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

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Registered No: 4616969*



**Aird Donald Rally Field**

## ***NEWSLETTER 299***

### ***August 2013***

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The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit items. Advertisements for items to be sold or wanted by members are published free of charge, however, small donations to Club funds are appreciated and will be acknowledged. No guarantee can be given that any item will appear in the next, or any, issue of the newsletter. Cheques should be made payable to "Auto-Sleeper Owners Club" and not ASOC and send to the Editor.

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## From the Editor



Hi all, well the saga that is my replacement kitchen is still ongoing. Why did we bother?

I have finally decided that the leisure battery does, in fact, need replacement as it was unable to cope with the additional load of a TV (deliberately run on 12V) but luckily I contacted a local auto electrical firm that does a lot of RV stuff and popped round to see if their leisure battery was suitable. It's an Oldham Leisure 85Ah, and although slightly longer I managed to fit it ok. Exide also do a 80Ah leisure battery which would fit also. So anyone with the same battery arrangement as myself (smiley face Transit and the leisure battery under the bonnet) will know what to fit.

Well Pat and I had a great time at the Felixstowe Rally although the weather was a bit windy a lot of the time but seemed to settle down in the early evening just as we sat around with neighbours for the usual "cocktails." This was repeated around the campsite! Fortunately most of the rain occurred overnight with no evidence in the morning. A really pleasant site and handy for the buses.

We followed on with a week at the Caravan Site at Great Yarmouth but the weather was very mixed so we spent a lot of time in the shops. Pat was pleased as she acquired more clothes, shoes and bags!

As soon as we got back the weather has taken a turn for the better and we now have really hot weather and we are spending a lot of time catching up on the gardening!

There has been quite a lot of rallies this month to help fill the newsletter together with other articles so please keep this up as our members are always interested in what you are up to.

**Please be aware that I have a new mobile phone number** (one that I can remember!) as the old phone started getting unreliable.

**Deadline for the next newsletter will be the 10<sup>th</sup> August** and send your contributions to me at [daveatasoc@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com) or post to my address(details below)

*David Mayne*

Items for the newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. You may post them to 27 Mentmore Rd Leighton Buzzard Beds LU7 2NY or email to [daveatasoc@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com).

Any item appearing in this Newsletter may be freely used by other publications.

Please acknowledge both author and source.

## Vice-Chairman's Chat

Before departing for foreign roads, Andy asked me to 'chat' this month. Hopefully he and you have managed to make the most of any good weather and are making full use of your Auto-Sleeper. Certainly many of us would appear to be enjoying a better Summer than last year, so hopefully it will continue.



We spent two weeks touring this country visiting friends along the way. All went well until the Truma Combi Boiler broke down the evening we arrived in Salisbury. Marquis Hampshire very obligingly fitted us in the following day and did all they could to fix the problem, but it continued to show a fault and as Truma don't work on Friday afternoons - servicing the leisure industry? - they finally had to admit defeat. Luckily we were using Caravan Club Sites, so their facilities and our kettle were well used and the weather was kind enough not to require the heater, so we continued on our way. Marquis Hampshire contacted Marquis Lancashire who were able to repair the problem on our way home (for the technically minded, the Blown Air Motor was blocked and the van is only 9 months old!).

It is hardly surprising the number of Auto-Sleepers we spotted on the roads when looking at the recent lists of new members. A contributory factor may be the Company's success in the Caravan Club's Design & Drive Awards where the Broadway received a second prize, the Symbol a first and the Winchcombe won the overall title. Congratulations Auto-Sleepers!

On that cheerful note, may I wish you all 'Happy Travelling'

*Jill*

## Leaving the club

Ian and I would like to say goodbye to all the friends we made during our membership.

Ian had a stroke in October last year and we decided we could not manage the van. We will miss not being able to just pack up and go, and will have to rethink our way of having holidays.

Jean and Ian Day 2805.

Peter Booth would like to take this opportunity to thank the club members for all the many cards, letters and telephone messages he received at the passing of his wife Joan and of which were a great comfort to him.

Yours sincerely  
*PETER BOOTH*

## **Rally News**

**Unity Resort Brean Rally**, 5 nights, begins Monday 16th and ends Saturday 21st midday. See details in Rally Supplement. Anyone intending going on to the Dartmouth rally can book an extra night to leave Sunday 22nd. WHEN they arrive at Brean rally.

*Brian Ellis*

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## **Rally Reports**

Tiptree Rally

We would like to thank Jill and Tony, Rita and John for a very enjoyable rally. We had home-made cakes made by Jill one coffee evening and a fish and chip supper in the sunshine another evening. The buses ran regularly to Colchester and Maldon which most members used, and the Wilkins Restaurant/Shop/Museum was popular with members.

Felixstowe Rally

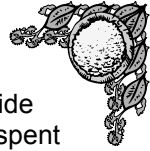
This was a really good caravan park with clean loos and hot showers. We also had the use of a room and patio for our coffee evening.

Interesting places to visit were Landguard Fort and Landguard Point with new restaurant, also Old Felixstowe. Some members used their bus passes to visit Ipswich.

Many thanks to Shirley and Chris, Theresa and Dave for such a great rally.

Ken would like to thank everyone for their help and concern with his disability at both rallies.

*Mollie and Ken Beales and Freddie (our Westie)*



The Cafe Alex in Felixstowe enticed us all inside  
Upstairs, to get the outlook right across the water side  
The food was great but then a "penny" needed to be spent  
Another world enfolded us, as one by one we went.  
The colours changed from mauve and blue to yellow, pink and green  
The button for the toilet flush was nowhere to be seen!  
Eventually when crossing to the handwash by a shelf  
The clever little toilet bowl, it flushed all by itself!  
We will all remember, not the cafe and the food  
But toilets that change colour to reflect each passing mood.



*Rhona Bamber*

### **Aird Donald' C.P. Stranraer. Dumfries & Galloway , Scotland**

At the end of June 2013, nineteen Auto-Sleepers joined us at Aird Donald Caravan Site Stranraer, down here in Bonnie Galloway! When we set up camp on the Wednesday the weather was warm and sunny but true to form when people started arriving on the Thursday it was raining but it did clear up for the Meet & Greet in the evening.

Fridays weather was variable and some took the opportunity to see some of the many sights the area has to offer, but for our Fish Supper (Al Fresco for the hardy or in vans for the not so) the sun did come out though the breeze made its presence felt.

Saturday dawned fair for the local Armed Forces Day celebrations, Stranraer & District Pipe Band, Army Cadet Force, Royal British Legion and Veterans leading the parade to Agnew Park, where all manner of stalls and entertainment were available. Saturday evening we all got together for an impromptu cheese, biscuits & cake, not forgetting tea & coffee.

Sunday people were at leisure until the early evening when the Wigtownshire Community Transport bus conveyed us to a get together at 'Creachmore' our local Golf Club, who looked after us well with a nice sit down buffet in convivial surroundings. The raffle was drawn after the meal to allow people to gently start off on the Monday, for the Castle Douglas Rally or onward to pastures new.

*Ricky & Ann Smith 1533*

## Stranraer Rally

Ann & Ricky Smith were ideal hosts for a first timer like myself. On the Friday evening after a dismal day weather wise Ricky made 2 trips out for fish suppers, we ate outside as the sun had made an appearance by this time.

On the Saturday due to the inclement weather we made our own entertainment. Myself I can recommend the drive from Stranrae to Girvan a 10 mile coastal drive with good views of Gannets and I think it was Ailsa Craig in the distance.

On the Sunday a finger buffet at the Stranrae golf club rounded up a very pleasant rally, many thanks to Ann & Ricky.

## Castle Douglas Rally

On Monday the 1st the sun was out, Moira & Allan had the site set out by the time I had arrived (late again).

Ricky took the role of paperboy through the wind and rain, what a hero. Wednesday's tour of Sulwath micro brewery was very interesting and informative.

A game of horseshoes was had and I think the rules changed 3 times to my knowledge but that made the game even more fun.

There was a buffet in the church hall on the last night attended by all. Many thanks to Moira & Allan assisted by Ann & Ricky, I look forward to the next Rally

*Alan Druce (7997)*



## **Castle Douglas Rally**

We have just had a great time at the Castle Douglas Rally very well run by Moira and Allan Blackstock. They made us all very welcome and we had plenty of chances to get to know everyone with quizzes, treasure hunt, horse shoes evening get - togethers and a buffet in the local church hall to finish off.

We had lots of laughs and made many new friends. What an amazing club this is ! Very many thanks to Moira and Allan for all your hard work and preparations to make it such a sociable and successful rally.

*Barbara and Al Buckett 5829*

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### **Reaching the parts we never usually see.**

Keeping our Autosleeper in good condition has kept me busy over the years and helped to give a feeling of pride and satisfaction when using our "other" home, particularly as the vehicle reaches towards maturity. Recently our reliable and helpful garage fitted new springs for me and I was lucky enough to be allowed to inspect the work whilst the van was up on the ramp. The springs were fine but my looking underneath the bodywork provided me with a whole new view of our pride and joy and jolted me out of any feelings of complacency about how I was caring for her.

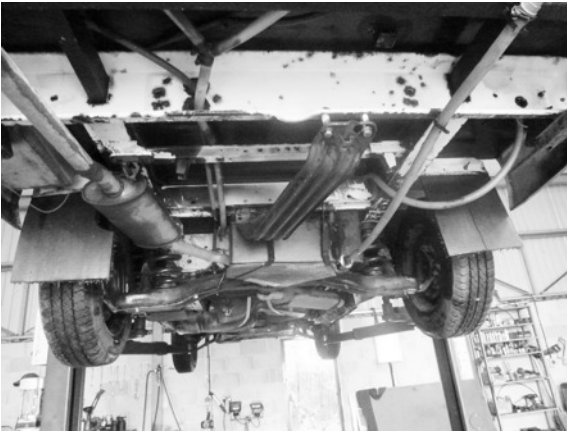
Out of view and out of mind are words that sprung to mind as I looked at the underside and saw the effects of a life close to the road whilst suffering from relative neglect. I tried to console myself with the thought that these parts were not normally visible from the kerbside. The rust was not yet serious, I immediately recognised however that no matter how I looked after and polished the bodywork, the underbody was going to be the vans Achilles heel, unless I took some action.

Checking up on a few helpful websites I realised I was faced with a difficult, uncomfortable and dirty DIY job with the likelihood of only limited success or I would need to put the job in the hands of the experts. I found a company in Cheshire (Rustmaster (UK) Ltd) who would do the work, they do a lot of classic cars, public service and off road vehicles, and who would allow me to follow the process of the work as it was done on my van. Armed with my camera, I spent a day with them and saw the underside steam cleaned, dried, checked and rubbed down as required and then industrial Waxoyl sprayed into and onto the crevices and surfaces of the

underside and wheel arches, comprehensively coating the whole area and providing a seal against corrosion.

I feel very satisfied that I have done justice to our Clubman, even if I was a bit late in doing so, and am comfortable that we now have the hidden parts of the vehicle in hand, particularly as my deal provides for a further 5 years of checks and top ups of the seal as required. Some might not feel the work necessary and It wasn't cheap, but I saw the need, followed the work done, and am happy with the result. The process and the completed work have given me a significant and great feeling of security and satisfaction. I recommend it and would be pleased to share with others information as required.

*Eddie Jones (3467)*  
**EddJones@Nildram.co.uk**



**Before Treatment**

**After Treatment**



## Word of Warning

It was Sunday morning and we had left the Felixstowe rally in good spirit after another first-rate rally. Fifteen minutes in to our journey to Brighton the emission warning light came on and the engine began to miss.

We pulled off the road at a Shell garage near Colchester and called for the rescue service. Forty minutes later we explained the problem to the mechanic and he duly set to work. He plugged his hand held gadget into the van computer and after a few moments explained he could not do anything for us as the read out said 'see Peugeot main dealer'.

He had however managed to delete the warning light. He advised us not to risk the journey and to stay the night locally and visit the dealer in the morning. This we did staying at the Caravan and Camping Club site in Colchester Sunday night and first thing Monday, driving to the main dealers, Underwoods of Colchester, without incident.

We expected to have to wait but were dealt with almost immediately. Having explained what had happened the service engineer was most irate when he heard that the light had been deleted as seemingly by doing this all the information held on the van computer with regards to this fault is also deleted.

*"This happens all the time with the recovery services I wish someone would tell them not to do it"* he explained.

He did however take the van into the workshop, plug it in to their system and 20 minutes later returned the van saying they had done one or two checks but could not find any reason for the problems.

*"It seems OK so I see no reason not to continue with your journey"* says he. *"But if it happens again don't let the recovery man delete anything"*

We thanked him, went back to reception to see how much this was going to cost and much to our surprise found it was free of charge. We jumped in the van before they changed their minds and have since covered 450 miles without any problem.

So just be warned!

*Jacky and Ray Gledhill 6255*

## Letter To the Editor:

Dear David

You asked about members who owned older Autosleepers. 'Kate', my Sportsman - our third Autosleeper (the first was a Sherpa and the second the predecessor to the Sportsman), is now 20 years old. Gerald, my late husband, was Senior Design Engineer for Dunlop, so I have a Sportsman like no other.

When we first ordered her at the Earls Court Show - only made to special order by then, Gerald had already discussed with Autosleepers his ideas for amendment and had also designed top cupboards etc instead of the bunk beds that rolled out. He was going to order the necessary wood etc, but Autosleepers took his drawings and did it for us - even using his design on another similar van. He'd ordered wood for shelving, but Charles phoned me one day to say they were going to put the shelves in the cupboard for him as a surprise - he had been offered a job there previously!

I well remember us calling there for something needed and bumping into Charles who came to see what had been done since he last looked. Believe me, there is no wasted space, I even have a bathroom cabinet in one back door and a pull out waste bin in the other.

Sadly Gerald only had 11 months to work on her before he became too ill to do any more, but he has left me with a wonderful legacy and I still camp about 3 months a year in her. We enjoyed many years rallying with ASOC, but I spend the majority of my time away with the New Companions Club these days. I'm still in touch with Harry and Sheila Henthorne (we went to their wedding) who will confirm the above, as of course would Charles Trevelyan.

Hope this is of interest

Happy Motoring

*Margaret Coggins No. 486*

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Thank you to our Scottish Marshals at Stranrear and Castle Douglas Marshals/unofficial marshals respectively. They may not have managed to give us the summer weather the rest of the country enjoyed, but everything was great. Stranrear is a lovely new area to visit and Ricky and Ann did us proud. Alan and Moira in Castle Douglas once again kept us up to the mark, though not too sure about the devious mind of the quizzmistress! Thank you all - again next year?

Gill Hopkins

# Technical Group & Website



**Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group:** Baz Wellard can be contacted at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF or email : [technical@asoc.uk.com](mailto:technical@asoc.uk.com)

## Technical and Website Article – August Newsletter

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

### Mobile Phone Signals:

Dorothy and I regularly go to a campsite in Provence where the mobile signal strength is either non-existent or - at the best - intermittently very weak. Our solution may be of interest to other members who have a similar problem.

We have a Monocoque Talisman that has an aluminium framework surrounding the large opening windows; and by placing the mobile phone vertically near the windowsill we can get a reasonable signal.

The aluminium window surround seems to act as a 'passive inductive aerial' and increases the signal sufficiently so that the mobile can be used.

### Peugeot Chassis Creaks:

Dave Seaward (5694) had a problem with his Peugeot chassis making creaks & groans and has kindly provided me with information regarding a Peugeot modification of which I was unaware.

The official Peugeot modification cure is to place large rubber pads between the springs. Your local Peugeot dealer should have the details.

### Spinflo Hob Facia:

Peter Walker (*non-member*) has had the need to replace a damaged hob facia for his A~S Executive. He prepared his own 'artwork' and subsequently had it printed. Peter says they are not exact copies of the Spinflo originals; however I have seen a photo and they do look very good. I can forward the photo on.

Although Peter is not a member he has 5 extra copies and is offering them to Club members who may need to replace their existing facia. Peter can be contacted on 01909 515855.

**And Finally:** Achieving starts with believing in yourself.

## SMC Motorhomes (Newark)

We are planning our summer open weekend on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August here at our premises, but for something a bit different I am thinking of organising a rally at a local site Smeatons Lakes at the same time, were we would have a marquee, entertainment and refreshments during the evenings over the weekend.

We would again provide a 17 seater minibus to and from the campsite on Saturday and Sunday and again provide refreshment throughout the day .

There will be good selection of new and used motorhomes on display and all members will be able to take advantage of a 10% Discounts in our accessories shop over the weekend and a 10% discount on servicing booking made over the weekend.

I would plan to invite existing SMC customers as well as members of the different manufacturers owner clubs and I think there would be a small charge for camping but this would then entitle campers to complementary food and entertainment.

Contact [Email: gavin@smcsales.co.uk](mailto:gavin@smcsales.co.uk)

[Web: www.smcmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.smcmotorhomes.co.uk)

SMC Motorhomes (Newark)

Northern Road

Newark

Notts

NG24 2ET

**Tel:** 01636 670760

**Fax:** 01636 670767

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# A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 8382 to 8444

Ken & Sue Marshall	Hedge end	Trooper
Trevor & Sandra Wheeler	Burnley	Cotswold
Bill Woodard	Staines-uopn-Thames	Nuevo
Simon Wynne	Denbigh	Trident
Ron & Eileen Barnes	Dartford	Bourton
John & Pamela Clapham	Ripon	Nuevo

Geoff & Penny Doggrell	Bordon	Executive
Rosie Eva	Stroud	Nuevo
Jim & Evelyn Faulds	Presteigne	Broadway
Jeff & Jacquie Golding	Canvey Island	Nuevo
Neil Guyler	Calverton	Cotswold
Lawrence & Brenda Haag	Foxhole	Stanton
Ken & Pauline Harding	Ormskirk	Lancashire
Simon & Helen Harris	Keighley	Lancashire
Eileen Heylin & Brian Collins	Milton Keynes	Worcester
Murri & Barbra Hickman	Milton Keynes	Nuevo
Geoff & Yvonne Holdcroft	Woodbridge	Gloucester
Joseph & Janette Janssis	Redhill	Broadway
Brian Kershaw & Yvonne Alden	Silsden	Sussex
David & Sandra Marshall	Blackpool	Lancashire
Brian & Norma Pascall	Slough	Broadway
Jon & Dawn Roe	Kidderminster	Warwick
Mark & Carol Salt	Darwen	Broadway
Peter & Yvonne Scase	Bury St Edmunds	Ravenna
Terry & Hilary Shaw	Pontefract	Dorset
David & Jackie Smith	Glasgow	Cotswold
Ray & Monica Stephens	Leamington Spa	Nuevo
Mark & Carol Thompson	Nr Royston	Sussex
Roy & Denise Tootell	Plymouth	Sussex
Phil & Sue Townrow	Poole	Devon
Dave & Kate Walke	Newbury	Talisman
Tony & Mal Wynne	Knutsford	Symbol
Guy & Carol Usher	Stockton-on-Tees	Berkshire
John & Janice Taylor	Wareham	Sussex
Steven Gutteridge & Nicola Cullum	Bishops Stortford	Clubman

David & Frances Brindley	Buxton	Trident
Bill & Trudy Griffiths	North Coventry	Nuevo
Nick & Heather Maslen	Isle of Man	Broadway
David & Jcy Harrington	Birmingham	Nuevo
John & Kathleen Selvey	Derby	Nuevo
Carol Hickley & Pat Parkinson	Leicester	Topaz
Terry & Kath Moore	Liversedge	Warwick
Derek Steele	Penn	Dorset
Grahame & Sandra Catherall	Wallingford	Devon
Bill & Brenda Nelson	Evanton	Dorset
Trevor Raymond & Ann Fricker	Porthcawl	Medallion
Bernard & Susan Stewart	Silverstone	Broadway
Bob Rouse	Hastings	Mezan
Jazz Adams & Linda Halliwell	Bradford	Executive
Doug & Pat Iddon	Warrington	Talisman
John Parker & Shirley Breeze	East Molesey	Northants
Keith & June Porter	Newark	Executive
Polly Rivers & Ann Salisbury	King's Lynn	Topaz
James & Anne Price	Lancaster	Nuevo
Bob & Sue Young	Swindon	Windrush
Brian & H Zehetmayr	Chippenham	Worcester
Keith & Lesley Burroughs	Bury St Edmunds	Nuevo
John & Rae Griffiths	Nr Kidderminster	Broadway
Hari & Sharon Hari	Fareham	Devon
John & Nan Watt	Cheltenham	Broadway
Harry & Molly Potter	Falmouth	Topaz
Jim & Jen Collis	Southampton	Bourton

**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 .

**Auto-Sleeper Gloucester** Model, July 2011, 5,000 miles, Mercedes automatic, new euro diesel engine, tow bar fitted, bike rack, Phantom tracker, cruise control, one years guarantee left, non smoker, no children or pets. Immaculate condition £45,000  
A-frame may be sold as optional extra.

Contact Mike Smith  
Tel. **01202 828410** or Mobile. **07979757199**  
email  
**mr.michael.smith@btinternet.com**

**Auto Sleeper Ford Duetto Reg 2007**  
2 Berth, 2.4 ltr Turbo diesel-140 Bhp, 27000mls. Manual transmission. 3 seats.  
Tax Sept 2013. MOT Feb 2014.  
Interior layout-standard 2 berth specification including  
Shower, toilet cassette, 3 Ring cooker and oven, refrigerator, Eberspacher heater, Swivel passenger seat, TV Ariel, Awning, 12V/240v electrics.  
1 previous owner. Excellent condition throughout. Service history.  
**£27,500.00. ono**  
Tel Colin Clark **07837795524** or **01904791918**  
(York North Yorkshire)  
email **colin@highthorn.fsbusiness.co.uk**

**Pro Tec cover**, to fit a 20' Amethyst, never been used. £200. **Outdoor revolution** drive away awning, with bed annexe, used twice. £100  
2 TV Booster cables for Caravan Club sites. £5 each  
Long electric cable £10  
Steady winding handle £5  
Silver screen £15  
Buyers will have to collect. All the things can be ono.  
Phone Jean Day **01284 768802**  
(Chelmsford area)

**Auto-Sleeper Duetto 2010.** Ford Transit 2.2 TDCi 140PS, 3500kg chassis, Heated Windscreen & Cruise Control.  
2 Berth, 11k miles, One Owner Non Smoker, No Pets. Swivel Chairs, External SAT & TV inputs, Electric Flush Toilet & Shower. Separate Oven & Grill & 3 Way Fridge. Tow Bar & Electrics, Alloy Wheels & many more extras. Immaculate Condition £35,500 MOT & Taxed May 2014  
Tel Richard Buttle **01245 224696**  
(Chelmsford) email **rbuttle@live.co.uk**

**AUTOSLEEPER LEGEND** S Reg (1998)  
Coachbuilt Monocoque, In Excellent condition throughout, All the usual features 2.5 transit base, MOT until May 2014, Has been serviced every year, Taxed, 54,750 miles, Fitted with many extras, Alarm, Wind out Awning, Kenwood CD radio, Also fitted with Tow bar, Tow ball and Electrics, plus much more. Sadly we are having to give up due to illness, so the motorhome comes with all necessary equipment and is ready for the road. (except your clothes and food!)  
£16,000. Photos available. Call for all details. Dave Wood Tel. **01202 897743**.  
Email -  
**davecyberwooduk@btopenworld.com**

**TaylorMade 3 piece Screen cover** (for Boxer models 2007 to date), little used £90.  
Substantial pair of Grip-Tracks (like rope ladder with small spikes) £25.  
Camping Gaz Party Grill stove and pouch - £20 (as new),  
Powermax 9 Watt Solar Panel £25. Pair of flexible Grip mats £4 - to place under driving wheels.

If you are interested I can bring to Topsham Rally by arrangement or you can call at my home to collect (10mins max from Junction 22 on M5)  
Richard McAllister Tel: **01278 781976** at Burnham on Sea