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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*



NEWSLETTER 219

December 2006

From the Editor ^(S)

Thank you, thank you, thank you..... We've certainly got a bumper bundle this month, so much so we will have to hold some over for next month. So you have visits to Canada and the Algarve to look forward to, amongst other items.

You'll see from the opposite page that we have news concerning next year's National Rally, so you'll need to get the dates firmly fixed in your diary. We also have a couple of items from the committee as follows:

The committee have considered the possibility of distributing the Newsletter (to those who wish to receive it that way) electronically via the Club's website. It was decided that there are a number of issues (such as the timing of the receipt of the Rally Supplement) that would make this quite difficult and that therefore we should not do so at this time.

We're sure you all remember that we were waiting in the wings to take over as Editors of the Newsletter when we had to step in a month early because of the fire at Harry's house. We are not planning to do the job for ever (although we hope to for a couple of years more), and think it would be nice to have someone waiting in the wings who could step in if required. Any volunteers?

We've also received notification of a couple of scams. The first relates to PDS where a note is put through your letter box asking you to make contact as they wish to deliver something to you. This item was detailed in the June Newsletter, but basically **DONT CALL** as it will cost you £15.

The other one relates to mobile phones and is from PC Phil Corris , Crime Prevention Officer

*If you receive a call on your mobile from any person saying that he or she is a company engineer, or telling you they're checking your mobile and you have to press #90 or #09 or any other number **END THIS CALL IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT PRESSING ANY NUMBERS.** There is a fraudulent company using a device to access your SIM card and make calls at your expense. Please pass this on to as many people as you can to stop it.*

On a lighter note, is everyone ready for Christmas? I have to say we're not. Having just got over Peter's son's wedding, which entailed six house guests from Mexico for 2 weeks and gallivanting all over the country in a mini-bus to give them a flavour of the UK, we're only just catching our breath. It was though a wonderful opportunity to spend time with some truly nice people.

And as this is the last Newsletter of the year, it just remains for us to wish you all
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

National Rally

**Newark Showground
Thursday 3rd to Monday 7th May 2007**

Plans for the rally are well in hand and I can now give you an idea of the items you will be able to enjoy.

On Thursday the meal will be at 7 pm. There will be ample time for you to meet up with friends to chat and also welcome new members. The bar will remain open until 11pm.

Friday afternoon there will be a question and answer session with A-S employees and the Club's technical team in the Presidents Suite. The evening starts with the meal at 6.30 pm, followed by the quiz. The bar will again be open until 11 pm. On Saturday we will have the traditional Dinner Dance. Smart casual is the usual dress, evening dress is optional. The bar will close at 10.45pm.

Sunday starts with the Salvation Army Service at 10.30 am followed by coffee. A carvery meal will commence at approximately 1 pm. Sunday evening entertainment will be by the Mike James Sound & Singers.

Craft classes will again be held in the Cedric Ford Pavilion on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 2pm to 4 pm. In the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion you will find the Hobbies and whilst viewing and maybe purchasing anything that takes your fancy, you can enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee. Donations will be gratefully received for the charity. A 'For Sale' board will also be in the Stuart Goodwin, as will the photos submitted for the competition. Cakes entered in the competition will be auctioned on Friday evening in the Cedric Ford Hall.

Details of meals will as usual, be printed on the booking form, which will accompany a future edition of the Newsletter. The A.G.M. will be on Saturday commencing at 10.30 am followed by an open forum and held in the Cedric Ford.

Members going abroad before receiving the booking form can contact me on 01902 332105 or Sheila Henthorne on 0208 808 9112. There is no obligation to have the meals but it is helpful if not eating you do not come to the Pavilion until after the meal has been served to avoid confusion. EVERYONE IS WELCOME to all of the functions so come along and enjoy the entertainment.

REMEMBER TO CARRY YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS AT ALL TIMES.

Nora Venables

National Rally

Continued

2007 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

I would like to receive entries for this competition by **31 March 2007** so please look through your 2006 pictures or get out your camera during the next few months. There will be two categories and the usual fantastic prizes. Entries will be displayed and judged at the National Rally in May 2007 at Newark.

Rules:

- Only 2 pictures per class per entrant.
- One size only—8.5" x 6"
- All pictures to have on reverse Name, Membership Number and Caption.

CLASS 1—General:

All pictures must include an Auto-Sleeper Motorhome and not be digitally modified, just what you see through the viewfinder.

CLASS 2—Humorous:

These pictures need not include an Auto-Sleeper Motorhome but must have been taken at a Club event. They can be digitally modified.

Please address all entries to: **Mrs Rita Tubb**
70 Charnwood Crescent
Chandlers Ford
Eastleigh
Hants, SO53 5QL

HOBBIES

Would members who have a hobby they would like to display at the National Rally please contact :

John Osland-Jones (Ozzie)
14 Doveridge Road
Hall Green
Birmingham B28 0LU
0121 744 8065

or e-mail: **oslandjones@aol.com**

Charity 2007

John Jones

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who sent in nominations for our Charity of the Year 2007.

Out of all the nominations received, the one chosen was sent in by Mike and Ann Raymond (3593) and is 'The Guillain Barrie Syndrome Support Group'.

GBS is an acute disease of the peripheral nervous system causing sudden limb paralysis, even total paralysis in some cases. Recovery is a long, slow process and although most patients make a total recovery, some never recover.

If you need more information on GBS you can visit their web site at www.gbs.org.uk or telephone 01529 304615.

Once again thank you all.

At the recent Lytham rally Liz had to be taken to Blackpool Hospital by ambulance, with chest pains, and was kept in overnight for tests and observation.

We want to thank Kath and Norman Benyon for their help and assistance (and for staying up late!) and also the other ralliers for their best wishes.



Liz and Roger Spensley

And from Jim & Jenny Hamilton

We would like to thank everyone who contacted us with regard to our problems; these have now been solved. The wash bowl is in place and the alarm system was sorted by a company called ICS Loughborough Road Leicester, who we would recommend for all local people with electrical problems, they are first class. The system had to be reset and a small soldering job done on the fob—15 minutes, no appointment, £35.

NOW the water heater is leaking badly. Hey ho, here we go again, it never rains but it pours!! Help! 01509 415619
email jimjenny@ukonline.co.uk.

Thanks for the donation

SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

I'm glad to say we've had some response to our request last month for all of you satisfied customers to redress the balance.

Joy & Nigel Wilkins writes

Speak as you find. We purchased a new Executive from Marquis in Sussex in July 2006 and because there was a delay in supplying the van an awning was fitted free. We were also lent a brand new van for 9 weeks at no expense. I'm not saying there has not been the odd fault, but nothing serious, all of which have been sorted at the Service Centre.

We were very happy with the deal from Marquis and the service from Auto-Sleepers has been very good.

And from Jenny & Keith Dear

Let us say straight away that we are delighted with our 1997 Symphony and have always been extremely happy with the treatment we've received whenever we've contacted Auto-Sleepers on any matter, however mundane. We've also enjoyed being members of the club for the past four years and only wish we could slot in more rallies than we currently manage.

Before making the purchase we spent a full year researching the type of van which would best meet our requirements for long European trips, the ability to occupy a single car parking space, to return a decent mpg and have high seating so that we could see over hedgerows. You cannot of course, satisfy every conceivable requirement, but the best compromise appeared to be the Autosleeper Symphony.

Our choice was influenced by Charles Trevelyan, who we first met at the 2000 Earls Court show. Charles asked us some pertinent questions and then pointed us in the right direction. We were highly impressed, having previously been made aware of the Autosleeper reputation for reliability.

For the statistically minded, so far we have covered 62,000 miles, spent 761 nights away, our mpg has averaged 30.5 in mainland Europe, 28 in the UK. We've had lots of fun visiting all the furthest corners of Europe and Scandinavia and so far the van has performed excellently. The only mishap was on the 6,000 mile Istanbul trip—a cracked bathroom catch, due to a combination of overloading the bathroom (as you tend to in hi-tops on long trips) and the deeply potholed Romanian roads.

We only met 5 GB vans east of Hungary, one an Autosleeper. Unfortunately, it was turning towards Shrapnel Valley in Gallipoli as we turned to Anzac Cove in the opposite direction. We exchanged cheery waves—perhaps the couple are ASOC members and reading this now??



Risen from the Ashes
Sheila and Harry Henthorne

Just a brief note to let everyone know that we are now safely back home at our old address. As you will probably remember, we had a serious fire back in November 2005, which drove us away while the whole building was gutted and rebuilt. We moved into temporary accommodation, which lasted for ten months.

During that time we faced the problems of builders not working over the Christmas and New Year breaks, obtaining planning permission for an extension and then getting building consent for a new extension. This was not helped too much by the fact that the architect who had to prepare the plans did not appear to have a full command of English and was rather casual in suggestions such a moving the main sewer and the inspection hatches. However, we were very fortunate in the builders who were appointed, as they were people with whom we could work and they have done a very good job for us.

As a result we have moved back into a nice 'new' house, with a much better kitchen than we had before. The bathroom has been turned around a bit and seems to be larger. The gardeners are hard at work bringing order out of the chaos which had been caused by the bits of burning building, roof and contents which had been thrown out there, then the clearance of the lot and finally the deposit of the building materials. But at least we can now see a rather nice newly turfed lawn in position, and the weeds have all been cleared too.

Our biggest problem now is to replace the furniture which we lost. Some of that we have managed, but we are still looking for other things. Of course, the prices today seem to be rather staggering because we have not been in the habit of buying furniture for many years and what we would have paid then is totally different from today's costs. But we are getting there.

The main thing is that we are happy to be home and our two cats appear to share that feeling. At least none of us was injured.

First Time Ralliers

Derek & Wenna Jackson

We only recently acquired a van (having had a narrow boat for many years) and we have just returned from our first rally, at Lytham. Well we did go to York, but that's not really a rally.

What a welcome – a most pleasant first greeting, the “You should have been here yesterday” was true, luckily we had a good excuse! Then we were told where to go!!, well really we were guided to where to park the van (much nicer!)

We were visited and greeted by friendly faces and reminded to take our plates, drinks, etc., for the 6.30pm HotPot, and a succulent sweet into the bargain. All the time being pleasantly entertained by our fellow diners and properly entertained by a couple of Lancashire monologues, quite a full nights. Oh yes, of course we were hassled to buy some raffle tickets—is anywhere safe! Although I have to admit that this did eventually pay dividends by way of prizes when the draw was made.

We met and chatted to many members, much more experienced than us, who helped us realise how easy it is to travel to so many places and that foreign parts should hold no fears.

They did say bring knives and forks for the fish supper, but no mention of salt and vinegar, silly us. Still thoughtful fellow diners came with all condiments, so no problem really.

I've never been to a quiz like it! Almost every question was interspersed with a joke, racy story or poem, it's a wonder we finished before midnight. Finally the raffle; so many prizes, we got two, others needed a trolley to take their booty back.

Sunday brought the finale with coffee, biscuits, answers to the written quiz with more prizes, very very short speeches. And did we enjoy it—oh YES! Thanks to all who made us welcome and a Happy Christmas to all, especially those who gave a final surprise of early delivery of Christmas cards!

Yes thanks, we'll come again if we may.

Here's a moan—well not really a moan.

New Nuevo
Brian Smith

Coincidentally, popping through the letter box at the same time as the Newsletter came a large envelope from Auto-Sleepers containing some 'new' van specifications and a price list.

Naturally, I read the Newsletter first and was interested to read 'From the Factory' penned by Adrian Clews, particularly his comments on the new Peugeot based Nuevo. Sounds good I thought.

After a cup of tea I turned my attention to the specification sheet. Sounds good I thought.

Then I looked at the price list. Pass the smelling salts someone! The new Nuevo is **£37,687**—a stonking **£6,346** more than the current model and **£9,000** more than I paid for mine 3 years ago! OK, we all knew the new base vehicle was going to be more expensive than the last—but six and a half grand!

The current Nuevo was, to many people, an ideal vehicle, having all the creature comforts without fuss or gimmicks and a sensible price. Here are some of the bits and pieces you get with the new Nuevo—not options, but all part of the standard package:

2.2 ltr HDi engine (what happened to the superb 2ltd—discontinued??)
Integral recessed awning
Electrically operated entrance step
Swivvelling driver seat
Vehicle levelling sensor aid
Wardrobe accessible from shower
Exterior access to storage space beneath seats. Large under floor storage locker
Scatter cushions
Drainer with glass cover/ chopping board (who likes chopping on glass?)
Swing out shower compartment
Seitz door with central locking (OK this is good)
Power distribution unit controlled via intelligent(?) touch screen control panel

All well and good and some may say desirable, but at what price. Most of us are wrinklies with limited disposable capital, why can't we have a basic vehicle with all the above available as options. Personally, with the exception of the Seitz door, I don't want any of the above. What do you think? Let Andy Cavell know and he can take our thoughts to the next Design Working Group meeting.

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard
Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster



Ideas Sheets:

As you may know all Ideas Sheets are submitted to Auto Sleepers for their approval before they can be published. What you may not be aware of is that Auto-Sleepers also consider all the approved Ideas Sheets for possible incorporation in new models.

Andy Cavell (*our Chairman*) has advised, from his participation on the 'Design Working Group', that Auto Sleepers are increasingly taking an interest in your ideas. Indeed he reports that the new Nuevo is a great improvement and incorporates quite a few of such ideas, which is a credit to both members and Auto Sleepers.

However, unfortunately, input of new ideas seems to have dropped off lately. If you have made any improvement(s) to your motorhome please consider sharing it with fellow members, and Auto Sleepers. Simply send me your description and photos (if possible) to 18 Greenwood Close Fareham Hants PO16 7UF; and I will do the rest.

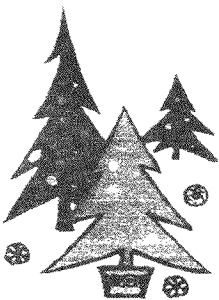
Web updates:

Recent updates to the Club Website No's 12/06 & 13/06 include photographs added to Minehead rally report and also a report on the Keswick rally; the new Wilton motorhome added to the listing; and reference to new reviews on the Mezan 2006 & Duetto 2001,.

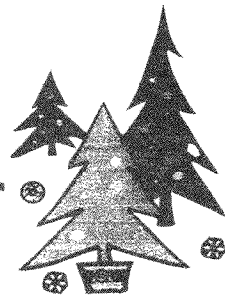
Technical support:

A member recently wrote to the Committee asking if the Committee would be willing to "intercede with Auto Sleepers when in the opinion of the Committee there is a matter to resolve and the resolution of that matter would be of general benefit to the members of the Club".

Speaking for the technical aspects this has been the practice for some time. The most recent case being the perceived jacking-up problem of a Ravenna, (see below). However neither the Committee nor I will intervene when it is clearly a personal dispute between a member and Auto-Sleeper.



December 2006 Rally Supplement.



A Merry Christmas to all members.

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.

All rallies, with the exception of the National Rally, are applied for by using the rally slips sent by post to the relevant marshals.

26th.February – 2nd.March 2007 (4nights).Whitemead Park,Lydney,Gloucestershire.

Emergency Tel.No. 0845 345 3425(site office).

Mobile phone reception is poor to nil on site but there are pay phones.

Rally Marshals:Jeannette Jones & Graham Fortune:Helen & Geoff Gray.

Fees inclusive of hook up,hard standing,hire of room for two evenings,use of all leisure facilities,rally fees & VAT **£58.00 per couple,£53.00 singles.**

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

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

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

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

Walking and cycle paths direct from site into The Forest.

Limit 22 vans which could be spread around site (it is a Civil Service membership site and they have to keep some pitches for members).

If you are accepted on a foreign rally please remember that you will have to arrange your own ferry bookings as well as vehicle, health & recovery insurance before leaving the UK.

19th May – 2nd June 2007 (14 nights) 'Italy in the Spring'

One week each at sites on south shore of Lake Garda and close to Florence. Those attending must commit to both sites and arrange their own ferry crossings and insurance.

Rally Marshalls: Jean & Ian Day, Nora & Ven Venables, Wendy and Bill Ellington.

Rally Fee: £5 per person. Probable Site Fees: €400 incl. electricity.

Non-returnable deposit: £30.

Rally slips with deposit and SAE to Jean & Ian Day, 10a Kingsley Rd, Harrogate, HG1 4RB. Cheques payable to E.J. Day

Tel. No. 01423 889143.

Limit of 22 vans

Friday, 1st June to Saturday 9th June 2007. (8 nights)

Camping Alkmaar, Alkmaar, Netherlands.

Marshals Mike & Jeanne Hall assisted by Lionel & Hilary Walker. Members must book for the full 8 nights.

Rally fee £15 – non refundable to be sent with rally slip with DL (22mm X 11mm ish) sae for reply to advise you of the success or otherwise of your booking. Please send completed rally slips to Mike & Jeanne Hall, 45, Bunyan Green Road, Selston, Nottingham, NG16 6GF. Cheques payable to M.T. Hall.

Tel.No. 01773 778016.

Site fee €18 per night for 2 people, €16 for one person (Approx. £12.67 and £11.27) including 4 amp (800 watts) electricity.

A 50% deposit will be required in January.

On rally slip please complete the "length" box as the site has several hedged areas. Our rally will occupy two so longer vans will be in one and shorter ones in the other. Please also state whether you are bringing a dog (no extra charge but a maximum of one per van) or a trailer or a free standing tent or awning. The pitches are smaller than UK ones, only 6 metres wide (in total) but this is acceptable to Dutch regulations.

The site is a friendly, family run site who speak excellent English and can order you a loaf or hire you a bike. By the time we arrive the site will have a new ablutions block but the one we saw this year was clean and pleasant – the showers were free but you needed to take your own toilet paper.

Attractions. The site is 25 minutes walk to historic Alkmaar or take the bus from outside the site. The centre is a shoppers' delight and there is a self guided historical walk and, of course, the celebrated cheese auction on Friday mornings.

We hope to organise a 2 hour boat trip to Zaanse Schans (a living museum of many traditional crafts), two hours there then two hours back.

We also plan to have a cheese and wine evening, a walking and/or cycling orientation tour followed by coffee, apple cake and cream.

You can bike the 6km to Bergen, the 9km to Egmond, both by the seaside sand dunes with many scenic bike rides on them. You can also take the bus to them. You can even take the train to Amsterdam for €11.60 return.

The site is 77 miles from Hoek van Holland - all on pleasant to use motorways. You will be expected to make your own ferry, insurance and rescue arrangements but we will give you easy to follow directions and will be pleased to give any further advice you may need.

Limited to 30 vans.

June 17th - 24th 2007(7 nights) Delftse Hout Caravan Site.
Delft Netherlands

Rally starts at 12 noon June 17th and closes 12 noon on June 24th 2007

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

Members must book for the full 7 nights. Rally fee: £15(non refundable)to be sent with rally slip and SAE envelope for reply.(A small envelope will do for first reply).

Site Fees 18.50 euros approx £13.50per night all pitches have electricity.

I will contact you upon receipt of your booking to let you know if you are successful/unsuccessful in booking this rally,(on my return from holiday).

A 50% deposit will be required in January 2007.

There will be at least one coach trip out , one bike ride, and a meal arranged on site one evening. All subject to sufficient numbers booking.

Buses run from the site entrance to town where you can catch a tram or train to anywhere you wish to go. The town is only a 10 minute walk away. Biking around the flat countryside is very easy. This site is about 25 miles from the Hoek of Van Holland Ferry or Europort.

You will be expected to make your own way on the ferry and to Delft, but I will send you directions.

PLEASE SEND RALLY SLIPS and deposit to P.M.PRATT. 3 Grafton Road, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, Staffs DE15 9DN (01283538818) or mobile (07713186508).

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.

Dates received after the end of November 2006 will be previewed in the Rally Supplement as they are booked

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, please ask if interested.

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

Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No

Please complete both sides of the form!



Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No

Please complete both sides of the form!



Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No: Van Reg: Length

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No

Please complete both sides of the form

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

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

Names of Adults

Names of Children (including ages)

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

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

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!

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

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

Names of Adults

Names of Children (including ages)

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

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

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

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Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!

Ravenna:

Auto Sleepers have tested the jacking up procedure of the Ravenna (*see last month's Newsletter*) and they have "confirmed that the Ford model range Coachbuilt vehicles can have a flat tyre changed successfully providing the Auto Sleepers pyramid is used and instructions in the handbook are followed."

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With reference to my letter (September Newsletter) and Baz Wellard's comments (November Newsletter). Baz called me regarding the removal of the rear wheels and stated that the vehicle hand book (P16) described how to remove the rear wheel using the 'supplied' jack extension. Neither the jack extension or the instructions were included with my Ravenna, hence my problems in France.

I have spoken to my supplier, who has sourced the said jack extension, hopefully the problem is now resolved. Thanks to Baz for his unprompted action taken up with Autosleeper.

Having been to the NEC recently and seen the new Autosleeper models it does appear that they have taken note of many of the recent build quality complaints. I must say that we were impressed with the new LWB Wilton and were considering purchasing, but having read the technical data it only has a user payload of 166kg so I may have to rethink. I hope Autosleeper consider an upgrade for this good looking vehicle.

John Geeson

+++++

And here's an interesting tip from Peter & Jackie Buckle

We bought our Symbol in October 2004 and on our first trip out we found the bed to be firm in comparison to our previous Symbol.

We phoned around various upholsterers to have the particular offending sections done in softer foam and were quoted between £150-£300. However, one friendly upholsterer suggested we remove the offending sections from the van, put them on the floor somewhere convenient and jog up and down on them for 5-10 minutes every day for a fortnight. So we did ... and I have to say we are both much fitter!! *And* we now have a very comfortable bed.

Hope this advice is of help to other A-S owners. Sweet dreams.....

Keswick Rally

Sue & Peter Coward

56 Ralliers met on the shores of Derwentwater in mid-October and were blessed with mild weather for the second year running. Aply assisted by Jenni & Geoff Raistrick we had organised a varied choice of activities which seemed to capture everyone's interest and the four days passed very quickly for all.

Following a short sail up the Lake our first day saw a huge party of walkers wending their way with a picnic lunch along the shoreline to experience the beautiful Autumn colours.

A private hall nearby was our venue for two social evenings – lots of fun and laughter, two bingo sessions (to pay for the hall), the calling being enhanced by impromptu assistance from Messrs. Smith & Jones (Brian & Cedric) & Co. Daytime activities included a town Treasure Trail, two museum visits and an afternoon at the Theatre by the Lake to see Noel Coward's 'Private Lives'. To prevent boredom setting in the main activities were interspersed with a number of evil quizzes and competitions and competitors in one of the new games which we introduced found themselves displaying hitherto unknown artistic talents!

After the Group Supper in a local fish restaurant our Farewell Evening turned out to be a quite lively and eventful affair – including a surprise visit from 'Miss Birke' aka Rita Tubb – this lady will be remembered by folks on this year's Ironbridge Rally as the infamous schoolteacher from Blists Hill.

Following the Raffle the presentation of Competition prizes experienced some

delay due to noisy confrontation with the organisers from the floor when the Treasure Trail answers were announced (all good humoured of course – we do love Ralliers with spirit!). When order had been restored the evening ended in grand style with the voice and guitar of Donald Stott – specially imported from North of the Border (with Joy to keep him in order). His entertainment was greatly appreciated, involved lots of audience participation and brought back vivid memories of Elvis – a fitting way to end the Rally. Our thanks go to Donald and to all those good sports who supported us that week.

Footnote – we were always conscious of having planned a fairly full programme but perhaps one of the letters sent to us by one of our eminent ralliers the following week best sums up the general mood of the Rally. An extract from his letter reads:

"The Doctor has taken me off the Valium now. Although he does say to keep clear of all quizzes, town trails etc. for at least six months. I still wake up in the night screaming..."

He then sought 'revenge' by creating his own Competition, directed at the Marshals. This involved two photographs which he took within seconds of one another of our intrepid group of walkers. Title: '**Spot the Difference**' Two pictures – both different. We were also asked to send answers on a ten pound note to Brian Smith. Anyone who wishes to can view the photographs on the Club Website. Brian is still waiting for his £10 note!!

And from Burnham on Sea

Linda & Brian Ellis

An estimated 35,000 people lined the streets to see this spectacular event this year (November 2006) which was the culmination of months of hard work, imagination and fund raising by Carnival Clubs throughout the region and raised a lot of money for various charities.

The larger 'carts' were spectacular and stole the show, but the others, including the walking entrants, were equally incredible in their own class and well deserve their share of praise. Several ralliers expressed interest in the money raised, so I gathered some details:

During the Sunday night firework display the Rotary Club netted about £3,000, of which 60% goes to local charities and 40% to the town council to be distributed. Monday's Carnival Night raised nearly £11,300—down a little on last year. Added to this will be the revenue from disabled parking, local car parks, trades people and programme sales.

There are almost as many trophies and prizes as entrants in a host of categories, but the overall carnival winner was The Gremlins C.C. Ghost Ship, pulled by two gigantic skeletons. This entrant won 'enough prize cups to host a tea party' (Mercury quote) and measured 100 feet, cost in excess of £20,000 to build and included 22,000+ magnolia light bulbs. Lets see what they follow that with next year!!

Our thanks to assistant, and assistant assistant marshals, raffle organisers and all other helpers, also to Cynthia and Colin for their donation, which we passed to the local Lifeboat.

Too many Goodbyes....

Keith and Betty Andrews are very sad to have to say goodbye to all the good friends we have made through being members of ASOC. Keith is now unable to drive long distances due to health problems. We are already missing you all but have wonderful memories of our Auto-Sleeper travels. We would like to send many thanks to Sheila & Ivor Barnett and Nora & Ven Venables who took us under their wings (as ASOC members do so well), when we first joined.

We hope that we may see some of you at Litchfield next year when we hope that Trish & Ted will let us visit. We love your rally. *Cont'd...*

AND

Audrey & Jim King have decided sadly the time has come to say goodbye having reached our 40th anniversary of being itinerants. We first hired a split screen VW T1 at a cost of £25 per week and toured Scotland then hired caravans and toured until the children left us for university. We then tried motor caravanning in earnest and with memories from North of Norway to Gibraltar we feel we have done very well, but must call it a day.

We were very loyal to Auto-Sleepers and wintered in Spain for many years. Alas it has all become too crowded, so we will now exploit our free bus and rail cards. Cheers and thanks for your great companionship.

And from Thelma & Wilf Webber

It is with considerable sadness that we have to say goodbye especially so soon after saying hello. We have decided to change our Talisman and thus have to resign our membership. We have very much enjoyed our time as members even if our only occasion for meeting other member was at the 'rally' at the Peterborough Show. The Newsletter has been avidly read and much appreciated. Thank you again for a happy year and please wave back if you've waved to by wistful-looking folk in a non-Autosleeper van!!

And a very big THANK YOU

Barbara and Vic Kaye would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our ASOC friends (past and present) for their support during the last few difficult months. When things were tough it did help us to know that so many of our friends were thinking of us. We had many cards, calls and e-mails.

A special thank you to Tom and Dorothy [Huntingdon] for taking us several times to and from the doctors and the hospital and for LISTENING. Also to Kath and Norman [Benyon] for their frequent calls and for running the Lytham rally.

More thanks to the 'Fab Four' Pauline and Neil [Rogers] and Jean and Ian [Sellers] for stepping in to help Kath with the rally and for helping me to get through a 'horrid' week, and finally to Mo and Cedric [Jones] just for being themselves!!

Thankfully Vic is much better and is making slow, but steady progress. We are hoping to get to one or two rallies next year; I am learning to driver Buttercup (again thanks to Tom) so all being well... WE SHALL BE BACK.

Buying Booze in France *Mike & Mo Valentine*



Having enjoyed a holiday in Europe and returning through Calais, you may wish to buy some wine [especially with Christmas coming up] but not too sure about what to buy *or* whether you'll like it when you get home. Can I suggest you consider going to a wine warehouse called *Franglais*. It's just off J40 of the motorway, the next junction to Cite d'Europe proceed to the T junction, turn left and you will see the sign; the warehouse is on the right; and the beauty of it is you may taste up to 60 different wines, good English is spoken and the people are very helpful. The other major attraction is that you can get into the car park just outside the entrance when you have selected what you want. You pay at the checkout and are away in minutes, unlike my last trip to Cite e'Europe, where it took some 2 hours to get through the checkout and we had to park in the coach park.

You will find a tremendous range of wines, both 'Old World' and 'New World' at very good prices. Beers have recently been introduced and all the usual ones are there and if whiskey is your tippie then they had many different malts at very good prices, not to mention numerous other spirits.

No I'm not connected to Franglais in any way—just a very satisfied customer.

We have a response from Paul Dance, A-5 Quality Engineer to a complaint made by John Dobson in the August Newsletter as follows:

Following John Dobson's report on his three-year ownership of a Nuevo, I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the key issues raised in the report.

The outlet pipe from the fresh water tank is no longer positioned alongside the chassis member and therefore does not rub against its sharp edge, it now runs along the skirt to the drain tap.

The problem you experienced with your locker and unit doors has now be rectified on all Nuevos. Anti-rattle pads

are now fitted to these components and in recent years we have glued the locker door catch rosettes in position, ensuring they are unable to become loose.

As converters and not chassis manufacturers, we are unable to give tyre pressure recommendations, however, a tyre pressure sticker should be displayed on the 'B' post. If this cannot be found, we recommend you contact Peugeot for this information.

The problem you experienced in the second year regarding the door being unable to be closed may have been caused by the door catch hitting the rubber door seal which would have made it tight to close, but securely closed when slammed. *Cont'd.....*

From the Factory

As suggested by yourself and other owners, we are currently looking at putting a more efficient style of drain tap on to new models to prevent leakage.

As with all double glazed windows, from time to time one occasionally breaks down. It only takes a very small gap in the seal to develop and before long condensation gets inside the unit, which unfortunately has happened to the window on your drivers side.

Concerning the condensation in overhead lockers which appeared in your vehicle in cold weather - all Styro vehicles are insulated by their very design, the floor side panels and ceiling being a sandwich construction of plywood, polystyrene and GRP or ply. The Luton bed area is also insulated using 3M's Thinsulate™, so condensation should be at a minimum. Please note that adequate ventilation is also required in cold weather.

I was surprised that the plastic sealing strip covering the screw heads surrounding the caravan door fell off twice. It is fitted with two flanges that fit into grooves and when tested at the factory, this always clips in to the door frame tightly with no sign of it falling out.

On behalf of Auto-Sleepers, I would like to thank John Dobson for sharing his experiences of the Nuevo and hope that my response clarifies the majority of the issues raised. Feedback from our valued customers is greatly appreciated and it has been duly noted with regard to future designs.

Firstly we would to thank all the ASOC members who attended the International Caravan & Motorhome show and we appreciated all your positive feedback regarding the new range of Auto-Sleeper vehicles. We were equally as pleased the dealers shared your enthusiasm and as a result we received a large number of dealer requests to work the London Caravan & Outdoor show at Excel in November. The launch of the Wilton, Ascot and new Nuevo/ES was hugely successful with again a great response from the press, who have already started requesting demonstrators for vehicle testing.

We now turn our focus to the new Peugeot MWB Sigma variants, LWB Magara and new Symbol all on the X250 chassis and need to ensure we don't rest on our laurels and again would appreciate all comments, particularly with regard to new product development in terms of preferred layouts, features, specifications and recommendations. By working together we can ensure Auto-Sleepers and the owners club remain firmly established as leading organisations in the motorhome industry.

We are also pleased to announce that we are currently in the process of creating a new aftercare department located at the factory, which will focus solely on customer enquiries and warranty issues. The service centre will remain unchanged and will continue to provide a fantastic vehicle servicing facility. Our efforts to

improve overall customer satisfaction and build a strong customer relationship have also been addressed by our quality control department, who have implemented an advanced employee-training program, which aims to eradicate quality issues and ensure we continue to deliver "motorhome excellence".

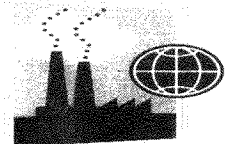
We have had a large number of enquiries requesting further information regarding the innovative touch screen LCD control panel, which are being installed in the new range of Peugeot vehicles. So to clear up any questions we have included a list of panel functions:

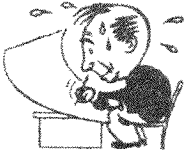
1. Clock complete with day and date function
2. Internal temperature.
3. External temperature.
4. Battery monitoring system, voltage check for vehicle and habitation battery, load check for habitation battery.
5. Intelligent charging system, enabling the vehicle or the habitation battery to be charged via the 18 amp charger when connected to a 240v supply, also enabling the vehicle charging system to charge the habitation battery and run the internal circuits when the engine is running, while the vehicle is stationary.
6. Levelling system, this enables the driver to level the motorhome, an audible intermittent bleep will sound until level, then the bleep will stop, this works in both planes, front to back and left to right,
7. Fuse detection, if a fuse blows for any reason it will be displayed on the LCD screen, (for example fuse 8 blown)
8. Water level check, this is a graphic display also showing 25% 50% 75% or 100%.
9. Remote key fob, this enables the user to operate the awning or the entry lights by remote control.
10. Waste alarm, this is shown as a graphic display with an audible bleep, the audible bleep is programmable,
11. Water alarm, when the water level is low this is shown by a graphic display and an audible bleep, again the audible bleep is programmable.
12. Adjustable volume control, this enables the user to adjust the volume on all of the alarms,
13. All of the audible alarms and the backlight are automatically switched off between 2000 hrs and 0800 hrs,

I hope this provides all the necessary information and clears up any confusion. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact our sales department.

From all of us here at Auto-Sleepers we wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to an exciting and prosperous new year.

Adrian Clewes





Chairman's Chat

My visit to the NEC in October was a revelation. It is difficult to believe how much things can change in six months, but Auto-Sleepers have managed it. They have made a major leap forward in design and finish with their new models and it was good to hear them praised by everyone, including dealers and our members. It was also good to see many of our members' suggestions have been incorporated into the finished product. Many manufacturers had huge gaps on their stands where the new models should have been, but the Auto-Sleepers stand was full. Not only that, it was crowded with people most of the day when I was there, so hopefully lots of vans were sold, leading to new members for ASOC. The new Nuevo particularly took my eye, but then as it is the first product that the design group had a hand in, that is not surprising! I am looking forward to seeing the bigger Peugeot models on the motorhome chassis when they appear.

Another change noticed by all the committee members who visited the NEC was that Orian motorhomes shared the Auto-Sleeper stand and are now badged as Auto-Sleepers and apparently they also have Auto-Sleeper documentation. Further enquiries with the Company have revealed that they are now marketed as Auto-Sleepers and will only be built at Willersey. As a result, your committee agreed at their last meeting that we cannot logically continue to maintain that they are not Auto-Sleepers. Therefore, owners of these vans will now be eligible to join the Club.

One other item that the committee discussed at that meeting was the question of the proceeds of raffles at Club rallies. Many people have suggested that they should be donated to our charity, and whilst the committee agreed in principle, they were mindful that some rallies only break even when the raffle money is taken into account. Overall we normally make a small profit from our rally programme, so the committee agreed that every year, once the accounts have been finalised, we will agree an amount to be donated to our charity for that year. I hope you will agree that this is a reasonable compromise.

Finally, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at a rally somewhere in 2007.

Andy Cavell



A-S Clubman 2004 VW
2.5TDI 'Anniversary Limited
Edition'. 9,900 miles. Top
spec. inc. large Heki, 4
burner dual fuel hob, dual

fuel blown air heating, 3 way fridge, status
aerial plus Cat.1 alarm. Fiamma 3m canopy
awning & twin bike rack. Many extras.
FSH. Beautiful condition £29,000ono.

Contact: Duncan Grundy 01286 830974
(N Wales). Thanks for donation

Executive 2.5TDi diesel 1999 T
reg.35,000 miles. 1 owner from new. Usual
AS spec with overcab bed + ext. side
access locker, VanBitz alarm, awning,
status aerial, AirRide suspension, new tyres
& cam belt. No pets, non-smoker, FSH,
Tax & MOT £29,995 ono. **Contact**
Howard Scott 01256 850309 or 07767
607109

Thanks for donation

Peugeot Ravenna 2.8 HDi Sept 2003.
13,000 miles. Wood dash, ext. locker,
Ultraheat, 3.5m awning, Sandria trim.
£25,000 ono. **Contact John Mahoney**
01534 855454 (Jersey)

Thanks for donation

External Silver Screens £30.
Waterproof twin bike cover £10.
Pair skid pads £5
Mains hook-up cable 25m + mains link £15
Tripod for table legs £10
2 walking seats £5 ea.
Contact Dennis Peel 01903 242132
(Worthing)

AS Ravenna 2002 Ford Transit 2.5 TDi
21,000 miles. 1 owner, no smokers or pets.
L shaped rear loung & Heki sunlight.
Standard AS spec. + £3,000 extras inc.

Strikeback alarm & immobiliser. Excellent
condition. FSH + habitation checks
£26,500 **Contact John Francis 01392**
875428 or jf.07@tiscali.co.uk (Devon)

Thanks for donation

AS Symphony Hi top on Peugeot Talbot.
1994 but only 41,000 miles. Truly
outstanding condition. Toilet/shower, hob
& grill, 3 way fridge, hot & cold water,
blown air heating. Fiamma awning and
'Motor-Villa' annex. Uprated springs &
new cam belt etc. Economic to run & easy
to park. AS Clubman forces reluctant sale
£11,995. **Contact Alan Shorter 01737**
362545

Thanks for donation

AS Executive 1998 S reg. Peugeot Boxer
2.5 TDi 47,000 miles. All usual
refinements, just serviced, 1 year Tax &
MOT. Excellent condition. £18,750 ovno
Contact: Mrs Morrell 01538 304509
(Staffs)

Thanks for donation

PLUS Bill Beatty has just traded in his
1994 Symphony and has a list of **25** spares
and ancillary items including lamps, fuses
and bulbs; spark plugs, brake pads & sump
washers. Manuals, wheel clamp, wiper
blades and a 3 ton air Jack CW case.
Contact him on 01822 852322 (Devon)

Merry Christmas
And a
Happy New Year



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