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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Happy Christmas, Everyone

NEWSLETTER 207
DECEMBER 2005

Hello.

I can start this month with some very good news, for me at least. At the last meeting *Peter Brown* was introduced to and then co-opted on to the committee. He will be taking over the editorship of the Newsletter with effect from the February 2006 issue. I thought that it would be unfair of me to ask him to take over from January because, as you will all know, the date for receipt of items for the January issue has to be brought forward to the 5th of December to give me time to get things sorted and off to the printer.

Peter explained to the committee that his partner, *Chris Mawdesley*, will be playing an active role in the preparation of the Newsletter with him, very much as *Sheila* has been doing during my editorship. Both *Chris and Peter*, have good experience in this realm so I for one shall look forward to future issues. With my very grateful thanks too!

My thanks are due to the very many contributors who have so ably sent items for YOUR Newsletter. They have helped me to put together so many issues which all seem to have been appreciated.

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National Rally 2006

At the A.G.M this year and again as a result of the Questionnaires, I had requests for tours around Newark. I have explored the possibility and have made provisional bookings for the following.

Sherwood Travel have a 15 seater coach with a tour guide and are prepared to run 2 tours on Friday, Saturday and possibly Sunday. Each tour will last approximately one and a half hours and there are one or two places where it impossible to take the coach so it does mean a little walking. These tours have to be booked and paid for in advance and quite early the cost will be £5.00 per person. This sum is non returnable.

Will interested members please contact me with a rally slip giving details of Names, Membership No. And the preferred day of the tour together with a cheque made payable to Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club for the appropriate amount depending upon the number of seats to be reserved.. The first 90 seats booked will be successful. After that I may have to renegotiate.

The provisional booking that I have made lasts only until 31st January 2006. If you wish to book, my address is 15 Langley Gardens, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, WV3 7JN. Telephone/fax: 019 0733 2105.

Nora Venables

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Can anyone help?

We purchased a 1999 'T registered' VW Clubman GL earlier this year. In the vehicle handbooks there appears to be three booklets missing. Previous owners of the vehicle have been unable to help and Volkswagen and their dealers have been most unhelpful.

The vehicle is a 2.5TDi with automatic transmission, and the booklets are 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 Controls and Equipment Parts 1 and 2, and 3.3 Technical Data. Is there anyone who has these booklets either to spare or could let me have them copied? All costs etc would be willingly paid. We can be contacted on 012 9823 978 or e.mailed on william.ward2@virgin.net

Joan and Bill Ward.

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Check Those Typng Errers

A Wigan couple decided to go to Benidorm to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules, so the husband left Wigan and flew out on Thursday, with his wife due to fly down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife.

However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and without realizing his error, sent the e-mail. Meanwhile, somewhere in Chester, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a Church Minister who had passed away following a heart attack. The widow decided to check her e-mail expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I've Arrived

Date: February 16, 2005

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I've seen to it that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P. S. Sure is hot down here!

This item was sent in by *David Crabbe* who copied it from the magazine of his model aircraft club in Skelmersdale. It was apparently written by one of that club's members, Mr Steve Hargreaves. So we thank both him and that magazine for the story.

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An Ode to a Lakeland Rally

The rally, it started on Monday.
The welcome as warm as could be.
On Tuesday we sailed, then walked by the lake.
The vistas were lovely to see.
That night we went to a centre
And got the results of a quiz.
Then came a game - Seeking 'railways
Which got us in a bit of a tizz

Later on that very same evening
We'd bingo with numbers we had to delete
These were called, some not very clearly
By a man name of Mexican Pete.
On Wednesday the morning was free
Each our own pleasure to partake
Then we all went to watch that Dick Barton
At the theatre down by the lake.

On Thursday some went out walking,
Some following a town treasure trail.
Others went backstage at 'theatre
Yet more went to 'pub for some ale.
That night we had a fish supper
Then back to the centre once more.
The raffle was held. Some won prizes
Some two, and one even four.

But too soon the rally was ended
And I'm at the end of my rhyme
So to *Peter* and *Sue* and to *Jenni* and *Geoff*
Thanks! We had a really great time
Jean & Ian Sellers
(with apologies to Wordsworth et al!)

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Stress Test

The picture on page 7 has two dolphins in it. It was used in a case study of stress levels with patients in a hospital.

Look at both dolphins jumping out of the water. The dolphins are almost identical. A closely monitored scientific study revealed that in spite of this, a person under stress will find differences between them.

If a person should see many differences between the dolphins it means that the person is experiencing a significant amount of stress. Look at the picture. If you find more than one or two differences you may need to take a vacation - or go to a rally!! Check now!!

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Dealer Service

I was surprised to read *Tony Crockett*'s letter in the August Newsletter regarding the service of Marquis Newbury branch as I've experienced just the opposite customer after care service. I attended the Shepton Mallet show (fatal) in January this year and was very smitten with a Duetto on display by Marquis as a Demonstration vehicle and truly just what I had been looking for. The bill of exchange was completed and when I asked the Manager of Newbury the mileage I was told just 904 miles on the clock, which was right I thought for a demonstration vehicle just four months old (on the bill of exchange in the mileage box the word "Demo" was written).

Two weeks later with all the money safely netted into Marquis bank account (not willing to accept a bankers draft on collection now) I drove from Bristol to Newbury to collect my dream vehicle and noticed instantly a difference in Marquis's attitude as not even an offer of a cup of tea or coffee on arrival. I was told a busy day and a tight schedule so if I could sign the necessary paper work (before an inspection) and then another person would take me through the hand over etc.

You can imagine my horror when I found out that the mileage clock actually read 4286 which when calculated means the vehicle had clocked over 44 miles per day of the vehicle's life. A couple of scratches on the rear wheel arch were quite predominant but I was told at the show these would easily rub out. A cutlery tray and fridge door trays missing but would be ordered that day and sent on to me.

When I got home and checking everything I found I had been given no Pin No or documentation for the Toad alarm fitted to the vehicle and NO OIL in the engine as the dip stick was completely dry which in Marquis eyes was just an oversight so in other words NO PDI

had taken place what so ever. Now some seven months on and NO offer sales service from Marquis despite numerous letters, requests to meet them to discuss matters etc and duly filling out Marquis customer Charter which they had the audacity to send me which I believe was just filed as again NO reaction to this form from Marquis.

I have just turned to our very loyal and helpful *Charles Trevelyan* who has kindly supplied the missing items and I'm still fighting my case on the other issues with Marquis. I plead, are there any good solicitors out there in Auto-Sleeper Owner's Club land that would perhaps offer me advice how I deal with this situation I now find myself in? I do think Marquis thought they were dealing with a single grey haired old Nannie that they could take for a complete ride but with the help of strong pep pills I intend to fight my case all the way. So beware, readers, of these big dealerships and do insist on a thorough check of your pride and joy before driving away.

Pauline Porter

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Regalia

Hi everyone! I'm still looking for Regalia items but, sorry to say, I have not come up with any new ideas as yet. One item I have been asked about is the A.S.O.C. windscreen sun visor. After many telephone calls I was informed that it was now illegal. I will try to get an update on that if I can.

If everything has gone to plan you should find a Regalia Price List and Order form with this Newsletter.

Hope to see you all at the next rally I attend, but don't forget - if you want a good informal weekend away with good food, good entertainment, good friends and loads more, come and join us for the National Rally at the Newark Showground. This will be over the May Bank Holiday weekend, Thursday 27th April - Monday 1st May 2006.

Wishing you all a very happy (motorhoming) Christmas and New Year.

John Jones

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Marwell Rally, Trouble and Friends

Trouble on our way up to Marwell was unexpected, as it always is. We stripped a tyre on the Bournemouth Spur Road. Fortunately for us the tyre did not deflate. We stopped, checked, donned our yellow jackets, hazard lights going, warning triangles placed, cleared bits of tyre



Two Dolphins ?

tread from the carriageway, tried to contact the RAC with mobile phone. Put on hold with music!!! Switched off! Two helpful police arrived, added cones out but still like suicide alley. RAC advised by police arrived, tyre changed for spare and we were on our way but unable to replace spare at Ringwood so carried on to Marwell. (Determined not to miss out on a good rally).

Made it OK, explained our delay and problem to *Baz* and all our friends. At *Baz's* suggestion went down to Marquis at Lower Upham and spoke to the Manager (Allan Buckland) who pulled out all the stops. A temporary repair to the fresh water drain pipe and the promise of a replacement spare duly fitted and delivered to the rally site the following day. That was service from a friendly bunch and made the troubled start into a great rally with friends from the Club and Marquis too. The tyre wasn't free but the service was!

The following weekend we were off to the Birdham rally. No problems with tyres, no worries, just laid back enjoyment. *Mo and Mike Valentine* (aided by *Angie and Andy Cavell*) looked after us in the manner to which we have become accustomed by the marshals at all the rallies we have attended over the years we have been members. We thank them all and look forward to the future.

John Wilson

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ACCEO AGM 2005

ACCEO (the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations) represents some 205 clubs which, like ASOC, hold an exemption certificate permitting them to organise rallies on unlicensed sites without the need to apply for planning permission. The Association represents these clubs, for example, in negotiations with relevant Government departments.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of ACCEO was held at the Newark Showground on 8th October 2005 and *Barbara and I* attended to represent the Club.

Before the meeting, the Chairman called for a minute's silence in memory of the Association's President, Bob Smylie MBE, who died earlier this year. As usual at an AGM, the Association's officers presented reports on their respective area of responsibility.

The Chairman said that, in view of the healthy state of ACCEO's finances, some might query the need to raise subscriptions, as was agreed at last year's AGM. However, although proposals to amend the regulations governing rallying seemed at the moment to be dormant, if these were revived the Association would need to be in a strong financial position to do battle with the Government on behalf of clubs.

He also spoke of the need to develop the Association's web site, and asked club members with expertise in this field to volunteer for this task - which would not necessarily involve becoming a member of the management committee.

The Secretary thanked member clubs for their support in attacking the proposals on rallying made a year or so ago by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (see ASOC Newsletters for November and December 2004). He mentioned changes in insurance compliance regulations (from Brussels) which had affected the way in which premiums were paid.

The Finance Officer reported an increase of income for the year of £2,716 to give a total of £23,668. Expenditure increased by £245 to

£21,443 giving a surplus of income over expenditure of £2,225, compared with a loss in the previous year of £246.

The Membership Officer reported that the Association currently comprised 205 clubs covering a total membership of 39,492. There were 1,498 personal members, a net loss of 144.

Ray Whiley

Personal membership of ACCEO is open to any member of an affiliated club for an annual subscription of £5 (from January 2006). A personal member receives an individual copy of the Association's newsletter, *ACCEO Matters*, and can benefit from a range of discounts. Details of personal membership can be obtained from Colin Barnett, ACCEO Head Office, Unit 6a, Top Barn Business Centre, Holt Heath, Worcestershire, WR6 6NH (e-mail: ACCEO@oakwood-village.co.uk).

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Technical Group & Website

Fuel economy: Statistics have now been received to provide over 40 "guides". Copies of the statistics can be obtained by sending me an SAE to: 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7UF, or it can be viewed and printed from the club website. Simply "click" on "Technical" & then on "Fuel Information". Your local library will always help you if require. Further data on fuel statistics is always welcome.

Ideas Sheets: The following Ideas Sheets are now ready for issue:

No. 119 Simple table utilising the headrest

No. 121 Storage "hammock" for a Nuevo & others

No. 122 Stop Fiamma levellers sinking in soft ground

No. 123 Fly screens - easier use & prevent damage

Any of the above, or a full list of the sheets, can be obtained by sending an SAE to me at the above address. The full up-to-date list is also always available on the club website. New Ideas are always welcome.

DVD: 25 copies of the DVD "Making of an Auto-Sleeper - 1988", have now been issued. I can produce further copies for only £3.00 each (inc. p&p). Although it is an old-ish film it is still very interesting, and will make a good Christmas tree present!

Viruses: Don't forget to keep your virus checker up-to-date and be aware that there are plenty of viruses, scams and spams around. When you have been away I strongly suggest you update your virus checker before opening any e-mails.

Winterisation: Winter will soon be upon us, so it is best to be prepared. Advice is readily available on the Club Website or from Ideas Sheets No. 85.

E-mails: I would appreciate if, when you send me e-mails and letters, you would include your membership number, please.

Technical Library: And finally - If you have any brochures, handbooks etc., that you no longer require perhaps you might like to donate them to the library, please.

Baz Wellard

Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster

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Photographic Competition

Entries for the 2006 competition are not exactly flooding in. So far I have received six - and two of those are mine! Most of the keen photographers these days now use digital cameras and I suppose that the resulting pictures are stored either in the computer or on a disk. Out of sight, out of mind one might say. Now that we have the long winter evenings ahead of us perhaps you could search out some gem suitable for the competition.

The rules were published in Newsletter 203 (August 2005) and entries need to be sent to me at 9 St. Mary's Road, Bluntisham, Huntingdon, PE28 3XA. The closing date is 31st March 2006. March may seem a long way away but it will be here quicker than you think.

If you haven't anything suitable at the moment some winter pictures would be nice - or what about some Auto-Sleepers in Spain?

Brian Smith

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A-S Service Centre

Again this year the Centre can offer a 10% discount to Club members for any work which is booked and carried out during the period from December 2005 to February 2006. This applies to work on both the conversion and automotive work. The offer applies to Club Members only. Contact the Service Centre for more details.

Charles Trevelyan

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Chairman's Chat

First and foremost, on behalf of your committee and myself, have a very Happy Christmas and a





December 2005

Rally Supplement

**A Happy Christmas to all
members.**



**Proposed Rally in the West of Ireland 24th. May – 8th. June
2006.**

Rally Marshals: Liz & Bryn Morgan & Nora & Ven Venables.

A rally on 2 sites. **Limited to 24 motorhomes. SORRY NO DOGS
ALLOWED.**

Eagle Point Camping, Nr. Bantry Bay, West Cork. Wed. 24th. May – Mon.
29th. May. 5 nights €95 incl. electricity. Nr Beara Peninsular & Garnish
Island. The full site fees for the first site will have to be paid to the marshals in
March 2006. We will give you a sterling rate when we send the site guide
mentioned below.

Fossa Caravan & Camping Park, Nr. Killarney, Co. Kerry
. Mon. 29th. May – Thurs. 8th. June. 10 nights €165 incl. electricity. Nr. Ring of
Kerry, Gap of Dunloe, Dingle Peninsula.

**Bookings only taken for the 15 nights. We have secured site fee discounts
on condition that you pay for all 15 nights.**

Rally Fee is £15.50 & includes a Caravan & Camping Guide to Ireland 2006 to
be sent to you when published. If you are offered a place and you accept then the
rally fee is non-returnable. Please send a cheque for £15.50. a rally slip and a
9X6 SAE to: B.Morgan, 44 Mersey Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4
3DJ. Tel. 0161 432 4869. Mobile 07890876859. Nora & Ven Venables 01902
332 105. An information pack together with confirmation of booking will be
sent to you.

**20th. – 24th. February 2006. (4 nights) Whitmead
Park, Parkend, Lydney, Gloucestershire.**

Emergency Tel.No. 0845 345 3425 (site office). Mobile phone reception poor to
nil on site, but there is a pay phone.

Rally Marshals: Jeannette Jones assisted by Helen & Geoff Gray.

Fees inclusive of hook up, hire of room for two evenings, use of all leisure facilities, rally fees and VAT: -£56.00 couples, £51.00 singles.

Please include a SAE for confirmation and directions with your booking slip.

Send cheques payable to Mrs. J.L. Jones., 30 Royal Close, Henbury, Bristol. BS10 7XF. Tel. No. 0117 909 9816

Attractions: Leisure facilities on site include a lovely warm swimming pool, steam room, Jacuzzi and gym so do bring your swimwear even if you don't swim.

Pleasant restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Small shop on site.

Limited to 22 vans which could be scattered across the site (it is a Civil Service membership site and they have to keep pitches for members).

*If you wish to run a rally in 2006 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. If you wish your rally to be included in the 2006 Provisional list then I must have dates etc. before the end of November*

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

peaceful, prosperous, happy and perhaps adventurous New Year. 2005 has been a bit of a mixed bag so far as *Sheila and I* are concerned but we look forward to 2006 with great interest. Maybe we shall win the lottery and buy ourselves a new van - but with the odds as they are, I doubt it!

Those who apparently know about the weather seem to be suggesting that this Christmas might be cold, snowy and difficult. But they have been known to be wrong in the past so we hope for the best for now, although I noticed on the weather forecast last night that snow was predicted up in the highlands of Scotland. Perhaps it is on the way.

Anyway, look after yourselves and each other and all the best for the future.

Harry Henthorne

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Route Finder

When I wrote to the Newsletter about my new Garmin route finder earlier this year I said I would make a few comments after trying it out, so here goes. Firstly, I found it very much more relaxing to drive to an unknown destination without constantly having to read road signs and check the notes I had stuck to my steering wheel. I arrived at the destination much less tired. I mentioned that finding the Caravan Club site at High Onn was almost impossible, even with someone reading the map, but during August it became necessary to stay there when my sister-in-law in Newport (Shropshire) became ill.

I very carefully marked the site with the aid of a map and the Caravan Club book, and keyed in a request for a route from Newport nearby. It was so easy. I doubted it for a time when I was guided down an even smaller road which looked like a route to someone's garage, but the site was right there!

In September I took a neighbour for a farm accommodation holiday in Norfolk. There again, the only problem I had was when I missed a turning - not the fault of the machine.

However, and there has to be a "however". We used the machine for short cut routes to avoid Kings Lynn and found ourselves on a narrow road, through a road-width puddle and up to a ford marked "unfit for motor vehicles". We backed. Another time it tried to send me down a "green road", obviously ancient and overgrown.

Last week I went to Elwood near Bulth Wells with some friends and was once again diving down single track roads with few passing

places. I was instructed to turn left in 400 yards and turned too soon. The farm dogs were very noisy and brought the man out of the yard, but I made a clean getaway and took the correct left turn to come face to face with a Post Office delivery van. I chickened out, backed to the turning and followed the van out of there, but had I taken that road I would have cut about five miles off the journey. It is possible to customise your route requirements reducing the selection of small roads and increasing your use of main roads - I'm told.

I also found it a bit disconcerting when, having turned right, taken the second exit from an island etc for an hour or so, I hadn't got a clue where I was. I still have more to learn from my Garmin, but now they have a CD which puts all the Caravan Club sites and CLs (complete with addresses and telephone numbers) onto their maps. I am hoping to get one for Christmas!

Rita Daley

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New technology and me are a no go area! I find it much easier to ask the wife to use the home computer for me, much less stressful! 2 years ago we bought a DVD recorder, only now am I beginning to master it. Deformatting, finalizing, A.V.Nos., Disc types etc.

Recently my wife Tina's 60th birthday was looming up. In the Caravan Club magazine was an article on Sat. Nav's. In a weak moment I thought I would buy one for her, although I didn't think you could beat a good map.

Last weekend we went to the Abbey Wood camp site in London. We programmed in the address and arrived at the destination without a hitch. A nice sounding lady's voice guided us at every turning. The screen has the e.f.a. and the distance to the next instruction. With a large arrow pointing in the direction you need to go. Coming home was even easier as the home address is already programmed in. You just press "home" button and home you are guided. Before I got to the camp site exit I had been told to turn left. The G.P.S. system was totally accurate and the machine was truly user friendly. I would recommend one to any non techno. I was amazed!

Tina and Cliff Waygood

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That Questionnaire - and Salesmen

I have just renewed my membership for another year as I find the newsletter a wealth of interesting information and I'm forever hopeful that I will be able to attend a rally when I can find a slot in my diary - I did

managed to attend the last Club and Company Rally held at Malvern and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Sadly I too was one of the many who failed to return the questionnaire back but read with interest the comments on the feedback and particularly *Charles Trevelyan's* comments. I would have thought from my experience dealing with the new boys that *Charles* has an extremely important role to play in the new set up in as much to pass his wealth of experience and most importantly his customer care conduct over and to educate the new school that old fashion manners, dress code and time to listen and respond to the customer is as or more important than high tech technology and marketing techniques.

I have noticed at recent shows the salesman on the stands dressed in sweat shirts wearing shades, clutching mobile phones and really only interested in grabbing a customer to gain more commission. Gone are the days when a salesman was turned out in a nice shirt and tie and spoke in a nice voice to the prospective client and is prepared to spend endless time explaining about the new product on display.

As *Charles* so rightly states there is a wealth of information to be gleaned from prospective owners who have been camping firstly maybe in tents before some of these yuppies were out of their nappies, so *Charles* has a very hard and difficult job to train these yuppies as to how to be polite, attentive and dress correctly but deep down I know it's nearly an impossible task. I've always maintained when the country abandoned conscription it was the start of the decline of our country - they went into the services as boys but came out as very respectable men. It's going to be a very sad day when *Charles* eventually retires and probably pastures new for some A-S owners.

Pauline Porter

I am sure that *Charles* knows how much he is appreciated, not only by Club members but by many A-S owners who have not joined us but have experienced his way of addressing customers and his manner of dress for any event. It is, perhaps, somewhat unfortunate that as he is busy looking after the Service Centre at Willersey it does not fall within his orbit to train or maybe re-train the sales people at the factory and certainly not those who attend the shows on behalf of the dealers. Our own experience at Earls Court recently saw the sudden disappearance of a salesman when he found that we were "only looking" and were not ready to make a new purchase!

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Eberspacher Heater

I have a Symbol and an Eberspacher heater is fitted as standard. When it is flashed up for the first time there are no fumes but when it comes on automatically on demand then fumes enter the vehicle from somewhere and I open the sliding door for a few minutes to vent the fan; comfort and safety are important. I haven't noticed fumes when it's running constantly, only when starting up. It certainly is noisy but only while it heats up and so far I have not had any comments; generators are far more intrusive. Anyway I only use it when not on electrics since I have a very satisfactory electric heater. When at the factory the technician considered the exhaust noise to be well within the norm, however, I did not bring up the fumes since in the early days they were far less obvious. They have always been helpful when I've been to the factory.

The drop outs in the gas locker are woefully inadequate or have some form of design problem. I had a gas leak a while back (faulty cylinder valve) and I only became aware of it when the gas smell entered the wardrobe above the gas locker ie:- although gas is supposed to fall down through the drop outs, on this occasion and presumably on all occasions of leakage, it actually rose upwards and forced itself into my wardrobe. I consider this to be a dangerous situation and these days I frequently stick my nose into the locker to be on the safe side. I should be able to rely on the proven theory that gas is heavier than air. N.B. The drop outs were not obstructed in any way. Perhaps it's time to pass all this onto the factory and invite their comments. Both situations could be considered to have safety implications.

Mike Coles

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We have just come up to the first year's ownership of a Symbol and have used a lot of the suggestions from club members:- removing the three extra seat cushions and using the backrest to add to the single beds; using only one table tube which is kept in the clothes cupboard etc. As for the blind rattles, I have put suitable sponge rubber wedges so it is now reasonably quiet on the move. Another hate is the cupboard door catches, pushing them each time to open a door, so I have put magnetic catches to all doors which is enough to hold them while on site.

The Eberspacher Airtronic Heater. We get no fumes in the habitation and as for the noise that is acceptable and once the temperature is up to setting the exhaust is hardly noticeable. Had I had

the choice of heater it would have been the Propex gas fired one because using a high tax fuel goes very much against the grain. One asks why do A-S fit the Eberspacher?

Finally, had we hired a Symbol before buying, would we have bought one?

Philip Sanders

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Burnham Rally

We have just arrived home following the Burnham rally to just as much rain in Telford as we had in Burnham on Sunday! *Keith and I* have had the opportunity this year to enjoy so many rallies which have been so wonderfully well organised.

We do appreciate being members of such a good Club in which we have many so many friends. Following the Ludlow rally, where we met *Pauline and Robin* from Whitehaven, I have now caught up with a former colleague whom I had not seen for 17 years! They have invited us to get in touch if we are in Cumbria next year. Thanks for coming to Ludlow.

Christmas greetings to everyone.

Rita A Jones & Keith Taylor

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Sedgemoor Carnival Rally

We have just arrived home after attending the Sedgemoor Carnival Rally and just wanted to thank *Linda & Brian Ellis* and all their Rally helpers for an amazing weekend.

This was our first A-S rally and we were not quite sure what to expect. The first person to enthusiastically welcome us was *Cedric* brandishing a television aerial which he said he'd just rescued from the tip, and ended up as one of the raffle prizes on Monday. This really set the scene for what was to be a very enjoyable few days. I don't think I've ever been with such a friendly group of people – I didn't hear one moan all weekend.

The shopping trip, quiz, trip to the market on Sunday were all great fun and then all crowned with a magnificent firework display to music on the Sunday evening. On Monday morning we all had coffee and a huge raffle where most people seemed to win a prize. Then a short break and a good walk down the beach for dinner. That evening was the Carnival which was absolutely amazing. It took over 2 hours for the floats and procession to pass, each float seeming to be bigger

and better than the last. It's just impossible to describe how big bright and dynamic the floats were. If you've never been make sure you put it in your diary to go next year.

On Tuesday we all slowly made our ways home after a great weekend which won't be forgotten for a long time. Thanks *Brian* and all your helpers

Kay & John Cant

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Umberleigh and Willersey

Why do we remember the Camping and Caravanning club site at Umberleigh? A lovely, quiet, relaxing site set in an elevated position overlooking Devon countryside. A warm welcome from the friendly Holiday Site Managers. The immaculate facilities and a well stocked information room. The village of Umberleigh is within walking distance and at the station the trains, on the Tarka line, will take you to Exeter or Barnstaple for a day out. The site is also open to non-members of the C. & C. C.

Recently we had the misfortune to suffer a cracked acrylic window in our Duetto. An appointment was arranged with the A-S Service Centre and after a night camping in the Cotswolds we arrived at 9.00 am. We were greeted at reception and even had a chat with *Mr Trevelyan* who had just arrived at the office. Whilst we had a pleasant walk around the village, followed by a cup of coffee in the Service Centre waiting room, our vehicle was repaired. At the same time we were able to purchase some consumables that were needed to maintain the GRP top on the Duetto. This was our first visit to the Service Centre and it is good to know that they are there, ready to help.

Bob Linard

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Truma Ultrastore Water Heater

- Not so hot but well bothered!

Our 2001 Talisman is fitted with an 'Truma Ultrastore' gas/electric water heater which recently has been malfunctioning when on gas by not starting reliably and cutting out, particularly when turned to the higher temperatures. Looking in through the exhaust vent on the offside one could see a strong yellow flame - a very bad sign and dangerous so we turned it off and sought a CORGI engineer. We took the van to our suppliers - West Country Motor Homes - whose engineer Brian started on the problem at 9.30 AM and having had half an hours lunch break,

brought the key back to us in the waiting room at 4.30 PM - i.e., 6.5 working hours later. In the intervening time he had done one other small job while the heater burner was on test but most of his day was spent sorting it out. We had driven out of the area to meet friends for lunch in a country pub, most enjoyable and we returned around 3.15PM; however.....

Brian explained all that he had done and handed us, in a polythene bag, a dead spider which was the cause of our problems. He had started by 'phoning Truma' for information and was advised it would likely be either a bent pipe restricting the gas feed or a blocked jet. There was nothing for it but to dismantle the seat box behind the driver to get at the tank and the burner. The dismantling operation is itself a work of art and includes removing the offside interior upholstered panel in order to release the seat base which extends in under its bottom edge, and it all had to be rebuilt when the job was done. The tank and its heater unit then came out and the latter was stripped down when the dead spider, its web material and a great deal of soot and dirt was removed. The soot was thick but we are assured it has all been thoroughly cleaned and is again as it should be; on checking it all worked well. The cost of this job was £141.00. Considering the time and effort involved we think that sum was not unreasonable but it was an expensive spider! To avoid possible repetition of the 'fault' the free advice was to ensure the moulded exhaust outlet cover is always in place when the gas heater element is not in use.

Richard & Jill McAllister.

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Obituary

We were saddened to learn of the death on 31st October this year of *Ann Anderton*. Sincere condolences are offered to *Roy* and their family.

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Wanted

Wanted for 1992 VW T4 Trooper. Awning/side tent; small Porta Potti; Propex or similar gas heater; cycle rack; manual for base vehicle; Silver Screens etc or any other accessory. Please contact Peter Simpson on 013 0278 289 (Doncaster)
Thanks for the donation.

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A-S Trooper or similar, sleep 4. £5,000.00 - £8,000.00. Tel: Tim Pritchard on 019 3485 2568 (Rowberrow, Somerset)
Thanks for the donation

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For Sale

Ford Amethyst 2000 'W' reg. 4 berth. 32,000 miles. 2.5 Intercooled Turbo Diesel Automatic with Cruise Control. Omnistor awning, Fiamma bike rack, reversing aid (Beep), Cobra alarm, extractor fan, Status aerial plus all usual Auto-Sleeper goodies. £25,500.00. Phone Robin Doughty on 012 5388 6657 (Blackpool)
Thanks for the donation.



#####

One pair Peugeot headlamp covers which just clip over the Boxer van headlights and convert lights for driving abroad. £15.00. Storage box/foot rest made specially to fit Symbol passenger footwell so feet did not dangle off floor. Trimmed in green with rubber top. £15.00. Neither item is easy to post hence it would be more practical if they were collected from us. Phone Colin Kennington on 019 2873 3739 (Frodsham, cheshire).

#####

Fitted external windscreen sun mesh from Silver Screens for Mk3 Transit (ex Legend). Little used, as new. £36.00 plus postage. Contact Malcolm Prestwood on 018 0372 1110 (Norwich)
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Haynes workshop manual for Bedford petrol CF van (including CF2). 1969 - 1986: 1599cc to 2279cc. Also exhaust manifold for Bedford CR, almost new, and some wheel trims and hub caps for 1976 CF. £10.00 the lot. Phone David Lepper on 014 8348 0413 (Guildford, surrey)

#####

1987 Talbot Talisman. Two complete cab seats plus matching covers for two rear settees. Original upholstery - light brown with central striped panel. All in excellent condition. £200.00 ono. Ring Catherine or Rod Reeves on 015 2745 9251 or e-mail cat.reeves@blueyonder.co.uk for further details (Redditch, worcs.)

#####

Johnson model Seahorse two stroke outboard motor, 2hp at 5300 rpm. Currently in use on 9ft inflatable dinghy. Used mid October and ran for 1.5 hours on 1 litre of fuel at three quarter throttle. I've now got a bigger engine so do not want this one. Any reasonable trial. Very light in weight, about that of a heavy shopping basket. Safe for the grandchildren. Ideal for pottering about on the river. Only used by me on fresh water river. Just replaced the water impeller (cooling system). Asking £60.00 ono - not going to fall out over a few quid. Also fold-up bike, blue, with Sturmey-Archer 3 speed. Spare rear wheel also with 3 speed



included. A bit too small for me at 5' 8" but shrinks down to quite a small size. In good nick. Bought from Halfords yonks ago. £37.50 ono. Price includes overnight camping on our drive if required. Telephone Geoff Williamson on 016 8431 0431 (Welland, Nr Malvern)

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Ford Duetto 2.5D, 'V' Reg, 1999. 2 Berth, 29,750 miles. Tax/MOT Nov 2006. Oven/grill/2burner hob: alarm: electric windows: radio/cassette: shower/cassette toilet: flyscreens: 2 x 3.9kg propane cylinders: blown-air heating and gas/electric water heater: cover: £17,450.00 ono. Tel. Michael Robinson on 019 0476 1920 or e-mail michaelrobinson@sandringham10.freeserve.co.uk (Haxby, York)
Thanks for the donation.

#####

Trooper, VW T4, 1992, 2.0ltr petrol engine. 2 + 2 berth, elevating roof. One owner from new, non-smokers, no pets. MOT 06, taxed until April 06. 71,200 miles. 3 way fridge, 2 burner hob & grill, Carver blown air heating. Pink/beige upholstery. All original fittings and crockery. Fiamma 2 bike rack. Radio/tape. Alarmed. CB radio, canopy, Visa-potty. £8,750.00. Telephone John Hajok on 012 0452 9016 (Bolton, Lancs).
Thanks for the donation.

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Peugeo Boxer Symphony, 1996 .N. Reg. 2.5 diesel. 14,390 miles only. 2 berth, oven, warm air heating, shower (unused) water heater, flush toilet, 3 way fridge. No pets or children, non smokers. Alarm, free-standing awning, many extras. One owner from new. Full service history, MOT and tax to March 2006. Excellent condition inside and out. Ill health forces sale. £14,500.00. Phone Bob Woosey on 019 2572 6106 (Penketh, Warrington)
Thanks for the donation.

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4.5 yards, x 1.5 yards A-5 Freesia pattern material. £20.00. Fiamma back box. £85.00. Tel. Clive Bailey on 017 8231 9396. (Stoke on Trent)

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FIAMMA Bike Rack for VW T4. £65.00 Silver Screen for cab of VW T4 £25.00. NR Drive Away Awning, suit Topaz or similar, approx. 2.4m W x 1.8m DP. £65.00. Please Tel. Geoff Smith on 017 3735 1721 or e-mail geoffsmith65@hotmail.com (Banstead, Surrey)

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Original Silver Screens to fit Volkswagen T4. External screen for windscreen and cab windows, internal for tailgate window. Good condition. £50.00. Tel Bruce or Jan Ind on 014 5277 0405 (Stroud, Glos)

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