



AUTO-SLEEPER
OWNERS' CLUB

Newsletter



No. 150

March 2001

From the Editor

'If Winter comes ... '

... AND WHAT A WINTER it's been for many of our members who have had to put up with floods, gales and heavy snow. When Shelley wrote the words heading this piece, he immediately followed them with '... can Spring be far behind?' A good question and, as if to prove he was right, yesterday I saw the first snowdrops signalling that it's on the way. Here's to a warm Spring and a better Summer than last year's.

Ian Day

Chairman's Chat

Why do we belong?



MOST MEMBERS OF ASOC will by now have renewed their subscriptions and received their membership cards for 2001.

Why are you a member?

Many of us enjoy the rallies which are held in different places throughout the year, thanks to the hard work put in by a small number of marshals who find sites, organise a programme and deal with bookings and finances (including the 'dreaded' VAT). Perhaps twice as many, however, have never been to a Club rally - not even the Club and Company in July. If you think you are not 'the rallying sort', why not try one this year? You may be pleasantly surprised and, like us, become hooked.

No doubt many members belong for the excellent newsletter which arrives every month, full of interest and information. Others join, perhaps, for the discounts offered to members, especially by some insurance brokers. It is probably not generally realised that the Club itself derives no benefit from any such discount scheme, and that the Club cannot and does not recommend any individual trader.

You will soon receive the agenda and other documents for the Annual General Meeting, which this year is on Saturday, 21 April, at Banham Zoo in Norfolk. Please read all these papers carefully, especially the Committee reports, and be ready with your questions.

Ray Whiley

From the Factory

Ruby Anniversary Special

TO CELEBRATE the Company's fortieth anniversary, we will be producing an Anniversary model based on the short wheelbase Peugeot. This new vehicle, of which only a limited number will be produced, will be based on the Rambler-style floor plan.

The standard specification will include new anniversary-style coachlines, colour-coded bumpers and anniversary badging on the exterior, while inside there will be a wood-effect fascia incorporating the Anniversary badge, removable carpets with vinyl underneath, leather cab seats with material infill and map pockets, new style cab seat armrests and cushion materials. The Eberspacher heater, which can be used on oil as well as gas, will be fitted, and on diesel-engined models, it will be plumbed into the vehicles' fuel supply.

The Heki rooflight will be included, as will a battery charging system.

This vehicle will be competitively priced in on-the-road condition at £23,995 for the 2-litre petrol-engined version, and £25,640 for the 1.9TDI version.

If you are interested in seeing this really quite special new Anniversary model, get into touch with your Auto-Sleeper dealer.

Anthony Trevelyan

Auto-Sleepers announce the Palermo

IN A PRESS RELEASE received as this issue was being prepared, Auto-Sleepers announced the Palermo, which will extend their range into a new market area and which was to be introduced at the Birmingham Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show.

The new model is based on the Peugeot Boxer with the new 2.8 Hdi engine, has a fixed rear bed, a central dining area and is designed to provide luxurious night-time accommodation for four - even more when the overcab bed is used as a double. Under the rear bed is a large storage locker with access via the mattress frame supported by telescop-

ic struts, while further underbed storage is reached through an outside locker door.

There is a central dinette next to the kitchen, which includes an Electrolux RM6271 fridge with full-width freezer, a four burner hob with grill and oven below and a colour co-ordinated sink. The Palermo has a good-sized shower/toilet compartment. Hot water and blown-air heating is supplied by a Truma C3402E unit, there is a bespoke TV compartment over the large wardrobe, a radio-cassette system and a cocktail cabinet.

Nothing stands still

THE START OF 2001 has been very encouraging for the Company. We have successfully launched the Auto-Sleeper Insurance package which is very cost-effective, and have re-launched our new Ford Duetto. The re-launch was because we received some very constructive comments from users and dealers and have now incorporated them. Thank you to those who let us have their suggestions.

Our new Quality Control system is working well and beginning to pay dividends. Every complaint received by the Company is logged whether it comes verbally, by letter, e-mail or fax, and acted on where that is appropriate. It is encouraging that there has been a significant drop in faults reported to us, but we are not resting on our laurels.

All models registered since 24 October 2000 have a two year A-S warranty with an option of a further year available through the dealer. We have also launched our Auto-Sleeper branded clothing, for which brochures are being prepared and will be available shortly.

We have been very excited with the launch of the Palermo at the NEC show. With its fixed rear bed it has great appeal. Also at the NEC, for the first time we were pleased to welcome representation from ASOC on the Company's stand, giving the Club an opportunity to draw attention to its good work and possibly increase membership.

Ian Capes, CEO

There is just time to send off your application form for this year's AGM rally at Banham. Forms need to reach Sheila Henthorne by 7 March.

Steven Riley leaves Auto-Sleepers

IT IS WITH REGRET the Company announce that Steven Riley has left Auto-Sleepers. Steven was with the Company for many years and has contributed to its growth. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Steven all the best for the future.

We have as yet not decided on the type of replacement or, indeed, the person required to take the business forward. As soon as this has been achieved we will make an immediate announcement. In the meantime we will be splitting Steven's responsibilities between me, Tony Campbell, Terry New, Stuart Clements and Anthony Trevelyan.

Ian Capes, CEO

It's a gas - Mark 3

Alan Curry's authoritative articles on LPG aroused the interest of more than our own members. The Caravan Club Magazine thought the first was sufficiently important to breach copyright and quote from it extensively without permission. We have taken that up with them but in the meantime, here are Alan's answers to questions raised in last month's ASOC Newsletter - Ed.

JOY AND NIGEL WILKINS wanted to know why gas cylinders have to be stored and carried upright. Alan replies that it is for safety reasons. Cylinders are never 'full' because there is always a volume of gas sitting on top of the liquid, and it is the gas we want to come out when we open the valve, not the liquid below it.

If the cylinder is not upright there is a risk that liquid, not gas, will emerge. That is extremely dangerous because as the liquid evaporates and turns into gas it expands about 250 times. Imagine opening the valve of a 6kg Propane cylinder fitted with a Calor 766P regulator. Normally gas will pass through the regulator and up the pipe to the burner, but if the cylinder were on its side and liquid instead of gas came down the pipe, it would evaporate when it reached the burner to give 250 times more gas than expected. Lighting that would turn the stove into an industrial flame thrower.

ALLAN ROSS asked the relative advantages and disadvantages of using butane and propane. Alan Curry provides this table:

| Propane | Calorific Value | Butane |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 2500btu | (how much umph per cubic foot) | 3200btu |
| 28mbars | Working pressure | 37mbars |
| 0°C | Boiling Point | -42°C |
| 5ft ³ | Offtake | 10ft ³ |
| | (how much gas per hr from a 4.5 or 3.0kg cylinder) | |

Roughly translated, he says, it means that butane is the more powerful fuel, but that is compensated for by using it at a lower pressure, while propane boils [becomes a gas] at a much lower temperature and is more suitable for winter use. You can get twice as much gas per hour using propane as you will with butane, although you will run out in half the time if you use it at twice the rate.

However he comments that if you are happy with the gas you are using there is no need to change, but he would always recommend propane simply because of its higher off-take rates and better low temperature performance.

Gas tubes and detection

ALAN CURRY'S interesting article in the February issue has a point that may need clarifying.

In the main body it is stated that the rubber gas hose should be changed every year. It would be helpful to know the reason for this. Does LPG cause a chemical degradation of the neoprene? The date of manufacture of the hose is of little use to motorhome owners. Is it stamped on by hose manufacturers for the benefit of installers because it has a limited shelf life when in store?

Later, in the summary, it says that the hose should be changed 'if it is old or shows any signs of deterioration'. Does this conflict with the earlier advice to change it yearly? If not, does 'old' need to be interpreted as meaning more than 12 months since it was fitted?

Finally, if Alan's articles have made members concerned about the risk

of carbon monoxide poisoning, an additional precaution is to install a CO monitor which will give an audible warning before dangerous levels are reached. A letter from me on this subject was published in the May 1999 issue of *ASOC Newsletter*. Because CO is odourless your nose won't warn you of the danger.

Alan Jones

While the tubing technicalities may be of interest to some members, the main message coming from Alan Curry's articles is that the 'rubber' hose needs to be changed every year - whatever date it may have on it. CO monitors are potential lifesavers and we thank Alan Jones for repeating that good advice - Ed.

Notes and Queries

Another contrary Contrans

YET ANOTHER sad story of Continental Contrans tyres. Travelling south on the M6 motorway on 2 January this year, the rear off-side tyre blew out. We had been travelling in the near-side lane at about 60 mph and ended up in the fast lane facing oncoming traffic, after hitting the central barrier.

Our van is a 1996 Peugeot Executive and has done 14,000 miles. Before each journey I check tyre pressures and visually check the tyres' surfaces. I am also very careful about payload. I feel I will now have to change all the van tyres. Is there any directive from the Company on getting compensation from Peugeot or Continental Tyres?

Why are these Continental tyre failures happening? Surely something has to be done about it before a very tragic accident happens.

Mike Goodall

We're pleased Mike and June were not injured in this incident. We passed Mike's letter to Charles Trevelyan the day we received it and know it has been referred on to Peugeot as part of Auto-Sleepers campaign to get some positive action. Unfortunately there is no arrangement for obtaining compensation from either the chassis or the tyre makers, although some members report that as a result of representations made either direct, through Auto-Sleepers or ASOC Newsletter, they have received some assistance from Continental Tyres. - Ed.

Sad Symphony sequel

IN OUR JANUARY ISSUE we mentioned Geoff and Sheila Hunt's problems with their Symphony and in February were able to report remedial action taken following Charles Trevelyan's intervention. Since then Geoff and Sheila have sent a donation for Club funds, saying that 'this better state of affairs is in no small measure due to the Club and the newsletter'. Modesty forbids that we should claim any credit - we would hope that Auto-Sleepers, their suppliers and dealers would put matters right in the interests of good customer relations. But the gesture is very much appreciated.

Side storage for Talisman

AFTER BUYING our Boxer Talisman GX last year and using it last season, we find it badly lacks an outside storage locker for ramps, leads, muddy boots, etc. We have enquired from reps at the York rally and Earl's Court Show, but received little help.

We feel that if Auto-Sleepers could make a side locker it would be a great asset to the vehicle, as the space is there. It would save climbing up to a roof box every time something was needed.

If any member knows of a firm that could fit a box, we'd appreciate a phone call to us at 0170 844 5084.

Dennis and Wendy Clarke

Chafed Boxer brake hoses

IN FRANCE recently, we parked to enjoy a quiet lunch before moving on to Concarneau, but when the time came to set off and I tested the brakes, I felt the pedal sink gently on to the toe-board. Inspection of the road showed a trace of brake fluid beneath the near-side wheel arch.

When I checked the run of the brake hose it seemed that it had been chafed through by rubbing against a vertical flange of the wheel arch. A plastic disc ferrule around the hose had moved out of its protective place, permitting the chafing to occur.

To prevent a heart attack, I found a small jubilee clip in my kit and, with a disc cut from a bottle screw top, carried out a temporary repair which sealed the leak until we could get to a repairer. Fortunately we found a friendly Peugeot garage at Fouesant who ordered the part and fitted it on a Saturday afternoon.

When you inspect your vehicle, put examination of hoses on the list. Luckily we discovered our problem while we were stationary, but the failure could happen anywhere.

John Coates

Flood disaster mark two

IT WAS ONE THING to return from Spain to find our house flooded, the cistern in an upstairs bathroom having fractured while we were away, but quite another to discover the floor of our 'W' registered Pollensa water-soaked as well.

The van's soaking happened three weeks after its last outing over Christmas. But where was the leak? A call to Charles Trevelyan at Willersey immediately solved the mystery.

'Have you,' he inquired, 'an outside storage access door?' Indeed we had - and therein lay the answer. Our dealers, Westcountry Motorhomes, found an apparent alignment fault in the seal which was letting water from the roof duct pour straight down into the underseat storage and across the carpeted floor inside, rendering the vehicle temporarily unusable.

A new Thetford access door was fitted, inverted, so that it now opens upwards, not downwards. Although a little inconvenient because the door has to be supported when accessing the storage, it appears to have solved the problem - apart from the smell of drying-out still persisting.

While on the subject of motorhome woes, our Boxer windscreen has also had to be replaced. A small crack started from beneath the bottom edge rubber seal and crept across the glass along the line of the wiper blade. In addition we have been dogged by a recurring fuel gauge problem since this, our second Pollensa, was bought new last March. The

needle suddenly rose or fell from anywhere from well over half full to empty. You can imagine that we found this particularly disquieting in deepest Spain. Replacing the fuel tank float and a new dashboard instrument cluster failed to solve the problem. We wait to see if additional remedial action following advice from Peugeot Techno has now stabilised the gauge.

While our belief in Auto-Sleeper/Peugeot reliability may have been tested, we still hope to enjoy our Pretty Polly.

Kingsley Squire

Ode to Charles

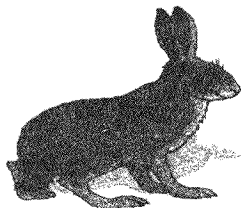
Reading your competition results in the Club magazine
Gave me quite a shock
As many of our entries you had the nerve to mock.
We entered your competition along with many other folk.
Doing so gave us lots of laughs, and many a private joke.
Perhaps our efforts were not that bright,
So carefully written in black and white.
Winning was really not our aim,
Just joining in, just playing the game.
So, please spare a thought, Mr Trevelyan,
If our grammar and spelling jar,
That some of us out here are not as clever,
And educated as like what you lot are.

Evelyn Rigby

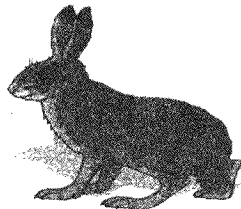
*No offence was intended to entrants,
Who joined in the test for a lark.
But we all enjoy others' misspellings
And guesses that just miss the mark. - Ed.*

Reaching John Cox

MEMBERS WHO MIGHT WANT TO PHONE Founder Vice-President John Cox may like to make a note of his phone number for future reference. He is available on 0126 267 1762.



MARCH 2001 **Rally Supplement**



Both sides of the Rally Slip must be completed before sending to the appropriate rally marshal with the rally fee & site fee,if applicable.

Rally in France 11th.-22nd.June 2001,Camping Les Deux Vallees

Those attending this rally are reminded that the site owner does not accept credit cards and they will require a two pin continental adaptor for electrics on this site.

NEW Rally.7th.-11th.June.Steam & Vintage Event,Belper.

NEW RALLY 6th.-9th.July Prestwood Steam Fair,Bucks.

RALLY CANCELLED.19th.-22nd.July Abbeygate College.

6th.-9th. March.(3 nights) White Water Caravan Club Park,Stockton on Tees.

Site Tel.No. 01642 634 880 (Emergency only)

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers.

Site Fee:£6.00 per unit per night.(inclusive of VAT) Electricity:£2.25(incl.VAT)

(Electricity fees payable to the Warden on arrival).Do not send with site fees.

Rally Fee:£2.35, Singles £1.20.(both incl.VAT)

Hardstandings *at the discretion of the site warden.*

Booking slips to: N.C. & P. Rogers,3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St.John,
Richmond, North Yorks.DL11 7TT.Cheques payable to : N.C.& P.Rogers.

Tel.No. 01325 374 540.

Attractions: Family room available for use of all on site.Beefeater Restaurant just outside site,Teess Barrage,14 screen cinema,bowling alley plus 50,000sq.ft. of retail shops and fast food outlets close by.Stockton market on Wednesday can be reached by bus or walk by river.Bus stop nearby.Hartlepool Historic Quay & Jacksons Landing Factory Shopping Outlet.National Glass Museum at Sunderland,approx 30 miles.

Directions: From South on A1(M).Turn off at Junct. 57 signed Darlington & Teesside.Follow A66 for approx 16 miles.About ¼ mile *past* A1045 junction turn off *left* via slip road at signpost Teesside Park.In 200yds at end of slip road turn *left* at traffic lights,signed Barrage/Teessdale.** In ¼ mile at roundabout continue

over Barrage bridge. Follow caravan site signs onto White Water Way to site. From A19(South). turn off via slip road onto A66(s.p. Middlesbrough, Stockton & Darlington). Turn onto A66(Stockton) and stay in lane, then take **left** slip road signed Teesside Retail Park. Turn **right** at traffic lights signed Teesdale/Barrage. Then as above from **.

20th -22nd April (3 nights) A.G.M. Banham Zoo, Norfolk.

Please return the booking forms before the closing date 7th March.

23rd -26th April (3 nights) Applewood Caravan & Camping Park, Banham Zoo, Norfolk. (A.G.M. follow-on rally).

Site tel. No. 01953 888370.

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Ray Whiley.

Emergency Tel. No. 07899 853988 (Marshals' mobile, 8.00 to 10.00 am & pm).

Site Fee: £3.50 per night. Electric: £1.50 per night. (both inclusive of VAT).

Rally Fee: £1.30 per van plus 50p per adult. (inclusive of VAT).

Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Whiley, 21 Ellcar Rise, Eaton, Norwich,

Norfolk. NR4 6HR. Home Tel. No. 01603 452 593. E-mail: rewhiley@waitrose.com

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

Attractions as for the A.G.M.

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

Please state number of nights on rally slip: early booking would be appreciated.

26th -29th April (3 nights) National Motorhome & Tourer Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough.

Emergency Tel. No. 07714 091 349 (Marshals' 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 the last Newsletter, if possible.

If you use forms from the magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the special Club fees: Arrive Thursday: £25, arrive Friday £23, arrive Saturday £21.

Please note that ALL booking forms **MUST** be returned to the organisers by **30th March** if you wish to rally with the Club. After this date you will be sited with the public.

The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon Monday.

You must also complete a Club rally slip and return it, with the Rally Fee of £1.75 couples, £1.20 singles (both inclusive of VAT) 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.

If you book using the special Club fees then you must rally with the Club.

NO RALLY SLIPS ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 17TH.

No arrivals before 2.00p.m. Thursday.

3rd - 7th May. (4 nights). Burn Gliding Club, Burn Village, Nr. Selby, N. Yorks.

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

Rally Marshal: Alan Guest.

Site Fee: £4.70 per night. (incl. VAT) **No Electricity.** Rally Fee: £2.35 (incl. VAT)
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 junct. 34 take A19 towards Selby, Gliding Club signposted in Burn Village.

10th - 14th May. (4 nights). Little Cotton Caravan Park, Dartmouth, Devon

Additional nights can be arranged with the Site owner Paul White Tel. No. 01803 833 675.

Rally Marshals: Pam & Terry Holtom.

Site Fee: £5.50 per night (incl. VAT). Electricity: £1.90 per night (incl. VAT)

Rally Fee: £2.35, Singles £1.20. (both incl. VAT)

Booking slips & cheques made payable to TERRY HOLTOM; 8 Courtland Road, Torquay, Devon. TQ2 6JR. Tel. No. 01803 612 669.

Attractions: Dartmouth's 4th. Annual Music Festival. Dartmouth is a naval port/harbour and popular holiday resort. Scenic boat trips up the River Dart to Totnes (an interesting old market town) with steam train connections to Buckfastleigh. Many National Trust & English Heritage properties in the area.

PARK & RIDE facilities into Dartmouth adjacent to site. Proposed Sat. evening meal in nearby licensed Football Club premises. Dogs welcome but **MUST BE KEPT ON LEAD AT ALL TIMES.** (Doggy walk part of site facilities). S.A.E. for confirmation & travel instructions. **NUMBERS LIMITED.**

17th.-22nd.May.(5nights).South Meadows C.C. Belford,Northumberland.

Site Tel.No. 01668 213 326.(Mr.Brown).Emergencies only.

Rally Marshals: Laura & John Chisholm.

Site Fee:£ 45.00(incl.VAT)for 5 nights. Electricity paid for by card by useage at site.

Rally Fee:£1.80 (incl.VAT.).Singles £1.20.(incl.VAT).

Booking slips & cheques payable to: Mrs.L.Chisholm,40 Hartburn Road,Marden Estate,North Shields.NE30 3RH. Tel.No. 0191 257 0792.

The site has toilets,showers + displosal points,water etc.It is set in a lovely park.

Attractions:Lindisfarne,Bamburgh,Alnwick & Farne Islands trips possible.Short walks to Bluebell Wood,golf course outside the park.For the adventurous Hadrian's Wall & much more.Pub food available nearby.

Directions:From South.Take the A1 passing Alnwick,pass petrol station on the right.Look out for sign post Bamburgh & Seahouses B1324.Take *left* turn at this cross junction for Belford.At first bend turn *left* sign posted Newlands then first *right* into South Meadows.Send an SAE for a booklet of the site & route.

17th.-21st.May.(4 nights). Severn Gorge C.P.,Nr.Telford,Salop.

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

Rally Marshals:Barbara & Alan Potter.

Site Fee:£6.00 per night. Electricity:£2.00 per night.Both incl.VAT.

Rally Fee:£2.35 (incl.VAT).

Booking slips to Mr. & Mrs.A.Potter," Westbrook",Mill Lane,Monks Risborough, Bucks.HP27 9LG.Cheques payable to:Mrs.B.A.Potter.Tel.No 01844 274 021.

Attractions:Ironbridge Museums(World Heritage Site),Telford,Severn Gorge Railway,Hawkstone Historic Park-follies,antique centre.Games evening 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.

17th.-21st.May.(4 nights) Motor Caravan Jamboree,Detling,Kent.

Emergencies only please.Tel.No.07879 473434 marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals:Dorothy & Baz Wellard. Rally Fee:£2.00.

GREEN FIELD SITE.

Site Fee £25 to be sent, *with application form available from marshals, direct to organisers. Rally slip rally fee (£2.00) and SAE to Mr. & Mrs. Baz Wellard, 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants. PO16 7UF. Tel. No. 01329 231 259.*

Cheque for rally fee (£2.00) payable to Mrs. D. Wellard (DO NOT include site fees) please.

Attractions: The Motor Caravan Jamboree & Leisure Show is reputed to be Europe's greatest indoor and outdoor exhibition of Motorhomes together with a superb entertainment package that is absolutely free. The show is held at the Kent Showground on the North Downs, with easy access to the Garden of England and Channel ports - for a day visit!

Directions: From M2 leave at Junct. 5 and go South on the A249 following signs to showground. From M20 leave at Junct. 7 and go North on the A249 and again follow signs.

Closing date: for rally slips to reach marshals is 11th. April 2001.

25th.-29th. May. (3 nights). Caravan Club National Rally, Burghley Park, Cambs.

This is for information only applications for this rally have already been made and it is too late to book now.

24th.-28th. May. (4 nights). Willow Lodge, Long Lane, Beverley, East Yorks.

Marshals' mobile: 0411 601 457. Emergencies only.

Rally Marshals: Vera & Brian McLean & Pat & Rod Longney.

Site Fee: £3.53 (incl. VAT). *No Electricity.* Rally Fee: £2.00 (incl. VAT).

Cheques & booking slips to: B. McLean, 47 Westlands Road, Sproatley, Nr. Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire. HU11 4XG. Tel. No. 01482 813 791.

Attractions: 1/2 mile from Beverley town centre. Army Transport Museum, East coast resorts.

Directions: From South/West. Turn off A1079 Beverley by pass dual c'way via slip road onto A164 S.P. Beverley. Within 1 1/2 miles at double mini roundabout turn **right** onto B1230 S.P. Hornsea/Bridlington. In about 1/4 mile immediately before Minster turn **right** into Long Lane. Site on **left** in 100yds.

From North/East on A 1035 Bridlington/York on approaching Beverley turn **left** at roundabout into Swinemoor Lane A1174 S.P. Hull. Within 1 1/2 miles turn **right** onto B1230 S.P. Town Centre, Minster. In 3/4 mile immediately past level crossing keep **left** past Minster. In 150 yds turn **left** into Long Lane then as above.

Map. Ref. 107.037386. **GREEN FIELD SITE.**

10th-17th June. Three Counties Show, -Working Rally, Malvern, Worcs.

Emergencies only Tel.No. 07879 473434 marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard. **NO SITE FEES.** Rally Fee:£2.00.GREEN FIELD SITE.

As a result of our close relationship with the Three Counties Management,they have again asked if the ASOC could help them in the running of this year's Champion Dog Show (11th.-14th.) and the County Show (14th.-16th.).Members will be selected for either show (or possibly both) and will be paid,at least, the minimum wage(taxable).For insurance purposes members must be under 75 years of age.Hours are from 0700 to 1900 each day - with breaks.Duties are likely to include:dog show checkers,pay booth attendants and safety stewards.We can have the use of Teme Hall,in the evenings,if required.

Rally slip and cheque to: Mr. & Mrs. Baz Wellard,18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants.PO16 7UF. Tel.No. 01329 231 259. Cheque for rally fee (£2.00) payable to Mrs. D.Wellard.

Closing date: for rally slips to reach marshals is 11th.May 2001.

We depend on volunteers within the Club to act as rally marshals.If you know of a suitable site why not think about running a rally.It is not difficult and help is available.

It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as,unless they are approved by the Club, no rally can be held.

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 at least 3 months before the actual rally.

*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*

Local assistant: Jerry Haxton (01483 223 476) Woking,Surrey.

E & O. E.

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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!

.....

Rally : Date:

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

.....

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

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

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

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

Please complete both sides of the form!

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Rally : Date:

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

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..... 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!

Relax ... again

IT DOES APPEAR that some of us wish to have home-from-home comforts, and with modern motorhomes and campsites that is achievable. But by restricting visits to that type of site so much scenery, peace and quiet, and the chance of doing something for ourselves can be missed.

We started in the dinosaur age with ex-Army kit, bivvy tent, sleeping bags, kettle, frypan and, of course, a Primus (remember them?). Nine months of the year cold and wet - what discomfort, but what fun.

Then as middle age arrived, thoughts of more luxury came. How about a trailer tent? But those thoughts disappeared when a campervan pulled up next to us on some windswept French cliffs. We watched with awe as the occupants applied the handbrake, retired to the *salon*, put the kettle on and sat back to enjoy the view.

Before long we were invited in for the grand tour: A gas hob, sink, a Potti under a comfy bed and standing room under a now-raised roof. That was living - it was, of course, and Auto-Sleeper.

Back home we read the ads and were soon owners of an elderly RV50. What joy - thousands of miles of simple pleasure. A few problems, maybe, but all forgotten when the sun shone. All we needed was water (and someone to carry it), a bottle of gas and a place to empty Potti.

Now we are past pension age and getting a bit soft. RV50 has retired to another good home and we have a new friend: Symphony. What more could we want? All we *need* is water, gas and a place to empty the new loo. As we don't carry a TV, we don't need aerials, mains etc., although a mains hook-up is handy for the fridge when we're in Europe.

We belong to the Caravan Club and use their certificated five-van sites. Most are in rural scenic areas and provide only basic water, drainage and a rubbish bin. So do we really need swimming pools, on-site fast food, clubs, discos etc.? Some of us may have lost the ability to amuse ourselves or live without 'facilities' and commercial entertainment, but don't forget - there is a life without TV, mobile phones and other paraphernalia, so go and look for it. It may not always be convenient, but it can still be fun.

Keith and Daphne Garnsey

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED our copy of February's ASOC Newsletter and read the editorial. And we thought it was just us who were getting fed up with those who expect everything to be perfect all the time and want to have all the mod. cons. of home laid on.

May we suggest we start a new section inside or outside the Club especially for this group of people. It could be called 'The Whingers'. Then the rest of us who appreciate the work put in by marshals could go off and enjoy ourselves.

David and Immacolata Bishop



I JUST WANT to say that I agree 100 per cent with your editorial in February's newsletter. It really amazes me when I hear of people demanding electric hook-ups on CLs and all sorts of other facilities.

On our rallies we are sometimes treated as if we are Package Tour Operators and are directly responsible for the weather - whether it's too hot or too cold - the traffic jam on the way to the rally, etc., etc.

If everyone would relax and be laid back, life would be a lot more enjoyable.

Ian Ross

These contributions tend to support my thoughts. However another member has complained that I wrote an editorial which 'appeared be very uncaring for those of us who are disabled or not in very good health' pointing out needs like wheelchair battery-charging and disabled toilet facilities. Those needs are recognised and well understood, but just how an accusation of being 'uncaring' can be levelled at a piece asking that everyone be more considerate of others defeats me. - Ed.

More confident traveller

IT IS A TRIBUTE to ASOC members that not only did I have several phone calls offering advice about draughts and what gas to use in my Duetto after my inquiry in January's ASOC Newsletter, but that the callers made the extra effort to ring around for my phone number because an incorrect one was published. [*My apologies - Ed.*]

I'll probably take one bottle of CampinGaz and one of propane with me to Portugal, as was suggested to me, using the CampinGaz as my main supply and keeping the propane as back-up when I need a refill.

To combat the cold spots at the sliding and rear doors, I shall be trying one of my own ideas. I've made lined curtain extensions that attach to the existing curtains with Velcro and fit to the bottoms of the doors. When, as I hope, the weather gets warmer they can be removed easily. Purists would probably use matching fabric, but I managed to find a piece of cheerful yellow material in the off-cuts basket at my local Dunelm and the whole job cost only £6.50. I'll let you know if the idea works.

My forthcoming trip to Albufeira is just two weeks away as I write and the butterflies are having a field day in my turn. I have so many lists that another is needed to keep track of them. Fortunately I am journeying with friends who have a caravan, because my travel documents from the Camping and Caravanning Club include warnings of unsavoury characters in Spain who use various ploys to steal from tourists. Thank goodness for my underseat safe.

Thank you once more to the kind souls who offered advice - it made me feel that joining ASOC is like joining an extended family.

Diana Aston

Brake discs - VW fault?

I READ WITH INTEREST of Roger Barrett's experience and need to replace his 'R' registered Trident's brake pads and discs upon reaching 36 months' life and 19,600 miles (February ASOC *Newsletter*). I have had a similar experience with my 'S' registered Trident VW 2.5TD when it went for its 20,000 miles service after having done 19,600 miles. The garage advised me that the brake pads and discs were corroded and useless, and asked for permission to replace them. I might add it nearly doubled the cost of the service.

I also believe that VW have now got it wrong. My last three vans have been VWs and I have not experienced any trouble with brakes, apart from normal adjustment.

Alan Alsop

Clubman condensation worry

WE RECENTLY SPENT four nights in our Clubman at Grange-over-Sands during which we experienced very low temperatures: -8°C most nights. Despite opening the roof vents while cooking, there was quite severe condensation on the lining above the driving cabin.

Has anyone else had this problem and, if so, did they find a solution?

Jim Connachan

Drooping door and Spanish sites

AS NEWCOMERS to motorhoming after 30 years' camping, we have just fitted a Fiamma bike rack to our 'W' registered Trident, but find that the rear door hinges can't support its weight, even before putting the bikes on. Has anyone found a way to overcome this problem, apart from a second person holding the door up when access is needed to the rear? News of ingenious inventions would be appreciated.

In addition, although we are very experienced with French campsites, we will be venturing down to Spain for the first time in April and would appreciate any hints, tips and site suggestions, preferably about smaller, quiet ones. As well as the coast, we hope to visit Andalucia, Madrid and Zaragoza.

Please e-mail or phone us at: AlayneandDerek@tinyworld.co.uk 0120 239 1160.

Alayne and Derek Buckley

What happened to Beeny Boxes?

WE ARE NEW MEMBERS who joined last year after buying a Ravenna at the Peterborough rally. Our first rally was at Malvern, which we enjoyed very much - so much that we are going to Peterborough in April. We have been motorhome addicts for seven years and enjoy the life a great deal.

Can we pick members' brains? On different occasions we have seen

Beeny Boxes - one fitted to a Royale and one to a Ravenna. Each time we were told they came from a company called Beeny Bitz. Unfortunately that company was taken over by another and no-one seems to know who or where they are. Has anyone information, because we would like to have one fitted to our Ravenna?

Ann Bates and Gil McIntosh

Welcome, and happy hunting. Someone is sure to know. It would be useful information for others, too - Ed.

Perils of authorship

MEMBERS MAY HAVE SEEN my article in February's *MMM* describing, amongst other things, the modifications to our Symphony 'Yorkshire Belle'.

Included in the original was a paragraph about our Club but the editor's scissors cut it out. I think it fair to inform everyone of that omission because I did have the Club firmly in mind when I wrote the piece.

As a result of the article's publication I had to laugh because I've given myself a lot more work. Numerous people rang me up to enquire how I did this, that and the other, and a very nice lady wrote to say she would love to incorporate some of the ideas in her Symphony, but her brother-in-law insisted I supplied all the dimensions - which I did.

Tom Nunn

It seems you have a future as a fee-charging consultant, Tom - Ed.

Draining and drying

A YEAR OR TWO AGO a correspondent took Auto-Sleepers to task for placing their draining boards on the far side of the sink by the back door of vans such as the Symphony. This prevented a second person doing the drying up. We never got around to answering but 'Wizard Wheezes' in February's *ASOC Newsletter* has prompted us to do it now.

Our answer has been to use a plastic tray which resides in a carrier bag in the space alongside the large table behind the longitudinal seat.

Placed above the cooker at appropriate times, it first takes dirty crockery. After the second lot has gone into the sink, the washed items are transferred to the tray which is transferred to the dining table, where Eileen does the drying-up. After preliminary draining, other items are transferred to the tray by the washer-up.

Stuart and Eileen Coverley

Foam filling flattery

OVER THE WINTER I decided to renew the foam on the seats of my Duetto.

Through Auto-Sleepers at Willersey I was put into touch with Sean Eldridge of Fibratrim, the firm that makes the seats for the Duetto. I would like to take this opportunity to praise him for his advice, and for the way he dealt with my questions and the problems arising when carrying out the job.

If you propose tackling similar work, I would unhesitatingly recommend Sean Eldridge of Fibratrim Ltd, Mount Road, Burntwood, Staffs WS7 0AJ (0154 367 1433).

Alistair Monaghan

Wizard wheezes

Handbrake off: When I'm not using my van for any length of time, I leave it in gear and put wedges under the wheels. The handbrake is left off so that the brake shoes do not seize against the drums. If the shoes do seize it can be a problem getting the drum off to release them.

- Brian Green

Not recommended if your parking area is not truly level - Ed.

Loo rolls: Change house loo rolls before they are empty and put them in the van. Slim rolls fit easily into pockets for trips to toilet blocks and it isn't a disaster if they get wet (for whatever reason) - there'll be another in the van.

- Babs Surridge

Gourmet dining: Line up small containers that will fit into the fridge freezer compartment without wasting space. Fill with dinner party

leftovers to provide gourmet meals on weekends away. Dedicate a set place in the home freezer for these or the small containers will never surface again when needed.

- *Babs Surridge*

Does that include our gourmet delight, tripe and onions, Babs? - Ed

Unhealthy attachments

MEMBERS USING E-MAIL will know that complications can occur when attachments are down-loaded - partly because that is a popular method of spreading viruses and other computer diseases which can corrupt hard disks and lead to very expensive repair bills. It is for that reason your Editor asks that all e-mails to him be sent 'plain' and does not down-load any attachments, however interesting or urgent they may be.

Unfortunately it was reported at the last meeting that another Committee member had suffered a computer crash through down-loading an attachment. The problem took a considerable time to rectify and was costly.

If you are e-mailing any Committee member on the .net, please do not include attachments because they will not in future be down-loaded.

Obituary

Mike Ward. It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of my dear husband, Mike, on 1 December 2000.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all ASOC members for the many rallies we have enjoyed and all the friends we have made over the past seven years.

Unfortunately I will have to sell our Executive, but I wish the Club every success in the future and hope to keep in touch through ASOC *Newsletter*.

Margaret Ward

We are sorry to learn of Mike's death and extend our sympathy to Margaret. Their van is advertised for sale in this issue - Ed.



SENSOR UNIT, CONTROL PANEL GAUGE. Labcraft fresh water tank and control panel gauge for pre-1990 Legend or similar. Phone Mark Hart 0142 332 4565 (North Yorks.)*

HARMONY 2-LITRE PETROL 4-BERTH, 'K' reg., 1993, 44,000 miles. Fridge, warm air heating, shower, cassette toilet, 3-bike rack, J bars, Omnistor awning, safari room, drive-away awning. Excellent condition; well looked after: **£14,995.** Phone Nick and Elaine Moody 0173 246 2040 (Sevenoaks).

SYMPHONY 2-LITRE PETROL, 'R' reg., April 1998, 9,000 miles. Fiamma awning, cycle rack, Strike Back alarm/immobiliser, Silver Screens. Factory-fitted uprated wheels to increase MGW. **£21,000.** Non-smokers. Phone or e-mail Stuart Beese 0174 967 0326 (Somerset), stuart@jbeese.freemove.co.uk *

TALISMAN PETROL, 1987, 40,000 miles. One owner, many extras and updates: Side awning, cassette loo, step, Liberty curtains, etc. Well cared for. **£8,000** ono. Phone Michael Boreham 0133 255 0743 (Derby).

LEGEND 2.5T DIESEL, 'V' reg., January 2000, 5,000 miles. Usual quality fittings throughout. Extras incl. Thatcham-approved alarm and immobiliser, overcab bed, reversible roof fan, Omnistor bike rack, Fiamma awning. Immaculate condition; non-smokers. **£31,500.** Phone David Wybron 0165 686 2188 (Glamorgan).

BIKE RACK. Fiamma bike rack for Volkswagen T4, suitable for 2-4 bikes. Very good condition. **£80** ovno. Phone Jean and Alan Schofield 0161 292 2658 or 0798 095 9925 (Cheshire).*

FLAIR 2-LITRE PETROL SWB. 'H' reg., 1990. Non-smokers, no pets or children. Used (almost) daily for the past six years, hence 93,000 miles. **£8,750.** Phone Mike or Babs Surridge 0114 070 2930 (SW Suffolk).*

TALISMAN GL 2-LITRE PETROL, 'J' reg., October 1991, under 16,000 miles. Excellent condition. Reluctant decision to sell due to ill health. **£13,000.** Phone Walter Hiles 0208 517 8890 (Essex).*

EXECUTIVE 2-LITRE PETROL, 'N' reg., 1995, 14,000 miles. Usual A-S fittings, excellent condition. Taxed, full MoT. One owner, non-smokers; no pets. Genuine reason for sale. **£20,000.** Phone Margaret Ward 0178 881 4884 (Warwicks).*

VW T4 CLUBMAN ITEMS: Hope Safe-T-Bar with towing facility. Cost £450 new: **£260.** Silver Screen, external: **£55.** Silver Sun Screen: **£50.** All as new. Phone Charles Bowen 0168 641 3348 (Powys).*

VW TRIDENT T4 2-LITRE PETROL, 'K' reg., August 1992, 31,000 miles. Alloy wheels, Hope Safe-T-Bar, Kenwood CD system, blown air heating, mudflaps, car bra. Summer use only. One owner, non-smoker, no pets. Comprehensive

service history. Absolutely as new and immaculate. Garaged from new. One of the best Tridents available: **£13,995**. Phone or e-mail Kelvin Chambers 0172 232 7594 (Wilts.) kelvin@chambers56.freemove.co.uk *

SAFARI ROOM 1 x 3 metres in excellent condition. Used only six times before changing to new van which it doesn't fit. **£200** ono. Phone Ann Bates and Gil. McIntosh 0149 481 4636 (Bucks.).*

DAHON FOLDING BICYCLES. Two black Dahon folding bicycles, with carrying cases, in good condition. One with a blue bell, the other pink. **£125** each or **£250** the two. Phone, write or e-mail Peter Bishop, Old Post House, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex CO7 6TB (0120 629 8841) pee.bee@btinternet.com

VT T4 CLUBMAN 2.4 DIESEL 4-BERTH. 'M' reg., May 1995, 46,000 miles; one owner, taxed to April, MoT to May. Lux. furn. and fittings to A-S spec. Extras incl. Strikeback alarm by Vanbitz, with loop for double bike rack, Fiamma awning, TV aerial and interior socket, heater (frost) element in fresh water tank, outside light by rear door, pull-out step. Serviced 6-monthly by VW agent; 4 new tyres and new main battery Oct/Nov. 1999; new full exhaust March 2000. Well maintained. Kept under cover. **£19,995**. Contact Bill and Elizabeth Grimsley, 24 Paul Drive, Humberstone Lane, Leicester LE4 9FY (0116 269 2220)

PEUGEOT 50cc SPEEDFIGHT SCOOTER. 'P' reg., April 1997. Silver/black. Tax, MoT March/April. Anti-theft device built in; electronic anti-start device. Top box, plate and carrier. Hardly used. Genuine mileage 1,545 km. **£825** ovno. Contact Bill and Elizabeth Grimsley, 24 Paul Drive, Humberstone Lane, Leicester LE4 9FY (0116 269 2220)

TALBOT EXPRESS EXECUTIVE 2.5 DIESEL TB Turbo intercooled. 'L' reg., Sept. 1993. 17,500 miles. PAS, Air-ride suspension, alarm/ immobiliser, blown air heating, Status tv aerial/booster, Omnistor 5000 awning, Omnibike Plus 2 bike rack. Other extras. Non-smokers. Vgc; garage serviced. **£18,000**. Phone Mike Bull 0797 497 2225 (Herefordshire)*.

LEGEND 2.5 DIESEL 2+2 BERTH, 'S' reg., Aug. 1998, 4,500 miles. Garaged until Aug. 2000. Extras incl. Fiamma awning, sides and front; 3-speed fan, TV aerial, full certified alarm system/immobiliser. Fiamma 3-bike rack. Near new condition. **£29,000** ono. Phone Tony Lewis 0771 318 0971 (Bucks.).*

SYMBOL 1.9 TD 2+2 BERTH, 'W' reg., March 2000, 800 miles. Virtually brand new; still under warranty. Extras incl. burglar alarm, tow bar and 6 x 4 trailer with cover, awning, 12 x 10 ground sheets, 1 green breather; 2-bike rack, waste and fresh water carriers with transfer water pump. Moving house - no time to use it. All for **£26,000**. Phone or write Den or Teena Dray (0127 341 7232) 9 Millcross Rd, Portslade, Brighton, E. Sussex BN41 2BG.

*Note: Advertisements followed by a * mean the advertiser has made a contribution to Club funds. To each we say, 'Thanks for the donation' - Ed.*

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