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# ***AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB***

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Registered No: 4616969*



Presentation of the cheque to the charity Medical  
Detection Dogs at the National Rally at Newark

## ***NEWSLETTER 297***

### ***June 2013***

## From the Editor



Well as I write this, I am in the throes of trying to get our replacement kitchen at home finished (now 4 weeks) as well as some warrantee issues. Sound familiar? It's enough to pull your hair out. So it's good to get on with the newsletter as a distraction.

We have just got back from the National rally and it was especially good as we had a sunny weekend for the first time that I can remember. I have included a few photos. There was plenty to do and see and it made a change to go to SMC, where we were made very welcome. There were quite a few A/S models to look over and an interesting tour of their workshop. They deal with body repairs for car and motorhomes, as well as all servicing, MOTs, and also habitation checks.

It was good to meet up with a lot of the ralliers that we see year on year, and I hope we shall see them again during this year, when I can attend.

The last night of the rally my leisure battery died, the solar panel only providing about 4AH so that's another job I have to sort out before our next rally, as the battery has lost capacity. We did have some issues before we went with a flat battery so I wasn't surprised but the solar panel masked the underlying problem of a dodgy battery.

I need to remind you that this Newsletter is the result of the Items that you write, so I need you to keep sending them to me so that I can edit into the newsletter. It's been a bit sparse recently but I hope that the rally reports will bolster the contributions. I got a couple of letters from members who have or had some of the early A/S motorhomes and it would be nice to hear from a few more as next year the club will be 25 years old, so a bit of reminiscing is in order.

**Deadline for the next newsletter is the 10<sup>th</sup> June**, so please send your contributions to [daveatasoc@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com) or to my address on the back page.

*David Mayne*

# Chairman's Chat



Another National Rally has come and gone and it really couldn't have been much better. A big thank you to Al & Barb and their team for organising the event and to all the members who pitched in to help over the weekend. Even the weather played its part!

A couple of the usual misunderstandings cropped up during the rally, so I want to make it crystal clear that you do not have to order meals if you want to attend, although many cooks do enjoy letting somebody else do the work!. You can simply pay the camping fee for the nights you want to stay and that entitles you to attend all the activities, all day and every evening.

Next year will be the Club's 25th Anniversary so I am sure some special celebrations will be happening. The dates are Thursday 1st May to Monday 5th May so make a note in your diaries now so you can be sure not to miss out.

Thanks also to all the members who have written to me about caravans and to all those who took part in the discussion at the Open Forum. As promised, the consultation continues if you wish to have your say.

See you down the road.

*Andy*

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## Thank You for Jill McAllister

I write to thank all our kind friends in ASOC most sincerely for their condolences expressed in cards, letters and 'phone calls to me and our family following the sudden death of my wife Jill on the 5th April. Thank you also for the generous donations received in lieu of flowers. The total fund will be shared equally between two local charities namely St. Margaret's Hospice and the Burnham Area Rescue Boat operation which runs hovercraft capable of rescuing people who have become trapped in the local mud when the tide is out and a boat cannot reach them. BARB also helped relieve some local villages during the floods earlier in the year.

*Richard McAllister 4591*

# Rally Reports

## National Rally 2013 at Newark

Unlike the 2012 National Rally this year the ground was dry and firm and the sun shone for the entire weekend although the 'Newark Wind' was still blowing! It was good to see groups of people sitting around and chatting in the sunshine.

I would like to thank the National Rally Sub Committee for all their help and support throughout the year and for the tireless effort put in over the weekend and to the Club Committee for their help. I would like to thank Auto Sleepers for their generous donation of £2500.00 towards the cost of the Rally.

My thanks also go to the army of volunteers who work so hard to make the Rally a success and to those who run the various competitions and stalls. The money made from these enterprises and together with the donation made by the Club meant we were able to give the nominated Charity £2052.76p. This was presented in the form of a cheque at the end of the Salvation Army service on Sunday morning. The collection taken during the service totalled £200.82p which the Salvation Army were grateful to receive.

I hope everyone who attended the Rally had a good time and if you did please tell other members who you meet at rallies throughout the year and hopefully they will want to come next year to help celebrate the special 25th Anniversary National Rally.

If members have any ideas as to what we can do for next year please contact me at [nationalrally@asoc.uk.com](mailto:nationalrally@asoc.uk.com) or telephone me on 07818006733 and I will collate all suggestions and they will be discussed at various meetings during the year.

*Al Buckett.*

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National Rally

We would like to thank everyone that marshaled at the National Rally at Newark.

As always, your help is invaluable and makes our task of siting all the motorhomes so much easier.

Thank you all. *Jan and Vic Hinklin*

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Thanks to all the "Barmaids"

On behalf of everyone who enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee at the Stuart Goodwin Hall during the National Rally, I would like Dorothy, Gill, Jean and Twink for all their hard work behind the bar.

Also thanks to Stuart and John for filling the Urn and clearing away after us.

*Pauline Rogers*

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### **Photo competition report 2013**

Thanks to everyone who entered this year's competition. The winners chosen by David Williams from Auto-Sleepers are:

Open category:

1st Baz Wellard, 2nd & 3rd Dave Hollingsworth

Set category:

1st Irene Kitchin, 2nd Baz Wellard, 3rd James Skinner.

The overall winner voted for by those attending the National Rally was Baz Wellard. Congratulations to them and thanks to everyone who entered.

The "Spot the difference" competition held at the National Rally was fairly difficult this year resulting in only 6 correct entries and the winner, Shirley Bromilow was drawn from those by Andy Cavell This competition raised £87 for the chosen charity, so again, thanks to all those who took part.

We look forward to entries for the 2014 AGM photo competition so cameras ready. The categories will be the same as this year i.e. Set category and Open category.

You may want to bear in mind when taking images that next year will be the 25th (Silver Anniversary) of the club.

*Jean & Dave Hollingsworth 5968*

Amongst all the other thank you's for the National Rally, it is important to remember the companies whose generous donations enabled us to do so well in the charity raffle.

They were:-

Motor Plus Motorhomes  
Reluxe Furnishings  
Auto-Sleeper Service Centre  
Cotswold Motor Caravans  
Peugeot  
Mercedes Benz  
Leisure Kingdom  
Brittany Ferries  
Robsons of Wolsingham

Our grateful thanks to them all.

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The National Rally was a great success and apart from the chilly nights, the weather was kind. It was great to meet up with old friends and to make new ones.

I want to thank all the members who so kindly and most generously contributed to the chosen charity; Medical Detection Dogs. I was overwhelmed to receive a cheque for the amazing sum of £2,052.76 and this is not including the collection tin which has still to be opened and counted. Hopefully members will spread the news of this new charity and the amazing ability dogs have for detecting illnesses.

I would particularly like to thank John Jones and his wife for all their kindness and help during the rally.

*Doreen Turner 6150*

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### 2013 National Rally

A huge 'THANK YOU' to Al & Barbara Bucket and all their team, for once again organising a splendid National Rally. So much work goes into the event and they even managed to lay on glorious weather as well!

Looking forward to 2014 already!

*James & Jill Bertlin - 2770*

Dear Auto-sleepers

I represent the Oxon and Cotswold supporters group of Medical Detection Dogs.

First we must apologise that there was no-one available from the charity's head office to come to your gathering, but as you will know, we are still a very small organisation and I'm afraid we just didn't have the manpower available.

We were completely overwhelmed with the generosity of your members, and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their interest and support.

To add to the amazing amount on the 'big cheque', the contents of the collecting tin were £52.90

You will of course be receiving thanks from our head office when the 'real' cheque arrives.

Our grateful thanks to Doreen, who so ably represented us, and to all your members for their wonderful support.

Yours sincerely  
Heather Shute



**Medical Detection Dogs Charity Stall**



**"Barmaids" busy at work**



Plenty of room for a lot more!



The Gourmet Market stall was popular, specially when the cakes from the competition were sold

The Jigsaw Puzzle stall was also popular





**Two of the Hobby Stalls.  
There were others but  
difficult to get photos**



**National Rally Marshals Post was  
always manned ( or "womanned"!)**

## Member's Handbook Amendment

During the Annual General Meeting of the Club held on 4<sup>th</sup> May the members voted to amend article 13 of the Clubs Articles of Association.

Please make the following amendment to your Member's Handbook:

In article 13 delete "28<sup>th</sup> February" and replace it with "10<sup>th</sup> January".

The amendment was made to align the date of membership lapse with the date address labels for the February Newsletter are printed and thus save the expense of printing and sending that issue to lapsed members.

*Peter Brown*

## New Email Addresses

As you know we now have a new website and we have the facility to provide generic email addresses, which are as follows:

chairman@asoc.uk.com	Andy Cavell
nationalrally@asoc.uk.com	Al Buckett
secretary@asoc.uk.com	John Osland-Jones
membershipsec@asoc.uk.com	Jill Bertlin
commember1@asoc.uk.com	Mike Valentine
commember2@asoc.uk.com	Gill Hopkins
technical@asoc.uk.com	Baz Wellard
webmaster@asoc.uk.com	Baz Wellard

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## Re My Auto-Sleeper Clubman on a VW T4

Owing to the exhaust system and other protrusions underneath, it is not possible to fit a normal folding step. I have seen somewhere of a step that folds upwards and covers the door bottom when not in use, and also provides extra security.

Have any members knowledge of same and where it can be purchased or fitted?

*L W Jannaway 7705*

## **Ralliers and Mobile Phones**

As a rally marshal I urge you to include your mobile phone number when filling in a rally slip. Rest assured I will not pass your number onto spurious organisations and 3rd parties. Some members take the view that their phone is only for their convenience. Please consider that in the event of cancelling a rally and there is no answer to your home phone number I need to get in touch with you and all the other ralliers promptly.

I believe that a rallier has a responsibility to a marshal to make themselves contactable if possible. So if you are "on the road" prior to a rally please have your phone switched on.

The alternative method of a marshal phoning the next of kin is far from ideal. In my experience the recipient of the call may be alarmed to hear from a marshal initially thinking that something has happened to their loved ones. So please when filling in the rally slip, include your mobile phone number, ensure you put it down correctly and have your phone switched on.

*Liz Morgan*

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## **New Rally**

In response to a number of requests, we are delighted to confirm that a Rally will be held at Cartmel Racecourse 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September.

*James & Jill Bertlin - 2770*

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## **Members A-S Motorhomes**

I have attached a photo of my daughter taken on our first outing in my S.reg. Auto Sleeper Legend. We will be using it at dog shows. Most large dog shows have camping with toilet and shower blocks but not many have hook ups. We have caravanned in the past and I am used to towing but had never driven a motor home, so I was very proud of myself on our first trip travelling from Merseyside to Mid Wales.

My A.S. is quite old but runs well and is immaculate inside and out. It had been beautifully looked after by the last owner, who left lots of instructions and notes to help me.

I am enjoying reading your news letter, and one day we might get to one of the rallies.

*Dorothy Dorkins.*



Further to your request in Newsletter 296 for pictures of older Auto-Sleeper vans, I enclose 3 photos.

My van is an Auto-Sleeper CB22 based on a Bedford cf250 which was first registered on 1st January 1979, in the days before it became a public holiday, so it is obviously a 1978 model. I have owned it for 7 years and it is continually in use and in good overall condition. The attached photos were taken in November 2012 for agreed value insurance purposes. Not bad for a 34 year old van.

*Ken Crosby 6018*



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### **Classic Auto-Sleeper CB22**

In answer to your article on the CB22 model by Bill Cameron, It was the first Auto-Sleeper coachbuilt model produced in 1979 on a Bedford CF base and 2.3cc slant petrol engine, fitted an overdrive to it in the early days giving her 6 gears and has been a joy to drive.

We have had ours for over 26 years,

It was the motorhome we had when we first joined in the clubs 1st year, on an early rally there were 7 of the CB22's in attendance but do not see many now.

Our first rally abroad with the club was at Royan in 1993 where we first met Sheila and Ivor Barnett. Other continental rallies include the 2nd Royan rally, the Dordoynes, Winnigan, Lake Garda & Florence, Turckheim along with many solo trips to France, Switzerland, Holland ,Belgium, Germany, Austria, etc. and a few times over the Alps with never any real trouble with

the old girl, affectionately called FATTY because of her number plate-FAT583T.

As we are both approaching eighty this year we do not travel abroad much now, (travel insurance too high) our last trip abroad was last year to Brittany.

We would have no worries taking her out of the drive in the morning and driving to the South of France as she is so reliable, ( can't say that for the owners now ).

The interior is as original, in very nice condition, with the exception of having a cutaway cab and new seat covers, in AS material of course, and up to date electrics.



It has left us with many happy memories, not that we wish to stop yet.. !!

Photo shows returning from a rally abroad with Sheila & Ivor , happy times.

*Brian & Joan Collins 0302*

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## Technical Group & Website



**Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group:** Baz Wellard can be contacted at 118 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF or email : [technical@asoc.uk.com](mailto:technical@asoc.uk.com)

**Valeting - Update:** In the past I admit I have not been too keen on MER polish; but I decided to use MER Ultimate Shine as recommended by Farecla. I found the wax easy to put on and the results do look and feel very good. Also all the flies, bugs etc that plastered my Luton, on

the way back from the National Rally, washed off easily with warm wax & polish solution. It remains to be seen however how the finish competes with the weather.

### **Spare Wheel:**

As part of this year's preparation I also lowered the spare wheel to check that all was well. In doing so I found that the spring clip at the end of the safety chain had rusted and it took a pair of pliers and a judicious amount of oil to free it. You may wish to check the lowering process if you haven't done so for a while. Also perhaps at the same check the state of the tyre.

If you have to crawl underneath to check the pressure you might be interested in Ideas Sheet No. 129 - "Easier checking of spare wheel pressure".

### **Deals for Members:**

SMC Motorhomes, of Newark, have been appointed as agents for Auto~Sleepers, and they are kindly offering members of the ASOC a **special 10% discount** for the following services:

- Motorhome Annual Habitation Check
- Chassis Checks
- Mechanical Servicing & Repairs
- Damp & Gas Test
- Motorhome Accident Repairs
- Accessories
- Also they can supply and fit all accessories, inc. alarms, trackers, TV aerials, reverse cameras and sensors, awnings, bike racks, Gaslow systems, solar panels, etc. Please see their website 'Leisure Page' for more! (Terms and Conditions apply.)

SMC Motorhomes are a family run business and have 40 years experience in sales, servicing and repair of cars and motorhomes. They are based at Newark close to the A1 road and can be contacted at [www.smcmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.smcmotorhomes.co.uk) or by telephone: Sales 01636 670760; Parts: 01636 670766 and Service; 01636 70670682.

For fuller details see the Club website – 'Deals for Members'.

**Crash Testing:** I have viewed the video results of a crash test of a motorhome on [www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/MotorhomeTV](http://www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/MotorhomeTV) - select 'staying safe'. It brings home the danger of having loose items in the van and in particular that the table must be safely stored.

### **Computers:**

**Virus Protection:** Last year was not a good year for a few members as they suffered from virus invasion - particularly into their address list. As we start to go away for longish periods I suggest that on return you invoke the 'live-update' option of your anti-virus - **before** opening any e-mails.

**Speed Cameras:** As you may be aware it is illegal to use Sat Nav **speed** cameras in France. However with TomTom, and no doubt other Sat Nav suppliers, you can now download **safety** cameras. The difference is that you are now given advice that you are in a **safety zone** – not the position of the camera. Downloads are not usually free.

**Portuguese Electronic Only Tolls:** Back in February 2012 I reported that some of Portugal's toll roads are now 'electronic only', and at that time information was scarce. From their website [www.visitportugal.com](http://www.visitportugal.com) it is now apparent that there are 3 options. The best for holiday visitors would appear to be '**Easy Toll**', direct quote:-

**"Easy Toll:** - The driver, not having to leave the vehicle, enters the credit card in the payment terminal and the system automatically associates the vehicle's license plate to the bankcard. The tolls rates owed are directly debited to the account associated with the card."

Seems simple enough; but if anyone has experience perhaps you could let me know, please?

**Website:**

Website Update No. 05/13 contains:-

- National Rally & AGM report and rally photographs.
- National Rally - Question & Answer session notes
- Change of rally dates for Marsden rally now:- 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October
- New rally added - Cartmel Racecourse 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September
- Deals for Members – Addition SMC Motorhomes

**And Finally:** Always keep a window open in your mind for new ideas.

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## A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 8249 to 8344

Jack Anderson	Sheffield	Topaz
Frank Batchelor & Sandra Meredith	West Bromwich	Trooper
Ray & Rachel Scrafield	Brandon	Topaz
Glyn & Valerie Williams	Wembley	Duetto
Jen James & Neil Glen	Luton	Sussex
George & Doreen Allan	Aberdeen	Burford

John & Jan Hodson	Ormskirk	Trident
Richard & Alison May	Wisbech	Trident
Sue Reece & Trish Hill	Benfleet	Dorset
Pam Close	Ware	Topaz
David & Linda Marriner	South Nutfield	Broadway
Keith & Lesley Drew	Waterlooville	Topaz
Ken & Frances Versluys	Wareham	Lancashire
Paul Kelly	Bridlington	Nuevo
Bruce & Pam Manning	Wareham	Lancashire
Andrew & Andrea Saines	Bristol	Harmony
Brian & Tracey Smith	Nottingham	Warwick
Peter & Jean Durkin	Bolton	Nuevo
Elaine Luxton & Edward Goodwin	Ashburton, Newton Abbot	Trident
Richard & Dot Mann	Par	Broadway
Patrick & Gwendolen Reynolds	Leyland	Executive
David & Pauline Meakin	Swadlincote	Warwick
Drew & Ann McIntosh	Plymouth	Mezan
Brian & Paula Hunter	Yelverton	Dorset
John & Elaine Nagle	Bolton	Broadway
Steve & Hazel Burdis	Gateshead	Symbol
Alan & Julia Thompson	Dorking	Nuevo
Sue Andrews	Bournemouth	Symbol
Dave & Heather Crawford	Ryton	Broadway
Peter & Valerie Day	Poole	Duetto
Jill Hagon & Rodney Maidment	Chelmsford	Sussex
Nigel & Frances Hurst	Malvern	Sussex

Trevor & Carol Jones	Liverpool	Topaz
David & Jocelyn Lenham	Malvern	Wiltshire
Ronald & Margo Longman	Billericay	Winchcombe
Nick & Maggie Townsend	Thatcham	Lancashire
Andrew Beal	Sheffield	Amethyst
Harry Crutch	Haslemere	Trooper
Robert & Kathleen Finch	Market Harborough	Symbol
Mike & Sheila Hill	Bristol	Lancashire
Alan Douglas-Haydon & Nicola Moore	Hawkhurst	Broadway
Ernie & Sandra Pyke	Stourport-on-Severn	Broadway
Barry Rayworth & Jeanie Soane	Swindon	Devon
Derrick & Pat Rich	Ringwood	Suffolk
Alan & Joan Suttle	Chelmsford	Symbol
Christopher & Shirley Wyartt	Ipswich	Duetto
Gerald & Dorothy Young	Northampton	Sussex
Anthony & Karen John	Kimberley	Broadway
Jan & Pat Sawicki	Eastleigh	Broadway
Jack & Dawn Plumbley	Watchet	Nuevo
Bernie & Penny Roberts	Tunbridge Wells	Nuevo
Ken & Carol Rose	Evesham	Warwick
Richard & Linda Olsen	Ripon	Broadway
Hugh & Ann Brown	Dunmow	Lancashire
Colin Clark	York	Duetto
Barry & Lynda Coward	Darwen	Nuevo
Michael & Gillian Cox	Christchurch	Sussex
Allan & Marian Dougans	Congleton	Northants

Michael & Brenda Elliott	Gateshead	Sussex
John & Nancy Foley	Oxford	Lancashire
John & Jan Harper	Leighton Buzzard	Devon
Peter & Marie Holderness	Lytham	Kemerton
Laurie & Val Hyland	Thornton Cleveleys	Dorset
Vic Kendall & Vivienne Barclay	London	Gloucester
Mike & Lesley Leworthy	South Molton	Lancashire
Bill & Pat Lockwood	South Shields	Sussex
Martin & Caroline Nankivell	Stansted	Kemerton
Peter Naylor	Ripley	Broadway
Tony & Cynthia Quest	Blsndford Forum	Northants
Rob & Rosie Rose	Warwick	Wiltshire
Malcolm & Kathy Sugden	Northampton	Gloucester
Steve & Linda Witzczak	Ringwood	Sussex
Sherman & Karen Wright	Plymouth	Duetto
John & Maree Shades	Ayr	Nuevo
Graham & Jenny Meers	Burton-on-Trent	Lancashire
Barry & Valerie Sanford	Great Dunmow	Northants
Andrew & Josephine Trickett	Southwater	Devon
Derek & Wendy Dyer	Widnes	Inca
John & Margaret Mann	St Neots	Northants
Douglas & Carolyn Brown	Great Yarmouth	Symbol
Peter & Pauline Ford	Manchester	Cotswold
Peter & Jenny Seabrook	Milton Keynes	Duetto
David & Jan Hunter	Calverton	Warwick
Maureen Moore & Martin Ross	Wakefield	Executive

Tom & Liz Sread	Ashbourne	Bourton
David & Elizabeth Rees-Peskett	Warlingham	Sigma
Denise Hitchin & Tony Wild	Bolton	Topaz
John & Barbara Edmondson	Askham-in-Furness	Broadway
John & Annette Thirkettle	Newport	Palermo
Darrell & Pauline Fielding	Chigwell	Stanton
Geoff & Michelle Scott	Nr Broadway	
Phil Mercer	Derby	Symbol
Vince & Trish Morris	Lichfield	Nuevo
Kenneth & Yvonne Candeland	Wirral	Surrey
John & Denise Longland	Chichester	Symphony
Alan & Sue Taylor	Crowthorne	Sigma

**Membership Secretary:** Jill Bertlin, The Rockeries, Sunny Terrace, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6LQ or email: [membershipsec@asoc.uk.com](mailto:membershipsec@asoc.uk.com)



Thanks for your  
Donations .

**For sale, Pro-tec tailor made cover for auto sleeper, DUETTO,**  
side door access when fitted, one year old, as new £150. please contact Andy Fielding on **01630655590**  
North shropshire, Market Drayton.

**2.8L Executive July 2005, Peugeot** fitted Air Con & Cruise Control,  
Under-sealed, just serviced, MOT & taxed, 2x50watt Solar panels, & Status TV aerial on roof, Bike Rack,  
Tow Bar, under floor LPG Tank, Awning, built-in TV, plus many more extras. 18000 miles, and stored indoors. £27000,  
**01233620204** or email [joy.nigel@talktalk.net](mailto:joy.nigel@talktalk.net) for full spec.

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## Committee Members

President	Charles Trevelyan	
Chairman	Andy Cavell	01635 201976
Secretary	John Osland-Jones	01217 448065
Treasurer	Peter Brown	07771 827711
Vice-Chairman	Jill Bertlin	01539 534500
Rally Co-ordinator	Neil Rogers	01325 374540
Webmaster & Chair, Tech.Group	Baz Wellard	01329 231259
Regalia Officer	John Jones	01623 627903
Newsletter Editor	David Mayne	07964 532936
Membership Secretary	Jill Bertlin	01539 534500
Chairman, AGM Sub-Committee	Al Buckett	01304 369149
Minutes Secretary	Alan Waugh	01392 271955
Committee Member	Mike Valentine	02392 482818
Committee Member	Gill Hopkins	01244 675180

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