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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee.

Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway,
Worcs., WR12 7QF. Registered No: 4616969



March Winds

NEWSLETTER 186

MARCH 2004

Hello.

Does anyone mind if I have a bit of a grumble? I'm quite used to receiving odds and ends for inclusion in your Newsletter by e-mail and by ordinary post. I don't mind a bit if you use any colour ink or pencil and I don't worry about whether it is on pretty paper, plain paper or even cardboard (perhaps the back of a Christmas card!) But I do draw the line when I get a bit of paper with, say, a for sale notice which bears no mention of the member's name, address, telephone number or even membership number. Believe me, it does happen.

Similarly, on every Newsletter it clearly shows on the back page that the closing date for entries for anything is the tenth day of each month. I know that it seems awfully early when you don't actually receive your copy until the 1st of the month but time is needed for me to type and collate the stuff I receive and print it to send to our printer friend. And he needs time to print off something like 1500 copies, then to collate them, staple them, fold them and put them into the envelopes. Then he needs more time to stick on the labels with your addresses and then get the lot into the postal system in time for delivery to you. So there is no point in sending an e-mail to me on the 14th of the month or telephoning on such a date to ask if you can get something into next month's Newsletter.

Finally, please don't ask me to include your contribution in a specific issue of the Newsletter. All I will do is to include it in the next available issue, subject to space limitations etc. And I must reserve the right to edit, modify or omit any item sent in for any reason whatever.

Right - end of grumble! Sorry about that but I felt that I had to make the various points so that you can all see what this job can entail. Anyone want to take over?

I understand that some people are still having difficulty with my e-mail address. In an attempt at clarity I will give it in one line below:

harry_henthorne@lineone.net

Please note that the whole lot is in lower case letters; there is an underscore (underline) character between my forename and surname and the I.S.P. is LINEONE - but still in lower case. I hope that will clear things up a bit and you can now get through.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Annual Dinner and AGM Rally

By now you will have received your booking form for this event and I hope that you have sent it off. We will have the usual social gathering on the Friday evening when you can catch up with your friends.

The AGM will commence at 10.30 am on the Saturday and will be followed by the Open Forum. During the afternoon there will be craft sessions run by *Sheila Henthorne and Heather Tidbury*, and in the President's Suite (upstairs) there will be a question and answer forum hosted by *Charles Trevelyan* with one or two A-S employees in attendance.

The music for the dance this year will be provided by Jean



Martyn, a professional international organist who plays all types of music. On Sunday morning at 10.00 am those attending the Dutch Rally will hold a meeting. The Salvation Army service will follow at 10.30 am. A Carvery meal will be served at 1.00 pm for members who have ordered it and the room will remain open until 10.00 pm. The craft sessions will continue on Sunday afternoon with an additional session by *Jeanne Hall*, and Brownhills are again providing transport to visit their leisure centre from 2.00 - 5.00 pm. Ralliers staying over until Monday will be welcome to use the hall and bar facilities which will close at 10.00 pm.

Nora Venables

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A.G.M. Bookings



If you have sent your booking form for the AGM (or intend to) and have not received confirmation that it has been accepted within a week of sending, please telephone me. My telephone number is (surprise, surprise!) the same as that for your Editor!

There has recently been a slight tendency for mail to get lost so it might not have reached me. It is always best to check and make sure.

Sheila Henthorne

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Electric Slide-out Step

When we purchased our Legend (late 1999) it differed from its sister Ford based motorhomes (the Amethyst and Excelsior with rear doors) in that it did not have an electrical let down step as they did. The reason for this difference is that the Legend has a centre 3rd door and at the time of production there was not enough room under the vehicle to fit anything other than a manual let down step.

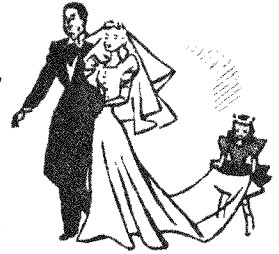
The good news is that there is a slide out electrical step on the market that can replace the manual step. I have just fitted one to my motorhome. For anyone interested, I suggest in the first instance that you go on line to the following web site:- www.kcleisure.co.uk/kcslideout.php

Robin Gardner

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Wedding Bells

Our Membership Secretary, *Norma Caley*, has advised me of the wedding of two new members of the Club. They are *Mary and Fred Walker*, who live in Narberth. Their wedding day was 14th February this year - a lovely idea to get married on the feast day of St. Valentine!



I am sure that all members will wish to join in wishing them every happiness and success in the future together with lots of fund with their motorhome and, hopefully, when they join in Club events.

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Membership Secretary

Mentioning *Norma Caley* in the last item reminds me. Our hard working Membership Secretary lives at 17 Rydal Avenue, Freckleton, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 1DJ. Her telephone number is shown on the back page of the Newsletter and norma.caley@lineone.net is her e-mail address.

She is the person whom you should contact with questions about receipt or non receipt of Newsletters, changes of vehicle and/or addresses. So keep that address handy just in case you might need it.

She is also the person who should be contacted if you recommend the Club to anyone as she handles all the new membership enquiries.

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Norway, 2003

We would like to contact the member who went to Norway in 2003 with their motorhome in conjunction with GB Privilege Tours. We noticed that they are not doing the trip this year and we need to find the camp site that they stayed at in Finland on the return part of the trip. If anyone can help, will they please contact me



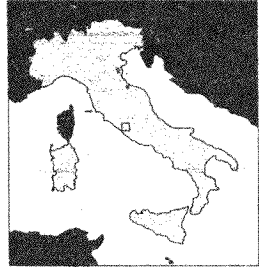
at Greenhills, Church Road, Bradley Green, Redditch, Worcestershire,
B96 6SN

James Brevitt

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Italy

I wonder if anyone can help, please? I am hoping to drive to Northern Italy in our Talisman this summer. My preferred route is through France. However I am unable to discover if the Talisman would be considered a commercial vehicle in those countries and therefore subject to lower speed limits than cars and higher rates on the motorways. I have a copy of the "Caravan Club - Europe" but it only gives information on cars and trailer vans.



I would also like to contact a member who has towed a car behind his van on an "A" frame. I am aware that this is not legal in Europe. I only want to use it at home.

E P Winter

There are a couple of members, at least, who may be able to answer the second query and no doubt a lot more who can sort out the first problem.

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More Thoughts on Camping

Re: *Nial Reynolds* comments in January. I had also removed the water heater from my Flair some time ago. The water tank and associated pipes were removed when the tank brackets were found to be corroded. Not having an onboard shower, we found a couple of 5 litre water bottles more convenient. Having spent many years under canvas I agree with his comments about soap and flannel and camp site showers.

Replacing the Porta-potti cupboard's butt hinges with double cranked ones meant that the full opening was available without having to open the van doors, and a large potti could be installed. The butt hinges will one day be replaced on the let down flaps under the sink and hob, the supermarket's plastic mushroom boxes will then slide in easily.

The Flair does all we want apart from one thing - it's a bit cramped for socialising or when we have our two grandsons with us

(not too often!). It parks in a car slot and in our high-roof garage and will still give between 30/36 mpg of UseLesS diesel, depending on my mood and whether I'm towing. How can ULS be better for the environment if you use more of it?

Dai Davies

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Continental Hook-ups

May I add my "six pennorth" to this discussion? I would like to highlight a point which I do not believe has been aired before. With UK electrical appliances it is normal to have a single pole switch on the incoming supply with a fuse in this live side. If you have a reversed polarity situation, switching off at this appliance switch will leave the bulk of the appliance's wiring still connected to the live power source and this could catch out the unwary! In addition, if the appliance develops a fault and the fuse "blows" then the appliance will still be connected to the live power with obvious dangers! In practice, it is more likely that the RCD will trip and this, being a double pole device, will clear both live and neutral sources.

Finally I would reiterate what others have advised. Carry and use a polarity tester, have available a reversed polarity correction lead and always fully isolate from the supply if you intend to carry out testing or alterations.

Harry Emblen

-----ooOoo-----

Gas Spanners

With all the discussion in at least the last two Newsletters in connection with gas cylinders, I will add my tuppence worth. The gas spanner supplied with the vehicle is very thin and can only be 3mm thick at the most. The number of times my spanner has slipped off the nut I've lost count, including the bruised and damaged knuckles.

Last season I solved the problem when I was exchanging a cylinder at a large dealer. He sold gas spanners that are 10mm thick. Instant sale, no more bruised and damaged knuckles. Highly recommended!

Robin Gardner

Two points. I don't remember getting such a spanner with my van, I had to buy it from the Calor people at one of their depots and it too was one of the thin ones. But I do wonder how tight *Robin* has been making his joints because I don't ever recall having too much trouble

loosening the nut. Perhaps because I always hold the regulator and turn that slightly at the same time.

-----oooOOOOoo-----

ACCEO

Those of our members who are also personal members of ACCEO (The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations) may have noticed a printing error in my article in "ACCEO Matters No. 51". In the article I described how and why our Club had become a Company Limited by Guarantee.

In the sixth paragraph "a solicitor confirmed our views of the stability of members" should read "the liability of members".

Ray Whaley

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Western Isles



Have you been there? We are planning a trip starting from Oban, visiting Coll and Tiree then across to Barra, Eriksay, the Uists, Harris and Lewis and back to Skye. No problems on Skye but elsewhere sites seem to be a bit thin on the ground. We would welcome information about any sites that there are; good camping spots or obliging farmers. Perhaps most important, where one can empty the loo!

Long before we had a van I lost my heart to a site on the west coast of Lewis which was in sight of the beach, I think, near Kneep or Crip, depending on your map. Perhaps this year the dream of actually staying there will come true.

Many thanks for any help.

Margo and Colin Lumb

Thanks for the donation which is NOT necessary for items to be included in the Newsletter but is appreciated just the same. Incidentally, the following came by the same post. How's that for co-incidence?

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Keith Iles and other members might be interested to know that anyone visiting the Western Isles can buy a "Hopscotch" ticket from

Caledonian MacBrayne. The best value is Hopscotch 23 which offers Oban to Barra; Barra to South Uist; South Uist to Harris; Harris to Skye and Skye to Mallaig. This covers the whole of the Outer Hebrides including Lewis. The cost for a vehicle is £137.00 (under 5m long) or £206.00 for those of us over 5m and under 8m. Passengers are £32.50 each. All details can be found on calmac.co.uk but I cannot advise on how long to spend on each island except that it won't be long enough!

Incidentally, visiting the Glenfiddich distillery would take us rather a long way out of our way because it is on Speyside in the East. The beautiful Talisker distillery is well worth a visit on Skye, particularly since they produce a superb malt whisky! Unfortunately there are no legal distilleries in the Outer Hebrides and no evidence of illicit stills.

We shall be taking advantage of Hopscotch 23 plus the Islay one in the spring.

Bob Morris

Bob wasn't the only member to spot my mistake last month. I did, of course, mean the Talisker distillery. Just shows the strength of their distillation (nearly said brew!) to leave me slightly dizzy after all this time - must be five or six years since we visited.

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Awnings

My wife and I are new to ASOC having bought our first camper (a Symbol) last summer. As this will be our first full year touring with the van we thought it would be a good idea to purchase a drive-away awning. We would be grateful for any advice from members on the type best suited to the Symbol. I have bought a back box to increase the storage capacity as the van has limited space for extras such as deck chairs, silver screens and other essentials.

With so many variations of awning to choose from it is difficult making a choice from a brochure as we do not have the benefit of a display showground close to home. We do not intend to stay for long periods at any one site so an awning that doesn't take all day to erect would be preferable.

I can be contacted by e-mail at andrew@chappells.demon.co.uk or alternatively I shall look forward to any suggestions sent in to the Newsletter/

Andrew Chappell

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Gas

I have been bogged down recently with renovating our bathroom and I have therefore not be able to do much to my van re: gas modifications. I must thank all who contributed to my query as I have learned a lot. I wonder how many other motor caravaners are unaware that you can exchange an empty Butane bottle for a full Propane one and vice versa for the cost of the refill. This rectifies my problem as I can now use two bottles of Propane in the winter and change back to Butane in the summer. This seems easy once you have the information.

Some information that I have collected recently is shown below.

	Bottle weight	KGM/TR of gas	∴ Bottle contains in	Btu/Ltr	∴ Bottle Btu	Btu/HP	∴ Bottle HP	HP/Kw	∴ Bottle will produce
Butane	7	0.575	12.174	26828	326,604	2545	128.33	1.34	95.77
Propane	6	0.512	11.719	24770	284,420	2545	111.76	1.34	83.40

Therefore one 7Kg bottle of Butane produces 95.77 Kw of power

one 6Kg bottle of Propane produces 83.40 Kw of power

Conclusion The Butane bottle of gas will produce 12.37extra Kw of power over the Propane bottle.

Hope I've done my maths correctly!

Butane versus Propane

Ron Forsyth

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From the Factory

With both the growth in the industry and an ever-growing demand for our products, 'Internal changes' at the factory has been focused upon during the beginning of 2004.

After effectively restructuring our Quality department, Production was next to be seen to. After identifying the need to increase the efficiency of our production lines in order to meet the high level of demand, we have recently appointed Alan Williams as our new Operations Manager. Alan has a wealth of experience in the motor manufacturing industry. In particular, he was responsible for creating and implementing a new production line for MG Rover and for running their manufacturing plant for many years.

Although Alan has only been with us for a short while, he has already made some effective changes and has some very exciting ideas, which will enable us further to improve product quality and output. We

wish Alan all the best in his new role and we believe that he will be a huge asset to the Company.

Another change that has been made at the factory, is the installation of a new Styrofoam vacuum press. This new high-tech machine will automatically bond interior wall lining, a thick layer of insulation material and the GRP exterior finish strongly together and then cut the walls of the motorhome to the exact size and shape required by a digital image. It will also automatically position supports inside the walls to fix furniture. This substantial investment has tremendously improved the quality and precision of the materials used in constructing an Auto-Sleeper, ensuring that a 100% accuracy rate is now achieved, whilst significantly reducing wastage.

With these changes, we are confident that our future looks even brighter and will ensure that we continue to live up to our motto - 'Motohomes of Excellence'. Next month will start on a positive note too with the Auto-Sleepers' Vivanti brand being shown on the BBC Holiday programme on 8th March. So, watch out for that!

Carole Domenech

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Technical Group

The response to the published list of 'Ideas Sheets' with the January Newsletter resulted in 384 Ideas Sheets being issued to members during that month alone. An analysis of the requests indicated that the top 3 items concerning members would seem to be: security locks, vehicle weight and rattling Seitz blinds, I have passed a full analysis to Auto-Sleepers for their information and possible use. Please remember that new ideas are always welcome.

There are now a further 6 Ideas Sheets being added to the list. These may be obtained, as before, by sending me an SAE (with sufficient stamps) with your membership number and forename to 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants. PO16 7UF. The new sheets are:

No. 62: Most Coachbuilts - Crockery Cupboard improvements

No. 63 Stop Peugeot Radios Cutting Out

No. 64 Side Lights Warning

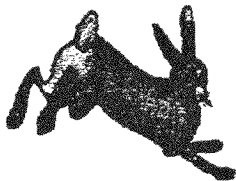
No. 65 Prevention of Smells from Grey' Water Tank

No.66 Symbol - Re-siting of Water Heater Switch

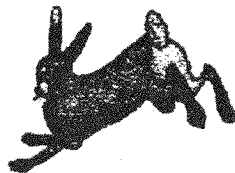
(currently awaiting approval)

No.67 Rope Mud 'Chains' (currently awaiting approval)

At the time of writing this article the latest virus 'Mydoom' has just wreaked havoc across the Internet. It is therefore perhaps



MARCH 2004 Rally Supplement



Applications for all rallies, unless otherwise stated in this supplement, are to be made using a rally slip by post.

If you intend to take a car/trailer or tent to a rally inform the marshal.

NEW RALLIES

17th - 21st. June Springbok Estate, Alfold, Surrey.

2nd - 6th. Stanford Hall, Leicestershire.

10th - 12th. Ludlow Food & Drink Festival.

12th - 15th. October C & C C Site Windermere.

30th. Dec. - 2nd. Jan. Hidden Valley, New Year Rally. MARSHALS REQUIRED

6th. (Sunday) - 13th. (Sunday) June 2004. Delfse Hout Caravan Site, Delft, Holland.

Rally starts at 12 noon Sunday June 6th. & closes Sunday June 13th. 12 noon.

Rally marshals: Tricia & Ted Pratt & Jan & Vic Hicklin.

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

17th. June - 1st. July (14 nights) Le Bohat, Sarzeau, South Brittany, France.

Rally Marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard, Jill & James Bertlin & Brian Thomas.

Site fees (based on 2 people) 15.20 euros, Electricity 2.80 euros (approx. £11 + £2 standard rate per night respectively, subject to exchange rate) payable direct to site management. Bookings only accepted for the **full 14 nights**.

Rally Fee: £15 non-refundable unless unsuccessful. Please do NOT arrange to arrive before 10.00 on the 17th, to give us, and site management, time to prepare. If you wish to stay on after the rally please advise us.

Camping Le Bohat is a 3 star site where a rally was successfully held for 33 units in 2003 (details available on Club website). It has full facilities plus a swimming pool and is only 1.5 miles from Sarzeau village and 14 miles from Vannes.

The journey distances are 225 miles from Cherbourg, 400 miles from Calais & 120 miles from St. Malo.

If this is your first drive on the Continent and you require advice please let us know.

Fuller details to those applying in due course.

Application on rally slip only - NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE - with a SAE & a cheque for £15 payable to :- Mrs. D. Wellard, 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants. PO16 7UF

LIMIT 33 VANS.

25th – 28th. March (3nights).Elm Cottage Caravan Park, Little Budworth,Cheshire.(Website www.elmcottage7.freemove.co.uk)

Emergency Tel.No. 01829 760544 Emergencies only.

Rally slips & cheques to : Mrs. N. Venables,15 Langley Gardens,Merry Hill,Wolverhampton.WV3 7JN. Tel.No. 01902 332 105.

RALLY FULL

26th – 28th.March.Motorhome & RV Show, Great Driffield,East Yorkshire.

Emergency Tel.No. 0777 557 0182 Marshals' mobile.

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin.

Site Fee: Special Club prices. Arrive Thursday £28.00 Friday onwards £23.00.

Rally Fee:£2.35(Incl. VAT)

Send rally fees with rally slip & SAE for Show application form by **12th.March** to:- Mrs. J. Hicklin,381 Manor Road, Brimington,Chesterfield,Derbyshire.S43 1PP.

Tel.No. 01246 236 157.

Return application forms to the organisers ,Stone Leisure, by closing date **18th.March**.

1st.-4th. April (3 nights).Marstons Brewery Visit,Burton on Trent,Staffs. NOT BASS MUSEUM. Site Albion Hotel,Shobnall Road, Burton on Trent.

Emergency Tel.No. 07713186508 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Tricia & Ted Pratt & Jan & Vic Hicklin.

Site Fee:£2.50 per night,all hardstanding.Rally Fee:£2.35.(All include VAT).NO ELECTRICITY.

Booking slips & cheques payable to P.M. Pratt,3 Grafton Road,Stapenhill, Burton on Trent,Staffs.DE15 9DN. Tel.No. 01283 538 818.

THIS RALLY IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MANY WHO APPLIED LAST TIME AND WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.THE RALLY INCLUDES A TRIP AROUND THE BREWERY ON THE FRIDAY MORNING £6.00 each.

Meal Friday evening and a further meal Saturday evening.

Members who attended the last rally may apply and, if there is room left ,they will be accepted.

Directions:The Albion Hotel is on the B5017 on the Burton to Uttoxeter road. Please send an SAE for acceptance and further directions.Dogs are allowed.

Rally starts at 12 noon. Thursday.

16th – 20th. April (4 nights) Peak Rail,Rowsley South Station,Nr.Matlock, Derbyshire.

Rally Marshals:Jeanne & Mike Hall & Hilary & Lionel Walker.

Emergency Tel.No. 07985 021779 or 07939 288586.

Site Fee: £ 4.70 per van per night. Rally Fee: £ 1.20 per person(both include VAT). Two electric points for people with special needs.

Water & Elsan disposal points. Green field site but toilets open during station hours.

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

Derbyshire.DE56 IJG Tel.No. 01773 824 565.Cheques payable to M.T. Hall.

Attractions:In the picturesque picnic area of this enthusiasts steam railway,beside the River Derwent with miles of walks.10% off all-day tickets for steam trains to Matlock of £6.00 adults,£4.50 seniors to ride all day or spend time in Matlock.Within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site and the Peak National Park.Nearby are Chatsworth House,Haddon Hall,Carriage Museum and Bakewell's famous market.We hope to arrange a meal at the Shailmar Restaurant on the Monday evening.Please indicate on the booking form if you would be interested.
Buses to Sheffield,Matlock,Bakewell,Stockport & Manchester.

Directions:3.9 miles north of Matlock (Bakewell direction) on the A6.Going north,turn **left** on to Harrison Way just after the Shalimar Restaurant and follow Peak Rail signs.

22nd.-25th.April.National Motorhome Show,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.

Please use the booking form enclosed in the last Newsletter if possible If you use a form from other magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the special Club site fees:Arrive Thursday:£28,arrive Friday £25, arrive Saturday £22.

Please note that ALL booking forms *MUST* be returned to Warners, the organisers, by Friday 2nd.April if you wish to rally with the Club.

*******Then you must also complete a Club rally slip and return it by Monday**

April 12th,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 ASOC marshals **before** parking.

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

The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon Monday. No arrivals before 2.00p.m. Thursday.

30th.April – 3rd.May. A.G.M., Newark Showground,Notts.

The application forms for this rally were with the February Newsletter.Please note the closing date 27th.March.

3rd. – 7th. May(4 nights) Walk the Wolds,Well Alford,Lincs.

Emergency Tel.No. 07768164522.Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Janet Sutterby & Eileen Kellard.

Site Fee: £22.00 for rally. No Electricity. Rally Fee:£2.00.

Meal (optional) £5.00per person.(prices include VAT where applicable).

Rally slips & cheques to: Janet Sutterby, 3 Bilsby Road,Alford,Lincs.LN13 9EW.
Tel.no.01507 462449.

Venue- Cricket Club grounds with full use of of pavilion facilities.
Camping on grass,quiet,good cycling.Walks will be arranged.Evening indoor social events.
Small town 1 mile,sea 8 miles.

Directions: In East Lincolnshire take A16 Boston to Louth road and the A1104 into Alford.Turn **right** opposite church onto B1196 sp. Welton le Marsh & Willoughby.In nearly 1 mile turn **right** towards Well.Cricket club in 0.1mile on **right**.

6th - 10th. May (4 nights) Little Cotton Farm,Dartmouth,Devon.

Emergency Tel.No. 01803 833675.Site owner's no. also to ring to arrange extra nights.Paul & Dot White.

Rally Marshals: Pam & Terry Holtom assisted by Jenny & Geoff Raistrick.

Site Fee:£6.50 per night. Electricity: £2.25 per night. Rally Fee:£2.35 (couples),£1.20(singles). All fees include VAT.

Booking slips & cheques made payable to Terry Holtom, 8 Courtland Road,Torquay,Devon.TQ2 6JR. Tel.no. 01803 612669.

Attractions: Dartmouth will be holding its 7th. Music Festival this year with musical events throughout the town in Pubs/Hotels/Cafes/Churches/Band Stands/Halls etc. and at the Britannia Royal Naval College with a military band.

There are plenty of popular boat trips in the area either up the picturesque River Dart or out to sea.There is an additional boat trip this year to Agatha Christie's garden at Greenway.Steam trains for the enthusiast are in the area also.The PARK & RIDE facility into Dartmouth is adjacent to the site.A Saturday evening meal is proposed also. DOGS are most welcome providing they use the doggy walk on site but **MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD WHILE IN THE PARK.**

SAE for confirmation & travel details.

NUMBERS LIMITED.

*******NB. This rally is now starting on Thursday 6th.May.**

6th - 9th. May (3 nights) Burn Gliding Club,Nr. Selby,North 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.

*******NEW**

13th -16th.May Southern Motorcaravan Show,Newbury Showground,Berkshire.

Emergency Tel.No.07743 307533.Marshall's mobile.

Rally Marshals:Daphne & John Hallett.

Special Club prices. Arrive Thursday £26, arrive Friday £24 & arrive Saturday £20.
Rally Fee: £1.75 Couples, £1.20 singles. (Both include VAT).

Send rally fees with rally slip & SAE for a Show application form by 16th April to:
Mr. & Mrs. J. Hallett, 13 Linden Crescent, Grove Wantage, Oxfordshire. OX12 7NB
Tel. No. 01235 764 550. Rally fee cheques payable to C. J. Hallett

Return application forms to the organisers, Warners by the closing date 23rd April.

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

20th - 25th May (5 nights) Ambleside Rugby Club, Ambleside, Cumbria.

Emergency Tel. No. 0775 3609463 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Sue & Peter Coward, Silvergarth, Low Riddings, Grasmere. LA22 9QY tel. no.
015394 35828. & Pam & Bill Todd.

Site Fee: £5.25 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £4.00 Couples, £2.25 singles (includes VAT).

GREENFIELD site with fresh water point & elsan emptying point.

Dogs welcome but please keep on leads at all times and exercise off site.

We will have exclusive use of the club's facilities - toilets during the day & also the clubhouse when required in the evening. Possible rally supper one night (approx. £4.00 each, pay at rally). Indicate on rally slip if interested. A BYO meal on Monday evening.

*****Rally slips & cheques payable to W. H. Todd, 1 Milcote Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. B73 6QJ. Tel. 0121 354 9407.** Enclose a SAE for confirmation & directions.

Attractions: Ideal base for exploring Lakeland at a beautiful time of the year or merely relaxing in pleasant surroundings. Numerous walks & places of interest within easy reach. Opportunity of guided fell walk. Ambleside centre 5mins walk. Steamer pier. Lake Windermere 10 mins.

RALLY STARTS 12 NOON (Thursday) LIMIT 30 Vans.

26th - 31st May (5 nights) Strathallen Games Park, Bridge of Allen, Nr.

Stirling, Scotland.

Emergency Tel. No. 07760103335

Rally Marshals: Joy & Donald Stott.

Site Fees: £2.50 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.35. (incl. VAT)

A flat field with water & elsan disposal.

It is a pleasant walk, 20 mins., into village centre. Bus service to Stirling & Edinburgh near to site. This is a central location for touring this part of Scotland.

Booking slips & cheques payable to: Mr. Donald Stott, 159 Middleton St., Alexandria, Dumbartonshire. G83 0DH. Tel. no. 01389 757358.

Directions: From M9, North until end of motorway Junction 11, at roundabout take 4th exit sp. Bridge of Allen, continue through village until you reach small park/gardens on the right. Turn **right** immediately after the park then first **left**. The rally field gates are directly in front of you.

From A9, South to roundabout at beginning of M9 (DO NOT go on motorway). Take the 2nd Exit sp. Bridge of Allen then as above.

From Fife, Old A9 until 30mph restriction as you enter Bridge of Allen, turn **left** approx 100 yds then **left** again and as above gates are ahead of you.

128th. May – 1st. June. (4 nights);Stokes Bay,Gosport.Hants.

Emergency Tel.No. 07879 473434.Marshals' mobile.

Rally Marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard assisted by Eirwen & Ben Cox.

Site Fee:£5.80 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:£2.50 (includes VAT).

Booking slips to :Mr.& Mrs. B.Wellard,18 Greenwood Close, Fareham,Hants. PO16 7UF. Tel.no. 01329 231259. Cheques payable to: Mrs.D.Wellard.

Attractions: Gosport seaside common(green field site) with views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. A do-as-you-wish rally,local to Naval ships,submarines,sail boats,nature reserve,shopping outlet,sea fishing and walks along the sea front (bistro & café).The village of Alverstoke is 500 yds. away with small shops & 2 taverns.Only 2 miles away is Gosport,easily reached by bike,bus or van,no height barriers but Saturday's street market may make car parks busy. City of Porstmouth,HMS Victory,Mary Rose,steam/sail ship HMS Warrior,Naval museum complex,and the modern shopping outlet are easily accessed by regular ferry from Gosport. Possibility of fish & chip supper on Saturday.

Directions:Leave M27 at junction 11 SP.Fareham Central A27 & Gosport A32.Follow signs towards Gosport A32:then follow signs to Lee-on-Solent sea front. Go left(East) along sea front for 1.5 miles,turning **right** directly after army camp on RHS,into Browndown Road.At next roundabout take **2nd**. Exit and continue along coast road.At next roundabout take **3rd**. exit.Site gate on **right** in 20yds.

If you wish to run a rally in 2004 please contact me to check dates before booking with a site.A "Guide to New/Possible Marshals" is available. If you would like one please contact me,details below.

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 &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,there will be no Public

Liability Insurance.

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 & OE

Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

..... Post code:

Phone No.: Van Reg: Length

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: Length

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: Length

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 Evening meal: 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 14 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 Evening meal: Yes No

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

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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 Evening meal if arranged: 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 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE

opportune to remind you to take simple precautions by keeping your virus protection regularly up-to-date. Failure to do so can possibly be damaging and expensive, not only to your own computer - but also to the computer of anyone else in your address book.

Baz Wellard

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Thanks

We would like to thank Cotswold Motor Caravans for the free habitation check that they kindly donated as a raffle prize at the Club and Company Rally last year. We were delighted to take up the offer recently and it is very reassuring to know that our van has had such a thorough check at the beginning of the season. Their premises are very conveniently situated close to the M5 and we returned from spending a pleasant afternoon in Cheltenham to find our van ready and waiting for us. A couple of potential problems had been identified and put right and it was very useful to speak to someone who was obviously very familiar with the vehicle.

Although we have owned Auto-Sleepers for 8 years, we are relative "newcomers" to the Club, and we would like to thank everyone who has helped to make us feel so welcome. We enjoyed the trip to Paris with GB Privilege very much last year and look forward to visiting Holland for the first time and attending several other rallies this year.

Mary & Mike Bardsley

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Rust

This is a reply to *John Gilbert* who had been having problems with rust at the bottom of the windscreen on his 1997 VW Clubman. He is not alone - I had a similar problem on a '92 Trident. In my case I could trace the rust from the outside on the lower outer corner of the 'screen surround to a corresponding patch on the inside. Essentially the only effective treatment was to remove the screen, thoroughly treat the rust and fit a new screen. Without removing the screen it would be impossible to adequately treat the rust and the problem would recur.

While I was deliberating the best way of approaching the cost of a new screen I was 'fortunate' enough to suffer a genuine breakage which gave me the opportunity to have the screen changed under my insurance policy (with an excess of only £50.00 instead of an outright cost of about £200.00). The windscreen company visited the bodyshop undertaking the work and removed the old screen, returning

after the work was complete to fit the new one. So far no problems. I hope this is of some use. I am happy to be contacted directly if I can be of further help.

On a similar vein I would be grateful for any advice from more experienced members with regard to keeping older vehicles such as mine rust free. Although I've successfully sorted the windscreen problem rust is still very much an issue elsewhere. Recommendations of services (preferably Yorkshire area) or products would be very helpful. Many thanks

Andy Barrington

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More Electrical Things

Harry Aubin's contribution in the February Newsletter about AC mains supplies was very illuminating. He is right to suggest that queries on "hook-ups" will always be with us. His letter then goes on to display (with all due respect to *Harry*) a certain lack of understanding regarding alternating current theory. I believe this is because the words "pole" and "polarity" seem to mean the same thing, but they don't. In this context, "pole" means "connector" or "terminal", whereas "polarity" indicates whether a certain point in a circuit is positive (+) or negative (-) with respect to another point in the circuit. If a positive connector point is joined to a negative connector point by a load (e.g a lamp), a current flows through the lamp from positive to negative. If the batteries in your TV handset are inserted back-to-front, the + and - poles (terminals) will be reversed, so will be the polarities and the handset won't work. This seems to agree with *Harry's* letter, but it only true when direct current is involved, it does not apply to alternating current.

In the second paragraph of the letter, *Harry* quite rightly says that the current does reverse. If the current is flowing from the live pole to the neutral pole, the live pole is therefore positive and the neutral pole is negative. When the current reverses direction, the neutral pole must now be positive and the live pole must be negative otherwise the current would not have reversed its direction of flow and we would have a DC supply! The poles do not reverse but the polarity certainly does, 100 times a second.

Energy is supplied equally from the mains by the live and neutral poles. The only difference is that at the electricity sub-station which lowers the voltage of the distribution network to the 230 volts (used to be 240) we use in our homes, one of the supply cables has to be connected to earth. This cable thereby becomes the neutral connection (i.e. zero volts with

respect to earth) and is done for safety reasons only and does not convey any extra energy-giving properties to either pole.

I stated in my first letter that it is very dangerous to have "reverse polarity" on a UK 13 amp socket. I should really have said "reverse poles" of course. I used the original term since that is the one members are familiar with and would understand what it means in this case. If members are interested in learning more about this, your local library should have a few books on the subject. The textbooks that helped me pass my exams 40+ years ago might now be out of print but a more recent book I can recommend to beginners which deals with the basics very well is GCSE Electronics by Tom Duncan.

Albert Brown

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Club & Company Rally

We have volunteered to run the Bottle Stall at this years C & C Rally in July. We would be very grateful if members could start collecting bottles so that we will have a good display and thus make a good contribution to the chosen charity. This is our first effort and we hope to be successful. Many thanks.

Jill Pearce and Valerie Burt

Hopefully, members will remember to collect FULL bottles only, please!!

Don't forget the other stalls which will be running, Cakes, Bric-a-brac and Books, all of which will be glad of your contributions. So far as the Bookstall is concerned, please remember that Magazines are NOT acceptable - only "proper" books whether hard backed or paper backed.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Chairman's Chat

My attention has been drawn to the item about refillable gas cylinders which was in last month's Newsletter. I understand that there has been quite a bit of discussion on this subject in various areas. I



cannot pretend to understand it all but it does seem that you will have to be very careful indeed if you use what I might term "self-fill" cylinders other than the tanks which can be permanently fitted to your van.

I believe that the problem arises because of the possible difficulty in assessing just how much of the gas, in liquid form, has actually been put into the cylinder. No doubt some cylinders will have a simple way of showing the content but perhaps others might not. I also understand that you might be refused permission to fill up in certain circumstances. But I am sure that those who are more knowledgeable than I will let me know the correct details in due course.

I have been reading, in a fictional story I hasten to add, about a vehicle powered by electricity and hydrogen/oxygen. This van apparently could speed up to about 60 mph (in good conditions and after some time!) and used the hydrox cell when in the country converting to electricity for town work. That seems to be the sort of thing that we could all use, nice and clean in all senses and causing a lot less pollution. But I suppose that the real problem would be the size of batteries needed to hold sufficient charge. I wish I could invent a battery about the size of a couple of U2's which would do the trick. But I shall have to go back to dreaming.

You will have read the item from *Ray Whiley* concerning the misprint in his article in ACCEO Matters. I wonder just what our founder members think these days about what the Club has grown into. I remember that about the time of the Inaugural General Meeting they thought that they might be lucky enough to get 40 - 50 vans turning up to discuss the matter. In fact a lot more than that arrived and we have continued to grow ever since. Nowadays it seems that other clubs are watching what we do, particularly in the matter of becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee, to see whether they should be following in our wheel tracks (I nearly said footsteps!).

Even back in those dim and distant days the Club showed just what sort of people it was attracting. One member was taken ill and rushed to hospital. Others looked after the gentleman's wife and van and *Dillys and Frank Stinchcombe* kept an eye on them until he was sufficiently recovered to return home. *Frank* was one of the Founder Members who formed an ad-hoc committee to get the Club going and became our very first Treasurer, in case you didn't know. But from there on we have always been A.S.O.C. - A Society Of Carers. Long may that continue.

Harry Henthorne

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Wordsearch

(arranged by *Sheila Henthorne*)

A	M	A	R	A	N	T	H	H	Y	R	R	E	H	C
G	E	M	T	U	N	E	Y	D	N	U	G	R	U	B
C	E	R	U	L	E	A	N	L	I	G	E	N	I	A
S	E	O	T	O	G	N	I	M	A	L	F	R	T	Y
A	E	R	I	H	P	P	A	S	O	P	Z	N	E	N
L	T	G	I	N	G	E	R	I	A	A	E	N	I	W
M	N	D	I	S	G	O	L	A	P	G	I	S	L	A
O	L	A	T	Z	E	T	U	O	A	N	N	E	H	T
N	L	I	E	S	C	S	T	M	A	R	O	O	N	O
E	V	U	A	M	A	Y	N	O	B	E	X	E	Y	B
P	L	U	L	U	L	H	A	T	R	A	M	S	I	A
D	U	N	R	I	N	T	E	N	A	Q	T	U	A	Z
C	O	C	H	R	E	B	A	L	E	E	B	L	U	U
E	C	E	E	L	A	M	D	O	R	N	E	V	A	R
J	E	T	E	M	E	A	U	B	E	R	G	I	N	E

Amaranth
Amethyst
Aubergine
Azure
Bay
Burgundy

Cerise
Cerulean
Cherry
Cyan
Dun
Ebony

Flamingo
Ginger
Henna
Jet
Magenta
Maroon

Mauve
Nutmeg
Ochre
Oyster
Puce
Raven

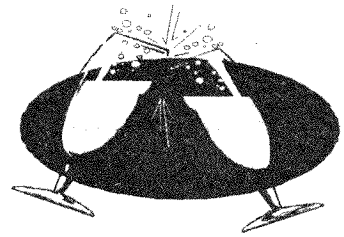
Rust
Salmon
Sapphire
Tawny
Teal
Topaz

All these words are in the grid - except one. Find that one and the one that is in the grid but not in the list! Good Hunting!!

Champagne Tour 2004

It is not too late to book our fabulous five day tour to the Champagne region and the exclusive champagne banquet at Mercier's Cave of Bacchus. Full details were in the January Newsletter and further information is available on the Club's website.

If you would like to take part in the tour, please contact GB Privilege for a booking form by email to gbprivilege@yahoo.com or by phone on 019 5378 9661,



Andy Cavell

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Uses for your Motorhome

In November 2001 we became proud owners of an Amethyst. We are more than pleased with her. Despite the ten year loan we took out to buy 'Amy' we don't seem to be at home much. Currently we are spending time with our daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

In fact 'Amy' was the limousine for our daughter's wedding, along with four bridesmaids and three page boys on board. We can't afford and have no desire to travel abroad.

Lynn Field

This has been 'on the spike' for a little while waiting for space to be available. It is an extract from a letter to our Membership Secretary enquiring about the Club.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Rubber Buffers

Not being the best of drivers, I have damaged the off side corner of my rear glass fibre bumper when backing (and not asking my wife to watch on this occasion!). Not badly, I may add, and it was soon repaired.

I decided to look for suitable rubber buffers to fit at each corner to protect this area. I was expecting to find only the solid type (as seen on many lorries) but I was lucky to find a firm that made a strip type that bends to suite the curve of the bumper. Along the centre line of each buffer is a metal strip with holes for screws and fitting them to the vehicle only took a few minutes each. Screws are NOT supplied. I would recommend them to anyone with my problem.

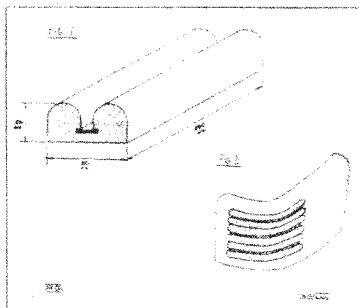


Fig 1. Single rubber buffer/strip.

Fig 2. 3 strips mounted on N/S of rear bumper.

While in Norwich I found a firm who made these. They are Walker Rubber and Plastics Ltd, Last House, 21-23 Burnet Road, Sweetbrair Industrial Estate, Norwich, NR3 2BS and the sales telephone number is 016 0348 7371. They do not seem to have any other locations.

The part number of the buffer is DD5025+STRIP. The cost is £2.50 per strip plus VAT. I purchased 6; 3 for each corner. I do not know if they do a mail order service but P&P would, of course, be extra.

Robin Gardner

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Wanted



Old Greetings cards wanted, Birthday Cards, Get Well cards etc (but not Christmas Cards!). If anyone coming to the AGM weekend has any such cards which they no longer want, would they please donate them to me for re-cycling? There will be a box in the entrance hall of the Cedric Ford Pavilion at Newark for any contributions. Many thanks.

Eileen Kellard

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For Sale

Tow bar for type 4 VW. £100.00. Omnistor 5000 awning for campervan. £150.00. Various bench and seat cushions for Topaz in Freisan material also for sale. Phone Norman Brice on 014 8356 2986 (Guildford, Surrey).

#####

Apache Motor Chalet style awning - used once. £150.00 ono. Fiamma bicycle rack for 2 cycles - as new. £75.00 ono. Silver Screen. £25.00 ono. TV aerial with pole clips and wire, with fixing to wing mirror etc. Vision Plus make - hardly used. £20.00 ono. All items less than one year old. Contact Alan Haydon on 014 0481 1269 (Ottery St. Mary, Devon).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Peugeot Pollensa 1.9 TD. MWB. 1999. 21,000 miles. Ex condition, non-smokers, no pets. Captain's seat, arm rests, 75w solar panel, battery master, two elecso 100 leisure batteries, double bike rack, Status aerial, reversing sensor, extra power points, external light, approved security system, Fiamma awning, Heiki roof lights. Tel: Len Rayner on 012 0242 2237 (Bournemouth).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Peugeot Ravenna 1.9TD (1999/T). 11,000 miles. MOT & SMMT to June 2004. 1 owner, non-smokers, no pets or children. Near mint condition. Fully equipped ready for immediate use with many extra fittings including cruise control, Fanmaster, awning and safari room, Silver Screens. Packing it in due to age and disability. Presently on display at a local caravan park on a sale or return basis for me and they can offer part-exchange, hire purchase etc. They have priced it at £25,995.00 but this is negotiable. Contact me on 013 0578 2082 (Weymouth) or e-mail: f.milward@which.net

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Safari room (Omnistor) for use with Omnistor Awning 5000. 2.6m. Colour grey. Good condition complete with curtains. £100.00. Fiamma Ultra Box 1, good condition complete with unused fitting kit. £100.00. Awning (AWA) 3.3m x 1.7m base. Drive away free-standing. Good condition. £50.00. Cupboard option, to fit 1990 A-S Ford Legend as an alternative to the overcab bed. £50.00. Portable flush toilet for caravan

or camping. £10.00. Delivery possible to Peterborough show or the Club and Company Rally and maybe to other parts of the country, if required. Tel: Eric Ramm on 013 3887 8416 or mobile 07 899 937 781 (Fakenham, Norfolk). Thanks for the donation.

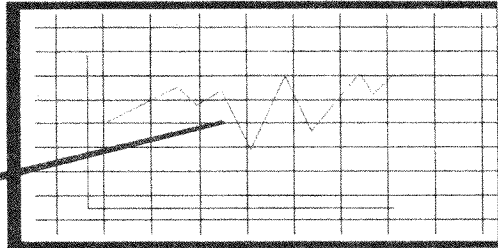
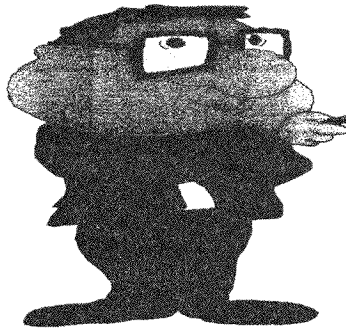


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Bendix compact spin drier. 200 watts. £30.00. Suitable for this country or abroad. Contact Bill Buttery on 019 2245 7726 (Aldridge, Walsall).

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Answers



No, I had not forgotten. Here are the answers to the Wordsearch puzzle which appears earlier in the Newsletter.

The colour which is on the list but is not within the grid is:

RUST

And the colour which is actually in the grid but does not appear on the list is:

WINE

My thanks, as ever, go to *Sheila* for helping me to fill up a bit of space and for giving you something to do if you are stuck in traffic!!

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