



[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



*Yes I know it's cold but you're a bit too far south*

## **NEWSLETTER 268**

### **January 2011**

# From the Editor (S)

Can I please draw your attention to the fact that within this issue of the Newsletter there is information and formal notification relevant to the Clubs 2011 Annual General Meeting.

The Notice for the meeting is on the next page and that is followed by information on Proxy representation.

Towards the centre of the Newsletter are forms that can be cut out to use to nominate potential Management Committee Members and with which to appoint Proxies. As the majority of the membership are couples, there are two Proxy appointment forms.

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Rita Jones & Keith Taylor send their best wishes *"Keith and I would like to wish all ASOC members a very happy, prosperous and healthy 2011 - healthier than some of us experienced during 2010."*

As do Wendy and Roger Guyver *"Many thanks to all the officers of the Club and to those who have run rallies throughout the year, your hard work is really appreciated. Best wishes to you all."*

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And from Jill Bertlin *"Many thanks to the members who have so promptly returned their 2011 Renewal Form and subscription. If you have not sent me yours, to remain a Member and continue receiving the Newsletter, please do so as soon as possible."*

*With my best wishes for a very Happy New Year and as the old Irish saying goes - May you live as long as you want And never want as long as you live."*

## NOTICE

### THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of

### THE AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Will be held on  
SATURDAY, 30TH APRIL 2011  
At 10.30am.

At the National Rally  
In the Cedric Ford Pavilion  
Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society Showground.  
Newark. Nottinghamshire.

Nomination forms for election to the Management Committee and Proxy appointment forms are included with this Notice or are available from the Secretary, who requests that Nomination forms and any resolutions for consideration at the meeting should be received by him, on or before Monday, February 7th 2011. In the case of Proxy appointment forms they should be received by him on or before 10.30am Thursday 28th April 2011.

**Members are informed that they have a right to appoint a proxy.**

Members are reminded that admission to the Annual General Meeting is subject to proof of membership, and that current membership cards should be carried at all Club events.

John Osland-Jones, Secretary, 14, Doveridge Rd. Hall Green,  
Birmingham B28 0LU.

A company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales.  
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Nr. Broadway, Worcestershire, WR12 7QF.  
Reg. No. 4616966.

## REPRESENTATION BY PROXY

This is the second year of the introduction of Proxy Voting, and I therefore hope that this article will explain to old and new members the way proxy voting works for the A.S.O.C. Some who are reading this will see that I have cribbed parts from last year (well quite a lot).

When the Club became a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2002. It followed the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and 1989. These Acts did not allow for proxy representation in a company with no share capital.

When the Companies Act 2006 was passed to consolidate the above Acts, cut down on red tape and simplify the running of companies, it introduced proxy voting.

Section 324 of the Act, Right to appoint a proxy, states "a member of a company is entitled to appoint another person as his proxy to exercise all or any of his rights to attend and speak at a meeting of the company". This section overrules anything stated in the articles of Articles of Association. So at the AGM in 2010 we changed our Articles of Association to comply with the Act.

What this means for the Club, is that if a member wishes to appoint a proxy, they have to fill out a proxy form and get their proxy to sign the form, and then send it to the Club Secretary before the due date.

As this is a legal requirement you are hereby notified that you have a right to appoint a proxy to participate in the 2011 General Meeting, on your behalf, using the Proxy Form enclosed, which must be received at the address given on the proxy form before 10.30am Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

May I make two things clear, the person who is nominated, as the proxy does not have to be a member of the Club. I know that this may seem strange, but that's the way the Act is written. Secondly that you cannot just put down Chairman, Secretary etc on the form, they will be considered invalid. It must be remembered that no proxy can act for more than two members. That is why they must sign the form.

As you can see this change though important, will not alter the running of the Club. It only means that the AGM the voting procedure will take a little longer while we count the votes.

It's now time for a cup of tea and read the rest of the Newsletter.

*John Osland Jones, Club Secretary*



## Chairman's Chat

May I on behalf of the club add our congratulations to Prince William and Kate Middleton on the announcement of their forthcoming marriage. As the wedding will be on the Friday of our National Rally Weekend, your committee have arranged for **two large televisions to be installed**, so that those wishing to follow the days event may do so and attend the Rally weekend. One will be in the Cedric Ford Pavilion and the other in the Stuart Goodwin, further details of the BIG DAY will be in future newsletters; this may however affect the afternoon Technical Q&A session.

Since the last AGM meeting, we have focused on reviewing the club's financial position and setting up a budget scheme. Almost since the club was formed the committee/club has very much relied upon John Tidbury to control all of the monetary matters. *Thanks John for all of your work.* As John has now decided to stand down at the next AGM, Peter Brown will be taking over as the new treasurer. All of the finances have now been committed to a spreadsheet making it easier to follow and see any variations.

ASOC, our club, has been invited by ACCEO, Association of Camping and Camping Exempted Organizations, to run its 2012 National Rally which will probably be held in Lincolnshire over the middle weekend of October. Members will be kept informed as details are confirmed and will be asked to volunteer to assist with the running of the rally. ACCEO is a National Organization, formed some 40 years ago to look after the interests of camping, caravan and motorhomes clubs. They work closely with the Government departments and Authorities promoting friendship and co-operation between member clubs. It is most important that we continue to support this organization if for no other reason than to maintain the ACCEO Certificate of Exemption which gives us the permission to hold rallies on Greenfield sites.

May I give 'a plug' once more to the National Rally Flower Arrangement Competition, theme *A Golden Celebration*, please let Stuart Wood know (01484 604133), if you are going to participate.

May I finish by wishing everyone a Very Happy and Healthy New Year and Mo & I will look forward to meeting with you during the 2011 season.

*Mike Valentine*

# The National Rally

With this Magazine you will have received an application form for the National Rally with a notice about Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Celebrating the Royal Wedding means plans already in place will need revising. Until we know times for the event we cannot publish a programme for Friday, but all who wish to view the wedding will be able to so in the Cedric Ford and the Stuart Goodwin Pavilions.

Thursday evening will be to relax after your journey and meet up with friends. Friday evening there will be a quiz followed by the cake auction, results of the photo competition and hopefully the flower arranging competition.

Saturday we have the A.G.M. followed by the open forum and from 6pm the Dinner Dance and raffle. Music this year will be by Tuxedo Junction (a member's recommendation).

Sunday the Salvation Army Service will be followed by coffee and the Carvery lunch. Craft classes will this year be in the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion on Sunday afternoon. In the evening the Houghton Weavers will provide the entertainment.

Please come along and enjoy the weekend.

*Nora Venables*

\*\*\*\*\*

## HOBBIES AND CRAFTS FOR 2011 NATIONAL RALLY

Is there any member who would like to exhibit their hobby, craft or paintings at the 2011 AGM please get in touch with me before February 10th so tables can be reserved

I am still looking for members to enter the flower arranging competition, again please get in touch with me, **Stuart Wood** on 01484 604133 or email [stuwd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuwd@yahoo.co.uk)

# Rally News

ACCEO – The Association of Caravan & Camping Exempted Organisations

ACCEO is a group of over 200 rallying clubs and works closely with Government departments on behalf of its member Clubs. ASOC is a member of ACCEO.

Earlier this year, during a meeting with Natural England, ACCEO were advised that complaints concerning rallies against ACCEO member clubs were extremely rare. It was felt that this was partly due to the rallying members being aware of [and complying with] the Code of Conduct requirements.

ASOC has an excellent record as a rallying club. This is due to both the Marshals following the clubs guidelines/obligations and the willing compliance to these of rally attendees. Keep up the good work and enjoy the rallies we continue to be allowed to hold.

***Peter Brown***

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A big thank you must go to Brian and Linda Ellis and Sheila and Ivor Barnett for the Burnham-on-Sea rally. We go every year that Ced doesn't have a heart attack and even one when he did! Just can't keep away.

Super Carnival, Fireworks and Brian's Ding Bats - who could ask for more? It was wonderful to see Jenny and Tommy Wilson there all the way from Back of Beyond Scotland and a big bit thank you to Gary Wanklin, Ozzie Jones and Roy 'The Man' Loveys for being our mannequins in Cedric's hat auction. Thank you also to all the people who bought the hats, I wish you fun wearing them. We made £185 for the Marie Curie Nursing Home in our village. Today we are going to a tea dance - 150 tickets sold, so it should be a great afternoon. I don't know the grand total yet, but last time it was £850.

Good health in the coming year.

***Maureen & Cedric Jones***

## Provisional Rally List 2011.

### February.

14<sup>th</sup>. - 18<sup>th</sup>.      Whitemead Forest Park, Lydney, Gloucs.

### March.

### April.

7<sup>th</sup>. - 10<sup>th</sup>.      Marston's Albion Hotel, Burton on Trent, Staffs.  
14<sup>th</sup>. - 18<sup>th</sup>.      National Motorhome Show, East of England Showground,  
Peterborough.  
28<sup>th</sup>. - 2<sup>nd</sup> May.      **National Rally & A.G.M. Nottinghamshire Showground, Newark.**

### May.

5<sup>th</sup>. - 9<sup>th</sup>.      Little Cotton C.P., Dartmouth, Devon.  
9<sup>th</sup>. - 13<sup>th</sup>.      Butlins Minehead, Somerset. (Not yet confirmed).  
10<sup>th</sup>. - 13<sup>th</sup>.      Cartmel Racecourse, Cumbria.  
19<sup>th</sup>. - 23<sup>rd</sup>.      Bentley Wildfowl Trust, Halland, E.Sussex.      **NEW**  
23<sup>rd</sup>. - 27<sup>th</sup>.      Hurley Riverside, ~~Henley on Thames, Oxon.~~  
*Park - Maidenhead.*

### June.

2<sup>nd</sup>. - 6<sup>th</sup>.      Ledbury, Herefordshire.  
5<sup>th</sup>. - 12<sup>th</sup>.      Old Barn T.P. Nr. Sandown, Isle of Wight.  
27<sup>th</sup>. - 4<sup>th</sup> July.      Camping Rudesheim am Rhein, Germany.

### July.

1<sup>st</sup>. - 3<sup>rd</sup>.      Prestwood Steam Fair, Prestwood, Nr. Great Missenden, Bucks.  
7<sup>th</sup>. - 11<sup>th</sup>.      Abingdon Cricket Club, Oxon.  
11<sup>th</sup>. - 15<sup>th</sup>.      Emberton Country Park, Bucks.  
14<sup>th</sup>. - 18<sup>th</sup>.      Northern Motorcaravan Show, Cheshire Showground.  
21<sup>st</sup>. - 25<sup>th</sup>.      Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffs.  
28<sup>th</sup>. - 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.      St.Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

## August.

- 11<sup>th</sup>. - 16<sup>th</sup>. Eskdale School, Whitby, North Yorks.  
17<sup>th</sup>. - 22<sup>nd</sup>. Shoreham Air Show, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex.  
23<sup>rd</sup>. - 28<sup>th</sup>. Topsham Cricket Club, Topsham, Devon.

## September.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. - 6<sup>th</sup>. Faversham Hop Festival, Kent.  
8<sup>th</sup>. - 12<sup>th</sup>. Motorhome & US RV, Show, Shepton Mallett, Somerset.  
19<sup>th</sup>. - 24<sup>th</sup>. "Autumn In Dartmouth", Little Cotton C.P, Devon.  
22<sup>nd</sup>. - 25<sup>th</sup>. End of Season Show, Lincoln Showground.  
29<sup>th</sup>. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. A.C.E.O. AGM. Towcester Racecourse, Northants.

## October

- 6<sup>th</sup>. - 10<sup>th</sup>. "Conkers", Camping & Caravanning Club Site, Derbyshire.

## November.

- 4<sup>th</sup>. - 8<sup>th</sup>. Sedgemoor Carnival, Burnham on Sea, Somerset.  
10<sup>th</sup>. - 13<sup>th</sup>. Freemasons' Hall, Christleton, Chester. **NEW**

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## *A wording of Warning, things are a changing!*

I was speaking with a colleague just before Christmas and he told me that his son had recently been stopped by our local constabulary for driving with snow on the roof of his car. He was fined £60 and given 3 points on his license. To me this seems extremely harsh but perhaps we should all take this as a warning during future snowy weather because 'snow on the roof of a car' could be deemed as 'an insecure load'.



To be safe, clear your car roof!!

*Mike Valentine*

**The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club.**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**Annual General Meeting April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011**

We the undersigned nominate

Name .....

Membership number .....

For election to the Management Committee of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club.

Name of Proposer .....

Membership number .....

Signature of Proposer .....

Date .....

Name of Seconder .....

Membership number .....

Signature of Seconder .....

Date .....

I agree to accept nomination for election to the Management Committee.

Signed .....

Date .....

Please return this form to the Club Secretary: Mr. J.A. Osland-Jones,  
14, Doveridge Rd. Hall Green, Birmingham B28 0LU.



## January 2011 Rally Supplement.

*A Happy New Year to all members.*

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.

Marshals please note that the rate of VAT will rise to 20% in January 2011. This will mean a rise in rally fees by 2.5%. This would make a rally fee of £2.35 into £2.50.

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011. (7 nights) Camping Rudesheim am Rhein, Rudesheim, Germany.**

**Rally Marshals:** Liz Irvin and Jeanne Hall: assisted by Peter Brown and Chris Mawdsley.  
Emergency Tel. No. 00 44 (0) 7711271568.

**Rally fee** £17.50 inc VAT (non refundable if successful) to be sent with rally slip and SAE or email address for reply, to Mrs E Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU10 7NP.

Cheques payable to E. Irvin. Tel. No. 01482 658345.

E-mail [irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk)

**Site Fees** payable direct by member to site owner, expected to be similar in 2011. Fees in 2010 were € 27.30 per night for 2 adults, € 22.00 for 1 person, inclusive of electricity 10 amps.

Dogs €3.00 per night.

Showers € 1.00 for 5 minutes. English credit cards are not accepted. The site is a short walk along the riverside to Rudesheim.

For local attractions please see the November newsletter.

The Campsite website is: <http://www.campingplatz-ruedesheim.de/index-en.htm>  
I plan to organise an evening Rhine in Flames cruise on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, including a 2 course dinner (traditional German main course with meat, supplements and dessert) €50.50 per person in 2009. I will need to know numbers for the cruise on the rally slip. You will be expected to make your own arrangements for ferries and insurance.  
**Limit of 25 vans Please do not arrive before 12 noon.**

**14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February ( 4 nights) Whitemead Forest**

**Park, Parkend, Lydney, Gloucs.**

Emergency 07799591550. ( Marshal's mobile). Up to 2 days before rally 01484 604133.  
Site reception. 0845 345 3425.

Rally Marshals: Yvonne & Stuart Wood & Celia & Alan Waugh.

Site Fee £3.60 ( includes room hire). Both

include V

Booking

Hudders

This rally is now full

Burton Acres Way, Highburton,

1484 604 133.

Attractions: swimming pool & gym, forest, tennis, cycling and use of room in evenings.

Directions: Postcode GL15 4LA.

**SAE for route & confirmation.**

LIMIT 28 vans.

Do NOT arrive before 2.00p.m.

*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.

*f* .....

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

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

.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please complete both sides of this form.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Electricity: Yes  No  Evening meal: Yes  No

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Enclose a SAE if confirmation is required.

**AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB  
PROXY FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_

As my proxy at the General Meeting of The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club to be held on: - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I am acting as Proxy for no more than two members.

Signature of Proxy \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form is to be returned to the address below to arrive before 10.30am Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Any forms returned after this time will be deemed invalid.

John Osland-Jones, Secretary, 14 Doveridge Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0LU



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### **NOTES ON PROXY FORM**

1. Appointing a proxy will not preclude you from personally attending and voting at the meeting (in substitution for your proxy) if you subsequently decide to do so. However if you wish to revoke your proxy at any time, you must inform the Club Secretary in writing before the meeting starts.
2. A person can only accept appointment as a proxy on behalf of a maximum of two members.
3. To appoint a proxy using this form, the form must be received by the Club Secretary on any day between Monday to Friday inclusive and no later than 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting at which it is to be used.
4. The proxy must be signed by the relevant member and by the proxy being appointed.
5. Any alteration to the proxy form must be initialled by the member.

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# Technical Group & Website

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



## **Winterisation:**

I hope you took advice from last month's tips on winterising your motorhome? If you didn't manage to do it in time; may I suggest that you let any ice melt gradually rather than try to hasten it.

## **Towing:**

In last month's Newsletter there was an enquiry regarding towing with a motorhome to which I have replied directly. Surprisingly I have had a few enquiries latterly and it may be worth reminding that I do have a published article on the subject. There is a 'grey' area regarding the legality of using 'A' frames – particularly on the Continent as you will see.

Before you go too far may I suggest that you fully load your van as for holidaying and then add the weight of the 'approved' tow bar. From that figure you can then work out your available 'train-weight' by deducting it from the figures detailed on the plate in the engine compartment. As you will be fully aware it is illegal to exceed the weight limits and also your insurance is likely to be void.

## **Website Update No 14/10: Contained:-**

- **Technical:**
  - Ideas Sheet No. 208 – Four simple ideas for a Lancashire ES
  - Broadway EL Duo review
  
- **Stop Press;**
  - Auto Sleeper competition to win a small prize for an unusual

- o motorhome story with supporting picture
- o Simple Christmas Cracker puzzle

### **Internet:**

Club records show that just over 70% of members have registered that they have access to the internet. If you wish to have automatic notice when the web is updated just let me know - by e-mail, please. For members who do not have such access - you can always go your public library for free access. You'll find that librarians are only too willing to help you.

### **Ideas Sheet Index & 'Hints & Tips':**

In view of the printing and distribution costs of the 'Ideas Sheets Index' & the 'hints & tips' (*4 & 8 pages respectively*) they will not be included with this Newsletter as in the past.

However, the Ideas Sheets Index is readily available on the Club Website, whilst the 'hints & tips' can be sent by e-mail or by post."

### **And finally:**

Dorothy and I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2011 and we hope to see many of you during the year.

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### **Seat belt problem - no need to buy new seats....read on!**

I was reading the article by Irene Kitchin in the December magazine, and her remarks about the seat belt crossing her throat rang a bell. I have solved this problem completely. Kleenezy sell clips which snap on to the "stomach" end of the seat belt and can be moved into a comfortable position. After locking the belt, you slide the upper part of it into a slot which holds it in place, but is still safe to use. The pack contains two clips and I now have a pair in the van and in my car. Friends are very appreciative.

*Rita Daley*

## Welcome to New Members



Alan & Sue Robson	Wooler	Lancashire
Malcolm & Patricia Richards	Bicester	Topaz
Dave Gibbon & Kate Tudor Hart	Plymouth	Executive
Peter Hester & Ruth Sparkes	Halesworth	Dorset
Sid & Valerie Mann	Blofield	Symbol
Ginny Street & Jane Haddon	Woburn	Dorset
Tony & Diana Brown	Graveney	Clubman
Bernie & Carol Connors	Bideford	Amethyst
Peter Baxter & Cathryn West	Romsey	Nuevo
Liz Cameron	Bude	Symbol
David & Chris Kemsley	Maldon	Ravenna
Chris & Jean McLeod	Sidcup	Hampshire
Mara Ciolfi & Pip Walford	Cheltenham	Clubman
Ian & Kay Clarke	Plymouth	Duetto
Anthony Lynn	Buckfastleigh	Trooper
Samuel & Judith Summersgill	Manchester	Nuevo
Colin Brooker & Carol Barnes	Benllech	Dorset
Alec & Margaret Thompson	Sheffield	Nuevo
Stephen & Pam Wort	Trowbridge	Surrey
Barbara May	Bromsgrove	Symbol
Barrie & Gloria Williams	Bridgend	Suffolk
Charles & Avril Cooke	Hastings	Nuevo
Malcolm & Ann Holmes	Stoke-on-Trent	Sussex
Jonathan Moore & Anne-Mari Laker	Saxmundham	Sandhurst
Mike & Shirley Valentine	Gotherington	Symbol
Alan & Janet Stannard	Chesterfield	Nuevo
David & Sue Coxon	Louth	Symbol
Paul & Jean Edney	Isle of Wight	Legend
Paul Young & Gill Munn	Pershore	Clubman
David & Anne Martin	Boorley	Surrey
Martin & Pauline Palmer	Bristol	Legend
Tony & Rosemary Mitchell	Thornbury	Nuevo
Peter & Maureen Christmas	Cobham	Duetto

## ***Can you help?***

This might be a very simple, and therefore silly, question but I'm really struggling to understand how one can winterise one's vehicle and yet still use it to stay in during the winter, especially such an inclement one as this is turning out to be.

I have a 17 year-old Harmony with a Cascade heater - would I have to drain down the system every night and refill in the morning? Also, how does one insulate the inside to make it more comfortable and heat efficient in cold weather."

***Denise Buchan***

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I have an Executive with a 2.8HDi engine. I've seen many vans towing a small car, mostly with 'A' frames. There seems to be some confusion as to the legality of 'A' frames. Has anyone any suggestions on this and also a suitable tow car for the vans engine size.

Also, I've noticed adverts for a 'Turbotune DT' that, amongst other things, is supposed to improve fuel efficiency by up to 15% and give up to 25% more power and torque. I thought that one of these could be useful when towing. Has anyone any experience of this gadget; are they as good as they claim or would they induce more problems 'down the line'? If you can assist with the queries, please email me at [jdalton828@gmail.com](mailto:jdalton828@gmail.com)

***John Dalton***

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We have a Gemeni Orion Motorhome made by Auto Sleeper. Only a few thousand miles after we purchased it the gelcoat on the roof developed hair line cracks round much of the edging. The supplier said it was nothing to worry about being only superficial. However, they repaired it under the guarantee but said it may well crack again. It did after just a few months, although not as much.

I am worried that they will get worse, particularly with frost. Have any other members experienced such cracking and if so, what did you do about it, if anything. Can any one say if it is something we should be worried about or not?

***David Munden***

We have an Executive 2001 on Boxer. While sitting at night in cold weather we get a draft from the cab area. Our actions so far are to close the air vents to the cab, put the air circulation to re-circulate we no air is coming in, check door seals, tape up the fins on the inside of both van doors - all to no avail. The draft is very low down at ankle level, but we just can't find where it is coming from. Any suggestions please - apart from a pair of flying boots!!

**June & Dave Everton**

*I wrote a piece on UK winter use in the January 2009 issue of the Newsletter (pages 2 and 3). If any newer members would like a copy please e-mail or telephone me.*

*Please see the Technical section re towing cars. Baz has available a comprehensive article that covers this complex subject.*

*We had many areas of hair line cracking of the gel coated surfaces of our Wilton. Just before the warranty expired I referred this to the Autosleeper Service Centre. Without any question they took the vehicle and repaired the cracks. 12 months and much use later there is no sign of them re-appearing. Please note however that it is virtually impossible to match paint to gel coat colour so you will see the repair.*

*Peter Brown*

## **A Symbol Suffers with a “bloody” ending.**

I enjoyed reading Patrick Beaumont's article in December's Newsletter entitled "A Legend climbs a Legend". It reminded me of the occasion in 2007 when Celia and I climbed the very same Grossglockner Pass in our 1.9 turbo diesel Symbol. We were having a lovely touring holiday in the Black Forest and Austria. One stop we made was at Zell am See, which is at the foot of the Grossglockner Pass.

It was a beautiful sunny day in the middle of August and we set off, looking forward to the spectacular views from the top. Unfortunately, as it was school holiday time, the road up was rather busy and somewhat congested. We sailed up the first few hairpin bends without difficulty, but then came across a slow-moving queue. We were following several coaches, which had to slow down to negotiate each hairpin bend. (I will take Patrick's word for it that there were 36 hairpins - there seemed far more!)

A cyclist overtook us at one early bend as we were in first gear slowly

following the coach around it. The coach was very powerful and quickly accelerated away from us for the next straighter part of the ascent. I went up at full revs in first before trying to change into second gear, but the Peugeot gear change can't be hurried and by the time it was in second the speed had slowed and second gear was too high and gutless to cope, so it was back to first. I did manage to change into second on a slightly less steep section and we overtook the cyclist again, only to then catch up the coach at the following bend – down to first once more! This time I couldn't go fast enough for second to be engaged and so I resigned myself to going up all the way in first gear. Unfortunately, as any scientist will tell you, water boils at a lower temperature the higher up a mountain you go and soon the water temperature red light came on, so we stopped at a lay-by to cool down and enjoy the view, promptly being overtaken by our super-fit cyclist.

When the engine was cooler we slotted into the traffic and sped on up in first gear – no chance of second again and we started leading a long convoy behind us. After a couple more stops to cool down we made it to the top and the cyclist had obviously refreshed himself as he was getting on his bike ready for the downhill descent. He didn't even look shattered!

The views from the top were stunning and Celia and I got out the table ready for lunch. I can't remember what was on the menu, but I am a tomato ketchup fan. Here comes my second scientific fact. Air pressure at 3798m is lower than at lake level! I opened the squeezey plastic bottle last opened at lake level and with its higher inside pressure the ketchup was forced out in a seemingly never-ending stream! I didn't have ketchup with my meal, I had meal with my ketchup!

I did not pass my physics O level when I was at school, unfortunately, but if I had paid more attention I would have known that a turbo charged water-cooled small diesel engine and tomato ketchup in a squeezey bottle were the wrong ingredients for a successful Grossglockner ascent – we should have gone up by bike or had a 2.5 Ford Transit! Thanks Patrick for jogging my memory of a memorable day!

*Alan Waugh*

## Obituary

*I'm sorry to tell you my husband Geoff died a few weeks ago.*

*We have enjoyed many happy holidays in our Clubman, which I have now had to sell. We didn't attend many rallies, but the ones we did get to we really enjoyed and we met some lovely people.*

*Pat Briggs*

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**Goodbye** from Kevin & Jacky Procter. They have recently sold their Talisman and although they only managed a couple of rallies they were both enjoyable. They send their best wishes to everyone.

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