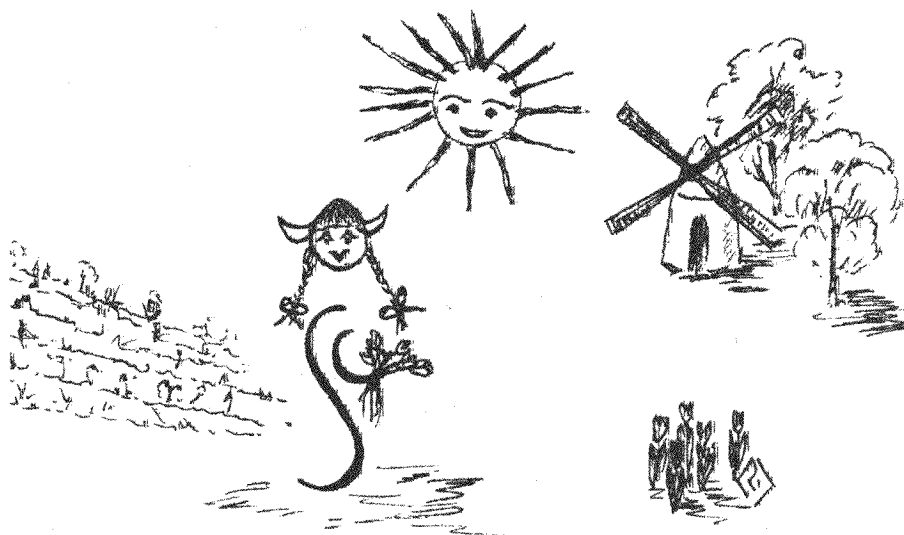


AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB



**NEWSLETTER 139
APRIL 2000**

Hello.

A Warning. I have learned that some unscrupulous people are telephoning private numbers and suggesting that they are "A.T. & T. Engineers" who are testing your line. They ask you to press the keys for "9", "0" and "#" and then replace the receiver. **DO NOT PRESS ANY KEYS!** If you do it gives them access to your line for long distance or chat line calls at YOUR expense. So if you do get such a call **IGNORE IT!** The Police are, apparently, aware of this scam. But please don't get caught!

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Annual General Meeting

Only a month to go to the AGM so as Chairman of the sub-committee may I remind all members that the Rally field will **NOT** be open, other than to the working party, until Mid-day, Noon or 12 o'clock on Friday, 5th May 2000. Members who wish to get to Banham early **MUST** book into the camp site (telephone number 019 5388 7384) or stay at one of the CL sites in the area (pages 389/392 in the Caravan Club book). Please also remember to carry your current membership card to gain entry to the Applewood Hall where all functions will be held. Notice too that no food, drink or pets may be taken into the hall.

Nora Venables

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AGM Bookings

If you have completed and sent in your booking form and have not yet received an acknowledgement please contact me as soon as possible and certainly before 5th April 2000. My telephone number is 020 8808 9112.

Sheila Henthorne

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ASSISTANCE, PLEASE

Members who attended the Club & Company Rally in 1999 may remember the ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake by *Barbara & John Cox*. It is thought that a number of people may

have taken pictures of the event. Unfortunately, the professional picture which was promised to *John* has not materialised and he would be pleased to learn whether anyone has a picture. If you have, please telephone him on 012 6267 1762 so that he may arrange to get a copy from you. Many thanks.

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Turn the Tables

Though space is at a premium in our Topaz we stowed two folding chairs in the wardrobe. But when we first fancied "tea in the garden", we realised that we hadn't a picnic table. Inspiration! It's simple, on grass. Several vans come with a pair of tables, one large and one small. Invert the smaller on shortish grass, the larger otherwise, fit the long table leg into the up-turned cone and pop the other table on top. (The plastic surface of the unlucky one is easily wiped clean afterwards.) The result is steady and saves carrying a special 'outdoor' table. (As longer standing members probably know!)

Jim Andrews

This is an idea which keeps turning up (pardon the pun!) but is worth repeating in case anyone doesn't know the trick. You could, of course, buy a tripod for the base instead of using a table. And you can place the bottom table on something like a travel rug to protect the surface.

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LESSER KNOWN FRANCE

I have been hunting high and low for a past Newsletter. It may have been back in 1997 or 1998 when someone wrote of travels in central France. *Gordon and I* regularly drove through France to our property in Spain. Last year we decided to extend our journey and explore the area as part of our holiday. We had a wonderful few days in just the sort of countryside we loved visiting. We visited Montlucon, Pontamur, Bourg-Lastic, Mauriac and Aurillac. The Monts d'Or and the spectacular medieval village on Conques. We also saw the Lac du Pont de Salars with extensive, though closed at the time, camp sites around the lake and places we decided would be ideal for launching our inflatable boat on future trips! Highlight of *Gordon's* trip was a tour of the caves of

Roquefort, seeing the maturing processes of the famous cheeses and, of course, sampling them! All in all the best few days holiday we had had in a long time and, although we did not realise it at the time, our last holiday together. If the person who wrote about their French trip recognises it, my very best thanks for the suggestion. It gave us so much pleasure and me in particular such happy memories.

Because we were basically 'wild campers', since our teenage years together of motor cycle and canoe camping, we never got round to attending Club rallies, though we often talked about 'trying it sometime'. Now perhaps I will try it by myself and meet some of the people behind the names in the Newsletter. It is my intention to keep "Symphony II" and use her (though no more long continental journeys!).

Pauline Hill

Please try a rally, *Pauline*, I am sure you will enjoy yourself. I can safely say that you will be made welcome.

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Farewell

It is with great regret that we have decided to say farewell to motor caravanning. Recent illness has meant that it will not be viable for us in the future. We have had many happy times at home and abroad in our various vans. We have particularly enjoyed ASOC. The Newsletter has contained many useful tips and helpful information about various conversions and their foibles. It is always comforting to discover that you are not the only one with a particular problem. We have not been frequent ralliers but when we have managed to attend one we have found everyone friendly and have had an enjoyable time. So thanks to everyone at ASOC for all the support you have provided. It has greatly enhanced our lives as motor caravanners.

We wish all the members every success and happiness for the future.

Gwenda & Cliff Warner

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DEPARTURE

It is with sadness that I have to report that after 31 years with Auto-Sleepers, Neville Jelfs, our Works Manager for so long, has decided to leave the Company and to seek pastures new. I know I speak on behalf of us all in wishing him every success for the future. Indeed he has promised to remain very much in touch with us and of particular significance is his very generous offer to assist with our side of the organisation of the Club and Company Rally in July.

Many of you know Neville very well and will undoubtedly miss the very warm reception that he gave to our many visitors. However, we will not be losing touch and for my part I am enormously and forever grateful to Neville for all the hard work he has put in. His enthusiasm, cheerfulness and genuine desire to help will be greatly missed.

Charles Trevelyan

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Photographic Competition 2000

Now that Spring is here and we are starting to hit the road again *please* get out your cameras and start snapping! Remember the competition closes on 30th June. The more entries submitted the better and the more interesting the competition. There are three prizes, £30.00, £20.00 and £10.00. Judging will take place at the Club and company Rally. If possible please give your photograph a title. Remember to put your name and membership number on the back [probably best if you print the details on a label and stick it on rather than writing on the print! - Ed]. Make my day and send them to me at 4 Southbrook Road, Havant, Hants., PO9 1RN. No slides, please, and unfortunately photographs cannot be returned.

Pam Davies

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Hints and Tips

Some years ago members were sending in hints and tips which were most useful. So in order to start everyone off again,

may I tell you that plastic covered wire basked can be made to fit your cupboards by "Hamster baskets, Much Marcle, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2QJ. Their phone number is 015 3167 0209 or fax 015 3167 0630" These people make baskets to your measurements for almost any purpose, including trapping badgers. If you have a cupboard where tins fly up and down when a few have been used, get a set of shallow baskets and keep the tins tethered. Write the dimensions of the basket(s) or the clear space(s) in which it/they should fit and ask for a quotation. I do **not** recommend visiting the place as it is only a workshop in an ex chicken house and parking is difficult - even if you manage to find them - but they are most co-operative.

Now let us have *your* favourite tip!

Rita Daley

Sheila and I can vouch for these baskets. We had some in our previous van and bought some more for the present Clubman GL. They do work!

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Chairman's Chat



This should be my penultimate piece for you as Chairman as I stand down at the AGM this year. Is it only three years since I became Chairman? I shall be seeking re-election to the Committee for the last time at Banham. Those of you who are coming to the 2000 AGM and have not been lucky enough to secure a place at the Claire Priory Rally will find plenty of CL's in the area. You can even book onto the caravan site at Banham and join the rally on Friday. What I must ask you **NOT** to do is to camp in the entrances to fields or any other available spot which may cause a nuisance to the good people of Norfolk. We have written to the Norfolk Constabulary informing them of our event and pointing out that we neither approve and never recommend our members to 'wild camp'. Don't forget that all land belongs to some one.

Has anyone else noted the sharp increase in cross channel

ferry fares since the removal of 'duty free' shopping? How is it that all the various companies have very similar charges for us of the motorhome fraternity? Dare we think that, heaven forbid, there is a mutual unwritten agreement between them? How about the huge fees being charged for the 'chunnel' crossing? I was recently quoted a figure of £468.00 and with no reduction for particular quiet periods. Once more could this be a fix? Am I just a born sceptic or is the whole pricing affair an unfortunate co-incidence?

Betty and I, along with many of our members, visited the NEC for the Camping and Leisure Show. As always comparing our van with the new vehicles on display but not finding any that we liked or would exchange for ours. We liked the new coachbuilt Sherbourne from A-S. The toilet-shower area is probably the best of the European ones we have come across for practical use, comfort and space. (That's the commercial over with!)

Anyone who has contacted the Technical Information Group recently should know that the group is reviewing its role. *Maurice Payne*, TIG Leader, is moving home shortly and would be grateful for time to get on with all the work that goes with moving home. Warners 10th annual Motorhome Show at Peterborough takes place shortly and promises to be a huge affair with entertainment and the lure of many bargains large and small. So be careful, look about the various trade stands and you could save a great deal of money. *Betty and I* bought a couple of La Fuma chairs, a new range, at the full price then some few months later at Peterborough we saw them at half the price we paid. Oh, what a wailing and gnashing of teeth at our earlier impetuous decision!!

Don't forget when you park to take some basic common sense security precautions. Don't try to hide the van from the thieves. All you achieve by that is to give them time to go about their work unobserved. We make a point of parking in full view out in the open where, hopefully, it is too public and conspicuous for the low life creatures who prey on unsuspecting folk. The van presents a tempting target for the thief, don't make it easy for them. Most of the steering lock so-called security devices are almost useless in preventing the theft of the vehicle as it is possible

with out too much effort to bend the steering wheel sufficiently to remove them. Don't forget in this safety conscious age the wheel is soft and pliable in order to prevent serious injury to the driver. Even with all the bleeps and buzzers they present little difficulty to the experienced thief. On our car we use a metal cover that covers the wheel completely and has an alarm system. It can be a little cumbersome to use but recently when I was present at a demonstration of the various security devices a reformed character commented that our disc lock was the one device that made him look for some other vehicle as it was too difficult and time consuming to attempt removing the cover. Advice not to be ignored I thought. But remember that simple precautions do make a big difference, so put all valuables out of sight and make a final check that you have closed and locked all the doors and windows. How many of us have discovered on return that we have left a window or door unlocked? We have! Don't make it easy for the thief, we have worked hard for our money, why give it to a thief? Keep smiling and enjoy life using your van.

Andrew Entwistle

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From the Factory

It was good to see so many old friends and familiar faces both at both the Earls Court Caravan and Leisure Show and the Birmingham Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show. For my part, it is always delightful to see Club members at such shows and to hear what they have been up to. My life isn't so interesting as those of you who are lucky enough to use your Auto-Sleepers. When you think about it I have, if you take all the Exhibitions into account, spent well over a year of my life within the confines of Earls Court and the National Exhibition Centre. If the truth was known it is probably nearer a year and a half!

During this time A-S has enjoyed great success at the Exhibitions they attend. Not only have we been lucky enough to break our sales targets on the majority of occasions (as we did again in Birmingham) but also to win many awards including four Gold Medals in the IBCM International Coachwork Competition and, of course, the much coveted Caravan Industry Award for

Motorcaravans on eight separate occasions.

For the forthcoming year you will not only see me at many of the Exhibitions but you will also have the opportunity of again meeting Bill Cook, Steven Riley and *Charles (Trevelyan)* who, like me, always enjoy being amongst motorcaravans and motorcaravanners. I have deliberately not mentioned Stephen Cant and Scott Stephens as they are always about and are almost part of the furniture and fittings! I am glad to say that our latest models, the Gatcombe and Sherbourne, have been well received and will be on display at many of the exhibitions as well as being extensively used by the press. So you will have the opportunity of reading what other people think about them.

Best Wishes and happy Auto-Sleeping.

Anthony Trevelyan

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France Passion

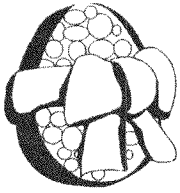
This year we left our annual Wine gathering trip to France until September and only for 3 weeks instead of the usual extended period. The plan this time was to see the Welsh Dragon Memorial statue at Mametz Wood, other WW1 sites and travel to the Burgundy Region just below Beaune. Our first France Passion stop was in a vineyard in the centre of Fleys Village about 5 miles from the famous wine town of Chablis. We arrived at 2 o'clock, asked if they had room and then off loaded my pride and joy (Triumph Tiger Cub motor cycle) and motored into Chablis for a look around. Later back at the vineyard we found that another outfit had pulled in so for the first time in over 4 years of using these sites we had company. We then had our tasting of 4 types of Chablis and bought those we liked plus an extra bottle for consumption that night. The proprietor did not charge for the extra! The site was in the gravelled yard of the vineyard adjacent to the garden and the proprietors house. We were able to use the excellent toilet facilities, obviously for the general public, with plenty of hot water, toilet paper, hand towels and a proper sit down toilet with a seat. Later on another French couple pulled in and although the accommodation was supposed to be only for two it did not cramp

the site. All outfits were separated by more than the recommended distances. Fortunately one of the couples had a good command of English and a pleasant evening ensued. We left the next morning after breakfast, with goodbyes from our neighbours and the proprietress. The main disadvantage of this site was the church clock. Can I have an explanation why the time count of the bells is repeated a minute or so after the first set of chimes? It's not so bad at 1 o'clock when there are 2 chimes but watch out at 12 when it's 24. The vineyard was next door to the village church. The next stop was supposed to be at a Burgundian village, Rully, but after some fiddling about we only found the site after we saw the owners driving away and locking up. As always we had an alternative and that was where we went. This time it was time to pay, do some washing etc.

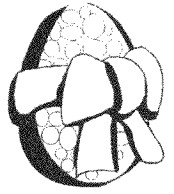
As our return journey took us through the Champagne region we consulted our book. We stopped off in Epernay and had a guided tour around the Mercier caves, all at a fairly hefty price but with a glass of champagne at the end. We then drove to our chosen France Passion listed site in the village of Brouillet belonging to Monsieur Ariston. The Chateau presented an impressive facade as we drove through the gateway, almost too good to be true. We met the proprietor, had a free tasting of champagne, saw his large collection of fossils collected from the vineyard fields and were again shown the mysteries of champagne making. This time we were on our own in the vineyard complex facing the chateau garden and although we had tucked ourselves out of the way Mr. Ariston insisted that we went where there was a better view. Once again the toilet available to us was first class and the champagne was pretty good too and a lot cheaper than in Epernay, 6 bottles for 492 francs. We will no doubt be using both these sites again. Especially as both owners spoke excellent English.

This year the cost of the "Carnet des Invitations" will be 150 Fr. till 10 March and 170 Fr. after that date. If anyone is interested write to:- France Passion, BP 57, 84202, Carpentras, Cedex.
with the following:

"Please send me the Carnet des Invitations with the new windscreen sticker before the 24 April 2000 (free of charge post).



April 2000 Rally Supplement



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

Please note that **ALL** rallies start and finish at 12.noon unless otherwise stated in the rally information.

Please complete **BOTH** sides of the Rally Slip.

9th-14th.April The Dutch Bulbfields Rally is fully booked.

13th-16th.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 note that ALL BOOKING FORMS SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED, WITH THE SITE FEE, TO THE ORGANISERS, WARNERS, by 17th.March. If you have **NOT** done this then you will be unable to rally with the Club and you will be sited with the public. If you have booked in time a Club rally slip is required, return it with £1.50 Rally Fee before April 7th. 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. The rally ends on Sunday but you may stay on the site until 12 noon Monday.

No arrivals before 2.00p.m. Thursday.

27th.-2nd.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.

28th.-1st May.(3 nights).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 28th to Monday 1st.May 2000.

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 20th.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 Elcar Rise, Eaton,Norwich,Norfolk.NR4 6HR
Tel.No. 01603 452 593. The fee for each additional adult is £3.00 and for an 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

2nd-4th.May.(2 nights Tues.-Thurs.) Clare Priory,Suffolk. RALLY NOW FULL

Rally Marshals:Stella & Ian Ross.

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

Please note that the A.G.M.will be held at Banham Zoo,near Norwich,Norfolk, 5th.-7th.May.Please return the booking forms, which were in the February Newsletter,by the closing date,7th.April.

8th-12th.May.(4 nights Monday to Friday).Applewood Caravan & Camping Park,Banham Zoo,Norfolk A.G.M.Follow - on Rally.

Site Tel.No. 01953 888370.

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Ray Whiley.

Emergencies:07899 853 988 (Marshals'mobile 8.00-10.00 am & pm).

Pitch fee: £ 3.50 per night plus electric hook up £1.50 per night.

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

Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. R Whiley,21 Elcar Rise, Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk. NR4 6HR. Tel.No. 01603 452 593.

Cheques payable to: R.E. & B.Whiley.

Attractions and directions as for A.G.M.

This rally is offered to enable members to enjoy a longer stay in Norfolk.Those taking part will remain on the A.G.M. rally field for the Sunday night and move to the five acre rally field,which has 50 marked pitches on grass with electric hook-ups before 12 noon on the Monday.

Please state the number of nights on rally slip.

Early booking would be appreciated.

11th-14th.May (3 nights).Ripon,North Yorks.

Site Tel.No.01765 690 508.(Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals: Marion & Jim Henwood.

Site Fee:£3.50 per night. Electricity:£1.50 per night,limited numbers.(First come first served). Rally Fee:£4.00.Includes £2.00 per van for the use of barn for

Friday & Saturday nights.

Booking slips to :J.Henwood, 1 Fairfield Ave., Linthorpe, Middlesbrough.TS5 5HB.
Tel.No. 01642 805 237. Cheques payable to J.Henwood.

This is a GREEN FIELD site you are NOT ALLOWED to use the Caravan Site Facilities.

Attractions:Ripon,Fountains Abbey etc.

Friday.Weather permitting,a walk will be organised and a pool supper in the evening.

Saturday.Proposed coach trip to Lightwater Valley (Factory Outlet shops)
£2.00 per person.Price could vary depending on number of persons going.Money with slip please,if interested.

Saturday Evening. Fish & chips in barn.Please indicate on slip if required.

Directions:Take the B6265 from Ripon to Pateley Bridge.Site in 1 mile on *right*.

11th -15th May (4 nights). Little Cotton Farm C.P.,Dartmouth,Devon.

Site tel.No. 01803 833 675. Additional nights must be arranged with the Site Owner,Paul White.

Rally Marshals: Pam & Terry Holtom.

Site Fee:£5.50 per night. Electricity:£1.80 per night.

Rally Fee:£2.00 couples, £1.00 singles.

Booking slips and cheques payable to T.Holtom,8 Courtland Road,Torquay, Devon. TQ2 6JR. Tel.No. 01803 612 669.

Attractions: Dartmouth -a naval port and harbour.Boat trips up the River Dart to see the old market town of Totnes(market day Fridays).Steam railway trips to Paignton.Many National Trust & English Heritage properties in the area.

Proposed Saturday evening meal in nearby licensed Football Club premises.This site is adjacent to the "Park & Ride" into Dartmouth.

Dogs welcome but **MUST BE KEPT ON LEAD AT ALL TIMES.**

S.A.E. for confirmation and travel instructions.

18th -22nd May (4 nights). Motorcaravan Jamboree,Detling,Kent.

Emergency Tel.No.07879 473434 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard. Rally Fee:£2.00 **GREEN FIELD SITE**

Site Fee:£23.00 to be sent, with application form available from marshals, *direct to the organisers.*

Booking slips,rally fee and S.A.E. to Mr. & Mrs. Baz Wellard,18 Geenwood Close, Fareham,Hants.PO16 7UF. Tel.No. 01329 231 259.

Cheques payable to Mrs. D.Wellard.(DO NOT include site fees).

Attractions: The Motor Caravan Jamboree & Leisure Show is reputed as being "Europe's greatest indoor & outdoor exhibition of Motorhomes & Caravans".The show is held at the Kent Showground on the North Downs-with easy access to the Garden of England.Why not also have a day trip to France and pick up liquid supplies.

Directions:From M2 leave at Junct.5 and go South on the A249 and follow signs.FromM20 leave at Junct. 7 and go North on A249 and again follow signs.

Closing date:Closing date for rally slips to reach marshals is **28th April at the latest.**

Springtime in the Snowdonia National Park

18th -22nd May.(4 nights).Penybont T & C.P.,Bala,Gwynedd,Wales.

This rally runs from Thursday night to Sunday night closing 12 noon Monday.

Site Tel.No.01678 520 549.

Rally Marshals:Helen & John Greenwood.,Tel.No. 0701 0702 919 (Mobile).

Site Fee:£8.95 including electricity per night. Rally fee:£1.00 per person.

Booking forms & cheques to: John Greenwood,5 Ellesmere Road, Mynydd Isa, Mold,Flints. CH7 6UJ. Tel./Fax. 01352 754 794.E-mail jdvw@jdvw.freeserve.co.uk

The site has hardstanding ,camp office & shop,heated toilet block.Very close to the town and Bala lake.A site that we have used before now upgraded to 4* status.Full site facilities.

Directions:From A5 take the A494T to Bala.,On entering Bala from N.E. follow B4391 and site is on *right round sharp bend.*

26th.- 30th May. (4 nights). Lower Greenhill Farm, Salterforth, Barnoldswick,West Yorks.

Site Tel. No. 01282 813 067 Emergencies only.

Rally Marshals: Ivy & Ken Farley.

Site Fee: £3.00 per night. **No Electricity.**Rally Fee:£1.50 couples. £1.00 singles.

This is a **GREEN FIELD** site;---*No toilets*

Booking slips to: K.D. Farley, 45 Kelsall Ave.,Blackburn,Lancs.BB1 5RM.

Tel.No. 01254 721 459. Cheques payable to I.M.Farley.

Attractions:Skipton & Blackburn markets on Saturday,Skipton Castle.

Directions:From A59 Skipton/Clitheroe turn South on B6251 through Barnoldswick to B6383.Site 0.5 miles South of Salterforth on *right.*

26th.-30th. May.(4 nights). Caravan Club National Rally,Cornbury Park,Oxon.

*Details of this rally have already been published in the Newsletter. Bookings had to be made through Ray Whiley. **It is too late to book now.***

1st.-5th June.(4 nights Thurs.-Mon).Severn Gorge C.P.,Nr.Telford,Salop.

Site Tel.No. 01952 684 789 (Emergency only).

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Alan Potter.

Site Fee:£ 7.00 per night. Electricity: £2.00 per night. Rally Fee: £2.00.

Booking slips to:Mr. & Mrs.A. Potter,"Westbrook",Mill Lane, Monks Risborough,

Bucks.HP27 9LG. Tel.No. 01844 274 021. Cheques payable to Mrs. B.A.Potter.

Attractions:Ironbridge Museums(World Heritage Site),Telford,Severn Gorge Railway,Hawstone Historic Park-follies.Games evening on on Friday.Fish/Chicken supper available on Saturday evening---Please indicate if interested.

Please enclose a S.A.E. for confirmation of booking and map directions.

Limit 30 Vans.

TWO Scottish Rallies.---make a holiday out of it.

1st.-6th June.(5 nights) Portavadie Village,Loch Fyne,Scotland.

Rally Marshals:Helen & George Gilchrist.

Site Fee/Rally Fee: £12.00 all in. **NO ELECTRICITY.**

Booking slips to:George Gilchrist,2 Gadgirth Court,Coylton,Ayr.KA6 6NU.

Tel. No. 01292 570 478. Cheques payable to George Gilchrist.

This is a basic GREEN FIELD site on the edge of a protected lagoon.If you have a canoe or

inflatable, bring it along with your fishing rods. Battery charging is available and the complex is well supplied with concrete roads. Should you require parking for wheelchair access please let me know. There may be a clay pigeon shoot to be supervised by our son Barrie using his 12 bore over & under, plus a 410 if the ladies wish a lighter shot. **Please indicate if you wish to take part as clays & cartridges need to be ordered.**

Attractions: There are various attractions in the area the world renowned Younger Gardens north of Dunoon and the Mount Stuart Castle on Rothesay are just two of them. We are just 100yds. from the ferry terminal so you may wish to cross as a foot passenger and get local transport up to Lochgilphead and the Crinan Canal. Remember to bring your walking boots. **Directions:** On reaching Tighnabruach turn *right* S.P. Kames/Millhouse. Then look for the Portavadie Ferry signs, continue following ferry signs until about 100 yds. before terminal. You will see double metal gates on your *left*, **WATCH the bump** on entering. We will be looking for you. **NOTE** This rally must finish at 12noon Tuesday 6th. June.

And on to:

7th.14th.June. (7 nights). Divers C.P., Oban, Scotland.

Site Tel.No. 01631 562 755.

Rally Marshals: Sally & Jerry Haxton.

Site Fee: £6.00 per night includes electricity. Rally Fee: £2.00

Booking slips to : Mrs.S.Haxton, "Almond Tree House", Send Hill, Send, Woking, Surrey.

GU23 7HR. Tel.No. 01483 223 476. Cheques payable to : Mrs. S.Haxton.

Attractions: Oban Highland Games on Saturday, hope to arrange a coach, if numbers allow. Please indicate if interested.

Directions: From North: A85 through town to traffic island follow camp/car & ferry signs. Past Police Station on *left*, then first *left*, first *right* and first *left* again follow signs to Glenshellach Caravan Park.

SORRY THE SITE DOES NOT ALLOW DOGS. Limit of 23 vans.

9th.-11th.June. Stratford Motorcaravan Fair, Stratford upon Avon, Racecourse.

Rally Marshals: Ivy & Ken Farley.

Bookings for the rally to be held at the show must be made **DIRECTLY** with the organisers, Stone Leisure, forms available in various motorhome magazines. The special Club site fees are: Arrive Thursday £23.00, Arrive Friday £18.00, Arrive Saturday £13.00 You may stay on till Monday at no further charge.

Rally Fee: £1.50 couples, £1.00 singles. Please send a rally slip to: K.D.Farley, 45 Kelsall Ave., Blackburn, Lancs. BB1 5RU. Tel.No. 01254 721 459. Cheques payable to I.M. Farley.

22nd.-25th.June. (3 nights). Church Farm, Sixpenny Handley, Dorset.

Emergency Tel.No. 0850 198 537 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally marshals: Edna & Dennis Lucas.

Site Fees: £ 3.25 per night. NO ELECTRICITY. Rally fee: £2.00 (couples), £1.00 (singles).

This is a **GREEN FIELD SITE.**

Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. D.E.Lucas, Hollinghurst Court, 265 Sedlescombe Road North, St.Leonards on Sea, East Sussex. TN37 7JL.

Tel.No. 01424 753631. Cheques payable to: D.E. Lucas.

Church Farm is situated at the top of an interesting Dorset village which has a variety of

shops. This is in the beautiful Cranborne Chase area with lovely views, interesting walks, villages and towns nearby. There is a daily bus service to Dorchester, Blandford & Salisbury from village. A meal can be arranged for Saturday evening at the local inn with a maximum of 40. Please indicate on slip if interested.

Directions: From Salisbury on A354 turn *right* at Handley Hill roundabout onto B3081 S.P. Shaftesbury & Sixpenny Handley. Proceed through the village to top of hill. Site is on *right* just before the Church.

30th June - 3rd July. (3 nights). Prestwood Steam Fair, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Bucks.

Rally Marshals: Ann & Norman Ailward.

Site Fee: £13.00 for 3 nights weekend including unlimited entrance to Show. Rally Fee: £2.00.

This is a **GREEN FIELD** Site.

Cheques payable to: Mrs. C.A. Ailward, 15 Earl Howe Road, Holmer Green, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP15 6PU. Tel. No. 01494 713 071.

Directions: Off A413 at Gt. Missenden take A4128 to Prestwood and follow Steam Rally signs. Please **DO NOT** arrive before 1.00 p.m. Friday.

Will Rally Marshals please send me the information for their rallies for insertion in the Newsletter 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 assistant. 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 assistant, for further information and 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 Please note the new E-mail address

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

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?

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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).....

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

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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!

You will find enclosed my payment, to the order of France Passion⁷. All we do is to send our Visa card Number, obviously with your home address as well. Somewhere in France there should be a free night's stop off. This year the book lists 331 wine producers and farmers in 64 counties. 36 have declined being listed but there are 64 new properties. In addition a booklet is included listing 400 catering establishments chosen by the participants in the scheme. I hope this is of some interest to the members. My telephone number is 014 4677 2751 if anyone wants further information.

John Pearce

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

Cascade Problems

After several trouble free years in our Clubman we decided it was time for an expert to service and check the caravan itself. The base vehicle is, naturally, serviced at the appropriate garage. While the flexible pipe in the gas cylinder compartment and a seal on the toilet cassette were replaced - something I had anticipated - I had not reckoned on a Carver water heater rust-out!

The unit had rusted to a point where if we had lit it, I was told, there could have been a fire/explosion! It was suggested that with the exposed nature of the vent, water may be getting in as we travel, thus causing the problem. I suggest those with similar arrangements of the water heater check for this problem. I am told that it is not common but a check should be made each year, nevertheless.

David Morris

I am quite surprised to read this because, so far as I know, all Cascades have the same sort of vent, whether in a motorhome or a trailer van. We have had our Clubman for eight years now and although we have had a couple of problems with the heater there has been no sign of such a rust problem.

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

Draughts

I seek the help and comments from Talisman owners. I have a 1999 (Oct.) Peugeot 2.5 TDi Talisman with a severe draught

problem with the centre ventilator when motoring. So severe that recently passengers had to be covered in blankets to keep the draught off. My dealer's, and A-S, solution was to place a piece of board into the ventilator opening and seal the whole unit. This does, of course, stop the draught but also cuts out the light. I compromised and placed a small board with Velcro to cover the small centre vents. This has cut down the draught considerably and given me more light. Both methods should be removed at night to give better ventilation.

The original problem is still there. When one considers the cost of these vehicles and the years they have been produced I would not have expected such a problem to exist or to deal with it as recommended. A-S confirm that they know of the problem but only on a few vehicles. Why on just a few vehicles? Could it be that it is more widespread but owners have not informed A-S?

Are you a Talisman owner with a similar problem. If so, please let me know what you did about it. Did you contact your dealer or A-S about it or just resolve it yourself? Your replies and comments will be passed on to A-S so that they can assess the situation. Our telephone number is 019 1386 1386

Alwyn & Ray Pope

---==oo0000oo==---

VW Problem

I have a 1991 VW Transporter (Trooper) 2.1 petrol engine with fuel injection. I bought her about two years ago and have had lots and lots of fun in her apart from one very intermittent problem. She loses power, typically at 70 mph on a motorway after about an hour from home, slowing down to 40 mph, then speeding up again. If I stop the van for a while she will be as good as gold for the rest of the journey. If I do not and I continue coughing and spluttering on my way she will eventually start to backfire as well.

I have taken her into three garages and no-one can help - usually because she will not misbehave for the garage. One garage I contacted has another customer with the same van and the same problem and they have been chasing it for 2 years as well. If there

is any one who can shed some light on this problem, I will be very grateful.

Pamela Lawrence

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

Wool

We are again begging that if anyone who is going to the AGM has any oddments of wool would they please bring it with them. Any colour, any ply, it doesn't matter. Also if they have any soft toys they don't want as well. I can knit the wool into jumpers etc. and the soft toys I can dress. The whole lot go for charity. The Nottinghamshire Police convey them abroad for various charities.

I shall be at the AGM, I'm the one on the electric scooter!
Many thanks.

Pam Robinson.

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

Lady Drivers

It was sad to read in March that another couple had been forced to give up motor caravanning due to the health of the husband. Why is it that so few ladies drive motor caravans? I suspect that the answer may lie in the lack of support and encouragement that they get from their partners rather than in their ability. I'm in my mid-sixties, only 5' 3" in old money and a bit over 8 stone but I can park up our A-S Executive without demolishing walls. When we go away we share the driving, giving each of us the opportunity to see the countryside and catch up on some zeds if necessary. Whilst I prefer not to tackle big cities, I have managed the centres of Munich, Frankfurt and Bristol when the old duffer lost his way. There is also the vulnerability consideration to think about when you are spending the winter in Portugal and himself breaks a leg falling off a bar stool!

So come on, you chaps, you're happy to let us drive you home from the pub in the dark on a wet night, so how about equal opportunities in the van? You know it makes sense and ladies, get behind the wheel. You never know, you might even enjoy it.

Diana Whitting

I am reminded of the (very) old saying "if your wife wants to drive, don't stand in her way!"

BATTERY PROBLEMS

Further to my letter in January I can now report that the dealer from whom I purchased my Trident took it for nearly two months so that they could test it over a protracted period. They found that if the radio was disconnected from the electrical supply the battery would not flatten. They therefore fitted a switch so that the supply could be disconnected from the radio. They returned the van nearly three weeks ago and with the radio disconnected the battery has remained fully charged. If any member would like to discuss this problem my telephone number is 012 2656 0487 and my address is 'Haresfield', Cumwhinton, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA4 8ER.

Richard Little

---==ooOoo---==

Ground Clearance

Last September we bought a Montana on a Mercedes-Benz Vito van. I am wondering if anyone has had problems with the ground clearance. We hope to go abroad later on but I am concerned about boarding the ferry via the ramps which are sometimes quite high. Has any member found any problems, or how have they overcome them? I must stress I am entirely happy with the vehicle otherwise.

Dave Griffiths

---==ooOoo---==

Boxer Springs

Referring to *Jackie & David Hines* problems with their Boxer. I would guess that it isn't the springs that are creaking but the spring end pivot mountings. These may incorporate a rubber bush of the "Silentbloc" type. My Talbot Express suffers from the same complaint. It first appeared after a very wet weekend in flooded Devon and mainly on the near-side rear.

So far treatment with Halfords spray grease seems to have done the trick. Jack the van up, for safety leaving the wheel in situ and on the ground, reach under the body work and with a long tube attached to the grease can spray liberally into the pivot

mounting. Years ago we used to use waste hydraulic fluid instead of grease. Repeat as required. Jacking the van up permits application to unusual parts of the pivot. It is a waste of time spraying the metal spring as this is not creaking. Much the same could be said of visiting your Peugeot agent, much better to seek out a local commercial repairer.

The main cause seems to be poor design. The forward pivot mounting is so situated that it receives most of the filth thrown up by the road wheel. I hope this is of some help. If not, it may mean new mountings.

Don Vincent

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

WANTED

40 channel CB radio and aerial. Tel: Roger Whiting on 013 0526 2674, e-mail: whiting@casterbridge24.freemove.co.uk or write to 82 Casterbridge Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2AG.

#####

Ford Flair or Frisky, automatic, between £8,000.00 - £10,000. Anywhere in the country. Please contact Mrs Pamela Lack on 013 8788 0633 or write to Corner Cottage, Loaningfoot, Southernness, Dumfries, Scotland, DG2 8AX.

This lady is not (yet) a member but is actively seeking an A-S.

#####

Talbot Express 1986 'C' reg. The heater fan motor will not run when cold or at best runs with a loud squeal. I would like to borrow or purchase photo copies of the section (or the complete manual) covering removal / refurbishment / refit of the fan motor. Would anyone who can help please phone Jean or Tony Armstrong on 018 7384 0183 or write to 5 Bryncelyn Close, The Bryn, Abergavenny, Mons, NP7 9AJ.

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FOR SALE



Ford Amethyst, 2.5 TD, November 1995. 34,000 miles. Fiamma 3.5m awning, twin bicycle rear rack, alarm system, TV aerial. Excellent condition exterior and interior. No pets or children, non-smokers. Full service history and fully serviced January 2000. Taxed and MOT to September. Today's new price with extras over £38,000.00. Selling at £25,000.00. Phone John Sutton on 017 2232 5558 or write to 1 Chiselbury Grove, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8EP.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

VW Medallion LT35, 1997, 'P' reg, 2.5 TD, Manual. 12,500 miles. One fastidious owner, non-smokers, no pets. Thatcham cat 1 alarm, upper bed, Fiamma awning, Status aerial, PAS, VW fitted anti-roll bar, FSH. Immaculate condition. £29,500.00. Tel: Joyce or Graham Spreckley on 014 0774 1320 or write to Uwch y Mor, Gorad Road, Valley, Holyhead, Anglesey, LL65 3AT.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

VW Clubman, 2.4 diesel, 'P' reg, 13,100 miles. Taxed and tested. Excellent condition. Non-smokers, no pets. One owner. Power steering, toilet, shower, fridge, oven, gas fire, blown air heating, Status TV aerial, Waxoyled. £22,500.00. Please phone Arthur Blackburn on 019 4760 2437 or write to 6 South Terrace, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 3HG.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Renault Rimini, petrol, 'G' reg. One lady owner. Non-smoker, no pets. Elevating roof, mains electrics, 3-way fridge, 2 ring hob and grill, Porta-Potti. 41,800 miles. Always garaged. £8,500.00 ono. Please ring Mrs June Martin on 014 0326 7960 or write to 1 Rycroft Drive, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2AW.

#####

Duetto, 2.5 TD, 4/1998, 11,000 miles. 2 berth, fitted

alarm, awning, backbox, extended worktop, Silver Screens. Non-smokers, no pets. Excellent condition. £24,500.00 ono. Tel: (AFTER 18/4/2000) Brian Cain on 012 0287 7421 or write to 11 Oak Hurst Close, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 0DF.



Thanks for the donation.

#####

External "Silver Screens" to fit Peugeot Boxer, high top or coachbuilt. Good condition. Save £50.00 on new price, only £20.00. Collect, or we can post. Tel: Sandra & Bob Grummit on 012 3424 0271 or write to 20 Hollow Wood, Olney, Bucks, MK46 5LY

#####

Ford Duetto, 2.5 diesel, 'P' reg. 2.11.96, 22,000 miles. Full service history, one owner, non-smoker, no pets. All usual A-S refinements plus Omnivent, Status aerial, Fiamma wind out awning. Also free standing Bradcot awning included. £20,500.00. Telephone Mary Smith on 019 8689 2833 (daytime) or 019 8689 3659 (after 6.00 pm) or write to 11 Pennyfields, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 1RD.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Harrison awning, grey/grey, suitable for 'facelift' Executive about 1993 - Fiamma 2.5m. £120.00 ono. Tel: Peter Yeatman on 023 9226 4638, write to 110 Sunnymead Drive, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 6BX or e-mail g0psf@cwcom.net.

#####

Ford Amethyst, 2.5 T/D. 2/4 berth, first registered 1.10.96. 21,000 miles, one owner from new, FSH, first class condition. Fitted awning and light, Van Bitz alarm with immobiliser and pager, Status aerial with booster, removable over-cab locker with upstands for storage, fitted Battery Mate, charge both batteries when on hook-up, 3-speed reversible fan, extra carpets, radio/cassette with 4 speaker system with switch in dining area to control radio, Silver Screens, heated front seats with armrests and lumbar support, rear storage boot, electric step. Extended warranty to 1.10.2001 on space heater/water

heater/fanmaster/fridge. All glass security marked. £25,850.00
ovno. Phone Don Kensey on 013 8427 9897
or write to 27 Middleway Avenue, Wordsley,
Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 5NB.



Thanks for the donation.

#####

Eurovent free-standing "Autovilla"
awning. Maroon & grey. Nice condition.
£130.00. Tel: Joyce & John Dodd on 017
4582 2913 or write to 2 Glenfor, Abergele,
Conwy, LL22 8EX.

#####

Ford Legend, 2.5 diesel, turbo intercooled, 1990. 2/4
berth, Captains chairs, air-ride suspension, Solar panel, Hope
Safe-T-Bar with towbar, Hope spare wheel carrier, fitted awning,
two radios, TV booster aerial and many other extras. Non-
smokers, no pets. Excellent condition. £15,000.00. Tel: Babs
& Ken Briggs on 020 8304 6440 or write to 17 Lakeside Close,
Sidcup, Kent, DA15 9PW.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

VW Clubman, 2.4 diesel, 'M' reg (1995), 48,000 miles.
Well cared for. Non-smokers, no pets. Sorry to part with a loved
and reliable friend! £19,500.00. Tel: Roy Hare on 016 476
1933 or write to 26 Brookside, Pathfinder Village, Exeter, Devon,
EX6 6DE.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

1998 Talisman II, 'E' reg. 2.0 petrol. All the usual A-S
features including shower and electric toilet. Full service history,
excellent condition, four good tyres, new front discs & pads,
motor cycle carrier. Has had interior refurbished. MOT for one
year and tax original. Mileage 50,000. Selling because of ill
health. £11,000.00. Tel: Jim Huxtable on 013 8725 5549 or
write to 8 Kellwood Road, Dumfries, DG1 4HF.

#####

Talbot Express Executive, 2 litre petrol. Aug 93 'L' reg.
19,500 miles. All usual A-S features. Extras include power

steering, Fiamma awning, alarm and immobiliser, Status TV aerial. Non-smokers. Two previous owners. VCC. Taxed and ready for new season. £17,500.00 ono. Tel: Ruby & Frank Stubbs on 013 0034 1510 or write to Park Lodge, Sydling Road, Cerne Abbas, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7JT.



Thanks for the donation.

#####

Free standing awning to fit high-top or lift up roof models. Rear fitting or may be adapted for side fitting. £90.00. Also Silver Screen for Duetto. £45.00. Tel Lynne & Jeffrey Hollins on 017 8253 6379 or write to 1 Dunsford Avenue, Milton, Stoke on Trent, ST2 7PJ.

#####

VW Clubman GL, Nov 96. 5 cyl, 2.4 diesel. 10,400 miles. Two berth. Non-smokers. £24,500.00. Tel: Brian Coad on 012 9673 8909 or write to Elmscape, North End, Steeple Claydon, Buckingham, MK18 2PG.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Symphony on Boxer 320M. 1997 'P', 2.5L diesel, 2 berth. 12,000 miles. Serviced by Peugeot main dealer. Tow bar, Fiamma bike rack, Status TV aerial with booster, Fiamma awning. £21,450.00 or would exchange for similar spec Clubman 4 berth, 'P' registered or later. Contact Geoff Bowen on 015 3942 2433 or write to 1 The Cottages, Skelwith Fold, Ambleside, LA22 0HT.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Amethyst, 1997, 2.5 turbo diesel. PAS. 8000 miles only. Semi-automatic clutch. Four berth with removable cupboard face. Air-ride suspension, awning, bike rack, Silver Screens, Thatcham category I alarm. Non-smokers, no pets. As new condition. Telephone Peter Worwood on 016 8986 2270 or write to 16 Broughton Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 8EQ.

Thanks for the donation.

#####

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

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

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