



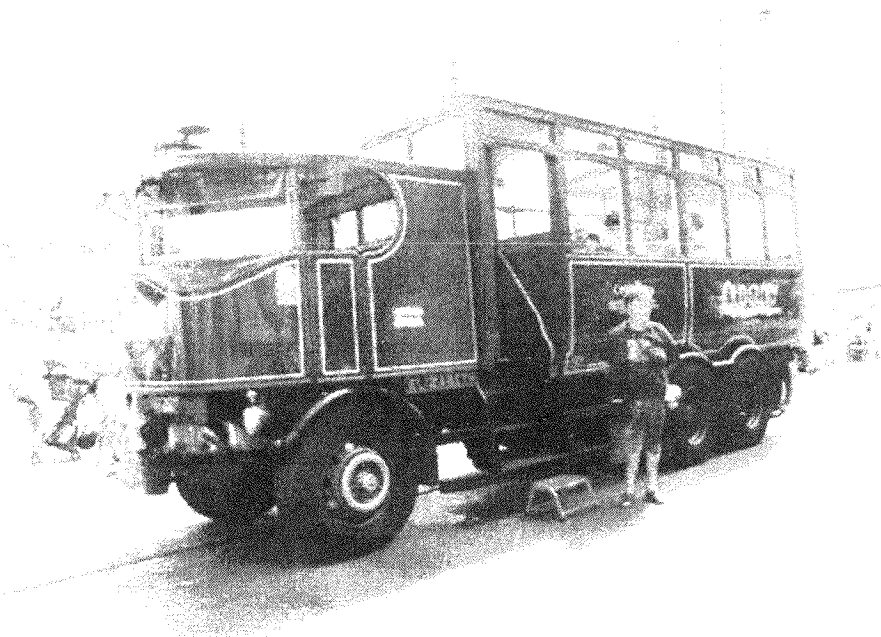
[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

*A Company Limited by Guarantee*

*Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.*

*Registered No: 4616969*



*Next generation Auto-Sleeper?*

**NEWSLETTER 228**

**September 2007**

# From the Editor (S)

Finally, the heavy rain seems to have abated, apart from in Scotland where I understand they are still experiencing joined-up showers. But at least the floods have receded in Gloucestershire. I hope none of our members have been badly affected.

You may remember that when we agreed to take over the Newsletter from Harry Henthorne, we had to step in somewhat abruptly due to Harry and Sheila's unfortunate house fire. We subsequently requested a volunteer to act as Deputy Newsletter Editor, who would be there in case of emergency and who would do the Newsletter a couple of times a year, both to keep their hand in and also to give us a bit of flexibility. The critical days being between the 10th and 15th of each month - the time between cut off for input and posting to the printer. Well, we're very happy to announce that Dudley Woodhams, supported by his wife Kathleen, has agreed to become Deputy Newsletter Editor and will be producing the November and December issues this year.

Here's the technical bit; all input for the next Newsletter (October) should come to us as usual; all input for both November and December should go direct to Dudley at his postal or e-mail address on the back of this Newsletter.

We're not planning on quitting or anything, but we're sure you'll agree it's a good idea to have a back-up plan and he will need to keep his hand in, so each year we will agree between ourselves which issues Dudley will produce and let you all know in good time.

Ben and Evelyn Mansfield would like us to pass on their sincere thanks for all the help they received at the National when their van took sick. You'll be pleased to know it's back on the road and doing nicely and Ben and Evelyn would like to express how very much they appreciated your kindness.

An important note from Baz Wellard, Chairman of the Technical Group and Webmaster - **could you please add your membership number to any correspondence to the Committee please** it does make life easier!

So what do we have for you this month? We have a very interesting article from Robin Gardner which I think everyone will enjoy, an update on the Disability Roadshow and some reports on some very soggy but nevertheless enjoyable rallies.

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We have been asked to pass on condolences to Gill Brindley, whose husband Ken died a few weeks ago. We also understand that in spite of her loss she is determined to continue rallying and I'm sure everyone wishes her well.

## **Chairman's Chat (or situations vacant)**



I recently received a phone call from Norma Caley to tell me that, with great reluctance, she and Gordon had decided to hang up their steering wheel and would be selling their Legend. I was very sorry to hear this news but nevertheless I do want to thank Norma most sincerely, on behalf of us all, for all her hard work over the years. As the first point of contact with the Club for most members she has always been helpful and friendly sometimes coping with the strangest of questions!

Norma's retirement means that there is a vacancy for a new Membership Secretary, which would entail joining the committee. All the necessary hardware and software to do the job will be provided by the Club and training will be available.

If you are interested in learning more about this important role, please contact me on 01635 201976 or [andy.cavell@tesco.net](mailto:andy.cavell@tesco.net)

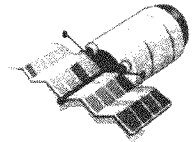
I look forward to hearing from you.

*Andy Cavell*

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Sincere thanks for the 21 responses to our request for advice on Sat-Navs. Many different experiences and suggestions, such as:

- Fit a snorkel and water wings for those 'little streams'.
- Fit a very long periscope to see over the hedgerows when turning round is not possible.
- Get an Ordnance Survey maps of the area.
- Use only when trying to *escape* from a strange place.
- Take with you when you go walk-about so you can get back to camp.
- Keep well charged up.



We have decided on TOM-TOM - it's simplicity matches my brain power.

*Geoff Williamson*

## A Few Comments

In addition to his note of thanks, Geoff Williamson comments that whilst wishing to stay an Auto-Sleeper owner he feels the company are currently inflexible in offering options such as a factory fitted bulk gas tank, or solar panel.

Geoff has found other suppliers that are willing to offer such options and feels that the loyalty to the brand that club members feel would be rewarded if Auto-Sleeper could offer similar options.

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Barry Page has sent in a note saying he has installed shelving in the wardrobe of his Topaz by using a four shelf stackable plastic vegetable rack held in place with Velcro.

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We have also had a letter from a Talisman owner who, although not a club member, nevertheless applauds the organisation, and is in need of two off-white wheel trims for a 1991 Talisman GL, 15" diameter with 13 holes to fit Fiat Talbot wheels. We can see no harm in publishing his request so if anyone can help his contact details are Ian Peak on 01768 840039 or email [Ian.Peak@btopenworld.com](mailto:Ian.Peak@btopenworld.com). He has also sent a donation to the club to accompany his request, so we thank him for that.

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And Bob Aldred sent the following note

*"Your notes on page 6 of Newsletter 227, concerning changing rubber sleeved valves which have been subjected to pressures greater than 60psi concur exactly with the advice given to me by my Tyre Shop. He replaced all five of my sleeves with new rubber sleeves - he did not recommend metal sleeved valves.*

*I look forward to a response from AS or Ford."*

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Incidentally, the photo on the front cover is actually the Whitby Steam Bus.

## ***A friend - Made, Lost and Found*** ***Robin Gardner***

This year we attended the two Dutch rallies, the first time we have been to Holland and we enjoyed both the rallies very much, they were first class.

However, the icing on the cake for us was the week in between the two rallies, that we spent at Düsseldorf. The tale is long and starts in 1946. In that year the Royal Berkshire Regiment was stationed near Düsseldorf and their Colonel was appalled by the suffering of the people, especially the children in Rhineland and he appealed to Berkshire towns to adopt a devastated town. The Lady Mayor of Reading took up the challenge, forming the Reading/Düsseldorf Association (one of the first twinning of towns in the UK), first sending parcels and soon afterwards starting exchange visits for senior school children. She wanted to build bridges after WWII and she felt the best way was through the younger generation.

I was born and brought up in Reading and in 1950 my parents applied for a place for me on the next exchange visit; I was accepted and was a member of a group of 30 to 40 children going out during the Easter holidays. We went by coach to Liverpool Street Station, train to Harwich, night ferry to The Hook and train to Düsseldorf. We were met by the German members of the Association, the families with whom we were to stay and an army of local press. How we were sorted out and assigned to a family I don't know, but the family that *adopted* me for three weeks were Herr and Frau Oberborbeck and their only son Herbert. He was about my age and to me it was an excellent choice.

While Herbert's parents did not speak English, Herbert's English was quite good, my German was non-existent! The Oberborbecks lived in a small village called Hamm, on the south-western outskirts of Düsseldorf, separated by fields and greenhouses, from the town and ran the local pub that we all lived above. I spent a very happy three weeks visiting Köln and Bonn, coach rides in the surrounding area and a boat trip on the Rhine. Besides group events, Herbert and I went out together swimming, visiting relatives and friends and seeing the sights of Düsseldorf, on trams, on bicycles and on foot. It all too soon came to an end, but I had June to look forward to when Herbert would visit us. Like my visit to Düsseldorf he enjoyed his visit to Reading, but again, the three weeks were soon up and he returned home.

I cannot remember if we wrote to each other much, but we soon lost contact as from 1951 work took up my life until retirement, marriage and family from 1955 to this day and ASOC from 1999. I did have mementos, photos Herbert gave me and I took including both of us and a publicity photo of the pub, taken when I was there, which has the Oberborbeck name and address on the back - an address I never forgot over all these years *Gasträtte Wilhelm Oberborbeck, Düsseldorf Hamm, Hammer Dorfstraße 112*. I have often looked at these photos, wishing I had kept in touch and started to think about going back there some time. The

opportunity came when we saw the two Dutch rallies advertised, which we applied for and was accepted on both.

At the close of the Alkmaar rally we set off towards Düsseldorf, about 170 miles away, armed with the details of a camping site on the outskirts of the town close to the banks of the Rhine, supplied by Sue Tyack, arriving there on the Sunday afternoon.

On the Monday we made our way to Hamm (still separated by fields and greenhouses from Düsseldorf) on the tram in our quest to find Herbert, but we always knew it would be a long shot. We soon found Hammer Dorfstraße 112, no longer a pub but now a restaurant called 'La Casita Rodizio', which even though it was lunchtime was, to our disappointment, closed. We spoke to the local postman, who was just delivering some letters there, who said the Oberborbecks had left a number of years ago and he did not know their whereabouts.

We went back to Düsseldorf and went to the Tourist Information Office and with their help got in touch with the local representative of the Reading/Düsseldorf Association, but he could not help us either. It seemed that we had come to a dead end in our search for Herbert, we were a little disappointed but not surprised. We had at least tried.

Come the Friday we decided to go for a meal in the restaurant, which serviced Spanish/Portuguese/Brazilian cuisine. It was a very good restaurant and even included scantily dressed Brazilian dancers! Once settled I looked round for the proprietress and when she was free I introduced myself; she did likewise going by the name of Maria da Silva Jacob and speaking reasonable English. I showed her the pub publicity photo with the address on the back and told her I stayed here in 1950. I then showed her the other photos including the ones of young Herbert. She was extremely interested as were the rest of the young staff, which I found surprising. I returned to my table and she asked to retain the pub photo for a few minutes and then made a phone call and started to talk to someone, so I did not take any notice, until she handed me the phone and said there is someone who would like to speak to you.

When I spoke a man asked who I was so I told him and then asked to whom I was speaking and to my great surprise and delight it was non other than **Herbert Oberborbeck**. When I said "*Hello Herbert*", my wife exclaimed in a very loud voice "*I don't believe it!*" which caused the occupants of the nearby tables to look up and wonder what was going on!

Herbert remember me and said he did not live very far away in the suburb of Kaarst and would be round in half an hour. I have to admit I had tears in my eyes when I handed the phone back. Herbert and his wife Maria duly arrived, hugs and more tears all round - we were reunited after 57 years! Even Maria and her staff were happy for us.

But how did Maria know Herbert? It was quite easy in the end. When Herbert's parents died he took over the running of the pub, then converted it into *Restaurant Hecklausen-Oberborbeck* which he and his wife ran until they retired. As the building was his, he decided to lease the property as a going concern so he is the landlord of the people who run the restaurant today. Therefore Maria would naturally know Herbert, which is why her and the staff were so interested in the photos of Herbert at 15 years old. The 1950s photo of the interior of the pub was also of interest as they could see the difference 57 years makes.

Herbert had come out in a rush and did not have time to pick up any photos, but he did bring a newspaper cutting of his exchange group in Reading, him included, taken from a local Reading paper of 1950. We both recounted our visits, our families, our past and present and he even asked me how my brother Tony was! He presented me with a bottle of *Killepitsch* a Düsseldorf made liqueur of 42% proof! A number of photos were taken and later he drove us back to our site. Unfortunately, because Herbert had other commitments it was not possible to see them again before we left for Delft on Sunday, but we exchanged addresses and will now keep in touch, although because of his health it is not possible for them to visit England.

A tale with a very happy ending for us. While we had been considering making a trip to Düsseldorf the spur to actually doing it was due to being a member of ASOC and the week between the two Dutch rallies!

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## Know anything about New Zealand?

We are hoping to go to New Zealand for a couple of months and wonder if there is anyone out there who can offer advice on hiring Motorhomes (do we hire before we go or wait until we get there?), what time of year is best (we thought possibly spring or autumn), would a couple of months be long enough or should we make it three? Any suggestions as to how we go about touring - North or South Island first? If anyone has been there, done that, got the T-shirt we would be interested in your itinerary.

Any advice of any sort would be most helpful. Our e-mail address is [shaftoe@btinternet.com](mailto:shaftoe@btinternet.com).



Thank you.

**Michael and Jean Shaftoe**

Here's an unexpected result of choosing the GBS for last year's charity.

## **Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)**

***Baz Wellard***

I received the following e-mail from John Small, who with his wife Sheila, were members of the Club for many years before they went to spend most of their time in Spain. Sheila is very ill, which is very sad for her and John, but it is encouraging that she is being supported by the Guillain-Barre Syndrome Support Group, which was last year's chosen charity. Sheila is hoping, with their help, to get back to as normal a life as is possible and return with John with their Auto-Sleeper back to Spain.

John and Sheila would be most pleased to hear from their Club friends and should you wish to get in touch I have both their UK home address and their e-mail address. Please ring me on 01329 231259 or e-mail [baz.wellard@virgin.net](mailto:baz.wellard@virgin.net).

*"Hi Baz*

*Hope you and Dorothy are both well. I was looking through the ASOC web site a couple of days ago and surprised to read the account of the donation to the Guillain-Barre support group. I don't know if you know that Sheila is in hospital with that same disease. Do you remember last Feb when we met in Los Gallardos and we were on our way to the Farmacia to collect pills for Sheila? Well they were for gastro enteritis, which in turn triggered the illness she now has.*

*She was admitted into Heucal Overa hospital, then after 4 days transferred to Almeria hospital for the initial treatment. After a further 4 weeks we flew home with wheelchair, then ambulance from Manchester to Southport General, then again a move to Ormskirk re-Hab unit. It is a terrible condition to have. The other day the GBS group had a photo session of the hospital staff and her, together with a lot of gadgets they donated for her, including an electric hoist so she will be able to get in and out of the bath when she is eventually discharged.*

*So it was with surprise I read of that account on the web site. She is slowly recovering and we hope maybe next spring to be able to travel to Spain.*

*Kind regards John."*

# Rally News

## *Lichfield Rally Dudley Woodhams*

I would like to thank everybody who was involved in the organisation of this rally, which was faultless. A very popular rally and justly so, with events on the field, a beautiful cathedral and, I'm told, a wonderful little town with lots of interest and interesting shops, plus the usual selection, all within 5 minutes walking distance. Please do not let this rally fade away after celebrating it's 10th year this year.

As usual ASOC members were there to help when the controller on my powered wheelchair got water logged and I would like to say a very special and sincere thank you to everybody who made life that bit easier and therefore more enjoyable for me at this time of minor disaster. Also thank you to everybody who has to tolerate my generator at rallies, but I need it to charge my wheelchair and I shut it off as soon as I possibly can, as both myself and my wife feel quite guilty about the disturbance it may cause.

And from *Pete Fisher...*

I'd just like to express my thanks for various things at Lichfield. First and foremost, to Trish & Ted & family, Jan, Vic, Margaret, Bob and anyone else who dug in and worked so hard to make a successful tenth anniversary rally, in spite of the weather! As has been the case in previous years the organisation was first class, even if it took until Sunday for the sun to show up! It was also very nice to see Audrey Crouch awarded a small token in recognition of her being the only member to have attended all ten rallies. It would be nice to think that perhaps Trish and Ted would be prepared to continue the rally next year, *please*.

Secondly, to Auto-Sleepers for entrusting us with the new Symbol, and thirdly to all the people who were kind enough to fill in the comments forms for the new van. These have all gone to the factory for information and hopefully there will be some ideas that will be acted on.

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***Rita Jones and Keith Taylor*** would like you to know the Oswestry Camping and Caravan Site is open from 1st August although due to recent weather problems it might be a good idea to check with the site in advance.

## **Lincoln** *Della Chapman*

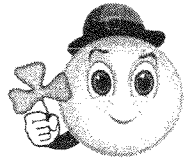
Liz Irvin, with the help of fellow marshall Alan Guest, did a splendid job at Lincoln. It was a first-ever for Auto-Sleepers to have their own 'pitch' at Lincoln and a first ever for Liz to marshall it.

Despite the rainy *yet again!!* weekend we all had a good time and it was good to meet up and welcome new members Pete and Polly, Kevin and Kath and Ivor and Christine.

Well done Liz and Alan, and we look forward to seeing you at Whitby.

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### **A Rally in Ireland 2008**



We are hoping to run a rally in Ireland in late May/ early June 2008. Numbers will be limited to 24 Motorhomes and we plan to use sites that take dogs. The sites we hope to use are in Counties Cork, Kerry and Mayo. The rally will be 18 nights, one of which will be a non-rally night where members travelling between Co. Kerry and Co. Mayo can choose their own site.

At this stage, before making further arrangements, we would like to have an idea of how many members would seriously consider applying to come on the rally and if they are prepared to stay for 18 nights.

Please contact us before the end of September by email to [brinandliz@onetel.com](mailto:brinandliz@onetel.com) or write to Liz Morgan 44 Mersey Road Stockport SK4 3DJ or phone 0161 432 4869. **Applications for the rally will only be accepted after the formal rally announcement in November.**

***Liz Morgan***

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**Kevin Harwood** has asked us to mention that there are still a few places available on the **Lancaster Rally** so if you were thinking of going - get your application in now.



## September 2007 Rally Supplement



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, must be applied for by using only official A.S.O.C. rally slips sent by post to the relevant marshals.

### **31st August - 3rd Sept. (3 nights) Wimpole Hall (National Trust)** **Cambridgeshire**

Emergency tel. 07905 898149

Rally Marshals Stella & Ian Ross

Site Fee £10.00 per night Rally Fee £2.35 (incl.VAT) GREENFIELD Site. No Electricity.

Group (Reduced) Rate entry to Hall – Home Farm & Gardens for ASOC (Non NT) members.

Cheese & Wine Supper Saturday evening £4.75 per person, non-alcoholic drink available - state preference. Cream Tea Sunday afternoon £4.95 per person. If required please send payment with Rally & Site Fees. Cheque payable to Mrs S Ross 33 Grosvenor Gardens Upminster Essex RM14 1DL Tel. 01708 228075.

**Attractions:** Rally Site in grounds of :- Wimpole Estate:- Hall – Home Farm – Park – 60 Acres Gardens – Several walks within grounds.

**Directions:** From M11 Junction 12 take A603 direction Sandy. In 6 miles just after Orwell village, turn Right into Wimpole Estate. **20 Vans Max.**

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

### **7th - 9th Sept. (2 nights) Essex Steam & Country Show. Billericay, Essex.**

Emergency tel. 07905 898149

Rally Marshals Stella & Ian Ross

Rally Fee £2.35 (incl.VAT) Greenfield Site. No Electricity.

Send rally fee, cheques payable to Mrs S Ross, with rally slip and SAE for Show

Application form by 24<sup>th</sup> August to:- Mrs S Ross 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex RM14 1SL.. Tel 01708 228075.

Fees payable to Show Organisers. Special advance booking prices. Camping 2 nights £16. Show Tickets per day Adult £9, Child £4, Senior Citizen £6. Return the Show application form to the organiser, address on form by closing date 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

**Attractions:** Vintage steam engines. Over 150 Craft Stands. Working Heavy Horses. Trade Stands, Arena Events, vintage cars & motorbikes and much more.

**Directions:** Will enclose sketch map with application form.

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**NEW DATES. 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>. September ( 2 nights) Ludlow Food & Drink Festival, Ludlow School, Ludlow, Shrops.**

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

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

Site Fee:£10.35 per night.(Incl.VAT). Rally Fee:£2.35(Incl.VAT). Total fees £23.05 .

**NO ELECTRICITY**,Rally slips to Mr.I.C. Barnett,Highlevel,Farden Bitterley,Nr. Ludlow, Shropshire.SY8 3HU. Tel.No. 01584 890 428.Cheque payable to I.C. Barnett.Please

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**This rally has been cancelled.**

level  
Supper.

**NO DOGS**

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

**Directions:** A49 from South follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs.At 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout turn **left**,following signs go under railway bridge and turn **right** at the sign and left into Leisure Centre Car Park. On A49 from North follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs on B4361 turn **right** into Leisure Centre Car Park.Follow ASOC signs.**Limit of 28 vans**.Rally closes at 3.00p.m. Sunday. **DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 4.30 p.m.FRIDAY.**

**7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>. September.Motorhome & RV Show,Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet,Somerset.**

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

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

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

Rally Fee:£2.35( Incl.VAT).Send rally fee with rally slip & SAE for Show application form to Mrs. J. Hicklin,381 Manor Road, Brimington,Chesterfield,Derbyshire.S43 1PP.Tel.No. 01246 236 157 **by 16th.August**. Show application forms to be returned to the organisers,Stone Leisure,by 23rd. August.

**6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>. September ( 4 nights)Lancaster Heritage Weekend,Lancaster Football Club.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07989776207 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals:- Kevin Harwood & Don Bland.

Site Fees: £5.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:-£3.00 couples,£2.00 singles. All hardstandings. Toilets available during the day.

Booking slips & cheques with **SAE** to F.K.Harwood,10 Peel Crescent,Westfield Village,Lancaster.LA1 5NY. Tel.No. 01524 62697.

**Attractions:**-City centre 5 min walk includes Museums ( 5 ),Castle, theatres, etc (free entry this weekend).Nearby historic Heysham & Morecambe.RAF display & fireworks.Walking & cycling(level) alongside river & canal.Lake District 30 mins. drive away.

**Directions:** Northbound Leave M6 @Junct.33 join A6 North.Follow signs for city centre & train station .Once in one way system turn left at Waterstones bookshop.Pass rail station on right then turn left into West Rd..After 300 yds.Football Club on right. Southbound Leave M6 at Junct. 34 follow signs to city centre & rail station.Follow one way system round city keeping in right hand lane until KFC.Then get in left lane ready to turn left at Waterstones bookshop.Then as above. Limit 25 vans.

Rally starts at 12 noon.

### 12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. Septemeber ( 5 nights) Shoreham Airshow,Shoreham by Sea.

Emergency Tel.No. 07999571461.

Rally Marshals:-Shirley & Chris Sturgeon,Theresa & Dave Smith.

**\*\*\*Site Fee:-£2.00 per night. Rally Fee:- £2.35 (Incl.VAT). NO Electricity.**

**GREENFIELD Site with water tap & Loo emptying.**

Airshow Tickets £26.00 per adult,£10.00 per child. This covers both days..

Booking slips & cheques payable to Mr.A.N.Fowler,20 Hawkins Close, Shoreham by Sea,West Sussex.BN43 6TL. Tel.No. 01273594479 Send a SAE if confirmation of booking is required.

Saturday evening Buffet meal available at £4.12 ( Incl.VAT) each,payable in advance.

**Attractions:-** A 2 day airshow with on ground entertainment,cycle rides from site.

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

Please do not arrive before 12 noon on Wednesday. Sorry NO DOGS allowed.

### 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. September. Northern Motorcaravan Show,York

Racecourse,York.

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

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

Rally Fee:£2.00 (couples),£1.5 0 (singles) Both incl.VAT. Please remember to send a rally slip and cheque for the Rally Fee payable to N.C.& P. Rogers:,3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St.John,Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT.

Tel.No. 01325 374 540

**The special Club site fees are:-** Thursday to Monday £38,Friday to Monday £35,Saturday to Monday £32. You may either use the form enclosed in the July Newsletter or fill in an application form from MMM or Which M'Van using the special fees and mark the form **A.S.O.C** in large letters.Send this form back to the organisers,Warners with the site fees, **before the closing date 3rd September.**

Applicants after this date **cannot rally with the Club.**

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

### 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September ( 4 nights).Fort Widley,Cosham,Portsmouth.

Emergency Tel.No. 07747815594 & 07766093174. Marshals' mobiles.

Rally Marshals: Doreen & Derek Turner - Pam Davies - Sheila & Dave Stewart.

Site Fees for 4 nights £28.80.(Includes hire of hall for Saturday). Rally Fee:-£3.25 couples,£2.50 singles (Incl.VAT). GREENFIELD Site NO Electricity. Water, toilet emptying points.

Toilets within Fort.Electric charge point for wheel chairs. Short fairly steep incline to site.

Dogs welcome, but on leads whilst on site.

Possibility of tour of the underground rooms & tunnels under Fort. Cost £2.00 per person. State on rally slip if interested. (Stairs only NO lift).

Rally slips with SAE for reply & directions to: Doreen Turner, 45 The Thicket, Fareham, Hants. PO16 8QA. Tel. No. 01329 232716. Cheques payable to Doreen Turner.

**Attractions-** This Napoleonic Fort is situated on Portsdown Hill with magnificent sea views over Portsmouth & Southsea. The many tourist attractions include Fort Nelson Armouries, HMS Victory & Warrior, The Mary Rose, the D. Day Museum & the new Spinnaker Tower, to name just a few. The Chuchillian public house serves food & is a short walk. Buses are within ½ mile.

Limit 22 vans. Rally starts at 12 noon.

### 27<sup>th</sup> September – 1st. October (4 nights) Masham Sheep Festival, Old Station H.P., Masham, North Yorks.

Emergency Site Tel. No. 01765 689569. not for rally bookings.

Rally marshals: Val & Robin Gardner, Maureen & Cedric Jones.

Marshals' mobiles Valerie 07794 411 446, Robin 07796 202 238.

Site Fee: -£10 per night Hook up optional £2.50 per night. Awnings extra. Rally Fee: £8.00 per couple £5.00 singles. (VAT Incl.).

**SAE** (for confirmation, directions & meal booking forms) with rally slips & cheques payable to Mrs. V.J. Gardner, Marango, 13 Carrington Ave., Fiacckwell Heath, Bucks. HP10 9AL. Tel. No 01628 522363. Put your mobile Tel. No. on rally slip if possible please.

**Attractions:** Sheep Fair (open Sat. & Sun. 10.00 -4.00) is an annual event & includes sheep show, sheep racing, spinning & weaving demos. plus many more.

Friday a.m. A walk in the local area led by Ian Sellers.

Friday evening Black Sheep Brewery Tour (min. 15 persons). Includes a drink & supper @ £15 per head. This is a 20 min. walk from the site and involves a lot of steps in the brewery.

Saturday evening: A meal has been organized at £7.50 a head including sweet & coffee on site. Meals are also available on other days bookable on site. Brewery tour & Sat. meal payments to be made at rally.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> October (5 nights) Autumn in Norfolk, Royal Norfolk Showground, Norwich. Applications had to be made by **SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### NEW RALLY 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> October. (4 nights). Walk the Wolds, Alford Cricket Club, Lincs.

Emergency Tel. No. 07768164522.

Site Fee: £30.00.

NO Electricity.

Rally Fee: £2.00.

Rally Marshals: Janet Sutterby & Eileen Kellard.

Meals (optional) T  
rally. (Incl. VAT).

**This rally is now fully booked.**

payable at

Rally slips & cheques  
Tel. No. 01507 46

Alford, Lincs. LN13 9EW.

Venue Cricket Club car park & firm grass. Use of pavilion facilities.

Walks arranged, card making for beginners, cycle routes. Small town 1 mile, sea 8 miles.

**Directions:** In East Lincs take A16 Boston to Louth road and turn onto the A1104 for Alford. Turn **right** opposite church onto the B1196 signed "Welton le Marsh & Willoughby" In 1 mile turn **right** onto narrow road signed "Well". Cricket Club on **right** in 0.1 miles.

## **NEW RALLY**

### **26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October (3 nights) Fishery Creek, Hayling Island, Nr. Portsmouth.**

Emergency No. 07745 522 335 (Marshal's Mobile).

Rally Marshals : Mo & Mike Valentine, Angie & Andy Cavell.

Site Fees £14.30 per night inc. electric hook-up, also includes the use of a room for the evenings.

Rally Fee : £2.35 -couples, £1.50 single. Both inc. VAT.

Rally Slips & cheques payable to M.Valentine please with SAE for reply and directions to: M Valentine, 11, Hamilton Close, Langstone, Havant. PO9 1RP (tel : 023 9248 2818)

**Because it is the schools' half term, replies by the 8th October please, we must advise the site of numbers by the 9th October 2007.**

All the usual camp site facilities, including disabled.

Dogs are welcome on leads.

Fishery Creek is set adjoining a tidal creek of Chichester Harbour with pathways leading to easy walks and extensive views of the harbour and the Solent. The park is well maintained, the grass drains very quickly and there are tarmac access roads.

Approx 5 min. walk takes you to the beach, local shops and pubs.

**Attractions.** Chichester, Emsworth, Portsmouth with its Maritime Museum. (HMS Victory, Mary Rose, The Warrior).

**Please do not arrive before 1 pm.**

### **9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> November (4 nights) Somerset Carnival, Burnham on Sea.**

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

Site Fee: £51.00. ( Includes electric). Rally Fee: £2.50. Total £53.50. (Incl.VAT). **by the end of September please.**

Rally slips & cheques made payable to Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2TP. Tel.No. 01278 784 524. Mobile 07711375323.

The Carnival is on Monday evening. Rally limited to 60 pitches. 45 are hardstanding 15 grass. Site toilets & showers. NO PETS ALLOWED, site rules.

**Rally limited to 60 pitches, 45 hard standing, 15 grass pitches with electric hook up. Pitches allocated as slips are received.**

**Attractions:** Saturday coach trip to Clarks' Village of Street ( shopping) cost approx. £3.50 each. (**DO NOT send payments but indicate interest on slip**). Sunday evening Fireworks display on beach. Monday a.m. beach to pub walk. Monday evening two hour (approx.) Carnival Procession.

The Holiday Village is approx. 10 mins walk from the town centre. There is also a Saunders Garden Centre a short ride out of town with parking.

**Directions:** Post Code TA8 1NQ. M5 junct. 22 Burnham on Sea exit. To large island (Edithmead A38) turn **left** and follow signs for Burnham Holiday Village ( Taunton A38). In approx. 1 mile straight over island A38 continue past Caravan Sales, over railway bridge then turn **second right** signed Burnham Holiday Village to mini island by petrol station. Bear **left** towards Burnham town centre. Holiday Village about a ¼ mile on **left**. **Rally starts at 10.00a.m. Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. November.**

( v. )

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. November. ( 4 nights).Dickensian Fair,Ford Park,Ulverston, Cumbria,**

Rally Marshals: Don Bland,Roy Loveys & Alan Guest.

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

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

**Attractions:**Ulverston is in the centre of the Furness Peninsular, South Lakes, Barrow,North West Coast,Morecambe Bay.

The rally is being held on the Dickensian Festival Weekend.Victorian/Dickensian dress very welcome.Don't miss out !

A meal can be arranged. Use of Ford Park House – kitchen,toilets & showers.

Directions:Take A590 from Junction 36 on M6.Follow signs for Ulverston,after Booths Supermarket roundabout take first right(Swan Hotel).Take 3<sup>rd</sup>. right (signed Hoad Hill).Sharp right hand bend entrance ahead.

*If you wish to run a rally in 2008 please contact me to check dates **before** booking with a site.This prevents any clash of dates.*

*To be shown on the "Provisional Rally List" for 2008 I must receive dates by **the end of November 2007.***

*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 have not been vetted as to suitability for rallies,please ask if interested.*

*.A "Guide to New/Possible Marshals" is available. If you would like one please contact me,details below.*

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

**Neil C. Rogers**

**3 Appleby Close,**

**Aldbrough St. John,**

**Richmond,**

**North Yorks,**

**DL11 7TT.**

**Tel./Fax. No. 01325 374 540 E-Mail. [ncr@nasuwt.net](mailto:ncr@nasuwt.net)**

**E & OE**

## **Whitby** **Chris Mawdsley**

Liz Irvin, assisted by Mike and Jeanne Hall, organised an excellent rally at Eskdale School in Whitby over the *Whitby Regatta Weekend*. What's more THE SUN SHONE!



At the coffee evening on Thursday Liz gave us a wealth of information on what was on, where and when. On the Friday Peter and I decided to take a trip on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway from Whitby to Pickering, which was wonderfully relaxing and gave us a chance to look around Pickering and have lunch, before catching the train back.

Saturday was the first day of the Regatta and there was quite a lot happening on dry land, as well as out to sea; they did have problems getting the first race started, but it eventually got underway. The idea was to row out to sea then race back into the harbour, seems like hard work to me but the participants seemed to enjoy it. We were also treated to an air display by a WWII spitfire and then the Red Arrows. Liz, Jeanne and Mike also arranged a fish and chip supper outside the Marshalls' vans for those who wanted it, which I understand most did. We couldn't as we'd arranged to meet some friends for dinner so we missed out.

Sunday found half a dozen of us walking from the school to the cliff path, then along to Robin Hood's bay. We arrived around lunch time and experienced a brief thunder storm so we had to seek shelter in a pub (my story and I'm sticking to it!). But we did cheat by catching the bus back.

On Monday we, along with quite a few others, decided to try and complete the town trail which Liz had devised and I have to say it was very good. Mind you, we lost count of the times we went up and down those hills - fit? we should be as fit as those Marines who were giving demonstrations in unarmed combat on the West Cliff, ooooh they were all tan and muscles....

Where was I? Oh yes, the rally was rounded off on Monday with a coffee evening, as rain had been forecast for Tuesday - and it did! The results of the quiz and the town trail were announced, but I'm too modest to mention how we did! and the raffle was drawn where Dudley and Kathleen Woodhams took numerous prizes, much to their embarrassment and everyone else's amusement.

It really was an exceptionally good rally, thank you very much to Liz, Jeanne and Mike and same again next year please.

## ***Mobility Roadshow*** ***Ken Bolton***

Margaret and I attended the Mobility Roadshow, held at Kemble airfield during July, on the first day it was open, Thursday, after touring Wales for two weeks in horrendous weather.

Luckily for us the day we went was very nice, unfortunately I was disappointed at the turnout of exhibitors. I was hoping for a reasonable amount of gadgets to be on show, but there were none. I also expected to see some camper conversions, but the only one on show was a guy with a Winnebago which was priced at £140,000 - a *little* out of our price range!

Two caravans were displayed, both built by Avondale and converted by a company called Fry's. They were interesting in as much as one had a hoist fitted through the floor and clamped to the chassis, which swung over the double bed and also over a wet room with toilet and commode chair. Apart from those there were no other campers or vehicles with sleeping arrangements displayed.

Most major car manufacturers were represented, along with conversions for people in wheelchairs to drive or ride in. There were also lots of different wheelchairs and electric scooters on display, but apart from that nothing else to interest us motorhomers.

The lifting gear, given to me by the lady in Cornwall, has now been fitted with a new plug and rewired and at the moment is sitting in my camper fully operational. It is still available to anybody who would find it useful and you can get in touch with me on 01983 402059.

Margaret and I hope to get off on our journeys again in September and will keep touring as long as we are able.



May Jim and I thank all concerned who have helped us with our quest for curtain hooks, especially Tommy Wilson and Sharon West, who went to a lot of trouble to help. Also to Charles Trevelyan who actually sent us some hooks, for which we are most grateful. It goes to show how helpful our magazine is for anyone who has a problem - one of our members can usually come up with a solution. It is also always worth getting in touch with Willersey, they are always there to help.

To anyone who has the same problem there is another hook which can help if necessary, it is called silent gliss gliders by Grove Product, product number 105072.

Once again, many thanks.

*Jenny Hamilton*

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## **Top Box**

### ***David Maddison-Roberts***

Reading the request in this month's (August) Newsletter made me realise we had not used our top box for years. I offered to lend it to Ian King, but as he intends to rest the box on his van's roof, it is too large.

However, having extracted the box from our shed and cleaned and checked it I wonder whether any other member requires one, or wishes to try one. The box is a Fiamma 75kg and is, or is similar to, an 'Ultra-Box 2 Top' about 3'11" x 3' x 1'4 and the box, fixing bar rails, 'U' bolts etc, are available.

If any member decided to keep the box perhaps they could make a donation to Club funds or The Children's Society.

David lives in Swanley in Kent and can be contacted on 01322 667556.

# Charity Choice 2008

*As members may remember from the National Rally, we annually select a charity that would benefit from fund raising activities and we would like to do the same at the 2008 National Rally. The selection would be made by the Committee, from nominations made by you, the members.*

*The criterion is that it should be a lesser known national charity. Nominations will remain anonymous to the committee until a charity has been selected. If you would like to nominate a charity for 2008, please write to me at 31 Abbott Lea, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG19 6NF by 20th October 2007. Please make sure you send everything direct to me with full details of the charity you wish to nominate and why. Please enclose 14 leaflets of the charity for the committee (I will make copies of your letter). It would also help if you could confirm that your charity, if selected, would be able to set up a stand at the National Rally, and that a representative would be available to accept the cheque on Sunday morning.*

**John Jones**

\*\*\*\*\*

The Club would like to have manufactured some club banners and flags. Unfortunately, the Committee can't trace artwork for the club logo that is of high enough quality to be used in the process. Do we have a volunteer with the relevant skills and tools, who could take what we have and produce artwork of the required quality? If so, please make yourself known to the Committee.

**Peter Brown**

# Technical Group & Website

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



## **Protecting your gearbox:**

I'm pleased to report that Auto~Sleepers have confirmed that the perceived problem with gearboxes, raised in last month's newsletter, does not in anyway affect any chassis they use.

## **Peugeot Radios:**

I have received a report from a member that the radio on new Peugeot chassis X2/50 switches off after 20 minutes, and cannot be over-ridden as on the previous chassis. The reason being that the radio is wired into the engine management system (*incidentally so is the radio on the new Ford chassis*) and the previous solution is therefore not suitable. Auto~Sleepers have taken up this problem, on our behalf, with Peugeot and I await a response.

## **Peugeot X2/50 water drainage:**

I have also received another report on the X2/50 that the drainage on the windscreen scuttle is too small to be effective and causes retention of rainwater. Peugeot were already aware of this problem and vans off the line are being modified during PDI. If, however, you think your van is so affected then contact your authorised dealer who should contact Peugeot Technical Department who will advise on the corrective action required.

## **Auto~Sleepers are listening:**

At the National Rally a member complained to Auto~Sleepers staff that the seating in the Nuevo ES was uncomfortable in the lounging position. I have a copy of the 'change of specification request' and I'm pleased to say that Auto~Sleepers have looked at this problem and have designed, and had approved, a different rake at the back which will overcome the problem.

## **Ideas Sheets:**

Auto~Sleepers have kindly approved two ideas from Dave Kibblewhite. Available by SAE to 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF:-

- Ideas Sheet No. 139 Small pedestal table – that suits a Nuevo
- Ideas Sheet No. 140 Stowage for the remote control unit in a Nuevo

**Website:**

- Update No. 6/07 contained: - cancellation of 2 rallies; photographs & rally report for Ledbury; additional vehicle reviews and updated rally list.
- Update No. 7/07 contained:- Photographs & rally report for Alkmaar, Holland; further vehicle review.

**Finally (?) those tyres:**

I hope now to close this issue, as I believe there is sufficient advice from Auto~Sleepers and the many other private views expressed, for members to make their own decisions.

For ease of reference I repeat the advice from Auto~Sleepers:-

- **Tyre valves:**

- Ford have issued the following statement to clarify the situation regarding tyre valves: "All derivatives of the new transit use tyre valves with steel inserts and Ford recommends fitting the steel insert valve whenever a tyre is replaced during service life (for all Transits in service)." *N.B. These steel valves are covered with rubber.*

- Notwithstanding Ford's comments above - I have noticed that tyre valves on Ford alloy wheels are rubber! Auto~Sleepers have raised this observation for clarification with Ford on our behalf. I await their response. (*Also see 'general' advice below for tyre pressures.*)

- N.B. There are, to my knowledge, three types of tyre valves: - rubber - 60psi max; metal with rubber outer - 100psi max and steel clamped on rim - 200psi max.

- **Tyre pressures:**

- **General:** "For tyre pressures use the figure quoted by the base vehicle manufacturer for the maximum fully laden weight. If using the vehicle below this weight have the vehicle weighed and then seek advice from the tyre manufacturer and request they confirm it in writing. If the vehicle loading is changed and hence overall weight changes then different tyre pressures will be required".

- **"Peugeot X2/44 - Talisman/Executive/Nuevo/Nuevo ES (and other 3400kg rated Boxers):**

On the 'B' post of these models is a label advising tyre pressures of 79.5psi all round which, being within 0.5psi of the maximum recommended tyre pressure, results in a particularly harsh ride. If your vehicle is fitted with Michelin 215/70 R15 XC Camping tyres, and your maximum front axle weight is 1750 kgs, with a maximum rear axle weight of 1850 or 1900 kgs, (as shown on the metal plate under the bonnet) then the tyre manufacturer's recommended pressures are 55 PSI front and 60 PSI rear. However for long distance continental non-stop travelling the 'B' post figure is still recommended".

○ **"New Peugeot X2/50:**

The X2/50 based vehicles do not run at the same high pressures so the harsh ride conditions should not apply. In view of this fact the figures on the Peugeot door shut pillar should be used".

**Tyre warning:** Extract from the instructions on my 'power washer':-

***"Vehicle tyres/tyre valves may be damaged and burst by the high-pressure jet. A first sign is discoloration of the tyre. Damaged vehicle tyres/tyre valves are hazardous. Always perform cleaning with a minimum of 30cm."***

With the exception of the query on the rubber tyre valves on Ford alloy wheels, I think that the Club has, with the support of Auto~Sleepers, gone as far as it can in responding to members' general tyre queries. As the Club cannot deal with members' specific problems, these should now be taken up by personal representation.

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### ***Watling Towbar***

I have just fitted a Watling towbar to my 2004 Nuevo ES and although I was happy following the clear instructions to fit it, I am very concerned about the tow ball height, which is only 375mm from the ground to the centre of the ball hitch when the vehicle is loaded.

BSAU 113a regulation says the 50mm ball centre height should be between 350mm and 420mm when the vehicle is loaded. The distance from the ground to the lowest point where the hitch connects to the towbar is 275mm. With the loaded vehicle and trailer nose weight I am sure that the ball will be less than the regulation minimum height; also with less than 275mm ground clearance I will be grounding the towbar or trailer jockey wheel if I am towing when coming on or off ferries, going over undulating grass CL sites or road speed humps.

I would be very pleased to hear from other owners of Nuevos with a Watling towbar fitted what the measurements are on their vehicles and if they have had any problems with ground clearance. I have contacted the Watling company and they say they have had no reports from Auto Sleeper, or any other customers, of a problem.

My email address is [david@lowe466666.freemove.co.uk](mailto:david@lowe466666.freemove.co.uk).

I have overcome the problem and have discussed the amendment with the Watling Engineering Towbar Designer, who has agreed with the way I have now fitted my towbar.

***David Lowe***

## From the Factory

First of all we'd like to say a big thank you to those of you who took the time to give the Symbol a thorough viewing at the Lichfield rally and those that completed the feedback forms. You have given us an extraordinary amount of great and valuable information, all of which has been passed on to R&D. Due to your phenomenal response it would be impossible for us to respond to individual comments. Some of your suggestions have been taken on board and will be implemented, some of them are unfortunately not viable and some of them are very personal opinions of which when we asked dealers and others, it was deemed that certain changes won't be made. So thank you once again for your feedback as always.

On a different note, we have just embarked on a brand new national advertising campaign, the theme of which is how the sun shines on an Auto-Sleepers owner. Hopefully this is a feeling that is familiar to all of you! These adverts will be out later in the year and we hope you like them.

But as we all know the sun doesn't shine all the time, as the recent rain proved. As some of you will be aware, Ford have a site in Tewkesbury which was affected by the heavy flooding. We did have a number of chassis at this site but fortunately a number of these had already been delivered to us at the

factory and many more were still at Dagenham. There were a number of chassis that were ruined and will have to be sent to be destroyed. As we write Ford have agreed to play catch up and supply us with the agreed amount of chassis in time and therefore this should not affect production.

There is still plenty of good news, 2 of our production lines are 90% sold taking us through to February 2008 and our latest 3 models, the Sigma, Warwick & Symbol have been received extremely well and we have received more forward orders than ever before at a launch. Ian Capes has spent time personally showing customers around our new products at Willersey, who had come along for other reasons, and after seeing the latest models for the first time, a number have placed orders.

Simon Vaughan, with the support of Charles Trevelyan, has been working very hard on improving quality across the Auto-Sleepers range and we are seeing a reduction in warranty claims thus showing that this hard work is paying off and we will continue to make more improvements.

Finally, Auto-Sleepers will be taking a stand at the NEC show in October so we look forward to seeing you there!

**Emma Franklin**

## WANTED

Bike Rack to fit VW Clubman 1996.

Contact Gwen and Stan Darby on 01543 362030 / 07890 613111



### Accessories for Ford Transit pre-2000:

Air-ride suspension aids easy DIY **£100** Silver Screens—internal **£30**

external with fold down front **£40**  
Free standing Harrison Hi-Top drive away awning, old but VGC **£75**. Set of 2 side panels with windows/ poles for Fiamma/ Omnistor rollout awning 2.5 depth **£75**

Fiamma cargo bag **£35**. 2 bike cover **£5**. 4 Magnum levelling blocks **£5 each**.

Contact **P L Woodman 01908 370614** (Milton Keynes).

Thanks for the donation

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**VW Trident** 2001 model 2.4 diesel 31,000 miles, red bodywork trim and matching upholstery. Usual Trident spec and included Toad Alarm, Fiamma awning, cycle rack and safe, recently fitted with new exhaust system, including CAT. Well maintained with FSH. **£19250**.

Contact **Tony Lamb 01332 549429** (Derbyshire)

Thanks for the donation

Due to ill health and the recent death of his wife, Bryan Orchard has sold his much loved Excelsior, but has many items to dispose of: External Silver Screen for Ford Transit, hook up cables, toilet waste tank wheeled transporter, levelling blocks and chocs, warning triangles, short table leg and stand for outdoor use of table and much more,. All for any reasonable offer.

Contact **Bryan Orchard 01284 787360**

Thanks for the donation

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*Enjoying a cuppa at the Whitby Rally.*

**Contents**

From the Editors ... .. 2	A Rally inIreland ... .. 10
Chairman's Chat ... .. 3	Lancaster ... .. 10
Sat-Nav Advice ... .. 3	Whitby ... .. 11
A Few Comments... .. 4	Mobility Roadshow ... .. 12
A Friend—Made, Lost & Found ... .. 5	Thank You ... .. 13
Know anything about New Zealand? ... .. 7	Top Box ... .. 13
Guillain-Barre Syndrome ... .. 8	Charity Choice 2008 ... .. 14
Rally News:	Banners ... .. 14
Litchfield ... .. 9	Technical Group & Website ... .. 15
Oswestry ... .. 9	Watling Towbar ... .. 17
Lincoln ... .. 10	From The Factory ... .. 18
	Wanted... .. 19
	For Sale ... .. 19

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