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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee
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Registered No: 4616969



Saturday night with the Jacket Potato Van at the Lichfield Rally

NEWSLETTER 288

September 2012

From the Editor

Well, I'm back. Many thanks to Dudley Woodhams for producing the July and August editions of this newsletter.

This enabled me to do a few excellent rallies. And one was cancelled, just as well as I was still receiving emails for the newsletter which I was able to forward to Dudley. Dudley made it very clear who's doing this one. I'll have to do likewise next June. I think the sudden change from Peter to me then Dudley threw a few of you.



This mixed weather of heat and sun has created a lot of work in the garden, and what with watching the Olympics, it's nice to get my brain in gear to do the newsletter and thanks to all the contributors. I have lots to use but I could do with more!! Remember it's your newsletter so we need to hear from you. Please keep this up!

Deadline for the October newsletter is September 10th. All contributions to me at daveatasoc@virginmedia.com

Bucklers Hard Rally

Mo & I would like to apologise to all of those members who we disappointed by our having to cancel the rally at the last moment. We went to Bucklers Hard on the previous Thursday to look at the site after a major downfall of rain on Tuesday & Wednesday and the ground seemed to be draining well. Over the weekend there was even more heavy rain and so on Monday morning after discussions with both the groundsman and the site manageress, we were pushed into the decision of calling the rally off. We will try and arrange another rally next year and hope that the weather treats us more kindly.

Mike and Mo Valentine

A Good Read at Willersey

I was at the Autosleepers Service Centre near here for a Habitation Check a couple of days ago and was very pleased to find a set of the Ideas Sheets in the Waiting Room. Ever since joining ASOC I had wanted to see about half of them: those that referred to my last vehicle (a 1999 Talisman, just sold) and my new vehicle (a 2011 50th anniversary Executive). There were far too many sheets to request. By chance I met the Vice Chairman Jill Bertlin and her husband there.

Keith Orchard

Chairman' Chat

I am sure that more established members of the club will have read about ACCEO in previous newsletters but newcomers may wonder what it is all about. Basically ACCEO or the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations to give it the full title, is like a trade body for all the clubs like ours who hold



exemption certificates. These are issued by government and enable us to camp on green field sites and other areas without applying for planning permission. Whereas the big two clubs employ staff to represent them at meetings with government and at local authority level, the 230 plus clubs who make up ACCEO are all run by volunteers who do not have the time or expertise to take on this task. ACCEO is also run by volunteers, a committee of eleven drawn from its member clubs, but it does not have a membership from whom it can draw volunteers to organise events.

It is for this reason that it's National Rally and AGM are organised by a host club and this year ASOC has volunteered to run the event at Lickhill Manor, Stourport on Severn from 3rd to 8th October. Within the overall event, member clubs organise their own rally areas and there is a marquee where get-togethers and entertainment are organised. On Saturday night there will be a live band for dancing to music from the sixties onwards. A splendid weekend is in prospect with a chance to meet old friends and make new ones even though some of them may be caravanners!

There is just time to get your application in to our marshal (Liz Irvin) before the closing date of 31st August, so if you haven't booked already now is the time to do it. All the details are in the rally supplement and I look forward to seeing you there.

On the subject of rallies, it was very disappointing to have to cancel rallies due to our amazing summer weather but I want to take this opportunity to thank the marshals whose rallies were affected for all their hard work. I know from the experience of being flooded out of Abingdon a few years ago that there is almost as much work to do cancelling a rally as there is to organise it.

The biggest problem is trying to contact all the potential ralliers who may already be away from home and en route to your event. So, for the suspicious amongst you, there is a reason why we ask for mobile phone numbers and email addresses and it has nothing to do with spam!!!

Hopefully all the cancelled events will reappear in the programme later this year, or next, alongside all the new events organised by members who have been spurred into action by last month's chat.

Andy Cavell

Charity Choice 2013

As members may remember from the National Rally, we annually select a charity that would benefit from fund raising activities and we would like to do the same at the 2013 National Rally. The selections would be made by the Committee, from nominations made by you, the members.

The criterion is that it should be a **lesser known national charity**.

Nominations will remain anonymous to the committee until a charity has been selected. If you would like to nominate a charity for 2013, please write to me at 31, Abbott Lea, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. NG19 6NF by the 10th January 2013.

Please make sure you send everything direct to me with full details of the charity you nominate and why. Please enclose 14 leaflets of the charity for the committee (I will make copies of your letter).

It would also help if you could confirm that your charity, if selected, would be able to set up a stand at the National Rally, and that a representative would be available to accept the cheque on Sunday morning.

Looking forward to receiving your nominations.

John Jones

HUNSTANTON RALLY BOOK STALL

Mike and Heather Tucker would like to thank everyone who supported the Book Stall at Hunstanton this year with gifts of books and donations. £20.75 was raised which was donated to the British Heart Foundation, as were all the remaining books.

Thank you all for your generosity. I have attached a copy of the receipt for the donation from BHF, I know you will not be able print this but it is confirmation of the above. (Ed; I've seen it)

Mike Tucker 5477

The National Rally 2013

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 November 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 or telephone me on 01304 369149.

Al Buckett

Comments on the Chairman's Chat in August Newsletter.

I was rather surprised on reading the Chairman's comments regarding Rally Marshals not needing to assist on a rally or have an experienced Rally Marshal as their assistant, if they wish to run a rally.

The Rally Co-ordinator will supply all the necessary information, but it is not just a matter of just a few hours to prepare. You do need to cost out the rally and ensure that it does not run at a loss. There are things you need to do, for example, prepare information for the newsletter, acceptance letters, directions to site for ralliers, order plaques, get raffle books & raffle prizes, envelopes, prepare programme of events, get refreshments, information leaflets for ralliers etc.

For motorhomes a bus stop near to the site is preferred as not all ralliers are able to walk long distances to a bus stop.

But, at the end of the day it is satisfying and enjoyable running a rally.

John Tubb

Editor's Note: Whilst it is useful to have an experienced Marshal to assist, and is handy should illness intervene, Neil does provide a lot of information outlining the requirements and I personally did a rally successfully with new asst marshals using that information. Once you have been on a few rallies previously it is possible. John has certainly highlighted some of the requirements. It's a whole lot easier with an experienced Assistant though. Of course John and Rita have done loads and if my memory serves did 5 on the trot early last year due to Rally Marshal illness!

Rally Reports

Leon's Field, St Ives

Margaret & I would like to say a big " Thank You " to Julia, Theresa & Dave, Shirley & Chris, our Wardens at the Leon's Field (St. Ives, Cambridge) Rally . I am sure all who took part will agree with us that it was a Great Success & we didn't let the Inclement Weather spoil our fun! It was good to see Nora Venables, who was there as a guest. There were plenty of opportunities to take in local interests - Guided walk at Holt Island Nature Reserve, kindly conducted by two members of that trust. Also guided walk around St. Ives town by the Museum Curator Bob Murdock. We much enjoyed the coach trip to Ely with it's beautiful Cathedral. The Auction for Charity was very worthwhile & entertaining, with Guest appearances by " Bob Marley", "Ossie Osbourne", "Big Chief Sitting Bull"& "Elvis the King" were most amusing . Not forgetting "Spikey" the Hedgehog . Well done, Cedric & Steve! Great Stuff!

Margaret & Bob Still 2269

Lichfield Rally

After weeks of extreme wet weather, and 3 cancelled rallies, 36 motorhomes approached the journey to the rally at Lichfield, Staffordshire, with some trepidation of what they might find. On arrival first impressions were not too promising as the Marshals were wet and waiting in the rain. A first glimpse of the field, showed big muddy tracks where the previous users of Beacon Park had struggled in the awful conditions and had left muddy areas.



Confidence returned by the welcome received and the fact that the marshals had selected an area of the park where it was drier. All the vans were efficiently directed to where they should pitch. Parking on ramps and boards (always recommended) was easily achieved.

Beacon Park has been used as a rally site by the Club for 14 years so successfully by Trish & Ted Pratt (*surely a Club record for one site?*). Chris, Jeanne, Liz and Peter bravely took over the mantle with, no doubt, some apprehension. However, any

trepidation proved to be unfounded as the planning, on-site preparation and the rally itself went so very well.

The rally area is only a very short walk through the huge park to the attractive town of Lichfield itself. The area was known by many of the ralliers, from previous rallies, but for those new there was a comprehensive amount of information in their rally envelope along with 2 quizzes. The dominating view of Lichfield is the Cathedral with an odd number of 3 spires. I'm told that the two main spires are of different heights of some 5 feet.

Teas/coffees and biscuits were provided the first evening (Thursday) and ralliers were welcomed and given advice regarding the town of Lichfield, nearby attractions and domestics matters e.g. where the toilets, showers & Elsan point are and their opening times. There was then the opportunity talk with old friends and meet, and make, new ones.

Friday the sun shone brightly and remained so for the rest of the rally. I think everyone made their way at sometime to go into the town and wander round the small market and the town in general. Also many started the 'Lichfield Trail' - a quiz provided by the tourist board, which took one around the town searching for answers to the clues given. There was also a bike ride organised.

Saturday ralliers were able to pursue their own desires - be sitting in the glorious sunshine, go back to town or visit the local area. In the evening the 'potato man' visited with the wide range of fillings available, the Marshals also provided a glass(es) of wine and apple pie and cream. All the ralliers joined in and stayed till late in the evening with friends to see the sun setting.

Sunday was another 'do as you wish day'. In the evening the rally raffle was drawn and prizes awarded for the two quizzes. Thanks were given to the Marshals and their assistants for all the effort that they had put in to making the rally a great success.

Monday saw everyone leaving the park returning home or on to other venues. Another rally next year - who knows?

Baz Wellard



LICHFIELD RALLY

During our overdue "honeymoon" in a hotel in Lichfield we really enjoyed our visit to the Beacon Park rally on the Saturday and Sunday. It was great to catch up with so many friends and we were delighted to meet up with Nora on her visit. Sadly and reluctantly we have had to sell our Auto-Sleeper due to Keith's illness. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the Club who have kept in touch with us all year. Keith's treatment commenced on 25.7.12 so, hopefully, we will catch up with you all later in the year. Best wishes from us both.

Keith and Rita Taylor 4297

HUNSTANTON RALLY

"Sunny Hunny" as it is known locally did not quite fulfill it's promise.

However, there were plenty of hot spells interspersed with a fine Norfolk drizzle and one heavy thunderstorm.

Nevertheless, lots of visits were made to local attractions such as

Sandringham Estate, Bircham Windmill, the Lavender fields, Heacham and Wells-next-the-Sea.

The walk to Old Hunstanton and the Lighthouse was further than some expected but the view of the tri-coloured cliffs was worth the effort when you arrived and the café was a welcome sight.

Phil dropped the van table on his foot and we ended up in Kings' Lynn Hospital on Sunday morning. Fortunately his foot was only badly bruised.

Cedric delivered his usual humorous recitations which went down so well that one member had to rush to the toilet before they wet themselves!

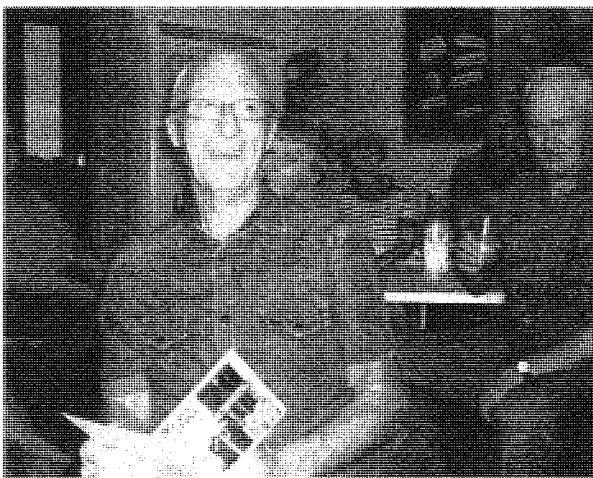
Our thanks to Mike and Heather, ably assisted by Peter and Heather, for a thoroughly enjoyable Rally in a pleasant setting.

Shelagh and Phil West



Ladies Craft Evening

Phil would like to send his thanks to Mike and Heather for organizing the signatures on his 70th birthday card and hopes everyone enjoyed the cakes.



Status 550 Aerial Fitting

I wonder if anyone has successfully and elegantly fitted a Status 550 rotatable TV aerial through the roof of a 1996 model Duetto. I would like to mount it on the nearside about 75-100mm forward of the wardrobe (rather than in the wardrobe upper cupboard itself, where access and space are limited, and where outside it would also foul the kitchen rooflight). Apart from the worries of cutting a hole in the roof, the complication seems to be that –

1. Grade Ltd quote a max roof thickness of 50mm.
2. The overall thickness of the roof is approx 65mm measured from the underside of the fibreglass roof to the underside of the ceiling board (by removing the nearby light fitting). The fibreglass roof thickness adds another say 5mm, giving a total of 70mm. Roof curvature may reduce this slightly in practice at the mounting position.

However their technical contact (Harvey) says whilst he would not put it in writing, he knows of several cases where they have supplied customers with a second mounting assembly which, with a bit of ingenuity, has been used to extend the first to cope with roof thicknesses of over 50mm.

To understand the above you probably need their installation instruction's diagram, but basically the split (bottom) part of the first mounting sleeve is cut off, similarly the unthreaded (top) part of the second mounting sleeve. They are joined together thread to thread using the second sleeve's locking nut (possibly with the lugs cut off)

Has anyone done this or have an alternative method?

Andrew J Hamilton 5066

The Tappets` Tale

The engine in my six year old Inca (Peugeot Boxer 2.8 Diesel) recently at approx. 26,000 miles, exploded, apparently from the inside. The Engineer who stripped it down & rebuilt it has never come across such a case previously.

I wondered if any other club members have had a similar problem and at a similar mileage. I have sent the damaged parts:- Cylinder head, rocker cover & camshaft + ancillary components to Peugeot U.K. to see if they can throw any light on the case.

Any comments related to this episode will be most welcome.

Bob Still 2269.

An Inka Tinkers` Song. (Tune well Known).

**Our old van, it looks spick & span
We don` t dilley dalley on the way
I started to sing like an old cock linnet
Wifey said, "Bob, why don` t you put ASOC in it ?"**

**We dillied & dallied
Dallied & we Dillied
For the life of me, I don` t know why we roam**

**You can` t beat the whoppers
Told by Bus Pass Hoppers
When you make an Autosleeper your home.**

Bob the Poet (An almost Cockney Sparrow!)

Bob Still 2269



September 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 a rally. 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.

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.

6th.-9th. September The Motorhome 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 £38.00 Friday onwards £33.00.

Rally Fee: £2.35. 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 21st August.*** Show application forms to be returned to the organisers, Stone Leisure, by 28th August.

10th.-15th. September (5 nights). Unity Holiday Resort, Brean Sands, Somerset.

Unity Holiday Resort is a full facility site in an area well worth exploring.

An ideal follow on rally from The Royal Bath and West Show Ground at Shepton Mallet as Brean is just 26 miles from the showground or just take it as a September break.

Brean is ideal for walking with 7 miles of beach, plus the Brean Downs, also cycling .

There are buses to Burnham On Sea and Weston Super Mare.

Dogs are welcome on this site.

Site fee £56.00 includes electric hook up and club passes. £2.50 Rally Fee .

Total: - £58.50 Send full payment with Rally slips and "A Stamped Addressed Envelope", OR, clearly written e- mail address, for confirmation to Brian Ellis 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham On Sea, Somerset TA8 2PP. Phone : 01278 784524.

ell.ba82@yahoo.co.uk

Directions. Post Code TA8 2RB M5 to Jct 22 Burnham On Sea. Cross straight over A38 heading Burnham On Sea, Cross Tesco Island, then at mini island, turn right Berrow /Brean. Follow this road about 4 miles, to Brean, site is on the right. Yellow field.

10th – 13th September (3 nights) The Woods CP, Alva, Clackmannanshire.

Emergency Tel. No. 07891104186 or 07969312703 (marshals' mobiles).

Rally Marshals: Moira & Allan Blackstock.

Site Fees: £15.00 per night with or without hook-up .Rally Fees £3.00 couples £1.50 singles.

Booking slip & cheque payable to M. Blackstock, 39 Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9UJ.

Tranquil but central location. Perth, Edinburgh, Stirling and Glasgow within easy reach. Good walking, cycling and historical area.

Retail therapy nearby (within walking distance for the fit) at Sterling Mills Outlet Village. Area and season not renowned for MIDGIES but no guarantee given. SAE please for confirmation and directions.

14th – 17th September (3nights) Belhaven Bay CP, Dunbar, East

Lothian.

Emergency tel. No. 07891104186 or 07969312703 (marshals' mobiles).

Rally Marshals: Moira & Allan Blackstock.

Site Fees: With hook-up £15.00 per night. Without hook-up £12.00 per night. Rally Fees £3.00 couples £1.50 singles.

Booking slip & Cheque payable to M Blackstock, 39 Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9UJ.

Attractions: Located in the John Muir Country Park. Beach, bird watching, and the countryside is ideal for walks or hunt for fossils at Bams Ness. The harbour town of Dunbar, which boasts a 'tropical' leisure pool, is close by and is approximately 28 miles to either Edinburgh or Berwick upon Tweed.SAE please for confirmation and directions.

20th to 24th September 2012 (4 nights) Bridge Villa Camping Wallingford Oxon.

Address:- Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 8HB. Tel 01491 836793.

Rally marshals:- John & Jan Geeson and Phil & Shelagh West.

Tel numbers:- John 01491 641776 mob:-07785932348.e-mail:- john.geeson@talktalk.net

Site fees:- £14.00 p/night inclusive (£56.00 for 4 nights) plus £2.50 rally fee. £1.75 singles.

Send application slip & cheque made payable to J Geeson, 20 Bradley Road, Huntercombe, Nuffield, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. RG9 5SG. Include SAE for confirmation and directions or e-mail address for same. Meal available Saturday night, please indicate on booking slip if interested.

Dogs allowed on leads at all times. Dog exercising along river.

Attractions: - Wallingford is a small historic market town on the River Thames with frequent buses to Oxford, Reading and Henley-on-Thames. (Bus stop 500 yds from site). Close to town centre with supermarket, various shops and eateries. Didcot railway centre 6 miles, buses from Wallingford town centre. Thames path walks and cycling, castle gardens and museum. Dame Agatha Christie walking trail and location for Midsomer Murders.Please do not arrive before noon on 20th.

Rally finishes 12 noon on 24th.

20th.-23rd.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:£40,arrive Friday £37, arrive Saturday £34.All bookings for the Saturday evening entertainment must be made with Warners when returning the application form to the organisers, by Monday 3rd.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 £2.50 couples,£1.70 singles to: N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close,Aldbrough St.John,Richmond, North Yorks.DL11 7TT Tel.No.01325 374540.Cheques made payable to N.C. & P.Rogers.

Please collect the *Club* rally information pack from the A.S.O.C. marshal before parking. The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon Monday.

24th September to 1st October 2012 (7 Nights) Autumn in Dartmouth at Little Cotton Caravan Park Dartmouth. TQ6 0LB

Why not come and join us for 7 nights now all the holiday makers have gone home, and enjoy all that this area has to offer.

Rally Marshals:- Rita & John Tubb, assisted by Jill & Richard McAllister.

Site fees £13.00 per night, inclusive of electric. Rally Fee £5.

Send your application slips and a cheque for £96.00 payable to Rita Tubb together with **SAE or E-mail address** for reply and directions to 70 Chamwood 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.

**27th. – 30th. September (3 nights) Marsden Cricket Club,
Huddersfield.HD7 6NN.**

Marshal's mobile: 07799591550.

Rally Marshals: Yvonne & Stuart Wood & Rae & Philip Gledhill.

Site Fee: £6.00 per night. Rally Fee: £1.50 singles, £2.50 couples. GREENFIELD Site. Please send cheque to Yvonne Wood, 26 Burton Acres Way, Highburton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. HD8 0RF. Tel.No. 01484604133.

Attractions: Room at night with bar, toilets. On main bus route & Call a Ride. Canal & moorland walks, canal trips through Stanage Tunnel into Lancashire. Local pub with own brewery and good food. One night there will be a meal at the cricket club, please indicate if interested.

Directions: From Huddersfield take A62 for Oldham. In about 9 miles in Marsden New Inn on **right**. Take first **left** (Fall Lane). At roundabout turn **right** (Mount Road). Cricket Club ¼ mile on **left**.

Limit 25 vans.

**3rd.-8th.October (5 nights) A.C.C.E.O. National Rally,Lickhill Manor
C.P.,Stourport on Severn.DY13 8RL.**

This year ASOC will be the organizing group on behalf of the ACCEO Committee
Rally Marshals: for the ASOC area Liz Irvin & Jeanne Hall. Emergency
Tel.No.07711271568 (Marshal's mobile).

The rally field is a **GREENFIELD** site, own toilets recommended, **NO Electricity**.

Attractions: The rally field is by the River Severn and there is a short walk along the riverbank to Stourport on Severn with a variety of eating places. There is a convenience shop by the site entrance a short walk from the rally field. Entertainment is available Friday & Saturday nights, Sunday morning grand raffle.

Costs per unit: Friday & Saturday £18. add, if required, Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday nights £7.15 per night.

Weekend entertainment pass (valid for Friday & Saturday evenings) £10.00 per person. Admission to the marquee on Friday & Saturday will be by entertainment pass only.

All ASOC bookings are made by the rally marshal on one special form. **The closing date is 31st. August.** Please include your rally slip, the overall length of your unit and if you will be using an awning. Please also state if you will be bringing a car or trailer. Booking slips & cheques for rally & entertainment Mrs. E. Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire. HU10 7NP. Tel.No. 01482 658345. Cheques payable to Mrs. E. Irvin by **31st. August.**

**14th. – 18th. October (4 nights) Whitemead Forest Park, Parkend,
Nr.Lydney,Gloucs.**

Emergency mobile 07528442136 (Whitemead only).

Rally Marshals: Yvonne & Stuart Wood and Rae & Philip Gledhill.

Site fee including hard standing with hook up £10.00 per night.

Rally Fee: including room hire £3.30 singles, £5.00 couples.

Attractions: Leisure centre with gym & pool, cycle rides & walks in the forest. On site restaurant at reduced rates and local pub both serving good food.

One day there will be a guided walk and on another day a cycle ride.

Please send rally slip & cheque to Yvonne Wood, 26 Burton Acres Way, Highburton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. HD8 0RF. Tel. No. 01484604133.

Please enclose a S.A.E. or request an e-mail if you require confirmation.

Directions: Into Lydney from Gloucester turn **right** just before the level crossing and follow road for Parkend. At Parkend station turn **left** to top of road, turn **left** and site on **left**.

Limit 30 Vans. DO NOT arrive before 14-00 hrs. on Sunday.

Friday 9th. - Tuesday 13th. November (4 nights) Sedgemoor Carnival, Burnham on Sea Holiday Village, Burnham on Sea, Somerset.

Emergency only mobile. 07711375323.

NO DOGS ALLOWED, SITE RULES.

Site Fee : £62.50, Rally Fee: £2.50 Total. with Rally slip, £65.00. before 1st. October
Please note cheques will not be cashed until Oct. 5th.

Send a Stamped Addressed Envelope or a clearly written e-mail address for confirmation & £65.00 full payment with your rally slip to Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2PP. Tel. No. 01278 784 524. E-mail ell.ba62@yahoo.co.uk
Saturday coach trip at about £4.00 per person at 9.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.. **DO NOT** send these payments with the rally slip.

The site is a full facilities Haven site.

73 touring pitches provisionally booked. Of these 47 are hard standing & 28 grass pitches. Usual rules apply ; first to book are hard standing, remainder on grass.

All level pitches with electric hook up and are accessed by tarmac roads.

Disabled or special needs please indicate on rally slip.

We hope to have our usual coach trip to Clark's Village of Street on Saturday. Fireworks display Sunday and the Carnival on Monday evening.

Burnham town is a 10 minute walk up the prom from the site with a range of shops and eating places plus a supermarket and a long beach (7 miles). Monday is not your average town carnival, as many will testify. There are floats decked with thousands of lights, some moving displays, some tapestry and many walking entrants. The whole parade can take about 2 hours. If you have never seen this spectacular event visit highbridgeandburnhamcarnival.org.uk (all lower case).

Directions: Sat Nav. Use **TA8 1NQ** and look for Holiday Village signs.

M5 junction 22 Burnham on Sea exit to the large island (Edithmead A 38) and turn **left** and follow signs for Burnham Holiday Village. (Taunton A 38).

Approx. One mile straight over island (A38) and continue past caravan sales, over railway bridge then turn **right** at the Asda island signposted Burnham Holiday Village. At Mini island by petrol station bear **left** onto Marine Drive towards Burnham town centre. Holiday Village is in about a quarter of a mile on the **left**.

**22nd - 26th November (4 nights) Riverside Holiday Park Banks
Southport PR9 8DF**

Site Tel. No. 01704 228886 www.riversideleisurecentre.co.uk

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

Rally Marshals: Dave & Wyn Crabbe. Assistant marshals Roger & Liz Spensley.

Site Fee: £8:50 per night, Rally Fee: £2:75 couples. £1:65 singles.

This is a full facility site,hardstandings with electric hook up & water tap on each pitch.

Dogs welcome on a lead on site. Extensive dog walk on site.

The site has a licensed Mini-market, newsagents and campsite shop, all in one shop.

Café serving breakfasts and evening meals. Free Wi-Fi access. Two bars, (one adults only). Fishing is available. A relevant rod licence is required.

There is a bus stop onsite near the park entrance for a regular bus service to Southport and Liverpool.

Booking slip & cheques payable to D C & W Crabbe 27 Crawford Road, Crawford Village, UpHolland, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire. WN8 9QR. Tel. No. 01744 884437.

Limit of 30 vans.

Please send SAE for conformation and directions or e-mail address clearly written.

If you would like to arrive and stay before or stay on after the rally please book your extra nights with the site directly. This is not part of the rally and incurs an extra charge.

Attractions; Victorian coastal town of Southport and its shops, parks and beaches, also the longest Pier with tram in the country. Liverpool with its wealth of attractions, architecture, waterfront, Albert dock, and Liverpool One shopping centre. Martin Mere Wild Fowl centre. Crosby Beach with the Antony Gormley statues.

Rally starts at 12 noon.

If you wish to run a rally in 2013 then please contact me before the end of November so that the rally can appear in the "Provisional Rally List".

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

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.**

Update on Rusty Wheelnuts (my letter in May issue). (See also letter from A. & V. Evans, p.10 June)

After the original dealer (Marquis, Northampton) and my local Peugeot dealer in Leamington Spa refused to change them, I e-mailed Peugeot Customer Care and they agreed to have them changed at my local dealer's. So last week they were done. Hurray, at last! Thanks to the others for their comments.

Keith Orchard 7754

Strapless in Provence

I am surprised there has not been a recall of these straps. (perhaps there has?) When I had an LPG tank fitted under our van in 2007 I wrote an article to this mag, saying I wondered why the converters did not fit them as standard, I thought it must be cheaper than making a gas locker and finding where to put it.

There was a reply from one member saying he had had a strap break, he suggested all sorts of tools to take with you to mend them. As I have said our tank was fitted in 2007 by the same people who fitted Baz Wellard's, but ours had different straps, still just mild steel but uncovered and unpainted but with a rubber sleeve between tank and strap.

The installation is supposed to be retested after 10 years, I am now thinking of having it retested early and new straps fitted at the same time.

Nigel Wilkins

Oven Door Seals

We have a Gatcombe van and the seal around the oven door had come unstuck. I contacted Willesley and they said I would need to contact the makers of the oven direct to get the correct glue, as they could not supply it. Unfortunately this was not possible, all attempts were to no avail.

However I "googled" oven door glue and came up with the following web site www.ovendoorglue.co.uk I purchased a tube which cost under £5 and it has worked a treat. They sent it to me immediately together with full instructions. It was very easy to apply. To date this appears to have been highly successful.

Jo Phillips (6162)

Response to Rita's letter in August newsletter.

How I agree with you Rita about wives being used to driving the motor caravan.

When my husband was alive, we regularly drove out to Spain, but I was only allowed to drive on the long boring stretches when 'Sir' was tired and needed a rest, but at least I was used to driving the Rambler, then Symphonys 1 and 2

In those days, he did not consider Rallies to be part of his holiday experiences!

Since he died over thirteen years ago, I have been driving the Symphony on my own, and have attended a number of rallies; meeting people, getting to know places I had not been to before, including Alkmaar in Holland, but also south west Ireland, which we had toured together. A real pleasure. What I would have missed if I had not been prepared to drive the 'van.I agree with you about the "How brave you are!" comments Rita!

Speaking of meeting people. I was looking forward to going to the Dartmouth Rally in May, when I was involved in a road traffic accident, suffering a fractured pelvis. (Fortunately not in the Symphony). I contacted the marshal Richard McAllister, advising him that I would not be able to go, and not only was he very sympathetic, but also returned my booking fee.

Shortly afterwards, I received a wonderful card signed by everyone on the rally. So friendly, especially as I think I only recognized the names of one couple. (Hi Pauline and John Smith! Happy memories of Holland and Hurley). Later Richard rang to ask how I was getting on. And a bit later a card also arrived from Ozzie who I understand had been out of action himself. (Thanks Ozzie, we met in Killarney)

Back on my feet now, and driving again, I see there is to be another rally in Dartmouth, but unfortunately I am booked then to go to Sweden with my church. I will keep my eyes open for another next year? We will meet one day Richard and Jill.

One comment I would make. Whilst 'Singles' are generally included in socialities, it would sometimes be nice to take a friend along, but I have seen somewhere that only members are allowed on rallies.

Any chance of this being waived?

Best wishes to all ASOCers

Pauline Hill (0366)

The Torch Escort

You never know who is driving past your house, it could be a 'royal' or a TV personality, or even an international criminal!

However, if you were lucky enough to see the Olympic Torch pass by, then the chances are that it would have been Richard and Ivy Birch's son Jeremy on his Police BMW motorbike, driving with one hand and "glad handing" the raised hands of the cheering crowds with the other!

The showing of the Torch has proved to be a wonderful public relations exercise throughout the British Isles, with an amazing number of personal tributes paid to many unknown heroes of our society, intermingled with more well-known personalities.

The enthusiasm of the people overcame some initial pessimism expressed by the usual 'prophets of doom', who thought it was all a waste of time and money. There were many high spots including the huge turnouts in horrendous weather, when all that was important was to cheer the Torch through!

We should like to pay tribute to the "Torch Team" for a fine job well done, in sometimes the most trying of circumstances.

Richard and Ivy Birch. 7248.

Duetto Curtains

As a recent new owner of a Duetto, I have found this problem. How do I remove curtains for washing?

Any advice warmly welcomed. Thanks.

Anne Beckett

Battery charging in the Sigma.

I had decided that I would just top the charge up once a month and before the battery had lost too much charge last year. During December having charged up the vehicle battery and switched to the leisure battery instead of waiting for charging to finish I walked away and forgot, only to find the next day the battery had gassed and the charger was still running.

With the vehicle under warranty the dealer changed the battery but I was more careful with the charging and found that although battery charge was good, charger was not cutting off.

So back to dealer who put it in the workshop and found no problem. Since then I have carried out more tests and found out that when the temperature is very low battery Charger is slow to cut off but now with higher temperatures charger is working as normal. Any one else had a problem?

Geof Dye

Editor: I have to confess that I never charged my first leisure battery except an overnight one before going on a rally because I needed to get the fridge chilled. During winter I used to take the van for a run monthly to give it an airing so both batteries got charged from the alternator. This gives a charge voltage of 14.2V if the battery is low.

Otherwise my mains charger (for leisure battery only) only gives out 12.8V and I did leave it on permanently when on hookup. My first leisure battery lasted 10 years before needing a replacement and I suspect that the fact that I was treating it to a regular deep cycle could have been the reason that the battery lasted so long.

Interestingly the Ford vehicle battery lasted 11 years before replacement too!

I now have a solar panel fitted which charges every day to a topped up leisure battery only but the battery shows 13.7V which is the cut out figure for the regulator. But as soon as I put load on it it drops to 12.8V so obviously there is no increase in capacity.

Battery Manufacturers give the following figures for guidance:

Under 10.5V	Battery fully discharged	Switch off appliances
10.5V to 11.5V	Battery fully discharged	Limit use
11.5v to 12.2V	Normal operating conditions	when using appliances
12.2V to 12.5V	Well charged	
12.5V to 12.8V	Fully charged	
12.8V to 14.2V	No energy being drawn	by appliances.
Over 14.4V	Overcharged	Gassing will be occurring.

As you can see from the above figures a good battery will be in the 12.2V to 12.8V range with no load so there is no need to charge as your alternator will top it up on a run to site.

Batteries do self-discharge over a period of time but it doesn't hurt to let them run down a bit. My Ford vehicle managed to last three months with clock and immobiliser draining the battery and still started the engine. Of course as soon as the voltage dies away more quickly then its time for a change. If they cannot maintain the voltage after charging then a new battery will be best for the car and leisure sides.

I'm a bit suspicious of my battery at present as it is constantly charged by day and the battery loses voltage rather more quickly if put on a few lamps and the TV but of course the solar panel puts that right next day. It still could have reduced capacity so I am monitoring it. It is 4 years old now! Will it last to 10 years?

The above information is for guidance. Remember the usual disclaimers. Battery maintenance can only be your responsibility.

David Mayne

Obituary Jan Lane

I am very sorry to have to inform you, but after a very short illness, Jan sadly passed away on Sunday 22nd July.

She lived life to the full and we had just returned from our latest eclipse trip to the Canyonlands of America, where we both had a wonderful time, with no sign of there being anything wrong. On the journey back home from London she started to feel uncomfortable. We went to the doctors and she was admitted shortly afterwards and diagnosed with cancer. She fought bravely and never ever gave up.

I know we only met every now and again but I would like to thank you all in ASOC for being among her many friends.

Keith Lane

Technical Group & Website



Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group: Baz Wellard can be contacted at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF or email : baz.wellard@virgin.net

Underfloor LPG Tank:

In last month's Newsletter I stated my intention to replace my underfloor LPG tank. I have now found a dealer, who meets the relevant Code of Practice and have arranged to have the tank fitted mid-August. By the time this article is published I hope it will be in use.

On my return home I contacted my insurance company but they could find no record of the 4 phone calls made from/to France. Fortunately I had kept a record of the names involved and times of the calls and after protracted discussions they accepted that I had made the phone calls and sent me a claim form.

Having returned the claim form (*with the required documents and also a downloaded copy of the mobile phone details*) I am pleased to say they have apologised and paid up in full. Moral – it pays to keep copious notes.

Door Catch: On previous monocoques the habitation door is held back with a white nylon catch, which seem to wear quickly unlike the earlier black version. Trish Pratt has kindly put me in touch with O'Leary who still stocks the, 'hard-to-come-by' black version. Contact is <http://www.olearymotorhomes.co.uk> Tel 01482 868632 – cost £3.49. I sent an identifying photo, with £3.50 taped to the back, and a small SAE 'jiffy-bag', (*mine was 1st class large – their minimum p&p is £9.50*).

Members' Deals: I have one further offer to add to the current list:

Stockade CHIPnTRAC is a family business located in Gravesend, who provide a self-fit tracker system for motorhomes. Brief details are:-

- Self-monitored GPS tracker with no annual fees (although text message tariffs may apply).
- Holographic anti-tamper ID tags to mark removable fittings.
- Covert RFID microchips to provide a link between the item and the crime.
- Capability of recording your journey, by plugging into your PC showing your route on Google maps
- The facility can be moved from vehicle to vehicle.
- The tracker is self fitting - only needing a positive a negative feed.

The normal price is £149 but we have been offered it at £129.

For full details go to www.rbs-property-marking.co.uk or tel. 01474 350883. Club password is 'gertie1972'.

This offer will be added to the website at the next update.

Caveat emptor. Please note as with **all** our Members' deals: - "The Club is not endorsing or recommending companies/dealers. Members must use their own judgement before proceeding with any purchase or agreement".

Membership Number: I know I've mentioned it before but – if you could remember to include your membership number on all correspondence to the Committee it would be most welcome, please? It would save us having to search the Club database so regularly.

Latest Ideas Sheet: No. 223. Replacing the lamp in a series 7 Dometic fridge.

Website Update No. 06/12: Contained:-

- Rallies – Lichfield rally report & photo gallery
- Ideas Sheet No. 223 – Replacing the lamp in a Series 7 Dometic Fridge.
- Committee – Addition of co-opted member – Gill Hopkins
- Fuel statistics – Suffolk Euro IV
- Members' deals
 - Protec Covers reduction of discount to 5%.
 - Motorhome Plus added
 - Oaktree Services no longer trading

And Finally: I saw this official notice in a car park: - "If you take my disability parking place please take my disability as well"! Profound!

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 7933 to 7955

Pauline Vincent & Ted Wright	Mansfield Woodhouse	Lancashire
Dave & Mel Morgan	Preston	Clubman
John & Marion Burling	Worthing	Clubman
Colin & Sylvia Seabrook	North Cotes	Symbol
Mike Batson	Tadley	Nuevo
John Bruty & Katie Sheldrake	Benfleet	Broadway
Laurie & Sylvia Reynolds	Caterham	Nuevo
Ann Robertson	Stowmarket	Northants
Dave & Sue Wallis	Portsmouth	Symbol
David & Linda Bain	Elmley Castle	Symbol
Brian & Liz Stockdale	Bristol	Cotswold
John & Diane Sawyer	Bresteigne	Pollensa
Nigel & Margaret Jacks	Bristol	Stratford
Edmund & Carole Cutts	Perranporth	Sussex
Allan & Elaine James	Newport Pagnell	Worcester
Dave & Lynn Nicholls	Brighton	Worcester
Charles Carter & Elaine Carter-Walker	Huddersfield	Talisman
Glyn & Angela Lacey	St Helens	Executive
Ian & Sue Bruce	Gosport	Trident
Phillip Hurrell	Macclesfield	Gatcombe
Jim & Pat Crane	Blandford	Sigma
David & Margaret Dunball	Romford	Executive
Barry McKay & Tina Bullock	Street	Executive

Membership Secretary: Jill Bertlin, The Rockeries, Sunny Terrace, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6LQ or email: jbertlin@aol.com



Thanks for your
Donations .

Auto-sleepers Mercedes Gloucester, Fully Automatic TurboDiesel , Low Profile, Year 2010 , Miles 7,284, 4 berth, Solar Panels, Camera and reversing sensors, Led lighting, Phantom-Tracking Device, Mercedes Cat.Lock Protection fitted, TV/Freeview/satellite, radio/dvd/ipod cables fitted, original carpets as new unused,

Fully alarmed, All annual services to mechanical and habitation just done august 2012, Fridge/freezer, double oven, microwave,bathroom with separate shower, electric step, awning. All warranties in place for next 2 years. Taxed till feb 2013. Many other Gloucester extras. It is in immaculate condition throughout – just beautiful. Many photos available £53,750 email rosey@littleridge.plus.com or telephone 01684 833670

Towbar for an Executive, very good condition, £100 ono. Can be brought to Shepton Mallet. Tel: 01437 711340.

AUTO-SLEEPER LEGEND,
1997 TD 2500 in lovely condition.
2

Berth. All the usual Autosleeper fittings plus microwave, solar panel, reupholstered locally by professional. New Fiamma awning, new digital directional TV aerial, Automatic ventilating roof fan. Many extras included such as chairs, pup tent, 2 sets of levelling blocks, silver screen, pots, pans, cutlery etc. Fully equipped to drive away and start out. Sale due to bereavement. £17,500.
mavisbroad@gmail.com.
01507 441790 Lincolnshire.

AUTO-SLEEPER CLUBMAN GL.
Reg 2002 , VW 2.5 TDI, with only 10,200 miles. In beautiful, as new condition.

Ill health forces sale of van, with Omnistor awning, Protec cover, external silverscreen, MOT to April 2013, for only £ 19,750 o.n.o.
Contact John and Janet Soffe on (Winchester) 01962 861 963

To fit A/S Clubman: Windblacker Shades by Lillypad. Full set. Grey. Used twice. Change of van forces sale. £50 ono.
John & Margorie Rolfe 01666 510496

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