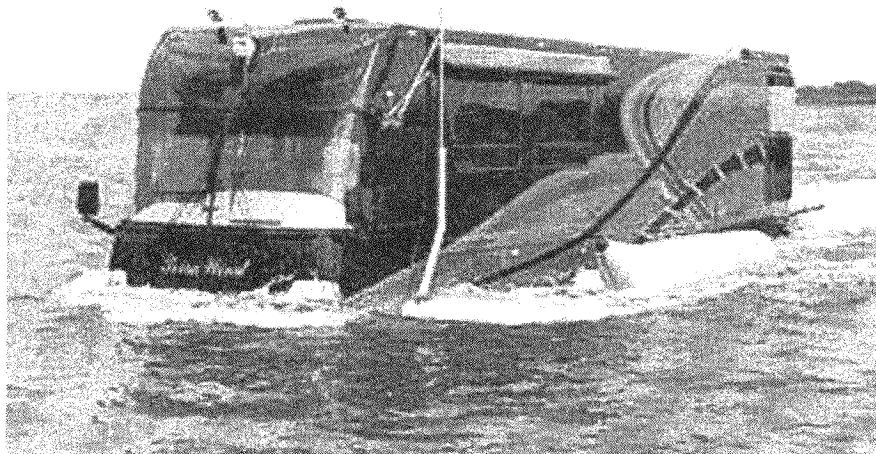




[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.  
Registered No: 4616969



*With money so tight these days  
this could be the solution to Ferry fares.....  
So lets have your ideas sheets*

## **NEWSLETTER 246**

### **March 2009**

# From the Editor (S)

Has everybody been enjoying the snow? No I thought not. Still it looks as though the worst may be over now and we can really look forward to a new rally season, which kicks off with Whitmead so happy rallying.

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We had a note from Tony Barker following our comments in the February issue regarding the cost of heating as follows:

*" I recently did a 24 hour stint with the Eberspacher diesel heater, in a Topaz, and as far as I can tell by the effect on my fuel consumption figures this cost me £4.50. As close as makes no odds to your gas figure."*

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On a completely different subject, for those of you attending the Rudesheim Rally, or indeed anyone planning to visit Germany there is an excellent book available free of charge, listing 1,000 campsites. The book is entitled *Campsite in Germany* and can be obtained from via [www.germany-tourism.co.uk](http://www.germany-tourism.co.uk) or you can telephone 020 7317 0908 between 10 and 4 Monday to Friday

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Baz makes further comment about lack of spare wheels on some models later in the Newsletter.

Chris and I are now on our second car without a spare wheel and my son has just taken delivery of a new car that doesn't have one. It seems that the saving in space, weight and cost by omitting installation of a spare wheel has now been accepted by the industry as standard practice.

I'm sure that over the next year or so the breakdown/recovery services throughout Europe will all provide services that reflect this practice so maybe not to much of a problem—however, would I venture far off the beaten track without a spare? NO definitely not.

It should always be possible to buy yourself a suitable spare wheel and tyre. The only problem that you may face is finding somewhere on the vehicle to store the spare that is safe, secure and not in the way—hopefully Motorhome converters will at the very least 'design in' that capability!

# The National Rally

April 30th to May 4th 2009 : Newark Showground

## **CAKE COMPETITION**

**1st Prize £30 : 2nd Prize £20 : 3rd Prize £10**

### **Spicy Apple Fruit Cake**

2-3 cooking apples  
4 oz butter  
8 oz castor sugar  
2 eggs beaten together  
8 oz plain flour  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
1 tsp mixed cinnamon and powdered cloves  
6 oz mixed raisins and sultanas  
A sprinkling of Demerara sugar.

Begin by making a puree, without sugar, of the apples. Peel and core them and cook with a little water to soften. Leave the puree to get COLD before using. There should be about one third of a pint.

Cream the butter and sugar and mix in the beaten eggs.  
Fold in the COLD apple puree  
Sift in the flour, bicarbonate of soda and spices  
Add the raisins and sultanas  
Mix all together then pour into a greased, lined 7 inch round cake tin.  
Bake in a moderate oven for approx. 1 hour 20 mins.  
10mins before the end of the cooking time sprinkle with brown sugar.  
Place the cake on a cardboard plate and cover with cling film.

**PLEASE BRING TO THE STUART GOODWIN PAVILION ON FRIDAY  
BETWEEN 10AM AND 4PM.**

All the cakes will be auctioned for the chosen charity.

## Reminder for the Photographic Competition

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR PHOTOS YET? If not get a move on, the closing date is 31st March. See February Newsletter for full details.

**Rita Tubb**

\*\*\*\*\*

## CARDS

*If you have greeting cards which you no longer want Eileen Kellard would like to have them for re-cycling. You can see the results of this recycling at the hobbies stalls at the National.*

*A box will be available in the entrance of the Stewart Goodwin Pavilion for your contributions - which are most useful if they are in one piece rather than torn in half.*

*Many thanks to those who support me.*

**Eileen Kellard**

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## Answers to the Dingbats printed in the February issue

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Too good to miss    | 16. All or nothing          |
| 2. Topless dancer      | 17. The lesser of two evils |
| 3. To no avail         | 18. Supporters club         |
| 4. Long odds           | 19. Spellbound              |
| 5. Back to basics      | 20. Easy-peasy              |
| 6. Rock and Roll       | 21. Rule Britannia          |
| 7. The great escape    | 22. Check mate              |
| 8. Last orders         | 23. Kiss and make up        |
| 9. Break the bank      | 24. Hush money              |
| 10. Run on the spot    | 25. Miss by a mile          |
| 11. Annual turnover    | 26. A free spirit           |
| 12. Missing you        | 27. Reverse gear            |
| 13. Stitch in time     | 28. Chinese takeaway        |
| 14. Big show off       | 29. Archbishop              |
| 15. Back to the future | 30. Lead by the nose.       |

## MY FAVOURITE THINGS

As some of you may know, Andrew Lloyd Webber has recently opened his production of 'The Sound of Music' at the London Palladium, with the lead part of the novice Nun Maria, played by Connie Fisher. Julie Andrews who played the part in the legendary film, had her 69<sup>th</sup> birthday on 1 October 2006 and performed at Manhattan Radio City Music Hall, for the benefit of the American Association of Retired People. One of her numbers was 'My Favourite Things' with somewhat revised words:

Eye drops and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up with string,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Automatics and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak,  
When the bones creak,  
When the knees are bad,  
I simply remember my favourite things  
Then I don't feel too bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pains, confused brains and no fear of sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin'  
And we don't mention our short shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache,  
When the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had  
And then I don't feel so bad

*Moira Blackstock*

# Rally News

## RUDESHEIM

For those attending this rally, we hope to have a meeting during the National Rally weekend. However, if you need any information or have any queries before the National you can contact Peter Brown and Chris Mawdsley, the Assistant Marshals; their contact details are found on the back page of the Newsletter - Newsletter Editor.

*Liz Irvin*

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## A Timely European Reminder

Did you know that the European Health Insurance card is only valid for 5 years? The expiry date is shown at no. 9 ( bottom right hand corner and you may need a magnifying glass to read it!). A 24- hour phone number is given on the other side which results in a further number for a renewal. For this you will also need your National Insurance number.

**P.R.Ferris**

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## Driving Licence

With my photocard licence due to expire on 4th March, after a few days away I found on 12th Jan a reminder and application form on the doormat.

I posted the completed very simple application form to which was stuck my new photo (taken by Chris and printed myself) complete with cheque for £17.50 and both old licences on 17th Jan. - both new licences were with me by return of post.

# Technical Group & Website

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



## **Insurance:**

- **No spare wheel – (the continuing saga?):**

Andy Cavell has kindly informed me that when he booked his travel insurance for his French rally, with the Caravan Club Insurance (Red Pennant) *"They specifically drew his attention to the fact that there would be a £100 excess on the breakdown cover if he did not have a suitable spare wheel!"*

- **No pre-booked return ticket:**

You may not be aware that when you book your continental travel insurance through the Camping & Caravanning (Europe Assistance) that *"a return ticket must have been booked prior to departure"*. If you intend to have 'open return ferry ticket' I advise you check whether you will be covered. Otherwise any claims could be invalidated!

## **Installing a larger leisure battery:**

A member has advised that when replacing a 85AH leisure battery with a 110 AH one the battery height is likely to increase. If it is fitted under a seat it is essential therefore to ensure that the battery terminals do not come in contact with the metal construction of the seat - especially when driving in very bumpy conditions.

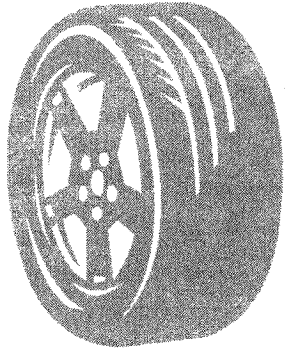
## **Fuel economy:**

I would be very grateful if a few owners of the new Peugeot chassis X250 (*teardrop headlight models!*) would record their fuel consumption figures, please? I have been asked several times for likely mpg figures but unfortunately the Club's database does not include even one report.

## A Spare Story

Please excuse my impertinence in writing to you before attending our first rally, which will hopefully be the National, but I feel I must address the Technical Officer's dismay over the lack of replies on the subject of spare wheel or not. Having been involved in caravans and now motorhomes since the wife and I led Moses' rally across the Red Sea, we have seen every kind of accident and in fact admit to a couple of 'knocks' ourselves, nothing can change our thinking.

Between Christmas and New Year we witnessed a motorhome 'blowout' on the A1 near Peterborough. I would question the speed as being near the *speed of light* and later to query how much the motorhome was over-weight, but the near-side tyre shredded everywhere and, amidst a shower of sparks, the rim perforated the body!



Being a pair of nousey so and sos, we stopped with them until Green Flag arrived and low-loaded them to the New Year rally they were attending nearby. It was soon apparent that they were not getting a replacement rim as everywhere was closed for the holiday period. Following a short trip home, we delivered our spare wheel which happened to fit his Hymer. Today a carrier has just delivered our wheel back complete with a very big box of chocolates and a bottle of 'Scottish Medicine'.

The moral of this story being CARRY A SPARE! And pray you never need it.

**Jim Samuels**

# From the Factory

Following some rumours circulating on a motorhome forum Auto-Sleeper have issued the following press statement to clarify their current position.

## **“Official Press Statement 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 - Auto-Sleepers Group Ltd**

Due to the significant reduction in output of their European chassis suppliers, Cotswold-based motorhome manufacturers, Auto-Sleepers Group Ltd are considering a temporary scale back in production. However, the factory will continue to operate, albeit on a much-reduced scale.

Auto-Sleepers’ policy of openness and clarity means that the workforce are being regularly updated and talks are on-going with the factory’s Works Council, who represent the employees.

Seen as a short-term setback, Auto-Sleepers have been steadily increasing their sales market share of late, culminating in almost 30% of sales in the UK for December 2008. Their marketing strategy remains strong, with bold active and brand advertising and they are preparing for the National Boat, Caravan & Outdoor Show at the NEC later this month, with a mixture of new, exciting models as well as a good representation of their core model mix.

Auto-Sleepers’ nationwide dealer network has also shown continued allegiance to the company and group Chief Executive, Geoff Scott says, “I can assure everyone that we have not ceased taking orders. In fact, our already strong orderbook continues to grow daily. We are more than confident of ‘riding’ the current global economic crisis”.

Renowned for their high quality and bespoke build ethics, Auto-Sleepers Ltd was established in 1961 and is the country’s most well-respected motorhome brand.

## **Looking for information on everything Motorhoming and don't know where to find it?**

### **Motorhome facts – The Internet forum for Motorhomers may be the answer**

I am sure that many of you will be familiar with <http://www.motorhomefacts.com/> a forum for everything to do with Motorhoming.

However for those who have never visited the forum this is a brief insight to what you will find.

#### Overview

MHF was established by David Burley way back in October 2003, it started off as a personal information website, a place for him to store useful facts and figures that he tracked down in the search for the ideal motorhome for him and his wife.

Over a period of 6 months the core community grew to over 500 members who used the site as a means of communication based around a common subject i.e. that of motorhoming.

Motorhome Facts now has 31,505 members and they have posted an amazing 49,655 different topics in the Forums with an equally astonishing 478,818 posts or replies in response. The average number of posts the forums currently receive per day is over 241 and new topics per day averaging 25. It is therefore, a valuable source of information and advice on all sorts of topics including parts and accessories, base chassis, technical matters, insurance, foreign travel, campsites, in fact everything to do with owning and using a motorhome. You can be assured of a fast reply to any query on motorhomes you have.

Rallies and informal meetings are organised by members where everyone is welcome.



# March 2009 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.

Please note my new e-mail address is :- ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk

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

Applications for rallies must be made on ASOC rally slips by post. The only exception is the National & AGM Rally.

NEW RALLY 30<sup>th</sup>. July – 4<sup>th</sup>. August. ( 5 nights). St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

NEW RALLY 21<sup>st</sup>. – 26<sup>th</sup>. August ( 5 nights) Eskdale School, Whitby, North Yorks.

26<sup>th</sup>. August – 6<sup>th</sup>. September ( 11 nights). Chinon in the Loire Valley, France.

*Rally Marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard. The applications for the rally have had to be deferred until the April Rally Supplement; however it is not expected that there will any limit on numbers.*

12<sup>th</sup> to 22nd September 2009 St. Sylvestre sur Lot, France

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Stuart Williams assisted by Angie & Andy Cavell.

Emergency Tel. No. 00 44 (0)7880 532057.

Rally Fee: £16.50 inc VAT, not refundable if offered a place. Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, RG18 0RY. Please provide your email address if you have one, if not please enclose an SAE.

**Site Fees:** The site fees are not set yet, but last year were in the region of 10 euros a night including electricity.

**Site:** Les Berges du Lot is located at the side of the River Lot and is run by a very friendly couple who can both speak some English. There is a small swimming pool for campers. Pitches are separated by low hedges. Within 200 metres are most of the shops, Intermarche supermarket, three bakers, a butcher and a pizzeria etc.

**Attractions:** 500 metres away is Penne d'Agenais. The port area has boats for hire and shops, bar and restaurant. On top of the hill overlooking the valley is the medieval village where there are more restaurants, the Basilica and many old buildings.

The main town nearby is Villeneuve sur Lot, with lots of shops and restaurants. It is 9km away on the signposted cycle route. Within 25 minutes drive are several more medieval villages.

**Limited to 15 vans. Please do not arrive before 12.00 noon.**

### **30<sup>th</sup>. May – 17<sup>th</sup>. June (18 nights) West Coast of Scotland Tour.**

Rally Marshals Moira & Allan Blackstock assisted by Jenni & Tommy Wilson.

Emergency Tel. no. 07891704186 or 07969312703 (marshals mobile).

Starting at 12 noon at Culzean Castle Caravan Park (2 nights) we will proceed to the Isle of Arran (4 nights), Oban (4 nights), Glencoe (2 nights), Morvich (Shiel Bridge 16 miles from Skye) (4 nights), concluding at Glen Nevis (2 nights). If by this time you are not bored with the beauty of this part of the British Isles you may wish to stay here or carry on touring.

Cost to include Site fees and ferry crossings will be approximately £400 we cannot be specific at this time as we are awaiting costs from some sources. Rally fee £15 both to include VAT.

Booking forms with SAE to A & M Blackstock, 39 Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9UJ.

Tel.No. 01772 749178. If your application is successful a deposit will be required within 7 days of receipt of acceptance otherwise your place will be offered to the next on the list.

Morvich is a Caravan Club site which will charge full rate (other sites are discounted), if you are a CC member please give your membership number on your booking slip, it is also *essential* that we know the length of your van for the ferry booking.

**Members must book for the full tour. Maximum vans 25.**

### **14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009 (7 nights). Delftse Hout Caravan Site, Delft**

#### **Netherlands.**

Rally starts at 12 noon June 14<sup>th</sup>. and closes 12 noon on June 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

*I have managed to get some more pitches for this rally.If you would like to attend could you please ring Trish Pratt on 01283538818 or Jan Hicklin on 01246236157 .*

### **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009. (10 nights) Camping Rudesheim am Rhein, Rudesheim, Germany.**

Rally starts and ends at noon. Marshals: Liz Irvin assisted by Peter Brown and Chris Mawdsley.

Members *must book for the full 10 nights*. Rally fee £15 (non refundable) to be sent with rally slip and SAE for reply, to Mrs E Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU10 7NP .

Cheques payable to E. Irvin. Tel. No. 01482 658345.E-mail [irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk) Site Fees expected to be €24.30 per night for 2 adults, €19.00 for 1 person, inclusive of electricity 10 amps.

Dogs €3.00. Showers €1.00 supplement. The site is easy walking along the riverside to Rudesheim. For local attractions please see November newsletter.I plan to organise an evening Rhine in Flames cruise on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, including a 2 course dinner (traditional German main course with meat, supplements and dessert) estimated €50.50 per person. I will need to know numbers for the cruise

as I am now aware of another Rally at the campsite and places may be limited so please confirm your interest in the cruise with your application. A deposit for the cruise booking may be required in advance of the rally. You will be expected to make your own arrangements for travel and insurance.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> June ( 5 nights).Whitefield Forest T.P.,Ryde,Isle of Wight.

Emergency Tel.No. 07730212750 -07866621291.

Rally marshals: Ken Bolton & Mac.McArthur.

Rally fees £65 per unit for 5 nights including electricity.Incl VAT.

S.A.E. with rally fee made out to K.Bolton, 2 Cherryside,Lake,Sandown,Isle of Wight.PO36

9LU.Tel.No. 01983 402059.

Most of the Isle of Wight is an area of outstanding natural beauty with many attractions.

New Tesco store within ½ mile of site.

Remember that you will have to make ferry bookings & arrange any insurance required.

Rally starts 12 noon 4<sup>th</sup> June,ends 12 noon. 9<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Mon 30th March - Friday 3rd April (4 nights) Fishery Creek, Hayling Island, Nr Portsmouth

Emergency No 07745 522 335.

Rally Marshalls : Mo & Mike Valentine, Barbara & Al Buckett. Site Fees £14.50 per night inc elect.

Rally Fee : £2.35 per couple, £1.50 single. Both inc VAT.

Rally slips + cheques payable to M. Valentine please, with SAE for reply and directions.

Send to:- M.Valentine, 11, Hamilton Close, Langstone, Havant PO9 1RP (023 9248 2818).

All the usual camp facilities, inc. disabled.

Dogs 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.

The park is well maintained and the grass drains quickly.

Approx 10 mins to nearest shop, pubs and buses.

Attractions. Chichester, Emsworth, Portsmouth with its Maritime Museum.

Please do not arrive before 1pm.

#### April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2009 (3nights) Marston's Rally. Albion Hotel, Burton on Trent, Staffs.

Site behind the Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road. Burton on Trent.

Emergency Tel. no. 07713186508 Marshal's mobile.

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

Marshals phone no. 01283538818 or please ring Jan on 01246236157 if I am not available .

Site Fee: £4.50 per night, all hardstanding, Rally Fee: £2.35. All inc VAT.

No Electricity. Booking slip & cheques payable to P.M.Pratt, 3 Grafton Rd, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent. Staffs. DE15 9DN. Tel 01283538818.

Please remember your S.A.E.

A VISIT ROUND THE BREWERY ON THE FRIDAY MORNING will be arranged.Cost £6 each, please send cheque with site fees if you would like to participate in this trip.

A MEAL FRI. EVENING and MEAL SAT. EVENING IN THE ALBION HOTEL PUB will be available. (WEEKEND OFF COOKING DUTIES LADIES).

Directions: The Albion Hotel. is situated on the B5017 on the Burton to Uttoxeter road and is on the bus route into Burton on Trent.

Please send SAE for acceptance and further directions.

Dogs are allowed.Rally starts at 12noon Thursday. NOT BEFORE PLEASE.

### **9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April 4 Nights Brewood Middle School, Brewood, Staffs.**

Marshals, Pete Fisher & Philippa Ward, Nora & Ven Venables. Phone Pete Fisher 01543377777 or 07967106687 email biz@talktalk.net Fees £5.87 per night Rally Fee £4.00. Rally slips & cheques & SAE, please to Pete Fisher, 27 Sunnyside, Walsall Wood, Walsall, WS9 9LD. Maximum of 18 vans. No electricity Dogs allowed subject to usual rules.

Levelling blocks will be needed. All hard standing.

**Attractions:** Brewood (pronounced Brood) is a pretty little Staffordshire village in easy reach of Boscobel House (King Charles and the oak tree), the excellent free RAF Cosford Aerospace Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Wolverhampton, Penkridge market and Cannock Chase.

The Shropshire Union Canal runs through the school grounds and there is much scope for cycling. We would like to do a Saturday meal in a local pub, which should cost about £7 - £8 per head if there is sufficient interest. Brewood is about 3-4 miles from the M6 J12 and the M54/A449 junction. Maps to be supplied in SAEs requested above or can be emailed.

Please do not arrive before noon on the 9<sup>th</sup>. April.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April. National Motorhome Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07922049714

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

Please use the booking form enclosed in the February Newsletter if possible. If you use a form from other magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the *special Club site fees:-*

**Arrive Thursday: £35, arrive Friday £32, arrive Saturday £29. All include VAT.**

**All bookings for the Saturday evening entertainment must be made with Warners when returning the application form to the organisers, by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. April, if you wish to rally with the Club.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Then you must also complete a Club rally slip, (this also applies to internet bookings).**

Return it, with the Rally Fee of £2.00 couples, £1.50 singles (both inclusive of VAT) to:  
N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT.

Tel.No. 01325 374 540 Cheques payable to N.C. & P. Rogers.

Please collect the Club rally information pack from the ASOC marshal before parking.

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

### **30<sup>th</sup>. April - 4<sup>th</sup>. May. 20<sup>th</sup>. National Rally & A.G.M. Nottinghamshire Showground, Newark.**

Application forms were enclosed with the January Newsletter.

Closing date for bookings 4<sup>th</sup>. April.

## 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May ( 4 nights) A.S.O.C. Dart Music Festival Little Cotton

### Farm.C.P.

Site Tel.No. 01803832558.Fax. No.01803834887.Website www.littlecotton.co.uk

Rally Marshals: Jill & Richard McAllister assisted by Rita & John Tubb.

Site Fees: Basic pitch £8.75 (no electricity) per unit per night. Standard pitch £11.25 (with electricity) per unit per night. Rally Fee:£ 2.00 per unit.All include VAT.Minimum booking 3 nights; slips with cheques payable R.J.McAllister (with SAE for reply) to "Milesway", Steart Drive,Burnham on Sea.TA8 1BZ.Tel.No. 01278 781976 & Mob. 0784007671.

**Attractions:**This is a 7.5 acre immaculate site having award winning toilet/shower complex with disabled facilities,dishwashing area,laundrette washing machines,large tumble driers & ironing boards available.

**DOGS** are welcome but they **MUST** use the doggy walk on site and be kept on a lead on site.

There is a well stocked site shop,papers must be ordered the day before.Also very close by are Sainsburys & Lidl.The site is adjacent to the Park & Ride bus service into Dartmouth.(tickets from camp shop).

This will be the 12<sup>th</sup>. Year of the Dartmouth Music Festival held from Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. To Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>. May. There are plenty of boat trips operating from Dartmouth either up river to Totnes or out to sea.Ferries run up to Greenway Quay from where you can visit Greenway House & gardens(NT) one time home of Agatha Christie. There are other NT properties in the area.Local steam trains run from Kingswear to Paighton and Totnes to Buckfastleigh.Good bus services- bring your bus pass.This is a lovely comfortable site in a lovely area with much to see & do;if you would like to extend your stay, either before or after the rally contact the site owners direct.

**Please DO NOT arrive before noon on the 7<sup>th</sup>. May.**

## 12th-15th May 2009 ( 3 Nights) Pontefract Racecourse, West Yorkshire.

Emergency Tel. No. Marshal's mobile 07950500192.

Rally marshals Janis & Mike Wood & Neil & Pauline Rogers.

Site Fees £23.50 inc. VAT. Rally Fee £2.35 couples £1.50 singles inc. VAT.

Fees & Rally Slips to Mrs. J Wood, 34 Elmete Avenue, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Leeds. LS25 6EH.

Please include S.A.E. for confirmation & details.

This is a Greenfield Site with **NO** electricity. Toilets, drinking water and waste water facilities available, also we hope to have the use of a room. Dogs welcome on leads but not on the racecourse track. Sloping, hardstanding site and blocks will be needed.

Pontefract Racecourse is situated just off Junction 32 of the M62. Within the racecourse area is a park where there are possible walks and also a boating lake. Historic Pontefract is just over a mile away and on a bus route outside the park entrance.

At Junction 32 is Xscape, a ski slope with shops and cafes and next to it the Freeport Shopping Centre.Also close by is Fairburn lngs, an RSPB wildlife bird sanctuary.

Limit of 20 vans.

**PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 1PM.**

Go on Friday  
22-25th 3 nights £17.00 cl No 27

**21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> .. May ( 4 nights) Burn Gliding Club,Nr. Selby,North Yorks.**

Club Tel.No.01757 270 296 (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshal:Alan Guest.

Site Fee:£5.00 per night (incl.VAT) **No Electricity**. Rally Fee:£2.00 couples,£1.50 singles. incl.VAT).

Booking slips to Alan Guest,27 Chiltern Drive,Ackworth,Pontefract,West Yorks.WF7 7DW.

Tel.No. 01977 612 773 Cheques payable to A.Guest.

**Attractions:** Gliding trial flights/ lessons over weekend (subject to weather).There is a market in Selby on the Monday.

**Directions:** From M62 junct.34 take A19 towards Selby,Gliding Club signposted in Burn Village.

*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.*

*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**

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*\* E-Mail. [ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk)**

**E & OE**

There are over 35 discount deals on things like ferries, insurance, accessories etc. available to members.

The forum isn't only about seeking advice and information it is there for all to contribute as well. You may be able to help a fellow motorhomer by giving them the benefit of your advice and experience.

### How to access the forum

To access the forum all you need to do is type the website address <http://www.motorhomefacts.com/> into your browser and away you go to explore.

A word of warning here – this website is addictive. There is so much information you will wonder how you ever managed without it.

You can browse most of the forum completely free of charge but some sections such as company reports are only available to subscribers (members). As a non-member you can make up to 5 postings after which you will need to subscribe to continue. The cost of an annual subscription is currently £10 and it is well worth it.

I found the forum by accident about 18 months ago and the advice I have received from members has been invaluable.

Other than being a member of the forum I have no other connection with the website.

***Chris Steel***

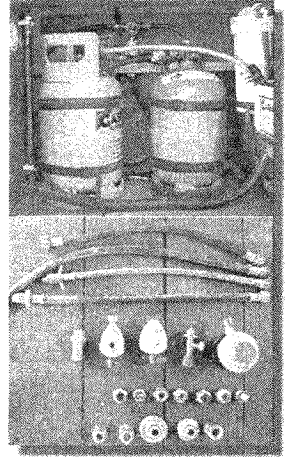
Its really nice to receive such an enthusiastically written piece as this but I feel I should just remind you that advice/information can be bad as well as good and that subjective opinion is just that—not a fact! Do access this forum but do use your common sense.

### ***LPG Tanks—more...***

With regard to pages 2 and 15 of the Newsletter, you could mention that if one had a gas tank, (the preferred system of the 1990s), or a refillable bottle, the gas would be cheaper and more user friendly.

You could also mention that when our local garage's workshop foreman, my son-in-law and I fitted amongst other things a gas tank in the garage's workshop one weekend, at the suggestion of the foreman and my son-in-law, after fitting the frame we pulled on it and a weld broke. Fortunately, I had two expert welders with me.

When I reported this to the gas system suppliers, I received an apology and an in-line regulator. You could even mention that anyone with mild steel straps holding the gas tank might find they only last about five years.



The note from Colin and Eva Whetham was interesting from which I gather that my replacing two straps with four stainless steel ones and carrying a spare exceeds current requirements. As my tank had no weather proofing, after a while I removed it, rubbed it down, cleaned it, repainted it with red Hammerite and then covered the exposed parts with plenty of duct tape which I found better than the aluminium shield I had made. Anti abrasion pads between the tank and the chassis sound a good idea although with four straps I doubt if there is any movement between the tank and the frame which in my case holds the tank clear of the chassis.

**David Maddison-Roberts**

## Electronic Newsletter Trial

As we are very short of contributions to the Newsletter, I include the comments received from participants in the electronic distribution trial in response to the question below:

### Question:

One of the remits of the trial was that after 4 months, those who had been participating would be asked whether at the end of the nine month trial they would still like to receive the hard copy of the Newsletter as well as the electronic version.

### Answers:

Thanks for email News Letter, all received OK. I really do not need a copy by 'snail mail'.

Also many thanks for all the work you do in preparing it!

-\*-

*I enjoy receiving the electronic Newsletter as I am on my computer every day, it's nice to just sit and have a read in my own time, I also receive a Newsletter from my local Institute of Advanced Motorists Club (They don't send a paper copy). This is one of the reasons I asked for the ASOC copy as I knew what to expect.*

*I know a lot of people are not in favour of the e-mail version, but everyone to his own.*

-\*-

YES - we would still like to receive the hard copy newsletter after the trial period.

While I love to read the newsletter in any form, Joyce still prefers to have the paper version, and it is handy to keep under the coffee table for reference until the new issue arrives next month.

I do understand that with so few members currently taking advantage of the e-copy it may be felt by some to be unnecessary. However, it

would seem in this technological age "e" is the way to go and unless it causes undue pressure on those producing it I for one hope to see both versions continue.

-\*-

*Thanks for your e-mail and the Newsletter. As I have downloaded three consecutive issues of the Newsletter and it might be reasonable to hope I have got the hang of e-communications, feel free to send future issues electronically only.*

-\*-

I am amazed that so few members are participating in the electronic trial. As to the hard copy of the Newsletter, I am quite happy to have either electronic or hard copy but presume if it is electronic I still have to be sent the centre pages of the hard copy which contain the rally information. Otherwise you get the argument that the electronic ones will arrive first.

-\*-

*I would rather not receive the hard copy. I would prefer to receive as little paper mail as possible, but it begs the question, is it worth the effort of producing the pdf for only 38 members? It is a pity that so few members are interested, especially when an e-mailed version in significant numbers would save the club some money.*

-\*-

I think it is a shame only 3% have taken up the electronic version. I can't believe no one else is able to receive the newsletter electronically.

Perhaps the newsletter should be designed for electronic publication and just photocopies sent to those who want a hard copy and pay the extra cost. This is what happens now in most academic journals.

I know 3 per cent of us puts you to extra work to send the pdf's so if you want to stop sending the electronic version, I will understand

-\*-

*There are many reasons why I like the electronic version, some of which have been voiced already. The speed of receipt and capacity to respond fits comfortably alongside that capacity for an increasing amount of my correspondence and contacts.*

*I would like the electronic newsletter to continue for me to file, search on and reduce my paperwork.*

*The numbers participating demonstrates the conservatism of the membership but also the lack of incentive for those who do take part. In almost all of my electronic contacts, there is a benefit to all parties, benefits which are broadcast by the organisations concerned. The current trial provides a disincentive to those involved as the hard copy has still to be checked for items not transmitted, not least the application forms for rallies.*

*I have previously E Mailed about a simple system which could be adopted for rally applications by operating on an "opening date" for applications rather than first come first served approach which potentially penalises the remote members.*

*The question now posed as to whether I want to continue with the written newsletter is a loaded one. How do I get on a rally if I answer "Yes".*

*There can only be an answer, No to avoid being excluded from rallies.*

-\*-

*The word is yes, I do still prefer the electronic version. Obviously I also look forward to the paper version as does Dave, due to the rally info which is not included with the e-version. Also the photos are better [in the electronic version].*

-\*-

*I can confirm receipt of Newsletter and note the responses requested which I shall be pleased to submit when you require them.*

*My immediate response is that I'm pleasantly surprised to be able to read the size of print easily and the presentation has a very professional touch. On first impressions, if costs became a significant factor in having to choose between an electronic edition, or no newsletter at all, then I would have no hesitation in supporting the electronic option. However, our newsletter is also read avidly by my wife who does not have my access to my computer, and we also circulate the hard copy, after use to friends with an Topaz, who we hope will join the club by drip feeding its many facets, so it's a recruitment tool--we hope!*

~\*~

YES, I would still like to receive a hard copy. I would not be concerned if the electronic newsletter was discontinued.

~\*~

*I am happy to continue receiving the news via email, and I hope many more come on board soon.*

~\*~

Regardless of the number of members participating in this trial, I am 101% behind it for the following reasons;

1. To start with, I positively do NOT need a paper copy as well as an electronic version.
2. I prefer to receive as many of my regular newsletters from all organisations electronically because I abhor the waste of paper.
3. I further abhor the waste of packaging and postage, especially now that postal charges are set to rise even higher, and even more so with the credit crunch or whatever name one wishes to give this ugly, predictable recession we now find ourselves being sucked into (now I have really got wound up).
4. When I have read a paper newsletter I remove and retain only those pages I wish to keep and ditch the rest; what a waste. With an electronic version I can retain a PC file with any relevant articles, thus collating and indexing them and making it them easier to find.
5. I do not buy into the argument (made by some members) that "they want to settle down in an armchair for a relaxing, comfortable

read". One could, for example, do all that with a laptop (wireless modem router connected!).

6. Without wishing to upset other members (unintentionally) we must have an awful lot of "fuddy duddy", "non-forwarding looking" members if we have only 38 taking part in this trial.

I appreciate that I am not a long-standing member, as I lapsed for a few years before but I have many other interests and I am a pensioner, so whilst I should not shout too loud, I feel like screaming from the rooftops for my fellow members to drag themselves into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

Maybe if we increased membership fees for postal members and/or introduced a reduction for electronic members.....!!

-\*-

*In answer to your question NO I do not wish to continue to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter at the end of the nine month trial.*

*It is a pity so few have participated in the trial especially in the current financial climate where everybody is looking to cut costs and I am quite sure the club would save a considerable sum of money if the majority of members could be encouraged to accept the electronic version instead of the hard copy not too mention the time saved by committee members.*

*I along with a few others run a professional association and it is operated almost entirely electronically in order to keep the membership fees as low as possible.*

*With so many banks, building societies, utility companies etc. encouraging customers to move over to paper-free statements and billing I would hope that the club will not be put off by a disappointing response to the trial and will continue to encourage both existing and new members to switch to the electronic version.*

*With an increasing number of campsites installing wifi that means a member can be reading their newsletter whilst away and not having to wait days or weeks until they return home to sift through the heap of mail.*

## Leaking Carver Cascade Water Heater

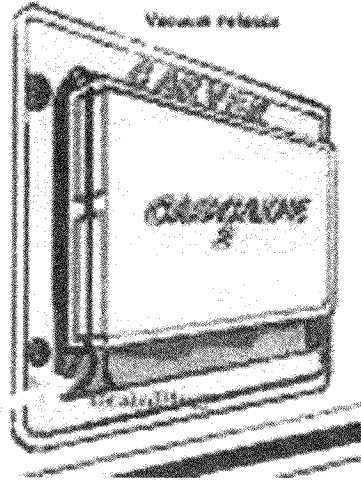
If your Carver Cascade water heater is leaking on to the carpet in your van and possibly on to the ground as well, the repair may not be as expensive as you fear.

You may find that the hot water outlet (accessible through the trapdoor under the seat squab in the Duetto), is cracked. In my case as I tried to unscrew the Jubilee clip to detach the red hose, the white plastic outlet pipe broke off completely leaving a substantial threaded portion still screwed into the heater body.

To extract this I heated the tip of a broad bladed screwdriver and pushed it into what was left of the old outlet, let the screwdriver cool, and then turning the screwdriver anti-clockwise, I was able to unscrew the remains of the outlet pipe reasonably easily.

You should be able to get a replacement at any good caravan spares shop. It is called a "Cascade Hot Water Fulham

Outlet" and costs about £5. It is now made of a black plastic replacing the old white ones which I was told become brittle and were prone to snap off during tightening or unscrewing.



**Bill Cameron**

*Please be aware that if you are not too practised in using tools you could try this and still end up facing the cost of an expensive repair.*



---

**Ford Duetto** (1994 M) 2.5 Turbo Diesel 53,750 miles, taxed and MOT. Tracker, alarm, cruise control, rear storage box, side awning, wheel clamp, other extras. FSH **£10,500. Contact Kevin Hudson 07860 378825 or Brian Hudson 07710 614312.**

*Thanks for the donation*

---

**Sturdy Eurovent Motor Chalet** 3m x 2m green/grey complete with side curtains. Suits nearside gutter attachment or free standing. Excellent condition **£99. Contact Jim Hazel 01489 576520** (Southampton)

*Thanks for the donation*

---

**Khyam Ridgei Motor Dome Awning.** Freestanding, used only 5 times. 9ft x 9ft plus instruction video. Suitable for Trident/Trooper size AS. Will bring to Newark if anyone interested. Initial cost £350. Bargain at **£175. Contact Keith Taylor and Rita Jones 01952 612925** (Telford).

---

**Ford Duetto** 1998 2.5D 38,000 miles. Fitted with alarm &

immobiliser. New exhaust & tyres. Fiamma awning & bike rack. Many Extras. Part X considered for small coachbuilt. **£14,000 ono. Contact Joan & Max Cooke 01432 274906** (Hereford).

*Thanks for the donation*

---

**AS Harmony** (Talbot Express) 1993. 1.9 diesel 46,000 miles 2/4 berth. Good condition. Fiamma awning & bike rack. Air suspension. Cassette toilet **£7,995** Exchange considered, must be 4 berth. **Contact Neil or Shona Shipley 01332 660160 or 07805 328507** (Derby)

---

**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**

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## Contents

From the Editors ... ..	2	A Spare Story ... ..	8
National Rally ... ..	3	From the Factory... ..	9
Cards .. ..	4	Motorhome Forum ... ..	10
Answers to Dingbats ... ..	4	LPG Tanks & more ... ..	12
My Favourite Things ... ..	5	Electronic Newsletter Trial ... ..	13
Rally News:		Leaking Carver ... ..	18
Rudesheim ... ..	6	For Sale ... ..	19
A Timely European Reminder ... ..	6		
Driving Licence ... ..	6		
Technical Group & Website ... ..	7		

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