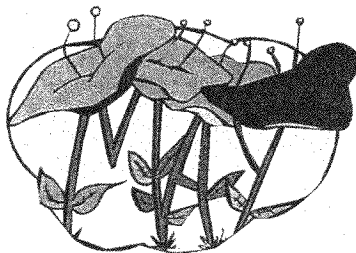
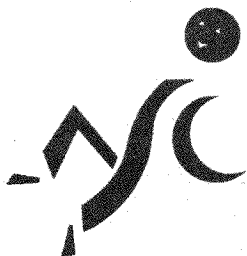
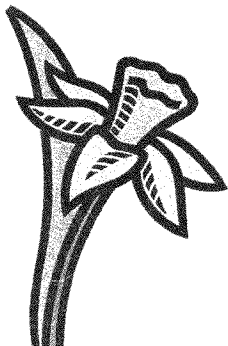




[www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk)

# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.  
Registered No: 4615969



## **NEWSLETTER 283**

### **April 2012**

# From the Editor <sup>(S)</sup>

Enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter are the documents that support the Annual General Meeting, the Agenda, Accounts, etc. and printed in it are the reports of activity by committee officers. If you are planning to attend the AGM, don't forget to bring the package with you.

If you don't plan to attend the AGM do read them anyway as they summarise the activity of the club for the last 12 months and who knows? You may be sparked to write some comment on them for the Newsletter. If we'd had to rely on contributions from members, then this issue of the Newsletter would have been very sparse indeed.

The AGM itself tends to be a very brief affair and is followed by a (usually) lively open forum. Most of those attending the National Rally, also attend these meetings but it is not compulsory and if it is not your scene, don't let its inclusion prevent you participating in an excellent weekend of camaraderie, activity and entertainment.

For those planning to attend the National do make sure you read about the Parts and Accessories table in the Stuart Goodwin Hall that will be available for members to bring and sell unneeded Auto-sleeper bits and pieces.

Do also note that the date by which entries to the PHOTO COMPETITION can be accepted has been extended. As you may guess, entries so far are a bit thin on the ground so your entry would be very much appreciated. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN ATTENDEE AT THE RALLY to enter your photograph and images of the winning entries will be posted on the club website.

Those who read the last Newsletter will know that this is our penultimate editorial with David Mayne taking over from the June issue. We want to take this opportunity of stressing how much it has meant to us to have the support of Dudley and Kathleen Woodhams as Deputy Editors for the last few years. They have produced two issues every year, giving us a break and the opportunity to have an uninterrupted summer holiday.

**Dudley and Kathleen - Thank you!**

*Peter and Chris*

## **To all of my friends**

Thank you all so much for the wonderful support you gave to both Ven and I during his illness. It was comforting to see so many of you at the Funeral and the donation for The Deansley Centre has so far reached £686 which I think is wonderful. I am told there is still a couple of donations to come. I found it comforting to realise that so many people thought so highly of Ven.

Sadly I have had to sell our cherished Clubman but I will still be a member of ASOC as I am joining a friend. It will be nice to meet up with you all again.

*Nora*

## **Thank You**

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards and best wishes during our illnesses and recent wedding which, eventually, took place on the 3rd of March.

Since Keith's second discharge from hospital on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, I was admitted locally. We both are still awaiting further investigations but, thankfully, we are feeling much better. Thanks to everyone who have been in touch. Hope to catch up with you all in April.

*Keith and Rita Taylor*

## **Zell am Ziller Rally - Places Available**

A number of would-be ralliers have had to cancel so we now have spaces available on this rally. The dates are 15th to 25th June and full details are in the rally supplement. If you are interested please contact **Andy Cavell on 01635 201976**. As always applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

## **Obituary**

On 14th February we attended the funeral of long time member Al Gatehouse (1665), husband of Sylvia. Many of you would have attended their rallies in the early days and I'm sure all our thoughts are with Sylvia at this sad time.

*Sylvia & Norman Brice*

# The National Rally

3rd - 7th May 2012

## AT THE NEWARK SHOWGROUND

During a recent rally a comment was made to the effect that the thought of a '*Dinner Dance*' put some people off coming to the National. So can we just point out that we're more 'smart casual' than 'posh frock'. The aim of the National is for everyone to enjoy themselves in a relaxed atmosphere, and the formal part of the Rally - the AGM - usually takes about half an hour.

Whilst we're on the subject of dressing up (or down) can we remind you that first part of Sunday night's entertainment is '*Good Old Music Hall*' so if you really want to get in the mood Victorian/Edwardian costume would be very appropriate.

And now for something completely different, as they say. In addition to the For Sale Board, there will be a table in the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion for selling Auto Sleeper related items, such as crockery, cupboard parts and bits no longer suitable for the van. There will be an honesty box and all proceeds will go to the Charity. So if you've any bits and pieces in the shed/garage/loft, bring them along.

Two Dometic engineers will be on site from early Friday morning until about 5.00pm and again all day Saturday. One engineer will carry out the FOC Gas Safety checks on the vehicles registered since 1st Jan. 2011 on Friday. The second engineer will carry out the fridge servicing on both Friday and Saturday. Mike Valentine will sort out a suggested work schedule time for each vehicle registered with him and let the member know approximately what time the engineer will be with their van. Payment I am afraid must be either Cash or Cheque, they do not have a mobile card facility.

## **More on The National.....**

### **CAKE COMPETITION**

1st Prize £30

2nd Prize £20

3rd Prize £10

#### **GENOA CAKE**

175g (6 oz) Butter  
175g (6 oz) Castor Sugar  
250g (8 oz) Self Raising Flour  
3 Eggs - beaten  
250g (8 oz) Mixed Sultanas & Currants  
50g (2 oz) Chopped Candied Peel  
1 tsp Grated Lemon Rind  
A little milk to mix

#### **METHOD**

Cream the butter and sugar, add the beaten eggs. Add the flour.  
Stir in the lemon rind, mixed fruit and candied peel.  
Add a little milk.  
Pour into a well lined 7" round cake tin.  
Bake for approximately 1½ hours in a moderate oven.  
Place the cake on a cardboard plate and cover with cling film.

**Please bring to the Stuart Goodwin Hall on Friday between  
10am and 4pm.**

All cakes will be auctioned off for the chosen charity.

## Charity Choice 2012

Well it doesn't seem that long since writing this last year - The chosen charity for this year is ***Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research***. It was sent in by Trish & Ted Pratt and is the main charity at this year's National. If you need more information on the charity you can contact them on 020 7405 0101 or visit their website at [beatingbloodcancers.org.uk](http://beatingbloodcancers.org.uk).

## Regalia Update

Just to put things right - you may remember in the February Newsletter I said I have 'Little Man' stickers for mirrors to make it look like it has been etched on. They are for your wardrobe or bathroom mirrors, not your wing or rear view mirrors. I am also hoping to have some new large teddy bears available at the National. They are dressed in a hooded T shirt with ASOC logo on them, price £11.95.

## And Finally.....

The closing date for the photograph competition has been extended to 26th April so get your photos to:

Jean Hollingsworth  
24 Norton Grove  
Kingston-upon-Hull  
Yorkshire HU4 6HL.

07879 716576 or 01482 572682  
e-mail: [jaholly1@gmail.com](mailto:jaholly1@gmail.com).

Just to remind you of the categories:

General: Photographs must contain an Auto-Sleeper or be taken on a rally.

Humorous: All photographs must be taken at a rally.

Sizes: 6" x 4" or 7" x 5".

A maximum of 4 photographs per member may be entered.



## Chairman's Chat

Well the rally season is under way, Mo & I have attended our first rally at Whitmead near Lydney; it was very much enjoyed, both the company and the arrangements stopped us sitting in our vans, particularly in the evenings. Well done Yvonne and Stuart ably assisted by Celia and Alan.

Arrangements for the National Rally are now well in hand and all that now remains is for members to send in their application forms, you are guaranteed an enjoyable weekend. Once again Brownhills will be providing transport to and from their site however, this time it will be by a 17 seater mini-bus restricted to Friday and Saturday only, as will the Cream Teas plus a 10% discount in the shop on production of your membership card. We are again indebted to A~S for their generous donation of support for our annual rally, thank you Geoff. Several traders will be attending including an LED company, your chance to upgrade the lighting within the van. As I have mentioned before the Dometic Engineer will be on site to service all Dometic equipment, if you want yours done please let me know PDQ so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

You will remember that ASOC has been asked to host the ACCEO rally in October at the Lickhill Manor Caravan site in Stourport on Severn, again arrangements are underway, more information will be given as and when. We look forward to hearing from many of you that they will be attending.

Our latest meeting with Geoff Scott, CEO of A~S, took place in February and we learned more of what is going on within the factory, ie the production line is to be rearranged reducing the number of workstations supporting 18 vehicles of all types including caravans, which should lead to a greater efficiency in production timing. The Eberspacher heaters have been phased out, so no more noisy neighbours at 7.30am! Also that the company has started to export vehicles to Sri Lanka but you probably would not recognize them inside. Another gem is that when you order your new van in the future, "customer special requests" will be an option. A~S will be at this years NEC October exhibition, where they will be showing 3 new vehicles based on the Mercedes. Whole Vehicle Type Approval legislation comes into effect on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2012, which is mandatory for large companies but not for small converters. Our next meeting will be in July.

For those venturing to France this season, the price of Diesel seen during my February trip was ranging from €1.37 < 1.45 per Litre with the Euro standing at

€1.14 to the GBP.

I look forward to meeting with you all at the National Rally weekend 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May and do not forget to carry your membership card at all times please.

*Mike Valentine*

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## Welcome New Members



Ned Lammas & Sheila Barbour	Feckenham	Trooper
Dave & Sue Tyrrell	Preston	Executive
Gordon & Maureen Bennett	Buxton	Talisman
Bryn & Karen Rees	Isle of Wight	Executive
Alan Taylor	Kidderminster	Trooper
John Derham	Alfreton	Surrey
John & Norma Klunder	Chorley	Rienza
Mike & Karen Greene	St Bees	Amethyst
Graham Bailey	Brecon	Nuevo
John Turner	Nr Andover	Pollensa
Allan & Kath Stephenson	Burnley	Gloucester
Michael & Sandra Armitage	Leeds	Executive
George Armstrong & Pam Chilvers	Newcastle upon Tync	Executive
Tony & Pam Chatfield	Canterbury	Excelsior
Bruce Martin	Nr Blackburn	Clubman
Colin Bland & Jennifer Kuta	Morecambe	Warwick
Aich & Dee Middleton	Evesham	Gloucester
Vince & Helen Del-Vecchio	Brierley Hill	Executive
Richard & Sally Hughes	Epping	Rambler
Colin & Wendy Williams	Wadebridge	Symbol
Colin & Christine Broadbent	Rossendale	Sussex

# Technical Group & Website



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

## **Camping Card ACSI:**

For a while now Dorothy and I have been aware of the Camping Card ACSI system of reduced campsite prices, and no doubt many members may already be using it. The system provides for reduced site fees during the low season throughout Europe, with over 3,200 selected sites.

We joined this year at a cost of 11Euros and have already recovered our outlay. On our recent outward journey to Spain we saved 17 Euros (on 2 campsites) and on the return we will recover the same. There is also the benefit of a free Camping Carnet, normally approx £4.50.

There are 3 simple campsite prices Euros 12; 14 & max 16 – depending on the site. This covers two adults, electricity and the vehicle. Details come in two books - one for France, Italy, Portugal and Spain and the other for the rest of Europe, and a map. Campsites are well described and accurate coordinates make finding the site much easier.

Details can be found at [www.campingcard.com](http://www.campingcard.com) . In true 'BBC fashion' there are, of course, other discount systems available e.g. Camping Cheques and France Passion.

## **And finally:**

"Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!"

## **Driving in France – Add Breathalyser to things to carry**

Since drafting this piece I've received contributions on the subject of French breathalyser requirements from (in order of receipt) Neil Rogers, Mike Valentine and Baz Wellard.

Motorists caught without a breathalyser kit in their vehicle when driving through France from July will risk an €11 (£9) fine as new laws come into force.

The breathalyser kits, designed so that drivers can test themselves to ensure they are under drink-drive limits will cost around £1 to £2, they will be available to buy at ferry and tunnel terminals for crossings to France.

Motorists found with between 50mg and 80mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood can be fined €135 (£112) and lose six out of 12 points on their driving licence. Above that, a driver risks a fine of €4,500 (£3,744), losing their licence and being sent to prison for up to two years.

The French drink-driving limit of 50mg is much lower than in the UK where the limit is 80mg.

Motorists are being urged to carry at least two of the single-use breathalysers so that if they have checked themselves with one they can still show police they have a ready-to-use kit if stopped. Police, however, will use their own breathalysers to carry out any roadside test.

The French have said there will be a period of grace until November before police start issuing the penalties but I won't be taking a chance on that being correct.

Rules in France already mean that drivers have been penalised in the past for not carrying a warning triangle or a fluorescent safety vest.

### **Needed to Drive in France**

#### **Compulsory**

- Breathalyser
- Luminous Vest
- Warning Triangle
- GB Sticker or number plate with EU logo



## April 2012 Rally Supplement.

Please carry your ASOC membership cards when attending rallies.

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

***\*\*\*\*\* It is the responsibility of each rallier to ensure that they arrive at a rally on the correct day and time for the start of arally. This will avoid embarrassment to both parties. The marshal is entitled to ask early arrivals to leave and return at the correct day/time.***

***If you are unable to attend a rally or will arrive late please inform the marshal.***

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.

***Will Marshals please ensure that they have the post code for their site as it is necessary if you need to contact the emergency services.***

***There are now places on this rally, please contact the marshals A.S.A.P.***

***\*\*\*\*\*15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 Zell am Ziller, Austria.***

***Rally Marshals: Liz Irvin & Jeanne Hall assisted by Angie & Andy Cavell.***

***Emergency Tel. No. 00 44 (0)7711 271568.***

(i)

**Rally Fee:** £20.00, not refundable if offered a place. Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, RG18 0RY. Please provide your email address if you have one, if not please enclose an SAE.

**Site Fees:** The site fees are not set yet, but last year were in the region of £15.00 a night including electricity.

**Site:** Camping Hofer is a small, family run site in the town of Zell am Ziller. It has a swimming pool and its own restaurant. The town centre is only a few minutes walk from the site and contains a small supermarket, shops, bars and restaurants. There are also bus and train links to all the major towns in the area.

**Attractions:** Zell is on the valley floor so there are reasonably level walks and bike rides in all directions. There are cable cars to take you higher up the mountains for the more energetic. The local tourist railway is well worth the trip and runs steam hauled trains on a regular basis. A visit to the nearby Swarovski factory will be a must for anybody who likes pretty sparkly things.

**Warning:** Anyone caught singing extracts from the Sound of Music will have to buy drinks for all the other ralliers.

Limited to 25 vans. Please do not arrive before 2.00 pm.

### March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April (5 nights) 29<sup>th</sup> Fishery Creek, Hayling Island, PO11 9NR.

**Rally Marshall;** Mo & Mike Valentine.

Home Tel: 023 9248 2818 Mobile No. 07745 522 335.

**Rally Fee;** £2.50, singles £1.50.

**Site Fee;** £15.65 per night per unit, including electric. (5 nights £78.25).

Commercial site with all the usual facilities. The park is well maintained and grass pitches drain quickly.

Some pitches need leveling blocks.

Dogs welcome on leads.

**Attractions;** Walks along beach, (good lunch at Barley Mow 2 miles) local bus to Havant, Chichester Portsmouth, South Downs.

**Rally slips and Cheques** to M.Valentine, 11, Hamilton Close, Langstone, Havant, Hants PO9 1RP.Tel.No. 023 9248 2818.

Please include **SAE** for confirmation and directions.

**Directions;** Having followed the Hayling Island signs from the A27, cross the bridge (wave your passport to the man on the bridge) onto the island. Proceed until you come to first roundabout, **first** exit, turn **left** at T junction, follow road round past Ford garage, turn **right** into Fishery Creek, at end of road bear **right** and turn into site.

**Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 (3 nights)**

**Marston's Rally. Albion** **This rally is now fully booked**

The site is behind the Albion Hotel, Church Lane, Marston, Northampton.  
Emergency Tel. no. 07713186508 Marshal's mobile.  
Rally Marshals: Trish & Ted Pratt & Jan & Vic Hicklin.  
Marshal's phone no. 01283538818 or please ring Jan on 01246236157.

**26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>.April National Motorhome Show,East of England  
Showground,Peterborough.PE2 6XE.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07922049714.  
Rally Marshals:Pauline & Neil Rogers & Yvonne & Stuart Wood.Please use the  
Booking form enclosed in the February 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:£42,arrive Friday £39, arrive Saturday £36. All  
bookings for the Saturday evening entertainment must be made with  
Warners when returning the application form to the organisers, by Friday  
10<sup>th</sup>.April .This must be done 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  
to: N.C. & P. Rogers,3 Appleby Close,Aldbrough St.John,Richmond, North  
Yorks.DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325374540.  
Please collect the *Club* rally information pack from the ASOC marshal before  
parking where directed.  
The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon  
Monday.

**3rd.- 7<sup>th</sup>. May National Rally & A.G.M.,  
Nottinghamshire Showground,Newark. NG24 2NY.**  
**Please return the application form by 12<sup>th</sup>.April.**

**10<sup>th</sup> to 17th May 2012 (7 Nights).15<sup>th</sup> .Dartmouth Music Festival Rally at Little Cotton C.P. Dartmouth.**

Site Tel.No.01803.832558 Fax 01803 834887.

Website- [www.littlecotton.co.uk](http://www.littlecotton.co.uk) & e-mail- [enquiries@littlecotton.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@littlecotton.co.uk)

Rally Marshalls:- Jill & Richard McAllister with Rita & John Tubb.

Site fees £91.00 for 7 nights including electricity. Rally fee £5

Send application slips with cheque payable to R.J. McAllister together with **SAE** for reply to 'Milesaway' Steart Drive, Burnham on Sea, TA8 1BZ.

Tel.Nos.:- 01278 781976 & Mobile 07840076771.

**Attractions:** This 7.5 acre immaculate site has all the usual facilities including disabled. **Dogs** are welcome but they **must** use the on site dog walk and be **kept on a lead** while on site. Very close by are Sainsburys and Lidl. There are regular bus services into Dartmouth and beyond to Kingsbridge, Plymouth, Totnes & Torquay. Cross on the ferry to Kingswear for a steam train to Paignton or a bus to Brixham.

This will be the Club's 15<sup>th</sup> year attending the Dart Music Festival held from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Enjoy a boat trip from Dartmouth, up river to Totnes or out to sea. There are a number of NT properties in the area.

Remember to bring your NT Membership cards and also your free bus travel cards.

**Please do not arrive before Noon on rally day.**

This site is in a lovely area of South Devon with much to see and do; if you would like to extend your stay either before or after the rally please contact the site owners direct on numbers & or e-mail as above.

**10th June. 17th of June ( 7 nights). Old Barn T.P. Nr.Sandown, Isle of Wight. PO36 9PJ.**

Rally Marshals. Ken Bolton 01983402059. & Mac. McArthur 01983875918.

Emergency telephone numbers (07730) 212750 or (07866) 621291.

Rally fees:-£151 for seven nights including electric and ferry fares.

Those wishing to make their own way seven nights including electrics £98.

***It is advisable to phone Ken Bolton (01983) 402059 to get details of the package.***

The ferry is the Red Funnel from Southampton to East Cowes which leaves every hour on the hour.

A preferred time of departure on your Rally slip would be helpful. **A large stamped addressed envelope** is necessary for the ferry tickets. Checks and Rally slip please send to K.Bolton. 2,Cherryside,Lake,Sandown,Isle of Wight.PO36 9LU.

**Attractions:** Most of the Isle of Wight is an area of outstanding natural beauty with many attractions.

The site is situated on the main road from Newport to Sandown.

A Morrison's supermarket is a quarter of a mile away and opposite is a garden centre with a nice cafeteria.

Bus stops are nearby and buses can take you all over the island. Bus passes accepted. There are lots of walks nearby and you overlook the Isle of Wight airport a small private airfield with a grass runway.

**13th to 17th June (4 nights) at New Park Cottage, Maypole Road, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex. CO5 0ER.**

Emergency tel No. Marshals no. 07773851097.

Rally Marshals - Jill and Tony Showell and John and Rita Tubb.

Site Fee £5 per night plus £2.50 rally fee. £22.50 in total.

A greenfield site with tap and Elsan point. No electricity. Level, firm grass. Dogs allowed but on a lead at all times please.

This is a new rally which links up to the Felixstowe Rally - about an hour away.

**Attractions:-** Tiptree is home to the famous Wilkins Jam Factory with an excellent shop, museum and tea room. Convenient buses for the ancient town of Colchester, historic maritime town of Maldon or further afield. Only a few miles from the Essex coast and the Blackwater Estuary, also wild life reserves of Abberton and Old Hall Marshes for bird enthusiasts. Famous Colchester Zoo about 4 miles away (on bus route).

The rally site is on the edge of the large village of Tiptree convenient for local Asda and Tesco stores within 1 mile. 200 yds from Shell Garage which also sells papers and milk etc. Excellent garden centre (with restaurant) within 1 mile. Various other eating places.

**RALLY SLIPS AND CHEQUES FOR £22.50** payable to TA and GA Showell, Wits End, Maypole Road, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex. CO5 0EJ Tel 01621 816074.

Please send SAE for confirmation and directions.

Limit of 20 vans. **PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 12 NOON.**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 (5 nights) Peewits  
Caravan Park, Walton Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 2HB.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07999571461 (marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Chris & Shirley Sturgeon 01359244360 & Dave & Theresa Smith 01787477063.

Site Fee: £10 per night including electricity .Rally Fee £2.50 couples £1.50 singles. Rally slips & cheques to Mrs.S.Sturgeon, Tucked Away, Feld Way,Station Road,Elmswell, Suffolk IP309HD.

**Attractions:** The rally is on a commercial site: [www.peewitcaravanpark.co.uk](http://www.peewitcaravanpark.co.uk), just 900 yds from Felixstowe's 4 miles of seafront. About 1 mile from the town centre which has a variety of shops, and restaurants. There are many attractions in the area. Buses to Felixstowe and Ipswich about ½ mile from the site. Dogs are welcome, subject to usual rules.

**Directions:** Ipswich A14 to Felixstowe, first roundabout take 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto Port of Felixstowe Road. After flyover, roundabout take 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto Walton Avenue,Peewits entrance is on the left.

**Limit of 20 vans. Rally starts 12 noon.**

**Membership cards should be available for inspection at all rallies.**

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

E & OE.

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

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

.....

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

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

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

Van Reg. .... 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* .....

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.

- Headlight converters for driving on the right
- Motor insurance certificate
- Both paper and photo parts of UK driving licence

### **Recommended**

- Spare bulbs for external lights
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid kit

Drivers are not obliged to carry a spare set of lights, but if one of their bulbs goes and they do not have a replacement ready they can be fined.

A fire extinguisher and first aid kit could also be required in the case of an emergency so as not to fall foul of a law about assisting in the event of an accident.

*Peter Brown*

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### **Recent Mercedes Conversion FM Radio Reception**

Auto-Sleeper have become aware that the FM radio reception is poor in some recent Mercedes conversions. It seems that the problem is associated with the installation of one specific type of rear view camera monitor. Auto-sleeper have carried out extensive trials in an attempt to identify what exactly is the cause of the problem and to then find a remedy but have yet to find a solution.

I would be interested to hear if you have experienced similar problems and even more interested to hear if you have found a remedy.

*Peter Brown*

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### **Who has a Romero??**

We live in Bristol and are new owners of a 2nd hand (1996) Renault Romero. Having got the vehicle mechanically sound I would now like a chat or meet up with other owners of the Romero about handy tips and safety issues, as Christina and I plan to drive it to France in the autumn for an extended stay (one year). Contact: Mark Vaughan - [info@landrugs.com](mailto:info@landrugs.com)

## 2012 AGM : Committee Reports

### Chairman

I write this as we head towards the 2012 AGM which will bring to an end my three years as your Chairman, I must say that I have enjoyed the experience enormously meeting so many of you at the various rallies and shows around the country, dealing with problems for individuals and club matters at all levels.

The committee meetings this year have been held at different venues each time, with the work of running the club being achieved with full and frank discussions but always with plenty of humour.

I would like to say a big Thank You to the committee for their loyalty, hard work and support; they have been most generous with their time, friendship and willingness to help.

The meetings with Geoff Scott, the CEO of Auto-sleepers have continued at regular intervals and the Technical Officer Baz Wellard and I have found these to be most worthwhile. We have continued seeking answers to owner's queries and problems; discussed new vehicles that were currently being designed and built and met with the members of the various teams at Auto-Sleepers. Once again it is good to see that some ideas that we have put forward have been incorporated into the latest vehicles.

The club has seen many new members introduced through the Marquis sales scheme and it is hoped that they will enjoy the famous ASOC camaraderie that runs throughout the club.

The rally list for 2012 with approximately 30 rallies looks good, from February - November including some of our favourites plus new venues. Early rallies are quickly reaching their maximum numbers which gives me the feeling that the Club is of good heart.

*Mike Valentine*

### Secretary

As is the practice the committee held four meetings during the course of the year. In February it was at Moreton in Marsh, April at the National Rally, July at Abingdon and finally October at Warwick. Each meeting last about 6 hours except for the one at the National Rally at which we have two meetings one to elects the committee for the coming year and the second to expedite any matters that have arisen since the last meeting.

During the intervals the committee keep in touch by e-mails to sort out any minor problems which may arise.

This year is the end of Mike Valentine's three year term as Chairman of the Committee, and I would like to thank him for all the hard work that he has put into the post. I would also like to thank his wife Mo for all the help and support she has give to him and to me over the last three years.

*John Osland-Jones*

#### Treasurer

Following the retirement of John Tidbury after 20 years in the post, the committee elected me as Treasurer following the 2011 AGM, part way through the Club's financial year.

As I expected I found the accounts and records in good order and thank John for facilitating a smooth handover.

The club made a surplus of £2,957.01 in 2011. This was largely due to both a one off reduction in costs for the National Rally in recognition of adjacent building work and similar circumstance for a couple of rallies. I would specifically mention that the cost of running the AGM and associated committee meetings were this year allocated to Committee Expenses rather than being included in the cost of running the National Rally.

The compilation of a budget for income and expenditure during 2011 enabled regular reporting of actual against forecast expenditure. I believe this was a great success as costs were managed very well and actual performance against forecast was, for the first year, surprisingly accurate. The committee have agreed a budget for 2012 that forecasts a small loss over the year. This is acceptable as our accumulated surplus is well over the agreed minimum level of the value of one year's subscriptions.

During 2011 for both practical and financial reasons we have opened a second bank account, de-registered from VAT, enabled Internet Banking and transferred to all electronic bookkeeping. The Vice Chairman has had the duties of Deputy Treasurer added to those he already holds and in that capacity holds a club cheque book and a current electronic copy of the books.

*Peter Brown*

#### Rally Co-ordinator

During the year we had four new rally locations. We had to cancel one rally but the other twenty eight were well attended. The Club had a presence at the National Motorhome Show at Peterborough, the Northern Motorcaravan Show in Cheshire, the Motorhome & RV Show at Shepton Mallet and the End of Season Show at Lincoln.

The National & A.G.M. Rally was, as usual, successful and ably organised by the Sub Committee chaired by Nora Venables.

In June we had a continental rally in Rudesheim am Rhein, in Germany and another rally on the Isle of Wight.

I still need to remind members of the necessity of applying for rallies as soon as the Rally Supplement is delivered. Some rallies are fully booked within a couple of days of receipt of the Newsletter.

Even though we have eight new rally sites in 2012 we would like more volunteer marshals to run our rallies. Help is available and if you are interested then please contact me.

I must remind all ralliers that it is their responsibility to ensure that they arrive at a rally on the correct day and time for the start of a rally. This will avoid embarrassment to both parties. The marshal is entitled to ask early arrivals to leave and return at the correct time & day. Please ensure that you have your current A.S.O.C. membership card available for inspection at all rallies. If for some reason you are unable to attend a rally or will be arriving late please inform the marshal.

My thanks go all the volunteer marshals who give so freely of their time and energy. I would also like to thank those who attend rallies and to those who have not tried a rally - give it a go you may be surprised how enjoyable a rally can be.

*Neil Rogers*

#### Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster

##### Technical

You will have read in the Newsletter how much has gone on during another busy year. There has been wide coverage of a great number of subjects - from A~S liaison meetings right through to winterisation and, most recently, 'electronic' toll roads in Portugal and the use of Sat Navs with 'speed camera alerts' in France.

Ideas Sheets remain popular, particularly with our newer members. A total 10,596 have now been issued - with 1,300 in the last year. Twelve new Ideas Sheets have been approved in the last 12 months, the latest number No 220. More ideas are always welcome.

The catalogue of 'hints and tips', collated from those published in the Club Newsletter, now cover 12 pages. The consolidated list was issued to all members on the 'web update' list as an attachment to Website update No. 01/12 on 1<sup>st</sup> January. It is available to other members simply by contacting me.

The Chairman and I continue to attend regular informal meetings with the CEO,

Production, Design and Development and Marketing, maintaining these very useful interchanges.

#### **Club Library**

The library continues to expand and is well accessed by members. If anyone has such material, that is no longer needed, perhaps it could be donated to the Club, please?

#### **Website**

September 2011 was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club Website and the occasion was taken to improve the style and ease of access. If you wish to be advised when the website is updated simply send me your e-mail address.

#### **National Rally**

We will be hosting a 'Technical Table' again this year, where you are welcome to come along and we will try to answer your queries - or perhaps just come along for a natter and review some of the Club's library material.

Last year's 'Question & Answer' session was postponed but, as promised, it will be re-instated this year on Friday afternoon. Senior Managers from Auto Sleepers have kindly agreed to attend to answer your 'questions & queries'. Even if you don't have any questions please come along as I'm sure you'll find it interesting.

#### *Baz Wellard*

#### **Regalia Officer**

Sales for 2011 have been quite good, thanks to having the Price List/Order Form inserted in the January Newsletter.

Also remember I always have Regalia with me at Rallies I attend. New items you can see on the update. Well that's it for now except to thank all Members old and new for your support, and family and friends, and if you need any information, or Price List/Order Form, please get in touch. Have a safe "Motorhoming" year and see you at the National.

#### *John Jones*

#### **Newsletter Editors**

Chris and I are again pleased to report on Newsletter matters to the Club at the AGM.

This is our last AGM report on the Newsletter as Chris and I are retiring as Editors. The last issue we will edit will be for May 2012. The June and future issues will be edited by David Mayne

Once again we are very grateful for the support from the Deputy Editor, Dudley

Woodhams, who took full responsibility for the production of the July and August issues.

Many of those who place advertisements in the Newsletter choose to make a donation to Club funds. During the calendar year of 2011 those donations totalled £248.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Newsletter and please keep those contributions coming - it's the Club members who write the Newsletter, we just assemble it.

*Peter Brown & Chris Mawdsley*

### **Membership Secretary**

As at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 the Club has a total membership of 988, an additional 28 compared to the same time in 2011.

The Marquis offer of complimentary membership continues to increase Club numbers with a total of 687 new members since the introduction of the scheme in February 2010 and 38 vouchers have been issued to existing Members. 54% of Auto-Sleeper purchasers through Marquis Dealerships in 2011 joined the Club and 25% of those have renewed for 2012.

*Jill Bertin*

### **Chairman National Rally Sub Committee**

As most of you know this is my first year of organising the National Rally. It has been a steep 'learning curve' for both Barbara and myself. I would like to thank the National Rally Sub Committee and the main committee for their help and support throughout the year. The experience of the Sub Committee in organising the rally in the past has been a great help.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Nora Venables during what has been a very difficult year for her, in making the handover of the National Rally go smoothly. Without the vast amount of information and details of contacts she has made over the years, organising this rally would have been extremely difficult for me. So thank you Nora.

We hope we have put together a programme which will make an enjoyable weekend for you all.

*Al Buckett*

## **Rallying in the National Parks**

If you are thinking of running a rally using our Exemption Certificate in a National Park then there are rules to follow. These rules are laid down by Natural England, who issue our Exemption Certificate. Any rally in a National Park that is not on a licensed site must be cleared by the relevant National Park Authority through ACCEO.

To get this clearance you must submit details of the rally by the end of March this year if you wish to run a rally in 2013.

If you want any further information then please contact the Rally Co-ordinator.

*Neil Rogers (Rally Co-ordinator)*

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### **PROPOSED RALLY**

September 2012, date to be confirmed - 4nights. The Woods Caravan Park, Alva, Clackmannanshire. Attractions - Tranquil but central location. Perth, Edinburgh, Stirling and Glasgow within easy reach. Good walking, cycling and historical area. Retail therapy within walking distance of site at Sterling Mills Outlet Village. Area and season not renowned for MIDGIES but no guarantee given. Minimum 15 maximum 25units. Follow-on rally being considered.

*Allan & Moira Blackstock.*

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### **New Rally for 2012 at Winchester**

Come and join us on our new venue at St Cross Cricket Ground Winchester. 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> August.

As most people are aware Winchester is an ancient city and the old Capital of England, with many places of interest to visit, including a beautiful Cathedral, one of the oldest Colleges which you can tour, and some very lovely old buildings.

From here you can visit many places of interest, Alresford for the

Watercress Line, Alton, Chawton home of Jane Austen, Romsey, Intec the Science Centre and Planetarium, Marwell Zoo well known for conservation work, Whitchurch Silk Mill, and various NT properties in the area. Winchester has several Museums and is the home of the legendary Round Table of King Arthur.

The site is beside St Cross Hospital. There is a bus stop outside the site for buses to Winchester and Southampton. There is also a lovely walk along the river from the site to Winchester which is ¾mi away.

*Rita Tubb*

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## **Whitemead Forest Rally**

Pat and I don't usually venture out with our motorhome until the National Rally, but this year we went to Whitemead Forest Rally, in the Forest of Dean, for the first time. What an excellent venue for us and a beautiful area too. The Marshals had managed to get the use of all available hard standings and we were spread out across the whole campsite, but were able to meet up in our meeting room as well as the bar or restaurant (free Wi-Fi!). The site had a good shop plus there was a pool and gym etc..

Yvonne and Stuart with help of Celia and Alan had organised a busy week with a trip to the Dean Heritage centre and a bike ride and walk over the next two days. I believe some people ventured out on the buses too. A village quiz kept many of us wandering around the village to find answers to the clues provided - which made us look and notice things that we might otherwise have walked by. A bonus was the walk took us right past the local pub which served good ales and good food. Whitemead had laid on a special one or two course meal each night for ASOC and the curry night was well attended .

A lack of mobile Phone signal around the whole area was a disadvantage but there was a phone box on site, and I could get an Orange signal at the top of the site in my van! We were lucky with the weather too as it slowly warmed up through the week and didn't rain.

Many thanks to Yvonne and Stuart Wood, and Celia and Alan Waugh for running this rally – a good choice for this time of year.

*David Mayne*



Thanks for your donations.

### Electric Bicycle.

'Batribike Diamond' cost over £900 used for 40 miles only (*damaged shoulder!*) - **£680**. Step-through aluminium unisex frame, with suspension (photos available). Lithium battery, Shimano gears, 26" wheels, 250W motor range up to 60 miles, with assist. Four riding options: - 6 level pedal assist; twist throttle; launch assist & pedal only. Weight 21Kg plus 3.5Kg (removable) battery. For more details see [www.batribike.com](http://www.batribike.com) . Contact [baz.wellard@virgin.net](mailto:baz.wellard@virgin.net) or 01329 231259, after 2<sup>nd</sup> April. (Hants)

### Electric Bikes

PawaCycle Windsor LPX £350  
PawaCycle Salisbury LPX £350  
Lithium Batteries. Very good condition  
Downsize to Kemerton forces sale.  
Contact Ray Savigar 01633 664299

Rambler on 1993 Talbot Express 2lt petrol engine (avoid emission charges). Power assisted steering 12 months MOT Taxed to 31 Oct 2012. 4 berth 4 seat belts, fridge, microwave, 2 burner gas hob with grill, Trauma water heater, Traumatic space heater. Thetford Porta Potti. **£6950 ono. Contact Les Travell 07860 395837.**

Raliegh 'Boardwalk' folding bike with 6 speed Shimano gears. 20" wheels. Good condition, lightly used.  
Choice of two £130 each or £250 the

pair. Contact Tel: 01278 7821976 or e-mail [richardmac59@talktalk.net](mailto:richardmac59@talktalk.net)

Nuevo 2 bert 2.2 hdi 2055 reg. FS. Tax. MOT. Mileage 18,000 approx. Excellent condition. **£21,500 Contact M Smith 01482 857114**

2 Apollo transition aluminium folding bikes. 20" wheels. Excellent condition – hardly used. Silver. Shimano gears. (Halfords price £299 ea) **£175 for one or £300 the two**. Buyer collect. Contact Alan Currie 01745 582516 or 07881 524371 (Denbighshire).

### WANTED

Mr G Harrell (0121 706 4352) is interested in buying a short wheelbase VW van conversion with an end toilet and is prepared to pay up to £20,000.

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