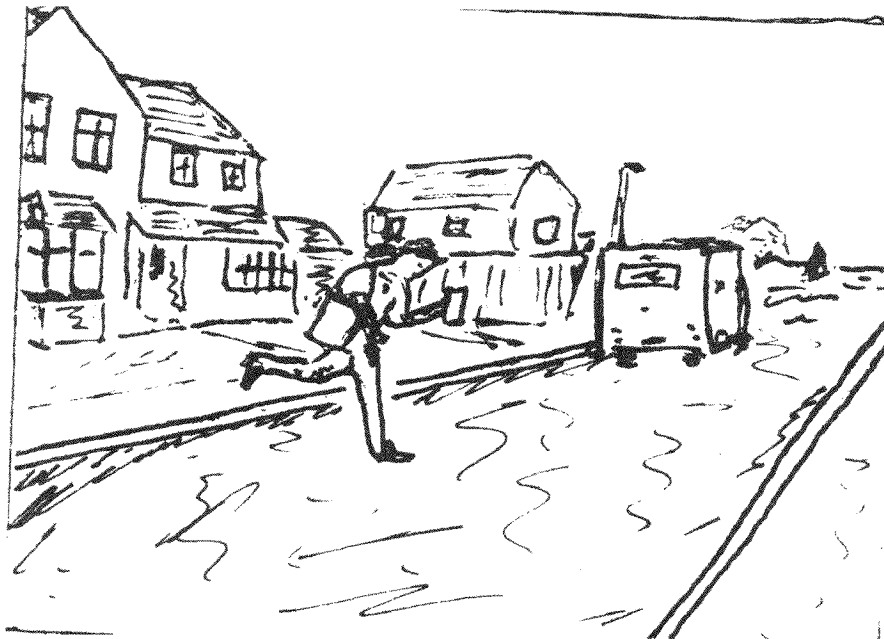




# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.  
Registered No: 4618969

[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)



*No wait!! .. the Newsletter's here*

## **NEWSLETTER 217**

### **October 2006**

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

Getting the September news to you in a correct and timely manner was not successful, demonstrating how lucky we've been during the last few months.

Firstly the late receipt by members of the issue: Mick our printer lives in Devon and arranges for his local Post Office to despatch the envelopes on the day of the month he nominates – last month Tuesday 29 August. Unfortunately on that day an unofficial strike of postal workers started at the Exeter Mail Centre. The dispute lasted for a week and then it took a few days for the backlog to clear. Fortunately our Chairman, Andy, had already asked Committee members to prepare Business Continuity Plans (used to be called Disaster Recovery) and if such an event occurred in the future we expect to have access to e mail addresses and other data that will allow us to let a large number of members know what the problem is and hopefully word of mouth will cover the rest.

Secondly the mistakes – no excuses but by way of explanation it takes us about 3 eight hour days each month to do our bit and because a lot of the input came in last minute for the September issue, I did a lot of editing with the computer on my knee whilst Chris drove us to Abingdon.

It was agreed at the last AGM that the only criteria to be applied to a **CHARITY NOMINATION** for 2007 was that it should be a lesser known national charity. It is NOT (as mistakenly stated in the September issue) a criteria that you or a close member of your family should have benefited from it. Because of this mistake we have extended the deadline by which nominations are to reach John Jones as long as possible until the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Terry Moisey sent the following as soon as he received the September issue:

*Hi Peter Would you please publish the remainder of my letter as you have missed the last part off and people will be left wondering what is the point and leave me looking a fool. As regards Simon Vaughan's letter we have heard it all before and to what avail. I seem to remember Ian Capes making similar*

*comments and Charles singing his praises. All that has happened is Auto-Sleepers have sunk at the Cape of nohope!!!! Publish and be dammed Regards Terry*

So please add the following to Septembers 'A Cautionary Tale' (a bit that slipped off my knee somewhere between Stoke and Abingdon):

*.....Therefore those of you unfortunate enough to have a new vehicle would be advised to mark everything that requires changing before taking it to the factory. Those of us with the older models can only hope we do not have an accident. The change of ownership has unfortunately changed what was the best manufacturer in the country to the worst!*

On the positive side of life, having had it suggested to me that Solar Solutions were a good supplier of solar panels and having investigated their products on the internet (and found out that they are based in Poole) I decided to buy a DIY kit from them. During the course of a phone call it transpired that they were attending a rally about 40 miles from us. The installers arranged for us to meet, with the Landlords permission, in a pub car park. They installed the panel and all the paraphernalia in less than an hour to an exemplary standard and charged me the 'show rate' that was less than the cost of the DIY kit.

In a similar vein – using our gas fire for the first time at Wensleydale it kept going out and stinking of gas. The very busy Brownhills of Newark agreed to investigate on the day we called them whilst we were on our way home, gave the fire the all clear and fitted a flue extension that according to the Truma book should probably have been fitted from new anyway, all with no fuss and at no charge.

Finally, thank you for the many kind words said to us about the work we do on the Newsletter it is very much appreciated.

### ***RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP***

**Yes, it's that time of the year again. Please complete and return the Renewal Form, which you will find in the envelope with the October Newsletter. Whatever form of payment you use, please return the form as this helps me to keep the Club records up to date.**

*Norma Caley*

*Membership Secretary.*

## *Membership*

*Ray Whiley*

As the Club's Vice-President responsible for liaising with government departments controlling camping and caravanning, I must comment on the suggestion that there might be different categories of membership to permit former owners of Auto-Sleeper Motorhomes to attend the occasional rally.

This would be illegal because it would contravene the terms of the Club's Exemption Certificate.

Like many other camping and caravanning clubs, ASOC has a Paragraph Six Exemption Certificate issued by DEFRA. This permits us to organise rallies of up to five days (120 hours) duration on unlicensed sites. The time limit is strict—there must be no more than 120 hours between the arrival of the first rallier on site (marshals excluded) and the departure of the last. Only full members may attend (and of course, family members staying in a full member's 'van). Joining the Club is not permitted for the sole purpose of attending a specific rally, nor may intending members join at a rally or come to one to see if they wish to join.

The Club's Articles of Association (as a Company Limited by Guarantee) and Bylaws were carefully written to comply with these conditions. Failing to comply with any of them could lead to losing our Exemption Certificate and no more 'green field' rallies.

Changing our membership rules to permit owners of Motorhomes of other makes to join would entail amending the Articles of Association by a Special Resolution at an Annual General Meeting and would make this a club open to all. Similar suggestions have been discussed in the past (including this year's AGM) and rejected by members. It is clear to all members that if they change to a different make, they must leave ASOC and they must accept this if they decide to change.

"If you see a little Mezan don't forget to wave  
It will belong to me, and I hope it will behave.  
The Topaz I got used to during 6 years in my charge.  
I quickly learned to drive it and didn't find it large.  
But some \*\*\* went and nicked it, I simply don't know who,  
So if you see a little Mezan you'll know just what to do!

Rita Daley"

## Stolen Peugeot Fuel Caps

*John and Maureen Cullin*

This is my response to letters appearing recently in MMM, summarised as follows:

*July 2006. Motorcaravan theft of Compass Drifter on Peugeot Boxer on 11 April in Romsey. In February the owner discovered his locking fuel cap was missing, which he replaced.*

*September 2006. The owner of a Swift Kon-Tiki on a Peugeot Boxer in Bournemouth went out one evening when his alarm was set off. He discovered the drivers door unlocked. A few days previously he found the fuel cap was missing. Once again, they purchased and replacement and thought no more about it.*

Following on from the letters in MMM .....we in Cuffley, Hertfordshire are experiencing a similar situation.

A Peugeot motorcaravan was stolen during the evening on Monday 21 August. It was fitted with Tracker and was recovered by 0200 hours on Tuesday 22 August. The theft was accomplished by first having stolen the fuel filler cap (prior to 14 August) and then by means unknown obtained a key which would operate the door and ignition locks. The ignition system did not have the more recent integral immobiliser fitted so it was easier to drive away.

In addition, earlier this year another Peugeot fuel filler cap was stolen from an AS Symbol here in Cuffley. It was not reported to the police as, similar to the report above, the owner thought it had not been secured and dropped off.

With an AS Talisman on a Peugeot chassis I am more than interested in these events and as a result have now purchased a spare fuel cap which provides a different key to the ignition and van doors.

## *Obituary*

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Dilys Stinchcombe. Dilys was the wife of Frank, whose bell is sounded to herald the beginning and end of each Annual General Meeting. It is, of course, known as the Stinchcombe Bell and was kindly presented to the Club by Dilys when Frank died some 10 years ago.

Dilys and Frank lived at Wootton under Edge in South Gloucestershire, where Frank ran the Post Office. It was during a raid on his Post Office that Frank was seriously injured, trying to block the entry to the Post Office counter by lying on the ground with his feet against the door. The attack on the door caused the compression of his hips and lower spine and led to him being partially disabled for the rest of his life.

On his passing, Dilys took a very active part in village life, playing the church organ and being involved in many local activities.

I remember the very early days, shortly after the Club had been founded, when committee meetings were held at the New Inn pub in Willersey. There were very few of us then—Phil and Rita Daley, Frank and Dilys, John and Barbara Cox and myself, ably supported by Neville Jelfs, our Works Manager at the time. We tucked ourselves away in the corner and in the minimum of time, over drinks and sandwiches, looked after the Club's activities with the greatest efficiency! The reason we chose the New Inn rather than the Bell Inn, was that it had a piano, a rather fine upright with lovely inlaid woodwork, on which I always persuaded Dilys to play us a tune or two. This generally extended to three or four and made for a particularly happy lunchtime break.

Dilys always kept in touch with the Club and indeed many of our earlier members were regularly in contact with her. Two years ago she was our Guest of Honour at our annual committee lunch, when she regaled us with memories of the early days.

Latterly she became unwell and was obliged to move to a nursing home and she passed away in late August. She gave so much of her life to the Club and will be very greatly missed by so many of us.

**Charles Trevelyan**

# Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard  
Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster

## Retro-fitting of Air Conditioning

Rosemary and Alan Jones requested any information on retro-fitting air conditioning in the September Newsletter.

In my role I have only come across one case of retro-fitting referred to me for advice. This was an installation that was causing serious problems with water ingress. It would appear to have been a poor installation where, it was suspected, the weight of the unit was causing the roof to 'bow' thus making the seal inadequate. It is clear that care should be taken to ensure that there is sufficient strength in the 'existing' roof—or that extra strength can be added before proceeding with the installation. I would therefore, suggest you insist that the installers are qualified and that they thoroughly test against the possibility of water ingress, and that you check what warranty they offer.

Two further points I would suggest you consider:

- To use air conditioning effectively all doors and windows need to be shut—does this suit your style of leisure?
- Check the noise level—especially if the unit is to be used at night.

I hope the above does not put anyone off retro-fitting air conditioning, but does give one an idea of some of the questions to ask and precautions to be taken.

*Continued on Page 8*

# Technical Group & Website

*Continued from page 7*

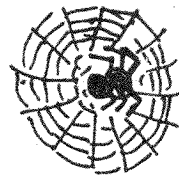
## **E-mail tip:**

If you send e-mails to multiple addresses, and those recipients may not wish others to know their e-mail address – then use the 'BCC facility (blind carbon copy) in the address box'. I use this method for promulgation of Web Updates to members.

**One further tip** you may wish to consider is on the matter of disposal of computers. This was covered in the media but is worth repetition and maybe new to those who were not previously aware. We all move on to newer machines and there is always the problem of disposal of the redundant one. For most items this is not a problem but for computers there is a potential danger!

The BBC discovered that many redundant computers were being onward traded - without the hard disc being completely wiped! In such cases it is not difficult for information held on the disc to be retrieved e.g. bank details; family information. This could lead to illegal use by the new 'owner'.

When computers are passed on it is NOT sufficient to simply 'delete' the information on the disc or 'reformat' it - this does NOT stop the original information from being retrieved. The best advice is to either obtain a reliable bespoke software that will wipe the disc entirely or remove/physically destroy the hard disc yourself.



*The Webmaster*

We thought you might like to see a copy of the Certificate ARC sent us, together with their thanks for the amount raised. Once again, thanks to everyone for being so generous. Let's have your nominations for 2007. (see editorial for criteria)

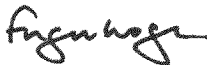


*Presented with sincere thanks to*

***Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club***  
*for raising the marvellous amount of*

***£1,399.89***

***for arc as your chosen charity at your AGM in  
Newark - April 2006***



Chief Executive  
2<sup>nd</sup> August 2006



Registered Charity No. 207711

5130

# Rally News

## Topsham Rally 22-27 August 2006

*Brian Smith*

Some 46 'vans met at Topsham Rugby Club on Tuesday afternoon and were expertly escorted to their pitch by Bryn, Ven or Cedric -and occasionally all three!!

In the evening everyone met outside the clubhouse for coffee and a warm welcome by Liz Morgan. As it was Topsham's Carnival Week, Liz went through the programme of events that would be occurring in the town - it was obvious that there would be plenty to entertain us locally.

Over the course of the next days folk did their own thing, some venturing into Exeter and some, having discovered that OAPs could travel on the bus anywhere in Devon for £3.50, wandered even further from home.

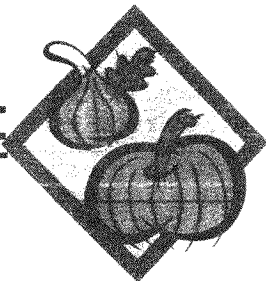
On Friday some hardy souls took the bus to Exmouth and then walked to Budleigh Salterton before returning by bus. In the evening there was a communal meal in and around the clubhouse, which was followed by the raffle. Personal modesty prevents me from telling you who won five prizes!

Throughout the week events in the town were well supported, particularly the magnificent flower arrangements in the church, the town criers competition, the dog show, the demonstrations at the fire station, the art show and, best of all, cream teas at the Museum.

Saturday at 4.30pm we met for tea and cakes outside the clubhouse and John Normandale led a vote of thanks to Liz and her team for all their hard work, which, in spite of the rather showery weather, resulted in a very enjoyable rally, which sadly would end tomorrow morning. But this was not the end. The 'piece de resistance' was yet to come.



# October 2006 Rally Supplement



***Rally Marshals- please do not book any rally sites without checking the dates with me first.***

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

Please remember to notify the marshals if you wish to take a car, trailer or tent to a rally.

## **28<sup>th</sup>.September – 2<sup>nd</sup>. October ( 4 nights) Masham Sheep Fair, Old Station Holiday Park, Masham, North Yorks.**

Site Tel.No. 01765 689569.

Rally Marshals: Valerie & Robin Gardner.

Site fee: £9.00 per night. Electric hook up optional £2.50 per night. Awnings extra. Rally Fee: £6.00 couples, £ 4.00 singles Vat Included.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs V. J. Gardner, Messrs. 13 Carrington

Avenue, Flackwell

**This rally is now full.**

Bucks. HP109AL

Valerie 07881 712 786, Robin

07961 987412.

Please include an **SAE** for confirmation, directions & meal selection\*Your mobile no. on the rally slip would be helpful. Attractions: The Sheep Fair (opens Saturday & Sunday from 10a.m. to about 4.00p.m.) is an annual event for the showing of locally bred sheep. Other events include a Sheep Show, sheep racing, spinning & weaving demo, pottery & glass blowing, fleece stalls, sheep dog demo, coopering, market stalls, a small fair, street procession etc. There are also good places to eat.

**Friday** morning. A walk in the local area will be led by Ian Sellers.

**Friday** evening Black Sheep Brewery Tour\* (min 15 persons) includes a drink and supper\*£15 per head. The brewery is about 15 mins walk from site.

**Saturday evening:** Dinner\*£5.50 per head including a sweet & coffee.

\*The selection of dishes for both venues will be included with your letter for confirmation to the rally. Payment for the Friday Brewery Tour & Supper & Saturday evening meal to be paid at rally.

**6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>. October ( 2 nights) Eden Camp.Nr.Malton,North  
Yorks.**

Emergency Tel.No. 0777 557 0182.

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin.

Site Fees:£9.00 per unit per night (includes VAT & unlimited admission to museum & use of Hut 12 for weekend). **No Electricity.** All hardstanding on car park.Elsan disposal & water available. Rally Fee:£1.35 + 50p per person (incl.VAT).

Rally slips to:Mrs. J.Hicklin,381 Manor Road, Brimington,Chesterfield, Derbyshire.S43 1PP. Tel. No.. 01246 236 157.

Cheques payable to Mrs. J. Hicklin.

**Attractions:** Eden Camp is a modern history theme museum set in a P.O.W. camp.

Malton is within walking distance of the camp.

Friday evening get together & Saturday evening an American supper in Hut 12.1940's dress optional.Meals served in the Naafi.

**Directions:** Junct. A64 York to Scarborough road & A169 Malton to Pickering road.

Rally opens 12 noon Friday & closes 12 noon Sunday.

Late arrivals will have to park outside gates which are locked between 2030hrs. & 0800hrs. **Limited to 40 Vans.**

**6<sup>th</sup>.-9<sup>th</sup>. October (3 nights) Bracklesham near Chichester  
West Sussex.**

Emergency phone 07745 522 335.

Rally Marshalls Mo and Mike Valentine.

Site Fee £8.50 per night incl. Elect. Rally Fee £2.35 per unit. Max 25 Vans with elect.

Rally slips and cheques payable to M. Valentine, 11 Hamilton Close, Langstone, Havant. PO9 1RP tel; 023 9248 2818.

**Green Field Site**, own facilities essential. Fresh water, grey and black water emptying point on site and rubbish bins.

Attractions nearby. City of Chichester, Chichester Harbour, City of Portsmouth, Arundel Castle, Petworth House, Wittering Beach.

Directions: A27 Chichester By-pass, Roundabout turn onto A286 Birdham/West Wittering. Watch **SPEED CAMERA** near the end of long straight road. In 4.5 mile at roundabout, first exit A2198 Earnley/ Bracklesham/West Wittering. Site on left in 500 yds. Tawney Nursery (Fuchsias Galore).

**Rally starts at 12 noon Friday.**

**12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October ( 3 nights). Eastham Hall C.P. Lytham,  
Lancs.FY8 4LS**

Site Tel.No.01253 737907(Emergencies only).

Rally Marshals:Kath & Norman Benyon,Barbara & Vic Kaye.

Site Fee:-£11.50 per night includes electricity & use of hall for 3 nights.(Incl.VAT).

Rally fee:-£3.00 per van +£1.00 per person,cost of hall has increased.  
(incl.VAT).

Booking slips to:- Mrs.B.Kaye,14 Firthwood Rd.,Coal Aston,Dronfield.S18  
3BW.Tel.No. 01246 412 679. Cheques payable to B. & V. Kaye.

**Attractions:**-All the fun of the sea side at Lytham St.Annes.Fairhaven,  
Blackpool,go shopping at Freeport.

**Thursday** Tea/coffee biscuits in hall.Welcome to friends old and new.Bring  
your spare camping equipment to advertise on the "For Sale" board.

**Friday** Steak pie and a choice of sweet in the hall.£3.00per head.

**Saturday** Fish & chip supper in the hall £3.00 per head.Tea/coffee provided.

**Competition** Harvest Festival Hat.Hopefully Tom will give us another  
monologue to be followed by the raffle.

**Do not send money for this meal.**

We exchange Christmas Cards with friends,saves a lot of postage.

**Sunday** Tea /coffee/biscuits.Rally ends.

**Directions:** A584 to Lytham,on entering Lytham at first mini roundabout turn  
**RIGHT** over railway bridge to next roundabout.Turn **RIGHT** again s.p.  
Kirkham.Site on **RIGHT** in ½ mile.

**16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October ( 4 nights).Camping & Caravanning Club  
Site,Keswick,Cumbria.CA12 5EP**

Emergency Tel.No. 0775 360 9463 (Marshals' mobile).

Rally Marshals: Sue & Peter Coward & Jenni & Geoff Raistrick.

Site Fee for 4 nights £42.60 (all full service pitches -no further age  
concession).

Rally Fee:-£4.00 couples,£2.00 singles. All fees include VAT.

Rally slips & cheques payable to Mrs.S.P.Coward.Send to:-Mr. &

Mrs.P.Coward,Silvergarth,Low Riddings,Grasmere,Cumbria.LA22 9QY. Tel.No.  
015394 35828.

Please include a ***This rally is now full*** site directions & other relative  
details.

**Attractions:**-Site ***This rally is now full*** water,just 10 mins walk from  
centre of Keswick.A variety of places of interest,sailing,walks in Northern  
Lakeland.Opportunity of a guided fell walk.

We aim to repeat last year's successful **theatre visit** and have made a

provisional group booking of good seats at the celebrated Theatre by the Lake for a matinee performance on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>. - to enjoy the comic situations created by Noel Coward's "**Private Lives**". Cost (same as last year) £8.50 per head. **Please send the money with the rally slip** as we are required to pay upfront. The hall in Keswick has again been reserved for two evening social gatherings.

There is an optional Back Stage Tour (Thurs.a.m.) at the theatre, max 20 people. £3.00 per head, pay on day. A fish & chip supper is planned for the final night. Further details in the confirmation letter. **Please indicate on rally slip if interested in either or both.**

**Rally starts at 12 noon Monday (vans arriving earlier are charged £5 extra by CCC).**

**Limit of 30 vans.**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>. November. (4 nights) Somerset Carnival, Burnham on Sea, Somerset.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07711 375 323 (Marshals' mobile).

Rally Marshals: Linda & Brian Ellis and Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site Fee: £48.00. Rally fee: £2.00. Total payable £50.00 by 20<sup>th</sup>. **October please.** (Incl.VAT).

Rally slips & enquiries to:- Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea. TA8 2PP. Tel.No. 01278 784 524.

The carnival is on Monday evening.

Rally limited to 75 vans. The site is block booked. The first 47 are hardstanding pitches then 18 individual grassed bays & 10 open grassed pitches. Pitches allocated as rally slips are received.

All pitches have electric hook up plus we have toilets & shower facilities.

Sorry **NO PETS** allowed. Site rules carved in stone & enforced!

We hope to do a coach trip to Clarks' village of Street Saturday again, if enough people are interested. Please indicate on rally slip if interested. Cost £3.50 each. **DO NOT SEND MONEY WITH SLIP.**

.Rally starts at 10.00 a.m. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. with Saturday coach trip to the Clarks' village of Street (shopping). Sunday morning market nearby, Sunday evening Fireworks display on beach. Monday evening approximately 2 hours Carnival procession through Burnham. Tuesday midday rally ends.

The Burnham on Sea Holiday Village is about 10 minutes walk from the town centre & shops along the promenade. The market is about a 15 to 10 minute

stroll through the park. The complex will be available for us to use and possibly the swimming pool so bring your cozy. It is a nice area to cycle (fairly flat) there is a cycle hire on site.

**Directions:** -M5 junct. 22 Burnham on Sea exit, to large island (Edithmead A38) turn left and follow signs for Burnham Holiday Village (A38 Taunton). In approx 1 mile straight over island (A38). Continue past caravan sales, over railway bridge turn second **right** posted Burnham Holiday Village. Go to mini island by petrol station, bear **left** towards Burnham town centre. Holiday Village in about ¼ mile on **left**.

### **Follow on this rally with :7<sup>th</sup>.-14<sup>th</sup>.November Van Bitz.**

### **7<sup>th</sup> . – 14<sup>th</sup> . November ( 7 nights). Van Bitz,Nr. Taunton, Somerset.**

Site Tel.No. 01823 321 992 (Emergency only).

Rally marshals: Betty & Andrew Entwistle.

Site Fee: £10.00 per night including electricity. Rally Fee: £2.00 per person.

All vans will be on hardstanding.

Booking slips to: Mr. & Mrs. M.A. Entwistle, 8 The Dell, Mytholm, Hebden Bridge, West Riding of Yorkshire, HX7 6DP. Tel.No. 01422 847 550. Cheques payable to: M.A. Entwistle.

We have a mini marquee and will arrange a winter B-B-Q and supper during the rally..

**Attractions:** Taunton the county town of Somerset with castle and many historic buildings.

Nearby is Wilton House and there are many small villages worthy of a visit.

**Directions:** From M5 junction 25 follow signs for Taunton. At first set of traffic lights at Creech Castle turn **left** s.p. Corfe B3170. Take 3<sup>rd</sup>. **left** into Ilminster Road again follow signs for Corfe. Bear **right** at roundabout onto Blackbrook Way. Bear **left** at next roundabout and follow road to the end "T" junction which is the B 3170. Turn **right** and then take the next **left** into Killams Drive. Take 2<sup>nd</sup>. **left** into Killams Avenue and follow the road passing housing estate and finally over motorway bridge. Cornish Farm is immediately after the bridge on the **left** hand side. IGNORE the first entrance to the main house. Proceed to the second entrance which is a little further along the road & turn into the orchard.

**Limit 20 vans.**

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. November (4 nights).Dickensian Fair,Ford Park,  
Ulverston,Cumbria.**

Rally Marshal:- Don Bland assisted by Roy Loveys & Alan Guest..

Site Fees: £ 5.00 per night. NO ELECTRICITY Rally Fee: £3.00 couples,£1.50 singles.

Rally slips and cheques to: Mr.D.Bland,38 Oakwood Drive,Ulverston, Cumbria.LA12 9JG. Tel.No.01229 587 937..

**Attractions:**The rally is being held on the Dickensian Festival weekend.Victorian Dress welcome.

Ulverston is 11 miles from Coniston & 9 miles from Barrow.

Use of Ford Park House kitchens,toilets & showers, 1 gents & 1 ladies.

A meal can be arranged if interested,pay on night.

**Directions:** Take A590 from Junction 36 on M6.Follow signs to Ulverston and turn onto A590. After Booth roundabout take first **right** Swan Hotel,2<sup>nd</sup> **Right sharp bend, entrance ahead.**

*If you wish to run a rally in 2007 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 (01354 740931) March,Cambs.

**E & OE**

At 7.30 most walked into Topsham for the Carnival Procession—and very good it was too. A band of highland pipers led the way, followed by many large illuminated floats, some of which had great difficulty manoeuvring in the narrow streets. There were drum majorettes, more bands and an assortment of walking characters all collecting for charity. We hope they raised a lot of money, they deserved it.

Returning to the clubhouse Cedric persuaded a couple of pipers to give us a tune.

Me? I went to bed.

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And look who made the news:-

Thursday 10 August 2006

# Wellington NEWS

## Autosleeper rally joy

The Autosleeper Owners Club rally, Severn Gorge Caravan Park, Tweedale 14 to 16 July was a success, Wellington News can reveal.

Rita A Jones and Keith J Taylor told Wellington News: "Through Wellington News, we would like to thank everyone locally who gave us support with our first rally for the Club.

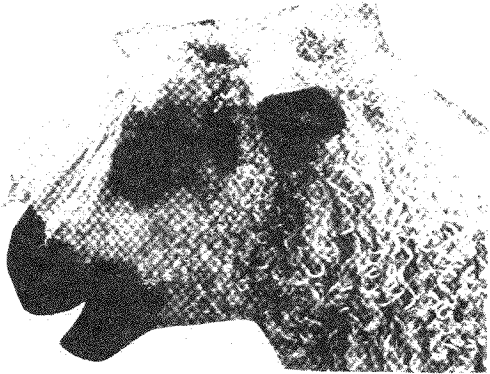
Special thanks to Cath and her husband who run the site, to Mr George Evans for giving so much advice and along with Mrs Shirley Tart autographed books which we provided for the raffle, the staff at your Wellington Office for their help when we first started making arrangements for the rally and to Steph at the Cuckoo Oak Pub who gave us tremendous support when we discovered we had been let down by another venue in the area just three weeks before the event. The rally was a great success."

# More Rally News

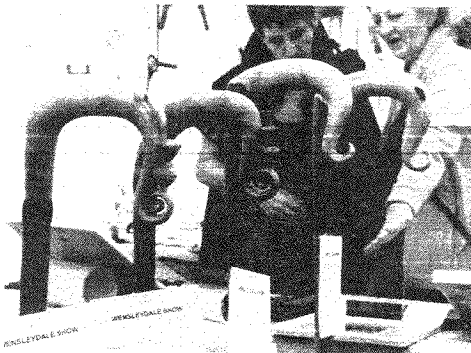
Chris Mawdsley and Peter Brown

**Wensleydale** went down a storm this year. It may well have done in previous years but we have not been fortunate enough to be able to go before.

Peter was able to be there from the start; I couldn't get there until Friday evening, and I was beginning to think there was a conspiracy when I had to follow not one **but two** tractors once I left the A1. Still, it gave me the opportunity to remind myself how beautiful that part of the country is.



The Wensleydale Show on Saturday was very good and included exhibitions of vintage tractors and cars, hunting hounds and ponies and traps. There were sheep of varying descriptions [sorry, breeds .... I know nowt about livestock]. I know a little about photography but nothing like as much as Dave and Dorothy Morland and whilst I know photographs don't reproduce at their best in the magazine I hope you get a flavour of just how good these are.



There was of course, the produce which had been entered into the competitions, the dimensions of some of which were prodigious and various local crafts, including these shepherds crooks.

In addition, the local Hunt hounds were introduced to everyone and there were jousting displays by the Knights

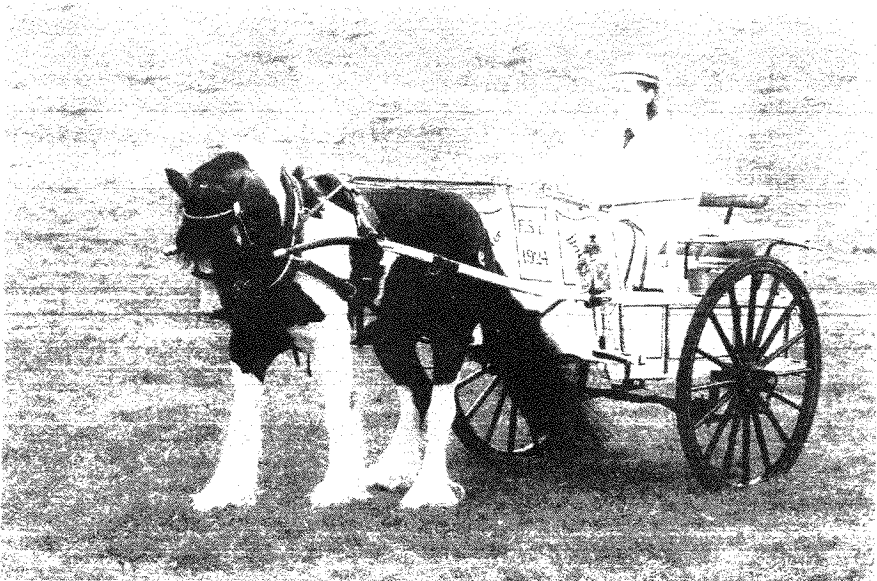
of Middle England, which I have to say was extremely good.

Sunday saw Ian Sellers lead a walk to the village of Wensley (did you know it's the only dale not to be named after a river?, no neither did I), and back into Leyburn, where we variously indulged in a refreshing ice-cream, coffee or pint, before tackling the hill back to the school site.

The school had very kindly given us access to their Youth Centre (*no snickering*) and we had coffee and quizzes there each night, some of which I might add really gave the 'little grey cells' a hard time!! Thanks to the Quiz Queens Pauline and Jean for their hard work they made the evenings great fun and particularly to Jean for her little gem, that really gave everyone a headache! In addition to the quiz, we had a Wensleydale cheese tasting on Saturday night, at which a Swaledale cheese crept in - and I have to say I thought it was excellent.

It just remains for me to thanks the marshals Neil and Pauline Rogers, their assistants Ian and Jean Sellers *and* the weather for only raining at night!!

And since I have a little bit of space, here's another of Dave and Dorothy's pictures. I love the one of the sheep—anyone got a caption?



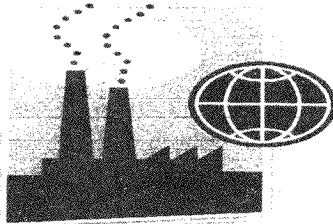
# From the Factory

Following Peter and Janet Hales article last month regarding their unfortunate experience when considering the purchase of a new Auto-Sleeper, we personally visited the dealers to discuss the raised issues.

All the dealers we contacted are long established Auto-Sleeper dealers and they were deeply shocked by the content of the meeting with them. In every case the dealers expressed pride in their high level of customer service and realise the importance of how each and every enquiry is handled.

The dealers have assured us that there are procedures in place to make sure every enquiry is handled with the greatest level of care and service.

Unfortunately there are various times of the year when occasionally we and our dealers are greatly stretched, due to the growing demands of regional and national shows. We can only speak from our own experiences here at the factory, but again apologise for any inconvenience caused and will continue to deliver the highest level of customer service from both Auto-



Robsons of Wolsingham, who have been supporters of the Club with raffle prizes, etc., for some years and from whom many members have bought vans, have written to the Club as follows:

"With regret we have decided that we shall no longer be stocking new Auto-Sleepers motorcaravans.

This decision has not been taken lightly. Robsons have been an Auto-Sleeper dealer since 1972, but current trading conditions dictate that holding what would be an appropriate level of new vehicle stocks is not the best way forward for this business. We shall now be concentrating instead on stocking the best in pre-owned vehicles, alongside our touring caravan part of the business."

They are not going out of business, nor are they in any kind of financial distress and will continue to serve Auto-Sleeper customers exactly as before, "with the full support of the factory".

*Charles Trevalyn has asked that we publish the following from the Autosleeper Service Centre:*

I would take the opportunity of replying to Terry and Brenda Moisey's letter entitled 'A Cautionary Tale' in which there are certain inaccuracies.

Mr & Mrs Moisey did indeed, return their Executive to the Willersey Service Centre, reporting amongst other matters that the screw on the shower door end of the restraining cable had pulled out of the shower door. This was the case—the shower door had been pulled against the retention cable and the screw ripped out of the timber. We did plug the old hole (there is only one) with a section of timber and glued the screw back into the aforementioned hole. Again the door was strained and the screw pulled out of the door, which in turn caused the door to go back onto the heater causing damage to its face.

We explained very clearly to Mr. Moisey that new doors were no longer available. These doors were sub-contracted to a local joinery firm who had since closed down.

Furthermore, the material from which the doors were made 12mm with oak outer facing and Atlas shower material on the inner face, was no longer available from our suppliers. We explained to Mr. Moisey that the only solution would be to face the shower door with the thinnest section of oak faced timber that we had—4mm. With his full approval we did this and in so doing covered the blemish on the door where it had rested against the Truma heater.

We at the Service Centre always do our best to carry out repairs to the highest quality standards and indeed take issue when it is incorrectly stated that a repair has been bodged—we are NOT in that line of business nor indeed ever will be.

I felt it was important that the true facts be reported.

## ***Another Cautionary Tale***

*Norman and Sandra Barmby*

I don't wish to teach any gradmas how to suck eggs, but the story involves a serious issue, though some might consider the probability factor to be 'freaky'!

My wife and I have an AS Pollensa on a 51-plate Peugeot 1.9 TD chassis. Fine machine! Very versatile, very comfortable. In 18 months of ownership we have done 15,000 miles and we love it!

In June, whilst on mains hook-up, a gas leak was suspected. Only the oven had been used on gas but the smell was near the wardrobe. When not in use the gas was turned off at the bottle. On arriving home a serious search was made to find a leak, but to no avail. A mystery indeed.

On the last Thursday of July we motored off to France for 3 weeks, looking to rely on 'aires de camping-cars' and gas. But over a couple of days the smell became so intense the gas was turned off at the bottle, which left us without refrigeration. By now we were at Piriac-sur-Mer, Brittany—beautiful setting.

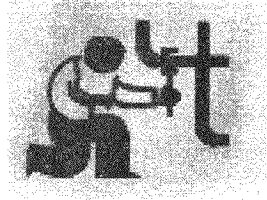
On Sunday morning Sandra emptied the wardrobe to give access to the manifold which has 4 taps for isolating the gas appliances. I duly employed our Fairy Liquid and found BUBBLES—not just one lot BUT TWO LOTS. One leak from the cooker valve, one at the bottom of the manifold where the gas entered so that even with all 4 taps turned off there remained a leak! The two points of connection involved TWO screw fittings each, the first using a fibre washer, the second a traditional olive. I did a simple strip-down of parts before re-assembling with copious use of PTFE tape and within the hour the job was done and the wardrobe then smelt of Fairy Liquid, rather than propane!!

Last year we took our 'Polly' to the Med and stayed at a large 'aire' catering for 100+ camping cars each night—not once did we see an AS. This year we did not see another AS until on our way home at a camping municipal at Bernay, near Rouen. And how strange to see another AS using the same pitch we had used previously, and not just *any* AS—another Pollensa on a W-plate Peugeot!

Obviously, we met the owners, Gerald and Annie, that evening to share wine and to exchange ideas. It might have been Gerald who asked

"How's it going?" I might have replied "Fine, apart from the gas leak." "Not in the wardrobe?" Gerald continued. "Yep! In the wardrobe." Whilst we were all in fits of laughter, I remember thinking "How freaky? What are the chances of this happening?"

Next morning I performed the same operation on next-door's 'Polly' - same manifold, same TWO leaks. Both fixed and another wardrobe smelling sweetly of washing-up liquid. By all accounts, Gerald and Annie had no problems with their gas thereafter. But I still can't believe that our Pollensas are the only Motorhomes using that particular gas manifold—there must be thousands. How many others are leaking gently into wardrobes, or anywhere else for that matter?



And before anyone asks about habitation checks—the suddenness with which the fault appeared suggests it would not have existed at the time of its last annual service.

**Please remember that only qualified persons should work on gas installations. If you aren't qualified don't touch it—call an expert!!**

### *Can anyone help?*

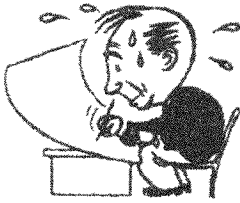
We have a Talisman GX V reg and the washroom sink has broken. We have been told that we will have to buy the whole unit even though the bowl is removable, which will cost approximately £100—just to replace a bowl? Any ideas anyone?

Also the battery in the immobiliser fob has run out and although we have purchased long life batteries from various outlets none of them will do the job.

Any information gratefully received.

Jim Hamilton. Tel: 01509 415619 email: jimjenny@ukonline.co.uk

## Chairman's Chat



I'm afraid that I may not be very popular for what I am going to say this month, but I will have to risk that, because I think it has to be said.

Ever since we bought our Auto-Sleeper and joined the Club I have heard members bemoaning the fact that "we" are never consulted about the design of new vans. At the National Rally this year there was an outpouring of feeling about the vans on display, both on the design and quality front. Members professed themselves appalled at the vans on display. The message from members was that they were not good enough, the Club should be consulted was the cry from everybody.

This message was conveyed forcibly to Auto-Sleepers who responded in a most positive way. As a result, we have been given unprecedented access to the design process. We were consulted about almost everything. At the AGM I asked for suggestions from members about the new Peugeots. From the 200 plus vans attending, I received one letter.

In the August Newsletter I asked about the possibility of a replacement for the Clubman. Result—from a membership of 1,200 vans—TWO replies.

I am extremely disappointed by this response and I am very sorry, but if the Club wants to be taken seriously then we have to do better than that. If not, then we will have absolutely no right to complain if we don't like the next round of new Auto-Sleeper vans.

Andy Cavell



**Garmin Streetpilot 2610** Portable car navigation. Plus Europe CD (installed) and 256 MB compact flash memory card.

Touch screen and remote control for easy operation. All set up but not used due to illness. Still boxed. Cost over £500 will accept £200.

**Contact Keith or Betty Andrews**  
**0121 458 7033** (Bournville Birmingham)

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**1997 Ford Duetto 2.5 TD.** 63,000 miles. All the usual AS features. 1 owner from new. FSH. Tax and MOT Feb.2007. A really nice van £14,500

**Contact Gordon Matthews 01795 538913** (Faversham)

Thanks for the donation

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**Clubman/ VW T4 Towbar** complete with towball and electrics. Good condition £250.00

**Fiamma carry bike 2 bike rack** to fit VW T2 £45.00.

**Contact Dave Boon 01275 845919** (Bristol)

Thanks for the donation

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### **Thermal Screens**

(a) NOVA internal for Ducato 2002 (unused) £35. (b) genuine external Silver Screens for Talbot 1991 (as new) £35. Also Freestanding awning Royal Traveller 2—used twice £80.

**Contact Yvonne Griffiths 01677 470330 or 07719 021306**(Yorkshire)

**Executive Peugeot Boxer 2.4 diesel** 2001 X reg. MOT & Tax January 2007. 36,000 miles. Standard AS spec plus exterior side access locker, solar panel, bike rack, 2 folding bikes, pup tent and other extras. No pete, non-smokers. Excellent condition £24,500 ono

**Contact Mrs M Broad 01507 441790** (Lincolnshire).

Thanks for the donation

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**Free standing awning** to fit panel van conversion. Burgundy and grey with light grey acrylic roof. Front and side door and removal front panel. Back door access with skirt to attach to vehicle. £130 ono.

**Contact Brian Ellis 01278 784524** (Burnham-on-Sea)

Thanks for the donation

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**SunnCamp Scenic Plus** lightweight porch. Fits Fiamma or Omnistor awnings or caravan rail. New £100 ovno. Taylormade motorcycle cover as new £20.

**Contact Geoff Mackey 01325 313087 or 07840 747972 email: enid.mackey@tesco.net.**

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Thanks to Bill Ward for donation for placing his ad. In the Newsletter last month.

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| Secretary                     | Janet Sutterby    | 01507 462449 |
| Treasurer                     | John Tidbury      | 01235 538593 |
| Vice-Chairman                 | Mike Valentine    | 02392 482818 |
| Chairman, AGM Sub-Committee   | Nora Venables     | 01902 332105 |
| Rally Co-ordinator            | Neil Rogers       | 01325 374540 |
| Minutes Secretary             | Mike Hall         | 01773 778016 |
| Chief Rally Marshall          | Ben Mansfield     | 01723 369769 |
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| Regalia Officer               | John Jones        | 01623 627903 |
| Membership Secretary**        | Norma Caley       | 01772 632734 |
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