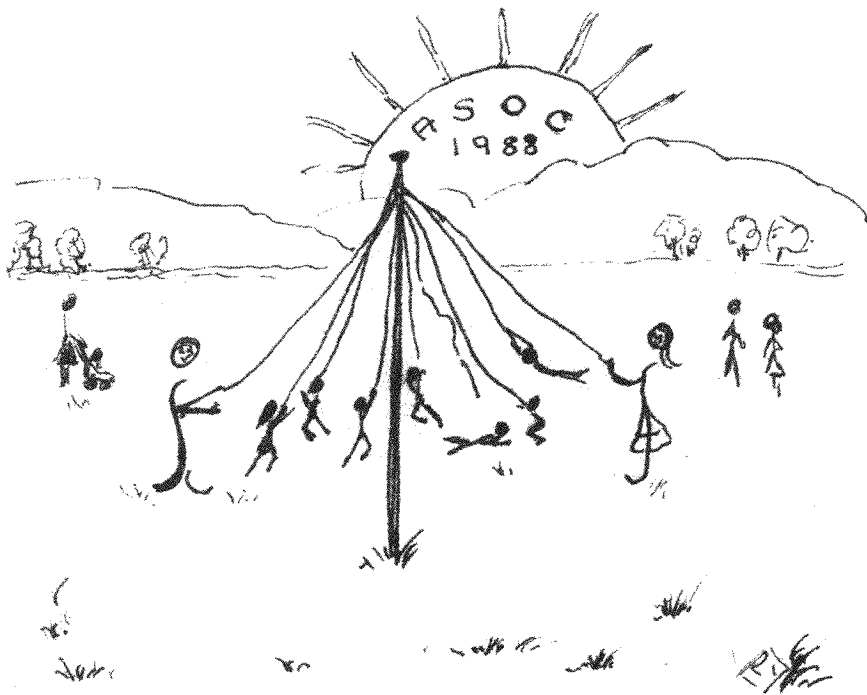




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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway,
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NEWSLETTER 200
MAY 2005

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Greetings,

We have certainly been given a GO for LAUNCH as far as the Club is concerned. The response has been so good we are wondering just what John has started!

At the moment there is obviously a need to let you out there know what we in here are doing about YOUR Club. I am happy to report that there is complete agreement by the six people who have formed an ad hoc committee to get things established that the Club shall be run by the Members for the Members. In other words, it will be the kind of Club you want it to be. That involves you; make your wishes known!

So, who are 'we'? Charles Trevelyan is acting Chairman. Well, we were sitting round HIS desk in HIS office and he is a Director of A-S so that seemed right and proper. John Cox, who started all this, has accepted responsibility for finding a suitable site for the inaugural meeting-trally! If you insist- and is, I know, going on from there to prepare a programme of rallies. Frank Stinchcombe agreed to look after the funds A-S were kind enough to give us, for postage, paper, envelopes, etc., so is acting Treasurer. Neville Jelfs of A-S was there to offer further backup from our Sponsor(!) and will make sure we don't get under the feet of the production people. Rita Daley actually volunteered to become acting Secretary because she had been a full-time club secretary and also liked using word processing and filing programs on our micro computer. As for me, I didn't see it coming in time to say no so landed the job I am now trying to do.

A little bit more explanation. I suppose it would be possible to form a club by inviting all interested parties to meet somewhere and start from scratch, hoping it would be alright on the night, but what a potential shambles! So a few of us are laying the foundations and expect to present the results to you in the Spring when you can say what you think of our efforts and change anything or everything. By that time you will have received a lot more information and will, no doubt, be ready to volunteer to serve on committees and to vote for other candidates, approve the Constitution or amend it, etc., etc.

Mention of the the micro reminds me that the Data Protection Act insists that personal data (things you tell us) can only be kept on a computer if you agree. If you don't agree, the same records can be kept on a card index whether you like it or not! Seems daft to me. However, the reason why we want to use a computer system is: a) to reduce the space required (in our fairly modern semi,) & b) to provide a fast and reliable retrieval system - in about 90 seconds it can find and list all members who own a Legend, for example. The sorting it can do is fascinating, but that's another story. So, on the Membership Application Form there will be this question...

There must be hundreds of reasons for buying a motor caravan and you, our (potential) members are already indicating a wide variety of reasons for joining the A-S Owners' Club. The one reason in common is obvious, the others will be catered for as soon as possible. Some are keen ralliers, some, like Rita & I, have never been to a rally and really bought the 'van to get out and do their own thing - foreign touring, birdwatching, visiting National Trust properties, getting to out-of-the-way places for all sorts of pursuits.

It has been suggested that we should not try to compete with the established clubs who cater very well for rally enthusiasts but put our energy into things we can, hopefully, do better than them. At this stage I had better make it quite clear that what you read in this newsletter is only my interpretation of what is happening in our Committee meetings or what you are saying in letters or completed questionnaires. If you'll pardon the jargon, I want to bounce ideas off you and off the Committee to see what we come up with. Official views, comments, statements will come from the Secretary; the newsletter is personal and very unofficial!

Things we should do:-

1. Arrange contact between Members and Auto-Sleepers. (A-S have work to do and we must not disrupt this, despite their well-known willingness to help.)
2. Collect technical data on base vehicles and conversions which will be available to Members on loan if necessary.
3. Arrange contact between members by mutual agreement. We will not give one Member's address to another without the former's consent. Perhaps it would have to be in writing?

4. Compile lists of recommended suppliers of all sorts of useful and interesting things. (Do you know who can fit a bulk - 30 litre - propane storage tank? Bulk propane at 18p per litre).

5. Perhaps arrange Club discounts on spares, tyres, batteries, exhausts etc.

Most of those items are just headings and could be expanded. Some things are not so easy as others; for example, most manufacturers have been putting their technical data onto microfiche instead of in (expensive) owners' handbooks. Anyone got a spare microfiche reader?

Forgive me if I return to the topic of rallies, I feel, and there is some evidence for it, that this is possibly the potential stumbling block as far as a number of people are concerned. Could you manage one a year? Especially the first one? No compulsion anyway. I foresee small groups getting together in various localities with the minimum of organisation from the centre. The new Club badge, currently being designed, will doubtless facilitate introductions on a one-to-one basis. (Badge stuck inside windscreen or on badge-bar?)

I nearly forgot to mention the spread of interest, from Aberdeen to Cornwall and from Belfast to Southend on Sea! Can't be bad...

Perhaps you would like to know that John has a VW VHT, Frank has a Legend and we have a CX1000GTL, respectively petrol, petrol/automatic and diesel. We don't think alike on everything!

Enough for now. Don't I rabbit on...Must collect some rabbit for next month!

Phil Daley.

September 1988.

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Hello.

No, it's quite all right. You haven't gone mad! I thought that you might like to read (or re-read) the very first edition of the Newsletter on this, the 200th time that it has appeared. It seemed to me to be a good idea

to look back and see just how your Club has developed. That very first Newsletter was only three pages but it soon expanded to its present size. And there are some more reminiscences to follow.

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In the Beginning - 0001

John had retired and was fed up so I said "Get a hobby!" "I'm going to start a Club for A-S owners", he said, "I've written to the MMM". "No way", I said, "I'm not going there. Raffles, rallies, looking for sites etc. Anyway, I'm still working" That was the beginning and the rest, as they say, is history.

Then they started a committee - one of "do-ers" rather than "maybes". They organised an Inaugural General Meeting and afterwards they sorted out who was doing what. *John* came back and found me sitting with my feet up and busy reading. He slung his folder and coat on to a seat and said "Well, I'm doing so and so!" That left me thinking "No way" whilst saying "Put that folder and your coat away and make us a cup of tea."

Well, we've worked hard over the years, had our say and done our bit for the Club. *John and I* have now put our feet up knowing that we have given members a lot to do and to enjoy. So don't just say "No way!" Don't forget that there are really two committees. Number 1 is for the "do-ers" whom you see and know. The number 2 committee is the ones behind the front committee - perhaps we could call them the "go-fers", giving their help and support all the way along the line.

So don't get bored. Come along and join the committee and make a lot of friends along the way. We are now safely retired from both committees.

Barbara and John Cox
Membership Number: 0001

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In the Beginning - 0002

For us it began when my husband *Frank* saw the letter from *John Cox* in the June 1988 issue of MMM. He said he would make contact. The result was that the now Founder Members met at the factory in Willersey and so the Club was started.

We met at regular intervals. The meetings were productive and, especially, fun. All the time we were trying to form a Club that members would be proud of. As a result we met many new friends and visited

places we would not otherwise have seen. And most of all - we enjoyed it.

Dilys Stinchcombe
Membership Number 0002
#####

In the Beginning - 0003

I have been asked to provide a short article on the beginning of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club - as I saw it - when I became Secretary/Membership Secretary of the steering committee. I can remember the first meeting when *John Cox*, (*Barbara* was at work) *Frank Stinchcombe*, *Charles Trevelyan*, *Neville Jelfs*, *Philip Daley* and I met together at Willersey to exchange ideas and get started. Since we met every two weeks from September 1988 (the date of the first Newsletter) to the Inaugural General Meeting on April 1st 1989, the rest is rather a blur.

Dilys Stinchcombe was at the next meeting when one of the subjects was "regalia". A new one on me. But I was told to get a Daltons weekly and write to providers of plaques, pens, badges - anything which could have ASOC written or printed on it. I received several brochures which piled to about a foot high. I studied them and decided to hand the whole lot to *Dilys* - she had been a shopkeeper after all! She and *Frank Stinchcombe* took on the regalia and produced an excellent selection for members to buy. *Dilys* also investigated machine "printed" logos on T shirts which had "Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" circled round the little man who made his appearance at the beginning of 1989. As things progressed, and ideas were flying about like midges at Keilder, I suggested some information booklets and asked prospective members to write articles for "First Timers Abroad". Advice that you don't always get from the official guides. Another booklet was tales (some weird) of experiences whilst motor caravanning. We even had an entry from John Hunt of MMM.

The first sketch on the front of a newsletter was the Christmas edition 1989 and was purely because there was not enough text to make a four page document - so the first page was covered in drinking glasses and bubbles. The next edition has the first (and rather sozzled looking) little man, made up of the letters ASOC. From then on he became more "refined" and was then known as "Rita's Little Man".

The fortnightly meetings were whole day events and we had to decide on a constitution, a site and organisation for the IGM. We visited South Cerney and spoke to the manager, explaining that we were

starting a club and would want about 100 pitches. "How many members do you have?" Well, none at present, but we have 67 enquiries!" His expression changed from interest to scepticism. The minute we signed up members in January 1989, we had to ask for another 100 pitches and only just had enough then because those with pets had to go to the Cirencester Caravan Club site. We hadn't thought of that one!

I could go on for hours, but think you might have the picture by now. We had a lot of fun and are very proud of the way things have developed from the rather hit and miss beginning to the necessarily much more efficient present committee.

Rita Daley

Membership Number: 0003

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In the Beginning - Willersey View

Anthony Trevelyan is asked to reminisce --- so he does!!!

What a wonderful achievement - two centuries worth of Newsletters!

(I think *Anthony* is on a different time zone here if he really believes the Club has been going for 200 years - he must think the first model was pulled by a horse or else senility has struck at last - *Charles* (his younger brother!)

When the Club was first formed we knew it would go from strength to strength and so it has. Congratulations to all on achieving this milestone - not forgetting our founder member *John Cox*.

When the first Auto-Sleeper motor caravan (at this time the name Auto-Sleepers was still to be known) was made and then subsequently used by my parents, *Charles* and myself in the South of France, little did we know that a company would be formed resulting in so many motorhomes being produced - to date over forty thousand - and that so many would enjoy the benefit of motor caravanning in vehicles produced by the company.

Equally important is the high level of employment that Company has provided, not forgetting those such as myself who have been with the Company for over forty four years!! In this day and age forty four years with one company is quite an achievement!!! Another beneficiary is the Chancellor of the Exchequer whose office has benefited greatly over the years through the collection of Special Car Tax (how many of you remember this?) Purchase Tax, Value Added Tax and, of course, Corporation Tax.

Over the years the Company has received many accolades

including four gold medals in International Coachwork Competitions, the much coveted Motorhome of the Year Award on seven occasions, and praise by royalty, a number of whom have visited our stands at the Motor Show and Earls Court Caravan Show.

However, it has not always been an easy path. We have endured three major economic recessions - do you remember the miners strike and the three day week, let alone the destruction of our factory thirteen years ago by fire. During the miners strike we seldom had electricity and had to power the factory from a generator run by a Ferguson tractor lent to us by a local farmer! As if this was not enough, the strike encompassed a winter when it was particularly cold and, needless to say, we had no heating!!

Then there was the fire. This was arguably the greatest challenge the Company has ever faced and looking back it is incredible to think that we were able to come to an agreement enabling us to move to the new (existing) factory within four days. This involved persuading four business's to move from the factory site we wanted and obtaining planning permission by a special order which had to be countersigned by the Government of the day. Seven days later the legal and financial agreements were in place enabling the deal to proceed and our achieving our previous production levels within two months. Within days of the fire taking place the Earls Court Caravan Show opened at which we won the major award and sold a record number of vehicles.

Another interesting fact is that when the company was formed the capital investment was one hundred pounds and that up to 1998 when the company was first sold, it never borrowed a penny!

So you see, where there is a will there is a way, no matter what life throws at you. So ASOC, keep up the good work, continue to increase your membership and provide enjoyment for so many, as you always have.

Anthony Trevelyan

#####

The one thing which is apparent from all of these items is that the people enjoyed themselves. What remains somewhat hidden is the vast amount of hard work which they, and others, put in to getting the Club up and running. From my own knowledge I can tell you that the *Cox* household was awash with ideas for rally sites, that of the *Stinchcombes* held a vast number of items for regalia and such like while that of the *Daleys* was gradually taken over by the machinery for Newsletters and other items requiring printing or photo-copying.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Farewell

Our Symphony has now been sold and my camping days are now over, I'm afraid. I should like to bid farewell to all the good friends that my late husband *Lee* and I made whilst members of ASOC. I shall really miss our outings to rallies. But I will continue to take the Newsletter, at least until the end of the year.

Jean Mather

As always, we shall be sorry to see you leave our ranks, *Jean* but can fully understand your reasons. All the best for the future.

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Tyre Pressures

I was intrigued by the article in Newsletter 198 headed "Who's got a VW again?" It was stated, in reference to a Symbol, that the "dealers had not checked the tyre pressures which were at 70 psi instead of 59 and 65 psi". Later, the authors say that they were advised that the pressures should be 44 psi!

The only information on tyre pressures relating to our Symbol, 2 years old and purchased new, is a sticker on the inside of the driver's door that tyre pressures should be 72.5 psi. There seem to be no figures in the handbook, just a stern warning that under inflated tyres are dangerous.

Can any light be shed on what is the correct figure?

Stuart and Dot King

This is a vexed question which has been rumbling on for many years now. Several letters have again been received and the advice offered remains the same as always. It is suggested that the best thing is to go to a public weighbridge and have the van weighed in total. Also obtain the weight for the front wheels and for the rear wheels separately. Then offer the resulting figures to the tyre manufacturer for their advice, stating what tyres are fitted, what the vehicle is and how it is to be used, e.g. for touring in this country; with frequent trips abroad; for long journeys on the motorways and higher than normal speeds etc. The manufacturers of the tyres should then be able to give you the sort of answers which are suitable.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Power Surges

This year the Winter Sun Rally at La Manga will be remembered for the morning when we woke up to snow (the first snowfall for forty-odd years) and the power cuts when major repairs to the site's electrical services had to be carried out. Each time the power went off we were

advised to disconnect our hook-up cables to avoid damage to our motorhome and caravan installations when the supply was turned on again. I was led to believe that a couple of people had their battery charges damaged by the surge of power that occurred on these occasions.

Although, no doubt, the circumstances at La Manga are quite unusual, we have experienced temporary breaks in electricity supplies at other sites in Spain and Portugal. I wonder if anyone can advise if there is a device that can be installed in the motorhome to protect the installation from surges in the site's hook-up supply? I presume it would have to work on the same principle as the special multiplug adaptors which we use for home computers. Am I correct in thinking that the ordinary circuit breakers and the RCD in the motorhome consumer unit would not provide protections against this sort of problem?

John Hasling

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Deposits - of cash

Following on from the previous comments on this subject I have received a small piece regarding (1) the mind of the salesman and (2) the proper responses of the purchaser.

The mind of the salesman only works to the sound of cash in the bank. The first questions, which are silent, are What can he/she NOT afford? What do they wish to spend? Then a quick internal calculation of what the commission will be. If the purchaser only wants to spend, say, £20,000.00 that means they will go up another £2,000.00 - £5,000.00 if the temptation is good enough.

Now comes the flattery, crawling and creeping to make them my friends. Show interest in their hobby. Make a note of everything in case I don't close the sale today. GET A DEPOSIT OFF THEM, enough to cover MY COMMISSION and admin costs if they back out. Come into my parlour - sorry - office. Make sure the coffee/tea is scalding hot. (Note. Very hot is not hot enough!) This distracts them from the negative questions they hoped to ask. Show sympathy if the drink is too hot.

Remember, the most important things at this meeting. (1) Get their names - and USE them. (2) get a NON refundable deposit, e.g my commission. (3) Include enough to keep the boss happy with a possible cancellation of order.

From the potential purchasers point of view here are a few thoughts. Do NOT get excited. Do NOT make the decision today that



May 2005 Rally Supplement.



Please remember that all rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in this supplement.

All applications for rallies must be made by using a rally slip, no telephone bookings.

New rallies to add to list:- 17th. – 21st. October Camping & Caravanning Club Site, Keswick. Full details later in this supplement.

27th. – 30th. October. Marstons Brewery Visit, Burton on Trent, Staffs.

28th. April – 2nd. May. A.S.O.C. Annual General Meeting, Nottinghamshire Showground, Newark.

The application forms for the A.G.M. were in the February Newsletter. Please note the closing date for applications, was March 26th.

2nd - 5th. May (4 nights). Alford & District Cricket Club, Well Lane, Alford, Lincs. THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

12th. – 16th. May (4 nights). Little Cotton C.P., Dartmouth, Devon. TQ6 0LB THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

**13th. – 15th. May Southern Motorcaravan Show, Newbury
Showground, Berkshire.**

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

Rally Marshals:Daphne & John Hallett.

Special Club prices.Arrive Thursday £26,arrive Friday £24 & arrive Saturday £20.

Rally Fee:£1.75 Couples,£1.20 singles.(Both include VAT).

Send rally fees with rally slip & SAE for a Show application form by 16th.April to:-

Mr. & Mrs. J.Hallett,13 Linden Crescent,Grove Wantage,Oxfordshire.OX12 7NB

Tel.No. 01235 764 550. Rally fee cheques payable to C.J.Hallett

Return application forms to the organisers,Warners by the closing date 22nd. April.

If you book using the internet you must still send a rally slip/rally fee to the marshals.

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

**18th.- 23rd. May(5 nights).Ambleside Rugby Club,Ambleside
Cumbria.** **THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL**

**25th. – 30th. May (5 nights) Strathallen Games Park,Bridge of Allan,
Nr.Stirling,Scotland.** **THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.**

26th. – 30th.May (4 nights) Van Bitz,Nr. Taunton,Somerset.

Site Tel.No. 01823 321 992 (Emergency only).

Rally marshals: Betty & Andrew Entwistle.

Site Fee:£10.00 per night including electricity. Rally Fee:£2.00 (couples),£1.25 (Singles).

Booking slips to:Mr. & Mrs. M.A.Entwistle,8 The Dell,Mytholm,Hebden Bridge, West Riding of Yorkshire,HX7 6DP. Tel.No. 01422 847 550.Cheques payable to: M.A. Entwistle.

Attractions:Taunton the county town of Somerset with castle and many historic buildings.Nearby is Wilton House and there are many small villages worthy of a visit.

Directions:From M5 junction 25 follow signs for Taunton.At first set of traffic lights at Creech Castle turn left s.p. Corfe B3170.Take 3rd. left into Ilminster Road again follow signs for Corfe.Bear right at roundabout onto Blackbrook Way.Bear left at

next roundabout and follow road to the end "T" junction which is the B 3170. Turn **right** and then take the next **left** into Killams Drive. Take 2nd. **left** into Killams Avenue and follow the road passing housing estate and finally over motorway bridge. Cornish Farm is immediately after the bridge on the **left** hand side. **IGNORE** the first entrance to the main house. Proceed to the second entrance (with C.L. sign) which is a little further along the road & turn into the orchard.

**31st May - 4th June (4 nights) Lochside C P, Castle Douglas,
Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland.**
THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

3rd. - 5th. June (2 nights) Blue Lias, Nr. Coventry, Warwickshire.

Emergency Tel.No. 07799660641 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Sandra & Bernie Wisely.

Site Fees: £7.50 per night incl. VAT NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.50 incl. VAT.

GREENFIELD site, toilet emptying point & fresh water point.

Pub toilets during opening hours.

Cheques & rally slips to:- Sandra Wisely, 2 Mount Pleasant, Bishops Itchington, Southam, Warks. CV47 2QE Tel.No. 01926 614 194.

Fishing on site (permit can be purchased at pub). Canal walks from Blue Lias.

A pig roast has been organised for the Saturday night at £7.00 pp, vegetarian option available. Please confirm if you wish a meal on rally slip, all monies for meals to be paid direct to vendor.

Directions: From the Southam by-pass take the A426 signed Rugby, in just over a mile at the first crossroads **turn left** (unclassified road 17tgw) Blue Lias on **left** in about ½ mile.

From Rugby take A426, go through Dunchurch towards Southam. After approx 4 ½ miles pass the Boat Inn public house on the right. At just under 1 mile at the next crossroads **turn right** (Unclassified road 17tgw). Blue Lias is on **left** in about ½ mile.

**10th. - 22nd. June (12 nights) Camping Les Deux Vallees (3 star site)
Vezac, Dordogne, France.**

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL

You have to arrange your own ferry bookings and any relevant insurance.

1st – 3rd July (2 nights) Prestwood Steam fair, Great Missenden,

Bucks.

Emergency Tel.No. 07775570182.

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin & Margaret & Bob Cleaver.

Fee for weekend £16.00 plus £1.75 per unit. (Incl. VAT).

The fee includes unlimited entrance to the Steam Rally.

This is a GREEN FIELD rally site – own toilets are essential.

Rally slips & cheques to:- Mrs. J. Hicklin 381 Manor Road, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. S43 1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236 157.

Directions: From A 413 Great Missenden take A4128 to Prestwood and follow Steam Rally signs.

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

NO ARRIVALS BEFORE 1.00p.m. FRIDAY.

4th – 9th July (5 nights) Rosecroft Farm, The Green, Chediston,

Halesworth Suffolk.

Emergency Tel.No. 07740644667 Marshal's mobile.

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

Site fees: £4.50 per night. NO Electricity. Rally fee: £2.00 couples, £1.50 singles.

GREEN FIELD site, no toilets. Barn for evenings, if wet.

Booking slips & cheques payable to P. Twyman, The Shambles, Wissett Road, Chediston, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 0AZ. Tel.No. 01986 873 517.

Attractions: Unspoilt coast with Southwold 10 miles, National Trust at Dunwich Heath, Minsmere RSPB for birdwatchers, Aldeburgh & Snape, local brewery & Flixton Air Museum. Cycling & walking.

A Pie & Pea supper is planned. Please state on slip if interested.

Directions: From A12 take A144 towards Halesworth at T junct. Turn **right**. *At first roundabout turn **right**, straight over next two roundabouts, then turn immediately **left** into Narrow Road s.p. Rumburgh & Wissett, in 2 ¾ mile turn **left** signed Chediston. In 1 mile turn **left** signed Chediston. Site in ¾ mile on **left**.

From A47 take A146 & B1332 to Bungay, A144 to Halesworth. Just after FORD garage turn **right** s.p. Rumburgh, follow above directions at *

Rally starts 10.00 a.m. Monday

LIMIT 25 vans.

11th. – 14th. (3 nights) July Hereford Racecourse, Hereford.

Emergency Tel.No. 07791 582 881 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Joan & Max Cooke & Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site Fees £9.00 per night including electric hook up. Rally Fee: £2.35.(All incl. VAT). Toilet block, drinking water, waste water facilities on site. Dog walking nearby. *Sloping site – blocks required.*

Rally slips & cheques plus SAE to Mrs.J.E.Cooke, The Magnolias, Canon Pyon Road, Hereford. HR4 7RB. Tel.No. 01432 274 906.

The Racecourse is on the northern outskirts of the City of Hereford, on the bus route to the city. Places of interest Hereford Cathedral and Mappa Mundi, Cider Museum, Black & White village trail and the Wye Valley.

Directions: Hereford racecourse is on the A4103 ½ mile west of the junction with the A49. LIMIT of 30 vans.

21st. – 24th. July (3 nights) Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffs.

Emergency Tel.No. 07713186508 Marshal's mobile.

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

Site Fee: £4.50 per night . NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.35 All include VAT.

Booking slips & cheques payable to P.M.Pratt, 3 Grafton Road, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, Staffs. DE15 9DN Tel.No. 01538 538 818.

You may arrive on Thursday AFTER 12 noon. (NOT BEFORE PLEASE) (This is virtually a GREEN FIELD site although there are toilets in Beacon Park).

Saturday evening get together includes Jacket Potato, dessert & drink -£4.50 per person. **Pay with booking slip.**

Attractions: Beacon Park is adjacent to Lichfield City Centre.

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. Then take A51 Rugeley/Stafford road, turn immediately **right** down Walsall Road, then immediately **left** into Lower Sandford Street. Follow signs for Car Park, the site is through the car park keeping to the **right**.

Advance notice. 17th.- 21st. October (4 nights) Camping & Caravanning Club Site, Keswick.

Emergency tel.No. 0775 360 9463 Marshals' mobile.

Rally Marshals: Sue & Peter Coward & Jenni & Geoff Raistrick.

Site Fee for 4 nights £38.80 (all full service pitches – no further age concessions).

Rally Fee: £3.00 couples, £ 1.50 singles. All fees include VAT.

Rally slips & cheques payable to P.Coward. Send to Mr. & Mrs. P.Coward,

Silvergarth, Low Riddings, Grasmere, Cumbria. LA22 9QY. Tel.No. 015394 35828.

Please include a SAE for confirmation of booking, directions & other relevant details

A Touch of Nostalgia from the days of steam radio. We have been lucky to initiate a provisional block booking at a special price in very good seats at the celebrated Theatre by the Lake in Keswick for a matinee performance on Wednesday 19th. "Dick Barton – Special Agent"- described as a hilarious comedy spoof. Only £8.50 per head. Please send money with slip as we are required to pay upfront at a fairly early date to secure the reservation.

We also aim to organise an early evening meal in Keswick on Thurs. 20th. (fish & chips or pub supper). Further details will be given in the confirmation letter. *Please indicate on rally slip if interested.*

Attractions: Site is located on banks of Derwent Water, just 10 mins. Walk from centre of Keswick. A variety of places of interest on hand, sailing on lake and walks to enjoy the splendour of Autumn in Northern Lakeland. Opportunity of guided fell walk. Rally starts at 12 noon Monday (vans arriving earlier are charged £5.00 extra by CCC!) LIMIT OF 30 VANS.

If you wish to apply for a rally and are unsure of the correct procedure please consult the sheet "A Guide for new ralliers". This sheet can be found in the pack sent to new members after joining the Club.

If you wish to run a rally in 2005 please contact me to check dates before booking with a site. A "Guide to New/Possible Marshals" is available. If you would like one please contact me, details below.

We depend on volunteers within the Club to act as rally marshals. If you know of a Suitable site why not think about running a rally. It is not difficult & help is available. It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as unless they are approved by the Club, there will be no Public Liability Insurance.

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

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

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

Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT).....
.....

Post code:.....

Phone No.:..... Van Reg:..... Length.....

Membership No..... Day/Time of arrival.....

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

Name..... Phone No.....

Please complete both sides of the form!

.....

Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT).....
.....

Post code:.....

Phone No.:..... Van Reg:..... Length.....

Membership No:..... Day/Time of arrival:.....

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

Name..... Phone No.....

Please complete both sides of the form!

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

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

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

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!

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

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal : 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!

can wait till next Friday. Do not put more than £10.00 as a deposit until you have thought it over until next Friday.

The salesman will possibly say "Well, Sir/Madam, we have had another offer". Tell him to take that offer, and then offer £200.00 less - just to watch him squirm. Then walk out. You have the knowledge that at any moment there are some 2,000 used vehicles available around the country so you can, within reason, take your pick.

-----oooOOOoo-----

Doing it in a Duetto

We have recently come by our third Duetto, the original version we hasten to add. The first followed an H reg. Rhapsody that took us safely from Trondheim to Gibraltar, but not in one go. The first Duetto was a straight aspirated M reg. and helped confirmed our love affair with Spain for a few weeks in the winter. With this in mind we came by a P reg Clubman only to find a coach built was just not us. We got stuck in a low tunnel at Tromso and found too many byway restrictions on Lofoten and at home! If a Ford delivery van can get there so can we.

We had a short affair with a Talent which was excellent for our next forays into hidden France and to a wedding in Oslo via Holland and Denmark the following summer. A bit too cosy for a spell in winter in Spain. So along came Duetto number two with a turbo and an R reg. plate. The best yet for our needs and coming travel plans and *Audrey* liked the green colour. Our plans included a (to be recommended) journey from Stavanger to Trondheim by the most westerly road on the most westerly islands up the west coast of Norway. Not a Brit to be seen over five weeks. Just magical in late May early June. Fourteen ferries! Don't try it with a larger van.

We had a year or more with a Trident more as "a car that we could sleep in" after sensing that motor caravan days might have to be curtailed sooner than expected. Hidden Provence was truly delightful that autumn. However, after a winter to think about if we said "nonsense" earlier last year. With our 50th wedding anniversary coming up in January 2005 and with Spain tempting us yet again we explored the Internet to find Duetto number three. As an aside, not to lose out on our winter trip to Spain last winter we flew to Bilbao by Easyjet (£6.50 each) and travelled along the north coast by train, stopping off as and when we felt inclined, down through Portugal to the Algarve again by train stopping off as and when, crossed back into Spain to pick up the train from Huelva to Seville and Malaga for the

flight home. Marvellous and all planned on the Internet and we are computer dummies! However, we simply could not explore those inviting Iberian lanes and villages without our own transport.

So we are back with another P reg Duetto. It is like meeting an old friend! Turbo free we enjoy the 35+ mpg. At our age we are not in a hurry, we don't mind being overtaken and have got used to the Hienkel/Dornier type throbbing engine. With no apologies to A-S some modifications to a Duetto are pretty obvious and have been made to all three we have owned. Present owners of the first two may recognise.

Firstly, we removed the stays to the above cab and the two above sink cupboards and fixed catches to the roof lining like the one that holds the sink lid up. So no more cut heads!! We relocated the 230v water heater switch through a junction box to just beside the main 230v socket above the sink. We can now see whether it is on or off without clearing out that cupboard on the floor. We put an extra shelf in the cupboard under the cooker; made a tray/worktop extension (530 x 300 mm) to bridge across the back door when more worktop was needed and to carry eats and drinks outside. An extra shelf above our two 907 gas cylinders makes a neat hide away for the hookup cable and the necessary connections needed on the Continent. A second cutlery tray is a must.

In the loo we have a (380 x 30 mm) shelf 'front' across the top of the glazed cupboard and a (610 x 100 mm) 'front' to make a stowaway below the window. A (560w x 190h x 200 mm deep) storage box with a half lift up lid makes space for all our towels etc and allows our two chairs to travel on the fixed part of the lid secured to the loo wall with a long Velcro. We have taken out the shower.

A safe travel compartment for our 5" Genexxa TV fits in the draw beside the blown air vent and a tapering drop down door to a wine and beer glass cupboard sits above the TV table housing (345h x 280w x 80 mm deep). All of the above 'to be seen' wood faces were made out of the so called 'modesty door' inside the loo.

Three Fiamma chocks can be slid under the driver's seat. One final alteration we made to the cushions. We only use the armrest to make up the offside bed. The others we leave behind. Try turning the passenger seat round and butting up against nearside bed base. We carefully took the long foam filled cushion off the back rest, took off the surplus material. We use the cushion in the daytime as intended to give the back rest its rake. At night time it goes between the nearside bed and the sliding door. This widens the bed and stops draughts coming up from the bottom of the door. I have got my eye on the space between the

cassette housing and the back of the loo compartment. When I have done that it will be time to change the van again! Sorry *Audrey* just when you have found where everything fits.

We have just enjoyed five weeks in south and east Spain 'away from the coast' snow dodging. We do admit to a night in a spotless 'hostal' at £12.50 each d/b&b and one in a Parador at £!!!!!! Well it was our 50th.

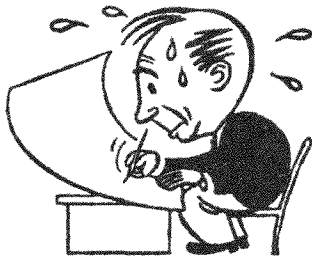
Before you start drilling if we can be of any help don't hesitate to give us a ring on 015 3163 3710 (Ledbury) or by email to jnaking@onetel.com

Neither we, ASOC nor the Company will accept any responsibility for ruined Duettos. Ours is certainly better for the few changes we have made. Anyhow, after fifty years who needs a modesty door!

Audrey and Jim King.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Chairman's Chat



By the time you receive this Newsletter the Annual Dinner/Dance and AGM will be over. I sincerely hope that all who attended will have enjoyed themselves. I'm writing this before the event so all I can do is hope! With the recent news that some pundit has proposed that the use of the busier roads inside the M 25 should be chargeable, I am

beginning to wonder where we are going. First there was the congestion charge zone, the cost of which will shortly be increased to £8.00 per day. Then, I believe, it was mooted that something similar might be put in place in Durham. I also understand that Edinburgh is likely to join the clan.

What next? Will the parish council of Lower Muddelcombe in the Mire be tempted to charge £2.00 for anything other than a tractor which goes along their main road? A reduction might be made for bicycles (£1.00) and perambulators (50p) but anything else that is motorised would have to pay the full whack.

I wonder if the powers that be have really considered just what the effect might be upon the local smaller industries and shops if they effectively prevent people like us visiting them. It is bad enough with the lack of parking spaces for motorhomes and the costs of those that

are available. Never mind, I suppose the thought is that if we can afford one of these luxury items we can afford to pay for any and everything!!

Bother it! I shall look on the brighter side. Summer is round the corner, behind this current cold front, and we shall be able to get out and about and enjoy ourselves in the usual way. Take care, drive safely and we'll see you around, if not at Newark!

Harry Henthorne

-----oooOOOOoo-----

Route Finding

Rita Daley enthuses about her new Garmin navigator in the March Newsletter. I too have recently purchased a navigator, but one housed in a very small, neat pocket computer with an integrated GPS (Global Positioning System which receives signals from a chain of satellites giving you an incredibly accurate position.)

The computer has miniature versions of Microsoft Word and Excel - if you need to write a document or use spreadsheets; it is a diary/calendar/alarm clock on which you can store and be reminded of your appointments; it will store your favourite photos and display them on its colour screen; it will record your voice for notes or reminders and it will play your favourite music! You do need a computer at home to get it set up.

But most importantly it is equipped with navigation software by 'Tomtom', who make a variety of route finders. This has a street map of the UK and a map of major roads of 16 countries in Europe! The GPS part quickly shows you where you are on the map on its colour screen, even when you are driving along.

You can sit in comfort at home and seek out a destination - even down to a house number - and ask it for a route from home or somewhere else. It will quickly tell you how far and plot the route on the map. When you come to drive it, a very pleasant English (not American) voice guides you at each junction to help you along the road to your destination. It will quickly re-route you if you miss a turn and you do not even need to watch the screen, although it is fun being a passenger to watch and to marvel at its ability and accuracy.

The name of this amazing bit of technology - a 'Mio 168' and I found its cheapest price on the internet of £325.00 for the kit which includes a holder for use in the car, software, connectors, etc.

Tony Miles

-----oooOOOOoo-----

RHINE RIVER LIGHTS TOUR

The Rhine lends itself to firework displays, with its hills dropping down right into the river and its lovely little villages dotted all along the banks. This tour, which has been organised exclusively for A.S.O.C. members, manages to combine a pleasant evening cruise along the Rhine with a superb firework display and a traditional wine festival. You could say it has something for everyone!

Tuesday September 13th 2005: We catch a ferry from Dover at about lunchtime and drive for about 80 miles to our first campsite at Tournai. This evening everybody will get the chance for a little fraternisation at an informal drinks reception.

Wednesday September 14th 2005: Our drive today is about 240 miles, but nearly all on motorway. Our destination is a pleasant campsite in the Hunsruck region of Germany. Those of you who watched the television series "Heimatt" will probably know that it was based in this area. The campsite has its own restaurant so you can give the cook a rest if you wish.

Thursday September 15th 2005: Fresh bread rolls are available from the campsite's shop every morning, along with typical German breakfast items – cold sausage, cheese, eggs etc. After a free day which you can spend walking or cycling from the campsite – or simply doing nothing, we will have a typical German dinner in the campsite's restaurant.

Friday September 16th 2005: We will be collected from the campsite at about 16.00 and taken to the jetty at Sankt Goar on the river Rhine, where our boat will await. After a short cruise we will disembark at Oberwesel for a 2-hour visit to the local wine festival. This will comprise music, stalls selling wine, stalls selling food as well as other assorted goodies. We re-board the boat at about 19.30 for a 2 hour cruise which will include a wonderful firework display. The boat will have a band playing throughout the cruise – not a disco – so you can dance as well as admire the fireworks. There is even a restaurant on board. After the cruise has ended we will disembark at Sankt Goar at about 22.00 before being collected by bus and taken back to our campsite for a good night's sleep.

Saturday September 17th 2005: We leave the campsite this morning and head back to Tournai. You should remember that continental supermarkets do not open on Sundays, so you will need to do your shopping today. Obviously you can buy cigarettes, wine & spirits on the ferry tomorrow if you prefer.

Sunday September 18th 2005: We will catch our ferry from Calais at about lunchtime and arrive at Dover in the early afternoon.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF MOTORHOMES: 15

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MOTORHOMES: 25

DEPOSIT £75 per motorhome

PRICE PER PERSON, based on relevant number of people in a motorhome.

4pp	3pp	2pp	1pp
£150	£170	£210	£330

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Return ticket on Dover - Calais ferry for motorhome up to 6 metres. 2 nights at campsite on French/Belgian border with 220 volt hook-up. Drinks reception. Typical German dinner in campsite's own restaurant. Visit to wine festival. Cruise on River Rhine with live music and a firework display. 3 nights at campsite in Hunsruck with 220 volt hook-up. Comprehensive route guide. Services of experienced GB Privilege Tour Director.

Further details, and a booking form, can be obtained from GB Privilege Ltd., 3 The Fields, Tacolneston, Norfolk NR16 1DG. Phone 019 5378 9661 or Fax 019 5378 9519. Their email address is gbprivilege@yahoo.com

Andy Cavell

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Symbol Things

We bought our A-S Symbol in September last year and have only used it on a few weekend trips to date. One trip to Burton Bradstock we met a couple who, though no longer A-S owners, were still members of the Club and gave it their highest recommendation. They gave us one of the magazines to read and we decided to join, partly for the annual Club and Company rally, but that's life.

We have been quite interested in the recent articles about sleeping arrangements and found them very useful, being able to manage without the extra cushions in our Symbol frees up an enormous amount of space. One of the major problems with setting up the sleeping compartment, was getting the front seats fully forward. Surely it would be possible to weld additional seat adjuster bars to the back of the seats (they are only a simple lever) and this would make the whole procedure so much easier.

Our present problem with our Symbol is that the 'big head' screw fixings which are glued to the upper roof to help secure the guttering in place are coming loose. Several are detached already and one is missing. It doesn't look a difficult job to refit them but we need to be sure we use the correct 'glue' to stick them back in place. Any guidance on how to do this, and also the safest way to remove the old glue/mastic from the bodywork, would be very much appreciated.

I had hoped to find a technical article on the website dealing with this, but there didn't seem to be anything which covered our particular problem. By the way, I liked the organisation and layout of the website, I was a little disappointed that I couldn't download the technical articles that looked interesting, but at least the list was there. I would recommend anyone who hasn't been there before to have a look and add the link to your bookmarks.

Derek Pope

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Form E 111

I am sure we all know that we need a valid form E 111 to get free or subsidised health care when we go abroad to the EC. But are you, like me, unaware that all E 111 forms expired on 31st December 2004 and that you now have to have a separate one for every person applied for and stamped this year?

We need to obtain the application form which is part of the booklet "Health Advice for Travellers" and also get the appropriate number of E 111s. We fill in the application form for all the members of the family and then one E 111 for each person (adult or child) then, as before, we take it to the Post Office who retain the application form and who stamp and give you back the E 111 itself which is valid until the end of 2005.

If you have ticked the box on the application form, you will then receive your new European health insurance card later this year which will replace the E 111. You may obtain these forms from Post Offices or download them from www.dh.gov.uk

It seems that the Department of Health placed adverts in newspapers in October 2004 but I, for one, did not learn about it until I happened to read a magazine article and most people to whom I have spoken are unaware of the changes. The article also gave another helpful tip - useful to all of us going to The Dordogne. It is the website for the French motorways on which you can play an interactive driving

game, in French or English, in which you can set your own speed, weather and driving conditions. It is www.autoroutes.fr

Mike Hall

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Wanted

Driver's wing mirror for Talbot Express Rambler. Will pay all cost of postage etc. Phone Bill Bromilow on 019 8521 8484 (Warminster, Wiltshire).

Thanks for the donation.

-----ooo000ooo-----



For Sale



Talisman 2.8 HDI. March 2004 model. Only 7,000 miles. Immaculate condition. Full service history. No smokers, pets or children. £2,000.00 worth of extras include 3-bike rack, TV, tent extension, Sigma alarm, tailor-made winter cover. Save £7,000.00 on a basic new model. Bargain at £33,500.00 ono. Phone Tim King on 013 2923 5417. (Nr Fareham, Hants.)

#####

Ford Duetto 2.4 Di. 2001(51) model. Only 9,500 miles, silver metallic with terracotta interior. Excellent condition, shower never used. Reversing sensors, Cat 1 alarm upgrade, 2 x bike rack. £22,500.00 ono. Call Ray or Jackie Summers on 017 8047 0969 or email: jacknray@btinternet.com (Near Peterborough).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Raleigh Hi-top rear fitting awning for motorhome. Little used from new. Also inner tent with ground sheet. £125.00 ovno. Phone Geoff Worsley on 012 6371 1862 (Holt Norfolk).

#####

Fiamma Rear Box, white, approx 130 x 75 x 50 cm plus double bike rack. Both in very good condition and off A-S duetto. Sensible offers, please, to Brian Day on 016 2185 7050 or e-mail maldonms@hotmail.com (Maldon, Essex).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

I.C.E., Ford 3000 Traffic (Stereo 2 speaker, large front style) RDS, tape player auto stop. Full working order. As new, removed from a Duetto LE (2000)

All codes available!! Price negotiable. If interested please contact Ricky Smith on 016 8456 8207 (Malvern, Worcs.)

#####

Ideal for golfing motor caravanner. 4 bedroomed detached house overlooking 18th fairway of South Cliff Golf Club, Scarborough. Garage is fitted with remote controlled roller door and will take a Symbol motorhome. For details contact Reeds Rains, Scarborough, Tel: 017 2336 5335 or e-mail www.reedsrains.co.uk.

This was sent in by Graham Giffillan. Thanks for the donation.

#####

Peugeot Boxer symphony, 1996 'N' reg. 2.5 diesel. 14,296 miles only. 2 berth, oven, warm air heating, shower, water heater, flush toilet, 3 way fridge. No pets, children or smokers. Alarm, Free standing awning, many extras. One owner from new. Full service history, MOT till March 2006. Excellent condition, inside and out. £14,500.00. Phone Bob Woosey on 019 2572 6106 (Penketh, Warrington).

Thanks for the donation.

#####

Items which may be brought to the AGM. Awning (as described in April Newsletter by G Williamson). 6 kg Propane (full). £15.00 or exchange for full 3.9 kg). Ford Traffic 3000 radio/cassette unit from duetto LE. £20.00. Anything else that I think may be indispensable to others. Various prices. List will be posted. Phone Ricky Smith on 016 8456 8207. (Malvern).

#####

NR Motor chalet free standing awning, colour green/grey. In good n condition complete with all poles, curtains etc., Suitable for high top campervan. The awning is no longer required due to a change of vehicle. A small donation to Club funds is all that is necessary to secure the awning if collected. Telephone John Goode on 024 7636 5156 (Coventry).

#####

Executive 2.5 diesel Peugeot Boxer, 1996 'P' reg. 42,000 reliable miles. One careful owner from new. 2 berth, twin sofa layout, quickly and easily converts to two single or one large double bed. Whole van in excellent condition with very clean upholstery, kitchen and washroom. Non smokers, no pets or children. Recent cambelt, leisure battery and tyres. Driverite air rear suspension aids. £17,000.00. Please call Roger Green on 018 4384 4989 (Birchington, Kent).

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Contents

In the Beginning - 0001.....	5	Doing it in a Duetto.....	11
In the Beginning - 0002.....	5	Chairman's Chat.....	13
In the Beginning - 0003.....	6	Route Finding.....	14
In the Beginning - Willersey View.....	7	RHINE RIVER LIGHTS TOUR.....	15
Farewell.....	9	Symbol Things.....	16
Tyre Pressures.....	9	Form E 111.....	17
Power Surges.....	9	Wanted.....	18
Deposits - of cash.....	10	For Sale.....	18

Committee Members

President	Charles Trevelyan	013 8685 3511
Chairman & Newsletter Editor	Harry Henthorne	020 8808 9112
Secretary	Janet Sutterby	015 0746 2449
Treasurer	John Tidbury	012 3553 8593
Vice-Chairman	Andy Cavell	016 3520 1976
Chairman, AGM Sub-committee	Nora Venables	019 0233 2105
Rally Co-ordinator	Neil Rogers	013 2537 4540
Minutes Secretary	Mike Hall	017 7377 8016
Chief Rally Marshal	Ben Mansfield	017 2336 9769
Press Officer	Brian Smith	014 8784 1786
Webmaster & Chairman, Technical Group	Baz Wellard	013 2923 1259
Regalia Officer	John Jones	016 2362 7903
Membership Secretary	Norma Caley (see below)	017 7263 2734

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** Norma Caley's address is:- 17 Rydal Avenue, Freckleton, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 1DJ and her e-mail address is normacaley@tiscali.co.uk All enquiries regarding non-receipt of Newsletters and other membership enquiries should be addressed to her.