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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: 4616969*



Does anyone not know where this is?

(picture courtesy Google Street view)

NEWSLETTER 277

October 2011

From the Editor ^(S)

Firstly, apologies for getting my 'm's and my 'n's mixed up last month see below amendment to John Jones's postcode.

Charity Choice 2012

Please note a correction to the address to send your charity nomination to. It should be John Jones at 31 Abbott Lea, Manfield, Nottinghamshire NG19 6NF by 10th January 2012 please.

Next we want to remind you that your Membership Renewal Form for 2012 will be included in next month's - November - issue of the Newsletter, so pens poised at the ready...

Len Jackson wrote to us with the following questions. I sent him copies of pieces from recent Newsletters from both Mervyn Kitchen and myself on the subjects of drafts, winter use and the Autoclutch but I'm sure he would appreciate your views as well.

"Could I add the following questions to the next convenient Newsletter please?

1. I own a Dorset van. Has anyone experienced severe drafts in windy weather around the fridge area & into the van? Action?
2. Has anyone fitted "Autoclutch" to their vehicle.? Opinions?
3. With winter just around the corner has anyone any recommendations regarding, either having a small heater on during severe weather, or, having a small humidifier operating?

Many thanks lenjackson14@tiscali.co.uk (Please add "ASOC" in the subject area of the email so I can recognise a friendly contact versus the large number of spam received!! Thanks)"



Chairman's Chat

They say that time flies when you are enjoying yourself and my, how this year has flown. It is very hard to believe that autumn is upon us and as I write this, it has 'come in' with such a bang with cold turbulent weather and not the Indian summer we have enjoyed in previous years. The heavens opened just as we gathered for the final Faversham Rally tea/coffee meeting and the drawing of the raffle on Monday evening, We postponed it for a short while and reconvened when the rain stopped, bringing to a close a very happy and successful rally before going our separate ways on a wet and very windy Tuesday morning, with two vans facing a channel boat crossing to France, gale force 9, rather than me!

With the months rolling on, it's the perfect time to look ahead to the Motorhome and Caravan Show at the NEC, Birmingham this month. I am looking forward to seeing the two new A~S models on the stand and having a look at the competition.

A time also to reflect upon possible new rally sites for next season and you thinking as you travel around, "Ah, that would be a good place to run a rally", in that field, that school or that camp site! Your Rally Co-ordinator Neil, is collating next years rally list and to make it another success, we need at least two new rallies due to the cessation of two long standing rallies, one in the north and the other in the south. Research your idea, make sure that the site is available on the designated date and the cost but 'do not book anything', send the suggested details to Neil and await his OK, then firm up the details with the site.

There is a FAQ paper giving all of the 'whys and wherefores' available from the Rally Co-ordinator. This is a *must* due to both our club insurance restrictions and the possibility of a clash with another rally. If you have not run a rally before, then ask one of

the committee to help and advise you, *it is much easier than you think!*

Once again I would like to say WELCOME to all of our new members; I do hope that you will enjoy the experience of belonging to this very friendly club and take up the opportunity to meet with and make new friends. Mo & I look forward to meeting with you on one of the rallies.

'A quick tip', if a venue seen in the centre of this or any other newsletter takes your fancy, then get your booking into the post quickly; many rallies are so popular, they fill very quickly and I wouldn't want you to miss out. Our rallies are very relaxed and cheerful affairs with no ceremony!

Mike Valentine

PARAPROSDOKIANS

Definition: Figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation.

Example: Where there's a will, I want to be in it! - Ok, so now enjoy!

1. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

Our thanks to Mo Valentine for these - there are more to come in future.

To satisfy our insurers the club has produced a code of conduct for organised cycle rides. This has been incorporated into the members handbook by integrating it with the code for organised walks. Please amend your members handbook by incorporating the combined code reproduced below.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ORGANISED WALKS & CYCLE RIDES

This code shall be applied when Members at a Club organised event are invited to join in a group walk or cycle ride.

Walks must not be organised exclusively on Public Roads where there is no pavement. The walk leader should appoint another person to follow at the rear of the group. Help drivers to see you, wear or carry something light, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark the front and rear walkers should wear reflective materials.

When walking on roads use the pavement if there is one and marked crossings wherever possible. Where there is no pavement walk facing oncoming traffic, crossing to the other side before sharp bends. Take special care on narrow roads, keep close to the side of the road, be prepared to walk in single file and be aware that the traffic may be moving very fast.

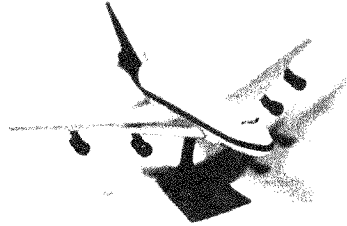
The Organiser must point out that all cycles must be properly equipped and road legal and that members are responsible for the roadworthiness of their own cycles. Encourage riders to have the correct gear, light coloured or fluorescent/reflective clothing to help other road users to see them. Fitting a bell is recommended to warn others of your presence. If cycling at night or in bad weather conditions, lights must be used at the front and back of every cycle as well as a rear reflector.

The ride leader should appoint another person to follow at the rear of the group. Both persons should be wearing fluorescent or reflective clothing. Other road users must be considered at all times and riders must ride in a responsible manner, as defined in the Highway Code. Members take part in the ride at their own risk.

Rally News

Shoreham Air Show Rally

On 21st August 2011 following another great weekend we took our "security fence" down for the final time. After running the Air show Rally for ten years we decided it was time to move on.



The rally was started by Yvonne and Barry Loveland and Lyn and Tony Fowler in 1996. In 2000 Yvonne and Barry opted out for health reasons, Chris and Shirley Sturgeon and Dave and Theresa Smith became on site marshals with Tony and Lyn living locally doing the paperwork and liaising with the airport.

Over the ten years many people have used the words "Privileged position". They are so right! sited just at the side of the runway we were able to watch the whole show sitting beside our motorhomes. During all the ten air shows we always managed to eat our three course meal, together with wine, coffee and mints in the open, while the day visitors jostled - even fought on one occasion - to leave the showground. The meal was served by "the caterers" dressed in black and white, the men with bow ties.

The purpose of the Air show is to raise money for The Royal Air Force Association. A charity dedicated to supporting serving and former members of the RAF. The money raised by the show is now approaching two million pounds. Records have not been kept but we think that our rally has raised between £16,000 and £20,000

All this money has been donated to RAFA.

Can I thank all those members who have attended over the years and helped to make this such a successful and enjoyable rally. We hope to see you all again soon at other rallies.



The Shoreham Six

And so we have to say 'goodbye' to the Shoreham Rally. We'll miss the air show, the 'silver service' meal, the Dambusters March to the Elsan with only lanterns to guide us.....

On behalf of everyone who has attended this rally over the last 10 years we'd like to say a great big THANK YOU to the Shoreham Six for all the hard work and enthusiasm they've put in to make this a rally that will be remembered for a long time to come.

Chris Mawdsley

Whitby Rally

We'd like to say how much we enjoyed the Whitby Rally. We've never been to this rally before, in fact, we've never been to Whitby before, so it was all new to us.

The location of the rally at Eskdale School was ideal as we could walk down into Whitby and catch a bus back, which stopped just outside the school.

The atmosphere with the Regatta, Red Arrows and fireworks made it a very enjoyable rally. Then to put the icing on the cake we got a card for our 39th Wedding Anniversary which everybody had signed. So a big thank you to all, especially Liz, Peter and Chris for making it a memorable rally.

Peter & Bez Orme

Topsham

It was our first time to this rally but despite the rather mixed weather I'm sure everyone enjoyed meeting up with friends old and new.

The Rugby Club is pretty central with buses just outside the gate for Exmouth and Exeter - especially if we had taken our bus passes! Elizabeth, Bryn, Robin and Valerie plus their helpers were kept busy and made everyone welcome. The coffee evenings were great, but I'm sure Robin isn't as tall as he was - the times he walked up and down that field parking everyone certainly kept him fit - if to drop by the end of the day perhaps!!

Our glasses and cups were raised to all the hard workers.

Della Chapman

TOURING NORWAY 2010

Whilst we were at Rudesheim we were asked for information about our trip to Norway, but rather than write to each individual we thought an article for the Newsletter would be appropriate.

This trip was one of our '*must do's*' and we are delighted we made the effort and went. There are several companies offering escorted tours, but we prefer to do our own thing. However, if you haven't the confidence or prefer companionship throughout, then one of these tours may be ideal as most of the organisation is removed.

Planning the trip

Norway as you may be aware has a large and extended snowy period, so for the majority of us this period is to be avoided. Best check on the net for the time the climate best suits your requirements. Your timing may also be influenced by the main

holiday periods; there were a lot more motorhomes on the road later in June than there were in May and early June and we believe July is very popular.

When we travelled there were no regular direct passenger ferries from the UK mainland to Norway, we believe this still to be the case, so you may have to go via one of the main ferry ports to Continental Europe, but you will need to check. However, there is a commercial ferry from Immingham to Brevik, which leaves every Sunday night, places are strictly limited and subject to freight requirements, to ascertain availability you will need to contact DFDS TOR LINE.

From our experience the Norway trip could be divided into several packages:

1. If time, or mileage are of no consequence The Grand Tour - Oslo to Trondheim via the south and west coast to Bergen, 'doing' the fjords, the Atlantic Road then at Trondheim heading North towards The North Cape, returning via the main north/south highway to Oslo. You could return via Sweden or Finland, but it's a long long way.
2. As above, but turn south at Trondheim and return to Oslo via Lillehammer. We chose basically this option and added our preferences.
- 3 From Oslo, head directly to Bergen and the Fjords which would be the shortest route, or, you can head north for the North Cape etc. Additionally
4. I have heard it mentioned that the motorhome can be transported on the railway network, this option would reduce driving considerably, but I have no specific knowledge of this facility.

Sources of Information

Norwegian Embassy – very helpful and friendly, they sent us a large pack of literature – post free. MMM have produced some very good articles, try obtaining back issues or reprints, as I'm sure do other publications. Internet - any info you need will almost certainly be there.

Points worth considering

Money

The most common question asked us is 'Is Norway expensive'? The short answer is 'rather more so than UK', so make sure you have a contingency fund. Booze in any shape or form is very expensive, so if you have the 'need' take your own. However, beware the 'Limit' is far stricter than UK and is enforced. Currency is the Norwegian Kroner, usually written NOK or Kr, not the Euro. Credit / Debit cards are widely accepted; we had no problems with either.

Roads Ferries and Tunnels

The system is totally integrated. Ferries are paid for on board, you drive on pay the conductor and drive off on the other side. 6 metres is the maximum unit length allowed before extra costs are levied.

Yes, they do measure units. Some of the tunnels are free but some are Toll – have some change available.

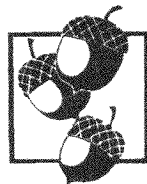
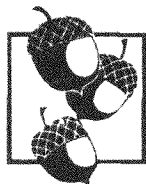
Roads are generally good, but are a good deal narrower than in the UK, far more twisty and subject to much lower speed limits than we are used to, consequently journey times are considerably longer than generally envisaged, but they are very scenic and we thought very enjoyable. Many roads are Toll roads, with unmanned 'payages', all are covered by multi camera systems:

You can register your credit card, via an internet site before travelling and then simply use your card to pay the toll at the barrier.

You cannot just use your card 'a la France' at the barrier.

A few let you pay cash. You can simply drive through, the camera system will log you and store all the vehicle particulars, including photos and Tolls incurred. Sometime later, after you have returned to UK, you will receive a Penalty Charge Notice from Norway via the EPC pan European collection agency detailing all the Tolls you incurred. You are legally required to pay up and will receive a certificate of payment. This was the system we used and found it to be very fair.

There is a system whereby you obtain a Norwegian pass card prior to leaving UK, the info is on the net, I didn't like the idea so did not



October 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.

28nd September – 3rd October (5 nights) ACCEO National Rally, Towcester Racecourse, Northants

This will be a rally at the ACCEO National Rally, Towcester Racecourse, London Road, Towcester, 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 Towcester 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 ***should have been made by 30th August 2011.***

6th. – 10th.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.

Rally slips & cheques payable to Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Grimsley,24 Paul Drive,Leicester.LE4 9FY. Please send a S.A.E for confirmation & information.

This rally is based around a Bavarian Evening on Saturday 8th. 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,thigh 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.

4th - 8th . November (4 nights) Sedgemoor Carnival Rally, Burnham on Sea Holiday Village, Burnham on Sea, Somerset.

Emergency Tel.No. 07711375323 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Linda & Brian Ellis.

Site fee £61.00, Rally Fee:£2.50.Total payable before October 21st.please £63.50 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

We hope to arrange – **Saturday** coach trip to Clarks Village of 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 10.00 a.m. Friday 4th. November, no early arrivals please.

10th-13th November (3 nights) Cheshire View Masonic Lodge Christleton Chester CH3 7PT.

Emergency Tel. No 07763776877 / 07712484917 Marshal's mobiles.

Site Tel. No. 01244332442 (hall manager).

Rally Marshals: Dave & Wyn Crabbe.

Site Fee: £8 per night, Rally Fee: £3.00 couples. £1.90 singles.

No Electricity. Elsan disposal point, **Only Green Elsan to be used.** Drinking water and toilets on the rally field. There are also toilets in the hall building. No showers. Dogs welcome.

Hardstandings (overspill car park) if weather is wet, if dry on grass.

(iv.)

Booking slip & cheques payable to D C & W Crabbe 27 Crawford Road, Crawford Village, UpHolland, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire. WN8 9QR. Tel. No. 01744884437.

Please send SAE for confirmation and directions.

If bringing a car or towing a trailer please state on rally slip.

Attractions: Historic Chester City is 3 miles from the site, with its Roman wall, Cathedral, its famous "Row" Galleried shops, and zoo. A bus stop to Chester is situated approx. 400yds from the site entrance near to a local pub.

The site is also convenient for Cheshire Oaks shopping complex, Blue Water Aquarium and Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.

Limit of 25 vans. Site gently slopes. Levelling blocks may be needed.

Dates for rallies to be included in the 2012 Provisional list must reach me before the end of November.

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 their 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.

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.

pursue this avenue.

Driving

Driving is on the Right. Speed limits are much lower than UK and there are cameras, beware. Especially make sure you observe the signposted changes to your current speed limit, eg approaching a blind corner etc, if you don't !!!!. They are there for your safety. The roads are narrower, especially around the Fjords and Juggernauts and busses are a common occurrence coming towards you – Reversing competence is to be recommended as they won't 'backup'. Are you confident about driving in tunnels? There are many, not all are lit up.

Campsites

Campsites are plentiful, very many are marked on the tourist maps so you have a ready reference when planning your route for the day. Roadside signs for farm sites and private CL types are plentiful and we didn't have a bad one at all. Some have wonderful locations such as fjordside and orchards, all adding to the pleasure of the holiday. At the smaller ones you will need to pay cash. All the larger ones we used accepted cards. Prices were a little more expensive than the UK, the plusher the site the more you pay.

Food

Most villages and towns have a store, it may be the local garage, SPAR and similar are very plentiful and well stocked. The quality was very good but dearer than UK.

Routes to Norway

The options we considered were:

Harwich to The Hook of Holland, this was our preferred return route, this is very good if you wish to take in The Netherlands, Northern Germany and Denmark on the way to Oslo, or return.

There are ferries which travel from UK direct to Denmark saving

considerable driving, you can then take another ferry from Denmark to Oslo or drive over one of the 2 bridges. We choose the Great Belt Bridge - quite an experience. As a bonus you will get a flavour of Sweden too. No matter which route you take, considerable mileage is involved.

It was mooted that a direct ferry from UK to Bergen was being reconsidered, but, I have no news of progress. There was a ferry from Aberdeen which went to Bergen via The Faroes – this may be worth checking out if you are a Northerner.

Our Tour

Our start date was 22 May and arriving back home on 2 July. Naively, we thought we could accomplish Norway in one tour, however, after a few days on the road we soon found out that due to the nature of the road structure, the scenery and extra sightseeing, we would have to rethink the itinerary.

So from Brevik we travelled to Bergen via Kristiansand and Sandnes, along routes E39, 13 and 7, then up to Alesund and Molde on the E16, 5 and E39, across the Atlantic Road to Kristinasund (not to be confused with Kristiansand) then on to Trondheim, before turning south and heading for Oslo via Lillehammer. The route provided memorable experiences, breathtaking scenery and a lot of tranquility as we were in the early part of the tourist season. There was still snow about on some of the higher roads but they are generally very good and well maintained, although some roadworks were evident to rectify the ravages of winter.

I reiterate here that the ferry system and the road network are totally integrated ie the road stops at the edge of the fjord you drive on to the ferry, cross the fjord drive off at the far side and on your way. Generally, there is little or no waiting for the ferry. Also, a number of the fjords now have tunnels in place of the ferries.

Bergen is a must for it's old wooden buildings and the fish market - ever eaten whalemeat?!!

The Atlantic road is a must, this runs from Molde to Kristiansund and hops from island to island by a series of bridges and causeways,

quite a feat of engineering and quite an experience too, especially if you meet a Tour Bus on the top of the centre high bridge.....

You can take a *video journey* across the Atlantic Road by going on the Net, but if you actually get to drive it turn around and drive it again in the reverse direction – quite a different experience. You'll see now why we ran short of time!!

Lillehammer is well worth a stopover – remember the Winter Olympics were held there? Drive the road to the top of the mountain to the start of the ski jumps then look down!! There's a museum too. Oslo we loved, especially the walk along the traffic free precinct from the cathedral up to the palace, there was an eco exhibition all along the street, free food samples and gizzits plus folk dancing in national dress.

The weather in Norway was excellent, shorts and T shirt lots of the time, the sun was very warm. We had a little rain in Bergen, but, it is said that it does rain there 30 days in a month (if only a little) what about the 28th or 31st days we asked? the locals didn't have an answer for that - make sure you take your broly just in case.

Our journey back to UK was south through Sweden to Gotenberg and Malmo, then to Copenhagen via the Great Belt Bridge, quite an experience . Copenhagen is well worth a visit.

From Copenhagen we travelled to the Hook of Holland and the ferry to Harwich via Kiel, Lubeck, and several small northern German and Dutch coastal towns, then across the 20Km Ijsselmeer Dam highway, all manmade. We also visited The Hague, Amsterdam, Delft and in Alkmaar the cheese centre, do not to miss the weekly cheese market where traditional dress is worn by all the staff. (Plenty of tasters for the cheeseites.)

A truly memorable tour, the distance covered was 3500 miles. Here's hoping this little taster will wet your appetite and a return trip for us in the future to take in the far north – who knows?

Brian & Mary Southam

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard
Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster



Cassette toilets:

In the September newsletter, page 6; Alan Bulmer gave useful advice on curing a fault in a cassette toilet. He included very good advice to regularly lubricate the valve rubber. However I have to advise that the recommended lubricant is olive oil; Vaseline is not recommended.

Tyres:

I have a copy of an interesting article, from the Caravan Club magazine, on Motorhome tyres. If you would like a copy please contact me by e-mail or by an SAE. Addresses are on back page of the newsletter.

Club Website:

Back in September 2001 the Club launched its website as a 6 month trial, being one of the first Clubs to publish its own website.

It has now been proactive for 10 years and to recognise the 10 years action is in hand for a more modern format - but remaining in its non flamboyant style. It will still provide all the current information, advice and references etc., as before, but will be even easier to navigate between pages. Hopefully it will be ready for release late Sept (or early October) as a routine Website update.

And finally:

As it's a 'slow tech news' month - you may be interested to know that we've now passed another milestone. Over 10,000 (10,084) Ideas Sheets have now been issued to members!

Motor home J3105

By Roger Hall

I am a motor home; an Auto-Sleepers Nuevo II EK to be precise. My assembly line job number is J3105. On the day in question, I was bored, fed-up, and generally disenchanting. I was stuck in the new vehicle park with nothing to do. Nobody ever came to see me. I am only a little motor home, but I was surrounded by enormous, long, flashy, gorgeous creations. They had presence, style, character. I am small, short and fat. The big ones wouldn't even talk to me. They just sneered down their bonnets at me. A solitary tear slowly trickled down my windscreen, and I sobbed.

I wasn't sure how long I'd been stuck there, but I hadn't been washed or polished for days. What chance did I have of ever finding someone to love, or someone to love me, or even to be my friend? Dusk fell and I drifted off into an uneasy sleep.

Next morning I woke up to find the sun shining. It smiled at me. I smiled back. Maybe today would see my fortunes change for the better. Then Fred the cleaner came to see me, "My you're a sorry sight" he muttered. "Let's see if we can't smarten you up a bit.", and Fred set to with some nice warm sudsy water, his leather and, finally, a dose of Bobby-Dazzler. Then he hovered me out and dusted all my little bits and pieces. It not only made me look better, it changed my whole outlook on the world.

After a few hours I had drifted back into the slough of despond. It looked like being another day when lots of nothing would happen. I was dozing quietly, when I heard a lady's voice, "Here Roger, come and look at this one." It was a nice cheerful voice. I wondered which lucky motor home had taken her eye.

"Linda, where are you darling?" called a pleasant sounding man's voice. "Over here cloth-ears; by this chubby little camper." I frowned. I didn't much like being called a camper. "Oh, there you are," Roger exclaimed. "It's a bit of a funny shape, isn't it?" "No." Linda replied, "I think it's kind of cute. It's sort of dumpy. If it's open can we have a look inside?" "Of course we can darling," and he tried my door. I quietly unlocked myself, released my back door, and lowered my step. "That's convenient," said Roger. "He's obviously a very polite camper. After you darling." Linda climbed in. "Hey Roger. Come and see. This is gorgeous." Roger did as

she suggested, and climbed in beside her. "Oh yes! The finish is lovely, but does it have everything we need?" "How should I know? I haven't had a chance to look yet, but isn't that wood fabulous; and look, the gangway is wide enough for two people to pass, but it looks as if it's longer than we can accommodate at home." Roger stepped outside, took out his tape, and measured me. I breathed out and tried to shrink. "18 foot 6 precisely. Exactly the same as our white van. How have they done it?"

I couldn't believe my ears. They actually wanted a small motor home. I silently prayed that I had all the bells and whistles they needed. "Does it have a wash room?" asked Roger. "Yes" said Linda, "It's in here, and, guess what; it doesn't have a drop down basin!" "In that case it won't have a shower" gloomed Roger. "It has got a shower," said Linda, "but I don't see how you can avoid soaking the basin and the loo at the same time; unless the basin wall can rotate out of the shower area? We need someone who knows about this thing." I yearned to tell them about all my special features. I didn't much like being called a 'thing', but apart from that faux pas the couple seemed really quite promising.

Linda sent Roger off in search of a salesman who knew my ins and outs. She poked here and there, very gently and considerately, uncovering many of my hidden features. I was thrilled to hear her "ooh"s and "aah"s and "that's a neat idea". At last Roger returned with a salesman who knew the answers to many of their questions, and he made up answers to the ones he didn't know. I would have loved to be able to put him right. How I wished I could speak to them. I was delighted to hear not one thing that they thought was nasty or unacceptable. However, I was a bit worried when they all went off to discuss "finances". I offered up a little prayer that they would not go away.

A bit later I heard Linda's voice again, "Come on Roger. Let's have one last look at the little dear before we go." I liked the sound of "little dear". Roger held her hand as they came back to me, "How long did he say we have to wait before we can pick him up? Was it one week or two?" "Two weeks, darling, and then he's ours. I'm not sure that I can stand to wait that long. We shall have to think of a name for him. We can't keep calling him J3015." I thought to myself "I'll happily wait two weeks to be hitched to you, Linda." Later that day I was moved from the new vehicle park to the service area. I wanted to shout "J3105 is alive!", but shouting is something I don't do well. So I bounced gently for joy.

Over the next few days all my systems were tested and all my furnishings were cleaned and polished. I had a brand new intruder alarm system fitted, and then, my new number plates arrived. I was no longer just J3105; I was also WA10 JJL. I now existed officially as a vehicle. However, J3105 was easier to remember than WA10 JJL.

On the appointed day, I was on tenterhooks in case something should go wrong, but, right on time, Linda and Roger arrived to collect me. They checked me over, stroked me, and patted me. They completed all the formalities then came back and just gazed at me. They brought their little dog Oscar to see me, and he was given a guided tour. This worried me a bit, but Oscar behaved like a perfect little gentleman. He didn't even consider peeing up my furniture.

"I've made a decision," said Linda. "I'm going to call him Dumpy. What do you say Roger?" "I say Dumpy sounds just about perfect to me," said Roger. And so I was Dumpy from that moment on. "Goodbye J3105; hello Dumpy." Then Linda, Roger and Oscar jumped on board and I drove off to the seaside so we could all get properly acquainted.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roy & Kay Adams	Birchington	Ravenna
Pauli & June Blatherwick	Chesterfield	Executive
Jan Humphries & Joan Humphries	Guildford	Broadway
Antony & Julie Thomas	Haverfordwest	Legend
David & Brenda Rea	Worcester	Suffolk
Andrew & Mary White	Salisbury	Nuevo
Geraint & Frances Evans	Llwyngwril	Symbol
Tom & Olive Harding	Fareham	Broadway
Eric & Gill Bush	Stroud	Excelsior
Neil Burn	Enfield	Topaz
Neil & Jeanne Hall-Roberts	Petersfield	Broadway
Trevor Mastin & Eve Healey	Leicester	Gloucester
Mike & Helen Mitchard	Swanage	Gloucester
Roger & Karen Radley	Southampton	Berkshire
Mike & Rosie Smith	Bideford	Inca
Alan & Eve Whiting	Luton	Nuevo

Frank & Sadie Briggs	London	Dorset
Peter & Linda Casson-Crook	Tidworth	Executive
Julian & Liz Fielding	Liverpool	Duetto
Alan & Maria Haydon	Cheadle	Nuevo
Andrew & Christine Hicks	Northampton	Broadway
Fred & Shirley Potheary	Southampton	Cotswold
John Reed & Sally Popplewell	Banbury	Amethyst
James Wallman	Verwood	Sussex
Neil & Valerie White	Helston	Broadway
Ray & Mel Allen	Clacton-on-Sea	Executive
Alex Andrew	Ingatestone	Gloucester
Michael & Pauline Colling	Woodbridge	Berkshire
Paul & Carol Garraway	Chinnor	Gloucester
Ron & Liz Hankins	Bordon	Symbol
Bryan & Pat Hillyard	London	Sussex
Kate Sarazin	Southend-on-Sea	Stratford
Sue Arnold & Peta Norman	Peterborough	Sussex
Dale & Dilys Chisholm	Benfleet	Trident
Bob Haynes & Pam Walton	Machynlleth	Cotswold
Alan & Jean Kirk	Bedford	Nuevo
Drew & Irene Lennie	Troon	Broadway
Jim & Josey Pengilley	Bude	Dorset
Colin & Margaret Richards	Yelverton	Dorset
Terry & Gill Stokes	Stafford	Bourton
Stephen Tompkin & Anita Cavell	Sheffield	Kemerton
David & Freda Cutter	Royston	Nuevo
John & Susan Larcombe	Chard	Nuevo
Pauline Smith & Derek Stirrup	Paignton	Topaz
Angela Porter	Flackwell Heath	Pescara
John & Nerina Cressey	Farnham	Northants
Colin & Joan Maskell	Ringwood	Worcester
Peter & Linda Adams	Swinson	Symbol
Allan & Pat Ramsden	Leeds	Sussex
Tom & Margaret Hunt	Trignmouth	Executive
Tony Bullett & Hazel Browne	Northampton	Dorset



Thank you for your donations.

Avtex 15inch flat screen television. silver 240v AC/12v DC PC monitor.

CI slot. good condition. **£85** delivery to be arranged. **A/S SYMBOL CARPETS.**

Brand new beige carpets made specifically for Symbol. Bound edges. Best quality. (not cab area) **£35.**

TV wall bracket NEXUS AVF Pro multi-position wall mount for 12-25" TV Ideal for home or caravan

Excellent condition. **£25** Contact **Lynne and Neville Sudail 01803 842171**

Vw Trident Servicing Items Oil, air and fuel filters. 4 x sparking plugs. All boxed as new for 2 ltr petrol engine **£15** Spare door mirror lens **£3**

4 x 'F' section window blind sections **£3** ea.

Rear parcel shelf in grey 1050 x 340/310 **£5**

Silver Screens suit 2003 Duetto/ Ford Transit **£25**

Fiamma caravanstore rafter (telescopic) new. **£10**

Reversing camera 'Perfectview CTR 245 RV 19 camers RV 45 monitor complete with connecting cables **£100** Milenco universal mirror (add-on type) **£5.** Contact **Roger Russell 01392 257759.** (Devon).

Silver Screens - winter quality, to suit 1999 Ford transit and all "smiley" versions. **£30**

Brand new power cable 25 metre with standard blue plugs (still in original wrapping) **£20.** Contact

David Horder 01327 702334 or "david@horder.me.uk" (Daventry).

Peugeot Boxer Pollensa 2.8 ltr hdi 57 reg, 4 berth, 28,852 miles. Non-smokers no pets. Many extras Pots & Pans, toaster, DVD player. In very good condition. Tax & MOT to 29 August 2012. Habitation check to Sept 2012. Recent new tyres and wiper blades. Diesel, power steering, awning safari room. Flat screen TV, towbar, cycle rack, blown air heating, safe, 3 way fridge, gas/electric heater & water heater, roof rack, hook up cables, **£18,500.** Contact **Michael Fay 01329 511342** (Hampshire)

ProTec Storage cover made for Low Profile Peugeot Nuevo 2009 (Nuevo has cycle rack and ladder).

Used once only. Cost £450 (January 2011) will accept **£200 ono.** Contact **Tony and Rosemary Mitchell 01454 412202** email

mitchellssawmill@btinternet.com (South Gloucestershire).

Ford Legend 1989 2ltr petrol 2 + 2 berth double or single beds end kitchen and bathroom swivel front seats bike rack good condition 5 new tyres and new battery taxed and mot **£6500**

Contact **Antony Thomas 01437 711340** (Pembrokeshire) email **julie@tycoedde.co.uk**

Clubman Anniversary GL 2.5 td 2003 MOT to August 2012. Alarm, bike rack, 25,341 miles. 2 owners. VGC.

£22,000 ono. Contact **Colin Mainwaring 0208 660 0938.** (Surrey).

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