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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



*This is what Auto-Sleeping is all about but
where's the snow*

NEWSLETTER 231

December 2007

From the Editor (S)

Firstly please don't forget contributions for the next few months newsletters must go to Peter, details on the back page. Secondly don't forget to renew your membership by the end of the year, to Ozzie, details on the back page.

Wow!! That's the first one done and judging from your kind comments it was not a total mess. Kathleen and I would like to thank everyone who sent messages support, wished us well and of course input.

This month just as the input deadlines loomed two things happened, one my email provider changed systems which has left me without a great many of your emails, (I do have hard copies for most). This is supposed to be temporary but they have not returned in time, so we had to retype a lot into the newsletter (many thanks to Kathleen).

The second thing was that I got gastro-enteritis so it has been very hectic to meet the deadlines. If I have lost anything I can't apologise enough but some articles will be in next months newsletter.

This month there appears to be a lot of farewells, (perhaps I am not using the right after shave), this is very sad and we will miss you. Sadly there are also two obituaries and our thoughts go to their families.

I have really enjoyed my spell producing the newsletter but until you do it you just do not realise how complicated it can get and some difficult decisions that have to be made. I would like to thank Baz, Ozzie, Andy and especially Peter and Chris for their patience and invaluable help that they have given me, usually at very short notice. If I am allowed back I look forward to seeing you again in a few months and I will try to think of another theme, like Christmas this time.

I was determined that the December was going to be better than November but with the hiccups at home I think I have missed that target but I hope you enjoy it anyway.

It just remains for us to wish you all a Happy Christmas and Terrific MotorHoming in the New Year

Dudley and Kathleen

Can anybody help Derek and Maureen?

We have just updated to a 2006 Symbol ES and generally we are very pleased with the new van, particularly the larger engine, but there are two or three things that we think need improvement. The overall finish of the interior is not as good as our previous van, but nothing that some TLC, glue and screw tightening cannot improve. The items we need help with are as follows-

- 1) When the double bed is put up the metal "middle cushion" support seems to need a leg to stand on - has anyone come up with a solution?

- 2) The two eye-level cupboards over the sink and cooker only have one door each as opposed to the two each on our previous van. As we use this cupboard for tea, coffee, jams etc it means that anything put in the cupboard is immediately lost to sight and we have to fish around until we hit on what we want. Question - has anyone who has had this problem tried to fit a higher shelf with a fiddle rail leaving room underneath for more storage?

- 3) We have the same problem with the crockery cupboard - we can't see where we are putting things and it seems a great waste of space. Can we lift the Crockery holder up in the cupboard and make room for storage of small items underneath?

- 4) Finally, the van came with a towbar fitted which will be useful but no rear step which we miss. I seem to remember seeing an advert for a black plastic/polypropylene rear step in the shape of two half circles and the complete unit fixed either side of the tow ball. I have not been able to track this down and wonder if anyone knows if this type of step is still available and if so, where? All comments and suggestions will be gratefully received.

Derek and Maureen Moras, Lynch House, Littleton on Severn, South Gloucestershire BS35 1NR,

Important Reminder

Ozzie has asked me to remind you that subscriptions are now due and if you have not already done so please send them to him before the end of the year, thanks.

Have you been to Norway

I would like to visit Norway in the spring or summer and would like to hear from anybody who would be willing to share their experiences, such as the best time of year to go, what are the costs really like, ease of finding camp sites and how acceptable and advisable is wild camping?

Kevin Harwood (4777) 01524 62697, Kevin@vorticity.co.uk

Sat-Nav, my experience

Regarding advice on Sat-Navs – I have a TOM TOM and have discovered like all machines they are as good as their operator. Set up correctly they will not get you lost. Obey them to the letter and they will bail you out if you have made a mistake. Be wary of asking to go the shortest route, this could lead to narrow country lanes, but again ‘Tom’ is only obeying orders. I am confident that with TOM TOM and ASOC my touring and holidays will all be great in the future.

Can you help with our next two trips

I would appreciate any help you can give me on a 2 week tour with sites in Southern Ireland, around Scotland, Lake District and up to 2 weeks in and around York – we both love history and wild life.

The other, perhaps more ambitious trip we wish to do is to go with 2 friends to Chernobyl via some of the battlefields of WWI and WWII in Belgium, Holland, Germany including Berlin, Poland including Warsaw and finally to see friends near Chernobyl. We will use roof boxes. The awning will be used to sleep two of us and three of us are drivers. My friend is ex-army and learned to drive in Berlin so his local knowledge will be useful. My AutoSleeper is a Peugeot Boxer Pollensa 320, 2.8 with 26,000 and in good condition, 28 miles per gallon in UK (I am heavy footed!).

Any advice re basic charges, road taxes, dangers, electrical power units used, camp sites, places of interest would be appreciated.

Total trip 4 – 6 weeks. I am a member of Camping and Caravanning Club RAC recovery and all the bits.

Mr M G Fay
Thanks for the donation

Veggies in the 'Van

Over the past few years, several members have shown interest in my plan to publish a book of the simple vegetarian recipes which we use when camping in our Auto-Sleeper - and at home. Although the book has never seen the light of day (other interests took precedence!) I've now published a selection as a web site at <http://www.rewhiley.fsnet.co.uk/recipes/>

Ray Whiley

Roger Spensley's report on the Black Forrest Tour organised by GB Privilege emphasised an opinion which I have held for quite some time. Why does the Club authorise a commercial undertaking to run expensive and apparently not always very successful rallies when there are plenty of club members willing and capable of doing this much more effectively? I feel that this is almost an insult to those members who have run many excellent continental rallies - am I alone in thinking this way?
John Normandale

I have noted John's comments with interest and look forward to hearing via the editor what other members think. In the meantime I would like to make a few comments by way of clarification.

Firstly, I think it is important to differentiate between a rally and a tour because they are very different. Club rallies normally take place in one venue for a set period of time, whereas a tour visits a number of locations. The mobility of the tour appeals to some people, plus the fact that GB Privilege makes all the ferry and site bookings and organises side trips to places of interest en route. They even offer escorted travel if required. There is no way the Club could do this.

I cannot see why the Club shouldn't offer these tours if some members enjoy them and there is no financial risk to us. As to cost, all I can say is that what one man thinks is expensive is good value to another. The price of the outfit my wife bought to attend a wedding recently seemed very expensive but the same amount spent on a new loco for my model railway would have been a good investment!

I would love to know where there are "plenty of club members willing and capable of doing this more effectively". Please form an orderly queue! We are very fortunate that we have a few dedicated members who are good enough to organise overseas rallies. It would be nice if there were more and nobody is more grateful than me for their efforts. The last thing we would do is insult them.

Finally, I would like to reassure members that we have investigated the problems on the most recent tour and are confident that they are unlikely to recur.

Andy Cavell

Chairman's Chat

You may remember that back in the September issue I told you that our Membership Secretary Norma Caley and her husband Gordon had decided that the time had come to give up motorcaravanning. I understand that they have now sold their Legend, so Norma has retired from the Committee and her role as Membership Secretary. I would like to repeat our thanks to Norma for all she has done for the Club during her time in office. The Club Secretary will be presenting Norma with the traditional glass vase retirement gift after the rally at Ulverston.

After my piece appeared in the Newsletter, I was pleasantly surprised to be contacted by a number of people who were interested in taking on the role. After some discussion the Committee decided to invite Jill Bertlin to take over the job and she has been co-opted on to the committee. In the short term Ozzie will continue to deal with renewals so please send your forms and cheques to him.

At the committee meeting we also discussed some problems which have been reported by Rally Marshals this year, concerning cars, trailers and generators. As you may be aware, some of our rally sites are quite tight for space and making sure the correct safety gaps are maintained between each vehicle is quite an art. If you are planning to take a car or a trailer to any Club rally, please check with the Marshal when you book to ensure that it is convenient.

Generators are another possible area of discord although we do appreciate that some members need them for medical reasons. The Club's Bylaws state that generators should only be used between 10 am and 2 pm or at the discretion of the Rally Marshal. So here again, if you need to use a generator please make sure the marshal is aware of this when you book.

Hopefully if we can all remember these few simple courtesies then the Marshals will find their jobs slightly less stressful! Talking of rallies, rumours reach me from Neil Rogers suggesting that next year's rally programme looks good, but there is always room for more.

Finally, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard
Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster



Peugeot X2/50 Radios: I have written to Auto~Sleepers again, regarding the Peugeot X2/50 radio switching off after 20 minutes, and also to the Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders (SMMT) to seek their support in pressurising Peugeot to address the problem. I have not yet received any replies. You may have noticed that the MMM and the Practical Motorhome have commented on the same problem?

Sigma Spare Wheel: I have also written letters to Auto~Sleepers registering the Club's concern over the perceived danger in removing and replacing the Sigma spare wheel. (*The wheel is retained by 3 bolts directly to the under floor of the vehicle, and has no lowering mechanism.*) Until I receive a reply, and hopefully a solution, it is recommended that the services of your breakdown company be used, if you have one.

Winterisation: The time is coming when thoughts should be turning to winterising your motorhome. Advice is available either on the Club's website or by sending me an SAE for Ideas Sheet No. 85; to: - 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF. Don't forget that your van will benefit from regular runs during the winter period - particularly if you have a turbo model.

Internet: I know I have mentioned this before, but it is worth repeating! If you are on the web can you please ensure that your virus protection is up to date and that your computer is scanned regularly? There is an increasing number of scams; phishing (*e.g. illegally trying to access your bank account details*); viruses and nuisance messages being circulated. A simple regular routine precaution can help prevent you and friends (in your e-address book), being infected.

Website:

Update No. 11/07 contained –

Availability of:

VW T4 vehicle handbook 1991 – 1995 (*courtesy of Harry Henthorne*)

Clubman owners manual – 1992 (*courtesy of Harry Henthorne*)

Model reviews – Sigma; Trooper Low Line and Nuevo

Committee updates to:-

Main Committee and

National Rally Sub-committee
Photograph at the first Committee Meeting in 1988

Membership numbers: May I repeat the Chairman's recent request? Please include your membership number in all communications to the Committee and Rally Marshals – it makes it so much easier for us all.

Tip: After emptying your grey water tank (*see winterising above*) consider adding some 'Elsan Blue', or similar, into the tank and add water. Take the van for a short drive and then leave it for a day or so to allow the 'Elsan' to break down any particles of food etc. Run the van again and immediately empty the tank on return. Rinse it through thoroughly with fresh water, and dispose the contents in the correct manner. This will help reduce the possibility of grey water tank odours.

Bulk Gas Tanks

I would like to thank David Maddison-Roberts for his advice re the straps holding the gas tank in place, ours look like mild steel but are not plastic coated and are on the outside of rubber gaiters so can be seen. I will certainly be looking. The tank fitted to our van is between the chassis and does not appear to get wet, (its still very clean), perhaps if the tank is fitted behind the side skirt it is more vulnerable. We certainly like the storage space the empty locker provides.

Joy & Nigel Wilkins.

Installing Satellite Dish

I have a Nuevo ES (04) and am interested in the installation of a satellite dish undertaken by other members on their Motorhome. My Motorhome has a status aerial in the centre of the roof and the small Fiamma top box sits between the vents at the back which leaves little space

Also what do other members think?

Baz informs me that the club voted against a web forum and advised me that this type of discussion should be undertaken through the news letter. I would be grateful if you could raise this issue so that I can gain the experience from other members installations. With most people having access to the internet I think the club should again think of a forum as there must be many points for discussion between members.

Bernie Roberts bernieproberts@aol.com

Rally News

Take a Walk on the Wild Side....

Chris Mawdsley

Well, not really wild quite pleasant actually. Peter and I have just attended our first Walk in the Wolds Rally which Janet Sutterby and Eileen Kellard organise so we are now quite a lot fitter but quite a lot heavier!!! For those of you who have never attended this rally let me enlighten you... An excellent two course meal is provided every evening, bar Monday, for those who want it (*everyone*) turkey followed by chocolate gateaux on Tuesday, pork followed by fruit salad and ice cream on Wednesday and ham followed by plum duff and custard on Thursday. In addition home made soup is available after the walks on Wednesday and Thursday. Plus tea and scones were there to be enjoyed on Monday afternoon. See what I mean? It was pointed out that no-one was force-fed, but who can resist?

On Tuesday the walk was very positively *rained off*, though Peter and I ventured into Alford for a look round in the morning, obviously being suitably rain-proofed with anoraks and over-trousers. A boules match was arranged in the cricket pavilion in the afternoon, (you'll never guess who was nominated to organise it - *yes, Cedric...*). So closely contested was it that it almost ran into dinner, not like your normal ASOC boules match at all!!!



Wednesday dawned bright and dry so the majority of us set off on the walk at 9.30, lead by Janet, returning just after 12 to a welcoming bowl of soup. Similarly Thursday was bright and dry, *and* very warm by midday. So two excellent walks in the Wolds.

The Lincolnshire Wolds is not an area either of us knows at all but it comprises gently rolling hills largely given over to agriculture. Alford itself is a charming little market town, quite new, having only been given its charter in around 1287 and boasts, among other things, a five-sailed working windmill. It's quite picturesque and has a pleasant atmosphere about it. I can quite understand why a friend of Janet and Eileen's, Anne, says she wouldn't want to live anywhere else, mind you she's an incomer having only been there for about 35 years....

Progress was made with the cats on this rally too. They discovered they can actually go outside the van on their long leads and will not encounter dragons, or dogs for that matter. There was only one, Katie, and she's such a sweet little thing and not much bigger than they are so they were quite interested when she was around – from the inside of course.

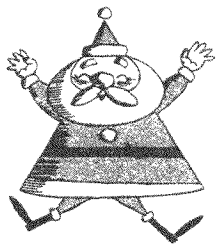
Well it only remains for me to say a very big thank you to Janet and Eileen for all their hard work and for making this a most enjoyable rally. We've been trying to get onto this rally for 3 years and I can quite see why it's so popular.

Loire Valley Rally 2008

We are pleased to say that we have more than sufficient interest (40+) to go ahead with planning the Loire Valley Rally for September 2008. Hopefully we will have application details in the New Year; subject to correspondence with the campsite. Unfortunately communication is difficult at the moment as it is the 'closed season' for French campsites.

Rally slips will be accepted in order of their receipt - as is standard practice; no phone calls please.

Dorothy & Baz Wellard



December 2007 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, must be applied for by using only official A.S.O.C. rally slips sent by post to the relevant marshals.

25th – 29th. February 2008 (4 nights).Whitemead Forest Park, Parkend, Lydney, Gloucestershire.

Emergency Tel.No. 0845 345 3425 (site office). Mobile phone reception poor to nil on site, but there is a pay phone.

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

Site Fees to include hard standing pitch, electric hook up, hire of room for 2 nights and use of all facilities:- Couples £59.50, Singles £56.75, (Incl. VAT).

28 pitches are available.

Please send rally slip & cheque with SAE for reply & directions to Mrs. Jeannette Jones, 58 Dundry Lane, Dundry, Nr. Bristol. BS41 8JQ. Tel.No. 01275 472888.

Attractions:- Enjoy a keep fit winter break at this all facilities site in the heart of the Forest of Dean.

Warm heated swimming pool, gym, steam room hairdressers, restaurant & small shop all on site.

Good walking & cycling direct from site.

Rally in Ireland. 29th May – 18th June 2008. 20 nights

Rally marshals Liz and Bryn Morgan and Nora and Ven Venables.

A rally on 4 sites

1. The Hideaway
5 nights @ €19 p.n. incl. EHU.
and Sherkin

This rally is now fully booked.

2. Tides 3rd June.

marshals in March 2008. We will give you a stepping rate nearer the time.

2. **Fossa C & C P, Nr. Killarney, Co. Kerry.** Tues 3rd June - Tues 10th June. 7 nights @ €20 p.n. incl. EHU. Nr. Ring of Kerry, Gap of Dunloe, Dingle Peninsula.

3. **Nagles Doolin C & C P. Doolin Co. Clare.** Tues 10th June - Fri 13th June. 3 nights @ €19 p.n. incl. EHU. Nr. ferry port for Aran Islands and Cliffs of Moher.

4.Cong C & C P. Cong Co. Mayo. Fri 13th June-Wed 18th June. 5 nights @ € 20 p.n. incl. EHU. Nr. Connemara. 24 miles from Galway City.

We must stress that if you want to get the most out of this rally you will need to use your own vehicle to get about. There are many interesting and beautiful places within day-trip reach of the sites. Public transport in rural Ireland is limited.

Rosslare is 168 miles to first site. Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin Port are approx 210 miles to first site. Last site to Rosslare is 200 miles. Last site to Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin Port is approx. 160 miles. Journey times in Eire invariably take longer than in the UK.

Bookings will only be taken for the 20 nights. We have secured site fee discounts on condition that you pay for all 20 nights.

Rally fee is £16.00 and includes a Caravan and Camping Guide to Ireland 2008, which we will send to you when published. If you are offered a place and you decide to accept then the rally fee is non-returnable. Please send a cheque for £16.00, a rally slip and a 9X6 addressed envelope (no postage) to: B Morgan 44 Mersey Road Heaton Mersey Stockport SK4 3DJ Tel: 0161 432 4869. Mobile: 07890876859.

*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.*

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

E & OE

Rally Date

Your name and address (Please PRINT)

..... Post Code

Phone No. Mobile No.

Van Reg. Length Membership No.

e-mail 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 this form.

f

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Your name and address (Please PRINT)

..... Post Code

Phone No. Mobile No.

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

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Please complete both sides of this form.

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

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

Adults' names (Incl. forenames).....

Childrens' names (incl. ages).....

Cheque enclosed for £..... for..... nights incl. rally fee.

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.
Enclose a SAE if confirmation is required.

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European Trip

Having taken early retirement in June 2006, we decided on taking a big trip, destination Rome.

We took delivery of our new Nuevo in March, having been impressed by the improvements and left Poole on 30 April, heading for Cherbourg. This was our first shakedown trip and on reflection, perhaps a bit too adventurous.

We drove down through France via Tours, the Tarn Gorge, Millau viaduct, down to Montpellier, on to the Camargue, then on to Avignon, Aix, Frejus then via Genoa into Italy. Not being brave enough to camp nearer Rome we stayed at Lake Bracciano camping by the lakeside, and utilised the shuttle bus that stopped at the site en route to the train station. The trains ran on time and were very reasonable and we would recommend this to anybody as the Italians driving is always exciting. The Romans manage to make it even more exciting and we were in our brand new 'van.

Rome was hectic, hot and as close as you can get to organized chaos, but we loved it. Reading this may sound exhausting, but we just went with the flow; you do need to be cautious, but you would in any big city. We had one attempt by a pickpocket, which failed, look out for the old woman with a false arm in the queue for the Vatican Museum!!

Our return leg saw us visit Lake Bolsena, Montopoli, San Remo, Monaco, Provence, the Lot, Arcachon, Royan, Noirmoutier, Dinan, Pontorson and up to Cherbourg.

Taking a new 'van on such a trip is not something we would do again, we had several niggles to fix on our return. A big thank you to Charles at AutoSleepers for his efforts and making sure that we left Willersley as happy campers. We also spent an additional 24 hours at Pontorson following a coolant leak on our engine. Although again full marks to Peugeot, who had us on the back of a low loader and heading to the garage within 30 minutes of our call for help. The local garage allowed us to camp on their premises overnight, until the spare part arrived from St Malo.

We stayed on 29 sites, met some really nice folks, and had a real adventure. Would we do it again – yes.

Ron and Linda Kemp (6036)

2008 NATIONAL RALLY

THURSDAY MAY 1st to MONDAY MAY 5th

AT NEWARK SHOWGROUND

Plans are well ahead for the Rally and early in the New Year I will be giving members details of all items arranged. Application forms should be enclosed with January Newsletter so please make a note of the date.

In the mean time, would any members who wish to display hobbies, crafts, etc. in the Stuart Goodwin Hall (or want to know more about this) please call me on 01902 332105

2009 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Club and plans are already being made for a one off CELEBRATION RALLY. It will again be at Newark Showground and the date is THURSDAY APRIL 30th to MONDAY MAY 4th. At times during 2008 you will be given details of plans as they are put in place. We hope to have as many members as possible at the Rally so the message is WATCH THIS SPACE.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a joyful and peaceful Christmas and happy motorhoming in 2008.

Nora Venables

PS from Peter: at the 2008 National Rally there will be an open meeting on the Friday chaired by Baz Wellard and attended by Auto-Sleeper management (this will have a wider scope than the technical meetings held in recent years). The Open Forum that follows the AGM on Saturday will be to discuss Club business only and not for matters relating to the company or its products.

Thanks

As the season is now coming to an end we would like to say a big thank you to all rally marshals and helpers for all their hard work. We have been to some great rallies this year, too many to name. Happy camping to you all and here's to next year.
Sylvia and Norman Brice (864)

Next Month Peter explains The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO) and how it affects

Possibly a useful Christmas Present

This month I had the chance to review the "MotorHome Parking" CD which is based on official statements from councils , other organisations and CD and web-site users. This information is also available at "motorhomingparking.co.uk.

I accessed a lot of places that I am familiar with countrywide and found the information to be accurate and interesting. It is easy to use clear to follow and would make a useful Christmas present from the kids. £5.00 Contact: Graham Hadfield 85 Heythrop Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 8QX
Email: graham@jjigrah.co.uk

Geoff and Enid Mackey would like to say Goodbye to the many friends and acquaintances they have made during the 15 years membership of the club. We joined in 1992 when we lived in Devon and enjoyed attending all the Club and Company Rallies at Malvern, where I'm sure many of you will remember Geoff engraving glass. We are continuing our motorhoming and are involved with other clubs which take up most of our time. Best wishes for the future and I'm sure we will see you on the road and around the show-grounds.

Cheerio

Being founder members of ASOC (number 30), we have enjoyed such good and genuine friendships. We have decided to finish with Motor Caravanning, our van has lasted us for 27 years and is still going strong.

We thank all those who attended out many rallies at Chester and Denbigh. Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Duncan and Jean Ellis

Farewell

We are saying farewell to the Club having recently sold our NUEVO. Our first rally was to Ireland with John and Barbara Cox in 1994. We must have attended over a hundred rallies through the years and enjoyed over a hundred rallies through the years and enjoyed every one thanks to the Rally Marshals. We will miss the rallies and all the friendly people in the Club.

From the Factory

Had I been asked to write this article some 12 months ago my answer would have been significantly different, why? Well I will explain. Since purchasing Auto-sleepers some 7 years ago I believe it has taken my team and I some time to truly understand the customer needs and the market place. Similarly we purchased a business that was in greater decline than any of us could have imagined and a business in need of much investment.

This last year has been our best in many ways, the launch and creation of 20 new models, a new look and feel that has been widely well received and a closer relationship between ourselves, our dealers, our customers, and I believe ASOC.

As a company we must use this year as our base, grow and develop from here and not rest on our laurels. Indeed our plan for 2008 is to continue to expand our production and to add 2 or 3 new models/layouts. To help achieve our goals I have committed to a program of continued investment at the manufacturing plant. Over the next year we will be purchasing the latest in technology for cutting and pressing components. This will further improve our efficiencies, maintain our new competitiveness and further enhance our quality.

Within the next 2 years I want to see Auto-Sleepers and Orian back in first position in the UK market-first in build quality and market share, first in innovation and design, first in user friendliness and best in class at all levels of quality.

To achieve this will not happen overnight but that said we are putting the correct foundations in place. We are recruiting new highly professional individuals to manage and operate each aspect of our manufacturing division. Simon Vaughn , our production director, heads up this aspect and has indeed already filled a couple of positions.

I am determined that we as a company listen and react to customer needs, ideas and wishes, but in a controlled manner. In the past we have adapted and amended something based on one person's desire or wish without checking with others, so it is fundamentally essential that if and when we adopt or change an item, it is for the good of the majority.

In addition we must drive our products harder through advertising and dealer shows as well as ensuring that these products are on dealer forecourts for all to

see. To achieve this goal we have to improve on our delivery commitments which will boost confidence all round.

Auto-Sleepers must be the motor home to aspire to, the vehicle everyone wants to own and be supported by ourselves and dealers at every level. In a nutshell, I want to create a situation whereby if people think motor home, they think Auto-Sleepers.

Ian Capes

Urgent Stop Press

I have just become aware of a reported fault on a new Auto-Sleeper coachbuilt on a Ford Chassis. Exhaust gases built up under the chassis and then polluted the vehicle cab. I have passed news of this potentially lethal fault to Baz Wellard who will check with Auto-Sleepers for the facts and advise his findings via the Club Website and Newsletter. In the mean time, if you are lucky enough to own a new AS Ford it would be sensible to check with you dealer if this could be a problem for you.

Peter Brown

Baz has been in contact with AS and they are aware of the problem and they made the following statement

There has been and problem with the length of the exhaust system on the wilton vehicle. The exhaust has been extended to eliminate the problem and a recall has been organised

Obituaries

Roy Coleman

Long standing club members will be saddened to know that Roy has passed away following a long period of ill health. His cremation took place on the 31st October.

Roy, with Ena beside him, will be remembered for his support for the Club in running and attending rallies, and always being a happy & cheerful, willing volunteer especially at Club & Company time. Also he will be remembered for his active part played in the early Spanish "winter sun" meets/rallies.

His extended ill health has precluded him from joining in on Club activities in recent years.

We extend our thoughts and condolences to Ena, in her very sad loss **Dorothy Wellard**

Colin Robson

Sadly Colin died on 6 October following an illness that nobody realised was so bad when Nina and Colin were at the Topsham rally. They both enjoyed their rallies and loved the ones with Jamie the dog. Colin will be greatly missed and our thoughts go to Nina in this difficult and sad time.

Dudley

The bit you have all been waiting for

The first response I had was from Enid Procter who told me that her children thought that daddy was a brilliant dad because he always got mum (Enid) exactly what she wanted without fail. The trick was that Enid would go and buy her own pressie (without her husbands knowledge), wrap it, write the card and come Christmas morning he was convinced that he had got it himself. How's that for planning and getting what you want.

A suggestion to cover the problem of what do you buy for somebody who really needs nothing. This was to tell your relatives and friends that instead of buying you presents they could make a donation to the many charities that are in great need. You could also suggest that they do likewise.

Win Townsend contributed the following gem she always remembers at Christmas from her many years teaching at a village school. The reception class teacher was telling her class of four and five year olds that Christmas story during early December. Day by day she told a little more and each day recapped the previous instalment, asking the children questions about the events related so far. On this particular day she was asking the class about the shepherds seeing the angels, leaving their flocks and journeying to the stable to see baby Jesus. She asked the children what the shepherds had taken with them from the fields to the town. One little boy, not usually known for paying attention or answering questions and not yet able to put his hand up to speak, jumped up and called out, "I know, - burglars." His teacher quietened down the rest of the giggling children, scolded him briefly for the interruption and continued. Again he insisted "You said they went with their Burglars." It was only later in the week that she realised that she had told the children that the shepherds had taken up their *crooks* and walked to Bethlehem to visit the baby.

From Jill Harrison I got:-

Your suggestion for Christmas on the banks of a Scottish Loch sounds wonderful, but I doubt whether Herman (our Harmony) could provide the comfort and luxury we now consider a necessity!

A month ago, I sent an e-mail to all the family, asking if anyone would like to spend Christmas with us, strictly on a first come, first served basis. Of course we find ourselves unable to refuse the late responder which means that Herman will have to do his stuff as a spare bedroom!

Jeff and Gell Atkinson took Kathleen and myself to task about my story about my brother and I apparently being misled by my mother. He says:- I think your mum was mistaken about who delivered your presents, the inference being that it wasn't really Father Christmas.

I distinctly remember 60 years ago that when I woke Christmas morning, my Postman's Outfit showed traces of soot on the box—further evidence was the chocolate Father Christmas was made in Lapland. Also if any further proof was required, a note was left saying thank you for the mince pie and "cooking" sherry, SIGNED S. CLAUS!!

Along with our grandchildren's ever higher expectations our "prezzy" list has requested a 2003 plate model (AUTOSLEEPER OF COURSE), and not to worry about the "soot". Our grandchildren will truly be surprised this year when they empty their stockings and find, 3 satsumas, a Russet apple, some real nuts with shells, and 2 oz of merrymaid caramels—Oh yes we push the boat out!

PS to Richard and Jill—we got our telly thanks.

From Roy Kewley a short poem

I was overseas in Africa
Twas very dark and damp.
When I came upon this witchdoctor
Who said his name was Frank.

He said he had some pills to sell
That gave a youthful glow,
Just one of these would make you
look
Like twenty years ago.

The Doctor said "Just listen Scouse"
After the deal was done.
"These pills can be quite dangerous,
So only take the one!"

Next day I sent a letter Home.
I posted it that morning.
I also sent those six small pills
But forgot to add the warning.

One year later I came home
On shore leave from the Navy
And saw on out front doorstep
A young lady with a baby.

The young lady was my mother
So youthful looking she.
I gazed at her in disbelief
And she gazed back at me.

I asked about the pills I sent.
She said "I just took one Clive,
But the baby is your father,
He took the other five!"

I have had the Pavo for just 2 years but did not join the club immediately as Orian owners were not admitted. Since then I have enjoyed the magazine and am surprised that such an excellent booklet can be produced by volunteers. Unfortunately my dodgy knees have made driving the Pavo too painful so we are buying a Devon Monaco, based on the Renault Master Van complete with an automatic gearbox.

This means that I will not be renewing our subscription to the ASOC so I must say my farewells and offer you all my best wishes for the future

David Chapple

It is with great regret that we had an advert in the October edition for the sale of our beloved Executive but are delighted to report that a sale was effected even before the suggested date as we had returned rather earlier than expected from a journey to Croatia and Slovenia due to bad weather in France.

We can endorse the remarks made about Croatia; 20 miles south of Split there is a splendid site at Omis where we have stayed for the past 4 years. And as for Slovenia... We had rather hoped that Lake Bled would have remained a secret, but luckily the article didn't mention Lake Bohinj Jezero (a mere 20 miles away) or the site in Ljubljana with its convenient bus to town and access to the guided tour (in English) of the city. But why should we care ?

We have now joined the ranks of the wrinklies and our vanning days are done. In 14 seasons we have clocked up 1139 nights and put nearly 95,000 miles on the clock of the van plus the 10,500 miles we did in 9 months in our Harmony.

We have so many happy memories of Club & Company Rallies, the Irish Rally run by John and Barbara Cox, the Brittany Rally in 2000, the excellence of Ben Mansfield as Chief Marshal, the wonderful care we had whenever we went to Willersey, the wonderful enthusiasm of Baz Wellard ... I'd better stop as I have left so many people out, and if I carry on I'll have to buy another van.

Our very best wishes to all ASOC members, and if any of you get a 'flash' from a car please realise that it comes from a former (and very nostalgic) member,

Chris and Cynthia Fooke



AS Ford Duetto 2.5TD 1998 S Reg.
69000 mls FSH, 1 Owner, 2 berth,
Tracker fitted, undersealed from
new, silver screen, MOT Sept. 2008,
Excellent Cond £15,500 o.n.o
Contact Jeff Scott - 0116 2374169
or 07779728238 (E Midlands)

Peugeot Boxer AS Executive 2.2HDI
monocoque, 04, 8500 mls MOT Nov
2008 taxed, pet and smoker free,
Nature pure water filter, Fiamma twin
bike rack, £27000 o.n.o
David and Carol Markson
01424 218006 or 07702 727009

Nuevo Peugeot 2.2HDI (Reg April
04), MOT and Tax Aug 08. Low
Profile two berth 18,000 mls Excellent
cond. One owner non-smokers, no
pets or children, security alarm,
external locker, cycle rack and other
extras. £25000
Sarah and Aubrey Smallwood
07791917615 anytime or after 7 pm
01824 780859
Thanks for the Donation

External silver screen to fit Peugeot
Boxer (NUEVO 2004) £15.00, External
silver screen to fit Ford Transit
(Excelsior 1996) £15.00 Will deliver
within reason.
Tel: 01235 765822 Olive and Phil
Richards

WANTED

Auto Sleeper INCA up to 2 years old
and will give a fair price for low
mileage and good condition
Janet Adams 01227 275326 Kent
janetwadams@btinternet.com
Thanks for the Donation

White Orian Pavo Reg. 01/12/05 (55),
on Peugeot Boxer, 13,000 mls FSH,
Interior Beige. Extras include 2.2HDI
engine, cab aircon, cruise control,
reversing camera (colour), Tyron
Bands, Omnistor Awning, Strikeback T
Alarm, Heosafe cab door locks, Status
530 directional aerial with amp. Wind-
up Heki roof light, manual slide out
step. Habitation Service spring 2007,
one owner, no smokers, pets or
children, VGC £25000 ovno
David Chapple 01480 472536
07773 992721 St Neots Cambs
Thanks for the Donation

A lovely little poem to finish on a
light note:-

I wish I was a firefly
A firefly's never glum
Cos how can you be grumpy
When the sun shines out your bum

Thanks to Sylvia and Norman Bryce
for this lovely little piece to finish
my stint this time

**Don't forget all contributions for
the newsletter to Peter Brown
details on the back page.**

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