

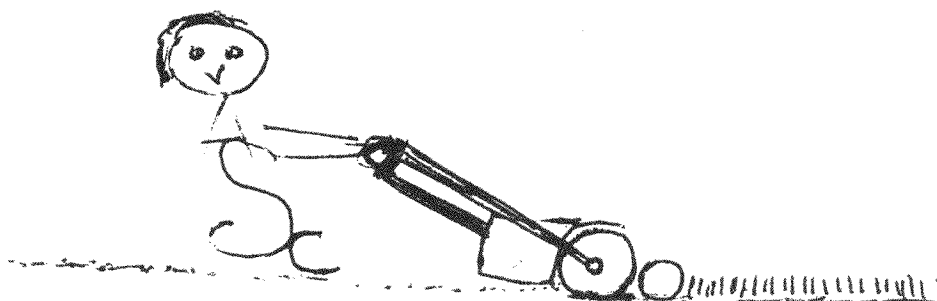


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# ***AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB***

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

Tidy up the garden before the Rally season



You can use my mower at any time  
**provided that**  
It stays in MY garden!

***NEWSLETTER 202  
JULY 2005***

Hello.

It is that time of the year again when *Sheila and I* get away for a bit of a break. For that reason, as I said last month, I have closed down for the receipt of items for the Newsletter rather earlier than usual. Six whole days earlier, in fact. Possibly as a result, or possibly because it is the season where everyone else is out and about and not given to writing bits for insertion, I am a little short of items for this month. So I have added a few little 'fillers' which have been kindly sent in to me in the past and kept for such an occasion. I shall also restrict this issue to sixteen pages instead of the usual twenty. Sorry about that, but I'm sure you will understand - and if you don't, well - tough!

I have received nothing from the factory this month so perhaps they will be able to supply an item for next time. To everyone else, please keep the stuff coming in for YOUR Newsletter. I can only put together what you send me.

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## Cleaning GRP bodies

Last October I asked in the newsletter about the cleaning of GRP bodies. Much advice was forthcoming, in particular replies appeared in the November Newsletter from *Geoff Williamson, Chris Neal, Charles Trevelyan and Alan Robbins*.

My choice of the several suggestions offered was first to see which products I could most easily obtain. Being in the midst of seafarers (in Guemsey), and without a motorhome dealer nearer than the distance across the channel of 80 miles, I found that I could purchase the range of International Paints products from a marine chandler locally.

After many (10-12) hours cleaning - not hard work, just time consuming, I am delighted with the "as new" appearance of the bodywork, and have no hesitation in recommending these cleaners for GRP use. Never before have I seen a shampoo/detergent clean so beautifully.

My thanks to all who kindly supplied information of products and their experiences.

*Eric Ferbrache.*

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## Baby's Carry Cot

Does anyone have experience of making provision of a base for a baby's carry cot, or similar, for overnight use, also for safe travelling. Our first thoughts for overnight is something in the cab seats area, lightweight with perhaps webbing etc. or maybe utilising a table top. The travelling

generally can possibly be with the child car seat and the fitted safety belts but the carry cot may need to be used. We have a 1997 2 berth Talisman (no Luton bed).

Please contact us by tel/fax. on 016 0865 0762; or by email to [oneillm@lineone.net](mailto:oneillm@lineone.net)

*Carole & Michael O'Neill*

*Mike* also told me that he had made several "adjustments" to his van and I would suggest that he should offer these ideas to our Technical Support people. *Baz Wellard's* phone number is on the back page of the Newsletter, and I am sure that he will be pleased to receive any ideas for improvements to the vans.

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Grandma**

The computer swallowed Grandma

Yes, honestly, it's true.

She pressed 'control' and 'enter'

And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,

The thought just makes me squirm.

She must have caught a virus

Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin

And files of every kind.

I've even used the Internet

But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves

My searches to refine

The reply from him was negative.

Not a thing was found 'on line'.

So if, inside your 'inbox'

My Grandma you should see

Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her

And send her back to me!

*Anne Rose* sent this little gem for your amusement.

-----oooOOOooo-----

## LOCKING WHEEL BOLTS

Locking wheelbolts for Boxers with standard alloy wheels. When you consider that the alloy wheel and tyre combination on some new vans costs more than £1000.00 to replace a little security should give some peace of mind. These bolts are now available to order from Peugeot dealers. Part No. 9607F6 for the 15" and 9607F7 for the 16", both priced at £48.85 +VAT £57.28 inc. They seem to be well made but the fitting has thrown up a small problem. Namely the condition of the original wheel bolts. Peugeot saw fit to equip the van with chromed wheel bolts and all of these are showing signs of rust at 8 months old. When I asked about replacements under warranty the answer, in effect, was that if they are holding the wheels on then they are not defective and therefore will not be replaced under warranty. At £4.50 + vat each they are not cheap.

*Pete Fisher*

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## Travelling in Scotland

At the beginning of June last year, having just bought our first motorhome, *Bob and I* spent two glorious weeks touring the Dumfries and Galloway area of Scotland and then the west coast, up to and including the Isle of Arran. Whilst on the Isle of Arran we noticed that on some evenings there were swarms of mozzies but that the next evening there were none to be seen! Can anyone explain this phenomenon and let us know how best to avoid these horrible creatures and whether we are likely to be bothered again later this year when we are considering spending two weeks during mid-September around the Loch Lomond area.

*Stella Luck*

I think that you really mean "midges" rather than "mozzies". It is a well known fact that these pests are prevalent up in Scotland and indeed in some other areas in the northermost parts of England too. There does appear to be a "season" for midges which I believe is in the early to middle part of the year so you might get away with things in September time. We have noticed that they appear to be prevalent near water, such as in the parkland at Ayr, around the lochs and along rivers.

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## Vehicle Design

In reply to *Anne and Phil Sanders* article in the February Newsletter. We have owned a 2001 Symbol (this being our first

motorhome) for 3 years and are generally very pleased with it, accepting that it has got, like all motorhomes, its limitations. We have compared ours to the new model and although A-S have 'modernised' some aspects of it, we are not convinced that it is an improvement as far as the practicalities of actually 'living' in it goes. In particular, there has been no simplification of bed make-up and, from memory, the storage seems to be slightly inferior.

Having tried every which way of using the various 'spare bed parts' supplied, both in double and single configuration, we finally came to the conclusion that they could be dispensed with entirely. We prefer using the single bed configuration because it is much easier to make those little journeys to the loo without clambering over one another and whoever gets up first in the morning does not disturb the other and has more room to move around in.

To make single beds, without any 'spare bed parts', first push both front seats forward as normal (although they only need to just touch the front console, rather than needing to be rammed up against it in order to insert the spare parts supplied). Remove the settee end arm rest (we put this on the passenger seat out of the way) and pull the rear passenger seat out as normal, then simply lay the settee back rest (with its back down) across the two front seat mountings. We have made two plastic backed covers to put on the seat mounts at this stage to protect the settee back. Although the settee back is not quite long enough to go the full width of the van, it is big enough with pillows in place (if you sleep head forwards) or with your feet on it (if you sleep head aft) that you will never notice. We have been using this configuration for about 18 months and now wouldn't consider any other way. I should point out that the finished beds are about an inch or so shorter doing it this way but as we are both 'shorties' (the taller being 5' 8") it doesn't bother us.

The double bed can also be made up without 'spare parts', if you are not overly tall and can lay across the van. Simply pull the rear passenger seat and settee base units out as normal and lay the settee back down on the exposed settee base. There is a small gap of an inch or so left between the settee back and the side wall of the van but again it is not noticed when pillows are put in place. Hey presto! Both single beds and a double with no 'spare parts' to store. We are assuming that the bed bits on the latest model are the same as on the earlier ones. If A-S made the settee back in two pieces (held together with Velcro perhaps) the single beds wouldn't even need to have the

small gap at the sides. And if the back was an inch or so higher, all beds would be the same size as normal.

With regard to storage. We have removed the wire basket and one of the runners from the rear seat compartment to make more room and can store all our bedding in there (two large sleeping bags and four full size pillows all packed into four compression bags). The compartment also holds the jack and brace, two wheel chocks, an aerial extension lead and the covers for the front seat mounts. Incidentally, the space between the seat box and the front lower part of the seat is ideal for storing the A-S folder even bulging with additional literature. Hold it in place with a wide piece of elastic stretched and screwed in place or similar. Just pull the seat slightly forward to gain access - easiest from outside the van with the side door open.

With all the bed bits dispensed with, the top box is then to be used for all the clothing that doesn't otherwise go into the wardrobe. And there is still room to spare. Our tins go in two cut down wine boxes complete with their cardboard inserts that are stored in the compartment under the oven, it having been strengthened by adding underside supports at each side in the middle. Is there still such a compartment on the new model? And has the under sink drop-down compartment gone? I can't remember. This is great for all those flat things - trays, cutting boards, collapsible basket etc., as well as having the cutlery tray.

We have utilised the spaces between the rear doors for storage - one for a piece of extra work surface (that fits between the sink unit and the bathroom side) and the other (top section only) for a slim book case. The large A-S table is.....left at home in the loft! This leaves space for a slim home made fold-up table (for external use) to be slotted in the space between the rear seat and the gas cupboard wall. The 'spare' cavity in the water heater compartment under the settee (not visible) has been converted to store a good sized tool box and up to 8 cans of beer! Easy access to the heater drain-down tap still being provided. I gather that others have made even more adventurous adaptations to their Symbols

With regard to the shower, I have never spoken to anyone who has used it except in an 'emergency'. In addition to the one you highlight, condensation could also be a real problem even with the vent open. Your experience of being smitten with the inside of a motorhome but finding living with it a different experience only reinforces the fact that what a designer thinks will work well (and look good) may not work in practice. It seems that more prolonged practical testing (by experiences motorhomers) is needed at the prototype stage.

Having said all this, we love our Symbol. We regularly go to the Lakeland Fells and have no problem accommodating all our walking gear. The longest trip we have made so far was for just over three weeks touring France and, with the few adjustments we have made, found no problem with storage. Hope there is something of interest in here for other members. Er - yes - the blinds do rattle but you kind of get used to it.

*Janet and Graham Franklin*

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## **From the Technical Group & Website**

Tips: Two tips from the Technical Group. 1st - if you have a mirror fitted internally it is advisable to ask your glazier to fit a 'safety backing' to the rear of the mirror to reduce any chance of the glass splintering, should it be damaged. 2nd - Tony Fowler, who is a member and is very experienced in motorhome/caravan maintenance, advises that you should always keep the cover on the outlet of the Carver water heater - when it is not on gas. The problem is (as can happen) a spider can get inside and lay a web which takes a costly 4 hours to strip down, clean and replace!

Ideas: Three more Ideas sheets have now been approved/or are awaiting approval\*;

No. 109                    Ideas for a Pollensa

No. 110\*                Repairing loose screws on bed/seat cushions

No. 111\*                Removing black specks in toilet flushing system

Website: The website has, hopefully, been updated by the time this Newsletter has been published with: a report on the AGM & Taunton rallies; the Q&A's at the AGM; plus other minor amendments

*Baz Wellard*

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## **Thank You**

A big thank you to all who responded to our request for canal sites. The information was very much appreciated. Thank you all.

*Diana and Keith Rhodes*

That shows one of the things which this Club of ours is all about. Helping each other with advice and guidance on all sorts of different things.

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# Charity Donation

You will remember that the raffle at the AGM brought forward a donation which was made to the British Heart Foundation. We have received the following from them.



Central England

Cannon House  
2255 Coventry Road  
Sheldon  
Birmingham  
B26 3NX

T • 0121 722 6350

F • 0121 742 9571

E • region8@bhf.org.uk

W • bhf.org.uk

Ms J Jones  
Community Fundraising and Volunteer Manager  
Tel/fax 01384 376266  
Email [jjonesj@bhf.org.uk](mailto:jjonesj@bhf.org.uk)

Mrs N Venables  
15 Langley Gardens  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands

1<sup>st</sup> June 2005

Dear Norah,

**Re: The Auto-sleeper Owners Club – AGM 2005 – Newark**

I am writing to thank you for all your efforts in organizing a fund-raising raffle in aid of the British Heart Foundation, the nation's heart charity. A generous amount of £804 was raised and grateful thanks go to all those who contributed at the recent AGM/raffly.

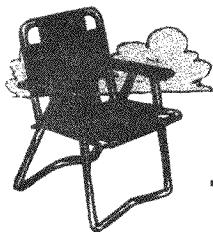
I was pleased to learn that the Heartstart training was also successful and I am sure this will give people added comfort that they could handle an emergency should one arise.

It has been delightful to meet you and your husband and I wish you both happy traveling in the future. Don't forget to take it easy occasionally!

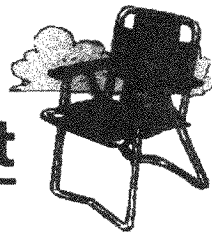
Kind regards,

  
Janet Jones  
BHF Community Fundraising and Volunteer Manager  
The Black Country and South Staffs.

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# July 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.*

**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 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.**

**11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July (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 1AE 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 correct 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 sfter the 30mph sign.

**Limited to 50 vans.**

**19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. August ( 5 nights)Topsham Rugby Club,Nr.Exeter,Devon.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07890876859 (Marshals's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Elizabeth & Bryn Morgan (Tel.No. 0161 432 4869) & Nora & Ven Venables.(01902 332 105).

Site Fees:£6.00 per night. Rally Fee:£2.18 singles,£4.35 couples.All include VAT.

This is a ***green field site*** with fresh water & Elsan emptying point. NO electricity.We will be able to use the club's toilets during the day.We will plan a roster so we can use the one communal shower.

Please send cheques,payable to B.Morgan,rally slips & ***SAE*** to 44 Mersey Road, Heaton Mersey,Stockport.SK4 3DJ. Directions & confirmation of booking will be sent to you.

**DOGS are allowed but please state on slip if you are bringing a dog.They must be exercised off the site.**

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

**Attractions:**Topsham is a delightful small town situated on the River Exe.It has an historic quay,ferries across the river and an excellent bus & train service to Exeter City.The town has a good range of shops,eating places,pubs & an open air heated swimming pool.The nearby River Clyst has a nature reserve,popular with bird watchers.Dartmoor National Park is a short drive away.The rugby club is 300yds from the town. **LIMIT 35 Vans.**

**25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. August 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>. September. (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 **£20.00** per adult & **£8.00** 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.**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. September (2 nights) 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.

**9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. September Motorhome & RV Show, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.**

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

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

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

Rally Fee: £2.35 (Incl. VAT). Send rally fees, £2.35 with rally slip & SAE for Show application form to Mrs. J. Hicklin, 381 Manor Road, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. S43 1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236 157 **by 18<sup>th</sup>. August.**

**Show application forms to be returned to the organisers, Stone Leisure, by 25<sup>th</sup>. August.**

**9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>. September (2 nights) Ludlow Food & Drink Festival Ludlow Secondary School, Ludlow, Shropshire.**

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

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

Site Fee: £6.50 per night. (Incl. VAT). Rally Fee: £2.35 (Incl. VAT). **Total fees £15.35.**

**NO ELECTRICITY**. Rally slips to Mr. I.C. Barnett, Highlevel, Farden Bitterley, Nr. Ludlow, Shropshire. SY8 3HU. Tel.No. 01584 890 428. Cheque payable to I.C. Barnett. Please enclose a SAE (C5 9X6) for directions etc. **GREENFIELD** site with all level hardstandings, heated hall for evenings. Saturday evening American Supper.

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

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

**Directions:** A49 from South follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs. At 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout turn **left**, following signs go under railway bridge and turn **right** at the sign and left into Leisure Centre Car Park. On A49 from North follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs on B4361 turn **right** into Leisure Centre Car Park. Follow ASOC signs. **Limit of 35 vans**. Rally closes at 4.00 p.m. Sunday. **DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 4.30 p.m. FRIDAY.**

**12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. September (4 nights) Whitmead C.P., Wool, Dorset.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07714550731 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Alan Potter.

Site Fees: £5.10 per night plus £2.00 per night for electrics, if required. Rally Fee: £ 2.35 **per person**. All include VAT. Booking slips & cheques to: Barbara Potter, Westbrook, Mill Lane, Monks Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9LG. Tel.No. 01844 274 021.

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

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

**15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. September (3 nights). Northern Motorcaravan Show, York Racecourse.**

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

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

Rally Fee: £2.00 (couples), £1.50 (singles) Both incl. VAT. **Please remember to send a rally slip and cheque for the Rally Fee** payable to N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325 374 540 **to arrive NO later than 6<sup>th</sup>. Sept.** The special Club site fees: - arrive Thursday £30.00, arrive Friday £27.00, arrive Saturday £24. You may either use the form enclosed in this Newsletter or fill in an application form from MMM or Which M'Van using the special fees and mark the form ***A.S.O.C*** in large letters. **Send this form back to the organisers, Warners** with the site fees, **before 26<sup>th</sup>. August**. Applicants after this date **cannot rally with the Club**.

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September. (3 nights) Masham Sheep fair, Old Station Holiday Park, Masham, North Yorks.**

Emergency tel. Nos. 07961 987 412 (Robin) & 07881 712 786 (Valerie).

Rally Marshals: Valerie & Robin Gardner.

Site Fee: £8.00 per night. Electric optional £2.50 per night. Awning extra

Rally Fee: £6.00 couples, £4.00 singles. All include VAT.

Rally slips & cheques payable to R.C. Gardner, Maranu, 13 Carrington Avenue, Flackwell Heath, Bucks. HP10 9AL Tel. No. 01628 522 363. Please include a SAE for confirmation. You may also put your mobile Tel. No. on slip if you wish.

Saturday evening meal followed by Games evening. Sunday evening quiz. Please indicate on slip which meal(s) are required, £5.50 per person. [a] Shepherds Pie or [b] Vegetarian Lasagne followed by Apple Sponge & Custard.

\*Tea/Coffee & biscuits will be provided by the Tea Room.

**Attractions:** The Fair is an annual event for the showing of locally bred sheep. Other events include a sheep show, sheep racing, spinning & weaving demo, tours around two breweries, pottery & glass blowing, fleece stall, sheep dog demo, street procession etc, etc. All profits go to charity. There are many local places to eat & drink. The Sheep Fair is open Saturday & Sunday from 10.00 a.m. until about 4.00 p.m. LIMIT 25 Vans.

**29<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October. (3 nights) Marwell Zoological Park, Nr. Winchester, Hants. Full details in the August rally supplement.**

**NEW 30<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October (2 nights). Riverside C.P., Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire. Full details next month.**

**17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October (4 nights) Camping & Caravanning Club Site, Keswick. THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL**

*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.....

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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!**

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

Names of Adults.....

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Electricity: Yes  No  Evening meal if arranged: Yes  No

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

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

## *Sliding Seats*

In response to the recent letter regarding the difficulty of sliding front seats forward at bedtime, we have devised a very simple solution for our Symbol, which involves no welding or drilling.

Take a length of metal rod (approximately 5mm diameter will suffice) and bend in a vice to make an open hook at each end. For seats with a turntable, the hooks are fitted over the turntable lever and the seat slide bar, such that the bar remains in the lift position. The length of the device once the hooks have been fashioned is 97mm. The length of rod to achieve this is obviously longer. For seats without a turntable, the device is hooked over the metal frame supporting the seat swab and round the slide bar. The hooked ends must point in opposite directions, like a butchers' hook. The length of the device is 188mm. The seats can then be pushed from the rear with ease.

It is of course very important to remove the hooks before driving the vehicle, otherwise both driver and passenger will end up too close to the dashboard!

*Cynthia and Terry Gough*

Knowing what my memory is like, I would need a large notice in front of the steering wheel - "Take the Hooks off!!"

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Seat Covers**

I have had a set of seat covers made for my Symbol by Fibratrim, who did some of the original upholstery. The set includes both cab seats, the bench seat and the rear forward facing seat plus the head restraints. They were made up in the original material but did not include the green inserts, since my van is green anyway this suited me. The total cost for this is around £300.00 + VAT, or £352.50 Including VAT. They are tailored to fit and elasticated where necessary. This company is prepared to make sets up for other vehicles but obviously this would be subject to measurements and requirements. Fibratrim can be reached on 015 4367 1433.

*Pete Fisher*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Sagging Headlining**

Last summer on a particularly warm (dare I say hot?) English day, I noticed a few sage (bulges) in the headlining of our 2001 Symbol. The fabric was parting company with the underlying roof material that it is ll

assume) glued to. Attempts to push the material back were partially successful but the condition only returned to normal when the temperature dropped. Later in the year we went to France and experienced temperatures of nearly 100° F. As you can imagine, the number and size of the bulges increased in proportion to the temperature rise and all attempts to flatten them out were unsuccessful. It appeared that the adhesive had failed, possibly assisted by the expansion in the hot weather of very small pockets of trapped air.

Upon returning to a chilly England the headlining returned to normal (well, almost!). Has anybody else experienced this problem? If so I would be very interested to hear from them or from A-S themselves as the vehicle is only 4 years old with details of a possible cure -- other than either having the whole headlining replaced, which I assume would be a 'big job' or, of course, taking our holidays in Arctic regions in future!

*Janet and Graham Franklin*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **How did we survive?**

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 30's, 40's and 50's probably shouldn't have survived. Our baby cots were covered in brightly coloured lead based paint which was promptly chewed and licked. We had no 'childproof' lids on medicine bottles, nor latches on doors or cabinets and it was fine to play with pans. When we rode our bikes, we wore no helmets, just flip flops and fluorescent 'clackers', on our wheels.

As children we would ride in cars (if our people had them) with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the front passenger seat was a treat. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle, it still tasted the same. We ate dripping sandwiches, bread and butter pudding and drank fizzy pop with sugar in it. But we were never overweight because we were always outside playing. We shared one drink with four friends from one bottle or can and no one actually died from this. We would spend hours building go karts out of scraps and then went down the holl only to find out that we had forgotten the brakes. After running into stinging nettles a few times, we learned to solve the problem. We would leave home in the morning and play all day. As long as we were back before it got dark. Nobody was able to reach us and no one minded.

We did not have Play Stations or X boxes, no video games at all. No 99 channels on TV, no videotape movies, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no internet chat rooms. We had

friends. We went outside and found them. We played elastics and street rounders and sometimes that ball really hurt. We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth and there were no law suits. They were accidents. We learned not to do the same things again. We had fights, punched each other hard and got black and blue but we learned to get over it.

We walked to friends homes. We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate live stuff. And although we were told it would happen, we did not have many eyes out, nor did the live stuff live in us forever. We rode bikes in packs of 7 and wore coats only by the hood. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected.

The idea of a parent bailing you out if you broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! Imagine that!! These generations have produced some of the best risk takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility and we learned how to deal with it all. And you, dear reader, may well be one of us. Congratulations!

Please pass this on to others who had the luck to grow up as real kids, before lawyers and government regulated our lives "for your own good". If you aren't old enough to be one of us, thought you might like to read about us!

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Eastern Europe and Russia**

Last year our Trident took us to Scandinavia, Russia as far as St. Petersburg and also the the Baltic States. We have now completed our story of the four and a half week trip and anyone who would like a copy, or would like our advice, please ring us on 019 3485 2568.

The Baltics we would particularly recommend. Safe, clean and friendly, and cheap, but this will change! Anyone considering Russia may welcome some tips. We did a similar trip in 1982 and it is interesting to note the changes. The 1982 story is still available as is the 1999 trip to Poland.

*Margaret and Tim Pritchard*

These much travelled folk kindly sent me a copy of the story but, as it extends to 43 A4 sized pages, not including the cover and the map, there is no way that I could include it in full in the Newsletter. I certainly would not attempt to offer a precis, either. But, very briefly, they covered 3,500 miles and used five ferries during the trip. Maybe they

could offer advice to the *Franklins* (see above) because from the map it looks as though St. Petersburg is further north than John o' Groats!!

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **A little Flying story**

One day the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. This it did and the DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?"

The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger. "Yes, I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one".

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **DEALER SERVICE ?**

All too often we read of bad service from some dealer or other. We met up with a charming couple in Ireland who had another case of poor service, although not with an A-S van (but the dealer concerned does have such an agency). They had bought a brand new van and this was their "shakedown" cruise.

Having agreed the part exchange details the deal was completed within 45 minutes. Their old van was whisked away, the cheque was taken from them and they were requested to sign various bits of paper work. Only then were they taken in to the new purchase.

Fourteen and a half minutes later the salesman had, apparently, shown them where this and that was and how the things worked and then excused himself because he had another appointment. Somewhat bemused and bewildered they were waved off the premises. The drive home was not a happy one because a number of faults became obvious.

They telephoned the dealer but the salesman was the only person they should deal with and he was not available. Try tomorrow. When we met up with them in Ireland they were still trying to get an appointment to take the van back, some 2 - 3 weeks after the purchase. We had to show them where to switch on the electrics. This "service" (if you'll pardon the expression) is just not good enough.

Perhaps we, the users of these products, ought to get together and make up a list of dealers who are good and those who are bad. If we did do this, it might make some of them take notice and, perhaps, not ask for such large deposits. And also remember that, with the ages of some

of their patrons, there could easily be some need to have a means of refund in cases where it is very necessary.

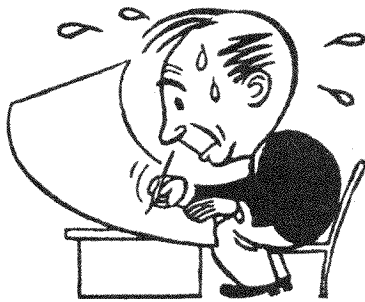
Maybe we have all been daft in letting them get away with it.

*Geoff Williamson*

This has always been a problem when people come into contact with "salesmen" (and presumably "saleswomen" too). I don't mean those who are genuinely trying to help their customers, but those whose only interest appears to be how much commission they can make for themselves. Perhaps one of the commercial publications could start a list such as that suggested but I don't imagine that they would because the dealers are advertisers in their magazines.

-----ooO000oo-----

### *Chairman's Chat*



It just goes to show how well thought of these vans of our are. We were driving along in London recently when we passed a parked coachbuilt of another make but which had the word "Autosleeper" emblazoned on the back. Not in too big a print but big enough to be noticed. I presume that in legal terms this is probably a breach of copyright or something but I like to

think that it is a mark of respect, however ill thought out.

This is supposed to be summer time. I seem to remember the pundits suggesting that we might have a hot summer this year although I cannot remember the reason for it. But, having seen an item on the television news broadcast recently about the state of the reservoirs, particularly in the south of the country resulting from what was apparently an extremely dry winter, I can only suggest that if we get a lot of rain, we probably need it. But again, knowing the motorhoming fraternity, it won't stop them from going hither and yon and thoroughly enjoying themselves as usual. So it is raining outside - it's nice and dry and warm inside the van. Get out a book, a hobby or the TV and bother the outside world! As I had a reputation for always getting good weather for my holidays when I was working and I still seem to have retained it even now, I'm looking forward to the next couple of weeks!

I hope that we shall return refreshed and relaxed. Then I shall be able to chair the committee with renewed vigour (whatever that may

bel) and that is something which I shall also look forward to. There are a couple of interesting items which we shall need to discuss before too long.

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **Obituary**

It is with great regret that we inform you and all those who knew her that *Marion Tullett*, wife of *Ray Tullett*, passed away peacefully after a short fight against cancer on Wednesday, 1st June 2005. Many will remember both of them from the Club and Company rally and many other rallies. Particularly the New Year rally at Hidden Valley where they were our ever present helpers and gave great support to us running this event.

Our sincere condolences are sent to *Ray* and their family at this sad time.

*Sandra and Bernie Wisely*  
-----oooOOOooo-----

## **A Reply**

Ref the letter on page 2 of the June Newsletter.

Dear Daphne and Colin,

We have a porch awning which is redundant/not required or wanted. Seeing your request spurred me into action (Ha! Ha!) The point being that we are making you an offer that may fill all the questions you have. We invite you to come to our home and try on such an awning. If you like it the cost is £50.00. We can erect the awning in our garden. If you have to travel some distance we can find you some space to park overnight.

If, after looking at the awning, you decide that it's not for you, then no problem. We are located near the Malvern Three Counties Show Ground in the village of Welland which is on the A.4104. Does this offer appeal to you both? Perhaps you would like to telephone me and let me know what your thoughts are.

Yours sincerely,  
*Geoff Williamson*

The telephone number is 016 8431 0431

-----oooOOOooo-----

## **SEEN IN A CHURCH MAGAZINE**

Don't allow worry to kill you off - let the church help.

Potluck supper on Sunday at 5.00 pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

## For Sale

June Dee sent a donation in respect of a "For Sale" notice which appeared last month. Many thanks

#####

Darema Highlander Awning only used once. I am looking for around £200.00 ono. I live in Farnham, Surrey, Phone Tony Cockerton (evening) on 012 5271 3504.



#####

Famma Ultra Box 360 - Capacity 360 ltrs - Dimensions 147(l) 38 (d) x 70(h) cms. Cost £249.95 new accept £50.00. Obviously used but in good condition. Contact John or Carol Whalley on 015 2470 1235 or email [carol.whalley2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:carol.whalley2@tiscali.co.uk) (Silverdale, Camforth, Lancashire). Thanks for the donation.

#####

Dayhon folding bikes, 3 speed, in red. Complete with carry bags and instructions. Two, as new. £100.00 each ovno. Fiamma aluminium levelling ramps. 4 pieces. Will last a lifetime. Cost £90.00, accept £30.00. Bulldog heavy duty wheel clamp to fit 15" / 16" wheels. 2 keys and fitting instructions. £25.00. Phone Brian Metcalfe on 011 5967 6237 (Nottingham).

#####

Watling Towbar to fit Talsman/Executive on Talbot/Citroen/Fiat chassis. Bought last year and fitted to 1993 van but should fit all monocoque Talbot vans. In VGC complete with all fittings including double electric pack. Pics available via email. £150.00 ono Kev Beckett Tel: 015 25381 941 (Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire)

#####

Scooter rack, Rack & roll type, stainless steel. To fit tow bracket. £150.00. Tel: Frank Hopkinson on 017 0684 7698 (Oldham, Lancs) Thanks for the donation.

#####

Drive Away type green/grey awning, approx 10 foot square, with curtains. Suitable for Hi-top (with 'J' guttering). Good condition. £80.00 ono. Could deliver Hants/Dorset area. Tel: Jean and Colin Marjoram on 012 5845 0240 (Blandford Forum). Thanks for the donation.

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No post as yet	Mike Valentine	023 9248 2818

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