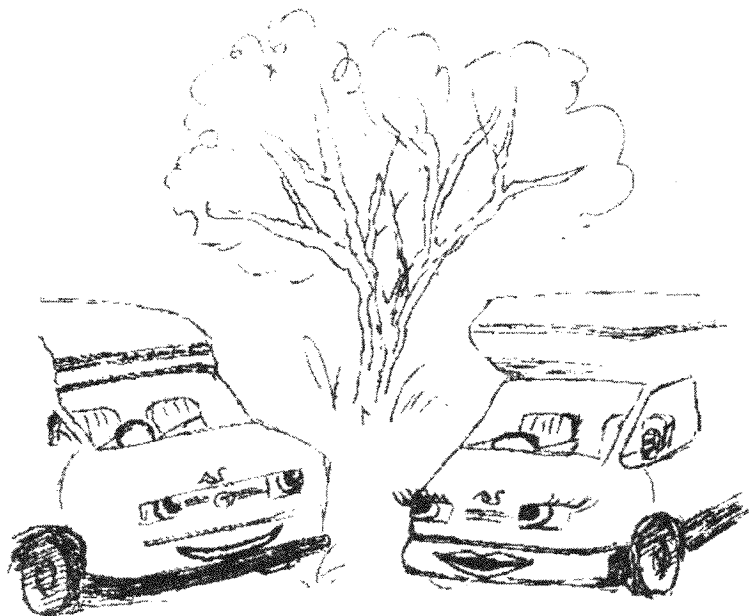




[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

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



*I remember you -  
we met at the 10th anniversary rally*

## **NEWSLETTER 247**

### **April 2009**

# From the Editor (S)

At a recent Club Committee meeting I reported that of the 40 members participating in the Electronic Newsletter trial only 16 had responded to the question as to whether they would still require a printed Newsletter at the end of the trial and of those only 6 said they would not. I recommended to the Committee that as there was so little interest by the Club Membership in receiving an electronic version of the Newsletter that it should be discontinued at the end of the trial period. This recommendation was accepted.

I will prepare and send electronic versions of the April, May and June Newsletters and then they will be discontinued. I am very grateful to those who participated in the trial.

Now that the outcome of the trial is determined I feel happy to express my own personal view on this topic. Firstly I, like most members, enjoy and wish to retain the printed version of the Newsletter but I would like the ability to view it on a Website from the day of publication when I'm away from home. This would not be an onerous or expensive facility for the Club to offer. I would also like to be able to book rallies when I'm away from home. Several members have suggested fair ways that this could be done without associating rally booking with the monthly issue of the Newsletter and I'm surprised at the continued reluctance of Club members to consider any of these.

In this issue of the Newsletter a number of members respond to the comments I published in the March Newsletter from participants in the Electronic Newsletter trial. Please be aware that those comments were not destined for publication and that is why I made them anonymous. I decided to use them to fill four pages that would otherwise have been removed. Some of you may have preferred that to be the case but fortunately your responses have helped fill this issue. **We really do need more contributions!!!!**

Another subject and one that I have thought of commenting on for a few months. When we first started to edit the Newsletter we often

received contributions from members who had experienced faults with their new Autosleeper and were not happy with the process of resolution. For the last eighteen months or so we have not received contributions of that type. I know from personal experience and from meeting fellow members that new Autosleepers are not necessarily fault free. I also now understand that without building in the quantity of the motor industry or to the standards of the aviation industry, motorhomes of any manufacturer will not demonstrate that they are faulty till the vehicle has been driven for a few hundred miles and the facilities used for a few nights accommodation. I therefore conclude that although there are (usually) minor faults with most new Autosleepers, the process of resolution of those faults by the company and their dealers is now satisfactory to the extent that members do feel they have been properly attended too – me included! Well done Autosleepers.

Low Emission Zone: - The Mayor of London has announced his intention to suspend the third phase of the London Low Emission Zone that would have affected motorhomes in the range 2.5 to 3.5 tonnes from October 2010. I'm sure more from Baz in coming months. I've also become aware that some German cities have LEZ – no details but beware!

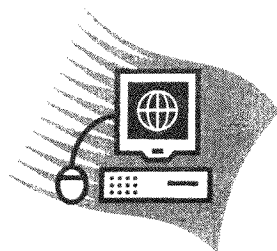
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On the subject of motorhome forums Roger Spensley has pointed out that Motorhomefacts (mentioned in last month's Newsletter) is in fact a commercial site and he has given us a couple of examples of free ones:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| MMM forums      | <a href="http://www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/forums/forums/forum-view">www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/forums/forums/forum-view</a> |
| Motorhomefun    | <a href="http://www.motorhomefun.co.uk/forum.php">www.motorhomefun.co.uk/forum.php</a>                                     |
| Motorhome Today | <a href="http://www.motorhometoday.co.uk/index.php">www.motorhometoday.co.uk/index.php</a>                                 |

Another site which may have special interest to some members is

[www.fordtransit.org/forum](http://www.fordtransit.org/forum)



# 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.

## **Have you sent in your booking form for the National?**

If you haven't don't forget the closing date is **4th April 2009**. If you have sent it in have you received your acknowledgement? I normally send them out within a couple of days of receiving the forms so if you think yours has been lost in the post please let me know.

*Sheila Henthorne*

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### **A REMINDER**

I did request that all members wanting a disabled pitch should contact Chris Mawdsley at 5 Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 1WA or 07919 538622. For the most part only those requiring a disabled pitch with electricity have done so. Could all members wanting a disabled pitch please contact Chris.

I also asked members wishing to bring a car to the National Rally to ring me on 01902 332105 or write to me at 15 Langley Gardens, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton WV3 7JN. If anyone wishes to bring a car please contact me as soon as possible.

There are still tables available for the display of hobbies. If you require space please contact Jim Henwood at 1 Fairfield Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS5 5HB or ring on 01642 605237.

There will be a 'For Sale' board available and anyone wishing to advertise should take their ad to Ian Wood at the board in the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion.

*Nora Venables*

## Welcome to New Members



James & Elizabeth Greenaway	Warwick	Devon
Nigel & Carolyn Hiley	Hertford	Inca
David Evans & Lizzie Wheildon	Burton-on-Trent	Duetto
George Hook & Carol Wilkins	Loughton	Talisman
David & Linda Clews	Stoke-on-Trent	Gatcombe
Peter & Patricia Baggaley	Thornton Cleveleys	Mezan
Malcolm & Julie Pitt	Hook	Executive
Alan & Carole Clarke	Canvey Island	Flair
Malcolm & Caroline Careless	Malvern	Clubman
David Maxfield	Bedford	Utopian
Mark & Caroline Righton	Truro	Flair
Ian & Valerie Webber	Farnborough	Executive
David & Ann Lewis	Dursley	Windsor
Colin Atkinson & Syb Royds	York	Topaz
Mark & Barbara Ballinger	Pembroke Dock	Trafic
Grahame & Judy Rowley	Westbourne	Symbol
Peter & Joyce Waterson	Scarborough	Nuevo
Ed & Judith Elvy	Rainham	Sigma
James & Janice Gardener	Dorchester	Executive
Richard & Susie Tyson	Flookburgh	Nuevo
Bill & Sylvia Webb	Harmondsworth	Executive
Nigel & Diana Wheatley	Goring	Zeta
John & Margaret Broughton	Beaumaris	Nuevo
Rivers Freeling	Nr Alcester	Topaz
Gordon & Diana Prebble	Northwood	Nuevo
Vic & Hilary Harrison	Hilton	Legend
David & Betty Hollings	Oakworthy, Keighley	Legend

# Rally News

## HURLEY RIVERSIDE PARK RALLY

**JUNE 8th - 12th**

If you are on the Dutch Rally why not join us on your way down to the ferries?

Hurley is situated between Henley-on-Thames and Maidenhead

The site is ideal for visiting Henley, Marlow, Maidenhead, Windsor or if you feel adventurous London is accessible by train from Maidenhead.

The site has full facilities, all pitches have electric and there is a laundrette, hot showers, toilets, disabled facilities and a shop with provisions and papers.

See the Rally Supplement for further details.

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## **Isle of Wight Rally**

One lady member who wishes to join us discovered that Red Funnel wanted £135 return ferry fare on top of the rally costs. However, any members wishing to join us solely for the Isle of Wight rally for five days, will save a lot of money if they book through Red Funnel on 08448 442688 and use their all-inclusive package, which includes the five night stay at the Whitefield Forest site, and the return ferry fares. It will cost less than £120 all in, and I will accept £2.50 rally fee to cover costs.

I have arranged with the site to be able to do this but you must let me know to be with our group on site. I hope this helps anyone who finds the costs exorbitant. If you do it this way please let me know immediately to ensure your place as there are limited numbers.

***Ken Bolton 01983 402059.***

## Sedgemoor Carnival Burnham On Sea 2009

Good news for all those who braved the British weather last November for the Carnival weekend at Burnham Under Water. I visited the site recently to check on the manager's promise to install drainage to prevent a repeat of last years floods. True to his word, they have tidied up the hard standing pitches and although a little behind schedule, they will begin work installing drainage mid March. I will keep you posted.

Whilst there, I expressed our interest in yet another Carnival rally and for those of you by now familiar with the saga, it will come as no surprise to know that their system is not geared up yet to take such advanced group bookings but they will be in touch.

Panic not, being our tenth year, (yes it is) this is quite normal procedure.

*We will get there.*

On that note, while we were strolling down the beach with our dogs recently, and started thinking about our previous Carnival rallies. Linda couldn't believe we were up to our tenth year, eleven if you count the first one we ran at Weston Super Mare Rugby Club, (who remembers that one, . . I do).

This prompted me to dig out my computer discs to find the lists of names from each rally from November 2000 to 2008. A lot of names came up, some only once, some keep coming back each year, and at the top of each list is Sheila and Ivor Barnett who have helped and supported us from the first, thank you both. Oh, by the way did I tell you both I was booking it again this year. (Oops).

Anyway, the Dingbat Quiz 2009 is compiled already, the Golf Links Road CL site will be open to welcome our early arrivals, (the neighbours are getting used to seeing Auto Sleepers on our drive) and we look forward to seeing you all 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the tenth Burnham On Sea Carnival Rally if not before,

Safe journey.

*Linda and Brian Ellis*

Congratulations to Mike & Mary Bardsley helped by Liz & Bryn Morgan for a lovely rally at Whitemead to start the rallying season. We were lucky with the weather and the swimming pool and the jacuzzi were very enjoyable. On a personal note I would like to thank everyone on the rally for the lovely card and good wishes for my 70th birthday.

**Brenda Jarvis.**

We would like to add our thanks to Mike & Mary and Liz & Bryn, who stepped into the breach when it transpired that Jeanette Jones would not be able to run the Whitemead rally this year. They did an excellent job and I'm sure everyone enjoyed it, what with walks and talks and quizzes and swimming and eating, not to mention the odd drink here and there... Well done all.

**Chris Mawdsley**

—ooOoo—

## Thinking of going on the St.Ives Rally?

We all know the story of St.Ives  
about the man with seven wives  
How each wife had seven cats  
and every cat had seven brats

But what has never been related  
is where this poor man, relegated  
as he was, to eight in line  
was taking these three ninety nine.

Now at last all is revealed  
they trekked for miles o'er hill & field  
until they reached the Sussex coast  
where they all had tea and toast

In the morning man asked wives if  
they'd like a stroll along the cliff?  
So all the wives put on their hats  
and off they went with kits and cats

Seven white cliffs towering over the  
sea  
they're called Seven Sisters  
appropriately  
Man took one wife to every cliff top  
with fifty six cats to complete the lot

Man visited each wife and kissed her  
then pushed her off her Seven Sister  
Cats and kits all followed fast  
and man walked home—he's free at  
last

So if you're going to St.Ives  
and meet a man with seven wives  
buy him a drink and make a toast  
'Here's to the road to the Sussex coast'

**Brian Smith**

# From the Factory

I am regularly asked "*How are Auto-Sleepers doing*"? So, here's the answer...

Auto-Sleepers motorhomes have been the subject of a revival of late. National Caravan Council figures for November 2008 showed an increase from 11% in 2007, to 25%; quite a surprise. Even more remarkable was the December figures, which increased even higher to almost 30%! Yes, 1 in 3 motorhomes bought by dealers was an Auto-Sleeper.

Would the market share figures tell a similar story? January 2009 overall registrations were down a startling 32% on 2008. However, Auto-Sleepers registrations were up from 7% in 2008 to 14% - that's a 100% increase!

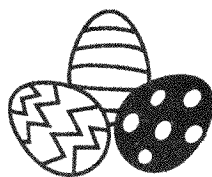
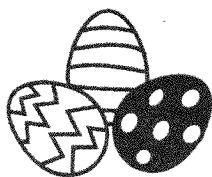
Why? In these times of economic turmoil, we have benefited where others have struggled. The strength of the Euro has made it extremely difficult for the continental manufacturers to remain competitive.

Our motorhomes have undergone many changes, including new, stylish interiors, and fresh, modern graphics

Moreover, we have remained loyal to our dealer network, held prices wherever possible and instigated a marketing campaign that has been "active" as well as "passive". What do I mean by that?

Well, Auto-Sleepers are known for their 'Brand Advertising'. This is 'passive' and is designed to instil a message of confidence in purchase, quality and reliability. An 'active' advert arouses greater interest in a particular product and "sells" the features & benefits that the model has.

We have concentrated on advertising in just a few publications, invested heavily in web-based products and are in the process of a major website update. Our brochures and pricelists have also been the subject of a



## April 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](mailto: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.

26th August to 6th September (11 nights) Chinon in the Loire Valley,

### France.

**Rally marshals:** Dorothy & Baz Wellard; assisted by Marion & Jimmy Henwood and Gill Brindley & Brian Thomas.

**Fees:** Site fees will be payable directly to the site management by members. Last year the discounted site fees were approx. 10 Euros (£8) per night; inc. electricity.

**Rally fee:** £16.50 inc. vat, non re-refundable if successful. Rally slips; rally fee (*payable to Mrs D. Wellard*), and SAE to:- 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, PO16 7UF. Tel.No. 01329 231 259.

**Town:** Chinon is approximately 350 miles from Calais; with a convenient overnight stop 2 hours out of the port. Chinon is a very attractive small mediaeval town on the banks of the River Vienne; which is a tributary of the Loire. Photographs of the town & campsite can be seen at:- [www.picasaweb.google.co.uk/bazils2/ChinonSeptember2007](http://www.picasaweb.google.co.uk/bazils2/ChinonSeptember2007)

**Site:** The 2 star site is actually on the south side of the river with views across the Vienne, to the town and its Chateau. It is only a short walk across the bridge to the centre. We have been offered an area that has the advantage that all units can be sited together.

**Attractions:** Chinon's Chateau dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, and the town has attractive buildings with narrow streets and open air cafes and restaurants. There are a great many other Chateaux and attractions in the Loire Valley area.

**Logistics:** This will be the Club's second visit to the Chinon site and we do not anticipate any limit on numbers. Dogs are permitted, for a small fee. Unfortunately this will not be a 'drop-in' rally and ralliers will be obliged to stay the full 11 nights, please.

### **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 Marshals: 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.

### **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 2009 (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.

**THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.**

**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 Ings, an RSPB wildlife bird sanctuary.

Limit of 20 vans.

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

**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.

**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

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

**Contact the rally marshal before sending 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.

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

( V.)

PTO.

**8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June ( 4 nights) Hurley Riverside Park,Hurley,Maidenhead,  
Berks,SL6 5NE.**

Site Tel.No. 01628 824493. Website:- hurleyriversidepark.co.uk

Emergency Tel.No. 07754761423 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Rita & John Tubb, Shirley & Chris Sturgeon & Theresa & Dave Smith.

Site Fees: £56.00 including electricity for 4 nights. Rally fee: £2.35. All include VAT.

Please send a S.A.E for full directions and confirmation with rally slip and cheque for £58.35 payable to Rita Tubb,70 Charnwood Crescent,Chandlers Ford,Eastleigh,Hampshire.SO53 5QL.

Tel.No. 023 8026 7294. If you are bringing a car or towing a trailer please state on rally slip.

The rally is on a commercial site with full facilities.All pitches have electric and there is a launderette,hot showers,toilets CDP and a shop with provisions and papers available.

Attractions: The site is ideal for visiting Henley on Thames ,Marlow,Maidenhead and Windsor.It is situated beside the River Thames with fishing available.There are two pubs serving food near to the site.Hurley village is about ½ mile from the site with pubs,shop & post office.There are several. N.T. properties nearby that you can visit There is a bus stop by the entrance to the site.You can walk or cycle the Thames Way path towards Marlow or Henley from the site.The site is situated on the A4130 between Henley on Thames and Maidenhead.

If you wish to stay additional nights either before or after the rally please book by phoning the site on 01628 824493.

Limit 25 vans. **PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 12.00 NOON.**

*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**

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.**

.....

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.**

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.**

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..**

'makeover' and there's a LOT more to come!

Enough of the marketing lecture.....

How did we do at the NEC Show? Again, our retail sales were up a staggering 17% on the previous year.

2009 will be an interesting year for us all and we have a few new models on the 'Drawing Board'. There are updates, upgrades, new features and one or two very special models being developed for later in the year that we are sure, will tempt some of you. I'll say no more!

Personally, I am looking forward to my first ASOC rally and the opportunity to meet many of you.

*David Scott-Beddard*

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Last summer water leaked from the outlet of my Carver Cascade heater installed in March 1994. My van has the easily disconnected semi-rigid pipework but when I tried unscrewing the pipe, it broke.

I do not know how old Bill Cameron's heater was but we tried, without success, to turn the threads including inserting American easy-outs used in the aviation industry, risky as plastic flexes and it would be easy to break the heater body.

In case another member has similarly recalcitrant plastic, we ended up using an instant heat electric soldering gun, one tip being a cutting type, to burn away the plastic thread until less than one turn remained when it could be unscrewed. The same applied to the inlet pipe.

Those wishing to anticipate the problem might wish to consider loosening the pipes before the plastic degrades, and very slightly greasing them or fitting replacements. Cautious types might think it wise, when draining the heater each winter, to remove, grease and refit at least the outlet pipe ready for the following year. If you are not short of contributions, please put this in your recycle bin.

*David Madison-Roberty*



## **Chairman's Chat**

### **Insurance and Walks**

You may remember that back in December I wrote a piece about our insurance and barbecues. At the end of that article I referred briefly to problems with "walking events on public roads" which arose from new exclusions in this year's policy.

After much negotiation with Insurers the Club has had to agree to introduce a new Code of Conduct for walk organisers which is set out below and will be incorporated into the member's handbook. It is based on the Highway Code and recommendations from the Ramblers Association. Its requirements have been kept to a minimum and are basically common sense, but I do have to point out that it is not optional and failure to adhere to the code will result in the Club's insurance being rendered null and void in the event of a claim. That would be a financial catastrophe for the Club and also for the individual organisers involved.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ORGANISED WALKS**

This code shall be applied when Members at a Club organised event are invited to join in a group walk. Walks must not be organised exclusively on Public Roads if there is no pavement.

The walk leader should appoint another person to follow at the rear of the group.

When walking on roads use the pavement if there is one and marked crossings wherever possible. Where there is no pavement walk on the right, facing oncoming traffic, crossing to the other side before sharp right hand bends. Take special care on narrow roads, keep close to the side of the road, be prepared to walk in single file and be aware that traffic may be moving very fast.

Help drivers to see you. Wear or carry something light, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark the front and rear walkers should wear reflective materials.

*Andy Cavell*

## Is a Waste Water Tank a Waste of Space?

I, like many other ASOC members I've seen at rallies, when pitched, place a grey water catcher under the outlet pipe of the waste tank. So when grey water disappears down the plug hole, it goes straight into the water catcher, via the waste tank, which is only acting as an extended waste pipe and not used for holding any water.

We hardly ever stop anywhere other than a rally site or recognised camp site every night (except on the odd occasion at a service station), therefore the little grey water we generate between stops is minimal. So what are we using these large waste tanks for? Am I carrying a tank that I do not need?

Our tank held up to nearly 12 gallons of waste water, which weights 120 lbs, plus the weight of the tank and fittings, totalling nearly 140 lbs. In addition, our outlet pipe is on the side of the tank and I had to have at least 25mm of water about the tank base, before it would drain away. That amounted to 2¼ gallons of water, weighing 22¼ lbs. To get rid of this water I had to fit a bottom drain.

At the end of last season I had a blockage in the outlet pipe from the tank. As I could not clear it I dropped the tank and this got me thinking, do I really need this grey elephant!

So my waste tank has never been replaced and instead I have fitted a small 3 pint header tank which has a bottom drain, which all the grey water passes through. On arrival at site a water catcher is placed under the drain and the tap turned on. The weight of this is no more than 1 lb, so I have made a weight reduction on tank and fittings of about 19 lbsa, plus now there is no more than 3 pints of waster water max in my header tank (3¾ lbs). The alteration was very simple; the hardest part was making a suitable header tank. It took me two days in total to convert.

I ask, is a waste tank a big waste of space and time? I leave you to make your own decision.

***Robin Gardner***

## **A timely European reminder - more...**

First my wife and I wish to thank contributor P R Ferris for the reminder contributed to the March Newsletter re expiry and renewal of the European Health Insurance Card, (It replaced the old P111).

We checked our cards and found they had expired in October 2008 so proceeded to dial the 24 hour 'nhsdirect' number on the reverse. It took a multitude of questions before I was given two numbers to phone forward. The first number, said to be for general enquiries proved "not recognised" probably because I only had 10 digits whereas the second number **0845-6062030** for new applications was answered quickly.

I was asked to give our full names, d's.o.b., first line of address and quote the personal ID Numbers appearing on the cards. Fine, easy, the lady operator then confirmed that new cards had been ordered and would be with us in 7 days.

We think it would save members time and frustration if they made a note of the New Applications number above and telephoned it in the first instance. .

***Richard and Jill McAllister***

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

## **Fuddy Duddies - I think not!!**

I have read this month's newsletter with interest and amusement regarding the electronic version of the same. Because I prefer the paper copy I do not consider myself a 'Fuddy Duddy'. Our laptop spends most of it's time on the coffee table gathering dust. In my opinion too much time is spent glued to computers, Ipods, blackberries, Wii machines and MP3 players.

To the member concerned who wants to 'drag us into the 21st century'  
Get a Life.

As far as wasting paper goes, lets cut as many trees down as it takes to produce our magazine.

***Name and Address withheld to protect the innocent.***

ASOC is the Club we all get a lot of pleasure from. What we can do without is the sort of tirade the majority of members had to put up with in the March edition, i.e. Fuddy Duddies. 'Drag ourselves into the 21st Century' indeed!

The aforementioned letter was littered with 'I's' - I this, I that, I the other, / lost count at 17.

Fortunately we still have choices and long may it be so.

**Roy Anderton**

It was a sad day when we read some of the comments re emailing the magazine in the March issue.

We thought that we (ASOC) were a friendly club, but some of the members are making it sound like 'them' and 'us'! And we didn't like some of the inferences made, which in our opinion were bordering on the discourteous.

We don't all live for computers, why should the 'minority' try to force the 'majority'?

As for having laptops with us in our motorhomes to keep up to date with everything, we personally go away in our motorhome ON HOLIDAY, to meet friends and get away from every day pressures and to RELAX and SWITCH OFF. We have our mobile phones to keep in touch when *necessary*.

We feel very strongly that the magazine should stay in it's current format, but we would accept change if achieved in a democratic manner. We understand that the current experiment is part of this exercise.

We would however, like to add that many of the comments *were* constructive.

**David & Sheila Stewart**

## Can you help?

We have a Neuvo ES and would like to purchase a drive-away awning. We have seen a Movelite XL, but are unsure if this will fit our motorhome. Would any of your readers have any suggestions on what is the best drive away awning for our van.

### *Phillip and Caroline Blanchard*

The following was seen by Bryn & Liz Morgan in the Times recently. It was their 'Letter of the Year' and they thought we all might find it amusing.

An elderly lady wrote to her bank manager:

"Dear Sir

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three 'nanoseconds' must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, re-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan payments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further. When you call me, press buttons as follows:

- 1- To make an appointment to see me.
- 2- To query a missing payment.
- 3- To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- 4- To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5- To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6- To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- 7- To leave a message on my computer (a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorised Contact.)
- 8- To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 thro' 8
- 9- To make a general complaint or inquiry, the contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting (actually tedious) music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client \*\*\*\*\*

Addendum from The Editor [of The Times]:  
IMPORTANT to REMEMBER that this letter was written by a lady who is an 88 year old woman; DOESNT SHE MAKE YOU PROUD!!!?



*Here we go again!!!*

A lack of contributions so you get Editorial—section 2.

In advance of a formal amendment being issued for the Members Handbook can I suggest that those involved in running rallies during which they organise walks that are open to all attendees (and of course any other member who wishes too), make a copy of the Code of Conduct for Organised Walks printed on page 12 of this Newsletter and paste it onto the inside back cover of the latest Members Handbook (dated January 2008). This will locate it alongside other codes that are to be observed during rallies and that are listed in by-law 7 on page 13 of the Handbook.

Robin Gardner's contribution earlier in this Newsletter where he discusses the benefits or not of having a built in waste water tank cause me to ask a question that has long been on my mind....Why do some Motorhome users carry and use Aquaroll fresh water tanks and waste water trollies?

Is it because they were previously caravaners and can't bear to be parted with the equipment or indeed just miss all that time consuming set-up process that seems to go with using a caravan?

Never having had a caravan I think the presence of on-board water tanks is a necessity. Just pull up next to a tap on the way to your pitch and fill up with fresh water and next to a drain when you leave to empty the grey—what could be easier? And why would anyone want to have to negotiate a floor littered with various types of water tanks when stopping for a picnic en-route from site to site?

Now I do have a concern about and therefore don't put dish washing up water in the waste water tank—that is a recipe for gunge and smells—that goes straight from the washing up bowl to an external drain. But shower water is not so contaminated and emptying every few days and leaving the drain open when not on pitch keeps smells away.



**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

belted seats, unique 2+2 giving 4 berths or extra storage over cab. 18,900 miles, taxed and long MOT. 2 electric slide out steps, colour coded Fiamma FI roll-out awning. Turbovent, 3 bike rack & back box. Apache free standing awning negotiable. All receipts and FSH **£19,995 ono** Contact Terry Hammond 0118 962 8030 evgs (Reading) can email/post full spec & photos.

*Thanks for the donation*

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**AS Legend** Ford 2.5 turbo diesel 1997. 47,000 miles. 4 berth. Usual AS spec plus roof mounted solar panel, tow bar, 10 cd auto changer, spare unused set of rear seat cushions. **£16,000 ono.** Contact Stevie Johnson-Mansley 07879 854920

**Amethyst Luxury 2 berth coachbuilt** Ford 2.5 td 96/97. 34,000 miles. Serviced, taxed, MOT, new tyres. Tow bar, Fiamma awning, Silver Screens, spare cushions, mains leads, blocks etc. Excellent condition. Must be seen! Owners retiring. Non-smokers, no pets. **£17,995** Contact Ron Joplin 01225 862737. Also extras available. Harrison free standing awning, safari room, braked A frame (All as new).

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**AS Talisman** 2003 Peugeot 2.8 TD 11,000 miles. FSH. Winter garaged. No pets, non-smokers. 2/3 berth. Extras include bike rack & reversing warning indicator. **£24,950** Contact D G Osborne 01908 261073 (Northants)

*Thanks for the donation*

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**Talisman** Sept.1999 2446cc turbo diesel. VGC all usual fixtures & fittings + solar panel on roof, tow bar, Fiamma carry bike rack max. 60kgs. Fiamma fixed awning, cd player/radio. We are looking to go a little smaller and want to find a Clubman or Gatcome (or something along those lines). We are willing to exchange for the right vehicle. Mileage 23,300. Lovingly used and cared for. Contact Jenny Hamilton 01509 415619

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**NR Chateau** stand-alone awning. Green & grey, good condition, hardly used. Complete with curtains, poles, etc. **£50 ono.** Contact Peter Turner 29 Peel Drive, Bacup, Lancashire OL13 9PU.

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**2003 2.0 HDi Marquis Dorset** based on AS Symbol. ES seating giving 4

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Thanks also to Rita Taylor and Keith Jones for their donation for a recent ad.

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