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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Photo taken at Prestwood Rally 2014

NEWSLETTER 317
February 2015

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

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From the Editor



Well, Christmas and New Year are over so we can look forward to the many rallies that will be run by ASOC in 2015, especially the National Rally at Newark. Remember to send in the forms from last month's newsletter.

There are no rally reports this month as we haven't had any rallies during this period but I hope that as the rally season commences, I will be sent a lot of reports as well as any other contributions to provide interest to all our members.

In this newsletter we have Part 3 of the Loire diary which can be read in total with the previous reports –a lengthy tale but worth reading, and an interesting guide to any member thinking of travelling to France for the first time.

Deadline for the next newsletter will be by 10th February and all contributions should be sent to me at **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or by post to the address below. Please keep sending them in!

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.

Charity Choice 2015

The chosen charity for 2015 is "Christopher's Smile" Reg. No. 1129906, and was nominated by Bruce Manning Membership no. 8263

The charity was set up by Karen & Kevin Capel following the tragic death of their only son Christopher from Medulloblastoma, an aggressive childhood brain tumour.

"Christopher's Smile" aims to raise money to fund development of new drugs.

If you need any more information you can visit their web site.
www.christopherssmile.org.uk

Once again I would like to thank all of you who sent in nominations for the 2015 Charity

Regards John Jones.

Just a reminder

For all those attending the National Rally this year to let me know if you wish to have your Dometic Fridge serviced. Please advise as soon as possible. Year of vehicle, model number of fridge and any known faults.

I have also been speaking to the Thetford Service Engineer and I am hopeful that he will attend the National Rally. He will be able to carry out warranty work but only offer advice to other members on fridge problems.

I am hoping that he will also be available to sit in on the Q & A session on Friday afternoon.

Should you wish to take up this offer would you please advise me as to the year of vehicle, fridge model number.

Please let me know via mikemo.valentine@talktalk.net

Mike Valentine

IOW RALLY 2015

Hi everyone, after giving 2014 a miss for the Isle of Wight rally you may have noticed that it is back for 2015.

The ferry companies were being awkward with their pricing structures especially for motorhomes. I myself got clobbered with having to pay £100 for a return ticket last July, but having spoken to Lesley, the lady who runs the Old Barn touring park that we use, between us we have negotiated a decent deal for next summer.

This unfortunately will be the last one that I shall run on the island. A weeks stay with return ferry fare and rally fee will be £153 all in, which all things considered I think is quite a good deal. I expect Neil will put the details in the newsletter shortly and of course I hope to see as many of you as possible.

Of course we all hope for another good summer, best wishes to everyone ,

Ken Bolton.

Dear Members,

As Tony's Dementia has worsened and having found trips in the van more difficult we have decided the time has come for us to sell the Pollensa.

We are very grateful to all members of the Committee, Marshalls who have organised Rallies and members we have met on site for their kindness, friendship and support.

We have been members of A.S.O.C. for 14/15 years and we will miss you all. Our memories are of very happy times spent with you and wish everyone happy rallying in the future.

With best wishes from *Margaret and Tony Candlin. 3728*

National Rally- Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion

At this years National rally we will have the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion open to display hobbies and crafts on the Friday and on the Saturday afternoon.

I look forward to anyone that can display a hobby or craft to contact me as soon as possible.

It does not need to be elaborate but something you are interested in that will be of interest to others.

01484604133 / 07799591550 / stuwd@yahoo.co.uk.

Stuart Wood.

At this years National rally we are considering having a picture gallery again.

Anyone who would like to exhibit their paintings can get in touch with me when you have had chance to think about what paintings you would exhibit. This is not a competition but a way of showing your works of art and seeing other artist's works .

If anyone would like to demonstrate their art by doing some painting in the Pavilion over the weekend we will be pleased to hear from you. We will be very happy to accommodate you.

You can reach me on 01484604133, 07799591550, or Email at stuwd@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you. Stuart Wood.

FOR A FUN PACKED WEEKEND COME TO NEWARK SHOWGROUND

THE NATIONAL RALLY 30th April - 4th MAY 2015

This will be the 26th AGM

Meals are available each day. The menus will be included with the application form. These are optional.

The proposed Programme is as follows:

The Cedric Ford Pavillion

Thursday

Evening Meal followed by a get together to meet or make friends.

Friday

Question & Answer Session with staff from Auto Sleepers - Line Dancing
Evening Meal followed by a Quiz. The results of the Cake Competitions then the Cake Auction

Saturday

AGM followed by Open Forum
Evening Dinner followed by The Raffle Draw and Dancing to Phil Carr Music
Dress is as formal or informal as you wish.

Sunday

Sunday Service - Presentation of cheque to the chosen Charity
Followed by Tea and Coffee - Carvery Lunch – Short talk on Motorhoming Abroad.
Evening entertainment provided by Smooth Classics sung by Jack Foley

Stuart Goodwin Pavillion

Friday & Saturday

Crafts - Cakes - Bring & Buy Jigsaws – Bring & Buy motorhome spares or equipment, Books and Regalia Stalls - Technical Advice - Photo and Cake Competitions. Tea & Coffee will be available

Sunday

CLOSED

A free minibus service will run on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to SMC (Newark) to see motorhomes for sale. There is also a small accessory shop. Some refreshments will be provided (to be confirmed).

Photographic Competition 2015

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

There are two categories as follows:

Category 1

Set Subject

Photograph **MUST** contain at least one Auto Sleeper Motorhome taken either on or off a rally.

Category 2

Open Subject

Photographs can be anything at all, taken on or off a rally.

Up to 2 images can be entered in each category and can be either: 6x4 or 7x5 inches.

There will be awards in each category.

1st place £15.00 2nd place £10.00 3rd place £5.00

During the National Rally, members attending will have the chance to vote for their favourite photograph, the winner of which will be awarded £20.00.

Entries may be sent in anytime up to 24th April 2015.

Entries to be posted to:

Jean Hollingsworth
24 NortonGrove
Kingston upon Hull
HU4 6HL

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

Jeannette Hollingsworth

Sorrowfully, we have to leave.

Too many things, mainly medical, have been getting in the way of using our AS, so she has been sold.

If you come across a K reg Talbot Executive, uniquely in pale yellow, please give her a wave or a pat from us. And thank you for many years of friendliness - it's been fun.

Maureen & Jim Cresswell. 0859

Having read through Baz Wellard's recent email "Hints & Tips", regarding mattress toppers, Pound Stretcher have a double on offer at £29.99. I bought one today, they also include a washable cover and are extremely light. They appear to be good value.

John Geeson 2187



Coming to Newark? This is where you book in!



Sir Stuart Goodwin Tea Room and Displays

!0 Day Trip to the Loire and Brittany Part 3

Tuesday 1st July

A quick breakfast was followed by a walk to the harbour area, it was approaching midday and time to enjoy ½ dozen wild oysters (a little more salty than farmed). The oyster stalls here sell all sizes of oysters including very large 10 year old ones at 5 euros. A walk up the coast path brought us to the main town. On the way back down, a wine producer offered us a tasting on some very pleasant Muscadet, another purchase was soon made which we would pick up when passing with the van. Before leaving the harbour area a dozen oysters were beckoning.

We returned to collect the van. Then called in on the fishmonger to get mussels for dinner and jars of local fish soup. The water facility at the Aire was kaput, the helpful fishmonger was more than happy to fill our containers. We then collected the wine, - now on to St Malo.

Arriving at the designated area for Camping Cars 1900hrs to 0900hr which overlooks the marina just next to the ferry port, we find that

there are no spaces, this area is used as a car park during the day. A space soon becomes available. We spend part of the evening talking to a retired Guernsey fisherman and his wife who had been travelling around in their home converted van which although fairly basic is very functional. His stories related to thousands of miles of campervan exploits.

Wednesday 2nd July

When checking in we took the opportunity to record our weight as displayed on the weigh bridge.

With the customary shuffling and reversing into the Fastcats vehicle deck we were soon on our way for the 2 hour journey to Guernsey. A change of ferry gave us a good 2 hrs to walk around St Peter Port. Two hours later England was in sight. The sunny late afternoon presented us with views of the Dorset Coast before entering Poole Harbour. Arriving home at 8.30pm gave me enough time to meet with the family to celebrate a granddaughters 13th birthday.

Little Summary & Tips when using Aires

Be aware of French driving regulations.

Have French emergency numbers to hand.

Know your height, width, length and weight.

Have a plan, plan to change your plan.

When using Aires follow the code of conduct, Aires are for overnight parking, not camping.

Not all Aires detailed in guides are still open, the facilities may not be functioning.

Empty and fill up whenever and as often as you can. Be resourceful. Make conversation with fellow users no matter what nationality, they were a hive of information.

Facts and Figures

Vehicle: Nuevo 2005 (2.2ltr HDI)

Distance Travelled: 1102 miles

Fuel Cost £186.88

Fuel Used: 172.62 ltrs

MPG: 29 cost per Mile: 15.2 p

Ferry Cost: £223.42

Cost of all food and drinks consumed in France: £336

Cost of Aires: 1 Night Cancale: £4.80

Cost Parking: Dinard 5hours:£1.20

Holiday Cost per Person per Day: £32

Cost of wine bought home: Not telling you!

Adrian Lass 6113

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

Fridge Covers: In talking to several members, there may be some slight misunderstanding regarding the use of fridge vent covers and hopefully the following might help clarify the use of the covers.

The covers should only be on when temperature falls below 10°C. If they are left on during warmer weather the cooling efficiency drops. They should also be kept on when the fridge is not being used, to stop dust and insects entering the compartment.

It is recommended leaving the vents off when driving in high temperatures and the fridge is on 12 volts.

My appreciation to Mark Burdett (Service Centre) for his co-operation.

New Dartford Crossing: I recently read that there had been some teething problems with the new toll system at the Dartford Crossing

using the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system. Some motorhomes were being overcharged as they were incorrectly identified as Class C and not Class B.

It has been resolved now but may be of interest to anyone crossing in their motorhome who thinks they have been incorrectly charged.

1977 London to Sydney Rally & Auto Sleepers – What’s the Interesting Connection?

As it’s a little quieter ‘technically’ at this time of year, I thought you might be interested in a short non-technical event for a change.

The longest car rally ever recorded is the 4th London to Sydney rally in 1977.

The rally route required criss-crossing Europe, Asia, Indonesia and Australia, covering some 30,000 KM in total - with 30 check points including control points in Athens, Singapore and finally Sydney. The rally was planned to take 30 days but due to shipping problems (*mainly*) it took 45 days.

In total 69 cars took part with 22 not finishing - but remarkably 47 did accomplish this extreme feat.

Now here is the ‘interesting’ bit - maybe?



Astonishingly a Bedford CF Auto Sleeper successfully made the whole journey coming in **37th** – a fantastic achievement!

The drivers were Tom Currah and Steve Tucker and they were sponsored by Apex Leisure, a London Motor Caravan Dealer.

The Bedford, in the 70s, had the option of an 1800cc or a 2300cc petrol engine; and it is most likely that the engine chosen for the long drive would be the 2300cc version.

As A~S had a huge fire in the late 1980s it is very unlikely that anything is now held by the Company. So, for more information, I contacted Neville Jelfs who was the Production Manager for many years and is also an Honorary Member of the Club. He has kindly agreed that I can reproduce his reply:-

“What a fascinating article you have come across, I am fairly confident that we had no prior knowledge of this event or that any particular vehicle was prepared. In those days we only had standard Bedford CF vans with no frills, none of the optional extras that we have on today’s vans, the Bedford CF like all commercial vans were built to be used by builders and delivery companies.

I can only remember one special vehicle we built on the Bedford CF, and that was for Radio 1 DJ of the time Jonnie Walker, that did cause some excitement when he came to the Factory, we all put messages on the underside of shelves and other odd places, silly stuff come to think about it.

Having thought about the fact that someone actually drove all that way in a Bedford CF with uncomfortable seats, bone hard suspension, and terrible steering, it is a remarkable achievement, the only reason that they got there was due to the bomb proof engines that they had.”

There are more details of the rally on <http://londonsydney77.com/index.html> Unfortunately there are no photos of the Bedford CF on that site.

Website Updates/Stats:-

- Update 01a/15:- Rally spreadsheet - correction.
- 2014 statistics:- 19,251 visitors and 22 updates

Yours aye
Baz Wellard

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 8994 to 9020



Nick Tritton & Jan Bell

Thirsk

Kingham

Reay Urquhart & Rory
MacPherson

Inverness

Rambler

Mike & Lesley Tottey	Ringwood	Bourton
John & Denise Clark	Maldon	Sandhurst
Tony & Sheila Sutton	Ambleside	Nuevo
Trevor Thomas	Swindon	Trooper
David & Nasrin Neilson	Hythe	Warwick
Alan Clark & Angela Holding	London	Broadway
Philip & Valerie Bamfield	Fareham	Broadway
Kevin & June Self	Norwich	Warwick
Chris & Norma Bradley	Skegness	Beckford
Jon & Jane Leadlay	Derby	Trooper
David & Jane Arthur	Newcastle upon Tyne	Frisky
John & Jean Hancock	Wimborne	Clubman
Jon Squires & Samantha Wilson	Hitchin	Topaz
Paul & Rosaleen Saunders	Chertsey	Symbol
David & Susan Saxby	Launceston	Kemerton
Ann Cazenave & Pete Lowen	Coventry	Nuevo
Chris & Jaki Moores	Church Stretton	Broadway
Stuart Carson & Dorothy McKeegan	Glasgow	Clubman
Peter & Jane Barnes	Broughton in Furness	Kemerton
Nigel & Jill Bending	Dorchester	Warwick
Clive & Karen Susans	Wellingborough	Broadway
Andrew & Sheila Brown	Stockton-on-Tees	Nuevo
Rob & Elaine Love	Charmouth	Warwick
Gary & Helen Otton	Winchester	Kemerton
Stewart & Sandra Cook	Gloucester	Nuevo

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



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Midlands) or email:

g.m.longmore@btinternet.com