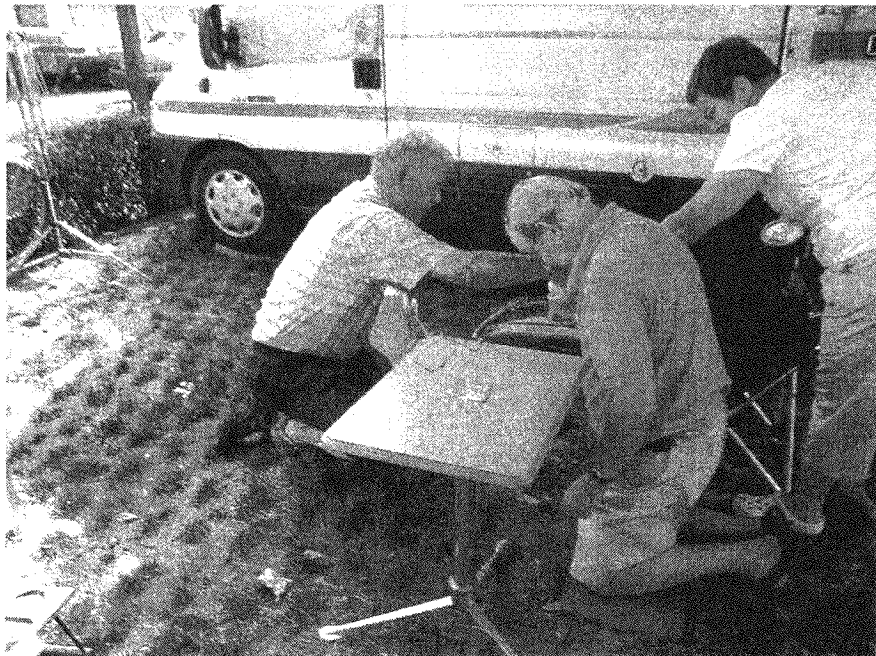




[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

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



*Beading Class Rudesheim Style*

## ***NEWSLETTER 252***

### ***September 2009***

# From the Editor (S)

Hello everybody

Earlier this year Peter decided he had had enough of being one of the few 'workers' in the Club. Having made the necessary arrangements he retired at the end of May. This meant that with Dudley and Kathleen doing a sterling job for the last two months in producing the Newsletter (and our heartfelt thanks go to them for their continued efforts to give us an annual break), the Rudesheim rally was enjoyed with little distraction.

Our new lifestyle does mean that we will be spending less time at home. The first impact of that for you is that all contributions for the **October Newsletter must be received by 31st August.**

Please do keep your contributions coming—we really do need them!

We have become aware that there should be an opportunity to buy accessories, including awning sides and fronts at **clearance prices**, redundant spares, parts and furnishings—such as cushions and off-cut fabrics (it is planned to bring AS bits from Willersey), during the show at the Marquis site in Golden Cross, East Sussex 18-20 September 2009. I've also heard that if you make yourself known as a Club member you are likely to be given a goodie bag and offered free refreshments. I would suggest you check this with Marquis before travelling to the site.

***Chris & Peter***

## STOP PRESS

### **Burnham Carnival**

If you have relatives or friend interested in attending the Carnival then Burnham Holiday Village also hire out static caravans (Phone 01278 783391) AND there are other caravan sites nearby. Burnham also has plenty of Bed and Breakfast accommodations available.

***Brian Ellis***

# The National Rally

After reading my letter in the June magazine I realise I omitted to thank Jean Hall and Sheila Henthorne for organising the Craft Classes and Hobbyists for adding such interest to the event. This was very remiss of me and I would like you all to know that I appreciate everyone's efforts in making the National Rally such a success.

For the 2009 Rally the sub committee were asked to come up with something a little special to celebrate the 20th anniversary of ASOC and from the comments and letters we've received, some of which have been printed in the magazine, I think we did a pretty good job.

Now for 2010! We have been asking for ideas for the next Rally and have quite a selection. One of which is a Members Cabaret so if you feel you have something to contribute to such an event please get in touch. The sub committee meet in October and will be discussing the ideas we have been given and to start putting the programme together so don't be shy, get in touch either to contribute to the Members Cabaret or with any other ideas for something a little different.

The address is 15 Langley Gardens, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton WV3 7JN, the phone number 01902 332105, email [ven@vennor.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:ven@vennor.freeseve.co.uk).

***Nora Venables***

Really don't be shy, I know from all the comments I received, both verbal and written, after last year's Big Red Book presentation that everyone really appreciates the effort you put in. Chris.

# Technical Group & Website

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



## **Rear Seat Belts:**

The August 'Camping & Caravanning' magazine has raised an important legal point regarding rear seat belts in motorhomes which may be news to some members. Regulations regarding their use, and fitting, are explained in the website [www.motorhomeinfo.co.uk](http://www.motorhomeinfo.co.uk) as: - "Motorhomes first registered on or after October 20th 2007 must have seat belts for forward and rearward facing seats in the rear. These seats must be designated as travelling seats and have a badge stating this. In a vehicle manufactured after this date, if a seat is not badged for travel you should not use it." It goes on to confirm that: - "This legislation is not retrospective so vehicles registered before 20th October 2007, do not have to have seat belts fitted in the rear". See website for further details.

## **X250 - Reversing:**

I thought that we had heard the last of the reversing problem that has been affecting the Peugeot X250s, when Peugeot accepted that it was a warranty problem - but unfortunately not. It would appear that the 'upgraded software & the lowered reverse gear' has not resulted in customer satisfaction when reversing uphill or on soft ground. The latest information I have gleaned is that the original reverse gear was some 18% higher than 1<sup>st</sup> gear and the new gear is still 9% higher. Also it is said that there is no room in the gearbox casing to fit a larger gear. Where Peugeot go from here, if the details are true, remains to be seen, but keep up the pressure if you still have problems and I will monitor as well.

## **X244 - Large wing Mirrors:**

Many of the X244 Boxer models (circa 2002 – 2006) have the very long

'single-arm' wing mirrors that are like 'Boadicea's chariot to pedestrians; cyclists and other objects! Shorter replacement mirrors are available at around £300+VAT a pair from dealers (although these may not be appropriate for wider vans such as the INCA). However Bill Todd has found an internet site where they are listed at only £195.98 a pair; and between him and Mike Ryman they have negotiated a discount of £10 if both o/s & n/s are ordered together and a further £60 part exchange if the original ones are in good condition. Hopefully by the time this is printed I will have changed mine and will have published an Ideas Sheet, on how to fit. The website is <http://www.wingmirrorman.co.uk/peugeotboxer.html> and it is the 'long arm' 1998 onwards (£97.99ea) that you need. Should an accident occur it is not just the mirror that is damaged but also the door will no doubt get dented, in such an awkward place, that it makes repair quite costly!

### **New Stratford Model:**

Auto~Sleepers latest panel van is the Stratford on a MWB Peugeot chassis with a new layout that provides two sofas converting to one double bed - at the rear. Details are available from Auto~Sleepers website linked from the Club website. One point, of which you may wish to be aware, is that the fridge only operates on 240/12 volts. There is no provision for gas and the estimate is that the battery should last for 3 days! I will be discussing this policy with Geoff Scott – Chief Executive Officer, Auto Sleepers Group - at a forthcoming meeting.

### **Classic Commer conversion:**

I have an unusual request from a non-member whose father has a Classic 1972 Auto~Sleeper conversion on a Commer chassis. It failed its MOT 20 years ago and has sat in a dry garage since then! If anyone is interested, or knows someone who may be interested, in renovating this classic or would like it for spares contact Mr. P. Radcliffe, Camborne, Cornwall, Tel 01209 – 710878. Such a classic is too good to lose to the scrap heap.

### **Internet:**

If you wish to be aware when there is any urgent Club information; press releases, website updates etc., just send an e-mail to [baz.wellard@virgin.net](mailto:baz.wellard@virgin.net) and I will add you to the e-mailing list.

## **Website**

Update No. 07/09 contained:

- Rally reports and photographs for the Abingdon & St Ives rallies.
- Addition of Stratford to the eligibility list.

## **And finally:**

Would you please remember to add your membership number on all correspondence to the committee? It then makes it so much easier to identify members, as against non-members.

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**OOPS!!** I too found that the chassis battery on my Mercedes Berkshire was losing charge until I discovered that the inbuilt battery charger had to be manually switched from house to chassis battery depending on which one needed charging.

I have solved the problem by fitting a CTEK XS800 battery charger on the rear of the driver's seat base and wiring it permanently to the chassis battery which is located under the passenger side floor. On this model there is a mains point on the wall by the driver's seat. The conversion battery charger is now permanently switched to the house battery leaving the Ctek to look after the needs of the chassis battery.

***John Bailey***

We were sited near John and Margaret at the recent excellent Lichfield rally. Although new to AS, John is a very experienced Motorcarvanner and has personalised his Berkshire in many ways. As ever I didn't get round to having a proper chat but maybe he will write more for the Newsletter.

The current Transit chassis is similar to the Mercedes (and most new cars) in having the 12v accessory sockets permanently live (although connected to the Leisure (house) battery) As we are often on site (or drive) with no hook up it is a 'golden rule' to unplug all accessories on parking

*Peter*

# Rally News

Ted and Trish would like to say a BIG thank you to all the members who attended their recent rally in Delft Netherlands, what a great lot you were. *And* a Special Thank You to all who helped us during the rally due to the unfortunate absence of Jan and Vic, especially the buggy boys, the nifty nurses, and the tea ladies, who were especially helpful during trips, and emergencies (you all know who you are). The weather was great and all 28 vans and occupants were very well behaved (except for a ferocious dog named Charlie ha ha )

We will not be running this rally again, so it is open for anybody to take over, it has always been a popular rally filling up every time quickly, the management are tremendous to work with, and the site is so convenient for everything you need. But circumstances change and although we have all loved doing this ,now is the time to pass on to someone else. And thank you all for your support over the last 4 rallies we have held at Delftse Hout.

***TED & TRISH PRATT VIC & JAN HICKLIN***

## Talking of rallies in foreign parts....

There's a famous wine growing place in Germany  
that's called Rudesheim am Rhein  
and Mrs Elizabeth Irvin  
thought a rally would go down just fine.

So we booked and with some trepidation  
we paid and turned up on the day.  
Hoping for sunshine and good company  
and perhaps a little wine on the way?

There were those who went on a bike ride  
eighteen miles and more.  
There were those who came back from the bike ride  
who were more than a little sore!

On Sunday two gentlemen woke up to discover  
their vans had been draped with balloons  
Two birthdays to celebrate in true ASOC style  
did the wine flow that afternoon.....

Then *someone* had a problem in the Dammen  
no loo roll could she see  
so she went to see Herr Richter  
who told her where it would be

"It'll be there on the 'river' side  
go look more carefully"  
So up and down did poor *Jill* go  
still no loo roll could she see

"Oh Jeanne Oh Jeanne I'm in despair  
no loo roll can I find"  
"There's a great big roll there behind you  
so just go and..... settle your mind"

One afternoon—a beading class  
But not a normal one.  
It saw Bryn and Peter on their knees (which really way a sight to please)  
It took an age before they were done  
but Jeanne decided male beading classes much more fun

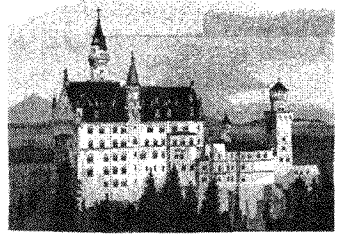
Tuesday saw us all lined up to go on the little train  
It took us to the home of Asbach and we *waved* back to camp again.  
The train commentary was very good if perhaps a little confusing  
Where exactly is 'Trash Street' and was it really singing??

An afternoon at the wine museum plus tasting  
and the view was a stunner  
Then a wine barrel used as a table was demolished  
and a red-faced Bryn did a runner!

The Rhein in Flames was a wonderful sight  
Seen from a ship on the Saturday night  
La Paloma, our ship, arrived somewhat late  
But really the trip WAS worth the wait.

On board we enjoyed both dinner and wine  
And the cruise back up river was more than just fine  
The firework displays at every town  
The castles lit up in red all around  
Was something to see and will be remembered  
we think, by everyone who attended

So it's just left to say from Liz, Jeanne, Peter and I  
We hope you're glad you came and you had a good time.



*Jeanne Hall & Chris Mawdsley*

## Adendum to Scottish Rally

It was great reading all the reports of the Scottish Rally in the August Newsletter. We knew ASOC had arrived safely. Listening to 'Radio Scotland Outdoors' one Saturday morning we were amused to hear presenter, Ewan McIlvride, whilst taking part in some outdoor activity on Arran, remark that there appeared to be a pandemic of motorhomes on the Island!

*Jennifer Oliver*

## Lichfield

We would like to thank Trish, Ted and team for a great rally at Lichfield. We had not been before, as we had mixed it up with Litchfield near Southampton, different spelling of course.

Weather was mixed but we managed to miss the showers and we were so near to shops, the Cathedral etc.. The flower beds in the park were beautiful (had a few photos there).

Saturday evening was a good party atmosphere with jacket potatoes, wine, beer and soft drinks in plentiful supply. And of course not forgetting the birthday girl and Trish and Ted's wedding anniversary.

Hope to be there next year.

*Dave and Trish Robinson*

## Royal Windsor Rally



We would like to thank all who came to our rally at Windsor, many helped us when we had problems with the wind on our *Pavilions*. No complaints from anyone—except one lady who complained it was our fault she spent so much in the sales! You were all super ralliers and we are so lucky to have members like you in our *Friendly*

*Club.* On returning home Robin found he had lost nearly 4 lbs in weight, dashing around on his bike!!

Our charity *Bric-a-Brac* stall made £61.04 which we have rounded up to £65 and a cheque will be forwarded to the Air Ambulance. Thank you all very much for your contributions and donations. What was left over has been taken away by members for local charities in their area - nothing wasted. If we do this rally next year we would like contributions again - we've cleared ourselves out of books, videos and DVDs we have collected over the years, so we have not much left to offer!

***Robin & Valerie Gardner***

### **St Ives - Aug/Sep 2009**

*As I was going to St Ives  
I met a man with seven wives  
Each wife had seven sacks  
Each sack had seven cats  
Each cat had seven kits  
Kits, cats, sacks, wives  
How many were going to St Ives?  
That was in circa 1730 – In 2009 there were seventy-six more!*

---oooOOOooo---

The rally owed its success to the good planning, dedication and hard work of rally marshals Sylvia & Brian; Julia & Harry and Shirley & Chris (*plus Theresa - as Shirley's right hand was not fully functional*). Thirty-nine motorhomes were able to attend at the excellent site location just over the old bridge at the friendly town of St Ives, Cambridgeshire, and started arriving during the afternoon of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July, in time for the evening welcome tea and coffees. Each member received a pack with comprehensive information regarding all that St Ives, and the surrounding district, had to offer – which was plenty. Plus the rally quiz (more of which later).

Many members took the opportunity on the first full day to take the tour around the town using the town walk. The brochure covered all the main historic buildings; churches and the small, but well presented, museum. Over the next 3 days members took time to wander more thoroughly through the town, spend time in the markets or visit the nearby towns/



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

**\*\*\*\* CANCELLED 24<sup>th</sup>. –28<sup>th</sup>. Masham Sheep Fair. Too few applications.**

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

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

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

Emergency Tel. No. 00 44 (0)7990 522057

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

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

**Site:** Les Berges du Lot is located at the side of the River Lot and is run by a very friendly couple who can both speak some English. There is a small swimming pool for campers. Pitches are separated by low hedges.

Within 200 metres are most of the shops, Intermarche supermarket, three bakers,a butcher and a pizzeria etc.

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

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

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

### **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

Booking slips & cheques

**RALLY FULL**

stbrook.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.

**24<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> 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, Which M.Van. or Showgoer.

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

Send the site fees with booking form to Warners.

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 **4<sup>th</sup> September**

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.pm on Thursday. Entertainment is free except for Saturday evening (£9. apply for tickets on Warners booking form)

**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:- **RALLY CANCELLED.** 3.50 per night NO electric.

Rally Fee:- **RALLY CANCELLED.** Incl.).

Saturday night 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.

**6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. November ( 4 nights). Sedgemoor  
Carnival,Burnham on Sea Holiday Village,Burnham on Sea.  
TA8 1NQ**

Emergency Tel.No. 07711375323.Marshal'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.

**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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

If you wish to have a rally included in the "Provisional Rally List 2010" issued with the January Newsletter then I must have dates etc. by the end of November.

It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as unless they are approved by the Club, there will be no Public Liability Insurance

**Neil C. Rogers**  
**3 Appleby Close,**  
**Aldbrough St. John,**  
**Richmond,**  
**North Yorks,**  
**DL11 7TT.**  
**Tel./Fax. No. 01325 374 540**

**E-Mail. [ncr@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.....

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POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,if possible.  
Enclose a SAE if confirmation is required..**

villages such as Huntingdon, Cambridge and Houghton.

Most evening there was the opportunity to gather for more cups of tea or coffee and generally advise each other of places to visit and, as always, to put the 'world-to-rights'. Only Saturday evening was a little disappointing. The joint 'bring-your-own-BBQ/food' was shortened due to a sudden heavy drop of rain - just as most were finishing their meal. Meaning many had to scurry back to their, or friends, motorhomes while others crammed into the awning tent kindly loaned by a friend of Julia's.

However Saturday's magnificent sunset soon brought many out again to take photos; whilst others looked out of their window at the display. Sunday morning brought 39 walkers to do the cross country circular walk to include the villages of Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots, Houghton and finally back to St Ives. Many stayed at Houghton to see the National trust mill and partake of the offerings of the local hosteleries!

Sunday PM saw most of the ralliers in the very bright sunshine listening to the very good free open air jazz band alongside the River Ouse. It was from the quay there that at least 20 members took the 1 hour electric boat trip up river as far as Houghton mill.

So not to tempt fate too much - the raffle was drawn at the evening tea & coffee. Strange how it often happens some 5 members win around 80% of the prizes!

The final evening's teas & coffees was also the opportunity to check the results of the quiz – which was jointly won by Maureen & Cedric and Angie & Andy.

All good things come to an end - and Tuesday morning was witness to everyone leaving with smiles; good memories and many photos.

***Baz Wellard***

### **More on St Ives**

What a brilliant setting for this new Rally. Close to the town centre, where there were markets on Friday, Saturday and Monday, shops and a bus terminus, so we could easily go to Cambridge or Huntingdon. Plus, of course, we were on the River Great Ouse where a charming electric

boat trip was operating at the weekend. There was also the opportunity to do some lovely country walks near the river. Lots of us went on a long walk on Sunday and ended up listening to a Jazz concert at The Waits by the museum. A great place to go.

Many thanks to our rally officers for running the rally so well and negotiating the use of Leon's Field so close to town but on the quiet side of the river. (Leon also provided a loo emptying point just for us.)

Thoroughly enjoyable despite the down pour on Saturday night which shortened the communal bbq. Otherwise we were able to make the best of this summers weather!

***Pat and David Mayne***

## **Abingdon**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July saw some 35 Auto Sleeper vans lined up and so tidy on the immaculate grounds of the Abingdon Vale Cricket Club, alongside the River Thames, a very short walk from the town centre of Abingdon in Oxfordshire. All had been met in quick succession by the welcoming smiles of Angie and Andy and Mo and Mike.

With weather fine and set to be reasonably good for the coming weekend, the welcome coffee evening got off to a good start.

Friday morning found a good few members taking advantage (for a small fee) of learning the art and strategy of the game of croquet, tuition kindly and patiently given by members of the Croquet Club. I believe they also partook of a very 'naughty but nice' coffee and cake break through the morning!

Some took advantage of the fine weather to walk the towpath, admire (and envy) the narrow boats, explore the local surroundings and shops, one of which (Mason's) to the 'crafty' ladies amongst us was simply an Aladdin's cave of fabrics, ribbons, lace, card making and haberdashery of all sorts, you name it, they had it. Others travelled further afield to Oxford by boat and/or local bus etc. (passes to the fore).

The Cricket Club had a full complement of matches on Saturday and Sunday, both semi- and finals, junior and senior players and on being advised that some cricketers were 'hard hitters' some 4 vans (ours included) were hastily re-sited from a ring side view to the rear! Through

the afternoon Andy kindly ferried a few members to a small museum of Indoor Model Village and Railways at Pendon, fairly close by.

Unfortunately by the time our fish and chip communal supper was delivered the weather had turned and only a few braved the rain, and then only until the chips became waterlogged and the vinegar diluted!

One bonus of the early evening was the beautiful sound of bell ringing practice from the lovely St. Helen's Church, overlooking the site and wonderfully floodlit at night.

Weather on Sunday came good again with some members attending two local boot fairs, others just chilled out with friends enjoying the sunshine. Evening brought forth an impromptu quiz which really taxed our brains (thanks Angie) then followed by a few tales from Cedric.

For our final rally day Monday became a wind down, free day, members catching up on what they had previously missed, some going back for a second session of croquet. And finally to our goodbye coffee evening with raffle draw and quiz answers. All in all a very full five days ending with some very happy people, majority of them travelling just 'down the road' to the Royal Windsor rally. Our thanks go to our ever cheerful, hard working marshals.

***Dorothy Wellard***

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### **The End of the Road**

Many of you will know Doris & Harry Bowker who have been Members since 1991 and I thought you would be saddened to learn that they have now had to give up their Motorhoming hobby as neither of them is in particularly good health which has limited their use of the van. They say it will be a big wrench for them and they will miss all the friends they have made during the years.

In hind sight, although they loved the Auto-Sleepers quality and the Legend was in good condition, it was a step too far. 'We don't know what the future holds for us when we make these changes, alas life and age has a habit of throwing wobbles...', but their very good friends, Dorothy & Tom Huntingdon have bought the Legend.

***Jill Bertlin***  
*(Membership Secretary)*

## Dennis *Grippo* Gripton

It was a very sad loss to both of us when we heard of the death of Dennis. We last met him at the National Rally at the end of April; he seemed in good form and even talked about coming to our rally at Windsor in mid July, but unfortunately it was not to be.

When we first met Dennis (for some reason we never called him 'Grippo') I offended him, as much as you could offend him. When he spoke to me I said "You're a Brummie". "No I'm not" he said indignantly "I come from Cannock and my accent is nothing like a Brummie!" You could have fooled me, but he gave me the feeling that the Cannock accent was much posher than the Brummie one!

Our first memory and meeting of Joan and Dennis was at the Chester rally in 2003 (they must have been fairly new members then) but it was at the Ambleside rally in May 2005 that we became better acquainted with them. It was where he started to call us '*Bat Woman & Robin*' and he never called us anything else to the last time we saw him. We felt we had a bond with him, singling us out to give us his own special handle!

When Dennis went to fetch water, it wasn't a quick dash to the tap and back, it was a major 'talk to everyone on the way there and back' expedition, and the further the tap was the longer it took him. Joan had on many occasions to go and round him up! At Ambleside we had invited them in for a cuppa, Joan turned up on time but Dennis was nowhere to be seen and a search party had eventually to be sent to find him. He was found, chatting outside a van with empty water bottles!

During that rally Joan and Dennis went into town with Maureen and Cedric Jones. Many, many years ago Cedric had purchased a good pair of walking boots at a shop in the town and the proprietor said if he had any trouble with the boots to come back. Which is what Cedric did - about 20 years later! By then the son was serving and when Cedric told him he had come back as he was having problems with the boots - the laces had worn out and he wanted a replacement he very wisely, got his father. Eventually Cedric got his laces, plus a tin of boot cleaner, both free and much to the embarrassment of Dennis.

Dennis related this tale that evening at a get together in the hall, it must have taken over half an hour but we were all spell bound by his oration, had tears running down our cheeks and it ended to thunderous applause. No one could tell a tale like Dennis. At the time I thought he had made it up, but no every word was true and confirmed by Cedric.

They were both very good story tellers and the number of tales about the mobile snack bar they ran for many years were a joy to listen to. All these *Grippa* tales would have made a good book or TV series! And it's funny how first impressions can be wrong. To me, Dennis liked as if he was one who liked a drink or two but on offering him and Joan some wine once found out that neither of them drank at all.

I know Dennis also played the guitar and did on occasion play with Les Howells. I don't know how good they were, I never hear them, and as far as I know they never gave a public performance. I'm sure Les will miss these sessions.

Dennis, you will be missed by so many in ASOC, but never forgotten. We keep all our rally lists and you and Joan are on 19 of them, plus the Nationals. God bless you both.

***Robin & Valerie Gardner***

Joan Gripton visited the Lichfield rally to say hello to her friends. She greeted me with the most amazing question—did you enjoy Dennis's funeral? A little surprised but with little thought necessary, I replied that I did.

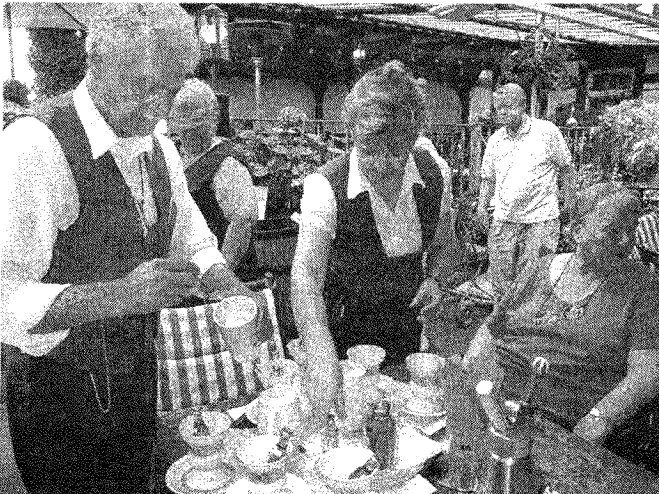
Joan and Dennis were the first couple to invite us into their van on our first rally ( although everyone at that rally gave us great welcome) and every time we met them since the greeting was very warm and sincere.

I knew Dennis was a special person and so I now know did a lot of others. Dennis's funeral was attended by many, several of whom spoke of their memories of Dennis and what he had done for them or for other people. It was very moving to hear how much impact one person had had on so many others and I did enjoy the experience of hearing them tell of it.

***Peter***

## Brain Teasers

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires; the second is full of assassins with loaded guns; the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in three years. Which room is safe for him?
2. A woman shoots her husband, then holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?
3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it and grey when you throw it away?
4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday or Sunday?
5. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!



***"Coffee anyone?"***

**Rudesheimer Coffees in the making**

I'm afraid we really are struggling this month so here's a couple of pictures from Rudesheim



One of the birthday boys.



## Welcome to New Members



Ross & Tammy Faulkner  
Charles & Doris Pritchard  
Ian & Iris Flower  
Roger & Jane Boysen  
Leo Wall  
John & Yvonne Willis  
Brian & Pauline Mason  
Pat Ackroyd  
Owen & Sue Morgan  
Roy & Janice Wood  
Mervyn Rodgers  
Ian Wright & Gabriel Allen  
Val Cornish  
Terry & Grace Collinson  
Tom & Gillian Reynolds  
Piri & Pam Roots  
Jim & Denise Harding  
James & Eleanor Berg  
Brian & Margaret Wright  
Mike & Maggie Wilkins  
Harry & Sheila Hall

Sleaford  
Usk  
Steyning  
Cottenham  
Preston  
Acle  
Leigh  
Bradford  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Cwm  
Derby  
Eastbourne  
Bakewell  
Chelmsford  
Balmedie  
Hayling Island  
Stockport  
Dunfermline  
Surbiton  
Cirencester  
Welling

Broadway  
Gemini  
Legend  
Symbol  
Mezan  
Trident  
Palermo  
Symbol  
Clubman  
Executive  
Inca  
Trident  
Rambler  
Rienza  
Gatcombe  
CXL  
Talisman  
Romero  
Nuevo  
Clubman  
Duetto



used twice included. Deterioration in owner's health forces sale. This motorhome deserves to be on the road giving enjoyment. **£14,000 ono. Bob or Carol on 01604 580574** (Northamptonshire).

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**Nuevo 03 TDi** only 16,000 miles. Immaculate, 2 berth. Bike rack, awning, reversing sensors, fully equipped. Reluctant sale (house move). No pets, non-smokers. **£21,950 ono.**  
**Contact Robert and Jenny Lait**  
**01437 532966.**

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**Moto** motor caravan awning. A Sunn Camp. 380 x 320 with interior sleeping tent. New, never used cost £249 sale **£100.**  
**New** fully automatic 3 chamber diaphragm fresh water pump. Cost £75. Sale **£35.**  
**Contact Ian Flower 01903 816154**  
(Sussex)

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**DUETTO.** S reg. 1998. 70,100 miles. MOT July 2010, Tax Feb 2010. Immaculate condition inside and out right down to the original crockery! One previous owner. No smokers or pets. Full service history and under sealed. Drive away/freestanding lightweight Outdoor Revolution 2009 awning

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