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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Club & Company Rally - 2004

NEWSLETTER 190

JULY 2004

Hello.

This Newsletter is going to be quite a close run thing. As usual I shall need to get it off to our printer in good time so that you may receive it as usual around the first day of the month. But *Sheila and I* will be away on holiday from around the middle to the end of June, so I shall have to post it off earlier than usual. This automatically means that if anyone sends in anything at or near the usual closing date then the answer may be "hard luck - you missed it". But we shall have to see what we can do.

Where are we going? Well, just like most motorhomers (I doesn't sound quite the same as motor caravanners, does it?) we shall be heading northwards. We are booked into a site at Cambridge and another at Southport but for the rest of the time it will be wherever the fancy takes us and the weather permits. It won't be the Isle of Skye until they take the toll off the bridge which is apparently due to happen towards the end of the year!

In the meantime, if you are going away, please drive carefully and have a safe journey. And if you are going abroad, please make sure that you understand the requirements of each and every country you plan to visit. Things vary so much.

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Special Request

At this year's A.G.M. It was agreed that the size of the Committee should be increased to 15 members. The reason behind this was that we felt that there was a need for a fall-back safety net in case any member of the Committee should "Fall under a bus last week" - the old adage. So now we have decided to ask for volunteers to fill the new vacant positions. We are presently seeking someone to become the Deputy Chairman of the Club and Company Rally Sub-committee with a view to taking over the full Chairmanship in 2006. The person appointed would be able to have the benefit of a full year or more working with the present Chairman together with the now fairly comprehensive file of what needs to be done, almost week by week.

The second vacancy would be for someone to become the Newsletter Editor at an agreed time. I only took over again as a stop-gap Editor and that was a couple of years ago now. So I feel that it is time somebody else had a go at this task - not too difficult because even I can do it!

The third vacancy is as yet unspecified but it would be very useful to have someone around who could step into any breach which may

occur in the future. It would also give the individual a chance to see just how your Committee works.

Anyone out there feel like taking any of these tasks on? After all, in a Club such as ours we need to have new blood coming along to take over from the old stagers. Don't be frightened, the tasks are not too onerous. If YOU are interested, please feel free to telephone any of the present Committee for a chat. We will all be pleased to talk to you - and perhaps co-opt you on to the Committee.

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The Houghton Weavers

I will be organising a concert by the the North's leading folk/comedy group THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS. I was asked at the A.G.M. rally by many if I could organise a rally for this occasion. That will be done. *Andrew Entwistle* will take bookings as I will be far too busy with the concert. It will raise money for our new and exciting venture as a new church appears here in Mynydd Isa with ALL Christian denominations taking part.

The concert is on Saturday October 23rd. It will start at 7.30 pm. The rally will be 'somewhere local' and transport to the concert and back will be organised. (When I get time to sort it!!) Exact details will follow in the rally section. Keep looking.

John Greenwood

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Orkney's - worth the mileage!

Recent contributions regarding Scotland's Western Isles prompts me to tell the tale of a visit just completed to the Northern Isles, well to Mainland Orkney. Twelve days was not enough to take in the amazing archaeological sites, and that's not really my scene, nor the teeming bird life and opportunities for fishing, both sea and loch.

There is a choice of routes, the long sea route from Aberdeen, or 1½ hours from Scrabster, near Thurso, to Stromness on mainland Orkney, or ¾ hours from Gill's Bay to South Ronaldsay which is connected to mainland Orkney by the Churchill Barriers, built during the second world war to deter German submarines, and now a convenient causeway. We chose Scrabster to Stromness, run by Northlink Ferries, largely because that route takes you past Hoy and the Old Man of Hoy, an amazing rock steeple rising from the shore and the scene of BBC Television's first live rock climb.

The Local Authority has 2 sites on mainland at Kirkwall, and at Stromness. By accident rather than design we spent the whole 12 days based in Kirkwall, the Pickaquoy Centre, where the site is a tad expensive, but well kept with good clean facilities and with the amenities of the Pickaquoy Leisure Centre at hand, but wild camping is no problem. The roads are on the whole very good, though they can sometimes be single track when you venture off the main routes, as you will.

Orkney is famed for its archaeology dating from Neolithic times through the occupation by the Vikings and up to the two World Wars. Among the "must see" places are Maes Howe, an underground pre-Christian burial site later broken into by Vikings who left the still very visible runic graffiti on the walls; Scara Brae, a settlement on the sand dunes, older than the pyramids, completely covered and hidden by a sand-storm centuries ago and only uncovered again by another storm in the 1800's; and the Standing Stones of Stenness. These sites are managed by Scottish National Heritage and are wonderfully presented. It is well worth becoming a friend of Scottish National Heritage before you visit, or on your first visit. This gives you free access to the sites and a 20% discount on purchases in their shops, including the local brews, Highland Park and Scapa! More recent history is represented by the Churchill Barriers and the still visible wrecks of scuttled warships. The labour for the building of the barriers was provided by Italian prisoners of war who, in their free time and with the support of the authorities, created the "Italian Chapel". Two huts were placed end to end and the interior furnished and decorated in the most elaborate and breathtaking style. The wrought-iron screen itself is a marvel to behold. The Chapel has been restored to its former glory, is beautifully maintained, and not-to-be-missed.

Orkney is also home to a galaxy of highly skilled and world renowned craftsmen and women. The best known are probably the jewellers, Ola Gorri, Sheila Fleet and Ortak, but there are also silversmiths and wood-turners, as well as producers of local cheese, condiments, wine, beer and whisky. All worth sampling.

Fishing, bird watching and good walking are all readily available and rewarding, and you need not confine yourself to the mainland as we did. It is quite possible to cross to other islands, with your motorhome, using the regular ferry services.

One of our highlights was a visit to the monthly open night of the Accordion and Fiddle Club. There, and throughout the islands, you receive a warm welcome,

The accident that caused our longer than intended stay in Kirkwall itself was the onset of an ominous squeal from a front wheel. |

feared the worst, especially since it was May Bank Holiday weekend, a local holiday even in Kirkwall. I imagined nothing to be done 'till Tuesday, then spare parts to be sought from across the water, and days delay. However a phone call on Bank Holiday Monday found a local garage open. By 10.30 a.m. the fault was diagnosed – brake pads. New pads were in stock locally and the job was completed by 12.30 – all done with good cheer and great efficiency, and at very reasonable cost too. Just an example of the welcome and service that awaits the visitor to these not really so remote islands.

Ian Watt

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Build Dates

For the benefit of newcomers and established members alike, do you think that the Factory would be able to supply, for inclusion in this magazine, a chronological 'Build Date List' of all their Models produced to so far. Perhaps even our President might be prevailed upon to review this subject? The recent paint code list will, I have no doubt, prove its worth once touch-up pots become unavailable from the Factory.

Ann & Ricky Smith

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Power Loss

After losing power to the pump during a recent trip away I was surprised to find that the fuse holder clip in the ZIG control unit fitted to my 2000 Legend fell away necessitating a temporary repair with a wire link to keep the pump going. On return home I removed the ZIG unit for repair but was horrified to find that most of the fuse clips were loose and breaking away. The clips are retained by rivets through the connectors on the inside and I can only assume that the rivets had been incorrectly inserted or of poor quality as there was no obvious strain being caused by the wiring. Perhaps a batch problem maybe. I have now secured all fuse clips with small nuts and bolts. So if you experience intermittent power to any of the 12 volt systems this could be a possible source.

Malcolm Prestwood

I'm sorry to learn that this fault is still being found. Members may recall that similar comments were made in the Newsletter some time ago, in fact with the same cure of replacing the rivets with small nuts and bolts.

Holidays from Hell

This was the subject of a TV programme recently. Apparently a couple purchased a "camper" based on a Mercedes chassis. It is believed to have had caravan style doors made of material - wishful thinking and doing nothing more than to stop the draft, i.e. 10 minutes and a couple of levers - why bother with keys?

The story goes that this couple drove over to France and decided to park overnight on a motorway parking spot. Next morning neither the man nor the woman could get their heads off the pillow, both felt a little drunk and had sore dry throats. They then realised that they had had their van entered and had been robbed.

What a fright, to wake up to find you have been robbed, and in a very public place. So off to the local cop shop where they could get help and assistance from the local Gendarmerie. There they were greeted with the same help, sympathy and friendliness that one expects from the French police. As helpful as always, like when the French are blocking the ferry ports, or when they watch people climb fences to get on the transport to Britain. The Gendarmes said, in effect, "Tough" and sent them on their way.

The top and bottom of this is that the couple had been gassed with some knockout gas. Anyone any idea what it might have been? This once again brings home the extra care and security that we must all be aware of. In our Duetto we use straps to secure each door and also lock the doors and set the alarm. We believe that the extra straps offer a further deterrent. Has any member been attacked this way?

Our reason for choosing the van conversion with steel doors was based on security. It seems, from this story, that we were right. Perhaps the factory will consider the security of doors and windows as a particular priority on future builds. We shall be interested to learn of any other members' experiences.

Geoff Williamson

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Chairman's Chat



We had a very good AGM and Annual Dinner rally at Newark this year. On the drive up there from London *Sheila* and I faced drizzle for most of the way which left us wondering just what the weather might be for the rest of the weekend. On the Friday

it was rather chilly, especially for the marshals who stood out in the wind to direct and welcome members. But the Saturday and the Sunday found us in sunshine with people sitting outside their vans enjoying the warmth! Such is English (or British!) weather. You can have all the four seasons in one day! Or sometimes quicker than that.

The AGM itself went off fairly well although I must confess that I got myself confused in one spot and accidentally went back to a resolution that we had already voted upon! Well, it was my first AGM as Chairman - that's my excuse. Must do better next year!!

One item of interest to a few members has come to light. If you tow a car behind your van, as is nowadays seen more often, don't forget that you must advise your insurance people of your intention before you do it. I don't suppose it matters if you are just doing it as a one off to get a car from A to B, but if you intend to make it a normal thing to have the car with you, then be advised and tell the insurance people. Also, if you intend to go abroad in this way you should check very carefully whether you are within the laws of the countries you are visiting. Some do not seem to take kindly to the idea of a car being towed by a motorhome.

Two things that we have observed while travelling recently. The first is that it appears that Oxfordshire is now using mobile signs which check the speed at which you are travelling and, if within the limit, you then see the "smiley" face appears 😊 and if your speed is greater than the limit then ☹ shows. The second has appeared on some roads in Bucks. There are signs, printed black on yellow to make them stand out but not of a very large print size advising passing motorists of the number of casualties or accidents in the immediate area or over the next so many hundreds of yards in the last three years. I'm not convinced that either of these is really helping the safety efforts. The flashing sign suddenly appearing takes your mind off the road for a moment until you sort things out. The other, static, signs seem to be the type to give you notice of something important but again detract from your attention to the road ahead. Perhaps the local road safety officers ought to look at what they are trying to do and what they are actually doing.

Harry Henthorne

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Hidden Valley Rally.

Rosemarie Bond, the very nice German lady whom we all met at the New Year Hidden Valley Rally, has given me lots of photographs to distribute to members who attended. During the Champagne Trip *Andy and Angie*, and *Tony and Lina* helped identify everyone and a list of

names will be put on the notice board at the Club and Company Rally. The photographs can be collected from *Keith and myself*. Rosemarie is hoping to be there also.

So if your name is on the list please look for us - our Trident is BN52 GFK. We will also take the photos to the evening functions. If you are not attending the Rally at Malvern you can phone me on 019 5229 3532 and if I have photos for you I can arrange to mail them to you.

Rita A Jones

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CHAMPAGNE 7933!

Oh how pleasant it was to be, following Wally from Canterbury. He didn't get lost - he decided to call, at the hospital for a check-up for all,

Just to make sure of our sense of fun for our six-day holiday in the sun!

Alas though when we got to port, problems of a different sort.

A Seafrance strike - no boats, oh dear! We all were ready to shed a tear. But P&O their reputation did enhance, and ferried us all the way to France.

Before boarding Keith and Rita were told to go to Lane 11, but found themselves in lane 27! They could not go back so a Police escort came, and escorted them back to the correct lane!

Our first campsite, not far to go. We settled down and got to know Others who were on the trip and new friends were made so very quick!

At 7.30 we did meet around Wally's van for a lovely treat Wine and nibbles, the order of the day, and then our Wally had his say

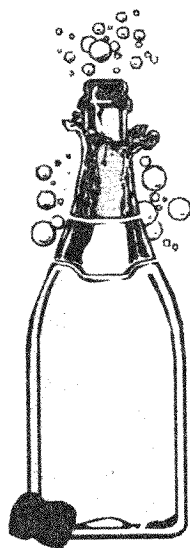
He told us of the sorry fate of Tony and Lina who forgot the date The good news was they would set out straight way and join us on the very next day.

I don't think they did sleep all night, for bright and early they joined us on site!

Then we did carry on to our destination of Châlons.

There we rested, but some wanted more and wandered off to shop at Carrefour.

Wednesday dawned, the sun still shone on the campsite at Châlons.



On the bus for 6 p.m. with lots of very smartly dressed men.
We thought that we were on our way, to Champagne Mercier at Épernay,
But no, Oh horrors, panic, alarm; our bus was stopped by a Gendarme.
The driver's papers proved OK, so quickly we went on our way.

Next to our destination we did go, but too early we got there, Oh, Oh
no!

The driver to the rescue came and we had a free tour around Champagne.

Back once more, the timing right and we settled down to enjoy the night.
Greeted by a guide named Paul we were reverently ushered to the
entrance hall,

Where we saw a barrel grand, almost the biggest in the land.
Then a film show we did see of how Champagne Mercier came to be.
Next to the lifts we did go and saw another amazing show
Of Monsieur Mercier and his big balloon that made the whole of Paris
swoon.

In 1889 he made the big decision to take balloon and champagne to
the Great Exhibition.

He thought perhaps 1st prize to take, but alas Monsieur Eiffel that place
did make.

Then on the train we made our way, through cellars deep, Paul had his
say.

Train trip done, then for a treat, to the Cave of Bacchus we all did meet.

Greeted with a champagne glass and champagne that really was first
class.

A few flutes later, to the table they said, with Mick and Ed boasting, they'd
made up their bed,

To a meal of epicurean delight – it really was a wonderful night!
Our Wendy got locked in the loo, quite the wisest thing to do,

A Frenchman to the rescue came; alas we do not know his name,
But Wendy's face was filled with delight and it really made her night!

Home on the bus and midnight passed, we came back to the campsite
at last

Thursday was a day of rest and we really thought it best

To take it easy and so, back to Carrefour we did go.

At 7.30 we all met and wine and nibbles we did get.

Carolyn and Will were passing through and joined us for a drink or two.
Mary's chocolates were just great, even if we did put on weight.

Friday, and the route was set to make our way back to Condette.

Another meal was soon in sight all at 7 p.m. that night.

With fun and laughter the room did sound as the bottles passed
another round.

One thing we all had to do was check out the facilities in the loo.

What date was the trophy, where was the spare seat?

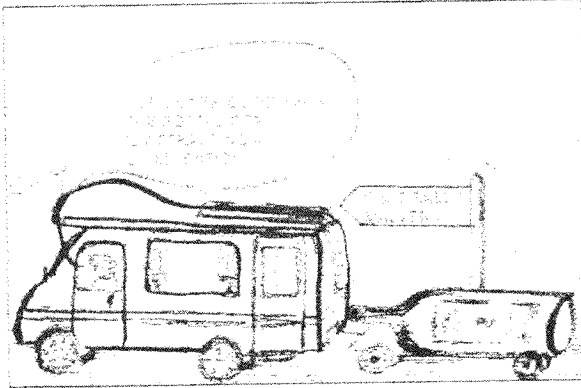
What colour the elephant, and was there a mop around your feet?

The last word was from Gloria, ever so jolly,

When leaving the ferry – please don't follow Wally!

Jeanne Hall

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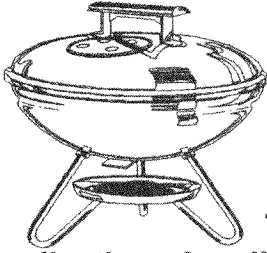
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Club & Company Rally 2004

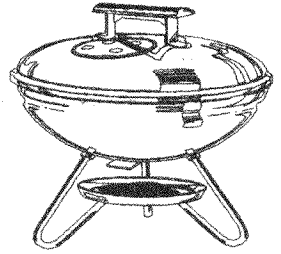
As I am writing this article at the beginning of June, much of the detailed planning of the site has yet to be done, and it seems that the sub-committee still has a frightening amount of work to do. I am however quietly confident that it will all get done!

Full details of the weekend's programme will be in your welcome pack. I can tell you that this year, we are planning a varied range of entertainment in the arena on Friday and Saturday, together with some old favourites on the showground and a bigger trade show than last year. We have invited the owners of some classic Auto-Sleepers to display their vehicles and we are also promised the largest display of new and used Auto-Sleepers ever seen in one place. The Club's stalls and hobbyists will be in Wye Hall on Friday and Saturday, together with the Company Shop, and tea and coffee.

On Friday night, we are hoping that members will gather in the Avon Hall for a sociable evening, with old and new friends. Despite last year's threat of retirement, Neville and Phil have kindly agreed to quiz us



JULY 2004
Rally Supplement



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

Rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in this Supplement.

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

NEW RALLY 22nd – 24th. October (2 nights). Houghton Weavers in Concert. Shire Hall, Mold, Flintshire.

2nd - 5th. July (3 nights) Prestwood Steam Fair, Great Missenden, Bucks. THIS RALLY HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED

2nd – 6th. 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.

9th. – 11th. July (2 nights) Club & Company, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcs.

The application forms were enclosed in the May Newsletter. Please note the closing date 30th. June.

16th. – 18th. July Midsummer Music & Leisure Show, Lincoln.

NO MARSHAL so the Club will not rally at the Show

15th. – 18th. 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.

22nd. – 25th. 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 the changed dates *****

22nd - 27th August. (5 nights) Topsham Rugby Club, Exeter, Devon.

Emergency Tel.No.07890876859 (marshals' mobile).

Rally Marshals: Elizabeth & Bryn Morgan & Nora & Ven Venables.(01902 332 105).

Site Fees: £5.00 per night. Rally Fee: £2.00 per person.(Both incl.VAT).

This is a GREENFIELD site with fresh water & Elsan emptying point.NO electricity.

Please send an *SAE* with rally slips & cheques payable to B.Morgan,44 Mersey Road,Stockport,SK4 3DJ.Tel.No. 0161 432 4869.

We will be able to use the club's facilities during the day.We plan to devise a roster so we can use the one communal shower room.

Dogs are allowed but they must be on a lead at all times & exercised off site.

N.B.Please say on rally slip if you are bringing a dog.

We will have some access to the clubhouse in the evenings but the rugby club may be having some functions while we are there.We hope to organise a "Bring your own supper" one evening.

Attractions: Topsham is a delightful small town situated on the River Exe.It has an historic quay,ferries across the river and an excellent bus & train service to Exeter.The town has a good range of shops,eating places,pubs and a heated open air swimming pool.The nearby River Clyst has a nature reserve,Dartmoor National Park is a short drive away.The rugby club is 300 yds from the town.

Directions & confirmation of booking will be sent to you.

LIMIT 35 vans.

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

25th - 30th August. (5 nights) Shoreham Airshow,Shoreham by 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.

27th. – 31st. August (4 nights). Gryphon School, Sherborne, Dorset.

Emergency Tel.No. 07749713274 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Eirwen & Ben Cox & Brian Thomas.

Site Fee:£5.00 per night.Rally Fee:£2,50 (Both incl. VAT).

This is a GREENFIELD site with **NO** electricity.Toilets & showers available in adjacent Leisure Centre,during opening hours.Water & emptying point on field.All pitches are hardstanding but blocks are required.Use of school dining hall in evenings or inclement weather.

Send completed rally slip & cheque payable to Mrs.E.Cox,Tan y Graig, 8 Quarr lane Park,Sherborne,Dorset.DT9 4JB. Tel.No. 01935 815 960.

Attractions:Sherborne is very architecturally attractive town,only a few minute walk from the site.Other attractions are Sherborne Castles(2)& grounds,Sherborne Abbey,a small market Thursday & Saturday.Lovely Dorset villages with pubs serving good food in immediate area,and a beautiful beach at West Bay (45 minutes drive) with ample parking for vans.A vintage car rally will be held in Sherborne Boys School on Sunday afternoon. Please indicate if interested in fish & chip supper(Saturday night).Possibility of a pub buffet on Monday evening.Again indicate if interested. **DOGS** welcome but must be kept on lead **AT ALL TIMES** & exercised **OFF** site.

Directions:From East Salisbury,A30 to Sherborne.From West M5,A30 to Sherborne.At traffic lights in Sherborne take B3145 to Wincanton.In about ¼ mile Gryphon School on right. Maximum number 25 units.

27th. August – 1st.September. Lavenham,Suffolk.

THIS RALLY HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED

9th. – 12th.September.Motorhome & US RV Show, Royal Bath & West Showground,Shepton Mallet,Somerset.

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

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin,Eirwen & Ben Cox.

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

Rally Fee:£2.35(Incl. VAT).Send rally fees,£2.35 with rally slip & SAE for Show application form to Mrs. J. Hicklin,381 Manor Road, Brimington,Chesterfield,Derbyshire.S43 1PP.

Tel.No. 01246 236 157 **by 21st.August.**

Show application forms to be returned to the organisers,Stone Leisure,by 29th.August.

10th.-12th. September (2 nights) Ludlow Food & Drink Festival.

Ludlow Secondary School,Ludlow,Shropshire.

Emergency Tel.No. 0780 231 7613 (Marshals' mobile).

Rally Marshals: Sheila & Ivor Barnett ,Nora & Ven Venables & team.

Site Fee:£6.50 per night.(Incl. VAT). Rally Fee:£2.35(Incl. VAT).

Total fees £15.35. **NO ELECTRICITY.**

Rally slips to Mr.I.C. Barnett,Highlevel,Farden Bitterley,Nr. Ludlow, Shropshire.SY8 3HU. Tel.No. 01584 890 428.cheque payable to I.C. Barnett.

Please enclose a SAE(C6 9X6) for directions etc. GREENFIELD site with all level hardstandings,heated hall for evenings.Saturday evening American Supper.

Dogs strictly on lead at ALL times and exercised off site.

Attractions: This weekend is Ludlows Food & Drink Festival which is held on the Saturday & Sunday. There is a Sausage Trail, a Bread Trail, an Ale Trail plus cheese tasting.

Directions: On A49 from South follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs. At 2nd roundabout turn **left**, following signs go under railway bridge and turn **right** at the sign and left into Leisure Centre Car Park. On A49 from North follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs on B4361 turn **right** into Leisure Centre Car Park. Follow ASOC signs.

Limit of **35** vans. Rally closes at 4.00p.m. Sunday.

DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 4.30 p.m. FRIDAY.

13th -17th. September (4 nights).Whitemead Caravan Park,Wool,Dorset.

Emergency Tel.No.07714550731 Marshals mobile.

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Alan Potter.

Site Fees:£4.95 per night without electricity,£6.95 per night with electricity. Rally Fee:£2.35 per van. All include VAT.

Booking slips & cheques to Barbara Potter, Westbrook.Mill Lane,Monks Risborough,, Bucks.HP27 9LG. Tel.No. 01844 274021.

Local attractions:include Monkey World,Bovington Tank Museum,Lulworth Cove,Durdle Door.Corfe Castle,Wareham,Swanage,Studland Bay.Railway station & bus stops within a few minutes walk to Dorchester,Poole & Weymouth, & village pubs.Campsite also has shop & games room with a pool table & darts. Also a takeaway offering breakfast & evening meals.

Directions:From Dorchester follow A352 to Wool.Turn first **left** after railway crossing and site is 200yds on **right**.From Southampton follow A31 to Bere Regis then follow signs to Wool.Turn **right** just before level crossing,site 200yds on **right**.

18th -21st.September (3 nights). Northern Motorcaravan Show,York Racecourse.

Emergency Tel.No. 0771 409 1349 (Marshals' mobile) 8.00 - 10.00 am & pm.

Rally Marshals:Pauline & Neil Rogers,Evelyn & Ben Mansfield & Jean & Ian Sellers.

Rally Fee:£1.75 (couples),£1.20 (singles) Both incl. VAT.

Please remember to send a rally slip and cheque for the Rally Fee (payable to N.C. & P. Rogers) to: N.C. & P. Rogers,3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St.John,Richmond, North Yorks.DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325 374 540.

The special Club rally fees:- arrive Thursday £28.00,arrive Friday £25.00,arrive Saturday £22.00.

You may either use the form enclosed in this Newsletter or fill in an application form from MMM or Which M'Van using the special fees and mark the form **A.S.O.C** in large letters. Send this form back to the organisers, **Warners** with the site fees, **before 27th.August**. Applicants after this date **cannot rally with the Club**.

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

27th. September—1st. October (4 nights) Carsington Fields Caravan Park, Mayfields Lane, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Emergency Tel.No. (mobile) 07968167443.

Rally Marshals: Gill & John Blake & Pat & Henry Twyman.

Site Fees: £5.00 per night. There are now 20 hook ups available at £2.00 extra per night, first come basis. Rally fee: £2.35 couples, £1.35 singles. All include VAT.

Facilities available:- toilets, water & Elsan disposal.

Rally slips & cheques payable to G. Blake, 24 Hillside Road, Spondon, Derby. DE21 7RA Tel.No. 01332602012. Please indicate if you wish electric hook up & a last night fish & chip supper.

Attractions: The site is 400 yds. from Carsington Reservoir foot path on dam wall. There is walking, cycling, bird watching and it is close to the towns of Matlock & Ashbourne.

Directions: Turn right off A517 Belper to Ashbourne, within ¼ mile past Hulland Ward turn into Dog Lane. About ¾ mile turn right (signposted Carsington Water). Site on right within ¾ mile.

OS 119-251493. **LIMIT 25 vans.**

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

all again and there will be a performance by the Choir of the Abbey School, Tewkesbury. Auto-Sleeper's management will be with us, and if all goes according to plan, their new Mezan will be on display. On Saturday evening, we welcome back Mike Smith with his orchestra and singers. Finally, members staying over on Sunday night will be able to take part in the almost legendary Boules competition, which we hope will be finished before it gets dark this year.

We will be using Red Gate for access to the site again, which does unfortunately present us with the usual traffic control problem. Please do not arrive before 10.00 on Friday morning. The gate will have to be open to allow access for exhibitors but we will not admit campers before 10.00. If you do arrive early, we can only offer to park you in the dog walk area, but be prepared for a delay in getting out as we must keep the main road clear at all times, so the flow of vehicles into the site cannot be interrupted. Arriving before 10.00 will certainly not get you a pitch near the front.

Day visitors will be welcomed on Saturday between 10.00 and 18.00. Entry will be via Brown Gate, and the entry fee has been reduced to £3.00 per adult, with children under 16 admitted free.

May I also remind all our members to avoid Upton upon Severn. As I advised in last month's Newsletter, the bridge works there are ongoing and the weight and width limits in place mean it will be impassable for our vehicles. Please use the recommended diversion routes.

If you haven't already volunteered to help, please think about giving us an hour or two of your time over the weekend. Most of our helpers enjoy the involvement and it is a good way of meeting people. Just have a word with one of the hall managers or marshals over the weekend. We can always find something that needs doing!

The most important message is that we hope you will all enjoy the weekend.

Andy Cavell

-----oooO000oo-----

Model Names

No, not that sort of model!! These are the type of model motorhome which we all know and love, I'll let *Baz* tell you the rest!

We have had some difficulties with motorhomes which are manufactured at Willersey but are marketed by Marquis. We have sought the advice of Auto-Sleepers Limited regarding those "County" models which are classified and badged as Auto-sleepers. These are

the Lancashire, Sussex, Dorset, Hampshire and Berkshire. The Mirage is NOT badged as an Auto-Sleeper.

Baz Wellard

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Cake Competition, 2004

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:-

1st Prize £30

2nd prize £20

3rd Prize £10

The Cake Stall would also be pleased to receive

All

Small

Or- large

Cakes

To raise more money for the chosen Charity

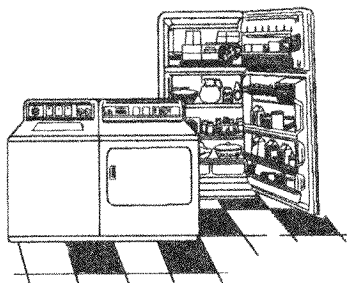
Generators

We decided on the spur of the moment to go to the Southern Motorcaravan Show held on the Newark Showground. As we had not booked to go on a rally we had to park in the General area. It was the first time we had attended an open air show and marvelled at the number and varied exhibitors. One thing we did notice was that none of the suppliers had the new style Duetto on display.

But my main purpose in writing is that having spent time walking around the showground we decided to return to our van to sit outside and enjoy the warm sunshine, and relish in the peace and quiet of the countryside. However this was not to be. We found ourselves parked next to a van using a GENERATOR. What unsociable contraptions these things are. The van sported a huge satellite dish on its roof and I can only imagine this was why the generator was needed. Is this what things have come to? I always thought that having a campervan meant we could get away from it all and enjoy a bit of nature and explore new places. If all these people want to do is watch satellite television why don't they stay at home and do it and leave the rest of us in peace? What do others think?

Margaret and Brian Green

I must say that I tend to agree with you, except perhaps in those cases where a generator may be needed for medical reasons. But having read in another magazine recently that someone wanted a full sized fridge/freezer in the van, particularly with the ability to provide ice cubes on the instant, I am hardly surprised by what we now see. I also remember a committee meeting up in the midlands where we were



all surprised to see a large American RV (as they call them) complete with a large satellite dish fastened to the trailer carrying the car and lots of potted greenery all round the driving area.

-----oooOOOooo-----

TECHNICAL GROUP

Thanks to contributions from two members the following 'Ideas Sheets' are now available (SAE to me as usual please): -

- No. 79 Disabled facility - raised toilet seat
- No. 80 Portable water pump assembly.

I hope that by the time the Newsletter is published I will have received approval from Auto-Sleepers to issue 'Ideas Sheet' No. 78. It will provide essential guidance to owners of the new Boxer chassis how to disconnect and reconnect the engine battery and also how to proceed when 'jump starting'.

The Technical Group will be present at the Club & Company rally, in Wye Hall, as usual and will be pleased to try to answer any technical queries that you may have or just to meet you.

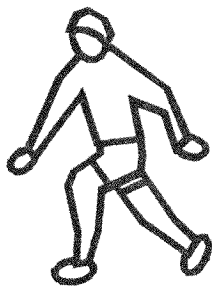
Baz Wellard

-----oooOOOooo-----

Ambleside Rally

Well, what a rally! This was only our second one (apart from attending two Club & Company rallies) and what a welcome, what a programme! First time rally marshals and assistants, *Sue and Peter Coward* with *Pam and Bill Todd*, were spot on and kept us on our toes for the whole four days. Over thirty outfits were neatly positioned on the rugby club field.

On Friday *Sue and Peter* escorted 28 of us on a walk to Todd Crag on Loughrigg Fell and brought us back via the caves near Rydal Water. While some enjoyed a picnic lunch overlooking the water, others opted for a liquid lunch at the Badger Bar pub close by. We were kept informed of where we were and what fells we could see on the whole of the walk. *Sue and Peter* certainly know their stuff.



The following three days were left for us to decide what to do, but with plenty of local literature and leaflets (supplied by the marshals) and a 'walkabout' quiz to complete none of us had time to sit and twiddle our thumbs. Apart from that the weather was glorious, so we all took advantage of it. Himself and I even managed a walk up Wansfell Pike - which overlooked the rally site.

On the Sunday evening 50 of us walked to the Ambleside Mountain Rescue Headquarters and spent a very informative evening hearing all about how the team worked and some of their rescues. Other evening were spent in the clubroom, starting with a superb cooked supper on the Friday and finishing with a 'bring your own food' supper on the Monday. I have to say I preferred the prepared supper - the food was delicious. With quizzes, games and a raffle to take part in there was something for everyone.

My thanks to the marshals for such a super rally - and also for arranging that wonderful weather.

Jean Shaftoe

-----oooOOOooo-----

VW Belt Squeal

I write concerning *Kath Hook's* letter in the June Newsletter. It appears it was a common problem, certainly with T4's with the AAB diesel engine. Mine was first registered in February 1994 though my belt has never actually snapped.

A letter appeared in MMM magazine from a Dr. Shepherd in about 1996 mentioning the problem (I have a copy). It stated that it was due to VW fitting the wrong crankshaft pulley. The correct one is part number 074 - 903 - 119 - C. However, on replacing my belt I found it to be of a different pattern to the original, made in Japan and with coarser and deeper teeth, so presumably VW changed the design. I replaced it myself and have retensioned it once due to stretch - after about 3,000 miles. Incidentally, on assembly I sprayed on some belt dressing. I understand WD 40 works for a while.

If anyone wants to discuss this, my telephone number is 013 2389 6390.

Gordon Finlayson

#####

We have a Clubman GL 1993, on a VW T4 SWB Chassis with 5 cylinder 2.4 litre diesel engine and have suffered similar indignities. My Garage endeavoured to obtain a new belt and had to try several different ones. They finally fitted a Volkswagen part No. 13A 1100C. which cured the problem. They advised us that the cause of the problem was the relative pulleys were not in EXACT alignment.

We hope that this information will be of help to other members.

Ron Lawton.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Motorhome Service Centre Willersey

We can generally look after customers at relatively short notice. However, recently we have had a number who have brought their



motorhomes to us without prior notice which, understandably, has at times meant that we were unable to look after them to the best of our ability.

We do have the flexibility of looking after our customers needs and a call beforehand can generally ensure that their needs are met. So, if help is needed, ring us beforehand when help will, in most cases, be forthcoming.

Charles Trevelyan

I would have thought that it was common courtesy to ring to see whether you could be helped rather than just turning up and expecting miracles. And a call might just save you a journey cost which might be avoided.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Water Ingress

In reply to the piece by *Jean and Colin Marjoram* in the June 2004 issue:

Judy and I were recently saddened by similar water-ingress staining below the forward ends of the 'slit-windows' on each side of the roof of our Topaz (identical to those on the Trident). We took R van Winkle to the dealer (Todds in Preston), who said it wasn't the first time they'd seen this on Auto-Sleepers. Perhaps A-S should take extra care with the installation of these units?

The only answer is to remove the windows and re-seal all round. (Don't ask us how; Todd's did it, as we don't meddle with neatly finished things, but the charge was quite reasonable.) We then used a good fabric cleaner (one not containing bleach!) to at least reduce the staining to barely noticeable proportions, and are quite satisfied with the result. And no more leaks.

Judy and Jim Andrews

-----oooOOOooo-----

Insurance

I have just moved into a new apartment, 1st floor, with 6'0" high wall and 10'0" iron gates soon to be electrically operated. I advised all my professional institutions of my change of address.

A telephone call to my campervan insurance company, Boncaster, (the Club Care Insurance Services) and, after taking my details, said that there would be a £20.00 charge for my change of address. No explanation was given at the time, but a letter later demanding the

payment advised that "as I am now residing in a higher rated district this would be the additional premium."

As my Duetto is no longer parked on the main road but in a semi rural setting with maximum privacy offered by the walled perimeter and gated entrance I fail to understand. But I shall be looking for a new 'broker' in October

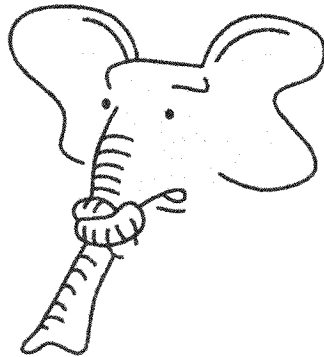
Bryan Jones

It is, unfortunately, a sign of the times that insurance companies have to take into account their experiences in various districts. I rather imagine that, living in London, if I could prove that our van was padlocked down in a steel garage, electrically and electronically protected and only saw the light of day a couple of times a year I might, just, get a small discount!!

-----oooOOOooo-----

Nasty Smells

We spent five weeks in France last year - during the hottest part of the summer! After two weeks I thought that I detected a 'smell' coming from the cold water tap every time I turned it on. Himself said that it was my imagination and it took another few days before he decided that I was right. The 'smell' was reminiscent of the smell that occurs when emptying the waste water tank! Fortunately we don't use the water from the tap for drinking. We could only put it down to the heat and, after using sterilising tablets a couple of times, hoped all would be well when the weather changed.



How wrong can you be? It's still happening and we don't know why. Does it happen to anyone else? What can we do to stop it?

Jean Shaftoe

My suggestion would be first of all to drain and then flush out your main water tank using one of the proprietary cleaners that are available for such a purpose. Afterwards do what we always do when filling with water. Before starting to fill the tank we put in three capfuls (thats the cap of the bottle, not a cup!) of a sterilising liquid such a Milton steriliser for babies bottles or, as we do, use a similar product from a supermarket. We have never experienced any smells, either

from the tap or when emptying waste water. But we do carry a 6 litre milk bottle, thoroughly cleaned and rinsed out, for our drinking water needs.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Champagne tour - 2004

We have just returned from another wonderfully well organised trip. Gloria and Wally Bunting did a great job getting us to Chalons sur Champagne and back again. *Keith and I* would not have done it without their guidance. We caught up with friends and made new ones including *Mick and Edna Evans* who stayed with us in Folkestone on Saturday night and with whom we enjoyed a lovely evening meal in the town before leaving on Sunday for home.

Thanks to all concerned.

Rita Jones and Keith Taylor

-----oooOOOooo-----

DEFT (OR DAFT) DEFINITIONS

Just for your amusement, we discovered these on, of all things, a tea towel!

Accurate	Assists a Vicar
Acquire	Sings in a church
Bigamy	The larger of two girls named Amy
Dogma	The mother of a dog - a bitch
Endorse	The last horse in a race
Exact	Juggling with eggs
Exchequer	Someone who counts eggs
Foreign	Use an umbrella
Forest	Sit or Lie down
Handicraft	A boat ready to jump into
Hurricane	A cane used to make people go faster
Illegal	A bird that doesn't feel well
Laboratory	Doesn't know whether to vote labour or tory

More of these in a future Newsletter (if I dare!)

-----oooOOOooo-----

For Sale



A-S Symbol, 2+2, petrol, January 2002. 14,000 miles. All the usual A-S refinements plus Van Bitz alarm, isolator and Battery Master. Fiamma wind out awning. Solar panel. Carefully used and maintained. Non-smokers, no pets. £21,000.00 ono. Tel: Peter Durrant on 015 0853 6889 (Long Stratton, Norfolk).

#####

2004 Talisman GLS, 4 berth, Peugeot Boxer, 2.8 Hdi, 1690 miles, electric windows/mirrors, central locking, Status T.V. aerial, radio CD player, gas and electric space and water heating, 2 bike rack, Silver Screens, excellent condition. Bargain as hardly used. £35,000.00 for a quick sale. Contact Basil Davis 01722 744927 (Salisbury)

#####

Fiamma top Box, Ultra Box 1, 1080 x 760 x 420 mm approx. Complete with original tie down straps. Fits within roof rails of Talisman GL and should also suit Clubman and Talbot Executive models with similar roof rails. £100.00 ono. Aquaroll 28 litre water container, little used, still in original box. £15.00. Contact Margaret and Brian Chambers by e-mail copeland1@onetel.com or telephone 016 0685 3187 (Northwich, Cheshire).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Ford Pollensa 2.4TD. "Y" reg, 2001. One owner. Under 21,000 miles. Garaged since new. Excellent condition. Awning, Bike rack, Fantastic fan, 2 Heikis, Ultra heat (heated bathroom), extras. Full service history. MOT to April 2005, taxed to March 2005. Non-smokers, no pets. £26,750.00 ono. Tel: Vern Harthy on 012 0251 5231 or 07 050 079 383 (Bournemouth, Dorset).

Thanks for the donation.

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