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

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**Stafford Boat Club rally Photo: Vic Prince**

## ***NEWSLETTER 336***

## ***September 2016***

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## From the Editor

Well this month has seen a great number of articles from the members and I have been able to add a few pages to make up for the shortage in the July edition. And yet I still have 3 articles that I haven't been able to include this month! This will of course go into the next or later Newsletters. Great stuff too and well done to you all. Please keep this up.



It was interesting to read the reports about the rallies that we had planned to attend but had to cancel, it rather adds salt to the wound!

As you will know, I will be standing down from the committee at the next AGM and John Morris has volunteered to take over. So next month's newsletter will be done by John as a way of practice (He works with an Apple Mac so has to sort out his own way of doing the newsletter). It will be interesting to see how it works out.

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Regards

John 2388

### **Deadline for the October Newsletter will be the 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

Please send any articles to John at [snippets@redwink.co.uk](mailto:snippets@redwink.co.uk) or to his address at 17 Newbridge Gardens, Bath, BA1 3LT, B&NES

The November Newsletter will revert to me (or maybe not!)

*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](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com).

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## Chairman's Chat

At last we have been able to get out and about in our van and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent Lichfield and St Ives Rallies. Our most grateful thanks go to the Marshals and their Assistants on both rallies.



A group of us, bus passes in hand, took the Guided Bus from St Ives to Cambridge and I waited in anticipation for a tour guide to describe the journey. Eventually I discovered what everyone else seemed to know! The busway track was built along the old railway line and is made up of two concrete beams with kerbs. The **guide** wheels on the bus connect with the kerb and run along it to steer the bus and happens to be the longest in the world. Ah well... never too old to learn!

Between the two rallies we stayed on a small site at Whissendine, near Oakham and our tale is now taken up by Barbara Buckett:

*When Jill and James go camping they have some tea and talk.*

*Then James goes to the village to have a little walk.*

*This day he set off at a trot, it wasn't far to go.*

*Whilst Jill prepared the dinner she'd put the gas on low.*

*The dinner had gone in the oven and then it had come out*

*And then it went back in again, but Jill was full of doubt.*

*James, meanwhile, was walking down a pretty  
country lane,  
When in the distance he had spied a church, to  
miss it was a shame.  
He'd have a look around it, that shouldn't take him  
long,  
But after he came out the church he started going  
wrong.*

*Eventually he realised that he had lost his way.  
He'd better abandon his rambling and go back  
across the hay.  
Keeping the church in his eye line and through  
another gate,  
He must get back to the campsite, it was getting  
very late.*

*One hour had passed and then the next, Jill was  
getting in a state  
James should have been back long ago, so she  
went to the campsite gate.  
At last she spotted him in the distance coming  
down the lane.  
They are happily back together now - I don't think  
he'll do that again.*

Most certainly NOT!!)

Safe travelling

*Jill*

## Rally Reports

### Rudesheim Rhine in Flames Rally

Dennis and myself set off on 14th June from Hull to Rotterdam, overnight on the ferry, then onto Berlin, one night stop and onto Krakow, Poland. We spent a few days visiting Auschwitz, The Salt mines and Schindlers factory. We moved onto Prague, spending time exploring the city, then we joined the rally on the 24th June.

We were made very welcome and as newbies to Autosleeper rallies we were put near Liz, Peter and Chris the marshals. We had been to the site 30 years previous, lovely to see how modern it has become. A very good place for visiting the town, the famous Drosselgasse, the vineyards and walks or cycle rides along the river.

The first evening we had a get together, nice to meet our fellow ralliers.



We must thank Liz for her hard work in making the week a good one, even the weather behaved. We enjoyed town walks, a lovely meal together in a local restaurant, a trip on the Noddy train and finishing at the Asbach visitors centre. We went on the cable chairs up over the vineyards a lovely walk through the forest, and descended on another chair lift, and returned by river boat.

The highlight was the wonderful evening arranged by Liz on the Asbach boat to see the Rhine in Flames, the flotilla of boats was amazing and as it

got dark they moved along the river as each town set off their fireworks, finishing with a huge display between Bingen and Rudesheim.



We had a quiet day before we left the ralliers to go our separate ways. We went off to family in Holland, and my birthday surprise. We stayed near Maastricht so we could go to Andre Rieu concert. A great finish to the month away, then thee trip back to Calais and home.

*Mollie and Dennis Ingrey.*

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## **Rudesheim Rally**

We had a wonderful time at the Rudesheim in Flames rally in June/July thanks mainly to Liz, Peter and Christine. Although Mike cannot walk very easily, we found the riverside walks relaxing and even the short walk to Lidl and Aldi was easy.

The guided tours (with our three marshals) of the Winery and the Asbach Brandy centre were fascinating resulting in much sampling and purchases for later consumption - we are still eating the Asbach chocolate but the brandy chocolates and chocolate liqueur disappeared at an alarming rate. One of our abiding memories of Rudesheim is waiting to cross the riverside railway track to get into the town as a train seemed to go through every 5 minutes.

Our ASOC group meal in town was a big success. Perhaps next year Liz could write people's menu choice on their hand as many seemed to have

mislaid the slip of paper which Liz or Christine thoughtfully gave out when we booked ! The crowning glory of the holiday was the Rhine in Flames on the Saturday evening. Well done Liz for booking such a superb vessel (MV Asbach). If you can overdose on Fireworks this must have been very close – magnificent.

The cost of the Campingplatz site in Rudesheim seemed a bit expensive at first sight - until we were settled in and got to know the place. To have hard standing on grass, electric, water and grey water connections close to each van and as much decent wi-fi as you needed was luxury. To top it off the site owners and staff were extremely friendly and made us very welcome. Happy memories indeed.

We left Rudesheim and travelled to Luxembourg, staying for 2 nights at a very good out of town site with bus-stops nearby. Our excursion into Lux city was made all the more enjoyable when we took an open-top bus ride around the city. Many of the areas of interest on the bus ride seemed to be connected to the European Parliament and it was ironical, so soon after the Brexit vote, that we would shortly be much less affected by its decisions. Thank you to all the people who offered us much needed advice via the newsletter prior to the trip to Rudesheim.

We are very much looking forward to the June 2017 European rally

*Mike and Val Pippard (8862)*

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## **Horam Rally Report**

There is a very old song entitled Sussex by the Sea, and when we read in the newsletter that there was to be a rally in Sussex we knew that it would be in a beautiful area and of course there would also be great company, naturally, as it was an Auto-Sleepers Rally. So the two combined to make it a good choice.

The excellent rally marshals, Mike and Mo and Al and Barbara did their very best to turn a rather damp set of grass pitches into an excellent site for a rally. The site tractor was needed a couple of times as one or two of the pitches caused our heavy, powerful motorhomes the indignity of having assistance to reach the little flag marker, but the grass didn't suffer very much and the rally turned out to be mainly dry anyway.

Events laid on by the excellent marshals included a village treasure hunt, Tai Chi and, in the next-door modern scout hut, a delicious and plentiful

cheese and wine evening with egg rolling and a quiz. Also next to the site was a quirky collection of amenities, namely a restaurant whose food was vastly superior to its décor, with fishing lakes and nature walks, a bygone collection of historic junk and a somewhat neglected garden ornaments display and for sale.

Early on many of us went into the village searching out the sometimes frustratingly difficult treasure hunt clues – as usual an excellent way to discover the features of the village and where the bus stops were. Stagecoach provided a fairly frequent service to Tunbridge Wells in one direction and Eastbourne in the other, which many ralliers took advantage of.

Another attraction was the Cuckoo Trail – an abandoned railway track turned into a foot and cycle path leading gently down to the small town of Hailsham in one direction (slightly harder to get back uphill) or uphill to Heathfield, which of course was much quicker to get back from.

A really excellent venue for a rally, with its excellent facilities and helpful site wardens. My only regret was that the bus stop was named Merrydown Vineyard of which there was no sign, as the entire site had been turned into a building site of the same name – never mind, the excellent wine at the wine and cheese evening easily made up for that deficiency.

Our sincere thanks to the marshals and ralliers for making the rally so enjoyable.

*Alan & Celia Waugh*

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## **Stafford Boat Club Rally**

Vic has wanted to hold a rally at Stafford Boat Club for some time and when we finally arranged dates with Neil Rogers, Rally Co-ordinator, sadly his illness of Motor Neurone Disease had a huge impact on our plans. He can no longer get into our VW Trooper now, or into bed or on the loo. However, Vic being Vic, he was determined not to allow this to stop him continuing with the rally as planned. With the invaluable help of Bob and Angela Warwick, who worked so hard on our behalf and whose friendship we treasure and Brian and Linda Ellis, again whose help was greatly appreciated, we finally had a rally organised.

Contd. overleaf

We weren't able to stay in our Trooper (which sadly remained on the drive at home) but we stayed in a local Travelodge and were on site each day and evening.



We have been members of Stafford Boat Club since 1996, having had a narrowboat of our own but had to sell it because of Vic's illness. Vic thoroughly enjoyed taking a group of ralliers round the boat club, explaining about narrowboats, the working of the locks and how the club was developed - while on a mobility scooter of course.

We would like to thank everyone at Stafford Boat Club who helped organise our event, especially Pete and Aud Hardy for their help in working behind the bar and Colin and Annie Jenner for their generous offer of their narrowboat "Eli", allowing ralliers to experience a trip on the Staffs and Worcester Canal. Both couples are members of ASOC. Thank you so much! An added bonus.

All in all a very eventful time for us, even without our camper van! We even managed to visit the Lichfield Rally as visitors following on from the Boat Club Rally, again staying in a local Travelodge and it was really good to see friends. Vic is such a "people person" and the Autosleeper Club has allowed us to socialise, and indeed, make many friends. I admire Vic so much for remaining so positive with such a debilitating illness - I'm so proud of you.

Long may it continue

*Lesley and Vic Prince 6599*

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## **STAFFORD BOAT CLUB RALLY**

We arrived on the Monday to be greeted by Bob & Angela, Vic & Lesley, Brian & Linda, and the boiler was on for a cuppa.

One of the boat club members offered a barge trip on the canal in the afternoon, where some of us walked and got a lift back on the barge when it

had turned round. In the evening we were welcomed in the club house by the friendly club members, who were also ASOC members.

On the Tuesday we went into Stafford on the bus. In the afternoon Vic showed us round the working boat yard which was very interesting.

On Tuesday evening we went into the club house again and played skittles.

On the Wednesday some of us walked on the tow path to the pub for lunch, Yvonne and myself took our bikes on the towpath to Penkridge where there was a well stocked open market.

Wednesday evening we went to the club house again for a small quiz organized by Lesley.

Thursday morning we were sorry to leave after enjoying the time at the boat club.

*Stuart & Yvonne Wood.*



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### **Stafford Boat Club Rally Maple Wood 11 – 14 July**

This would be a limited number venue and speaking on behalf of all those who attended, it was agreed by all that we should warn others it was terrible. You won't enjoy it. There are so many other places you could go to. We only endured it out of some misguided loyalty to the club. You won't like it, trust us, would we lie to you?

*Brian & Linda Ellis*

P.S. To those who attended, Shhh our little secret, fantastic wasn't it?  
See you all next year, same place same time.

PPS to Vic and Lesley, Bob and Angela, and to the boat club members who looked after us, on behalf of us all, thank you it was great. See you again in 2017.....

## **St Ives Rally**

We attended the St Ives Rally for the 1st time, only our second rally since we bought our Autosleeper 8 years ago. What a brilliant rally, so well organised, thanks to all six marshals. The site was very convenient, the company couldn't have been better.

We were very impressed with St Ives, definitely worth more visits, & as for the weather, couldn't have been better, if anything - too hot. Tea was organised in the marquee most days, or something slightly stronger. A quiz, a raffle, general chit chat, & good company. The local ice cream man was asked to call, which he did on Saturday, Sunday & Monday. Very good value, good choice, large portions, just a battle to eat them before they melted. We went into St Ives each day, exploring a bit at a time, couldn't go far as John has difficulty walking. We found everything we hoped for, lovely old shops down side streets, several pubs, & the market on Friday & Monday.

We had Sunday lunch in the Dolphin Hotel, which we booked as recommended. Very good meal, & good service, definitely one for next time. We did a boat trip on the Sunday afternoon, very enjoyable & thoroughly recommended. Special thanks to Alan Selwood, who was especially friendly & helpful.

Hope to see some of you next time,  
*Regards Heather & John Cook 7235*

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## **ST.IVES. - JULY. 2016**

After a hectic week in Suffolk/Norfolk it was nice to join the rally for a bit of relaxation and catch up with friends. The weather was good, even verging on being a little too warm ( never satisfied)

Once we had been sited, our first job was a spot of hay making- the field had been cut, but there was a lot of loose hay lying around. Fortunately, one of our members had a rake (not the usual piece of equipment one carries around in the van) but proved very useful and we were all grateful to borrow it. Thank you Bernie.

During our evening gathering we had a member of the town council enlighten us as to what was going on in the town whilst we were there. Several cats made of all types of material were displayed in shop windows, lamp posts railings etc. depicting the cats mentioned in the rhyme "As I was

going to StIves etc....." It certainly made you look around the town and was hard to keep count as to how many there were.

The next day a few went into Cambridge for a trip in a punt on the river Cam - a very interesting way to see the architecture and colleges. On our evening get-together we were treated to a celebratory drink, courtesy of Daphne and John Normandale, who unfortunately couldn't be with us, which went down very well and much appreciated.

Saturday was games day and Baz organised a game of Horseshoes.

Again luck prevailed over skill, but you do have to be careful, those horseshoes bounce if they hit the ground on the rim. Our victors, this year, were Bill Todd partnered with Pauline Hill, and it was Pauline's superb throw in the final round that clinched the title. It's just a shame that the press photographer wasn't there to capture this momentous occasion, but never mind Bill, we know you won!!

On Sunday, we had a leisurely walk down to Chrystal Lakes car boot sale to look for the odd bargain or two but came back empty handed.

Monday,, St.Ives has a large market, stretching along the whole of the main street and is definitely worth visiting, every type of stall you could imagine,

Our final evening, we had the quiz results and a lucky prize draw, which was based a bit like musical chairs without the music and the last numbers drawn out were the winners. Certainly a novel way of drawing out the winners.

Our thanks go to Barb, Al, Mo, Mike and the DAAs (twice removed), Eileen and Alan for another excellent rally.

*Jackie Moss (5639)*

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## **St Ives Rally Report July 2016**

Obviously this was known to be a popular Rally.quickly fulll up, so I was pleased to have a place.

Thursday. Arriving early afternoon, - nearly everyone was already there. I received a warm welcome from Alan, Mo and Barbara, and shown to my place.

Many voices all around, folks greeting and catching up with friends. Noisy sheep in the next field!. Being a 'singleton', and not very regular Rallier, I didn't know many folks, but did get to know some, including putting faces to familiar names from ASOC Magazine. I did look up Derek and Judy from Northamptonshire who I found know an old school friend of mine from over 60 years ago. At the preliminary gathering, there was a very interesting introduction to St Ives from a most knowledgeable member of the Town Council. Lots to see and do!

Friday morning saw a group of us heading off into St Ives – prepared for rain – to catch the 'Guided Bus' into Cambridge. Quite an experience, for a long section of the route, the bus runs along a tram type track. On arriving in Cambridge some of the group headed for the river, and the pre booked punts. I went off to explore on my own. The threatened rain had disappeared, the sun come out, gradually getting hotter. The beautiful College Buildings around each corner, but where ever I went to see famous landmarks, streets were full of Chinese groups – cameras and selfie phone sticks at the ready.

Near the busy street market, a group of musicians - not sure of the nationality – were entertaining passers-by. More sightseeing, but it was too hot to go out to the 'Backs'. Eventually, hot and weary, I decided to find the bus stop to go back to St Ives. Straight away, a bus arrived, and rather pleasantly, a slightly different rout, round the villages.

Back in St Ives, stocked up with food shopping. 5pm another gathering on site. Long standing members Daphne and John Normandale who were booked to join us, had to cancel at the last minute, and very generously donated their booking fee to buy wine (or other) and nibbles to be shared by everyone present. Raised glasses, and cheers of good wishes were recorded in photographs by Baz.

I spent a warm Saturday morning exploring St Ives, then after lunch and siesta was ready to join in the 'Horseshoes' Tournament which Baz had organised. I was paired up with Bill Todd, we total novices, were almost the longest standing members there. Few people had played the game before, and all got very hot out in the sun as we aimed our horseshoes towards the stakes to gain points. Amazingly, Bill and I won our knock out rounds, and into the final against Eileen and Alan. I laughingly joked that as my great grandfather had been a blacksmith, the game was probably 'in my blood'. Blow me! I went on to throw the best round of the afternoon. We had won! Our prize, a lovely pair of very appropriate 'horsey' mugs.

Sunday. A quiet start to the morning, found me heading for the URC Free Church, where I met up with Elizabeth and Bill. Over coffee afterwards, they told me that they were planning to go on a river boat trip in the afternoon. Back to the 'van for lunch, then returned to the river, where I was able to get onto the peaceful electric boat trip up, (or was it down?) the river with a few other ASOC folks. The driver was knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the surroundings, and did tell us that cream teas were being served in the Parish Church. I did consider it, but it was quite a long walk, even if it was not now so hot, so I just treated myself to an ice cream.

Monday was my day out. I took myself to Audley End, a property owned by English Heritage, in a beautiful landscape by 'Capability' Brown. Unfortunately on the way back I took the wrong entry onto M11 (I heard Sat Nav say first not third) and landed up going 30 miles in the wrong direction! ( One of the drawbacks of travelling on ones own). By the time I got back to the site, the final evenings gathering, which included the 'Draw', thanks and farewells was nearly over. Sorry folks!

Tuesday. Time to go home. Many thanks to Mo & Mike, Barbara and Al and Eileen and Alan, and cheerio, see you again sometime. It had been a great rally. Such a responsibility arranging an occasion for so many people, with differing requirements and expectations.

My run home to Gloucestershire included visiting another English Heritage, and 'Capability' Brown property near Bedford; followed by Milton Keynes in the rush hour!!, but I was on the right road – knew where I was going!! Thanks Again folks.

*Pauline Hill. 0366*

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## **Holmfirth Rally**

Our thanks to Stuart, Yvonne, Neil and Pauline for all the hard work in running the rally at Holmfirth High School. The Huddersfield Food Festival was well worth a visit with about 80 stalls and the village of Holmfirth is a delight with buses running to both within walking distance of the site. We went to Huddersfield on the bus going around the villages, sitting at the front of the top deck the scenery was lovely although some of the narrow, twisted roads were a bit scary at times. The weather was good and all in all the rally was a great success.

*Moira & Allan Blackstock 4067*

### **Turckheim June 2017**

Fancy joining us for a rally in France next year? Full details and booking information will be in the November Newsletter, but to give you an appetiser the rally will be in Turckheim, in the Alsace, a village known for its Gewürztraminer wines (don't worry we can't pronounce it either but they taste good), traditional Alsatian cuisine, and stunning surrounding scenery. Set in the foothills of the Voges mountains about 5 km from Colmar, Turckheim is surrounded by a medieval wall, which has three doors, or portes, one of which begins the Route des Vins. Full of character and charm it is also home to les cigognes (storks to you and me) which nest nearby and wander around the campsite.

Turckheim also boasts a Night Watchman, traditionally cloaked in black and carrying a halberd and lamp he makes his rounds at 22.00 (10pm) each night from May to October. As he strolls the protected city, singing for his supper, or rather a glass of something..... he is often accompanied by a throng of tourists attempting to join in the songs. Some newcomers to the town have been surprised to have a seemingly tranquil early evening interrupted by a crowd of singers led around by a Nightwatchman.

The forested Voges mountains are dotted with old castles and fortifications, all reachable by foot or by bike, and the town itself nestles among the vineyards which produce the regions delectable white wines.

We have reserved pitches on the campsite "Le Medieval" (<http://en.camping-turckheim.fr/>) for 10 nights from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at a fee of 150€ (15€ per night) for a motorhome, 2 persons, electricity and 1 dog (not obligatory). The site is 300m metres from the village centre, near the railway station and the famous Cave is around 600m away.

To the north you have Chateau du Haut-Koenigsbourg, Strasbourg and then the German Mosel valley; to the south the town of Mulhouse with French national museums, the Cite de l'Automobile (with its famous Bugatti collection) and the Cite du Train and to the east on the other side of the Rhine is the Black Forest.

So, if you think you may like to spend 10 days in Turckheim next year, watch for the November Newsletter and get your application in the post.

Peter Brown, Chris Mawdsley and Liz Irvin

### **Thank You**

Thank you to my friends who still remember my birthday it is lovely to hear from you. I'm having a great time this week celebrating.

Love to all

Nora

## **OUR WATERY WANDERINGS,1**

We began our sojourn at the ASOC rally at Rudesheim, which of course is on the river Rhine. The river is well used by cruise ships, trip boats, ferries, and commercial barges. We used the ferry from Bingen on our way there, and when we left the rally. On one of the days during the week we took the trip boat over to Bingen, with Liz Irvin and (fairly new member) Martin Ross, to look round the town. On another day, again by trip boat, we went to one of the many castles - Rheinstein - which overlooks the river quite high up. This meant a quite steep zig-zag path to reach it. Over the centuries it has gone from being defensive to becoming a family home.

The high light of the rally was, of course, the "Rhine in Flames" which takes place at various parts of the river on different dates during the summer. We all climbed aboard one of the bigger boats at 6.00 p.m. and began with a meal in the large dining area. We moved quite slowly down the river surrounded by lots of large and small boats all adorned with coloured lights. This alone was quite a spectacle as darkness began to fall, after a lovely sunny day with an absolutely clear sky. At a given point we turned and even more slowly came back up stream, to see fantastic fireworks erupting at intervals on either side of the river, from behind the villages and from the castles all the way back to Rudesheim. Here we seemed to wait rather a long time with nothing happening until suddenly the whole town seemed to be lit up all over by masses of wonderful fireworks which soared up into the now dark sky. Of course, after the meal finished everyone was up on the top open deck to get the best views. It was around mid-night when it all came to an end and we walked back to the camp site, along with visitors who had come by coach for the evening. There were more cruise ships than on other evenings, some moored up double one against another.

After the rally ended we travelled south to meet some of my relatives, and also found ourselves on camp sites next to other rivers, but more of that next time.

*Elizabeth Grimsley*

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## **Gulval and Beyond part 2**

Sunday morning we set off at 8.15am for the drive to Buzancy which was not on the map so navigation was not exactly easy. We were lucky to see the sign off the main road as it was very small and only about a foot above

the grass. This Buzancy is even smaller than the one we had just left built on a steep hill; we drove up to the top but could not see the cemetery and the only two people we met didn't know where it is; on the way back down the hill I spotted an equally small sign to our right. This road was up another steep hill and very narrow but when we saw the cemetery we felt it was a very fitting setting, at the end of the road which led into a wood; a very small cemetery, so quiet and peaceful and beautifully kept. Being the only one from the family to visit Uncle Jim's resting place I felt privileged to have had this moving experience. We were there for about half an hour taking photographs and leaving a message in the visitor's book. We left about 12.30pm stopping at a Buffalo Grill in Noylan for lunch then back to the first French site at Miannay; after La Samaritaine we were more 'picky', noticing how steep the pitches are and most of the seasonal sites had long grass around their awnings etc., the toilet block was clean but very basic.

For our last full day in France we had a lie-in, 9am. It was a cloudy morning but dry. We drove to Abbeyville for fuel and got a bit lost; drove into a one way system around back streets and through the centre of the town which looked very nice driving along beside the Somme with gardens and fountains etc. but couldn't see anywhere to park, eventually we arrived at U Mart supermarket with fuel and shops so managed to stock up on food again. It is a miracle we could find our way back out of town. We had no trouble getting fuel anywhere while in France. When we got back to the site we walked down to Le Clos Cacheleux sister site La Val de Trie, it looked to be a very nice site with indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a bar where we partook of a beer on their terrace. We would have much rather stayed there but since we booked through the Camping & Caravan Club we had to choose a site in their brochure.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Just ready for the road when it started to rain. We left the site at 8.30am and arrived at Dieppe ferry port 1½ hours later, had a coffee in the lounge and joined the queue. We said goodbye to the white cliffs of Dieppe at 12.35pm GMT and arrived at the white cliffs of Newhaven at 3.30pm BST. The channel was rougher than on the outward journey but not too bad. We had a meal on board so I didn't need to cook later. We stopped at Chichester Camping and Caravan Club site overnight and drove to Salisbury next day. We intended doing a shop at Sainsbury's and having found the postcode of the nearest one I put it into the sat. nav. which took us twice through the centre on the one way system and we still didn't find the store. Another Camping and Caravan Club site on the outskirts of the city was a good choice, there was a good well made path through a wooded area which would have taken us to the centre but we only went as far as a Waitrose store that afternoon.

Next day we took a bus which picked up just outside the site into the city centre where we were dropped off within a very large square with cafés and shops, after a coffee we found our way to the cathedral. A very impressive building, we were fortunate as they are cleaning the outside walls so there is a lot of scaffolding erected but it was all around the back of the building as they had completed the front. It is understood that to pay for maintenance it is necessary to stage live performances but the fact that a stage was being erected and chairs being arranged as soon as we entered spoiled the ambience for me, however the architecture and stained glass in other parts is awesome and kept us occupied for around 2 hours. Sophie Ryder had an exhibition of her sculpture placed around the cathedral both outside and in; they consisted of images of hares depicting humans, not to our taste but very well executed. After lunch at the Red Lion where Allan had stayed while working for BAe we returned to the site for a rest before walking up to Old Serum, an iron age hill fort believed to be the earliest settlement of Salisbury, the views are stunning.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. This was the last day of our holiday. It was pouring so got quite wet just preparing to move off. We were just ready to go and doing the usual check around our pitch when who should be walking past but Jim & Marion Henwood so we had a long chat with them before setting off for the Fleet Air Arm museum at RNAS Yeovilton, by the time we arrived the rain had stopped. Anyone interested in military aircraft should make the effort to visit this museum, I'm sure they would find it very interesting. I wasn't just as keen but we were both pleased to see on display some aircraft Allan had worked on as an airframe and engine fitter in the Fleet Air Arm especially the Buccaneer and Whirlwind helicopter. He also worked on the Buccaneer at BAe. We both also enjoyed the trip round the mock-up of an aircraft carrier. It started with a simulated flight in a helicopter to transfer us from shore to ship, we then entered each section where there was a video playing, describing the working of that area; a green light over the door indicated it was time to go on to the next section. Funnily enough we didn't need a helicopter to take us back to shore; perhaps we walked on water! In the area displaying a Phantom there was a video on the wall of a Buccaneer landing; it felt as though it would run us down, this was followed by the Phantom supposedly taking off, all very realistic with the noise and light coming from the jet-pipe in reheat. The complete tour of the museum took us 2½ to 3 hours stirring many memories and I am sure we could have spent longer but we had a long way to travel home. We had lunch in the Swordfish Restaurant and left at 1.30pm, we had two stops for brews on the way home and arrived at 8pm having travelled a total of 1780 miles.

*Moir Blackstock (4067)*

## **First time out for 15 months**

We have not been able to get out in the motorhome due to Wendy needing treatment for breast cancer, unfortunately this is still ongoing. Our friends who also have a motorhome (not an Auto-Sleeper) nagged her to try and get back into the motorhome. Wendy has been very reluctant with the hair loss and the numerous hospital appointments and with some treatments making her very tired. Anyway, they did not give up and managed to get her to agree to a couple of days away.

Our friends are train enthusiasts and as an open evening at Broadway station was on a Friday, we managed to book a couple of nights at Broadway CC site just before the bank holiday. It took us a while to setup as we needed to remember the routine but soon it all came back to us.

We spent most of the first day exploring Broadway with all its nooks and crannies and of course sampling the local cafe and pubs. This was the first time Wendy decided the time was right not to wear her headscarf as the hair was beginning to grow back.

The next day we planned to go Snowhill Manor which is managed by the National Trust. We decided or rather Wendy agreed we should walk up via the Cotswold Way rather than walking up the road. It was a glorious day and a very pleasant walk although it was uphill. We spent quite some time wandering around the house and gardens, and a coffee break at the cafe overlooking the fields. This is a house you will need to go back several times as you can miss many interesting objects.

As it was late afternoon we did get back to Broadway via the road and of course to the pub to take a very late lunch. Before going to the Broadway station for the open evening which was showing visitors the progress being made to restore the station ready for the the last mile of track to be completed when funds become available.

After leaving the site we made our way to Toddington railway station 5 miles away where a steam weekend was about to start. Although not a train enthusiast, we joined with hundreds of others on the train to Cheltenham race course, on the way back we stopped off at Winchcombe station for tea and cakes before returning to Torrington. Later in the day we parted from our friends as they were going to a concert a few miles further up the road. Wendy really enjoyed the few days, although was very tired for a few days after. Our friends are now trying to get us to join them on their Norway trip next year.

*John Morris 2388*

Please remember that the October newsletter is being edited by John Morris, who will be taking over as editor from June 2017.

He can be contacted as follows:

email: [snippets@redwink.co.uk](mailto:snippets@redwink.co.uk)

mobile: 07545 078905

web send a message page; [www.motorhomesnippets.co.uk](http://www.motorhomesnippets.co.uk)

Skype: RedwinkUK

Home: 17 Newbridge Gardens, Bath, BA1 3LT, B&NES

Regards

John 2388

Then it will revert back to me until the AGM

Regards David

## **TV in Europe**

On April 5<sup>th</sup> this year, France shut down all of its lower resolution TV transmissions and now only transmits in HD.

The format that HD is transmitted in is different to the UK so you will need an additional tuner box or a TV designed to receive French HD.

German HD transmissions are in another format again.

*Peter Brown*

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## **Major Problem answered?**

I have the same problem as Liz and Chris with my mugs and find that boiling water and a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda helps. Pour the water into the mug/cup and add the bicarb. Leave for twenty to thirty minutes then wash as usual. This works for me but I have to admit it's not a cure because the process has to be repeated after a few more uses.

*Jean Shaftoe (4546)*

# 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)

## Awning Tie-Downs – Potential Danger:



Although our awning was tied-down with commercial tie-down straps a high gust of wind snapped both tie-downs at the same time! Fortunately the pegs holding the legs saved any damage

*Although the straps only looked faded they had, on much closer inspection, deteriorated so badly with the sunlight that they broke with a strong tug. We think*

*they were 5+ years old.* May I suggest you check yours with a very tough tug? If they do break - then they were no good anyway!

## Battery Jumping:

At a recent Club rally the engine battery of a rallier's van ran down and he considered the possibility of asking someone for a 'jump-start'. After further consideration, however, he decided to call the AA.

Peugeot do recommend caution when 'jump-starting' a Peugeot with an ECU, and their advice is given in Ideas Sheet No. 78; - "Procedure & Precaution for Battery Disconnection & Reconnection on Boxer vehicles". Available as usual on request.

## Website supplementary updates:

- **03k/16\* – Rally list & Spreadsheet:**
  - **Additional rally at Southport 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November**
- **03j/16\* - Regalia**
  - Prices for new car badge & large Teddy bears

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 9532 to 9553

Maureen Roast	Ottershaw	Nuevo
Chris & Janice Stephens	Stoke-on-Trent	Winchcombe
David Spence	Didcot	Symbol
Dave & Denise Jennings	Redditch	Nuevo
Clive & Michelle Evans	Newbury	Broadway
Trevor Hall	Stanford-le-Hope	Burford
Richard & Sarah Burtstal	Uckfiede	Warwick
Robert & Elizabeth Corcoran	Southport	Executive
David Cartlidge	Abingdon	Broadway
Fred & Colleen Cooke	Wareham	Bourton
Guy & Sally Cumberbatch	Birmingham	Bourton
Tim & Tess Finch-Lees	Bishops Castle	Windrush
Robin & Linda Matlock	Derby	Amethyst
Jonesy & Suzie Jones	Thanet	Warwick
Dolan & Clare Foy	Callington	Harmony
Ken & Joan Sutton	Romsey	Clubman
Keith & Julie Stirrup	Birmingham	Broadway
Eddie Britton & Sylvia Hird	Darlington	Warwick
Graham & Margaret Clayton	Chesterfield	Broadway
Rosemary Hale & Brian Deer	Belper	Trooper
Ben & Susan Osborne	Shrewsbury	Warwick
Robert & Bridget Hubbard	Brandon	Duetto

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



Thanks for your  
Donations .

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### **2006 A/S Executive 2.8D**

Solar Panel, Air ride  
Suspension  
Tow Bar, 3\*Bike Rack  
Tel: **07986 745279**

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**Air Ride System** to fit Fiat/  
Peugeot/ Citroen up to 2006  
inc hoses. Pressure gauge  
Fitting Instructions. £160

**2\* 6kg Calor gas lights** both  
full. £60

**2\*6kg gas refillable bottles.**  
1 full. Inc outside tank filler  
point, hoses and gauge. £140  
Contact Clive Green  
**01524 822107** (Lancaster)

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**HARRISON ENCLOSURE** (grey) for a  
Fiamma 45 awning.

Windbreak, curtains all in excellent  
condition.

Used a few times by previous owner on  
A/S Executive. Manual & instructions -  
£200 ovno.

Contact John Stedman on **01363**  
**877397** (Mid Devon),  
email:

**johnstedman39@tiscali.co.uk**

Could possibly be viewed, or delivered  
to any West Country Rally.

### **Armitages Motorbike/Scooter Rack**

Side loading rack with an Adaptor Plate  
that bolts onto a towbar between the  
towbar and ball. The Rack weighs 30  
kgs and is fitted with Delux Lighting  
and will carry a bike up to 120kgs sub-  
ject to the towball download limit.

This was purchased new in Nov last  
year and was fitted to my Warwick XL.  
We have travelled with scooter at-  
tached approx 3000 miles whilst tour-  
ing France earlier this year with no  
problems. VGC. £365.00 or near offer.  
Reason for sale: upgrading to larger  
scooter that will require a trailer.

### **Thermal Internal Screen**

8 Ply construction Windscreen + Door  
Windows with suction cups. To fit  
Fiat/Peugeot X250 Cab 2007 on.  
GC. £20.00

### **Awning Matting**

Moroccan Awning Matting, 3 Mtrs x 2.4  
Mts ( 10 x 8 ft)

Colour Grey. Woven plastic, breath-  
able, suitable for grass or hard standing.  
GC. £20.00

Owen - **07412 622424**

Email **rowen2m@gmail.com**

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### **Tonsure Portico awning**

Weight 7.65 kg  
1900mm wide x 1800mm deep.

For van height 2300 to  
2450mm

Fibre reinforced poles

Silver grey/black

£50 ono

Phone **01235 203804**

or **robert@strawson.net**