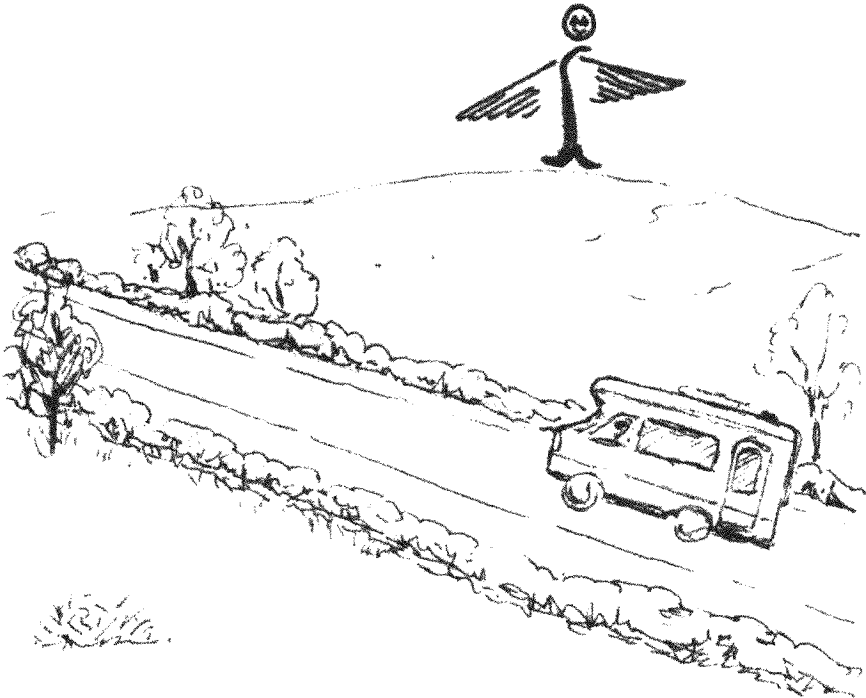


[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

A Company Limited by Guarantee.  
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway,  
Worcs., WR12 7QF. Registered No: 4616969



It's that cheap route finder! This certainly isn't Calais!!

## **NEWSLETTER 201**

## **JUNE 2005**

Hello.

I'm sorry that I have to repeat what I have so often said before but I cannot guarantee that any item is included in a particular issue of the Newsletter. I accept all relevant items as they are received and will publish them as space and time permits. There are two or three items in this issue that those who sent them in requested should be included in the May issue. But, as you will have seen, I had a pretty full quota of items so they had to be held over.

So please note - Items will be included when possible but may not be in any specific edition. Also the closing date is the TENTH day of each month to give me a chance to type the thing up and get it off to our printer. Anything sent by e-mail and timed at 23.59 on the ninth will not necessarily make it in time!

While talking of closing dates, I hope that you will all permit us to have a holiday during June as we usually do. To this end, I shall be closing the Newsletter rather earlier, about 4th June so that I can have time to complete it and send it to the printer.

One further point. There is no compulsion to send a donation with any advertisement but if you do, please enclose the cheque with your advertisement. If you use e-mail to send the advert, then send the cheque by snail mail to me, please. It is rather off-putting if you send the cheque anywhere else.

At the AGM I gave notice that I intend to stop being your Editor with general effect from the next AGM. I think that I have done a fair share of the duty and it is time for another to take over. More of this later.

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## A Duetto Question

Does anyone have experience or knowledge of an awning/tent that can be fitted to the back of a Ford duetto? I have seen them advertised but would like a little more information than the adverts show. Thank you.

*Daphne & Colin Smith*

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## Frisky Questions

I shall be grateful for any help with the following problems. (1) Has anyone fitted lap restraint seat belts in the rear so that 4 people can travel facing each other? (2) Has anyone fitted power steering to this model? It is a 1991 Frisky on the Ford Transit chassis. We can be contacted by e-mail on [kevinandkathhawkins@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinandkathhawkins@hotmail.com) or by phone on 017 0687 8632.

*Kath & Kevin Hawkins*

There was an item in one of the larger club magazines on this subject, It seems that it will be illegal for such belts to be fitted to new vehicles in the future and it is NOT recommended for any of the older vehicles. You can understand why because in the event of a sudden cessation of forward movement, for whatever reason, the effect on such passengers could be disastrous.

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## **Marsden Brewery**

*Trish and Ted Pratt* pulled it off again. The rally was great, the weather super and the beer even better. A great fun weekend. Thanks to *Trish, Ted* and all their helpers.

*Sylvia and Norman Brice*

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## **Another Magazine from Warners**

"Out and About" is a sister magazine for "MMM" and "Which Motor Caravan". The difference being that it will be aimed at Caravanners and Campers as well as we who have seen the light! Every month the magazine will be split into four sections - Travel, Living, Outdoors and Touring parks - and will feathure Competitions, Puzzles, Giveaways, Rallies and Shows.

I think it may appeal to folk who have no intention of changing their van and are rather bored with three or four long features on new Motorhomes and technical articles which have no relevance to their situation.

I have spoken to the editor and she assures me that although the touring articles will refer to the vehicle involved there will not be lengthy reviews. Launched on 21st April 2005, you can save over £6.00 on six issues by subscribing £9.99. Call the Subscription hotline on 017 7839 2496 or e-mail [subscriptions@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@warnersgroup.co.uk)

*Brian Smith*

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## **From the Technical Group and Website**

Tyre pressures: The last two month's Newsletters have included the subject of motorhome tyre pressures. The Technical Group must stick with the advice from A-S (see website FAQ No. 8) i.e. "That the pressures should be as specified on the 'B' post, of the motorhome, or in the base vehicle manufacturer's handbook". Tyre specification or pressures are the responsibility of the base vehicle manufacturer.

**Power surges:** Also in last month's Newsletter was a request to install power surge protection. The Technical Group cannot recommend any changes to the wiring entering the motorhome as this is specialist work and requires certification. One possibility is to buy a short 4-way extension lead that already has power surge protection fitted. Then such items as lap tops, TVs etc., can be plugged into the extension and thus be protected

**Ideas Sheets:** The response to the issue of the full list of Ideas Sheets was extraordinarily encouraging with requests received for 478 Ideas Sheets, (now totalling 2,119 in total). There is obviously plenty of interest so please send in your ideas for others to consider. The following Ideas Sheets have just been approved/or awaiting approval\*:-

- No. 102           Prevention of smells from grey waste water
- No. 103           Small coffee table to suit dinette fitting
- No. 104           Storage of tubular table leg in a Boxer
- No. 105\*          Storage of precious items in a Clubman
- No. 106\*          Carver 5500 Fanmaster - Switch repair
- No. 107\*          Reduce Boxer cab noise
- No. 108\*          Symbol sink area - additional power point

An up-to-date list is always available on the Club website.

**LPG tanks:** You may be interested in the following article I was encouraged to write for A-5 Dealers' Newsletter. (Further details from A-5 Service Centre - 013 8685 3511 or me - 013 2923 1259 or MTH Autogas - 015 9456 3538):-

"In para 2 of the January/February Aftersales Newsletter reference was made to the fitting of an LPG tank by MTH Autogas, this short article is intended as a user's perspective.

Having had an LPG tank fitted (in Portugal) to our previous Talisman, we decided to have one installed on our new Talisman, this time to UK standards by MTH. The maximum size that could be installed was a 40 litre tank - however other sizes are available. A 30Mbar regulator is fitted directly onto the tank and, as we carry a 907 Gaz bottle for emergency use, change-over valves were required in the gas locker. A small electronic unit containing a series of LEDs is fitted low down on the dash board and indicates the percentage of gas remaining.

The tank has an automatic cut-off at 80% capacity - i.e. 32 litres (approximately 16Kg), and weighs around 38Kg comparing favourably with 2 - 6Kg propane cylinders weighing approximately 32Kg. NB filling adaptors are required for use in other countries.

Supply and installation cost is £550.00 and takes around 6 hours. A self-fit kit can be purchased for £350.00 (inc VAT, plus carriage) and

although MTH are not able to fit at dealers' premises they are willing to provide advice.

The advantage of a fitted tank gives us cheaper propane as well as spare space in the gas locker. It also means no more lifting heavy cylinders and changing them at odd times!"

**The Making of an Auto Sleeper:** Ian Capes (Auto-Sleeper's CEO) has kindly agreed to permit the Club to issue the film of "The Making of an Auto-Sleeper". It was filmed in 1988 but is still relevant today, and is very interesting. I have transferred the video onto DVD, and can now make copies for members. For a copy please send me a cheque for £3.00, payable to Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club, to: - 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF.

**Peugeot Radios:** Where radio isolation switches are fitted in latter models on the Boxer chassis (e.g. Nuevo, Talisman, and Executive) it is important that the isolation switch is always left in the "off" position when the radio is not being used, otherwise a very small drain may result from the main battery to the detriment of starting the engine.

**Website:** I thank *Derek Pope* (last month) and *Heather Tidbury* (at the AGM) for their kind comments regarding the Club Website - very much appreciated. In answer to *Derek's* (and other's) request to be able to down load the Ideas Sheets - I regret this is not possible. Our Website site comes free but space is at a premium and must be managed carefully - any larger site becomes very expensive - . As the average Ideas Sheet, with photos, is around 500KBytes and we have over 100 you can see the problem. Also I can ensure that only members get copies and I can keep a comprehensive note of who has what sheets, so that I can issue an updates when necessary. Should you wish to be advised when any change to the website is made, simply send your e-mail address to [baz.wellard@virgin.net](mailto:baz.wellard@virgin.net)

**AGM Technical Session:** The Technical Session at the AGM was very lively and hopefully by the time this Newsletter is published a summary of the questions and answers will be on the website - for those who could not attend. Our thanks go to the managers from Auto-Sleepers Ltd who gave up their day to answer all the questions raised without any reservations.

*Baz Wellard*

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## ***Isle of Man Rally***

I would like to thank *Celia and John Slark & Joan and Alan Parkes* for a wonderful first rally in the Isle of Man. The Spring Rally was

well organised with a film about the island by courtesy of the tourist Board. A visit was made to the Gaiety Theatre where we were able to look around and see how it all works, including the trap doors in the stage and all the detailed restoration of the theatre. A very good tour.

We had the use of the Hospitality Suite under the T.T. Grandstand every night for quizzes and for tea or coffee together with a dinner on our final night. Altogether a very good all round rally.

*Alan Guest*

#####

The Manx Spring Rally on the Isle of Man,  
Was where we took our trusty 'van.  
We sailed across the Irish sea,  
The trip was smooth and trouble free.

Some twenty five vans did then disembark,  
And made their way to Nobles Park.  
The sun was shining for a day or two,  
Then the clouds appeared to spoil the view.

There was so much rain I began to think,  
As the ground got soggy the wheels would sink.  
This didn't stop us from touring round,  
We went all over and down to The Sound.

The Island has some picturesque bays,  
Which is where we spent enjoyable days.  
To the Gaiety Theatre we had a walk,  
And had a very informative talk.

We learned about a bygone age,  
And were shown the workings under the stage.  
In spite of the rain and even snow,  
We're glad we had the chance to go.

A vote of thanks goes to the marshals who,  
Kept on smiling the whole way through.

*Margaret and Brian Green*

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# The A.G.M. Rally

Many congratulations to the Committee and especially to *Nora Venables* and her team for the best AGM ever - and we have been to all sixteen of them!!!

There was a lovely atmosphere. Everybody seemed to be working together so well, just like the early days of ASOC. It was also good to see *Barbara & John Cox*.

The generous raffle prizes, the excellent Craft Workshops, the superb organist on Saturday and the fantastic Houghton Weavers on Sunday all helped to make a wonderful few days.

Please, please, could we have more of the same next year? Again, many thanks to all who worked so hard; it was much appreciated,  
*Barbara & Vic Kaye*

#####

Following our very first rally at the AGM at Newark we would like to say how fantastic the complete weekend was. The venue was excellent; the meals were faultless; the service was superb; the entertainment was brilliant --- including *Cedric's* boules

Fellow members were friendly and helpful, especially as we were complete novices and knew nobody. We ended up making several very good friends. Even the weather smiled on us.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone concerned for an unforgettable weekend and, for us, the first of many.

*Sheila and Alan Hutchings*

#####

The AGM and Dinner/Dance this year was our first ever rally with ASOC. Well! We could not believe it! From the minute we arrived until we left the Marshals, committee and members were so welcoming, helpful and friendly that we felt part of the Club immediately.

The food and entertainment were second to none, nothing was left to chance, it was such an enjoyable experience we can't wait for our next Rally.

Special thanks to *Liz and Roger* for lots of tips as we are new to motorhomes and to *Sheila and Ian* for their company. We hop *Ian's* op went well. Thank you all so much for a wonderful time. (sorry we were rubbish at boules!)

*Pauline and Roy Southern*

#####

Did anyone say 'an AGM will be boring'? Did anyone say 'not my thing'? Perhaps it was 'I go to too many meetings'. Well come next

year and be proved wrong. If you did not attend the ASOC AGM - you missed a real treat.

The AGM itself was lively, interesting and kept very much on track by the very able chairman *Harry Henthorne*. It is a club very much run for us, its members, and this is the place to find out who does what, how and why. Thank you very much, our able and hardworking committee.

*Nora Venables* does a sterling job putting the whole weekend together, and I just cannot praise her dedication highly enough. The whole weekend runs like clockwork and there is something for everyone to enjoy should you wish to take part. Thank you *Nora*.

Apart from the meetings, meals (great, by the way), dancing, singing, crafting and entertainment - don't forget the camaraderie. In ASOC this is second to NONE, and I don't think that there is anywhere better to start the process of 'getting to know you' than at the AGM. It may be a large event, but it is amazing how quickly you are made to feel welcome - just take a deep breath and jump in.

The final meeting was a session by the 'Houghton Weavers'. I have to admit to being a real ignoramus, I had never heard of them, but they are very well known I hear! They were Fab and finished the whole event with a real up-lift. Don't miss out next year. Make sure you note the date in your diary and book early. I am sure you won't be disappointed. I haven't been yet.

*Pauline Taylor*

#####

From comments I have received it would appear most members enjoyed the weekend. I certainly did and I would like to thank the following people. *Ben and Evelyn Mansfield*, *Alan Guest*, the marking out team and all of the marshals. We see very little of *Evelyn* over the weekend but believe me she puts in a lot of hard work both before and at the A.G.M. *Jan Hicklin* for organising the raffle and her many helpers. *Sheila Henthorne* for coping with all of the bookings for pitches, meals and papers.

To my Sub Committee for the support they have given me over the year and not least to you, the members, for your generosity in raising £804 for the British Heart Foundation.

*Nora Venables*

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## Self fill Gas Bottles

I was quite taken with the idea of purchasing Propane gas at 35p per litre. But then the Yorkshireman with Scots ancestors jumped out of my pocket along with the moths.

The small cylinder which fits into the locker of the Duetto costs around £10.00 to refill. The cost of the plastic self fill bottle with all the fittings costs about £80.00 or so. That's EIGHT ordinary bottles. Based on the average camper usage means that the purchase of one self fill bottle would take about four years before it breaks even.

How many of us retired campers will live long enough to enjoy the full benefit? However, I still think it is a good idea. Especially if you are not careful enough not to let the gas from your refilled cylinder seep back into your Calor owned bottle that will sit alongside your new bottle. After all, we usually have two bottles. This is just an observation.

*Geoff Williamson*

My comment is only hearsay, but I understand that quite a lot of sources for LPG, such as the usual filling stations, are becoming rather chary of allowing bottles to be refilled. They will permit fitted gas tanks, for which they originally installed the gas gadgetry, but do not like the smaller self fill bottles. I have heard that this applies in France too.

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## Rattling Blinds

Two solutions, both of which will work. The first is to remove the blind and tighten up the return spring. If the blind then recoils and removes your finger end then that is the correct tension.

The alternative, if you are not inclined or are just too lazy is to turn the radio up to full blast!! Easy!

T. Waddell - NOT a proper name!! (and wouldn't be a member!)

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## Rally Slips

When applying for a rally will members please complete both sides of the rally slip before sending the rally slip to the rally marshal. This information is required by the marshal to assist with the running of the rally.

*Neil Rogers*

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## DUETTO LE Tyre Pressures

Mk 5, 150 base

After weighing the vehicle front and rear I contacted Michelin on 01782 402000 and spoke to one of their tyre usage expert.

His advice was: -

With Agilis 61 6PR 109 R, 225 70R 15C's (Max load per tyre 1000+kg)

Axle load 1460kg Recommended Pressure, 36 psi (2.50 bar)

Axle load 1660kg Recommended Pressure, 44 psi (3.03 bar)

So with a front axle load of 1400kg, inflate fronts to 36 psi (2.50 bar) and a rear axle load of 1340kg, inflate rears to 36 psi (2.50 bar) increased to 38 & 40+ psi (2.62 & 2.76 bar) respectively for main holidays when extra paraphernalia might be carried.

One could use Agilis 81's or even the XC Camping Specials but unless the vehicle was to be static a lot of the time or carrying a vastly increased load then the ride quality using these tyres would be much impaired.

Notes. These van axle loadings should provide a realistic starting point for all Duetto's built up to the year 2000. The Mk 5, LE does have steel wheels and larger section tyres but the recorded axle weights should be close enough to ascertain, from any tyre manufacturer, the tyre pressures for all Duetto before the Mk 6 incarnation.

*Ann (Loadmistress), & Ricky Smith*

Please remember that this type of advice is purely personal. Neither the Club nor the Company can give advice on this subject because there are so many variables.

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## **From E111 to EHIC**

If you are planning to visit the Continent or the Republic of Ireland then you should be aware of the changes in EU laws regarding the E111. Forms issued before 19th. August 2004 aren't valid any more. If your form has an expiry date of 31st. December 2005 at the bottom, it's valid until that date. If there's no expiry date, you'll need to apply for a new form for each member of your family - including children - who plans to travel in Europe in 2005.

To get an E111 all you need to do is pick up application forms from the Post Office and fill one in for each member of the family that needs one, then take them to your Post Office for stamping.

From 31st. December 2005, E111s will be replaced by a European Health Card (EHIC). You can pre-apply for your EHIC now by



# June 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.

Please inform the marshal in advance if you wish to take a trailer, tent or car to a rally.

*NEW RALLY—30<sup>th</sup>. September – 2<sup>nd</sup>. October (2 nights) Riverside C.P., Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire.*

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

*3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 17(tgw). 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 17(tgw) Blue Lias is on **left** in about ½ mile

**10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. June (12 nights) Camping Les Deux Vallees (3 star site)**  
**Veillac, Dordogne, France.      *THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL***

**1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.**

**4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 ¼ mile turn **left** signed Chediston.In 1 mile turn **left** signed Chediston. Site in ¼ 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.**

### **11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. (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.**

### **21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. 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. 01283 538 818.(Note change of tel.No.).

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**.

**11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. August.(3 nights). Abingdon Vale Cricket Club, Abingdon, Oxon.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07880 532057 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell assisted by Maureen & Harry Emblen.

Site Fee:£5.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:£2.50 couples, £1.50 Single (Incl.VAT).

Rally slips & cheques payable to A.Cavell,24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham.Berks.RG18 0RY.Tel.No. 01635 201 976.

**Attractions:**This is a green field site adjacent to the River Thames and only a short walk from the town centre, which has a variety of specialist shops and several pubs and restaurants. There are many local attractions including bus & boat trips to Oxford. We will have the use of the pavilion for a get-together on Friday if the weather is bad !

Dogs welcome subject to the usual rules. There are walks straight from the site.

**Directions:**The cricket club is on the A415 Abingdon to Dorchester road. If you approach from Abingdon, it is on the **right** after you go over the river bridge. Coming the other way, it is on the **left** just after the 30mph sign.

**Limited to 50 vans.**

**19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. Topsham Rugby Club, Nr. Exeter, Devon.**

**Full details next month.**

**25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. August ( 5 nights). Wensleydale School, Leyburn, North Yorks.**

**Due to staffing problems at the school this rally has had to be cancelled.**

**31<sup>st</sup>.August – 5<sup>th</sup>. Sept. (5 nights) Shoreham Airshow,Shoreham by Sea,West Sussex.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07742 668344.

Rally Marshals: Shirley & Chris Sturgeon assisted by Theresa & Dave Smith.

Site Fee: £2.00 per unit per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.35 per unit (Incl. VAT).

Airshow tickets for Saturday & Sunday cost £10.00 per adult & £4.00 per Child.,payable in advance.

GREENFIELD site water tap & Elsan emptying point.

Booking slips & cheques payable to A.N.Fowler,20 Hawkins Close,Shoreham by Sea,West Sussex.BN43 6TL Tel.No. 01273 594479.

Saturday evening buffet meal available @ £4.12 each (incl.VAT).

Possible airport tour Thursday,please state if interested and pay for meals in advance.

Send SAE for confirmation of booking, if required.

**Attractions:**A 2 day airshow with on ground entertainment,bicycle rides from site.

**SORRY NO DOGS.**

**Directions:**On A27 between Brighton & Worthing leave A27 at traffic lights opposite Sussex Pad Hotel and turn into airport.This is the only entrance for motor vans.

**Please DO NOT arrive before 12 noon Wednesday.**

**Advance Notice**

**9<sup>th</sup>.– 11<sup>th</sup>. September (2nights)Essex Steam & Country**

**Show,Billericay,Essex.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07905 898 149 Marshals' mobile.

Rally Marshals:Stella & Ian Ross.

Rally Fee:£2.35(incl.VAT). GREENFIELD Site. NO Electricity.

Send rally fee (cheque payable to Mrs.S.Ross) with Rally Slip & SAE for Show

Application Form by 18<sup>th</sup>.August to:- Mrs. S. Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens,

Upminster,Essex.RM14 1DL. Tel.No. 01708 228 075.

***Fees payable to the Show organisers.*** Special Advance booking prices,camping 2 nights £14.00, Show tickets – *per day* Adult £8.10,child £4.50, Senior citizens £6.30.**Return Show application to the organisers,address on form, by their closing date 26<sup>th</sup>.August.**

**Attractions:**Vintage steam engines,over 150 craft stands,working heavy horses,trade stands,arena events,vintage cars & motorbikes and much more,

**Directions:**Will enclose sketch map with application form.

**17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>.

" *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. 20<sup>th</sup>.(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.** **THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL**

*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 when 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!**

ticking the box on the back of the E111 application form. If you do this your EHIC will be sent to you automatically before your E111 expires at the end of the year. From 1st September 2005 you'll also be able to apply for an EHIC online through [www.dh.gov.uk/travellers](http://www.dh.gov.uk/travellers), by post or by phone. The new EHICs are already being processed by Government agencies so it may be good to beat the rush.

*Liz Morgan*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Peak Rail**

Once again we had a very enjoyable time at the Peak Rail, Rowsley with the usual good company and even the occasional April shower couldn't dampen the enthusiasm and humour. We heard that the local garage owner was doing a roaring trade in replacement gas bottles. We would like to say thank you again to *Mike, Jeanne, Lionel and Hilary* for all their hard work.

We have made a note in our diary for next year and must remember some 'sweeties for the bus journey', especially for *Cedric!*

*Joan and John Parsons*

#####

## **A Rowsley Poem**

We went for a week-end to Rowsley  
To stay in a field by the trains  
We were here for an ASOC Rally  
So what if it started to rain.

We arrived in a gloomy old drizzle  
and the Marshalls were starting to leave  
their seat by the gate, where they'd had to wait,  
as the poor things were starting to freeze.

But they gave us a smile and a welcome  
And directed us on to the field  
Where we promptly sank, the weather's so dank  
Well, we'll worry about that when we leave!

There were prizes for Haddon and Cromford  
And a steam train to Matlock as well.  
The rally was good, in spite of the mud.  
Everyone had a good time you could tell.

So thank you to *Jeanne* and to *Mike Hall*  
To *Lionel* and *Hillary* too  
To the JCB man, who retrieved all the vans  
We'll be back next year, won't you?

*Chris Mawdsley and Peter Brown*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Skiing

*Mo* and I have just returned from skiing in Chatel, France. Fantastic 'squeaky snow' for skiing. Thought I would pass on a little info to those planning a French holiday this year.

From talking with a senior crew member, information is sketchy but it would appear that P&O will be running their Portsmouth to Le Havre sailings until May at least, this year. The Monopolies Commission is in discussion to decide whether or not to allow Brittany Ferries to take the route over and we also understand that Condor Ferries are interested, but for freight services only. Not good news for those with houses in Western France nor for those going to Brittany or the west coast on holiday.

Currently Diesel in Le Havre - Esso station is 0.92 euros per litre. In supermarkets it averages between 0.89 and 0.92 euros and on motorways it went from 0.92 to 1.08 euros per litre.

You will notice that most French drivers are now travelling with dipped headlights on all the time. This, you may have read in other magazines, is now French law. We also noticed that 'Day-Glow Derek' jackets were being worn by many drivers, particularly those fitting snow chains. We could not go anywhere without chains, once in the mountains.

Going down the motorway we saw lots of dark brown birds sitting on fence posts. These were Buzzards; an upright stance with a heavy, rounded build; about 500mm tall. In flight their wingspan is about 1140 - 1400mm (45 - 55 inches in old money). They can be seen all year round. In the mountains we saw a pair of Royal Eagles, large dark brown birds but smaller than the Golden Eagle although similarly shaped. Lots of yellow beaked Choughs, crow size and feather colour.

A lovely story given to us by a fellow skier. You will know that the French will shoot at anything that flies and to combat this, the conservationists have got the 'powers' that hand out the gun licences to make all the shooters join the equivalent of the RSPB. Consequently these birds are not being shot any more. Hopefully they will introduce this for other birds. The fines are apparently very heavy.

If you go, have a great time.

*Mo & Mike Valentine*

-----oooOOOooo-----

**IF**

Just a thought after reading the item on how Auto-Sleepers began. Ah! IF!! IF my husband had not died everything would have been different. Having been caravanners all our married lives I was suddenly left with a very big gap in my life. Our heavy Volvo/Castleton outfit was definitely not woman friendly. Two years on I had an idea that IF I could find a small motorvan, not very expensive, this could perhaps be my way to continue to camp.

One day on a shopping trip I spotted in the corner of a garage forecourt an A-S of yesteryear. A 1985 CXL still showing the love and care with which it had been made and also looked after by previous owners.

Another IF. Would my mobility scooter fit in the back? So, tape measure at the ready, I went to view. I knew as soon as I sat inside. It was love at first sight! It gleamed with a spotless kitchen area and even still had its original crockery. The soft furnishings were not even faded. After a test drive and a word from my son (in the trade) to the garage owner - "Yes" - this could be for me.

Now another IF. Could I afford it? Well, not really!! But two weeks later it was mine. I set off on a beautiful sunny afternoon to an unused industrial site to have a practice drive. We got on fine and in no time at all we were away over the moors.

"COB" (B 295 COB) has given me a new life. Six years on, together we have been up hills and down dales. Mind you, we have had our moments and come back home on a recovery lorry a couple of times.

IF the *Trevelyan* family had not been so positive with all their "IF's" COB and I would not be getting ready for another season's travelling. Over the past five years COB has had lots of TLC, removal of all tinworm and a complete respray and waxoiled too. One day, perhaps, a new engine.

I intend to keep this vehicle for the foreseeable future and if anyone knows any past history of my van I would be most grateful if they would get in touch. I hope to meet up with you at a rally in the south west one day.

*Margaret Smith*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Another Starter Tale

We started caravanning in 1970. In those days the vans were very basic with no running hot water - well, no running cold water either come to that. We had a large water container on a box just outside the caravan door and every time we wanted water we had to go outside to get it. We rallied a lot during our first years and were known as the Walls couple because the box the water stood on had Walls Ice Cream imprinted on it. I have no idea where *Michael* got it from because neither of us worked for the company. When the foot pump came along we thought we had died and gone to heaven! To this day I believe it was one good thing about the caravan - you could control how much water came out of the tap, especially when washing your hands. Far less wasted water with this invention. There was no fire but after a few very cold outings we bought a small gas one that was free standing. It roared just like a motorbike going off when it first started up.

Electricity? What was that? The gaslights and their mantles were always a mystery to me and they were forever ending up disintegrated on the bunks. So we always had to keep a few in stock with us. We didn't even have sleeping bags because we couldn't afford them. So we took the sheets and blankets off the beds with us. The toilet was a 'bucket and chuck it'. All very far removed from things of today.

Thirty five years on and four caravans later we are now motorhome owners - have been for ten years. How things have changed. I cannot understand why people condemn the toilet/shower compartment in our modern day outfits. You can tell they don't go on rallies or use sites without facilities, of which there are some super ones about. Two of our favourite sites, one in the Lake district and the other down south, have no shower block. We spend two, three or four weeks on them at a time. We are walkers and when we get back from a good day out the first thing we do is have a shower. The water's hot, the motorhome's warm and it's lovely to be able to shower in your own 'home' OK, so you don't leave the water running the whole time. You compromise and wet yourself down, turn the water off while you soap yourself and then water on again to rinse. It's worth all the fetching and carrying of water to be in an area you want to be in. And actually you don't use that much water anyway. It's also good to be able to go to the loo in comfort in the night (the older one gets the more this seems to happen!) and not have to trudge across to a block. Going to the block,

in the dark, in the rain, walking on wet grass, is not my cup of tea. So I say hooray for the toilet compartment.

*Jean Shaftoe*

It does indicate how some people nowadays seem to want to take absolutely everything with them - even the large freezer has been seen in the attachment - sorry - awning of a trailer van. If you cannot travel without all that stuff why not just stay at home or go to an hotel?

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Progress or Fashion?

It was fascinating to hear *Charles Trevelyan's* description at the AGM of the expensive high-tech equipment A-S are installing to produce van panels with much greater precision so that everything will fit together in future without any final touch from a file or a plane, and assembly will be a less costly operation.

Perhaps it was a pity that shortly afterwards, as we disembarked from the coach for the cream tea, courtesy of Brownhills, there was a brand new Topaz on a T5 base in smart grey livery. Now, we have a four year old Topaz on a T4 which serves us very well, so we went over and had a look. Very smart inside and out, a glass panel to cover the sink area and another one over the hob instead of our boring old wood, and with sleek lines of the bare ledge above the sliding door and window opposite. Nothing to keep things from falling off the ledges, though. And, curiously, no curtains for the windows in the cab area. Must be a nuisance putting the lights out every time one dresses or undresses.

Our Topaz doesn't have those sleek lines when we are in residence; it has narrow troughs in place of the ledges each side containing table cloth, napkins, winder for the awning, reading matter, flower books, bird books, binoculars, crossword puzzles, note-paper, all of it anything but sleek. And a similar story for the wooden work-tops when we are stationary.

Now A-S is a very successful firm and clearly knows what it is doing and what its customers will buy. No doubt it has a design department which contains a customer research unit and a comprehensive collection of customer profiles. Probably we are included there under: "Elderly, came to A-S from camping under canvas and can't forget it".

And is the T5 aimed at the following? "Yuppies. Always eat out - kitchen only for breakfasts and drinks. Set great store by fashionable surroundings". But I'm sure that's a trade secret. At least it's nice to

know that, even though there may be no curtains at the front, everything fits to a thousandth of an inch.

*Margo and Colin Lumb*

Oh, dear, what an odd couple. Things must fit now to a small proportion of a millimetre. What on earth are these "inches"?

-----oooOOOooo-----

### *Chairman's Chat*

Well, the AGM is over for 2005.

What a weekend that was! You will see some other reports in this issue of the Newsletter so I will not try to enlarge, just say that everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

One high point, among many, was when during the AGM itself I, on behalf of the committee, proposed that *Barbara & John Cox*, be made Honorary Members of our Club. This is in

recognition of the work they have both done, originally in proposing the formation of the Club and afterwards in many and various ways to help the Club along. So far as I could see from the platform, everyone raised their hands in approval. (I did ask anyone who wanted to vote against to wait while we got hold of a sledgehammer to convince them otherwise!) Unfortunately, due to health problems, they have had to dispose of their van, Tuxedo Junction. Many people would think that this would have meant that they are no longer able to travel. Not a bit of it! In speaking to *Barbara* I learned that they have a coach holiday to the Isle of Wight booked, they intend to visit Burton-on-Trent to visit their old haunts, they will be looking after a dog for a relative and that they have all manner of other things in view.

The usual inter-denominational service, conducted by the Salvation Army, was a success as always. At the end *Charles Trevelyan*, our President, and I were able to present a cheque for £804.00 to the British Heart Foundation. Unfortunately the representative who should have accepted the cheque was unable to be with us because she had gone into hospital for an operation. So *Nora Venables* (where have we heard that name before?) received it on behalf of the Foundation. The money was raised through the raffle. A collection during the service raised the magnificent total of £188.95. So very many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

As you will no doubt have read in my report which was circulated with the AGM papers, I sincerely thank all the members of the committee for the support that I have received. It has been so much that I hardly feel that I have done any work!

*Harry Henthorne*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Canalside Sites

Can anybody help with CS or CL's on or near canals - even pubs will do! Just like to watch the boats and walk the towpaths.  
Phone: 017 4336 3628 E-mail: rhodsie@dotishome.fsnet.co.uk

*Keith and Diana Rhodes*

One obvious site is the Camping & Caravanning Club at Devizes which is just below the level of the Kennet and Avon canal, not far from the famous Caen series of locks.

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Factory News

The Auto-Sleepers Group has launched a new brand of motorhome. This range is marketed under the name of Orian Motorhomes but they are NOT badged as Auto-Sleepers, they are just built in the same factory.

We certainly wish them every success with the new range and will look forward to seeing the vans around the country, although not within the Club.

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Thanks

Please will you give my thanks to all the people that kindly remembered to bring cards for re-cycling, this is much appreciated and helps me to raise money for charity.

*Eileen Kellard.*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Power Surges

In the May Newsletter *John Hasling* mentioned the problem of surges in the mains supply which cause "spikes" on the power line. These were rarely problem with the old valves in electronic equipment but, as he describes, they can cause expensive damage to modern equipment full of transistors, integrated circuits and the like. Although circuit-breakers, fuses etc. react too slowly to protect your TV, video recorder and so on, there is a simple answer which will afford some

worthwhile protection.

You need to buy a "Surge protector power breaker" which looks like a fatter than usual 13Amp plug and contains components to filter out the worst of the problem. The plug can be connected in the usual way to vulnerable equipment, but the plug will work if simply plugged into a spare socket at home or in the van and the socket left switched on. Most good electrical shops should sell these plugs, particularly if they sell computers.

*Albert Brown*

-----ooO000ooo-----

## Exchange

Ford Flair (Reg 'P', 'R' or 'S', petrol or diesel) in vg condition sought in exchange for a 1996 (P) Duetto, 2500cc diesel. Only 29,000 miles, green upholstery with cat 1 alarm, Fiamma awning and bike rack, Status TV aerial and booster, separate external TV jack, alloy wheels, many extras. Non smokers, no pets, one wife (not included) all in above average condition. Cash adjustment may be appropriate. Tel: Jim King on 015 3163 3710 or e-mail [jnaking@onetel.com](mailto:jnaking@onetel.com) (Ledbury, Herefordshire) Thanks for the donation.

-----ooO000ooo-----

## For Sale

Peugeot Talbot Talisman GL MkII, 1991, 2L petrol. 35,000 miles. 4 berth. Fiamma awning and cycle rack, oven and grill, shower and 3-2ay fridge, blown air heating. 2 new batteries, Status aerial, immobiliser. Service history. MOT May '06; tax Oct. '05. No pets, non smokers. Excellent condition. Just fully serviced ready to drive away. £11,950.00 ono. Also available. Stainless steel tubular bumper for above. Excellent condition but has a very slight kink. £25.00 ono. Telephone Tracey Jaffé on 016 0372 2999 or 07 766 663 886 (Rackheath, Norfolk)



#####

Car-A-Tow professional car towing "A-Frame", unbraked, complete with a 1994 'L' reg Fiat Cinquecento, metallic green, MOT till November, taxed till March '06. 42K genuine miles. Vgc. Ready to tow. £780.00. Tel: Reg Lowe on 015 0251 4678 or e-mail [jrlowe@onetel.com](mailto:jrlowe@onetel.com) (Lowestoft)

#####

Talisman 2.8 HDI, March 2004 model. Only 7,000 miles. Immaculate condition. Full service history. Non smokers, no pets or children. £2,000.00 worth of extras including 3-bike rack, TV, Harrison tent extension, Sigma alarm, Tailor-made

winter cover. Save £7,000.00 on basic new model. Bargain at £31,950.00 ono.  
Phone Tom King on 013 2923 5417 (Fareham, Hants)  
Thanks for the donation.



#####  
Amethyst, 2.5 TD in good order. Fitted for 2. New October '95. Bought by us Oct. '99 (Mileage 25,000), current mileage 30,000. Regularly serviced. MOT to October '05. Alarm. New tyres '02, new vehicle battery '04; leisure battery '02. Fiamma bike carrier. Offers around £12,500.00. Contact Beryl and Brian Weeden on 012 4656 7522 or e-mail [bb.weeden@tesco.net](mailto:bb.weeden@tesco.net) (Chesterfield)  
Thanks for the donation.

#####  
Ford Duetto, 2.5 diesel, 'V' reg November '99, LWB. 30,000 miles. FSH, VGC, no smokers, pets or children. All A-S refinements, F45 Fiamma and Free Standing awning used once. Alarmed. Two bike rack, Briefcase solar panel, reversing aid. MOT till May 2006, Taxed till april 2006. £19,500.00. Tel: Bryan Jones on 019 4267 1377 (Leigh, Lancs.)  
Thanks for the donation.

#####  
"Classic Clubman" (pre 1990) overcab conversion kit to 2 berth and more storage. Believe also suitable for early Talismans. Partition with door creating large full width cupboard plus two standard side lockers. Usual A-S light oak finish, partition has beige ridged fabric, easy to replace if required. £35.00 ono. Tel: Ken Dobbs on 015 9482 4912 (Cinderford, Glos.)  
Thanks for the donation.

#####  
Peugeot Boxer 2.5 turbo diesel Talisman GX, August '99. Four berth, Omnistor canopy, Beeny Box, auto satellite dish, BBQ point, radio/cassette with extra speakers. Full service history, non smokers, no pets. One owner from new. Excellent condition. £21,500.00 ono. Telephone Barry or June Dee on 013 8487 2654 (West Midlands)

#####  
Two Brampton T5 folding bikes; black; front carrier & Bag; 5 speed; covers; folding L/H pedal. £350.00 each of £600.00 for both. Tel: Pam & Ron Hall on 015 2523 7035 (Leighton Buzzard, Beds)  
Thanks for the donation.

#####  
Fiamma Ultra Box 360 - Capacity 360 ltrs - Dimensions 147(L) 38 (d) x 70(h) cms. Cost £249.95 new accept £50. Obviously used but in good condition. Contact John or Carol Whalley on 01524 701235 or email [carol.whalley2@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:carol.whalley2@fiscali.co.uk) (Silverdale, Camforth, Lancashire).  
Thanks for the donation.

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## 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
No post as yet	Mike Valentine	023 9248 2818

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 \*\*\*\*\*

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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](mailto:normacaley@tiscali.co.uk) All enquiries regarding non-receipt of Newsletters and other membership enquiries should be addressed to her.