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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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NEWSLETTER 290

November 2012

From the Editor



Hi again. I was very pleased with the response for contributions for the newsletter. Thank you and please keep this up. Plenty of Rally reports this month and new members too. So this edition has become a bumper edition and makes up for the "light" version last month. If you hadn't noticed, the October newsletter was 4 pages shorter than usual and has allowed me to add an extra 4 pages this month. I still have 2 articles to put in the next few months newsletters as the rally reports dwindle for the winter period. But don't let that stop you sending items in!!

I did have one item that I couldn't include which was an ad from a non-member who wanted to sell his 05 A/S Vivanti V2S, (apparently this is based on a Symbol) but if you are interested please contact me and I will pass it on as he is a relative of one of our members.

Well Pat and I are just back from a Cruise in the Aegean and Black Seas and are "Museumed" and "Mosqued" out – so much history in that area. For the Wallingford Ralliers who were interested, Pat's shoes crippled her, but she put on a brave face.

It's been a bit of a rush to deal with the mail and stuff for the newsletter and I still have 144 emails to work through when I have got this newsletter off to the printer. I should really have been around just prior to deadline to deal with the emails which are not always straightforward. Thankfully Pat was able to type up the letters we received in the post (she uses all her fingers!).

Attached to the Centre of this Newsletter is the Renewal form for 2013. Please extract it and send it off as soon as you can before it languishes behind the clock on the mantelpiece or gets lost. You will make Jill a happy bunny!

The Deadline for the December Newsletter will be 10th November. Please send all contributions to me at the address on the back page or via email at daveatasoc@virginmedia.com.

Till the next time.

David Mayne

Chairman's Chat

I am writing this just after returning home from the ACCEO National Rally at Lickhill Manor which was organised by ASOC on their behalf. I want to start with a huge thank you to the sub-committee and all the members who pitched in and helped us, many of them working long hours in less than perfect weather to get the job done.



All the comments I have received from the ACCEO committee and other clubs who attended tell me that we did a very good job indeed. So many people have complimented ASOC on the friendliness of our welcome and in everything we did for them. The live band on Saturday saw plenty of action on the dance floor and the Friday night get together was well attended. Additional activities provided by our members such as the quiz and the egg rolling competition were very well received and Tai Chi was well supported. All in all I think we've raised the standard for next year and proved that motorhomers know a thing or two about having a good time!

I have to admit that I felt very proud of ASOC – particularly when I heard that we had raised £1,037 to be shared between the two charities. These were the Alzheimers Society nominated by ACCEO and the National Autistic Society nominated by ASOC.

Well done to all concerned.

Andy Cavell

ACCEO National Rally, Prize Charity Draw

Our thanks go to the full team of volunteers for their sterling efforts in selling tickets and assisting at the draw on Sunday morning, raising £777 towards the charity donations.

Well done!

Dorothy & Baz

ACCEO RALLY

While at the ACCEO National Rally and AGM at Lickhill Manor Caravan Park two great events took place. The first being my birthday and I thank everyone for their cards and best wishes, I even got up to dance, (Andy Cavell has the incriminating photographs).

The second event concerns the Grand Draw; the first prize was a Broil King, Signet 20 Gas Barbeque. I happened to mention in passing that if I won the prize I would present it to the residents of the retirement complex that I have moved to. This spread like wildfire around the members of the ASOC and the feedback, which was so unexpected, was that if they won the prize they would hand it to me. So when on the Sunday morning the draw took place, you could have knocked me down with a feather when the first ticket pulled out was purchased by Don Bland, he stood up to claim the prize then came over to me and handed the prize over. Don, I and the residents of Oak Tree Court, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity.

Ozzie

Rally Reports:

The Scottish Rallies September 2012

Arriving in Alva at the Caravan Club Site mid afternoon we were warmly welcomed by Rally Marshals Allan and Moira, then pitched up with a refreshing cuppa to admire the marvellous views. A welcome meeting at 6.30pm was most informative giving us ideas of what to see and do. A visit to the retail outlet nearby along a well surfaced cycle track, a trip to Stirling via Park and Ride where there is a lot to see. The castle is magnificent with wonderful views once you've made the climb if you're on foot, and many other historical buildings are worth a visit. Two full days was not long enough to see all but gave us a taster for another visit in the future. Then after a night in Edinburgh we moved on to the second rally at Dunbar.

What a lovely setting for a rally, on a campsite where we had our own glen (almost) to gather together. Dunbar is a fascinating small town where there is a lot to see, easily walked or cycled as it is only about 1 1/2 miles away and on the coastal path with plenty of cafes for a well earned rest.

Sunday saw a lot of ralliers go to East Fortune Air Museum where the main attraction was Concorde - we can now say we've been on Concorde! It is a

most interesting museum with plenty to see - unfortunately the weather spoilt the latter part of the afternoon. In the evening a meal had been planned at a local hostelry. Taxis were organised to take us there and back and what an enjoyable meal. 3 courses for £7, fantastic value and there was no stinting on the size of the portions!



Then it was time to say our goodbyes and make our way homewards - the week had passed so quickly but many thanks to Allan and Moira for all the hard work they had put into organising two most successful rallies.

Mike Wood

Alva & Dunbar Rallies

With hindsight these two rallies could have been one considering we had thirteen Autosleepers at Alva followed by the same thirteen plus one at



Dunbar. We were somewhat disappointed that only two of the fourteen actually live in Scotland. On Monday evening when everyone had settled in and it had started to rain we had the usual refreshments at the marshal's van, Allan decided we should have oatcakes and Loch Ryan cheese on the first night. Moira wasn't so sure -

however they were so popular we repeated the treat each evening. The rain did not come to much and that evening there was a glorious sunset, unfortunately it would not look spectacular in monochrome. I have to say at this point that apart from some very high winds for a few days we had pretty good weather for the duration of the rallies taking into account the bad summer we have endured.

Tuesday and Wednesday most people went out for the day, some walking, some on bikes and some in their motorhomes, in some cases going as a group and sharing each other's vehicles.

Wednesday being the last evening at Alva we asked the site manager if we could use a spare piece of land to have a game of horseshoe tossing which was willingly granted. The weather was pleasant so those who were not playing could sit around to watch. We celebrated Eunice's birthday with a cake and had a draw for a bottle of wine using all the vehicle registration numbers. Also gave the answers to the quiz, which was compiled using place names in the area.

We dispatched on Thursday morning to various sites and that evening there was gale force winds. I think some people had been almost blown away but one couple had not felt the wind as they had wild camped in a lay-by between two hedges (you are allowed to wild camp in Scotland). Saturday was still windy but the site at Dunbar is divided into various enclosures and trees surrounded the one we were allocated so we got the benefit of the sun without the cold wind. On Friday evening we had a double celebration being Roger's birthday (he got a Spongebob cake) and as it was also Roger & Liz's wedding anniversary, they provided cake and bubbly – a good time was had by all.

Again on Saturday and Sunday most people took off on foot, bike and motorhome.

For the finale on Sunday evening we had the use of the function room in the West Barns Inn which is a short distance from the site, as the weather was a bit iffy we hired taxis which cost £1 per head. We had an excellent three course meal and as much tea or coffee as we wished all for the princely sum of £7 per head. We drew the raffle and gave the answers to the quiz on flowers. Granted the premises were not the Ritz but we had no complaints.

And so Monday saw the end of two enjoyable rallies. Thanks to everyone for helping to make them such a success.

Allan & Moira Blackstock (4062)

WALLINGFORD-ON-THAMES

What a great site was chosen at Wallingford by Jan and John Geeson for their first Rally. The town is full of interesting places to visit and the walks by the River Thames were superb.

There was not enough time to see everything so watch this space as we hope it will be possible to hold another Rally on this site in the future. We think that everyone was taken aback by the very modern and clean facilities, certainly the best we have seen on any Rally.

A successful meal for 41 people was held at a local pub on Saturday evening. Despite the rain on Sunday evening we managed to hold a coffee evening and raffle huddled together under an awning and a gazebo. We were extremely pleased that the cleaner approached us on Monday morning and thanked us for leaving all the facilities in a clean and tidy condition. He didn't know that this is the norm at Auto-Sleeper Rallies!

We would like to thank Jan and John for inviting us to assist them with this Rally.

Shelagh and Phil West

A very big thank you to John and Jan, Phil and Shelagh for a quiet and relaxing rally. The weather was reasonably kind considering the weather we have had. Wallingford should be congratulated on its beautiful flower arrangements. The Morris Dancers must be fit to have danced for most of the day on Saturday. Who set the quiz? It was quite something to waken up the brain cells.

We did miss not seeing Roy Anderton. We only found out at the rally that he has not been well. Missed you Roy, maybe we will see you at the Southport Rally.

Mary and Eddie Newman 4600

We would like to thank John, Jan, Phil and Shelagh for the excellent rally held at The Bridge Villa Camping Park. It was a superb site with first class facilities and a very helpful owner.

Wallingford is a very picturesque market town with fantastic floral displays and a very friendly aura.

This was our first rally back after nearly 2 years after purchasing a non Auto-Sleeper van! We soon realised the error of our ways missing the club rallies and the very friendly people attending. The marshals organised a meal in the local pub and that really brought home to us the friendly atmosphere within the club. It was really great to meet some old acquaintances again.

Alan and Pauline Haydon

Autumn in Dartmouth

Once again this was a successful rally, with the weather quite kind to us. A total of 26 vans came to enjoy the area and the site. Most enjoyed the Fish and chips on Wednesday.

On Friday, as it was Macmillian Coffee Morning we had Cheese and Wine with donations to Macmillian and raised £100.

We are looking forward to next year in September 22nd to 29th Sunday to Sunday

Rita and John Tubb

MARSDEN RALLY

Having passed through but not having stayed in this part of the country before, we didn't know what to expect (except that it would be hilly!) As we arrived at Marsden Cricket Club (having duly driven up a steep hill) we were welcomed by the marshals. What a picturesque spot this was - overlooking a reservoir and the beautiful Pennines. At the welcome meeting we were given information about the local area and times of the buses which stopped outside the site. Later we adjourned to the Club House for some liquid refreshment.

Next day saw us boarding the bus to nearby Huddersfield. A pleasant town with lots of good and unusual shops and beautiful architecture. When we returned there was a coffee afternoon for the Macmillan Nurses, so we all tucked into cream teas and delicious cakes and browsed the second hand books in the gazebo. In the evening there was a game of bingo in the Club House.

Saturday was a sunny day so we went into Marsden and walked along the

narrow Huddersfield canal to Standedge Tunnel. This feat of engineering takes the canal through the Pennines to Lancashire and is the longest, deepest and highest tunnel in the U.K. Mike sampled the delights of the cafe while I boarded a barge which took us 500m inside the tunnel where the guide explained the complexities of building it. Quite an experience and very interesting. Next to the tunnel was a converted warehouse used as an exhibition centre to explain all about how it was built and the cost in money and lives.

That night we enjoyed a tasty meal which had been made locally, followed by a raffle and then an hilarious game which involved throwing eggs at a box of chocolates! They were of course rubber eggs!

For most of our stay the weather had been bright and sunny though windy (which we expected at that altitude) but as we wondered back from the Club House in the moonlight it was calm. But unfortunately overnight galeforce winds wrecked the gazebo so the closing coffee meeting was cancelled.

Everyone agreed that the rally was a total success thanks to Yvonne, Stuart, Rae and Philip's hard work. Here's hoping for a repeat performance!

Janis Wood

ACCEO AGM Rally Report - October 3rd to 8th 2012 (aka Diary of an ACCEO Rally)

ASOC is a member of ACCEO (*Association of Caravan & Camping Exempted Organisation*) - the body that represents camping, caravanning & motor homing activities in negotiations with Government and other bodies. At the ACCEO AGM, in October 2010, a request was made for a volunteer Club to run their AGM rally in 2012. Peter Brown, who represents our Club at the ACCEO meetings, reported this back to our November Committee meeting, at which it was agreed that we would volunteer to host the function.

Subsequently a small informal sub-Committee was formed - chaired by Andy Cavell with Angie Cavell, Peter Brown, Chris Mawdesley



and Jan & Vic Hicklin. Auto Sleepers Group also kindly agreed to support this venture with a financial donation and show representative motorhomes at the rally itself. Over the following months planning and implementation gradually progressed.

When viewing the suggested site it was considered, unfortunately, unsuitable. After looking at other options - Lickhill Manor Caravan Park at Stourport was selected and the dates set for 3rd to 8th October. With ACCEO involvement, contracts were signed with the Lickhill Manor site Management and also a company to provide a large pavilion marquee with tables, chairs, dance floor and floor covering. Coachman Caravan Club kindly agreed that we could have use of their own PA system, and Tony Nicholls agreed to set it up at the various times. ACCEO took responsibility to contact other member clubs inviting them to attend the rally.

For ASOC - Jan & Vic Hicklin agreed to become the rally marshals and recruit assistants. Pauline & Neil Rogers agreed to organise the teas & coffees and 'goody bags' from Auto Sleepers Group. Angie Cavell offered to run a quiz evening and Ozzie Jones accepted responsibility to manage the various chair & table layouts etc in the Pavilion. Liz Irvin and Jeanne Hall agreed to manage all the ASOC bookings (*30 motorhomes attended*), and Dorothy and Baz Wellard volunteered to run the prize draw.

Mon 1st Oct: - Andy Cavell and Peter Brown were first to arrive at Lickhill Manor C.P. to meet with management; finalise arrangements; check condition and decide where to erect the pavilion etc. There had been quite a lot of rain recently but the lovely grassy area alongside the River Severn, was considered soft but not too soft.

Tue 2nd Oct: - *Damp and a little wet.* During the day seven other ASOC motorhomes and a Coachman caravan arrived - consisting of the sub committee and other volunteers to assist in getting the rally site prepared. Vic took the condition of the grass into consideration as he, Jan & Peter set out the pitch pegs. There is an ACCEO standing requirement to provide a facility to charge batteries and accordingly 230v outlets were provided in a small tent awning. During the day the Pavilion Company erected the pavilion and laid the special matting floor.

Wed 3rd Oct: - *A few light showers.* The first tranche of 70 ralliers arrived starting at around 1000hrs. They were all greeted at the reception tent, given their rally brochure and a copy of the ACCEO Officers' Reports, with other brochures, in their 'goody bags'. They were then guided directly to their specifically selected pitch to suit their own club group. Angie took orders for the following day's newspapers and continued to collect/deliver up to Sunday morning. In the evening about 24 ralliers

collected in the pavilion for an impromptu gathering; however as the temperature was rather low they did not stay too late.

Thur 4th Oct: - *Sunny day with light winds after some overnight rain.*

Four Auto Sleeper Motorhomes were delivered – Surrey; 50th Anniversary Executive; Windrush and the Trident. They were open throughout the rally and attended by staff from Marquis. Another 30 rallier vans arrived and were again directed to their pitches. Meanwhile, as a result of the chilly temperature in the Pavilion the night before, Andy contacted the Pavilion Contractors and they brought 2 very welcome diesel heaters along with the tables; chairs and the dance floor.

Many ralliers took advantage of the good weather (and on other days) to either walk along the banks of the River Severn to Stourport or go further afield in their vehicles to view the area. Some ralliers attempted to walk upstream to Bewdley but the river bank was very muddy and slippery, and I am not aware if any actually succeeded.

During the evening, and subsequent evenings, Dorothy and her team of volunteers sold Prize Draw tickets. Also Angie ran an excellent, and well received, general knowledge quiz – raising £107 for the charities.



Fri 5th Oct: - *Heavy overnight rain, drying up during the morning.*

The remainder of the ralliers arrived bringing the total to around 120 units. An impromptu book stall was started which brought in a welcome sum of £47 to go with the other amounts for the charities.

After a short welcoming speech by Rob Heath, ACCEO Chairman, the evening continued with a simple social event enjoyed by around 170 ralliers, with a light background music provided by Tony Nicholls.

Sat 6th Oct: - *A very impressive, lovely misty morning (for those up early!) followed by a very sunny dry day.* The formal proceedings for the ACCEO AGM were held starting at 1400. It was followed by an Open Forum where anyone could, and did, raise questions or make comments. The event was well attended, and the minutes will be distributed by ACCEO

in due course.

In the evening approximately 180 ralliers attended the pavilion to dance, watch or listen to the band of "Izzy the Push".

Sun 7th Oct: - *Dry overnight with a frosty morning (which saw Angie scraping her car windscreen before she collected the last of the papers).* Teas and coffees were made available in the morning by Pauline and Neil Rogers and their assistants, while the last of the prize draw tickets were purchased, raising a total of £777 for the charities. Andy gave a short speech thanking all those attending, and the ASOC team for their efforts. Rob Heath (ACCEO Chairman) reiterated Andy's comments - especially the effort that ASOC had put in to make the rally so successful. He also introduced Swift Owners' Club as next year's AGM rally organisers. The date for the 30th AGM will be 5th October 2013 at Towcester.

Following a short talk by a representative from Grove Insurance, the Grand Draw took place. The main prize was a very attractive large garden BBQ donated by Calor Gas worth £400 and weighing 57Kg. There were 80 prizes in total and the winning ralliers' tickets were drawn by Angie and the prizes drawn by Dorothy. The prizes (unless too big) were handed direct to the lucky winners by a team of 8 volunteer ladies.

In the evening Barbara Buckett introduced a new game of 'egg rolling'. A hilarious, unskilful and frustrating game, raising another £45, which along with the earlier figures, and personal donations, meant the rally had raised a total of £1037.


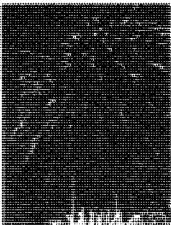
And finally:

David Thompson (ACCEO Finance Officer & National Rally Coordinator) thanked Andy Cavell (ASOC Chairman) for the sum **£1037** which will be shared equally between The National Autistic Society and the Alzheimer's Society.



Mon 8th Oct: - *Heavy drizzle.* Ralliers slowly gathered up their gear and made their way home, whilst the ASOC marshals tidied up and ensured everyone got away without any problems.

Baz Wellard



November 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.

We intended organising a rally at Cognac, France in 2013. The site however, proved to be unsuitable so the rally will now be 20 miles away from Cognac but still in the Charente region.

Saintes Rally, Friday 28th June - Monday 8th July 2013, 10 nights.

The site is about 480 miles from Calais.

This year the site fees are 17.66 Euros per night, but for next year we have negotiated a discount and we will pay approximately 12 Euros per night per motor home, which includes electricity. There will be a non-refundable deposit of £20 per van required to secure a place.

Further details will be available in early 2013 when applications for this rally will be taken.

Jean & Dave Hollingsworth.

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.ba82@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 **TAB 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 **07763773877** / 07712484917 Marshal's m

Rally Marshals: Dave & Wyn Crabbe. Assistant marshals Rog

Rally starts at 12 noon.

Rally now fully booked.

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.

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:

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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..

Malvern Show

If any members have never attended the Malvern Show, I strongly recommend they go. We both feel this show is the best of the year. Great entertainment at night, with three large buildings with country music playing in each one, if this is your taste. We paid for the extra tickets to go to the Saturday night show, which was a tribute act, but decided to stay in the other halls because we enjoyed it more. Also there must be about 150 stores to browse round during the day, selling everything you may need for your motorhome. We bought a double size topper for our Nuevo, which gave us a brilliant nights sleep and packs away easily under the bed space when not in use. Also our fridge catch broke and would not stay shut. We found a store selling every spare part you may want for a Dometic fridge. The door catch kit cost £11.95, good value we think and did the job. We also noticed several clubs rallying for the four days stay. This we feel would be a great rally for all Auto-Sleepers members.. If this could be possible for committee members to look into for the future, we believe this would be strongly attended. It is not too far to travel and is central to the country. Comments would be welcome in the next newsletter. I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to Graham for phoning about touring Northern France for the first time. This now I'm afraid will have to be next year. A thank you also to the lady who phoned.

Geoff & Sheila 7730

Royal Bath and West Show

We just want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all our friends in the Autosleepers Club.

With the Irish sea dividing us we do not get to rallies but enjoy going to the AGM and some of the shows.

We have been at the Royal Bath and West Showground in September for 12 years and want to thank Jan and Vic Hicklin and all their helpers for the welcome we always receive.

We have made a lot of friends and appreciate the way they treat us. See attached photo taken in Sept. The weather was so kind to us compared to Peterborough. Thanks again to you all and hope God willing to see you again in 2013.



Bobbie and Beatrice Gordon.

Obituary - Pam Todd

It is with great sadness that we learn Pam Todd finally lost her battle with cancer. Pam and Bill have been Members of ASOC for 21 years and have attended many Rallies, where a vast number of Members will have been touched by Pam's humour, which she never lost. Pam will always be remembered for her kindness and cheering smile, we have lost a real friend. Our thoughts go to Bill and all the family at this time.

Auto-Sleeper over cab bed conversion for a 1996 Talisman,

is available free to anyone interested. The recipient would have to collect, from Odiham, Hampshire (5 minutes from J5 on the M3). I am a former ASOC member, and I thought your newsletter and website would be a good way to contact anyone who might be interested. I realise that to advertise, in normal circumstances, I would have to be a member, but as this item is free, it would be in your members interest to wave this requirement. It would be a shame to throw away something which just might be of use to one of your members.

It is in excellent condition. There is also a ladder, The conversion fits the Talisman built on the Mk1 Boxer, which I think was up to 1998 – but you will probably know better than I.

If anyone is interested they can contact me on brian.ramsden@virgin.net.

Auto –Sleeper Charity Events

Further to our conversation before you went on holiday regarding Auto-Sleepers Group support of the community.

I attach extracts of the latest things we have been doing. In addition to that over the years we have supported the local school, junior football team and of course the British Bodyboarding Club. We don't expect anything back from these organisations but we just ensure there is support to enable them to exist.

ASOC members may not also realise we financially support new member introductions and of course the AGM rally. (As well as ACCEO rally this year-Ed)

Geoff Scott CEO

Editor: The attached document was too large to include in the newsletter as A/S support a number of other organisations. Not something I was aware of before, and I suspect that may be true of our members generally. If you have gone to the AGM rally you will be aware of A/S support and the new member introductions are reported at the AGM.

Dometic & Motorhome Rear Door Problem

In November 2010 I purchased a Marquis Lancashire Nuevo motorhome and collected it from Marquis in Preston. We have had various difficulties with the fridge and leaks which have been solved under warranty by Savilles (Dealers near Belfast).

We have noticed recently bad deterioration by the hinges, on the lower edge of the door and round the window of the back door of this vehicle. We have spoken to Savilles, on advice from Marquis, and they say they have current similar problems with another vehicle and have encouraged us to send in photos of the bad areas. They also asked if we could find another person to give their input on our problem. Our friend said that when the aluminium door is prepared, it is anodised then painted. If this process is not done properly the metal becomes oxidised and the part deteriorates. Savilles have been recommended to paint the door!!

We hope that on a vehicle less than 2 years old a better solution can be found than this. I wonder has anyone had this problem and obtained a successful solution?

Christine Murray

Fridge Ventilation on Nuevo 2006

My own experience this last season consisted of incomplete combustion of the gas to fridge supply which manifested itself by blackening the external exhaust vent, and combined with the wind on the nearside of the vehicle we had the exhaust entering the habitation unit - unpleasant. At night potentially lethal !

A fridge service was quickly arranged but failed to solve the problem. Two more service visits followed before success (fault unknown) but praise to the engineer for his patience and persistence at no further costs (save my fuel).

It was of particular interest to read Alan Waugh's account of events having had his Nuevo fridge condemned by the test engineer at the AGM, later raised at the Q & A meeting and promptly rectified by AS the following week.

What seems to us as an inconvenient draught, combined with incompletely combusted gases, entering the vehicle (above the fridge where the extendable work surface is located in my unit) resulting from build problems

have taken on a whole new dimension, highlighted by the publicity surrounding the death of a teenager sleeping in a tent with a used disposable bar-b-que.

Note: The installation of a carbon monoxide alarm should, I understand, be at low level, unlike a smoke alarm normally fitted at high level.

Roger Russell 4743

Mercedes Radio Reception

Some months ago I asked, via the Newsletter, to hear from any member who had experienced problems with radio reception in their Mercedes based Auto-Sleeper. The reason for so doing was to find out if others were experiencing similar problems to those I had in our Malvern. I did have contact with a few who had similar problems but none with a solution.

After considerable investigation by my Dealer, by Auto-Sleepers and myself I have now resolved the problem in our van. During the process I have gained a great deal of knowledge about Mercedes Sprinter radios and the impact of the Auto-Sleeper conversion.

There is no one magical solution but if anyone would like to know more on the subject, please contact me via e-mail pcb7ty@btinternet.com.

Peter Brown

Summer Woes

Van loaded ready to depart for the Winchester St Cross Cricket Club Rally on Monday 13th August. Just the exterior silver screens to remove from front of van. Nasty surprise - 8 inch crack in windscreen. Phone insurance company, informed £60 excess and given the phone number of Autoglass.

Autoglass inform us that the earliest they can fit a replacement is Tuesday at 4pm at their Gloucester depot. Contact Rita Tubb at the Winchester Rally to inform of our late arrival. Arrived at rally at 8.00am on Wednesday and really enjoyed our remaining two days on this rally.

The following month returning from a weekend at Long Marston, near Stratford upon Avon, approaching Tewkesbury, drivers side rear tyre explodes. Hazard warning lights on. Cannot change wheel due to busy main road. Decide to drive van to side road very slowly to change wheel.

We have breakdown cover but also on board was a grand daughter and her 4 year old daughter who needed to catch a train at Gloucester. Luckily I had a 1 1/2 ton trolley jack in the van for this sort of situation. Forty five minutes later and help from the grand daughter, wheel changed and back on the road. She caught her train. I had already replaced the two front tyres in May at the M.O.T Inspectors request. I have now replaced the three remaining tyres at a total cost of £470. We are both keeping our fingers crossed that there will not be a third incident.

Mike & Helen 5962

Good news from Topsham.

Firstly Bryn and I wish to thank all the ralliers who were due to come to Topsham for the Town Fayre Rally.

Your kind words and empathy with the situation we found ourselves in lessened the anxiety we felt.

We have been in touch with Brian, an official at Topsham Rugby Club and he had some good news. TRC is to get substantial grants from Virador Waste Management, Exeter City Council and the RFU. The money is to update the facilities and grounds. Amongst the plans is one to build separate men's and women's shower facilities.

I enquired about the erection of a height barrier at the car park entrance and Brian told me that it was in hand.

So at this stage we feel confident in saying that we will run the Topsham Rally next year (we will monitor the situation throughout the year). The dates will be from Tuesday 20th August - Sunday 25th August.

So if you were disappointed when we cancelled this year or if you like the idea of a week in a delightful town that has a Town Fayre whilst we are there and where you can walk, take a ferry, cycle, use buses and trains, put the date on your calendar.

Liz & Bryn Morgan

Unreasonable" Camping Charges!

I feel that I have to agree with Alan & Moira (Aug 2012) regarding charges for dogs as opposed to none for children. We have found that this is more so with the larger, more expensive campsites and we tend to avoid them unless absolutely desperate! If more of us did so the owners might start to take notice, especially if we voice our objections. In fact maybe when objecting to the charges, an attempt to haggle might just achieve a positive result – why not?

Peter & Alison Pipe (6262)

Sussex Duo

We are pleased to join Auto sleepers owners club and have been motor-caravaners for many years. We purchased our new van Sussex Duo this July and have just returned from France and Spain.

We wonder if this has happened before.

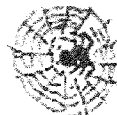
A camper asked to take a photo for his blog but next day when he saw the photo he noticed as we had the door open it read SEX DUO. We all had a good laugh .

Wonder if anyone else has noticed this.

John and Audrey Venables



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

Vehicle Weight: Vehicles are now being weighed in accordance with the new MOT requirements at the annual test. I am advised that, at the moment, if they are above the weight limit only an advisory warning is likely to be issued. However, this will be recorded against your vehicle registration and thus readily available to the Police should you ever be stopped later!

New Tyre Labelling: Robin Gardner has kindly sent me more details on the new tyre labelling that will come into effect on the 1st November 2012. In future you will be given information on 'rolling resistance'; 'wet grip' and 'noise emission' of the tyre. The new

labelling is being brought in to:- increase road safety; help make driving cost-effective and reduce the environmental impact caused by tyres. You can then make a choice of what tyres suit you best. For further information visit your local tyre dealer.

Habitation checks: In addition to the 10% discount on a habitation check already offered under Members' Deals, the Service Centre at Willersey are offering a **further 10%** discount for a habitation check carried out during December 2012 and January 2013. The Centre is also offering a 10% discount for mechanical servicing during the same period. Contact for details and prices is 01386 853511.

Retro-Fit of Hydraulic Stays: Following comments from members the Service Centre has developed a more convenient way to access coachbuilt bench seats. A pair of hydraulic stays can be fitted to wood or aluminium bench seats making it easier to raise and also allowing removal of the centre stay thus giving greater access. Unfortunately this modification is unsuitable for panel vans. The normal price is £209 (inc. VAT) but has been reduced to £174.50 (inc. VAT) per seat, for a limited period of 12 months. Contact as above.

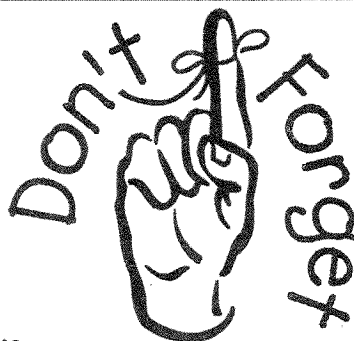
Electrical safety: I have been asked to point out that some members have been observed disconnecting their electric lead from the motorhome first thus leaving the lead live, which can be dangerous. Please remember that the lead should be disconnected from the bollard first and, where possible, switched off before hand.

Website Update No. 09/12 10th October contained:

- **Rallies:** Rally report and photo gallery of the ACCEO rally
- **Technical:**
 - **Ideas sheet No. 225 – *replacing the rubber on cab steps***
 - **A~S new models - *Burford; Winchcombe & Wiltshire***

And finally: A good way to forget your troubles is to help others out of theirs.

Please return the
 2013
 Renewal Form
 as soon as possible
 (unless your membership
 commenced after 1st
 September 2012)



A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 7996 to 8064

Jane Gibbs & Mary Schooling	Lymington	Dorset
Alan Druce	Ipswich	Symbol
Eddie Islip	Alfreton	Duetto
George & Sheila Spence	Ledbury	Clubman
Dereck Wharton	Sheffield	Symphony
John & Brenda Abraham	Diss	Symbol
Doreen Armstrong	Pidley	Symphony
Tony & Helen Beck	Tunbridge Wells	Nuevo
Dennis & Lavinia Smith	Woodbridge	Kemerton
John & Catherine Watling	Colchester	Nuevo
David & Joan Williams	Greasby	Medallion
Brian & Margaret Wright	Surbiton	Sussex

Steven & Tina Bowdery	Stoke on Trent	Symbol
Colin & Heather Elms	Aylesford	Sussex
Peter & B A Jeffries	Felixstowe	Mezan
Tim & Tricia Penn	Burgess Hill	Topaz
Geraldine Boocock & Kathleen Tattersall	Ormskirk	Nuevo
Andy & Diane Carruthers	Milnthorpe	Gloucester
Richard & Maggie Cove	Woodbridge	Dorset
Tony & Theresa Denton	Hemel Hempstead	Cotswold
Joseph & Carmel Shaw	Stockport	Bourton
John & Georgina Jackson	Scunthorpe	Northants
John Moate	Poole	Broadway
Malcolm & Lynne Goodwin	Chatham	Gloucester
Norman & Jan Macdonald	Knebworth	Nuevo
Bryan & Audrey Dalby	Bradford	Warwick
Ray & Jean Foster	Llanelli	Gemini
Maureen Groppe	Winsford	Symbol
Roger Miller	West Mersea	Nuevo
Christine Thompson & Barry Ford	Welwyn	Nuevo
Richard & Neena Dulson	Fareham	Nuevo
Pete & Lin Sullivan	Andover	Northants
Martin Molyneux	Harwich	Devon
David Bound	Builth Wells	Broadway
Geraint & Pamela Thomas	Anglesey	Executive

Keith & Gill Blakesley	Torfean	Amethyst
Steve & Anne Hartland	Birmingham	Nuevo
Michael Binding & Heather Chawlers-Stevens	Exeter	Rambler
Deka & Chris Minor	Stoke-on-Trent	Clubman
Michael & Nuala Walthall	Alfreton	Executive
Paul Harris & Hilary Fenton- Harris	Wareham	Eton
Tom Fynn & Sue Herring	Carlisle	Cotswold
Barry Jansen & Susan O'Connor	West Wickham	Worcester
Brian & Gloria Martin	Worcester	Pollensa
Barry & Sue Smith	Southampton	Malvern
Bernard Mills & Carole Dale	Dovercourt	Talisman
Julie Archer	Halifax	Symphony
John & Sandra Duce	Benfleet	Executive
Chris & Dilys French	Malvern	Gloucester
Terry & Kay Smith	Telford	Talisman
Gary & Debbie Wallace	Lowestoft	Clubman
Roy & Dorothy Dorkins	Southport	Legend
John & Gillian Slater	Arnside	Lancashire
Simon & Frances Bannister	Dover	Amethyst
Tom & Sue Leighton	London	Topaz
Ron & Kath Eddings	Brierfield	Nuevo
Rod & Rita Poxon	Northampton	Stratford
Richard & Sue Hackett	Southampton	Broadway
William & Linda Harrison	Tarporley	Kemerton
Colin & Sue Perry	Honiton	Lancashire
Jim & Yvonne Rowley	Wolverhampton	Nuevo
George & Carol Strachan	Corbridge	Executive
Graham & Veronica Taylor	Bordon	Hampshire
Keith & Jean Tobutt	Winchester	Nuevo
Bob & Rose Bullen	Poole	Nuevo
Brian & Denise Watson	Brighton	Broadway
Chris Watson & Liz McLoughlin	Dursley	Devon
Paul & Mary Maskell	Cambridge	Sussex
Dave & Fran Tromans	Plymouth	Sussex

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-Sleeper Amethyst

1997 TD 2.5 4 berth - only 57,500 miles lovely condition
Fiama bike rack + New (2012) Fiama awning
MOT till Aug 2013 - £16,500 o.n.o.
Contact Hilary or Terry on 0121 357 1565 (Birmingham)

A-S Executive 2006 2+2 berth, 2.8Hdi. MOT to 16SEP2013, 19,000 miles,

Usual A-S quality spec + 4 new Continental 'Camper' tyres Sep'11, New Cam belt Mar'12 Cruise Control. Awning, Cycle carrier, Kitchen extractor - Fan, Undersealed from new, Cobra alarm V.G.C. £23,500 o.n.o.
Tel:- 01278 781976. Richard McAllister, Burnham on Sea, Somerset.

Silver Screen insulated windscreen cover with storage bag for a Mezan (should also fit a Berlingo). As new, having been used only once, when ill health forced regrettable sale of my lovely little motorhome. Cost £111 in May this year.

Best reasonable offer secures.
Delivery to be discussed.
Gina Bury (Somerset) 01278 420791 – gina.bury@btinternet.com

1998 (S Reg) Ford Duetto 2 Berth
2.5 Turbo Diesel 70,500 miles
Recent 4 new tyres. Some service history and old M.O.T certificates

Usual Duetto inventory, shower/toilet, heating, mains electrics, hot water etc. Extras include T.V and aerial, roll out Fiamma awning, bike rack, levelling ramps, mud mats, Insulated screen and window covers and more. Ready to go.

M.O.T until 29th June 2013
Taxed until 31st December 2012
£13,500.00 o n o.
Tel: 01273 594479

Tony Fowler, West Sussex
Illness forces reluctant sale

TWO DAHON VITESSE CITY FOLDING BIKES. FIVE HUB GEARS. ALUMINIUM . 20" WHEELS. INTERNAL TYRE PUMPS. REAR CARRIER. CHAIN GUARD. VGC. TRANSPORT BAGS. NEW PRICE £500 EACH. SALE PRICE £175 EACH.

E-mail:-
alanecurrie@btinternet.com. Tel:-
01745 582516. North Wales

WANTED

I am looking for a motorhome cover for a Peugeot boxer harmony 2001 model phone no is 01502 537845
Barry Webb 7823

Contents:			
From the Editor	2	Dometic and Rear Door Problems	15
Chairman's chat	3	Fridge Ventilation	15
ACCEO Prize Draw	3	Mercedes Radio Reception	16
ACCEO Rally	4	Summer Woes	16
Rally Reports:	4-8	Good News from Topsham	17
ACCEO Rally Report	9	Unreasonable Camping Charges	17
Malvern Show	13	Sussex Duo	18
Royal Bath and West Show	13	Tech Group and Web Site	18
Obituary- Pam Todd	14	Subs Reminder	20
Over-cab bed for Talisman	14	New Members	20
A/S Charity Events	14	For Sale and Wanted	23

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When notified by newsletter please send to the Deputy Editor Dudley Woodhams at 83 Langdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7DY or email to snwoogoose1@hotmail.co.uk

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