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# ***AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB***

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**Irish Rally Field. Photo Dave Hollingsworth**

## ***NEWSLETTER 335***

### ***August 2016***

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## From the Editor



Firstly I must apologise for not spotting the incorrect rally supplement for July sent by Neil. It is an easy mistake to make as the ASOC folder on the computer gets bigger and bigger. To correct the problem Neil sent the correct one to our Printer who did an excellent job in getting it sent out quickly.

Well this month I have had to cancel 3 rallies that we were hoping to attend due to ongoing family problems, so apart from getting the motorhome annual habitation check and a new leisure battery installed, the Broadway hasn't turned a wheel! The rest of the year is not looking good either, but we all have these inevitable problems, so Pat and I will have to wait until we can go on holiday or go to a rally.

I have had some excellent reports for the Irish rallies and a few photos to go with them as well as many other reports and letters so you should find some interesting articles in this newsletter. Please keep this up as it is the lifeblood of the newsletter!

**Deadline for the September newsletter will be before 10<sup>th</sup> August**, so please send your contributions to me at **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or by post to my address below. I look forward to receiving them.

*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



Oh dear! The weather is definitely NOT a good topic – by the time last month's 'Chat' reached the Printer, I was already considering a Post Script!

Anyway, regardless of the weather, no doubt many of you will be venturing out, near and far, making the most of your Auto-Sleeper. Unfortunately, thanks to the Surgeons 'attacking' me again, we have been rather confined for the past couple of months and have had to cancel several planned trips, but we are now looking forward to rectifying that.

There is a full programme of rallies around the UK during August and September and the two overseas Rallies, in Ireland and Rudesheim, have now taken place very successfully. I was reading in one of the Motorhome magazines that the Chinese are taking to Motorhoming in a big way, "five years ago there were scarcely 100 campsites in China, but that figure is set to grow to more than 1500 over the next few years" – perhaps a future ASOC destination?

Whether you travel a few miles 'just to get away' or plan a real adventure to far off lands, I wish you ...

... Safe travelling

*Jill*

### **Please note: Spital rally**

Although the newsletter says Spital rally is a green field rally site I omitted to say there is no electricity available.

*Jean Hollingsworth 5968*

## Rally Reports

### Irish Rallies June 2016

Well, that was some dash! From Penzance, Cornwall where Shelagh and Phil West assisted us on our rally to our assisting them on their Irish Rallies. We motored 420 miles home and were there just long enough to cut the grass, replenish essentials, take Rusty to his cats hotel then off to Cairnryan, Scotland for the ferry to Larne, Ireland.

24 motor homes of varying shapes and sizes arrived at the first site near Bushmills on the North Antrim coastline of Northern Ireland close to the Carrick-a Rede Rope Bridge and the Giants Causeway, which is steeped in myths and legends. Despite some heavy rain, many ralliers managed to visit this Unesco World Heritage Site. Of course the other main attraction is the renowned Bushmills Whiskey distillery which some of us sampled. A visit to Belfast to the Titanic Exhibition was interesting and not a little thought provoking. Not the least was the thought that had the disaster not happened, thousands of visitors, us included would not be there at that time. Back on the site we had the use of a room, so one night we had a fish and chips supper kindly delivered to us by one of the local fish shops. Reba, the site owner was kept busy during our stay with no less than four other lots of motor home club rallies from France and Italy staying for a night or two, much like GB Privilege do with their rallies when travelling in Europe.

The second site was Rushin House on the shores of Lough McNea at Belcoo near Enniskillen, a pristine site, having won many accolades over the years although some found the up-hill trek to the shower block facilities a little difficult and many would agree the shortened height of the toilet and shower cubicle doors were a bit off-putting.



However, the views over the Lough with the opposite bank in the Republic and our side in Northern Ireland were beautiful as was the whole area. The weather wasn't all that kind to us at this site but we managed to have a couple of get-togethers.

Irish ASOC members Bobbie and Beatrice Gordon who live at Co. Armagh came to visit, bringing cream buns for us to help them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, seems there's a lot of those around at the moment. Some may recognise Bobbie and Beatrice as being the "stars" of this years AGM's Spot the Difference competition.

The last site Carrowkeel near Ballyvary, was a lovely small homely site owned by Alex a friendly Dutchman, (who better to know about campsites) though not as pristine as the first two sites, nevertheless it was a tidy and well managed site with a restaurant, a small shop and a bar. We had a local musician entertaining us one evening, a cheese and wine evening on another and a magician who lived in his caravan on the site for six months of the year on the last evening which was both funny and entertaining with a more than funny press-ganged volunteer called John or was it Charlie or George or maybe it was Bill Bromilow in disguise. Whoever it was, he can do a bit of nifty Irish River dancing!

Peter and Janet Murphy need a mention of thanks for their help during all the three rallies and Peter had a game called Irish Skittles going throughout them all, which was basically throwing three small logs at five pieces of metal piping stuck in the ground. Yes I know, just what I thought as well. Ah well, we were in Ireland, and anyways, we didn't win, the winners being Mike and Jackie Holland.

John Greenwood kindly did us a weather forecast every day but didn't always order the right sort for us as we had a bit of a mixed bag but there were no "Michael Fish" moments, so thank you John. Another rallier who deserves thanks is Ivy Birch. She was often to be seen ministering to people who were in need of ointments and massage due to aching joints.

Driving along the way from Northern Ireland down to the Republic there were many lovely places to visit, so nearly in the words of that fellow Arnold, "we'll be back".

For their first venture into the field of marshalling, Shelagh and Phil did a thoroughly proficient and excellent job with their organisation and information gathering, we feel sure it won't be their last.

We thank them for their hard work and would be more than happy to assist them again.

Asst. Marshals  
*Jean and Dave Hollingsworth. 5968*

## Irish Rally 2016

We have just returned from a great holiday taking in the Irish Rally...or perhaps we should say three Irish rallies as we stayed on three very different sites in three very different settings, and each one had all the usual ASOC rally elements to organise. These were efficiently handled by our excellent marshals and assistants, Sheila and Phil, Jean and Dave. At each site they were there ahead of us ready to site vans, organise coffee meets, and give us our rally information packs...so it was just like attending three back to back rallies with the same members at each one.

We had left home nearly two weeks before arriving at rally site number one, so had the benefit of some lovely sunny weather with no rain to start our trip. Never have we been to Scotland for so long with no rain, especially as the south and east of Britain were shivering with their heating on at the time! We crossed to Larne from Cairnryan and spent our first weekend in County Antrim on the shore of Lough Neagh - a lovely start in some hot sunny weather. Then to our first rally site near Bushmills, about three miles from the beautiful Antrim coast with its amazing beaches. Lots to see here - we enjoyed the dramatic Giant's Causeway with some lovely cliff top paths, a visit to the whiskey distillery (with tasting!) was a must, and we also braved the rope bridge across to Carrick Island where we were rewarded with some amazing sights of nesting seabirds, and lots of wild flowers. We joined the group coach trip to Belfast which included the excellent Titanic Museum, a short time in the city centre, and a lovely drive back along the Antrim coast. Five nights was probably not long enough here although other members fitted in more visits than we did!

Then on to site number two, just under three hours' drive south and west through some beautiful country and on fairly quiet roads, to County Fermanagh and our site at Belcoo. Here we were in an elevated position overlooking Lough McNea, and right on the border with the Republic. Again there was much to see and do. We enjoyed our visit to the Marble Arch caves, part of a world renowned global geopark stretching across much of County Fermanagh and into County Cavan over the border. From this site we also had a day in Enniskillen, a visit to the NT property Florence Court, and also the Belleek Pottery after

which we visited friends who took us up to the Magho viewpoint overlooking Lough Erne and its islands, viewing Donegal and the Atlantic coast in the distance. Again other members fitted in different visits and the five nights soon passed.



Then on to site number three - rural peace and quiet in County Mayo. However, we were only a few minutes' drive from the site to the excellent museum of Irish Rural Life - one of four national museums of Ireland and free entry too! A little further afield we visited Castlebar, Westport and its harbour, and on another day followed the coast to Louisburg, and the 'Wild Atlantic Way'. We enjoyed the coastal walks although some of our more energetic members braved the very steep climb to the summit of Croagh Patrick.

Our final rally stop was now over and everyone departed in different directions. We headed for three nights on Galway Bay and



then two outside Dublin to visit the capital city before our ferry back to Holyhead, a chance to reflect on a wonderful three weeks. While the excellent weather at the start did not stay with us for the duration we survived a couple of thunderstorms and a few heavy downpours (to be expected in Ireland!!) but the weather

certainly didn't stop us getting out and about. The three sites were well chosen by Sheila and Phil and each one had its own plus points. All offered hard standings, electricity and shower blocks. What more could we ask. As with all ASOC rallies we had two coffee meets at each site, and a raffle draw to end each stay. We were able to take advantage of indoor rooms at two sites, and had three fine evenings to

sit outside at the middle site. Together with a fish and chip night, a cheese and wine evening, a golden wedding celebration with our NI members who paid us a visit, an entertainment evening by site number three's resident magician, and a very late Irish folk evening at the same site's restaurant/bar, we were well entertained. In addition, we were introduced to the game of Irish skittles by Peter Murphy who organised a tournament which was finally completed on the very last evening. This involved hurling logs of wood at skittles made of metal piping - sounds dangerous but was all good fun and nobody got hurt!

Finally, we just need to say a very big thank you again to Sheila and Phil, Jean and Dave for all their hard work and organisation. We think we can speak for all members who attended in saying that we all had a great time.        **THANK YOU!!**

Helen and John Greenwood 1020

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## **Irish Rally**

At last our long-awaited rally in Ireland dawned. An adventure which entailed 30 AUTOSLEEPERS journeying from all corners of the U.K., crossing by ferry from various ports to meet at Bush Caravan Park, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, where we were greeted with smiles from our Marshalls, Phil and Shelagh West and Dave and Jean Hollingsworth.

Maybe some of our readers would have noted "BUSHMILLS?" the very same - Ulster Whiskey!! A definite 'must visit', especially when it rained 'cats and dogs', which wrote off a visit to the Giant's Causeway! "JUST TO WARM THE COCKLES!!!"

Luckily for us the sun shone the next day and we made our way to see one of the wonders of nature which was The Giant's Causeway, created millions of years ago. What was fascinating too was the flora and fauna observed;- several unexpected plants and three varieties of orchid were noted, along with several butterflies. The sea exhibited several pastel shades to complete a wonderful picture of nature at it's best. From there we visited Carrick-A-Rede, which means 'the rock in the road'. Quite an adventure to walk a rope bridge, which spans across the sea gully where fishermen, for over 350 years have had access to catch migrating salmon.

Our next adventure was a coach trip to Belfast to see the "Titanic Exhibition", which was superbly presented. Such a tragedy!

The 2nd site was at a cutely-named place called Belcoo in Co. Fermanagh, on the shore of Lough MacNeen. (I'm not sure how many fish were caught, but Peter certainly tried very hard!) Again, there were many places to explore - the famous Belleek Pottery was most interesting, but there were no such things as "seconds", as, even the tiniest mistake, rendered the whole creation only fit for the `smasher!` On the site, several of our more energetic members took advantage of the outdoor gym equipment. Venturing further afield we discovered a `seaweed-bath spa`, Stone Circles of the Neolithic era and woodland waterfalls. It was here at Belcoo that, for the first and last time, the "Autosleeper Clog Dancers" entertained to celebrate our friend's Golden Anniversaries, such talent!!

And so, on to our last rally camp at Carrowkeel Park in Co. Mayo. Again, lots to explore - Knock Shrine, the fascinating Museum of Life, which was within walking distance of the site (with umbrella!!) Achill Island, Westport and a visit to Croagh Partick (a holy mountain), along with an extraordinary monument to a sunken ship - complete with screaming skeletons! There was even a magic show on the last night, put on by one of the `locals`. We stayed on exploring Eire after the rally, Otto having recovered from a broken half-shaft and would like to thank Shelagh, Phil, Jean and Dave for making it all so delightfully possible and all the ralliers who became one big family!

*Ivy and Richard Birch.*

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### **IRISH RALLIES 2016**

First of all, thank you to everyone who attended this, our first rally. We were a little apprehensive when you first arrived at Bushmills but by the time we arrived at Ballyvary we felt quite laid back and 'old hands'.

All 3 sites were totally different but they all had lots of interesting places to visit. It was very nice for us to hear about your travels round and about and, indeed, we realise that we still have a lot to see ourselves. We will be back!

Thank you to Jean and Dave Hollingsworth for their guidance on what we should be doing to make the rally a success which from your comments we believe it was. Also, thanks to Peter and Janet Murphy for all their assistance. John Greenwood did an excellent job with the daily weather forecast, albeit not always what we wanted to hear.

We thoroughly enjoyed the experience of running a rally so watch this space in the future as no doubt we will run one again sometime.

*Shelagh and Phil West 6055*

Just want to thank the one who was responsible for congratulating us in the magazine on our Golden Wedding and for the lovely card given to us from all on the Irish Rally. We are used to seeing our ASOC friends in England but it was lovely to meet up with some over in Ireland.

Unfortunately we were unable to meet up on the 1st week but managed to go to Belcoo on the Monday of the 2nd week. It was lovely to spend some time with them all in the evening and especially on Irish soil. I think they all enjoyed themselves and we had a spell of decent weather. Put it this way, it could have been a lot worse. Hope to see some more coming next time. We are not that bad.

*Regards Bobbie and Beatrice*

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### **Gulval and Beyond**

On 26<sup>th</sup> May with Inca duly prepared we set off at 10.30am on the first leg of a three weeks holiday. That night, as a means of breaking the journey to the rally at Gulval in Cornwall, we stopped at Briarfield Holiday Park Cheltenham. This proved an excellent choice as it is only 2 miles from Junction 11 on the M5 motorway and a Harvester pub/restaurant, where we enjoyed our evening meal and is a 10 minute walk from the site. The journey was somewhat hampered by long tail-backs at road works, three in all; it seems all motorways are being transformed into 'smart motorways'.

We left Briarfield at 9.15am next day to encounter another tail back on the slip road due to an accident in road works a few miles along the motorway. Having stopped for lunch at 12.30pm in a lay by on the A30 we yet again joined a very long queue of traffic we didn't really find out what the holdup had been but did see the results of a nasty accident on the eastbound carriageway; a van had fallen off a transporter onto a small car. About 4pm we were pleased to arrive at Gulval Cricket Club where we were greeted by Jean, Dave, Shelagh & Phil. The weather was fine throughout the rally although there was a chilly wind some of the time. The marshals had given the positioning of units some thought as they had laid out the pitches in such a way that everyone had a clear view of St Michael's Mount rather than looking at the side of one's neighbour. The clubhouse was open every evening and to add to the usual welcome refreshments on the first evening the cricket club were having a BBQ to which we were invited. There is plenty to do and see in that part of the country, we took the 'van out each day visiting Lands End, a NT garden and The Minnack Theatre, an open air

theatre built into the cliff; all the work was carried out by Rowena Cade and her gardener, she was still pushing barrow loads of cement when she was in her 80s. Some ralliers went out walking and at least one managed to find a bus. On the last evening Jean gave the answers to her quiz and Dave passed round the pictures showing the differences he had created for us to find. Margaret Dunball baked some delicious cakes which she sold on behalf of the ASOC charity of the year. The raffle was drawn and everyone agreed the rally had been a great success. Thank you to Dave, Jean, Phil and Shelagh.

Wednesday 1st June we set off on the next part of our holiday a mere 23 miles to Ruan Minor to visit our grandson and family Christopher, Danielle, Matthew (7) and Jacob (3) whom we don't see very often due to the travelling distance. Before finding our booked campsite at Mullion we spent the day with them, going to Lizard for lunch in the village followed by a walk to the Point where we had a delicious, creamy ice cream. We could say we have stayed on better sites but it was clean and it would be ideal for tenters with children however it served our purpose perfectly with its close proximity to Ruan Minor and we were able to spend some time with Irene and Mervyn Kitchen who were also there. The first day was rather noisy with helicopters from HMS Seahawk, RNAS Culdross which is very close by, however we were all rather relieved that they ceased flying for the rest of our stay.

We spent the next three days being shown around the family's favourite haunts Mullion Cove - a pretty little harbour, Poldhu beach, not very big and with lovely fine sand; excellent for burying little boys who thoroughly enjoyed it and where the boys and I (Moir) paddled and Matthew fell in the water -he had to go home wearing nothing but his dad's hooded sweatshirt. On the final day we visited a chocolate factory and took another walk to the cliffs above Mullion Cove. It was a marvellous three days finishing with a BBQ cooked by Christopher, the weather was sunny and warm and we walked for more miles than we have done in a long time. I have to say how pleased I am to know these two little boys spend as much time out of doors with their parents who encourage them to walk in all weathers.

Our next stop was Little Winnick Touring Park near St Austell, a lovely well maintained site with hardstanding costing £18 including electricity. We chose this site as it is close to The Lost Gardens of Heligan which we visited next day, having been to The Eden Project on two occasions and neither time being able to take in the Lost Gardens I was anxious to fit it in this time and am so glad we did; a very enjoyable day. Again another three hours of walking on a very steep path through woodland before taking a quick look round the formal gardens and visiting the Tamworth pigs

and a rare breed of sheep which were being shorn that day. A great deal of work has gone into the restoration which is ongoing. On the way back to the site we made a detour to visit Mevagissy, a little fishing village with very narrow streets, a few pubs and shops. The inner harbour looked rather dirty with green algae but the outer harbour was very nice.

6th June we left Cornwall behind to travel to Newhaven where we were catching the ferry to Dieppe. Leaving Little Winnick at 8.45am we decided to drive about 100 miles before finding a site for the night which took us to Highlands End Touring Park near Bridport in Dorset; another nice site on top of a cliff and overlooking the sea, quite a distance from the main road. After having some lunch we took a walk along the cliff top till we came to an exceptionally steep path down into the village of West Bay; quite a pretty seafront with a well constructed promenade but not much else to do except to return by that steep path; three stops to get my breathing back to normal.

Next morning we set off at 9am. From the time we left home this was the first time we encountered rain, about noon a short heavy shower accompanied by thunder which only lasted about half an hour. At Highlands End a fellow camper recommended Buckle Holiday Park as a suitable stop over, about 15-20 minutes from the ferry port which was just what we needed as we had to be there at 8.30am. When we arrived the reception area seemed ok and the receptionist was pleasant so we paid our £25 for the one night inclusive of electricity and were instructed where to go, we could scarcely believe the state of the pitch, along a very rough piece of ground to our 'hard standing', very rough cinder like stones, the area seemed none too clean and the facilities left a lot to be desired, however it was close to the ferry, as we had been told, .

Setting off at 7.30am on Wednesday morning we stopped at Sainsbury's to fill up with fuel - we believed the strike was still on in France - to arrive in plenty of time at the port, our departure was scheduled for 10am. We were still sitting on the dockside at that time; although among the first to arrive we somehow managed to be placed in the last row to board, we were about half an hour late in setting off. The channel was like a millpond so we had a really smooth crossing and arrived in Dieppe at 3pm GMT. Our first site was Le Clos Cascheleux in the village of Bouillancourt sous Miannay a one hour drive.

Again the site was on a long narrow road from the main road. We were pleased with the site, large pitches with electricity and water on each, it was impossible to level the 'van but as they were still developing this might be addressed in future. Having set up we had the usual brew, took a walk around the site, opened a bottle of wine and sat outside, topless (only Allan)

enjoying a glass or two. After our evening meal we played two games of scrabble and had an early night.

The purpose of our visit to France on this occasion was to visit my uncle's grave in the war cemetery at Buzancy. We had printed off the direction from AA route finder so were quite confident that we would have no problem finding the place. We set off at 9am, stopped near St Quentin for lunch, stopped again at a Lidl shop to stock up on food and arrived at La Samaritaine Camp Site, Buzancy at 3pm; an absolutely beautiful site with excellent facilities and the friendliest staff, Petrie, who is Dutch and speaks perfect English, and her husband Tony with whom I had a great rapport as my French is even worse than his English. Tony cooks the delicious croissants and bread each morning and cooks fish and chips on Friday and Saturday evenings.

After we were settled I went to reception to enquire where we would find the war cemetery. Petrie gave me rather a funny look before saying "There is only a German cemetery here" to which I replied "But the Commonwealth War Graves site on the internet said my uncle was buried at Buzancy and he wouldn't be with the Germans". She was obviously puzzled and had a conversation (which I didn't understand), with Tony and he immediately got on the computer where he found another Buzancy about 100 miles away. We were about 50 miles east of Reims and the other was 50 miles west. He was able to confirm the cemetery I was looking for was in this other location. Near to tears I went back to tell Allan the bad news thinking there was no way we would be able to fit it into our itinerary but he, (wonderful man that he is), said we could make a detour on the way back to Le Clos Cacheleux where we had booked two nights on our way back to Dieppe.

We had booked 3 nights at La Samaritaine so after doing the minimum of washing we strolled into the village, there was very little to see but it was a pleasant walk of about a mile and when we returned to the site we packed up and drove to Vouziers where we had a good walk around and enjoyed a coffee out on a terrace in the sun, temperature was 26deg.. I bought a map with war graves and places of battles of the Great War at the tourist information office but the other Buzancy was not on it. I took it in to Petrie and she marked where it should be. On the way back to the site we visited the German cemetery, just to convince me we were in the wrong place. We couldn't help but think 'each of these men was someone's husband/son/father'.

Our dinner that night consisted of Tony's fish and chips, very good but we only had one portion of chips between us and it was still too many.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June we had a lazy day, took a little walk and stopped for a beer at the reception under the shade of four chestnut trees.

We don't feel this area is geared to tourism unless one was interested in WWI history, the countryside is very fresh with fields full of masses of red poppies but the villages were rather drab and run down looking. We did see the results of the recent flooding around the rivers.

*Moira Blackstock (4067)*

Part 2 Next month

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### **First Time Abroad**

Having listened to the very useful advice given by some experienced members at the AGM 2015 we decided to take the plunge and booked a ferry to France for this year. Armed with reverse polarity connector, continental electric adaptor, LPG adaptors, french dictionary etc etc we set off in early June for 3 weeks.

We had some apprehension because of the fuel shortages and French port workers going on strike. We had only booked the first camp site so were flexible to change plans if needed. Well we were lucky, we didn't seem to be affected and didn't notice that the Cherbourg port workers were on the strike on the day of our return. Hubby's nightmare of being the first vehicle off the ferry did come true however even though we were surrounded by motorhomes in the queue – what's the odds on that!

We did have to change our plans to avoid the Loire Valley because of the flooding being reported and heard some stories from fellow campers around having to be evacuated in the middle of the night and with the French closing road bridges because of rivers rising there were some worrying moments for them trying to find alternative routes. Hence we just headed to the west coast instead and glad we did. Plenty of room on sites so pre booking wasn't necessary at this time of year.

We thoroughly enjoyed the adventure and would urge others who haven't yet taken their motorhome to France to take the plunge. Driving is so much easier over there. Thank you again, to all those members who gave us advice.

*Julie & Nigel Malcolm 8967*

## **New Kingham**

In May 2015 my wife and I bought an AS Kingham. On our first trip a few days later when we went back to where we had parked near a kerb I pulled out a few inches and it stopped, and although the engine was running there was no acceleration and could not be moved at all. Both Auto Sleeper and the supplying dealer said it was nothing to worry about and wouldn't happen again, also nothing to do with the fuel and any fuel would do.

It did! and someone said it had probably gone to "Limp Mode". As this implies that you can limp it home and it would not move at all apart from switching off the ignition, waiting a minute or two and then it was OK, this didn't seem to be the answer. Again, this time at the NEC show I was told it was nothing to worry about.

I then decided to take it to an independent garage with diagnostic facilities which revealed water in the diesel sensor and a new strainer filter was fitted all under warranty.

There has been no re-occurrence of the problem, but I now only put Shell V Power in the tank which seems to keep the engine oil very clean.

*John & Margaret Freeman (9130)*

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## **Fuel Tank Condensation**

Maureen and I are about to make a much delayed start to our rallying season and I have just filled up the diesel tank in our Talisman, for the first time since Christmas!

I also have a "classic" car which gets little use and months go by when its petrol tank is left almost empty. This tank has recently started to leak fuel, probably due to corrosion brought about by condensation within.

The common theme here is a steel fuel tank left almost empty for long periods, drawing in damp air with the changing atmospheric conditions. Other motor homes, like ours, may be experiencing long periods of little use.

I now am inclined to keep the tank well filled so that the risk of condensation and consequent corrosion is minimised.

Of course if your motorhome is well used these troubles will probably be avoided. So the best plan must be to keep your wheels turning and enjoy!

*Harry Emblen 3905*

## **Cab Blinds**

We are writing to thank everyone for the good advice printed in the April newsletter re - fitting cab blinds in our Autosleeper Lancashire. We went ahead and had them fitted in time for our holiday to Sicily, from which we have just returned. We removed the curtains and found the blinds were excellent on their own although they are sometimes difficult to fasten back in the cassette after use especially on the windscreen. Now back in Britain we shall probably replace the curtains. As Andrew Cook suggested, they do make the van feel cosier on the cooler nights back here.

We have also joined the Forum, that wonderful emporium of good ideas but never seem to be home long enough to put them all into practice!

Our big trip this year was to Sicily where we joined the Camping and Caravan Club's tour. It was run by ACSI with Dutch tour leaders and took us all around the island apart from the south east corner. Prior to joining the tour group we drove first to Rome, a five day journey starting on 26th April, that took us through rain, hail, and snow, and finally sunshine when we reached the Holy City.

After the Sicily tour itself we drove home through France managing to avoid fuel problems and floods and completed our 4280 mile journey on 21<sup>st</sup> June, just in time for the referendum!

*Margaret and Selwyn Marsh 8956*

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## **Major Problem?**

We have a Topaz, first registered in 1996. It is fitted with the Bilton crockery, including cups and saucers, but not mugs. The cups are of relatively small capacity so we use separate mugs instead, stored elsewhere. Liz and I both take our drinks black, that is without milk. As a result we suffer quite strong staining. Whilst most washes off we get a build up of stain, particularly in the corner between wall and base. No amount of elbow grease, washing up liquid, nylon scrim or dishwasher will clear it. Steradent tablets will remove the visual aspect but we think they only bleach it, for it returns almost immediately.

We guess the problem is the quality of the glaze. Our mugs are not from the highest price range. We are prepared to invest in more expensive

mugs if we could be sure that their glazing would resolve our problem, but we know nothing about such things.

Can anybody “clue us in”, either from technical knowledge and/or experience, as to how to get round this problem, or do we continue to buy new mugs each season?

*Liz and Chris Meaden (5473)*

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## 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)

### Deals for Members:

Spinney Motorhomes are kindly offering specials deal to our members:-

- Labour rates at £50 (normally £55)
- Motorhome serving £118.80 (normally £150)
- Use of their rally field near Goostrey, Cheshire

Spinney is based at:-

Newcastle Road, Silverdale Newcastle, Staffs ST5 6NR Tel 01782 622581

Knutsford Road, Cranage, Crewe, CW4 8HJ Tel 01477518205

For more information go to:- [www.spinney.co.uk](http://www.spinney.co.uk) and/or the Club website.

We now have dealers in 21 counties, so it could be worthwhile checking if any of the dealers listed on our website are near you. See [www.asoc.uk.com](http://www.asoc.uk.com) ‘Deals for Members’ - for the full listing.

Please ensure you advise the dealer that you are taking advantage of their offer before the work is undertaken - in order that the correct invoice can be processed. You will need to show your Membership Card.

**Ideas Sheets:**

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

**Website supplementary updates:**

- **03i/16\* - Regalia**
  - New car badge & lanyard added
- **03h/16\* - Deals for Members:**
  - Spinney Motorhomes added
- **03g/16\* - Stop Press:**
  - Error/correction regarding the July 2016 Rally Supplement
- **03f/16\* - Rally List**
  - **Prestwood rally cancelled**
- **03e/16\* - Technical –**
  - Ideas Sheet No. 245 added.

\*Please visit the website occasionally to check for new supplementary updates.

Yours aye

*Baz Wellard*

Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster 

# A Warm Welcome to New Members



Membership Numbers from 9515 to 9531

Pat Macleod	Kingsbridge	Symbol
Geoff & Lesley Stimson	Banwell	Warwick
Alan Cutting & Pauline Bone	Sheringham	Amethyst
Phil Donougher	Dalton	Suffolk
Martin Hearsey	London	Luxor
Stewart & Patricia McNeish	Carrbridge	Malvern

Elaine Willis	Walsall	Duetto
Charles Carter	Huddersfield	Burford
Keith & Gerry Davis	Felixtowe	Warwick
Graham Wroe & Lindsay Prince	Daventry	Bourton
Wendy Woods	Heywood	Broadway
Adrian & Ruth Whitehall	Belper	Talisman
Richard & Caroline Archer	Trowbridge	Malvern
Alan George	Rugby	Corinium
Philip & Sandra Fenwick	East Halton	Burford
Paul & Christine Read	Hull	Broadway
John Cooper	Sherbourne St John	Stanton

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



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Donations .**

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motorcaravans ideal for warmer  
months!!

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Ricky

**01776 705628**