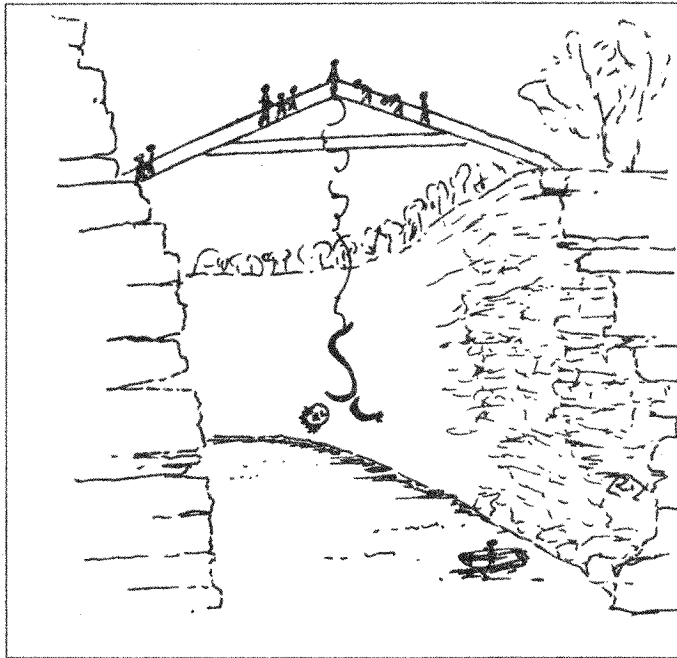




AUTO-SLEEPER  
OWNERS' CLUB

# Newsletter



No. 152

May 2001

## **Professionals wanted**



'Chairman's Chat' ... or is it? I am writing this chat at the beginning of April, to meet the Editor's copy deadline of the tenth of the month. However, by the time you read it the Annual General Meeting should have taken place. At the AGM the Committee for the coming year is elected, and at the Committee meeting that afternoon its members are appointed to the various rôles until the next AGM.

Each office is held for one year and, although it is usual for any member remaining on the Committee to hold the same office for the following year, that is not a right. In fact each continuing member or candidate for election is given the opportunity to express a preference for a particular rôle, or to say what skills s/he would be able to offer to the management of the Club. Some officers stay in post for a number of years, which contributes to the stability of the Club. Only the Chairman is limited to a maximum period of office - three years. This was decided by the Committee and is written into its rules of procedure.

In addition to the main Committee, the Club has a number of sub-committees. Two of these are responsible for arranging the AGM rally and the Club and Company rally. From time to time other sub-committees are needed for specific purposes.

Although, as I mentioned in my Annual Report, the Club's insurances have recently been revised to reflect our growth and activities, the Committee understands that at present if any debt is incurred by the Club which cannot be met from its assets or insurances, then every member would be liable to pay an equal share of the deficit. If this happened to be a major damages award, the sum might be considerable. We believe that one way of protecting members might be for the Club to become a Company Limited by Guarantee, when each member's liability would be limited to an agreed sum, which might be as little as one pound (£1). However, we need informed help on this before deciding whether to take expert advice from a solicitor.

Members of the Club who have an appropriate background and specialist knowledge of Company Law are invited to volunteer to serve on a sub-committee of no more than six to consider the benefits and

implications of the Club's becoming a limited company, and to report (in layman's language!) to the Club Committee for consideration and report to all Club members. If you have this kind of background and would be willing to share your expertise by meeting with a small number of similar members, please contact the Secretary. It is vitally important to look into this question as soon as possible, with a view to putting proposals (if appropriate) to next year's Annual General Meeting. Any decision at that meeting could be made only with the agreement of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

*Ray Whiley*

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*From the Editor*

### **Protecting ourselves**

SOME MEMBERS ATTENDING THE AGM or reading the last part of Ray Whiley's 'Chairman's Chat', may have been surprised by the suggestion that the time has come for the Club to consider altering its status. Many members will no doubt think that if the advice received from the sub-committee of professionals now being set up to look at the situation is that, instead of staying as we are (an association), we should become a Company Limited by Guarantee or something sounding equally complicated, a lot of the fun will go out of our motorhoming. They will fear that instead of being a carefree collection of campers we may become a company of corporate killjoys, and it will all get too serious. That's something none of us wants.

Like having to be registered for VAT, needing to have people who know about these things look at the our legal set-up shows how successful the Club is. Since its start eleven years ago it has gone on to become one of the largest and most popular in the pastime. But size brings possible difficulties. It's better that they should be considered before problems arise. Early signs are that if the new Committee does recommend changes to the 2002 AGM (which is by no means sure), the alterations will help protect members' purses but make little or no difference to rallying and other Club activities. That's something we all want.



We look forward to the reduction of reported Foot and Mouth outbreaks and a gradual return to near-normality in the countryside. Visits we

made to the Lake District and northern Dales before Easter showed us areas eager to welcome visitors, including caravanners, and doing their best to overcome adverse publicity. Reports from other badly-hit areas like Devon and Southwest Scotland confirm that in those parts of the country, too, the towns, tarmac, attractions and scenery are 'open'. If there is a bright spot at present amidst the general gloom FMD has cast over the whole country's farming and tourist industries, it is that for those of us with motorhomes it has never been easier to find sites with capacity to spare in places we might at other times avoid travelling to because of their reputations for being congested.

*Ian Day*

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*From the Chairman, Club and Company Sub-Committee*

### **Club and Company 2001 Ruby rally - 13 to 15 July**

INCLUDED WITH THIS MONTH'S ASOC *Newsletter* you will find an application form for the Club and Company rally at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern. This is a special year as it marks the Company's 40th year in production and will be the tenth Club and Company rally. A special weekend is being planned, full details of which will be in the July newsletter.

The rally relies on volunteers to give up an hour or so of their time over the weekend to help in some way to make it run smoothly. Would you please, therefore, consider if you can help with one of the activities listed on the volunteer sheet (page three) and return it with your application form? It is much better to have too many volunteers than not enough.

There were seven nominations for the charity to be supported this year and the Committee had difficulty in making a selection because all were for worthwhile causes. However a choice had to be made and the Urostomy Association, nominated by Roy Coleman, was the one selected. Details of the good work done for both children and adults by this Association will be available at the rally.

Please sent your completed rally application and volunteer forms in as soon as possible. The closing date is 29 June, after which applications cannot be accepted.

*Baz Wellard*

## **Cake competition at Club and Company rally**

THERE WILL BE A CAKE COMPETITION this year at the Club and Company rally in July. We hope as many members as possible will join in - men as well as women. There is no charge to enter but prizes of £30, £20 and £10 will be on offer.

The only conditions of entry are that all cakes entered are to be made to the recipe supplied and donated to the cake stall after judging, where they will be sold as part of the fund-raising for the Urostomy Association, this year's chosen charity. You don't have to be an expert to join in. The recipe is for an easy-to-make and inexpensive light fruit cake.

For details and the recipe, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mrs Stella Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Uppminster, Essex RM14 1DL.

This is the first time a competition like this has been organised. There is no limit to the number of cakes you can enter. Help us make it a success and inundate us with lots of lovely cakes to sell. You can have a bit of fun and help the charity at the same time.

***Stella Ross***

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## **Photographic competition**

BEFORE WE KNOW IT, the Club and Company rally will be upon us again, with that memorable event, the photographic competition. We had a wonderful response last year which was appreciated and enjoyed by all those who attended, so please, *please*, send in your entries again this year. The only stipulation is that there is an Auto-Sleeper vehicle in the picture.

Once again there will be three main prizes of £30, £20 and £10. There may also be a prize for the most amusing photograph, but that will depend on what and how many photos are entered.

Entries should be sent to Pam Davies, 4 Southbrook Road, Havant, Hants. PO9 1RN to arrive no later than 30 June.

***Pam Davies***

## Homing in on cyber sites

WHAT A TERRIBLE THING the Foot and Mouth epidemic is. Our thoughts must be with the farmers, their animals and all those whose livelihood directly or indirectly is at stake.

No-one quite knows how it will affect the motorhome industry, but we can still use and enjoy our vehicles - even if not all of the campsites are open. Daily reports from the Caravan Club and the Camping and Caravan Club suggest that more and more of the sites are becoming operational, so it may be just a case of trying a new venue if your favourite one is closed. At the time of writing, the Caravan Club tell me that 95 per cent of their sites should be open by Easter.

Despite the Foot and Mouth epidemic, the ups and downs of the Stock Market and the snow in March, our industry continues to show growth. Now, with the dealer shows under way and Peterborough at the end of April, not forgetting the Club's AGM, the season is really upon us.

For the Company's part, and with the Birmingham Boat and Caravan Show now out of the way, the next major event for us is the Club and Company rally in July where, as always, we shall enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones. This year's rally promises to be most exciting as the Company is celebrating 40 years of exclusively manufacturing motorhomes.

Those of you who do not get away or otherwise have time to spend on the computer in the evening - why not visit our website at [www.autosleepers.co.uk](http://www.autosleepers.co.uk) and, hopefully, learn a bit more about our Company?

If you are really computer inclined, do also visit the motorhome industry web site at [www.motorhomeinfo.co.uk](http://www.motorhomeinfo.co.uk). The Motorhome Information Service are responsible for both this website and for promoting motorhomes in the United Kingdom. On behalf of our industry they run a national advertising campaign, take stands at both the Birmingham and London Motor Shows, and operate a press demonstration fleet of eight vehicles. In addition, they do a lot of other work on behalf of the motorhome industry and through the Motorhome Forum, of which they are also members, work hard to protect the interests of the motor

caravanner.

Enough said. Let's hope for good weather and enjoyable motor-caravanning.

***Anthony Trevelyan***

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## **A-S's Vivanti rental launch**

AUTO-SLEEPERS are now organised to launch the rental division they announced soon after the new Group was formed.

Using a newly-formed company trading under the name Vivanti, the scheme starts in May. Operations Director David Putt joined the Group on 2 April and has been busy making himself known to the trade and dealers. The building-up of the new venture will lead to its having more than 100 motorhomes available for rental by holidaymakers and corporate users by mid-2002. To get the name known, Vivanti will be on display around the sites and shows this summer.

As part of an operation intended to make a complete and attractive holiday package available to rental customers looking for the freedom holiday packages can bring, and to add value, Vivanti plan to develop and set up links with companies like Eurotunnel, the Channel ferries and major event and entertainment organisations, to provide special offers to Vivanti hirers.

ASOC members will be pleased to know that Vivanti will be offering them the benefits of any future holiday links the new company makes. In addition, Club members will get the opportunity to hire motorhomes at privileged rates, making it possible to extend motorhome holidaying to other family members, friends and colleagues.

We understand that although the initial start-up fleet will include vehicles not made by Auto-Sleepers, it is intended that the fleet is to become exclusively Auto-Sleeper-based as more Polensas and Palermos come from the factory. In addition, next year will see a new model built specifically for the hire fleet being produced at Willersey.

Vivanti will be on show at the Earls Court Exhibition at the end of November this year and will welcome visitors to look around the vehicles

and see what they have on offer.

An enthusiastic David Putt will be pleased to answer questions or receive comments on motorhome rentals from anyone writing to him at Willersey or through the website [www.vivanti.co.uk](http://www.vivanti.co.uk) which is shortly to be set up. In addition, Vivanti has a rental hotline (0700 007 4473) where, by speaking to Lisa, questions can also be answered and arrangements made for hiring.

*Members will wish Vivanti well, at the same time welcoming the possibility of travel and holiday concessions. The company will also be a way for families and friends to 'dip their toes in the water'. But does it mean I will lose my excuse for not taking mother-in-law along? - Ed.*

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### **Basin space storage**

TERRY HAMMOND'S musings in April's ASOC Newsletter about using the space below the tip-up basin in the toilet compartment of our panel vans were passed to me for comment.

We have recently increased the size of the tip-up basin and the associated pipework, which has reduced the available space to a minimum - to such an extent on new vehicles that I don't think it is now of a practical size. On older models, we have no problem with people using the space, as long as the water and waste pipes are protected.

**Stephen D. Small, Design Manager**

*Thanks, Stephen for shedding light on this dark space. It seems it's decision time, Terry. - Ed.*

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### **Notes and Queries**

#### **Are showers a washout?**

I'D BE VERY INTERESTED to know the number of people who feel that they get value out of their shower units. We are owners of a Duetto and have yet to find anyone who uses their shower regularly. The usual answer is 'We only use it in emergencies'.

Is this the reply other Auto-Sleeper owners have come across? How

many people do use their showers regularly? How many people would rather have a lot of extra storage space instead of a shower that is used perhaps twice a year? The double-hinged opening door of the loo, fastened across the van [in Duetto's] creates a perfectly adequate private area for 'strip' washes.

Could the shower unit be optional? Keep the loo, but have extra storage space if that suits our requirements.

**Clinton Grant**

*No doubt your views will flood in on this one - Ed.*

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### **Rambler rear step upgrade**

THE REAR STEP FIXING on the Rambler/Talbot Express relies on two vertical sections of angle iron secured to the van body below the rear doors. The fixing technique is not very robust and hard use is likely to cause the step to start moving, taking the bodywork with it.

The step assembly can be considerably strengthened by the addition of a single length of pipe and requires no modification of the base vehicle. The whole job can be accomplished in about ten minutes.

The technique is to get, from a local plumber or agricultural merchant, a four foot length of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch galvanised iron water pipe, threaded at both ends and fitted with screw-on blanking caps. With one blanking cap removed, the pipe can be slid into place so that it passes through the two large chassis eyelets hanging down on either side at the rear of the vehicle. In this position, it will be found that the new pipe section will just come up against, and indeed give considerable support to, the two pieces of angle iron carrying the rear step. To finish, replace the blanking cap on the pipe and ensure that both blanking caps are secure.

**Peter Snook**

*As we always do with suggested modifications, we ran this one past Auto-Sleepers. Our President Charles Trevelyan tells us that Homologation Engineer, Denzil Brunning, sees no problems. with it - Ed.*

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Retirement means twice the husband and half the money - Anon.

## Bedded bliss?

I SYMPATHISE WITH Suzanne Botto's problem regarding the firmness of the bed in her van. I found the bed in our previous van, a VW Trooper, too hard.

When rallying, I sought the advice of other A-S owners and as a result we bought two single self-inflating mattresses to place on the bed. We found that they made the bed softer. When not in use they can be rolled up so as not to take up too much room.

**Elizabeth Morgan**



WE HAD THE 'BACKACHE IN BED' problem with our Topaz, but solved it quite easily by buying two camping mattresses, the eggbox foam type. They weigh next-to-nothing and roll up very small - we keep them in stuff-bags. They give us very comfortable beds. We hope this suggestion will be of help to Suzanne Botto.

**Peter and Mary Loweth**



REFERRING TO 'BACKACHE IN BED' in April's ASOC Newsletter, my wife has the same sort of trouble with her hips.

Suzanne Botto should measure the area of the bed in her VW Hi-Top and write or telephone Foam For Comfort (or FFC, as they are called) who can supply made-to-measure foam overlays. It seems that since the fire prevention process for foam was introduced, upholstery mattresses have become increasingly uncomfortable.

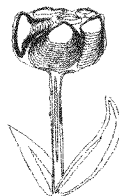
Foam For Comfort's address and phone number are: Unit 2, Wyther Lane Industrial Estate, Wyther Lane, Kirkstall, Leeds LS 3BT (0845 345 8100). They also advertise in the *Caravan Club Magazine* and *The Dalesman*.

**Bob Kayley**

*Makers can't win with mattresses - what's right for one user won't suit another. These suggestions could point to solutions for others looking for answers to a predicament - Ed.*



## MAY 2001 Rally Supplement



***Because of the Foot & Mouth outbreak please check with the relevant marshals, who will be following Maff guidelines, as to whether a rally is taking place. If you are attending a rally and the site becomes an infected area then you may find that your van may be placed in quarantine for a period of time. The following rallies have been cancelled because of the outbreak of Foot & Mouth.***

**17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. May Motor Caravan Jamboree, Detling, Kent.**

**8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>. July. Prestwood Steam Fair, Great Missenden, Bucks.**

**N.B. following Maff guidelines if your motorhome has been stored on a farm then you will not be able to retrieve or use the van until further notice.**

**Note the changes to the Three Counties Show Rally. 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June. The Three Counties Show has been postponed until 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> August. A marshal is now required for this rally. Volunteers?? The Dog Show will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

**NEW RALLY. 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August. Devils Bridge, Aberystwyth, Wales**

**NEW RALLY 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. September. Penybont C.P., Bala, Wales.**

**New Year Rally. Hidden Valley, North Devon. Further details will appear next month.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**RALLY NOW FULL**

**17<sup>th</sup>.-22<sup>nd</sup> 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 + disposal 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.

**17<sup>th</sup>.-21<sup>st</sup> 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.**

**25<sup>th</sup>.-29<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May. (4 nights). Willow Lodge, Long Lane, Beverley, East Yorks.**

Marshals' mobile: 0411 601 457. Emergencies only.

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

Site Fee: £3.53 (incl. VAT) per night. *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:** ½ 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 ½ miles at double mini roundabout turn **right** onto B1230 S.P. Hornsea/Bridlington. In about ¼ 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 ½ miles turn **right** onto B1230 S.P. Town Centre, Minster. In ¼ 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.**

**1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>. (3 nights). Lower Greenhill Farm, Salterforth., Barnoldswick, Lancs.**

Emergency Telephone. No. 07881798045 (Marshals' mobile).

Rally marshals: Ivy & Ken Farley.

Site fee: £3.53 per night. includes VAT. *No Electricity*. Rally Fee: £1.75 Couple, £1.15 Singles. Both include VAT.

Cheques made payable to Mrs. I.M. Farley. Send booking slips to Mr. & Mrs. K.D. Farley, 45 Kelsall Avenue, Blackburn, Lancs. BB1 5RU. Tel. No. 01254 721459

**Attractions:** Skipton & Clitheroe Castles, bus service into Skipton. Various Mill shops in the area. Two hostellers not far away.

**Directions:** From Colne, take the A56 S.P. Skipton & Barnoldswick. At Kelbrook roundabout turn **left** into Kelbrook, site on **left** in ½ mile.

**6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June. (5 nights). King' Lynn C. & C. P. North Runcton, Norfolk.**

Site Tel. 01553 840 004. (Emergencies only). Marshals' mobile 07899 853 988 (8.00 - 10.00 am & pm). (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Ray Whiley.

Site Fee: £4.70 per unit per night. Plus rally fee £2.35 (2 persons), £1.75 (singles).

There will be an additional rally fee of 60p for any adult in excess of two. All prices include VAT.

Level rally field adjacent to C.S.; a few electric hookups available at £2.35 per night (incl. VAT)., allocated in booking order, please pay for hookup on arrival.

Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. R. Whiley 21 Elcar Rise, Eaton, Norwich, NR4 6HR.

Tel. No. 01603 452 593. Cheques payable to: R.E. & B. Whiley. Please include SAF with rally slip for update on Foot & Mouth situation and confirmation of hookup (if required).

**Attractions:** 3 miles from historic Hanseatic port of King's Lynn :Museums, Caithness Crystal, Close to Sandringham (House & Visitor Centre), NW Norfolk Coast (Hunstanton, Norfolk Lavender, Holkham Hall, Snettisham Park Farm), African Violet Centre, Butterfly & Falconry Park, etc. Bus service to King's Lynn and Swaffham (large market Saturday, also Ecotech centre).

**Directions:** From the A17/A149/A47/A10 junction (large roundabout with traffic lights) take the A47 towards Norwich. In about 1 mile take first turning on **right** (NEW Road), site entrance is through CS almost immediately on **left**.

This is a **GREEN FIELD SITE** and the small toilet block is for use of the visitors to the CS. To comply with the terms of our Exemption Certificate **NO ONE** will be admitted to the rally field before 12 noon on Wednesday 6th June and **ALL MUST LEAVE** by 12 noon Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

**7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June. (4 nights). "Steam & Vintage Event", Belper, Derbyshire.**

Emergency Tel. No. 07939 288586 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Jeanne & Mike Hall.

Site Fee: £17.63 (incl. VAT) for whole period. Includes unlimited access to event & entertainment. **NO Electricity. GREEN FIELD SITE**

Rally Fee: £1.20 per **PERSON** (incl. VAT). **NO DOGS PLEASE**

Booking slips and cheques to: Mike & Jeanne Hall, 45 Nottingham Road,

Belper, Derbyshire. DE56 1JG. Tel. No. 01773 824 565. Cheques payable : M. T. Hall.

**Attractions:** Unlimited access on Saturday & Sunday to Steam & Vintage Event during the day and, in the evening, to the beer tent with live 50s/60s music.

Other attractions: Belper town centre 500yds; Derwent Valley Visitor Centre ½ mile; Peak National Park 10 miles; National Tramway Museum 6 miles;

Arkwright's Cromford Mill 8 miles; Denby Pottery 5 miles; De Bradelli Mill Outlet Centre 300yds. ***You may arrive after 2.00 pm. Thursday.***

**Directions:** Belper is on A6 between Derby & Matlock s.p. from the A38. The Site is off the A6 200yds on Derby side of Belper's only roundabout through gate signed Belper RUFC. (adjacent to Babington Hospital). **LIMIT of 30 VANS.**

**Please notice the changes of date etc.**

**11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> June. (4 nights). Dog 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 (11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>). Members will be selected for the show 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 Terme 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 11<sup>th</sup> May 2001.

### Rally in France 11<sup>th</sup> - 23rd 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.

### 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July (2 nights) Stourhead Estate, National Trust, Stourton Warminster, Wilts.

Marshals' mobile: 07951 314 835. (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals: Hazel & Eric Wilton.

Site Fee: £5.50 per night. Rally Fee: £1.20 per person. Both inclusive of VAT.

One electric point for emergencies only.

Booking slips & cheques payable to Mrs. H. Wilton, 17 Rock Road, Keynsham, Bristol. BS31 1BP. Tel. No. 0117 986 0942.

There is nowhere locally for provisions to be purchased so come prepared.

**Attractions:** Site is one very well known National Trust estate. Toilet 30 yds. Special concessions available for visits to beautiful gardens & interesting house. We have hired a hall and organised for previously ordered food (e.g. Fish & Chips) to be delivered on the Saturday evening. Please indicate on slip if interested.

**Directions:** Stourhead is in the village of Stourton off the B3092 3 miles N.W. of Mere off A303. It is 8 miles S. of Frome (A361). LIMIT 25 Vars.

### 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July (2 nights) CLUB & COMPANY

### RALLY, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcs.

Application forms for this rally are in this Newsletter. Please return before the closing date.

**26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July (3 nights). Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffs.**

Rally Marshals: Tricia & Ted Pratt ( 01283 538818) assisted by Barbara & John Cox ( 01262 671 762).

Site Fee: £4.00 per night. No Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.35. Both inclusive of VAT. Booking slips & cheques payable to Mrs. P.M. Pratt, 3 Grafton Road, Stapenhill, Burton upon Trent, Staffs. DE15 9DN. Tel. No. above.

You may arrive on Thursday p.m.. This is virtually a GREEN FIELD site although toilets & disabled toilets are available in Beacon Park.

**Get together.** On Saturday evening includes Jacket Potato meal, dessert & drink. £4.00 per head, pay with booking slip.

**Attractions:** Park is adjacent to Lichfield City Centre & Cathedral. Park attractions include small golf course, pitch & putt, tennis & bowls.

**Directions:** Beacon Park is situated in Lichfield just off the A51 Tamworth to Rugeley Road. Go round the island with the Bowling Green Pub in the middle, take the A51 Rugeley/Stafford Road, turn immediately **right** down Walsall Road then **left** into Lower Sandford Street, follow signs for Car Park . Beacon Park is through car park keeping to **right**.

*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.

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: .....

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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!**

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Move further to the right**

**Another world exclusive for *ASOC Newsletter***

FOLLOWING OUR EXCLUSIVE 'Move to the right' report in the April issue, the following supplementary edict has been leaked to *ASOC Newsletter* because the *Sun's* office is temporarily obscured by Cloud Nine.

'EU/BRUX/ 7/06/01 W.e.f. 7.6.2010 - Virtually all motorhomes will be banned from UK roads.'

The directive will have the effect of removing most motorhomes and motor caravans from roads in the UK, with none to be owned or driven by British passport holders. To aid Continental tourism, large quantities of left-hand drive, high quality, Continental-made motorhomes will be available for hire at all mainland European ferry ports. The charges (which it will be necessary to pay in Euros) will be related to the high value of the Pound Sterling as against the Euro, which is also expected to be at an all-time high.

Free hire will be available to all MEPs and to all British MPs, who will be offered only top-quality vans, such as Auto-Sleepers. Similar terms are being considered for top-grade civil servants and local authority officials, who have been so helpful in up-grading and implementing EU requirements in Britain.

There will be a compulsory ten-minute period of instruction in left-hand driving technique for all drivers, at a cost of the Euro equivalent of £50.

Consequent upon the introduction of left-hand driving in the UK, all road signs, lamp-posts, etc. on the left side of roads are to be taken down and refixed on the other side of the road. Compliance with these rules will be surveyed and enforced by an official fleet of Jaguar vehicles travelling in North/South and East/West directions. All pedestrian crossings will be affected, as will Public Houses. Traffic lights will be dealt with separately.

Upon putative (from the Latin, *putare*, I think) completion of these alterations they will be carefully checked for accuracy by the official vehicles, this time driven in South/North and West/East directions. At the discretion of the Home Secretary, the inspection vehicles may be driven at speeds of up to 93 mph, or higher.

Owing to troubles in Formula One motor racing and the distinct possibility of substantial monetary rewards being made available to the 'right' people, consideration is being given to changing UK traffic lights to Formula One start-type with a view to shunting motorhomes off the road at the first bend. It is understood that a World Champion driver has volunteered to demonstrate the best method. At this stage it is not proposed to re-introduce Le Mans-type starts for queues boarding ferries.

**Michael Mawer**

*If ASOC Newsletter does not appear next month it will be because the contributors of this and the item published last month, together with the editor, are being interrogated as to their sources in a dungeon at the Intelligence Service headquarters on Millbank - Ed.*

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### **Ravenna survey**

RAVENNA OWNERS are being sought to take part in a survey organised by *MMM*, the motorhome magazine.

*MMM* now has a Ford Transit-based Ravenna on long-term test and plans to publish a series of articles on the model, beginning in the summer.

Owners who take part in the survey will be asked to complete a short questionnaire later in the year as an exercise to see how owners' and testers' opinions compare. Anyone with a Ravenna, or who will shortly take delivery of one, and who is willing to complete a questionnaire is asked to write to *MMM*, PO Box 44, Totnes, TQ9 5XB for further information..

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### **More tired tyres**

WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST members' experiences with Continental tyres.

We have a 'P' registered Boxer and were on our way to the rally at Malvern in July 1999. As we had not been to that area, we decided to add a few days and make it more of a holiday.

Travelling west on the A40 at about 40 mph, the offside rear tyre went flat with no warning. We found that the tyre tread had separated into layers. After we put on the spare, we got to Cheltenham and decided to buy a replacement. ABC of Gloucester were surprised at the damage with only 21,778 miles on the clock. When they checked the other tyres they strongly recommended changing the near-side rear, as it showed weakness to the side wall. That meant we had to have two new tyres after two years and less than 22,000 miles.

ABC suggested that we should send the tyres back to Peugeot, but we decided not to because we didn't want them in the van for the rest of the holiday, of which we had already lost two days getting the tyres replaced. In hindsight, perhaps we should have returned them.

The remaining two tyres on the Boxer were changed at 27,000 miles to give us peace of mind. The last of the five Continentals is now the spare.

***Don and Jeannette Cadney***



WE ARE NEW MEMBERS of ASOC and until we read the Newsletter were unaware of the problems others were having with Continental Tyres. We, too, had problems whilst in France, although we were lucky enough to spot the problem before suffering a blow-out. The tyre was changed at a garage outside Roscoff. We dread to think of the result if it had blown, because we had driven many miles at about 70 mph.

As others have reported, the tyre was mis-shaped and the local tyre depôt at Poole seemed quite amused when they saw it. However they dismissed the trouble on the grounds that, because the tyre was three years old, it needed replacement. That seemed a little early to us as the vehicle, an Executive, had travelled only 12,000 miles.

We have since changed the van for another Executive and are pleased to see that Continental Tyres are not fitted.

***Tony and Chris Bennett***

*Welcome Tony and Chris, and 'hard luck' Don and Jeannette. We've passed these two letters on to Charles Trevelyan to add to his growing pile of correspondence with the base vehicle and tyre makers - Ed.*

## **What a response!**

AFTER THE ITEM in March's ASOC Newsletter about side lockers for our Talisman, we now need a new phone. It hasn't stopped ringing! We have had more than 50 phone calls from all over the country.

We've now been to Redruth and had two lockers and lids fitted. Our thanks for their help to all the members who were in touch.

**Wendy and Dennis Clarke**

*Good to know members respond to requests for advice. Isn't that part of what the Club's all about? - Ed.*

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## **Alternative storage solution**

IN THE MARCH Newsletter there were a number of queries regarding motorhome back boxes and storage facilities.

We have had a customised box fitted to the rear of our Ravenna, attached to the underside of our bike rack. It was made to our specifications by Sporty Trailers of Gainsborough, Lincs. (0142 781 1116). We came across the firm at the Club and Company rally in July 2000.

They may be able to help other members looking for storage solutions.

**Jan and Dave Benyon**

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## **Gas again**

**TWO QUERIES ABOUT GAS CONTAINERS:** Whilst the March Newsletter fully explained why the cylinder must be upright, is it imperative for it to be upright when not in use and not coupled up? I ask because I have wondered about carrying a spare cylinder, but have nowhere it could be stored upright.

The letter from Diana Aston [also in the March issue] regarding taking a bottle of Campingaz on the Continent sounds excellent. I have in the attic a 2.72 Kg Campingaz cylinder with control valve - the old 'beehive'

shape. But I haven't seen these at gas stations in France, Belgium or Spain recently, only cylinders almost round in shape which would not fit in the gas locker of my Pollensa. My great fear is of running out of gas on long holidays - I came close in the Republic of Ireland last year.

**Thomas Williamson**

*We hope for clarification on the first point from Auto-Sleepers, but members may be able to help with the one about 'beehive' Campingaz cylinders - Ed.*

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## **Discounts**

MARJORIE THOMPSON asks whether we can give details to Club members. There doesn't seem to be anything in the way of a list and what information your Editor has may be out of date. Perhaps members would like to write in saying who or what gives them discounts because they are ASOC members.

---

## **Knocked napper**

REFERENCE TONY HILLIER'S letter regarding the crockery store problem in his Executive (April issue). I solved this problem on my four year-old Talisman some time ago - same location, different method - and it was accepted into the 'Tiggers' manual. I have some photographs of the installation which may be of some use to Tony. I have also fitted this mod. in one or two vans for friends, including a Pilote, so it would seem to be successful.

**Ron Greenland**

*We've put Ron and Tony in touch with each other - Ed.*

---

## **Wizard wheezes**

**Holiday stickers:** Use a wall hanging or banner to display holiday stickers - don't fix them to the fabric of the van. It cost one trade-in owner a new overcab locker door and a panel replacement because the

stickers left serious damage when removed. - *Marjorie Thompson*

**Rattle remover:** Non-slip 'rubber' shelf lining between and under roasting tins and grill pans will stop them rattling as you drive. Remember to remove the lining before lighting the grill or oven - *Jean Day*

**Laundry:** From Issue No. 8 of *ASOC Newsletter* comes this wheeze, sent in by Audrey Wagstaffe: Solve holiday laundry problems en route. Put dirty clothes into a sealed bucket with a close-fitting lid, add water and soap powder and leave it while you travel. The vibrations of a day's journey will turn everything white, just like a washing machine. Apparently it works on canal boats, too, which is where the idea came from after being picked up from someone with a motorhome.

*These handy hints are very popular. We could do with more as my stock is running low. What wizard wheezes have you worked out? - Ed.*

---

## Wanted

**ALLOY WHEELS AND TOP BOX.** Alloy wheels and Fiamma or Omnistor top box to fit VWT4 Clubman (1998). Phone or e-mail Rex Woodruffe 0124 286 2963 (Glos.) [Rex.Woodruffe@btinternet.com](mailto:Rex.Woodruffe@btinternet.com) \*

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## For sale

**LEGEND 2-LITRE PETROL,** 'F' reg., 1988, 36,000 miles. Extras include PAS, Fiamma awning, Air Rides, tow bar, alarm. Excellent condition throughout. Avail. May 2001: **£11,500.** Phone Peter Jeffery 0175 236 5396 (Devon).

**OMNISTOR 'S' CLASS TOPBOX,** 135 x 89 x 40 cms. Fits Clubman. Excellent condition: **£130** ono. Phone Doug Fulluck 0156 678 2061 (Cornwall).

*[A different phone number came with this ad., first printed last month. This corrects it - Ed.]*

**TRIDENT 2.4 LITRE DIESEL 2+2 BERTH.** 'N' reg., Nov. 1995, 40,000

miles. Fridge, heater. Taxed 'til Aug. 2001, MoT until Sept. Non-smoker, no children or pets. As new and immaculate. RAC or AA inspection invited. **£15,995** ovno. Phone Bob Jowett 0127 478 3640 (W.Yorks.)\*

**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.)\*

**CLUBMAN GL 2-BERTH DIESEL**, 'W' reg., March 2000, 8,500 miles. Fiamma awning, twin bike rack, VanBitz alarm, Silver Screens. Excellent condition. First owners; non-smokers, no pets: **£27,250**. Phone Dave or Marion Bishop 0192 955 6975 (Dorset).\*

**DUETTO 2.5 TURBO-DIESEL, AUTOMATIC**, 'P' reg., 1997, 40,000 mls. Usual A-S fitments, Ford serviced, new MoT. Good condition; very reliable. No pets, only myself. **£18,500**. Phone F. John Cox 0196 262 0069 (Hampshire)\*.

**CYCLE RACK, REAR BOX**. Omnistor 2-bike cycle rack: **£40**. Rear Box (not plastic) 32 x 24 x 9 inches: **£10**. Phone Phillip Jones 0143 283 0463 (Herefordshire).

**RENAULT RECRO 1.7-LITRE PETROL 2-BERTH**, 'K' reg., only 26,000 miles. Propex heating, fridge, Porta Potti, Fiamma pull-out awning, new exhaust and leisure battery. FSH, MoT. Well cared for, excellent clean condition. No rust. Non-smokers, no pets. **£10,500**. Phone Val and Clinton Grant 0124 378 5248 (W. Sussex).

**TAYLORMADE INTERNAL SCREEN COVERS**. Now surplus to requirements, a set of soft 3-layer internal screen covers to fit Ford Transit cab up to and including 1999 model. Excellent condition: **£20**. Phone Alan or Pat Abbotts 0182 341 3184 (Taunton).

**AMETHYST BED CUSHIONS, SILVER SCREENS**. Brand new unused bed cushions for Amethyst 95 model. Full set: 2 long, 4 short. Blue/grey Samyra design. Also exterior and interior Silver Screens. Any sensible offer accepted. Phone Roger Hunter 0172 337 4725 (North Yorks.)

**EXECUTIVE 2.5-LITRE TURBO-DIESEL 'T' reg.**, first registered August

1999. 4,500 miles. Four berths. Equipped to usual A-S standard. One owner, non-smokers, no pets. Almost new condition: **£25,500**. Phone Bill and Mary Dakin 0163 681 2673 (Notts.)\*

**SILVER SCREEN.** Solar Frost (Park up screen) suitable for Ford Transit Mk3-based motorhomes (1986-2000). As new: **£28.50**. Phone Arthur Jones 0198 356 2070 (I. o W.).

**TALISMAN GX 2-LITRE PETROL.** Boxer. 'T' reg., April 1999, only 5,000 miles. Shower, oven, overcab bed and other items never used. Immaculate, new condition. No pets, non-smokers. Genuine reason for sale. **£26,500**. Phone Peter Ashmore 0124 627 5073 (Chesterfield)\*.

**FREE-STANDING AWNING,** orange and brown, complete with skirt, curtains and pegs. Suit elevating roof or high-top. In good condition: **£100**. Can bring to Malvern rally. Phone or e-mail Wally King 0193 485 2187 (Nth Somerset), mobile 0771 165 4416, wally.king@ukonline.co.uk \*

**SELF-INFLATING MATTRESSES.** Two single Sunncamp mattresses. Lightweight, thermal insulated and with valve that allows quick inflation and deflation. Size: 183 x 51 x 2.5 cms. Cost £27.50 each; will accept **£26** for the two. Phone or e-mail Bryn and Elizabeth Morgan 0161 432 4869 (Cheshire), brinliz@bemorgan. freeserve.co.uk \*

**FOR VW TRANSPORTER T4:** Fiamma 3 bike rack: **£85**. Tow bar, ball & electrics; as new: **£45**. Elsan PortaPotti (fits Trident) new: **£30**. Waste & water carriers 25L: **£5** ea. Phone Alan Thomson 0172 783 2073 (Herts).

**CABANON MOTOR CHALET II** (green). Free-standing annexe for side or rear entry. Used one weekend. Genuine sale: **£250**. Phone G. Lyon 0152 785 3190 or 0152 745 5769 (Warwickshire).\*

**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. Comprehensive service history. Summer use only, so absolutely as new and immaculate; garaged from new. One owner, non-smoker, no pets. One of the best Tridents available. First to see will buy. Reduced to **£13,200** ono. Phone or e-mail Kelvin Chambers 0172 232 7594 evenings (Salisbury), kelvin@chambers56.freeserve.co.uk.

*Our thanks to advertisers who have made donations (marked \*) - Ed.*

## Bernie's bangers

MY MARTHA won't have any truck with barbecues. She reckons that by the time you've lit one, waited for it to get hot and then messed about with long-handled forks and foil dishes for veg. and such, she could've done a proper meal on stove in the van, eaten it and washed up, too. Suits me, that - I'm an eater, not a cooker. Mind you, I'm not sure cooking comes into it too much. I reckon it's a wives' plot to get a bit of their own back for all the hours they've to spend over stove. Barbecues give men summat to play with and keeps them out of wives' hair for an hour or so. Food doesn't come into it. They reckon that burnt rump is worth the quiet while he's cremating it.

But there's some should never be let loose with charcoal and chops. Bernie's one. He's as handy as a custard hammer - the sort who'd use a six-inch nail as a cuphook. But his Hyacinth makes him do most of t'cooking when they're out with their van, though he's no notion and always rushing to van door asking what to do next. Job doesn't even get him from under her feet. Still, there he allus is, trying to get barbecue to light in his striped pinnie and tall white hat with 'Chef' on't, even if farmers' dogs are wearing wellies and hiding under cows to keep rain off.

We were on same field with 'em one bosky weekend and Bernie was getting dinner as usual. We'd had ours, Martha was washing up and I were across nattering with old Silas, who's caravanned since before Moses took Israelites through wilderness. He were just explaining why you allus made sure you tethered horse downwind when there were some almighty bangs and bits of shrapnel scythed across site. Silas and I hit floor fast, I can tell you. You don't forget what Army taught you.

All sorts of commotion were going on, what with folks shouting and screaming. We waited a while before getting up, but after noise died down a bit and I'd helped Silas get his teeth from under van - he'd hit ground so fast they'd jolted out - we went to see cause of t'ructions.

It were Bernie. Hyacinth were in historics and he were in agony. Seems she'd told him she wanted scrambled eggs with her sausages and he'd forgotten how to do them. He'd put whole eggs straight from fridge on real hot barbecue while he went to ask her, but afore he'd got back they blew up. Reckon she had 'em not so much scrambled as scattered.

*'Enoch'*

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## Committee Members

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Treasurer	John Tidbury	012 3553 8593
Membership Secretary & Regalia Officer	Ian Ross	017 0822 8075
Minutes Secretary	Barbara Potter	018 4427 4021
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