

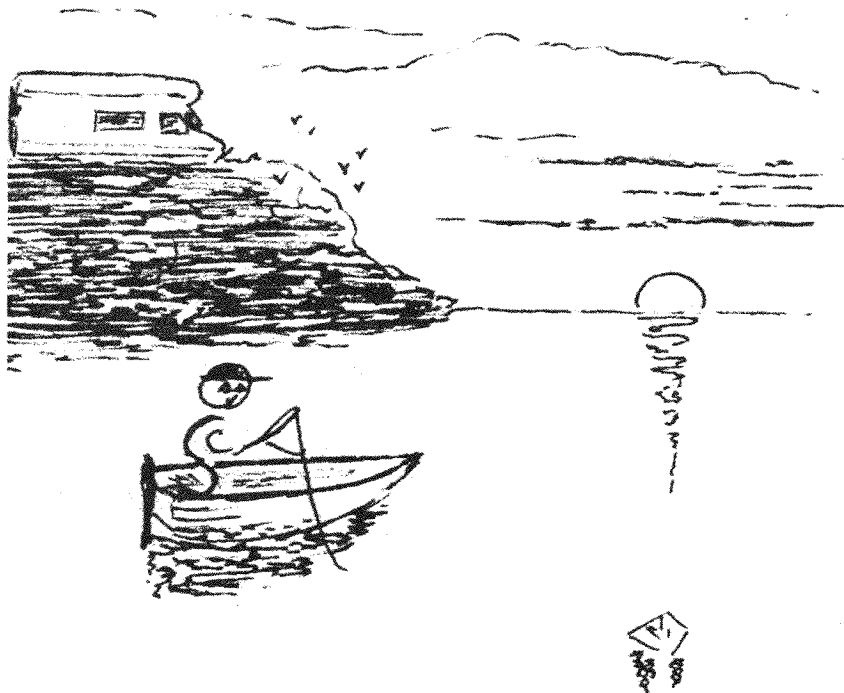


www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee.

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

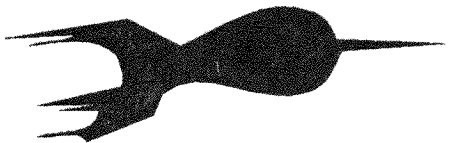


Happiness is.....

NEWSLETTER 192 SEPTEMBER 2004

Hello

My comments in the August Newsletter regarding the way a very few people seem to think things should be done - usually for their own benefit - has aroused some further comment. *Norman Rendle* sent me an e-mail to quote the old saying "you can please SOME of the people ALL of the time..." He went on to comment that, from his own experience of the printing industry, anything sent along after the copy had been sent to the printer would probably be deemed to be an "Author's Correction"

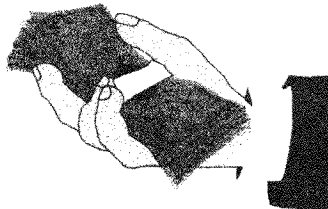


and would result in additional cost. He also suggested that, if he knew who the complainants were, he might find a "more practical use for the Editor's spike!"

John Geeson also used the e-mail system to state that the majority of members appreciate the hard work that is involved in the committee and are astounded at the attitude of some people. He suspects that these moaners, groaners and complainants are the people who allow their dogs to run free because "dogs on leads" doesn't apply to them and the same ones who take, take, take as long as its free.

My thanks to these and to the famous "silent majority" who support the committee and through them the Club. But we still need another three members to join that committee and to help run things the way you want them.

I have also received a very charming gesture. An advertisement was sent to me for inclusion in the Newsletter but unfortunately it was not from a member. I rang the person who sent it who told me that the vehicle for sale had belonged to her father who had recently died. She fully understood the reason for the rejection of the advert but insisted that the donation she had sent should be retained by us because the Club had given her late father, *Laurie Simmons* of Ditchling in Sussex so many happy memories. All I could say was "Thank you".



-----oooOOooo-----

Nuevo Problems

Has anyone else had a problem with the glue coming through and staining the lining over the cab in a Boxer based A-S? My Nuevo was first registered in September 2002, it has had to have 2 replacement linings (replaced at the factory) because of the brown staining of the glue coming through. And now the glue has come through this one and I am

waiting to be told when to take it back to the factory for another to be fitted.

I was told last time that the method of manufacture had been changed, so there must have been others with this problem. But it did not stop the stain showing through on this one. That will be 4 liners fitted to my van when I get this one. Each time I take the Nuevo back to where I bought it. They agree it is not correct and contact the factory. I thought that the Quality Control had been sorted out. Perhaps if they used clear glue, as it is a light material, I said last time, and was told that now the manufacturing changes would sort this out. Oh yeh!!!

I like and love my Nuevo, but why is this fairly small problem recurring ?? I now know the route pretty well from Yeovil to the factory. Maybe by reporting to THE club I can get some answers.

Tony Fearn

-----oooOOOooo-----

Information, please

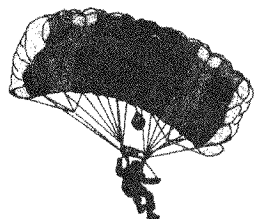
We are thinking of changing our Duetto for a Nuevo ES or the two berth Nuevo. Can anyone give us some information on miles per gallon for both models, please? Many thanks.

Peter Jones

-----oooOOOooo-----

A Day to Remember

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me in a tandem parachute jump in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. I completed the jump on Saturday, 17th July, at the RAF airfield Weston-on-the-Green supported by my daughter Trish, who also jumped, and cheered on by my husband, Alan, three other children, a son-in-law, two grandsons and four friends.



The talk beforehand explaining what to do and how to do it was quite straightforward, although the long wait afterwards, for the weather to improve stretched the nerves a bit. So it was quite a relief when it was time to struggle into a jump suit and to be 'strapped up' with the harness which would attach me to my instructor (a very nice young man, I have to admit!). It was then posing time for photographs - with and without the hat and goggles on (very glamorous).

I really don't know how to describe the next 40 minutes or so of my life. We clambered into a mini bus and rattled our way across the airfield to the plane. Plane? I have only seen planes this small in

museums! Believe me, sardines have bags of room in their tins. As we were to jump first and there was not enough seats my instructor and I had the honour of sitting on the floor beside the clear plastic roll-down door giving us a birds eye view of the disappearing ground as we climbed to 10,000 feet. I really don't know what was going through my mind at this stage as I was being attached to my instructor and given last minute instructions.

But picture the scene just before we left the plane. The clear plastic door has been rolled back and I am fully attached to Ralph (the instructor) and hanging, yes hanging, on him with my arms crossed over my chest and my legs crossed between his. I think at this point I must have felt a bit hysterical. I really couldn't believe I was doing this and wanted to laugh. However the moment I will never forget is when we left the plane - pure shock, fright and amazement. I am now hurtling towards the earth at 120 miles per hour for a mile mostly through cloud. It seemed quite tame when the chute was opened and we were yanked to an upright position.

For the next five minutes we floated through the air enjoying the views, but I felt so sick. Oh boy! Did I feel rough! The instructions for landing were that the passenger holds their legs out in front so that the instructor lands on his - if we didn't one person would have a very soft landing and it wouldn't be the passenger. I did not disgrace myself, although it was a struggle, out came the legs. Then I just sat there and watched my daughter float down.

What a day, so many emotions, an ambition fulfilled and no, I don't want to do it again.

Barbara Potter

I have enough trouble actually getting into a plane for a flight, let alone getting out of it before it is back on terra firma! I fully appreciate that it is a "terra" up there and it is "firma" on the ground!

-----oooOOOooo-----

Alzheimers Research Trust

Marilyn Laws has advised that this Trust, whom we chose as our charity for 2003, gave us a kind "thank you" note in their newsletter of May this year. She sent them a photo of the big cheque when we presented the cash to them and was a little disappointed that it only merited a one line comment. But they do try to devote most of their fairly rare newsletter to the more important research news.

Marilyn also offers her belated apologies to those whom she feels they let down because they could not attend Malvern this year.

I noticed a comment, apparently from some American researchers into this disease, which seemed to suggest that if you keep the old brainbox active in earlier to middle life it will help to keep the problem at bay. Remembering one or two of the famous people who have succumbed to this disease, it made me wonder whether politicians and the like ever use their brains!

-----oooOOOooo-----

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Most motorhomes are - or should be - fitted with a smoke alarm. Members wishing to protect themselves against the dangers of Carbon Monoxide - and I recall that one member, a well-qualified scientist, and his wife suffered ill effects from this odourless, poisonous gas in their 'van some years ago - may consider fitting a CO alarm. Be warned!

Earlier this year, I noticed a combined smoke and carbon monoxide alarm, not cheap - about £35 - but apparently a space saver. The packaging claimed that this was suitable for sleeping and living areas - which describes two of the three uses of our Clubman. It was not until I had destroyed the plastic packaging - the only way of extracting the unit - and read the enclosed instruction leaflet that I discovered that the alarm was said to be unsuitable for boats and caravans. This despite the fact that the same firm manufactures a carbon monoxide (only) alarm which is advertised in our local motorhome dealer's accessories catalogue.

I wrote to the manufacturers asking three questions:

1. Why the alarm was not suitable for boats and caravans.
2. Why misleading information was visible from the outside of the packaging.
3. Whether they would accept return of the alarm against a refund or replacement with a carbon monoxide (only) alarm. (They could after all repackage and resell it.)

No reply, so after waiting a month I wrote personally to the Managing Director asking the same questions and commenting on the fact that I had received neither reply nor acknowledgment. Two months later, no reply to this letter and I am considering taking further action.

So members should beware - do not buy any alarm unless it is stated by the retailer (who then becomes responsible in law) that it is suited to the intended purpose.

Ray Whiley

Ray tells me that he has repeated this warning to the Editor of MMM. A later letter said that the matter had been resolved to *Ray's* satisfaction but that the warning still applies.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Isolation Switch

With reference to the item in the Newsletter regarding current drain with the radio isolation switch left turned on we had the same problem. We purchased a Marquis Lancashire (Nuevo) in May and after a couple of weeks it was returned for fitting of a tow bar. It ended up in another Marquis compound for 8 days (don't ask). When it came to be moved the vehicle battery was flat. I assumed it was a duff battery or generator and was going to take it to our local Peugeot dealer for checking when I noticed, on going into the van one evening, that the radio switch was glowing even though it was turned off. Turning off the isolation switch stopped this. I contacted the A-S regarding the current drain when the radio was in standby mode. I was referred to an engineer who was going to find out but then we went to France for 4 weeks and it kind of drifted into the background and I didn't follow it up. I do know that with the isolation switch off the vehicle can be left for more than 8 days without the vehicle battery going down and so would like to know what the drain is if anybody knows. Personally I think the switch is a good idea that doesn't quite work. If you leave it turned off the radio cuts out after 20 minutes but you need to remember to turn it off every time.

Graham Parkinson

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Further to my letter about this switch being the source of the battery discharge in four days if it is left in the "on" position. I have to disagree with *Baz Wellard's* theory in the August Newsletter. The suggestion was that there must have been a bigger drain than the one discovered to discharge a battery of the size we use. The proof of the pudding and all that. The switch has been in the 'off' position and the vehicle left standing for five weeks and it starts first time. Sorry, *Baz*.

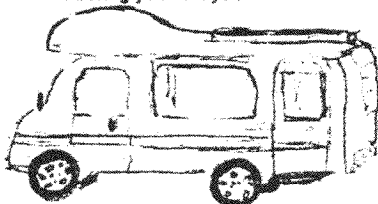
Michael Carrington

It seems to me that some more research is needed into this problem. Having had trouble, in a completely different way, with the leisure battery running down because of the original position of the relay in the charging circuit, I rather think that some additional drain is in place, perhaps only on some vehicles.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Bottles

Jill and Valerie would like to thank
all who gave so generously to the
Bottle Stall at the C & C rally and
all who bought tickets.
Looking forward
to seeing you next year!



Valerie and I so enjoyed the rally this year and meeting so many people while running the bottle stall. What an excellent job *Andy Cavel* and his team did in organising the affair.

Jill Pearce

#####

The 2004 Club and Company Rally was a great weekend and we found ourselves parked next to friends we had not seen for 6 years.

I have just one moan (unusual for me!) The Bottle Stall was well supported with plenty of donations. The bottle I won was so old as to be undrinkable with sediment floating about. If members wish to donate will they please give something which is palatable and not a bottle which has languished at the bottom of their wine cellar. I'm sure you know who you are!

Brian Green

-----oooOOOoo-----

Gas and Dogs

Alleluyah! Some sense at last on the subject of gassing (*Ian Watt's* piece last month). To anaesthetise anyone in a (say) 4 metre x 2 metre x 3 metre, extremely well ventilated box would probably require at least one huge BOC cylinder on a trolley. Like *Ian*, I believe this to be an urban myth and the chances are most victims had probably anaesthetised themselves! As *Ian* says - do not be alarmed. As far as crime is concerned, travelling abroad is statistically much safer than staying in the UK!

And Dogs. I thought your foreign travelling, dog owning readers might be interested in this. Regular doggie travellers will know that the animal has to be treated for ticks and tapeworm 24-48 hours before

check in on return, and it has to be on an original, carbonned, numbered form. After 10 days in France with the hound, I had the bright (I thought) idea of getting the treatment and certification carried out in Colmar, Alsace rather than hanging around for 2 days in Calais.

Appointment made with local vet who says he has the form - turn up the following day, vet has a photocopy - not good enough! He fills the form anyway and sends us to the local Service Veterinaire to see if they have a form. No they don't, but before I ask, they very kindly offer to countersign the form to the effect that no originals were available.

Calais, 6am 2 days later at the SeaFrance check-in and the check in clerk has to call her manager. Lots of muttering of "c'est pas bon" but they let us through. Moral of the story - be persistent with the vet as to whether they have the right forms or, like me, try to get hold of a batch of original forms from French Defra. I understand there is a web site www.dogsaway.co.uk which makes a charge for arranging a vet and ensuring the right forms are available.

Nick Robinson

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Club & Company Rally

This year's Club and Company Rally was our first, although we have been A-S owners for some time. We just never thought that rallying would be our cup of tea. How wrong can you be? We thought it was absolutely great, although it was a tad expensive at over £30,000.00 for the weekend! You've guessed it, we were tempted into trading in our old Pollensa for a new one based on the Ford this time (extra payload and all that). So if you see FH 04 EPE on your travels, give us a wave.

We have been trying to think up what our VRM could be a mnemonic for - "Fine Holidays On A (looks like a 4) Earnshaw Pollensa Extravaganza"!! It save on buying a personalised VRM. Any other members got any suggestions? (Printable ones, that is!)

Anyway, back to the Club and Company Rally. We really enjoyed it and thought that the entertainment was very good and the right mix for everyone to enjoy. We particularly enjoyed the quiz, please don't stop that. A big thank you for members who helped organise and run the event and for the tremendous welcome we received from evryone, with special mention to *Graham* and *Sue* as well as *John* and *Jan*. Our e-mail address is stevearn1@aol.com if anyone wants to get in touch.

Pam and Steve Earnshaw

I suppose that there may be one or two people who are not entirely sure what "VRM" means. It is, of course, Vehicle Registration Mark, NOT Very Rude Message!!

-----oooOOOooo-----

Chester Rally

In 1996 my husband and I joined ASOC wondering just what sort of a Club it was. We very soon found it to be a warm and inviting bunch of people who loved fun - and thank goodness for it.

We have made so many good friends who, at the Chester Rally, made us feel so very special on our Ruby Wedding Day. We would like to say thank you to *Jean and Duncan Ellis*, and all their helpers, who went out of their way to give us a day to remember always.

I understand this is to be the last Chester Rally. Well, they went out on a high; you couldn't get better. Thank you so much to all our friends.

Maureen and Cedric Jones

Isn't it amazing how many of our members celebrate Silver, Golden, Ruby, Diamond and other wedding anniversaries when they are at a rally? It does say quite a lot about the type of people who enjoy this pastime of ours. Unlike the "famous" people for whom a marriage lasting for more than two or three months in some cases think that they deserve a long service award!

-----oooOOOooo-----

This Year's Chosen Charity

Andy Cavell has received a very charming letter from The Prostate Cancer Charity which was the one chosen for our Club contributions for 2004. I cannot do any better than to reproduce it on the next page.

It is very rewarding to our Club to discover that every year you, our wonderful members, never mind putting your hands into your pockets or handbags or wherever you carry you cash in aid of something deserving. Especially so when you have to consider that a large proportion of our membership is not exactly earning the sort of fantastic salaries or wages which you might have been getting as a sports "star" or entertainment person. Don't you all feel sorry for some of those poor footballers who are only "earning" several thousands of pounds per week?

So thank you all very much indeed from your committee.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Dear Andy,

Thank you very much indeed for the superb donation of £4040.16 which was presented to me at the Autosleepers Owners Club Club and Company Rally last weekend.

As I said at the time, I was moved by the amount of people who came up to me to tell me about either their own experience of prostate cancer or to take information to pass on to others. If that information saves just one gentleman's life then we all know we've done a good job.

Also, you'll be delighted to know that your total has been swelled by another £116.70 which was collected in our tin on the stand, making a grand total of
.....**£4156.86.**

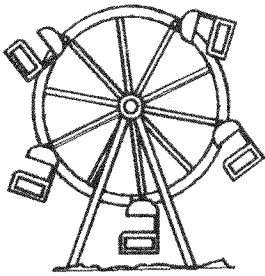
Could you please pass on my sincerest thanks to everyone I met at the rally. I was made to feel very welcome and I truly appreciate the time that your members took to help me on the stand – John and Maureen Cullin, Mike and Judy Chester and Tom and Freda Shaw.

Thank you once again for nominating us as your Charity, the generosity of your members over the weekend was astounding.

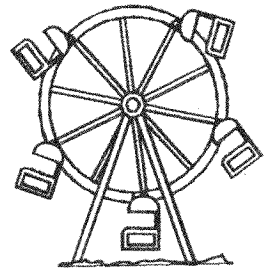
Warmest regards



Lesley McGinty
Community Fundraising Manager
Direct Line: 020 8222 7632
Mobile: 07885 397378
Email: lesley@prostate-cancer.org.uk



SEPTEMBER 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 please inform the marshal.

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 should have been 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 Ludlow's 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.

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**.

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

******* Note dates *****16th. -19th.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.

You should have sent the application 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 Hullahd 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.**

1st.-3rd. October (2 nights) Great Central Railway, Quorn,

Leicestershire

Station Tel. No 01509 416704. (Weekends & when station open).

Marshal's mobile 07810 455318.

Rally Marshals: Elizabeth & Bill Grimsley

Site Fee: £4.00 per unit per night (Incl. VAT) No electricity. Rally Fee: £1.50 per person. (Incl. VAT). This is a GREENFIELD site using part of the station car park. Toilets available when station open.

Booking slips to Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Grimsley, 24 Paul Drive, Leicester. LE4 9FY.

Tel. No. 0116 269 2220. Cheques payable to: -E. W. & Mrs. E. Grimsley.

Attractions: Enjoy a nostalgic trip on one of Britain's only Main Line Steam Railway, between Loughborough Central & Leicester North. A money off voucher will be available for each unit to use on train for unlimited rides during weekend.

Loughborough - good shopping & Britain's first Carillon. There is much to see at the station.

Leicester - The National Space Centre is in walking distance from Leicester North Station.

The city centre can be reached by bus from near the station.

Charnwood Forest - good for walking & cycling is 2 miles away.

Saturday evening 3rd. October. We have booked the skittle alley at the Manor a pub opposite the station. Hot food is available at £5/6 per head. If interested please state numbers requiring food, also whether vegetarian, on the booking slip, but pay on night. DO NOT send money for the skittles in advance, but we must know how many require food so that it can be ordered.

Directions-Quorn is situated south of Loughborough close to the A6 and can easily found by following the *brown signs*, but make sure you end up at QUORN and not one of the other stations, as they are all marked with *brown signs*. The station is situated on the left side of Woodhouse Road opposite the Manor pub. before the railway bridge when approaching from Quorn

Please DO NOT arrive before 12 noon. **LIMIT 30 Vans.**

**7th - 10th.October (3 nights) Whitchurch Cricket Club,Whitchurch,
This rally has had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our
control.**

**12th - 15th.October (3 nights) The Camping& Caravanning Club
Site,Ashes Lane,Staveley,Kendal,Cumbria.LA8 9JS**

Site Tel.No. 01539 821119 (No calls after 8.00pm.)

Map ref. 097/479964.

Marshals:Jill & James Bertlin with Sue & Peter Coward.

Directions:Leave M6 at Junction 36, follow A590 (SP Barrow & the Lakes), and join A691 SP Kendal & Windermere. Turn left at International Camping Sign just north of Kendal. Those of you travelling from Windermere ignore Int. Sign. -continue for 1 mile to big roundabout then return northwards.

Please DO NOT ARRIVE before 12noon. **THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.**

22nd - 24th. October (2 nights) Eden Camp,Nr.Malton,North Yorks.

Emergency Tel.No. 0777 557 0182.

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin.

Site Fees:£9.00 per unit per night (includes VAT & unlimited admission to museum & use of Hut 12 for weekend). **No Electricity.** All hardstanding on car park.Elsan disposal & water available. Rally Fee:£1.35 + 50p per person (incl.VAT).

Rally slips to:Mrs. J.Hicklin,381 Manor Road, Brimington,Chesterfield, Derbyshire.S43 1PP.

Tel. No. 01246 236 157.Cheques payable to Mrs. J. Hicklin.

Attractions: Eden Camp is a modern history theme museum set in a P.O.W. camp. Malton is within walking distance of the camp.

Friday evening get together & Saturday evening an American supper in Hut 12.1940's dress optional.Meals served in the Naafi.

Directions: Junct. A64 York to Scarborough road & A169 Malton to Pickering road. Rally opens 12 noon Friday & closes 12 noon Sunday.

Late arrivals will have to park outside gates which are locked between 2030hrs. & 0800hrs. *Limited to 40 Vans.*

**22nd -24th.October (2 nights).Shire Hall,Mold,Flintshire for
Houghton Weavers Concert.**

Rally Marshals: Betty & Andrew Entwistle.

Site Fee:£5.00 per van per night (£3.50 single occupant).

Booking slips & cheques,payable to B. & M.A. Entwistle,8 The Dell,Mytholm,
Hebden Bridge,West Yorkshire.HX7 6DP.Tel.No. 01422 847 550.

Levelling blocks will be required on hardstanding site.

General enquiries to John Greenwood 01352 754794.

Please indicate on slip the number of tickets that you will require for the concert.Cost of these and cost of coach to concert will be arranged on arrival.

Directions:From North M6---M56---A5117---A494 signed Mold---A541 turn right to Theatre Clwyd.Follow ASOC signs.

From South, leave Wrexham bypass on A541 signed Mold, follow brown tourist signs for Theatre Clwyd,then follow ASOC signs.

DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 6.00p.m.FRIDAY.

28th. – 31st.October (3 nights) Eastham Hall C.P.,Lytham,Lancs.

Site Tel.No. 01253 737907(Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals:Kath & Norman Benyon,Barbara & Vic Kaye & Evelyn & Ben Mansfield.

Site Fee:£10.50 per night,includes electricity and use of centrally heated hall for 3 nights.

Rally Fee:£3.00 per van & £1.00 per person, (Both include VAT).The price of the hall has increased hence higher rally fee.

Booking slips & cheques payable to B & V Kaye to Mrs.B.Kaye,14 Firthwood Rd.,Coal Aston,Dronfield.S18 3BW. Tel.No. 01246 412 679.

Attractions:All the fun of the sea-side at Lytham St.Annes,Fairhaven,Blackpool;go shopping at the Freeport.

Thursday 28th. Tea/coffee & biscuits in the hall.Welcome to friends old & new.Bring your spare camping equipment to our Bargain Table.

Friday 29th. Hot Pot & Sweet in the hall £2.75 a head.Tea/coffee will be provided.IF we can persuade him there will be a CEDRIC quiz!!

Saturday 30th. Fish & Chip supper in the hall £3.25 a head.Tea/coffee will be provided.Competition HOME MADE HALLOWEEN MASK will be judged, Hopefully Tom will give us another monologue which will be followed by the raffle.

DO NOT SEND MONEY for meals.

We exchange CHRISTMAS CARDS with friends which saves a lot of postage.

Sunday 31st. Tea/Coffee/ biscuits. Rally ends.

Directions:A584 to Lytham on entering Lytham at first mini roundabout turn **RIGHT** over railway bridge to next roundabout.Turn **RIGHT** again at S.P. Kirkham.Site on **RIGHT** after ½ mile.

**5th. – 9th. November (4 nights) Sedgemoor Carnival Rally
2004, Burnham on Sea Holiday Village.**

Rally Marshals: Linda & Keith Ellis & Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site Fee: £31.00 for 4 nights including electricity & hardstanding. Rally Fee: £2.35. both include VAT. Toilet block facility, limited use of club bar and entertainment complex. There is a cycle hire facility on site for the more energetic. Bring your "cozy" because we may also have access to the swimming pool. A coach trip to the Clarks village of Street may be arranged for Saturday at about £3.50 per person. Please state if interested on rally slip.

Sorry NO PETS allowed on site, rule carved in stone & enforced.

Send rally slip & cheque for £33.35 by mid October to: Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2PP. Tel. No. 01278 784 524.

The Monday evening carnival procession is possibly one of the best "FREE" shows that you will ever see. The site is Burnham on Sea Holiday Village about 10 minutes stroll up the prom to the town centre and Carnival route.

Directions: M5 junction 22, Burnham on Sea. To the large (Edithmead A38) island turn **left** and follow signs for Burnham Holiday Village, (Taunton A38). Approx. one mile, **straight** over island (A38). Continue after caravan sales over railway bridge, then turn **second right** signed Burnham Holiday Village. To mini island by petrol station, turn **left** towards Burnham town centre. Holiday Village about ¼ mile on the **left**.

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

We depend on volunteers within the Club to act as rally marshals. If you know of a suitable site why not think about running a rally. It is not difficult & help is available.

It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as, unless they are approved by the Club, there will be no Public Liability Insurance.

*Neil C. Rogers
3 Appleby Close,
Aldbrough St. John,
Richmond,
North Yorks,
DL11 7TT.*

Tel./Fax. No. 01325 374 540 E-Mail. ncr@nasuwt.net

Local assistant: Jerry Haxton (01483 223 476) Woking, Surrey.

E & OE

Rally: Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length:

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name Phone No:

Please complete both sides of the form!

✂ -----
Rally: Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length:

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name Phone No:

Please complete both sides of the form!

✂ -----
Rally: Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length:

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name Phone No:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes No

Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

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

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.
POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes No

Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

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

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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

Motorvan Packing Checklist

I know this subject will have been covered many times before and that everyone will have their own version but I thought I would send our checklist. We own a Symphony which is our only means of transport. *Helen and I* are both still working full time and we use the van most days. *Helen* uses it to get to work, our grown up kids use it as a taxi (when their friends aren't looking) and we use it for doing 'the big shop' etc.

After returning home from our holidays and weekends away we leave in the van our bedding and the usual items kept in the lockers. Everything else is removed. This helps to keep the weight down and the van tidy. Having amended and refined our checklist many times on the PC we printed the 2 sided list on A4 paper and then laminated it. Laminating helps to protect and keep clean but the main advantage is that by using a dry marker pen items can be crossed off if they are not required on a particular trip, ticked off if the item is already in or when it is put in the van. Before the next trip we simply wipe the list clean with a dry cloth.

Helen & Shaun Camponi

I have not tried to reproduce the listing because, as stated, we each have our own ideas as to what should be on it. The principle of laminating the list is a good one. But for our list we are bone idle and just print a copy (on part used paper usually) whenever we want one. When everything is loaded we then shred the original sheet. And no doubt just like everyone else we get umpteen miles along the road and remember something we should have added to the list. This would probably still apply even if we had such a comprehensive list as the one sent to me.

-----oooO000oo-----

2004 Photo Competition

There were 45 entries this year and the winners were:

Standard Class

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| 1st | <i>Pauline Stevens</i> | An evening splash in the Doone Valley. |
| 2nd | <i>Janet Rawding</i> | Bridge of Size |
| 3rd | <i>Peter Angus</i> | Pollensa + Sunset = Perfection |

Humorous Class

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1st | <i>Dave Thomas</i> | In times of need..... |
| 2nd | <i>Pat & Roy Bromfield</i> | B, no, this is not a horsebox |
| 3rd | <i>Theresa & Dave Smith</i> | So that's where they're getting the beer |

All of these and other pictures taken at the Club and Company Rally can be seen on the Club's website. Thank you everyone who entered and when you are out and about remember to get snapping!

Brian Smith

Having seen the entries, well displayed on the boards at Malvern, I must congratulate all of our "happy snappers" for their vision and, in some cases, ingenuity in preparing the pictures. Keep it up!

-----oooOOOOoo-----

Club Website

For the interest of both rally marshals and ralliers, the Club website now has relevant extracts from the latest Countryside Code. Full copies can be obtained by telephoning 0870 120 1273 if required.

Members who have already informed me of their e-mail addresses are routinely advised when and what updates are made to the website. Unfortunately, however, members who make use of their library to access the website cannot be so advised. My advice to this group is to log on to the website as usual and then click on the 'updates' page. This, as well as giving details of all changes, also provides the facility to hyperlink (jump) directly to the changed pages.

More recent updates include: the latest Club Regalia, Club and Company and other rally reports; the up-to-date rally list and the full list of Ideas Sheets.

Finally, please remember to keep your anti-virus software regularly (weekly?) updated. It is in your own interest as well as anyone to whom you may e-mail or who are in your address book.

Baz Wellard

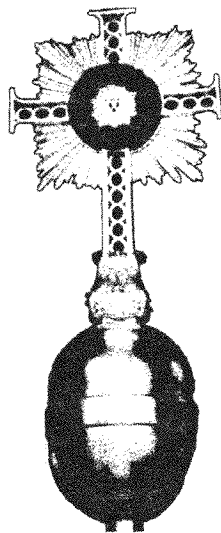
-----oooOOOOoo-----

DRESDEN REVISITED

About 160 people from the UK travelled to Dresden in June, to be present at the ceremonies for raising the British-made Orb and Cross to the top of the dome of the rebuilt Church of our Lady (the Frauenkirche) destroyed in February 1945. The vast majority of them went there by air, but we went in our Symbol. There was an official list of British participants, with their accommodation details; these ranged from the Hilton to the Youth Hostel, which is a very luxurious place with en-suite facilities. At the bottom of the list were 'the Smiths, at the camp-site!' Of course, as seasoned ASOC members that was exactly where we preferred to be. There are several sites near Dresden, and we chose Camping Mockritz,

from where there is a regular bus service into the city. We had reserved a pitch by e-mail, but it probably wasn't necessary.

I was at the events, in a semi-official capacity, but it is estimated that 60,000 people turned out to watch, and we all had a pretty good view. The proceedings were televised live, and they featured in TV News over here, so you may have seen the pictures of the enormous crane lifting the Orb and Cross to its position 91 meters above the ground. It was a slow and dignified ascent, delayed by only 10 minutes because of force 8 gusts up aloft, and as the signal was given that it fitted exactly into its position, everyone began to clap. There were tears too, as it stirred so many dreadful memories of war, but the people of Dresden were so delighted to see their skyline complete once more that there was no bitterness, but only prayers that such tragedies would never happen again.



After Dresden we went to Zittau on the border with Poland. There we viewed the huge Lenten Veil, which used to cover the altar during Lent. The surrounding villages and small towns have some most interesting and unusual houses. Originally the villagers lived by weaving at looms in their own homes. These were more like log cabins. When it was necessary to build second storeys on these houses, they constructed arches outside the cabins, which helped to support the weight of a further floor. Talking of reconstruction, this is an area where much of that has been done since 1990, and as more and more tourists are arriving, so more campsites are being built. Some of the facilities in these new sites have to be experienced to be believed. Zittau's has a water feature in middle of the covered foyer of the "wash block".

On the way home we visited Wittenberg, where you can see the door where Martin Luther pinned up his 95 theses and where there is a good site on the banks of the river. Rinteln, near Hanover in Germany is a lovely place to visit too, with beautiful carvings on the houses. Finally, we stayed in Ghent, where the site is central, and a 'good night-half', as the book says. The pitches are in small groups, with lots of trees. We shall certainly make a return trip.

Tonie Smith

From the Technical Group

Two further ideas sheets have now been processed and approved and my appreciation for this goes to Fred Craffert of Auto-Sleepers for his support. They are:

No. 83. Fitting a Min Heko - mainly to a panel van, but also applicable to any van with an existing 400mm rooflight.

No. 84. Fitting folding doors to the undersink kitchen cabinet - mainly on Styrofoam models.

These are available, as are all the Ideas Sheets, by sending me an SAE to 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7UF. There is plenty of space for your ideals if you think that they may be of interest to other members. Just send me rough details, and preferably a photograph or two, and I will prepare a sheet for approval.

Since the article in the May Newsletter, page 4, referring to my 'advice' on insurance I have had many calls seeking clarification. Whilst I do not object to these enquiries, I must make it clear that neither I nor the Club are making any recommendations. It is simply one that I have used for many years now. Any member interested must make up their own mind based on the quotation and particularly on the fine details in the wording of any policy.

Baz Wellard

To re-iterate the point made above. Insurance for anything is a personal responsibility. Although you may find guidance from other members within the Club, you must always remember that the decision is yours and yours alone. Go back to the good old ways of shopping around to get what you consider the best value for you.

-----oooOooOoo-----

Prostate Cancer Charity

Quite by chance we and our wives *Judy and Maureen* met at last year's Burnham on Sea rally. Over a pint it transpired that we had both recently experienced similar medical conditions without previous warning. As a result we suggested to the committee that this charity be nominated for the Club and Company Rally 2004. We had both benefitted from their terrific support and advice and were extremely pleased that it was chosen. A record amount was collected and

donated and we would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to such a total.

If anyone has any concerns or would like further information regarding the rather taboo subject of prostate cancer, there is a website at www.prostate-cancer.org.uk or a confidential helpline on 0845 300 8383.

Once again, many thanks to all concerned.

Mike Chester and John Cullin

-----oooOOOooo-----

Lichfield Rally

Once again *Trish and Ted Pratt* seemed to have had a word with those who control our weather for after a small shower to greet the early arrivals it remained dry, if a little chilly, for the rest of the weekend.

Some 50 vans containing 94 ralliers settled into Beacon Park. Those who arrived on Thursday were treated to a hovering display by a police helicopter which sounded as if it would fall out of the sky at any minute. A thirty year old diesel motor with a big end gone was quiet by comparison! Many armed police officers with dogs appeared and then left as swiftly as they came. We never did discover what the fuss was about but some opined that *Cedric* had been in the skips again.

Friday evening saw us celebrating the recent golden wedding of *Enid and Ron Kirwin* with glasses of bubbly and cake all round. Many congratulations to them.

Saturday was also a day of celebrations as it was *Trish's* birthday. We couldn't believe that she was only CENSORED years old. We drank her health in red or white wine or some of Marston's best which accompanied jacket potatoes with the choice of numerous exotic fillings.

Sunday morning came all too soon and coffee, the raffle, and the answers to the devilish quiz brought the rally to a close. We are in debt to *Trish and Ted, Jan and Vic Hicklin* and their many helpers for another memorable week-end at Lichfield.

Brian Smith

I wonder if the armed police were called because of the conglomeration of ASOC people. Having had a large showing at Malvern - well Lichfield isn't too far away as the helicopter flies (if it does!). And you know what some people think of a large number of motorhomes - we must be "travellers"!

-----oooOOOooo-----

Rhapsody

I'm new this year to the Club and also to computers but I would like to say how much I enjoy the Newsletter. One item from *Sandy Busbridge* caught my eye last time and gladdened my heart re: making space. My van is a 'G' reg Rhapsody and has lots of it!! No cooker nor shower but I don't miss either. I imagined I was out of date. One thing puzzles me though.

Where have all the Rhapsodies gone? I never see any mention in any magazines of this model. Were not many made? Are they out there still going strong so no-one wants to part? I'd be very interested to know.

Margaret Wood

I wonder if they have listened to George Gershwin and gone off into the blue! (Sorry!!)

-----oooOOOooo-----

Chairman's Chat

I am beginning to wonder whether anyone wants this Club to continue in existence. You will recall, at least those of you who have read the Newsletter will, that I have repeated the cry that we are looking for three more members to join the committee. For anyone interested, it would give them the opportunity to see just how the backroom people work for the benefit of all members and they would find that it is a rewarding task although often a little on the



thankless side.

So far I have receive one single, solitary, lonely, telephone call from someone who is thinking about coming aboard. And that is all. Nobody has come forward to offer to help *Andy Cavell* in the area of the Club and Company Rally. Nobody has specifically offered to take over the Newsletter from me.

Over the years we have had a variety of people who have come forward to take various posts in the Club. But it has been noticeable that we have had to go out and chase people to work on your behalf. I know very well that there is a large number of people who, for one reason or another, are scared of the responsibility of working on a committee. Others may have had problems with committees on which they may have served. I can assure anyone who joins our committee that we have been a very happy crowd for the greater part of the time. Of course,

there have been differences of opinion and occasionally the arguments have become a little heated. But more or less as soon as the committee meeting is over the heat disappears and we are all friends. We have never been other than friends even in the heat of a discussion, but the heat very soon clears away to leave us all cool, calm and collected - and ready for a cup of tea or coffee or to get back to the vans for our meals.

On a completely different topic, if you decide to go over to using these gas bottles which can be refilled at many stations across this country and Europe, please make sure that you advise your insurance company that you intend to do so. The same also applies if you have a gas tank fitted to your vehicle. Some insurers may want further details and if you don't advise them it might affect the policy which you currently hold.

Harry Henthorne

-----oooOOOooo-----

Rallying Around

Another great Club and Company Rally for 2004 which warrants a great big "thank you" to all concerned in making it so. The same applies to this year's rally marshals and their helpers. We have just left Abbeygate College where a good time was had with *Jean & Duncan Ellis*.

Having been touring since 7th July, staying on some really good sites, we see the date today is the 19th. So we shall soon be heading towards Beacon Park, Lichfield, for some more fun with *Tricia & Ted Pratt* and our many Auto Sleeper friends. Always another great rally. Sunday, 25th July should see us winging our way home after 19 days doing some great rallying.

Sylvia & Norman Brice

Although the letter was dated 21st July it didn't reach me in time for the August issue of the Newsletter. But I thought that you would be interested to see how our friends do like to travel around.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Normandy v Ireland

Very briefly, and based on our guesstimates. The boat fare costs about the same for either destination. They have roughly the same costs in fuel. What we tend to pay in pence over here they pay in a similar number of cents. In the south of Ireland the food is a little more

expensive than in Normandy. But the camp sites seem to be a little less expensive.

So far as the weather goes, we found it to be wetter in Ireland than in Normandy.

Geoff Williamson

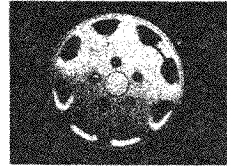
Well of course it is wetter in Ireland! Don't they always suggest that it is a soft day when the rain is reasonably light?

-----oooOOOooo-----

Wanted



Wheeltrim suitable for 1999 Talisman. They are of the type with the "D" shaped cutouts around the perimeter with a small circle surrounded by five studs. Please contact Dave Thomas by e-mail to



dave@davebeth.fsnet.co.uk or telephone 029 2089 1856 (Cardiff)

-----oooOOOooo-----

For Sale

Porch Awning. Size about 8 feet wide alongside the van by about 6 feet out from the van. Been in use up to this year by the family. NOTE. Really only suitable for less than a two night stay. We don't want it anymore. Same type advertised in the Caravan Club mag at over £300.00. Bring me some pound notes and it's yours. Looks like it could be modified to be free standing. Located near the Malvern Showground, village of Welland. Give us a ring on 016 8431 0431. Geoff Williamson.



#####

Flamma Ultra Top Box Sport. Approx 52" x 35" x 17" Wedge aerodynamic shape, rear opening. Bought with our new Executive GLS in September 2003. Used 2 weeks only; as new condition. Unfortunately I cannot manage the roof height to load it, therefore surplus to requirements. Optional roof bars available, as an extra. May be able to help with delivery. £150.00 ono. Contact Beryl & Chris Knowlson by e-mail to chrsvk@ntlworld.com or by phone to 016 2553 1154 (Wilmslow, Cheshire).

Thanks for the donation.

#####



VW Topaz, 2.4D, 2001 'Y' reg. 11,610 miles. Two owners. Non-smokers. Excellent condition. £21,000.00. Tel: Pat & Norman Evenden on 019 4542 8735 (Wisbech, Cambs)
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Peugeot Boxer Symbol 2.0 petrol, 1999 'T' reg. MOT till May, Tax till end April. 30,000 miles. Awning, non-smokers, no children, no pets. Lovingly owned from new, very good condition. Upgrading to new vehicle. £19,250.00 ono. Tel: Graham Bull on 017 0787 5896 or 07 732 279 553 (near Potters Bar, Herts)
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Fiamma F45 PLUS 3.5 m roll out awning, complete with fixing brackets. Just over 18 months old, hardly used. £195.00. E-mail Reg Lowe at jrlowe@onetel.com or telephone 015 0251 4678 (Lowestoft)

#####

Silver Screens for cab of VW T4 (made for A-S Clubman). £25.00. E-mail Bryan Ingram at woolpackbarn@aol.com or telephone 018 5854 5174 (Leicestershire).

#####

For Ford Excelsior. Headlamp protectors. £10.00. Inside Silver Screens. £10.00. External sun/Frost screen (not padded). £10.00. Stainless steel ladder extension. £10.00. E-mail Peter Yeatman at g0psf@boltblue.net or telephone 023 9226 4638 (Portsmouth area)

#####

VW Trident, 2.0 litre petrol. 1995 (M reg). 41,000 miles. VGC, FSH, PAS, Fiamma wind out awning, bike rack, Silver Screens, new curtains. Please call Tess or David Brown on 017 3724 6816 or 070 5015 8350 at any time. (Reigate, Surrey).
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Peugeot Executive, late 1999 reg. 4 berth. 2.0 litre dual fuel (petrol & L.P.G. Conversion) giving good mpg, runs quieter than diesel. 21,000 miles. Excellent condition, no body damage, non smokers, no children or pets. PWS nudge bar for rear protection, awning, underseat secure locking safe. We will be attending the York show. £23,500.00 ono. E-mail Cally & Tony Gray at calltong@aol.com or telephone 018 4281 1082 or 07 795 144 657. (Brandon, Suffolk)

#####

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Webmaster & Chairman, Technical Group	Baz Wellard	013 2923 1259
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Membership Secretary	Norma Caley (see below)	017 7263 2734

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