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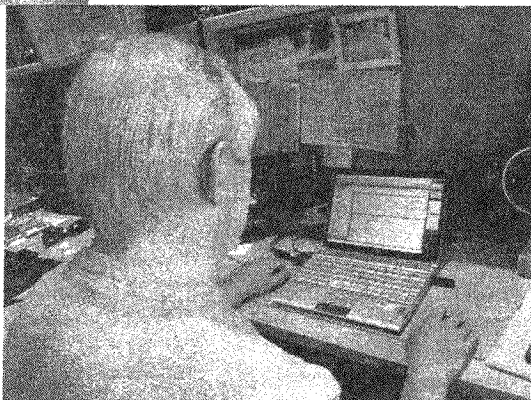
AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Registered No: 4616969



From Daley Mail
(Phil that is)

To E-Mail



NEWSLETTER 242

November 2008

From the Editor (S)

First let us say a big thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions for this month's magazine. It's the first time for a long time that we've had more than we can include, so if you're not in this month you'll be there next month.

The October issue (the first) of the Electronic Newsletter was sent to those members who have volunteered to participate in the trial—thank you for your help. The Committee decided to trial this service as a result of lobbying by some members and because it was raised during the Open Forum after the last AGM, however to date there are only 25 members participating. As it is no extra work to prepare and send it electronically the trial will continue for its planned 9 months despite the little interest that has been shown so far.

I personally share most of the sentiments of Rob Corcoran expressed on the next page although I would choose to take the Newsletter both ways so I could access it when away from home. It would be helpful just to test logistics and to get objective feedback from recipients if more members volunteered to participate.

A word from Eden Camp

I would like to say, what a fantastic time we had. It was a good site, good camp, and very good company. We had a great time, it was so interesting, so much to do; Hut 12 won't be the same again. Thank you for a wonderful time. Saturday was a real treat, so many dressed up, it was like being back in time, Jan and everyone were smashing, even though Shirley and I took all the raffle prizes. I would like to thank Jan and Vic and all who helped to put the rally together. A lot of hard work.

Bill & Shirley Bromilow

There are more reports under 'Rally Reports' later in the Newsletter - Chinon was obviously very successful.

Thank you

I would just like to say thank you to all those at the Eden Camp rally who organised and signed a get well card for me. Brenda and I were disappointed not to have been at the rally, but I had surgery to my shoulder only two days before. I am glad to say the pain is much better and I'm doing the exercises. Hopefully we will see some of you at the Burnham rally in November.

Best Wishes
Di Leader.

Some thoughts on the Electronic Newsletter

Of course it saves loads of copying time, paper, envelopes and (the main reason) postage, but the "experience" is nothing like settling down with your coffee for a good read is it?

Whilst I get plenty of electronic newsletters they are mainly IT and sales based – a quick browse on-screen is enough, you do a few click-throughs to read more detail or check a specification and price and that's it – deleted.

Also, I would read it on-screen but would have a job getting Elizabeth to sit down to read. It's worth you doing a bit of research (unless you've already done it of course) to check just how many women would read the electronic version – I fear readership would plummet among that audience. [Any comments ladies? Ed.]

The cost saving argument is a serious one of course, but some things are worth paying for.

Still happy to take part in the trial and will give feedback as I find it.

Rob Corcoran

Welcome to new members



John & Heather Arnold	Harmony
Roy & Pat Bridgen	Trophy
David Brooks & Brian Stebbings	Symbol
Peter & Jackie Brown	Harmony
Jon Chapman	Trident
Ken & Hazel Cheadle	Pescara
Peter & Eileen Clough	Talisman
David & Beryl Dalziel	Devon
Alexander & Mary Davidson	Harmony
Gavin Fox & Liz Bailey	Executive
David & Eirwen Garraway	Nuevo
Douglas & Susan Hartill	Symbol
Tony & Dorothy Herbert	Amethyst
Lynda Hill & Maldwyn Evans	Symbol
Ron & Cynthia Hutchinson	Nuevo
Sue Jarvis	Frisky
David Jewell & Joy Jones	Talisman
Michael & Jennifer Kelly	Rambler
Jenny & Bob Lait	Nuevo
David & Marilyn Leal	Ravenna
John & Shirley Lloyd	Topaz
Geoff & Enid Mackey	Pollensa
Len Moore	Recro
Mick & Tina O'Sullivan	Sandhurst
Barry & Jolene Pont	Rambler
Peter & Hazel Roberson	Nuevo
Tony & Carol Robinson	Symbol
Philip & Ann Sanders	Symbol
Alan & Georgina Sanger	Clubman
Graham & Ellen Seddon	Clubman
Kevin & June Self	Sussex
Jennifer Smith & Nick Heighton	Devon
John Stedman & Diana Burton	Executive
Bob Wotton & Ann Crawford	Gatcombe
Alan & Su Wright	Harmony

National Rally

We need your Hobbies and Collections

Will those members who have hobbies or collections they are willing to display at the National please contact:

Jim Henwood
1 Fairfield Avenue
Linthorpe
Middlesbrough
Cleveland TS5 5HB

Tel: 01642 805237
email: james.henwood1@ntlworld.com

It all goes to add interest to the event and is very much appreciated

Photographic Competition

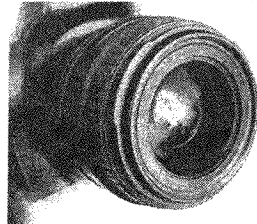
Well I hope you have been taking lots of photos for the competition there is plenty of opportunity about.

Photos must be 6x4 or 7x5 and category's are

General: Must include an Auto-Sleeper or be taken on a rally.
Humorous: Must be taken on a rally.

All entries must have name address membership no. and which category entered
All photos should be sent to me by 31st March 2009 no photos will be accepted after this date.

Rita Tubb
70 Charnwood Crescent,
Chandlersford, Hants SO53 5QL



Obituary

I am sure you will all be sorry to hear that Mike Hall, the Club's Minutes Secretary died recently. Members who attended the National Rally may remember that Mike was not well at the rally and was subsequently diagnosed with a brain tumour.

The great thing about Mike was the quiet, competent way he went about his work. Whatever task he took on, we could always be sure that it would be completed without fuss. The minutes always arrived on time. A JCB was always on hand to pull us out of the mud at Rowsley. Whatever happened, Mike seemed to have the remedy at hand.

The other thing I will remember is the way he embodied this Club's ethos. If ever I met a man who really enjoyed his Auto-Sleeper it was Mike and he wholeheartedly endorsed our prime function – to help others enjoy their vans as much.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Jeanne and his family. If it helps at all at this sad time, we too will miss him enormously.

Andy Cavell



Mike went through his funeral arrangements with Jeanne before he died (as Andy said, whatever the occasion a remedy was at hand). He said he would like his walking boots on his coffin on the basis that the Pescara would be too heavy!!

When Dudley and Kathleen Woodhams heard this Dudley included this cartoon in their card to Jeanne, who thought it was wonderful and worth reproducing in the Newsletter.

Rally Reports

Chinon 2008

What a fantastic time we had in Chinon!

Having booked our place back at the beginning of the year, the subsequent months had been full of preparations for what was to be our *first holiday in France* (or anywhere abroad for that matter) in twenty years. To be honest, there was a certain amount of trepidation on that count!

But from the moment we arrived in France, the Club was there for us – Mike and Mo came upon us in an Aire when we were starting to think of our overnight stopover, and soon had their comprehensive camp site book out for us. That took one hassle out of the trip, and encountering friendly faces so early in the trip gave our morale a boost.

Arriving at Chinon, we were greeted by lots of friendly faces, and we soon felt as if we had known everyone for ever.

Baz and his team could not have been more helpful and worked their socks off to keep everyone happy. There was a mix of games and get-togethers to which there was no obligation to join, but everyone who did thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The wine tasting at the local 'Cave' went down particularly well with the majority of the ralliers! The stewards really are to be commended for providing and managing the variety of social activities.

Having attended the AGM in May, Chinon, therefore, was not our first rally, but we felt that Chinon was definitely the better place to get to know other members of the Club. We are so glad that we went, and now we are looking forward to meeting our new found friends at other rallies at home.

And for the future, look out Lot – here we come!

Dianne and Brian Palmer

More from Chinon

On Monday September 1st, 29 Auto~Sleepers converged on Le Camping de L'Île Auger on the banks of the River Vienne at Chinon, in France. The Vienne, a tributary of the more famous River Loire, also has many historic towns, villages, chateaux, museums and gardens along its banks. Around 7pm, when everyone had arrived at the campsite, the rally marshals welcomed us with tea or coffee and biscuits. The marshals were Baz and Dorothy Wellard, Jimmy and Marion Henwood assisted by Brian Thomas and Gill Brindly.

Next morning most people took the opportunity to stroll across the bridge into the town, a mixture of medieval and more modern buildings topped by a semi-ruined chateau that was undergoing renovation. After lunch a start was made on the boules tournament before showers turned to heavier rain which lasted until around lunch time next day.

Late afternoon on Wednesday we had a "get together" accompanied by wine and nibbles. During this event Brian Thomas invited us to join in a toast to Baz whose birthday it was.

Thursday began brighter and as it was market day in Chinon, most people decided to see what was on offer. Melons seemed to be the best bargains and very sweet and juicy they were. After lunch the horseshoe throwing tournament began, eventually being won by Mike and Mo Valentine before rain again threatened to spoil the American Supper planned for the early evening. However, emergency cover was organized and the supper was able to go ahead.

Friday was again a wet day but during the afternoon we visited a wine cellar housed in caves hewn out of the rock under the castle. After a short introduction on the history of the company we were led into the dark caves and eventually served their specialties, red and rose and invited to purchase. As we emerged from the darkness the brightness and warmth of the sun greeted us as we strolled back to camp.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny so most people set out on a walk, bike ride, shopping or drove out in their vans. We personally visited the

chateaux at Montsoreau and at Usse. Villandry chateau with its famous gardens was very popular with some ralliers so we made a point of visiting that another day and can only agree that the ornamental vegetable garden is exceptional, even during a cloudburst!!

Early Sunday afternoon the rally marshals produced a beautiful spread of wine, cheese, bread and salad for us all before the continuation of the boules tournament.

Monday and Tuesday were bright and sunny so most of us chose to sit out and relax at the campsite. Most people by this time had climbed up to Chinon chateau which, despite the renovations, was open to the public. The views from there were magnificent and we could look down on to the campsite just across the river as well as vineyards, orchards and fields of maize or sunflowers visible for many miles in most directions.

Wednesday, our last day on the rally, was hot and sunny and as the remainder of the boules matches were played we were seeking the shade. The final was won by Brian Thomas and Gill Brindly after a very good match against Monica and Peter Lucas. Lunch had been a group barbecue on the rally field and in the evening we gathered for the last time to enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits followed by the raffle, presentations of small gifts to the organizers, thanks all round and hints that there may be a repeat next year.

We are certain that all those who were on the rally would like to join us in thanking all the organizers again - and get your rally slips in quickly!

Win & Ray Townsend.

Note from Baz

There will be another rally planned at Chinon 26th August to 6th September 2009 - see rally supplement in the March Newsletter. We do not anticipate needing to specify a maximum number - as our rally area is quite large.

ASOC Rally at Rudesheim am Rhein? Late June 2009.

I would like to know if there is enough interest for a 10 night rally at Rudesheim, in the Rhine Valley, Germany from Friday 26th June leaving Sunday 5th July. The rally could follow on from the planned rally at Delft, with approx 275 miles between Delft and Rudesheim, 350 from Calais.

The site, listed in the Caravan Club Travel Service in Europe Brochure, is used by many rallies including GB Privilege. Website:

www.campingplatz-ruedesheim.de

The campsite is on the banks of the Rhine, only ¾ mile from the town. Attractions could include:

- Full day Rhine Cruise to St. Goar.
- Cable car ride over the vineyards to the Germania monument, with either return by cable car, or with a ring ticket: - walk along the panorama path to the chair lift, ride down to Assmannshausen and return to Rudesheim by ship.
- A tour of the vineyards in the Winzerexpress (tractor drawn train) which can take us to a tour at the Asbach Visitor Centre, we walk back to the campsite (downhill).
- A visit to the Bromserburg Castle, with guided tour of the Winemuseum, followed by a wine tasting.
- Visit the Drosselgasse famous for its garden wine taverns.
- Taste the local wine and experience a Rudesheimer Coffee made with the local Asbach Brandy.
- The Rhine in Flames firework display on 4th July.

2009 Campsite charges are expected to be:- €24.30 per night for 2 adults, €19.00 for 1 person, inclusive of electricity 10 amps.

If you are interested, could you please let me know:-

Tel 01482 658345 E-mail irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk Letter to:
43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, Hull East Yorkshire HU10 7NP
Registering an interest does not commit or guarantee a place on the rally. If the rally is confirmed it will be advertised in the rally supplement.

Liz Irvin



November 2008 Rally Supplement.



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

If you wish to take a car, trailer or tent to a rally, please ask the marshals if this is possible.

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.

*****Please remember that you have to arrange ferry bookings and any insurance required, health or vehicle for any foreign rallies.

14th to 21st June 2009 (7 nights). Delftse Hout Caravan Site, Delft Netherlands.

Rally starts at 12 noon June 14th. and closes 12 noon on June 21st. 2009.

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

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

(Small envelope will do for first reply).

Site Fees 20.00 euros approx £16.00 per night. All pitches have electricity.

I will contact you upon receipt of your booking to let you know if you are successful/unsuccessful in booking this rally.

A 50% deposit will be required in January 2009.

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

Buses run from the site entrance to town where you can catch a tram or train to anywhere you wish to go, the town is only a 10 minute walk away. Biking around the flat countryside is very easy. This site is about 25 miles from the Hoek of Van Holland Ferry or Europort. You will be expected to make your own way on the ferry and to Delft.

PLEASE SEND RALLY SLIPS and deposit to P.M.Pratt. 3 Grafton Road, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, Staffs DE15 9DN (01283538818) or mob.(07713186508) or contact Jan on 01246236157 if I'm not available...

C/no 1751 Sent 11/11/08 with SAE.

23rd - 27th February 2009 (4 Nights), Whitemead Forest Park, Parkend, Lydney, Gloucestershire

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

Rally Marshals: Mike and Mary Bardsley, assisted by Liz and Bryn Morgan.

Site/Rally Fee to include hard standing pitch, electric hook-up, hire of room for two nights and use of facilities: Couples £66, Singles £63 (including VAT) .

Please send rally slip and cheque with SAE for reply and directions to: Mike Bardsley, 8 Hepburn Close, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0SU Tel. 01922 451964 (home), 07900677269 (mobile).

Attractions Enjoy a keep fit winter break in the heart of the Forest of Dean. Facilities include heated swimming pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna and gym together with bar, restaurant, health and beauty salon and small shop, all on site.

Good walking and cycling from the site, with plans for a guided walk and bike ride.

30 pitches available.

**7TH. – 11TH. November. (4 nights) Sedgemoor Carnival,
Burnham on Sea. TA8 1NQ.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07711375323.Marshall's mobile.

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

Site Fee: £50.00.(Includes electric). Rally Fee: £2.50. Total
£52.50.(Incl.VAT).

Rally slips & cheques made payable to: Brian Ellis,52 Golf Links
Road,Burnham on Sea,Somerset.TA8 2PP.

Tel.No. 01278 784 524. Mobile 07711375323.

Please send a SAE for confirmation.

Burnham Holiday Village is a full facility site.

The Carnival is on Monday evening approx. 7.30p.m. start.

Rally limited to 65 pitches,42 are hardstanding 23 are grass.

Pitches will be allocated as slips are received,hard standings
first.All pitches have hook up and are accessed by tarmac
roads.There are also site toilets & showers.

NO PETS ALLOWED,site rules.

Attractions:

Saturday coach trip to Clarks' Village of Street (shopping). Please
indicate on slip if interested,approx. £4.00 each. 9.30 am & 11.30
am from holiday village.DO NOT send these payments with your
slip.

Sunday evening Fireworks display on beach.

Sunday/Monday morning beach to pub walk.

Monday evening two hour (approx) Carnival Procession. 7.30p.m.
start.

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

Directions:

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 **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 7th. November.

27TH. November – 1st. December (4 nights). Dickensian Festival Weekend, Ulverston, Cumbria.

Marshals: Don Bland & Alan Guest.

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

Greenfield site. Use of Ford Park House facilities, toilets, showers, kitchen etc.

Booking slips & cheques made payable to D. Bland, 38 Oakwood Ave., Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 9JG.

Tel. No. 01229587937.

Send SAE for confirmation.

Attractions:

The rally is being held on the "Dickensian Festival Weekend. Victorian/Dickensian dress welcome- join in the fun.

Ulverston is on the Furness peninsula. A great centre for exploring the Southern Lakes & Morecambe area.

Directions:

Take A590 from M6 Junct. 36, follow signs to Ulverston. After Booths Supermarket roundabout 1st. right at Swan Hotel then 3rd. right signed Hoad Monument. Very sharp turn.

Limit 30 vans.

If you wish to run a rally in 2009 please contact me to check dates **before** booking with a site. This prevents any clash of dates. For a rally to be included in the 2009 Provisional Rally List, distributed with the January Newsletter, I must have dates etc before the end of **November 2008**.

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.....

e-mail..... Membership No.....

Van Reg..... Length..... Arrival Day/Time.....

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

Name..... Phone No.....

Please complete both sides of this form.

f

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.

Anybody Interested? September 2009 Rally in the Lot Valley

At Baz & Dorothy's splendid rally in Chinon we met Stuart & Barbara Williams who have a house in the Lot Valley. They mentioned a close connection with the owner of a campsite near their house and our ears pricked up! After a brief discussion and a few glasses of wine they agreed to see if a rally would be possible and it is. Stuart & Barbara have kindly agreed to organise the French side provided we do the British end!

I asked Stuart if he could give me a pen picture of the area and he sent me the following information.

"We will be very happy to welcome members to our region.

St. Sylvestre sur Lot: The campsite, Les Berges du Lot, is located at the side of the river Lot and is run by a very friendly couple who both can speak some English. There is a small swimming pool for the campers. The pitches are separated by low hedges.

Within 200metres are most of the shops, Intermarché supermarket, 3 Bakers, butchers, a Pizzeria etc..

Penne d'Agenais: 500 metres away across the river is Penne d'Agenais, the port area has boats for hire and other shops, bar and restaurant. On top of the hill (at 200m above sea level) overlooking the valley is the

médiéval village of Penne d'Agenais where there are further restaurants, the Basilica and many old buildings.

The main town nearby is Villeneuve sur Lot, accessible by cycles on the signposted cycle route, 9km. Lots of shops and restaurants etc.

Within 25minutes by motorhome are several more médiéval villages."

So the big question is – are there enough members interested to make it viable. The proposed dates are 12th to 21st September 2009. This will follow on nicely from Chinon which Baz and Dorothy will be running again from 26th August to 6th September, but you do not have to attend both rallies. We have been offered space for 17 vans. In 2008 the fee for two persons including electricity was 10 euros.

We would be grateful if you could let us know if you are likely to wish to attend. Phone no is 01635 201976; email andy.cavell@tesco.net or snailmail to 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, RG18 0RY. There is no commitment at this stage; the rally will be advertised in the usual way through the supplement in due course.

Andy & Angie Cavell

When we run the rally at Topsham we always have local people asking us "who are you? Why are you here? Where do you come from"? I must stress that we are made very welcome in Topsham, but I suspect that the odd person is not quite sure of us. So after this year's rally I wrote a short article for the local monthly magazine called ESTUARY.

I suspect the questions asked in Topsham are ones that must be asked in other places where rallies are held.

Why are there Motorhomes at Topsham Rugby Club?

Some residents of Topsham have asked what's going on at Topsham Rugby Club? Every year for the last six years, a large number of motorhomes arrive. They are arranged in neat rows six metres apart and stay for five nights during Town Fair Week.

Let us introduce ourselves. We are a motorhome club and our members come from many different places in the UK. What we have in common is that we own motorhomes made by a firm called Auto-Sleepers, hence we are called the Auto-Sleepers Owners' Club, or ASOC for short.

My brother and sister-in-law are residents of Topsham so we have enjoyed many visits here in the past. In 2002, with their help, we approached the Rugby Club about using their grounds for a "rally". In 2003, with the Club's permission and after complying with DEFRA's regulations and obtaining public liability insurance, we held our first rally at Topsham. Our members had such a wonderful time that the event has been repeated every year since. This year, 54 motorhomes attended, with 100 people in all visiting Topsham.

The Town Fair is a tremendous attraction and we are enthusiastic visitors to the many events. We are even participants, though as yet we haven't had an entry in the carnival! Most of us use the marvellous bus, train and ferry services to get to Exeter, Exmouth and onwards to other places in Devon. We like to leave our motorhomes parked at the club and use public transport, walk or cycle. This year, 20 of us went by bus to Exmouth and walked to Budleigh Salterton, with some more enthusiastic members carrying on to Otterton and we all came back by bus.

We get a lot of enjoyment from our visit to Topsham and like to get involved with the activities during Town Fair week. We pay camping

fees to Topsham Rugby Club, which helps to bolster the Club's finances. The coffees, lunches and teas served at St. Margaret's Church are always well supported, as are the Museum and their delicious cream teas. During our visit, many of us eat out in the town. As well as shopping at Topsham's excellent range of local shops, we also encourage members to bring donations from home for the Topsham charity shops to replace what they buy.

We look forward to visiting Topsham during Town Fair Week in 2009 and wish to thank Topsham's residents for their warm welcomes.

Elizabeth Morgan

For information.....

Directgov has launched a text message service to help *holidaymakers* find their nearest **health services** in the UK. Send a text with the name of the service you require – such as dentist, GP or pharmacy – to 64746. Directgov will then return a text with details of the nearest service. Directgov doesn't charge users for the service but mobile operators may charge for sending texts on your phone.

TyreSafe is the new name for the Tyre Industry Council, a not for profit non commercial organisation set up 16 years ago with the responsibility of raising the awareness of the importance of the dangers of defective and worn tyres. Web site www.tyresafe.org

I have been reminded by **Pete Fisher** (did I ever know) that the photograph on my Photocard driving licence must be updated before it expires 10 years after issue. These cards started to come into use in 1998 and renewals have therefore started to become necessary. If you fail to renew you may have to pay a £1,000 fine.

My Photocard expires on 4th March 2009. DVLA advise me that they will post me a reminder and an application form on 7th January. I will need to provide a new photograph that meets DVLA requirements and the fee is £17.50. I have been further advised that if I don't receive the reminder before the end of January then I should obtain application form D1 (available from a Post Office or via the Directgov web site) and apply anyway to ensure I have the new card before the old one expires.

Peter Brown

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard
Chairman, Technical Group & Webmaster



X2/50 reversing problem:

Still nothing positive, unfortunately. Sadly it looks as though it will not be an official re-call!

Recalls*:

• **X2/50 Recalls:**

- Peugeot ref YNB. Possible chafing of a pipe due to engine vibrations. (No VOSA number)
- R/2008/023 (Peugeot ref YMS) - Reduced braking efficiency (381 vehicles)
- R/2008/036 (Peugeot ref YLH) - Steering may become stiff (3593 vehicles)
- R/2007/037 (Peugeot ref YDC) - Handbrake assembly may become insecure (15 vehicles)
- R/2008/087 (Peugeot ref not quoted) - Indicator side repeaters may not operate correctly (24 vehicles)
- **Duetto:** RSPV/2008/001. Seating latching system may fail. 552 units** Oct 2000 to August 2006.
Symbol: RSPV/2008/012. Refrigerator fumes may enter the habitation area. 5 units** built June 2008

*It is normal for owners to be advised of recalls either direct or at the next service – if in doubt contact your dealer.

**I've asked Auto~Sleepers for build numbers, as in the past, but at the time of writing I have not received a reply.

Insurance:

As a Club we do not give any recommendations on insurance companies; it is solely the responsibility of each member to research

companies to ensure that they have their required cover at a satisfactory price (*not necessarily the cheapest*). However help is now at hand. In the September MMM there was a comprehensive survey of insurance companies advertising in their magazine. If you have not already seen the review but would wish to do so - please send me an SAE to: - 18, Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF. Please quote your membership - as in all correspondence.

Model reviews:

Two further reviews available: – Symbol & Suffolk both 2008

EHIC:

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC ex E11). Further to Alan Wainwright's (*August Newsletter*) excellent advice on travelling abroad, the following may be of interest. Whilst on our French rally Dorothy had cause to visit a Doctor and purchase a prescription. We thought that the EHIC gave us a discounted fee there and then – not so! On return to UK, Dorothy phoned the Health Related Travel Advice Dept (number on rear of EHIC) and was given another number for to ring at the Works & Pensions Dept; who were very helpful. The procedure is to fill in the form (*which they sent by next day post*), returning it with the receipt, prescription and vignette (*price sticker on medicine box – the pharmacist stuck this on the receipt*). The refund should then be automatic – we will advise if otherwise!

Ideas Sheets: Full listing with this Newsletter

- 167 - Fitting a microwave cooker – issued.
- 168 - Fitting an accumulator in the water system – issued.
- 169 - Fitting an LCD television - issued.
- 170 - Storage of leisure chairs – issued
- 171 - Fitting a satellite TV system in a Duetto – submitted for approval.

Website:

- Update No. 10/08, (1st Oct):-
 - Reports and photographs of the Chinon, Loire Valley Rally.
 - Four further eligible models – Broadway; Gloucester; Hampshire & Northants.

How it all started..... For Geoff Corker

I am still new to motor caravanning having bought my first van in August 2007 (1999 T4 Trident). Here's how it all started.

Having travelled around the UK many times using B&Bs over the last 30 years or so, it was not getting any easier—harder to get booked in, more expensive, etc. It all came to a head after trying to book a week-end in Norfolk. After trying around a dozen places on the internet, I gave up (apparently it was half-term, so nothing available).

I thought there must be a better way and never having been into caravans or tents I took the plunge and hired a campervan (VW Trident) for a week and toured Scotland.

Although somewhat daunting at first, having never driven anything larger than a saloon car, I grew to love it. It also fits in well with my hobbies of walking and cycling. I now have flexibility and freedom, I can go as I please and have access to some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK - all at a reasonable price. Needless to say I am now a total convert!!

Indeed having just come back from a week in Northumberland, one of the few areas I am not familiar with, it truly is a most beautiful part of Britain.

For the record in my first year with the campervan I have had 36 nights away, staying at 18 different camp sites from Hawick in the north to Taunton in the south, and Downham Market in the east to Welshpool in the west.

My involvement with motorhomes doesn't end there though, after 33 years in engineering I was made redundant and now work for a plastics company in Gloucestershire who make parts for caravans and motorhomes and whose biggest customer is Auto-Sleeper!! So if you have bought a T5 Topaz between 2004 and 2008 chances are the tip-up basin in the washroom was made by me!

Sadly though, I am about to be made redundant again as the company has been taken over the production transferred elsewhere.

Whatever happens though I will never give up my beloved campervan.

We thought this little gem from Sheila and Harry Henthorne would amuse you.....

Apparently a self-important University graduate was attending a football match and took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

"You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one" the graduate said loudly enough for many of those sitting nearby to hear him. "The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel and man walking on the moon. Our space probes have visited Mars and other planets. We have nuclear energy which also drives ships, we have electric and hydrogen cars, cell phones, computers with light speed processing and much more".

After a brief silence the senior citizen responded:

"You're right, son. We didn't have those things when we were young.....so we invented them! Now, you arrogant little so and so, what are you doing for the next generation?"

The applause was amazing.

As one of our friends said we are going over to the dark side, we are going back to caravanning, Shock! Horror! Yes Tuggers.

We have had an incredible 13 years with the Auto Sleeper club and made many friends. We would like to thank all the people who have run rallies which we have attended and thoroughly enjoyed. We were never quite brave enough to run our own but enjoyed helping Pam and Terry Holtom at Dartmouth and Sue and Peter Coward in the Lake District.

So thanks to everyone for being such good friends and we hope to see you on a campsite sometime. Don't forget to be friendly to caravanners, it could be us.

Geoff & Jenni Raistrick

Exemptions? It appears not.

Further to the report that Blue Badge holders are exempt from the LEZ charges, having doubts, I spoke to Baz Wellard who said he had received this information from a member, and is sure he had received a verbal confirmation when he rang LEZ himself.

I then made two email enquiries about this via the TFL website, one reply saying yes there is an exemption, and the other that there is not! I then rang them and was told there are no exemptions. Finally I wrote to them and received the following reply, which seems to confirm my understanding that there is no such exemption for the LEZ.

Sean Hollands

15th September 2008

Dear Mr Hollands,

London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) - L1853122/SC

Thank you for your recent enquiry received on 13 September 2008, about Vehicle Registration Mark (number/plate)?

We can confirm that there is no exemption for Blue Badge holders in regards to the LEZ Scheme.

We've conducted a compliance check on your vehicle and can confirm that your vehicle is "Not subject to LEZ" until 3 October 2010. This means you'll be fine to drive within the LEZ Zone until this date.


After this date your vehicle will become non-compliant as it doesn't meet the Euro standard for Particulate Matter to drive within the LEZ. At this point you'll be liable to pay the daily charge unless you make the vehicle compliant.

You can do this by either Modify your vehicle to meet the required emissions standards or replacing your engine with one that meets the Euro standard.

If you have any questions regarding the Scheme you may find it useful to visit our website, just log on to www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon. You may also telephone our Contact Centre on 0845 607 0009, Textphone 0207 310 8999 (if you have impaired hearing), where a member of staff will be more than happy to help.

Thank you for contacting Transport for London.

Yours sincerely



Daljit Mahal
Operations Manager
London Low Emission Zone
MAYOR OF LONDON

Low
emission





Silver Screen
'Paragon' daytime foldable for cab windows on T4 Trident. Brand new, unopened. Price new £109 will sell for **£95. Contact Geoff**

Corker 01367 244851 email geoffcorker@bushinternet.com
(Oxfordshire).

Thanks for the donation

Motorhome Annex Ventura
Freestander. Back panel with 2 vertical zips for easy access to motorhome. Front panel can be removed or rolled down. Door on r/h side. Left side can be rolled up or used as a sun canopy. Heavy canvas, steel poles, beading connection to connect to vehicle. All pegs and guy lines, storage bags and curtains. Used only once. **£100.** Omnistore carry all box 150. Fits on cycle rack. **£100. Contact Dave Wood 01202 897743** (Ferndown, Dorset.)

AS Legend 99 Private plate. Taxed/ tested September 09. Transit 2.5 diesel turbo intercool. Probably the best monocoque AS model. Ready for anywhere. Needs nothing. Extras. **£19,250 ono. Contact David Brearley 01904 702693** (York).

AS Legend Ford 2.5 Turbo diesel. Dec97 Excellent Condition 38,000 miles. Taxed and Tested. Alarm, central locking, cd, radio, cassette. New tyres, new cambelt & service. New brake discs & pads. Top box and Tow Bar. Air suspension. **£17,995 ono (part ex. Considered) Contact Rae & Philip Gledhill 01484 654180 or 07831 456689**

Thanks for the donation

2003 AS Amethyst 125-T350 One piece GRP body (monocoque). 4 berth coach built conversation. Dinette, 3 way fridge, silver screens, Fiamma bike rack + many extras. Non smokers, no pete. Mileage 30,000. **£26,500** Immaculate condition. **Contact Jeanette McQueen 0141 573 0959 mobile 07773 332929**

AS SYMBOL W-reg 2000 1.9TD 49k miles Our Peugeot Boxer based 2-berth camper-van is going, to make room for another, newer Symbol. All the usual AS luxuries plus electric windows, fold-down Silver Screen, bike rack, Fiamma awning. Based in Skye but happy to travel south for serious enquirers. **£18,500 ono. Contact Rob Corcoran 01478 613104.**

Thanks for the donation

Towbar as fitted to a 2004 Peugeot Symbol **£75. Contact Philip Sanders 01606 883617** (Northwhich)

Ideas for Christmas Presents. Cynthia & Terry Gough are founder members of a charity called Project Return. The charity supports poor families in Vietnam through education and self sufficiency programmes. They run a scheme whereby you can ask family or friends to donate a sum of money to Project Return in lieu of a present. If you are interested in this scheme **Contact Cynthia & Terry Gough on 01935 872045**

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