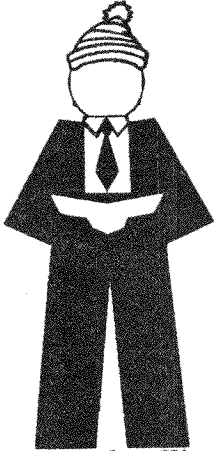
During the past few months the sub-committee has been trying very hard to find other locations for future AGM's. To date we have contacted or visited some 20 or more venues without much success. This has meant a lot of telephoning and travelling. We will continue to do this so if anyone has any suggestions please contact me or any member of the committee. Remember that the venue must have a suitably sized parking area, preferably with hard standing, and must be able to provide the room for the meeting and the catering facilities needed.

*Nora Venables*

In the past previous sub-committees have received suggestions for all sorts of venues including universities and schools all of which have proved unable to provide what we need.

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

## Chairman's Chat



As I write this month's piece *Betty and I* are with our daughter, her husband and their children in deep rural Normandy, France. We left home earlier than planned due to the weather forecast predicting heavy snowfalls along our route. I suppose it never snows but what it drifts, to coin a phrase! Fortunately we had an almost perfect journey arriving in the wee small hours and booking on an earlier ferry. You may have heard or seen on radio and television of the huge winds that engulfed the north European area on Christmas night and Boxing Day. Where we were just about had every thing nature could throw at us! And then some! Wind speeds in the area were, I believe, 150mph gusting to almost 200mph. We were awakened by the noise but stayed in the van until about 0330-0400 then decided that we must abandon ship for the safety of the house. We crawled on hands and knees using the parked cars as shelter as there was debris of all descriptions being blown about and carried by the wind. We made it with no problems, thankfully! I had been laying in bed in the van feeling the body rocking and the sides flexing! We lost only the doormat, later recovered. I thought we would lose the roof vents or a window at least, but thankfully all came through OK. The Silver Screen even managed to wrap one of its ties around the mirror arm and hang on. *Betty* later discovered a wet patch, which will need investigating later.

The damage had to be seen to be believed. Dozens of huge mature trees broken or uprooted, power lines down, roads blocked by fallen trees and damaged property. We also were cut off without electricity for five and a half days and no telephone for three days. As we recovered and toured the area the damage was truly shocking, similar to 'our hurricane' of 1987. We saw whole villages which were barely habitable, a garden centre where the huge greenhouses and display of huts had just disintegrated and left simply as a pile of rubble. The old rickety barn survived where

the new farmhouse was wrecked. There is no simple explanation of why some buildings survived and other similar properties were untouched. The local postman was a mine of information and told us of a nearby village where not one conservatory was left intact. He kept us informed about the roads blocked and when we could expect the electric supply to be restored. This for us will be a Christmas and New Year we will not forget!

Thank you to all who sent us Christmas cards, we received so many it was not possible for us to answer every one, thank you to for all your good wishes. Don't forget to book the AGM and Rally at Banham Zoo, Norfolk this year. At the last AGM I promised we would move the venue between the east and west counties of middle England and to that end *Nora and Ven Venables* and *Betty and I* have visited many places. Some 40 possible locations but as yet we have not found any that were suitable. We have also made many more enquiries. If anyone knows of a location that has suitable parking for about 150 vans (with water and other facilities), a decent room for about 260-280 people for the meeting and the evening meal and dance with a good catering department let *Nora or me* know and we will investigate. I promise you we have not been idle. I think you have had enough of me for now, so smile as you go and enjoy what you have.

*Andrew Entwistle*

---==oooOOOooo===---

## Our First Season

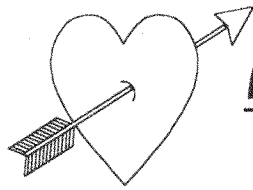
I wrote back last August about our initial impressions of owning a motorhome. Since then quite a bit of water has passed under the bridge (and down my trouser legs) whilst we found our feet. The van washing ritual has virtually been tamed by using an extending squeegee and a hose brush on a pole. But I still can't reach the centre of the roof!

At the end of our first season we have the certain knowledge that this pastime is everything its cracked up to be. We've been to places and events that just would not have been possible otherwise and although we've not been wildly adventurous, remembering special moments brings a warm glow.

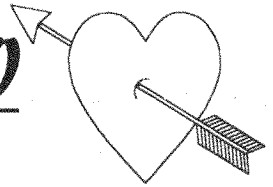
There was the Surrey County Show where the car parks were so badly congested at closing time. The ability to brew a cup of tea and wait it out while others were fuming in the queue drew smug grins. On another occasion we were in a CL a few miles from Fairford in the evening of the day before we were due to visit the Air Tattoo, chilled wine in hand and the Red Arrows on display not too far away. Arriving at the already bustling airfield at 7.00 am next day there was time to make tea and toast before the flying programme began. That 'do' was the same weekend as the Club & Company rally. There, having visited the 'Tiggers' stand, we decided that the minor defects we had accepted so far in silence needed sorting out.

We are great believers that being polite gets you further when dealing with this sort of issue and letters in that vein were written to the dealer, A-S and Peugeot. The responses from the dealer and from *Charles Trevelyan* were as you would expect. The mis-aligned fridge and the sticky blind were sorted out without too much difficulty. The chassis problems, however, needed more persistence. The van has now been back to the garage 8 times and is destined for the testing laboratory at Peugeot UK, Coventry, to sort out excessive white smoke on start-up; a loud but brief clicking noise from the diesel pre-heat relays and dodgy gear selection. Fuel consumption has dropped to 23mpg which for a Harmony 1.9TD is unacceptably low. Peugeot's trouble shooter has been out testing other vans for the clicking sound and although Peugeot France acknowledges the problem they do not regard it as serious! While I have every confidence that the defects will be sorted out eventually there is an over-riding message from the Tiggers and our own experience. (1) Put it in writing as soon as the problem manifests itself with deadlines for replies and (2) Don't give up and don't accept anything substandard. It will be your resale value that is affected.

With the dark winter nights now well established it is time to look forward and to get some additional kit. The first item is a drive away awning and we would welcome some advice on the best that is easiest to erect, such as the Cabanon etc. Something to soften the suspension a little wouldn't go amiss either. We look



# February 2000



## Rally Supplement

**N.B.** Please note that due to a printing error the word **October** was deleted from the provisional rally list issued last month. The last rally in **September** is on the 20th.-25<sup>th</sup>. Kings Lynn. The first rally in **October** is 10th.-13<sup>th</sup>. Park Cliffe, Windermere. I apologise for this error.

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

Many thanks to Dorothy & Baz Wellard for volunteering to marshal the Motorcaravan Jamboree at Detling and Ivy & Ken Farley for volunteering to marshal the Motorcaravan Fair at Stratford.

**VAT.** The Club is now registered for VAT, there was no choice in the matter we had to register. Rally marshals will find that there will be little change to procedures. As now, a simple accounts sheet will have to be completed and forwarded to the Hon Treasurer. The only real difference will be that the receipts that all marshals get for goods purchased for rallies will require the shop VAT number. This applies to any purchases under £50.00. Over this amount a VAT receipt will be required. These are easily obtained in shops, if you ask.

When the site is paid for the marshals must ask for a VAT receipt from the site. To assist the Club would Marshals please try to only collect cash for the site fees & the rally fees in advance of the rally. Any other cash involved for meals, coach trips etc. can be collected at the rally. Again a VAT receipt will be required if the amount is over £50.00. If you have any queries please ask.

**A Guide for new ralliers.** (With apologies to those who know all about it).

**Any member in the Club may rally but there is a procedure to follow.**

- 1. If you see a rally that you wish to attend advertised in the Rally Supplement of the Newsletter then complete a rally slip which you will find in the Rally Supplement.**
- 2. Please complete ALL sections on both sides of the rally slip. Please ensure that ALL Family members attending a rally are listed on the slip( subject to the sleeping capacity of the van).**
- 3. Calculate the amount of money to be sent to the Rally Marshal named in the rally information. This includes site fees for the number of nights of the rally and the Rally Fee. The Rally Fee is a one off payment for a rally, NOT a per night fee.**
- 4. Return the RALLY SLIP and the CHEQUE for the total amount of the cost of the rally to the Marshal whose address is given in the rally information. If you wish to have confirmation that you have been accepted on the rally please enclose a SAE.**
- 5. Return the rally slip as soon as possible as rallies are very popular.**
- 6. If you find that you cannot attend the rally then please inform the Marshal as soon as possible as they may have others waiting to attend. We always try to give a telephone number for the site or the Marshal's mobile. If you are delayed please telephone the Marshal on site, if possible.**
- 7. The only rallies that this system does not apply to are the Club A.G.M. & the Club & Company Rally. THE APPLICATION FORMS FOR THESE TWO RALLIES ARE SENT OUT WITH THE NEWSLETTER. All relevant information is given on these forms including closing dates.**
- 8. For large Show Rallies ie. Peterborough, York, Stratford, Shepton Mallet & Detling the bookings are made through the Show organisers and payment should be sent to them, using the appropriate forms to be found in Motorhome magazines, before the closing date. Special Club site fees are sometimes available and these are advertised in the Rally Supplement in the Newsletter. When you have sent your application form and fee to the Show organisers then send a completed rally slip to the Club's Marshal with the appropriate rally fee. You cannot book with the**

Organisers at the special Club site fee and then rally elsewhere on the site.

9. Finally if you have any problems with booking for a rally then please contact me. My address, telephone number & E-mail are at the end of the Rally Supplement. I am frequently away at rallies so please leave a message on the answering machine and I will reply as soon as possible.
10. Please remember that rallies start and close at 12 noon, unless otherwise stated. Failure to keep to these times can cause the Club problems with the Exemption Certificate used on green field sites. Early arrivals can also cause the marshal problems. Avoid causing embarrassment by arriving after the start times.

*If you are going to the NEC Show in February why not combine it with a rally?*

**21<sup>st</sup>.-24<sup>th</sup>. February(3 nights). Hollyfast Caravan Park, Wall Hill Road, Allesley, Coventry.**

Site tel.No. 01203 336411 (Emergency calls only from 8.00p.m. to 8.00 a.m.).

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers.

Site Fee:£8.50 per night.(includes access to room at night).Electricity:£2.00per night.

Rally Fee:£2.00 (couples),£1.00(singles).

Booking slips to:N.C. & P. Rogers,3 Appleby Close,Aldbrough St. John,Richmond, North Yorks.DL11 7TT.Tel.No. 01325374540.Cheques payable to N.C.& P.Rogers.

**Attractions:** There should be hardstanding for all plus all the usual facilities.

***Approx 10 minutes away from the National Boat, Caravan & Leisure Show at the NEC.***(Tickets are cheaper if booked in advance, see m'van magazines).Three pubs for food,Coventry & Birmingham close by.

**N.B. New Directions:**From A45 round Coventry take the **A4114** s.p. Allesley & Browns Lane Plant (Jaguar).Follow Brown & White Caravan signs to site. Report to site office upon arrival.

**Early booking would be appreciated. Rally commences at 2.00p.m.**

**24<sup>th</sup>.-27<sup>th</sup>.February(3 nights).Grouse & Claret,Rowsley,Nr.Matlock,Derbyshire.**

Site Tel.No. 01629 733 233 (Emergencies only, Landlord ).

Rally Marshals: Nora & Ven Venables assisted by Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site Fee:£6.00 per night Electricity included.Rally Fee:£2.00(couples),£1.00(singles).

Booking slips to:Mr. & Mrs.V. Venables, 15 Langley Gardens,Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.WV3 7JN Tel.No. 01902 332 105.

Cheques payable to Mrs. N. Venables.

**Attractions:** Use of clubroom, bar meals in Grouse & Claret. New Retail Outlet door to site. Chatsworth Park & Garden Centre? Farm shop. Mill & Craft centre. Bus stop outside site buses to Matlock & Bakewell. The area is a walkers paradise. Extra nights can be arranged with the landlord.

Please bring your own indoor games for evenings, (for mixed company!)

**Directions:** On A6 between Matlock & Bakewell.

Rally commences after 2.00p.m. On Thursday Limited to 29 vans.

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

### 9<sup>th</sup>.-14<sup>th</sup>. April The Dutch Bulbfields Rally is fully booked.

### 13<sup>th</sup>.-16<sup>th</sup>. April. (3 nights) National Motorhome & Tourer Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough.

**Emergency Tel.No.07714 091 349**(Marshal's mobile on 8.00-10.00 am & pm).

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers, Evelyn & Ben Mansfield, Jean & Ian Sellers & Joan & Ray Young.

Please use the booking form enclosed in this Newsletter if possible. If you use forms from the magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the special Club site fees: Thursday to Monday £25.00, Friday to Monday £23.00, Saturday to Monday £21.00.

**Please note** that ALL booking forms **MUST** be returned to the organisers by 17<sup>th</sup>. March if you wish to rally with the Club. After this date you will be sited with the public. Then complete a Club rally slip and return it, with £1.50 Rally Fee 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. Please collect the Club rally information pack from the marshals before parking.

No arrivals before 2.00p.m. Thursday.

### 27<sup>th</sup>.-2<sup>nd</sup>. May. (4 nights). Burn Gliding Club, Burn Village, Nr. Selby, North Yorks.

Club Tel.No.01757 270 296 (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshal: Alan Guest.

Site Fee: £4.00 per night. No Electricity Rally Fee: £2.00.

Booking slips to Alan Guest, 27 Chiltern Drive, Ackworth, Pontefract, West Yorks. WF7 7DW. Tel.No. 01977 612 773. ( after 6.30pm.) Cheques payable to A.Guest.

**Attractions:** Gliding trial flights/ lessons over weekend (subject to weather ).

**Directions:** From M62 junc. 34 take A19 towards Selby, Gliding Club signposted in Burn Village.

**28<sup>th</sup>.-1<sup>st</sup> May.A.C.C.E.O. Millennium National Rally, Lincoln Racecourse.**

The ACCEO Millennium Rally, hosted by the National Mardon Owners Caravan Club, will be held on the Lincoln Racecourse Showground from Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. April to Monday 1<sup>st</sup>. May 2000 (3 nights).

The cost for the weekend is £25.00 and we are promised a variety of attractions including a table top sale, line dancing, tug of war, hog roast, trade stalls and live entertainment on Saturday evening. (For the young of heart-all ASOC members, surely-there will also be a bouncy castle!)

As ASOC secretary, I need to make all bookings on behalf of Club Members and you will be most welcome to join Barbara & myself for the weekend. If you would like to come, please send us the usual ASOC rally booking slip together with your cheque for £25.00 (covers 2 adults & 2 children) payable to ACCEO/NMOCC to reach us no later than Monday 20<sup>th</sup>. March and a separate cheque for £1.00 rally fee payable to R.E. & B. Whiley. Please send the rally slip & TWO cheques to: Mr. & Mrs. R. Whiley, 21 Ellcar Rise, Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk. NR4 6HR Tel.No. 01603 452 593. The fee for each additional adult is £3.00 and for additional child £1.00. (If you require further information about this rally, telephone the NMOCC: Shaun 01606 330837 or Michael 01132 664029).

**Pre A.G.M. Rally**

**2<sup>nd</sup>.-4<sup>th</sup>. May. (2 nights Tues.-Thurs.) Clare Priory, Suffolk.**

Site tel.No. 07775 693 533. Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Stella & Ian Ross.

Site Fee: £5.00 per night. NO ELECTRICITY. Rally Fee: £2.00. GREEN FIELD.

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

**Midweek Pre A.G.M. Rally**, only about 40 miles from Banham Zoo, where the A.G.M. commences on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. May. A quiet green field site in the grounds of Clare Priory, a few minutes easy walk into the village of Clare. You can arrive from 9.00a.m. Tuesday, rally must end Thursday 2.00p.m. Borders on to Clare Castle Country Park. Fish/Chicken & Chips, outside weather permitting, on Wednesday evening. £3.00 per person, state choice and send payment with rally slip.

**The rally is also open to members not going to the A.G.M.**

**Directions:** 10 miles west of Sudbury. A1092 Clare/Haverhill Road. Turn Left ¼ mile from Iare S.P. Priory, Site on left in 300yds. Ignore Brown Signs in centre of Clare - pedestrian access only.

**LIMITED TO 36 VANS**

**Please note that the A.G.M. will be held at Banham Zoo, near Norwich, Norfolk, 5<sup>th</sup>.-7<sup>th</sup>. May.**

**Booking forms are enclosed in this Newsletter. Please return by the closing date.**

There will be a follow on rally at Banham Zoo, details next month.

**Will Rally Marshals please send to me the information to insert in the Newsletter for their rallies as soon as possible please. This will enable me to give their rally plenty of publicity.**

If you are thinking of running a rally please contact me or the area assistants. 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.

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@nasuwt.net](mailto:ncr@nasuwt.net) Please note the new E-mail address*

Local assistants: Jerry Haxton ( 01 483 223 476 ) Woking, Surrey.  
Jeff Worley ( 01 935 424 049 ) Yeovil, Somerset.

E. & O. E.

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

forward to members suggestions.

*Pat & Terry Hammond*

(This item was sent so that my successor would have "something to fill some space!" But I got there first!!)

So far as washing the van is concerned I suffer the same sort of problems. I'm beginning to believe that I should alter the colour of our Clubman to "Muck & Rubbish". But I can agree wholeheartedly with the ideas of making tea while others fume. I've done it often while waiting to get away from Kneller Hall after a concert. One evening, a pleasant summer day, we took so long over our tea that we had to come out through the main gate and past the guard room as the last people to leave!

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

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The Committee met in Moreton-in-Marsh on 11th December 1999. This sounds an awfully long time ago because these notes did not make the January Newsletter because of 'flu, Christmas and a few other impediments. We spent the morning on routine business, reports, correspondence etc. A great part of the time was taken with planning the AGM. The new venue creates quite a bit of work for the Sub-Committee because all the little important details have to be worked out with a different site manager and without the reference points of the previous year.

Our Club belongs to the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO). Indeed, it is one of the larger groups within the organisation. They run a national rally each year. One of the items for us to decide was whether or not to volunteer to run the national in 2001. We have had quite a bit of experience running large rallies and are well equipped to take on such a role. After discussion, we decided to seek more information, especially about the financial aspects. But the general feeling was that we would probably volunteer for it. And that our Rally Co-ordinator would chair an ad hoc sub-committee to oversee the arrangements.

As this was the last meeting of the year our President *Charles Trevelyan* kindly invited us to lunch at the Black Bear. Just in case

you think that your committee regularly haunt the Inns of Gloucestershire whilst supposedly on Club business I must tell you that, regretfully, this is not so. Indulgence once a year is about or limit and then only when someone else is paying! We normally feast on home-made sandwiches and coffee in a school staff room. (Any sympathy on offer?)

You may recall that I chaired an ad hoc sub-committee charged with reviewing the activities of the main committee. A report was presented in the afternoon. A number of recommendations were made about the election process which determines the members of the Committee and the Officers of the Club. We also commented on the costs and responsibilities of the two standing sub-committees. All recommendations were accepted with minor adjustments. There is too much to tell you now but specific suggestions proposed will be mentioned in future editions. If you would like to know more now, please contact either *Ray Whiley*, Secretary, or myself.

The next committee meeting is on 25th March 2000. Best wishes for this New Year.

*Janet Sutterby*

====000000000====

## **Vaillant Heaters and Battery Chargers**

I have located a firm in Gillingham, Kent which stocks parts for the Vaillant heaters. Spares can be bought over the counter or by mail order but you must quote the identification numbers from the heater rear support panel and the serial number. The address is All Plumbing (Kent), 2 Matilda Close, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0PY and the phone number is 016 3437 5351. Not being too clever with electrics I had our Legend checked for what appeared to be an inactive battery charger. After one hour and a £20.00 fee the technician suggested that the 12v systems were working perfectly apart from there being a minimal current (no voltage) from the mains charger or at the battery although the LED was lit on the display panel. His verdict was that

the charger should be replaced. I bought myself a digital multi-meter and checked the charger. I confirmed what the technician had suggested. I decided to measure the space available under the passenger seat for a replacement unit. Having gained access I noticed that the charger is secured by two screws which were loose enough to allow it to move slightly up and down. I tightened the screws and then found 12.6 volts available at the charger and again at the battery. I can't check the current because my meter goes right off the scale. I shall only know more when the van is next used for a reasonable period. At the moment it is hooked-up to my garage and the battery stays at 12.63 volts although the Battery On LED continues to be illuminated even after 3 days and nights charge. Can I safely put my cheque book away with a saving of over £100.00 or should I wait to see what happens. Incidentally no trapped wiring was seen when I was checking.

*Roy Pethers*

I wonder if the LED is that which actually indicates that the charger is on, not that the battery is in use.

---===000000000---

## **From the Factory**

It was marvellous to see so many Club members at Earls Court in December - almost non-stop familiar faces were appearing on the stand. It certainly made life a little bit more bearable. Interestingly, we sold 50% more vehicles per day than at any previous exhibition and our total sales exceeded £3.2m. Top seller was the Peugeot Symbol whilst the newly introduced VW Gatcombe and Sherbourne coachbuilts were very well received. All our dealers now have our latest literature but if you are unable to collect a copy, do let us know and we shall be please to send you one. We feel that our literature too is our best yet - it really has a quality feel and the photographs and layout are refreshingly different. The technical detail at the back has also been increased and, hopefully, made more digestible.

You may be interested to know that we are now into our 40th year! Our Company was incorporated on 6th January 1961 so very shortly we shall have a lot to celebrate. Although perhaps a bit premature, we aim to make the Club and Company Rally this year

the best yet and, in conjunction with *Baz Wellard* and his team we are already working hard to that end.

All of us at A-S send you our very best wishes for the New Millennium. Like you, no doubt, I was glued to the TV but have yet to see the River of Fire! I trust that you are all fully recovered and getting your Auto-Sleepers ready for yet another enjoyable year.

*Charles Trevelyan*

--- == 0000000000 == ---

## Ravenna

I enjoy reading the Newsletter and, being new to motor caravanning, find other peoples' experiences particularly interesting. Since buying a Ravenna in August 98 I have had one or two problems and made a few alterations which I think might be of interest to readers:

Having considered changing from trailer to motor caravan over quite a few months, reading magazines and looking round show rooms for a second hand model as spacious as our caravan, but not too large, we came across the Ravenna. *Sally* fell in love with the colour scheme immediately and it met our requirements, a roomy L shape layout, an over cab bed for the grandchildren and the right length. At this time the Ravenna was being reported in *MMM* and *Club* magazines with reasonably good reports and together with A-S good name we took the plunge and bought new in August 98. This is not meant to be a comprehensive report but simply to pass on information regarding some problems and modifications made.

The first improvement we considered essential was to add a mains socket for a kettle at the front end of the kitchen work surface. There is just enough room on the panel to the right of the fridge, near the top but behind the lifting flap. It was quite easy to run a cable from the socket at the other end of the kitchen unit behind cooker and sink, removing the fridge's top vent (outside) to make fitting easier. I also fitted a mains wall light on the wardrobe side, wired from the consumer unit in the wardrobe, making sure the position allowed the cupboard nearest the wardrobe to open!

During the winter A-S fitted Fanmaster warm air heating for us and I also purchased a kit from them to fit curtains across the Luton, we noticed they were fitted on a later model at the NEC show.

We were concerned that water from the hand held shower might be misdirected into the unprotected window frame and blind so we added a small shower curtain to cover the window which meant replacing the existing curtain to match, but using better quality material that dries better. We found the fold out Omni step a bit small and too close to the body so I have increased the size outwards, by 4", by making a simple clip on wooden platform. The rear seat backrest annoyingly slipped down the gap at the back of the seat cushion. It only rests at the back on a very narrow piece of wood screwed on the rear panel. I solved this by making two 'U' shape wooden clips, 1" wide by 3" deep, to fit over the existing rear support to extend it at each end. They are easily removed at bedtime. To prevent items falling out of the overhead cupboards when opening, I fitted a long length of thin beading, 3/4" wide, across all the near side cupboard apertures 2 or 3 inches up. This is easily screwed onto the edges of the cupboard dividers but needs a small bracket at each end. The beading needs to be thin or positioned to avoid the catches! I also fitted "Covertrim" along the entire length of the kitchen unit, where it meets the side wall, to prevent possible water ingress behind the work surface.

Some early problems were sorted out on a day trip to Willersey. These included: the fridge not being sealed correctly with no deflector plate, allowing the initial "burning in" fumes and draughts to enter the van; the narrow blue panel above the kitchen unit coming unstuck in places, we think the glue melted while on the dealer's forecourt in hot weather; the rear seat belt was too short; the catches on the near side vertically mounted window were not lockable. The fresh water tank cap wouldn't lock and the kitchen sink drained away very slowly. They also changed the clear bathroom window for an opaque one at cost. I believe most of these problems have been sorted on later models.

A few more problems were encountered during more regular use through the year. The wardrobe door flew open on occasions

when travelling, due to a badly fitted catch together with the side wall flexing, but the hinges being strong caused some screws to come out. They can't be screwed back with sufficient strength into the fibrous material of the door so I have 'Araldited' them in to make, I hope, a permanent solution. I also fitted a child safety catch on the door. The window over the kitchen unit became increasingly difficult to close, needing two dozen attempts on our last summer holiday. A-S have supplied new catches but as yet I haven't replaced them as when last tried the window closed OK. I suspect temperature has an effect. The step buzzer has stayed on or not worked at all. The micro-switch gets wet and needs drying out and spraying with WD40 occasionally.

I intend at some time in the future to re-locate the immersion heater switch from in the wardrobe, or at least duplicate the neon, to avoid it being accidentally left on. I am worried that I might drain the Carver and then connect up to mains as I often do at home. Also on the agenda is to add an indicator to show the pump is switched on. Despite the teething troubles experienced we are very pleased with the Ravenna and can not speak too highly of A-S.

*David and Sally Folwell*

A copy of this letter has been handed to *Charles Trevelyan*.

--- == ooo000ooo == ---

## Upgrade Poetry

Early last November we upgraded from our Duetto to a Legend. Soon afterwards we went to visit our closest friends of 40 years standing and took our new toy with us. The lady of the house, being a bit of a poet, had composed a poem for us as shown:

It arrived in the drive on a Friday  
The exterior so pristine and tidy  
It was the realisation of dreams  
To travel to Skeyton or Rheims  
The world was their oyster you see.

To boldly go where no-one had gone  
(Like on the Hebby's front lawn!)  
This luxurious travelling home

Meant they were both able to roam  
For THE LEGEND has set them both free.

All the Flackwellians for miles around  
Envied them for the pleasure they found  
Because when the sun started shining  
They said "Forget cleaning and ironing -  
Shall we go for a swim in the sea?"

They have seen most of these sceptred Isles  
Enjoying beautiful scenery for miles  
So keep the spirit of adventure alive  
Until you are at least ninety-five  
When you will ALL need an M.O.T!

*Robin Gardner*

The last line sets a difficult task.  
When the age of our members you ask  
For the certs of their birth  
Are a cause of much mirth.  
They're all wearing a much younger mask!

---==ooo000ooo==---

## **Wanted**

Owners of 'D' reg and now 'H' reg Flair seek 'K' reg or later Flair or similar SWB vehicle. ('H' reg will then be for sale at 83,000 miles) Owners have no other vehicle. Please ring Babs & Mike Babbage on 014 4070 2930 or write to them at Mount Cottage, Calford Green, Kedington, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7UN.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

I have a Pescara on a 2.5 turbo diesel and I want to purchase some snow chains for it. Does anyone have any second-hand ones to sell or can anyone advise me about purchasing them on the continent. I have heard that they are a lot cheaper, for example, in France. My address is Ian Wallace, Spooney Green, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4PJ. Many thanks.

#####

My I repeat a request for a redundant chrome rear "Bumper" for my 1988 Legend please? I am desperate to keep this vehicle in pristine condition. Offers, please, to Roy Pethers on 017 9487 3896 or write to

9 Sunnyside Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, ME12 2EN.

====oooOOOooo====

## Available

As a result of an early Spring Clean we have the following which may be of interest. ASOC Newsletters Nos. 54 (March 93) to 123 (Dec 98) inclusive; MMM November 1990, November 1992 and April 1992 to December 1997 inclusive; En Route 1990 - 1998 inclusive. If anyone would like them they would need to collect the items. Please contact Mandy & John Rowe on 018 9527 1815 or write to "Johmar", 16 Brearley Close, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1JJ

====oooOOOooo====

## For Sale

### Correction!

In Pat & Ron Ely's advertisement last month I inadvertently added a '1' to their mobile telephone number. The telephone numbers should be 019 2449 4168 or mobile 0961 319 876. Sorry about that.

#####



Ford Legend, 2.5 diesel, automatic, 'G' reg, August 1989. 38,000 miles. Two non-smoking owners from new. Excellent condition. Extras include Cruise Control, Air-Ride suspension, Moss professional alarm system, Alpine digital radio-cassette with electronic aerial, reversing alarm, CB radio and aerial, bulkhead partition (supplied by A-S) for converting Luton bed into large storage area plus wooden ladder for access to Luton. All original fixtures, crockery etc., plus many other kitchen items if required. High-gain TV aerial and special fitting to clip on to roof ladder. Reluctant sale of treasured vehicle. £15,000.00 ono. Phone Kathy & Ken Phethean on 011 5921 1533 or write to The Orchard, 14 Kirk Lane, Ruddington, Nottingham, NG11 6NN.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Peugeot Boxer Talisman, 2 litre petrol. 1996 'N' reg. 18,000 miles. Luxury 4 berth with four forward facing seats with seat belts. 4 cycle rack. Factory fitted extractor and overcab cupboard/bed option. Silver Screens, towbar, immobiliser, extras. VGC, non-smokers, no pets. £20,200.00. Tel: Sandra & Bob Grummit on 012 3424 0271 or write

to 20 Hollow Wood, Olney, Bucks., MK46 5LY.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Air-Ride suspension unit, cost new £385.00 accept £250.00 (fitted) or £200.00 (DIY). Hope Safe-T-Bar with towball and electrics, cost new £400.00 - £200.00 (fitted) or £150.00 (DIY). Will fit Talbot Express, Citroen, Fiat Ducato models. Both in perfect condition. Calor gas empty bottles, 7.0kg and 4.5kg with regulators. £10.00 each. Tel: Rae & Philip Gledhill on 014 8465 4180 or write to Heath House View, Ridings Lane, Golcar, Huddersfield, HD7 4PZ.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Legend, 1990 'H' reg. 2.5 diesel. 4/2 berth. 42,000 miles. One owner, non-smokers, no pets. Extras include Omnistor 4000, external drawer, Air-Ride suspension, cycle rack, tow hitch, alarm. MOT & tax to August 2000. No roof rack or ladder fitted to vehicle. £15,000.00. Tel: Dave Ellis on 016 3386 2558 or write to 25 Thornhill Road, Upper Cwmbran, Gwent, NP44 5TF.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Air-Ride suspension kit to suit Ford chassis. Will fit Excelsior, Amethyst and legend. Easy DIY. £150.00. Silver Screen. £50.00. Midland European CB radio. £65.00. CB signal booster. £30.00. All in good condition, approx. 2 years old. Phone Mick Tims on 018 2576 1590 (after 6.00 pm) or write to 16 Shepherds Way, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5EN.

#####

VW Clubman GL, 2.4 diesel, automatic, 4 berth. April 1994. 39,000 miles. 1 non-smoking owner, no pets. FSH, VW serviced from new. Alarm, engine immobiliser, Fiamma awning, 2 bike rack, 3 speed reversible fan. Superb condition, many extras. Reluctant sale. £19,000.00. Tel/Fax: Alan Edwards on 018 8688 0056 or write to 22 Huntingdon, Cradley, Malvern, Worcs., WR13 5JZ.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Brand new Omnistor rear box, model 100. Unwanted present, complete with all fittings, never used. Cost £220.00 - accept £125.00. Bickerton folding bike, as new in original carry bag. £110.00 or offer. Tel: Phillip Jones on 014 3283 0463 or write to 9 Meadow Drive, Canon Pyon, Hereford, HR4 8NT.

#####

# Contents

My Christmas List .....2  
 Thank You .....3  
 Photographic Comp. 2000 .....3  
 Lead Free or Not Lead Free.....3

What have the Romans ever  
 done for us? ..... 4  
 AGM 2000 .....7  
 Chairman's Chat .....8  
 Our First Season .....9  
 Committee News.....11  
 Vaillant Heaters and Battery  
 Chargers .....12  
 From the Factory.....13  
 Ravenna..... 14  
 Upgrade Poetry .....16  
 Wanted .....17  
 Available.....18  
 For Sale.....18

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: 020 8808 9112

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

All contributions from Members which appear in the Newsletter are published in good faith in the hope that they will prove useful or interesting. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy but none of the modifications has been tested by us therefore neither the Editor, the Club nor the Company will accept any responsibility for the consequences if you try them out.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Committee Members

Andrew Entwistle	Chairman	014 2284 3057
Pam Davies	Press Officer	017 0548 4972
Harry Henthorne	Newsletter Editor	020 8808 9112
Ben Mansfield	Chief Rally Marshal	017 2336 9769
Neil Rogers	Rally Co-Ordinator	013 2537 4540
Ian Ross	Membership Secretary & Regalia Officer	017 0822 8075
Janet Sutterby	Minutes Secretary	015 0746 2449
John Tidbury	Treasurer	012 3553 8593
Nora Venables	Chairman, AGM Sub-Committee	019 0233 2105
Baz Wellard	Chairman, Club & Company Sub-Committee	013 2923 1259
Ray Whitley	Vice-Chairman & Secretary	016 0345 2593
Vacancy		
Charles Trevelyan	President	013 8685 3338