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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 189**

## **JUNE 2004**

Hello.

What a great weekend it was at Newark this year for the AGM. We thought, on our way up to the showground, that the whole affair might be a bit of a washout because the drizzly rain seemed to accompany us for the whole journey. Even on the Friday morning it seemed to be a bit cold. But the weather for the Saturday and Sunday was very pleasant and so many people were able to enjoy sitting in the sunshine outside their vans.

As usual, I made a plea for more contributions for YOUR Newsletter and it has brought some response. But I am never satisfied, so please keep them coming in!

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## **Running on Fresh Air**

To save having to stop for fuel when starting out on holiday, we tend to fill up on our way home. In March we called at the garage and set about topping up. After 2.69 litres had gone in the tank was full. £2.10 worth of fuel - we couldn't believe it, especially when we checked and found we'd covered 106 miles since our previous fill up. Filling up on our way home in April proved equally mysterious. She took 2.48 litres (£2.22) and we had done 145 miles!

Checking with our local VW garage to make sure all was well, they said what were we complaining for - fresh air is free at the moment! I wonder if anyone else has a motorhome that runs on fresh air? I just hope we are not in the middle of nowhere when she decides fresh air isn't enough and she needs diesel!

Girl Friday - our 2002 Gatcombe - never ceases to amaze us - and we never did get to the bottom of why the fresh water gauge only works when hard water is put in.

*Jean Shaftoe*

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## **AIR RIDE SUSPENSION**

Replying to the member who wanted to know about fitting this to a Symphony van. I had it fitted to mine at the Club and Company Rally in 2000. I can thoroughly recommend it. It does all that the manufacturers say it will. It can be adjusted to suit your needs as regards comfort and needs only periodic checking of the pressure gauge to maintain the ideal pressure. It can be set to compensate for weight distribution too if required.

I felt that it was a good investment, it certainly makes for a more comfortable and stable ride especially on corners. There is no leaning

over of the vehicle. I shall be interested in any other comments about the system.

*David Newing*

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If, like us, you are also members of the Camping and Caravanning Club you may have noticed on page 2 of the April magazine a reader's letter entitled 'Spring in the Air'. This suggested that some forms of air springs or air bags fitted to assist rear suspensions may render certain insurance cover invalid.

As our motorhome insurance is due for renewal within a matter of weeks we wrote to our insurers 'Boncaster' (the Camping and Caravanning Club's insurance) asking for them to confirm that the 'Airride' suspension kit which we have had professionally fitted and previously notified to them as having been fitted to our vehicle does NOT fall into this class

We felt that other members should be made aware of this as we know that very many of them have had 'Airrides' suspension kits fitted to their vans. The good news is that professionally fitted 'Airrides' are not involved and the insurance company mentioned is prepared to make a file entry to this effect for those members insured with them who have had the system professionally fitted.

*Joyce & Michael Thomas*

I agree. My own insurance people, Comfort Insurance who usually come along to the Club and Company Rally, have confirmed that the M.A.D. suspension kit fitted to my van does not invalidated my insurance. All they asked was for me to confirm the fitting in writing.

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Re the enquiry from *Colin Haynes* about Air Rides. I found them not suitable for a Symphony and removed them after 18 months because after trying various pressures they either hold the vehicle up with firm suspension (as before) or with lower pressures there is so little travel the bellows bottom. Therefore fine with coachbults needing support with the boxy overhang but not for van conversions.

My answer, which I am satisfied with, is to remove the A-S Aeon rubbers and support block, then cut the Aeon in half and fit the top half only direct to chassis, only requiring a new bolt. Or fit the original Peugeot bump stops. No other assistance is required. Other van converters appear to leave the suspension as original, which is fine.

The money is better spent taking the vehicle to Regent Upholstery. They will put an extra layer of foam in the front seats and recover them

with matching material, or add a lumbar support if required. All done while you wait. My wife has back trouble but now we can travel all day very comfortably.

We have a 1998 2.5T with 60,000 miles. Mainly used on long trips and scenic routes. I'm writing this at Marbella, will be back in UK early in May. We would have changed the van for a new one but the Symbol has many disadvantages including even stiffer 2 leaf suspension and less cupboard space. So we will not be changing yet.

*Don Valiant*

Please note, the alterations to the suspension mentioned above have NOT been investigated by our Technical Group nor by the Company. The Club would not recommend the alteration as mentioned.

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## **CLUB AND COMPANY RALLY**

My thanks go to all those who participated last year by bringing, buying and helping to sell on the Bric-a-Brac Stall. Please will you do it all again this year? Then our contribution to the charity this year can be even more than last year.

*Marion Wood*

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### **Travel Warning**

We have been advised by the showground and the local police that the bridge over the river in Upton upon Severn will be severely restricted for the next 12 months with single file traffic at best! There will be a weight limit of three tons and a width limit of 2.25 metres. You are **strongly advised to avoid this route**. Oversize traffic arriving at the bridge will be diverted via Worcester. If you are travelling from the South, the advise is to join the M.50 from the M.5 and exit at junction 2 outside Ledbury. Apparently Ledbury can be a bottleneck as well. Traffic from the north down the M.5 will not be affected if you exit at junction 7.

However, there is no need to start out any earlier than normal. Please remember that if you arrive at the showground before 10.00 am on Friday without an official early pass you will be parked in the dog walk area until 12.00 to avoid the disruption to setting up which we experienced last year. Arriving a little later will not make any difference to your enjoyment of the rally.

Finally, may I remind you that we shall be very grateful for the donation of raffle prizes as well as contributions for the stalls (bottles, cakes, books (not magazines) and bric-a-brac which can all be delivered to the Wye Hall when it opens on Friday.

This year the cake for the competition will be a

CHERRY CAKE

8 ozs Glace Cherries (halved)  
3 ozs SR Flour  
3 ozs Plain Flour  
Pinch salt  
6 ozs Butter  
6 ozs Caster Sugar  
3 Eggs - beaten  
2 ozs Ground Almonds  
Few drops of Almond Essence  
A little milk if necessary

METHOD

Line a 7" round tin  
Sieve flour and salt together  
Cream butter and sugar, add beaten egg a little at a time keeping the mixture stiff.  
Add a tablespoon of flour with the last amount of egg.  
Fold in the flour, cherries and almond essence to make a fairly stiff dropping consistency.  
Turn the mixture into the prepared tin.  
Bake in a moderate oven for about 1hr-20mins.  
When cold place cake on a disposable plate and cover with cling film.

Please bring your cake for judging to the Holstein Room on Friday by 17.00hrs

The winners of the cake competition will receive a cheque as follows:-

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £30      2<sup>nd</sup> prize £20      3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10

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The Cake Stall would also be pleased to receive

**A**ll

**S**mall

**O**r- large

**C**akes

To raise more money for the chosen Charity

*Andy Cavell*  
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The problems at Upton upon Severn were re-iterated by *Ann and Ricky Smith* who further advised that the width restriction of 7' 3" is at waist height and is not just a pinch but runs for several hundred feet!

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I will put in a plea for books for the bookstall. No magazines, thank you, because they usually finish up in the skip. Also no erudite tomes which have no real appeal to anyone. But anything covering any subject and especially fiction will be appreciated.

*Harry Henthorne*

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### *VW Trident Problems*

As relative newcomers to motorhome ownership, may we express our thanks for a useful and informative Newsletter each month. We have gained valuable advice and find the practical tips particularly helpful.

We wonder if any member can help us with a problem with our VW Trident. A few months after purchase (3 years ago) we noticed marking on the fabric beneath the offside top (fanlight) window which was obviously due to water penetration. We knew this was not due to the window being left open in the rain and as the vehicle was still under guarantee it was all repaired and replaced.

Last year we noticed the same problem beneath the same window which has recently become much worse and unsightly. We would be grateful for any advice as to the cause and remedy of this problem. Incidentally on visiting a used mobil home dealer recently we noticed a similar but even more unsightly problem in exactly the same position on another Trident, which makes us wonder if this is a common problem.

*Jean and Colin Marjoram*

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## *Chairman's Chat*



I'm not going to say very much about the AGM this year because you can read comments, all to the good, elsewhere in the Newsletter. Suffice it to say that it seems that most people enjoyed themselves, particularly because of the weather.

One thing did cause a bit of disquiet. It seems that members did not fully read the booking form. It clearly asked on that form whether any special needs had to be catered for, such as parking for the less able. It is of no value to the marshals if you do not bother to make any comments on such a form and then arrive and expect to get parking suited to your needs. The Club has always respected what we have, in the past, termed "Privileged Parkers" and we will continue to do so. But in your turn you must advise us if you need such parking and, in future, we shall have to ask for your disabled badge number too. It may be a surprise to most members, but there have been occasions when such privileges have been abused.

It was my first AGM as Chairman and I must confess that I was a bit scared beforehand. Due to a variety of circumstances, I got a little bit lost during the meeting and accidentally went back to a proposal that had already been passed. My apologies for that; I shall try to do better in the future. But one thing came across to me very clearly. The majority of the membership is fully supportive of the committee and the warmth of that support came through. My thanks, both on my own behalf and on behalf of the committee, to all who attended for their loyalty and very pleasant words.

I was very amused, on the Monday morning, to see the "breakaway" rally that was formed down by the chemical closet emptying point! As we were leaving there were so many vans in that area that I would not have been surprised to see tea and coffee being

served. As we were going on to a Caravan Club site we decided to take our loo with us and sort it out when we arrived there. Much easier!

I know that I have embarrassed *Nora Venables* by saying "Thank you" to her on several occasions over the weekend. But I'll do it again, and couple it with my thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the weekend such a success.

*Harry Henthorne*

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## Waste Water Tank Indicator

Has anybody had problems with the little neon light staying on tell you that the waste water tank is full? I have just had the Pollensa serviced but it did not show up at the time. Checking that the tank was empty I noticed that the light went out when the heater blower was used as it is on the same fuse, and it came back on again when the blower was switched off. I seem to recall that somebody else had this problem some time ago and it was mentioned in the Newsletter at that time. Unfortunately I have not found that copy of the Newsletter. Any information would be gratefully received. My e-mail address is [jonetjanet@aol.com](mailto:jonetjanet@aol.com)

*John Shaw*

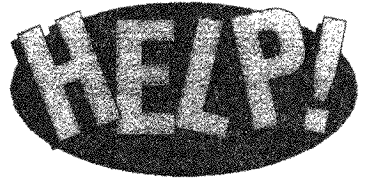
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## Alterations to Van

We have been the proud owners of a 1994 Rambler (Peugeot Express base) for a couple of years now and still think it is beautiful and a very cleverly thought out conversion. But we would like to ask the following questions - is it possible to remove certain aspects of the little bathroom (namely the shower, wash basin and bathroom cabinet) and change the cooker for a hob only type, thus replacing the oven for a cupboard? If we did make these alterations, would we be making "CV" impossible to sell in the future? We would appreciate any thoughts the members may have.

*Sandy Busbridge*

The letter which brought this asked me to "forgive the familiarity" by addressing me as *Harry*, and thanked me for "a super read each month" in the Newsletter. First, I get a bit frustrated if I am not addressed as such because in this Club of our we are all friends (I hope!). And, as usual, I will re-iterate that YOU write the Newsletter, all I do is put it



together. The final thought is that *Sandy* tried to e-mail this to me but couldn't get it through. My guess on that is that it was a mis-type because there is the underline character between my first and second names which does not show up too well. But so long as you get that right, the e-mail comes through.

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## A d v e r t W a r n i n g

I received an e-mail (shown below) in response to an advert I placed a few weeks ago. Even Arthur Daly had a better grasp of the mother tongue than this guy! It is worth alerting members to this apparent scam and others which may be more plausible.

*Richard Priest*

From: "lice bobby" <l.bob@outgun.com>  
To: rmpriest@hotmail.com  
Subject: Ford Auto-Sleeper Duetto  
Date: Tue, 27 Apr 2004 07:19:35 +0800

good day, I am auto dealer and in UK, I am interested your Ford Auto-Sleeper Duetto , so i want to know the price offer for it. and also my payment is by check, and let me know your location in uk, because i have debtor near you there, waiting to hear from you soon ...

thanks  
Bobby

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Outgun.com free e-mail @ [www.outgun.com](http://www.outgun.com)

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## AGM 2004



Thank you to all who were at Newark for the AGM and Annual Dinner rally. I would like to say a special "thank you" to all who helped. The marking out team; the Marshals who stood out in the very cold wind; the Stewards on duty in the Pavilion; the Raffle ticket sellers; *Jan Hicklin* who organised the raffle; the Envelope ladies; *Sheila Henthorne* and *Gloria Jones* for coping with all the bookings; *Sheila* (again) *Heather Tidbury* and *Jeanne Hall* for their craft workshops. And of course, to *Evelyn* and *Ben Mansfield*, both of

whom do a tremendous amount of work. If I have missed anyone out, I apologise.

From comments that I have received it would appear that although numbers were down everyone present enjoyed the weekend. I have finally received an apology from Brownhills for the problems relating to the minibus service. For everyone who enjoyed Jean Martyn Music, I can now tell you that she will be with us in 2005. Jean and Colin send their thanks to all who helped with the organ.

I hope you all had a good forward journey and hope to meet up with some of you during the coming year.

*Nora Venables*

Chairman, AGM Sub-committee.

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*Joan* and I have just returned from the AGM where we had a very enjoyable time meeting up with friends and acquaintances. One thing that puzzles us is why so few members attend this particular rally and the numbers seem to be reducing each year, whereas a lot more attend the Club and Company Rally.

Is it because they think AGMs are boring? Our AGMs are well organised; they don't take long as all the Reports are sent out early for members to read beforehand so that they can raise any questions at the meeting. It also gives us members a chance to thank the committee for all the hard work they do on our behalf.

The rest of the time can then be spent with friends, checking out the craft workshops, attending the technical question and answer session with the A-S employees and, of course, there is dancing on Saturday night and on Sunday the Salvation Army led service which rounds off the weekend.

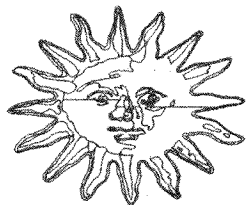
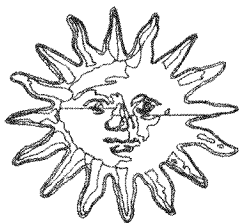
Perhaps members can write to the Editor to let us all know why they do not come to this rally. Is it distance, cost, or just that they are satisfied with the way the Club is run?

*Joan and Emie Prince*

If you compare the numbers attending our AGM in relation to the total membership you will find that we have a much greater attendance in percentage terms than either of the two very much larger clubs!

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Thank you once again to *Nora* and her team for a well organised and enjoyable AGM at Newark. The entertainment on



## JUNE 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 RALLY 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. October (2 nights). Houghton Weavers in Concert. Shire Hall, Mold, Flintshire.**

**6<sup>th</sup>. (Sunday) – 13<sup>th</sup>. (Sunday) June 2004. Delfse Hout Caravan Site, Delft, Holland.**

**Rally starts at 12 noon Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>. & closes Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>. 12 noon.**  
Rally marshals: Tricia & Ted Pratt & Jan & Vic Hicklin.  
**THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.**

**17<sup>th</sup>. June – 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

### **4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June ( 4 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 Alford 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 Alford crossways turn off s.p. Alford. Immediately turn right (caravan sign) s.p. Dunsfold. Site approx. 1 ½ miles.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. July, (4 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>. July (3 nights) Prestwood Steam Fair, Great Missenden, Bucks.**

**THIS RALLY HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED**

**9<sup>th</sup>. – 11<sup>th</sup>. July (2 nights) Club & Company, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcs.**

**The application forms were enclosed in the May Newsletter. Please note the closing date 30<sup>th</sup>.June.**

**15<sup>th</sup>. – 18<sup>th</sup>. July (3 nights).Abbeygate College, Saughton, Nr. Chester.**

Emergency Tel.No. 01244 332 077.

Rally Marshals: Duncan & Jean Ellis.

Site Fees:£6.00 per night. NO electricity. Rally Fee:£3.00 couples/singles £1.50 (incl VAT).Booking slips & cheques to: Mr. & Mrs, D.Ellis,6 Tudor Close, Shotton,Deeside,Flint.CH15 1NY.Tel.No. 01244 812 761.

Cheques payable to D.Ellis.

Saturday evening buffet & dessert £6.00 per person.Pay caterers on night.

**Directions:**From North M6,M56,M53 take A41 s.p. Whitchurch.In approx 2 ½ miles after entering Waverton **turn right** for Saughton.

Beware humpback bridge,carry on through village, then left hand bends, down hill - college gates on **left**.

From South A41 Whitchurch to Chester.After entering Waverton **turn left** at Black Dog.At T junction **left** over bridge then as above.

**LIMIT OF 35 Vans.**

**16<sup>th</sup>. – 18<sup>th</sup>.July Midsummer Music & Leisure Show, Lincoln.**

**NO MARSHAL so the Club will not rally at the Show.**

**22<sup>nd</sup>. – 25<sup>th</sup>.July (3 nights). Beacon Park,Lichfield,Staffs**

Emergency Tel.No. 07713186508 Marshals' mobile

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

Site Fee:£4.50 per night. NO ELECTRICITY. Rally Fee:£2.35 (Both include VAT).

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

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

Saturday Evening Get – Together includes Jacket Potato, Dessert & Drink. -£4.5 0 per head, Pay with booking slip.

**Attractions:** Park is adjacent to Lichfield City Centre & Cathedral.

Small golf course, pitch & putt, tennis & bowls.

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

**\*\*\*\*\*Please note these dates may change \*\*\*\*\***

**20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. August. ( 5 nights) Topsham Rugby Club, Exeter, Devon.**

**Full details of this rally will appear in the July Rally Supplement.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Please note the changed dates.\*\*\*\*\***

**25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. August. ( 5 nights) Shoreham Airshow, Shoreham on**

**Sea, West Sussex.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07742 668344(marshals' mobile).

Rally Marshals: Shirley & Chris Sturgeon & Theresa & Dave Smith,

Site Fees:£2.00 per night.NO electricity. Rally Fee:£2.35(incl.VAT).

Airshow tickets £20.00 per adult,£10.00 per child.Saturday & Sunday inclusive,**payable in advance.**

This is a GREENFIELD site with water tap & Loo emptying available.

Booking slip & cheque payable to A.N. Fowler, 20 Hawkins Close,

Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex.BN43 6TL.Tel.No. 01273 594 479.

Saturday evening buffet meal available@£4.12 each.Please state on slip & **pay in advance.**

Send SAE for confirmation.

**Attractions:** A 2 day airshow with on ground entertainment,craft fair,stalls etc.Bicycle rides from site.

**SORRY NO DOGS.**

**Directions:**On A27 at traffic lights opposite Sussex Pad Hotel & turn into airport.(This is the only entrance for motor vans).

**PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 12 NOON WEDNESDAY.**

**27<sup>th</sup>. – 31<sup>st</sup>. August. Gryphon School, Sherborne, Dorset.**  
**Full details of this rally will appear in the July Rally Supplement.**

**27<sup>th</sup>. August – 1<sup>st</sup>. September. Lavenham, Suffolk.**  
**THIS RALLY HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED.**

*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](mailto: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!**

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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!**

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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:

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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!**

Saturday evening was excellent, the organist played a wide variety of music at a comfortable volume and you were still able to talk to people around you.

Thank you also to *Sheila* and *Heather* for a most instructive afternoon making cards. The results were well worth the effort and it was fun.

*Diane Leader and Brenda Jarvis*

#####

We just had to put pen to paper to express our thanks to all the ASOC committee for putting on such a fantastic AGM weekend. In our opinion it was the best ever, the arrangements, the food and the entertainment were 100% plus.

*Nora Venables* and her sub committee must also be given special thanks. They must have worked their fingers to the bone.

Thanks once again.

*Angela and Bryan Orchard*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Technical Group

As you will be aware the Technical Group is always anxious to increase the archives and other technical documentation. Fortunately Mike Rapp of Robsons' Motorhomes has sent the club a large number of brochures for the 'older' motorhomes. These are most welcome and I would like to thank Mike for the kind contribution. If any of you have any such documentation, no longer needed, perhaps you might also like to donate it to the club.

The following 'Ideas Sheets' are now approved and available. (Send an SAE to me at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7UF.)

- No. 73 LCD television (or occasional) table
- No. 74 Panel van - Wheelchair ramp stowage
- No. 75 Early Trident - Retrieval of seat belts
- No. 76 Wheel trims - Decorative or dangerous
- No. 77 Early Coach Builts - Cupboards in the luton (2 pages)

It is encouraging that 667 'Ideas Sheets' have now been issued and hopefully they have been of some use. As I have mentioned before if you have any ideas and can send them to me, with either a drawing or preferably photos, I will develop them into 'Ideas Sheets'

and submit them for approval. A full list of the 'Ideas Sheets' is always available on the Website

The website has now had 11,000 visitors (or 1 visitor 11,000 times!). If you haven't yet visited the site please try it - as you should find it useful. A new page has been published giving the paint codes used by Auto-Sleepers. There is also a short report on the AGM and a summary of the 'Question and Answer' session at the AGM - for which, we must thank Ian Capes, Charles Trevelyan and Chris Bery for giving us their valuable time and answering all the questions so frankly. If you cannot gain access to the Website but would like a copy of the latter 3 items please send me an SAE at the above address.

*Baz Wellard*

-----oooOOOooo-----

### **A Tip Repeated**

I thought that it might be an idea to repeat a hint which was included in the Newsletter some years ago. Recently I replaced the rubber seal in my cassette toilet. The seal I removed was distinctly "frilly" on the inner side, but I put it in water to clean it and intended to keep it as a spare. I forgot the seal until the next morning and found that almost all of the "frilliness" had gone and the seal was as good as new. Since the cost of a new seal is £8.00 - £9.00 it is worth bearing this in mind instead of putting the seal into the bin after removal. I am told that it is the modern toilet chemical which causes the distortion.

*Rita Daley*

Apparently one way of lessening the problem is to ensure that you have some water in the cassette as soon as you put the replacement chemical into it. I've also heard it suggested that you should not put the chemical in through the large hole with the seal but rather through the outlet spout.

-----oooOOOooo-----

### **FROM THE FACTORY**

You will remember that last month I stated that The Byron Group would be, in conjunction with myself on a month on, month off basis, writing this particular item. However, after a very successful and indeed enjoyable AGM, I felt it might be appropriate for me to say a few words on one particular aspect of it, in place of the promised article by Carole Domenech of Byron.

During Saturday afternoon, a technical symposium was held at Newark, chaired by Ian Capes, our Managing Director, myself, *Baz Wellard* and Chris Berry from our Design Department.

We approached this session with a degree of trepidation yet out of it came a lot of extremely useful information. The points raised were collated most effectively by *Baz* and these have been passed to me to write a consolidated answer, to each point raised in conjunction with Ian, our Design Department and, of course, ourselves.

This information will be published shortly. It underlines the very perceptive views and depth of interest on technical matters in general, and views that we, at Auto-Sleepers, found extremely valuable.

Subjects raised ranged from the positioning of thermostats on certain of our models to the fitting of headlight deflectors for continental driving. Also covered was the availability of parts and self adhesive coachlines for example, to queries as to what fitments can be changed from standard when ordering a new van. The hardy annuals such as tyres and pressures was raised as was the fixing of fitments into the fresh and waste water tanks – to name but a few.

All these points therefore will be answered in a timely manner in conjunction with our Design Department and duly passed to *Baz Wellard* so that these can be published in due course on the Club website and/or this Newsletter.

Ian, myself and Chris left with the very clear understanding of certain of your needs which in the design and development of new models and indeed the updating of current ones, was found to be particularly valuable. On behalf of us all at Willersey, we thank those of you for your pertinent and sound ideas.

In ending, and whilst still on the subject of the AGM, heartfelt congratulations to *Nora Venables* and her team for organising such a splendid event. It really was a most enjoyable weekend, not least for Angela, the children and myself and good indeed to meet so many friends of old ..... and, apart from Monday, the weather was excellent too!!

Kind regards.

*Charles Trevelyan*

-----oooO000oo-----

## **Scary Moment in France**

Following the Tour de France article, in March this year we too came across two men trying to flag us down on the N.1 road in France between Abbeville and Boulogne. Their car (with Belgian plates) was

parked in a lay-by with the bonnet up. We drove on but as I looked in the passenger side mirror I saw them turning the car and heading off in the opposite direction - broken down or what? They may have been genuine but did look a bit shady which was probably just as well. Although we've read all the stories and do try to be aware of possible scenarios we did find ourselves hesitating but common sense prevailed. Guess such characters bank on appealing to the 'Good Samaritan' side of human nature.

*Sheila and Jeff Scott*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Rally Running**

Interested in running a rally but do not know where to start? For the past two years there has been a rally in March at Elm Cottage C.P., Little Budworth, Cheshire. However the marshals who have been running it have decided to have a "gap year" in 2005. Is anyone interested in running the rally next year? It is a commercial site with electric hook-ups and a barn for rally use. March is a popular time to organise a rally, as many members are keen to get out in their vans after the winter. Why not give it a try?

We will provide anyone interested with the information that we have acquired about running this rally and also about the surrounding area. Feel free to call us on 0161 432 4869.

*Liz Morgan*

Don't forget that *Neil Rogers*, our Rally Co-ordinator, has prepared special packs to guide new marshals through the jobs that are needed to run a rally successfully. He will be very pleased indeed to hear from anyone who would like to run a rally anywhere in the country. But please check with him first, before you start trying to book a site. His task is to try to ensure that no two rallies clash with each other.

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Volkswagen Belt Squeal**

Does anyone have the answer? VW Clubman, 1994, four v-belts later, 23,500 miles on the clock and no remedy in sight. This, on two occasions, has left the RAC mechanic scratching his head wondering why the belt has snapped after very little use. On the last occasion the new belt started to squeal after 45 miles and one night stop over. Our local VW dealer advised us it is not a common fault with this model on commercial vehicles.

When we first start off the squealing begins and stops after a few minutes (but seems like hours). But it starts again after every stop, even if only filling up with fuel. We have had various types of belts fitted and numerous adjustments and have even been advised to carry spare belts. To avoid being embarrassed we choose a pitch as far away from other campers as possible and leave sites with our heads covered! HELP!!

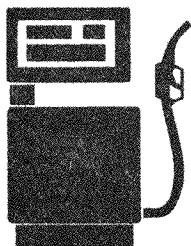
Looking on the brighter side, we also had the same experience as *Jill Harrison* (letter May 2004) as we have always been insured through the same company for the last 12 years with full no claims bonus. We were surprised when this year our renewal premium was an extortionate £422.00. However, one phone call to the Caravan Club produced a premium of £166.30, saving us a huge £256.00. Now let us see! How many new v-belts can we get for £256.00?

*Kath Hook*

I wonder if this experience is similar to the one I had some years ago. I found that the insurance broker I was then using took the cost of the new van, in the £30,000.00 bracket, to make the vehicle very similar to the fastest sports cars and charged the premium accordingly. Needless to say, I changed brokers too!

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Refillable Gas Cylinders



Further to our letter published in the April Newsletter with regard to the location of LPG filling stations for refillable gas cylinders, we have now found and purchased a map listing over 1,000 LPG filling stations in England, Scotland and Wales. To obtain this map for £4.95, ring 020 7938 1975. We got ours by return post. For updates and new stations go to the website [www.go-autogas.com](http://www.go-autogas.com) Now I feel happier to convert to a refillable cylinder as I know that there are filling stations

all over the country.

Regarding the comment about only having one cylinder and what happens if it runs out at 3.20 am. The answer to that is that as the cylinder is translucent, carry out a daily check on the gas level. When it gets no lower than a quarter full, refill it. On average, we only stay 3 to 4 days on any site so we would, I hope, not have to make a special journey to refill it.

*Val and Robin Gardner*

-----oooOOOooo-----

# Viruses

With all this talk these days about various viruses, here are details of yet another which comes from "a reliable source" It is called the "Senile Virus" and even the most advanced programs of Norton and McAfee cannot take care of it. So be warned! It appears to affect those of us who were born before 1960.

The symptoms of the Senile Virus:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send e-mail back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach attachments.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished the e-mail.
7. Causes .....

Now, did I remember all the problems? Or did another part of the virus affect me?

*Rita Daley*

I have some more notes of a similar variety stored up which I shall try to include next month. I hope you find them all as amusing as I do.

-----oooO000oo-----

## Obituaries

We were sorry to learn that *Tecwyn Jones* had passed away. Our sincere condolences are offered to *Jeannette* and the others in his family in their loss. *Jeannette* kindly sent the following letter:-

As by now so many of our friends in ASOC will know that very sadly *Tecwyn* did not survive his heart bypass operation and died on April 14th. I and his family would like to thank all the many friends we have in the Club for their wonderful support, flowers, cards, phone calls and donations to his "Literacy Fund". We have been overwhelmed by the support and it just goes to show what a great crowd you all are and how much it means to be part of such a caring club. Thanks you all for the fun, laughter and friendship that you gave to him.

*Jeannette Jones*

#####

It was with great sadness that we recently heard of the sudden death of *Norman Allward* on 10th April last. Our condolences are offered to *Ann* and their family.

We first met *Ann and Norman* at our first rally, the Prestwood Steam Fair, in 1999 and we have attended that rally ever since. It was because of this first rally that we have met many ASOC members and made new friends, including *Ann and Norman*. We have met them at many other rallies and the last time we saw them was at the Shoreham air Show rally last August.

When *Norman* sold his Legend for a new A-S van he gave us some grey patterned seat material that matched our Legend. I used this material to cover a newspaper box that is fitted to the 3rd door. From now on we will know this as "*Norman's Box*".

This year the Prestwood rally has been cancelled, as it was felt that it was so much *Norman's* rally. Perhaps it can be revived for next year as part in his remembrance and tribute to his and *Ann's* hard work in organising this event for so many years.

*Valerie and Robin Gardner*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Wanted

Fiamma rear box for my A-S Talent. Contact Fay & Maurice Smith on 013 9428 2326 (Felixstowe, Suffolk).

#####

Di Blasi folding tricycle. Contact Rosemary Newton at [dottie@pippins.me.uk](mailto:dottie@pippins.me.uk) or 017 4785 3593 (Dorset)

#####

Breathable, waterproof cover for Legend series 1, i.e. 1988 to 1991. Telephone Mark Fitzgerald-Hart on 014 2332 4565 - evenings only. (Boroughbridge, York)

-----oooOOOooo-----



## FOR SALE

First, a couple of apologies. As I was in a bit of a rush preparing the last (May) Newsletter a couple of adverts ended with the wrong telephone numbers and in one of them I even managed to omit the price! Therefore the two

adverts are repeated below, this time I hope correctly.

#####

Thompson portable colour TV, 12v / 240v, in as new condition. Complete with padded carrier bag. Cost £240.00 new. £115.00 ono. Also Fiamma F45 awning, 2.4m (8') long. Suitable to fit most small motorhomes like Trident or Duetto etc. £120.00 ono. Phone Philip Gledhill on 014 8465 4180 or 07 831 456 689 (Huddersfield, W.Yorks).



#####

Harmony, Peugeot Talbot, 1991 petrol 2 ltr. 4 berths. 51,000 miles. Taxed and MOT to Feb 2005. One owner. **SOLD** Complete with all equipment plus Harrison Awning. £7,300.00. Tel Dot and Bryce Hamilton on 016 2178 2566 (Maldon, Essex)

#####

"Koolatron" portable refrigerator and food warmer. 12 volt 4 amp DC. Exterior dimensions: 21" long, 16" wide, 16" high. Interior 16" long, 11½" wide, 12" high. Ideal for salads, bread, wine etc. Complete with instruction leaflet. Robust quality but too big for my Topaz. Can arrange to take to Club & Company Rally. £30.00 or nearest offer. Contact Rita Daley on 0121 706 1816.

#####

2 x 6kg Calor propane cylinders, one full, one ½ full. £20.00. 1 Gaslow change-over valve. £5.00. 1 Gaslow propane pressure gauge. £5.00. 2 propane regulators. £7.00. Omnistor Safari room, 2.4m high, 2.6m wide, 2.25m deep. Good condition. £95.00. New Gayston rear spring assistors, part no 21A03E, for Ford Transit 1985 to 1995 approx. Silver Screen for Ford Transit 1995 - 2000. £30.00. New dinette back cushion for 2000 Amethyst. £10.00. Contact Roger Tarr on 0121 705 2706 (West Midlands)

#####

Executive 2.5TD 'W' reg (May 2000). 8,400 miles. 2/4 berth. 12 months MOT and habitation check, 6 months tax, fully serviced with FSH. Peugeot Boxer SX cab with electric windows and mirrors. GH 3m x 2.5m safari room with extra fly-screen and doors, much admired. Can also be used as an impressive awning. Cycle rack, Silver Screens, TB aerial. Non smokers, no children. Omnistor top-box, streamlined shape. Genuine reason for wale as we are setting up an animal sanctuary. Immaculate



condition. £25,500.00. Phone Garry or Jo Jackson on 012 7186 5386 (North Devon). Thanks for the donation

#####

Peugeot Pollensa 1.9TD PAS (1999/T) 22,700 miles. MOT/TAX May 2005. One owner, non-smokers, no pets. Captains seats, arm rests, alarm, awning, double bike rack. Garaged when not in use. Excellent

condition. £21,500.00. Contact Alan Worsley at [worsley@worsley1849.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:worsley@worsley1849.fsnet.co.uk) or 012 8286 5027 or mobile 07 989 993 158 (Colne, Lancs.)

Thanks for the donation

#####

Fiamma Back Box. Small size, originally on VW Clubman but hardly used and now surplus to needs. £100.00. We will be at the Club and Company Rally so could bring it there. Telephone Elizabeth and Bill Grimsley on 011 6269 2220 (Leicester).

#####

Gatcombe VW 2.5 TDI. 'X' reg (2000). 102 bhp. 9,000 miles. Excellent condition. Non-smokers, no pets. Many extras including cycle rack, CD player, aerial lead, back box, waste water barrels, Hi-line fridge freezer, over carpet to match, locks, Silver Screen, electric lead. £27,500.00. Contact David Groom on 019 3366 3852 (Northants).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Talbot Express Harmony, 1991 (J), 2 ltr petrol. 2 + 2. 41,000 miles. 2 owners, non-smokers, no pets. Service history, shower toilet, blown air heating, awning and cycle rack. £7,975.00 ono. Contact Mike Warby on 012 9642 3652 or 07 712 829 896 (Aylesbury, Bucks).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Silver Screen for Duetto. £40.00. Complete coffee table with collapsible tripod base. £40.00. (Prices negotiable). Contact Eric agates on 019 5281 3691 (Newport, Shropshire).

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