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# **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

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Secretary Ozzie at NEC Photo: P Brown

## **NEWSLETTER 338**

### **November 2016**

## Committee Members

<b>President</b>	<b>Charles Trevelyan</b>		
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Jill Bertlin</b>	<b>Jbertlin@aol.com</b>	<b>01539 534500</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>John Osland-Jones</b>	<b>oslandjones@aol.com</b>	<b>01217 448065</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>John Geeson</b>	<b>john.geeson@outlook.com</b>	<b>01491 641776</b>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Peter Brown</b>		<b>07771 827711</b>
<b>Rally Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Neil Rogers</b>	<b>ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk</b>	<b>01325 374540</b>
<b>Webmaster &amp; Chair, Tech Group</b>	<b>Baz Wellard</b>	<b>webmaster@asoc.uk.com</b> <b>technical@asoc.uk.com</b>	<b>01329 231259</b>
<b>Regalia Officer</b>	<b>Stuart Wood</b>	<b>Stuwd@yahoo.co.uk</b>	<b>07799 591550</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>David Mayne</b>	<b>daveatasoc@virginmedia.com</b>	<b>07745 330304</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Jill Bertlin</b>	<b>Jbertlin@aol.com</b>	<b>01539 534500</b>
<b>Chairman, National Rally Sub Committee</b>	<b>Keith Ross</b>	<b>Ross17@john-lewis.com</b>	<b>07794 243935</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	<b>Gill Hopkins</b>		<b>01244 675180</b>
<b>Charities Officer</b>	<b>Mike Valentine</b>	<b>Mikemo.valentine@talktalk.net</b>	<b>02392 482818</b>
<b>One Committee Member Vacancies</b>			

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## From the Editor



Firstly a big “Thank You” to John Morris for producing the October newsletter. Great Job and an interesting take with a fresh new layout. For the time being I am going to stick with my current layout as our Printer and I are still working on software issues to match what John has been able to produce with the Printer’s new digital print machine. (Although I might follow up with some of his ideas!)

Secondly an apology: Cover picture last month of Haughton Mill was taken by Baz Wellard during a walk from the St Ives Rally and not by Dave Hollingsworth as stated. ( My Fault!)

As our Printer has a new digital Machine for printing, we are hoping that the print quality will be much improved. However it is helpful to get this quality by supplying photos separately and not embedded in Word or Publisher Files as these can be of poorer quality and I have to spend time converting what I have to make decent fist of it. So words and photos separately please and title photos to give link so that I don’t screw up like last month!

With this month’s newsletter is the Renewal Form for membership subscriptions. For our hard pressed Membership Secretary’s sake, it is always good to get this off asap and make the Membership Secretary’s life easier. Don’t tuck it away, do it now otherwise you may forget and wonder why you no longer are getting the newsletters (this doubles Membership Secretary’s workload). If you do not intend to renew, still post to Membership Secretary so the membership list can be amended.

**Deadline for the December newsletter is by 10th November.** Please send your contributions to [daveatasoc@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com) or by post to my address below to arrive no later than by 10th of the month. Even earlier is better.

*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).

Any item appearing in this Newsletter may be freely used by other publications.

Please acknowledge both author and source.

## **Business Continuity in ASOC**

Business Continuity (or in my day, Disaster Recovery) is the capability of an organisation to continue to deliver services at an acceptable level following a disruptive incident.

The ASOC committee are very aware of the need to plan for Business Continuity. We have comprehensive Committee Handbook in which each officers job and responsibilities are described in detail. In addition, the Vice Chairman is also Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Secretary. As the current Vice Chairman I hold current copies of the club accounts and can operate the bank account, have access to companies' house on behalf of the club and am fully au fait with the other tasks the Secretary has to carry out.

It is now time to learn about membership management, the theory is fine but practice is best so I am going to handle the renewal process this year. To do that properly means me operating the membership database so during that time I will also deal with printing Newsletter address labels and handling any queries regarding renewals and lost Newsletters. Temporary membership contact details for me during this period will be [petercb1952-membership@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petercb1952-membership@yahoo.co.uk) and 07771 827711.

I will no doubt make some mistakes during the learning process so I hope you will accept my apologies in advance and bear with me.

***Peter Brown***  
***Vice Chairman***

## **Win a teddy bear Competition Results**

Congratulations to Val Pippard 8862 who has won the teddy bear.  
The answer was New Dover Road Park & Ride.

*John Morris*

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Many thanks, Bertie arrived today. Was I the only one who responded ?  
It's just that I've never won anything before.  
If anyone would like to meet Bertie, he will be accompanying us to Burnham in November.  
Regards Val

## **Annual Membership Renewal**

The Renewal Form is inserted inside this Newsletter for those members who need to complete and return a form with the subscription in order to continue membership for 2017.

Please remember the renewal form is not available on the website and no other form is acceptable for renewals.

For members who joined after 1st September, there will not be a form, as the initial subscription covers membership until 31st December 2017.

## **Leaving the Club**

It is with much regret that we will not be renewing our membership of the club. Gordon suffered a stroke before we joined the club so after many years of caravanning we decided to purchase a motor home, an Autosleeper, subsequently joining the owners club.

Unfortunately Gordon fell breaking his hip on his weak side. A partial hip replacement has failed and he is now wheelchair bound, forcing the sale of our Amethyst Gem.

We would like to express our warmest thanks to the many in the club who made us so welcome and the many who assisted us at the various rallies we attended, in particular Rita and John Tubbs.

There are others with whom we formed friendships and not to see them again is sad.

Gordon is hoping to have a full hip replacement in the future, but how long is a piece of string. we hope one day to re-join the club.

*Gordon and Diane Clarke*

## Rally Roundup

### Beamish Rally

We have just returned from another excellent ASOC rally. Thank you to Neil and Pauline who put a lot of work into the organizing but were unfortunately unable to remain on site due to unforeseen circumstances. In Pauline and Neil's absence Stuart and Yvonne carried out a sterling work; ably assisted by Jean and Ian who very kindly took over the reins of assistant marshals.



The rally was pitched on the museum car park at the top of a rather steep hill thus keeping everyone fit, as to see everything it was necessary to visit more than once. Some did take the opportunity to visit towns in the region as there was a very convenient bus service. Not only was the Museum worth visiting but the weather couldn't have been better.

Pauline had compiled a clever quiz 'towns and villages between Tyne and Tees' and each evening games were organized – skittles, quoits and a hilarious welly wanning. On the final evening, in true Olympic style, a podium was erected (folding step) and the winners were presented with medals and cups. Once again a big thank you to Neil, Pauline, Stuart, Yvonne, Ian and Jean.

*Moira Blackstock (4067)*



## Rally Roundup



The pictures were the presentation of the awards for skittles, hoop la, and men's and ladies' welly throwing competitions.

*Chris and Shirley Sturgeon 2897*

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### **Beamish Rally**

On behalf of Yvonne and Stuart, Neil and myself I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who came "Up North" to support us at the Beamish rally. It was great to see so many familiar faces and good to meet the first time ralliers who joined us. We hope that everyone enjoyed the rally as much as we did organising it.

*Pauline Rogers (313).*

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### **WINCHESTER**

Thank you Rita, John, Jean and John for another good rally at the Cricket Club. We had a day out cruising down the Solent, courtesy of Red Funnel, to the Isle of Wight, a quick look round and an excellent Fish and Chip lunch, before heading back to the mainland. The picture quiz was enjoyable but challenging - I think we knew every nook and cranny on the Main Street in Winchester, but still couldn't finish it. We gathered each evening for tea/coffee and a quiz on the decking outside the pavilion. The highlight one evening, was to be on the winning team on one of the quiz nights, chocolate bars all round! Our final evening was a BBQ followed by a choice of deserts provided by our hosts. The only downside was a very wet Friday when we left and I think everyone drove home in the rain.

### **BREAN**

We arrived on site just before 10.00am to help set up, unfortunately part of our team was unable to make it owing to a slight mishap - which we won't dwell on - but they did make it later. The urn was soon bubbling

## Rally Roundup

away ready to greet everyone with a welcoming cuppa. Tuesday started off with clear blue skies, hot and humid, only to be replaced by grey skies, thunder, lightning and rain, which delayed our walk along Brean Down. However, 12 of us, donned in waterproofs, braved the elements and did the walk somewhat later than planned, views were not quite as picturesque as usual and surprisingly we didn't get too wet. Thursday night was a carvery and entertainment in the Tavern which several of us enjoyed. Thanks to Brian, Linda and their excellent catering team we had a "jacket potato" evening with a choice of fillings which went down exceedingly well. Skittles was again very popular, the only downside was that the evenings are getting shorter, so bad light often stopped play.

### COFTON.

We left Brean , along with Chris and Jeff, early on Sunday morning and after a carefree journey arrived at Cofton Country Holidays ready to host our rally. Our hearts fell when we saw the field we were on and even more so, when we were told the toilet block had been reprieved from demolition. Although very antiquated they were clean, tidy and functional and the shower block with all mod cons was only a short distance away. We soon realised that the field we were on had superb views over the valley, quiet and everyone really liked it. We had a very good meal in the restaurant on curry night and for those who didn't like curry, could pick from the menu. On our final night we had a fish and chip supper, which was kindly brought to us from the on site Chippy, which went down well. Skittles was, once more popular, with more people wanting to play, we are needing a bigger score board to get everyone on. We would like to say a special thanks to Brian and Linda for bringing all the catering equipment, Chris and Jeff for their help and of course, for everyone who attended to make the rally a great success.

*Jackie Moss (5639)*

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### **Cofton Rally at Dawlish**

We have just returned from Crofton Rally in Devon. The site is very good and the bus stop very convenient being just outside the site. We

## Rally Roundup

were able to go on the bus to Exeter, Dawlish and Teignmouth. We also went to Torquay and Brixham on bus and train. Our favourite place to visit turned out to be Shaldon. By getting a bus to Teignmouth and a short ferry ride to Shaldon we were transported into a peaceful village of delightful cottages and narrow back streets. There is also a Botanical Gardens that is free entry and is also a very tranquil place to be. Be warned the gardens are steep.

The rally itself was of the usual excellent standard that we have come to expect of ASOC rallies. Jackie and John ran the whole show very well. They were ably assisted by Chris and Geoff and Linda and Brian and all worked very hard to keep everybody happy. After a busy day exploring it was always nice to get back to the tea and biscuits provided and the Skittle competitions that ran throughout the week. A nice meal out at the holiday site centre and some humourous entertainment made a special evening. Then Fish and Chips on our pitches on another night supplied by the holiday park made another very nice evening. With a taxing quiz and a draw to finish off the rally we had a great time.

It was so nice as always to catch up with friends that we hadn't seen for a while and to meet new people. We look forward to the next time.

*Barbara and Al Buckett. 5829.*

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### **Lots of fun at the ACCEO National Rally**

ACCEO is the organisation which organises the legal side of rallying between its associated clubs and the Government and Local Authorities. They allow the rallying clubs exemption from the usual planning laws. The acronym stands for Association of Camping and Caravanning Clubs Exempted Organisations.

The Association plays an important role solving on-going problems. For example, one Council has interpreted a recent law change as allowing them to charge rallies an extra environmental charge, which is being fought.

The rally was held on a greenfield site in the Staffordshire Showground. This is a lovely area surrounded by fields and woods, and several function suites.

## Rally Roundup

ASOC's Peter Brown is Secretary of ACCEO and organised the ASOC rally, getting our members a prime spot on the field. It is a pity we only had a few members attending, but those that did had an excellent time. The weather was mostly bright and hot, plus it was a real change to mix with caravanners and owners of other makes of motor homes. Everyone was extremely friendly and the organising club, the 'Tiddlers and Crouchers'(don't ask, it's rude) had done a brilliant job.

Stafford is an interesting town, with a castle and a Wetherspoons, and an antique bus had been organised over the weekend to ferry us back and forth.

Every night there was entertainment in one of the halls where you could take your own food and drink, with quizzes, a ceilidh band running a country dance night, bingo, and a solo singer getting us up to make some shapes, a service, a raffle and bingo.

Because there were only a few of us there amongst the 200 other people we were able to have an intimate laugh and joke and all dance together.

Janet and I will certainly be there next year, and I hope lots more of our members can attend this great event.

*Peter and Janet Murphy 6527*

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### **First timers rally experience**

We bought our 2002 VW Gatcombe at the end of May this year. We joined the club when we visited Auto-Sleeper in Willersley for its habitation check. To be frank, although we had already arranged and had two fortnightly motorhome trips during the summer, we had some reservations as to whether to participate in one of this year's rallies having never previously experienced any rally in any form. We clearly made the right decision!

From the moment we arrived at Brean (and subsequently at Dawlish) we were made extremely welcome by the Marshall's and their partners, and also many fellow club members who made a point of providing great friendship throughout both stays. There were events arranged such as the introductory meet and greet, the end of rally gatherings, a

## Rally Roundup

group meal, and skittles on both these two rallies, but the Marshall's and members emphasized from the outset that there was no pressure on club members to participate in any of the arranged events. Rally members were free to do their own thing (visiting places of interest) when ever they wished. However, with regards to the times we were on site we personally benefitted greatly from joining in with the group as they were so forthcoming with warmth and friendliness. Furthermore, with some of the rally members having similar Auto-Sleepers, it was great for new members who need advice regarding one of the foibles of their own motorhomes, and you could not ask for a more helpful group of people.

Everyone has their own style with regard to mixing in groups, but if you are like us two, who enjoy meeting new friends and a great bunch of people, we believe that these are the perfect way of enjoying holidays in an Auto-Sleeper motorhome.

Thanks to all the Marshall's and support on these two rallies, and in particular to some lovely Auto-Sleeper owners we met and made friends with on these trips to Brean and Dawlish.

All I can say finally is to fellow new club members - try it - you will love it!

*Ossie and Gerardine O'Malley*

### Request from treasurer to all Rally Marshals

Would rally Marshals:-

Please ensure that the correct postage is paid when sending rally returns, as I have a 14 mile round trip to collect and pay an additional £1.50 for underpaid postage. The problem is not the weight, but the size of the envelope.

When returning receipts, please ensure that any items on that receipt which do not relate to the rally claim, are deleted. For those of you that pay returns by BACS please use as a reference, either the name of the marshal or the name of the rally. Alternatively, send me an email stating the amount deposited.

Many thanks for your co-operation. *John Geeson*

### OUR WATERY WANDERINGS - Part 3

After our brief visit to see my cousin in the Care Home in Tübingen I had worked out that it was not too far to drive through the Black Forest to the small town of Kehl. Situated on the mighty river Rhine this town is in Germany right opposite Strasbourg, which nowadays is in France, the river forming the boundary between the two countries. It was easy to get across by first using a (French) bus from the centre of Kehl, which is in walking distance from the camp site. This bus took us as far as a tram terminus which was then our transport into the centre of Strasbourg. So far so good, and we spent some time looking round the beautiful Cathedral which was like lacework, but in stone, of course. We followed the river Ill, which creates the town centre almost into an island, into the old part of Strasbourg where there are many attractive old timber framed houses from the leather traders and tanners of the past. The flowers in window boxes, tubs, etc. looked wonderful in the sun.

As it happened the day we were there was the French National Day - July 14th - a national holiday. On our return we had no problem getting the tram to the terminus, but the bus to get us over the Rhine, normally every ten minutes, was running a half hourly service. We saw three busses go by absolutely full up, and lots of cars going our way too. After waiting one and a half hours we decided to walk back to Germany and the camp site over a fairly new modern footbridge. Then we realised where the crowds were going - to a Music Festival on the French side of the river Rhine.

We intended to spend two/three nights at Koblenz at the confluence of the rivers Rhine and Mosel, but as it was a week-end the site was fully booked. Help! Where do we go at short notice and not too far away in the right direction? I am usually well organised in advance, so out came the maps and camp site books and I found a lovely site with spacious hedged pitches by the side of a lake- Laacher See - not far from Andernach, where we stayed two nights.

We were trying to break the distance to the Hook of Holland in our last few days. In Liz Irvin's old book I found a Stellplatz only three miles from the Dutch border, north of Monchen Gladbach, on a restaurant car park, and we were not alone. The camping was free if one had a meal in the restaurant, which of course we did with relish, and good toilets were available while the place was open. It was on the edge of a country park/nature reserve, so we did a walk between two lakes which had probably been sand/gravel pits in the past. We met a family with animals I had never seen going for a walk on a lead - ferrets!

Finally one more stop was made in Holland, south of Rotterdam, at a site next to the Old River Maas. This is a really busy stretch of river to Dordrecht with many large barges and other boats in both directions day and night. Then it was the afternoon ferry to Harwich. We spent the night (free!) on a friend's drive south of Ipswich before arriving at the St. Ives rally, which was on our way home, and of course on another river - the Great Ouse.

*Elizabeth Grimsley 2080*

## Pitch Stop

### Staying at Stourhead

At a recent visit to Stourhead National Trust property, I noticed the camping area has been upgraded and moved to a flatter position. It is now a Caravan Club CL, it has five small hard standings and grass surround with electric hookup. The blurb also says WC, but not sure if this is only available when the property is open.

The pitches are enclosed with fencing and shrubs with a large grass area to sit out. When I spoke to the guide at the visitor reception, I was told it does get booked up and you will need to phone this number 01747 841143, but you may need to leave a message. The cost per night is £16 per night, but if you are a National Trust member it is £13. The downside of course is you need to be a member of the Caravan Club.

I did notice on the parking machine that it is £3 per day or £10 for over night stays. If you are a NT member parking is free to members during opening hours of 9 - 6pm only, but is not free for over night stays due to the fact that most of those staying on the CL are members or life members, and to ensure the National Trust meets its Caravan Club obligations they have to charge for all over night stays.

If you want to stay; You will need to go to the visitor reception to obtain a pass and find out the area they would want you to park. Please be aware they do not automatically take overnighters as it does depend on the condition of the grass. I suggest you check before paying, if you think you might like to stay.

*John Morris*

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### Cantorbury Aire

We have stayed at the Canterbury aire and sent in a short article about it 2 years ago. It is a car park with very little space between vans but we experienced no difficulties. Once people had moved into their vans in the evening everything was quiet and we were surrounded by a group of friendly Italians. Facilities were good and whilst the park and ride is open there are public toilets. We felt completely safe. We used it to visit Canterbury and the following morning went on to board a ferry about a 20 minute drive away in Dover, and then on to the aires in France

*Irene and Mervyn Kitchin 5698*

## Model Comparison Review

### The Nuevo v The Majestic

Some magazines which are popular with ASOC members have articles comparing similar cars, caravans or motorhomes so I thought that readers might like the following comparison between the Nuevo which we own and the Majestic which we had the pleasure of using for four nights in August.

One of the magazines generally takes the format of using such headings as *Construction and Layout, On the Road, Living Aboard, Kitchen, Sleeping, Washroom, and Verdict*. For reasons which will become apparent I will start with *Living Aboard*.

*Living Aboard*: as Nuevo owners are aware, there is nothing to complain about regarding the space, comfort and decor in a Nuevo. However, the Majestic offered rather more space but the comfort of some of the seats let it down. The layout of the dining area was cramped with the table having to fit around the steering wheel and engine casing. As for the decor, upon arrival there was a profusion of fresh flowers in vases which we certainly wouldn't consider having in the Nuevo. Sleeping Policemen spring to mind. The lighting in both is similar, provided by an onboard battery and an inverter being used to charge phones and tablets.

So a point to each, Nuevo 1 : Majestic 1

*Kitchen*: the Nuevo is fully equipped with hob, grill, oven, fridge and freezer, sink and well stocked cupboards. Likewise the Majestic had the same. However, the Nuevo has three burners and a hotplate whilst the Majestic only had two burners. So, for ease of cooking the Sunday roast (!) I will award a point to the Nuevo.

Nuevo 2 : Majestic 1

Wait a moment..... the Majestic came with a home-made lemon drizzle cake awaiting our arrival. Definitely a point to the Majestic.

Nuevo 2 : Majestic 2

*Sleeping*: unfortunately the Nuevo does not have a fixed bed but the Majestic had an appropriate king-sized fixed bed.

Nuevo 2 : Majestic 3

*Washroom*: being an Auto-Sleeper the Nuevo washroom comes as standard with a toilet and running hot and cold water. Unfortunately using the Majestic entailed running in the hot, cold or even the dark to the facilities.

So, Nuevo 3 : Majestic 3

*Construction and Layout:* the layouts were very similar with a kitchen, dining room, living area and bedroom all merging into one. However, the construction differed quite markedly. For a start there was no insulation in the Majestic. The windows were not double-glazed and could not be opened but they did provide fine panoramic views all round and to compensate for lack of aircon there were several huge roof lights which could be opened and kept open if travelling. Also the aircon was boosted by the sliding door not being a snug fit. Perhaps I should mention in this section on construction that there were some rust spots on the Majestic.....

So the Nuevo definitely deserves a point here, Nuevo 4 : Majestic 3

*On the Road:* here the Nuevo wins hands down. The Majestic had an empty fuel tank, flat tyres, shrubs surrounding it, and no road to go on!

*Verdict:* the Nuevo is the one we will keep!

As you may have realised by now, the Majestic is not an Auto-Sleeper model but I hope I can be forgiven for comparing it to a Nuevo as it is a motorhome ~ it has a motor and we used it as our home.

To explain: earlier in the year Alan and I watched an episode of George Clarke's Amazing Spaces on Channel 4. In the series he followed through projects where a space (shed, beach hut, signal box, pony trailer, etc.) is turned into a living space. The one that caught our eye, particularly Alan's as he is very interested in classic buses and coaches, was the 1960s Bedford coach lovingly converted into a holiday home.

After the programme, out of curiosity, I googled it to find out where it was. Near Hay on Wye. I secretly made some enquiries and it just so happened that they had a vacancy soon after Alan's birthday and it just so happened that we would be travelling back from Warwickshire to Exeter at that time so it would not be too far out of our way. So somehow I found myself booking 'The Majestic Bus' and writing on the calendar 'keep clear ~ ask no questions'.

It turned out to be a wonderful holiday, very relaxing in beautiful surroundings and just a short stroll from the Offa's Dyke footpath. We appreciated the quirky fittings such as an original coach driver's cap and a microphone for the driver to give a running commentary. The owners were very thoughtful and everything we could possibly have needed was provided. Fortunately the weather was warm enough not to have to get our

heads around the workings of the wood-burning stove. The 'facilities', although in a shed a few yards from the coach, were top-notch consisting of toilet, shower and bath with the addition of another wood-burning stove and an abundance of tea lights and candles, to be used to create romantic bath-times!



Being in a remote area we did not



have any visitors except for the resident cat who sneaked in often and took up residence on the bed. As you can understand, we did not add any extra miles but there were enough on the clock already!

*Celia Waugh* 4496

## **Out at Last**

As many of you will realise, Pat and I haven't been out in the motorhome since Newark but managed to get away to the rally at Brean.

First thing I noticed was that the waste tap was turned off, (I usually leave it open to drain into an outside tank) and when I tried to turn this, it came away in my hand. I am not usually clumsy! It transpired that the pipe rotated out of the clip as the tap was tight and the clip wasn't. The waste pipe was just a push fit at the tank end. Having opened the tap and refitted the pipe, I decided to remove it on departure and attend to the loose fitting when I got home.

We both had a great time at Brean (see reports) but on windy nights I was annoyed by a rattling sound and investigating this problem, it transpired that the top vent of the Thetford Fridge was not seated properly nor did it want to.

On leaving and pulling up to Brian to say our goodbyes, the vent cover was seriously adrift so Brian and I removed it (again to sort out when I got home). However on travelling some short distance down the road there was a lot of clatter at the back and after a bit of thought asked if the microwave turntable had been removed. No so we looked for a place to pull in. Sorting out the loose bits on the microwave, we spotted that Ossie and Garardine had pulled in front to tell us that a bit had flown off.

Pat walked back along the roadside and was about to give up when a knight in shining amour- an Auto-sleeper- came charging along, having found said grill, picked Pat up and brought her back to me.

At home the grill was found to be fixed by double sided tape and had long lost any adhesion. Cleaned this up and fixed with double sided tape. The cover relied upon 4 lugs at the bottom on the body engaging with the cover and was broken on the front one. ( Evidence of silicon sealant). I cleaned this up and secured with 2 part epoxy resin, but then I noticed that a lug at the top which engages with two movable clips was a bit dodgy and that broke in my hand too. Reaffixed with the Epoxy and all is well. Hopefully no more disturbed nights. Close examination of the waste pipe shows that as the plastic clip has aged, it has lost it's ability to hold the drain fitting tight, so I used some duct tape to secure it until a proper solution is found. Fresh water drain was checked and found more secure, but something to keep an eye on. Silly little jobs but a need to keep an eye on especially as the motorhome ages!

Many thanks to Ossie and Gerardine for coming to our rescue.

*David Mayne*

## **Letter to Editor**

Just to say I thought the format of the Newsletter and the quality of the photos to be a great improvement.

Wasn't too sure about the changes of fonts throughout the newsletter. They seemed to spoil the effect somehow.

Regards

*Terry Harvey Member 2305*

Thank you for your comments regarding newsletter 337, the committee have been striving to improve the newsletter and give it a lift. As the prospective editor, I was given a free hand to revamp this issue, the only font change was for the members feature articles which was still a sans serif, the rest of the fonts were as before, I really held back as this was a one off. If I am "allowed" to take the role of editor, I expect to be making more changes to the design and feel. JM

I understand what Terry means as I had difficulty reading some too. Although size was ok, the "lightweight" ones were more difficult to read in lower light. What looks good on screen sometimes does not look the same on paper. Getting used to capabilities of new Printer!! Ed

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## **Sussex Duo**

The letter from Trevor & Ami Mann made me wonder .... I had a 2010 Auto Sleeper Sussex Duo & after a couple of years had trouble with our AI-Ko air suspension, we took it back to Willersey & upon inspection they found the bracket attaching the bellows had been fitted upside down & was causing the rubbing, Auto Sleepers were excellent & sorted the problem out under warranty for us however a friend of mine who also bought a Sussex Duo 6 months later as he liked mine so much had exactly the same problem a year later & contacted Auto Sleepers who again were excellent & sorted it all out for him ( again the brackets were fitted wrongly) It begs the question is it actually a design fault or an installation one ?

*Dave Bugden 9286*

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## **Can you help - a Response to Steve and Gill Thomas**

It all depends on the weights!

If you have spare weight (payload) available, a tow bar fitted carrier is best since you do not have speed limiting, reversing problems, extra length causing additional costs for ferry crossings etc. You will find several companies supplying these on the internet. If you are in the London area, Watling Engineers of St Albans are good. Remember that extra weight behind the rear axle has a multiplication factor. (Remember to add the weight of the tow bar and fittings to the extra payload – Ed.)

If you are obliged to have a trailer, I purchased one from CMF Trailers of Ross on Wye for carrying two electric bicycles because they would have taken me over the limit if mounted on the back of my Northants. They will make you a trailer to your requirements, probably a short one with the scooter mounted transversely. Their basic price is in the region of £700. I found them very helpful indeed.

*John Parker 8433*

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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)

### **Rallies 2017:**

Neil Rogers (Rally Co-ordinator) has produced the provisional rally list for 2017, and Bill Todd has kindly drafted the initial rally spreadsheet. Both the list & spreadsheet are now on the Club website as Pr 1/17; Pr 2/17 & Pr 3/17\*. My simple task now will be to keep both the list & spreadsheet up to date, and issue as \*supplementary updates.

Therefore, occasional visits to the 'updates page', for details of all changes, are recommended.

### **Towing:**

In the October newsletter Steven & Gill Thomas asked for advice on towing a scooter or using a rack. I have followed this up by sending such information to them, which I hope will be of help. If anyone else is interested please contact me.

There is a substantial amount of other information in the Club's library; you only have to e-mail me.

### **Deals for Members:**

You may recall that recently Spinney Motorhomes kindly agreed to join our "Deals for members" list. See <http://www.asoc.uk.com/deals/deals.htm>

Unfortunately, when one of our members asked for the deal, at their Cheshire branch, he was informed that Spinney Motorhomes were no longer offering the deal as negotiated.

I have investigated and I'm pleased to say that it was a simple case of misunderstanding at that branch.

If anyone else has had a similar response from Spinney, please ring Tom Stubbs, Services Manager, at the Cheshire branch who will resolve the issue.

### **Travelling on Ferries:**

Dorothy and I have travelled on the ferry out of Portsmouth for a great many years now and on our most recent crossing we noticed something new (*at least to us*). . .

The 'booking-in' staff are now leaving their booths and going to the rear of motorhomes (*and maybe caravans & trailers*) checking their length, and possibly if a bike rack or box is fitted but not declared.

Whether this is an ongoing feature I do not know but it's worth ensuring van details of both length & height are accurately stated; including top boxes and/or satellite dishes as the deckhead is very unforgiving if the van is too high!,

### **Website update**

- **04/16 Rally list & spreadsheet:**
    - Pr 1/17 & Pr 2/17 Provisional rallies for 2017
  - **04a/16\***
    - **Pr 3/17 – Revised dates for St Ives rally & addition of Malvern Rally**
- \* Supplementary update

*Yours aye*

*Baz Wellard*

*Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster*



#### **Wanted:**

Automatic panel van conversion.  
Consider any model up to 5/7 years old.  
Under 6m in length.  
Irene and Mervyn Kitchin  
Contact: tele 01516322113  
Email [noggin28@gmail.com](mailto:noggin28@gmail.com)