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

*A Company Limited by Guarantee  
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Registered No: 4616969*



**Initial Meeting: From L to R Charles Trevelyan; Neville Jelfs; Frank Stinchcombe and John Cox (with his 'Tuxedo Junction' VW in the background)**

## ***NEWSLETTER 308***

### ***May 2014***

## Committee Members

|   |                   |  |              |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>President</b>                              | Charles Trevelyan |  |              |
| <b>Chairman</b>                               | Andy Cavell       | chairman@asoc.uk.com                           | 01635 201976 |
| <b>Secretary</b>                              | John Osland-Jones | secretary@asoc.uk.com                          | 01217 448065 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                              | Peter Brown       |  | 07771 827711 |
| <b>Vice-Chairman</b>                          | Jill Bertlin      |  | 01539 534500 |
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| <b>Webmaster &amp; Chair, Tech Group</b>      | Baz Wellard       | webmaster@asoc.uk.com<br>technical@asoc.uk.com | 01329 231259 |
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| <b>Membership Secretary</b>                   | Jill Bertlin      | Jbertlin@aol.com                               | 01539 534500 |
| <b>Chairman, National Rally Sub Committee</b> | Al Bucket         | nationalrally@asoc.uk.com                      | 01304 369149 |
| <b>Minutes Secretary</b>                      | Alan Waugh        |  | 01392 271955 |
| <b>Committee Member</b>                       | Mike Valentine    | commember1@asoc.uk.com                         | 02392 482818 |
| <b>Committee Member</b>                       | Gill Hopkins      | Commember2@asoc.uk.com                         | 01244 675180 |

|                       |   |                          |    |
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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



It has been a quiet time this last month with no rallies to attend but that is not unusual. The weather has been mixed with some nice days and the ground is slowly drying out and spring is definitely in the air as trees are blossoming and new shoots appearing.

I had good intentions to catch up with the garden but stumbled on powdered gravel and ended up with a lot of dirt imbedded in my palms which stopped me doing much for 2 weeks and then had to stay indoors because of high pollution in the air!! I did manage to get the grass raked before this however. Pat went off to New Zealand and Perth for 3 weeks so I spent most of my time looking after Number One!

I also need to spend a bit of time getting the Ravenna ready for the season including a thorough clean on the outside so I am hoping for some nice sunny days but it's been a bit changeable at present. I must confess that I find this less easy to do these days.

I am looking forward to seeing many members at Newark although this newsletter will be posted during that time. Remember to take your April newsletter and all the AGM papers. Last year Mick our printer managed to get this out a bit earlier for the benefit of those attending but Neil usually posts up the latest rally supplement anyway.

**Deadline for the next newsletter will be by the 10<sup>th</sup> May** and any contributions can be sent to me at [daveatasoc@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com) or by post to the address below. The more the merrier I will be!

*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.

## Chairman's Chat



By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will be heading towards Newark for the National Rally and the Annual General Meeting which takes place that weekend. As the Club is celebrating its twenty fifth anniversary this year it promises to be a special event and early indications are that the attendance will be high. Let's hope the weather is kind to us!

As many of you will know, this rally is organised by Al and Barb Buckett and the National Rally Sub-Committee who all do an absolutely splendid job. After leading the team for several years, Al and Barb have decided it is nearly time to hand over to someone else. They have very kindly given us lots of warning and will be organising the 2015 Rally. However it would be nice to have somebody to work with them over the next twelve months to see how it is done and be ready to take over when the time comes.

Is this something you would be interested in doing? If you are, please get in touch with me – contact details are inside the front cover of the newsletter. If you would like to know more about what is involved, Al and Barb will be very happy to provide information and advice.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Andy

### **Topsham Rugby Club Rally Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August-Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

As ACCEO have given us permission, this year the Topsham Rugby Club Rally will be for six nights.

This means that ralliers will be able to enjoy more of the Town Fayre events or have more time to venture further afield.

Booking details will be in the July Newsletter. Remember, book early!

*Liz & Bryn Morgan*

## The Inaugural Rally

The inaugural Rally at Cirencester was a very happy occasion and it was there Ven and I made our first friends. The majority of members were mature which is why so many will be missing from the 25th. Anniversary. One young couple we met were Heather and John Tidbury with their two delightful children then aged about seven and five years, now both grown and married.

In the early days of the Club Ven and I were working and had elderly parents to care for which meant we were not able to attend many rallies. I recall the first rally John Cox ran at Don Ammots in Derbyshire. It was a green field site with good weather which meant we all gathered on the field to chat. The highlight was a visit to a Music Hall show at a Victorian Theatre, the coach taking us appeared as old as the theatre at times. We wondered if it would get us back. Then there was their first Rally in Ireland where the electrics left a lot to be desired. The most we saw of Dennis Oxley was his rear end protruding from the electric box. This was not helped by a member who refused to carry gas but had a household electric fire to keep her dogs warm. She left the site early on to go to the next one but the owner sent her packing and we never saw her again. We attended many rallies run by Daisy and George Wane in the Lake District.

Later when I was on the Committee Ven and I assisted at and ran quite a few rallies and enjoyed them all. We assisted Sheila and Ivor many times in the Dordogne, Ian and Jean in Germany and at Topsham and Ireland with Liz and Bryn.

For 23 years until Ven became ill A.S.O.C. was a big part of our life and I miss it.

25 years for a one make club must be a first and is due in no small part to the dedication of the Committee and the dedicated members who support them. Autosleepers too have always supported and encouraged the club.

I wish you all a very happy and successful rally I will be thinking of you all

Best wishes for the future.

*Nora Venables No. 0104*

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### **Mercedes Spare Wheel Solution**

We purchased an Autosleeper Suffolk in November 2010 having moved from a Gatcombe. The Suffolk is our 7th Auto-Sleeper. Apart from the normal teething troubles we have been very pleased with the comfort, quality and performance of this Mercedes based Auto-Sleeper.

However, after a few months, the “no spare wheel” problem started to nudge. Since purchase we have been in regular and patient discussion with Mark and his colleagues at the Auto Sleeper Service Centre about the possibility of fitting a spare wheel. There seemed to be some difficulty in siting the spare wheel edged by expensive provisos like the size and siting of the fresh water tank. This made us live with the discomfort.

It became a real issue when a year ago we had a very slow puncture. The new season 2014 led to a decision to explore the spare wheel fitting more seriously. We decided to take the Suffolk to Auto Sleeper Service Centre to bring the possibility to earth.

As always we were pleasantly welcomed. The Suffolk was ramped and inspected. We were fortunate to already have a small fresh water tank and space enough for its re-siting to the rear of the Suffolk making room for the carrier and wheel in front of the tank.

A price was given, parts were ordered that included out-riggers to support the rather weak front steps into the cab.

The work was completed according to plan and all provisional deadlines were met and the work was cosmetically far better than I expected.

We returned to Wales with a new confidence in the Suffolk and are looking forward to the new season.

Our grateful thanks to Mark and Paul who planned and ensured that the work was done, also the receptionist for making our stay so pleasant and welcoming. This has always been our experience over many years of motor-caravanning with our Auto-Sleepers, years that reach back to the late 1960's.

*J. Barrie Williams*

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## **Thanks**

"I would like to thank everybody for the cards and messages of support I received following Harry's sudden death.

It was a great comfort to me, and I know that he would have been very grateful. I am going to keep the van, so if you see me around please come and say hello.

Sheila Henthorne

## Letters to the Editor

I totally agree with Pam Holtom's views relating to bereaved members still paying for the monthly Newsletter, that they should receive a rally list for each year. In the spring of 2012 Keith and I had to sell our Autosleeper owing to his illness. However, as we had for the year received a rally list, we were able to come to Lichfield, stay in a hotel and visit friends on the rally site. That was just two days before he commenced his chemotherapy.

On that occasion we brought several items which we felt would be of use to members. Sadly, Keith died in November of that year.

Last year I asked a club member to send me a copy of the rally list as I intended spending a day with friends who were at the Lichfield rally.

However, I could not get to Lichfield owing to viewing a property but I was able to meet an ASOC member on his way from a North Wales rally to Lichfield and once again I handed over some useful items for members.

When a member has to leave a club owing to the sad passing of a husband or wife, he or she is helped by continued friendship with folk who have given tremendous support during the illness and this should not be forgotten. Therefore, I feel it is very important for folk, like Pam and myself, to receive rally lists to enable us to catch up with ASOC friends, on a day visit, who are nearby at a rally.

*Rita Anne Taylor 4297*

I readily admit to not being a particularly active member of the Owner's Club and initially joined to be kept updated about Auto-Sleeper's from a technical rather than wanting to take part in rallies.

Regarding the letter from Pam Holtom in the April 2014 Newsletter, it does seem very petty, under the circumstances, not to include details of Rallies when sending out her newsletter and I would have thought the work involved in producing some newsletters without the Rally details for a few members must be considerable.

Given that Auto-Sleepers are making a great deal about their latest panel vans achieving Grade 3 insulation status, how about an article suggesting ways that owners of panel van conversions can reduce the heat losses from their existing vehicles.

*Nick Rayner Membership No 6451*

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## **Do You Require one of the Gas Urns/Water Boiler for your Rally?**

Members who are running Rallies this year and would like an Urn/water boiler and have not booked same for your rally with either:

Mike Valentine (02392 482818) in the South

Jan Hicklin ( 01246 236157) in the Midlands

Neil Rogers (01325 374540) in the North, would you please do so.

Arrangements can then be made to transport the gas bottle and urn to you.

## **Talbot Spare Parts**

Others, like me, with these venerable vehicles ,will probably like to know of an enthusiastic supplier of used spares - Mikes Talbot Parts c/o No 1 Gear - Mail Order Motorhomes Part Sales And Service, 07976 709156, Motorcross House, Mill Lane, Chard, Somerset. TA20 2AP. [sales@no1gear.com](mailto:sales@no1gear.com) [www.no1gear.com](http://www.no1gear.com)  
Mike Chubb is the very friendly proprietor.

There you are - hope it's of use to some members

*Jim Cresswell (0859)*

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## **Service Centre Discounts and Others**

I recently had my habitation check at the Service Centre and failed to mention my ASOC membership and so missed out on the 10% discount.

Now I know there are notices in the office that membership cards must be shown in advance, nevertheless, it leaves one with a negative feeling after the event. It is as if the discount is only grudgingly offered.

If the discount is meant as a form of loyalty bonus for members, it would seem reasonable to be asked if one had a membership card at the time of booking in. Am I alone in this belief?

*Terry Harvey 2305*

Ed: The moral seems to be that ASOC members should discuss in advance. If you don't ask, you don't get!

## **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.

# 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)

## TV Satellite Reception on the Continent:

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter the proposed (then) new configuration of the TV satellites is likely to affect the reception of receiving UK TV signals, when on the Continent.

The change has now been completed and it has had a dramatic change to reception in Southern Spain, Portugal, and possibly Southern France & other countries due to the much smaller 'footprint'. With the previous satellites a 1metre receiving dish was sufficient to receive UK T.V, however the new footprint requires a 2 metre (plus) dish.

We have never had satellite TV so it has not affected us. However many campers and ex-pats are, as expected, very disappointed and annoyed.

If you have the need to use a satellite on the Continent for UK TV you might wish to check whether the area you will be visiting is affected by the change in the satellites' 'footprint'.

## Deals For Members:

In last April's newsletter I mentioned that I had bought 4 stainless steel valve extensions from a small company - Motorhome Essentials. Since then they have kindly agreed to give a 10% discount to our members.

However, differently to other Members' Deals, they prefer to implement an ASOC voucher system on their own website [www.motorhomeessentials.co.uk](http://www.motorhomeessentials.co.uk) The first voucher code is **ASOC414** which will give you a 10% discount off any item up until 31<sup>st</sup> May.

If all goes well they will send me a new voucher code valid for each following two months when they have new products to market. Should you wish to purchase from Motorhome Essentials after 31<sup>st</sup> May contact me for the current voucher code.

### **Cab Mat(s):**

Driving in particularly hilly regions recently I noticed that the acceleration/power on my Talisman was dropping off quite considerably. Luckily, the reason turned out to be very simple. My single cab matt had slipped under the accelerator pedal stopping it going any lower. Fortunately it was not under the brake pedal!

I have since taken advantage of the Motorhome Essentials' offer (*see paragraph above*), and received a 10% discount off a £25\* a full width non-slip cab mat (p&p £7.50), which arrived 10.00am the next day. (*\*Some other outlets charge £49.95.*)

If you have single mats you may wish to check that they are non-slip?

### **Speed Cameras in Spain:**

You may recall in the June 2013 issue I reported that French officials and Sat Nav providers had agreed to modify the use of Sat Navs to identify '**safety zones**', rather than 'speed cameras'. Sat Nav providers modified their software accordingly.

There is now a possibility that a similar problem may affect Sat Nav use in Spain. Consideration is being given to banning the use of 'Radar Detectors' (*presume they mean safety cameras*) in vehicles. If such legislation becomes adopted one would hope that Sat Nav providers can negotiate a solution, as before?

### **Auto Sleepers New 'Mobile' Website:**

Auto-Sleepers have now launched a new mobile version of their website, increasing the accessibility to customers 'on

the go'. Members, & other owners, can now keep up to date with the latest Auto-Sleepers' news, models and much more, from their mobile devices.

**And Finally:** Please remember to add your membership number to all Club communications.

Baz

**Regalia will be on sale at the Sir Stuart Pavilion at The Newark Showground at the National Rally.**

**Full details on what is available can be seen on the Club's Website at [www.asoc.uk.com](http://www.asoc.uk.com)**

## **A Warm Welcome to New Members**

Membership Numbers from 8672 to 8707

|                          |                 |          |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Gordon & Wendy Carr      | Skipton         | Nuevo    |
| Jim Cullen               | Belper          | Pollensa |
| Andy & Steph Baker       | Newhall         | Bourton  |
| Phil Mercer              | Derby           | Topaz    |
| Bryan & Annie Merton     | Leicester       | Trooper  |
| Michael & Lyn Taylor     | Littleover      | Trooper  |
| Roy & Sue Huxley         | Tunbridge Wells | Kemerton |
| Andrew & Toni Fairclough | Leyland         | Broadway |
| Val Harvey               | Neath           | Clubman  |
| Lawrence Daveron         | Rochdale        | Kingham  |

|                               |                     |            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Alan & Ann Parsons            | Thame               | Broadway   |
| Tom & Michele Gilroy          | Ruislip             | Broadway   |
| Cliff & Lucille Middleton     | Gainsborough        | Duetto     |
| Charlie & Val Thomson         | Weston-Super-Mare   | Symbol     |
| Glyn Wright                   | Manchester          | Clubman    |
| Sue Kelly & Mike Cloy         | Potters Bar         | Broadway   |
| Andy & Joanne Willcock        | Bournemouth         | Inca       |
| Brian & Carol Glassup         | Llanfairfechan      | Kingham    |
| Dave & Barbara Summers        | Newcastle upon Tyne | Winchcombe |
| Gerry Pussard & Lesley Styles | Southsea            | Symbol     |
| Neil Featherstone             | Hull                | Broadway   |
| James McIntyre & Alys Lawrie  | Lockerbie           | Symphony   |
| Stan & Barbara Matthews       | Wirral              | Windsor    |
| Jeff & Karen Green            | Cullompton          | Symbol     |
| David & Katherine Wharton     | Peterlee            | Warwick    |
| Eric & Shirley Henderson      | Lockerbie           | Clubman    |
| Alistair & Karen Lee          | Angus               | Duetto     |
| Richard & Janice Barker       | Malton              | Kemerton   |
| David & Valerie Brindley      | Bearsted            | Nuevo      |
| Timothy & Kate Bunn           | Derby               | Trooper    |
| Moira Hague                   | Rotherham           | Trident    |
| Alistair & Elizabeth Jones    | Nottingham          | Nuevo      |
| Robin & Brenda Penn           | Huntingdon          | Broadway   |
| Danny & Avril Thompson        | Oakham              | Warwick    |
| Rob & Cheryl Wall             | Shrewsbury          | Warwick    |
| Clive & Kathleen Green        | Lancaster           | Executive  |

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



Thanks for your  
Donations .

### **AUTO-SLEEPERS LANCASHIRE (NUEVO) ES**

4 berth 2011 model. Mileage 4358.

Excellent condition

Registered by Marquis Motorhomes in August 2011 and purchased by us non smokers in September 2011.

Peugeot Boxer 2.2 diesel. 6 speed gears.

Cruise control. End kitchen.

Cab and habitation air con. 2 rear passenger seat belts. Swivel cab seats.

Over cab bed. Built in awning.

Dual airbags. Microwave. Oven with grill, gas hobs and electric hotplate, TV + aerial. Single bed option.

Corner steadies. Gas/electric space and water heaters. Well designed shower/toilet unit. Reversing camera.

Length 5.63m, unladen weight 2975kg.

Full service history £38,000

tel: **01823 601166** (Somerset)

email: **david.munden61@btinternet.com**

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### **VW PARTS FOR SALE**

**Vanstyle** 6 bar front grill set S/Steel new £ 25  
VW T5

Decal dash kit carbon new £ 35 VW T5 Kari-tek  
roof bar cross rail kit new £ 45.

2x 5 Litre of long life oil 5/30 £ 35.

**Flowjet R3426 pump** & sink tap boxed new  
£ 75

20 alloy wheel nut covers for 19mm £10.

Radio wiring converting kit & plastic pocket £ 5

Fiamma bike block pro 2 & 3 for cycle carriers  
new £ 20 the pair

VW T 4 cab seat swivel new £60

Avtex STH 1000 TV Antenna boxed new £35.

I can e-mail photos of any of the above.

Derek. **01494815604**

**AUTO-SLEEPER LEGEND.** Ford Transit 2.5TD. 2001. 39500 miles. Large rear lounge, Double/single beds, above cab beds, 3 way fridge. Full oven, grill, 4 gas hobs. Microwave, gas & electric heating. Fresh and waste water tanks. Shower cubicle and toilet. Fiamma awning. Fixed 90 watt solar panel. New leisure battery. Vision Plus 550 Ariel. FSH. Reluctant sale due to medical problems. Nice condition and ready to go. Non smokers or pets £16950.  
Tel: **01262 606634** John (Bridlington)

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**VW T4 Autosleeper Clubman 1993.**  
£10,000 ono. 51,000 miles. MOT until September. FSH. Only 1 previous owner. Always been "in the Club!" Usual fittings ie full oven, heater, hot water, wc/shower. Large LPG tank to service these utilities, plus engine runs on LPG/Petrol. Silver Screen,  
Solar panel, TV & aerial. Engine starts first time and has never let us down! A few signs of wear, inside but excellent bodywork. A very much loved vehicle but without my husband I cannot face camping alone so hence the sale. Tel: Joan on **01932 869903** (Surrey) or email **tojo@uwclub.net**

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### **For Sale**

**Thule** towball mounted twin cycle rack with fitted lighting board £60

**Camping gaz 907** cylinder with regulator £10

**Wastemaster** water container £20

**Stronghold** high security wheelclamp for 14" – 16" wheels £15

Telephone Peter **02089 530550** (Herts)