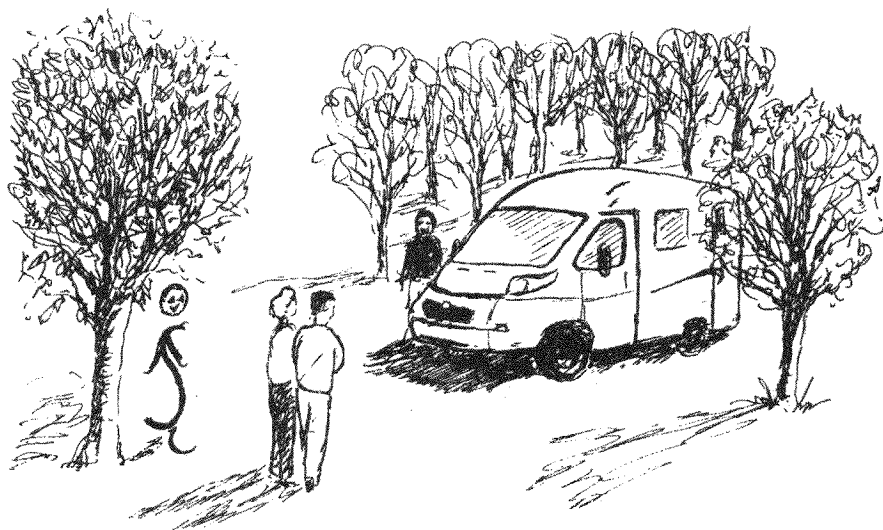




[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

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



*In Kent it's hops for the beer - apples for the cider  
The foods not bad either*

## **NEWSLETTER 265**

## **October 2010**

# From the Editor (S)

We've had a letter from Hatton Country World informing us of their rallying facilities. Unfortunately, Peter and I can't do anything about it next year, but it looks an interesting site, not far from Warwick, offering the Hatton Shopping Village and Hatton Locks nearby. There have apparently been successful ASOC rallies there in the past, so if anyone is interested in running a rally there next year Neil Rogers has all the details.

Roger Russell is trying to track down a photograph of the '*matchstick campervan*' auctioned at the last AGM. If anyone has one you can reach Roger on 01392 257759.

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## Drivers seat on the latest Peugeot Chassis

Robin and I have been looking to change our Symbol for a Nuevo, Zeta, Lancashire style of van but have had great difficulty reaching the clutch pedal comfortably on the latest chassis and our hopes of changing seemed doomed. However, at the AGM, we were chatting to a couple from Northern Ireland, who were also of a slightly shorter stature, and they said they didn't have a problem with their Nuevo. When we tried their seats we discovered they were of a different design to the ones which had been in all the vehicles we had looked at and were extremely comfortable.

As we were at the AGM and representatives from Auto-Sleepers were present we were able to make further enquiries about the type of seat available. The ones which suited us were 'Captain' seats where the seat belt is incorporated into the structure of the seat and the whole seat is set lower down.

As we continue our search for *the perfect van* it seems to be a lottery as to which van has the appropriate seats, but we now know they are available and there is hope that in the near future we will be able to find the right combination.

*Pauline Keeley*

## **Charity Choice 2011**

Once again, as members may remember at the National Rally, we select a charity that would benefit from our fund raising activities. So we would like to do the same at the 2011 National Rally. The selection would be made by the committee from nominations made by you, the members.

The criterion is that it should be a lesser known national charity. Nominations will remain anonymous to the committee until a charity has been selected.

If you would like to nominate a charity for 2011, please write to me at 31 Abbott Lea, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG19 6NF **by 20th January 2011**. Please make sure you send everything direct to me with full details of the charity you wish to nominate and why. Please enclose 14 leaflets of the charity for the committee (I will make copies of your letter). It would also help if you could confirm that your charity, if selected, would be able to set up a stand at the National Rally and that a representative would be available to accept the cheque on Sunday.

*John Jones*

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## **Regalia Update**

Owing to my supplier not being able to supply me with the large Teddy Bear at £10.99 this item will no longer be available for the moment. I still have the smaller Teddy Bear with T shirt and ASOC logo for £5.99 plus p&p.

*John Jones*

## **2011 Membership Renewal**

A slight change of plan this year!

The 2011 Renewal Form will be included in the November Newsletter, so please look out for it next month.

The return of the completed form and subscription cheque will be due, as usual, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Jill Bertlin**

**Membership Secretary**

## Claiming Overpaid Income Tax

I retired early and for several years before becoming 65 had my occupational pension paid to me minus Income Tax as is normal. When I reached the ripe young age of 65 at the beginning of April this year, a friend of mine (an ASOC member I would add!) asked me if I had claimed my Income Tax back for the 2009/2010 year as my tax allowance was automatically increased on my 65th birthday.

I did not think as my birthday was just a few days before the end of the Tax Year that the allowance for the whole year would apply, but I searched the Web and noted that it was indeed possible to claim tax back for that year.

It did say on the Web that the TAX OFFICE NEVER MEETS THIS CLAIM UNLESS ONE APPLIES PERSONALLY FOR IT, and that it would probably be 18 months before a refund was given!! I think this claim could also be made several years after the appropriate year if you have not claimed when becoming 65.

I duly wrote a nice letter to my local Tax Office enclosing a copy of my P60 from my pension company for year ending 5th April 2010 - which gave them all the information they needed with regard to Pension Provider, Tax Number, tax paid etc., and lo and behold on return from our holiday recently received a cheque for over £600!!! This amount included £29 overpayment for the previous year, which I guess I would never have received back had I not made a claim!!

So, if you did not get a refund of tax from your pension provider at the age of 65, having just received your new increased Tax Allowance, then write a little letter to your Tax Man and you too might be lucky enough to get a refund. Good luck!

Anon.

# Rally News

## Topsham

Well we finally made it to Topsham - we've been wanting to go for years but for various reasons never made it. This year we did, and we thoroughly enjoyed it; it's a lovely little place. We managed (with the aid of ferries of course) to walk both sides of the river one day, took the train to Teignmouth another day, *did* Exeter (superficially) on a particularly soggy day and enjoyed the carnival on the Saturday evening. Topsham may be quite a small place, but it seems to have big ideas!!

It was a great rally and our thanks to Liz & Bryn Morgan and Nora & Ven Venables for all their hard work.

***Chris Mawdsley & Peter Brown***

I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Liz and Nora for their continued concern and enquiries following our sudden departure from the rally after just two nights.

I managed to see a GP just three hours after arriving home who diagnosed a severe throat virus. We soon learned that several friends in the Telford area were suffering the same symptoms and, thankfully, we all seem to be recovering slowly.

***Rita Jones***

## Faversham Rally

What a great place to have a rally. Faversham was easy reach via Bus or bike and some even walked. The Town was very good and the Hop festival was excellent with various music venues and Morris Dancers. Some ralliers even went to Whitstable via bus and enjoyed themselves.

There was also an event with vintage vehicles at the local Brogdale Farm shop (nice food in the restaurant) which was a pleasant 45 min walk via the foot paths. Barbara and Al had laid on a nightly gathering to socialise including a joint BBQ supper, ably assisted by Mike and Mo and the rally was blessed with dry weather throughout. Hopefully they will run a rally here next year too.

**David Mayne**

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We very much regret to say that with declining health we find we are no longer able to travel. Our van is sold and we are now leaving the Club.

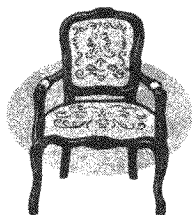
Thanks to everyone who organised the rallies we have attended over the years, we've enjoyed them and will miss you all.

**Betty & Brian Field**

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## **Antiques Road Show**

Following our visits to the filming of the BBC Antiques Road Shows we wondered whether our suggestion might be of interest to other ASOC members.



We always visit the venue the previous day to find out about parking for motorhomes, we then spend the night on a local camp site before leaving early next morning to get good parking and join a very small queue to get our items assessed. We usually get interesting comments, but as yet nothing older than a ring made in 1886 and probably one of many.

Once the assessments is done we

have a free day to watch the filming and obtain autographs (before 200s of people arrive).

We have been to filming at Powys Castle, Newtown, Bodnant Gardens, Llandudno, Blists Hill, Ironbridge and recently Hampton Court Castle, Leominster.

These venue will not now be covered again for eight years, however, we are wondering, once next year's venue list is available if a copy was included in the ASOC magazine, whether members would be interested in organising a rally on a convenient site within 2 or 3 miles of a particular venue. The event is free and it is not necessary to take items to be valued.

**Rita Jones & Keith Taylor**

## **In the April newsletter appeared the item “To swap (due to bereavement)”.**

Rather a sad heading on the face of it but the story has a happy ending. The ad. was placed for me by our very kind Editor.

My beloved wife, Pat, pal and soul mate for nearly 60 years passed away in January 2009. Predictably, at that time I had little interest in planning future camping and shortly afterwards put the van up for sale on Ebay. The only prospective buyer with funds was a very astute chap who pointed out that few people at that time were considering major spending because of the ‘recession’ etc. etc. and his offer was, I felt, not realistic.

Maybe an inner voice was telling me something because after several discussions over a few weeks in the same vein, I got a bit irate and told him that I was not interested in selling.

By May, the old urge to be under open skies, was surfacing and when friends mentioned that they were having two weeks camping in Devon with their daughter and her husband and invited me to join them. I agreed to do so for the first week. This worked out extremely well and I left feeling that maybe I had been a bit hasty to consider selling our beloved Ravenna.

By the time August came, and the time which Pat and I had regularly joined another family of friends in Cornwall I, once again, agreed to give the motor home an airing. Again this stirred my enthusiasm and a month later I hit the road to Yorkshire to visit more life-long friends, (non-campers), parking the Ravenna beside their park home. Thank God for life long friendships which we have more than our fair share of.

Spring came and, after putting the motorhome through it’s MOT, habitation check etc. I got to thinking that maybe a smaller Auto-sleeper was all I need. Hence the ad. in our newsletter.

After six weeks of inspecting smaller vans I found exactly what I *thought* I was looking for. A Symbol in my price bracket.

I sat in it and, as it was pouring down, the dealer busied himself in his office for an hour whilst I mentally planned where everything might go. Then I made a most surprising self-discovery. The Ravenna may be a bit tricky to find a suitable spot in Tesco's car park, and occasionally had me 'breathing in' passing big vehicles on the narrower Scottish roads, but, regardless, the sheer luxury of the rear lounge and ample storage for all occasions, for me, was the clincher.

I shook the disappointed dealer's hand and went on my way confident that that I already had the ideal vehicle for my needs. This, however, is not quite the happy ending!

Easter saw me eagerly planning more trips and, with Easter, came, right out of the blue, an ulcer on my right ankle just where it prevented me from driving. Bad enough, but this was followed by another one on my left ankle which has simply ruled out using the Ravenna, with its fairly long, firm clutch action.

By now, determined to resume camping, I decided that there was enough movement in my right ankle to manage brakes and accelerator. What I needed was an automatic 'van!

Maybe I am a bit fussy but we had found the Ravenna perfect so finding an automatic proved very, very difficult. At last I found one near Salisbury. However, the course of true love never runs smooth and, when I phoned James Redshaw, at Tilshead Caravans, he was most apologetic. "I'm sorry" he said "I'm afraid I sold it last night!" You could not make it up, could you?

Dry your eyes dear readers. Here comes the *happy ending*.

Two hours later James rang me back again. "Would you believe it, my buyer can't raise the finance. If you would like to come down....." Would I! Half an hour before closing time I was at Lopcombe and sitting, with James, in an Auto-sleeper Ravenna, identical to mine, even to the blue upholstery, but on a Transit and with an automatic gearbox. James showed me round it, (not difficult), and said "Now come into the office and we will talk money" There goes my happy ending, I thought. I was wrong. James is an absolute gentleman and we were soon shaking

hands over a very fair deal and arranging to swap 'vans which we did a couple of weeks later.

Last weekend, Homer, (no prizes for guessing my surname), my 'new' Ravenna and I, were sitting in the New Forest on our first outing, and my belated first outing of the season.

So you see, there *are* happy endings.

Final word. I had never heard of Tilshead Caravans before but, both James and his father, Malcolm, are a rare breed of dealer. Courteous, professional and living proof that integrity in business does work. Thank you, gentlemen.

*Peter Simpson*

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## **A "New " 10 year old Van.**

Feeling that our ageing Amethyst was in need of a face lift, we decided on a re-upholstery makeover. Having heard good reports about Regal Furnishing in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, we decided to take the plunge. We made the initial phone call in May and were able to take up Regal's first free date in August for the work to be done.

An extremely helpful lady sent us samples of fabric but added that they had 100's more in stock if these weren't to our taste!

We duly arrived at lunch time on the agreed date and were welcomed with a cup of tea and an invitation to view the fabrics. We did however keep to our first choice from the original samples.

As we made our choice the cab seats were removed from the van and other small upholstery items were taken over to the factory to be dealt with. We stayed in the factory compound overnight with hook-up and water but we were given a key should we wish to go out for a walk or meal etc. There is a lot of industrial heritage nearby to look at.

At 7.30a.m. the next day the men moved in and we were invited to watch



## October 2010 Rally Supplement.

Please carry your ASOC membership cards when attending rallies.

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

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

Please inform the Rally Marshal beforehand if you wish to bring a car, trailer or tent to a rally.

30<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October (3 nights) Little Stoke  
CC Stone Staffordshire.

Emergency Tel.No. 07919 538

*This rally is now fully booked.*

1<sup>st</sup>.-3<sup>rd</sup>. October (2 nights) Eden Camp,Nr.Malton,  
North Yorks.

Emergency Tel.No.07775570182

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin & Eirwen & Ben Cox.

Site Fees: £10.50 per unit per night .(Includes VAT & unlimited admission to museum & use of Hut 12 for weekend).

NO ELECTRICITY. All hardstandings on car park.Elsan disposal & water available.

Rally Fee;£2.30 (Incl.VAT).

Rally slips & cheques payable to Mrs.J.Hicklin,381 Manor Road,Brimington,Chesterfield,Derbyshire.S43 1PP.

Tel.No. 01246 236157.

**Attractions:**Eden Camp is a modern history theme museum set in P.O.W. Camp.Malton is within walking distance of the camp.**Friday** evening get together. **Saturday** evening an American Supper in Hut 12.1940s dress optional.Meals served in the N.A.A..F.I.

**Directions:**Junct. A64 York to Scarborough Road & A169 Malton to Pickering Road.

Rally opens at 1.00p.m.

Late arrivals will have to park outside gates which are locked between 20.30 hrs. & 08.00hrs. NO ADMISSIONS to RALLY BEFORE 1.00 p.m.

***Why not follow on to:-***

### **3<sup>rd</sup>. – 7<sup>th</sup>. October (4 nights) Earswick,Nr.York.**

Emergency Tel.No. 0777 5570182.

Rally marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin & Eirwen & Ben Cox.

Site Fees:£4.00 per unit per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.35 (Incl.VAT).

GREENFIELD Site with water & Elsan emptying.

Rally slips & cheques payable to Mrs.J.Hicklin,381 Manor Road,Brimington,Chesterfield,Derbyshire.S43 1PP.

Tel.No. 01246 236157.

**Attractions:** Site close to Ebor Way & on a bus route into York with buses to the East Coast (Whitby,Malton & Pickering).York's attractions include the Railway Museum & the Minster.

**Directions:**Turn North off the A1237 York outer ring road at Earswick towards Strensall.After about 1 mile turn **right** into Fam Lane.Site on **right** hand side.

Address of site is The Lodge,302 Strensall Road,Earswick, York.YO32 9SW.

**7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October ( 4 nights) Conkers Camping & Caravanning Club Site, 50 Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlingcote, Derbyshire. DE12 6BD.**

Site Tel.No. 01283224925. Marshal's mobile 07810 455318.

Site fees: £ £58. ***This rally is now fully booked.*** electricity & full facilities.

Rally Fee: £ 3.50 couples & £2.00 singles, this includes use of room with tea/coffee in the neighbouring Youth Hostel on Monday evening. All charges include VAT and are for 4 nights.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs. & Mrs. E.W. Grimsley, 24 Paul Drive, Leicester. LE4 9FY. Tel.No. 0116 269 2220. Please send an SAE for confirmation & information.

**Attractions:** This rally is based around a Bavarian Evening on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October at the nearby Conkers attraction (10 minutes walk by road). A hot meal is included in the price of £15.00 per person, payable in advance – so please include this with your booking. (See note about this event elsewhere in the Newsletter before you book).

Calke Abbey (N.T.), Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, Snibston Discovery Park, Moira Furnace & historic Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The three year old site is in the heart of the National Forest with former mining railway lines accessible to walkers & cyclists from the site.

**Directions:** Use A444 between Burton-on-Trent and junct. 11 Off M42/A42 and the site is signposted down a minor road in Overseal.

**Limit of 25 vans.**

Please do not arrive before 12 noon on Thursday (site rules). Rally ends 12 noon Monday.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. November ( 4 nights)**  
**Sedgemoor Carnival,Burnham on Sea,Burnham on**  
**Sea Holiday Village,Somerset.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07711375323 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Sheila & Ivor Barnett & Linda & Brian Ellis.  
Site & Rally fee £56 incl.VAT for 4 nights. Rally limited to 64 selected pitches this year. The first 46 are hard standing and the rest are grassed.All pitches have electricity plus access to very good toilets & shower facilities.Please indicate on rally slip if disabled or special needs and we will try to pitch you close to the facilities.The Burnham on Sea Holiday Village is a full facility site about 10 minutes walk from the town centre and shops along the promenade.The complex & entertainment will be available and it is a good area for walking & cycling.

Pitches allocated as slips are received. Sorry but "NO PETS" allowed,site rules.

Send site & rally fee to Brian Ellis,52 Golf Links Road,Burnham on Sea,Somerset.TA8 2PP. Tel.No. 01278 784524.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. November** - Rally starts at 10.00a.m.**Saturday** Coach trip.,**Sunday** evening, Fireworks display on beach.**Monday** evening, Approx. Two hour Carnival Procession through Burnham.**Tuesday** midday Rally ends.

**Attractions:** We hope to arrange – **Saturday** coach trip to Clarks Village of Street,if enough interested. Cost approx. £3.50 per person.First coach 9.30.a.m.,second coach 11.30 a.m..Pick return 2.30 p.m. & 4.30 p.m.Please indicate on slip if you are interested.

**Do not** send monies with rally slip,other arrangements will apply.

**Sunday** morning scenic stroll (weather permitting) through the park and onto Highbridge Caravan Sales & Accessories for tea & biscuits.

**Sunday** afternoon maybe a cycle ride to the Cider farm.**Sunday** evening after the fireworks join in our dingbat quiz night.

**Monday** Coffee morning then stroll on the beach to the Berrow Pub.(food available).

**Directions:** Sat.Nav. TA8 1NQ and look for Holiday Village signs.Or M5 junct.22 exit to large island turn **left** on A38.Follow signs to Holiday Village.Head towards ighbridge,Bridgewater.Bear **right** at next island,pass Highbridge Caravans and over railway bridge to Asda Supermarket Island (store & large car park to your left).Turn **right** and follw signs to Holiday Village.At mini island by petrol station turn **left** Site is about quarter of a mile on the **left**.  
**Early booking advised as slips & payments will be required by October.**

*I must have the dates of rallies for 2011 before the end of November if they are to be included in the "Provisional Rally List". After this date new rallies will be previewed in the Rally Supplement.*

*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.*

*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](mailto:ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk)**

**E & OE.**

Rally ..... Date .....

Your name and address (Please PRINT) .....

.....

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

Phone No. .... Mobile No. ....

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

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

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

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

**Please complete both sides of this form.**

.....

Rally ..... Date .....

Your name and address (Please PRINT) .....

.....

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

Phone No. .... Mobile No. ....

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

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

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

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

**Please complete both sides of this form.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Electricity: Yes  No  Evening meal: Yes  No

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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..**

the whole process in the factory and take as many photos as we wished. Later on we were given a lift into Ilkeston and invited to ring up when we needed to return to the factory. From Ilkeston there are frequent buses to Derby and Nottingham.

At 3.00p.m. after an interesting day in the town we returned to see a total transformation of our van. It looked and smelt new. Nothing was too much trouble for the team and we have never encountered such a friendly and professional firm.

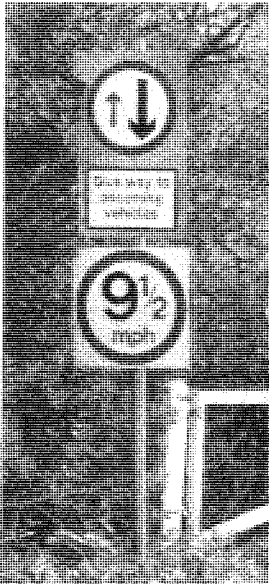
We can thoroughly recommend them and we would gladly chat to any ASOC members about costs etc.

*Jill and Tony Showell*

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## Be Precise!!

Speed limits are the bane of our lives these days. They are bad enough when they are really needed but the



following are rather unusual! The first one was taken in Windsor Great Park when

Celia and I had cycled there from the Windsor Rally in 2009. Needless to say we had no difficulty in keeping to the limit on our bikes.

The second one was taken when we were at the National Rally in Newark this year and can be found just by the junction of the A1 as we left the village of Cromwell about a couple of miles or so north of the Newark Showground roundabout.



*Alan Waugh*

**The following was forwarded from an IAM Newsletter by David Robinson, we don't want to be alarmist, but it helps to be aware.**

"While driving on a rural roadway on Thursday morning, I saw an infant car seat on the side of the road with a blanket draped over it. For whatever reason, I did not stop, even though I had all kinds of thoughts running through my head. But when I got to my destination, I called the Police and they were going to check it out. But, this is what the Police advised even before they went out there to check....

There are several things to be aware of ... gangs and thieves are now plotting different ways to get a person (mostly women) to stop their vehicle and get out of the car.

There is a gang initiation reported by the local Police where gangs are placing a car seat by the road...with a fake baby in it... waiting for a woman, of course, to stop and check on the abandoned baby."

This could lead to serious assault or worse.

**"DO NOT STOP FOR ANY REASON!!!!**

Dial 999 and report what you saw, but don't even slow down.

If you are driving at night and eggs are thrown at your windscreen, do not stop to check the car and do not operate the wiper or spray any water because eggs mixed with water become milky and block your vision up to 92.5% and you are then forced to stop beside the road and become a victim of these criminals."

A few words prompted by Richard McAllister's report in the September newsletter.

I was interested to read of Richard's leaking window in his Talisman. Some two years ago we also had problems with the large side window when the two parts of the double glazed unit started to separate, the adhesive failing at one lower corner. This side looks to the south when our Talisman is normally parked up and 'resting' between trips. A new unit was fitted by A.S. Service Centre.

In addition, I have just attended to a leak which was traced to a sealant failure at the top of the Truma water heater, with water appearing on the carpet in the dinette area. This seal could also have been affected by strong sunlight. The repair had to be just an external bead, as it is a major job to completely remove and reseal this part, so I have fitted a strip of plastic just above the cover to provide an extra watershed as further insurance against water ingress.

Our Talisman is over nine years old now and is always parked on our driveway with the offside to the south. Perhaps UV degradation or repeated heat cycling could cause the sealant to fail? Finally, as a temporary repair, a smear of Vaseline can be very effective in stopping water leaks.

**Harry Emblen**

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### **Does anyone have a solution?**

We finally bit the bullet this year and swapped our 19 year old rear-engined Trident for a 2006 Trooper. A great improvement in all respects except one - those rattling blinds! Does anyone have a solution, other than removing them completely?

**Richard Readings**

# Technical Group & Website

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



## **Towing a car:**

Some time ago a member rang me and we had a discussion regarding towing a car behind a motorhome, but unfortunately my records have failed me and I cannot re-call who it was. Further to our conversation, I now have an extract giving more information. If you still wish to receive it, or anyone else for that matter, please contact me. See back page.

## **New & Updated Models:**

The first Monocoque shell is now in Design & Development, and work has started 'fitting-out'. A second one is still in the mould stage. The shape is definitely & deliberately a retro design, an artist's impression of which has been on the Club website.

Three updated VWs on the new 'T5½' are now 'off-the-line': - Trooper, Topaz & Trident. The 'T5½' has a new front end and 2 (integrated) gearboxes - one for even gears and the other for odd ones; making gear change much better it is claimed. It also has lower emission.

All four, with other latest models, will be at the October NEC. Specifications and photos will soon be on the A~S website; simply click on the link from Club website.

## **Fuel economy figures:**

David Clark (5490) has kindly sent me economy figures for his

Mercedes Stratford to go on the Website. I would welcome more Mercedes, and any other chassis, figures, please?

**Ideas Sheets:**

- No. 202 Not approved
  - No. 203 Improvements to some rear kitchen cupboards  
Awaiting review/approval
  - No. 204 Help prevent damage to a cooker's glass top  
Awaiting review/approval
  - No. 205 Improve flow of water from shower tray  
Awaiting review/approval
- 

**Dirty sealing mastic on motorhome bodies.**

If, like me you have seemingly miles of mastic showing at the joints of the panels on your van then you may be interested in this method of cleaning. It will cost about £30.00 or so the first time but that is just initial cost.

You will need a bottle of Fenwicks Motorhome cleaner (about a tenner), a cheap hand sprayer and from Lakeland a Sonic Scrubber Pro Detailer (£9.99 Lakeland web site) and Pro Detailer brush heads kit (£6.99 Lakeland web site). Whilst the job can be done with an old toothbrush, experience says that the scrubber does a much more effective job.

Put some neat motorhome cleaner into the sprayer and spray onto the mastic. Give it a few seconds and then use the scrubber (I use the pointed brush) to gently agitate. Rinse off.

That's it.

**Pete Fisher**

## A visit to Amiens

On our return journey from a thoroughly enjoyable Rally in Turckheim (very many thanks again, to Angie & Andy Cavell and Dorothy & Baz Wellard for making it so) we stopped for a couple of nights at Amiens (approx 102 miles south of Calais). A city well worth a visit. The site we used was very good, 4 miles from the city with a bus stop at the gates, BUT there was a bus strike while we were there, so we cycled into the city along the nearby path beside the canal. The first afternoon we explored the beautiful Notre-Dame Cathedral and Quartier Saint-Leu (known as 'The Little Venice of the North' because of its many canals) where we were spoilt for choice when looking for a restaurant to 'wine and dine'!

We had heard of the 'Cathedral in Colour' show, but as it did not commence until dark, we thought we should get back to the site in daylight, which proved just as well. No problem finding our way back along the tow path, but we arrived at the site about 10.30pm to be horror struck to find the huge gates had been locked and there was no way in for a body, let alone two with bikes! A man inside the gates shouted rather gruffly, "'Aven't you got key? No key, no come in" to which we answered, "But our motorhome is inside". Eventually he agreed to let us in, with "Another night you sleep outside". Needless to say, the first thing we did next morning was to get a key from Reception!

We ventured off the next day fully prepared to stay for the evening show. A leisurely lunch at a different restaurant in Saint-Leu, followed by more exploration of the city and then we made our way to The Hortillonnages or 'floating gardens', which we imagined would be a series of small lakes full of water lilies and other floating plants – how wrong could we be! We waited for the next available black flat-bottomed traditional boat (once propelled by a long wooden pole, but now operated by an electric motor, so still totally silent) and started our journey along numerous canals. The floating gardens are literally that – plots of peat based marsh land cultivated by their owners. In June each year they hold a competition for the best garden, and many were really spectacular. As well as the flora, there was plenty of fauna to see including moorhens, coots, crested grebe and coypu.

After a delicious meal of Galettes, Crêpes and a bottle of wine (well, we had to fill in the time until nightfall somehow!) We joined the crowd in the large square in front of the Cathedral to wait for darkness and what we expected to be the usual 'son et lumière' show. Again, we were totally wrong! At about 11.00pm the Cathedral floodlights went out and there was an expectant hush all

round the square. We were then completely mesmerised for the next hour as, with a background of commentary and lovely music, the whole West facade of the Cathedral 'came to life'. In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century the statues had been flesh-coloured, with eyes underscored with black and all wearing bright coloured garments, the pigments for which were produced by grinding the most precious and rarest stones. Today the pigments have faded, but coloured lights, specially created by Skertzò, are projected precisely, restoring the whole facade to its original multicoloured glory. Truly, an experience not to be missed.

### **James & Jill Bertlin**

*(The site we used was Parc des Cygnes and the Cathedral Light Show is held each year from mid June to mid September and in December - what's more, it's FREE!)*

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## **Welcome to New Members**



John & Cynthia Lewis	Cheltenham	Broadway
Carleton Astley	Hastings	Trooper
Bob & Barbara Bishop	Worcester	Rienza
Stephen & Lynne Bruce	Cramlington	Duetto
Roy & Pat Chipperfield	London	Topaz
Ken Clarke	Llandudno	Topaz
Brian & Dorothy Coffey	Preston	Devon
David & Dorothy Dixon	Tunbridge Wells	Dorset
Julie Dunn	Newton Abbot	Trident
Ffolliott & Louise Fisher	Thurleigh	Symbol
Roy & Sue Honeyball	Colchester	Nuevo
Dave & Gwenda Lynn	Colchester	Devon
Cecil & Elizabeth Mellerup	Dursley	Topaz
Ted & Jennifer Newell	Alfreton	Broadway
Roger & Barbara Platt	Ulverston	Symbol
Gerry & Jean Pullen	Brighton	Symbol

Keith & Audrey Ringrose	Bury St Edmunds	Lancashire
Ian Tosh & Pauline Dawe	Cashes Green	Topaz
Len & Ann Wright	82130 Piquecos	Hampshire
Pete & Ann Sumners	Haywards Heath	Lancashire
Stephen & Marit Rogers	Bournemouth	Trooper
Kevin Wise	Battle	Suffolk
Alan & Irene Brown	Poole	Talisman
Drew & Joyce McFarlane	Bridport	Nuevo
Dave & Jeannette Stanworth	Telford	Zeta
Austin & Sylvia Joynson	Spital	Amethyst
Paul & Jackie Vandenbos	Amersham	Mezan
Don & Ellen Hicks	Liskeard	Symbol
Angus & Lesley Morrison	Newtownabbey	Sandhurst
Martin & Janet Swatridge	Bognor Regis	Duetto
Paul Hillman & Suzy Ridgway	Ivybridge	Trident
John & Ann Hill	York	Trident
Mark & Ann Tanner	Reading	Sussex
Eric & Barbara Bond	Broxbourne	Lancashire
Rob & Jue Evans	Swadlincote	Broadway
Graham & Sylvia Ronan	Penzance	Nuevo
George & Carol Strachan	Corbridge	Nuevo
Peter & Edith Jones	Bristol	Nuevo
Mark & Margaret Duder	Taunton	Symbol
Ralph & Marion Taylor	Nottingham	Executive
Tom & Rona Smith	Holywell	Sirius
Ian & Anne Carlton	Taunton	Warwick
Graham & Susan Walden	Ashburton	Duetto
Robin & Maggie Cooter	Rugby	Talisman
Brian & Barbara Diment	Bournemouth	Amethyst
James & Eileen Watkins	Sowerby Bridge	Pescara
Alan & Mary Chivers	Ellesmere Port	Executive
Bryan & Ann Richardson	Grantham	Gatcombe
Dave & Sue Grayson	Aberdeen	Pollensa
Neil & Sheila McLeod	Scarborough	Flair
John & Anne Perkins	Stowmarket	Sigma

Martin & Annie White  
Stephen & Jackie Halshaw  
Ian Cash  
Hughie Morris & Jacqueline Butterworth  
Den & Geri Bridle  
Mike & Paula Cairns Smith  
Michael & Jean Pocknell

East Norton  
Preston  
Birmingham  
Huntingdon  
Bristol  
Cheltenham  
Wimborne  
Nuevo  
Symbol  
Lancashire  
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