



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



*No good for us dear - nowhere to park the van!*

## **NEWSLETTER 210**

## **MARCH 2006**

# From the Editor <sup>(S)</sup>

Well it's a cold, clear bright day and the Snowdrops are out so I reckon Spring is just around the corner and since we haven't been out overnight in the Duetto this year yet we're taking it for a 'shake-down' this week-end.

We seem to have a bit of a Scottish theme this month, with a contribution from Fife and an article on Cape Wrath by Pauline Porter, which we have had since the beginning of the year but haven't been able to include until now. We've also got a follow up to The Ultimate Scottish Experience featured last month, which I have to say sounds great but we won't be able to go this year. Still we will look forward to reading all about it after the event. And if that wasn't a hint for an article I don't know what is.

So without further waffle from me, we'll get on with it.

## National Rally

### **Bookings**

If you have sent (or intend to send) or lost your booking form for the National Rally and haven't received an acknowledgement within a week, please contact me because items can (and do) get lost in the postal system. My telephone number is 0208 360 0244.

### **Sheila Henthorne**

ooooOOOOoooo

### **Some important Information from Nora Venables**

This year we will have the use of the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion where the Hobbies will be displayed. There will also be a 'For Sale' board where members can advertise unwanted Motor Caravan items. On secured

sales a donation to the charity will be appreciated. Write on a postcard your name, membership number, van registration and mobile number together with the item for sale. **Please do not bring the articles to the Pavilion.**

Also in the Pavilion will be the photographic competition providing enough pictures are submitted. Up to the time of writing this article not enough had been received to make a competition worthwhile.

The Stuart Goodwin Pavilion is also where you will take your cakes to be entered in the cake competition by 4 pm Friday, and at times during the day there will be tea and coffee available.

Raffle prizes will be displayed in the Cedric Ford Foyer and the Craft classes as usual will be in the Cedric Ford Hall.

Regalia will be on sale in the Cedric Ford Foyer on Thursday afternoon and in the Stuart Goodwin Hall on Friday and Saturday.

The charity for this year is the A.R.C. (Arthritis Research Campaign) which I'm sure most of us could benefit from! Please support it as generously as you can.

Five trips into Newark have been booked; I will contact all relevant members with day and times in due course. All trips will start from the Cedric Ford entrance. There will also be transport kindly provided by Brownhills to their premises on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm to approximately 5 pm, where members can enjoy a free cream tea. Tickets will be in your envelopes, as will the programme giving times of the opening of both Halls and all of the functions arranged.

**Please remember to carry your current membership card at all times.**

The Committee hope you will enjoy the Rally.

ooooOOOOoooo

There's more.....

And finally from Sheila Barnett

NATIONAL RALLY 2006 - AGM  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SHOWGROUND NEWARK  
27TH - 30TH APRIL 2006

CAKE COMPETITION

1st PRIZE £30 2nd PRIZE £20 3rd PRIZE £10

TOSS IN FRUIT CAKE

8 oz S.R. Flour  
4 oz Margarine  
4 oz Sugar  
2 Eggs  
12 oz Sultanas - Cherries  
Pinch of salt  
1 Tsp. Almond Essence  
4 Tbls. Milk

Method

Place all ingredients into a bowl and mix well until smooth.  
Pour into a 7 inch round tin and sprinkle top with a little sugar.  
Bake in an oven for 1¼ hours approx. at 150C Gas 2

Place cake on a cardboard plate and cover with cling film.

**Please bring to THE STUART GOODWIN HALL**  
**ON FRIDAY BETWEEN 10am AND 4pm**

A.ll  
S.ales  
O.ff  
C.akes

ARE FOR THE CHOSEN CHARITY

## The Ultimate Scottish Experience - update

### Andy Cavell

As a follow up to last month's piece about the GB Privilege/ASOC Scottish Tour, I thought members might be interested to see the menu for the sumptuous meal on the last night at Glamis Castle. The details are:

Pre Dinner Drinks Reception:

Pigalle Brut Sparkling Wine  
Fresh Orange Juice

Canapes:

Goats Cheese  
Pesto & Tomato Skewer  
Smoked Duck & Rowanberry Jam  
Apricot Chutney Croustades

Dinner:

Local Smoked Salmon with Char-gilled Lemon & Cracked Black Pepper  
\*\*\*\*\*

Gateau of Haggis, Neeps & Tatties  
\*\*\*\*\*

Herb Crusted Loin of Lamb Roast Button Onions & Rowanberry Jus  
Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes  
\*\*\*\*\*

Raspberry & Drambuie Burnt Cream with Oat Shortbread  
\*\*\*\*\*

Coffee & Mints

Wine

Hardys Riddle Chardonnay - Semillon  
Hardys Riddle Cabernet - Merlot  
Still/Sparkling Mineral Water

# Technical Group & Website

**Baz Wellard**  
**Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster**

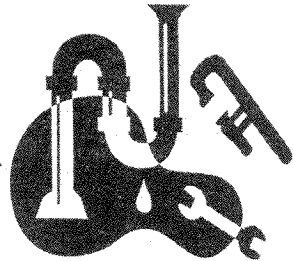
There is no report from the Technical Group this month. Normal service will be resumed when the Chairman returns from sunnier climes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ASOC we have a solution?**  
In response to Tony Janes problem in last month's Newsletter.

Roger Gurr writes

Resonating shock waves in piping is water hammer.  
Can be very noisy. Can cause damage.  
Can be caused by turning on a tap too quickly.  
Try turning on very, very slowly.



If this is not satisfactory I remember my college lecturer (circa 1961) this can in practice be cured by anchoring the pipe-work more firmly and more frequently to something very rigid and/or heavy. If you can get at the pipe work and watch it and feel it while it is making this noise you should be able to see what fixing is needed and where. Good luck

Geoff Williamson had to fit new water pump and taps (original ones got frozen but that's another story) and comments.

'The splashing (in this case) was caused by too much air in the system. Our routine to overcome this problem -check that the hoses are tight before/ inlet side of the pump. Stop air instead of water being sucked into the system. NEXT we open all sink taps before we fill up with water. You will hear the air escaping out of the taps. When the tank is full and so are my shoes, we then switch on the pump. SSSSHHHH is heard as the water is pushed out of the system. At the same time flush the toilet. When water comes out of both taps (hot and cold) switch them off. Air in the system could cause the banging and splashing.'

And Pete Fisher had a similar problem with his Symbol. If Tony wants to ring him direct I will pass on his number.

**Charles Trevelyan** also made the following '(helpful) observations'.

The water pump fitted to the Duetto is positioned on the floor immediately behind the refrigerator. It is possible that the water pump has been over tightened on its rubber grommets, thus reducing the shock absorbing effect of the pump and allowing the resonance to be felt throughout that particular area of the vehicle.

In the event of such problems it will be worthwhile loosening the pump screws very slightly to allow a little more movement in the rubber grommets/ legs which should help to some degree.

The pump also has a pressure adjustment screw on it. The Shurflo water pump that we fit is rated between 16 and 20 psi. It is normally set mid range but the pressure can be safely reduced to its minimum 16 psi setting. This will reduce the compression knock that Tony is reporting to a further degree.

The spluttering that can be experienced on the water pump is generally in the cold water system where, of course, the water does not pass through the water heater which acts as an accumulator. This is further compounded with short pipe runs thus there is no air space such as you find in the water heater and hot water system to allow the compression knocks to be lessened.

In summary, therefore, if Tony were to loosen the fixing screws and to turn down the pressure, I am sure this would certainly go towards resolving his problems. If he continues to experience difficulties a call to us as the Service Centre on 01386 853511 would enable a mutually convenient date to be made, whereupon we could investigate matters a little more thoroughly.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

**A comment received in response to Geoff's tip in last month's Newsletter from Tom Beaman**

Instead of using the spare wheel to drive onto to jack up the vehicle, which could be damaged, why not use one of the levelling ramps which most motor home owners have.

# Curtains or Screens?

Hi Margaret and Mick

Re your query in the ASOC Newsletter about new curtains or silver screens - answer just has to be BOTH.

Cannot help you with the spec for making or buying curtains unless you go back to Auto-Sleeper who probably keep these things in stock. But I do recommend purchasing the genuine Silver Screens as well because they free up so much space at the front of the vehicle. The dashboard becomes accessible as do the footwell areas without having to fight with curtaining and press studs. It's not a huge amount of extra space of course but the illusion of spaciousness is great!

We bought the genuine Silver Screens cover which can be seen at their website <http://silverscreens.co.uk> - ours is the Para-Gon fold-down screen version which allows you to let some daylight in during the day without having to remove the whole lot. We also bought the Priva-See panel which allows daylight in with, as the name implies, privacy. It gives strength to the structure too.

They sell brand new unused ones for around £120 (Symbol - Boxer chassis) OR part exchanged ones in perfect order for around £90. We bought the latter and the difference paid for the Priva-See bit. The whole screen folds up to fit in the supplied bag - but we have now made another bag from waterproof material which will hang off hooks on the toilet room end panel, inside the rear vehicle door. This bag is half the size but deeper, to take the normally folded screen including Priva-See further folded in half - otherwise the rear door would have difficulty closing.

But why do we need curtains as well? Sometimes you want to park up, say on your own house drive, and prevent anyone nosing inside the vehicle. Rather than leaving the Silver Screen on long term it's

best just to close the curtains. Your alarm LED will be visible too and be a deterrent to thieves. Although the Silver Screens website shows how they can be used inside I think this is probably a messy procedure.

So - Sorry I can't help with curtains, but I'm sure you will be pleased with Silver Screens.

Best wishes and happy touring.

Rob Corcoran  
Isle of Skye

PS Always remember to fold up your Screen over the Priva-See at night - we forgot one night and the neighbours must have had SUCH a show!!

Note from Editors: Mick and Margaret's new e-mail address is: **marbam2000@yahoo.co.uk**. if you want to contact them direct. I know Rob had problems which is why he's responded via the Newsletter. Actually .... It's quite a good ploy to get articles!!

### Important Notice

The many friends of George and Daisy Wane (0012) will be both sad and happy to know that, at the age of 82 they have decided to retire from a life with four wheels. They have sold their van *and* moved house.

They were early members of the Club and we shall miss them, but we wish them well in their new life and their new home.

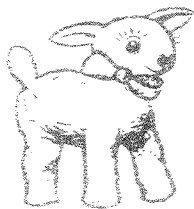
## From the Factory

You will remember that last month I said the Marketing Department would be writing this column. However, significant changes have taken place as I will duly explain.

Firstly, and by far the most important, is that my brother Anthony retires from Auto Sleepers at the end of February. He has served the Company loyally for 45 years, from his very early days when production was no more than 1 or 2 motorcaravans (as they were then called) per week, and steered the Company to success during all those years. He single-handedly kept the Company afloat and fully operational during the recession of the early 1980s and oversaw the move to our new premises after the disastrous fire in October 1992.

In the days before I arrived in 1986, he virtually ran the complete organisation single-handedly. He alone checked each and every van off-line for quality, whilst at the same time overseeing all production matters and liaising most importantly, of course, with the various chassis manufacturers. Indeed, such was his commitment to the Company, and I can assure you that I know this at first hand, that he forfeited many children's sports days and parent evenings to remain at his desk well into the early evening, seeing that the Company thrived and grew. I can honestly say, in a completely unbiased way, that I and many others here have the highest admiration for all that he has done for Auto-Sleepers and he leaves us with our heartfelt good wishes for a most enjoyable and, hopefully, rewarding retirement. He will indeed leave a gap difficult to fill but I can assure you that Ian Capes is already well on the way to appointing a new Production Director who will take over Anthony's responsibilities and ensure that the Company and indeed the production and all associated aspects, continue to thrive. I am sure I speak on behalf of all of you in wishing Anthony the most enjoyable retirement.

A further change that has taken place recently is that Rob Axton, our Marketing Director, has departed. As to what he is to do I do not know



# March 2006 Rally Supplement.



Please use a rally slip, completing both sides, to book a rally by post.

\*\*\*\*\* Please note that the Northern Motorcaravan Show will now be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> September. This is due to a re-arranged race meeting.\*\*\*\*\*

## April 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – ( 3nights) Marston's Rally. Albion Hotel, Burton on Trent, Staffs.

Site behind the Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road. Burton on Trent.

Emergency Tel. No. 07713186508 Marshals' mobile.

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

Marshals phone no. 01283538818. *(If not available ring Jan 01246 236157).*

Site Fee: £4.00 per night, all hardstanding, Rally Fee: £2.35. All inc VAT. No Electricity. Booking slip & cheques payable to P.M.Pratt, 3 Grafton Rd, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent. Staffs. DE15 9DN. Tel.No. 01283538818.

A VISIT ROUND THE BREWERY ON THE FRIDAY MORNING will be arranged. Cost £6 each, please send cheque with site fees if you would like to participate in this trip.

A MEAL ON FRIDAY EVENING IN THE VISITORS CENTRE AT THE BREWERY AND A FURTHER MEAL SATURDAY EVENING MEAL IN THE ALBION HOTEL PUB will also be available. (WEEKEND OFF COOKING DUTIES LADIES).

**Directions:** The Albion Hotel is situated on the B5017 Burton to Uttoxeter road and is on the bus route into Burton on Trent.

Please send SAE for acceptance and further directions.

Dogs are allowed.

**Rally starts at 12noon Thursday. NOT BEFORE PLEASE.**

**14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April (Easter weekend) (4 nights) Peak Rail,  
Rowsley South Station, Nr. Matlock, Derbyshire.**

Rally Marshals: Mike & Jeanne Hall & Lionel & Hilary Walker.  
Emergency Tel.No. 07985 021779 or 07939 288586 (marshals' mobiles).

MIKE & JEANNE WILL NOT BE CONTACTABLE DURING MARCH – PLEASE DO NOT USE THE MOBILE NUMBERS EXCEPT DURING THE RALLY. You could send an email to: [mike.jeanne@ntlworld.com](mailto:mike.jeanne@ntlworld.com)  
Site fee £4.70 per van per night. Rally fee £1.20 per person (both incl. VAT).

Water and toilet disposal, otherwise a green field site but station toilets are open during station hours.

There are two electric points for people with special needs.

Booking slips & cheques to Mike & Jeanne Hall, 45, Bunyan Green Road, Selston, Nottingham, NG16 6GF. Tel.No. 01773 778016.

**Attractions:** In the picturesque picnic area of this enthusiasts steam railway, beside the River Derwent with many miles of walks. 10% off all day tickets for steam train rides into Matlock – ride trains all day or explore Matlock. Within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site and the Peak National Park. ***Easter bonnet competition.***

Nearby are Chatsworth House, Haddon Hall, Carriage Museum and Bakewell's famous market. We hope to arrange a meal at The Shalimar Restaurant on Monday evening. Please state on the booking form if interested. (It is a Tandoori Restaurant but has English dishes). Buses to Matlock, Bakewell, Sheffield, Stockport and Manchester.

**Directions:** 3.9 miles north of Matlock (Bakewell direction) on the A6. Going north, turn **left** onto Harrison Way just after The Shalimar Restaurant and follow brown Peak Rail signs.

**20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> April.National Motorhome Show,East of England  
Showground,Peterborough.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07714 091 349

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

Please use the booking form enclosed in the February Newsletter if possible.

If you use a form from other magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the *special Club site fees: Arrive Thursday: £33, arrive Friday £30, arrive Saturday £27.*

Please note that ALL booking forms **MUST** be returned to **Warners**, the organisers, by Friday 31st. March if you wish to rally with the Club.

**\*\*\*\*\*Then you must also complete a Club rally slip, (this also applies to any internet bookings)** and return it, with the Rally Fee of £2.00 couples, £1.50 singles (both inclusive of VAT) to: N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel. No. 01325 374 540  
Cheques payable to N.C. & P. Rogers.

Please collect the *Club* rally information pack from the ASOC marshal before parking.

If you book using the special Club fees then you **must** park/ rally with the Club.

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

**No arrivals before 2.00p.m. Thursday.**

**27<sup>th</sup>. April – 1<sup>st</sup>. May. NATIONAL RALLY & A.G.M., Nottinghamshire County Showground, Newark.**

Full details & application forms were with the January Newsletter. Please note the closing date for camping with meals is March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> .May.(4 nights).Walk the Wolds. Alford Cricket Club,  
Well Lane.Alford,Lincs.**

Emergency Tel.No.(marshals' mobile)07768164522.

Rally Marshals:Janet Sutterby & Eileen Kellard.

Site fee:£28 for rally. Rally fee:£2.00. Rally slips & fees to Janet Sutterby,3 Bilsby Road,Alford.LN13 9EW.Tel.No. 01507 462449.

Hard standing,NO electricity.Use of facilities in club pavilion all day.

Meals possible on three evenings (pay at rally).Card sessions and walks arranged.Good cycling.Small town 1 mile,sea 8 miles quiet.

***Limited numbers.***

**Directions:** In East Lincolnshire take A16 Boston to Louth road and the A1104 into Alford.Turn **right** opposite church onto B1196 signed Welton le Marsh & Willoughby.In 1 mile turn **right** towards Well.Site 0.1 mile on **right**.

**11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> . May.( 4 nights) Little Cotton Farm,Dartmouth,  
Devon.TQ6 0LB**

Telephone No. 01803 932558. Fax 01803 834887. Website [www.littlecotton.co.uk](http://www.littlecotton.co.uk) The site is run by its owners, Paul and Dot White.

Any additional nights should be booked with them direct.

Marshalls for the Rally are Pam and Terry Holtom assisted by Jenni and Geoff Raistrick.

Site Fees; £7.25 per unit per night. EHU; £2.25 per night. Rally Fee £2.75(Couples)£1.50(Singles).

Booking slips and cheques (made payable to Terry Holtom) to 8 Courtland Road,Torquay, Devon. TQ2 6JR. Tel. No. 01803 612669. The site has 7.5 acres of level and gently sloping ground in two open plan fields, with a centrally sited Award Winning Toilet/Shower Complex. Disabled facilities,Dishwashing area, Launderette style washing Machines, Large tumble dryers and ironing boards. Dogs are welcome but they must use the doggy walk on site and **MUST BE KEPT ON THE LEAD** while in the the park. Dot keeps a well stocked shop with everything for the camper, papers must be ordered the day before.

**Attractions:**The Campsite is adjacent to the "PARK & RIDE" bus service into Dartmouth (tickets available in the campsite shop).

This will be the 9th year of the DARTMOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL held in town which runs from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th May. This is always a popular event.

There are plenty of boat trips operating out of Dartmouth, either up river to the market town of Totnes, or out to sea and the coastline. One such short boat trip will take you to Greenway Quay from where you can visit "Greenway House" gardens, the one time home of Agatha Christie.

Two local steam trains operate within the area, Kingswear to Paignton and Totnes to Buckfastleigh.

We shall hope to arrange a 'D.I.Y' supper during the weekend.

SAE for confirmation and travel details. (Numbers are limited).

***PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 12 NOON.***

**24<sup>th</sup>.-29<sup>th</sup>.May (5 nights)Strathallen Games Park,Bridge of Allen,Nr.Stirling,Scotland.**

Emergency Tel.No.07760103335.

Rally Marshals: Joy & Donald Stott.

Site Fees:£2.50 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:£3.23.(incl.VAT).

A flat field with water & elsan disposal.

It is a pleasant walk,20 mins., into village centre.Bus service to Stirling & Edinburgh near to site.This is a central location for touring this part of Scotland.

Send **SAE** with booking slips & cheques payable to: Mr. Donald Stott, 159 Middleton St.,Alexandria,Dumbartonshire.G83 0DH. Tel.No. 01389 757358.

**Directions:**From M9,**North** until end of motorway Junction11,at roundabout take **4<sup>th</sup>**. exit sp.Bridge of Allen,continue through village until you reach small park/gardens on the right.Turn **right** immediately after the park then first **left**.The rally field gates are directly in front of you.From A9,**South** to roundabout at beginning of M9 (DO NOT go on motorway).Take the **2<sup>nd</sup>**. exit sp. Bridge of Allen then as above.

From **Fife**, old A9 until 30mph restriction as you enter Bridge of Allen,turn **left** approx 100 yds then **left** again and as above gates are ahead of you.

**LIMIT of 20 Vans or 40 persons.**

Rally in the West of Ireland 24<sup>th</sup>.May – 8<sup>th</sup>.June 2006.

This rally is now FULL.

12<sup>th</sup>.-15<sup>th</sup>.May.The Southern Motorcaravan Show,Newbury Showground,Berks.

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

Rally Marshals:John & Daphne Hallett.

Please send a SAE ,with rally slip and rally fee of 50p per person,for a booking form.This form must be returned to Warners,the organisers, before 31<sup>st</sup>.April if you wish to rally with the Club. Send to John & Daphne Hallett, 13 Linden Crescent,Grove,Wantage,Oxfordshire,OX12 7NB. Tel.No.01235 764550.

E-mail [hallettjh@AOL.com](mailto:hallettjh@AOL.com) Please let marshal know if booking by any other means ie, Internet.

*If you wish to run a rally in 2006 please contact me to check dates **before** booking with a site.This prevents any clash of dates.*

*.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.*

*Committee members are also available to assist if required.*

*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](mailto:ncr@nasuwt.net)**

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

**E & OE**

Rally : ..... Date: .....

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

.....

..... Post code: .....

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

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

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

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

**Please complete both sides of the form!**

✂ -----

Rally : ..... Date: .....

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

.....

..... Post code: .....

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

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

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

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

**Please complete both sides of the form!**

✂ -----

Rally : ..... Date: .....

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

.....

..... Post code: .....

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

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

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

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

**Please complete both sides of the form**

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes  No   
Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes  No  Evening meal: Yes  No

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

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

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes  No   
Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes  No  Evening meal: Yes  No

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

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:  No  Evening meal if arranged: Yes  No

Have you any special needs? Ye  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**

but at the time of writing he is enjoying a two week break in New Zealand and his department will continue to thrive under the leadership of Emma Franklin and Adrian Clews. This for them will be an ideal opportunity to develop and enhance their department, with Ian once again always ready to give a hand and more importantly, a sense of direction over the coming months. Thus, it is for the reason of Rob's departure that I once again, am writing this contribution - hitherto it was planned that he should have taken on this role!

You will remember that in a previous Newsletter I explained that our Design Department has been assisted in the design and development of new models, by two teams from our own staff, who have the expertise of production, purchasing and a wealth more. By now I hope that many of you will have visited our stand at the NEC and seen the fruits of the labours of our two Design and Development teams.

The first of these, the Ford and Volkswagen team, made fantastic progress as you will have seen on the T5 coachbuilt that was on display. Team Peugeot continue to make very significant progress in the development of the range of Peugeot base vehicles and in liaising widely with various agencies within and outside the Company; they are already coming up with some very innovative and exciting new ideas.

Last month I mentioned about our rebuild here at the Service Centre; this is now almost complete and we take over our two new service bays within the next few days. They really are quite magnificent - beautifully painted and wonderfully equipped - all it now requires for us is to paint the floor and then we will have a servicing that will be the envy of many (or perhaps all) of our competitors!

With all good wishes to you all, Angela, myself and Henritta (Piers will be at school) look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the National Rally at the end of April.

With kind regards and thank you for your ongoing loyalty and support, which by all of us is enormously appreciated.

**Charles Trevelyan**

## **CAPE WRATH CAPER**

### **Pauline Porter**

During the months of May and June I headed north to Scotland with Randy (my beloved Duetto camper van) and Rex my all terrain bike and I must say the three of us had a super time together enjoying each other's company and sitting together watching the beautiful sunsets.

Whilst camped at Durness one of my ambitions was to catch the little ferry from Kyle of Durness and then cycle the twelve miles out to Cape Wrath and return.

After some considerable confusion as to ferry times it transpired the first ferry left at 9.30a.m. and as it was just about to leave I left the breakfast wash up - forgot about ablutions and just jumped onto Rex and peddled like mad. The little ferry took about twelve people and of course Rex, to the landing stage and then it was a very steep climb away from the bay, with the Cape Wrath mini coach and its passengers passing me by.

The morning was just perfect, a nice blue sky - still chilly due to the north east wind but I could feel the excitement growing, especially when the mini bus overtook me as I then knew there would be no traffic or people along the route - just Rex & I and a few sheep. For the first three miles the scenery is

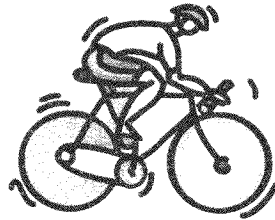
quite stunning with sheep grazing and the odd building or so but as you proceed so the landscape becomes quite barren. No bird calls or bleating now and I was quite shocked to find the island completely devoid of any wild or bird life after the first two miles, so I ask what is the M O D (who own it) doing to the atmosphere for this situation to arise. The road is very narrow and badly rutted. There are some good climbs but then you are not able to take advantage of the downhill stretches because of the state of the surface.

After some eleven hard miles I caught to my left a glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean so knew it was but a short distance to the most Northern edge of Great Britain and sure enough the large lighthouse gazing out to sea came into sight, and another lifetime ambition was mentally crossed off my endless list of "I must do". I was told another cyclist was on his way out to the Cape and thought he must be a fit young man as he had to complete the trip and be back for the ferry by 2.30p.m. because of the tides. After lunch I set off back on the rough road again and after some three miles I saw in the distance a lone figure gradually riding towards me and it was the cyclist who had come over on the second ferry and was quite surprised to find he was quite a mature gentleman sat upon quite an old heavy steed with a

shopping basket strapped to the front handlebars. A quick stop and chat and he said the ferry man had told him the latest to be back at the landing stage was 3p.m. but not to worry unduly as he wouldn't be left stranded. I arrived at the jetty just after 2.30p.m. having meandered somewhat to find there was absolutely no life and the tide was going out fast leaving a mass of sand with just a narrow strip of water. Well after just over half an hour the mature cyclist arrived and once a second wind had been caught he began to shout across the sandy stretch calling for the ferry to come and get us and I could detect some fear in his voice as he didn't want to be stranded. The echo was amazing as he kept shouting "Ahoy there" and eventually through his binoculars he saw some movement across the other side and then the put-put of the little boat coming over to collect us.

Then the fun began as onto this tiny boat with the ferryman and his son were loaded the two bikes, ourselves plus the bags. We had to keep an arm on the bikes so they didn't slip into the water. You can imagine with this weight onboard the little boat was very low in the water. In addition my fellow cyclist was scared and began to turn a funny colour, gripping the side of the boat with white knuckles and sweat beads

on his brow. THEN the real excitement as the ferryman had slightly misjudged the timing and the tide was too low to aim at the landing stage, so he skilfully aimed his precious cargo into the rocks. We had to scramble up wet slippery rocks to reach dry land with our bikes then being passed from the boat up to us. It became a small assault course to finally set foot again back on the mainland. My fellow cyclist was now in quite a state and set off in search of the nearest pub, but for me it was quite a fitting end to another great day in the Highlands.



\*\*\*\*\*

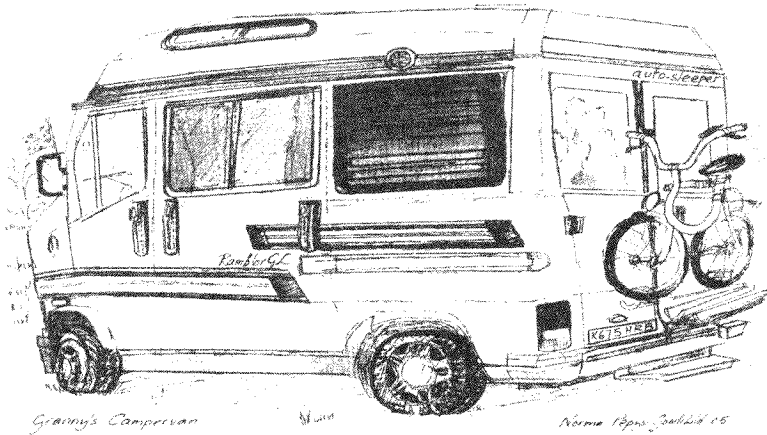
**A couple of extracts from letters sent to Manchester City Council (Repairs Division) by Tenants**

I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall.

The toilet is blocked and I can't bath the children until it is mended.

I want some repairs doing to my cooker, as it has backfired and burnt its knob off.

There's more from North of the Border ...



I'm a new member and look forward to the Rally at Newark.

My son and his wife emigrated to New Zealand and I went there for Christmas 2004 and came back thinking "I must do something new with my life." So ... I bought a campervan. I phoned New Zealand and spoke to my grandson and said "Aaron, granny's got a camper-van". The phone went quiet. He then said in an excited voice "Granny, granny bring it to New Zealand!" "I can't do that Aaron, it's too big to go in an aeroplane." Very quickly he said "No on a boat!" So here is a drawing of it to encourage grannies on their own. If I can manage one, anybody can!!

**Norma Pepys-Goodchild.**

Incidentally, the original drawing is in glorious technicolour. Ed.

**Advice for a little further afield sought by David Thornton**

We are visiting Lithuania and Poland in May/June and would be very pleased to receive any help with the choice of camping sites from personal experience. Contact [d.thornton2@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.thornton2@ntlworld.com) or phone on 0114 236 8770

A  
l  
l  
t  
h  
a  
t  
g  
l  
i  
t  
t  
e  
r  
s  
?  
?

## John and Lilian Coates

It may be remembered that I often extolled the attributes of our seven year old Talisman (no name, no packdrill). Well, I made the fatal mistake of taking it for a service. Not that the service was the fatal mistake. Having an annual service is to be recommended, but so too is waiting for the vehicle *away from the model display site*.

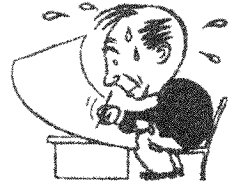
Calling for our Talisman we used the waiting time looking around the dealers display of new Auto-Sleepers vans.

It has taken me three months to admit that we fell for the 2006 Talisman but saying farewell to our beloved, we set off in the new one to arrive in Benodet the following evening. And 'all that glitters is not gold' comes to mind when I consider the situation. This new Talisman certainly is beautifully appointed and it's 2.8 diesel engine is more lively than the petrol one. But I wonder, where am I going to put all the 'junk' from the old one. I suppose it will go away slowly, as it did previously. But we do miss the convenience of the drawers not present.

No problems occurred during that first week-end because we kept mobile and the sun shone. However, standing unused on our drive for a week brought the vehicle battery to nil and heavy rain a quantity of water around the kitchen.

Auto-Sleepers Service Centre came to the rescue and we have received information from the Quality Manager explaining that the wiring for the radio (the cause of the battery voltage loss) has now been redesigned. And the rear stop light was sealed so curing the ingress of water. Press button catches were fitted to the cupboard doors beneath the sink to hold them more securely in transit and a thorough inspection was carried out to clear any other problems. So we are most grateful to Charles Trevelyan and his hard working team at Willersey.

## Chairman's Chat



I am sure that, like us, you have already realised that the nights are drawing out. This means that the season for travelling around in your van is very close now, although many have not actually stopped since last year. But it is time you did the necessary checks on the state of both the inside and the outside of the vehicle so that you can enjoy yourselves in comfort. As our van has been used a lot recently for the transport of things salvaged from our damaged home, it has needed a thorough clean on the inside. It is surprising just how the smoky/sooty residues have transferred from what we have recovered on to the floors, fittings and furnishings in the van. But that has now been dealt with so we can carry on. I must get around to the outside sometime but I have to obtain a suitable sponge or something first!

We are looking forward to the National Rally and A.G.M. which will soon be with us. We are very fortunate in this Club that our annual meetings have usually been quite quick affairs to get through. Many people will be aware of the length that some A.G.M's take because all and sundry want their voice to be heard. But the committee which you have elected over the years seems to have been keeping the Club working in the way you want it. Long may it continue. It is amazing how much work is put in by the committee members to organise the various things which need attention. Much of it is over and above what might be contained in a 'job description' but they do the work cheerfully - well, for most of the time!!

As it is a lovely bright and sunny day today I shall stop doing this chat and get out into the garden because the grass needs cutting. As we are in temporary accommodation, I don't think that the grass has been cut for about four or five months. So here we go!

See you at Newark.

**Harry Henthorne**

## March Ramblings - Peter Brown

We had a blank page left in the Newsletter so as Chris had done ALL the work on this edition so far she thought it would be a jolly good idea for me to fill it!! My first suggestion was to include a full page head and shoulders picture of Chris but I didn't get far with that so I'll ramble a bit.

- I thought I was pretty efficient at winterisation. As we do use the van in the winter it is regularly drained and refilled with water – even just to drain water from the boiler before a drive between sites in freezing weather. It turns out however that I was not that good. I hadn't been draining the pipe between the shower head and the shower mixer tap. We had a very cold spell just before Christmas and the rose on the shower head was destroyed when water in that pipe froze. One consolation – I wasn't the only one – As I made several phone calls to Willersey to identify and procure a replacement shower head I was constantly about 10 minutes behind someone following the same path.
- One of the problems with having a small van is that you can't carry everything that you might possibly need with you all the time. I try and tailor our kit to the site(s) we expect to visit and usually get something wrong (I even forgot my bottle of whisky once). We tend to use the facilities in the van for choice and therefore use quite a bit of water. Topping up with fresh water is not a problem as I use a dedicated watering can if a hose can't reach. Grey water is the problem if we don't want to move the van and there is not a convenient hedgerow. An idea I picked up from a magazine is to use the Thetford Cassette as a means of transporting Grey Water. It is essential that any water that passes through the Cassette is disposed of in the toilet emptying facility and that no equipment used in the fresh water cycle is used in this process but you can save an awful lot of trips with the washing up bowl!

A question for other Duetto owners - older model – have you had spring trouble? When we bought our van second hand one of the rear springs was found to be broken during the pre-delivery inspection. The dealer replaced both rear springs to maintain balance. A year later at the MOT one of the front springs was found to be broken – it was replaced. A further year; another MOT; BOTH rear springs broken and had to be replaced at my expense. We really can't think of any way (at all) that we have abused our springs – any thoughts?



Nuevo No.2002 Peugeot Boxer 2.0 HDi Diesel. 7900 miles, 2 berth, all standard Autosleeper features plus drivers swivel seat. Omnistor 3m awning, TV aerial, rear corner steadies, exterior side locker, roof rack and stainless steel ladder. Reversing mirror, internal screen insulation and Gemini Thatcham alarm. Immaculate. £24,500 ono.  
**Contact Pete Chipchase 01226 287436**  
(South Yorkshire)

---

Autosleeper Inca 2005. Boxer 2.2 HDi 1800 miles only. Immaculate condition. Cab a/c, alarm. 2 x 14kg gas bottles included. £30,500 ono.  
**Contact Graham Bull 01992 461233 or 07732 279553** (Hoddesdon, Herts.)

---

Volkswagen Medallion 2.5 Td 1997 P reg. 100,000 miles. One owner. Tax/MOT to June 2006. Service history. Usual Autosleeper fixtures plus cycle rack, back box, top box, side canopy, satellite navigation and awning. Sale due to bereavement so will sell other camping accessories if required. £16,000. Serious offers considered.  
**Contact Andrea Clargo (for Maureen Stansfield) 01509 216182**  
(Leics.)

---

Duetto 1994 (M) 2.5D Tax & MOT until June. 77000 miles. History. All usual Autosleeper fixtures. Plus free-standing awning. £14,500.  
**Contact David Crabbe 01744 884437**  
**Or e-mail: davidcrabbe@lineone.net** (S.W. Lancs)

---

Utility Tent Grey/green 2m x 2m approx. Plus water container with tap. £20 for both. (will split)  
**Contact Chris or Derek Thornton 01332 514681** (Derby area)

Thanks for the donation

Silver Screen to fit latest type Transit £25

Trendline folding electric bike (Shopper Style) only used twice. It has lights, a front basket and a rear boot. Complete with charger £130.

**Contact Mrs C Moore 01782 660646** (Newcastle, Staffs)

Thanks for the donation

---

Items for W Reg Topaz: Rear front facing side seat £10

Complete Towing Bracket £50

**Contact Sylvia & Norman Brice 01483 562986** (Guildford)

---

Peugeot Talisman 2.2 hdl. Registered October 2004. Mileage 5,600. Fiamma bike rack, Thompson TV, wine cupboard, built in awning and Truma Heater. £29,000.

**Contact Roy Anderton 01539 728674** (Kendal)

Thanks for the donation

---

Peugeot Harmony year 2000 with 22,000 miles. As new. Non smokers. No pets. Kitchen and shower room. Electric windows, safe, alarms, tow way fan fitted to roof, step, flyscreens, blown air heating etc. £20,000

**Contact Jimmy Martin on 07771 706078**

**or e-mail: jimmyandrene@btopenworld.com** (Castlerock Northern Ireland)

Thanks for the donation

---

Autosleeper 2005 Inca EK, Peugeot 2.8 HDi. 4 berth, 7000 miles. 3 year extended warranty on vehicle and van. Twin cycle rack, swivel drivers seat, additional mains sockets, full AS specification. As new, excellent condition, non smokers, no pets. House move forces sale. £31,995 ono

**Contact Steve Tolson 01304 832666**

**or e-mail: steve@cadeas.fsnet.co.uk** (Kent)

Thanks for the donation

## Contents

From the Editors	2	From the Factory	10
National Rally	2	Cape Wrath Caper	12
Cake Competition	4	More from North of the Border	14
The Ultimate Scottish Experience Update	5	A little further afield	14
Technical Group & Website	6	All that Glitters	15
ASOC we have a solution	6	Chairman's Chat	16
Jacks	7	March Ramblings	17
Curtain or Screens	8	For Sale	18
Important Notice	9		

## Committee Members

President	Charles Trevelyan	01386 853511
Chairman	Harry Henthorne	0208 3600244
Secretary	Janet Sutterby	01507 462449
Treasurer	John Tidbury	01235 538593
Vice-Chairman	Andy Cavell	01635 201976
Chairman, AGM Sub-Committee	Nora Venables	01902 332105
Rally Co-ordinator	Neil Rogers	01325 374540
Minutes Secretary	Mike Hall	01773 778016
Chief Rally Marshall	Ben Mansfield	01723 369769
Press Officer	Brian Smith	01487 841786
Webmaster & Chair, Tech.Group	Baz Wellard	01329 231259
Regalia Officer & Vice-Chair AGM Sub-committee	John Jones	01623 627903
Membership Secretary**	Norma Caley	01772 632734
No post as yet	Mike Valentine	02392 482818
Newsletter Editor	Peter Brown	07771 827711

---

Any item appearing in this Newsletter may be freely used by other publications. Please acknowledge both author and source.

---

Items for the Newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. You may post them to 5 Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 1WA or e-mail to: [petercb1952-asocnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petercb1952-asocnews@yahoo.co.uk). The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit items. Advertisements for items to be sold or wanted by members are published free of charge, however, small donations to Club funds are appreciated and will be acknowledged. No guarantee can be given that any item will appear in the next, or any, issue of the Newsletter. Cheques should be made payable to 'Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club' and NOT TO ASOC.

**IMPORTANT:** Contributions from Members are published in good faith in the hope that they will prove useful or interesting. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy but no modification or suggestion has been tested by the Company, the Club or your Editor. Therefore no warranties are expressed or implied nor indemnities given. You try them out at your own risk.

\*\*Norma Caley's address is 17 Rydal Avenue, Freckleton, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 1DJ, e-mail 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.