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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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NEWSLETTER 327

December 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



Well the nights are really drawing in now with plenty of fog in the mornings too. Pat has gone off for some winter sun and I am left without a proof reader so I do apologise in advance if there are a few dodgy errors.

It is good to see that the contributions are still forthcoming and give a bit of variety to the newsletter. Please keep this up. I note that some rallies are not reported so please try to produce a report praising the marshals at the least.

I ended up in hospital last week but luckily for you I was let out in time to do the newsletter, this does emphasize the need for more members to get involved with the running of Club and we have also two vacancies on the committee. Although I have had some well-meaning offers to do the Deputy job, there is a need to be close to the running of the club (at least attending a few rallies) rather than general membership.

A further reminder that you will need to renew you membership by the end of the year otherwise our Membership Secretary will have to delete you from the database and then re-install you again. This is work that is unnecessary if you are continuing with the club. If you are resigning then please let her know too.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is 10th December and you can send your contributions to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or to my address below. I look forward to receiving them.

Pat and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you next year.

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



At the end of October we set off for a week's cruise on the River Rhine from Cologne to Basel and not for the first time wished Auto-Sleepers were able to design a motorhome which could fly! The boat, weather and places we visited were wonderful, but the journey by rail and air to and fro, were anything but! It certainly made us appreciate our usual mode of travel.

On returning home, we had to wade our way through a pile of mail and I was delighted to note that so many of you had responded to the plea to return the ASOC membership renewal form promptly. Being rather closely related to the Membership Secretary, she was tempted to turn round and run, but is gradually getting through them all (just over 300 at the time of writing) so well done and thank you!

Looking out of the window, it is very obvious that winter is now upon us and the festive season is just around the corner. It will be a time for many to enjoy and celebrate with family and friends, but we remember that for others, this may not be such a happy time.

So in closing this last 'Chat' of the year, James and I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and comfortable Christmas and enjoyable roaming in your Auto-Sleepers next year.

With very best wishes and safe travelling

Jill

Christmas greetings to all my Friends and I hope you all enjoy happy rallying in 2016.

Nora Venables.

Jill and Tony Showell 4138 wish all their friends in the club a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. We hope to catch up with everyone next year at lots of rallies.

Christmas Greetings, Theresa & Dave Smith would like to wish all our friends in ASOC a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Margaret & David Dunball wish all our friends and fellow ralliers a very happy Christmas and a good year's motorhoming in 2016

"Pauline & Neil Rogers wish all their friends in the Club a very Happy Christmas and a Good Rallying New Year".

Rally Reports

Shepton Mallet Rally

Thank you to Jan & Vic & Margaret & Bob & everyone who helped to make the rally very enjoyable.

It transpired that the Sunday of the rally coincided with Linda & Brian Ellis' ruby wedding anniversary who were attending the rally. They will be well known to many members as rally marshals. The other ralliers had great pleasure in surprising Linda & Brian with presenting them with a card at Sunday morning tea & coffee. Brian joked that the secret of their long marriage is that they have two romantic dinners a week - he goes on a Tuesday & Linda goes on a Thursday!

Andrea & Andrew Saines 8264

Rally News

IRISH RALLY 2016

Apologies for the following omission from the Irish Rally notice:

"The Rally Fee is non-refundable if offered a place"

Also our telephone number should read 01536 791438

Shelagh and Phil West

Horam Rally 2016

To help fill out the Rally list for 2016 we are planning to run a rally with Mo and Mike Valentine in Horam Sussex from the 30th June to 6th July.

This is a commercial site with electric hook-ups and a bus stop outside the entrance to enable access to Eastbourne and for the adventurous onward to Brighton in one direction or Tunbridge Wells Kent in the other direction. We are writing to ask if any members know of a site within an hour or two of Horam that would be suitable for a rally that could run up to or follow on from the dates stated to encourage people from further afield to come down to the South and if there are any members that would be willing to run a new rally in the area as we are tied up either side of this rally.

If you would be willing to suggest a site or to run a rally in the area please contact us on 07181 006733 and we will send your details on to Neil Rogers the Rally Co-ordinator.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Barbara and Al Buckett 5429

Dartmouth Rally

Last year we enjoyed this wonderful rally run by Rita and John and were overjoyed when we were lucky enough to get entry into this years rally.

Unfortunately I had to declare myself unfit to drive and at the last moment had to cancel. Now as far as I was concerned I had forfeited any monies I had paid you just could not expect anything else. But of course this is Rita and John and they refunded the entire amount, what wonderful people they are. It s the people in the club that make it what it is - honest, reliable and with indisputable integrity. Thank you so much Rita and John again without people like you there is no club.

Geof & Mary 7296

Editor: Members may not be aware that it is custom and practice to refund site fees where possible, usually depending on the site, and if this does not compromise the finances of the rally (eg: fixed fees). This can also be a problem on Foreign rallies. The Rally fee is always kept as expenditures are made in advance. *David*

WHITEMEAD RALLY. - FOREST OF DEAN. - 2016

Next year's date for the above rally, is from Monday, 7th March to Friday, 11th March. Details for booking will be in the January issue of the magazine.

Thanks

Jean & Dave Hollingsworth, would like to thank friends who sent cards and good wishes for Jeans 70th birthday and our Golden Wedding Anniversary recently.

Thank You

I would like to say thank you to all friends within ASOC for all the cards etc. for a speedy recovery from my recent knee operation, which is progressing slowly.

Theresa Smith

Leaving the club

As my touring days are now over, I have made the tough decision that I shall not renew for next year. I very much enjoyed being a member of the club, and joining rallies when I could, only when electric was available. Margaret still lives in the nursing home and is doing okay.

I have taken the role of rally secretary for the Isle of Wight centre of the Caravan club, which means I should be busy for most of the year as we manage a rally each month here on the Isle of Wight.

I don't know if anybody is going to take on the Isle of Wight rally but I'm always here to help in some way.

Cheerio to all the friends we made during our time over the last 15 years.
The very best to you all,

Ken and Margaret Bolton.

Farewell

Regrettably it is time to say farewell to the club.

We joined ASOC in its first year with our CB22 AutoSleeper which we have had for nearly 29 years and is still going well.

Being 82 is not the problem but due to what comes with it is, and with no power steering I am finding it difficult to manoeuvre. We have many memories like the first continental rally to Royan and many more since at home and abroad, and the many friends we made along the way.

Our faithful 'bus' as we called her, (affectionally known as FATTY because of her number plate 'FAT583T') has been so comfortable and reliable and has been 'and is' a credit to its builders.

She is now retired to the bottom of our drive where we can sit in her and enjoy a nice cappuccino and remember the good times. We wish all our friends and members a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy 2016 rallying year ahead.

Joan & Brian Collins 0302

I regret to advise you that we will not be renewing our membership this year, but I feel it is important that you understand the main reason behind our decision.

We have been motorcaravanners since the mid-1970's, visiting more than a dozen countries; camping has changed a lot in that time. I remember having to make up mains leads on site for three different types of mains connector in Italy, for example.

When we joined the Caravan Club, they didn't exactly encourage motor caravans, but on the other hand we were able to wild camp all over Europe. I believe I can make the following comment from a position of some experience. We are not attracted to rallying; our preference has always been to use the 'van to get away from it all. We like to mingle with the natives, eat the local food and at least try with the language.

ASOC seems to be all about rallies and very introverted. After trying several other manufacturers, we found the Nuevo meets all our needs, after several modifications, and we have no intention of changing it. So, it's goodbye and good luck to ASOC.

Bruce and Pam Manning 8263

Heavy Lorries.

I feel your correspondent Len Aitken must be or has been a HGV driver judging by his observations in last month's newsletter. As the editor pointed out there is no excuse for tailgating, but from my experience it is usually the case whatever the speed limit happens to be on single, dual or motorway.

Some will more often than not try to exceed the limit for that road contrary to Section 124 & 125 of the Highway code.

Many of the HGV drivers are not paragons of virtue as seen on a motorway when they attempt to overtake one of their fellows at about 1mph faster, taking about two or three miles to do so causing the tail backs that Mr Aitken agrees happens. Motorhomes to blame?

While driving I for one have a great respect for my rear after all it is my "home" that is going to get shunted, and I drive accordingly using the spare power of my vehicle and settle down to something of a more comfortable speed in the correct lane on M/ways but not always easy on some of the "A" roads in this country which can be bettered by "B" roads in other areas.

In the last fourteen years since we have had a M/home it has been a revelation on the antics of HGV drivers borne out by the fact now that some Police forces have an Artic/ Cab to see what they get up too.

For example my "Co-pilot" points out that she has seen one with a newspaper on the steering wheel as we passed it, and others watching videos and car drivers texting!

It's amazing what the extra height reveals.

Gordon Lees

THE NATIONAL RALLY
28th April to 02nd May 2016

Come and join us at your clubs National Rally at Newark Showground

A varied programme of activities and entertainment are available for you to attend

This year as well as the regular programme we have arranged outings on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons approximately 3 hours each

On Saturday afternoon a coach has been arranged to take attendees into Newark where you can either spend your time wondering around the town or join us on a 90 min river cruise (bar on board)

On Sunday afternoon we are taking a coach to Boundary Mills /Downtown, Grantham which is a shopping centre where in the main store you will find named clothing and household goods at discount prices or you can visit the garden centre and coffee shop

Booking forms for the outings will be included with the application form.

Numbers are limited and will be taken on a first come, first served basis

If you want to do your own thing and go out in your motorhome, we would still like to see you, the area has numerous places to visit within a 20 mile radius: The historical town of Newark with its Castle and market place, Lincoln Cathedral and castle, Southwell minster and workhouse, Newark Aviation Museum, Lincoln Road Transport Museum.

Slightly further afield there's Nottingham and Robin Hood Country

If you don't know where they are or how to get there come and talk to us

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

Afternoon Trip into Newark or River Cruise (with Bar on Board)

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**

Afternoon Trip to Downtown Departmental Store and Garden Centre

Evening entertainment provided by The Pantasy Steel Band

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**

Battery problems in modern vehicles,

I normally charge my batteries every two weeks when not in use, having an alarm fitted makes it discharge even quicker. I went to use my van having not charged it for over three weeks, it started, triggering the alarm and the air bag buzzer and displayed air bag failed. Low voltage can sometimes trigger the control modules for air bag and ABS warning lights and may reset ,mine did not. I had to have a new air bag module fitted, luckily under warranty . Even jump starting can sometimes cause problems. You should only use the dedicated posts under the bonnet and disconnecting the battery for long periods can cause memory loss in the ECU. The biggest killer of batteries is sulphate build up especially when standing for long periods. I have found this unit called Battery Extra on a motor home web site www.recovermybatteries.com

It just clips across the battery. They give a 60 day refund and a 3 year warranty all the details on their web site. {Give me pre 1981 vehicle before being computerised.}

Derek Steele No 8425

Thetford Flush Toilet

My Thetford flush lever failed to activate the flush pump in my five year old Dorset ES this year. This apparently is not uncommon but after surfing the net the causes are not entirely clear.

On dismantling the lever assembly shown in image attached there is an embedded printed circuit board (shown in the second image) which I found had failed - most likely the power transistor.

The toilet housing is not a suitable place for such electronics so I replaced the whole printed circuit with a small throw, sealed micro-switch - part no shown in the second image. It works fine and will last far longer than Thetford's design.

Bob Benton



Editor: This Thetford is different to mine. Baz will be contacting Bob for more details to see if he can work this up to an Ideas Sheet and get Auto-Sleepers Approval. As always the proviso is that you need the skills and the knowledge to deal with this job - not every body has. Having an electronic switch could also mean that it interacts with the on-board Habitation Control Panel. Luckily for me I have a button and a fuse!!

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

Deals for Members:

RBS, who produce trackers for motorhomes, have reduced their 'CHIPnTRAC price to £79 for our members. There is also a new option to add a long life battery, for an additional £20 (inc. VAT).

There is now a new command 'Deep Sleep' which turns everything off, thus reducing battery drain and the tracker will awake and send an alert when the piezoelectric crystal senses movement (i.e. the vehicle shakes) and this will turn on the tracker.

With the new additional battery (about the size of tobacco tin) it will extend the tracker's operation to up to a year without needing to connect to the vehicle's electrical system; although this option will still be included. This makes the tracker good for vehicles taken off the road during winter (say 4 months) and the vehicle battery removed.

The ASOC members' access code, to the RBS website, is **napm8**. Contact me if you do not retain past issues.

For further details go to the Club website.

Truma – Important Safety Issue:

Truma have reported that gas filter cups fitted since 2012 have a potential safety issue:-



“The probability that the material fault will present itself is very low, however, campers who have a Truma gas filter fitted in their vehicle must take the following precautions:

- Shut down the gas system immediately.
- Contact your dealer or Truma and order new filter cups free of charge.
- Old filter cups are to be replaced with new ones.”

For further details: <https://www.truma.com/int/en/howto/exchange-filtercup.php>

N.B Auto Sleepers have never fitted these filters so **no** AS vehicles are affected unless they have been fitted by dealers or owners

Personal:

Dorothy and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends in the Club our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Website updates:

- **07/15 Stop Press - Truma Important Safety Information**
- **07a/15* Deals for members** – RBS Tracker update
*Supplementary update.

Yours aye

Baz Wellard 

A Warm Welcome to New Members



Membership Numbers from 9312 to 9339

Ray Blackwell & Christine
Mansfield

Bournemouth

Nuevo

Jim Grogan

Tamworth

Executive

Steve & Lesley Hall	Edinburgh	Stanway
Peter & Chris Shaw	Stoke-on-Trent	Stanway
James & Mary Unett	Cleator Moor	Nuevo
Leslie & Elaine Booth	Stoke-on-Trent	Beckford
John & Cath Stenton	York	Warwick
Don & Joan Binns	Knutsford	Bourton
Julian & Lynne Dowling	Wallasey	Sigma
Gill Humpherston & Kevin Ousbey	High Peak	Duetto
Paul & Chrissy Keep	Folkestone	Broadway
Robin & Carol Tannahill	Livingston	Executive
Leon & Marian Bradford	St Neots	Bourton
John & Gillian Kirk	Mansfield	Warwick
Ian & Margaret Hutchison	Arbroath	Warwick
Barry & Denise Appleton	Canterbury	Stanway
Robin & Sue Godden	New Romney	Broadway
Adrian & Tina-Jane Wheeler	Poole	Burford
Graham & Dorothy Keeble	Dartford	Stanton
Pauline Brind	Canterbury	Broadway
Stephen & Paula Evison	Cheltenham	Symbol
Wendy McDonald & Malcolm McNeilly	Falmouth	Pollensa
Phil & Jalna Richardson	Northampton	Pollensa
Ken & Dolores Payne	Manchester	Broadway
Colin & Ena Brown	Cheadle	Broadway
Philip & Pat Bickerdyke	Dewsbury	Broadway
Kester & Blanche Laver	Ceredigion	Talisman
John Ord & Fiona Bernhoeft	Hexham	Stanton

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



Thanks for your
Donations .

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August 2016

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tank. Tyron Bands.

Twin leisure Batteries. Swivel
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or pets.

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<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fiamma->

[Ultra-Box-Carry-](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fiamma-)

[Bike/dp/B0013DS83O/ref=sr 1 43?](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fiamma-)

[s=sports&ie=UTF8&qid=144620698](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fiamma-)

[5&sr=1-43&keywords=fiamma](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fiamma-)

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cover. Fits 6 m van. £30 + carriage

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Email: **lesley@gowen.org**

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velour.

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look .

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all above are new

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Derek **01494815604**

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Tow bar will fit Broadway or any
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Supplied by Watling Eng last year.
Has chassis extensions included and
electrics. Photos to assist install. All
hardware. Location Hampshire
£120.00 David Tel: **0750 0966550**

'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 waterproof roof panel. Still
in box & bag, never used.

Cost £183 when new - £100.

johnstedman39@tiscali.co.uk (Mid
Devon).

For disposal:

Raleigh side entrance awning for A.S.
VW VHT.(1986)

Purchase price £239.(1986)

This awning has NEVER been used
and except for some
small parts is complete.

An ideal Christmas present and is
FREE to the person who collects it.!!

Contact David Thornton

Tel **01142368770** Sheffield Evenings