

[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*



*This is how it felt trying to put the  
newsletter together after Carpal Tunnel  
Surgery*

## **NEWSLETTER 275**

### **August 2011**

# From the Editor (S)

Hi again! We are still at ASOC towers, a little dryer and warmer at last. Firstly I must apologise to anybody whose article did not get in last month but it is fantastic to have input to carry forward. Secondly for errors that crept into the newsletter but we had a family crisis and it all ended up a bit rushed (do you think I'll get a written warning from Peter- just joking, I hope).

Well we have had some fabulous weather and I hope you have been making the most of it the only problem being that our grass seems to be growing about 8 inches a week so if you are away for a while expect a lot of hard work in the garden on your return. For various reasons we are thinking of changing our grass for astro-turf or like, has anybody done this or have experience of it?

Kathleen and I are looking forward to Beacon Park Rally and confident that this year we will actually going to get there, and after this is Whitby which again for us is a fabulous rally so if you are attending these, if you enjoy the newsletter come and say hello and if you don't like my newsletters stay in your own van. And with that see you next year, Dudley and Kathleen

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## **The National Rally 2012**

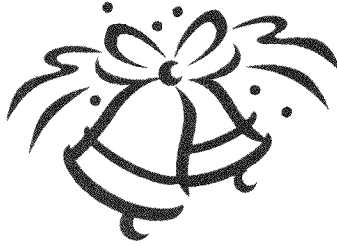
If club members have any ideas that they would like to put forward for inclusion in next year's National Rally please let me know.

The Sub Committee meet in October to start putting together the programme and we will discuss any ideas regarding entertainment or other suggestions to make the Rally different.

My email address is [buckettb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:buckettb@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone me on 01304 369149.

Al Buckett

# Congratulations!



Our very best wishes go to Peter Kimber and Angie Pinnington  
Who were married on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

They spent their honeymoon in their Auto-Sleeper (where else?!)  
in Iron Bridge.

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## TOILET PROBLEMS

Having just read the article 'A plea for your expertise' in the July newsletter re Autosleeper Excelsior 96 from Richard and Christine Ryan, I am not sure which type of toilet their van has installed but if it helps we had a similar problem with a 92 C2 cassette toilet in our Harmony and changed the sealing ring which solved the problem.

Make sure the year is correct and instructions on the replacement are followed and it should stop the leak problems. Check for gaps round the toilet unit and for metal corrosion. It helps to remove the lid/seat etc. to clean at the back.

Several years ago I learned a great lesson with the cassette toilet in our van. Being clever, I decided to go to the dentists in the van at 8.00am and as nerves are often enmeshed with such a visit even though the dentist is friendly and the toilets in town don't open until 9.00 I used the toilet in the van. Unfortunately the blade had seized and I couldn't open the flush and rather than sorting it later I managed to force the wheel to open with the result the contents of the bowl went rapidly upwards on to the ceiling. Fortunately I had removed my anorak but had to peel off my pullover and managed to wash away most of the shrapnel. ( What a sight, but I daren't laugh, he was so shocked - Jane )  
Before you say it, no, the cassette was empty but fully charged ready to

go. The cause was bacteria inside the tank, left for a couple of weeks and no relief valve fitted. The blade was distorted and jammed with the pressure. Still works O.K.

Moral to the tale. It is wise to rinse out older cassettes well with a sterilising solution if going to be left for a while and always put the lid down when flushing !

Jane & Ged Hallam 5428

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### **Is this Today's World?**

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers; wider roads but narrower viewpoints; we spend more but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences but less time; we have more degrees but less sense; more knowledge but less judgement; more experts but more problems; more medicine but are less healthy. We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour.

We've conquered outer space but not inner space; we've cleaned up the air but polluted the soul; we've split the atom but not our prejudice.

We have higher incomes but lower morals; we've become long on quantity but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men, steep profits and shallow relationships. We strive for world peace but still have domestic warfare; more leisure but less fun; more kinds of food but less nutrition.

These are days of two incomes but more divorce; larger and fancier houses but more broken homes.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring this letter to you and a time when you can choose either to make a difference..... or just hit delete!!

Mo's thoughts on life!

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### **Eastern Bound**

As part of the Cold War in the 60's, together with my wife Ivy, I decided to tour some of the old Eastern Bloc countries to see how things were, after twenty years of true independence.

From May 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, we completed over 5200 miles, through 11 countries, staying at 26 campsites, in our 'M' registered Autosleeper turbo Clubman. We travelled as far east as Budapest and south to Dubrovnik.

With the help of the Michelin Europe 2010 motoring atlas I highlighted our proposed route and tried to average approximately 150 miles (240 km) per journey overall. I then listed all booked and proposed campsites by place, book, page name, telephone number, and apart from an extra three days at the Prague site to deal with a poisoned ear, we more or less kept to our schedule.

Ivy and I share the driving and navigation and, with the aid of the sun (when available), our little compass and occasional enquiries out of the window in English, then German, then French and finally Spanish, we always arrived in time to book in.

We drew a few conclusions which might come in handy for those travelling abroad for the first time:-

The first vital thing to learn is the way signposts point on the Continent, especially at roundabouts. To direct you forward, they always point across you – which is very unnerving until you get used to it – if in doubt, go round again and get it right second time!

The navigator must always look on the map for the 'leading town' when approaching an important junction, this may not be a final destination, but the signs will send you in the right direction.

The navigator then has to consult the appropriate camping book to relay the detailed instructions to the campsite – one at a time! I must compliment the Caravan Club on how good these instructions usually are – who needs a SATNAV??

In Eastern Europe most locals we spoke to tried to use some English or German, they do not wish to speak Russian if at all possible, which disappointed me somewhat. We found people on and off site very friendly and helpful. The sites were all up to the standard which we are used to here.

You will need a continental 2-pin adaptor for occasional electrical points (many use 3-pin round).

A knowledge of languages obviously helps but so do body language, common sense and patience.

I claimed my medical expenses and three extra days camping in Prague successfully from our insurers but beware of the usual £40 excess!

Be prepared for all weathers, use a body pouch for money and valuables in crowded places, carry a good first aid kit and make sure you know how to use it. (Different countries have different requirements BY LAW).

Know how to change a tyre and pack a waterproof sheet to lie on.

Do not sample the local alcohol on a driving day, and when challenged by an official on the road, or elsewhere, always remember that your attitude to him or her can help or hinder the situation for you!

Try to use National Routes rather than motorways when time permits, as you will get much more feeling for the different cultures you are passing through, and stop if you see something of interest, it usually pays off.

On this trip we mixed capital cities with tiny villages and the plains of Central Europe with mountains, lakes and the Adriatic Dalmatian Coast. We were never alone for long as each site has its characters.

A truly unforgettable experience!

Richard and Ivy Birch 7248

## **A rally marshals view on caravans joining ASOC**

Jill & James Bertlin and Andy Cavell both put forward sound reasons for caravanners not being admitted to ASOC. For the benefit of those not at the AGM I would like to put forward two reasons for the Club to remain solely for motorhome owners.

Firstly a caravan and car may take up twice as much room as a motorhome. How does a rally marshal on a green field site that can accommodate 24 motorhomes or 12 caravans decide on who shall come to the rally? Is it, as at present, first come first served or 50% of each group? Don't forget that a high proportion of rallies are already oversubscribed. I can imagine the furore from some motorhome members when told "sorry there's no places left as we have mostly caravans booked"

Secondly and I don't know the answer to this question. At present it is unusual for children to attend our rallies. If this changes and it could if caravan owners are members, will rally marshals have to have a CRB check? A check at the present time costs either £26.00 or £36.00 annually depending on the level of checking? I have to have one for my voluntary work, as sometimes I am in the company of children and vulnerable people, even though the children's parents are always present. CRB checks are not transferable from one organisation to another. Each organisation must have it's own checks done.

If there should be a child protection problem in our club and the people working with the children have not been adequately checked then the Club could be legally liable. Many organisations have to appoint a child protection officer if children are involved in their activities. Will we have to do likewise?

Many members enjoy rallying in school holidays because commercial sites are busy with families. Also rallies are organised to fit in with local events that may occur in school holidays so avoiding school holidays won't solve the problem.

Maybe A/S could encourage caravan owners to form their own club. With two large clubs perhaps A/S could then organise an event at which we could come together. I've just had an idea. How about an annual event at the Three Counties Showground!

Liz Morgan

## **DARTMOUTH and MINEHEAD RALLIES**

As most of you know Richard was not able to run these rallies due to ill health, So John and I ran them instead of assisting. We would like to say a big thank you to Steve and Pam who stepped up at the last minute to assist, Robin and Val who stayed on at Dartmouth to make sure the site was cleared, and any one who assisted in any way or offered to help it was much appreciated. Thank you. Both rallies went well and the weather was very kind to us. We all wish Richard a Speedy recovery.

Rita and John Tubb

## **HURLEY**

We would like to thank Jean and John who helped us run the rally and anyone who helped in any way. Once again the weather was kind to us and the rally went well as this is a lovely site right on the Thames.

Rita and John Tubb

## **Rally Panorama**



Auto-Sleeper Owners Club AGM & Rally Newark 2011

I am attaching a panoramic photo of the National Rally, if anyone would like an email copy send your request to :- [happydiver138@tesco.net](mailto:happydiver138@tesco.net)

Di and I had good time at the rally and the weather was dry and sunny. When we left we went to NW Scotland for 6 weeks hoping climb a few Munros, well we had 6 weeks of rain and very high winds making climbing dangerous.

We did see some fantastic wild life , Ospreys, Sea Eagles, Golden Eagles, Polecats, Pine martin and an amazing fly by of a heron only 3 feet above our heads.

So all in all we had a pretty good trip.

Thanks to everyone we met at the rally for making us feel so welcome.

Patrick and Di

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### **Isle of Wight**

May I Say how Tom & myself enjoyed the recent rally to the Island, can thoroughly recommend it apart from speeding Buses & local traffic down the very narrow lanes & viscidious Traffic Wardens.

We decided to visit Cowes found it was absolutely beautiful with lovely sea views & quite large ships almost passing the Autosleeper's front windscreen, as we were parked on the promenade. I have a blue badge but reading the notice board no concessions so we paid our £3.50 for 3 hrs and went a for walk (me on the scooter) on arrival back at the van we noticed a parking ticket both on our van and a Jaguar car parked alongside. My immediate reaction to Tom was OH! he or she had not noticed we had paid- although we left the ticket very obvious together with the disabled badge.

On reading what offence we had committed it seemed that our vehicle was not parked correctly in the marked area so we examined the so called area & found various lines some saying coach dropping areas, other very faint and obscure. Well to say the least we were very upset and we examined the Jaguar and found he had 1" of his rear wheel over a mucky white line, we had a bit more perhaps 2". So I wrote to the authorities & stated the facts above also pointed out that there was no notice to that effect enclosing the receipt for the parking fee. I am very glad to say they over looked it this time. The moral is we now have to park

within the marked area. We can honestly say we haven't come up against this before but sure will watch it in the future

Many thanks to the Rally Marshall's for making this a very enjoyable rally.

Tom & Dorothy Huntingdon 408.

### **Minehead Rally**

Before going to the Minehead rally we, as previously, stayed on the Camping and Caravan Site on North Hill, a super site, lots of good walks with excellent views. The previous visits were in the Trident. However, the climb up in the Nuevo was quite a challenge at times due to parked vehicles on the very narrow lanes.

On arrival on the site when the engine was switched off the fan remained on for quite a while, due to being in low gear when negotiating the hill. Something we felt should be mentioned as even bigger motorhomes may experience more difficulty.

Thanks to Rita and John and their assistants for a most enjoyable rally, plenty of places to explore and the swimming pool on site was great. It was good to see Richard and Gill McAllister too and we hope Richard makes a good recovery from his problems, also Janet Howells makes a speedy recovery following her fall.

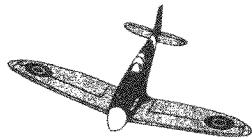
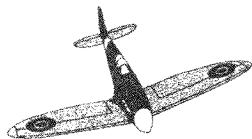
Finally, I was pleased to see that my cousin and his wife, Alan and Ruth Bailey, from Manchester have become new members. We hope to catch up with them in the next few weeks and arrange to meet at future rallies.

Keith J Taylor and Rita A Jones 4297

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### **Cheap sites in Ireland**

We have just returned from a tour of Ireland. Being very much a last minute thing, we only looked up sites the day before we left and planned the route on the boat. There are no CL type sites and not a huge



## August 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.

28<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August (5 nights) Leon's Field, St.Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.  
PE27 5ER.

**THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August (4 Nights) Redgate Junior School, Hunstanton, Norfolk.  
PE36 5DY

**THIS RALLY IS NOW FULL**

11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

**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 ORH.

***Please do not arrive before 12 noon Wednesday.***

**Tues 23th. -Sun 28th August (5 nights) Topsham Rugby Club. Topsham Nr. Exeter Devon**

Emergency Tel No. 07890876859 (marshal's mobile)

Rally marshals Elizabeth [redacted] rt .SK4 3DJ. Home

**This rally is now fully booked.**

**1st September - 6<sup>th</sup> September (5 nights) Faversham Hop Festival .**

Emergency Tel. No. 07818 006733. Marshal's mobile.

Painters Farm Painters Forstal Ospringe Faversham Kent ME13 0EG.

Rally Marshalls Barbara & Al Buckett Mo & Mike Valentine.

Site Fees £17.50 in total for 5 nights.

Rally Fee £ 2.40 per couple or £ 1.40 singles.

Dogs on leads welcome.

Rally slips & cheques payable to A. Buckett please with a SAE for reply and directions Mr. A. Buckett ,16 St. Margarets Drive ,Walmer, Deal, Kent. CT14 7UJ. Telephone number 01304 369149.

This is a green field site surrounded by orchards and countryside. A pub within 5 minutes walk serves good food. There is a nature reserve within 5 minutes walk. The Faversham Hop Festival is on the Saturday & Sunday. It includes lots of music ie Jazz Bands ,Folk\_ Dancers ,Morris Dancers, Pearly Kings & Queens etc..

There are stalls and eateries all along the streets of the town. Parking for motorhomes nearby.

Canterbury is about 20 minutes away and has a Park and Ride for motorhomes to get into the city.

This rally could be a good tag on to either end of a holiday in France.

Rally starts at 12 noon. Please do not arrive before this time.

**8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. September Motorhome & US RV Show, Shepton Mallett, Somerset.**

Emergency Tel.No. 0777 557 0182 Marshals' mobile.

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin, Eirwen & Ben Cox. & Margaret & Bob Cleaver.

Site Fee: Special Club prices. Arrive Thursday £33.00 Friday onwards £28.00.

Rally Fee: £2.35 (Incl.VAT). Send rally fee with rally slip & SAE for Show application form to

Mrs. J. Hicklin, 381 Manor Road, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. S43 1PP. Tel.No.

01246 236 157 **by 24<sup>th</sup>. August. Show application forms to be returned to the**

**organisers, Stone Leisure, by 31<sup>st</sup>. August.**

**12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. September ( 7 nights). Holiday Resort Unity, Brean**

**Sands, Somerset. TA8 2RB**

Emergency Tel.No. 01278 784524 home with answer phone 07711375323 mobile

Rally Marshals, Linda and Brian Ellis.

Site fee £12.50 per night includes electric and club passes. Plus £2.50 Rally Fee

Includes VAT.

Send Rally slips with full payment to:- Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham On

Sea, Somerset TA8 2PP. Tel.No. 01278784524.

This is a new rally 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.

Alternatively, Unity Holiday Resort is a full facility site in an area well worth exploring and would make an ideal September break.

It is ideal for walking with 7 miles of beach, and the Brean Downs, or for cycling as the area is fairly flat, or use the local buses to Burnham On Sea and Weston Super Mare.

Dogs are welcome on this site

The rally starts midday Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, And ends midday Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

September .

**Directions.:** M5 to Jct 22 Burnham On Sea.

Cross straight over A38 heading to Burnham On Sea, Cross Tesco Island, then at mini island, turn right Berrow /Brean. Follow this road for about 4 miles, to Brean, site is on the right.

**19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September ( 5 Nights ) Autumn in Dartmouth at Little Cotton Caravan Park Dartmouth. TQ6 0LB**

Why not come and join us for 5 nights now all the holiday makers have gone home, and enjoy all that this area has to offer.

Rally Marshals:- Rita & John Tubb,

Site fees £12.50 per night inclusive of electric and VAT. Rally Fee £3 inclusive of VAT.

Send your application slips and a cheque for £65.50 payable to Rita Tubb together with **SAE or E-mail address** for reply and directions to 70 Charmwood Crescent, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, SO53 5QL. Telephone No. 023 8026 7294 or Mobile 07754 761423.

The site has excellent facilities, inc. disabled.

Dogs are welcome but **must** use the doggy walk, and be kept on a lead at all times whilst on site.

The area has a good bus service, down into Dartmouth or venture further afield to Kingbridge, Totnes, Torquay.

You can cross the ferry to Kingswear and catch the steam train to Paignton, or the bus to Brixham.

You can enjoy a boat trip up the River Dart to Totnes or out to sea.

There are also various NT properties in the area to visit. Remember to bring your Bus Pass.

**Please do not arrive before noon on the day of the rally.**

If you wish to extend your stay either before or after the rally please contact the site direct on 01803 832558.

Web site- [www.littlecotton.co.uk](http://www.littlecotton.co.uk)

**22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> September. The Motorhome Show, Season Finale, Lincoln Showground.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07922049714.

Rally Marshals:Pauline & Neil Rogers, & Yvonne & Stuart Wood.

Please use the booking form enclosed in the July Newsletter if possible.If you use a form from other magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the *special Club site fees:Arrive Thursday:£39, arrive Friday £36, arrive Saturday £33.All bookings for the Saturday evening entertainment must be made with Warners when returning the application form to the organisers, by Friday.2<sup>nd</sup>.September, 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 £2.40 couples, £1.70 singles (both inclusive of VAT) to: N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St.John, Richmond, North Yorks.DL11 7TT.Tel.No. 01325 374 540. Cheques payable to N.C.& P.Rogers. Please collect the *Club* rally information pack from the ASOC marshal before parking. The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon Monday.

**28<sup>nd</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October (5 nights) ACCEO National Rally, Towester Racecourse, Northants**

This will be a rally at the ACCEO National Rally, Towester Racecourse, London Road, Towester, Northants, NN12 6LB. Organisers (on behalf of ACCEO) are the Coachman Owners Club.

**ASOC Rally Marshals : Pat and David Mayne.**

This is a **Greenfield site** with no electricity 1½ miles from Towester town centre, nearest bus stop 1 ¼ miles. Market town with buses to Milton Keynes.

ASOC Marshal site emergency phone 07964 532936. Cost per unit, Friday & Saturday £17.00, additional nights Wednesday/Thursday/Sunday @ £7.50 per night.

Friday and Saturday entertainment pass £10 each adult. **Attractions:** Hall for Friday night meet and greet with music, Saturday night show "Super Trouper" (Abba tribute Act) and close up magic with "Simply Magic" and on Sunday morning the grand raffle.

Please note that all ASOC bookings must be made by the ASOC Rally Marshal on one ACCEO booking form therefore: applications on ASOC rally slip (indicate if entertainment pass required).

Cheque for Rally and Entertainment with slip to Mr D Mayne, 27 Mentmore Rd, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 2NY by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

**6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October ( 4 nights) Conkers Camping & Caravanning Club**

**Site,50 Bath Lane,Moira,Swadlingcote,Derbyshire.DE12 6BD.**

Site Tel.No 01283 224925. Marshals mobile: 07810 455318.

Rally Marshals: Elizabeth & Bill Grimsley assisted by Liz Irvin.

Site Fees: £14.75 per unit per night with hardstanding,electricity and full facilities.

Rally Fee: £2.00 per person,this includes use of room with tea/coffee in the neighbouring Youth Hostel on Sunday evening.All incl. VAT.

Rally slips & cheques payable to Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Grimsley,24 Paul Drive,Leicester.LE4 9FY.Tel.No. 0116 2692220. Please send a S.A.E for confirmation & information.

This rally is based around a Bavarian Evening on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>. October at the nearby Conkers attraction ( 10 minutes walk by road).A hot meal is included in the price of £17.00 per person, payable in advance **so please include this with your booking.** It is a very rowdy and exhausting evening with "Umpah" music,high slapping,swaying sideways and up and down at the tables with some audience participation at the front – ask anyone who went last year.!

Other attractions are Calke Abbey (N.T.),Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre,Snibston Discovery Park,Moira Furnace & historic Ashby de la Zouch.

The Youth Hostel has a bar where snacks are available and the nearby Navigation Pub does meals. There are many opportunities to walk or cycle along former mining railway tracks.

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

Limit 25 vans. Please do not arrive before 12 noon on Thursday(site rules),and rally ends 12 noon Monday.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November ( 4 nights) Sedgemoor Carnival Rally,Burnham on Sea Holiday Village,Burnham on Sea,Somerset.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07711375323 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Sheila & Ivor Barnett & Linda & Brian Ellis.

Site fee £61.00, Rally Fee:£2.50.both incl VAT.Total payable £63.50 before October 21<sup>st</sup>.please. for 4 nights. Rally limited to 65 selected pitches this year. The first 45 are hard standing and the rest are grassed.All pitches have electricity plus access to very good toilets &

shower facilities. Usual rules apply, first to book are hard standing, remainder are grass. Please indicate on rally slip if disabled or special needs and we will try to pitch you close to the facilities.

Sorry but "NO dogs" allowed, site rules.

Send site & rally fee to Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2PP. Tel. No. 01278 784524 or 07711375323 (mobile). E-mail:- Ell.ba82@yahoo.co.uk

**Attractions:** The Burnham on Sea Holiday Village is a full facility site about 10 minutes walk from the town centre and shops along the promenade, plus supermarkets and a long beach ( about 7 miles). For those who have never seen this spectacular event visit:- [highbridgeandburnhamcarnival.org.uk](http://highbridgeandburnhamcarnival.org.uk)

We hope to arrange – **Saturday** coach trip to Clarks Village at Street, if enough interested. Cost approx. £4.00 per person. First coach 9.30 a.m., second coach 11.30 a.m.. Please indicate on slip if you are interested. **Do not** send monies with rally slip, other arrangements will apply.

Fireworks display Sunday and the Carnival on Monday evening.

**Directions:** Sat. Nav. TA8 1NQ and look for Holiday Village signs. Or M5 junct. 22 exit to large island ( Edithmead A38) turn **left** . Follow signs to Holiday Village ( Taunton A38) Approx 1 mile, straight over island (A38), continue past caravan sales over railway bridge then turn **right** at the ASDA island signposted Burnham Holiday Village. To mini island by petrol station, bear **left** onto Marine Drive towards Burnham town centre. Holiday Village about a quarter of a mile on the left.

**Rally starts at 10.00a.m. Friday 4<sup>th</sup>. November, no early arrivals please.**

*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.**

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.**

f

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.**

number of commercial sites in Ireland so it was not always possible to find one in the area where we wished to stay and they tended to be expensive.

By chance whilst searching the web we found a website 'Safe Nights Ireland (SNI)'. This was started by Frank and Helen Ryan. The idea is that Frank and SNI members find people who will allow them to park at their property for 10 Euros a night. The SNI sites have varied power connections so always take adaptors with you. Currently there are about 150 sites. They are not inspected but SNI members will report their experiences.

We contacted Frank the day before we left and he invited us to join SNI at a rally he was organising on Limerick racecourse a few days after we arrived in Ireland. We went along and, being the only foreigners amongst some 200 odd outfits were very well looked after. There was entertainment, games, a boot fair, an exhibition of new and used motorhomes and other relevant suppliers. We felt sorry for Frank and Helen who could be found manning the gate until long past sunset missing all the fun.

We had a great time touring afterwards making full use of our new SNI membership. We did stay at some commercial sites, mainly to empty our loo, but otherwise we managed to find SNI sites that had toilets, water and even showers.

The advantage of some SNI sites is that they are in or very near a town. This enabled us to walk to a pub or restaurant. Some of those not actually in a town are in the grounds of a hotel or pub. We stayed at one hotel that had nice bar food and music, well should have, the musician just did not turn up – that's Ireland for you!

At all the sites we stayed at we were made very welcome. Our favorite was behind a pub and hostel in Kilfenora, where Father Ted was filmed. Run by the Vaughan family it is ideal for touring the Burren. The pub food was great and they have Irish music and dancing every Wednesday and Sunday for the locals so it was traditional and not touristy. It was great to see locals of all ages dancing for hours. How they kept it up we do not know. Although rather like our barn dancing they do a lot of foot movement and it was so fast we could not pick it up. If you are going, ring Orla Vaughan, details on the SNI members website, but if you cannot get hold of her just turn up as we did, there is lots of space.

Some SNIs are tourist attractions, such as pet farms, where you pitch in their car park. We were allowed free access to one farm we stayed at saving over 20 Euros. Some are commercial sites who give you a reduction.

If you are interested in joining SNI, look them up on Google and when you contact Frank mention our name and that you are a member of ASOC. It is only 10 Euros to join and you will save this on the first site. We went out of season and none of the commercial sites were anywhere near full but I suspect it will be different in the summer, so to have the chance to use a SNI could be very valuable. If you meet other SNI members they will give you lots of tips about where to stay for nothing. We did not brave any of these but did park at one for a lunch as it was difficult to find somewhere to stop. This brings me on to something that affects us all as motorhome owners – height barriers on car parks!!!

Leaving the Ferry at Rosslare we wanted to stop the let our dog stretch her legs after 4 hours in the van – never use the kennels we had been warned. Every lay-by had a height restriction. This proved to be all too common with virtually every town and city car park being restricted. At the end of the SNI Limerick rally there was a discussion about this and the members were asked to lobby politicians.

Back home we are very annoyed at the height restrictions on virtually every park and ride site. Such sites would be ideal for Motorhomes. They are totally unnecessary because the sites can be locked at night, as they often are anyway, to keep out travelers. Bath, Salisbury and Taunton, for example, are all in tourist areas but have height barriers. They lose our business because we just move on. Can we make a plea for ASOC members to complain to the offending Councils and their MPs. The English tend to just put up with things like this so lets change this philosophy. Lyme Regis not only has no height barriers on its P&R site but its in town car park has dedicated motorhome spaces. If they can do it why not every other council? It was noticeable that last Saturday on the hottest day for ages, Lyme Regis was very busy but Seaton just along the coast was literally more dead than alive with shops closing early. Parking in general there was not easy so perhaps there is a lesson to be learnt.

If anyone would like to ask about our experiences, including those at commercial (including some very good ones) and SNI sites, just drop us an email at [david.munden61@btinternet.com](mailto:david.munden61@btinternet.com)

David and Betty 9<sup>th</sup> June.

## Chairman's Chat

I would once again like to say WELCOME to all of our new members and hope that you will enjoy belonging to the Owners' Club, meet with and make some new friends by attending one of the many rallies advertised in the middle of this newsletter, do book early so as to avoid disappointment.

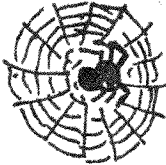
Mo and I had a very enjoyable time in Slovenia and would recommend such a trip to anyone who is a little more adventurous. It is a long way to drive but not too onerous if the journey is broken into two or three stops, we covered over 2700 miles during our five weeks away.

The 'natives' were friendly and the campsites we used were clean and of a high standard. The road surfaces were generally good and smooth, the main difficulty was reading the road signs and understanding the spoken word, ie how do you pronounce Ptuj and Rsokr? The former sounds like a spit!! the latter I did not get to grips with its pronunciation. The countryside is picturesque and somewhat similar to Switzerland, many mountains, trees and green fields. We observed and heard many birds, several not seen in the UK, most of the farm animals seemed to be kept inside barns or yards enabling the maximum crop of grass to be harvested as either hay or silage, (grass wrapped in polyethylene). We shall go back again in the future.

Your Technical Officer Baz Wellard and I are continuing with our regular fact finding visits to the company on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, getting answers to your questions and queries. This time, we are going to include a visit to Cheltenham Laminates where we will see how the various parts of our vans are manufactured.

As usual we hope to see and comment upon the latest vehicles currently being built by the R&D shop, which are scheduled to be announced and first shown at the next NEC show in October.

# Technical Group & Website



*Baz Wellard*  
*Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster*

## Technical Group & Website

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

### **Unbelted Passengers:**

Recently a member asked if I could give the legal position regarding carrying passengers without seat belts. You will understand, I'm sure, that the Club cannot give any such legal advice. However in reply I did send this extract, from the Practical Motorhome - and it may be of interest to others:

"Legally passengers in motor vehicles only have to wear a seat belt if one is provided so, yes, you can carry people in the rear of the 'van unbelted. However, the police could prosecute you for transporting an unsecured load or transporting passengers in an unsafe manner. The police are only likely to stop you if they see a passenger walking around while you're driving. But what would happen to them in an accident? How would you feel if they were injured or killed?"

### **Insurance:**

### **Insurance registration:**

With the crack down on illegal vehicles, police use automatic

number plate recognition cameras (ANPR) more now to check legal compliance and can impound vehicles if not registered; e.g. not indicating insurance cover. You may wish to check you are registered by going to [www.askmid.com](http://www.askmid.com) > click on "check you own vehicle for free"? If you're not registered - contact your insurance company.

### **Non-registration:**

Having just changed my insurance cover I immediately re-checked and was no longer registered. On checking with my new company I was informed that It can take up to 8 days to be registered; however I understand that the Police will recognise, and accept, this delay.

### **Website:**

Update No. 07/11 contained:-

- Stop Press - Obituary
- Rally reports and photos – Isle of Wight and Abingdon
- Regalia – Price list updated

Technical – Ideas sheets 210,211 & 212 listed. Symbol ES 2.2 fuel info added

### **And finally:**

Remember if you have an Idea please send it to me, with photographs if possible, and I'll do the rest. An up-to-date list of Ideas Sheets is on the Club website. Also if you have a rally report, again with photos, please send it to me - for uploading to the Club website. See back page for postal & e-mail addresses.

---

*Dep Ed.*

*I was sent the next little ditty and apart from jogging our memory we found that in conversation with friends or particularly the younger members of my family it adds interest.*

**In the queue at the shop**, the cashier told the older woman that she should bring her own bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologised to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The cashier responded, "That's our problem today. The former generation did not care enough to save our environment!"

He was right, that generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, lemonade bottles and beer bottles to the shop. The shop sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But they didn't have the green thing back in that customer's day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every shop and office building. They walked to the grocery shop and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two miles.

But she was right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's nappies because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of Wales. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric

machines to do everything for them.

When they packaged a fragile item to send in by post, they used a screwed up old newspaper to cushion it, not polystyrene or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled their writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the tram or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or rode in the school bus instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical socket in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances, and they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest Pizza Hut

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful the old folks were just because they didn't have the green thing back then?

*Here's one they forgot:*

We didn't recycle newspapers by putting them in a box so a huge wagon could collect them - we hung them in the loo!!!

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Graham & Paula Williams	Weymouth	Trident
Graham Bennett & Ian Bennett	Newton Abbot	Duetto
Chris & Janet May	Nottingham	Rambler
Gareth Davies	Pontefract	Symphony
Adrian Partridge	Matlock	Clubman
Nicola Claxton & Vernon Jarvis	Dartford	Harmony
David & Helen Harrison	Abergavenny	Nuevo
Andy & Tracey Buchan	Pevensey	Talent
Peter & Audrey Capon	Bideford	Trident
Tony & Cynthia Goode	Hereford	Talisman
Leonard & Eileen Norton	Gosport	Cotswold
Tony & Carol Edmunds	Wedmore	Suffolk
Trevor Scantlebury	Bristol	Talisman
Ken Woad	Manchester	Symbol
Colin Hinton	Newent	Trident
Andy & Linda Reid	Bristol	Executive
Mick Fay & Martin Fay	Fareham	Pollensa
Tony & Yusni White	Caerphilly	Talent
Michael & Carol Harris	Broxbourne	Topaz
Alan & Sharon Woodhams	Newton Abbot	Clubman

### Obituary

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Barbara Cox, the wife of our Founder Member John Cox. Back in 1989 it was her enthusiasm and help that assisted John to create the Auto-Sleeper Owners, Club. We have not seen them at club functions of recent times due to their poor health.

Barbara will be greatly missed and our thoughts go out to John and family at this difficult time.

Mike Valentine



### Thanks for the Donations

**FIAMMA** "Ultra Box 320". H 70cm. W 100cm. D 53cm. with fittings for bike rack. Part No. 140968. Good clean condition. £135.00. (New price £310:00) **FIAMMA** 2006 issue, one piece aluminium scooter ramp. 194cm x 18cm. (not telescopic; ground to vehicle). 55.00 Used only half a dozen times. **FIAMMA** "Safe Door Frame 3". Three door locks with a one key system. White. part No. 346882. Unused and in original wrapping. £50.00. (RRP £98.99). The above are either bulky and or heavy and would be difficult/expensive to deliver and so the buyer would, I'm afraid have to collect in the case of the first two items.

Please contact:- David Allen. 01823 254025. e-mail [davidallen945@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidallen945@yahoo.co.uk).

Taunton. Somerset. 6867

**Silver Screen** for Summer – possible to see out but stops sun coming in. £25.00

**Tripod** base with 20" long stainless steel stem. £10.00

**Right-angled** stainless steel table leg and with fixing brackets. £15.00, **Fly screen**

for access door to fit Clubman T4. £5.00, All the above will fit a Clubman,

**Alligator** Type foot brake and clutch locking set £20.00.

**Mains** supply cable with Blue standard plugs £15.00

**Dust Buster** 12 volt vacuum cleaner £10.00. Contact Peter Lucas on 01784

4 5 6 5 8 8 o r  
[mandplucas@gmail.com](mailto:mandplucas@gmail.com)

### Outdoor Revolution

'**MOVELITE XL**' drive-away awning, size 3m x 3m, height range 2.2m-2.9m, inclusive of optional fixing kit. New April 2011, used 2 dry nights only £195 o.n.o.

Contact: David Martin Tel 0 1 4 8 9 7 8 0 6 3 7  
(Southampton), or email [david.martin56@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:david.martin56@tiscali.co.uk)

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Items for the Newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. You may post them to 5 Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 1WA or e-mail to [peterch1952-asocnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peterch1952-asocnews@yahoo.co.uk). Or when notified to, send to Deputy Editor **Dudley Woodhams** at 83 Langdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7DY or e-mail to [snowgoose1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:snowgoose1@hotmail.co.uk). Jill Bertin The Rockeries, Sunny Terrace, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6LQ. e-mail [jbartin@aol.com](mailto:jbartin@aol.com). Baz Wellard 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF E-mail [baz.wellard@virgin.net](mailto:baz.wellard@virgin.net).

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