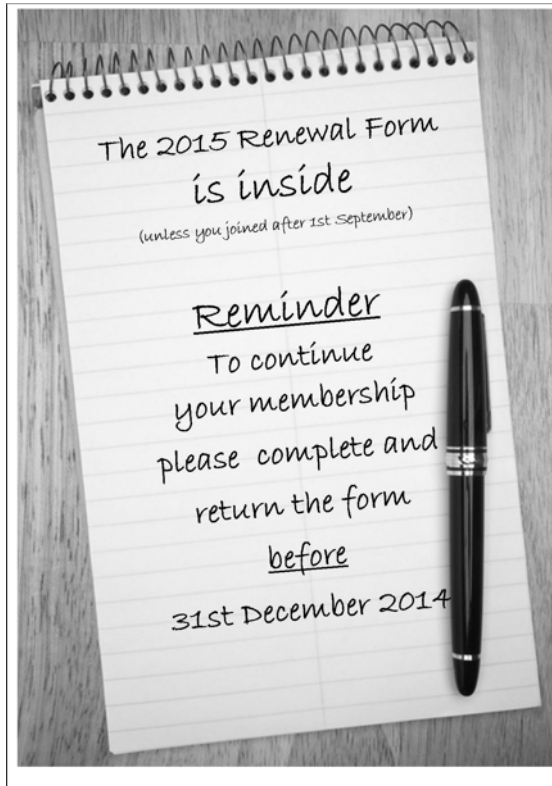




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# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

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**NEWSLETTER 314**  
**November 2014**

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### Contents

		Three Rallies Report	12
Committee Details	2	ACCEO Rally Report	13/14
From the Editor	3	Letters: from J Tubb	14/15
Chairmans chat	4	For our friends who Read	15
Charity Choice Reminder	5	Heartfelt Message from NI	15
Obit Ivor Barnett	5	Help for a 1996 Topaz	16
Leters re Ivor Barnett	6	Letter from Auto- Sleepers	16
Chidham Rally report	6	Spare Whel Problems	17
Azay Rally Reports	6/9	Tech Group and Web	18/20
Beamish Rally Report	10	Renewal Form reminder	21
Brean Sands Rally Reports	10/11	New Members	21/23
Dartmouth Rally Reports	10/12	For Sale	24

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**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



After getting the last newsletter out and managing to trim a lot of the bushes in our garden (and trips to the local recycling depot) it was off to the Lincoln Show and then followed by the ACCEO rally before on to Newark for a committee meeting. Then straight back to deal with this newsletter!

I have to say that I am pleased with the continuing response from members, sending in plenty of contributions, so much so, that I have added extra pages to deal with current issues and I still have a few items on file for later in the year when the rally season slows down. But please keep this up!

With this Newsletter you will be getting a Renewal Form for next year's membership, so don't put it behind the clock on the mantel piece. Fill it in now and send to the Membership Secretary before Jill deletes you from the data base and has to re-enter the stuff again. It saves a lot of work for our busy Membership Secretary! This year there were a few that didn't renew before the summer!

The **Deadline for the next newsletter is the 10<sup>th</sup> November**. Please send your contributions to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or by post to my address below. As always I look forward to reading them all.

*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

This month I have to write about the problems of dog poo – particularly on Club rallies.



We are very fortunate in ASOC that some of our rally marshals have been able to negotiate access to special sites where dogs are not normally admitted. Topsham RFC is one such place. It is therefore very important that dog owners act responsibly on these sites. We are all used to the idea that we must clear up after our dogs but it is equally important that we then dispose of the resultant package responsibly. Picking it up in a plastic bag and then throwing the bag in the hedge is worse than not picking it up at all. At least if left it will eventually dissipate whereas in the bag it will last forever.

It would be a great shame if we were to lose some of our most popular rallies or have to ban dogs from them because of the actions of a few irresponsible owners, so please clear up after your dog and dispose of the debris responsibly.

I am always pleased to discover that some of you do actually read my chat and last month's rant about height barriers produced an email from Terry Gough about a camp site with a height barrier! He wrote

"We have even come across a campsite with a height barrier. This is Galmpton Touring Park near Brixham. The height barrier comes down at 8 pm! We were going in the Symbol to Torquay for the evening and the site staff refused to reopen the barrier for our return despite asking before we left for Torquay. They even refused to let us use our hookup cable in the site layby by the office. Disgraceful policy. We got our money back and left. We suggest that members steer well clear of this site, although the site itself is very good. Galmpton have advised me that they will open the barrier after 8pm in the peak season. But you have to 'book' this. A far more civilised site nearby is Widdicombe Farm at Compton. "

The mind boggles. I'd love to hear from you if you have come across height barriers in weird and wonderful places.

See you down the road.

Andy

### **Charity Choice 2015 A Reminder**

As members may remember from the National Rally, we annually select a charity that would benefit from fund raising activities and we would like to do the same at the 2015 National Rally. The selection would be made by the Committee, from nominations made by you, the members.

The criterion is that it should be a lesser known national charity.

Nominations will remain anonymous to the Committee until a charity has been selected. If you would like to nominate a charity for 2015, please write to me at 31, Abbott Lea, Mansfield, Notts.. NG19 6NF by the **1st December 2014**.

Please make sure you send everything direct to me with full details of the charity you nominate and why. Please enclose 2 leaflets of the charity of your choice (I will make copies of your letter).

It would also help if you could confirm that your charity, if selected, would be able to set up a stand at the National Rally, and that a representative would be able to accept the cheque on Sunday morning. Looking forward to receiving your nominations.

*John Jones*

### **Obituary - Ivor Barnett**

On September 29<sup>th</sup> along with Nora Venables, Joan and Max Cooke, and Janet and Les Howell we said farewell to a long standing club member and very good friend, Ivor Barnett.

Our condolences along with the many messages of sympathy from fellow club members were passed on to Sheila who was supported by family and many close friends on this sad occasion.

Our praise and admiration was passed on to Ivor's grandson and granddaughter, both of whom composed and read their own glowing tributes to Sheila's husband, their grandfather, and our much liked, respected and sadly missed friend, Ivor Barnett. Rest in peace.

Linda & Brian Ellis

This past month we lost an old friend Ivor Barnett . Sheila and Ivor have co-marshaled with us at Hereford and Ledbury rallies over the past 10 years ,we shall miss his easy going manner and quiet wit. Rest easy old pal.

*Joan & Max Cooke*

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I want to thank all Auto-Sleeper Owners Club members for all their kind Sympathy Cards and messages, on the passing away of Ivor on September 18th 2014. He was a quiet man, but always willing to help with rallies home and abroad. He enjoyed his Auto- Sleeper Motorhome so much. I will also miss seeing everyone. Best Wishes

*Sheila Barnett.*

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## **Rally Reports**

### **Chidham Rally**

Thanks to Trisha & Mike, assisted by Rita & John for the successful rally at Chidham. The location of the site in the orchard provided a relaxed atmosphere with coffee evenings and quiz, giving the chance of enjoyable meetings with old and new ralliers.

Coastal walks alongside the many creeks provided all the daily activity. The regular bus service within easy walking distance from site enabled us to visit Chichester and Arundel in the east, with Portsmouth Dockyard and the new re-designed Mary Rose Museum in the other direction. Special thanks also to Trisha & Mike for the “mini-rally” over the week-end, a break before moving onto the Winchester rally on the following Monday

*Paula & Les 5635*

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### **Azay le Rideau Rally**

I would like to thank, through the pages of the Newsletter, Andy, Angie, Dorothy and Baz who marshalled the Rally at Azay-le-Rideau, for such a warm welcome there as a first-timer and new ASOC member.

Everything was so well organised but I did know they were really swans - serene on the surface but a lot of activity behind the scenes! I could not have been made more welcome. I hope that every rally I go to in the future will be the same. So many wonderful people to meet, so many activities arranged, so many opportunities available, so little time! Any future rallies planned near water by any chance?

Regards, and thanks to all,  
The Grampian Groupie (*Brian Lockett (8486)*)

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Andy and I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the rally in Azay-le-Rideau so successful, particularly Dorothy and Baz our co-marshals.

We also want to say a huge thank you to all the ralliers for the gift of the wonderful painting. It now hangs on the wall in our lounge where we can see it every day, and it serves as a reminder of one of our favourite places to visit and a really super group of people.

*Angie Cavell*



**Azay Rally marshals Photo Jill Bertlin**

## La Belle France

The 26 Units and 51 members attending included familiar and long standing members, those recently joined, first time ralliers and others abroad for the first time in their motorhome, not least Nick Dawson who paid us the compliment of travelling from Aberdeen to the Loire Valley. The good sized but manageable group had something for everyone and from the first was friendly and welcoming.

The reception manager Dominique had names sorted by the time we entered the campsite, Angie and Dorothy were there giving a welcome and Alan Selwood acting as a roving Marshall, led in every visitor to their site. What a welcome.

Marshalls Andy and Angie Cavell with Baz and Dorothy Wellard were experienced and confident and made everyone comfortable. Baz, busy and industrious as always, setting out the field of play and marking pitches, explaining and setting the rules for Boules, and looking stylish with a “Western” touch of headdress – “Chapeau” as the French say. Dorothy calm and always in the background, backing up every move. Andy is the Director of Operations, calm and untroubled, knows the form and ready to act as the Appeals Judge in any situation. Angie, the real power behind the throne attends to every detail of our needs, always with a smile, going the extra mile and acting as chief and effective communicator, despite her notice board getting drenched in the only shower during the rally.

Camping Municipal le Sabot at Azay le Rideau, the only campsite in the small town stands alongside the river, pitches tree-lined and flat with good roads and excellent facilities. Electricity for all made life easy and the area set aside for Autosleepers gave a little privacy but kept us within the life of the popular campsite. The weather, almost cloudless from the first added the final touch and helped create the perfect atmosphere for a fun filled stay.

Angie had plenty of things organised to keep those who wanted to be busy, whilst there was enough space for individual preferences and activities. Whilst Angie’s notice board was always there, the jungle telegraph worked spectacularly. Hungry for news, the iPad group were on WiFi, texts and telephones, day old newspapers changed hands, rumour was abundant and one or two couldn’t resist even tuning in for the football results. The buzz of conversation was irresistible.

Azay is only a comfortable walk away, a small town but boasting a large and beautiful Chateau, a required visit. A visit by the lead of the regions Tourist Information Office, bringing along a local vintner to introduce us to the local wines was a good start and helped to set the scene. A feature of the pattern of life in France, the markets, were very evident. The town hosted a weekend and weekday market but also a “Night” market when during the evening, all the shops, cafes and restaurants were open alongside food stalls and barrows, impromptu cafes and seating areas and every possible food to tempt us. The potato muffins with a variety of fillings were very popular whilst the street music produced a festive and joyful atmosphere in the crowded streets. No pushing, shoving, heavy drinking,

threatening behaviour or graffiti – are we missing home? Sunday saw an extensive brocante and bric a brac market with interesting offers to take a little of France home.

A truly expansive street market welcomed the group when a coach tour took us to Saumur, a beautiful town on the banks of the Loire just a short coach tour away. A multitude of fresh and attractive fruits, vegetables, sweetmeats, delicacies, pottery, clothes and other essentials are on open display. Arriving just in time for a parade and colourful ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the town, there was then time to explore the town and the Chateau with its expansive views. A range of irresistible restaurants welcomed us for lunch. Just a couple of miles on, the wine caves of Gratien and Meyer welcomed us for a tour of some of their 14 miles of caves and over 5 Million bottles of wine - not all sampled by the party! The young guide, with a lovely sense of humour, helped the afternoon pass splendidly, as did the wine tasting with very preferential rates for purchases given to the party. More bottles. Angie you do know the way to a man's heart.

A walk around Azay with young local guide Christelle fills in a few gaps but individual exploration and visits provided much further interest and conversation. Finds included an outstanding museum of French antiquities and vehicles, a wicker co-operative producing beautiful products, the caves of the "Troglodyte" early French and the many Chateaux, churches and gardens in the vicinity. An exceptional visit was to the gardens at Villandry, world renowned for their form and beauty. For some, an extended study of the restaurants in the town was conducted with the winner being declared to be an excellent stop just 100 yards away from the front of the campsite called "Les Grottes", fortunately named for being a cave hewed from the hillside behind rather than for the nature of the food.

No rally would be complete without its competitions and the fun provided in the games arena. Baz, the ringmaster organised horseshoe tossing (Peter Brown and Christine taking the honours) and of course the inevitable Boules. The competition stretched across the week with the final victory going to Sheila & Bob Etchells. One of the most noticeable features of the final was the skill displayed by the gentler sex, clearly an element of finesse is a bonus. Well done everyone.

It seemed there was an excuse for getting together at almost every turn. Cheese and wine, wine tasting, birthday celebrations, sporting events and a final joint Barbecue. This brought out a variety of approaches but none more comprehensive than Alan who displayed a "symphony" of cooking devices, testing their effectiveness alongside each other. This, the finale of the rally was a good send off for a memorable week, cementing many new and old friendships, causing us to look back on a memorable week and looking forward to future events. Encore!

Eddy Jones

## **Beamish Museum Rally**

We thoroughly enjoyed the rally at Beamish and many thanks are due to the marshals Neil, Pauline, Stuart and Yvonne who ably set the scene, greeting us in Victorian costume. The weather couldn't have been better and the museum is well worth a visit but we would recommend taking more than one day to fully appreciate it, we are so glad our first visit was on a rally. Refreshments were served each evening at the marshal's van and Pauline set us a devious quiz; finding places between Tees and Tweed.

We had a welly hurling competition and another game comprising boules and cardboard boxes. The usual raffle then home to do the washing and prepare the 'van for the next outing, after rest and recuperation of course.

*Moir Blackstock*

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## **BREAN SANDS - DARTMOUTH RALLIES**

A fantastic fortnight, almost wall to wall sunshine . Both rallies very well attended.

Unity Farm, a very popular site, with good facilities, swimming, free entertainment, car boot and markets all on site, a bus stop just outside the front gate to Weston-super-Mare and Burnham on sea. We enjoyed a superb carvery followed by excellent entertainment from Jay McGee, a singer/comedy act, who had us all in stitches

We were shipped down by the Unity Farm mini bus to the Brean Downs, where several of us, enjoyed an exhilarating walk in the fresh air, a warm blustery day, most of us made it down to the fort at the far end. Kindly the mini bus came back to collect us.

Thanks to Linda and Brian Ellis, Rita and John Tubb (although we were nearly put on a different field!!! A private joke, but should be appreciated by Brian)

Little Cotton, Dartmouth, again a very popular site, with superb facilities, supermarkets on the door step and a bus stop on the site, what could be more convenient. An entertaining quiz, once again, showing the artistic skills, depicting song titles, enabled you to mix and get to know your fellow campers. Next time I shall take my felt tip pens, as there were one or two which were very colourful. We had a walk to the castle, some able bodied

ralliers walked from the site, others took the bus into Dartmouth which saved us from walking down the steep hill. Brian's doggy carriage for his ageing dogs caught the eye of many passers-by. Thanks, once again, go to Rita and John Tubb, Frances and John Thomas for another good rally.

*Jackie Moss (5639)*

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### **Brean Rally**

This is an unusual tribute to the organisers of a rally but we would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for all the help and support we received whilst staying at Unity Holiday Resort. The assistance of our marshals Linda and Brian Ellis exceeded all expectations and proved to be well beyond the call of duty.

Unfortunately, I fell off my bike whilst riding in the village and sought help at the neighbouring Leisure Centre, where I was treated by a first aider who sent for an ambulance. Linda and Brian immediately came to my rescue, Linda took my bike and looked after the dog, whilst Brian drove my husband Maurice behind the ambulance to the A&E at Weston-Super-Mare. Following treatment, which included stitches and X-rays, Brian kindly returned to the hospital to collect us and drove us back to Unity.

Thank you very much indeed Linda and Brian for being so caring and supportive and it was also kind of the other ASOC members who called round to ask after me.

*Linda and Maurice Wilson and Gee 8140*

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### **Autumn in Dartmouth?????**

It certainly was not Autumn. We had "Summer" in Dartmouth in September with temperatures in the 70s.

There are numerous places to visit by bus, train and various vessels on the water. We had "get togethers" every evening. We celebrated an 86th birthday with a cheese and wine party in aid of Devon Air Ambulance. We had a fish and chip supper and a cream tea in aid of Macmillan Nurses.

Over £300 was raised between the two events. Well done everyone. A big "THANK YOU" goes to Rita and John Tubb who put so much effort into making their rallies so enjoyable. See you all again next year.

*John and Frances 7229*

## DARTMOUTH

41 rallies attended our Dartmouth rally, and how lucky we were with the weather, ok some mornings were a little misty but the sun soon came out. Our raffle was held for the DEVON AIR AMBULANCE and together with donations for Les Henmans Cheese and wine for his birthday.£235 was raised.

Friday was Mcmillian Coffee Morning so we gave everyone a Devon Cream Tea and donations for this was £105.

We would like to thank all rallies for their kind donations of prizes and cash for these good causes. It was much appreciated.

We also said a sad farewell to Rhona and Lewis Bull who have decided that it is time to finish, but will always be welcome if they change their minds.

We will be doing this rally again 2015 20th to 27th September. We think this will be the last but are not sure till we are told.

*Rita and John Tubb*

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### **Three Rallies**

Many thanks to Jan & Vic, Linda & Brian and Rita & John plus all the assistant marshals who helped to make the follow-on rallies in September a success.

Each individual rally provided plenty of activities to pursue, places to visit and evening events to become part of.

The latter two rallies each had bus routes within easy walking distance for trips, to Brisol, Wells, Weston S. Mare and Taunton from Brean and from the Dartmouth rally to Torquay, Totnes, Brixham, Kingsbridge and Salcome.

Coffee evenings provided the opportunity for members to compare and discuss the exciting places each had visited during the day and to talk to new and old friends from the previous rally.

The decoration of the Nuevo at Dartmouth for a birthday celebration, plus the cheese and wine evening with donation of £72 to the Devon Air Ambulance was most grateful. Special thanks goes to Rita and Francis for

all their help with the preparation for the evening.

With almost perfect weather for the entire period of the 3 rallies, again many thanks to all marshals and their assistants for the perfect end to our rallying season.

We are already forward planning next season using the provisional rally list for 2015.

*Paula & Les 5635*

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## **ACCEO National Rally**

We recently attended the National Rally of the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO) that was this year held at Towcester Racecourse.

The rally was for two nights, Friday and Saturday, but extra nights were available on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. I am involved in the running of ACCEO so we stayed for all of the nights.

ACCEO is an umbrella organisation that currently represents to government and the wider caravanning community some 220 member clubs with a total membership approaching 100,000 people, all of the clubs hold government issued Exemption Certificates. Clubs that hold Exemption Certificates are (with certain conditions) allowed to camp on property without specific planning consent or licensing. The Exemption Certificate(s) that ASOC hold are vital for our continued ability to hold rallies off commercial caravan sites. ACCEO also admits personal members. For a £5 annual subscription those members receive 3 copies of the magazine; ACCEO Matters and get access to the ACCEO lounge for coffee/tea and biscuits during the NEC shows.

This year about 25 clubs attended the rally represented by about 150 units. That is an average attendance for this rally. The Compass Club hosted the rally (did all the work) on behalf of ACCEO, ASOC did that job in 2012. Unlike the ASOC National rally meals are not available although a chip van attended the site on Thursday night and left sold out. The ASOC 'rally within a rally' was marshalled by David and Pat Mayne. On Thursday night there was a team quiz, our ASOC team were not embarrassed but did not win and on Friday night a musical entertainer, Phil Carr had the floor full of dancers till 11.

On Saturday afternoon the ACCEO AGM was held. Any member of a member club is allowed to attend (space permitting) but each club is only allowed one voting representative. The ASOC rep is currently our Secretary John Osland-Jones. An Open Forum follows the AGM during which any attendee can ask questions/make a point.

This year the Saturday evening entertainment was a 'Bavarian' Oompah band. As usual with entertainment at a mixed event they were not to everyone's taste but a significant number of attendees did appreciate them and they had a great time.

The ASOC members who stayed on Sunday night had a communal barbeque and, after a weekend of very kind autumn weather, departed in pouring rain.

Next year's ACCEO National will be held on the Stafford County Showground from 30th September to 5th October. We won't know what the programme will be till nearer the time so watch the ASOC Newsletter rally supplement for details.

*Peter Brown*

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## **Letters to the Editor**

Forwarded by John Tubb

As a Volunteer for Devon Air Ambulance Trust, I have just collected a tub of money, amounting to a tremendous £235, from Little Cotton Caravan Park which I gather was as a result of an Autosleepers Owners Club Rally that you recently held there. You will receive a formal 'thank you' from Devon Air Ambulance Trust Head Office in Exeter but I just wanted to write to say how pleased, and moved, I was to be able to receive this donation from your Club on behalf of DAAT.

I have quite an emotional connection with Autosleepers - my parents, Tony and Madge Cadby, now sadly left us and who you may or may not remember, were staunch supporters of the Autosleepers Owners Club and attended a number of your rallies.

They lived not too far away from you, at Stubbington, near Fareham, so there is a possibility I suppose, that you or some of your members may have known them, which brings me some comfort! I still keep in touch with another ex- Autosleepers Club member, Joy Snape, who was a great friend of my mother until she passed away two years ago, who lives nearby in Hill Head, Stubbington.

So I have a great affinity with Autosleepers Club! And I was delighted to collect the donation to Devon Air Ambulance which you and your very generous members collected during your recent rally. I hope that you all enjoyed staying in Dartmouth, a wonderful part of the world I'm sure you'll all agree.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to your members in your next newsletter to them all and very much hope that you all continue to enjoy your travels!

With very best wishes

Sue Tweed

Volunteer

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### **For our rally friends who Read**

During our first wonderful rally with the club at Crofton in May this year we chatted to some fellow ralliers who asked about the sign on the front of our motorhome, it said, 'Never Coming Back' we quickly explained that this did not at all mean we were unhappy to be on the rally but that our son, Tim, is a crime thriller writer and that this was the name of his latest book. Happily we were able to hand out some copies that we had aboard at the time. So just to let those who hopefully enjoyed the book and who may be interested, his fifth novel, *Fall from Grace*, was released this summer and is on sale in supermarkets, bookshops and online.

Since attending the rally at Crofton we have celebrated the arrival of our latest grandchild which has kept us very busy and unfortunately away from the summer rallies, however now that things have settled down a bit we hope to be joining you all again very soon.

*Pete and Chris Weaver*

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### **Heartfelt Message from N. Ireland**

We have just returned from a very enjoyable holiday in England. Because we travel from N. Ireland we find it hard to fit in rallies but this year we managed to go to the one in Topsham and Breaun not forgetting Malvern and Shepton and of course the AGM back in May. We enjoyed all of these and of course were made very welcome as usual and have made good friends over the years. Two of these being Bill and Shirley Bromilow who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in October. On behalf of all their friends in the Autosleepers Club we would like to wish them many more happy years together. I have attached a photo of them taken at the Topsham rally.

*Bobbie & Beatrice Gordon. 4396*

I have recently bought a 1996 Auto sleeper Topaz (VW T5). all the mains electrics are on the off side. Can anyone suggest the best route for a cable from the fuse box on the offside to the nearside of the vehicle. Thank you

*Mel Copley 8876*

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We would like to thank everyone who donated to our Auto-Sleepers Fundraising Event held on 13th July 2014 at Willersey.

The three chosen charities for the event were Midlands Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research and we are absolutely thrilled to report that we have raised the amazing total of £4729 for these three great causes.

About 35 people took part in either a 10, 20 or 30 mile bike ride or a 5K or 10K run or walk and although the weather was pretty unkind to us on the day, all of the challenges were completed successfully.

After all the cyclists, runners and walkers had returned there were a number of stalls to entertain the visitors including face painting, tombola, cake stall and of course a BBQ which went down well with those hungry people finishing the challenge!!

Barbara Pugh and Angela Gittus

Event Organisers

## Spare Wheel Problems

Baz refers to Mike Roberts having spare wheel retrieval problems on a 2010 Mercedes Lancashire.

I don't think there is a Mercedes Lancashire - they are Peugeot based. Also the problem that is referred to is not a one-off. It results from the Peugeot spare wheel carrier recall. The original faulty carriers were wound down with a hexagonal allen key. Auto-sleepers supplied an extra long silver coloured 6 sided alloy allen key to go horizontally through the oval hole in the offside skirt to reach the winch mechanism.

The revised winch mechanism is used with a pentagonal 5 sided BLACK key that actually is inserted from under the offside skirt as the mechanism is tilted down slightly. The pentagonal key should have been supplied with the revised winch that was installed as part of the recall. My Lancashire was delivered with both the silver 6 sided key and the black 5 sided one and it took me some time to work out why the 6 sided one did not fit.

This potential problem of not having the correct key affects all Nuevo based vehicles, probably Broadways and maybe some of the other Peugeot based vehicles (including van conversions?) that were affected by the spare wheel carrier recall. It could affect later vehicles that were NOT affected by the recall if they had both keys, as I did, if the black key has been mislaid! In case members are concerned about the recall details of affected vehicles can be found on the VOSA

website: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/apps/recalls/searches/expand.asp?uniqueID=DDBBA1B1D20CE5BA802578D30024D3BC&freeText=Blank&tx=VOSA>

While checking that you have the correct key you may want to check that you also have the black circular plate with three bolts that is needed to secure an alloy wheel in the spare wheel carrier. This plate, found in a grey felt bag together with the 3 bolts on my van, is not needed to hold the steel spare wheel but is, apparently, required to secure the alloy wheel that is removed.

Both the 5 sided key and the circular plate should be in the jack box that, on my 2012 Boxer, is located under the passenger seat.

*Ron Goldby (7925)*

**“Mea culpa:** Ron Goldby is quite correct the Lancashire is on the Peugeot chassis not the Mercedes – my error. I also thank him for the further details of which I was not aware.”

*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](mailto:technical@asoc.uk.com)

## Calor Gas Product Recall:



“Calor Gas Ltd has issued a product recall with immediate effect on all 6kg CalorLite® cylinders manufactured between 2008-2011 inclusive. All such cylinders must be returned to a local CalorLite® stockist immediately.”

Website Update No. 04/14 dated 20<sup>th</sup> Sept refers.

The cylinder exchange is going well and the bonus is that you get a full cylinder in return - at no cost. For full details go to the Club's Website 'Stop Press' page; or contact your local dealer.

My thanks go to Jean Hollingsworth for the early information.

## News of the Factory:

Following a very useful bi-lateral meeting with Geoff Scott (CEO ASG), on behalf of the Committee & members, I can pass on the following snippets for 2015:-

- The new model is the Wave on the Mercedes VITO chassis and will be available as a High Top (HL) or as a Rising Roof.
- The Warwick DUO will be available with a dinette on the offside.
- All Peugeot models will be on the new face-lift chassis, (*look for LEDs side lights in the new shaped headlights*),
- The VW 2015 face-lift was under wraps; and I do not know what Mercedes is offering.
- The Malvern is being re-introduced and, contrary to the comment in the November Practical Motorhome (page 109), it is not replacing the Beckford
- There is the option of the Fiat Ducato automatic (*Comfort-matic*) gearbox.

- Euro 6 emission control is not expected to be incorporated until 2016
- There will be a road diversion affecting access to the factory from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, which will be clearly signposted. Customers booking work for that period will be informed of the diversion by Carole at the Service Centre.

### **Fridge Service vis-à-vis Habitation Check:**

In reading Alan's problem with his fridge failure, in last months newsletter I was surprised that neither his regular 'habitation checks' nor the 'Dometic fridge services' had prevented the problem.

This subject gives me the opportunity to correct misconceptions of terminology that some members have raised in the past. I have checked with Mark Burdett at the Service Centre and he has kindly confirmed their difference between a 'habitation check' and a 'fridge service', as follows:-

"As part of the '**habitation check**', at the Service Centre at Willersey, all of the gas appliances have the burner chamber cleaned with compressed air to remove any debris/foreign body and then lit to check all is working but they are not serviced.

A '**fridge service**' is separate from a habitation check and involves removal of the complete burner unit, cleaning of the flue pipe, replacement of the burner jet and a clean of the burner itself. Depending on the model and age of motorhome it can take up to 3 hours to complete as some require complete removal of the fridge."

**I would suggest that you check what other dealers include/exclude in their habitation checks. For the record - Alan's habitation checks were not done at the Service Centre.**

### **Portsmouth to Le Havre DFDS Ferry:**

DFDS (LD) lines have announced that they are not taking any bookings for their cross channel crossing from Portsmouth to Le Havre after 3<sup>rd</sup> November, which basically mean the service is ceasing.

DFDS statement says: - "DFDS Seaways announced today it is entering a period of consultation [with French Unions] on the viability of its Portsmouth to Le Havre service".

However, interestingly, Brittany Ferries are, for the first time, now offering a limited 'economy', no frills crossing Portsmouth to Le Havre!

**“Big mistake. Big. Huge”:** *(Quote: Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman)*

When we left for France we switched off the wall sockets supplying all non-essential appliances as usual. But, we did forget the socket feeding the electric cordless kettle and whilst away the kettle leaked into the base tripping the ring main. As a result, on returning home, we found the fridge/freezer had defrosted, and was full of soggy ruined food. We’ll double check in future and also remove the plug!

### Website Update:

#### Issue 04/14, dd 20<sup>th</sup> Sep:-

- **Stop Press:** Calor Gas Ltd product recall with immediate effect.
- **Rallies:**
  - Azay le Rideau - rally report and photo gallery
  - Beamish – rally report and photo
- **Rally list:** Provisional 2015 Rally list - 2015/P01 for planning purposes
- **Technical:** **A~S models** – Wave (*Mercedes Vito*) added

#### Supplementary\* issue 04a/14, dd 8<sup>th</sup> Oct:-

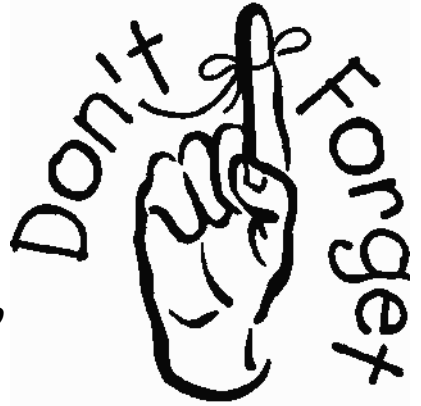
- **Diversion:** Notification of the temporary diversionary route to the factory.
- **Rally list:** Provisional 2015 Rally list update - 2015/P02
- **Technical:** Addition of Mezan instruction manual

**\*N.B.** Supplementary updates are not promulgated – so watch the website occasionally.

Yours aye

*Baz Wellard*

*Please return the  
2015  
Renewal Form  
as soon as possible  
(unless your membership  
commenced after 1st  
September 2014)*



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

Membership Numbers from 8856 to 8923

Michael Jenkins	Aberdare	?
Susan Brown	Brighthouse	Kingham
Keith & Mary Dyke	North Walsham	Bourton
Don & Tracey Hughes	Isle of Wight	Symphony
Chris & Wendy Tolson	Halifax	Broadway
John Earl & Carolyn Meah	Manchester	Burford
Mike & Valerie Pippard	Crowthorne	Broadway
Phillipa Lowe & Ann Lowe	Stonesfield	Nuevo
Mike & Sylvi Meyrick-Eastick	Wellington	Nuevo
Colin & Jill Wade	Taunton	Nuevo
Roy Dale	Hassocks	Warwick
Mike & Margaret Roberts	Hope	Pollensa
Stewart Price & Rosalind Webber	Exeter	Nuevo

Jack Taylor & Teresa Maslanka	Luton	Topaz
David & Ann Costello	Great Yarmouth	Warwick
Dave & Lesley Gowen	Swansea	Legend
Jonathan & Sue Swales	Malton	Broadway
Neil & Ennis Angell	Mansfield	Executive
Nigel & Brenda Arthur	Weymouth	Clubman
Stephen & Christine Bell	Spennymoor	Gatcombe
Mel & Lynn Copley	Glapwell, Chesterfield	Topaz
Bernard & Avril Sture	Newton Abbot	Harmony
Mike & Susanne Tilley	Lincoln	Duetto
David & Sarah Pollard	Weston-Super-Mare	Duetto
Peter & Jean Green	Sutton in Ashfield	Ravenna
Kevin & Jacky Procter	West Wickham	Sussex
Alex & Linda Penny	Filey	Cotswold
David Sinclair	Winchester	Nuevo
Graham & Margaret Clayton	Chesterfield	Broadway
Janet Maskelyne & Pam Cummins	Chesterfield	Nuevo
John & Linda Mason	Thirsk	Warwick
Alan & Rosie Spooner	Ripley	Symbol
Adrian & Margaret Thomas	Stafford	Symbol
Harry Duxbury	Darwen	Nuevo
Craig & Sue Hughes	Derby	Executive
Stewart Purdy	Loughborough	Topaz
Gary Yendell & Sam Pink	Upton Snodsbury	Broadway
Garry Cook	Wrexham	Talisman
Edward & Susan Male	Portland	Suffolk
Cyd & Dot Coates	Penarth	Executive
Rod & Debbie Steele	Poulton-le-Fylde	Kingham

Roger & Maggie Moore	Southampton	Topaz
John & Sadie Weatherill	Lincoln	Gatcombe
Janet Millis	Slinfold	Kingham
Ray & Leigh Booth	Barnsley	Nuevo
Alex & Helen Lewis	Carmarthen	Topaz
Kevin & Julie Spencer	Congleton	Winchcombe
Mike & Beryl Adnitt	High Wycombe	Broadway
Philip & Christine Begley	Huntingdon	Burford
Peter Helks	Stafford	Kemerton
Ron & Joy Stacey	Tunbridge Wells	Bourton
David & Beryl Muncaster	Dunstable	Burford
Paul & Donna Ozanne	Plymouth	Kingham
Roger & Caroline Harvey	Eastleigh	Broadway
David & Lynda Routh	Nelson	Warwick
Bob & Mo chattell	Taunton	Trooper
Brian & Anne Daffern	Huddersfield	Nuevo
Shaun Finney	Lowestoft	Duetto
Gordon Holloway	Luton	Cotswold
Bill & Pat Ingham	Preston	Executive
Graham & Avril Bailey	Brecon	Nuevo
Steve & Jane Edge	Cockermouth	Broadway
Paul & Jane Pattinson	Holyport	Nuevo
Bill & Enid Isherwood	Spilsby	Nuevo
Dave & Jean Hancock	Congleton	Warwick
Michael & Maureen Pendle	Bognor Regis	Warwick
Mick & Brenda Gill	Pinner	Duetto
Tom & Pauline Odams	Waltham Chase	Pollensa

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



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