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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



NEWSLETTER 187

APRIL 2004

Hello.

Not an unusual thing - I made a mistake last month when I gave you the e-mail address for *Norma Caley*. It should be:

normacaley@tiscali.co.uk

I have already apologised to *Norma* for the error. She has enough trouble trying to get the place name of Freckleton across to people who telephone her!

Talking of addresses, my address is clearly shown on the back page. The house number is One Hundred and Forty Four (144). Would you believe it, I still receive the occasional letter mis-addressed. Some go to 114

(the people of that house very kindly bring any along to me) and, for all I know, others may go to 14 or 44. But if you want to send something to me by ordinary post, remember One Gross, One Hundred and Forty Four, 144. As Mr Punch always says, "That's the way to do it".

I would like to encourage everyone to send in any snippet they may have, whether it concerns something technical (which will, of course, be referred to the Technical Group for authorisation), something about your travels, funny stories about the rallies or anything else. All is grist to the editorial mill and your friends in the Club will be delighted to read the items.

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Spain

If you are travelling, or thinking of travelling to Spain you should be aware that it is a requirement that you have in your vehicle two warning triangles and in addition a fluorescent jacket. Failure to have these if you are stopped can mean an instant fine of around £50.00.

Jim Cresswell

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Newspapers

Will any member wishing to purchase newspapers on the Saturday and Sunday of the A.G.M. Weekend please inform me of their preferences by Thursday, 15th April 2004. Mr Gill will do his best to obtain the papers you order and will be on site at around 9.00 am each morning.

Please telephone on 019 0233 2105; this number will also connect to the fax machine and the answering machine. Alternatively write to me at 15 Langley Gardens, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, WV3 7JN.

Please remember that 15th April is the date by which I need your requests.

Nora Venables

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Air Ride suspension

I am considering having Air Ride suspension fitted to my Symphony. I would appreciate any comments, good or bad, from any member who has experience of them.

With reference to the "Wanted" item from *Robert Wood* in February. I obtained a 3kg and a 6kg bottle free of charge from my local waste disposal site.

Colin Haynes

I've got a similar air suspension fitted to my Clubman and have found it quite an asset. I seem to have lost the "wallowing" which I did have previously and the van seems steadier when passing or being overtaken by large vehicles at speed.

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Scottish Ferries

Caledonian Mac-Brayne have now published their summer time table and their excellent Explore 2004 booklet. Prices have inevitably risen, the revised figures for Hopscotch 23 being £158.00 if you are under 5 metres and £237.00 if your are longer. On top of that there is a charge of £39.00 per person including the driver.

Prices always seem to go up much more than pensions! All details are on their website www.calmac.co.uk

Bob Morris

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Western Isles

This seems to be an area of interest to several members. I have been asked to put *Noel Murray* in touch with anyone who can reply to the question posed by *Margo and Colin Lumb* last month when they wanted to know where any camp sites would be. So if you have any such information, please let your editor know.

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Cruise Controls

We have ordered a Rienza automatic on a Ford chassis. I require cruise control fitted and neither A-S nor Fords can fit it. Could anyone please give me advice on the best system and make to fit? I have the details of Rostra and Conrad Anderson systems but as we are new to motor caravanning I have no idea which to choose. A recommended installer in the S.E. part of the country would also be very helpful. My address is 168 Edwin Road, Rainham, Kent, ME8 0AQ and the telephone number is 016 3423 4694. Many thanks.

Brian Leonard

Brian in one of our very newest members, so please let us show him just what the membership can do!

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Refillable Gas Cylinders

Like *Mike Hall* who wrote on this subject in February, we have also looked at the possible purchase of one of these cylinders, especially for use whilst touring or spending long periods abroad. You may have noticed the item in the Caravan Club's magazine which sets out the problems which might arise from such cylinders.

We have not yet purchased a cylinder as we were unable to obtain confirmation that any of those on the British market had received certification under ECE 67-01 = user-refillable LPG tanks.

We require this confirmation to be sure that any refillable tank or cylinder we bought would not nullify our insurance in the event of a claim having to be submitted.

We also wonder, if they are refillable, why one would need to buy more than one?

Joyce and Michael Thomas

I think I can answer the last question. Where would you get your tank refilled if it runs out, as they often seem to, at 3.20 am on a chilly morning?

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We recently visited the Caravan, Boat and Outdoor Show at the NEC. On one of the stands they were showing light weight gas cylinders which can be refilled with LPG which is obtainable from garages and supermarket garages that stock the product. The salesman assured us that LPG is now widely available across the UK and Europe. When travelling in Europe one has to have the correct connecting piece for the different countries.

We would like to know if any member has changed to these new type of cylinders and if they experienced any difficulty in obtaining LPG. Any other comments would also be of help.

On the face of it, it would appear that these cylinders are a great improvement on the current metal type, especially as we are getting older and find it harder and more awkward to change the cylinders.

Valerie and Robin Gardner

You will have read *Mike Hall's* article and have no doubt taken heed of my remarks last month and the comments above. The Caravan Club, after consulting with Calor, seem to suggest that some LPG outlets are refusing to allow some cylinders to be refilled without some evidence being produced concerning date of manufacture, latest test date, that appropriate tests have been carried out and the test regime, details of previous contents and the fill ratio. They may also ask for a waiver of liability from the customer. So it might be as well to defer any purchase until the situation becomes a lot clearer.

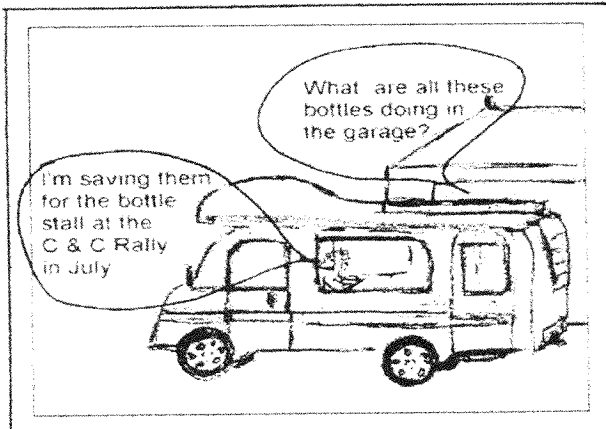
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Club & Company Rally 2004

An exciting opportunity has arisen for just one keen and enthusiastic person to join the organising team for this year's rally! We have a vacancy for someone to organise and run the Cake Stall. If you would like to offer your services, or find out more about what is involved, please contact me on 016 3520 1976.

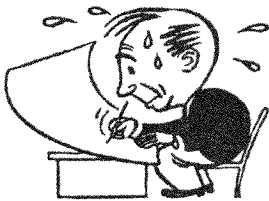
Andy Cavell

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Chairman's Chat



We had a very good committee meeting at Moreton-in-Marsh on 6th March. As usual, many interesting topics arose and I would like to pass one or two of them on to you all.

First of all, have you received any indication that motorhomes of over 3.5 tonnes need an MOT after one year? In fact they do NOT need the certificate until after three years have elapsed. It appears that some areas think that they come under the commercial vehicle provisions but that is not the case.

It was also mentioned that some communications ostensibly starting from the Club are NOT on the official Club

stationery. As we are now a Limited Company it is a legal requirement that all Club communications, of whatever sort and at whatever level, must be on the official stationery. Please help us keep within the law.

As is not an unusual case, we learned that there is a shortage of people willing and able to marshal rallies. Now this is not a difficult task and it can be very enjoyable. You will appreciate that *Neil Rogers*, our hard-working Rally co-ordinator does not have the time to visit every possible rally site in the country. The Club needs YOU to find a site and to organise a rally there. Of course, you may feel that you don't know enough about it to be able to cope, but if that is the case, why not have a word with *Neil* with a view to being an assistant marshal at one that is already organised or is being arranged? Many marshals will be very pleased to receive a little help and you will learn a lot in a very short time. In addition, *Neil* has prepared a comprehensive (idiot's?) guide to what is required and will be pleased to let you have a copy. Some people seem to have been put off by the need to obtain VAT receipts for the items that they buy for the rally. This is NOT difficult. If you buy your tea, coffee, milk, biscuits etc in, say, Tesco's, you only need to make sure that the till receipt bears the VAT number. If it does not show it, then ask for a VAT receipt which will quickly be given. So give it a try, run or help at a rally and enjoy yourselves.

Talking about *Neil* reminds me. We are trying to make sure that we have an up to date list of everything which the Club owns so that we can ensure that we have the proper insurance to cover it (and we know where everything is!). Have you any equipment which is the property of the Club? Maybe a banner with the ASOC name on it, a direction sign, any other signs or anything else. We would also like to mark everything that is the property of the Club so that if the bailiffs call on you for some reason, they won't remove our stuff! If you have anything, please let *Neil* know what it is and where it is now. Thanks.

"Apologies for absence" were received from our Member Number One, *John Cox*. Unfortunately *John* has not been too well lately and *Barbara* has been under the weather too and unable to

drive. So they couldn't get along to Moreton-in-Marsh. We missed them both and I am sure that I speak for everyone in the Club when I wish them better health in the future. We understand that they may not be able to get along to the AGM and, at the moment anyway, they may not get to the Club and Company Rally either. Let us hope that things change for the better.

We also learned that Pam Hadley, the receptionist at the factory and familiar telephone voice to many of us has retired. She has been a good friend to both Club members and non-members who have had occasion either to telephone or visit the factory and will be missed by us all. We wish her all the best for her retirement.

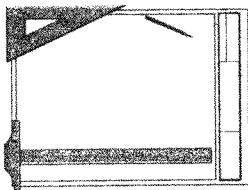
Harry Henthorne

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Technical Group

Liaison with Auto-Sleepers is now extremely strong, particularly with *Charles Trevelyan* at the Service centre. *Charles* always willingly provides support, guidance and encouragement to the Technical Group - so it is particularly equitable that he has kindly accepted an invitation to become a formal member of the Group.

The overwhelming requests for Ideas Sheets (539 by first week in March) appears to have encouraged new ideas to be sent in - thank you. If you have made changes to your motorhome that may be of interest to other members please send me the details, with photos and drawings if possible, and I will develop them before seeking approval. There are currently several ideas in development and the following three are awaiting approval and I would like to thank Fred Craffert, of A-S, for all the work he does in researching the ideas before they are approved:-



- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| No. 69 | Mains hook-up warning | (awaiting approval) |
| No. 70 | Anti surge water pump system | (awaiting approval) |
| No. 71 | Cooker hood, or reading light. | (awaiting approval) |

Details of all the members of the group and what the Technical Group can offer can be found on the Club website - www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk - click on the technical page.

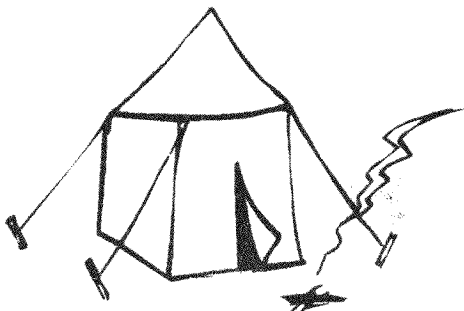
Baz Wellard

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Thank You

I would like to thank everybody who mailed me about my letter in last month's Newsletter regarding drive-away awnings. The response was much better than I could have imagined and proves what a helpful club *Sue and I* belong to.

We decided to purchase a Khyam Motordome because it seemed to fit all the criteria we set ourselves and it came highly recommended. Along with advice about awnings we also received much valued tips on such things as storage. Not everybody has



enjoyed their experiences with drive away awnings and that point was illustrated by stories of them blowing away and some not fitting properly. Only time will tell whether we have similar stories to tell in the future but for now we are looking forward to Easter when we can use our Motordome in earnest for the first time.

Once again many thanks to everybody who took the trouble to write, your advice was appreciated. Happy camping!

Andrew & Sue Chappell

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Unusual trip to France

Not an unusual event for ASOC members, till the date of departure is revealed, Wednesday, 29th January 2004. The reason was a request by son & daughter in law to visit their newly acquired cottage and carry out some habitation updates and install a Satellite system prior to the holiday season. Booked a very favourable 5 day return package through the Caravan Club, provided I travelled overnight, not a problem with an A-S Symbol, although a disabled wife as passenger required some special care and much modification to the original Symbol as delivered.

Wednesday 29th dawned bright and sunny in Cambridgeshire but by mid-day dire warnings were being broadcast of winter weather and snow, which was travelling south fast from an already snowed up Scotland. By mid-day the voice of authority was intimating that it's better to travel by daylight and sunshine so the departure was advanced from



circa midnight to 15.30hrs. Despite this we were soon into a snowstorm south of Royston on the A10. On joining the M25, the Lea Valley area had brought numerous heavies to a standstill and one was now travelling in any lane that allowed progress. The Peugeot Symbol 2L was very tractable and surefooted provided speed was regulated to the conditions prevailing and I tended to opt for the outside lane with fresh snow while the majority were chasing the inner worn lanes. At Dartford Tunnel due to the Bridge being closed, five lanes were being funnelled into two for one of the tunnels and this necessitated an hour and fifteen minutes hold-up, before progress through onto the M20.

Arrived at the Channel Tunnel at 20.30 hrs and prepared for a park up and some shut eye before the early morning train. Problems then reared their ugly head. First: Vehicle can only park up for a maximum of two hours

before being escorted off site. Second: Butane fails to gas off around 0 degrees. (Already known but not experienced before). Negotiation with Security permitted our stay for (a), disabled passenger, and (b), weather condition prevailing. The gas was a continuing problem in that the heater shut down after approx 15-20 minutes and constantly required relighting or the option to run the engine for periods. Combining the two maintained a reasonable temperature within the motorhome. The passenger was put to bed with extra covers and I catnapped between previous actions.

At 03.00 hrs Security notified us to board the next shuttle due to the intermittent service running throughout the night. We had previously



APRIL 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.

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.

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 1JG 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 Shalimar 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 Afford, Lincs.

Emergency Tel.No. 07768164521 Marshal's mobile.
Rally Marshals: Janet Sutterby & Eileen Kellard.
Site Fee: £22.00 for rally. No Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.00.
Meal (optional) £5.00 per person (prices include VAT where applicable).
Rally slips & cheques to: Janet Sutterby, 3 Pilsby Road, Afford, Lincs. LN13 9EW.
Tel.No. 01507462449.

Venue- Cricket Club grounds with full use 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 Afford. Turn **right** opposite church onto B1196 sp. Weton le Marsh & Willoughby. In nearly 1 mile turn **right** towards Well. Cricket club in 0.1 mile 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 also proposed. 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.N o.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.

28th. 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 Portsmouth,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.

4th. – 6th. June (2 nights) Blue Lias,Nr. Coventry,Warks.

Emergency Tel.No. 07799660641.Marshals' mobile.

Rally Marshals: Sandra & Bernie Wisely.

Site Fees: £5.00 per night (Incl.VAT).. NO ELECTRICITY. Rally Fee:£2.35 (Incl VAT)

GREENFIELD SITE. Pub toilets during opening hours.

Cheques & rally slips to Sandra Wisely,2 Mount Pleasant,Bishops Itchington,Southam,Warwickshire.

CV47 2QE. Tel.No. 01926 614 194

Fishing available on site –a permit can be purchased on site @£5.00 per person.Canal walks from Blue Lias.

Meal available on Saturday night £5.95 per head , sweets extra, payable to site.

Choose from: Steak & Ale Pie, Plaice or Vegetable Lasagne.Choice of boiled/ chipped potatoes & peas - please state your meal preference on rally slip.

Directions:From the Southam By-pass take the A426 signed Rugby.In just over 1 mile at the first cross road turn left (un-classified road 17tgw) Blue Lias is on the **left** in about ½ mile.

From Rugby take the A426, go through Dunchurch towards Southam.After approx. 4 ½ miles pass the Boat Inn Public House on the right.At just under 1 mile at the next crossroads turn **right** (un-classified road 17 tgw).Blue Lias is on the **left** in about ½ mile. Maximum of 20 vans.

17th. – 21st. June (nights) Springbok Estate,Alfold,Surrey.

Site Tel.No. 01403 752 555 (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals: Sylvia & Norman Brice.

Site Fee:£ 4.50 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:£2.50 (couples), £1.75(singles) .Incl.VAT.

GREENFIELD SITE. Toilet emptying & water points.Toilets.

Rally slips & cheques payable to Mrs.S.Brice,35 Halfpenny Close, Chilworth,Guildford, Surrey.GU4 8NH. Tel.No. 01483 562 986.

Attractions: Large country house (home to merchant seamen) with social club.Close to Alfold village,20 mins. walk for papers,bread etc.Lots of gentle walks around in the grounds of Springbok.Fishing lake,bring your licence.Within easy reach of Cranleigh,Guildford, Godalming,Horsham & South Coast. Skittles & buffet evening to be arranged.Please indicate on rally slip if interested.

Dogs welcome on leads at all times.

Directions: Take A281 Guildford to Horsham road, at Alfold crossways turn off s.p. Alfold. Immediately turn **right** (caravan sign) s.p. Dunsfold. Site approx. 1 ½ miles.

*******Advance notice.**

2nd - 6th July. (nights). Stanford Caravan Park, Nr. Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

Emergency Tel.No. 017888 60250.

Rally Marshals: Nora & Ven Venables, 15 Langley Gardens, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton. WV3 7JN. Tel.No.

01902 332 105, Mobile 07703639109 & Elizabeth & Bryn Morgan.

Site Fee: £6.50 per night incl electricity. Rally Fee: £2.00 per person.

This is a GREENFIELD site, own toilet essential.

There is a dog walk on the Estate but dogs must be kept on a lead on site.

Rally slips & cheques (with SAE for directions) payable to Mrs. E. Morgan, 44 Mersey Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport. SK4 3DJ. Tel.No. 0161432 4869.

Attractions: Stanford Hall & grounds, motorcycle museum, tea rooms are approx. ½ mile from site. Velocette Owners' Club rally in grounds. Free fishing in the River Avon.

A coach trip, approx. £7, may be arranged. Also a light meal, £4.50, on Saturday evening in the upstairs tea room. Please state if interested on rally slip

DO NOT SEND MONEY for meals/coach trip.

*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

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 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

taken our drinking chocolate and medication for the night, so her indoors slept through the shuttle journey (First Time) and did not wake until well down the E402. Via the "Peage" motorway (approx 9 Euro) to Abbeville and dawn of a new day with no sign of snow since arriving at Calais. Took the opportunity to top up with petrol once into France - A golden rule when faced with driving in winter conditions.

French roads tend to be devoid of traffic unlike ours and even more so overnight. I was considering somewhere to pull-in and rest but lo and behold on approaching Normandy the blizzard returned. Road traffic north out of Rouen was at a standstill while a few natives were keen to follow this English White van westwards. In Rouen due to traffic, roads were clear of snow but the spray from passing heavies reduced visibility alarmingly, especially the rear view mirrors. Snow on the motorway signs also hindered navigation and led to us travelling onto the A16 "Peage" motorway to Caen in error. Eventually on sighting signs for Lisieux realised I had overshot our destination, so left the motorway and tracked back via the N13 towards Evreux and the local town of Bernay. Apart from snow rutted roads, they were passable and local equipment was evident in clearing the remnants.

Arriving at midday on Thursday, the cottage grassed site with hard standing was ideal with electric outside point and water tap so soon it was all systems go and catch-up with some sleep. Son & Daughter arrived early on Friday Morning using the overnight ferry and numerous jobs were tackled and finished. Especially pleased that a digital receiver with mini dish was installed with as good a signal strength as at home. Together with the new card allowed free view of BBC1 & 2, ITV, Channels 4 & 5. (Card no longer available since January '04)

The journey home on the Monday took approx. 4½ hours road travel for the 180 miles to Calais provided you followed the clear green signs for Boulogne and beyond. This time *Pamela* was awake to marvel at the quiet Tunnel transit so unlike a train with platform to platform in 35 minutes - No more ferries for us and much more disabled friendly despite the placing of such passengers at either the end or front of the train.

Oh! By the way, I did work in Scandinavia over two winters during 1980, so the prospect of driving on snow is not alarming for me. The motorhome could have been parked should the roads have become impassable. Verdict on the Symbol was very favourable, despite not having additional linings for the front windows. The passenger nearside bunk works very well with a seat belt which was

worn when travelling. With the passenger seat turned sideways a panoramic view was available. The wheelchair stows between the front seats when using the habitation. BUT, purchase Propane gas if contemplating any more winter months of travelling and habitation. I read in the Newsletter that one can exchange cylinders when required. We never attempted to fill the cold/hot water system in such weather conditions but instead relied on portable water container and the Thetford products are frost free providing the motorhome is heated.

Pamela & Ray Newbury

-----oooOOOooo-----

Electrics - again

Regarding *Albert Brown's* letter on page 12 of the March Newsletter, and with respect, there are points it has occurred to me to raise. Firstly, it is accepted that sometimes there is confusion between 'poles' (terminals) and 'polarity'. This I will try to avoid!

Electricity is transmitted from the source to sub-stations in three a.c. phases (lines) and a neutral which is earthed at source. (Modern Electrical Installations, 3 vols, Brian Scaddan). The neutral is therefore at zero volts, i.e. zero joules of energy per coulomb of charge or zero electrical potential difference between neutral and earth. A house will be supplied, usually, from one 'line' or phase, an earthed neutral and an earth. If an electrical appliance were to be connected between the supply neutral terminal and the earth terminal, it would not function because no current will flow without a potential difference. Here, the earth and neutral are effectively equivalent to being the 'same wire' or terminal. However, if an appliance were to be incorrectly connected between the live terminal and the earth terminal it will function and appear normal! There is a normal mains potential difference (230 volts) between live and earth. Clearly, neither of these conditions would occur in a correct house, vehicle or site installation! The point here is that whilst the neutral terminal cannot supply energy to an appliance with the earth terminal, the live terminal can. It is the live terminal or conductor which provides all the energy whatever the current direction with the neutral being used. Hence the reason for fusing and switching the live side but not the neutral. Hence my analogy about one man using a wood saw in my earlier letter (Feb Newsletter). He does all the work at one end of the saw whatever the blade (current equivalent) direction. It also happens that the ground between the sub-station earth and the generator earth, whilst not being the best of conductors, there is

ample of it for a link between sub-station earthing and the generator earthing and this tends to stop or reduce 'floating' supply voltages.

If the three phase neutral at the generator or source, the sub-stations' neutrals and thus house installation neutrals were not earthed, then both live and neutral would be energised and both terminals would provide energy equally. This could possibly require a larger diameter neutral conductor in the three phase system but would not help to control possible floating voltages. However, this is regarded in the UK and here as unsafe practice and would require two-pole switching as in France where site live and neutral terminals are sometimes reversed with reference to our UK vehicle wiring. (This is when a three pin mains pole tester and short length of 'corrector' cable are handy). Maybe the original installers of the UK system just did not like two live wires (conductors) though I have worked in labs where the output from a mains transformer, earthed at a centre-tap, supplied just that with half the voltage on two lives, 115 volts each on appropriate thirteen amp sockets. That is somewhat safer with reference to earth. It is a way of supplying 230 volts between live and a second live (formerly the neutral) but should have two pole switching and two fuses. A mains bulb connected as in the two ways mentioned in paragraph two, i.e. between either live (1 former neutral) and earth, would be about a quarter of normal brightness but of normal brightness when connected between the two lives.

As *Albert* correctly says, Tom Duncan's Electronics is an excellent book for GCSE electronics and it does explain very basic a.c. theory. However, it says nothing about normal, practical electrical installation. I doubt that it is necessary but I will finish by reminding everyone that mains electricity, though very safe, must always be used with care.

Harry Aubin.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Tips for Beginners

Just to help along, here are a few tips you might find useful.

- Paper plates, half the washing up goes in the bin and it saves water.
- Empty 5 litre mineral water bottles for water to make tea. Avoids using the tank water and saves water as well.
- Portable waste tank for long on-site stays means staying on your pitch for longer.
- Put all heavy stuff (as above) on folding trollies.

- Use blue water pipe for filling up as garden hoses are not anti-bacterial. Attach a Hozelock tap connector for easier fill ups.
- Fiamma tripod bases (with the addition of shorter table legs) means you can position your table(s) wherever you want, including outdoors.
- A tripod base and a normal leg make an ideal support for a patio umbrella in the absence of any form of awning.
- 60oz sleeping bags are easier to use than traditional bedding.
- Every nook and cranning is a 'spatial opportunity! There are gaps where you least expect them (gas vents notwithstanding, of course).
- Read the magazines, visit some shows, be wary of expensive 'must have' accessories - they don't all live up to expectations.

Incidentally, I have finally got the better of the Carver Fanmaster, having found a copper pipe touching the back plate of the fire. It had more "Boing" than a banjo. A small, strategically placed piece of heat resistant pipe wrap has done the trick. If anyone wants to use my road as a rattle and squeak test track, they are more than welcome. The tarmac road surface is so bad that it throws the cocktail cabinet door open on a bad day.

Patricia & Terry Hammond

This has been sitting on the spike for a little while together with another contribution about the various trips they have made with their van. That will be included later.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Smiling

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the 'flu
 When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too!
 I turned around the corner and someone saw me grin,
 When he smiled I realised I had passed it on to him.

I thought about it, smiled, and realised its worth.
 A single smile like mine could travel round the earth.
 If you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected
 Let's start and epidemic quick and get the world infected.

This poem was handed to me at the committee meeting by *Norma Caley* and I think it is well worth including in the Newsletter. It reminds me of a saying I learned a long, long time ago:- "If you see a man without a smile, give him one of yours!"

-----oooOOOooo-----

From the Factory

For Auto-Sleepers, the success of exhibiting at this years' 'Boat Caravan and Outdoor Show' at the NEC Birmingham was overwhelming. Orders taken at the show were an impressive 33% up on last year, ensuring that NEC 2004 was Auto-Sleepers most successful show ever. Even more pleasing for us here at the factory was the success of our two newly launched models.

The Trooper, based on the All-New Volkswagen Transporter, received a huge amount of attention. The new 'chunky' VW body styling and the Champagne metallic paintwork ensured that no one could walk past it without taking a closer look. With these handsome looks and its modern approach to interior design this is the second vehicle launched by A-5 in the new MPSV (Multi Purpose Sleeper Vehicle) category. The Trooper is characterised by its unique solid-sided elevating roof - giving the vehicle a driving clearance of just 7' 0" (2120mm), and sales of this vehicle have already exceeded all expectations.

The Peugeot Inca EL was equally well received with its low profile roofline, luxurious interior furnishings, and wide bodied construction to maximise interior living space. The spacious end lounge layout, with its panoramic windows, gives a light and airy feel to the whole vehicle. Both Inca's are now available with a low profile roofline or a large Luton over cab bed for extra sleeping/storage space. The Inca range has proved a popular introduction into the market and we were pleased to take the first order for an Inca EL on the first day it was on sale - the opening day of the show.

Ian Capes, Chief Executive of The Auto-Sleepers Group, is particularly pleased with the results of the show: "The Boat, Caravan and Outdoor show was our most successful exhibition to date with a record number of dealer and customer orders generated. The stand design, in particular, drew much praise from the public, as did the newly introduced interior colour schemes and external graphics." Commenting on the present strength of the caravanning industry, he adds: "The number of first time buyers at the show is particularly encouraging for us and reflects the strength of the market, which is currently entering its ninth successive year of growth, a very positive trend for all motorhome manufacturers".

Carole Domenech

-----oooOOOooo-----

A Gardening Tip from Devon!!!

An elderly man wrote to his only son in prison:-

"Dear Jack. Spring is here and I am downhearted because I cannot dig the garden this year to get the potatoes in. I know that if you were here you would do it for me, but there it is".

By return of post he received a letter:-

"Dear Dad. DON'T dig up the garden. That's where I buried the bodies!. Love, Jack".

During that afternoon the police turned up and dug over the entire garden. When they found nothing, they apologised and left.

The next day another letter arrived:-

"Dear Dad. Now you can go ahead and plant the potatoes. It was the best I could do under the circumstances! Love Jack".

(Sent in by *Pam and Terry Holtom*. I can't remember when I first heard this one, but it was a long time back. But perhaps you haven't heard it.)

-----oooOOOooo-----

Free to Air

There was an article in MMM in February 2004 regarding the Sky digital satellite system. Apparently there is now a card issued by Sky so that if you request a replacement viewing card you will be able to receive BBC 1 & 2, ITV1, channels 4 & 5 together with other Sky free channels. The card appears to cost a one-off payment of £23.50 and you may buy another card for a further £23.50 for use in a second digibox at another location, e.g. In a motorhome or caravan. The replacement cards will remain operative until December 2004.

To obtain the service ring Sky on 08700 541800 and order by phone using a credit or charge card. Alternatively, log on to www.free2view.tv as, apparently, orders can be placed on line.

Thanks to *Roy Newbury* for bringing this to our attention, particularly for those who don't necessarily subscribe to the magazine mentioned.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Obituary

We have been advised that *Nial Reynolds* passed away during February. He will be remembered by the Club for being our P.R.O. for a time whilst he served on the committee. Many members will also recall that he prepared, printed and published "Rambling Recipes", a collection of recipes which he and his late wife *Dorothy* had found to be useful in their motorhome and before that in their boat. They both took great interest in and were part of the Club and Company Rally for several years where they exhibited paintings, tie-dyeing and similar crafts.

The funeral was held at the Kettering Crematorium on 1st March 2004.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Wanted

3 to 5 year old Talisman 2.5TD, PAS, 2 or 4 berth. Details to Terry Harvey on 014 9486 2157.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Correction.

In the advert last month on behalf of Eric Ramm the home telephone number should have been shown as 013 2887 8416. Sorry about that, a bit of the usual finger trouble!

-----oooOOOooo-----

For Sale



Symbol, 1.9 turbo diesel, 2001. 18,000 miles. Full A-S spec plus Van Bitz alarm, Battery Master and safe. Green herringbone upholstery. One owner, non-smokers, no pets. Full service history, A-S habitation service Feb. 04. As new condition. £22,995.00. Tel Malcolm Imhoff on 012 1382 4806; mobile 07 833 644 543 or e-mail malcolm@emandem.co.uk
Thanks for the donation.

#####

1 set of Silver Screens to fit on the inside of windows for a 1990 Ford Transit. £30.00. Safari room to fit a Legend coachbuilt. It fits a 2.5m awning. £150.00. Stop-Lock steering wheel lock. £10.00. 3 Calor 6kg Propane bottles (empty). £5.00 each. One full bottle. £10.00. 1 plastic

step, very strong. £5.00. Contact Eric Wilton on 011 7986 0942 (Keynsham, Bristol).

#####

VW Clubman GL, 1997 'P' reg. 2.4Ltr petrol, automatic. One owner, stored under cover last 3-4 years when not in use. MOT Jan 2004, VW alarm/immobiliser, Silver Screen, service history, usual A-S spec. Non-smokers, no pets. £16,000.00. Tel: Robert Baker on 012 7088 3284 (Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs)
Thanks for the donation.

#####



Purpose built G.R.P. Back Box, 5' x 16' x 18'. Previously used on 1995 model Duetto. Fitted with number plate, rear lights and made with matching colour gel coat same as Duetto roof. Comes complete with all fixing brackets. Designed to be removable so that either step or box can be used. Hardly used. £200.00 ono. Tel: Roy Bellord on 012 4534 8205 or 07 970 509 286 (Chelmsford, Essex)
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Fiamma Top Box. Ultra Box size 2. 75kg max. 45" x 35" x 16" approx. £100.00. Telephone Alan Russell on 012 6841 7143 (Basildon, Essex).
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Free standing awning, little used (Royan Camping Traveller III). 340mm x 210mm x 200mm. Suitable for High-top. £120.00. Omni-bike rack for 2 bikes. £70.00. Beeny Box and fittings, was fitted to rear of VW Clubman. £100.00. Centre support for roll out awning. £10.00. Contact Pat Gascoigne on 023 8055 1133 (Southampton).
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Duetto LE 'V' reg (12.01.2000). Ford Transit 150L Kombi LWB 2496cc Turbo-diesel. Power steering, automatic. 11,500 miles on the clock (I've done four of them!) All the usual Duetto mod cons including Fiamma awning, back step box, Status aerial. £22,000.00. Ono. Contact Ben Needham on e-mail at ben@needham.go-plus.net or phone 012 5267 7235 (Aldershot)
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Legend GL 2.5D. 1991 'H' reg, 69,500 miles. 2 + 2 berth, awning, safari room, roof rack, bike rack, alarm, Silver Screens. Non-smokers, no

pets. 2 owners from new. FSH, new MOT, taxed to October. £10,500.00. Tel: Terry Harvey on 014 9486 2157 (Great Missenden, Bucks).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Aluminium back box made to fit Ford Duetto back step allowing back doors to open. Professionally made and finished in powder coated Duetto colour. Never fitted due to change of plan, still wrapped. Size: 59" long x 10" wide by 7" deep. Just the job for wind breaks and Fiamma poles. Cost £265.00 - will accept an offer around £125.00. Tel: Gordon Goodrich on 011 4230 6786 (Sheffield)



#####

Parker Richardson silver screen for VW Transporter T4. Excellent condition, complete with storage bag. £45.00 ono. Contact Lois and Alan Parker on 011 6259 6312 (Billesden, Leicester).

#####

Executive 2.5 TD 'X' registered 2001, 27,400 miles. Usual spec with awning, cycle rack, extractor fan. MOT to Jan 2005, taxed to June 2004. £23,950.00. Silver Screen for VW Clubman. £20.00. Tel: Roy Arnold on 014 7231 3645 or e-mail roy.arnold@ntlworld.com
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 Elecsol 100 leisure batteries, double bike rack, Status aerial, reversing sensor, extra power points, external light, approved security system, Fiamma awning, Heiki roof lights. £19,500.00. Tel: Len Rayner on 012 0242 2237 (Bournemouth).

#####

2000 (W) Executive, 'blue dial' Boxer cab, 4 berth, usual A-S spec plus offside Beeny Box, Noisekiller, Defen-Dor and underseat lockable plate. 18,700 miles, excellent condition, serviced and MOT to 2005, taxed to Sept 2004, No DIY mods, kids, pets or smokers. New vehicle forces sale at reduced price, £23,995.00 ovno. Tel: Terry Hammond on 011 8962 8030, evenings. (Woodley, Reading)

Thanks for the donation.

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