



www.asoc.uk.com

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

*A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.
Registered No: 4616969*



Spring in Spain - Photo Baz Wellard

NEWSLETTER 332

May 2016

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			

Contents

		Visiting European Cities	11
Committee Details	2	Planning to tour France	11
From the Editor	3	Bon Voyage	11/13
Chairman's chat	4	Tech Group and Website	13/14
Goodbye	5	New Members	14/16
50 Golden Years	5	For Sale	16
Anniversary Executive	5		
Whitemead Rally reports	6/7		
Letters to the Editor	8/9		
Site recommendation	10		
Visiting London	10		

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



At the moment my health has stopped me from driving too far, especially the Broadway, but things are improving and I do hope to be at the National, but my operation has been delayed by 2 weeks due to the junior doctors strike. My next date is not on the strike schedule!

As if by magic, our Chairman has suggested some items for the newsletter, and a few appear in This Newsletter! It's a good idea and I look forward to receiving more.

Unless you were going to the Marstons rally, you won't be aware that it was cancelled due to the Pub being flooded. We all hope that they will recover quickly and we can continue to run rallies there in the future.

Remember that this is your newsletter and we always need articles sent in by You.

The Deadline for the June Newsletter is before 10th May and you can send your items by email to:

daveatasoc@virginmedia.com or by post to the address below at your earliest convenience.

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



It is possibly a sign of getting older (or should I say, more mature?) but as we travel around in our Auto-Sleeper, we now much prefer staying on sites with hard standing, electric hook up and good washroom facilities. We have come to expect most commercial caravan sites now offer these luxuries, but it was interesting to read in a recent magazine that more and more five pitch locations, be they CLs, CSs or independently run, are following suit.

Our first caravan, in 1977, was very basic with a foot pump for coldwater, a large kettle for hot and the kitchen sink was used for washing children as well as dishes. As for the loo... well, it was almost unrecognizable from today's superior flush type. In spite of the tremendous improvement in 'on board facilities', we do find it comforting to have the choice of which we use. A quiet pitch with a lovely view and a pub nearby are added attractions, of course!

I know many of you still enjoy getting away from it all, and prefer 'wild camping' or rudimentary sites, so whichever category is your option, if you have found a gem of a spot and don't mind sharing it, do drop a line to the Newsletter Editor.

Safe Travelling

Jill

Goodbye

After much thought we have decided to relocate permanently to the Isle of Man. Hopefully the sale of our bungalow will go through shortly and we shall be moving to live near to our eldest daughter and family.

A compromise we have had to make is to sell our Autosleeper as it wouldn't have been practical on the island. It was a very sad day to see it go and even sadder to know we shall not be seeing some of our dear friends in ASOC.

We shall be returning from time to time to visit our younger daughter and family, so who knows, we may turn up at a rally one day to visit! We hope our friends will keep in touch, and we wish everyone in the club 'happy motorhoming'!

Mike and Heather Tucker 5477.

1966. - 2016. FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS

Not only did England win the World Cup, but Nica and Eddie Jones got married.

Congratulations to you both on your Golden Wedding Anniversary from all your friends and fellow ralliers at ASOC.

Jackie and John Moss

Anniversary Executive

We read with interest the piece in last month's newsletter and the feature in October's newsletter about Anniversary Executives. Like John and Sandra Duce we also had Auto-Sleeper build us an Anniversary Executive to our own specification which also included the pump under the bunk, manual water filling system, non-tinted windows and several other internal changes. Ours was built in February 2014 and is number 43. We are delighted with our van and hope that Auto-Sleepers would consider building more in the future.

Shena and Andy Wardrope 0847

Rally Reports

The Whitemead Rally

Well, what a wonderful way to end the wintry days by being on the Whitemead rally. It all started with a warm welcome from Jackie and John (from Warwick, with their van Wayne) and Glenn and Noel (with their whimsical witticisms).

Once pitched, ralliers wasted no time in having a walkabout, whiling away the time in the jacuzzi, working out in the gym or even using their wits to work out the answers to the quizzes. As the week wore on there were plenty who went for walkies in the forest, some whizzed or wobbled on their wheels, whilst others wended their way round the village following the treasure trail but using it as a good wheeze to end up in the local watering hole for wine, whisky or whatever.

On Tuesday our wellbeing was satisfied – after our weariness from the walk had worn off we enjoyed a wholesome meal in the venue. No watching the waistlines that evening.

Weather-wise, Wednesday was the worst – wet and windy so the waterproofs and wellies came out, but all the other days that week were okay if we wrapped up warmly.

On Thursday there was the chance to watch out for wildlife as we wandered up to Coleford. Wild boars or warbling birds possibly. Some bird watchers were keen to see hawfinches but they may have seen wrens, wood pigeons and woodpeckers as well. But the woodland creatures were wary of us with our chit-chat and the wangling of answers to the quizzes going on.

On our last evening we enjoyed a little wager in the form of a raffle, with a wonderful range of winnings, some of which appeared in the wacky game called Parkend Pockets and Purses.

Our wholehearted thanks to Jackie, John, Glenn and Noel. Will they be willing to run it again? We are wishing they will!

Celia (Vaugh – yet another word beginning with a certain letter) 4496

Whitemead Rally March 2016.

Another successful and enjoyable rally thanks to the efforts and organising by Jackie and John Moss and Noel and Glen Clarke.

We had two organised walks. The one to the visitors centre through the forest which looked like turning into a mystery trip on the return hike. Following Glen who found he had missed his path and had to backtrack. It was his "scenic" route or a senior moment, we are not sure which, but it was entertaining.

Jackie's little ticket on our vans and the round the village trail quizzes proved entertaining as did the organised meal at the Site club.

Celia and Glenn ran a team's party game requiring items beginning with chosen letters being put on the table.

We are not sure that Jill Brindley sitting in the middle of the table should have been accepted as a "J" but conceded the points anyway.

Then as is tradition, the evening finished with the "Paper Aeroplane" competition. It's hard to imagine anything so amusing as watching a bunch of senior citizens having fun with a folded sheet of paper.

This brought a fitting end once again to a successful and enjoyable rally.

Linda & Brian 2360

The Whitemead Rally was a huge success.

Jackie and John ably assisted by Glenn and Noel did a very good. The preparation that has to go into this rally to make sure we are all kept amused each day and every evening is much appreciated.

We had everything from organised walks, a treasure trail quiz and a match the pairs competition, and an evening meal, plenty of fun in get togethers in the evenings. Celia and Alan Waugh managed to come up with yet another game to make us all think.

The weather was kind to us apart from one day when a storm hit us. But all in all it was lovely to be able to meet up with a lot of friends and like minded people to kick off the new camping season.

Thanks again

Barbara and Al Buckett 5829

Letters to the Editor

I would like to add to recent letters from members who like to rally or not.

We both come under mainly those who don't because we both try to find full facility sites. We like the use of shower blocks in the morning with plenty of room making a good start for the day touring.

You may ask why when you have all these basic facilities in your motor home. On a hot day toilets in a motor home have a tendency to smell slightly therefore most sites we try to find are well laid out, clean and priced at little more than between £13 - £18 per night in April, May, June and July.

We also have a solar panel fitted but still like electric pitch sites in case of lack of sunshine to recharge the leisure battery.

We have been to many sites that we go back to - Warren Farm, Brean Sands, Somerset, the site where your new rally is at Petruth Paddocks, Cheddar, Somerset 12th - 17th May which we have been to and stayed for the day. Warren Farm prices are £14 per night. We also like all Haven sites. Park Dean sites at Wales and Haven all take motor homes. The main one we try to go back to every year is Trevonich, Holywell Bay, Cornwall. What a lovely site to stay on and return to after a good day touring Cornwall.

So if ASOC could rally at these sites by getting a bulk discount, members may feel more inclined to attend these rallies.

See you all at the National Motorhome Show, Peterborough, not booked.

Jeff and Sheila 7730

Back in February we were struck by some vandalism to our property thankfully caught on our CCTV.

Having spent quite a bit of time compiling evidence for the Police I was taking no notice of the weather.

Some of you are already ahead of me but I failed, for the first time in 17 years, to drain down the Harmony's water systems.

Well, it was no surprise when my Habitation Engineer declared our Carver Cascade Rapide FBR'd (frost damaged beyond repair) quoting approx £600 to supply and fit a replacement Henri.

Not one to take such news laying down and desperately keen to keep the Harmony authentic I rang Dan at P&P Campers in Gosport from where we had re-purchased our cherished Harmony in 2011(after a 9 year absence). He put me onto Martyn at Glanvilles in Gosport **martynaglanville@aol.com** 0239260298 who had a few Rapides in his 'loft'.

The refit was done in a few hours and with the drain also converted to a threaded metal tube with a 19mm brass capping nut for longevity. The price quoted was £190 with my Rapide being salvaged for parts to offset any labour charges.

He's a one man band working from a unit crammed, in every sense of the word, full of stuff and I didn't get to see the loft. I'm assured by Martyn that he has quite a few bits of obsolete kit and a phone call/e-mail and photo of any obscure part will illicit a response especially helpful for those of us with 'mature' vans.

People like Martyn, with a lifetime of experience in fettling motorhomes, need to be treasured, unfortunately in a throw away world it's rare to find a skilled fixer.'

Regards
Terry Hammond 7578

BRIARFIELDS Touring Park - a site we would like to recommend as a convenient stop-over or for a few days to visit Cheltenham and Gloucester. This full facilities site is situated half a mile off the M5 junction 11, with bus stops just outside the main gates and buses running every 10 minutes into Cheltenham or Gloucester.

On our way home from Whitemead, a few of us joined a rally run by the C & CC (Motor -home section) at this site and had an enjoyable weekend. We also found that eight people fit quite cosily into our Executive!

WHITEMEAD - the first rally of the season, always popular and well supported. We would like to thank all the members who were able to attend and a special thanks to all who helped to make the rally successful

Jackie and John Moss (5639)

Visiting London

If you are staying at one of the London campsites or even farther away, an attraction worth a visit is the Sky Garden at 20 Fenchurch Street. The entrance is free, but you need to book your ticket and time slot online at skygarden.london, the website will give you full information

A lift will whisk you up to the thirty-fifth floor in seconds and there is a cafe and restaurant. The views are spectacular and you can see the Shard opposite. It can get very busy and I guess you would need to book the restaurant, if you were feeling flush.

It is a very short walk from Bank or Monument underground stations, which I think is the best way. You could of course cycle, but I did not look for any cycle parking, It is very busy traffic wise, not for the faint hearted cyclist.

I have pictures posted at www.redwink.uk/march16.html they should hopefully wet your appetite to make the visit.

John Morris 2388

Visiting European cities

If you are thinking of visiting some of Europe's popular cities, including Brugge and Amsterdam, you may want to look at some of the guides available on www.arrivalguides.com. Click on destinations, then Europe, press the country required and it will list the cities available. They cover places of interest and attractions to visit. They can be downloaded to your devices and as they seem to be in PDF format I would imagine you could also send it to your kindle although I have not tried this. An app is also available for iPhone and Android. You could always print these guides out, but it will eat your print cartridges.

John Morris 2388

Planning to tour France?

Members might find this website useful, especially if it is your first time, it gives information you should find useful. It also gives you a checklist before you travel and what to look out for when you are there. www.drive-france.com

John Morris 2388

Article by permission of Neill Weatherill, freelance I.T. consultant now living in France, and also running a wheelchair-accessible gîte: www.ancheyra.com. Neill is also Chief Sub-Editor of Bonjour France magazine www.bonjourfrance.eu

Bon voyage

A short time ago, I wrote about driving in France and promised a follow-up article with some more tips on what to look out for when you drive out here; especially in my area, which is mostly rural.

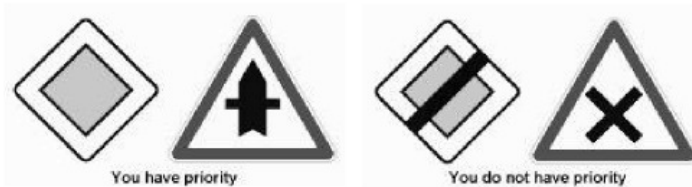
I may have given the impression that I am constantly frustrated when I drive here, but that is certainly not the case. It is a pleasure, I enjoy driving anyway and it is much easier with far fewer cars on the roads.

However, as in all walks of life there are frustrations and these are some of them. In my world.

How long do you have to stop at this sign, is it 3 or 4 seconds? I mentioned this in an earlier article and don't want to repeat myself. An official website confirms that there is NO legal minimum time prescribed by law, as long as you do actually stop.

Priority

The old “priorité à droite” is largely redundant, the signs below show who does have priority. The signs on the left have a yellow background and the signs on the right are in a red triangle



Two things to bear in mind:

In rural areas, even in some villages, there may not be any of the above signs displayed when approaching a junction. Even if you are on what seems to be the “major” road, it is safer to assume that a car coming from the right will still have priority.

Some older drivers, on any road and especially on roundabouts just know (not think) that the old rule still applies.

Roundabouts

Apart from the priority issues mentioned above, there are things to look out for when you approach roundabouts. If the car in front indicates left, it does not necessarily mean that they are taking the ‘left’ turn at the roundabout; they may be going straight ahead. Many drivers here do this and I have checked the official French rules..

In villages, towns or even cities, you will often find pedestrian crossings around roundabouts, sometimes only a metre or two off them. This may mean having to stop whilst you are still on the roundabout. I suppose this is just as scary for pedestrians.

Road Chat:- No such thing, I made the term up. It describes pedestrians, and sometimes even 2 drivers going in opposite directions, just stopping in the middle of a road for a chat. This isn’t just on market days, when you expect a certain amount of this. On a country road, in a village, even in a town, it makes no difference! Once again, I’m sure it is more commonplace in rural areas.

Speed Cameras

I must mention here that if your GPS device is set to detect speed cameras, this must be disabled as soon as you set wheels on French tarmac. It is illegal here in France, as is having any other device that will detect fixed cameras or mobile speed traps.

I was also going to mention the “driving kit” that you will need out here, but can I refer you to the excellent “Driving in France” website, <http://www.drive-france.com/>. It gives you more detailed, up-to-date information and includes many other useful links regarding the subject. Driving in France. The rules change so much that it would be better to check with them before you move to the right side of the road. Or the wrong one, depending on your point of view.

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

Weighing Your Motorhome:

Bob Hatcher [6600], had a problem finding a weighbridge in his location as it would appear that there are few (*if any*) public weighbridges nowadays. It seems necessary to use commercial weighbridges which can be expensive.

As the local Council were not able to help Bob find a suitable weighbridge he had a bright idea to ask the Police (101) if they could advise. They helpfully suggested a local weighbridge to him, and on contacting that facility they said that it would be no problem and would include a certificate for only £6!

In my immediate area there are two which I have used in the past. One now charges over £40 and the other will no longer accept general public for ‘health & safety’ reasons.

Whatever the difficulty knowing your motorhome’s weight (*when full loaded as when going on a long holiday*) is very important. You can then ensure your van is not overloaded and thus is legal. Also, by contacting the tyre manufacturer, you can obtain their recommended tyre pressures.

Ideas Sheet 239 - Peugeot Radio cut-off:

The radio in the later Peugeot 2015 (X290) panel van conversions can now benefit from Ideas Sheet No. 239. The annoying 'switch-off' after 20 minutes can now be extended to 180 minutes. The Ideas Sheet, and the website, has been modified accordingly.

Headlamp Beam Converters:

As it you will be well aware that it is mandatory to have Headlamp Beam Converters fitted when driving on the continent. Fitting instructions are within the large accompanying sheet. But can you find the instruction sheet on how to remove them on return to UK?

In the ones I use it states that special care must be taken, to remove the residual adhesive. The recommendation is to use plenty of hot soapy water or an alcohol based cleaner (e.g. methylated spirits or neat windscreen wash). White spirit; thinners or acetone based cleaners must NOT be used.

Website update:

- 02/16 Rally list & spreadsheet – addition of Dawlish rally
- 02a/16* Rally list & spreadsheet – revised end date - Cofton Country Holiday Park
- 02b/16* Technical, Ideas Sheets – increase in postal rates 29/03/16

* Supplementaries – are not promulgated by e-mail, occasional visits to website recommended.

Yours aye

Baz Wellard

Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster



A Warm Welcome to New Members



Membership Numbers from 9424 to 9453

Martin & Alison Harvey

St Ives

Devon

Tony Kidd

Nottingham

Broadway

David & Lorna Smith

Nottingham

Warwick

Ian & Alison Simmonds	Banbury	Warwick
Mark & Angela Brewerton	Bradford	Duetto
Mike Fairman	Clevedon	Clubman
Neville & Sarah Fenn	Reading	Symbol
Ernest & Lynne Greenfield	Chepstow	Sigma
Barbara Roberts & Richard Phipps	Leysdown	Duetto
Christopher & Marjorie Morris	Carlisle	Kingham
Michael & Debra Noyce	Southampton	Fairford
Brian & Sue Boon	Woodbridge	Symbol
Chris & Alice Smith	Derby	Sussex
Barry & Gail Waugh	Chester le Street	Warwick
Cyril & Jean Stead	New Milton	Warwick
Raymond & Joyce Birse	Inverurie	Kemerton
David & Jane Fisher	Loughborough	Warwick
Stuart Porter	Derby	Eton
John & Elaine Lyons	N. Ireland	Executive
C & S Astin	Bourne End	Broadway
Tim & Gill Gardner	Kingsclere	Broadway
Gerard & Christine Turley	Swansea	Winchcombe
David White	Leicester	Malvern
Peter Coats	Hebden Bridge	Trident
Chas & Lynette Breton	Longtown	Broadway
Ann Brazier & Bob King	Northwich	Nuevo
Maurice Waugh & Jill Lewis	Tadcaster	Broadway
Hubert & Christine Koscielski	Filey	Warwick
Val Cornish	Bakewell	Rambler
Tim & Elaine Hargreaves	Stoke-on-Trent	Kingham

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



Thanks for your
Donations .

Peugeot 2.3L Boxer (D) Nuevo.

2007 (new style). 2 berth. End kitchen. Bench seats. Bathroom with swing wall shower. 19,300 miles. Truly excellent condition throughout. Hardly used being reason for sale. All the standard equipment plus bike rack, up-rated suspension units. sun awning, TV. Lilliput awning, External cover (needs minor repairs). £24,000 ovno. Roger Gray.

01883 715537

For Sale - **Suncamp Air Volution Silhouette Motor Air 225** drive away awning. Airbeam technology and will fit small camper van up to 2.4m high. The tent is 225cm wide and 290cm long including tunnel and porch. 10kg weight in bag including pump. Only used once. £350 new, but will accept £250 Ono. Note: not suitable for Peugeot Boxer based campers, due to door width. Andy.nunn54@gmail.com or **07768 612249** (Bedfordshire)

Auto-Sleeper Pollensa 1998 2.5 diesel
48,000m MOT March 2017

Excellent condition, rust free, wax oiled underside, recently fully serviced inc. cambelt, 4/5 berth with all the usual facilities, extremely good condition - swivel seat, beige/sea blue interior. EXTRAS: heavy duty towbar, NEWLY professionally fitted 180 watt solar panel inc. inverter for running/charging mains equipment – ready to go hook-up free camping! NEWLY professionally wired in top range reversing camera, cycle rack, awning, TV Ariel, 2 x light weight gas bottles, hook up lead, CD/radio. No pets, no smokers, no outdoor shoes in living area. A well cared for motorhome looking for a good home.

Photos available by email £14,250.00 ono

Wendy McDonald (Cornwall)

07912890377

wmcperfect13@gmail.com

For Sale - **Cabanon Pacific P524 aluminium frame tent**. Supplied as 2-berth, but could be used as 4-berth if additional bedroom liner is added (not supplied). 440cm x 220cm. Blue/grey. 20kg in bag. As new. £500 new, but will accept £300 Ono. Andy.nunn54@gmail.com or **07768 612249** (Bedfordshire).