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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Early Morning Exercises at St Ives Rally

NEWSLETTER 325

October 2015

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Two Committee Member Vacancies			

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

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

From the Editor



Since last month, we have attended the excellent Rally at Winchester and a wonderful spot to do some interesting sight- seeing and we had good weather most of the time, although August has been wetter than usual.

This month I have received less mail than usual so I have had to shorten this newsletter. Plenty of Ads this month and also a Wanted as well.

I shall repeat myself and say that this newsletter relies on contribution from the members and we have had some interesting pieces previously so it would be nice if you can keep this up and help fill the newsletter.

Deadline for the November newsletter will be by 10th October. Please send your contributions to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or you can send through the post at 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



As many of you are aware, Club Rallies held on non-Commercial sites are subject to strict regulations under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. Natural England administer the Act and under their authority, ASOC holds a Para 6 Exemption Certificate owing Rallies to be held for up to 5 days on unlicensed land without the requirement of obtaining Planning permission.

Thanks to a recent revision, The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, now includes all exempted rallies under the 1960 Act as a permitted development that is subject to regulations 73 to 76 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (general development orders).

It has been brought to the Committee's attention by ACCEO (The Association of Camping and Caravanning Exempted Organisations) that one District Council is using notification of the intent to run a rally as an opportunity to levy a fee per pitch per night towards a habitation mitigation fund via the process of a planning application and the logical progression is other councils will follow suit and require planning applications for all para 6 and para 4 rallies anywhere in the country.

It is early days yet and hopefully common sense will prevail, but obviously the hobby many of us enjoy, without really thinking much about the 'behind the scenes legalities' may well soon be even more closely scrutinised by Local Authorities.

Apologies to the many non ralliers amongst you, but this seems yet another attack on the innocent traveller, along with car park height barriers and exorbitant car park charges. Mention of charges, reminds me of the upcoming 'stealth tax', an increase in the Insurance Premium Tax which will probably influence the cost of future motor vehicle insurance premiums.

Hey ho, happy roaming!

Travel safely

Jill

Charity 2017.

You may remember we now ask you to nominate a charity for the National Rally 12 months in advance. 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 2017, please write to me at 31, Abbott Lea, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 6NF by the 16th January 2016. Please make sure you send every thing 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 available to accept the cheque on Sunday morning. Looking forward to receiving your nominations.

John Jones

Thank you:

I would like to say a big thank you to my friends within ASOC for the many cards, telephone calls & E-mails of good wishes for a speedy recovery from my recent knee operation, which is progressing well.

Dorothy Wellard

Thank you for emails, get well cards and good wishes I have received following my spell in Hospital. It is really nice that so many Members remember me. I'm doing quite well and hoping to be back in circulation soon.

I still look forward to receiving the magazine and reading about all of the rallies, although we enjoyed all of the rallies we attended and help marshals, I think Topsham was our favourite.

Happy rallying and safe travelling.

Nora Venables

Rally Reports

Minehead Rally August 2015

This must surely qualify as the smallest ASOC rally to date, certainly the smallest we have attended. There were just 5 couples including us as marshals.

We considered cancelling but after phoning round, we were all in agreement to continue and the Rugby club had no objection, so we had a small but most enjoyable rally.

Our thanks to Margaret and Michael, Helen and Michael, Tony and Dianne and to first time ralliers, Janet and David (John) Steel.

When we set the rally dates, we had no knowledge of the events Minehead had planned for that week, it was not well advertised so came as a pleasant surprise and a bonus to the rally.

Saturday and Sunday was Harbour Fest with raft racing, and numerous other activities, street discos and fireworks display. Tuesday was open air market and then Wednesday the sea front was closed off for the big events with countless stalls displays and entertainment leading up to the Parachute regiments display team of the Red Devils and the R.A.F. Red Arrows display. Even the weather played its part staying warm and dry with clear skies.

Monday had been a little over cast with little odd showers which didn't stop us doing our walk from the site up the lanes to Dunster Castle and village. I say walk but in truth it was more of a stroll as Linda, myself and even Jaffa (our dog) are currently suffering leg injuries. Fortunately, with each of us, it is the left leg so provided we get in step, we can limp in harmony. Or as we call it, our penguin walk. The group obligingly settled to our pace.

At Dunster the group split up and went our separate ways to explore at will. We found a nice dog friendly pub on the edge of the village and had a very nice pub meal before heading back and meeting up again at base.

Wednesday evening, we had our little out door gathering with answers to the round town picture quiz, which we all won and shared the prize packet of jelly babies.

Finishing off the rally Linda put on a superb salad buffet supper and the finale, (you guessed it) my game of skittles. (my rules.)

So once again, our thanks to all the above mentioned for an enjoyable rally and hope to see you again soon.

Linda and Brian Ellis 2360

Winchester Rally

33 vans enjoyed four days at Winchester. Ralliers travelled far and wide, some going on the ferry to the Isle of Wight for the day. With plenty of places to visit they went to Romsey, the Watercress Line, Southampton, National Trust properties, and others went around Winchester which has plenty of places to see. The ralliers had a treasure hunt to do which eventually ended in Winchester. In the evenings having the pavilion to use, the urn was on for teas and coffees and entertainment. One evening we had a bring your own meal and we provided the dessert.

On the final night we had a free draw for bottles of wine and did the answers to the treasure hunt.

We had a book sale for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance which raised £63 for the charity, many thanks to all who brought books and the ralliers who purchased them.

Rita & John Tubb 4910

WINCHESTER - (Charmouth) - TOPSHAM Rallies

We would like to thank Rita & John and Jean & John for another good and entertaining rally. Several joined Rita on a stroll into Winchester, where you could either walk back or take the bus. We were given an excellent Treasure Trail which gave us our daily exercise searching for answers to the clues. The bus stop was right outside the gates of the Cricket Club which made it easy to get into Winchester or further afield to Southampton, where you could wander around the historic parts of the city or merely spend time around the shops. Some members even went on a "mini cruise" to the Isle of Wight, two members (who shall not be named) even had a free cream tea on their voyage!

We were lucky to have use of the Cricket Pavilion for our evening gatherings, where we had games and quizzes and our communal 'bring your own' supper, which I may add, was followed by a choice of delicious gateaux, which went down extremely well.

We left Friday morning to go our different ways, some going home, some to different camp sites, ready to meet up again at Topsham.

We went to Charmouth, a pleasant site on the coast, where we had a real contrast in weather conditions, from being hot and humid to thunderstorms, resulting in having to be towed off our very water-logged pitch on Monday morning.

The rain finally stopped when we reached Topsham and during the afternoon we were able to join Liz on an informative walk round Topsham.

We had the Club House for our welcome evening with, of course, tea/coffee etc. The next day was rather wet, but we were able to venture out during the afternoon for a walk round Topsham trying to solve the picture clues to the Treasure Trail, kindly provided by Brian " my rules " Ellis. Once again we were fortunate to have a bus stop right outside the gates of the club, so travel to Exeter and Exmouth was easy.

We visited a NT property, A la Ronde, an intriguing and fascinating 16 sided house, two miles from Exmouth, on the bus route and just a short walk from the bus stop. We had a trip to Exeter, where we walked round the quay rather than the shops.

We had our communal supper ranging from 'do your own,' take-a-ways Chinese, Indian or fish and chips.

Saturday was carnival day with plenty of things going on throughout the day, plenty of craft stalls, the local flower show and live music. In the evening the procession of floats and marching bands and again more live music brought the carnival to and end.

Once again we would like to thank Liz & Bryn, Rita & John and Jean & John for all their hard work in making the rally a great success.

Jackie Moss (5639)

Late August ASOC Rally in the SW of Scotland.

Eleven adventurous Auto Sleeper motor-vans joined us, in reasonably good weather, at Aird Donald camp site in Stranraer for a late Summer B/H Rally which was, I think, enjoyed by all.



On the Wednesday, after a slow start with arrivals, every one but Mel & Dairne were on site for the welcoming tea & biscuits and the next day people went off to gardens & sites in and around Wigtownshire.

Mel & Dairne were able to be with us for the Thursday tea & cakes after getting their 'van back from its service and on Friday the assembled multitude decamped to make the most of the sunshine before returning for a fish supper, al fresco for the hardy lot, others joining us for tea & coffee after their meal.



Saturday dawned with a promise of fair weather for the 3rd Lowland Gathering held on London Rd. playing-fields with with nine pipe bands competing in Grades 4, 3&2, with drum majors and highland dancers as well performing before and during the piping!

The final massedbands performance in the arena was lead off by world champion juvenile drum major Gibb Fraser. Great to have a world champion at our event!

Saturdays evening get-together at 6.30 was delayed by 10 mins, cos of rain but that was the only time the weather affected anything.

Sunday was again a fine day and after a warning to hold themselves in readiness for the meal at the golf club that evening, people again sallied forth to enjoy natural attractions the area has to offer.

The buffet was consumed with gusto and certain of the participants in the raffle were lucky to get the very prize that they coveted from the table! Moira's quiz also taxed peoples grey cells though in the end it was a close run thing. People departed on the Monday, again fine, homewards or onwards to pastures new.

We would like to express out thanks to all who made the effort to come to our South-Western extremity of Scotland and especially to Moira (2 cardies) and Allan (2 l's) Blackstock for their friendship and help.

Ricky& Ann Smith 1533

Thanks

We would like to thank all those who supported us at the rallies which we have organized over the last few years.

We will not be organizing any more rallies as we are finding the pressure too much.

We look forward to meeting up with you in the future.

John and Frances Thomas 7229

PS to Le Grand Bornand

How many of `you ralliers` are still appreciating the joy of our beautiful pink Petunias, given to us all by our hosts??

We counted "7" blooms this morning (4th Sept!)

Happy days,

Richard and Ivy Birch (7248).

MONOCOQUE " LUVVERS" - UPDATE

On updating our Talisman for a 2011 50th Anniversary Executive, just over a year ago, we have been seeing how many other Anniversary vans we spot on our travels, as we believe there were to be just 50, (ours being number 13). We are not doing very well , as we have only seen 4.

However, surprise, surprise on arriving at Topsham, what should follow us in and park next to us, but a brand new one, on a '15' plate, on the new Peugeot chassis. This is the last one to be produced and is number 44.
- Is this really the end of the Monocoques??

*John and Jackie Moss
(5639)*



ADVANCE NOTICE and a PLEA!

The Annual Membership Renewal Form will be included in the centre of the next Newsletter. It needs to be completed and returned to me by 31st December to ensure continuation of your Membership.

67 renewal forms have been received this year since January. One member even sent it in August, because he realised he wanted to go on a rally and hadn't been receiving the Newsletter! 34 renewal forms had been lost/thrown out, before filling them in, which required replacements.

Please keep the form in a safe place until you return it, or even better, complete and send it to me as soon as you receive the November Newsletter.

Jill Bertlin

Membership Secretary

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

Heavy Lorries:

You may have wondered lately why lorries over 7.5 tonnes have been closer to your rear bumper than before?

The reason is that Government has increased the upper speed limit of 'heavy goods vehicles' over 7.5 tonnes from 40 to 50 mph on single carriageways, and from 50 to 60 mph on dual carriageways.

There was, as you might imagine, quite a bit of criticism, but change came in anyway! There again you may already be aware of the change!

Deals for Member's:

Choose Leisure is the top third independent dealer of Auto Sleeper motorhomes and is based in South East England. They can undertake all motorhome habitation checks, servicing and repairs in their large on site workshop with plenty of parking space. They also sell & buy new & pre-owned A~S motorhomes.

They have very kindly agreed to support the ASOC by offering the following:-

- 20% discount on a winter habitation service, over the period November to February. The cost of additional parts and accessories are excluded.
- Complimentary introduction of ASOC membership on purchasing an A~S motorhome.

Choose Leisure is located on the A28, Chartham, Nr. Canterbury, Kent. To find out more visit www.chooseleisure.co.uk or contact service@chooseleisure.co.uk or ring 01227 733557.

We now have 22 dealers offering a 'Deal for Members' covering a very wide area of UK. Remember, as with all dealers, you need to advise of your membership when booking and show your current membership card on arrival.

Website update 04d/15*:

- Deals for Members: - Choose Leisure added.
- Rallies: - Stranraer rally report and photographs added.

**Supplementary updates.*

Yours aye

Baz Wellard 

A Warm Welcome to New Members



Membership Numbers from 9209 to 9267

Mark & Terry Harris	Washington	Washington
Robin & Denise Elliott	Wantage	Wantage
Malc & Sue Birkinshaw	Swadlincote	Swadlincote
Jan Green & Annie Pepper	Mansfield	Mansfield
Ron Hind & Sue Ward	Newport	Newport
Trevor & Jose Hudson	Belper	Belper
Mark & Julie Roper	Bradford	Bradford
Lorraine Amos	Newport	Newport
John & Paula Jameson	Salisbury	Salisbury
Peter & Julia Hickman	Harrold	Harrold
John & Ann Sibley	Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge
Paul & Zoe Bennett	Basingstoke	Basingstoke
Ken & Carol Chapman	Rushden	Rushden

Vic & Sylvia Carter	Thornton Cleveleys	Ravenna
Tony & Janet Barnes	Clacton-on-Sea	Warwick
Mike & Gillian Stanfield	Gillingham	Symbol
Simon & Lindsey Welch	Keswick	Windrush
Mike & Joan Atkinson	Southport	Broadway
Geoff & Marie Impey	Luton	Broadway
Peter & Lorna Baker	Bovey Tracey	Stanton
Robert & Ruth Rangecroft	Biggin Hill	Nuevo
Geoff & Sue Knowles	St Neots	Broadway
Andy & Lesley McLean	Alphington	Duetto
Jim & Mariana Koziol	King's Lynn	Symbol
Dave & Jan Warne	Westerham	Nuevo
Bruce & Janet Roberts	Hayle	Topaz
Vic & Sue Lee	Newton Abbot	Topaz
Paul Holloway & Gwenda Raybould	Bridgend	Warwick
Andrew & Julie Rooker	Chichester	Symbol
David & Jayne Rees	Monmouth	Rambler
Alan & Sylvia Hazard	Retford	Broadway
Douglas Morley	Chelmsford	Wave
Sally Waterhouse	Danbury	Wave
Richard & Sheryl Clarke	Derby	Nuevo
John & Jenny Morton	Derby	Symbol
Patrick & Dianne Pipe	Norfolk	Symbol
Derek Williamson & Nadya Islas de Williamson	Hyde	Warwick
Anthony & Diane Salamone	Newmarket	Stanton
William & D Duncan	Moray	Nuevo
John & Doreen Senior	Stockport	Dorset
Russell & Kathleen Davis	Whitley Bay	Nuevo
George & Maggie Dyne	Chippenham	Symbol

Peter & June Wilmore	Hassocks	Symbol
David & Joanne Spalding	Wrexham	Windrush
Stephen Mantripp & Elaine Barnard	Lowestoft	Duetto
Steve & Margaret Morant	Aston Tirrold	Surrey
Julie Storrie & Jules Cawthra	Peatling Parva	Stanton
John & Ann Booth	Paignton	Warwick
Colin & Anne Armstrong	Durham	Wave
Jan Bennison & Monica Fogarty	Cheadle	Warwick
Ian Dougall	Norwich	Kingham
Jennifer Kaywood	Chesterfield	Bourton
Brian & Christine Wightman	Spalding	Broadway
David & Fiona Sallis	Brighton	Symbol
Mark & Elizabeth Cooper	Burton on Trent	Stanton
Michael & Pam Nash	Rugeley	Topaz
Jenny Newland & Chris Beckhurst	Exeter	Kemerton
Carol Robinson & Graham Phillips	Tewkesbury	Nuevo

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

Wanted

If any Members are de-cluttering or giving up motorhoming, may I have first refusal to any surplus AS Magazines or brochures for which there would be a mutual agreeable financial arrangement. Please be assured these items will NOT be for re-sale and are for my personal collection (and enjoyment) only.

Thank you.

Terry Hammond 7578 Locks Heath, Southampton

tel **01489 575717** Email: terry_hammond1@yahoo.co.uk



Thanks for your
Donations .

2004 Auto-Sleepers Ravenna (Rear Lounge): Ford Transit 2.4 TD manual. RWD, ABS, 41,000m. 1 owner. Annual Franchised servicing.

Taxed Dec 2015, MOT Apr 2016.

4 berth. Shower/wc, 3 way fridge, Full cooker inc electric hotplate, gas/ electric water heater/blown air heating. Fiamma Awning/Privacy Room; cycle rack; Cobra immobiliser/alarm.

No pets, no smokers Excellent throughout. £19,950.

Tel: **07938 774169**

'ROYAL' MOTORHOME COVER (grey) for a 6.5 metre maximum length van. Four layer composite system, with reflective triangles, 3 zips on both sides and water-proof roof panel. Still in box and bag, never used.

Cost £183 when new - £100

HARRISON ENCLOSURE (grey) for a Fiamma 45 awning. Windbreak, curtains all in excellent condition. Used a few times by previous owner on A/S Executive.

Manual and instructions
£200

Contact John Stedman on

01363 877397, e-mail:

johnstedman39@tiscali.co.uk (mid Devon)

Could possibly be viewed or delivered to any autumn West Country rally.

Breathable Motorhome cover, only used twice. Will suit motorhome 18.7 to 20.0 ft long c/w straps and bag £60.00 o.n.o

Towsure cc16 motorhome or caravan cover breathable and c/w straps and bag 14-17 feet long and in good condition £40.00 o.n.o

6.5 watt thin film photocell £10.00

JOHN HANSON 8932 Tel: **0161 4327002** (Manchester)

AUTO-SLEEPER DUETTO 2/4 BERTH MOTOR CARAVAN1994 FORD TRANSIT 2.5 diesel engine with manual gearbox and is fitted with an immobiliser.

Cassette toilet and shower - oven hob-grill & sink, HOT & COLD water, Fridge- Space heating. Lockable safe - fly screens - Alloy wheels. "Omnistore" wind out canopy. Gas bottles. Mains hook up lead. MOT. Recent habitation check. Complete service history. Service check by Fords - no problems, excellent condition for age. Present mileage 84,576 Extras!! £7,500 o.n.o.

Susanne Tilley (Lincoln)

Tel: **01673 861694**

KAMPA Rally pro air awning260XL.

Purchased 2015. This is the XL version that will fit exactly the Broadway and any other version with the rail at 270cms height. It cost a lot but will have to part with it at reasonable cost. So £325 will get you a virtually new and unmarked air awning including storm straps and front support poles (normally added cost) David Simmonds T: **0750 0966550**

Foam interiors from Autosleeper Lancashire 2009. We replaced the foam in our main 2 bench seats soon after we got it 2 years ago as we found them too firm.

They measure 68cmX143cmX12.7cm and 68cmX133CMX12.7cm. Would suit Nuevo's of the same era.

Buyer to collect from Nottingham or from The High Peak.

£50 – cost us £150 for replacements.

Tel **0115 9225582**

pam@ivesley.me.uk