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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*



*Irish Rally—Third Centre!!*

**NEWSLETTER 214**

**July 2006**

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

We have some rally reports inside, including one from the Irish Rally. I did actually call it a two centre rally, but in fact I forgot the mini rally held at Tesco's on the way to Fossa! The Bridge of Allan sounds as if it was a huge success and thanks to Betty and Frank Ward for their report.

I really ought to mention though that the highlight of our entire trip around the Ring of Kerry was Peter finding his *perfect bucket* for €2.20 in a hardware shop in Waterville!!!

A lot of people have been commenting about how much work is involved in producing the Newsletter, so we thought we'd let you know who does what:

Norma Caley	address labels
Neil Rogers	rally supplement
The printer	printing, and posting
John Tidbury	pays the bills
You do	the articles
We do	not much!!

Will the lady who left a light grey jacket in the Cedric Ford Hall please contact me on 01902 332105 or write to me at 15 Langley Gardens, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton WV3 8JN.

Nora Venables

## ***A Note from Irene Boydell***

I have been collecting plastic tops for charity from a lot of our members at every event. I have found out today that this has finished so thank you for your contributions, but I will not be collecting any more tops.

## **Friskey's rear doors**

Dai Davies had a 1989 Flair and thinks Kevin's doors may lock the same way. That is lock the door while it is open and close it firmly behind you as you get in. Opening the door from the inside unlocks it. Or Doug Wilkinson suggests if there's a hole on the inside of the left rear door, the lock could be in there (as in the Duetto), lift to lock, open with key from outside.

## *Thank You*

We are uncertain how to put into words our thanks to club members for their trust and support over the last couple of years. As many of you understand we have been through a most terrible ordeal that has completely monopolised our lives.

The unstinting support and assistance we received from our many friends in the club lifted both of us and gave us the courage to cope with the pressure of these truly horrible accusations. We thank you all for your unwavering trust and support that has seen us through the varying highs and lows we endured.

We have had time to reflect on the warm welcome we received at the National Rally in Newark and the special song from the Houghton Weavers was absolutely wonderful helping us now to put an end to this whole business.

Once again we humbly thank you and look forward to meeting you all at rallies in the coming months.

God bless you all  
Andrew and Betty Entwistle



## *And on a different note*

Joy and I would like to thank everybody who attended our rallies at Bridge of Allen over the past three years. We had great fun running them and have made many new friends along the way.

Our warmest thanks must go to our assistant marshals, namely George and Helen Gilchrist, Bryan and Jenoffer Oliver and last but by no means least our grandson Jamie. Thanks also go to Neil Rogers for his unfailing help and encouragement throughout, and to Jim Gauld, Strathallen Meeting Ltd., whose help was always very much appreciated.

Hope we can attend some rallies south of the border and meet some of you again in the future.

Thanks once again.  
Donald & Joy Stott

# Rally News

## Bridge of Allan Rally Betty and Frank Ward

Our Marshalls Donald and Joy Stott certainly chose a great place for their rallies. The Bridge of Allan site is in the middle of Scotland, with Stirling Castle in the distance, Sir William Wallace's Tower close by and just a short walk to the village shops, transport services. There are many interesting and historical places nearby and frequent bus and train services to places like Glasgow and Edinburgh.



Where shall we go first? Falkirk boat wheel, Royal Yacht Britannia, Stirling Castle, Loch Lomond - decisions, decisions, decisions!

A nice touch to the rally was a visit from local businessman David, resplendent in tartan attire, to give an amusing and informative talk about the area. Each evening we enjoyed a lively 'get together' in the sports hut with refreshments and games. Donald entertaining us playing guitar and we had a sing along one evening.

Thank you Donald and Joy (and Jamie) and helpers Bryan, Jenoffer, George and Helen, for making our time in Scotland so enjoyable.

## What a time we had in Kerry

Chris Mawdsley

Liz and Bryn Morgan organised a superb two-centre Rally in Kerry, Ireland, hard on the heels of their daughter's wedding, so they've certainly had a hectic time of it. However, they were assisted by Nora and Ven Venables and the four of them certainly did an excellent job.

For those of you who've never been to Southern Ireland some of the roads are, shall we say, *interesting!!* particularly between Killarney and Glengariff. Suffice it to say when you take a bus trip around the Ring of Kerry (which the Marshalls had organised for us) all the coaches go the same way round!

*The organised coach trip around the ring on Donnie McCarthy's bus was hairy in places, but Tom, he did well made us glad he was driving, not us!!*

Anyway, Eagle Point was the first centre, situated on a promontory with the sea on three sides.

A beautiful camp site with stunning views – on a clear day.... which ok

we didn't get very many of.

But it was dry for the walk around Gougane Barra and the 10 days we spent at Fossa, the second centre, were gloriously hot and sunny.



In addition to the trip around the Ring of Kerry we had a walk around the National Park from Muckross House and a wonderful day going through the Gap of Dunloe and across the 3 Lakes of Killarney.



There were coffee evenings, a Boules match, and cheese and wine evening (thanks to Janette Jones for helping to organise that) and some odd game with oversized dice which created a lot of hilarity and some money for charity.

Pauline Hill organised a trip to see Riverdance, that was being staged in Killarney. It was, of course, a wonderful performance.

All in all an excellent rally, and on behalf of everyone who attended a very big **Thank You** to Liz, Bryn, Nora and Ven for all their hard work.

*Janet Jones*

## Dartmouth

Pam and Terry Holtom

Having just completed our 10th Rally at Little Cotton Caravan Park we had decided to call it a day and made this announcement early on in the Rally. We were obviously extremely pleased when two volunteers and two assistants, came forward to replace us and, therefore, the Dartmouth Rally will still be running in future. We both wish them every success and hope they will get as much pleasure from running the Rally as we have.

We would like to say a very big **Thank You** to the many members who have come to the 10 Rallies and we have so enjoyed meeting up with old and new faces. Our thanks must also go to Jenni and Geoff Raistrick, our Assistant Marshalls, and to Ann and Joe Greek, who were always on hand if we needed help. We shall, no doubt, be meeting up with many of you again at other Rallies.

## Springbok

Sylvia & Norman Bryce

This rally was cancelled by Spingbok 1 week before it was scheduled due to ground conditions. It has been harder to cancel than organise but thank you for all the very understanding letters and phone calls.

## **Travelling with Randy & Rex**

Pauline Porter

I set off from home on December 7th, taking the Brittany ferry across to Caen and my first driving experience on the right hand side!! and I must say I was quite nervous. And because all the toll booths are on the wrong side [for a r/h drive car] I tried to use other major routes though Caen, Le Mans, Tours, Limoges, Toulouse and eventually to Perpignan. A long haul but into warmer weather and I had two stays at super small campsites and some nice cycle rides.

The next stage was through Barcelona where I was unfortunate enough to get a puncture. A new tyre was negotiated but would take 24 hours to arrive so I thought I would take myself off to Montserrat, which from reading, looked fantastic. I wasn't disappointed but it was now late afternoon and freezing cold so after a few hurried pictures it was back down 1,000 ft before stopping overnight.

Early start next morning to get the tyre, but Randy (the van) wouldn't start—flat battery. 2 hours after ringing Green Flag a thumping great breakdown recovery vehicle came lumbering up the pass and Randy coughed into life. 4 o'clock found me reunited with my spare wheel, and £125 lighter. That knocked the budget for six.

After spending 3 nights at a super site in the National Park with excellent cycle rides, the battery failed again. Not a happy bunny!

There followed another fairly long drive I was glad to arrive, albeit with a very sore back, at the Christmas Rally Site (through the Camping & Caravanning Club) at Moncofa near Valencia, where I would be staying until January 3rd.

Unfortunately my sore back was worse the following morning and I began to lose the use of my left leg, which was worrying!! Anyhow the upshot was I couldn't move for 3 days but people rallied round to help and gave me some very strong painkillers and gradually the pain disappeared in time to enjoy the Christmas Dinner and evening celebrations. All the foodstuffs in the area seemed much cheaper and better quality than at home and diesel was 70p per litre.

But what I really enjoyed was New Year as we celebrated it twice; which meant I got to kiss all the men on the Rally twice!!

After the Christmas Rally I continued south to a small campsite within the Natural Park area and some lovely cycle rides through green and fertile land around Gandia. From there I went back to the coast and El Saler which is very flat and marshy but a haven for birds, then on to Cullera

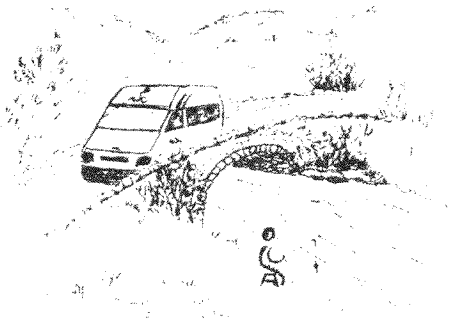
I avoided Benidorm, Alicante, etc., for obvious reasons and went inland to some lovely villages, in particular Caravaca de la Cruz—very picturesque and full of history. My next hop took me near to Mojacar where friends live and I stayed a while. They have a mobile home at Los Gallardos and I parked Randy on their patio for a week. Back in the 50's Mojacar was very run down so the Mayor offered properties for free on condition they were renovated in the Moorish tradition, so Mojacar was reborn.

It was then on to Cabo de Gata which was a dream. The town of Almeria was interesting with cave dwellings on the outskirts, some of which are still lived in. The Alcazaba is worth a half day and gives a panoramic view over the whole of Almeria and the coast of Africa (on a clear day). An English passport gets you into the fort free. Nijar is another superb little place full of history and noted for it's handmade crafts.

I then travelled northwards through Spain, staying at small campsites and was fortunate to sight a flock of Griffon Vultures circulating on the thermals—about 60/80 birds and something I will always remember.

I did experience problems travelling alone and felt I had to look over my shoulder the whole time but I got back unscathed and will certainly go back, although maybe a little more prepared. I also didn't take enough tea bags with me!!

I covered 3,400 miles in Randy and just short of 1,000 miles on Rex. Randy's troubles were eventually traced to the alarm and rectified. I met some really interesting people, especially Alan and Sara whom I stayed with on my return trip through France. Now I'm fully retired I just love this free gypsy style of living and find I am spending more nights in Randy than at home, but then he was bought to be used.



## *Anyone for New Zealand?*

We live in New Zealand, some 40 minutes from Auckland International Airport and are keen to arrange an exchange with owners of a comparable Auto-Sleeper vehicle in the UK for a 2-3 month period next year, between May and September. We would be planning to use the UK vehicle to tour in the UK and possibly Europe. Our own vehicle would be available to use for a similar period, but not necessarily at the same time. We own a 1996 Auto-Sleeper Executive two berth, which we bought in the UK in 2003 and shipped to New Zealand.

Would anyone who would like to try and progress an exchange contact me, Jim Barclay, 31 Killarney Street, Takapuna, New Zealand. Telephone 09.486.2599. E-mail Eileen.jim@xtra.co.nz.

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### **THE KEY**

We have found it at last! It has eluded us for nearly two years. We thought the search would go on forever; a mystery for time immemorial. Great men have failed to find the answer!! We eventually sought the Wise One and he gave us the clue. We found THE KEY.

They key to life— No  
The key that unlocks treasure untold—No

What is this mysterious key? Well..... it's the one that opens the soap dispenser in the Peugeot Symbol. Thanks to Baz Wellard our prayers have been answered.

David and Teresa Paine are forever in awe of the technical ability of the great master!!

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### **ARE YOU ADEQUATELY INSURED?** (page 12 June Newsletter)

You may remember Rita mentioned in her article that she felt asking sick people entering an A&E Department to obtain a receipt for a taxi fare was unacceptable. Well you will be pleased to know that "Someone, somewhere [in the insurance company] took notice" and she received a cheque for her £3.42 taxi fare!!!

We've had a response to Sylvia and Norman Bryce's comment (page 2 June Newsletter) about "letting members who have not had the chance to attend [a rally] before have a place first."

Early in our ASOC days we saw a rally in the Newsletter, could not make up our minds and when we eventually sent our slip to book we were too late. The moral of the story, book early.

If one considers making allowances for first time ralliers, how long should you wait before letting those who have replied promptly know if they can attend or not. But I will say that if we received 10 applications on the same day, including a first time rallier, for less than 10 places, we would consider including the first time rallier over those who have attended before. But otherwise, as we see it, it is first come, first served.

(extracts from Valerie & Robin Gardner's response)

\_\_\_\_ooOOoo\_\_\_\_

Sadly, Cynthia Jackson has asked us to publish the following on behalf of Hilary's husband Ron. The funeral was held on Thursday 18th May 2006.

*Obituary*

*It is with regret that we have to announce the death,  
on 13th May 2006 of  
Hilary Loader*

*Our thoughts and condolences go to her husband Ron,  
her daughters Jo and Lorraine and to all her family.*

*Hilary will be missed by all who knew her*

# Technical Group & Website

**Baz Wellard**

**Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster**

## **National Rally:**

On behalf of the Committee, and those attending the Technical Question & Answer (Q&A) session at the National Rally, I would like to record our appreciation to Charles Trevelyan & Stephen Small for giving up their afternoon and answering all the questions raised - with frank and honest replies. (A summary of the session is recorded on the club website on the 'stop press' page.)

## **Sealant:**

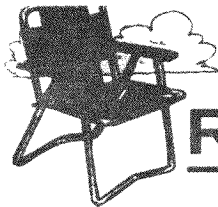
Following the 'Stop Press' summary of the Q&A session John Smith (5393) contacted me regarding the danger of using silicone sealant on motorhomes. John has been an auto-glazier for 22 years and from his experience he has reported that some silicones are based on acetic acid – which will in time perish the rubber. This is supported by the Service Centre who says that silicone can also react with both paintwork and metal protection.

John, and the Service Centre, recommends the use of 'arbormast' sealer as an alternative. Arbormast can be bought from most replacement windscreen companies.

## **Ideas Sheets:**

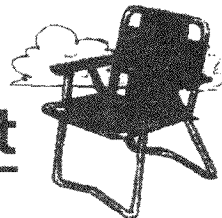
Since the full list of the Ideas Sheets, issued with the June Newsletter, one further Ideas Sheet, courtesy of John Coates (1278), is now available:-

No. 126 Stop accidental operation of the Truma 'dump-valve'.



# July 2006

## Rally Supplement



All rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in this supplement.

**Change of dates:- Eastham Hall, Lytham now 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> October.**

**30<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July. (4 nights) JCB visit and Rocester Football Club, Staffordshire.**

Emergency phone nos. Marshals' mobiles: Mike 07939 288586, Peter 07771 827711 (Please only use over rally weekend).

Rally marshals: Peter Brown, Chris Mawdsley, Jeanne & Mike Hall.

Site fee £4 per van per night. Rally fee £1.20 per person. (Both incl. VAT).

Booking slips and cheques to Chris Mawdsley, 5, Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Staffs, ST10 1WA.

Telephone: 07919 538622.

A **green field** site but water and toilet emptying. No electricity. Toilets and basic showers available when club house is open.

**Attractions:** Tour of JCB factory on Friday morning (max. 50 people) plus an option of lunch. The tour is £5.00 per person or free to senior citizens and the lunch is £8.50. Please book and pay with the rally slip stating "JCB tour" and/or "JCB lunch" followed by the no. of persons. Please note that the tour is on foot and is 3 miles and stout footwear must be worn.

We will have the use of the club house and bar for most of the weekend. Many walks in the area.

**Directions:** North of Uttoxeter. From A50 Stoke-on-Trent to Burton-on-Trent road, turn north onto B5030 and, when you see JCB factory on your left, turn **right** towards Rocester. Go over the bridge and follow the High Street to a mini roundabout. Turn **right** into Mill Street and wend your way through until you are leaving the town. You will see Rocester FC ground on the **left**.

**10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> July (3nights) Hereford Racecourse Hereford**

Emergency Tel no 07791 582881 Marshals' Mobile.

Rally Marshals Joan & Max Cooke, Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site fees including electric hook up £10-50 per night.

Rally fees £2.35 (inc VAT) Toilet block, drinking & waste water near by. **Sloping site checks required.**

(i.)

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs J.E.Cooke, The Magnolias, Canon Pyon Rd., Hereford. HR4 7RB  
Tel no 01432 274906.

The Race Course is on the northern outskirts of the city and on a bus route to the city.  
Places of interest include Hereford Cathedral & The Mappa Mundi, Black & White Village Trail & Wye Valley.

**Directions:** Hereford Racecourse is on the A4103 1/2 mile west of the junction with the A49. **Limit of 40 vans**

**14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. July ( 2 nights).Severn Gorge C.P.Bridgenorth Road, Tweedale,Telford,Shropshire. THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.**

**20th - 23rd July (3 nights)Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffs.**

Emergency tel no. Marshals' mobile 07713186508.

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

Site Fee £4.50 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee £2.35 all inc.VAT.

Booking slips and cheques payable to P.M.Pratt,3 Grafton Rd Stapenhill Burton on Trent. Staffs DE15 9DN PHONE 01283538818.

You may arrive on Thurs AFTER 12 noon NOT BEFORE PLEASE ( this is virtually a green field site although there are toilets in Beacon Park).

Sat evening get together includes Jacket potato, dessert and drink - £4.50

Per person. Pay with booking slip.

**Attractions** Beacon Park is adjacent to Lichfield City centre.

**Directions:** Beacon Park is situated in Lichfield, just off the A51 Tamworth to Rugeley Road. Go round the island with the Bowling Green Pub in the middle. Then take A 51 Rugeley/Stafford Road; turn immediately **right** down Walsall Road, then immediately **left** into Lower Sandford Street. Follow signs for Car Park, the site is through the car park keeping to the **right**.

**27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.July Motorhome & US RV Show.,The Showground,Great Driffield,East Yorkshire.**

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

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin.

Site Fee: Special Club prices. Arrive Wednesday £33.00,Thursday £28.00 Friday £23.00.Rally Fee:£2.35 ( Incl.VAT).

Send **rally fees** with **rally slip & SAE for Show application form** by **12<sup>th</sup>.July** to:- Mrs. J. Hicklin,381 Manor Road, Brimington,Chesterfield,Derbyshire.S43 1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236 157.

Return the application forms to the organisers ,Stone Leisure,address on form, by the closing date **18th.July.**

**10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August (4 nights or less if you wish!)Abingdon Vale Cricket Club, Abingdon, Oxfordshire**

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

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell and Jeanne & Mike Hall

Site fee: £5.00 per night: Rally Fee £2.50 couple, £1.50 single (inc VAT)

Rally slips & cheques to A.Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, Berks. RG18 0RY

**Attractions:** This is a green field site adjacent to the River Thames and only a short walk from the town centre, which has a variety of specialist shops and several pubs.

There are many local attractions including bus and boat services to Oxford. We will have the use of the pavilion for a get-together on Friday evening if the weather is bad!

Dogs welcome, subject to usual rules: there are walks straight from site.

The Croquet Club has offered tuition and a mini tournament on Friday morning at a cost of £5.00 per head. Numbers are limited, so this will be on a first come first served basis. Please indicate on rally slip if interested but **DO NOT SEND MONEY**. Payment will be direct to the Croquet Club on the day.

**Directions:** The Cricket Club is on the A415 Abingdon to Dorchester road. If you approach from Abingdon, it is on the **right** after you go over the river bridge. Don't turn in to the car park! About 100 yards after the car park there are two gateways side by side. The Cricket Club is the **right** hand gateway. Coming the other way it is the second of the two gateways on the **left** just after the 30 mph sign. **Limited to 50 vans**

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August ( 5 nights) Topsham Rugby Club, Nr. Exeter, Devon.**

Emergency Tel No. 07890876859 (Marshals mobile.)

Rally marshals Elizabeth & Bryn Morgan 44 Mersey Road, Stockport. SK4 3DJ. Tel No.0161 432 4869 and Nora & Ven Venables Tel No.01902 332 105

Site Fees: £6.00 per night incl. Vat. Rally Fee £2.18 for singles £4.35 for couples incl. Vat.

This is a **GREEN FIELD SITE** with fresh water and an Elsan emptying point (No electricity.) We will be able to use the club's toilet facilities during the day. We plan to devise a roster so we can use the one communal shower room that the club has.

Dogs are allowed but they must be on a lead at all times and exercised off the site.

**N.B. Please say on rally slip if you are bringing a dog.**

We will have some access to the clubhouse in the evenings but the Rugby club may be having some functions whilst we are there. We hope to organise a "Bring Your Own Supper" one evening.

**Attractions: TOPSHAM** is a delightful small town situated on the River Exe. Topsham Town Fair Week coincides with our rally. Topsham has an historic quay, ferries across the river and an excellent bus and train service to Exeter City. The town has a good range of shops, eating places, pubs and an open-air heated swimming pool. The nearby River Clyst has a nature reserve that is popular with bird watchers. Dartmoor National Park is a short drive away. The rugby club is 300 yards from the town.

Please send cheques payable to B. Morgan together with a rally slip and an **SAE** to the above address.

Directions and confirmation of booking will then be sent to you.

LIMIT OF 35 VANS

**24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August ( 5 nights) Wonderful Wensleydale, Wensleydale School, Leyburn, North Yorks.**

Emergency Tel. No. 079220049714 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers & Jean & Ian Sellers

Site Fee: £4.55 per night. No Electricity. Rally Fee: £3.50 (couples) £2.50 (singles).

**THIS IS A GREENFIELD site, NO TOILETS.**

Booking slips 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.

**Attractions:** Hardstandings, access to room in the evenings.

Wensleydale Show during weekend. Market day Friday. Cheese making

at Hawes, violins at Leyburn, Aysgarth Falls, Middleham and Bolton

Castles, Jervaulx Abbey, Racehorses on the gallops. The Black Sheep Brewery, the Teddy Bear Workshop, Tea Pottery and Dairy Ice Cream at Brymor.

**Directions:** From A1 North/South take the A 684 at Leeming

Bar. s.p. Leyburn/Hawes. Go into town centre at Leyburn and take A6108

S.P. Richmond. School on right in approx. 300 metres.

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

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

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

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

Rally Fee:£2.35( Incl.VAT).Send rally fees,£2.35 with rally slip & SAE for Show application form to Mrs. J. Hicklin,381 Manor Road, Brimington,Chesterfield ,Derbyshire.S43 1PP.Tel.No. 01246 236 157 *by 24<sup>th</sup>..August.*

Show application forms to be returned to the organisers,Stone Leisure,by 30<sup>th</sup>.August.

### 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September ( 2 nights) Essex Steam & Country Show, Billericay.

Emergency Tel.No. 07905 898149 Marshals' mobile

Rally marshals Stella & Ian Ross.

Rally Fee: 32.35 (incl.VAT). GREENFIELD Site. No Electricity.

Send rally fee,cheques payable to Mrs.S.Ross, with rally slip and SAE for Show application form by 24<sup>th</sup>.August to:- Mrs.S Ross,33 Grosvenor Gardens,Upminster,Essex.RM14 1DL.Tel.No. 01708 228075.

Fees payable to Show Organisers.Special advance booking prices.Camping 2 nights £14.Show tickets per day Adult £8,child £4,Senior Citizen £4.Return the Show application form to the organiser,address on form by closing date 1<sup>st</sup>.September.

Attractions: Vintage steam engines.Over 150 craft stands,working heavy horses.Trade stands,arena events,vintage cars & motorbikes and much more.

Directions: Will enclose sketch map with application form.

**\*\*Members are welcome to attend one or both of these rallies.Why not do both and have an extended holiday in Essex & Suffolk.\*\***

### 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> September ( 3 nights) Clare Priory,Clare,Suffolk.

Emergency Tel.No. 07905 898149. Marshals' mobile.

Rally marshals:Stella & Ian Ross.

Site Fee:£6.00 per night. Rally Fee:£3.00 GREENFIELD Site No Electricity.

Cheques & rally slips to:-Mrs.S.Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens,,Upminster,Essex.RM14 1DL Tel.No. 01708 228075.

Attractions: A return visit to this popular site in the centre of a very pretty village next to Clare Country Park.Cheese & wine supper available @ £4.50 each,please pay with booking slip.Also possible Fish/Chicken & chips,state if interested.

Directions:Clare is about 10mils W of Sudbury/At Clare take A1092 to Haverhill.In 200yds left into Ashen Road,in 100yds left into Priory.Ignore brown signs in centre of Clare-footpath access only. Max. 20 vans.

### 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September ( 2 nights) Ludlow Food & Drink Festival,Ludlow School,Ludlow,Shrops.

Emergency Tel.No. 07849298695(Marshals' mobile).

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

Site Fee:£7.05 per night.(Incl.VAT). Rally Fee:£2.35(Incl.VAT). Total fees £16.45.

**NO ELECTRICITY**,Rally slips to Mr.I.C. Barnett,Highlevel,Farden Bitterley,Nr. Ludlow, Shropshire.SY8 3HU. Tel.No. 01584 890 428.Cheque payable to I.C. Barnett.Please enclose a SAE(C6 9X6) for directions etc. **GREENFIELD** site with all level hardstandings,heated hall for evenings.Saturday evening American Supper. **NO DOGS allowed.**

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

**Directions:** A49 from South follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs.At 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout turn **left**,following signs go under railway bridge and turn **right** at the sign and left into Leisure Centre Car Park. On A49 from North follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs on B4361 turn **right** into Leisure Centre Car Park.Follow ASOC signs.**Limit of 30 vans**Rally closes at 3.00p.m. Sunday. **DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 4.30 p.m.FRIDAY.**

**11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September (4 nights) Whitmead C.P., Wool, Dorset.**

Emergency Tel.No. 077114550731 Marshals' mobile.

Rally marshals: Barbara & Alan Potter.

Site Fee: £5.50 per night. Plus electricity £2.00 per night. Rally fee: £2.35 per couple, £1.75 single. All incl. VAT.

Booking slips & cheques to Barbara Potter, Westbrook, Mill Lane, Monks Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9LG. Tel.No. 01844 274021.

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

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

**13<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September (5 nights) Shoreham Airdisplay, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07999571461.

Rally marshals: Shirley & Chris Sturgeon & Theresa & Dave Smith.

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

Airshow tickets: £20.00 per adult, £8.00 per child. (Covers Saturday & Sunday).

Saturday evening buffet meal £4.12 each (Incl. VAT). Please state interest and pay in advance. Send SAE for confirmation if required. Possible airport tour please state if interested. This is a GREENFIELD site with water & elsan emptying. **NO DOGS.**

Booking slips & cheques payable to A.N. Fowler, 20 Hawkins Close, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex. BN43 6TL. Tel.No. 01273 594 479.

**Attractions:** 2 day Airshow with on ground entertainment, Cycle rides from site.

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

**Please do not arrive before 12 noon Wednesday.**

**21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September. Northern Motorcaravan Show, York Racecourse, York.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07922049714 (Marshals' mobile).

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

Rally Fee: £2.00 (couples), £1.50 (singles) Both incl. VAT. ***Please remember to send a rally slip and cheque for the Rally Fee*** payable to N.C. & P. Rogers; 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325 374 540

**The special Club site fees are on the form enclosed with this Newsletter.** You may either use the form enclosed in this Newsletter or fill in an application form from MMM or Which M'Van using the special fees and mark the form **A.S.O.C** in large letters.

***Send this form back to the organisers, Warners with the site fees, before the closing date.*** Applicants after this date **cannot rally with the Club.**

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

**25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September (4 nights ) Butlins Minehead, Somerset.**

Tel.Nos. 01278 781976 & McA Mobile 07840076771, & 01902 332105.

Rally Marshals: Jill & Richard McAllister & Nora & Ven Venables.

Site Fee: £49 covers 4 nights. Rally Fee: Couples £3.00, Singles £1.50. Rally slips & cheques with SAE to R.J. McAllister, Milesway, Steart Drive, Burnham on Sea TA8 1BZ.

The site is a commercial touring site with full facilities including electricity in fee plus all the Butlin facilities – shops & entertainment. Also if any member would like to avail themselves of a breakfast & evening meal in the dining room this can be arranged for £39 commencing with evening meal on Monday and concluding with breakfast on Friday. Please let the marshals know when you book. Pets welcome.

**Attractions:** In addition to the Butlin complex which includes Splash Waterworld, a funfair & two supermarkets on site, a Tesco supermarket is approx 15 mins walk away as is the town centre with a good selection of shops & restaurants. The West Somerset Railway to Bishop Lydiard nr. Taunton. There are a number of walks, coach trips also. A golf course is close by. The medieval village on Dunster with its Yarn Market & National Trust Castle. More details on arrival.

**Directions:** From M5 travelling East or West you can leave at either J25 Taunton follow the signs for Minehead on A358 or J24 Bridgewater and follow signs to Minehead. – leave the M5 & turn right on the A38 towards Bridgewater and left at four way junction lights on the Taunton road (Morrisons & B&Q in view to your left) joining the A39 to Minehead. Continue on A39 through traffic lights at Dunster junct. On to first roundabout on approach to Minehead – turn right to Sea Front passing Tescos & turn right again on front to enter Butlins by 2<sup>nd</sup> gate on right i.e East Entrance. Follow signs to Touring Park.

Please do not arrive before 12 noon. On the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**28<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October ( 4 nights) Masham Sheep Fair, Old Sation Holiday Park, Masham, North Yorks. Full details next month.**

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

Local assistant: Jerry Haxton (01354 740931) March, Cambs.

**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: .....

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.....

.....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

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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!**

## **Thank you:**

On a personal note may I say thank you to friends for their cards and good wishes on hearing of my recent stays in hospital. They were very much appreciated, and I am now well and truly on the mend.

---

### ***Poor Drainage***

Nigel Wilkins

You recently published a letter from me requesting help on a poor drainage problem in my Executive. Many thanks to those who replied but as a retired Electrical & Refrigeration Service Engineer I felt I should really be able to sort this problem out, so I set to and found a solution.

I am going to do an Ideas Sheet with Baz which will be available shortly.

### ***Damaged Sills***

Lionel Walker

After having my Dorset serviced I found the offside sill damaged. This was due to the van being jacked in the wrong place. As I know of at least one other case of sill damage it looks as though this may happen regularly.

This note is to warn of the danger and find any other cases. If anyone has had a van damaged in this way please tell Baz or myself.

## Reliability Issues

Alan Waugh

Following publication of mine and other articles in the May and June newsletters about reliability issues I would like to comment further.

Firstly, I was gratified to read the Auto-Sleepers' response in May's ASOC Newsletter. In fact the day after reading that, I listened to Charles Trevelyan addressing those of us present at the National Rally and AGM. It was clear that he was very passionate that the A-S quality needed to improve and I am glad that he had a meeting with senior management back at the factory, as reported in the June issue of the newsletter, it will, I hope, prove to be a turning point.

However, even if A-S factory quality is restored to its former glory, that is no good if all the manufacturers of the base vehicles and the suppliers of heaters, fridges, switches and the rest of the myriads of bought-in bits are still lacking in the desired quality. Dialogue between A-S and those suppliers should be continually ongoing in order to improve overall quality and at the same time failures/replacements should be logged by the factory using information supplied by the dealers. I suspect that a certain lack of both information-gathering and poor communication results in ignorance and thus there are no obvious problems flagged up, so no quality improvement.

Unfortunately I missed the Technical Group presentation on the previous day at Newark, but, from what I heard, quality issues were heatedly aired there.

Secondly, I should like to re-iterate that one of the main points of my previous article was to compare the quality I expect and receive from our car nowadays compared with that of our motorhome. Those of us old enough to remember the 1970s snigger when British Leyland is mentioned and recall with a tinge

of sadness the supposedly lamentable quality of their vehicles, but actually as owners of a Morris Marina my recollection is that its reliability wasn't as bad as everyone made out. Certainly, although it was second-hand, we didn't have nearly as many things go wrong with it as we have had with the Symbol (base vehicle, accessories and habitation combined)!!

Finally, Celia and I would like to publicly record our thanks to all the marshals and their able assistants of the rallies we have attended so far this year - Marston, Peak Rail, National & AGM and Little Cotton.

As we are still working, we are very grateful to those with more time available than we have, who have been able to organise such diverse but equally pleasurable and successful events.

# # # # # # # # # # #

## **Non-technical tips**

Valerie & Robin Gardner

### Wash Basin Brush

If you have a wash basin in the toilet cubicle that can be removed, do you have trouble cleaning the trough where the water runs away? Take a plastic washing up brush, heat the handle gently [and carefully!] and bent it through 90° with the brush on the outside of the bend. The trough is now much easier to clean.

### Cassette Cleaning Pipe

To give the inside of the cassette a power wash take about 2 foot of standard hose pipe, fit a 15mm copper pipe [about 1 foot] to one end having first put a 90° bend in the centre and flattened one end to allow a small amount of water too come out but at high pressure. On the other end a standard connection for tap or other hose. The copper end goes into the cassette for a good power wash.

It has other uses—ask the Cavell's. They used it when their dog rolled in something unmentionable at the Alford Rally!!

# From the Factory

Our submission this month is a combination of our activities at the Motorhome Service Centre with further input from our Quality Department and our Production Lines.

**First the Service Centre**, where now that the good weather is upon us, life is becoming rather more hectic than ever. An interesting project that we are currently undertaking is the complete replacement of a floor on an elderly Mirage - due to water ingress - and shortly, the rebuild of a Mercedes Benz Medallion on the offside due to significant traffic damage.

We have also recently helped owners on their own conversions, having installed a hitop roof on a short wheelbase Boxer, and rebuilt the offside of a very elderly Mobilvetta motorhome - where, strangely enough, many of the parts came from Ostend.

Perhaps our more unusual task was removing a considerable amount of rubbish that had been flytipped in our industrial estate, not least to give us and other users of the estate access to our offices and workshops!

At the time of writing, and amongst our daily routine of customers'

vehicles, telephone calls and more, we are majoring fairly heavily on preparing for our first visit by the Health and Safety Inspector in two days' time. Interestingly, it is a lady who will be visiting us, her name being Anne Robinson and I have been led to believe that she portrays much the same characteristics as the similarly named individual on the television! So if you hear nothing further from us, we will have been forcibly closed and all out of a job!!

**On the quality front**, significant progress is being made by Tony Holloway and his team, both in in-depth auditing and thorough inspection of vehicles whilst in build. Recent improvements include new sealants for the sealing of roof ventilators and other items on the roof, having improved ultra-violet light resistant properties better bonding over the long term.

Our new models Eton, Sandhurst and Windsor, now boast the new style caravan door - a considerable improvement over the previous version - which I am led to believe will be followed through on other models.

The under floor locker external hatch locks that we have had problems with due to seizure and

premature failure, have been changed with new items, and on the underside of the vehicle the access hatches have had improved seals on both the fresh and waste water tanks to prevent any ingress of water.

For those of you with T5 models, Troopers or Tridents, the edging that is fitted to the routed section on panels, no longer overlaps the panel itself and thus is a much neater operation and of course less prone to damage.

**On the production front**, Simon Vaughan seems to work endlessly, and seems to be in all places at once. I always thought that I was fairly late leaving the establishment, but seeing his car here some evenings at 7.30 suggests that more than a 12 hour day appears to be the norm, poor soul!

He is focusing particularly on improving the communication between all levels of management within the Company, and has been heavily involved in the fine tuning and operation of the new MRP (Material Resource Planning) System that hitherto had not been operating quite as we had wished.

This system, which is vital towards ensuring the correct parts are available at the correct time, has - with Simon and Phil Bennett's efforts not least -

resulted in much improved material flow with a corresponding improvement in output of vehicles off line.

Current new models coming off production are the electrically operated roof Volkswagen Trooper - now fully proven, tested and already on their way to customers abroad. Likewise, the new models, Eton, Sandhurst and Windsor, are starting to come off production lines and the inevitable problems that one always meets with new model development are being rapidly and effectively overcome by a particularly well motivated production team.

**And back to the Service Centre**, we have some exciting new developments that we are able to offer. Firstly, for the very reasonable cost of £434.00 including VAT we can offer the electrical guillotine type slide-out step for the Peugeot Boxer cab - available for either the driver or the passenger side. This is extremely robust, in no way affects the ground clearance and is an altogether very neat arrangement.

As the warm weather approaches, air-conditioning is proving very popular, we now fit Waeco air-conditioning units instead of the earlier Scanterieur type which, without exception, have proved extremely reliable. The most

popular version is the Coolair CA1000, which operates on mains, to supply and fit is £1232.50 + VAT. However, for an additional £240.00, an inverter can be fitted to the CA1000 that allows it to be operated on 12 volts as well, making the total a relatively small extra cost for a very useful added facility.

We have developed, in conjunction with Watling Engineering, tow bars for the Nuevo and ES derivatives. They are extremely neat and very well engineered.

We tend to use Watling Towbars rather more now than those from Hope Technical Developments since they are significantly cheaper but equally well engineered. Give us a call if we can help.

That duly ends my submission for the Club Newsletter for this month, from all of us here we wish you well and look forward to helping you in any way possible.

Kindest regards, as always  
Charles Trevelyan and team

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I noticed on page 9 of the Newsletter, Mary Wilsons' question, what does SEA stand for, not only are they involved with Mobilvetta design, McLouis, Elnagh and Joint, but also the following makes:

Miller, Dream, Sloop, Sharkey, Dart

I myself didn't know this - it may be of interest to Club members!

Charles

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## ***Chairman's Chat***



Those of you who attended the AGM and Open Forum at Newark will remember that we discussed our disappointment at the state of the Auto-Sleeper vehicles on display. I was asked to write to Ian Capes to express our concerns.

As so often happens, events moved on rather more quickly than planned. On the Tuesday morning after the National Rally, Mike & Mo Valentine were at Willersey for some work to be done to their van. When they arrived, they were invited into a meeting with Charles Trevelyan, Ian Capes and Simon Vaughan, and took the opportunity to express the Club's disappointment.

Mike followed this up with a letter to Ian to confirm the points discussed. All this happened before I got home from the excellent rally at Alford!

I have subsequently received a letter from Ian, which I am reproducing below, so that you can all see that our concerns were taken very seriously.

*Dear ASOC Members*

*It was great to hear that a good time was had by all at the National Rally. Quite frankly with the ever professional approach, dedication and timeless effort put in by the committee, I guess that result was never in doubt.*

*Having said that I do believe we at Auto-Sleepers were a bit lax in both our support and the attention we put to the event. I could give many excuses and reasons for this – personal commitments, new model introduction, pressure on R & D, recent personnel changes, but none of these wash, and anyway its irrelevant. For my part and on behalf of the company I would like to apologise and give you my assurance that in the future this will not reoccur.*

*It would also appear that the new model presentation was not up to the expected Auto-Sleepers standard. Indeed having subsequently met and had discussions with Mike and Mo Valentine, Simon and I have taken much on board and again will look thoroughly at our business, products and personnel at every level. Having said that, not all was bad – I have received a number of positive calls on certain aspects of the new products and can confirm that a notable amount of new orders were received.*

*We cannot and will not hide behind that – I reiterate, Simon and I have taken on board many comments and aspects covering our business and we shall both look to remedy such situations. We both look forward to standing before you at some time in the future with either our action points for progression or indeed actions that have already been implemented.*

*Lets all look to the future as that is where our success must take us together.*

*Kind regards  
Ian Capes*



**1 Pair Talbot Express** rear stabilizer springs. 1 season old. Cost £100 fitted. Free (donation to the club would be appreciated).

**Contact: G T Allen 01530 242025** (North West Leics. 1 mile from J22 of M1).

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**AS Gatcombe VW 2.5 TDi**, Sept. 2004, 5,000 miles. FsH, CAT I alarm. Large Leiki roof light, swivel seat. Shower, cass. Toilet, 4 burner hob, oven/grill, 3 way fridge. Fiamma twin bike rack, status aerial, 18 month guarantee. As new. £30,000.

**Contact: D Peel 01903 242132 or 07845 826971** (West Sussex)

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**AS Pollensa Y reg.** 18,400 miles. 1.9cc petrol engine. MOT & tax to October. 1 previous owner. New cam-belt, etc. full warranty to Nov.07. Swivel seat, side awning/full privacy room. Oven/grill, 4 burners, microwave, reversing camera, gas alarm, roof-rack, ladder, topbox, double sockets at table & kitchen surface. 12V & aerial sockets at table. Non-smokers. Luton = storage = 2 berth. Can restore to 4 berth. e-mail for full details & photos. Sale due to increased disability £23,900.

**Contact: Teresa & Alan Harrison 01989 567001 e-mail avrf23@dslpipex.com**

Thanks for the donation

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**AS Talisman GX Peugeot 2.0 petrol.** 2001 Y reg. 1 owner from new. Cab a/c. Full oven/hob electric/gas fire blown air. Fridge. Co-ordinated enamel sink. Full bathroom. All in excellent condition 12,000 miles. MOT March 2007. Full service history £24,500

**Contact: Pete & Val Wall 01483 224708** (Guildford, Surrey)

Thanks for the donation

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1990 Rover Mini 30. Burgandy. Original condition. 1 previous owner. 26,000 miles. MOT to March 2007. Tax to November 2006. Ideal A framer/runabout £1,300 ono.

**Contact: Les Halden 01952 825704** (Shropshire)

Thanks for the donation

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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.

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