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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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



Latest ASOC Member!
(recruited by Helen and John Greenwood)

NEWSLETTER 211

APRIL 2006

From the Editor ^(S)

Norma Caley our membership secretary has kindly produced the following table from this years membership renewal data. I was very interested to note the large number of models that have been produced by Auto-Sleepers over the years and its nice to know the spread of type across the Club membership.

The motorhome industry, including the SEA group of which Auto-Sleepers are now part, are now continually introducing new brand and model names. When you read the Chairman's chat you will note that this factor is something that will need to be considered by the Club in the not too distant future. Whilst many means of communication to the committee are available I think that the Open Forum discussion that is held following the AGM meeting works well for this type of subject and hope many of you will take the opportunity to join in.

It is policy of the Club not to accept commercial adverts for the Newsletter and not to endorse services. The following organisations have given their contact details to the Club. They have not been either vetted or tested:

Russell Jones & Walker - Solicitors with a long tradition of acting for members of organisations such as Clubs and Trade Unions.

Landore Court, 51 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD
tel: 029 2026 2800 web: www.rjw.co.uk

Caravan Guard - specialise in Motorhome Insurance

Gordon House, Charles Street, Halifax, HX1 1NA
tel: 08450 717171 web: www.caravanguard.co.uk

Pipeline - An organisation whose aim is to get discounts on fuel for members

tel: 01438 812100 web: www.pipelinecard.org

Auto-Sleeper Models

The current favourite body type seems to be the Executive, closely followed by the Talisman, with the Duetto coming in a very respectable third.

Model	Chassis	No
Amethyst	Ford	42
Berkshire	New	0
CB22	Bedford	3
Clubman	Bedford & VW	86
CX200	Bedford	0
CXL	Talbot	1
Duetto	Ford	97
Dorset	New	4
Excelsior	Ford	18
Executive	Talbot & Peugeot	105
Flair	Ford	6
Frisky	Ford	7
Gatcombe	VW	36
GMC	Chevrolet	0
Harmony	Talbot & Peugeot	32
Hampshire	New	0
Inca	Peugeot	14
J2	Austin Morris	0
Lancashire	New	8
Legend	Ford	56
Leisure	Peugeot	1
Leisure Executive	Freight Rover	0
Leyland A-S	Leyland Sherpa	0
LT28	VW	0
Luxor	Peugeot	1
Medallion	Mercedes & VW	12
Midas	Peugeot	0
Midi	Bedford	1
Montana	Mercedes Benz	1
Nuevo	Peugeot	86
Omega	Ford	0

Model	Chassis	No
Palermo	Peugeot	5
Pescara	Peugeot & Ford	10
Pollensa	Peugeot & Ford	33
Rambler	Talbot & Peugeot	10
Rapport	Renault	1
Ravenna	Peugeot & Ford	18
Recro	Renault	2
RCX	Renault	0
Rhapsody	Talbot	3
RHT	Renault	0
Rienza	Ford	13
Rimini	Renault	1
Romero	Renault	1
RV50	Renault	0
Sherbourne	VW	3
SL	Talbot	0
Sportsman	Talbot	1
Sussex	New	1
SV100	Bedford	0
Symbol	Peugeot	82
Symphony	Peugeot	19
Talent	VW	1
Talisman	Talbot & Peugeot	100
Topaz	VW	39
Trafic	Renault	0
Trident	VW	38
Trooper	VW	26
Trophy	VW	6
Utopian	Bedford	0
VHT	VW	0
VT20	VW	0
VX50	VW	1
Total		1030

National Rally

From Nora:

Electricity for Disabled members

The Show Ground has offered a limited number of electric points for the use of people who have registered to the Rally as being disabled. These will cost £10 each plus the cost of electricity consumed and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please contact Nora Venables on 01902 332105 **before 6th April** if you are interested in this facility.

Special arrangements for diabetics?

Diabetics who have booked dinner for Saturday night and would like an alternative sweet, please contact Nora Venables on 01902 332105 **before 6th April**.

Internet Demonstration

If things go according to plan, Peter will demonstrate Internet access in the Foyer of the Cedric Ford Hall on Thursday afternoon between 15:00 and 17:00 and in the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion on Friday morning between 10:00 and 12:00. Please just turn up.

From Peter:

The welcome packs you are given on arrival contain useful information on amenities, events, in this instance information for the AGM, etc., please ensure you go through it as soon as you can as I'm sure it will clarify any queries you may have.

Other Rally News

Sedgemoor Carnival Burnham-on-Sea November 2006

Brian Ellis

The Holiday Village site in Burnham is normally closed in November, open only for owners of the static caravans. Because of this we have been able to block book the original 47 hard standing touring pitches.

My biggest fear has always been that the site management would one day realise that they are wasting potential revenue and extend their season to catch the Carnival weekend trade. In 2005 this happened, which was why I booked all 75 pitches, grass and hard standing. Some of the grass pitches were a little soft but we got by using the drive ways or skid mats. The main thing is we monopolised the touring pitches, keeping other clubs and competition out and giving us first option for 2006.

For 2006 the site will be fully open; they have given us first option but for the first time we have to pay a deposit per pitch well in advance. Under the circumstances this has been advanced by the club, so the rally is on for November and all the pitches booked. Information will be in the August Newsletter and booking details in September - so be ready.

The other thing to note is that many of us have family or friends who would love to see the Carnival but would need accommodation or are not ASOC members. Because the site is now staying open they will be letting static caravans for the four nights Friday 3rd to Monday 6th November (leaving Tuesday 7th). The Carnival is Monday evening. Prices are from £120 to £180 and if you have friends or family wishing to go they should contact Burnham-on-Sea Holiday Village direct on 0870 4050 150 quoting Carnival Break.

The Gold Links site with electric hook up, evening meal and morning coffee, will be available for early rally arrivals as before.

Regalia Update

John Jones

If you were/are the owner of an Auto-Sleeper Talbot Express Talisman GL I have managed to get hold of a detailed 1/92nd scale model. They are made from a mixture of polyester resin and aluminium powder, thus giving an authentic pewter finish. These will be available at £6.25 each + p&p.

I also have a limited number of polo shirts and sweat shirts in white (blue ones will still be available as usual) in Large (L), Extra Large (XL) and Extra, Extra Large (XXL) sizes. I hope to have these available at the National Rally or before.

In case you've misplaced last month's Newsletter and/or recipe

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

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard

Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster

In February's Newsletter Geoff Williamson kindly wrote an article suggesting driving onto the spare wheel to assist the load on the vehicle jack. The Club cannot however, endorse this method for motorhomes, reasons include:

- It will be an undue load on the engine/clutch/transmission to drive 'vertically' on to the spare wheel—a height of up to 8", especially if it is the drive wheel that is flat or the tyre has been shredded.
- More importantly, possibly the sides of the spare wheel and tyre-wall will be supporting up to one tonne, for which neither are designed. If the tyre is shredded and/or the rim is likely to become exposed then there is even more possibility of damage. This may result in an immediate or future wheel/tyre failure.
- If you feel you are not capable of changing the wheel it is strongly recommended that you enrol in membership of a suitable breakdown service. Note—on some vehicles even the removal of the spare wheel is not always easy, especially if it is one of the rear tyres that has deflated! It is a small price to pay when set against possible personal injury or damage to one's motorhome.

Wi-Fi—Baz has written an excellent article on Wi-fi internet access. We don't have space for it this month but it will be in the May issue. If anyone can't wait please get in touch and I'll send a copy.

Is this a First

Auto-Sleepers have for some time been developing a revolutionary water re-circulation system that will allow up to 80% of 'grey' water to be re-cycled as drinking water.

Although details of the system are limited, I understand that it involves a small 12 volt pump connecting the two tanks via an 'Ozonic-Ultra Violet Immobilisation and Filtration unit'. The unit will produce drinking water directly into the fresh water tank.

Continued on next page...

The Club has been asked to take part in one of the series of tests—'Particle Removal and Linear Immobilisation—trial series 1 ((PRALts1)'. Dorothy and I will be having the unit fitted to our Talisman by the Service Centre this month. Results will be published the same time next April!

If any other member wishes to be included or would like further details please e-mail to gottchya@assoc.fsnet.co.uk—FOA A P Fuhr.

Ten Years On

Brian Smith

It doesn't seem possible that it is nearly ten years since Maurice Payne asked me to help form a 'Technical Information Group'.

"but Maurice", I said, "there is no-one more un-technical than me; I have difficulty changing a light bulb." "Ah, but you have a computer, I do not. You can be production manager."

So it was that the T.I.G. was born. As Maurice lived in Edinburgh and was still working, communication was by telephone and post. If we were lucky we met at the Club & Company Rally and maybe a couple of other rallies in the North.

It was decided that we would print 'Ideas Sheets' being details of modifications or improvements that folk had made to their 'vans. To get the thing up and running Maurice, who owned a Clubman, penned the first four, which all related to that model. He would write out the text in longhand and post it to me. I would type up a master copy on the computer, leaving space for diagrams and return it to him. He would insert the diagrams and get the finished article photo-copied.

At this stage the group (which in all modesty was Maurice and me) was a private enterprise and not an official club operation, although I was a committee members. The Newsletter Editor (Harry) kindly gave us space to publicise what we were doing. The word soon spread and contributions began to come in from members for new 'Ideas Sheets'

and our 'phones started ringing in the evenings with members wanting advice on their waste water smells, or tyre pressures, etc., etc.

Our first stall at the Club & Company Rally was a great success with the 'Ideas Sheets' selling like hot cakes at 10p a sheet. Maurice had scoured every charity shop in Edinburgh for various manuals and these were loaned for a small charge. We had to try to make a bit of cash, as so far all expenses had come from our own pockets. From the early days Albert Brown, our electrical expert, has been a tower of strength, particularly on the Club & Company Rally stand.

Our relationship with the factory was not what it could or should have been and I must admit this was largely because Maurice saw himself as a knight in shining armour trying to right the factory's wrongs on behalf of the club members. On the other hand the factory thought we should concern ourselves with such mundane tasks as screwing an extra towel rail in the shower!

Eventually Maurice, now retired and living near Lincoln, became frustrated and left the club. We do owe Maurice an enormous debt of gratitude for getting the group off the ground.

In 2001 the group was formally recognized by the committee, and a sub-committee was formed under the leadership of Ian Ross. Ian was not a committee member and I became the liaison with the main committee. All 'Ideas Sheets' were now sent to Auto-Sleepers for approval before being published. In September 2001 Andrew Entwistle took over as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

At the Annual General Meeting of 2003 Baz Wellard was elected as Chairman of the Technical Information Group. As with all things he undertakes, Baz threw himself heart and soul into the job with the result that there are now 101 'Idea Sheets' available and more on the way. Coupled with his 'other' job as Webmaster, Baz is able to offer a comprehensive service of technical information. Well done indeed!

From small acorns do large oaks grow.

Water Pumps - Steve Rigge

Probably only by inspired guesswork, but I cured all the hammering, chattering and splashing problems from the hot & cold water system in my 1997 Symphony within 3 months of buying it new by fitting the Fiamma A20 expansion/accumulator bottle directly after the pump in the main water feed. This modification allows any tap to be turned on to provide constant flow at any rate from a trickle to full pressure. In my model of Symphony there is plenty of room to mount the bottle next to the pump. Prior to this in my experience adjusting the flow rate had no beneficial effect. Charles Trevelyan in fact puts his finger on the cure in his reference to the hot water heater acting as an accumulator in the March Newsletter, but the Fiamma A20 is the real solution. (P83 in the Fiamma 2006 catalogue.) Airlocks are a different problem and filling up from a fully drained tank will always give an initial problem, minimised as Geoff Williamson says by leaving all the taps open while filling the tank.

My Shurflo pump finally gave up after 8 years use and I found the Fiamma Aqua 8 an almost identical replacement at half the cost. Stripping down the old pump and cleaning seals, etc., proved a waste of time and the cost of a replacement set of seals according to Shurflo UK was uneconomic.

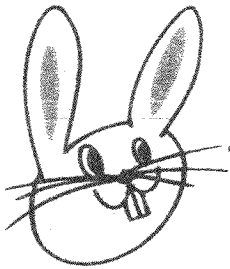
From Tony Janes

I would like to thank everybody who replied [to 'ASOC we have a problem/solution'] it has been a great help. The current situation is that I took the van to the dealer who has done two things, the first was to reduce the pressure setting on the pump and the second was to move the pump to the left (he said it was too tight against the body of the van). A short demonstration seemed to indicate that the problem was solved, however, we have been here before. The real test will be when we de-winterise the van and go away for a few days, which hopefully will be soon. I will let you know the outcome in due course.

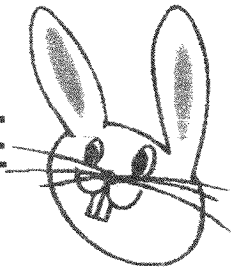
Note from the Vice-Chair on Oran Motorhomes

The Club has recently received a few applications for membership from purchasers of Oran motorhomes. These vehicles are an update of the Vivanti range and are currently built by Auto-Sleepers but marketed through a different dealer network.

As they do not currently qualify for membership of the Club, the committee discussed the situation at our recent meeting. We came to the conclusion that there is no reason to change our approach, so owners of these vans will not be eligible to join ASOC.



April 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 22nd -24th September. This is due to a re-arranged race meeting.*****

April 6th-9th - (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, Stapenhall, 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.

14th - 18th 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

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.

20th-23rd.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.

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

27th.April – 1st.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 was March 25th.

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

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

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**.

11th.-15th. May.(4 nights) Little Cotton Farm,Dartmouth,

Devon.TQ6 0LB.

Telephone No. 01803 932558. Fax 01803 834887. Website
www.littlecotton.co.uk The site is run by its owners, Paul and Dot White.

Any additional nights should be booked with them direct.

Rally Marshalls :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,diishwashing 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.

12th.-15th.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 31st.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 Please let marshal know if booking by any other means ie, Internet.

24th.-29th.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 Junction 11, at roundabout take 4th 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 2nd 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 24th. May – 8th. June 2006.

This rally is now FULL.

1st.-5th. June. (4 nights) Springbok Estate. Alfold, Surrey.

Site Tel. No. 01403 752 555 (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals: Sylvia & Norman Brice.

Site Fee: £5.50 per night. **NO** Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.50 (couples)

£1.50 (singles). Incl VAT.

GREENFIELD SITE. Toilet emptying & water points, toilets.

Rally Slips & cheques payable to Mrs. S. Brice, 35 Halfpenny Close, Chilworth, Guildford, Surrey. GU4 8NH. Tel. No. 01483 562 986.

Attractions: Large country house (home to merchant seaman) with social club. Close to Alfold village, 20 min walk for papers bread etc. Lots of gentle walks around the grounds of Springbok. Fishing lakes, bring your licence. Within easy reach of Cranleigh, Guildford, Godalming, Horsham & South Coast.

Skittles & buffet evening to be arranged for Friday. Please indicate on rally slip if interested. Marquee on site for our use also model boat weekend on lake.

Dogs welcome on leads at all times.

Directions: Take A281 Guildford to Horsham road, at Alfold crossways turn off s.p. Alfold. Immediately turn **right** (caravan sign) s.p. Dunsfold. Site approx. 1 ½ miles.

12th.-16th. June (4 nights) Lochside Park C.P., Castle

Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Emergency Tel. No. 0781704186 or 07969312703 (Marshals' mobiles).

Rally Marshals: Moira & Allan Blackstock.

Site Fee: £8.00 per night. Electricity: £2.50 per night. Rally Fee: £2.00 PER PERSON.

Cheques with SAE for confirmation & directions to :A & M. Blackstock, 39 Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston. PR1 9UJ. Tel. No. 01772 749178.

Attractions: Situated beside Carlingwark Loch, a few minutes walk from the shops and within walking distance of Threave Gardens (NT) and easy driving distance to the Solway Coast or the Galloway Hills; the site is popular with tourists. A hall has been

booked for evenings and we hope to arrange an evening meal.

16th – 19th June 2006 (3 nights) Cartmel Park Race Course, Cartmel, Cumbria LA11 6QF

Emergency Tel.No.07710 200547 (marshals' mobile).

Rally Marshals: James & Jill Bertlin

Site Fee: £21.00 (3 nights). Electricity £8.25 (3 nights) - limited to 15 vans, long leads may be required. Rally Fee: £2.35 (all charges include VAT)

Booking slips and cheques to Jill Bertlin, The Rockeries, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6LQ. Tel. No. 015395 34500 (mobile: 07710 200547)

Rally field slightly uneven in places. Toilets & showers on site. Dogs are welcome, but as with Ralliers, they are not permitted on the racecourse track.

A simple BBQ and pudding has been arranged for Sunday evening (provide own salad if required). Please state if interested on rally slip.

Local Attractions: Cartmel village is a maze of streets, cobbled pavements and picturesque bridges, crossing the meandering streams that wind their way amongst the houses with a Priory, which was founded by the Augustine Monks back in 1190. It has an historic market square, surrounded by centuries old houses and Inns, the ancient fish slabs still survive and also the original Gatehouse. Nowadays Cartmel is full of interesting shops, including the famous sticky toffee pudding shop.

Close to the Edwardian resort of Grange-over-Sands and within a short drive of the renowned beauty of the Lake District National Park, offering some of the most spectacular scenery in the country with opportunities for walking, golfing, cruising or just sightseeing.

Directions: From M6 Junction 36 follow A590 towards Barrow in Furness for approx 10 miles. Follow Cartmel signs (along narrow lanes) through village square, past Cartmel Village shop on left (sharp right hand bend). Entrance to rally field along road on left through Race Course gate. **Limited to 20 vans.**

22nd . – 26th . June (4 nights). Riverside T.P. Stratford upon Avon,Warks.

Emergency Tel No: 07799660641 Marshals' Mobile.

Rally Marshals: Sandra and Bernie Wisely.

Site fees: £7.00pn Inc VATNo electricity Rally Fee: £2.50 per couple or £1.50 single Inc VAT.

Rally field on commercial site full facilities available a short distance from the rally field. Café, Shop,Adjacent Club House, Free Fishing and River Taxi into Stratford Town Centre.

Cheques and rally slips to: Sandra Wisely, 2 Mount Pleasant, Bishops Itchington, SOUTHAM, Warks, CV47 2QE. Tel 01926 – 614194

Note: No arrival before 1430 hrs.

Subject to the weather a Communal Barbeque may be organised so please bring portable off the ground Barbeques with a view to sharing. Another evening we hope to arrange a bring your own meal and we could all sit together during the evening and catch up.

Directions: Take the B4086 Tiddington Road from the bridge in Stratford. As you enter the village of Tiddington the Park entrance is on the left hand side opposite the new NFU building, pull into the parks and follow signs.

30th June.- 2nd July. (2 nights) Prestwood Steam Fair,Great Missenden,Bucks.

Emergency Tel.No. 07775570182 or 07749378587.

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

Fee for weekend: £17.00 per unit. **NO** Electricity. Rally Fee:£1.75 per unit.(Incl.VAT).

The fee includes unlimited entrance to the Steam Rally.

This is a **GREEN FIELD SITE** – own toilets are essential.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs.J.Hicklin,381 Manor Road,Brimington,Chesterfield,

Derbyshire.S43 1PP. Tel N.o 01246 236 157.

Directions:From A413 Great Missenden take A4128 to Prestwood and follow Steam Rally signs.

NO ARRIVALS BEFORE 1.00p.m. FRIDAY.

*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.

I have some sites that have offered a rally site,they are not vetted as to the suitability for rallies.

*It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as **unless they are approved by the Club,there will be no Public Liability Insurance.***

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

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

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

E & OE

Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No

Please complete both sides of the form!

✂ _____

Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No

Please complete both sides of the form

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

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal::: Yes No

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

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

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

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

Names of Adults.....

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

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal::: Yes No

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

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



We have to say goodbye

It is with regret that Trevor and I say goodbye to the A-S Owners' Club as we have just sold our much loved 'Lucky' Legend. Although work and family commitments have meant we have not been able to join in the rallies, we did enjoy immensely one Club & Company Rally. 'Lucky' is still going strong, despite her 29 years!! And her new owners are delighted. We have passed on club details, so they might be new members soon.

Our storage needs cannot be met by an Auto-Sleeper at the moment, so our new van will be a Knaus, but that's not to say if a future A-S model appears that suits our needs that we might be back. Thank you for the information and the great Newsletter - we have learned a lot from the club and enjoyed our membership and meeting the friendly A-S owner on sites.

I wonder if we will be able to break the habit of waving to A-S drivers on the road??!

Best wishes to all
Karen and Trevor Nicholls

From the Factory

It was a sad day indeed last Friday when we said farewell to my brother Anthony after 45 years long and hard working service for the Company. Ian gave a most charming and heartfelt address whilst presenting Anthony with a digital camera, one of which he had espied on his recent Peugeot trip to Hong Kong, but felt was somewhat expensive! His farewell took place in conjunction with a small party at the New Inn, Willersey, after which Anthony and Victoria were invited to dinner by Ian, Mike Crouch and his wife Dawn and David Putt, where I would imagine they regaled each other with tales of old into the early hours!

I am sure it is with members' full approval that we propose to nominate Anthony for Honorary Life Membership of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. This will be raised at the forthcoming AGM and subject to members' full agreement, it will indeed be a most wonderful accolade on which to start his well earned retirement.

Today, the following Monday, we welcome aboard our new Production Director, Simon Vaughan. It would be more than true to say I was most impressed by his perception, not least of our own department, and was indeed pleasantly surprised when he visited us mid-morning on his first day here, to learn a little more about the Motorhome Service Centre and to talk in depth to me about the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. I was particularly heartened when he volunteered to me the value of practical ownership in forthcoming design and model improvements—so watch this space! He really is a delightful chap and I know in the not too distant future would very much like to meet as many of you as possible, perhaps at some forthcoming rally. Surprised to say, he has asked if he can borrow a motorhome to get the feel of matters, which of course we shall endeavour to arrange.

The Birmingham Boat and Caravan Show was once again, successful for us and one must congratulate most heartily the very hard work of Steve Cant and Dave Clarkson in preparing the stand to such very high order. Our thanks too to one of our Honorary Life Members, Neville Jelfs no less, who nobly worked long and harassing hours in ensuring that everything was up to scratch on the stand, as he did, of course, in the old days when he was our Works Manager. It's wonderful that Neville should remain so closely involved with Auto-Sleepers- like us all; if you were to cut him in half you would find the AS logo throughout!

The Sandhurst I understand, was particularly well received and it was encouraging, as always, to see so many Club members on the stand where I trust, you were duly entertained and offered refreshments. We now set our sights on the National Rally at Newark and here we will have our 3 new models - Eton, Windsor and Sandhurst, on display with the appropriate Sales and R&D support so that we can, once again, hear your views, learn of your suggestions and proposals, and, where possible, implement these accordingly. Stephen Small, our Design Manager, will be looking after the display in conjunction with Emma Franklin, our Marketing Manager, and Dave Clarkson who works with Steve Cant in the Sales Department. Adrian Clews from the Marketing Department will also be present so you should have a good representation from us here at Willersey.

I was concerned to learn recently from certain Club members that there has been some derogatory comments in respect of the Eberspacher D2 heater prematurely draining the leisure battery.

I have to say that I have never heard of this problem before, nor indeed had any reports of excessive usage of fuel. Immediately I heard this I contact Eberspacher and can assure any of you who are concerned about the operation of the Eberspacher Airtronic D2, that it certainly will not drain the leisure battery -by my and Eberspacher's calculations it will operate satisfactorily for at least 20 hours (interestingly Stephen Small our Design Manager, says this is the worst possible case, suggesting 35 or probably 40 hours). My figure is calculated for the worst possible case, i.e. irregular switching on and off etc. and of course, using other 12 volt facilities such as lights. Certainly of the many customers we have met, and indeed we have fitted in place of Carver units quite a number of these Eberspacher units, the performance has been much praised and I did not wish there to be any doubt as to its operation, which I can assure you is first class both in heat output and of course, economy.

Reverting to Service Centre activities, our two new bays are all now fully complete with tools, compressed air, heater and indeed all that we need, less the hydraulic lift that is to be installed mid-March. We intend to use these two new bays - which look quote splendid - for pre-delivery inspections (PDIs), automotive work (the Gold and Silver Service) as well as the fitting of reversing cameras, deadlocks, underfloor storage lockers - and indeed any automotive or chassis related work. Our new waiting room is now upstairs - call it a room with a view if you will, since it looks due south toward Willersey Hill and even at this early stage of Spring, benefits from plenty of sunshine, in contrast to our rather dark and unwelcoming waiting room of the past!

With kind regards and best wishes from all of us here at the Motorhome Service Centre and, indeed, all at Auto-Sleepers, particularly Simon Vaughan, who asked me personally to send his best wishes to you all at the earliest opportunity.

Charles Trevelyan



Didn't we have a lovely time, the time we went to Whitemead.

Chris Mawdsley

Our first Rally of the year was another new experience; we spent four nights at Whitemead Park in the Forest of Dean. I have to say it was a good choice considering the time of year (February - remember the cold, remember the snow), with amenities on site - a [very nice warm] Leisure Pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna, family restaurant and bar/restaurant, plus the use of a small conference room. And despite the fact it was half term and therefore peopled by a lot of families, the nuisance factor of the little *darlings*, was nil.

The Forest of Dean is not an area either Peter or I are familiar with but we found it both enchanting and surprising. Enchanting because of the myriad of walks throughout the Forest and surprising because it is not an area that obviously has its routes in industry, but this is the case. Way back the wood was used to build ships; iron and coal has been mined in the area possibly from roman times and the first steel rail was produced at Darkhill Ironworks (the remains of which can still be seen) and laid at

Derby station.

The rally was run by Jeannette Jones, assisted by Geoff and Helen Gray and as Jeannette only returned from India a matter of days before the Rally, she was persuaded (principally by all the questions she was getting) to give us the low down on her 'Big Adventure'. However, no more on this subject, other than to say it was very interesting and enjoyable, as I am hoping she is going to give us an article for the Newsletter.

Having arrived Monday lunchtime the afternoon was spent putting up the awning and generally acclimatising ourselves with the site and immediate area. On Tuesday we had arranged to see some friends who live close by, (though we didn't realise this until a few days before the rally), so we didn't actually get out walking until Wednesday and it was nearly a very short walk as yours truly went base over apex not five minutes from the gate!! And while Peter was busy hauling me to my feet a couple in a passing car, who had obviously witnessed my none too graceful descent (you know the sort of thing, nose in the undergrowth, bum in the air) stopped to enquire if we needed assistance or a lift somewhere. I assured them I was still in one piece and functional and thanked them, but wasn't that kind

particularly as they had obviously passed in one direction and witnessed the incident then turned around to see if we needed help, they then turned around again and continued on their way. We eventually made it to Clearwell Cavern, which is also a mine and had a look round there and it turned out to be a good walk.

On Thursday we set out again for a fairly short waik - well it was snowing, although not heavily. But we did get to Mallard Pike and up to Fancy View (although with the mist and the snow there wasn't much of one!).

We then joined a table of ASOC diners on Thursday evening to be regaled with tales of he lunch time goings on in the local pub. To wit a group of ASOC members, lead by Jeannette descended on one of the local pubs for lunch. Having duly given their orders they settled down to chat and general merriment. After a short time the waitress appeared and shouted "Who's the faggot" whereupon one of the male members of the group put up his hand. At this point I understand the table collapsed with a fit of the giggles much to the bemusement of the gentleman who merely thought he was being helpful. Upon the waitress's departure Jeanette duly explained the various connotations of the word 'faggot' (definitions provided in the Oxford English) which

caused more giggling and the chap concerned seeing (and appreciating) the joke.

The main course was followed by the waitress appearing with dessert and shouting "Tart?", which turned out to be Jeannette's. This was just too much and the group became helpless with laughter. The whole event will henceforth be known as the 'Faggots and Tarts outing'!!

Unfortunately, Cedric and Mo Jones had to leave the Rally early due to unforeseen circumstances and we were therefore deprived of Cedric's quiz on Thursday evening. Hope everything's OK you two.

Anyway many thanks to Jeannette, Geoff and Helen for organising the Rally and to Sheila and Ivor Barnett for pitching in to help. I think everyone had a jolly good time.



Thank you

We would like to thank all our friends that attended the Forest of Dean Rally in Lydney for the beautiful flowers and card we received.

It was a wonderful surprise after the traumatic few days we had had on returning home to a rather nasty burglary.

Once again Auto-Sleeper owners show their care, concern and friendship one to another.

Many, many thanks.

Maureen and Cedric Jones



Chairman's Chat



At the end of this month we shall reach our National Rally and Annual General Meeting. It doesn't seem possible that this will be the 17th A.G.M. especially as a number of us were present at the Inaugural Meeting held at South Cerney. For those people who only want to come along to the National Rally without having any of the meals you can book up to 6th April 2006. Obviously, if you want to take any of the meals the closing date has to be earlier because of the needs of the caterers. And don't forget that if you only want to come along to the A.G.M. there is no need to book for the rally, but you will not be able to stay on the showground. You can just come along, park and attend the meeting, then depart afterwards.

As I am reaching the end of my tenure as Chairman of this wonderful Club of ours, it seems to me to be a good time to remind you all that we must think ahead. What do you see as the future of the Club? As you know, we currently reserve membership to owners of Auto-Sleeper

motor homes. This was a good definition when we started, but now, with other entrants into the Auto-Sleeper Group of companies it could bring into question just what is meant. Problems have occurred when owners of vans made in Willersey, but under a different brand name have approached us to join the Club. Also, with the advent of the S.E.A. group into the fold there is likely to be a further increase in people who might have a thought of joining. How do you see it? Your committee will always be interested in your views so that the Club may long continue.

Another subject for consideration is the issuing of plaques at rallies. The original supplier has now sold the business and we are finding it a little difficult to obtain the necessary supplies as, when and where we want them. I know that a lot of people like to receive them but do you think that we should continue or not? As we have lost all of course, together with the brass plaques we used to get when attending the classic vehicle rallies in our recent conflagration, it seems that it could be difficult to enjoy restarting. But that is just us.

One other thing. As I said I shall shortly retire as your Chairman. I have had great support from the committee members and I would like to thank each and every one of them for that. Also, during my tenure as Editor of YOUR Newsletter you have made it so easy for me so I thank you for that. Now I can sit back and take things easy – apart from the other things I do for other organisations of course.

All the best.

Harry Henthorn

HELP

My wife says it's all my fault for bouncing in and out of the van too quickly.

I reckon it's all her fault for not fastening the elastic strap on the overhead cupboard with the cereal bowls inside.

Either way we've managed to break 3 of the 4 cereal bowls in our T reg. Symbol. Does anyone know where we can get spares from please? It's such a nuisance having to wash up half way through breakfast!!

If you can help drop an e-mail to Derek.r.pope@openworld.com or phone on 01202 889070.

Last year we changed our faithful Duetto for an Executive and very pleased we are. We would like to ask if anyone has changed the grey curly drain hose with ridges inside for the smooth bore type and if so did it improve the drainage speed and was it worth the effort?

Joy & Nigel Wilkins e-mail joy-nigel@joycot.freemove.co.uk



Dorma Highlands Motor Home Annexe for Talbot Express Symphony. Suitable for rear or side door. Fits motor homes up to 210cm in height. Only used twice. Cost £365 will sell for £150.

Contact: Alan & Chris Ward 01656 788796
(Porthcawl, Mid Glam.)

Thanks for the donation

Peugeot Nuevo reg. 08.08.2002 3,600 miles. Extras –rear corner steadies, driver swivel seat, Omnistor 3m awning, internal wind screen covers. Immaculate condition. Illness reason for sale. Non-smokers. £25,500

Contact: Tony Cooke 0247 765 2777 (near Coventry)

0247 654 2777

Thanks for the donation

Fiamma Bike Rack as new for VW T4. £50.

Contact: Joan or Max Cooke 01432 274906 (Hereford).

A-S Peugeot Boxer Nuevo 2L July 2004 Hdi engine. 2 berth, central locking, 8,500 miles. Non-smokers, no children, no pets. CD player, Altraheat/ store, hot and cold water, dual swivel seats, patterned green upholstery. Single/ double beds. Solar panel, Fiamma door lock, oven, 3 gas 1 electric hob, fridge, blow air heating. Gas/Electric fire, TV aerial and booster. Shower and cassette toilet. £26,500 ono

Contact: Dennis Carter 01590 689319 mobile 07775 676604

(Lymington, Hants)

Thanks for the donation

VW A-S Clubman 'Jackie 2' 2.5 TDi 1997 'R' reg. 45,000 miles. Usual spec plus Silver Screens, Omnistar awning and reversing sensors fitted 2005. Taxed and tested to September 06. £18,995

Also set of **Silver Screens** for Box type motorhome £25.

Contact: Ron & Audrey Harland 07979 897093 (Wrexham)

Thanks for the donation

A-S IncaEK 2005. Peugeot Boxer 2.2 HDi 1,800 miles only. Immaculate condition, 4 berth. Full A-S spec. plus cab a/c, alarm, 2 x 14g gas bottles inc. Non-smokers and no pets. £30,500 ono.

Contact: Graham Bull 01992 461233 mobile 07732 279553
e-mail grahambull@tesco.net

Pollensa Peugeot Boxer Feb 1999(S) 1.9 TD 34,000 miles. VanAarken uprated engine power. 4 berth. Full service and MOT Feb. 2006. Taxed to end July 2006. Fiamma awning, solar panel, 2 x leisure batteries. Full cooker, 70ltr fridge, blown air heating, Heiki roof light. Captain's seats, passenger swivel, alarm & immobiliser, bike rack. Toilet/shower. Interior dinette offside, facing a settee. Extras. No pets/smokers/children. Excellent condition £19,250 ono.

Contact: Wendy Stephenson 0118 9448352
or e-mail wend_step@hotmail.com (Berkshire)

A-S Trooper VW T4 1992. 2.0 petrol engine. 2+2 berth, elevating roof. One owner from new, non-smokers, no pets. Much loved and in excellent condition. 3 way fridge, 2 burner hob & grill, blown air heating. Pink/beige upholstery. All original fittings and crockery. Fiamma 2-bike rack. Radio/tape. Alarmed. CB radio. Canopy. Visa-potty. (Motor chalet & interior cab Silver Screens available as negotiable additions). MOT May 2006. Taxed to April 2006. 71,500 miles. £8,750.

Contact John Hajok 01204 529016 (Bolton)

Panasonic TX-G10 colour TV 12v/240v DC auto or manual set up with Teletex Fastex selection. Can be used UK & Europe. Cost £265 will sell £110.

Contact Ron Kirwin 01246 276624 (Chesterfield)

Thanks for the donation

Highlander 2 drive-away awning 9x7 as new £160

Contact: Alan & Sheila Hutchings 01229 467502
Mobile 07747 038092 (Cumbria)

VW Automatic Gatcombe TDi Y reg. 22,000 miles. Many improvements. Recent MOT with service + cam belt. Superb condition. Will be very reluctant sale due to unforeseen circumstances.

Contact: Beryl Douglas 01243 533493 (West Sussex)

Thanks for the donation

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