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# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

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

*Be careful when you're away in your van,  
some people will pinch anything*

## **NEWSLETTER 250**

### **July 2009**

# From the Editor (S)

Well I don't know about you but it doesn't seem like a year since I was last in the dungeons of ASOC Towers in the editorial suite. It's still as damp, dank and cold but nevertheless I'm looking forward to my stint at the wheel.

First a request which would really make our lives here easier and this is, if you have email capability we would really appreciate it if you would send your articles etc. by email.

As some of you know we have been restricted in our rally activities this year by my treatment programme and flare ups so we are not as closely in touch with the goings on as we would like to be, thank goodness for the newsletter. However we did make it to the national, and like everybody else we had a wonderful time and it did us the world of good to meet up with friends and generally relax and get away from it all.

As you all know I like to have little features when I do the newsletter so for next month, I love those little real life anecdotes that are totally unbelievable but really did happen. Difficult this month but I know that you will do your best and I apologise for there being no advance notice but that is what's it's like at the moment. Really unusual stories also qualify.

Well that's enough from me so enjoy the newsletter and as they say, if you enjoy it tell me if you don't keep quiet.

## Retirement of Charles

No doubt that when you received your June Newsletter and read page 10, you would have been stunned at the news of Charles' retirement. What can be said about this man, this legend of the motorhome world?

Well Charles has been a stalwart of the Club since its inception; the work that he has done behind the scenes is incalculable. His input as President at committee meetings, in giving practical advice is priceless.

Who can forget at the early AGM's, the way in which Charles delivered one of his three jokes; they broke the ice and set the standard for the meetings to be friendly affairs.

Charles will be missed by us at the Service Centre, his reassuring voice on the phone giving advice on any of our vans' problems, if needed the magic words would be said, "bring the van to the Service Centre and we will sort it out". Charles encyclopaedic knowledge of any van and its components is stunning and could be his subject on Mastermind there would be no passes.

The one other person who we must say thanks to is

the woman behind the great man, Angela whose support has been unwavering.

May I on behalf of the Club wish Charles a long and happy retirement pottering around doing his hobbies. If he has any problems pottering then all he has to do is ask a Club member for advice. Ozzie (and I'm sure the rest of us)

### **Foreign Travel Breakdown Insurance**

Whilst away recently with a group of people, the subject of Breakdown Insurance Cover came up during our discussions. It would appear that there are tremendous differences being offered by the various companies.

Last year, we discovered just before our trip to Greece, that our 'Sigma' (Boxer X250) would not be covered in the event of the vehicle needing to be brought back from Greece for any reason. Italy, Switzerland and France were no problem.

We have RAC Arrival, European Cover through the Camping & Caravan Club and on informing them of our pending trip, they enquired as to the width of our vehicle and when told it was 2.32M they immediately said that there was no cover because the maximum recovery width, from Greece, was

2.25M. ( With the mirrors extended the width is 2.69M ) Therefore, we did not have the necessary cover for 'recovery' and ended up taking out an additional policy, through our brokers MCIA at an extra cost of £65.00. Just what was needed 3 or 4 days before leaving for the ferry.

As more of us go further afield these days, particularly Eastern Europe, may I suggest that you check your own breakdown cover for countries like Greece, Poland and Eastern Europe etc. before you leave. Check the measurements of your own vehicle, then ask the allowable width for recovery, you may be in for a surprise to find that your 'Pride & Joy' is not within limits!  
Mo Valentine

### **How well do you know the Tyre Safety Advice?**

I knew that the tyres on our 'van were approaching the time when they should be replaced due to their age rather than the tread depth but I wanted to double check the recommended time period. I found the answer online in a useful information leaflet "Motorhome Tyres and Your Safety" which can be downloaded from <http://www.tyresafe.org/tyre-safety/> The leaflet is produced by an organisation called TyreSafe and the information in it comes from the British Tyre Manufacturers' Association.

For those who do not have internet access, the answer given to my query is "*...tyres should be replaced preferably when they reach 5 years old but never use tyres which are more than 7 years old*". Alan Jones (2810)

**The best things are always worth waiting for!!!**

I was sitting in the garden enjoying the warm weather whilst reading the Auto Sleeper Owner's Club June 2009 Newsletter that had just arrived. I was reading Alan Waugh's letter and had a wry smile at his remark that 'having bought new and suffered various irritating faults, now that his motorhome is seven years old it is showing its true pedigree'.

Having also bought a new Suffolk a year ago and are similarly experiencing these irritating faults, I did a double take at the seven years mentioned.

At that very moment I heard an almighty shriek from my husband who had just gone into the motorhome to put the fridge on ready for a trip the following day. I rushed in to find him looking at the washroom floor in utter disbelief. Both cabinet doors had fallen out together with the plastic strips that were supposed to hold them in and one door had smashed completely showering fragments of glass

everywhere.

What is the saying? Seven years bad luck when a mirror is broken. Does this mean that we will have to wait eight years for our 'true pedigree'? Oh! I do hope not.

Patricia and Michael Guy - Membership Number: 6387

### **LEZ Zones**

John Tubb was reading his newsletter and came across Peter's comments on German LEZ's and says that if we go to the web page "**green-zones.eu**" we will find all the information we need on them.

### **Thankyou for your comments in the newsletter.**

I very much agree that we should live in a world of freedom and choice but must say if we choose to be away, a laptop can be a great way to keep in touch with home. With programs like skype, talking is free. That won't happen with a mobile. Also if you have a laptop you can turn it into a digital TV with very little expense and you can also watch a DVD.

You can read a newsletter which you may have missed through being away in the van. Or at the

moment you still can.

Regards

John Greenwood

### **Self-aligning MotorHome mounted Tow Bars**

Has any member ever used a Self-aligning MotorHome mounted Tow Bar for towing a small car?

I am rather interested, as it would save the use of a trailer to transport a small car. Are there any pros or cons in their use? Having come across these tow bars on the internet it seemed like a good idea.

Members experiences of such tow bars maybe of interest to other readers of this magazine.

Barry W Page (4825)

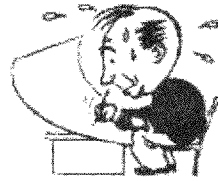
### **Royal Windsor Rally Information for late arrivals**

If you are attending the Royal Windsor Rally and arrive late evening, you may find the main racecourse gates locked for security. If so, please ring our mobiles, the numbers are on the rally information in the supplement, and we will open the gates for you. Please don't forget, no arrivals before 2pm on Tuesday 14 July.

Look forward to seeing you all there

Robin and Val

# Chairman's Chat



Last month I omitted to say a big Thank You to Andy Cavell, our Chairman for the last three years, ably supported by Angie. He presided over the committee and club with the utmost efficiency, particularly guiding us through all of the latest changes in the club insurance, brought about by changes in the 'elf & safety' rules.

Many Thanks Andy.

Please don't forget that we are still looking for members to come forward and volunteer for the position of Treasurer and for someone who would be prepared to become the next Club Chairman in three years time, to follow on from me.

Planning is now under way for our next National Rally in 2010 and I would like to hear of any new ideas that you might have regarding the said rally that would improve it, be it the competitions, the entertainment, the meals, or anything to do with the running of the rally. Is there anything that you would like to see happen? We cannot promise to include every suggestion but the committee will give each idea due consideration, both from a cost and feasibility point of view. Please write to me, Mike Valentine, 11 Hamilton Close, Langstone, Havant, PO9 1RP or via [mikemo.valentine@talktalk.net](mailto:mikemo.valentine@talktalk.net)

# Rally News

We just have to write in and say what an enjoyable few days we had at **Burn** with Alan. Along with Don, who makes a good cuppa, they showed us good walks, ordered good weather, especially Sunday. It was very relaxing for us. Some of the members took to the sky, and all said it was fantastic. The area was abundant with lots of wild flowers and lovely birds, never seen or heard as many skylarks. Well done, we will be there again.  
Dave & Trish Robinson 5662

## AND

*I was one of the lucky ones who took to the skies on the best day for weather of the year so far. I really enjoyed it although I had a long wait to fit in with the Clubs flying activities – but once in a lifetime...  
Peter Brown*

## Dartmouth Music Festival Rally 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May Report

Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> May dawned with strong winds across the site but it was dry and bright. The first members arrived on the dot of 12 noon and the majority of the 34 others followed over the next four hours apart from the 2 that were not due until the second day. By 18.30hrs in the evening the weather had changed to wind and rain and we called off the scheduled coffee get together until 10.00hrs on Friday when it was hoped the conditions would be more favorable

Early Friday morning the wind and rain were reducing but still with us but by 10.00hrs had passed thereby enabling us to get together for some 35 minutes for coffee and for the



## JULY 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)

**\*\*\*\*CANCELLED 29<sup>th</sup>. October – 1<sup>st</sup>. November Chatham Historic Dockyard. Circumstances beyond our control.**

**\*\*\*\*NEW RALLY 21<sup>st</sup>. 25<sup>th</sup>. September Lochside C.P. Castle Douglas Details in supplement.**

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

### 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.

**THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> July ( 2 nights) Prestwood Steam Fair,Great Missenden,Bucks.

Emergency Tel.No.07775570182 or 07749378587.

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin & Margaret & Bob Cleaver.

Fee for the weekend £18.00 per unit. Rally Fee: £1.75 per unit. (Incl.VAT). NO ELECTRICITY.

The weekend fee includes unlimited entrance to the Steam Rally.

This is a GREEN FIELD Site – own toilets are essential.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs. J.Hicklin, 381 Manor Road,Brimington,Chesterfield,Derbyshire.S43

1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236157.If unavailable ring Mragaret 01442 851080.

**Directions:** From A 413 Great Missenden take the A4128 to Prestwood and follow Steam Rally signs. No Arrivals before 1.00pm. Friday please.

## 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> July ( 4 nights) Ledbury Rugby Football Club.

Emergency Tel.No. 07791582881 (Max) or 07989153109 (Joan).

Rally marshals: Joan & Max Cooke & Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site Fees: £8.50 per night. Rally Fee: £2.35 (incl.VAT). NO ELECTRICITY.

Drinking water,wastewater disposal facilities. Dog walking on site.

Use of clubs toilets & showers.We also have use of the club bar.

Regular bus services to Hereford,Ross,Malvern and beyond.

Include a SAE for confirmation and directions.Please indicate if you require a meal.

Rally slips to J.E.Cooke, The Magnolias,Canon Pyon Road, Hereford.HR4 7RB.Tel.No. 01432 274906.

**Directions:** Ledbury Rugby Club HR8 2LP. Leave M50 at junction 2 take A417 to Ledbury.The Rugby Club is off the roundabout on A449 to Much Markle.

Limit 30 vans.

## 9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July (5 nights or less if you wish!) Abingdon Vale Cricket Club.

### Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3HP

Emergency Tel. No. 07880 532057 (Marshal's mobile).

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

Site fee: £5.60 per night: Rally Fee £2.50 couple, £1.50 single (inc VAT ).

Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, Berks. RG18 0RY.Tel.No.01635201976.

**Attractions:** This is a GREENFIELD site adjacent to the River Thames and only a short walk from the town centre, which has a variety of specialist shops and several pubs. There are many local attractions including bus and boat services to Oxford. We hope to have the use of the pavilion for a get-together on Friday evening if the weather is bad! Dogs are welcome, subject to usual rules; there are walks straight from the site.

The Croquet Club has again offered tuition and a mini tournament on Friday morning at a cost of £5.00 per head. Numbers are limited, so this will be on a first come first served basis.

Please indicate on rally slip if interested but **DO NOT SEND MONEY**. Payment will be direct to the Croquet Club on the day.

**Directions:** The cricket club is on the A415 Abingdon to Dorchester road. If you approach from Abingdon, it is on the right after you go over the river bridge. Don't turn in to the car park! About 100 yards after the car park there are two gateways side by side. The cricket club is the **right hand** gateway. Coming the other way it is the second of the two gateways on the **left** just after the 30 mph sign.**Please do not arrive before 2.00 pm to allow us time to mark out the site.**

## 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July (5 nights) Royal Windsor Rally, Royal Windsor

### Racecourse.

Emergency Tel.No. 07794411446 (Valerie) 07796202238 ( Robin).

Rally Marshals: Valerie & Robin Gardner & Pat & David Mayne, Maureen & Cedric Jones.

Site Fees: £38.00 per van. Rally Fee:£3.00 couples,£2.00 single .(VAT included). NO reduction for less than 5 nights.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs. V. Gardner, Marangu, 13 Carrington Ave., Flackwell Heath, Bucks.

HP10 9AL.Tel. No. 01628 522363. SAE for confirmation & map,if required.

Rally starts at 2.00pm. (NOT before) on Tues. 14<sup>th</sup>. July and closes at 12.00pm Sun.19<sup>th</sup>.

**GREENFIELD** site + racecourse toilet block.No hook ups.Dogs allowed, subject to usual conditions.

**Attractions:** Visit Windsor & Eton towns,take tours round Windsor Castle &/or Eton College.See a show at the Theatre Royal,ride on the Windsor Eye or have a swim in the Windsor Leisure

Centre.Take a boat ride from the racecourse,a trip on an open top bus or a ride in a horse & carriage round the town,walk by the Thames in Windsor Great Park (including the famous Savill Garden).

Journey to Runnymede where King John affixed his seal to Magna Carta.Hampton Court or Legoland which are all short rides from the town centre.Trains to London Paddington & Waterloo.

**Directions:**M4 – Jn.6 Go South on A332,slip off at 1<sup>st</sup>. exit.At roundabout take 3<sup>rd</sup>. exit go west on A308,over mini roundabout,2<sup>nd</sup>. exit,the entrance to the racecourse is under ¼ mile on the right.

Follow ASOC signs.

M3 Jn. 3 Go north on A332 until you come to slip road(just after Windsor town centre) that points down left for A308.At roundabout take 1<sup>st</sup>. exit go west on A308 over mini roundabout,2<sup>nd</sup>.exit,the entrance to the racecourse is under ¼ mile on right.Follow ASOC signs.Map Ref. - OS 175/951772.

Raffle – Bring an acceptable new raffle prize and claim your £1.00 worth of free raffle tickets.(One per van). ALL rally slips will be date stamped & taken in strict order of RECEIPT.

## 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July. Northern Motorcaravan Show,Pickering Showground,

### North Yorks.

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

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

Rally Fee:£2.35 (couples),£1.5 0 (singles) Both incl.VAT. **Please remember to send a rally**

**slip and cheque for the Rally Fee** payable to N.C.& P.Rogers,3 Appleby Close,

Aldbrough St.John,Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT.

Tel.No. 01325 374 540. **The special Club site fees are:-** Thursday to Monday £38,Friday to

Monday £35,Saturday to Monday £32. You may either use the form enclosed in the May

Newsletter or fill in an application form from MMM or Which M'Van using the special fees and mark the form **A.S.O.C.** in large letters.

**Send this form back to the organisers,Warners** with the site fees, before the closing date 26th.June. Applicants after this date cannot rally with the Club.

## 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July 2009 (3 nights) Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Emergency Tel .No. Marshals' mobile 07713186508.

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

Site Fee £5.00 per night inc. Vat Rally Fee £2.35 inc. vat. Booking slips and cheques payable to

P.M.Pratt 3 Grafton Rd., Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, Staffs. DE15 9DN . PHONE 01283538818.

This is virtually a **GREENFIELD** site. although there are toilets in Beacon Park.

Sat evening get together includes Jacket potato, dessert and drink - £5.00per person .Pay with booking slip.

**Attractions** Beacon Park is adjacent to Lichfield City centre.

**Directions:** Beacon Park is situated in Lichfield, just off the A51 Tamworth to Rugeley Road. Go round the island with the Bowling Green Pub in the middle. Then take A 51 Rugeley/Stafford Road; turn immediately **right** down Walsall Road, then immediately **left** into Lower Sandford Street. Follow signs for Car Park, the site is through the car park keeping to the right.

You may arrive on Thurs AFTER 12noon NOT BEFORE PLEASE.

**30<sup>th</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> August ( 5 nights) Leon's Field, St.Ives, Huntingdon, PE27 5ER**

Emergency Tel.No.07716724910. marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Sylvia & Brian Smith, Julia & Harry Briars, Philby & Shirley & Chris Sturgeon.

Site Fee:£5.75 per night. Rally Fee:£2.00 All incl.V.A.T. **NO Electricity. NO Toilets.**

Booking slips & cheques payable to B.G.Smith, 9 St. Mary's Road, Bluntisham, Huntingdon.

PE27 3XA. Tel.No. 01487 841786. Bookings acknowledged, with directions, please enclose a S.A.E.

Site by Great Ouse, 200yds. from town centre. Buses every 20 minutes to Huntingdon or Cambridge. Monday is Market Day in St.Ives, and on Saturday there is a Farmer's Market. More pubs, restaurants & charity shops than you could hope for! Glorious riverside walks.

**Please do not arrive before 12.30pm. on Thursday. Do not enter St.Ives Town Centre.**

Rally closes 11.00a.m. Tuesday.

**Note revised dates.**

**19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> August ( 5 nights) Shoreham Airshow Rally, West Sussex.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07999571461. ( Mobile).

Rally Marshals: Shirley & Chris Sturgeon & Thersa & Dave Smith.

Site Fee: £2.00 per night. Rally Fee: £2.30 (Incl.VAT).

**AIRSHOW TICKETS: £28.00 PER ADULT. £12.00 PER CHILD. (Covers both days).**

**GREENFIELD** Site with water & loo emptying. NO Electricity. Sorry no dogs allowed.

Saturday evening buffet meal available @ £4.60 per person (Incl.VAT). payable in advance.

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

**Attractions:** 2 day Airshow with on ground entertainment. Cycle rides from site.

**Directions:** On A27 between Brighton & Worthing leave A27 at traffic lights opposite the Sussex Pad Hotel & turn into Airport. (This is the only entrance for Motor Vans). Sussex Pad Hotel post code BN15 0RH. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 12 NOON ON Wednesday.

**21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009 (5 nights) Eskdale School, Whitby, North Yorks.**

Rally Marshals: Liz Irvin, Peter Brown & Chris Mawdsley.

Emergency Tel. No. 07711 271568 (Marshal's mobile).

Site Fees £4.70 per night. Rally Fees £3.00 couples £1.50 singles (both include VAT) **Greenfield**

**Site, No Toilets, No Electricity. All Hardstandings. Limit of 25 vans.**

Booking slips to Mrs E. Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, HULL, East Yorkshire.

HU10 7NP. Tel. No. 01482 658345. Cheques payable to Mrs. E. Irvin.

**Attractions:** This year Whitby will be busier than usual because the Regatta dates coincide with the Folk Festival. Whitby Regatta 22<sup>nd</sup>. 23<sup>rd</sup>. & 24<sup>th</sup> August. Whitby Folk Week 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August.

School off the Scarborough Road, buses at the school gates to Whitby. Come and explore Whitby's fascinating and historic streets and waterfront. The site is close to the Whitby end of the Moor to Sea Cycle Route with links to Scarborough and Pickering. For walkers the Cleveland Way coastal path is nearby. Visit Goathland where Heartbeat is filmed, or travel on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

**Directions:** From Scarborough on A171, on entering Whitby, after lay-by and 30mph. sign, turn left into Eskdale Road and the school is on the left. From Guisborough or Pickering on A171, enter Whitby and continue on the Scarborough road, cross the new Esk Bridge and continue up the hill to the top, Stainsacre Lane. Eskdale Road is on the right, before the industrial estate.

Post code YO22 4HS.

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> - Sun 30<sup>th</sup> August ( 5 nights) Topsham Rugby Club, Topsham, Nr. Exeter, Devon.**

Emergency Tel No. 07890876859 (Marshals' mobile.)

Rally marshals Elizabeth & Bryn Morgan 44 Mersey Road, Stockport. SK4 3DJ. Home Tel. No.0161 432 4869 and Nora & Ven Venables Home Tel. No.01902 332 105.

Site Fees: £7.00 per night. Rally Fee £4.70 for couples, £2.40 for singles incl. Vat.  
This is a **GREEN FIELD SITE** (No electricity.) We will be able to use the club's toilets facilities during the day. We plan to devise a roster so we can use the communal shower room (very basic). Dogs are allowed but they must be on a lead at all times and exercised off the site.

**N.B. Please say on rally slip if you are bringing a dog.**

The rugby club may have functions on whilst we are there. We hope to organise an al fresco "Bring Your Own Supper" one evening.

**ATTRACTIONS: TOPSHAM** is a delightful small town situated on the River Exe. Topsham Town Fair Week coincides with our rally. Topsham has an historic quay, ferries across the river and an excellent bus and train service to Exeter City and beyond so if you have an English concessionary bus pass bring it with you. The town has a good range of shops, eating places, pubs and an open-air heated swimming pool. The nearby River Clyst has a nature reserve that is popular with bird watchers. Dartmoor National Park is a short drive away. The rugby club is 300 yards from the town. Please send cheques payable to B. Morgan together with a rally slip and a self-addressed envelope (**we will put the stamp on**) to the address above.

Directions and confirmation of booking will then be sent to you. **Limit 35 vans.**

### 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. September Motorhome & RV Show, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

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

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

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

Rally Fee: £2.35 (Incl.VAT). Send rally fee with rally slip & SAE for Show application form to Mrs. J. Hicklin, 381 Manor Road, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. S43 1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236 157 **by 26<sup>th</sup>. August.** Show application forms to be returned to the organisers, Stone Leisure, by **3<sup>rd</sup>. September.**

### 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. September ( 4 nights) Whitemead Caravan Park, Wool, Dorset.

Emergency Tel.No.07714550731 Marshals mobile.

Rally Marshals: Barbara & Alan Potter.

Site Fees: £6.95 per night . Electricity £2.00 per night. Rally Fee: £2.35 per couple ,singles £1.75. All include VAT.

Booking slips & cheques to Barbara Potter, Westbrook. Mill Lane, Monks Risborough, Bucks HP27 9LG. Tel.No. 01844 274021.

**Local attractions:** include Monkey World, Bovington Tank Museum, Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Swanage, Studland Bay. Railway station & bus stops within a few minutes walk to Dorchester, Poole & Weymouth, & village pubs. Campsite also has shop & games room with a pool table & darts. Also a takeaway offering breakfast & evening meals.

**Directions:** From Dorchester follow A352 to Wool. Turn first left after railway crossing and site is 200yds on right. From Southampton follow A31 to Bere Regis then follow signs to Wool. Turn right just before level crossing, site 200yds on right.

### 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>. September ( 4 nights) Lochside C.P., Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway.

Emergency Tel.No. 07891704186 (marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Moira & Allan Blackstock.

Site Fee: £12.20 per night with electricity. £9.80 per night. no electricity. Rally Fee: £2.75 couples, £1.50 singles. All include VAT.

Rally slip & cheque with SAE to M.Blackstock, 39 Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston. PR1 9UJ. Tel.No. 01772 749178.

**Attractions:** Castle Douglas is a lovely little market town in South West Scotland on the bus route between Stranraer (60 miles with interesting towns and villages en route) and Dumfries home of Robert Burns ( 18 miles). Also regular buses to Ayr ( 40 miles) sorry only Scottish bus passes accepted. Ideal location for walking and cycling and a short drive from sea or hills. Wild life ,including red kites, is abundant.

( v )

**24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September ( nights) Masham Sheep Fair, Masham, North Yorks.**

Emergency Tel.No. 01765689569.Site Tel. NOT for rally bookings.

Rally Marshals: Alan Guest & Don Bland. Marshal's mobile 07918028696.

Site Fees:- £15.50 per night,with electric. £13.50 per night NO electric.

Rally Fee:-£8.50 couples,£6.00 singles.(VAT Incl.).

Saturday night a meal has been organised on site at £10.50 per head,including sweet & coffee. Meals also available.A trip to the Black Sheep Brewery can be arranged.Please indicate on slip if interested in meal or trip.

Rally slips & cheques payable to A.W.Guest,27 Chiltern Drive,Ackworth, Pontefract,West Yorks. WF7 7DW.Tel.No.01977 612773.

SAE for confirmation & directions.

**25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.The Motorhome Show,Season Finale, Lincoln Showground.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07711 271568.Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshal:-Liz Irvin & Jean Hall.

Please use the booking form that is enclosed with this Newsletter,or if booking online or with another form mark ASOC in the club box,and return the form to Warners **before 4<sup>th</sup> September.**

with the appropriate cheque. Arrive Thursday £39.00,arrive Friday £36.00 arrive Saturday £33.00 .

Then complete the ASOC rally slip and return ,with rally fee of £2.00 couples,£1.50 singles (Incl.VAT) to:- E.Irvin,43 School Lane,Kirk Ella,HULL,East Yorkshire,HU10 7NP.Tel.No. 01482 658345, e-mail [irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk)

The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday,but you may stay until 12 noon Monday.

*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.

*f* .....

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..

Marshal's to convey some useful information. That done the members dispersed to do whatever they wished in Dartmouth and its surrounding area in sunshine. In the town the wind was absent and it was very pleasant to be wandering through the old streets and to hear music of all sorts coming from a number of Music Festival venues such as the Bandstand in the park, Bayards Cove, Pubs and the Church etc.

Saturday, again fine weather with less wind over the site and comfortable in town. By now the members had found much to do; a visit to Agatha Christies 'Greenway House' (NT), her summer retreat overlooking the river and with its lovely gardens; travel by steam trains from Kingswear to Paignton or even do the 'Round Robin' - a river cruise to Totnes then bus to Paignton and back to Kingswear by train to meet the ferry across the river to Dartmouth. Others chose to go on the 'Mayflower Link' bus for 1 hour as far as Kingsbridge along the very pretty coast road. In a further hour it will carry you to Plymouth. The Royal Marines band put on a really great display marching and playing on the Parade Ground at the RN College in the afternoon which was free for all to see.

An impromptu coffee get together was held at 18.30 hours and from talking with those present it was sensed that a good time was being had by all.

Sunday, another fine day starting at 09.45 with a walk into Dartmouth and on out to the Castle and nearby Tea Rooms. We went by ferry from Dartmouth to the Castle and arrived in time to see a Bristol group of sea shanty singers doing their thing, it was good. There were plenty of other musical events on throughout the day for interested folk to attend. In the evening we held the final 'get together' and did the draw. The sun continued to shine as thanks and farewells

were expressed along with hopes to be able to return again to this delightful venue.

Richard and Jill McAllister.

### **National Rally**

We felt that we must express our admiration and thanks to all the huge army of helpers who contributed so much to the success of the whole weekend. What a masterpiece of organisation in all respects!

We had a wonderful weekend due to others hard work. The entertainment was excellent and the Friday evening presentation was most interesting, enjoyable and informative. The meals were superb.

We were delighted that the charity was so well supported and are pleased to be part of such a caring club. As someone previously mentioned "A society of carers".

Thanks to all. Jill and Tony Showell 4138

### **AND**

Please will you say a great big thankyou to all involved in organising and running the 20th National Rally - it was fantastic.

Mervyn and Irene Kitchin

### **WILL YE GO TO FLANDERS?**

The title of a folk song but a good idea too. Our trip in the Symbol in April was to the main tourist traps of Flanders starting with Ypres (correctly spelt in Flemish as Ieper) and

taking in Bruges (Brugge), Ghent (Gent), Antwerp and Brussels.

Ypres is a major setting of the First World War, not just the site of one battlefield but many including Passchendaele, over the course of 4 years and lives lost counted in millions. Most notable is the Cloth Hall, originally built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and its here that you will find the *In Flanders Field* museum dedicated to the miseries of the Ypres Salient as the area was known. You must also get to the Menin Gate for 8pm where the Last Post is played every night. The campsite for Ypres is conveniently close, at a sports centre about 20 minutes walk from the Menin Gate (or 30 minutes on crutches – did I mention that Elizabeth managed to damage foot tendons before we set off??

Our next stop was the trendy tourist destination of Bruges and we pitched at a pleasant campsite east of the centre on a convenient bus route. There is also a motorhome overnight parking area south of the centre (no toilets/washrooms, not cheap). It's a really pretty city with plenty of 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century architecture and canals (once linked to the sea) meandering through the centre. The boat trip is highly recommended to see the most of it. The merchants of the Middle Ages were keen to show their success at international trading, spending vast sums on their guild halls, churches and houses.

We took a day out to drive the coastal strip from Ostend to Knokke-Heist via De Haan (very pretty), Wenduine, Blankenberge, Zeebrugge (don't bother), and back via Damme (pretty village, restaurants galore) the original access port of Bruges.

Our next stop was Ghent and we stopped at a fairly large

commercial site. There is a regular bus service to the city but we discovered a very convenient car park right in the historic centre next to the major cathedrals and the Stadhuis (historic Town Hall). Do note though that the Symbol is ordinary car space sized so larger units may need to find an alternative or stick to the bus. The Belfort tower has an amazing Carillon playing tunes every 15 minutes and these are quite a common feature on many of the churches. We were close to the canal sides – the Graslei and the Korenlei which are lined by the most beautiful Flemish buildings from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Nearby is the Design Museum which has room settings from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the most amazing Art Nouveau and Art Deco displays (this is the Belgian take on the style, forget Rennie-Mackintosh), and incredible modern stuff from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century – well worth a visit.

Antwerp is the world centre for the diamond trade and yes, we got to the Diamond Museum and the nearby jewellers!! It's also home to Rubens House & Studio which unfortunately we did not get the opportunity to visit as it looks to be rather fine. Our site was fairly close to the centre, although on the wrong side of the river, but public transport was again excellent.

Then we headed to Brussels and found a very pleasant site just 8 miles north of the city in Grimbergen. Note the odd arrangement with security barriers – locked from 11-30 in the morning until 2pm. If you didn't get your unit out before then you were locked in! Not a problem for us as we took the bus into the centre, but other late risers were captive.

We were straight into the main shopping area which led us down to the Grote Market with its fabulous Town Hall and

other fine buildings, then on through the St Hubert Galleries (an early form of covered Mall), straight into "Butchers Alley" a narrow street now full of eateries spilling out onto the cobbled road.

We were keen to see the Comic Strip Museum in the centre and this is worth a visit particularly if you like Belgian artist Herge's Adventures of Tintin and Snowy. The Atomium has been totally refurbished for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and very impressive it is, attracting thousands of visitors. You can pay to go right to the top and there was even a charity abseil happening too.

We had organised a trip to the Opera as the highlight of my special birthday tour, and despite Grimbergen being just 8 miles from the centre we were quoted 70 Euros (at the time around 70 "quid") for a taxi!

So we moved to a new site east of the city at Wezembeek, not as pretty as Grimbergen but a short drive to the Metro. From there it was a 20 minute journey close to the venue and all for 1-60 each way.

After a Night At The Opera (Lucia di Lammermoor) we headed back to Calais for the ferry. It was only at Passport Control that the official revealed that there was a fishermen's blockade and we would not be on the 6-30pm crossing. Fortunately, we were booked on Sea France and they had all their ships lined up ready to go, so we were first away at 10pm. I felt sorry for the P&O customers who had to wait for their ferries to cross from Dover.

If you decide to go I offer some pointers: a small country, 10 million inhabitants, roads seemed busier than France;

expensive even allowing for appalling exchange rate (Apr 09); credit card use was a nightmare – many businesses only take Belgian cards; diesel price 84p to 98p but cheap and expensive could be just a mile apart; and yes, everyone speaks English!

**Rob Corcoran, Skye**

### **Neil's Reminder**

Could I please remind all members that they should have their current A.S.O.C. membership cards with them when they are attending any A.S.O.C. rallies, at home or abroad. You may be requested to show them to the marshals when attending a rally. Please also remember to put your membership number on your rally slip and complete both sides when applying for a place on a rally.

If you have any mobility problems the marshals would appreciate a note in the "Special Needs" section of the rally slip. This will enable them to hopefully pitch you in a suitable site

Thank you for your co-operation.  
Neil Rogers (Rally Co-ordinator).

### **E 111's**

Further to Richard and Jill McAllister's note regarding checking dates on E111s - (great information and timing as when I checked ours were already out of date in January and we are off to France for a few weeks in May!!) - there was a letter in the Camping & Caravan Club Magazine giving the internet site of [www.ehic.org.uk](http://www.ehic.org.uk) to renew on line also. I have just very quickly and easily completed the application form there and am now awaiting new cards.

Pearl England.



## Welcome to New Members

Tony & Jean Maher	Birmingham	Gloucester
Alan & Jo Jackson	Ambleside	Nuevo
Graham & Mary Laer	Long Hanborough	Duetto
John Bailey	Sleaford	Berkshire
Baz & Gill Scott	Pagham	Gatcombe
John & Joyce Adamson	Carnforth	Symbol
Dave & Sue Idle	Leeds	Talisman
Jeff & Janet Cowan	Gosport	Legend
Mike & Sue Humble	Hull	Nuevo
Paul & Ann Thomas	Cullompton	Clubman
Alan & Carolyn Baker	Sutton Coldfield	Berkshire
Derrick Spendlow	Lincoln	Duetto
John & Carol Hawkins	Nr Chichester	Executive
Barrie & Pat Levick	Doncaster	Pollensa
Roy & Julia Jones	Manche	Amethyst
Paul & Judi Hooper	Harrogate	Duetto
David & Mary Pearson	Thames View	Flair
Deborah Croot & Sue Brown	Brighouse	Talisman
Mike & Ann Pritchard	Rhose	Harmony
Derek & Maureen Lihou	Maidstone	Nuevo

**Adley Predator Scooter**, 02 plate. 125cc, less than 700 miles, weight 88 kgs dry, will have new MOT, helmet storage under saddle and top box. Stored for the last 3 years. £600 ONO. A Watling Engineering Scooter rack/carrier, bolts onto towbar, includes saddle clamp. Used 4 times. £150

**Contact Mike Valentine 0123 9248 2818 Portsmouth area.**

A pair of **Universal Stowaway 3 folding bikes**. Archer 3 speed gears, bells, Velo Geltsch saddle covers, one with basket. Owners manual guide, pump, locks and cover for both bikes, as new £150 the pair. **Contact Sylvia or Norman (Guildford) 01483 562 986**

**Many thanks for the donations sent**

### *Obituaries*

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Dennis Gripton, or as he was known to his friends as Grippio. His magic touch of making you feel special, at ease and inclusive at rallies was well known, as also was his way of talking the hind legs off a donkey it was down to a fine art. Dennis will be missed. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Joan and their family.

Regards to both.

Ozzie

Dear friends,

I hardly know how to thank you all for the love and support you have given me since the death of my beloved Den(Grippio to many of you).The messages, cards and phone calls I have received have been overwhelming. I am so proud to know how special Den was to so many people and I am sure you know how much he loved all of you too. We have had some lovely times since joining ASOC and have made so many wonderful friends. Please keep in touch and be sure of a warm welcome if you need a pit stop or to park up overnight.

With much love Joan Gripton.



**Clubman GL 2.4 Diesel.** 1993/94 'L' reg. 65,000 miles, service history. New cambelt. 2 berth (parts available to convert to 4 berth.) Usual facilities fridge, blown heating, gas fire, oven, 2 burner stove, toilet, shower. Side awning, Silver screens. Status aerial. Levelling blocks. Electric cable. MOT to April 2010. 6 months tax. 2 Lap belts to rear seats. Good condition for age. £12,000 or very near offer.  
**Contact Sue Hector 0113 2862619.**  
(Leeds) email for pictures.  
[sue.hector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sue.hector@hotmail.co.uk)

**Free Standing Awning (Olymp),** side or rear fitting, breathable rip stop polyester/ fibre poles 11.2 Kg, fit AS Harmony or similar, good condition cost £240 accept £70.  
**Contact Neil or Shona 01332 660160 (Derby) or 0780 5328507 (mobile).**

**TRIDENT,** 1995, in Excellent condition, 48,100 mls only. Full 12 months MoT, Tax to Oct 09. Fiamma bike-rack, wind-out awning and front wall, internal and external Silver Screens,

new Sony 'Bluetooth' Radio/CD all included. £10,750. **Please call Tess or David on 01737-246816 (Reigate, M25/J8).**

**AS Talisman GL (1991) 2.5 TD** 75,000 miles 4 berth. Towbar, Air ride suspension, rear lap belts and immobiliser. Omnistor. New exhaust and cambelt. Very good condition throughout. £9,250 offers considered.  
**Phone Barry Pont 0796 8598 744 / 01424 719984 (Hastings)**

**AS Legend Ford Transit T Reg 1999** 2.5 Turbo Diesel Power steering Auto Gearbox 56,775 miles VGC. All AS refinements U shaped lounge 2 Berth. Oyster Sat system TV with Sky receiver 4 new tyres New cam belt 07 New leisure batt 09 Portable 40watt solar panel and regulator. Ill health forces sale, £16000 or vno  
**Mr & Mrs H Bowker 0161 284 411 Mobile 0771 444 1226**

**Duetto Ford 2.5 Turbo Diesel 1998 R** 45,000 miles New cam belt FSH non-smokers no pets excellent condition silver screens etc. taxed and tested £15,450 **Contact Gordon Pugh 0114 284 7437 (South Yorkshire)**

Genuine internal **silver screens** to fit Mercedes Vito £10. Superview **awning panel** 3.2m(w) X 2m(h) depicting Monsal viaduct for fitting to a Fiamma wind-out awning unused £50. Buyers to collect in both cases please (Bedfordshire area). **Contact Barry Page 01462 731972 or email [bwppferndale@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bwppferndale@tiscali.co.uk)**

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Items for the Newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. You may post them to 5 Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 1WA or e-mail to [petercb1952-asocnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petercb1952-asocnews@yahoo.co.uk). Or when notified to, send to Deputy Editor **Dudley Woodhams** at 83 Langdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7DY or e-mail to [snowgoose1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:snowgoose1@hotmail.co.uk)

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