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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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NEWSLETTER 326
November 2015

Committee Members

President	Charles Trevelyan		
Chairman	Jill Bertlin	Jbertlin@aol.com	01539 534500
Secretary	John Osland-Jones	oslandjones@aol.com	01217 448065
Treasurer	Peter Brown		07771 827711
Vice-Chairman	Peter Brown		07771 827711
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	Keith Ross	Ross17@john-lewis.com	
Minutes Secretary	Gill Hopkins		01244 675180
Committee Member	Mike Valentine	Mikemo.valentine@talktalk.net	02392 482818
Two Committee Member Vacancies			

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From the Editor



Don't the months fly by. I am pleased to say that I have received a number of contributions for the newsletter this month, so have been able to add a few extra pages to make up for previous shortages! There are a number of rally reports and some items of interest of a variable nature which is making the newsletter a joy to edit and hopefully to read.

This is what the newsletter is about as it is a common communication for all members. So if you have something that you think will interest other members then please let me have details for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Included with the newsletter this month is the annual membership renewal form which I urge you to deal with straight away. It saves our Membership Secretary (and Chairman!) a lot of time by renewing before the end of the year!

The Deadline for the next Newsletter is by the 10th November and as always you can send your contributions be email to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or by post to the address below.

I look forward to receiving your contributions.

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**.

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Chairman's Chat

As I write, it is day three of England following in the footsteps of Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland and although I have never been an avid shopper, ALL possible enjoyment has been taken out of the experience this week.



Yesterday I went to a certain store (used to have connections with St Michael) which has been charging customers for food bags for a while, but as I was only looking to buy clothes I went in 'empty handed'. I took my purchases to the checkout where I was told I would be charged for a bag. My retort of, "No way", resulted in me carrying out a pile of unwrapped clothes, struggling to retrieve my coin from the trolley, almost dropping my items while opening the boot of the car and then trying to find a bag to put them in, as most bags had had food of some sort in them, with possible leakages and not ideal for new clothes, especially as some may be returned!

I was bemoaning my experience over lunch with a friend who had been to a charity shop the day before with a fairly large contribution in plastic bags. Having made a few purchases before she left, she asked for a bag to put them in, to be told she would be charged the statutory 5p. "But what about a recycled bag", she asked "We still charge" was the reply. "Well, I'll take one of the bags I brought in with me then." The answer...? "We'll still charge you". I suspect she will not be donating to that charity again.

No doubt we will get used to it, after all the rest of the UK seems to have done, BUT after my comments last month about the extra 'hidden' costs we Motorhome users suffer from, does this mean yet one more? As almost all 'waste bins' in motorhomes rely on the use of a plastic bin liner – ours certainly does, as does the one in our kitchen cupboard at home, we are now going to have to purchase bags which won't do much to reduce the ultimate number used, unless, of course, resourceful members have other ideas...

I feel a real 'Grumpy Granny' today, so will try and think of a more cheerful 'Chat' for next month, after all, by then it will be the run up to Christmas!

Travel safely. Jill

Rally Reports

Western Motorhome Show, Malvern 2015.

This year we had great weather AND a superb site - near to the disabled area and a short walk to the entrance to the western cowboy/indian area and we had a permanent W.C. block at the corner of our area. Couldn't be better! We didn't make the magic number to allow two sets of Marshals on the site to set up the day before although with special permission this was achieved, but "Never Again". Shelagh and Phil West were the best of co-marshals and Alan Guest and Josie Busby were great assistants.

This is a great Show and in a wonderful setting and we/I would love for it to be "on" next year so please support us and book to join us in 2016.

So here's to a great year in 2016!

Gill Hopkins.

Whitby Rally 2015

This year the Whitby Rally provided new challenges for the Rally Marshal. On previous years we have had a blue light paramedic and ambulance called by one member. Then a fire engine came on site to a fire in the changing rooms which were across the playing fields and not in the school. This year the football players forgot to book and set off the burglar alarm when entering the changing rooms, so the police arrived. An ambulance, fire engine and now a police car, a hat trick, but none of these serious. But this time the marshal had a problem. Having got all ralliers safely pitched on site and after the welcome tea and coffee evening, the marshal can finally relax. However, I went out in the dark, and tripped on a kerb and fell.

The next morning my wrist was sore, so I left Mike and Heather Tucker my assistant marshals in charge, and went to test the Whitby Minor Injuries Department listed in the Rally Information Emergency Contacts. I thought I had sprained my wrist but an X-ray showed a fractured radius. A temporary plaster was applied and I had to report to my local Fracture Clinic when I returned home where a full plaster was applied.

I would like to thank Mike and Heather Tucker for their extra help in helping the rally to run smoothly, and checking all was in order after the ralliers had

left. My thanks to all the ralliers, who in true ASOC manner, offered assistance in shopping or servicing my motorhome.

I don't know how many members are aware, but motor insurance is invalid when you have a Plaster of Paris cast. This meant that driving home was not possible, so special thanks to Peter Brown who drove me home and safely parked my van in the drive, and to Chris Mawdsley who followed before they drove to the Lake District. Taking me home was a considerable detour for them which was much appreciated.

I have now had my plaster removed, and though my hand and arm are swollen and I have lots of exercises to do, I can now drive and will be able to restart rallying.

So, once again many thanks to everyone for your help and kind wishes.

Liz Irvin 4636 Whitby Rally Marshal

Cartmel Rally

It was with great anticipation that we returned to the Race Course again at Cartmel, as it was the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta with celebrations planned all weekend.

The sun shone for all five days as we viewed the beautiful flower festival in the Priory and an amazing Son et Lumiere on the building at night.

Saturday and Sunday saw a Pageant on the field where various groups re-enacted medieval customs, including sword fighting, archery and primitive wood carving.

Refreshments were available with Vegetable Pottage, Pulled Pork and Chicken all washed down with Medieval Ale!

On Sunday evening we all enjoyed a super meal in the Club House finishing off with a quiz.

Our thanks must go to James and Jill for organising a most enjoyable rally.

Janis Wood 4201

Cartmel Rally

Peter and I arrived at the Cartmel Rally via Ravenscar, a place we have known of for some time but never actually gotten around to visiting. The franchised Camping and Caravan Club site is very convenient for both the heritage railway and the mainline station, which provides access up and down the west coast between Barrow-in-Furness and Whitehaven, or further afield to Lancaster and Carlisle. However, our prime interest was the tourist railway between Ravenglass and Dalegarth (for Boot). So it was 'all aboard' on Friday with the train to Dalegarth and a walk up to the water mill at Boot, where the proprietor got the mill wheels turning and explained the internal workings, which were basically the same as any other flour mill but on a much smaller scale than the windmills we're used to. There are also plans for an hydro-electric generator to be built on the river adjacent to the mill, so ancient will meet modern.

After a very good lunch at the station café in Dalegarth we chugged back to Ravenglass and walked along the 'front' and through the village, stopping for refreshments on the way. The rest of the trip included a walk to Hooker Crag, which gives wonderful views of both the coast and the countryside, a trip to Barrow (unfortunately on a day when the museum was closed!) and a trip into Whitehaven, where we explored the harbour and the battery on a fairly blustery day..... And, a lovely meal at the Inn at Ravenglass.

On to Cartmel, which was celebrating 800 years since Magna Carta. So just what is the connection between Carmel and the Magna Carta which, being sealed at Runnymede is hardly in the vicinity?? Something I admit I'd been wondering about. Well, the answer is William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who brokered the deal between the barons and King John. He was given the large royal estate of Cartmel by a grateful King Henry II – he got Pembroke later. The celebrations included a floral history of Cartmel in the Priory, which is a lot easier to say than describe. The artistry and depictions were just incredible, you really did 'have to be there'. There was also a Tournée field with food, ale, and wine, music, baking, wood turning, a small armoury and various displays of prowess including sword fighting and archery.

Of course a visit to Cartmel wouldn't be complete without Sticky Toffee Pudding and we duly bought some to bring home. We also sampled some at the dinner on Sunday evening, arranged by Jill and James in the Racecourse Banqueting Suite – *very nice*. Great views on race days, can see almost all of the course.

An exceptionally good week-end with great weather too. So very many thanks to Jill and James for arranging it all, it was a very interesting week-end and I don't suppose we'll be around for the next one.....

Chris Mawdsley

Cartmel Rally

WOW! What a fantastic rally; it was a long trip up from the south coast but so worthwhile.

To get to the rally site we had to negotiate the very narrow winding Cartmel village roads and then arriving on site we were greeted by Jill & James and given the very full programme for the rally.

The details of the 800th Celebration of the Magna Carta were read with great interest and included a magnificent Flower Festival held in the Priory, Jousting, ancient foods and crafts were demonstrated in a local field -- Musical Concerts were given each evening in the Priory, the story of the Magna Carta was spoken by a Monk followed by the Son et Lumiere on the Priory Wall each evening, which was spectacular.

Back on site, tea and coffee was provided every evening in the Jockeys Changing Room, Sunday evening found everyone in the Racecourse Restaurant enjoying a Gammon Carvery followed by the Cartmel Sticky Toffee Pudding, yummy!

To cap it all, some of us enjoyed watching the Eclipse of the Moon between 2.30 and 4.00am, well worth staying up for ...as many did, even the urn was 'on' to make hot drinks to warm us up, or was it to keep us awake!

The weather was great, blue skies and warm sunshine adding much to the occasion.

A big 'Thank You' to Jill and James for their hard work in the organisation of this rally, much appreciated by us and the other ralliers.

Mo Valentine

BREAN SANDS - UNITY HOLIDAY RESORT

It was a wet and windy start to the rally and it was hard work putting up the catering tent, fortunately this was only short lived and then it was a mixture of sunshine and showers. Unity has plenty to offer, restaurants, entertainment each evening, good facilities including a shower block with under floor heating! (no more cold toes - even better than at home).

A trip to Weston super Mare is always on the agenda, be it to look around the shops, a stroll along the prom, or as we did, visit the SeaQuarium (courtesy of a Tesco days out voucher). We also went to the Weston Sand Sculpture Festival, very impressive. It was fascinating to see, in their workshop, how these masterpieces were constructed, only to be bulldozed at the end of the season, and reconstructed next year. The Banksie "Dismaland" had queues longer than any theme park, and was definitely a no go.

It was a perfect day for the Brean Down walk, sunshine and clear blue skies, giving stunning views across to Weston and the Welsh coast. We congregated back at the cafe and awaited the mini bus to take us back to the holiday park. In the evening we had a superb carvery, followed by a ventriloquist who had us in stitches.

We must also thank our marshals, Brian and Linda, together with the 'catering team' for providing us with a jacket potato, with a choice of fillings, which was supported by all our ralliers. Our final evening, by popular demand, was a GAME of SKITTLES! Gill won the first game with an overwhelming score, but Kevin was the Killer King and received the notorious bag of Jellyastics. Sunday saw our fond farewells, some going home whilst some of us were going on to Dartmouth.

Jackie Moss

LITTLE COTTON -DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth, like Brean, started off rather wet, however the sun soon came out and the weather steadily improved as the week progressed.

We were given a picture quiz around Dartmouth, which entailed many trips down to the town looking for the clues. It certainly kept us occupied and alert.

There are many places to visit, and the bus stop conveniently outside the gate made travel easy. Totnes is a very interesting town, with many different shops from the usual big city stores. A few of us went on a "cruise" across the bay from Brixham to Torquay with on board entertainment, the commentary was hilarious, unfortunately, only those who went, would appreciate this.

We also had a day out (pre-booked) to the Dartmouth Naval College. The architecture is stunning and hearing about the history was very interesting and definitely well worth a visit.

Several of us joined Rita on a walk down to the castle, which over the years has become an annual event. Our fish and chip supper, with the added bonus of a dessert, went down well, unfortunately we had to eat in our vans as it was too chilly to sit outside.

It is sad that this will be the last rally at Little Cotton, as the site is due to close at the end of the season. We must thank Rita and John for all their hard work over the years they have been involved, together with their helpers Frances and John.

Jackie Moss (5639)

Farewell To Little Cotton

On Sunday 20th September 42 vans arrived in Dartmouth for the farewell rally at Little Cotton. ASOC have held 21 rallies here over the last 18 years, and will be very sorry to see the site go to housing. Dot and Paul have always made us all most welcome.

The weather this year was very kind to us as it remained dry, sunny and little wind for most of the week.

We all got together on most evenings for tea and coffee and a chat. On Wednesday we had the usual fish and chips, and this year we arranged a dessert for all participants, which was enjoyed by all.

We arranged a book sale for the Devon Air Ambulance which raised £65 for the charity.

On Friday it was Macmillan Nurses coffee morning so in the evening when we had our cream teas, the ralliers donated £90 to this worthy cause.

We also had a collection for Dot and Paul in appreciation of the way we are always looked after on our rallies, and purchased a silver photo frame, two champagne glasses, a bottle of sparkling wine, and a bottle of spirits. They were most appreciative and were both in tears when we made the presentation.

Rita & I would like to thank all ralliers for all their support over the years we have run rallies here and many thanks for the cards and gifts they gave us.

On Sunday 27th the ralliers departed from Little Cotton for the last time.

Rita & John

Autumn in Dartmouth at Little Cotton Caravan Park Dartmouth.

We have just returned home after spending 7 nights on the above rally run by Rita & John Tubb who were assisted by Frances & John Thomas. This rally was at a lovely well maintained campsite in a good location with plenty of places to visit nearby and public transport to get to them all and also convenient was having food stores nearby. Each day there was always something different to do, bus trips, boat trips, steam trains, places of interest to visit and so many fish and chip shops and almost a permanent fish and chip van on site, our cholesterol levels!!

Each day was busy with outings, one amazing day we personally had was when we visited Torquay, it was made more fun as it seemed half the rally members had all decided to go to Brixham/Torquay that day so we all kept bumping into each other which was really friendly and nice.

The day to Torquay started off with a bus ride from the campsite into Dartmouth, then a short river crossing to Kingswear by ferry only £1.50 each way per person, a quick sprint up the hill to catch the bus to Brixham.

At Brixham we had a wander round before catching the 35 minute ferry crossing to Torquay which was only £3.00 return per person. Torquay was quaint and we had a few hours there before we did the return journey but what a day, four buses and four passenger ferries.

Rita, John, Frances & John provided some very enjoyable evening events during the rally, we had a fish and chip supper with dessert and on another evening cream teas. Well we were in Devon.

On a sad note this was the last time ASOC would be rallying here at Little Cotton as the owners Dot & Paul have decided to retire. On our last

evening Rita & John presented Dot & Paul with some gifts from the present ASOC rally members. ASOC have had 21 rallies at this campsite during the last 18 years, so it will be a very missed rally.

Thank you Rita & John, Frances & John for all the very hard work put into making this rally a really happy, fun and busy one for us all.

Although we can't use this site at Dartmouth in the future, we do hope that more rallies like the one we have just attended will be on the rally list for 2016.

Ruby Sutton 4688

The ACCEO National Rally

This Rally was held on the Staffordshire Show Ground, just outside of Stafford itself. Seven vans from ASOC joined 120 vans from 33 other Clubs for what turned out to be a glorious week-end, well Wednesday to Monday actually.

We had the use of a large events hall for the whole of the rally and included in the programme was a Quiz night on Thursday and dancing to Groovy Ape on Saturday. Tea and coffee was available for those who wanted it on the other nights, otherwise you brought your own - in our case wine of course, with background music (and I do mean background music) helping to create a pleasant atmosphere to chat and meet new people, including those odd people called 'caravaners'.

The local Model Engineering Society have a large railway in the corner of the showground and they were 'steaming' on Thursday and Sunday. Several ralliers were treated to a ride in return for a small donation and ACCEO made contact with the Society to arrange for an event to coincide with the rally when it returns to Stafford next year.

The only down-side to the site is that it is 3 miles from Stafford along a very busy road with no footpaths – not good for motor-homers. However, there is apparently a local group who organises vintage buses to ferry people to and fro when there is an event on at the showground. It is a charity and thus relies on donations, rather than fares, and ACCEO is going to pursue this for next year as well. It will probably be well used, because parking is a nightmare in Stafford apparently, so I doubt it will just be the motor-homers using it.

There was a Grand Prize Draw on Sunday morning with an excellent range of prizes, many being donated by Millenco, and refreshments were available. (They must have got through an awful lot of tea and coffee on this rally!)

We rounded the whole thing off with a 'bingo' quiz on Sunday evening for those of us who didn't have to rush back for work (sorry, no more four letter words). I must admit whenever anyone mentions bingo I groan, but actually it was good fun.

All in all not a bad way to close our rallying season for this year, so let's see if we can get a bigger ASOC presence next year – only the delegates have to go to the AGM (in our case Ozzie), the rest of us either go for moral support or don't go at all.

Chris Mawdsley

Letters to the Editor

Whitby Folk Week.

For anyone seeking a different event consider visiting the Whitby Folk Week (www.whitbyfolk.co.uk), held annually during the third week in August. One doesn't have to be an aficionado of 'Folk Music' to enjoy the events of the week with lots to choose from. Daily workshops for dancers, budding musicians, penny whistles, banjos, melodeons and more, much more. One can even enjoy singing 'Carols in August.' August I hear one exclaim! Yes in August, this is one of the best attended sessions of the week. Apparently there has been a singing tradition around the Peak District and Sheffield of Carolling, however, not We Three Kings or Good King Wenceslas but local songs in the Carolling tradition and take it from me the roof lifts as the singers come together enjoying themselves at the Rifle Club concert room.

Evening and afternoon concerts, dance displays throughout the town, a couple of parades impromptu singing, but not busking, sing arounds at various local pubs, Ceilidh dances, lots of humour, story telling, it all combines to make a great week, in fact Betty and I require a rest on returning home. Enjoying one's self can be so tiring! The 2015 week had over 600 events of all descriptions to enjoy.

With many folk around the town wearing hats with flowers, bells on their feet and attired in various colourful costumes, I easily blended in with the crowds.

Over the last seven or eight years Betty and I have joined with many other 'folkies' assisting as stewards during the week at one of the venues. It is enjoyable meeting with the many good folk sharing a laugh, listening to music from around the world, meeting many young and not so young folk having lots of fun.

There is a campsite organised by the event, however be prepared for different sort of camping event, well organised and regulated with musical accompaniment.

Andrew Entwistle

At the National Rally we were lucky enough finally to win a prize in "The Big Charity Raffle". I say "finally" because you can see by our number that we've been in the club for some time. Well, we've always attended the National Rally and taken tickets - and just once have won a small prize at the end, when the main ones had already been purloined.

But this prize was a beauty. (That's NZ slang for a bobbydazzler). It was not an interim service for the motorhome but a SILVER service (same thing evidently, just that "silver" is business-speak, as it puts a shine on the word "interim". Get it? Get it?) And this prize was able to be collected at Motorplus of Derby - just the very dealer that we bought our Kemerton from four years ago now, and one that is handy to where we live (only three quarters of an hour away).

I rang them and arranged a date to bring the 'van in, and got a time and day to suit them and us. This was to coincide with our fourth year of ownership, when a minor service was due anyway. So on the day I arrived, and I was treated excellently - despite the fact that the firm wasn't going to gain any money from my custom this time. Everything was done very professionally and in a friendly manner. Tim, the salesman for us originally, made the time for a chat; Dan, who had at point of sale gone painstakingly through all the quirks and labyrinthine technicalities of the new purchase, helped me see a brand new (already sold) Kemerton; and even Mark, whose role of aftersales service had seemed a couple of times to have that married with keeping costs down (!), were all as helpful as could be.

Obviously this was no struggling enterprise, desperate for business and yet fighting to keep up profit margins. In fact this firm of Motorplus of Derby (with a fine website these days) is now the largest independent dealer that specialises only in Autosleepers. So they had a complete range for me to

browse around, well displayed, and very enticing. They can do full services these days, and I know from experience they give a good trade-in value for previously-loved Autosleepers. Their showroom is comfortable, with sofas and magazines, and they offer such benefits as a coffee - or even "essential" extras for the motorhome, from awnings to cheap or expensive gizmos (anyone for the latest satellite TV aerial?)

Therefore, should you want to see all the Autosleepers in the flesh, all under one roof, plus maybe take in some of the delights of modern Derby, from the Costa Coffee shop to the Museum, or from the Art Gallery (with its fine collection of the local boy's works who painted his way to a fortune by specialising in paintings that would sell(!) to Americans) to the just refurbished Cathedral, then I recommend a visit. And if you buy after due consideration and always with the realisation that you are the customer, then you'll remain a satisfied owner judging by the treatment I've received

Noel and Glenn Clarke

Heavy Lorries

I feel I must reply to the item in Newsletter 325 concerning speed limits for HGVs. It is high time the limit was increased as it will help to end queues of traffic behind slow wagons. As to any criticism the only one I can see is that it has taken so long to happen.

Turning to the comment about lorries being close to your bumper I would submit if that is the case then you are driving too slowly. I am both a motorhome and car driver and I cringe with embarrassment when I see lorries being forced to pull out to overtake motorhomes that are travelling at a ridiculously slow speed.

On a two lane dual carriageway or motorway it takes a lorry a long time to overtake slow moving vehicles which causes problems for other drivers in the tailback. This is the kind of anti social driving that gets us a bad name. I would urge all drivers of modern motorhomes to at least keep up with the HGVs to avoid this kind of thing, I do accept that older vehicles maybe are unable to travel at modern speeds, that is fine and other drivers will understand.

Len Aitkin

Ed: There's no excuse for tailgating which is illegal and dangerous.

In the Middle!

As we live nearly in the middle of the country we can easily go south or north to rallies as long as I can plan more than one rally or other stops together. Thus it was that in August we went south to Topsham where we had never been before. I was surprised at the number of vans attending. After a rather wet summer in the south-west we found the ground at the rugby field soft. As we were last to arrive a place had been left about half along the side, which I approached without getting bogged down. Other vans had struggled a bit as there were many ruts visible. There was plenty to do in the village with buses available outside the gate, so a trip to Exeter was possible.

Our next stop was in Dorset as I wanted to go via Lulworth Cove where I had spent over two years of my childhood 65 years ago! We had booked onto Haycraft Caravan Club Site, about half way between Swanage and Corfe. They also had problems with soft waterlogged conditions and were unable to use any grass pitches. On arrival we found out that had we still been at home a week before, our booking would have been cancelled. Afterwards I thought - what would we have done, as it was the Bank Holiday week-end. There was the village fete the next day after we arrived, which we looked in on. On another day we went on the Swanage Railway (steam) in both directions. Also we used the nearby bus for a day in Wareham.

For more than 25 years I had wanted to go to the "Great Dorset Steam Fair", so we managed a short stay of two nights. Any longer would have been rather expensive as one had to pay separately for each day to go into the main site. We didn't quite have time to see everything, but I can now say "I've been"!!

Our final destination was to the rally at Wells - what an excellent site this is - and with a "club" room we could have tea or coffee every evening, put on by the rally marshalls. There is a lot to see in Wells, and the caves at Wookey Hole were in walking distance. Again there are bus stops outside the site, so we went to Glastonbury one day and Weston-Super-Mare on another day.

We had two weeks at home before setting off again, north, to the rally at Cartmel. This had been rearranged to fit in with celebrations to commemorate the Magna Carta. There was so much going on in the village and Priory that it was difficult to see everything. The Priory itself was absolutely "stuffed" full of flower arrangements and other displays relevant to the whole theme. The rally ended with an excellent meal in the Grandstand dining room.

Next we went to Ravenglass Camping and Caravan Club Site not far away. Here we had another steam (narrow gauge) railway to go to Eskdale and there we did some walking in wonderful scenery and by then warm sunny weather.

On our way to the next rally we had one night at Rivendale which is situated on the A515 between Buxton and Ashbourne. We could use Camping Cheques here, so it felt like a "free" night. From there we went to Stafford Showground where the ACCEO rally and A.G.M. was taking place and ASOC always has a presence there. From there it was a short "hop" back to home in Leicester.

Finally we would like to express our grateful thanks to all the marshals who ran all these rallies. Without you and all the venues it would be difficult to plan where to go. THANKS!

Elizabeth & Bill Grimsley (2080)

Notes from a French newspaper.

A woman in the Dordogne area has been fined €90 by the Gendarmes for driving in flip-flops, apparently under new safety rules that came into force in July of this year. The lady told the local newspaper that a female police officer stopped her, asked to see her papers and noticed that she was wearing flip-flops and then said "I am obliged to give you a fine. You are not allowed to drive with these kind of shoes, that are not attached to your feet" The lady thought that the officer was joking but she left with a €90 fine -- the price of a pair of shoes!

Article 412-6 of the French highway code states that drivers must be in a position to "execute all necessary manoeuvres conveniently and without delay" and the officer in this case issued the fine on the grounds that flip-flops come off too easily and could get jammed under a pedal.

This is not the first time that a driver's choice of footwear has hit the headlines. I remember reading last year that a female driver did not receive a €250,000 compensation payout for injuries sustained in a car accident because she was wearing high heels at the time of the crash.

There was a shock at the recent French-speaking Scrabble Championship when the tournament's winner took to the podium and gave a short speech.... in English. The reason for this was simple: New Zealander Nigel Richards does not speak a word of French!

I bet there were some red faced organisers and much muttering!

Does the wine you buy have a shelf life that can be measured in hours or do you have a wine cellar full of dusty vintages? If your bottles make it as far as the wine rack. how much importance do you put on the position of the rack? This has long been debated by the so-called experts. In recent years, the quest for the perfect bottle of wine has led to many experiments and now are being carried out in the sea!

In recent times divers have found and brought bottles of wine to the surface from a boat sunk in 1780's and found to be still in remarkably good condition.

So next time that you bring home that special case of wine, should you take it to the nearest lake or sea and 'dunk it' for a period!

Mo has just reminded me that backless shoes are not allowed in Spain either.

Mike Valentine

Peugeot Servicing

People worried about having to go to a Peugeot garage to have their van serviced because of resetting the service schedule & warning light. I have found a nationwide company called Servicingstop.co.uk/van as featured on Dragons Den, they only use OE parts ,warranty protected, 12 months parts & labour guaranteed and they will collect & deliver to your door. They have full diagnostic equipment, at less than half the price of the main dealers. I have obtained a copy from Autodata diagnostic's on how to reset only the service indicator on a Boxer 111 2.2 [not like the pre 2006] Unfortunately I have not had the chance to try it out as I have carried out my first full service & as I was going to my local Peugeot dealer to have a warranty job done, to my surprise they reset the service schedule & light for free. My local garage also has the means to reset.

If you have got £700 to spare you can buy the CF-29 ultra -rugged laptop kit that Peugeot use. Also there are lots of hand held copies on the market called Lexia 3, for sale for well under £70, if you can get the software to work.

Derek Steele No.8425

Ed: Only for those who know what they are doing!!

New Wind out Awning

After years of deliberation we decided that we should splash out and have a 3.5 metre awning fitted to our Talisman, replacing the 3.0 metre one that we have had some 12 years or so. We have always found the old awning to be less than satisfactory as it barely protected the doorway and didn't cover the window at all.

Upon inspecting the new awning and discussing the job with the fitter, he remarked that of the three old brackets, on one the adhesive had totally failed and the other two were in poor condition. We could have been within a whisker of having the awning fall off the van! A catastrophe narrowly averted and we are pleased to hear the normal fixings today include both adhesive and bolts. It seems the old method utilised small grub screws to hold the brackets in place whilst the adhesive cured? Maybe this is another item that should be inspected during a habitation check?

We think the new awning will prove to be very satisfactory and together with rain and wind blockers we could almost be looking forward to the next wet and windy rally? No, not really.

Maureen and Harry Emblen 3905

Nuevo classic plastic door repair -Unless anyone knows a better way

The doors below the sink in the bathroom are showing their age. One door where the flimsy hinge clips are, the plastic has broken away. I know these doors are not available now, so I have made a temporary repair to test out the door before I make some fibreglass ones.

On the corners I used some car body filler to rebuild the hinge corners (not very pretty for the test). Tapped a M6 thread through the filler and reattached the door with some rubber spacers and dropped in a stainless M6 bolt to make the hinges rather than the plastic clips. I intend to fibre glass a locking nut to the doors.

If anyone interested would like the photos, let me know at jm@citycyclerider.co.uk

John Morris

Annual Membership Renewal

The Renewal Form is inserted inside this Newsletter (a pretty lilac, this year!) for those members who need to complete and return a form with the subscription in order to continue membership for 2016.

Please remember the renewal form is not available on the website and no other form is acceptable for renewals.

For members who joined after 1st September, there will not be a form, as the initial subscription covers membership until 31st December 2016.

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

Project Sapiens:

Three years ago Auto Sleepers started work with Birmingham University on an LPG Fuelled Powercell Project to develop a power source that would allow 'green field' (*i.e. no mains supply*) camping for sustained periods. I was fortunate, in my Committee role, to be invited to the early project meeting to represent the ASOC.

Trialling is starting shortly (*or has by now started,*) on a 100w Powercell which A~S believes would be the ideal output for everyday usage; but this could be increased to 150w or 200w for heavy duty users. A~S considers it will be a highly desirable option / accessory for many and is called **Project Sapiens**.

Because this project is in part an EU funded project there was a need for a prospective users' survey. At the request of Auto Sleepers I e-mailed all the members, who are on 'My E-listing'*, to invite their participation in the survey - which was directly linked from the Club's website.

As an encouragement to members they were entered into a prize draw for a free habitation service, which closed beginning of October. The lucky prize winner to have the free habitation service was Anne & Barry Stubbs - Membership No. 6436.

David Williams, A~S Sales Director, wishes to say "Thank the fantastic number of members that took part in the survey and for the Club's support on the project, both are very much appreciated."

I will keep you advised of the progress of Project Sapiens as I receive it.

***My E-listing:**

I maintain an e-mail address list (*in alphabetical groupings*) of members who have requested/agreed to be advised when a website update is promulgated and of any other important information. e.g. last year's immediate safety recall of LPG cylinders.

Should you wish to be included simply e-mail me.

Verified Battery Scheme:

The motorhome trade body, National Caravan Council (NCC) launched their new verified battery scheme at the October NEC.

The concept is that batteries, for use in motorhomes and caravans, will require verification through a comprehensive testing process, and be categorised in 3 categories A, B or C:-

- **Category A:-** For batteries with a higher storage capacity designed for motorhomes frequently used when away from electric hook-ups.
- **Category B:-** For motorhomes frequently used on sites with electric hook-up, but require a greater battery capacity.
- **Category C:-** For motorhome users that require a lower capacity battery to cover basic operation of habitation equipment for short periods away from a hook-up.

NCC say that:- "Leisure batteries can cost as much as £200 so we want to make sure that when people buy a new battery they get a product that is suitable for their motorhome and suits their lifestyle". Yet another decision to make then!

Several leading manufacturers have already signed up to the scheme and others are expected to follow.

Provisional Rally List 2016:

For forward planning purposes only, a 2016 provisional rally list has been produced by Neil Rogers (*Rally Coordinator*) and a rally spreadsheet courtesy of Bill Todd. Both have been uploaded on the Club website as **Pr 01/16**, and promulgated to those on 'My E-listing' (*see above). There is ample scope for more rallies – simply contact Neil.

Further rallies, or changes, will be progressively uploaded as 'supplementary' updates until the beginning of 2016, when the official rally programme will be issued.

On a Personal Note:

My e-mail provider 'Virgin Media' will no longer be using the services of google and, over the next 3 months, is setting up its own Webmail service!

So there may well be some problems?

Website updates:

- 06/15 Rally List - Provisional rally planning for 2016 - Pr 01/16
- 05/15 Stop Press – Project Sapiens survey
- 04e/15* Technical – Models – Fairford added
*Supplementary update.

Yours aye
Baz Wellard



A Warm Welcome to New Members



Membership Numbers from 9268 to 9311

Brian & Wendy Hallett	Poole	Broadway
Ruth Crosland	Bournemouth	Topaz
Paul Forrester	Chaldon	Frisky
Colin & Pamela Maltby	Llandrindod Wells	Executive
Derek & Jill Mills	Sutton Coldfield	Executive
Kenneth Nolan	Ashton-under-Lyne	Trident

Julian & Cath Kemp	South Brent	Warwick
Keith & Christine Norris	Burton on Trent	Broadway
Adam & Anna Agnew	Ballymena	Broadway
James & Jean Simpson	Leeds	Flair
Brian & Lesley Smith	Derby	Symbol
John & Anne Rawnsley	Oswaldwistle	Warwick
Peter & Maureen Christmas	Cobham	Nuevo
Doug & Suzanne Wood	Stafford	Nuevo
Peter & Jean Houghton	Stonehaven	Windsor
Murray & Irene Burgess	Coalville	Nuevo
Mike & Deborah Robinson	Bristol	Warwick
John & Anne Walgrove	Market Drayton	Broadway
David & Janet Bugden	Sutton	Bourton
David Hill	Dalton-in-Furness	Broadway
Geoff Ranford	Stroud	Kemerton
David & Lorraine Cole	Lymington	Stanton
Stewart Taylor	Newbridge on Wye	Kemerton
Steve Cragg & Hev Jennings	Isle of Wight	Symbol
Jack & Hazel Kerr	Edinburgh	Ravenna
Frank & Nadia Court	Warwick	Nuevo
Brian & Sandy Jones	Portland	Kingham
Dave & Lorraine Hunter	Hungerford	Broadway
Nigel & Pauline Dodd	Wotton under Edge	Legend
Robert & Pauline Gill	Nr Boston	Broadway
Tim & Elaine Hargreaves	Stoke-on-Trent	Kingham
Alan & Betty Barr	Leamington Spa	Nuevo
Eric & Shirley Shaw	Leek	Executive
David & Marie John	Cardiff	Nuevo

Terry & Liz Scott	Epsom	Broadway
Roger & Janet Prigg	Rugeley	Warwick
David Tink & Joyce Gerlach	Market Harborough	Trooper
Ron & Ann Alexander	Wareham	Pollensa
Brian Bruton	Aylesbury	Symbol
Philip & Barbara Clarke	Stockport	Nuevo
David & Diane Lyon	Eastbourne	Executive
Michael & Helen McWilliams	Kingston upon Hull	Broadway
Norman & Margaret Simpson	Bournemouth	Northants
David & Letty Green	Minehead	Symbol

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



Thanks for your Donations .

Pro Tec Motorhome Cover - breathable, non-scratch, easy fit for Auto Sleeper Symbol 06 Reg. Nearly new, only used one winter. Reason for sale - change of motorhome. £200 Ono. Tel: **07722852151** kdavis1807@gmail.com Can provide photographs.

Smart car passion 37000 miles from new full mot **01843597658** Bob Prankard mem 9139

4.5metre Thule G2 Safari Room complete with curtains and matting and also to include a vinyl skirt attachment for the van .Bought new in 2013 but hardly used so in excellent condition. cost £1200 new would like to sell for £500 or near offer. Can email pictures if required. please contact Les or Geoff Tutt on **07745783035** or by email lesleytutt57@gmail.com