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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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"Parked Up" at Beamish Museum

NEWSLETTER 313

October 2014

Committee Members

President	Charles Trevelyan		
Chairman	Andy Cavell	chairman@asoc.uk.com	01635 201976
Secretary	John Osland-Jones	oslandjones@aol.com	01217 448065
Treasurer	Peter Brown		07771 827711
Vice-Chairman	Jill Bertlin		01539 534500
Rally Co-ordinator	Neil Rogers	ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk	01325 374540
Webmaster & Chair, Tech Group	Baz Wellard	webmaster@asoc.uk.com technical@asoc.uk.com	01329 231259
Regalia Officer	John Jones		01623 627903
Newsletter Editor	David Mayne	daveatasoc@virginmedia.com	07745 330304
Membership Secretary	Jill Bertlin	Jbertlin@aol.com	01539 534500
Chairman, National Rally Sub Committee	Al Buckett	nationalrally@asoc.uk.com	01304 369149
Minutes Secretary	Alan Waugh		01392 271955
Committee Member	Mike Valentine	commember1@asoc.uk.com	02392 482818
Committee Member	Gill Hopkins	Commember2@asoc.uk.com	01244 675180

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From the Editor



Obviously at this time of year, most of us are making use of our motorhomes, be it for rallies, holidays or in the pursuit of our hobbies. We have also had some good weather apart from a few rainy days – typically British! Pat and I enjoyed the rallies at Malvern Show and at Beamish Museum and we have just returned after a few days in Skegness to break the return journey!

I am receiving plenty of rally reports so please keep this coming in. This newsletter is for you members so if there is anything that you can write about, that would be of interest to other members, then please write to me.

I have received a few phone calls and emails regarding getting an item into the “For Sale” page and I would remind everybody that details are in the small print at the bottom of page 2 opposite. A reminder that donations are voluntary but help to fund the newsletter a bit and they usually range between £5 and £25, dependant on value of the items for sale.

As we are at the ACCEO rally at Towcester (1st to 6th), don't expect a confirmation of receipt of any emails until I return on 9th October after a committee meeting. I hope there will be plenty in my inbox as well as in the post!

Deadline for the November Newsletter will be by 10th October and you can contact me at daveatasoc@virginmedia.com or send by post to my 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.

Chairman's Chat

I am writing this month's chat sitting in the sun at our Azay-le-Rideau rally surrounded by apparently happy ralliers. At least they should be happy given the amount of wine that has been consumed already!



For me being in France is always a pleasure whatever the weather. I feel comfortable here and enjoy the ability to turn up at a campsite and find a pitch without booking months in advance. The welcome for motor homes in every town and village contrasts markedly with the UK where height barriers and jobsworth car park attendants conspire to make most towns inaccessible.

During last winter I have to confess that I became so disillusioned with motorcaravanning in the UK that I even had conversations with management about alternative ways of spending our leisure time. In retrospect I realise that this was prompted by the difficulty in doing anything on the spur of the moment and also an unpleasant experience with one of the major clubs when we had to cancel at short notice due to illness. The resultant letter threatening me with dire consequences - including suspension of my membership - should I transgress again really upset me.

Fortunately being back in France has restored my equanimity and being surrounded by our fellow ASOC members has reminded me what it is all about and confirmed my wish to continue motorcaravanning.

However, I suspect that the big club sites won't be seeing much of us in the future.

See you down the road.

Andy

Calling all Broadway FB owners

Would all Broadway FB owners care to contact me after the 1st October, **Mike. 023 9248 2818**. So that we may have a chat about your van. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Rally Reports

Fort Paull Rally

The few days we spent at Fort Paull were very enjoyable. The fort is an extremely interesting site with many fascinating features. A little "tired" in places but with unlimited entry when rallying, there was something different to find on each visit. The social evening organised by Jean and Dave in the old railway carriage was much enjoyed and this is a rally we shall try and attend again in the future.

Heather & Mike Tucker (5477)

Chidham Rally

On Monday August 4th we hesitantly and shyly followed the clear ASOC signs into "The Orchard Farm" site near Chidham. The signs lead us to Trisha and Mike Rowler's van for a genuinely warm welcome and "Rally Pack" on behalf of ASOC. On opening our pack we were boldly identified as first time ralliers. Also in the pack we found local information together with the invitation to evening tea and coffee gatherings each evening during the rally. At the first of these gatherings our shyness evaporated within the first few minutes. At that first evening we chatted to Rita and John Tubb who were helping Trisha and Mike and very soon our circle of new friends included the twenty or so outfits gathered around the tea and coffee tents.

During the four days we took our Topaz to Uppark House and Chidham Church while others cycled and walked around the coastline and pretty Bosham. We took Jack, our collie, on the local bus into Chichester and visited the lovely Cathedral (leaving Jack securely tied in the shade outside.) ASOC couldn't have planned the weather any better, the sunshine was door to door! We had one heavy downpour overnight which stressed our awning to bending point but caused no permanent damage. All in all a great experience we'll certainly be looking at the magazine and our diaries for our next ASOC rally.

Thanks to Mike, Trisha, Rita and John and everyone for making us so welcome at our first rally.

Rhys & Mel (& Jack) 7878

Thank You

I would like to say a big Thank You to both John & Rita Tubb for stepping into our shoes to assist in the running of the Chidham Rally, which I gather was a success and enjoyed by all.

Whilst on a weeks holiday I suffered severe balance problems due to a conflict between my Parkinsons medication and some travel medication. I ended up in the main hospital in Angouleme for a complete check up and ended up with a new knee and our one week holiday turned into a six week stay with two weeks in hospital all of which was quite an experience. The medical treatment I received was second to none!

Mike Valentine

Whitby Rally

Whitby rally was a triumph
We really learned a lot
We picked your brains for advice
Most of it we forgot

We will have to join a rally
To remember all those tips
And keep our motor home intact
And not in several bits

We thank you all for friendship
A good time had by all
Even though it rained a bit
We really had a ball

Thank you marshalls for all your hard work

Tony and Linda Green 8709
(first time ralliers)

Winchester Rally

Yet another successful Rally was held at Winchester Cricket Club. This success is due mainly to the Marshals - Rita and John Tubb and their assistants John and Jean Gutsell.



With buses available at the entrance its convenient to travel not only to Winchester which has many interesting places to visit but also further afield - Isle of Wight, Southampton, Romsey, The Watercress Farm, etc.

Whilst at the rally we celebrated a birthday for someone???? who now gets a free TV licence. His birthday cake was shared with members so not much left for the birthday boy. Everyone had a great time and left happy and looking forward to a return visit next year.

Regards

John and Frances Thomas 7229

Malvern Show Rally

How nice it is to spend time with people who remember Eucryle tooth powder!! The cowboy hats abounded and the country music pulsed, all through the wonderful weekend rally, that was the Western Motor Home Show at Malvern.

Even the sudden gale force gusts of wind, blinding baking sun, (yes, sun not snow), and the grandeur of the Malvern Hills, could not stop the hike to the show enclosure. (I must confess at first being disappointed at our rally field position, those wicked felons the Auto Trailers, having pinched our last year's best spot!)

However I digress, not to be outdone we caught the bus or donned our hiking boots to manfully brave the crowds waiting for the gunfights, indians verses settlers, as portrayed by the Western re-enactment society members, who put on a thrilling show, several times a day. The costumes are fantastic, and it became quite usual to bump into Poncahontis, or a crinoline clad lady, or Wyatt Earp all with spurs and replica weapons, (well not the ladies).

Of course as usual at shows we spent far too much, ate and drank far too much, and consequently had to have an afternoon nap every day!! Thank you Gill, Pat and David for your hard work, even the mucking out pile, from the stable block could not dampen our spirits, and did not smell too much. Best wishes intrepid campers, and see you all next year.

Judith Horner.

The Western Motorhome Show at Malvern

We arrived at the Great Malvern Showground at 1pm on Thursday we followed the signs to the ASOC Rally area where we were met by the Rally Marshals Gill, Dave and Pat who sited us on the rally field. After a look round the area and looking at the programme we realised we were a long way from the main show area and felt a bit disappointed. At 6.30pm we all met at the Rally Marshal's van for a cuppa and to be given the usual helpful information. Gill informed us that she was going to ask the organisers to get the mini bus to call at our Rally area so that we wouldn't have to walk in if we didn't want to.

On Friday, as promised the mini bus came at 10am and we got on the bus with some of our fellow ralliers. We got off just outside the main show area and made our first purchase within five minutes. We spent a nice morning looking round the large show then caught the mini bus back to the rally field for lunch. After lunch we went back for the rest of the afternoon. We congregated at the rally marshals van at 6.30pm for a cuppa and chat then at 8pm four of us went into one of the 3 halls providing the evening entertainment, we had a good night.

Saturday we caught the shuttle bus into Gt Malvern which was running all day, it cost £2 each return and dropped us in the town which is very nice but hilly. We had a look round the shops then at lunch time we found a Whetherspoons where we had lunch but we had to wait for over an hour as it was so busy. I should think more than ¾ of the people in the Pub were from the show. After lunch we walked back to the bus and spent the rest of the afternoon looking round the show.

On Sunday morning we met at the Rally marshal's van for a cuppa and a chat, the Van prize was drawn and Gill closed the Rally which would officially end at 12 noon but we could stay on site until 12 on Monday. We had a last look round the show and after lunch we sat outside in the sun. After dinner we went to one of the halls to watch the Trilogy, which is the finish of the show and all the people belonging to the Lone Star group who were in traditional dress paraded around and made themselves available for photographs.

On Monday we left the site at 9am having thanked our marvellous Rally Marshals, who made the weekend so successful and even organised decent weather for us.

Brian and Eunice Lockett 6486

AZAY LE RIDEAU RALLY

In Azay Le Rideau we ralliers met
With true ASOC spirit prepared to get wet
But from the beginning, the clouds passed us by
And it seemed fairly hopeful we may just stay dry

The sun has shone brightly, the sky has been blue,
With no time to wonder "what shall we do?"
The wine has been supped with friendship galore
We've played horseshoes and boules, had a trip to Samur.

The Cave we enjoyed, though, "Not more wine" was heard
But could we say 'Non' - Oh don't be absurd!
The canoe sailed the river and cycles rode out
We've walked to the town and explored round about.

There's a magical Chateau, a market or two
Restaurants all over and not just a few.
Then back at the rally, some cheese and more wine
Well, we are in the region that grows all those vines!

Too soon comes the time for the final farewells,
The raffle to draw and the champion boules
A BBQ gathering on this last night
"With more wine?" you wonder and you would be right.

So Andy & Angie, Bazil & Dot
Each one of us thanks you with all that we've got
We hope, with these gifts, you will realise, as one
We've enjoyed and appreciate all that you've done

Jill Bertlin

Beamish Rally 2014



We were fortunate to get onto the rally marshaled by Neil & Pauline Rogers assisted by Yvonne & Stuart Wood who looked well in their garb. This was to be our 5th visit to Beamish Museum over the last 20 years.

It had though, been a few years since our last visit so it was pleasing to see the museum was still the pleasant clean and tidy place it always had been. Although you'd be surprised as to how much has changed over

time with the addition of further buildings and the storage of donated items for the next addition, which is going to focus on the fifties era. Looks like we'll have to go again then!

One of the additions since our last visit was a coal fired fish and chip shop which went down very nicely thank you. I believe some people had more than one visit there. One of the changes was to do with the good old H & S regulations. Previously around the museum, people demonstrated cooking and baking methods and used to be able to give out samples of those items. Not now, as it seems it was a dangerous practice and might have caused us harm in some way.....

The weather was very good during the rally allowing those attending to spend time sitting outside, enjoying talking to old friends and welcoming new ones.

Buses ran regularly from the site to enable people to venture further if they wanted.

The quiz winners, Steve & Pam Earnshaw were rewarded with a huge bar of



carbolic soap that could be purchased in the museum if anyone else wanted it!!

Altogether it was a great rally and we look forward to going on the next one, when its on again.

Many thanks to the marshals for all their hard work in making the rally a success.

Jean & Dave Hollingsworth 5968

What a super rally. Neil and Pauline, Stuart and Yvonne worked so hard to ensure that everyone had a good time in this unique setting.

On arrival at Beamish we were welcomed by people from another century who, on closer inspection, looked strangely familiar.

Beamish is amazing with so many areas to visit within the 350 acres. Many of us hardly had time to see it all. The weather was so good and the evening amusements defied description but wellies and cardboard boxes were involved. A good time was had by all. Many thanks to all concerned.

We really appreciated the Golden Wedding card. This shows what thoughtful members we have in ASOC. Thank you.

Jill and Tony Showell 4138

Well ASOC has given us yet another opportunity to visit a part of the country we have not been to before. On our way to Beamish we made time to go and explore part of the Northumberland coast. Part of this expedition included a trip to Holy Island and Lindisfarne Castle and Alnwyk Castle. We were very impressed by the whole coast line in this area.

Then on to Beamish it took us three days to look all around the various exhibits. We travelled on several different trams and two steam trains and looked inside lots of cottages shops and places of work through history including the dentist who told us that a common 21st birthday present was to have all of the birthday girl/boy's teeth removed.

We were able to catch buses from the site to Durham and Newcastle. A pub was just outside the gates offering 2 lovely meals for £9.99 each evening so a real holiday could be had.

The Beamish rally itself was very sociable with welly throwing, communal supper and boules in boxes competition. The last was one of Cedric's ideas. We met some new members who seemed quite keen to book another rally. We owe a very big thankyou to Pauline Neil Yvonne and Stuart for making us all so welcome.

When we left the rally we had time to visit friends at Scotch Corner so thanks again to the club for this very happy reunion as we hadn't had the chance to see these friends for 12 years.

Barbara and Al Buckett 5829

ST IVES/SHERINGHAM/ WINCHESTER Rallies

Hot. - Hot. - Changeable. This sums up the weather we endured for the three rallies we attended this summer.

Firstly, St Ives - this didn't go without a slight mishap and we would like to thank Dennis, Kevin and Jeff for their kind help in trying to sort out our window problem (still held in with gaffer tape, but should be fixed mid-September) and also to Steve for tweaking the water pump, again something else with which we were not familiar. Oh the joys of owning a new van! (well new to us). The punting on the Cam was certainly an experience and good fun, having got into the punt, our main concern was how to get out. I think we all managed safely, if not as elegantly as we would have liked. The fish and chip supper went down well and Cedric's Charity Auction was a great success, raising a substantial amount for the Air Ambulance.

Next stop, Sheringham, again a problem, but not personal, this time, some unpleasantness with a rival club, as we were put on their pitch, through no fault of ours. The school was well situated on a good bus route, enabling travel to neighbouring resorts and towns. It was a pleasant walk down into Sheringham, but a bus ride back, as it was all uphill. The rally was a great success despite having to leave a day early.

Back home for a week to catch up on chores, re-gaffer tape the window, and then off to Winchester. The Cricket Club has a bus stop right outside the gate, with a frequent service to travel further afield. Winchester has plenty to offer, good walks, interesting buildings and, of course, the cathedral. A fish and chip supper, always popular, and quiz nights made for another successful rally.

Our thanks go to all the Marshals, their assistants and the good company, which make for an enjoyable season of summer rallying.

Jackie Moss (5639)

Further to Topsham Rally

Thank you to Liz & Bryn Jean & John for an enjoyable rally at Topsham. Thank you also to all those who made donations for the books we had. I was able to take £15 to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Diane Leader & Brenda Jarvis. 2759.

Further to Sheringham Rally

Dear Mr Tucker

Thank you very much for your donation of £69.85, which you recently gave to the British Heart Foundation (BHF) shop in W04-WISBECH. By supporting the BHF you are joining the fight against heart disease.

The BHF is the UK's leading heart charity. We have been behind almost every single heart care development made over the last 40 years. This life-saving progress has only been made possible with the support of caring people like you.

Thank you also for letting us know that you would like your donations to be made under the new Gift Aid scheme. This will allow us to reclaim tax from the Inland Revenue and will increase the value of your donation to us by a quarter.

Yours sincerely
Amanda Pullen
Customer Services Manager.

Editor: This is a shortened version of the letter sent to me by Mike Tucker regarding the book sale that was arranged at Sheringham.

Our First Cointinental Trip

Having completed our first continental trip in our van (on the Pompeii and Lake Garda rallies in June) we would like to extend a big thank you to rally marshalls Jean and Dave Hollingsworth and assistant marshalls Peter Brown and Chris Mawdsley.

Leaving home on the 28th May we headed down to Dover for our cross channel ferry, early the next day. A leisurely journey through France and across the Alps saw us arrive at Camping Spartacus (Pompeii) on the morning of 5th June to be greeted by the marshalls. The following

day the ruins (literally opposite our site) were explored and they are over a vast area. We didn't qualify for free entry so the site was exhaustingly trekked on our one day admission ticket

We joined in the organised excursions (detailed in previous reports) to Vesuvio, Napoli, Sorrento and Capri. A small group of us hired a taxi and drove the fabulous Amalfi Coast, ending the trip with a lovely traditional Italian meal.

On route to Peschiera (Lake Garda) we visited the monastery at Monte Cassino, the Royal Palace at Caserta and the cities of Tivoli and Verona.

Throughout our trip of 2,700 miles we rarely used motorways which took us up and down some mountain passes (including the Alps) but the scenic and cultural rewards were well worth the effort. A word of warning though, some of the Italian roads are almost dirt tracks and the better ones are far worse than the poor roads in the UK !

Our return to the UK took us through Austria, Germany, Belgium and France.

Highlights of this were a two night stopover at Zell on Moselle (convenient for a trip to the wine cellar opposite, and the next day a long cycle ride along the Moselle to Cochem, ouch my derriere). Next destination was the pretty medieval town of Rothenburg ODT (for a night) and finally a two night stay exploring the stunning city of Brugges before the relatively short journey to Calais for the ferry across the channel

Back in the UK we took advantage of the good weather with trips to Hever Castle in Kent and the Henley Regatta extending the holiday by 4 days before returning home to the North of England.

Colin and Christine Broadbent (7768)

A Tale of Woe and a Warning

If like me you know nothing about computers - a warning.

When the insurance for the van came up, I went to the library to try to get a better quote using one of the advertised sites on t v. I found one with a good name and went ahead.

When my bank statement came through I found that another company, unknown to me, had also got the information and also put through a policy. As I did not want two, I cancelled. The stranger who turned out to be greedy, tried to keep the money but after an argument I got most of it back.

So if you are like me, you try to get modern and do this, a word of warning, if you are not really good with computers you will find that there are people who will try it on.

Be careful out there and I hope to see you in a field somewhere.

Mr J Clout 7089

Dear David, Pat and Auto Sleeper Members,

I would like to thank fellow Auto Sleeper members for their support and cards following the sudden death of my darling husband Clive.

As you can imagine I was in total shock to learn that the branch of tree on Southampton Common, where he walked every morning, decided to drop at the very moment Clive was walking underneath it and I doubt if I will ever come to terms with my loss.

Members have written recalling happy memories of Clive's Punch and Judy shows and talks and of course his many chats with folk at various rallies. Their memories, combined with my own, have been a comfort to me so thank you.

Clive performed his last Punch and Judy show just three days before the horrendous accident and I was able to make a few snippet videos of his performance on my iPhone. These are now amongst my most treasured possessions.

Mr Punch sat on Clive's coffin during the funeral watching the huge congregation. I think Clive would have been amused.

Yours very sadly Lyn Denton



Scottish Recommendation

Despite regular habitation checks and 3 years' worth of free Dometic fridge services at the AGM rally, the fridge in our Nuevo refused to work on gas when needed whilst we were on the Stranraer rally. This could have been a big problem as we were about to move on to the Annan rally, where there were no electric hook-ups. Also, of course, for the first time for many years, we were enjoying a hot summer.

We had been told that the Dumfries Caravan Centre was probably the only place equipped to sort out our problem, so we rang them up and booked a time for the day that we were travelling to Annan, which was not that far away from Dumfries.

Arriving soon after opening time we were pulling up outside their workshop and before I could get out of the van there was a friendly "Hello" and Robert, the fridge expert, was standing ready to take off the fridge covers and start sorting out our problem. He discovered that despite all the fridge checks and habitation servicing in the 3 years since new, the flame mechanism had rusted to such an extent that it would not light. Quickly repaired by Robert and at a modest price we were soon on our way to the Annan rally.

We can therefore from experience highly recommend Dumfries Caravan Centre and their mechanic, Robert, if you are ever in the area. We can also recommend the 3 Scottish rallies at Stranraer, Annan and Dunbar. The rallies were well situated and we had a super time at all three, thanks to all the marshals, the friendly ralliers, the beautiful coast and countryside, the lovely sunny weather and the midges, most of whom kept well away from us.

Alan Waugh

When purchasing our new Lancashire last year, it ticked all our boxes until we noticed the Whale water socket. As we'd heard of the problems with it, we were going to withdraw from the sale, but were immediately assured that a manual system could be installed alongside the Whale and the van was sent down to Willersley immediately and job done.

Why the designers of this system would think that a motor home would wish to carry a bulky aqua roll or similar when it has a perfectly adequate water tank underneath beats me.

We are not caravanners, and most of us can top up our tanks with a suitable container.

Janis Wood 4201

Hitch Hikers!

At a recent lecture on the subject of "The Disappearance of the Hitch-hiker", On Radio 4, a straw-poll was taken of the number of people in the audience over 45, who had experience of hitch-hiking. 90% had their hands up. When the question was asked of those under 45, the participating hands dropped to 5%!

The Speaker was making the point that, in this country, at least, the 'thumb and the smile' have virtually disappeared from our roadsides over the last few years. The reasons for this are open for debate, but what he did remind us of, were the very enriching experiences enjoyed by both hitchhikers and drivers in the past.

My first experience was 'thumbing it' from Cologne to Heidelberg when I was 17 in 1956. My 'mate' and I were picked up by an Englishman in a Morris minor, who kept us enthralled with his account of a recent visit to The States, where a 79 year-old widow hit the headlines by flashing through a speed trap at 170mph in a 300SL Mercedes. It took the police two counties to catch her and they were somewhat frustrated when, on remonstrating with her, she calmly informed them that she was going to do the same tomorrow!

Later, driving into Munich, whilst in the army, I screamed to a stop in a very heavy rainstorm to pick up this 'apparition' in a black Bedouin Burnas called Udo, who I then shared my tent with for two days, while we enjoyed the company of a group of young 'Ozzis', who were accompanying a coachload of delightful 'colonial girls'. Happy days!

In the 60's and 70's, I was a sales rep, working the West Country and South Wales, from my Bristol base and picked up many really interesting hitch-hikers. One guy from Sweden named Peder, didn't know that the Bristol YHA had closed down and was very happy to accept our hospitality for the weekend. He came back and stayed for a week with his wife whilst on honeymoon, some two years later.

I never had a bad experience with hitch-hikers, although, on one occasion I stopped for two hippie girls, who were on their way to Glastonbury for the great festival. It was at the time when an aircraft carrying footballers crashed in the Andes and the story went that the survivors lived on the frozen carcasses of their colleagues, until they were rescued. The girls were quite horrified at the thought of 'enforced' cannibalism and were even more horrified when I calmly announced that I thought it was the best thing to do, under the extreme circumstances and that, in a similar situation, I would be sorely tempted to eat them! They got out at the next cross-roads!!

I am sure many of us have interesting reminiscences of the hitch-hiking days and I for one, will think twice (if I have time?), before ignoring the 'thumb and the smile', before passing by in my air conditioned palace on the other side of the road.

Richard Birch

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

News of the Factory:

Fiat: Auto Sleepers are now offering the option of a Fiat Ducato chassis. This should satisfy many owners who wish to have an automatic gearbox on a 'Sevel' chassis. I have been in touch with Geoff Scott (CEO ASG) and he has advised that:- "All Peugeot models can now be ordered on Fiat with the auto box. However, they cannot be ordered as a manual". More information in due course.

Caravans: Also, as a matter of interest, A~S will no longer be producing caravans from 2015.

New Spanish Driving Laws:

If you are visiting Spain you may wish to be aware that Spain has invoked some new driving laws and I have picked out three more pertinent ones:-

- "Driving just 1Km above the speed limit can carry a fine of €500 (£400), and potential penalty points."
- "The installation of any kind of speed camera detector or inhibitor in a vehicle could lead to a fine of up to €6,000 or almost £5,000". I hope this does not include 'safety camera' facility as in Sat Navs.
- "Bear in mind that you do not need to be stopped by the police in Spain to be convicted of a motoring offence. If Spanish police witness an offence and take down the details of the vehicle involved, this is considered to be sufficient evidence to prove the driver's guilt. The vehicle's registration number is all that is required."

I can send further details if required; e-mail me or send an SAE.

Exhaust Leak:

As I prepare this article we're in France having been at the Azay Le Rideau rally (*see Club website*) and are now having a quiet time on the Loir.

However, we almost did not make the booked ferry to France. On Saturday as we prepared to leave I ran the engine to power my 12v tyre air compressor and I noticed I had an exhaust leak. As it was by far too close to the ferry booking to have the exhaust replaced, the only option I had was to use 'Holts Flexiwrap GunGum', (*now much improved from earlier version*),

as a temporary measure. It has held well and will get us home for a new exhaust system

I mention this as in Spain, many years ago, I had an exhaust problem on our old Talisman and finding exhaust parts on the continent, for a right-hand drive vehicle, can be as rare as the proverbial 'hen's teeth'. Eventually I had to have the part fabricated locally, which took two days.

You may wish to consider adding a GunGum repair kit (*which I carry*) to your spares kit, especially if you have an older/high mileage van. Even if you cannot manage to crawl underneath yourself you should be able to find a friendly garage-hand who is willing to help you.

Retrieving a spare wheel:

Mike Roberts has advised me that he had trouble retrieving the spare wheel on his 2010 Mercedes Lancashire as the 'allen' key supplied to retrieve the spare wheel was a 6 sided key and not the 5 sided version required.

I have looked at a 2011 Lancashire and that did have the correct 5 sided allen key, so Mike's problem might, hopefully, be a 'one-off'. I would suggest that if you have a Mercedes, that needs an allen key, you check that the one supplied does fit your spare wheel release mechanism.

Website:

Latest updates:

- 04/14 - Azay le Rideau – rally report and photo gallery
- Supplementary:-
 - 03c/14 - Dunbar rally report
 - 03b/14 - Deals for Members – GASIT added.

Yours aye

Baz Wellard

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 8856 onwards: Details will be published next month as the Membership Secretary is in France until after the deadline for this month's Newsletter.

Membership Secretary: Jill Bertlin, The Rockeries, Sunny Terrace, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6LQ or email: jbortlin@aol.com



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Full Details on ASOC Website