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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: 4818969*



"I tell you, these ralliers today have got it too easy!"

Thanks to Jim and Maureen Samuels for the cartoon

Didn't we all say that when we were tenting?

NEWSLETTER 251

August 2009

From the Editor (S)

Firstly **DO NOT** forget that all input for the newsletter goes to **Peter** until further notice.

Well that's it for the present and we hope you have enjoyed our efforts but I have to say it was not easy because you are not doing your bit and sending us loads of interesting copy. This does not have to be directly related, anything interesting, informative or amusing is acceptable and I am sure you all read and see so many things that would be useful.

Enough moaning, what's next for us? Well our next outing is the Lichfield rally which we are really looking forward to as two years ago I had trouble with the wheelchair so couldn't do much. Last year we had to cancel because I was in hospital, so this year we hope we have it organised as the rally finishes on Sunday and I have an organised week in hospital starting on the Monday. Next we will be at the Whitby rally, again really looking forward to it as we didn't make it last year. **WARNING** we will probably be bringing our German Shepherd to both of these, she is a rescue dog and has her problems but is improving all the time now and is ready to meet (maybe at a distance, we'll see) our really excellent and patient friends in the club.

Haven't we been having some wonderful weather (pleased don't say it is too hot, let's enjoy it while we can) I know there have been a few off days but don't be selfish the gardens and wildlife need some rain to survive so that we can say " isn't that a lovely flower". So far it is the best season we have had for a long time and we regret not being able to make the most of it but are enjoying it anyway.

As usual we have really enjoyed putting your newsletter together and look forward to next time, (if Peter allows us near it again), when I will attempt to find a theme which generates more interest than this year's did.

For now we wish you all well and good MotorHoming so Bye For Now from Kathleen and myself.

A Word of Thanks

I was greatly touched to read Ozzie's most kind words marking my retirement from Auto- Sleepers. Likewise, I have to date received over 60 letters and cards not only to mark this significant event in my life but also to thank me for all the help I have, through the Service Centre,

given in the past. I shall of course reply to each of these individually, suffice to say that I was enormously touched to receive so many kind comments and such heartfelt thanks as well. To say that I was most touched would indeed be an understatement.

I was interested to read in a recent press release that the Company had once again changed hands, I do so hope that this leads to the stability that Auto-Sleepers so richly deserves. The changes of ownership over recent years has never proved very satisfactory, and I know that on behalf of us all I wish Geoff Scott and Mike Crouch all the very best for the future. They now own a Company of which we are very fond, and hope that in their hands it will once again thrive, as it did so many years ago. With Best Wishes,

Charles Trevelyan.

A sad farewell to ASOC

We have recently sold our Autosleeper and now have a caravan, so after a very enjoyable 5 years with the club, we sadly have to say goodbye. We have made many friends and numerous acquaintances over this time and will miss the camaraderie of the rallies. Thanks to all of you who have organised the brilliant rallies we have attended, and to everyone at the rallies for your friendship and for making us feel so welcome.

We hope that we'll bump into you (not literally) on a campsite somewhere, sometime, but until we do, enjoy your club and the rallies.

Bye for now.

Pat and Malc Appleby

A Cautionary Tale

Whilst on holiday recently in Germany I had an accident on my bike. After seeking advice from reception at the camp site, we were told the nearest hospital was 20kms away so off we went. Within an hour I'd been seen by a doctor had x rays, an ultra sound, prescribed medication and we were on our way. Didn't even ask for our E111. Very impressed!!

But the shock came when we returned home to find a bill for 173 Euros waiting for us!

Maybe we are naive. We weren't told it was a private hospital and thought we had a reciprocal arrangement within the EU.

Has anyone else had this experience?

Janis Wood 4201

Some interesting and useful information from Peter

Re the piece from the Guy's on page 6 – they may not have been in the Club when we mentioned that our bathroom cabinet doors had fallen out in a similar manner. The cause was a leak from a baby oil bottle – the oil dissolving the adhesive that holds the bottom runner in place.

Since then we have successfully used baby oil to remove 'sticky' labels from many new plastic articles!!!

A real life little anecdote that we read in our travels, and which we believe has a moral to it for us all:

He had the fastest `van` in town, or so he always said,

We'll never know if this was true, because you see he's dead!

He made all trips in record time, of this he always raved,

We wonder what he's doing now – with all the time he saved!!

Pam & Terry Holtom (No: 0015)

Parking in Newbury

The following information may be useful to members travelling on the A339 through Newbury. Many may like to stop off at Sainsburys on the A339 but there are "improvements" are being made to this store and the car park has been changed by having a 9 foot height barrier at the entrance to the store car park. Apparently it will still be possible to obtain fuel from the petrol station.

As our Nuevo is our only form of transport we have asked several people at Sainsburys how people with high sided vehicles can get in but have not had a satisfactory answer so it looks as if Sainsburys will be losing custom.

There is some parking elsewhere in Newbury if you get there early but due to a lot of construction it might be hard to find.

Ernie Prince (Membership No. 1044)

Use of Pressure Jet

In the August issue of the Practical Motor home advice is given on page 26 regarding the use of high pressure jet hoses on motorhomes. I'd like to add the caution, I first mentioned in 2007, that most pressure jets give a warning on not using the jet too close to either the tyre or the valve .

In my case the advice given was: -

- "Vehicle tyres/tyre valves may be damaged and burst by the high-pressure jet. A first sign is discolouration of the tyre. Damaged vehicle tyres/tyre valves are hazardous. Always perform cleaning with a

minimum distance of 30cm."

I have contacted Practical Motorhome accordingly
Baz

From Scotland

We crossed o'er the border to join with the Scots
Our first ASOC stop was Culzean
The sunsets, the castle, old friends and new
Happy to all meet again.

The ferry to Arran was next on the list
Good weather with which we were blessed
The tea meet, the boules match, good fun had by all,
But oh those damn midges - a pest!

Came time to depart for Oban and the North
The ferry could take but a few,
But stoked up with sandwiches, coffee and such
We none of us minded the Queue.

The scenery for the trip north was sublime
With mountains and lochs by the score,
On arriving at Barcaldine pitches - guess what?
The midges did greet us once more!

(The shops selling midge nets sure boosted their sales
As we all rushed to cover our heads,
Laughing whilst trying to see "who was Who"
On our way to the showers or our beds!)

Next day with a breeze and slight chill in the air
We campers all had some respite
But with evening came sun and the air was more calm,
So the midges returned for a bite!

The leaders said "We'll meet up later"
So we all turned up in our "disguise"
But the midges they swam in our tea cups
We retreated from those tiny flies.

Our leader then had a great brainwave
"We'll all meet indoors at the inn"

A quiz and a great deal of laughter
Jelly Babies the prize for a win.

Our next venture north was to Glencoe
A 'leisurely drive' we were told
We had an unfortunate mishap
Our mirror and windows were holed!

We drove up to Morvich and Skye next
Repairs to our windows complete
We went on a glass-bottomed boat trip
OAP'S enjoying a treat. (apologies for anyone younger!!)

We finally drove to Fort William
By Ben Nevis and into the glen
Thanks Allan, Moira, Jenny and Tommy
Cheers! 'til we all meet again.

The attached poem was written by Rhona Bamber on the West Scotland Tour. The mishap referred to in verse 9 was caused while meeting a white van, the road was not particularly narrow but it still managed to hit the off-side mirror putting it through the quarter light. When they reached the site at Glencoe, Rhona looked quite ill with fright.

On the whole the tour was a great success.

Regards

Moira Blackstock

Many Thanks

May we through the newsletter thank all the members of the "Hurley Rally" who, even though we were unable to be with them, found out it was our wedding anniversary signed and sent us a card, also the other club friends who sent reminders, what it is to have so many wonderful "GOLDEN FRIENDS".

John and Barbara WILSON. Mem No 172

It could have ended before it began.....

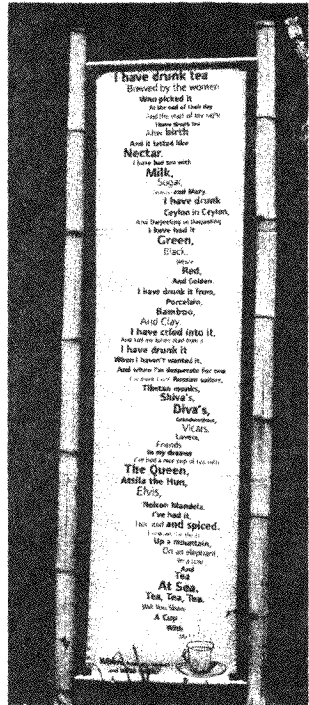
But thanks to fellow ASOC members, the distressed owners of 'Polly Too', having left home for the Rudesheim rally and suffering the trauma of being loaded onto a breakdown recovery vehicle, soon found they were being well looked after by Brian and Sylvia Smith.

We would like to record our grateful thanks for their support and hospitality – proof of what ASOC is all about, friendship and generosity.

James and Jill Bertlin

A Nice Cup of Tea!

*I have drunk tea
 brewed by the women
 who picked it at the end of their day
 and the start of my night,
 I have drunk tea
 after birth and it tasted like nectar,
 I have had tea with milk, sugar and jasmine
 I have drunk Ceylon in Ceylon,
 Darjeeling in Darjeeling,
 I have had it Green, Black,
 White Red and Golden.
 I have drunk it from
 Porcelain, Bamboo
 and Clay.
 I have cried into it,
 And had my future read from it.
 I have drunk it
 when I haven't wanted it,
 And when I'm desperate for one,
 I've drunk it with Russian Sailors,
 Tibetan monks, Shiva's, Diva's,
 Grandmothers, Vicars,
 Lovers and Friends.
 In my dreams
 I've had a nice cup of tea with
 The Queen,
 Attila the Hun,
 Elvis and
 Nelson Mandela.
 I've had it,
 hot iced and spiced,
 I've drunk it in the air
 Up a mountain,
 On an elephant,
 In a train,
 Tea at sea.
 Tea, Tea, Tea,
 Will you share a cup with me?*



Found at The Eden Project

Thanks go to Sheila and David Stewart for this wonderful sign.

They pointed out that ASOC members love their "cuppas" so could it be an ode to ASOC Members?

22 June 2009

AUTO-SLEEPERS GROUP LTD RETURN TO BRITISH OWNERSHIP WITH MANAGEMENT BUY OUT

Auto-Sleeper Group Ltd (ASG) that includes the prestigious motorhome manufacturing brand of Auto-Sleepers and the UK's largest motorhome dealer network Marquis, has been subject to a successful management buyout from its parent company S.E.A (Società Europea Autocaravan) based in Italy.

Existing directors Geoff Scott BA (Hons), FCCA and Mike Crouch recently acquired 100% of the shareholding to become equal partners and return ASG into British private ownership.

Scott will continue in his current role of ASG Chief Executive Officer with Crouch being appointed ASG Managing Director. Geoff Scott commented "Auto-Sleepers and Marquis are brand names that collectively have 84 years of history within the motorhome industry. I am delighted and honoured to have the opportunity to continue building upon the solid foundations of these renowned British marques. It continues to be a turbulent marketplace where long-term visibility remains clouded. However, despite the current market, Auto-Sleepers are currently experiencing a renaissance and I am confident that ASG will enjoy a successful future."

Mike has spent the last 30 years working for Marquis and has been the driving force behind the retail division since becoming MD in the millennium year. Commenting on his new role Mike says, "I am extremely proud that from humble beginnings, Marquis is today the UK's largest motorhome dealer network. When I joined the industry, without question, Auto-Sleepers were the leading motorhome manufacturer in the UK. I am relishing the challenge that becoming MD of both Auto-Sleepers manufacturing and Marquis retail will bring. I sincerely hope that with my usual extra passion and enthusiasm along with the current resurgence being enjoyed, Auto-Sleepers can be driven to its maximum."

The new owners will be ably supported by an experienced management team and workforce and look forward to continuing success.



Chairman's Chat

You may be surprised to learn that the Auto-Sleeper Group Ltd is now back in British Hands. Geoff Scott of ASG and Mike Crouch of Marquis have been successful in a Management Buy Out from the parent company SEA of Italy. I am sure that you would all like me to wish them both every success in the future. I look forward to strengthening the association between the club and the company.

The last 12 months have been very difficult for the company, not only with the shortage of chassis supply but because of sub-contract companies making sub assemblies going out of business. This has led to the factory production being scaled back and this in turn has led to some production personnel redundancies. The company will continue to build top quality vans and offer owners the first class service through the Service Centre we have all come to appreciate. Two new vans have been announced this month, the Stratford, a panel van and the Broadway RTB, a 2 bench model and with another new model being launched in October at the NEC.

A new logo is to be trialed for a limited period incorporating the Union Flag, see sketch, no doubt we will await the outcome!

It is good to see and hear of so many members attending rallies this year and with the weather being kind to most!

I would still like to hear of any suggestions re. how we might improve/modify the National Rally next April/May so that it attracts more members.

Please send your suggestions to me,

Mike Valentine, 11
Hamilton Close,
Langstone, Havant PO9
1RP OR is 'if it a'int
broke don't try to fix
it'!!



Auto-Sleepers
PROUD TO BE BRITISH

Rally News

Isle of Wight Rally

We would like to thank Ken and Mac for the most enjoyable rally on the Isle of Wight. The site was great and within walking distance of a huge Tesco store. We made our usual visit to Godshill and enjoyed so much bus hopping and sight seeing, thanks to our free bus passes! The weather was kind and the ghost walk was great fun.

Keith Taylor and Rita Jones.

What a lovely few days we had with Ken and Mac.

Ken could not have picked a lovelier site, superb toilet block and other facilities, with very friendly wardens.

We had some very good walks in the area, 1 with a pub at the end, with very good meals. The weather was perfect, not too hot.

Ken had arranged for a guided Ghost Walk, learned a bit of history, also had a good laugh.

We stayed on the Island for another 18 nights and it ended up very hot.

Well done to both Ken & Mac.

Nice cup of tea also.

We are sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

Dave & Trish Robinson 5662



August 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.

******CANCELLED 29th. October – 1st. November Chatham Historic Dockyard.
Circumstances beyond our control.**

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.

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 11th 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.

If you wish to attend the rally for less than 11 days please contact the marshal.

12th 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)7890 522057

Rally Fee: £16.50 inc VAT, no
Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampste
email address if you have one,

RALLY FULL

ce. Rally slips & cheques to A.
18 0RY. Please provide your
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.

Note revised dates.

19th - 24th 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 &
Saturday evening buffet meal

RALLY FULL

y. Sorry **no dogs allowed.**
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.**

21st - 26th 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 22nd, 23rd, & 24th August. Whitby Folk Week 22nd to 28th 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 25th -Sun 30th 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 exercised off the site.

N.B. Please say on rally slip

RALLY FULL

The rugby club may have func

re. 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.

10th - 13th 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 26th August. Show application forms to be returned to the organisers, Stone Leisure, by 3rd September.

(iii.)

14th -18th . 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,Durrah Door,Coffe 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**.

21st - 25th 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.

**24th -27th September. The Motorhome Show Season Finale
Lincolnshire Showground Lincoln**

Emergency Tel. No. 07711271568 (Marshals mobile).

Rally Marshals: Liz Irvin and Jeanne Hall.

Rally Fee £2.00 couples or £1.50 for singles per unit, incl. VAT.

Please use the booking form from the July Newsletter or a form from MMM or Which M.Van.

Please send rally slip and cheque for the rally fee payable to Mrs E Irvin: 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorks. HU10 7NP. Tel No. 01482 658345 email: irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk

Lincolnshire Showground is approx 20 miles from Newark, and the showground has tarmac access roads to the camping fields. Warners are opening the Exhibition Area from 1.p.m on Thursday. Entertainment is free except for Saturday evening (£9. apply for tickets on Warners booking form)

Warners site fees for ASOC are:- arriving Thursday £39, Friday £36 Saturday £33. You may stay until 12 noon Monday, but the rally ends 12 noon Sunday. Please make sure Warners form has ASOC marked in the Club Area. The closing date is **4th September.**

24th - 28th 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.

cheque 69 11/8/09

Advance notice.

6th - 10th November (4 nights). Sedgemoor Carnival,Burnham on Sea Holiday Village,Burnham on Sea. TA8 1NQ

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

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

Site Fee: £55.00.(Includes electric). Rally Fee: £2.50. Total £57.50.(Incl.VAT).

Rally slips & cheques made payable to: Brian Ellis,52 Golf Links Road,Burnham on Sea, Somerset.TA8 2PP. Tel.No. 01278 784 524. Mobile 07711375323.

Please send a **SAE** for confirmation.

Burnham Holiday Village is a full facility site.

Rally limited to 70 pitches,40 are hardstanding the remainder are grass.

Pitches will be allocated as slips are received,hard standings first.All pitches have hook up and are accessed by tarmac roads.There are also site toilets & showers.Please indicate on rally slip if you are disabled or have special needs we will try to accommodate you closer to the facilities.

NO PETS ALLOWED,site rules.

Continued on page vi.

Attractions:

Saturday coach trip to Clarks' Village of Street (shopping). Please indicate on slip if interested, approx. £3.75 each.Coach 9.30 am & 11.30 am from holiday village.**DO NOT** send these payments with your slip.

Sunday a.m.Scenic stroll (weather permitting) through park onto Highbridge Caravans,sales & accessories for tea & biscuits and a browse.**Evening** Fireworks display on beach followed by dingbat quiz.

Monday Coffee morning then a stroll along beach to pub (Food available).

Evening two hour (approx) Carnival Procession.through Burnham.

Tuesday rally ends noon.

The Holiday Village is approx.10 mins walk from the town centre. A Tesco store is a short ride out of town with parking.There is also a Somerfield in the town.

Directions: M5 to Jct 22 exit to large island, turn left on A38. Follow signs to Holiday Village. Head towards Highbridge, Bridgwater. Bear right at next island, pass Highbridge Caravans and over railway bridge to Asda Super market Island (store and large car park to your left), turn right and follow signs to Holiday Village. At mini island by petrol station, turn left site is the about a quarter of a mile on the left.

Rally starts at 10.00a.m. Friday 6th. November.

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**

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.

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.**

Whitefield Forest Rally.

Many thanks to Ken Bolton and Mac McArthur for such a good rally, with 22 units attending, many via a Red Funnel Ferry deal at an all in cost of £108. The site is just south of Ryde in a forest setting with terraced pitches and is very attractive. It offered a modern facility block with good showers etc., and local walks and cycle rides. There were regular buses (every 15 minutes in either direction) with convenient stops just outside the gates making it very easy to travel to virtually anywhere on the island. It was great to see the red squirrels that live in the trees around the site and also buzzards. About half a mile away is a very large Tesco store. On Saturday evening many of us went on an arranged ghost walk in Newport, most interesting and very spooky! On Sundays there are at least three car-boot sales locally, the biggest being on the Tesco car park commencing at 4 pm after the store closes. The five nights went all too quickly and we were soon on the ferry again returning to Southampton.

From Southampton we continued on to the Hurley Rally for 3 nights. It was most enjoyable with riverside walks and bike rides. Thursday evening's barbeque was lovely with great weather and an amusing talk from the Punch and Judy man, Clive Denton. The red kites put on regular spectacular flights. Thank you to Rita, John, Shirley, Chris, Theresa and Dave.
Jill and Richard McAllister

Chinon French Rally:

We're pleased to say we now have sufficient ralliers to be able to negotiate a 10% discount, which should still make the site fee under £10 per day. There is still space for more ralliers; and fuller details are in the Rally Supplement, if you're interested. Please contact us if you require a shorter stay.

Dorothy & Baz Wellard

Hello,

My name is Charlie and I am a 6 year old Cocker Spaniel. I recently went with my people, Mike and Heather, in my Auto sleeper mobile kennel to Trish and Ted's rally at Delftse Hout. I was the only dog on the rally so I was spoilt by everyone.

The campsite was superb with wonderful walks in the woods and in the surrounding countryside. Some people went on bikes as it was superb cycling country. There were also trips arranged to the flower auction, the flood barrier, Alkmaar cheese market and a living museum. It was quite a relief to have a snooze in the van after all the walking, and also when it was not possible for me to go on the trips. There was also a walk to the farm, but I did not go to that as I might have frightened the animals! I did go to a very interesting dice game, all the people were laughing and joking and seemed to be having a great time.

I had a really late walk one night when my people came back from the communal meal Trish and Ted had organised in the recreational room of the site, Mike and Heather said it was great and that they were well full up!

It was a shame that Vic and Jan couldn't come as Trish said she felt she had lost her right arm, but both she and Ted did a fantastic job in organising a wonderful rally which everybody enjoyed thoroughly. I know our family enjoyed every minute and I would like to 'paws' here and say a great big thank you.

From Charlie (and Mike and Heather Tucker 5477)

The West Coast of Scotland

The Scottish 'experience' had to be seen to be believed. Around every corner was something more breathtaking than the last. Alan, Moira, Tommy and Jennie had had a

mammoth task planning and booking everything – our different campsites, our ferries, our glass-bottom boat trip and the different castles to visit – they must have worked endlessly and tirelessly to make our 18 days interesting.

Although we had the company of 'beaties' – which put in their appearance a month too soon – there were a lot of 'veiled' folks about, gentlemen as well as ladies. It was good fun trying to recognise everyone!!

Thanks again folks for organising an experience none of us will forget.

Della Chapman.

West Coast Scotland Tour Report

We would like to thank everyone who attended the above tour, with special thanks to Tommy and Jenny for organizing the ferries (no mean task for 24 motorhomes) and for their help during the rally.

Starting at Culzean Castle camp site on Saturday 30th May we were pleased to find two ASOC members the Smiths who live at Stranraer and the Maxwells from Kirkcudbright had also booked on for the weekend in order to meet up with us and wish us well with George and Helen from Ayr coming along on Saturday evening just to say hello. We had heard that it was George's 80th birthday on the previous day so Jenny provided a cake and we had a card for him then Don Bland announced it was also his birthday so they had a double celebration. During the tour Les Howells, Brian Eldridge and Alan Guest had birthdays and Richard and Georgina Keefe celebrated their wedding anniversary, a jolly time was had by all and it was a good excuse to have cake.

On Monday morning when we arrived at Ardrossan for the ferry to Arran we were met by another member who lives nearby, he had come to wave us on our way. Our club really is the best for friendship.

We were saddened by the death of Dennis Gripton and although one couple delayed their joining us to attend his funeral a few more of us would have wished to go, however at the exact time of the funeral those who knew Dennis gathered round the marshal's van and remembered him, this was not a sombre occasion as a few of us recounted our memories which in the main caused laughter.

Our four days each at Lochranza, Oban, Morvich and two days at Glencoe and Glen Nevis were filled mainly with sightseeing - only coming back to roost weary but happy after so much driving but the scenery was worth it.

We took a trip on a glass bottomed boat from Kyle of Lochalsh, unfortunately we didn't see much underwater but Liz did get a photo of a jellyfish and we did see the wreck of HMS Napier, a mine-laying vessel sunk during WWII.

We had a boules match at Lochranza with a cup and Scotland's second national drink (Irn Bru) for the winning team and on the final two evenings at Glen Nevis where a Dutch rally was taking place we had some international competition (to the proper rules - not Cedric's). ASOC did quite well and the Dutch team very generously presented us with two bottles of wine.

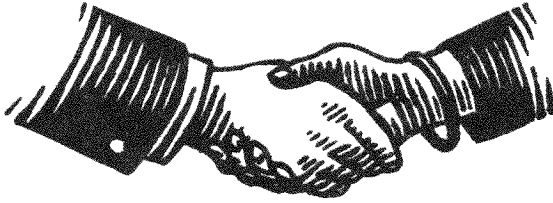
Allan and I enjoyed the trip, we did have the occasional problem but nothing insurmountable the worst being the scourge of the Western Highlands THE MIDGE, how such tiny beasties can be so vicious beats me, however they did provide us with the excuse to meet in disguise of and evening causing more laughter, have you ever tried drinking your tea through a midge net? Unfortunately we had to give up on the idea of meeting socially out of doors after 7pm.

On the whole we couldn't complain - the weather was glorious and without exception the 46 people were marvelous.

We have been asked 'will we do it again'. The answer is maybe but not this year or next.

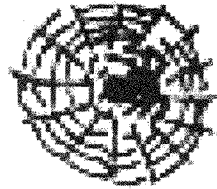
Moir Blackstock

Welcome to New Members



Peter Howell & Marjorie Bailey	Weston-Super-	Symbol
Ian Kent	Mare	Talisman
Victor & Lesley Meddings	Moulton	Executive
Nigel & Jean Willis	Poulton-le-Fyld	Executive
Duncan & Margaret Hoyle	Newton Stewart	Executive
Chris & Nan Clarke	Heysham	Broadway
Steve & Wendy Vickers	Nr Towcester	Executive
Ian & Janet McLuckie	Newport	Executive
	Newmachar	Lancashir
		e
John & Sheila King	Harpenden	Symbol
Josie Busby	Coventry	Symbol
David & Norma Hodgson	Lonan	Nuevo
Brian & Eunice Lockett	Warrington	Pollensa
Paul & Maggie Dekkers	Lydney	Clubman
Norah Miles	Prescot	Ravenna
Peter Simpson	Trowbridge	Nuevo
Alan & Anne Buckley	Oldham	Symbol
John & Ros Clarke	Lincoln	Nuevo 20
Roger & Yvonne Blunden	Llanfyllin	Nuevo
Bonita & Bryan Daines	Beetley	Executive
William & Joyce Jewitt	Louth	Nuevo
Paul Randall & Jenny Turner	Rochester	
Pamela Rotherham & Neil		
Porter	Bolton	Symbol
Derek & Sylvia Johnson	Sileby	Duetto

Baz Wellard
Chairman,
Technical Group & Webmaster



Improved digital TV:

My Avtex TV (*W102D*) suffers when there's a poor digital signal when using the vans omni-directional aerial – and reception at the National Rally was no exception. However, John Tubb, who had the same TV, had very clear pictures – why? The difference was he was using an Avtex STH 1000 directional aerial with in-built head amplifier. However when I tried his aerial with my set it was still no better!

On return home I diagnosed that the 5 volt, (*supplied from the TV*) used to power the Avtex head amplifier was missing! I contacted Avtex and they collected the TV at 1200 Wednesday and returned it repaired at 1100 Friday. Brilliant service with no charge for the repair or postage - even though it was out of guarantee!

I have now purchased the aerial (*circa* £35) and I can recommend its performance. For non Avtex sets a separate 12 volt supply can be used with the supplied adaptor. (*See also Ideas Sheets No's 169 & 177*).

Archived "Hints & Tips"?

I have consolidated Tech Group "Hints & Tips", along with those from individual members, which have been published in the Club Newsletter over the last 5 years. Hopefully they may be useful to members who may have forgotten them but particularly to newer/new members. The archive will be regularly updated and available, on request.

I can e-mail the archive to anyone interested, if you e-mail

me at baz.wellard@virgin.net ; or I can post them to on receipt of an SAE sent to: - 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7UF

Ideas Sheets:

The following Ideas Sheets have been approved, and copies can be obtained by sending an SAE to me at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF :-

- No. 177 Directional digital amplified TV aerial & socket
- No. 178 Duetto – switching off Interior light from the bed
- No. 180 Improved waste drain tap
- No. 181 Wilton – larder modification
- No. 182 Easiest & quickest way of filling a fresh water tank

Any new Ideas to me please - with description and, if possible, photos.

Website: -

Update No. 05/09 contained:

- New Ideas Sheets listed above
- Follow up answers to outstanding queries at the National Question & Answer Session
- Updated rally spreadsheet

Update No. 06/09 contained:

- Rally report & photos from Isle of Wight rally
- Rally report & photos from the Scottish rally tour
- Availability of archived 'hints & tips'
- Copy of Auto Sleepers Group (ASG) – Press Release

OOPS !!

With lifetime of numerous caravans, after four years of motorhomes I thought I might have learnt where the 'on-off switch' was. Not the case with our new Mercedes 'Northants', twice within a month we were reduced to calling out 'Green Flag' with a really flat battery.

A visit to our Commercial Mercedes dealer proved a novelty for them normally playing with Sprinter 'vans up to Juggernaut Lorries, they were more interested in this home on wheels reluctantly decid-ing to do a bit of work and sort the little problem of a sick battery despite being only a couple of months from new within no time at all, a replacement under warranty, leaving the 'spanner jockeys' to enquire as to whether we normally left the mobile phone and satnav plugged into the cigarette lighter? As the case with our Honda FR-V and the daughter's Audi TTS, when the ignition is switched off so the 'plug-Ins' go off, not so with our Mercedes 'Northants' with two cigarette lighters, one stays alive - yes, trust us to use the wrong one - draining the battery in no time.

Moral is: When all fails, read instructions ... preferably, before failing



Thanks for all the donations

For Sale Correction
Sorry the home phone
number has a digit missing
it should be
0161 284 0411
H Bowker M No 1048
The Mobile number is
correct

Sunflair Maestro free standing awning complete with aerated ground sheet, inner tent and curtains. £90.

R E Wood 01353 860658
(Cambs)

Duetto Ford 2.5 TD Nov.55. 5,000 miles. Cab a/c Fiamma awning, bike rack, handy step, alloy Ford wheels. Fantastic vent fan, Status digital aerial. Nature Pure water filter. Lovely condition £25,995.

Roy Spindler 01244 322639

Executive 2.5 TD P reg. 1996. 4 berth 68,000 miles. VGC for age. FSH MOT to March 2010. Extra equipment £14,000 ono. Janet Sutterby 01507 462449 (Lincs)

NR Motor Chalet freestanding awning. Burgandy/grey. Floor size 10' wide by 6' deep. Hardly used. £90.00

Silver screen to fit VW T3 (rear engined) Trident/ Trooper £25.00

Please contact Bill Ward on 01298 23978 (Buxton) or e.mail billward072@btinternet.com

Topaz VW 2.4 Diesel. 1999 V reg. Very low mileage. Power steering. Superb road holding. Easy parking 6ft wide x 17 ft long. 2 good length berths. Fully equipped including

shower & toilet room vgc £19,000.

Contact Geoff Byrd 01928 733102 or 07986 637 904

Symphony 2 berth motorhome, all normal facilities, cooker, grill, oven, fridge, toilet, shower, 2 single or 1 double bed, stereo. MOT Nov-09, Tax 30/04/09 Cambelt replaced May 08 Awning. Cycle rack Mileage 43,553 Price £13,000 O.N.O Free standing awning for Peugeot Symphony or similar size. Dorema Highlander 1 £100 O.N.O or free with the above motorhome

01737 245613/07785751054

Philippa Ward (Pete Fishers other half)

FREE (if you can collect)

Plastic headlamp protectors/ converters and internal silver screens for pre-2007 Peugeot Boxer.

Also 14" and 24" pedestal table legs.

Roger Taylor 01625 858145 (Cheshire)

Nuevo 03 TDI only 16,000 miles, immaculate, 2 berth. Bike rack, awning, reversing sensors, fully equipped. Reluctant sale (house move) no pets/smokers £21,950 ono.

Robert and Jenny Lait 01437 532966

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