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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee
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Registered No: 4616969



Two classic marques!!

Picture courtesy of Pete Fisher

NEWSLETTER 254

November 2009

From the Editor (S)

We'd like to start by saying THANK YOU to all of you who have sent items in for the Newsletter; our pleas have obviously not gone unheeded. The fall out from this of course is that some items will have to wait until next month so you'll have a further instalment on the Denmark Trip, what it's like living with a Berkshire and an interesting piece on time spent in Shetland to look forward to.

Back to this month:

We have been advised that European Travel Insurance may not be valid if you do not carry a current European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). These are available from the NHS.

If any member would like to carry a small stock of club membership application forms then please request them from the Membership Secretary, Jill Bertlin.

Regalia Update: As a result of technical problems with the manufacturing process, sun visors are currently not available. We expect to have them in the near future.

Naomi Leach, who is Assistant Editor of Motor Caravan magazine asks if any of our members would be interested in contributing their caravanning tales to that publication. Each month they feature 6 readers' stories of their motor caravanning experiences. Each contributor writes 250 words in the first person and sends pictures of themselves enjoying the lifestyle for £40, if printed, plus the chance to win a holiday in a Forest. If anyone is interested the contact details are Leon House, 233 High Street Croydon Surrey CR9 1HZ tel: 020 8726 8249

It has been suggested that we put a section in the December Newsletter for members to pass on Christmas greetings to one another. We think it's an excellent idea but please be brief. Your greetings would need to be with us before 10th November 2009.

We've had a request from Ross Faulkner for any information members might have on stopping over from Santander to Valencia—500 miles. They are looking for overnight stops en route. If anyone can help his phone number is 01529 460909

HOBBIES & CRAFTS AT THE NATIONAL RALLY

Stuart Wood has had some encouraging response from you both for the Art Exhibition and the Hobbies, but needs more so lets have your details in by the end of December. Contact details are:

26 Burton Acrews Way, Highburton, Huddersfield HD8 0RF
Tel: 01484 604133 email: stuwd@yahoo.co.uk.

And Rita Daley writes *"How dare Rob Corcoran look down on my MEZAN. If ever I get up to Skye I shall bite his ankles!"*

It might happen to you!

During the rally at St Sylvestre-sur-Lot I unfortunately had to spend three days in the local hospital. I had a problem that required an ambulance being called just after midnight. I would like to thank all those that were awoken and came to my assistance, especially with the French language. Thanks also to Ken and Jan Redmond and Martine (of the campsite) who provided transport for my wife Pam to visit me. We left for our journey home the day after I was discharged and thankfully Pam was able to drive a major part of the journey as I was still in some discomfit and very tired.

I gather there was some discussion on the site about how people would cope in similar emergencies. On a rally there is of course the wonderful ASOC support system but what if you were in the middle of remote Scotland. The following might help; it could save your life.

Gents - make sure your lady has had some experience of driving the van, you don't have to give it up for good. Can you cook and wash up? Ladies learn to empty the toilet, change a gas bottle, etc. Do insist on getting some experience driving the van, they are quite nice to drive.

The following was also heard "I'm not on the insurance". If you have car insurance you may be able to drive the van on 'Third Party Fire & Theft' in an emergency. Also if there is another driver with the vehicle Red Pennant may not be willing to send a driver out.

It was Gallstones (3) - I'm in the queue!

Bill Todd

It's time to say Goodbye

With very mixed feelings we have decided to sell our van, a lovely young couple have bought it and we hope they will enjoy motor caravanning as much as we have over the past 20 years.



We would like to thank the various committees for all their hard work and the rally marshalls for organising such wonderful rallies.

We have met some lovely friends and hope very much to keep in touch with them.

Ray & Doris Wood

We have reached the stage where age and not-so-good health require us to put an end to our motor caravanning. We have therefore sold our van (recommending the new ownersthat they join the club).

So it's goodbye to all the friends we have made and whose company we have enjoyed. We wont foget the farefull that we had on our last rally, Wool, thanks to all the secret card signing organised by Barbara Potter.

Thank you too, to the Club for making our membership so happy and all the best for the future.

Doreen & Derek Turner

This year I've had to cancel three rallies because of continuous ill health, add to this the fact that in December I reach the age of ninety, I think this is a signal that my touring days are over.

I have therefore decided to sell my Talisman, which has served me well. My very best wishes to those members we met on rallies and if anyone knows of someone requiring a motorhome, albeit 20 years old, please give me a ring 01344 421456, it's worth around £4000.

Cyril Coombs

In '*The Etiquette of the Wave*' Rob Corcoran recalls that merry programme of the 60s—TW3. We remember it with pleasure and further back I remember the beginnings of Desert Island Discs and Tommy Hanley's voice which did a great deal to popularise regional accents on the radio.

From the above members will see that we have been around for many years. Happy days include those times, starting in 1992 with our first Executive and membership number 1278, attending the major rallies such as Malvern, Newark and several smaller ones in the UK, Holland and Germany. At all of which we enjoyed making friends, many of whom have passed on, but Neil and Cedric thankfully go on for ever, as of course, does Nora. However, most of our rallying in recent years has been spent as members of the C&CC Folk Group keeping us away from the joyful times reported in 'Rally News'. Due to an inevitable illness situation, our last attendance was at Newark two years ago, where we were pleased to enter into the full spirit of the occasion.

Referring to etiquette; in the early days of caravanning there were so few 'tuggers' that waves were exchanged at most encounters with another caravan. Likewise, when there were so few motor homes waves were given and received at each passing, but now a-days, because of the volume of motor homes, such gestures can only be made between members of each club.

Waves are also the signal of goodbye and reluctantly the time came for us to part with our Talisman. It has serviced us magnificently and, with some sadness, we passed it into the competent hands of our good friends at Cotswold Motor Caravans. It subsequently passed into new ownership and VX55BUA may be seen at Club rallies.

We wish our excellent Club very good health and thank you for having us in membership.

John & Lilian Coates

Now for some Thank you(s)

We would like to thank all our friends who made the many phone calls, sent 'Get Well' cards and messages of support and advice during Vic's recent health problems.

The operation has been a success and after a course of chemotherapy starting late October to deal with any stray nasties, the problem will hopefully be kept at bay.

Look forward to seeing many of our friends next year and Best Wishes for the festive season.

Jan & Vic Hicklin

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness on our recent visit to Shepton Mallet, Bath and West Showground. We really enjoyed the show and of course we had the weather as well.

Michael has had the operation on his knee and is doing very well. We hope to see you all soon.

Michael & Sylvia Walker

To all our friends in the club Nigel and I would like to thank you for your cards and good wishes during my recent illness. I am pleased to say that I am now home, making a good recovery and looking forward to a new season next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a busy and healthy new year.

Joy Wilkins

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard
Chairman, Technical Group & Webmaster



PDFs & JPGs:

Ideas Sheets are now available as PDFs (portable document format) and Model Reviews as JPGs (photo format) for those on the internet. Also Auto~Sleepers are now starting to supply the Club library with 'user information' as PDFs; the first are for Sargent panels EC155 & EC235. I am expecting more and will advise in due course.

Details of my e-address and postal address are now on the back page of the Newsletter.

Ideas Sheets:

- No. 189 Fitting a shorter wing mirror to a Peugeot Boxer Monocoque. Approved
- No. 190 Stop 'pull-out' worktop sliding out when moving – Nuevo. Awaiting approval
- No. 191 Alternative catch on the toilet door – Nuevo. Awaiting approval

Members' Deals:

I am currently in discussion with Auto~Sleepers to obtain incentives for members when dealing with the Auto~Sleepers Group (*Auto~Sleepers & Marquis*). This will not include motorhomes -unfortunately!! I will advise progress in the next Newsletter and on the Website.

Travelling abroad with your pet:

From their own experience Angie & Andy Cavell have written a guide on

'travelling abroad with your pet'. It will be published on the Club website as a FAQ No. 19. (Frequently Asked Question), asap and will also be available by post.

Website:

Update No. 09/09 contained:

Rallies – rally report Topsham

Stop Press:

Auto~Sleepers request for comments on improving their website

NEC competition to win pairs of tickets for the NEC show

Technical:

Review available for the new Nuevo II - EK

Fuel data - Nuevo X250 3.0 litre

Update No. 10/09 contained:

Rallies – report, sketches and photographs of the Chinon rally

Technical:

Model review - Stratford

Ideas sheet No. 189

Ideas Sheets & Vehicle Reviews available as PDFs/ JPGs

Fuel data - Topaz & Symbol

And finally:

I know I've asked this before but if you could remember to check that you have the correct postage on envelopes and also to include your Club membership number on all Committee correspondence it would help us, please. Correct postage will save having to drive to the sorting office and pay the excess and a membership number will separate correspondence/e-mails etc into members & non-members without having to access the Club's database each time, many thanks.

Rally News

A DOG'S LOT

It's a long way from Skye to our very first ASOC rally at St Sylvestre sur Lot but when you're a short legged Westie like me, Alfie, it's at least 4 times as far. Fortunately I managed to sleep in my pit most of the way (hint for Mr Langley at AS – can you fit a padded kennel as an optional extra? P'raps with a nice view but shady? En-suite?).

A whole bloomin' week it took: Saturday night in Glencoe where the nice lady warden remembered all you scratchy folks from ASOC, via "de Wirral" where a 3-year old whippersnapper called Sam thought he could take me walkies *and on and on*. I knew we were in France (been before ya know) when the provender improved and I got bits of croissant with my Chum for brekkie.

There were so many smells to check out and little messages left all over the place, very convenient for dogs is France. But jings it gets hot! And when we got to the campsite in St Sylvestre it was even hotter!! Fortunately for me the nice man put us in the furthest corner of the site under a tree – very convenient for me, nice 'n' shady in the hot afternoons.

It was a big pitch and I thought I had it all to myself. Then the man put another campervan next to us and introduced the Boss and Himself (B&H) to Kathleen and a nice codger he called "Dick the Stick" (though he never threw his stick for me). Dick was the same age as me (I'm 12 ya know) and I bet he wished he could wee in the bushes like I did. Kathleen was much younger and they had lots of smashing stories about camping and "the boys". The B&H laughed lots with them all week.

We were surrounded by people in caravans from France and they didn't have any dogs with them, shame cos I could have practised my doggerel. But there was a little cracker called Tess on the site and she was very pretty if a bit old for me. She never sat still and when the big people were throwing their "boules" I sat still but she was forever calling out hints and tips on the lie of the ground and stuff like that. Dick and Kathleen nearly won that tournament but were pipped at the post by a

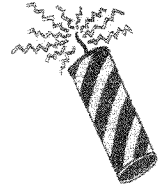
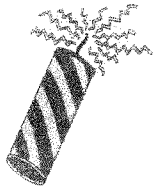
couple of pros.

It was a smashing place for walkies, especially in the morning when we went out for the croissants – there were FOUR bakers shops (boulangeries in doggerel)! My favourite was over the bridge where I liked to poke my head through the bars and watch the fish below. B&H always bought croissants for brekkie, patisseries for elevenses and a big baguette for lunch – H said it was a motorhomers heaven, having so much just a walkie away.

And there was lots more too. Big Stuart (he was about 9 feet tall from where I was stood standing) and Barbara took us on a walk all the way up the twisty windy hill to the top of Penne d'Agenais. I was legless by the time we reached the top, there were so many trees and bushes and it was all very pretty. B&H said the views were amazing but I was pleased to have a lie down while they all had a look round the cathedral at the very top. It was a good job the nice coffee shop man put a big bowl of water out for me - I was HOT!

The next day Stuart and Barbara took us all to a nice tea shop (except that they call it a Salon de Thé in France and they are very trendy). I was allowed to go in as well so long as I sat under the table. There were big cups and little cups and decorated tea pots and thirty different sorts of tea (just give me water any time) and it was all FREE! H was so pleased he'd saved a few bob until all the ladies got up and started browsing the other half of the shop – full of knickery-knackerys. The Boss spent loads on prezzies as did all the other ladies, clever Madame de Salon de Thé! Then in the afternoon a nice English lady set up her stall and showed us all her jams and chutneys (I got a bit of cracker) that she made all herself. She was so busy making it that she had to send out her husband to sell it in the markets – and he couldn't speak much French..... P'raps Himself could get a job like that in Portree market as he can't speak Scotch (which reminds me – every time he spoke to another rallier they always said "Oh you're not from Skye then?" Well I'm from Inverness so I'm the real deal jings crivvens help ma Boab!).

Another day we walked all the way back up the hill to another pretty shop where the nice people gave everyone drinks. Himself doesn't drink so he sniffed each glassful and made smart comments about blackberries and vanilla and oak – but I know he can't even smell his dinner burning. But it was all FREE again so he thought it was great until the Boss started ticking a list and getting the credit card out.



November 2009 Rally Supplement.

All rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in this supplement.

Dates for rallies to be included in the 2010 Provisional Rally List must reach me by the end of November.

Will marshals please try to put the post code in the site address.

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

10th to 20th June 2010 Turckheim, Alsace, France.

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell and Dorothy & Baz Wellard
Emergency Tel. No. 00 44 (0)7880 532057.

Rally Fee: £17.50 inc VAT, not refundable if offered a place.
Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead
Norreys, Thatcham, RG18 0RY. Please provide your email
address if you have one, if not please enclose an SAE.

Site Fees: The site fees are not set yet, but last year were in the
region of 16 euros (£14.50) a night including electricity.

Site: Camping les Cigognes is a municipal site on the edge of the
small town of Turckheim. The town centre is only a few minutes
walk from the site and contains a small supermarket, shops, bars
and restaurants. There are also bus and train links to all the major
towns in the area.

Attractions: The nearest big town is Colmar and the tourist villages of Riquewihr and Eguisheim are nearby. Chateau de Haut-Koenigsbourg is a must-see and for transport enthusiasts the French National Motor Museum and National Railway Museum are both in Mulhouse, about 30 miles away.

Limited to 30 vans.

Please do not arrive before 2.00 pm – the barrier will be closed for lunch!

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
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Pitc
first
roa
slip

This rally is now fully booked.However the marshal will still accept rally slips with names and telephone numbers but NO cheques. These names will then be put on the reserve list in case vacancies occur.

are

rally

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

(ii.)

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.

22nd - 26th February 2010 (4 nights), Whitemead Forest Park, Parkend, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 4LA

Emergency Telephone Number: 0845 345 3425 (site reception).

Mobile phone reception is poor to nil on site, but there is a payphone.

Rally Marshals: Mike and Mary Bardsley assisted by Celia and Alan Waugh.

Site/Rally Fee to include hard standing pitch, electric hook-up, hire of room for two nights and use of facilities:

Couples £72, Singles £69 (including VAT).

Please send rally slip and cheque with SAE to: M Bardsley, 8 Hepburn Close, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0SU. Mike's telephone number: 01922 451964 (home), 07900677269 (mobile).

Attractions: Enjoy a keep fit winter break in the heart of the Forest of Dean. Facilities include heated swimming pool, Jacuzzi, steam

(iii.)

room, sauna and gym. On site there is a bar, restaurant, health and beauty salon and small shop, with pub meals and limited public transport within easy walking distance.
Good walking and cycling from the site.

The following is just a reminder to help when applying for rallies.

A Guide for new ralliers.

Any member in the Club may rally but there is a procedure to follow.

1. If you see a rally you wish to attend advertised in the Rally Supplement in the Newsletter, then complete a rally slip which you will find in the Rally Supplement.
Complete ALL sections on both sides of the rally slip. Ensure that ALL family members attending a rally are listed on the slip, the number is subject to the sleeping capacity of your Auto-Sleeper.
2. Calculate the amount of money to be sent to the Rally Marshal named in the rally information. This includes site fees for the number of nights of the rally and the Rally Fee. The Rally Fee is a one off payment for a rally, NOT a per night fee.
3. Return the RALLY SLIP and a CHEQUE for the total amount of the cost of the rally to the Marshal, whose address is given in the rally information. If you wish to have confirmation that you have been accepted on the rally ***please enclose a SAE.***
4. Return the rally slip and cheque as soon as possible to the named marshal as rallies are very popular.
5. If you find that you cannot attend the rally then please inform the Marshal as soon as possible as they may have others waiting to attend. We always try to give a telephone number for the site or the Marshal's mobile. If you are delayed en route please telephone the Marshal on site, if possible.
6. The only rallies that this system does not apply to are the Club National & A.G.M. & the large show rallies. THE APPLICATION FORM FOR THE National & AGM RALLY IS SENT OUT WITH

THE NEWSLETTER. All relevant information is given on the Form / Rally Supplement including closing dates.

7. For large Show Rallies ie. Peterborough, Newbury, Lincoln, Shepton Mallet & Pickering the bookings are made through the Show organisers and payment should be sent to them, using the appropriate forms to be found in Motorhome magazines, before the closing date. Forms for Peterborough, Lincoln & Pickering Shows are now being issued with the Club Newsletter. Special Club site fees are sometimes available and these are advertised in the Rally Supplement in the Newsletter.
8. When you have sent your application form and fee to the Show organisers then send a completed rally slip to the Club's Marshal with the appropriate rally fee. You **cannot** book with the Organisers at the special Club site fee and then rally elsewhere on the site.
9. REFUNDS. The rally fee will have already been used so there will normally be no refund. Site fees may only be refunded when and if it is possible to fill the vacant pitch. This will be subject to the terms agreed with the site owner by the rally marshal.
10. Please remember that rallies start and close at 12 noon, unless otherwise stated. Failure to keep to these times can cause the Club problems with the Exemption Certificate used on green field sites.
Early arrivals can also cause the marshal problems. To avoid causing embarrassment please arrive at a rally **after** the given start time.
11. Extra items such as trailers, cars (with vans) tents etc. may only be accepted on site with the **prior** agreement of the marshal.

Finally if you have any problems with booking for a rally then please contact the Rally Co-ordinator. The address, telephone number & e-mail are to be found at the end of the Rally Supplement. If the Rally Co-ordinator is not available please leave a message on the answering machine or send a fax or an e-mail and your enquiry will be dealt with as soon as possible.

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.

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.

I have some sites that have offered a rally site, they have not been vetted as to suitability for rallies, please ask if interested.

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

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?

Please complete both sides of this form.

.....

Rally Date.....

Your name and address (Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post Code.....

Phone No. Mobile No.....

e-mail..... Membership No.....

Van Reg..... Length..... Arrival Day/Time.....

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name..... Phone No.....

Please complete both sides of this form.

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes No

Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Adults' names (Incl. forenames).....

Childrens' names (incl. ages).....

Cheque enclosed for £..... for..... nights incl. rally fee.

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No . If Yes please specify:-

.....
Full payment **MUST** accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.
POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,if possible.
Enclose a SAE if confirmation is required.

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes No

Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Adults' names (Incl. forenames).....

Childrens' names (incl. ages).....

Cheque enclosed for £..... for..... nights incl. rally fee.

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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..

At the end of the week there was a Grillade, which B&H said was a barbie like we have once every two years on Skye. I love 'em cos all the sausages blow away and I can scavenge for weeks. So that was what they were expecting. What they got was a seven-course sit down dinner with drinks and lots of laughs – those French certainly know how to run a barbie don't they? No wonder all the dogs are fat.

We did actually go out in the truck on a couple of days, once to a Prune Museum (I wasn't allowed in and H doesn't like prunes but there was evidence he'd had plenty of samples) and another day to see the Boss's cousin in Agen (another six-course lunch - how do you humans do it??). So we saw lots of lovely countryside and it was all very peaceful, a bit like Skye with the hot turned on.

And did you hear? While we were out at the cousin's there was a little farewell party where they did the raffle and prize-giving – and who won all the pies?? Yes, Alfie Dog of Skye won the Drinks Quiz (I may be quiet but I listen and learn you know) and 5 raffle prizes including the first prize! We got back in time for the end, to cries of "Alfie's won the lot!"

Yes, we won the lot and we loved the Lot, thanks to Stuart and Barbara and all you lovely people. The B&H are certainly planning to go to more rallies but can you bring your dogs please - we like rallying too!

**Moran Taing (thank you in Gaelic)
Alfie Dog of Skye**

Footnote: Alfie forgot to mention H took lots of pictures and if you want to look at them they're at www.flickr.com/asoc-lot-rally (note that there is no 'e' in Flickr). Don't stop at this page - the pictures are not in order here - instead, click on the button to the right 'ASOC Rally St Sylvestre sur.....' which takes you to a correctly ordered page. But for the best viewing experience click on the grey 'Slideshow' button up on the right of the page and you can choose to show titles - just like the good old days. Happy viewing!

France (Again!)

Am I boring you? I hope not, but I have to repeat what I said last year, the Chinon rally was fantastic! This year we were blessed with much better weather, and we enjoyed a novel experience – seeking shade, chilling on loungers, whilst enjoying a glass of Super U Merlot! What better to do when the temperature rises?!

Baz and Dorothy, with Brian and Gill made sure there was never a dull moment, and our fellow ralliers were really good company. Thanks very much to the marshalls for all their hard work, organizing the boules, cheese and wine, Jacob's Join, barbecue lunch, etc., and all done with such good humour!

Thanks also to Barbara and Stuart Williams, assisted by Andy and Angie. Barbara and Stuart were first time ralliers at the Chinon rally last year, and very bravely offered there and then to run a rally in their favourite part of France, the Lot Valley.

We, along with a few others from this year's Chinon rally, gradually made our way down to St Sylvestre sur Lot and joined other ralliers in the small but pleasant Camping Les Berges Du Lot, managed by the local deputy mayor and his wife, Eric and Martine. Barbara and Stuart really pulled out all the stops to make sure we had a true taste of the area that they love, (so much so, they live there most of the year!), organizing and conducting tours of the medieval town of Penne D'Agenais, and a wine tasting experience where we learned the value of cheese as a palate clearer between wines.

The highlight of the rally for us though must have been the Grillade which was put on especially for the Autosleepers group, with other French campers being invited to join in. As an aperitif we had Eric and Martine's speciality, made from grape juice and eau de vie, a concoction which was very acceptable! And then the meal itself – well, we have never



experienced anything like it before – sitting out in the open at trestle tables, being plied with paté, wine, pizza, wine, quiche, wine, huge pork steaks cooked on an equally huge barbecue, served with delicious grilled tomatoes, wine, then apple tart French style, and did I mention that all the time the wine was flowing!? If I say that we began the meal at 12.30 and finished at around 3.30p.m. I think you will get the picture. Many thanks again to Barbara and Stuart for doing their utmost to persuade us that Penne D'Agenais is a very special place – it certainly does have the 'wow!' factor!

Dianne and Brian Palmer

The 7th ASOC rally in Topsham was organised to coincide with Topsham Town Fair. It began with a walk through the town and along part of the estuary to point out places of interest that members could explore later at their leisure. A walk on Wednesday had to be postponed because of a very wet forecast but some ralliers filled their time visiting the Museum and partake of a Devon cream tea or/and a bargain lunch at Drakes Pub.

On Thursday 24 people took buses to Exmouth and onwards to Budleigh Salterton. The walk began there and we had an A, B and C walk. The C group had a 3 miles flat walk to Otterton where there is a working mill as well as craft shops and a tea room. The B party also went to Otterton but via an undulating 5 mile coastal path. Whilst the A group accompanied the B group but carried on the coastal path to Sidmouth walking about 6 miles. All 24 walkers returned to Topsham by bus.

On Thursday, Friday or Saturday many visited the flower exhibition in St Margaret's church where the theme for each exhibit was "A song title", my favourite was the Yellow Polka Dot Bikini. Morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea was served in the parish room, ASOC members supported the event. On Thursday evening we saw the Morris Dancers performing on the Quay, the main street and outside the Passage Inn.

With the benefit of concessionary bus passes many members visited such places as Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth and Torquay, Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton.

The many activities in Topsham on Saturday meant that most of the group spent the day in Topsham. There was the weekly food/craft market in Matthews Hall with a Jazz band playing outside. Girl Guides and Brownies were trying to make a mile of pennies with donated money.

In the afternoon 21 Town Criers and their consorts processed along the main street to the Globe Hotel where they were to compete in a town criers event. Minutes later Mary Evans, a Topsham town councillor, herded a flock of sheep down the main street (as an Honorary Alderman of the City of Exeter, one of her "Ancient Freedoms" is to be allowed to

herd sheep through the town). Though in reality the sheep were following a man with a bucket of feed, and Mary was running after them shouting, "stand still." At the same time there was a wedding at St Margaret's church on the main street. Luckily mayhem was avoided.

Saturday evening was dry and calm for the annual Topsham Carnival passing along the streets of the town, an event that was enjoyed by many ralliers. Throughout the week many members enjoyed the food served in the town, so much so that we wondered whether we should join the fitness group that was meeting in the rugby club, but much to our relief we found out it was only for pregnant women.

Liz Morgan

We would like to say 'Thank You' to so many members who attended the Topsham rally. Firstly to Liz, Bryn, Nora and Ven for their superb organisation of the event; to members on the Tuesday afternoon walk who showed their concern when Keith developed a leg problem and was forced to sit down for a while; to everyone who enquired about our Nuevo (deposit paid at Peterborough rally, but we did not collect it until 9th June on returning from the Isle of Wight rally). Help from members with some of our queries has been very much appreciated, as have the gifts from Chris and Shirley.

Finally, thanks to Steve Heath for discovering yet more storage space which we had previously failed to access - and yet so obvious underneath the oven!!

We are looking forward to attending lots more rallies in the future.

Rita Jones & Keith Taylor

We are new members to the Auto Sleepers Club and would like to ask other members if anybody in the club has had a problem with the paint work bubbling in the bottom of the habitation door. We have an Auto Sleeper Eton on a 07 Ford. Any help in this matter would be appreciated.

Vic Kendall

Executive & Talisman maybe Clubman.

We used to have a Duetto, and got used to having the Awning out 4/6 feet to stop the rain coming in the sliding door. When we purchased our Executive, we were disappointed with the limited use we had of the Awning, owing to the door touching the frame and the rain laying on the top.

I decided to look at the idea of raising the Awning on the vehicle, the first attempt was not 100%, so I started again and have now used it quite a bit, so am feeling happy with the set-up, the overall effect is that the Awning clears the door and is steep enough that the rain does not lay on it.

If anyone is interested they can email me at joy.nigel@talktalk.net as I have taken photos and notes, my reply would be by email as an attachment in word.

Nigel Wilkins

Tow Bar for Clubman / Gatcombe - Advise Welcomed.

We have a 2005 registered Clubman. We are looking for a tow bar supplier / fitter but want something that is unobtrusive; even better one with a removable tow ball.

We have tried: Towtal at Stoke-on-Trent, PWS Sales at Poole and Hope Technical Developments. Towtal and PWS will make and fit a tow bar for the clubman but both insist that an external transverse bar, like a crash bar, is necessary. We think these spoil the look of the van and want something whereby just the ball and perhaps a minimum amount of steelwork protrudes beyond the habitation shell.

Can anyone help with suggestions please?

Joy & Alan Lewis

01886 821 714 alan.lewis069@btinternet.com

Cont'd/....

We passed Alan's request on to Baz Wellard, who responds as follows:

"I have a list on record of all the towbars that have been approved by Auto~Sleepers for their models, as of last year, having been designed and developed in conjunction with 'Watling Engineering Tow Bars'.

It is dated a November 2008 and at that time the only VWs that were approved were Sandhurst; T5 & T4 - Trident/Trooper/Topaz. There is, however, an encouraging note saying:- "We [Auto~Sleepers] are currently developing, in conjunction with Watling Engineering a towbar for the Wilton. Thereafter, we aim to develop towbars that are currently unavailable for the more popular models". Since then others may have been developed/approved?

May I suggest that you contact the Auto~Sleepers Service Centre at Willersey on 01386 - 453511 and/or Watling Engineering <http://www.watling-towbars.co.uk/> or <mailto:sales@tow-bars.co.uk> or ring Watling on 01727-873661.

It is of interest that Watling's website states, "Although our list is **not exhaustive**, we cater for a large number of models including: - Rambler, Symbol, Symphony, Harmony, Pavo, Warwick, Duo, Freedom, Nuevo, Inca, Ravenna, Executive, Talisman, Duetto, Polensa, Gemini, Ravenna, Amethyst, Rienza, Hampshire, Windsor, Ascot, Eton, Surrey, Suffolk, Northants, Devon, Berkshire, Gloucester, Hampshire, Trooper, Trident, Topaz... But, as you'll see, it does not mention Clubman/Gatcombe - however I don't know how up-to-date it is!

As you may be aware all towbars have to 'type approved' nowadays!"

Stop Press: Just seen SWB Stratford (Van Conversion) and LWB Cotswold (Coachbuilt) at NEC – first impressions –Excellent.

Peter

ACCEO – The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations.

As well as being Newsletter Editor, I am the member of ASOC appointed by the club committee to liaise with ACCEO and with the authority responsible for Exemption Certificates – currently Natural England and equivalent agencies in Wales and Scotland.

An Exemption Certificate permits the holding organisation (having proven experience in running rallies and having an appropriate constitution) to hold rallies on 'greenfield' sites without that site being licensed under the terms of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act or having site specific Planning Consent (Rallies held under the terms of the exemption certificate are Permitted Development in planning law).

The government will consult on caravanning matters but only with large organisations, in particular the Caravan Club and the Camping and Caravan Club. ACCEO was formed to give a voice in these consultations to the smaller rallying clubs. ASOC is one of the 200 member clubs that ACCEO represents. If ASOC wanted to run a rally in a National Park we would have to apply via ACCEO and some two years in advance of the planned rally date. To find out more about ACCEO visit their web site www.acceo.org.uk

ACCEO also accept personal members. For an annual fee of £5 those members receive the club magazine, ACCEO Matters, can join ACCEO rallies and may be able to enjoy other benefits from time to time.

I recently attended the ACCEO AGM and the following Open Forum on behalf of ASOC (as I have previously done) and find that ACCEO is alive and well. ACCEO is the sort of organisation that you might think is of little use to ASOC but they are effective in ensuring that our right to rally under reasonable levels of control is retained.

ACCEO hold an annual national rally. In 2010 it will be held on Uttoxeter Racecourse from Wednesday 22nd to Monday 27th September. I hope to include an ASOC rally with that event.

Peter Brown

Welcome to New Members



Vic Kendall & Vivienne Barclay	Charlton	Eton
Mervyn & Cheryl Bell	Chesterfield	Symbol
Peter & Janet Murphy	Stockport	Nuevo
Gary Brunsdon & Jenny Lloyd	Eastbourne	Symphony
Jim & Glo Begley	Cromer	Rambler
Colin & Jackie Kirkwood	Adlington	Talisman
Anna Welti	Ullapool	Mezan
Michael & Julia Whitfield	Olveston	Symbol
Tom & Joan Cox	North Allerton	Nuevo
Alan & Christine Bulmer	King's Lynn	Ravenna
Frank & Agnes Doherty	Chorley	Clubman
Charles & Vivien Ribbons	Carnforth	Nuevo
Bob & Joyce Smith	South Croydon	Nuevo
Charles & Lesley Brown	Winsford	Symbol
Cyril & Mary Gwynne	Gower	Legend
Mike Crampton	Rugby	Mezan
Frank & Sandra McGlenn	Stowmarket	Pollensa
Jeff & Pat James	Haverfordwest	Executive
Stan & Pat Robinson	Thamesmead	Nuevo
Peter & Pat Jones	Barry	Nuevo
David & Sue Marsh	Weston Super Mare	Warwick
Peter Turner & Nic Knight	Macclesfield	Broadway
Sam & Julie Mair	St Peter Port	Warwick
Murray & Barbara Wilson	Upton-upon-Severn	Topaz
Chris Alcock	Cheadle	Symphony
Sue O'Meara	Wickford	Trophy
Mark & Shannon Summer	North Newbald	Nuevo
Liz Valette	Portsmouth	Symbol
Jan Penn-Withie	Nr Stockport	Talisman
Ray & Linda Scowen	Great Yarmouth	Legend
Philip & Olive Richards	Wantage	Nuevo
Lewis Gorjanc	Edinburgh	Symbol
Tim Hazell	Hemyock	Topaz
Peter & Valerie Gray	Ashtead	Symphony
Alan & Rosalie Greenwood	Henlow	Palermo
Eric & Marie Shoyer	East Wittering	Clubman
Mike & Margo Melson	Buckhurst Hill	Symbol
Gary & Valerie Baxter	Woodbridge	Broadway
Jeanette Jones	Newton-le-willows	Duetto
Richard & Chris Ryan	Northampton	Excelsior
Steve & Eileen Wragge-Morley	Guilford	Symbol
Terry & Kathleen Guest	Normanton	Ascot
Ken & Carol Rose	Evesham	Warwick
Brian & Chris Vickers	Monmouth	Rapport
Adam Palmer & Naomi Chapper	Edgware	Rambler

Leon & Edith Allsopp
James Sellars & Karen Asquith
Steve & Christine Williams
Stewart & Christine Taylor
Jack & Sheelagh Pickard

Newcastle
Near Appleby
Hereford
Newbridge on Wye
Fareham

Rapport
Frisky
Nuevo
Topaz
Executive



**Thank you to everyone
who sent donations.**

1998 R reg Peugeot Boxer
Symphony 27000miles usual fittings plus
Toad Alarm, Fiamma Awning, New
Curtains Very good condition. Taxed April
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miles, air ride suspension, 2 new batteries
(main & leisure) Microwave, Omnistor
roof awning, Silver Screens. Non smokers,
no pets. 1 previous owner from new. Tax &
MOT to end May 2010. **£8,950** offers
considered. **Contact Ron Archer 0121 351
2134** (West Midlands)

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& luggage box. Omnistor awning & Silver
Screens 15" HD digital-ready TV & private
reg plate. Everything like new **£22,500**.
Contact Alf Ashurst 01257 451580
(Lancs).

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green/grey fit 2.4 to 2.75m high Used 3
times. Cost £410. accept **£250**
Beany Box fits under MH **£150**
Omni bike rack carries 3 **£60**
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3ft Satellite dish suitable Spain **£45**
10" Roadstar 12 240v TV **£40**
14" Phillips combe TV/video **£20**

Samsung DVD/VCD/CD/MP3 player **£40**.
Contact P Gascoigne 02380 551133
(Hants)

For pre07 Peugeot Symbol Nova internal
Silver Screen used twice as new. Any
reasonable offer. Silver Screens as new
used once Any reasonable offer. Plus P&P.
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brian.wright@mac.com

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13,888. Will have had full service inc.
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Peach 01568 770404**

Autosleeper Executive LE, 2/4 berth, June
2006, 11000 miles, One of the last to be
built and with the updated interior,
Omnistor Awning, Bike rack for two bikes,
Reversing Sensors, Corner Steadies, Avtec
7 in 1 with Status 530 Aerial, Exceptional
condition inside and out No smokers or
pets **£26,000** or **Exchange for similar age
Trident or Trooper** **Contact Marilyn
Hendy 01243 780153** or
marilyn.hendy@btconnect.com

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sale to **£200**. Details at [www.fiamma.it/
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Contact Peter Pipe 01746 764157 or
07791 882690 peter.pipe@btinternet.com

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