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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.
Registered No: 4816969

DEPUTY EDITOR



***Don't forget to send your copy to
Dudley for the next two months
(contact details on back page)***

NEWSLETTER 273

June 2011

From the Editor ^(S)

We've had so many comments on this year's National that we're handing over this slot to publish some of them and a particularly good one from **Jill and Tony Showell**:

T hanks to Nora and all the team
H ow well they used the Wedding theme.
E veryone smiled and joined in the fun.

A ll needs met and smoothly run.
S o many friends to see and greet
O n to the hall for something to eat.
C oachbuilt, monocoques, all were there

A utosleepers everywhere!
G reat weekend, superbly done,
M ay next year be the usual fun.

PS. What a wonderful charity effort for Parkinson UK.

A very big THANK YOU comes from **Kath and Norman Benyon** . They thought it was a brilliant week-end from start to finish and particularly want to thank Nora and Ven for all their hard work over the years.

From **John and Helen Greenwood**

What a great weekend the National Rally turned out to be. Any worries about the closeness of the Easter and May Day bank holidays along with the royal Wedding holiday were unfounded, as this year's Newark rally got under way. The sun shone, no rain – just wind to fly our flags to good effect!

There was plenty for everyone and enough going on to suit all tastes. The food and catering were excellent, and the entertainment by Tuxedo Junction and the Houghton Weavers was superb. The big screen wedding and reception afterwards (complete with wedding cake) were appreciated by all who attended.

Most took advantage of a trip to Brownhills and a free cream tea, others

joined in the craft workshops, visited the air museum, browsed the hobby stands, or just caught up with friends.

The fund raising for the Parkinsons Disease charity was well supported through the raffle, cake auction, quiz and donations etc, with a generous cheque presented after the Salvation Army service.

We were the very grateful lucky winners of the Glamourshield van makeover which was completed on Saturday. We also had our van fridge professionally serviced by Dometic. It was an added bonus to have these two traders on site all weekend.

We have now attended all eleven of the Newark AGMs, and this was certainly a memorable one, as it also marked Nora's 'retirement' as chair of the AGM committee. A very big THANK YOU to Nora (and of course Ven) for all their hard work over the past years. We drove home in a gleaming van – ready for a rest and recharge of energy before our next outing!

Irene and Mervyn Kitchin want to say a big thank you to everyone who helped organise the Rally *"it was excellent from start to finish"*.

Di Leader and Brenda Jarvis wrote:

We have just returned from another wonderful rally at Newark, congratulations to Nora and her team. I know Nora was worried it was going to be different but actually watching the Royal wedding and having the reception and even a wedding cake was lovely. Several people said to us it was so nice watching it together rather than just sitting at home alone, but that is what ASOC is all about - one big happy family supporting and helping each other. Good luck to Al and his team for 2012 AGM at Newark we will be there.

And finally, **Brian Smith** writing on behalf of the, quite numerous, past and present members of the Club who are enduring Parkinson's, to *"thank everybody for the amazingly generous £2,423.35 raised at the National Rally, not forgetting the committee's contribution of £500. This money will go towards the ongoing research which is taking place to eventually find a cure for this disease, or in the meantime, design drugs which will help to alleviate some of the symptoms. As usual the ASOC family has come up trumps by offering support, not only to the afflicted, but to their carers."*

And from the organisers.....

I would like to thank members for my beautiful Bouquet which is now installed, together with the flowers from the Newark Staff in my lounge looking and smelling lovely. I also appreciate the gifts from individual members; they obviously know my favourite things.

I hope everyone enjoyed the rally as much as I did. The total raised for the Parkinson's Research was **£2,423. 35p.** broken down as follows:

Bike cover sale	70.00
Raffle	755.00
Quiz	225.85
Cake Auction	338.40
Wedding Cake Donations	98.00
Jigsaws	118.26
Button Holes	53.52
Parkinson's Table	62.14
Tea/Coffee	50.68
For Sale Board	18.00
Membership Cards	3.50
Glamour Shield Draw	100.00
ASOC Donation	500.00
Extra Donations	30.00

The collection at the Sunday service for the Salvation Army was **£228.41.** Well done and thank you for your generosity.

There are many people I wish to thank who have offered help in many ways, some I know of and some I am not aware of, but I am grateful to all. Some people I have to name.

I was pleased Geoff Scott and his wife were able to join us on Saturday and in a Motor Home which I know they enjoy using, and I would also like to thank him for the £2500 donation towards expenses. I am grateful to Newark Showground Staff for their cooperation and excellent service over the last 10 years. I would like to thank the ASOC Committee and the Sub Committee who have always supported me; Sheila Henthorne who has dealt with the rally applications for the 12 years I have been organising the rally; John Jones who has organised the Charity and hosted the representative; Chris Mawdsley who has looked after all the

disabled applications; Sheila Barnett who organises the Cake competition; Rita Tubb and latterly Jean Hollingsworth who have organised the Photo Competition; Liz Morgan and now Yvonne Wood who have worked hard for the raffle; Yvonne Wood & Jan Hicklin who made that wonderful wedding cake; Jim Henwood, Stuart Wood, John & Jean Gutsell for organising the Stuart Goodwin and the people who show their hobbies.

I must also mention Ben & Evelyn Mansfield for being Chief Rally Marshals until a couple of years ago and now Vic & Jan Hicklin who took over in 2010, they have worked hard and efficiently. To all Marshals who over the years have stood out in all weathers, my thanks also; to all raffle tickets sellers and the ones folding the tickets; to Pauline Rogers and her team for providing the Tea and coffee; to Ian Wood for taking care of the For Sale Board; to Cedric Jones & John Greenwood for raising the money at the cake auction. To all of these members I am very grateful.

I am now off the Committee but hope to meet up with you all at rallies and have the time to chat. In the meantime best wishes to all.

Nora Venables

I would like to offer special thanks to the companies who assisted us by donating prizes for the raffle, including Premier Furnishings, Glamour Shield, Brittany Ferries, DFDS Norfolk Line, Leisure Kingdom, Cotswold Motor Caravans, Auto-Sleeper Service Centre, Peugeot and Robsons of Wolsingham.

Andy Cavell

Jan and Vic Hicklin would like to thank all the members who helped with the marshalling at the Rally. *"You all did a splendid job and made our work so much easier."*

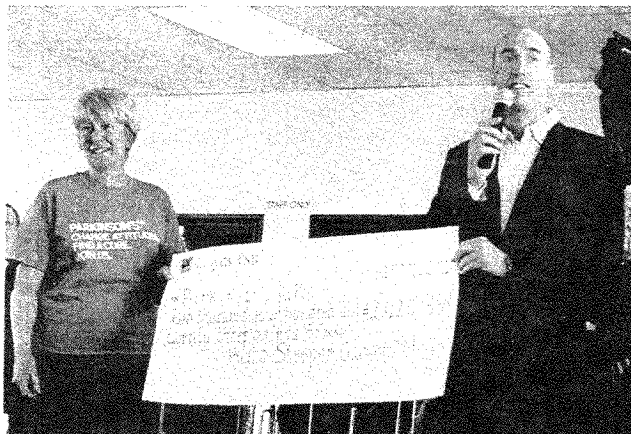
From **Yvonne Wood** a big thank you to all the raffle ticket sellers, and the ladies who helped to fold the ticket stubs, without your help it is an impossible task. Thank you to all the people who donated raffle prizes, and to all the people who bought raffle tickets for a very worthy charity. I hope you will give me the same support in next years raffle at the A.G.M

Stuart Wood offers a big thank you to all the artists and the people who displayed hobbies and crafts in the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion this year at the A.G.M. Thank you to the people who displayed flower arrangements, sadly there were not enough to have a competition as we planned, maybe next year there will be more people willing to have a go at flower arranging.

Pauline Rogers would also like to say a big "Thank you" to Barbara, Dorothy, Jean, Kath, Mavis, Mo and Twink for their invaluable help serving tea & coffee in the Stuart Goodwin Hall during the A.G.M. National Rally weekend. My thanks also go to John and Stuart for all their assistance throughout the weekend.

Mike Valentine would like to give his thanks to all who contributed to a great weekend. He thought it was most successful, well arranged and well executed.

And finally, here's Julia Briars-Filby and Paul from Parkinson's UK after being presented with that cheque.



Don't forget we now have a new Treasurer, so all your rally returns, etc., should go to:

Peter Brown
5 Kenilworth Walk
Cheadle
Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 1WA

07771 827711
pcb7ty@btinternet.com



Chairman's Chat

It is good to hear that our membership is increasing each month and I would like to say WELCOME to our new members.

To all of you who were unable to attend the National Rally, I must say that you missed a very good weekend, with tremendous camaraderie and much laughter. The Wedding was watched by many ladies dressed in their finery, including some beautiful hats and some of the men sported very fine attire plus hats too! A large viewing screen erected in the main hall made this a very enjoyable occasion. The Luncheon Celebrations saw many groups enjoying fine fayre and an elaborate Wedding cake, made by members, was cut and served to all.

In the evening, we had an entertaining quiz and then the cakes from the competition, 19 in total, were auctioned raising a good sum of money towards our charity.

The AGM went through easily, and in quick time, with two matters arising:

1. The CEO of A~S had asked about A~S caravan owners being admitted to ASOC, developing the family of A~S. A discussion followed with the outcome being one of rejection. As you chairman I consider the outcome to be shortsighted. I appreciate that caravans can mean families but I question this fact due to the caravan price. I would like to see and hear more discussion on this subject before the matter is finally put to bed.
2. The question of nomination of the Honorary Accounts Examiner was questioned, 'that members of the committee could not nominate an examiner' but that it should come from the floor of the meeting.

It is an obligation of the club under Article 16 to appoint during each Annual General Meeting an Honorary Examiner who shall not be a member of the Committee to inspect and verify the accounts. It has been the practice to ask for nominations for this post during the course of the AGM. The committee has decided

that from 2012 on, nominations for this post will be made in the same manner and timescale as nominations for prospective committee members as described in Article 40.

The AGM saw the retirement of Nora Venables, Chairman of the National Rally who is replaced by Al Buckett. Also our Treasurer, John Tidbury, whose position has been taken by Peter Brown. Both were presented with a small gift. My grateful thanks go to both Nora and John for their work over the years. I would also like to thank the team who worked tirelessly over the weekend in so many different ways, a GREAT JOB.

The Saturday Dinner set the evening off, Geoff Scott CEO from A~S spoke about the fortunes and investments of the company and even hinted at a new monocoq being built. An enormous raffle with some fifty prizes were given away, followed by 'Tuxedo Junction' playing a wide range of music, obviously much enjoyed because the dance floor was always full.

The Sunday morning service was led as usual by the Sleaford Salvation Army, followed by the presentation of a cheque for £2423.35 to the Parkinson's UK representative. This fantastic sum was raised over the weekend and included £500 from raffle monies collected at our individual rallies throughout the year. Our own club member, Julia, who works for the society was delighted, as were we all. We concluded the rally Sunday evening with the Houghton Weavers singing a range of folk songs.

Over the weekend many members took advantage of the free bus and visited Brownhills, to view a good range of Auto-Sleepers and also enjoy the complimentary cream tea.

I trust that everyone had a safe uneventful onward journey and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Mike Valentine

Caravans at the Ready

At our recent AGM the question of whether ASOC should include Autosleeper caravans to its fold was discussed and I, like the vast majority, voted a rather definite No.

However having voted thus and agreeing with all of the points presented, later I had an un-easy feeling that we might have been too hasty and not given the subject a sufficient balanced view.

The next day I had occasion to discuss this subject with one of the few who voted for inclusion of Caravans to the club and this confirmed to me that we may, just may, have been too hasty to reject Autosleeper Caravan owners from our midst. I would like to list some points to consider as follows:-

1. What "good will" do we loose from Autosleepers who have made this request, what benefits do we get from our relationship with Autosleepers that we might loose, the free ASOC membership from Marquise perhaps. I have the feeling that Baz & Mike have worked hard to increase our ties with Autosleeper for the benefit of the club, would this be in jeopardy?
2. What do Autosleepers and Marquise hope to gain from adding Caravans to ASOC? It has been quoted that a Caravan sale was lost because they could not provide membership to ASOC as a part of the deal. I must say I find that difficult to credit, it certainly wouldn't effect my decision if buying a new Caravan or Motorhome.
3. Many of us are members of the Caravan Club, we joined because of it's large network of sites they offer, they could have decided to exclude Motorehomes from their membership but thankfully didn't.
4. It wasn't said in forum but I know many members, including myself, associate caravans with families, which means children and I know that having children at our rallies is not a popular concept. Most of us have done that bit and now look forward to adults time, but realistically how many people would consider taking their children on an ASOC rally? Hardly a children's paradise ! The Autosleeper caravans are priced at the very top of the range, as much as a Motorhome in some cases and I cannot believe that the sort of people buying these vans will be spending these sums to provide a budget holiday for their wife and children.

5. Of course the biggest objection was voiced regarding the practicality of organising Rallies which include Caravans, it was thought to complicated to fit every one in because of the 2 vehicle aspect of Caravanning. I have never organised a rally and certainly don't profess to know all of the aspects of this task. But I cannot believe that its beyond the wit of ASOC man to adapt a formula where Caravans can be included. Yes some sites may be too small and Caravans would have to be excluded, Burton springs to mind although even there with a 1 ½ allowance for the caravan, that might work, but I am sure there are plenty who will say it wouldn't.

I would just like to end by saying that ASOC is a great owners club and I wouldn't like to see it do itself a disservice by being afraid of change. I have no axe to grind here, we enjoy the rallies as they are and will stay members for as long as we have an Autosleeper, but I do think that there is a danger of ASOC's long held traditions masking the bigger picture, giving the impression of an elitism which I am sure most members do not subscribe to.

Roger Guyver

Obituary

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Ron Kirwin, who died recently aged 81. Born in Chesterfield and a lifelong resident of the area, Ron spent a period in the RAF, worked for Robinsons and started a local engineering company.

A long time member of ASOC until fairly recently, he and his wife Enid will have been known to many of you .

Our sympathies are with Enid and her family at this time.



June 2011 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. 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.

5th - 12th. June (7 nights) Old Barn T.P. Nr.Sandown,Isle of Wight. PO36 9PJ.

Emergency Tel.No. 07730212750 -07866621291.

Rally marshals: Ken Bolton & Mac.McArthur. (Tel.No. 01983875918).

Rally fees (including ferry fares) £148 per unit for 7 nights including electricity.(Incl VAT).

The ferry will be Red Funnel Southampton to East Cowes. Basic ferry charge is for a van 5.5 metres long & 2.25metres high.

Anything higher & longer will be charged extra. Ferries leave Southampton every hour on the hour so when booking put time of departure on rally slip.

Contact the rally marshal before booking for details of package.

Then send an S.A.E. with rally fee made out to K.Bolton, 2 Cherryside, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight. PO36 9LU. Tel.No. 01983 402059.

Attractions: Most of the Isle of Wight is an area of outstanding natural beauty with many attractions. The site is situated on the main Newport Road between Sandown and Newport.

A Morrisons store is ¼ mile away & opposite the site is a very nice café.

There are bus stops nearby and it is quite easy to get all over the island by bus, passes accepted.

There are lots of walks nearby and you are in sight of the Isle of Wight airport, a small private airport with a grass runway. Pleasure flights are available or you can learn to fly.

Rally starts 12 noon 5th. June, ends 12 noon. 12th. June.

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

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

**1st. – 3rd. July (2 nights) Prestwood Steam Fair,Great Missenden,
Bucks.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07775570182 or 07749378587.

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin & Margaret & Bob Cleaver.

Fee for the weekend £18.50 per unit.Rally Fee: £2.50 per unit.(Incl.VAT).

NO Electricity.

The weekend fee includes unlimited entrance to the Steam Rally.

This is a GREEN FIELD site- own toilets essential.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs.J.Hicklin, 381 Manor Road,Brimington,Chesterfield,
Derbyshire.S43 1PP.Tel.No. 01246 236157.

If unavailable please ring Margaret on 01442 851080.

Directions:From A413 Great Missenden take the A4128 to Prestwood and
follow steam rally signs.

NO arrivals before 1.00p.m. Friday please.

7th – 12th July (5 nights or less if you wish!)

Abingdon Vale Cricket Club, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3HP.

Emergency Tel. No. 07880 532057 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell and Mo & Mike Valentine.

Site fee: £6.00 per night: Rally Fee £3.00 (inc VAT).

Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys,
Thatcham, Berks. RG18 0RY.

Attractions: This is a green field site adjacent to the River Thames and only a
short walk from the town centre, which has a variety of specialist shops and
several pubs. There are many local attractions including bus and boat services
to Oxford. We hope to have the use of the pavilion for a get-together on Friday
evening if the weather is bad! Dogs are welcome, subject to usual rules; there
are walks straight from the site.

Directions: The cricket club is on the A415 Abingdon to Dorchester road. If
you approach from Abingdon, it is on the right after you go over the river bridge.
Don't turn in to the car park! About 100 yards after the car park there are two
gateways side by side. The Cricket Club is the right hand gateway. Coming
the other way it is the second of the two gateways on the left just after the 30
mph. sign.

Please do not arrive before 2.00 pm to allow us time to mark out the site.

**11th - 15th July 2011 (4 nights) Emberton Country Park Nr Olney,
Bucks. MK46 5DB**

Emergency Number: 07964532936 (Rally Marshall).

Rally Marshalls: Pat and David Mayne.

Site Fees £9.50 per night (inc VAT). Rally fee £3.20 per couple £2.20 Single (both inc VAT).

Rally Slips & cheque to Mr D H Mayne, with SAE, please, for confirmation. Send to Mr. D. Mayne., 27 Mentmore Rd., Linslade, Leighton

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This rally has had to be cancelled.

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Keynes, including cycling around the Park. From Olney, there are buses to Northampton, Bedford and Milton Keynes. Train Services from Milton Keynes run to Euston in London for the adventurers! .

Olney has a Market on Thursdays and there is an excellent Museum and Gardens (inc. tea rooms) celebrating the lives of William Cowper and John Newton. There are a number of shops, pubs, cafes and a supermarket (approx. 1 ¼ miles).

We shall be using the small Rally field adjacent to the Great Ouse which has a toilet emptying point as well as fresh water and waste water disposal. No Electricity as it is a **Green Field site**. There is a Public toilet in the Park with hand washing facilities (cold) about 200yds from this field. The Park also has a Campsite for tents etc. and Residential use and is frequently visited for day entry only. It is intended that you will decide on your own daily activities as there is a wide choice of interests nearby. If the weather is good we may hold a communal BBQ. or similar.

Directions: From South take the A509 northwards from Jctn 14 on M1 until you arrive at Emberton village and then in ¼ mile look for signpost for Emberton Country Park on the left. Report in at Gatehouse then follow signs to Rally fields (Right at top of drive). From North take the A509 from Wellingborough and 1.5 miles south of Olney, turn right into Park (signed) and do as above. Rally starts at 12 noon, so don't arrive sooner as I may not be there!!

**14th - 18th July 2011. Northern Motorcaravan Show, Cheshire
Showground, Tabley, Knutsford, WA16 0HJ.**

Emergency Tel. No. Marshalls Mobile 0786 8000 705

Rally Marshalls: Liz & Roger Spensley, & Eunice & Brian Lockett.

Please use the booking form enclosed in the May Newsletter if possible.

If you use a form from other magazines mark the form ASOC and note the special club site fees. Arrive Thursday £38, Arrive Friday £35, Arrive Saturday £32.

All bookings for Pitch and Saturday evening entertainment must be made with Warners and the booking form sent to them by **24th June**, if you wish to rally with the club.

****Then you must also complete a Club rally slip, (this also applies to internet bookings).

Return it with the Rally fee of £2.50 couples, £1.70 singles (inc.VAT) to: R. & E. Spensley, 30 Kilsyth Close, Cinnamon Brow, Warrington, WA2 0SQ. Tel. No. 01925 813558. Cheques payable to R. & E. Spensley.

The rally ends 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon Monday.

Thurs 21st - Monday 25th July 2011 (4 nights) Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Rally Marshals: Ted & Trish Pratt & Vic & Jan Hicklin.

Emergency Tel.No. Marshals' mobile 07713186508.

Site Fee: £5.75 per night inc. VAT. Rally Fee: £2.50 inc. VAT.

PLEASE NOTE THIS RALLY IS 4 NIGHTS LONG.

Booking slips and cheques payable to P.M.Pratt, 3 Grafton Rd., Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, Staffs. DE15 9DN. Tel.No.01283538818.

You may arrive on Thurs AFTER 12 noon NOT BEFORE PLEASE. (This is virtually a green field site although there are toilets in Beacon Park).

Sat. evening get together includes jacket potato, dessert and drink - £5.00.per person. Pay with booking slip.

If you would like to go on a tour of Lichfield Cathedral during the weekend, please telephone on above number to let me know.

Attractions: Beacon Park is adjacent to Lichfield City centre. Buses are available to National Arboretum from Lichfield bus station.

Directions: Beacon Park is situated on outskirts of Lichfield, just off the A51 Tamworth to Rugeley/Stafford Road leaving Lichfield. Follow brown Beacon Park tourist signs. Turn into Walsall Road, then immediately **left** into Lower Sandford Street. Follow signs for Car Park, the site is through the car park keeping to the right.

POSTCODE for Lower Sandford Street is **WS13 6RA**.

28th July - 2nd August (5 nights) Leon's Field. St.Ives. Huntingdon. Cambs. PE27 5ER.

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL.

2nd - 6th . August (4 Nights) Redgate Junior School, Hunstanton,
Norfolk, PE36 5DY

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL

11th - 16th . August (5 nights) Eskdale School, Whitby, North Yorks.

Emergency Tel. No. 07711 271568 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Liz Irvin, Peter Brown & Chris Mawdsley.

Site Fees £6.00 per night. Rally Fees £3.50 couples £2.00 singles (both include VAT). **Greenfield Site, No Toilets, No Electricity. All Hardstandings.**

Booking slips to Mrs. E. Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, HULL, East Yorkshire. HU10 7NP. Tel. No. 01482 658345. Cheques payable to Mrs. E. Irvin.

Attractions: Whitby Regatta 13th 14th & 15th August. School off the Scarborough Road, buses at the school gates to Whitby. Come and explore Whitby's fascinating and historic streets and waterfront. The site is close to the Whitby end of the Moor to Sea Cycle Route with links to Scarborough and Pickering. For walkers the Cleveland Way coastal path is nearby. Visit Goathland where Heartbeat is filmed, or travel on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

Directions: From Scarborough on A171, on entering Whitby, after lay-by and 30mph. Sign, turn left into Eskdale Road and the school is on the left. From Guisborough or Pickering on A171, enter Whitby and continue on the Scarborough road, cross the new Esk Bridge and continue up the hill to the top of, Stainsacre Lane. Eskdale Road is on the right, before the industrial estate.

Post code **YO22 4HS.**

Limit of 25 vans.

17th - 22nd . August (5 nights).Shoreham AirShow,Shoreham by
Sea, West Sussex.

Emergency Tel. No.07999571461 (Mobile).

Rally Marshals:Shirley & Chris Sturgeon &Theresa & Dave Smith.

Site Fee:£3.00 per night Rally fee: £ 2.40 (Incl.VAT). Airshow tickets £28.00 per adult,£12.00 per child ,(Covers both days).

No Electricity,Green field site with tap and Elsan point.

Saturday evening buffet meal available@ £5.50 per person (Incl.VAT) payable in advance.

Rally slips and cheques payable to A.N.Fowler,20 Hawkins Close, Shoreham by Sea,West Sussex.BN43 6TL. Tel.No. 01273594479.

Send SAE if confirmation of booking required.

Sorry no dogs allowed.

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Continued. page 6.

Shoreham Airshow continued.

Attractions: 2 day Airshow with on ground entertainment, cycle rides from site.

Directions: On A27 between Brighton and Worthing leave the A27 at traffic lights opposite Sussex Pad Hotel. Turn into airport. (This is the only entrance for motorhomes).

Sussex Pad hotel post code BN15 0RH.

Please do not arrive before 12 noon Wednesday.

Limit of 30 vans.

23rd -28th August (5 nights) Topsham Rugby Club, Topsham, Nr. Exeter, Devon

Full booking details for this rally will be in the July 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

E & OE.

Rally Date.....

Your name and address (Please PRINT)

.....

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

Phone No. Mobile No.....

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

Van Reg..... Model/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..... Model/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.

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.

Rally News

Burton-on-Trent & Peterborough

We would like to say a big "Thank you" to Trish, Ted, Jan and Vic for the super rally we enjoyed at Burton. The tour of the brewery was an enjoyable experience and the evening meals were superb.

Following the rally we stayed on the Conkers Camping and Caravan site for three nights and enjoyed the forest and canal walks. A super site and we are looking forward to the rally there in October.

We then moved onto the Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre for one night on the A47 just four miles from Peterborough. A great place to take children to see and feed the animals. From there we went to **Peterborough Showground** and as usual, thanks to Neil, Pauline and their helpers we had a great time.

Keith Taylor and Rita Jones

Dartmouth & Minehead Rallies

I write to record sincere thanks from Jill and I to Rita & John Tubb, who agreed to Marshal these two rallies at very short notice. This was due to my incapacity with a trapped nerve in my lower back (waiting to be confirmed by MRI scan) that has badly affected my mobility, two weeks before we were due at Dartmouth. Also many thanks to Pam and Steve Earnshaw and Rita Jones and Keith Taylor. We are very grateful as well to the many other members who willingly joined in to assist wherever they could. I cannot make much use of my left leg but now I am at last in the care of an Orthopaedic consultant at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, whom I hope will succeed in sorting me out.

We missed meeting many good friends as a result and take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind messages and best wishes which are a great 'pick me up' at this time and I hope it will not be long before we can meet again on a Rally somewhere.

Richard McAllister

Emberton Park Rally Cancelled.

Due to lack of support for this rally, I have had to cancel my booking with Emberton Park as they require a minimum price of 10 units attending, and I only have received 5 by the newsletter's and the Park's deadline and from previous experience I would only expect to pick up the odd one or two after this time. It may well be the cost of the site plus cost of diesel is affecting members attending. Had I confirmed with Emberton Park this would have produced a big loss to ASOC. Never mind, we could try again next year if there is sufficient interest.

David Mayne

Burnham On Sea - November

Full Rally and booking details to be in **July Newsletter**. All pitches have electric hook up and are accessed by tarmac roads. No dogs allowed.

2011 will be our 12th carnival rally at the Holiday Village so many of you know what to expect. For those who have never seen this spectacular event, visit highbridgeandburnhamcarnival.org.uk (*all lower case*)

The actual carnival parade can take up to about 2 hours and apparently can be seen from space. We may arrange a trip at some time in the future to prove or disprove this.

Also a new rally at UNITY Holiday resort Brean Sands

This is a new rally in September, which we have purposely slotted in between the motor caravan show at The Royal Bath and West Show Ground Shepton Mallet and the Little Cotton C.P Dartmouth Devon. Unity Holiday resort is about 26 miles from the showground and 92 miles from Little Cotton Dartmouth. So anyone wishing to extend their break or use this as a stop over on route to Devon may find this convenient. See **July Newsletter** for full details.

Linda & Brian Ellis

To all Rally Marshals Please ensure that you have both the address of the rally site and the Postcode available in case of emergencies. The emergency services Tel.No. 999 or 112 , will require this information for the prompt despatch of emergency vehicles.

On Insurance

Further to Pete Fisher's article last month about how not having a habitation service carried out invalidated his warranty, this could also invalidate your insurance.

Every motor insurance policy contains a clause which stipulates that the vehicle must be kept in a safe and roadworthy condition. I know of at least one insurance company which takes the view that in the case of a motorhome this includes the annual gas and 240 volt safety checks which are part of the habitation service. Where one company leads, others are sure to follow.

Andy Cavell

On Towbars

With reference to the article regarding fitting a towbar to a Ravenna on a Ford chassis.

It might be of interest to anyone with the intention of having a towbar fitted to a Ravenna, Autosleeper Service Centre (01386853511), has informed me that a towbar can be supplied and fitted + electrics for (wait for it) £745 including VAT

Russ Bassett

On Satnavs

I read Brian Murphy's hints in the May Newsletter and would like to add to the one on Satellite Navigation.

There are popular models out that the height, weight etc of the vehicle can be programmed into such as the Snooper Ventura S2000 (4") Screen or the 7000 (7") Screen. This helps as far as narrow roads and bridges are concerned.

Snoopers are to be seen at most of the Motorhome Shows but can be obtained either from dealers in our case from an outlet in Manchester (mail order with show discount) or from the manufacturer who is based in Runcorn. Some members may prefer the 7" screen version if eyesight is not 100%.

Roger Spensley

Technical Group & Website



Baz Wellard
Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster

National Rally - Technical Desk

Hopefully with the help of Albert Brown & Peter Brown we were able to satisfactorily respond to all the enquiries and queries raised during the National Rally weekend at the Technical Desk? It remains the intention to re-convene the Auto Sleepers 'Question & Answer' session at the 2012 National Rally - as well as having the Technical Desk.

My thanks go to Albert & Peter for their help, and to Stuart Wood for preparing the 'desk' for us. Also to Nora, and her Sub-committee, for all their efforts in planning and delivering another successful rally.

Memory Foam Mattress Toppers

There may be some newer motorhome owners who are not aware of the possible advantage of using a 'memory foam mattress' to help even-out slight undulation in the bed(s).

An inexpensive version is now available at such outlets as 'Pound Stretchers'. A single mattress topper costs only £25 and rolls up into a cylindrical zipped bag - 12" diameter x 12" in length. A double is 12" x 18" and costs £35 and a King size is 12" x 21" and costs £45.

Website Update No. 06/11 contains:-

- AGM
- 2011 update including the new sub-committee
- Photo competition results
- General photographs

- o Committee
 - o 2011/2012 Committee members
 - o Rally list
 - o Addition of a 'down-loadable' rally application form.
-

More on Battery Charging.

I became interested in this subject following the complete failure of my Nuevo leisure battery after three years use, and Peter's comment in Newsletter 272 about "float" charging finally provided the clue to why this may have happened. I had always left the van plugged in to the mains and consequently always on charge. At the time I thought (wrongly) that the charge would be shared between the leisure and vehicle battery. I now know that the vehicle battery is only charged if manually selected AND with the habitation circuits switched on. This is mentioned in the Owner's Manual but I'd not noticed it before.

This means that my leisure battery was probably gassing gently over a long time with consequent loss of water. These batteries are "sealed" with no obvious way of adding water and I had assumed (again wrongly) that this meant no water was needed. I have now been told that it is possible to top them up by injecting water through the "gas vent hole" I'm not sure how you know when enough has been added, maybe it just runs over?

My approach now is to check the voltage every two weeks and then charge as needed, manually selecting the vehicle battery if necessary. So thanks to Peter for explaining the float charging system but I do think it would be helpful to have clearer advice about over winter charging in the owner's manual. The wording in my copy simply says ".....we would suggest that perhaps monthly, this [the vehicle battery] is trickle charged to prevent long term damage." It also says "check electrolyte of both (batteries) before storage." I don't know how to do this with a "sealed" battery.

David Garraway

My Insurance Drama (MID)

Of course, MID also stands for Motor Insurance Database. I was aware that such a database existed but I didn't know what it was called. I also didn't know that you could check your vehicle's record on this database – to my regret. If you haven't checked your motorhome (or any other vehicles you insure) on the database, read on and then do so immediately.

I renewed my insurance with a leading company as usual, and a few weeks later my wife and I left in our motorhome for sunnier climes. Some weeks later and after a tiring journey home my wife and I pulled on to our drive only to find we had been tailed by an unmarked police car.

We appeared to be driving an uninsured vehicle as there was no record for it on the MID. I confidently produced my current certificate of insurance but this held no sway. Evidently they are no longer taken as proof of insurance because it is so easy to get one and then cancel the insurance, or otherwise fraudulently acquire one.

Hopefully because we looked honest and genuine people, one of the officers asked if I could think of any reason why my insurance may have been cancelled without me being aware. Did I, for instance, pay by a direct debit that could have failed to go through. Well no, I paid by credit card over the phone as I always did. This is when a cold sweat breaks out on the back of your neck – I hadn't received a statement before leaving on holiday.

Wading through a mountain of post I found my credit card statement with the transaction clearly shown (I didn't really think it wouldn't be there as I had been told it had been authorised and I had received all my documents, but stranger things have happened). When I showed this to the police they said they would phone the MID and get them to phone my insurer for confirmation (luckily we were still within office hours).

Whilst we waited for the MID to call back, the police informed me that if, for any reason, the MID didn't receive immediate confirmation of my insurance, then they would have no choice but to impound my vehicle and all its contents (not a happy thought). They also said I was lucky to have been stopped in my home county of Bedfordshire as in some counties the police won't go to the bother of getting the MID to check but just impound the vehicle. This leaves you to prove you are innocent and

you face a bill for £150 plus £20 a day until you can do so and retrieve your vehicle. Out of MID office hours, regardless of where you are in England, it seems you are up the proverbial creek without a paddle.

I was mulling over what may have happened had I been stopped abroad, when the insurer had confirmed I was covered but for some reason the MID had not been updated. Phew!

The police suggested I always check the MID (www.askmid.com) a few days after renewal to make sure it has been updated. I checked as soon as I got indoors and sure enough the stark message "NO - this vehicle is NOT showing as insured on the MID" appeared. When I spoke to the company I insure through (in strong tones) they said they would look into it and make sure the record was updated. But, they said, they have no way of telling if there has been an error until something like this happens. When I checked the following day, sure enough I was now 'officially' insured. As you can guess, a strong letter has been sent asking for an explanation and assurances for the future.

My insurer commented that they thought the police were being a bit heavy handed - not much comfort when your pride and joy is being towed away. However, I suppose if we want uninsured vehicles removed from our roads, it is no use the police just asking for proof of insurance to be presented within 5 days at a police station (as they used to) because the genuine criminal will just disappear along with their vehicle from the face of the earth. When the police don't even have the time to attend criminal damage incidents and the suchlike I doubt they have time to follow up hundreds of insurance document 'no-shows' at the 'cop-shop'. Hence their policy of guilty until you can prove your innocence and in the meantime we will impound your vehicle.

Maybe the police were simply 'putting the frighteners on me', because reading between the lines I felt that had it been out of office hours they may have given me the benefit of the doubt – especially as I had a certificate (for what it was worth) and confirmation of payment. But on the other hand..... So, if your fingers aren't already flying across your computer keyboard, I assume you already regularly check the MID. Or, of course, you may just be away in your motorhome blissfully unaware of the potential nightmare that could befall you if you have been unlucky enough to fall victim to the dreaded 'finger trouble' or 'computer glitch' as I appear to have done.

Graham Franklin

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Tom Armet	Dunfermline	Lancashire
Laurie & Lesley Turner	St Breward	Symbol
Jude Banks	Felixstowe	Trooper
Tom & Doreen Carmichael	Winchester	Symbol
Stuart Lodge & Caroline Prosser	Sheffield	Symbol
Gary & Shirley Pellatt	Manchester	Legend
Steve & Penny Swan	Tenterden	Surrey
John & Patricia Baker	Dudley	Lancashire
Pat Bennett & Pam Saunders	Portsmouth	Lancashire
Henry & Diana Harvey	Dittisham	Pollensa
David & Sue Fullagar	West Malline	Nuevo
Ian & Yvonne Wyllie	Chippenham	Devon
John & Anne Garside	Llanrhystud	Duetto
Dave & Libby Mytton	Droitwich	Clubman
Paul & Rosemary Draper	Sidmouth	Nuevo
Stuart & Eileen Cooper	Lancing	Rambler
George & Cathy Wynne	Tonbridge	Nuevo
Paul & Christine Adams	Rotherham	Mezan
Eric Kenwright	Martock	Symbol
Partick & Wendy O'Connor	Brighouse	Legend
Tom & Jean Grubb	Carlisle	Trident
David Collins	Bristol	Topaz
Gordon & Caroline Quick	Torquay	Topaz
Bob & Carol Pember	Huntley	Gloucester
Stuart & Janis Simpson	Upper Hartfield	Cotswold
Ian Lewis	Great Paxton	Rambler
Colin & Betsy Pamplin	Porthcawl	Trooper



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as new condition and never used for camping, a/c, fresco green metallic, VW detachable tow bar (never used), colour coded awning, full chrome kit, reversing sensors & mud flaps, 17" alloys. Still covered under warranties by Auto-Sleepers (until June 2012) and VW (until June 2013). Save over £15K on new price today ! Genuine reason for very reluctant sale. **£35,995** Contact **John Hooper 01963 32067** or **hoopers14@btinternet.com** (Somerset)

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davidallen945@yahoo.co.uk

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STOP PRESS If you have windbreakers from Lillypad Leisure you can obtain pole caps (to stop the poles slipping) free of charge if you send them an SAE with a 58p stamp.

Peter Brown

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