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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Cheddar Rally Photo J Moss

NEWSLETTER 334

July 2016

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From the Editor



Well this month has been a struggle to produce the newsletter as I only had enough articles to fill about 14 pages and rather than leave some articles out to reduce the newsletter to 12 pages from the usual 20, I felt that they should all be included, so I have spread them out a bit and added a bit of my own. So come on, you have all been great at filling the newsletter with interesting articles for everyone to read and making my job much easier.

Regrettably Pat and I haven't been out in the motorhome due to an ongoing family problem which takes priority as Pat needs to be visiting London on a regular basis. We had to cancel going to the rally at Cheddar and by all accounts seems to have gone well, with good weather too (see reports enclosed).

So please can you all make an effort to send articles for the newsletter for the enjoyment of all the members.

Deadline for the August newsletter will be at the Earlier date of by 7th July in the hope that I can attend a few rallies! You can send these items to me at daveatasoc@virginmedia.com or by post to the address below.

David Mayne

Items for the newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **SEVENTH** 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 said it always rains in the Lake District and admittedly this proved very true last winter, when so many suffered from the horrendous floods,



BUT it appears we, in this corner of the North West, are certainly getting the best of the weather at the moment! For the last two weeks, which included the school half term, the sun has been shining from skies of blue and the temperature has soared, which has brought the much needed tourists back, in abundance, to this beautiful spot.

Several members have recently reported cold, wet weather from other parts of the country and even as far away as Germany, so I do hope things improve before the group of ASOC members descend on Rudesheim.

When the English start talking about the weather, it is usually because they don't have much else to say, so I hope I haven't precipitated the end of summer and wish you all a pleasant month wherever your travels take you. I will endeavour to find something more interesting to chat about next time!

Safe travelling

Jill

National Rally Tombola.

Thank you to the members who donated bottles and cans for the tombola, and to Chris Mawdsley for assisting me.

Liz Irvin 4636

Regalia at National Rally 2016

When Gloria and I took over the regalia we did not think we would be doing it for thirteen years, so it is with sadness that we say goodbye to the regalia.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the Committee past and present for all their support and help, also all the members who have supported the regalia over the years, thank you so much for the Whisky glass CHEERS.

I now hand over the regalia to Stuart Wood and wish him and Yvonne all the very best for the future.

We would also like to thank Keith and Janet Ross on a well done job on their first National, also all the helpers. See you around.

Best wishes.

John & Gloria (Jones) 2902

The Maria Hanson Foundation.

I have received a letter of thanks and a Certificate from the Maria Hanson Foundation whom you will know the club supported during the year 2015/16 together with the recent National Rally. Within the letter, it reports how valuable the £1734 will be, as this donation will cover the cost for 8 families, all facing short futures and Military personnel with serious injuries, enabling them to have a weeks' holiday in Mablethorpe. It is amazing and good to know that such a relatively small amount of money will give so much pleasure. My 'Thanks' to all who contributed.

The Certificate will be framed and I shall take it to the rallies I attend and of course will display it at our next National Rally (AGM) April 2017.

Mike Valentine Charity Officer

Rally Reports

CHEDDAR RALLY - MAY 2016

Blue skies, good company and skittles. Three ingredients to make a successful rally.

We were fortunate to have use of the large marquee for socialising and housing the skittle alley. The days were fine and sunny but still with a chilly wind which made the marquee a bonus, especially during the evenings. Saturday was market day in Wells, which also had the added attraction of a local group of Morris Dancers. One of our members was asked to join in, and was presented with a very attractive brooch, which she wore proudly.

Chris now thinks we ought to form an ASOC Morris Dance group (Ladies or Gents) so if you have two clean white handkerchiefs, she would be glad to see you and show you the ropes!!!

Skittles (very popular) did play a large part in our evening entertainment. The competitiveness and rivalry is second to none, no one takes it seriously (or do they?) no skill required - just pure luck!

Brian did a picture quiz around Cheddar, which tested our observation skills searching for clues and answers, and enabled us to explore the nooks and crannies in Cheddar.

For the odd bargain or two, there was a large car boot sale just a couple of fields from the site, on Sunday morning. - this was followed by a walk into Cheddar for our pre-booked carvery, which went down extremely well - this in turn was followed by a leisurely stroll back to the camp site for an

afternoon siesta.

Monday was our final day and we enjoyed a fish or chicken and chip supper, quiz results, raffle and, of course, our final game of skittles. We had a Ladies v Gents (Venus v Mars) knock out match. We won't dwell on who the winners were, but the ladies were triumphant by a large margin. Thank you Brian and Linda for another enjoyable rally.

Jackie Moss (5639)

Cheddar Rally

Just returned from a lovely rally at Cheddar, where the weather was much kinder than expected for us, great fun in the evenings playing skittles in the marquee. On Saturday we went to Wells, to visit the market in the square and came across Morris Dancers in the Bishops Palace Gardens where one of our party Chris was invited to join in the dancing (see photo). On Sunday a carvery was organised at a pub in Cheddar which was attended by 32 of our group.

Many thanks to Brian and Linda, together with Chris, Jeff, Jackie and John for an excellent rally

Angela and Bob Warwick 6591



Gulval Rally

We have now fulfilled a lifelong ambition of sitting on the veranda of a clubhouse drinking beer, while watching the home team bat. The rally at Gulval Cricket Club enjoyed lovely weather that Jean and Dave laid on for us!

We travelled down from Daventry where we had had our solar panel repaired ready for a five night unserviced pitch rally. The night before we had stopped near the Westonbirt National Arboretum in Gloucestershire and enjoyed a day in the woods.

The good weather continued throughout our stay at Gulval, affording us the opportunity to visit several nearby Ancient Monuments whilst enjoying the company of the other campers in the evenings.

We continued on our sojourn by spending another two nights at Sennen Cove and took in a matinee at the Minack Theatre. Eventually we headed for home in Wales via Padstow, Lydford Gorge and Bridgwater, taking in Sharp's Brewery at Rock on the way.

Many thanks to Jean and Dave Hollingsworth and Shelagh and Phil West for running such a well organised rally with such lovely weather on a lovely site, and we wish them all the best on their follow up rallies.

Mike & Sandra Basham

Booking Rallies

I'm writing this after receiving queries from several members who were interested in attending the Lichfield rally.

On some rallies on commercial sites, the marshal negotiates a favourable pitch fee for ralliers. This is offered by the site owner on the assumption that all pitches will be occupied and paid for throughout the rally and in that case the marshal can only accept bookings for the duration of the rally.

However, on many rallies (such as Lichfield) the site owner is happy to accept payment on a per van per night basis. In that case, even though the rally may be of, say, 4 days' duration, the marshal can accept bookings for one, two, three or four nights and only charge the pitch fee for those nights attended plus the fixed rally fee.

Again, for some rallies the numbers have to be fixed well in advance whilst for others, members can be accommodated at short notice, I've actually had contact from a member after the Lichfield rally had started asking if they could come and join; and they could.

If at short notice you do find you could get to a rally, don't be scared to ring the marshal and ask if it's possible but of course don't get upset if he has to say it's not!

Peter Brown

Let's tour Europe

"Let's tour Europe". "Yes ok"

And before we knew it we were on our way

En route to Chamonix had been the plan

But we hadn't realised when loading the van

That hats and gloves would be required

As a trip up Mont Blanc quickly transpired

The cable car we travelled in took us to the snow and cold

Then another took us to the top over 4000 metres all told.

-12 C caused us both cold feet and light head

And our knees went from normal to shaking instead

But the views were well worth it of the snow and the town

Though we were quite pleased when our feet touched the ground.

Then on through the tunnel to Italy and a lake

Orta was magic lots of photos to take

Lake Iseo was lovely too with quite a different feel

A boat trip to an island and a very pleasant meal.

We then went on to Venice it was very nice there

With trips to Murano and of course St Mark's Square

A gondola ride well it has to be done

Water taxis and buses all were great fun

We did this tour with Mike and Mo who led the way most part

But we lost them on occasions and it gave us quite a start

To see them coming from behind when they had been ahead

We felt that we were being stalked when every time we said

"Where have Mo and Mike gone? I'm sure they were just there"

They were coming up behind us and it gave us quite a scare.

Barbara and Al Buckett 5829 with Mo and Mike Valentine.

Exit Executive Welcome Nuevo

We would just like to say a big thank you to you all for your support and good wishes on our exhausting weekend at the AGM.... We did something we didn't think we were going to do and that is part with our beloved Rupert Executive Motorhome we have had from new for 12 years, but as most of you know due to Teds lack of mobility we found a Nuevo would be better suited to our needs while he can still manage going away..

We found one on our visit to SMC, in very good condition and low mileage, thank you for the friends who looked it over for me, not my choice of colour scheme but hoped to get it refurbished, I was going to speak to Gemma from Reluxe furnishing to book it in to be done.

Well everyone who attended the Sat night raffle and entertainment must know by now We WON the Refurbishment. Well to say I was thrilled was an understatement, and the good wishes we got from friends old and new and even some who didn't know us was tremendous, So again thank you for your good wishes and see you on the road somewhere. Hopefully Ted will enjoy this one as much as he enjoyed his beloved Executive. xxx

Trish and Ted Pratt

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways – Chardonnay in one hand – chocolate in the other – body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO-HOO, what a ride!!"

Remember when the lord takes into account your allotted time on this earth, time on the water doesn't count!

As I have a bit of space to fill, I thought I would like to say that swapping my Ravenna to a Broadway has produced mixed feelings as the Ford based Ravenna did sterling service for 15 years but we made the swap to get two long settee/ single beds in the Broadway.

The first problem I encountered was difficulty in driving the Peugeot. Initially I kept stalling it as I need to rev up to 2000rpm to pull away and the engine has a fairly narrow power band. I had been used to the Ford which could pull away from idle (occasionally in third gear!) I have never driven anything that needed lots of revs to get going but I have slowly got used to it. I once had a Ford Granada that never got above 1500rpm in it's life! The other thing with the Peugeot is the need to keep changing gear but boy does it go when you make use of all the power in each of its 6 gears, and also in lower speed limits I have to downshift to more easily manage keeping below 30, 40, 50 (usually 3, 4, 5 to match) whereas the Ford could go from plodding in top and also overtake at motorway speeds.

The other problem I had was finding a comfortable seat position and it turned out that the front seat control was stuck up and giving me cramp after about an hours drive. This was resolved at Beamish when after chatting to other owners who didn't have any problems I decided to have another crack at it. I had to give it a big bounce to drop the front (swivelled at the time). The journey home was much better. Since then I have been experimenting with the seat position to improve matters and now have the rear of the seat up a bit to stop getting pins and needles in both legs! This has enabled me to have the seat further back so that I can read the dials on the dash! Having sat in a chassis cab at one of the shows and found it fine, obviously the swivel mechanism adds a bit of height to the seat which is not really wanted by my body. On previous models there used to be metal

boxes which could be cut down to balance out the height when adding a swivel mechanism, but there doesn't seem to be an option on the newer Peugeots. Amazingly any Mercedes based models have a great driving position and the seats are lower even with the swivel!

So you know where this is leading me, but I also hate the bathroom with its floor at different levels where I seems to frequently stumble over and also difficult to gracefully get off the loo. I much preferred our old loo room and I am surprised that nobody else seems to have trouble with it.

Well I seem to have filled the space needed with some of my personal criticisms. Maybe Auto- sleeper will bring out a new model that addresses my problems.

David Mayne

Spares.

I see AS is having a clear out of parts, when it's gone it's gone
Link below.

<http://www.auto-sleepers.com/media/2014/12/Auto-Sleeper-Parts-Enquiry-Clearance-Sale-May-2016.pdf>

Regards

John

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**](mailto:technical@asoc.uk.com)

Report overleaf.

Tyre Sealant:

If you do not have a spare wheel and have to rely on the Tyre Sealant Kit, you may not be aware, or perhaps you are, that the Sealant Kit has a 'shelf life'. It is quite possible that the timed life may be exceeded, should you ever need to use it.

Perhaps you might like to consider having some form of a 'bring-up' reminder to replace it, before it becomes out of date?

Ideas Sheets:

- Ideas Sheet No. 245 – Shelf retainer for an early Nuevo. Awaiting approval.

Website updates:

- **03c/16*** - Rally List & Rally Spreadsheet (*Issue H/16*) - Scarborough added.
- **03d/16*** -Technical – Fuel Information – Addition of Mercedes Winchcombe.

Yours aye

Baz Wellard

Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster 

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 9981 to 9514



Angela Davidson	Banchory	Topaz
Paul & Catherine Dawson	Nottingham	Bourton
Anthony & Shirley Dew	York	Trooper
Neil & Susan Lloyd	Huddersfield	Winchcombe
George & Gwen Outhwaite	Hull	Nuevo
Geoff & Gwenwyn Nelson	Stockport	Nuevo
Richard Grout & Janice Carrick	Grange-over-Sands	Nuevo
Steve & Liz Clarke	Macclesfield	Symbol

Robert Clarke & Juliet Marriot	Halstead	Broadway
Christopher & Jennifer Stuart	Haverhill	Kingham
Aubrey Wills	Ashburton	Stanton
Alistair Taaffe	Egremont	Nuevo
Alan & Pat Greatbatch	Stoke-on-Trent	Talisman
Alan & Pat Gordon	Matlock	Broadway
Keith & Margaret Landrebo	Brandon	Warwick
David Walsh	Northampton	Broadway
Gerald & Mary Cross	King's Lynn	Warwick
Mrs Wardell	Preston	Kingham
Alan & Georgina Gray	Penznace	Nuevo
Chris & Heather Prior	Derby	Warwick
Lyndon & Sarah Rogers	Burntwood	Fairford
Chris & Susan Stanton	Market Harborough	Burford
Ossie & Gerardine O'Malley	Bromsgrove	Gatcombe
Clive & Ruth Jones	Burghill	Winchcombe
Ray & Sue Leeson	Stoke-on-Trent	Broadway
Kris & Diane Mazumder	Birmingham	Broadway
Pauline Robins	Gimingham	Symbol
Darren & Kelly Higham	Barrow-in-Furness	Kingham
Tom & Kathleen Saunders	New Tredegar	Executive
Tony & Maxine Badrock	Southampton	Symphony
Ian & Mary Nelson	Wadebridge	Pollensa
Helen Chapman & Jo Dunn	Ashbourne	Nuevo
David & Sandra Harrison	Wakefield	Burford
Ian & Janice Overton	Norfolk	Nuevo

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



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