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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

*A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.
Registered No: 4616969*



Tea time at Stuart Goodwin Pavilion in 2013

NEWSLETTER 306

March 2014

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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.

IMPORTANT: Contributions from Members are published in good faith in the hope that they will prove interesting and useful. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy but no modification or suggestion has been tested by the Company, the Club or your Editor. Therefore no warranties are expressed or implied nor indemnities given. You try them out at your own risk.

From the Editor



Since I did my last editorial, it has continued to rain with some serious flooding in many areas of the south and south west with much disruption to both trains and road transport and it is set to continue until the end of the month when you will receive this newsletter.

One of the biggest problems is that the water table is now at the surface in these areas so it is likely to take a long time for this to return to normal! Let us hope that this will not disrupt our rally programme this year as has happened in the past.

This month's newsletter is reduced in pages due to very little contributions to fill the pages which will be obvious when you read it plus, of course, we do not have any rallies for this period.

Hopefully this will improve next month, plus you will be getting the committee reports prior to the AGM at the National Rally.

I hope that you can attend. Remember that we will have a photographic competition and a cake competition at the National so check the details in this newsletter

Please send your contributions for the next newsletter by the **Deadline which is by 10th March** either by email at **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or via post at the address 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**.

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

Please acknowledge both author and source.

Obituary

John Cox

2nd February 1924 – 12th January 2014

We all were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John Cox, founder of the Auto- Sleeper Owners' Club, on the 12th January 2014. Aged almost ninety, he passed away peacefully at the Meadowfield Residential Home, Bridlington, in East Yorkshire.

John was born on 2nd February 1924 in Carlton, near Nottingham, where he was brought up by his father and step-mother. His two great interests from a very early age were driving and the music of Glen Miller – more of the latter anon!

Whilst undertaking National Service in the Army, he was posted to India and then to Hong Kong where he was fortunate enough to be stationed near the Happy Valley Racecourse! His family assure us that the thought of the odd bet on the horses was never far from his mind! During this time he learned to drive both cars and lorries and to ride a motor bike – halcyon days indeed!

On leaving the Army, he became a bus driver for the Burton Corporation and around this time he met his future wife, Barbara, at a dance in Burton Town Hall. Shortly after, Barbara too joined the Bus Company becoming, as we were reminded at his Funeral, his "clippie"; they married shortly after.

His love of driving and travel led John and Barbara to buy their first motor caravan based on a Volkswagen LT van, after which he and Barbara purchased their beloved Auto-Sleeper Trident in 1986, undertaking several extensive tours throughout Europe.

Such was the care and love that John placed in his Trident, that he never sold it, nor even purchased a later model – John and Barbara were indeed synonymous with their Trident, naming it (and also their house!) "Tuxedo Junction" after, of course, the great Glen Miller once again!

Such was the enjoyment that the Trident gave to them, that John was moved to write to the erudite Motorcaravan Motorhome

Monthly Magazine, suggesting the formation of an Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. My brother Anthony, the Company Managing Director, (who had been with Auto-Sleepers from the very earliest of days), read John's letter and in reply, not only sent him a Company tie, but suggested that the formation of a Club was a first rate idea, providing, of course, that John did all the work!

The rest, of course is history, and no finer accolade could be attributed to John than through his hard work and endeavour, he alone sowed the seeds for what would become by far the most successful motorhome club in the United Kingdom. How sad that, after all his hard work, he could not be with us to celebrate the Club's twenty-fifth anniversary.

His Funeral Service took place at East Riding Crematorium on 27th January with the Club being represented with both an Auto-Sleeper close by, and with many friends present to pay their last respects.

We shall all miss John, and of course Barbara, enormously – his sense of humour, fun and not least his support for his Club will be sorely missed. The Service began, not surprisingly, with Glen Miller's "Tuxedo Junction" and in the Address, mention was inevitably made of his deep involvement with the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club and of course his close relationship with the Company.

We say farewell to many friends in life, but John was truly special and I say, not lightly, that he leaves a gap almost impossible to fill.

To Eric, his son and all his family, we offer our very deepest condolences. Rallies will never quite be the same again, without the wry smile of John (with his hearing aid well turned up!) and the warm embrace of Barbara – and of course the most welcome cup of tea! Now that was something special!

Farewell John, dear friend.

Charles Trevelyan.

Leaving the club

We unfortunately have to resign our ASOC membership as we are about to switch to a non-Auto-Sleeper 'van, and have put our 1998 Duetto on the market. (I did consider replacing the Duetto with a Topaz, as I want a VW-based vehicle with automatic gear shift, but I also want four belted seats, not three, as we have recently become grandparents and need to be able to transport our grandchildren safely!)

We are sorry to leave ASOC, having been members since purchasing the Duetto almost new nearly 15 years ago; we have not been active ralliers, but have enjoyed reading, and occasionally contributing to, the newsletter, and consulting the website.

I must apologise for not letting you know sooner, but we have been away.

Thank you for all the good work you have been doing for the members of ASOC,
yours sincerely,

Petronella Clark (and Lionel Sylvester) 3617

National Rally

Sales and Wanted Board

This is situated in the Stuart Goodwin Hall again.

If you would like to place an Advert it MUST contain:

**MOTORHOME MODEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER
ROW IN WHICH YOUR VEHICLE IS SITUATED**

Please see me in the hall to have it put on the board.

A donation for the weekend charity of £1 to place the advert is suggested.

A further donation on completion of a successful transaction would be appreciated.

Ian Rainbow-Wood 07521 813890

Nuevo ES M11MWD

Silver Jubilee Cake Competition

8"/20cm Cake Tin

Cooking time : 1. 1/2 < 1.3/4 hrs

Oven Temp : 325/ Mk 3

Fan: 160< 170

Ingredients

12 oz/350g mixed dried fruit
8 oz/225g butter
8 oz/225g soft brown sugar
14fl oz/400ml milk
1lb/450g s.r. flour
1 teaspoon/5ml bicarb of soda
1 teaspoon/5ml mixed spice
2 off large beaten eggs

Method

Preheat oven to 160/325/3.

Butter and line tin.

Put fruit into large pan, add butter, sugar and bring slowly to the boil.

When melted, cook for 2 mins. Remove and cool slightly.

Sift flour with bicarb + spices and stir into pan.

Add the milk + egg mixture with fruit in pan.

Mix well together.

Pour into tin and smooth surface.

Bake Until firm, test with skewer

Leave in tin to cool for 20<30mins and then turn out onto rack.

Please take your cake to the Stuart Goodwin Hall between 2.00 and 4.00pm Friday afternoon for judging.

Mo Valentine

Photographic Competition 2014

Photos to be judged at the National Rally and will all be on display.

Set Subject category

**MUST contain at least 1 Auto Sleeper Motorhome.
On or off a rally but preferably on.**

Open Subject

Anything at all, on or off a rally.

Up to 2 images can be entered in each category. ONLY Sizes not to exceed either 6 x 4 inches or 7 x 5 inches.

In each category there will be:

1st prize £15.00 2nd Prize £10.00 3rd Prize £5.00.

During the National Rally an overall winner will be selected by attending members voting. The winner will be awarded a £20.00 prize.

Closing date: April 21st 2014, no entries will be accepted after this date.

Got to be worth entering with a possible top prize of £35.00.

Photos to be sent to :

Jean Hollingsworth
24 Norton Grove
Kingston upon Hull
HU4 6HL

Please ensure the correct postage otherwise I need to go and collect from the post office and pay additional postage charges.

Jean Hollingsworth

2014 National rally

Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion

The Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion will be open on Friday and Saturday.

There will be a jigsaw selling table so please bring your jigsaws to sell for the charity fund.

There will be a bring and buy table of motorhome parts so please bring your unwanted motorhome parts to sell for the charity fund.

There will be a book stall so please bring books to sell for the charity fund.

There will be a table for the cake competition, please look out for the recipe in this newsletter

Baz Wellard will have his usual table for technical information, also a table for 25 years of pictures and memorabilia.

HOBBIES:- If anyone would like to display or demonstrate a hobby please contact me A.S.A.P on 01484604133, stuwd@yahoo.co.uk.

Stuart Wood.

2013 Charity Report

At last year's National Rally, Medical Detection Dogs was the chosen charity and I was amazed and delighted to receive a cheque for £2000. The attachment shows a young recipient of a trained dog as she explains the difference Magic has made to her life. Thanks again to all who contributed.

Doreen Turner 6150

"Every time I look at Magic' I feel proud and honoured to have him in my life.

He has given me the confidence to keep on going, keep on fighting, and to beat down the barriers that diabetes has thrown up. I've never been a quitter, but its been a lot harder over the years and I had started questioning what I was doing. Not any more. You said that many people had found the training hard at the start, but I guess I didn't and thinking on it, it's probably because it was a distraction to my usual worries, and I could see a way out.

I'm sure that first alert within half an hour of my first day was the key. It was obvious then that this was going to work, rather than waiting ages for it to possibly happen and the endless worry and questions as to whether it would work and was it the right decision for me".

Whys & Wherefores!

As it is a quiet time of the year for Rally reports, it might be a good opportunity to explain some of the Membership Secretary's 'procedures' in answer to queries received during the Membership Renewal period.

The recurrent bug-bear seems to be the requirement of subscriptions to be paid by cheque. For a number of you the ASOC cheque may be the only one written each year, BUT as an annual Renewal Form has to be sent to the Membership Secretary to ensure Members' details are kept up to date, payment needs to be received at the same time in order for Membership Cards to be issued. Therefore a cheque (or Postal Order) really is the simplest method to process. It is also important to remember that not all Members have access to the internet and on past experience, it is not practical to operate various systems of payment. For those who rally, payment by cheque is the only acceptable method.

It is amazing how many Members' details change during the year and many are only picked up when checking the database with the Renewal Form.

(Keeping correct information is a requirement of a Company Limited by Guarantee). The reason for the colour change is to assist filing and administration, so forms not received on the relevant 'colour of the year' have to be photocopied onto the correct paper which is time consuming and wasteful. The same is applicable when an Application Form is used in place of a Renewal form, as Applications are processed differently.

The Membership year ends on 31st December – a busy time for most of us – which is why Renewal Forms are sent out two months in advance, with plenty of reminders, so that they can be completed and returned before the Christmas rush, they get lost or are thrown away.

Newsletter labels are sent to the Printer on the 10th day of the previous month, therefore any changes received after that date cannot take place until the following month. This is particularly relevant at the beginning of the year as Members renewing after the 10th January will not receive the February Newsletter.

The use of Membership Numbers is a simple way of identifying members when searching the database and can be found on the Membership Card, but beware, we have had several members already claiming '2013' or '2014'! Your number is also on the Newsletter address label.

Hopefully this will clarify some of the 'rules and regulations' put in place to make life more convenient for the Committee Members in general and the Membership Secretary in particular!

Jill Bertlin

Peugeot Panel Vans with Dark Windows

Shirley and I have found out the hard way that the darkened windows on Peugeot panel van conversions not only have darkened glass but ALSO have a plastic film on the inside to darken them further.

This plastic film can easily be damaged by scratching or as we did removing the advertising blurb placed on back windows. It brought the film off with it!

Chris & Shirley Sturgeon 2897

Water Ingress to Habitation Door

We wonder if anyone else who has a 2011 Broadway EL has had the same problem as we have.

If we drive through very wet weather with nearside puddles water comes into the foot-well.

Marquis have fitted a deflector under the van but we still had water ingress on the way back from having this done.

Could it be coming in the vent at the bottom of the door and what could we do about it? We presume this vent is for gas safety purposes.

Val and Alistair Evans 7803 Email vita@uku.co.uk

Ventilation baffle: The fitting of the baffle in front of the vent will normally cure the problem but perhaps, in this case, a larger baffle may be practical? Alternatively consider fitting front mudflaps – however they cannot be fitted on early Broadways with ‘running boards’. **Note:** It is not recommended to block the gas vent.

Door seal: To check if it might be the door seal - cut a narrow piece of sturdy polythene, place it in the door jamb and shut the door. Ideally it should give some resistance as you gently pull it and move it around.”

Baz

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

National Rally:

This year as it's the Club's Silver Anniversary we will have several archive photograph albums from 1989 to 2006 on the Technical Table; as well as two scrap books; a folder on 'how it all

began' plus other relevant literature and some older Club memorabilia. To view any of the items you are welcome to take them back to the tables, whilst you have a cup of tea or coffee. Please do not remove any items; but if there is a specific photo(s) or other item you would like please let me know and I will send a copy on to you. *(An SAE would be welcome).*

As with previous years we will have the technical table open on Friday & Saturday, where you are welcome to come and ask any questions; view some of the Club's technical library or simply come along for a natter. Following last year's successful attendance by Alan Curry (A~S Customer Service Manager) he will be again in attendance to respond to members' specific problems on Friday morning. In the afternoon we will have the regular Question and Answer session where Senior Managers, from A~S, will respond to your more generic queries, comments and opinions.

If you haven't yet booked for the rally yet there is still time.

LPG – When Travelling.

In Mo Valentine's article (January newsletter), she advised that should the French Gendarmerie stop you, when motoring and you have the gas [LPG] 'on' then you could expect a fine of up to €1500!

Following Mo's article David Seaward wrote to me pointing out that A~S models with an LPG tank no longer have a master on/off valve, and this would mean either crawling underneath the van to the LPG tank's valve or having to turn off each individual red gas valve in the vehicle before moving. [N.B Includes the Channel Tunnel and Ferries].

Auto~Sleepers have confirmed that current installation is approved by the NCC and complies with the:-

- "Code of Practice 306 'Motorhomes – Fixed LPG tanks for habitation purposes'".

The A~S model handbooks typically states:-

- "**Preparing for the road 3.2.4** Turn off all gas appliances, except heating appliances designed to function while the vehicle is in motion. Ensure that the red isolation taps are in the "off" position. If fitted with a gas locker ensure that the gas cylinders are securely restrained and that the door is closed and locked."

Hopefully, at the next meeting with A~S, we will discuss whether easier access to the 'red' valves would be possible or if a master valve is an option

DVSA:

Perhaps of passing interest: - VOSA (Vehicle & Operator Services Agency) and DSA (Driving Standards Agency) will be combining and forming the new DVSA (Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency).

Vehicle Weights:

I've mentioned before the advantage of having your motorhome weighed to check that you are within the law and covered by your insurance. Now Portugal, like many other countries, deploy mobile electronic weighbridges. Apparently the Portuguese police are acting in a pleasant and polite manner, but if your van is overweight you can expect a nasty fine!

Website Supplementary Updates:

Please note that, due to their lesser importance, supplementary club website updates will not always be individually publicised using the 'grouped' e-mail listing.

Accordingly you might wish to occasionally visit the 'update' page of the website to view latest updates?

Website Supplementary Updates:

- **01a/14 – Rally List** – Prestwood rally added
- **01b/14 – Rally List** – Huntingdon rally changed to Sheringham, on the same dates.
- **01c/14 – Technical** – Ideas Sheet No. 231 – Easier access to water pressure switch
- **01d/14 – Technical** – Fuel details for a Sussex DUO Euro V engine.
- **01e/14 – Technical** – Ideas Sheet No. 232 - Extra security for monocoque habitation door

Baz

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 8624 to 8649

Bob & Sandie Frost	Plymouth	Kingham
Roger Craven	Gnosall	Dorset
Nick Dawson	Aberdeen	Symphony
David Jones & Siobhan Gilliland	Edinburgh	Nuevo
Steve & Kate Taylor	Wigan	Nuevo
Paul & Janet Conway	Ottery St Mary	Devon
Russell Middleton & Carol Latham	North Walsham	Warwick
Peter & Joanne Walton	Whitehaven	Broadway
Pam Kent & Simon Leach	Middlesborough	Symbol
Harvie & Elaine Carswell	Lindfield	Symbol
Rob Clay & Laura Ferguson	Belper	Broadway
Rupert & Rosemary Adkins	St Austell	Broadway
Doug & Brenda Averis	Lichfield	Bourton
Dick & Maureen Cowley	Ely	Nuevo
Jonathan Lamming & Lucy Hallam	Buckfastleigh	Rambler
Malcolm & Sylvia Powles	Pulham Market	Pollensa
David & Barbara Colwill	Barnard Castle	Nuevo
Barry & Wnedy Bramley	Farsley	Warwick
Dave & Jan Bromage	Stratford	Bourton
Simon & Julie Starkey	Ashby de la Zouch	Symbol
Derek & Judith Cahill	Yardley Hastings	Stanton
Den & Brenda Read	Barnstaple	Amethyst
Derek & Julie Sutton	Alford	Nuevo
Anthony & Beatrice Babb	Orpington	Nuevo
John & Cath Dobson	Exeter	Sussex
David & Pam Hoare	Plymouth	Nuevo

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 Broadway EL Duo for sale.

Registered Late Dec 2012.
Includes Bike Rack. Awn-
ing. Alloys. Cruise Control.

Only 4,900 miles.
All Warrantees and fully
serviced. £46,000

Tel: **07516 988643**

(Northamptonshire)

Club Regalia

New Grill Badge £7.65

Fixing screws and nuts not included

Lapel Badge £4.25

Baseball caps Red Trim £7.20

Personal metal badges £5.65

and much more

P&P from £1.50 or £2.50 for shirts

Contact Regalia Officer on
01623 627903

Full Details on ASOC Website

Auto-sleeper Amethyst 1998

£15,500 48,000 miles
MOT September.
Turbo Diesel/Air ride
Solar panel and inverter
Shower/toilet
Kitchen/fridge/full oven
Dual heating
Dual water heater
Service history

For further information please
call **01935 863837**
(sian@jinkses.com)

1998 Auto-Sleeper Duetto for sale.

only 75000 miles. 2 berths (or
double bed), 3 belted seats.
Bike rack. Wind-out awning.
TV aerial (never used by us).
New tyres.

Full service record. Full set of
crockery!
Much loved, in very good
condition. Photos available.
£12000.

Contact Petronella or Lionel,
tel **01458 442000**
(Somerset),
Or email:
petronellaclark@yahoo.com