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

*A Company Limited by Guarantee  
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Registered No: 4616969*



**Thiepval Memorial Photo J Geeson article Page 8**

## ***NEWSLETTER 341***

### ***February 2017***

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The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit items. Advertisements for items to be sold or wanted by members are published free of charge, however, small donations to Club funds are appreciated and will be acknowledged. No guarantee can be given that any item will appear in the next, or any, issue of the newsletter. Cheques should be made payable to "Auto-Sleeper Owners Club" and not ASOC and send to the Editor.

**IMPORTANT:** Contributions from Members are published in good faith in the hope that they will prove interesting and useful. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy but no modification or suggestion has been tested by the Company, the Club or your Editor. Therefore no warranties are expressed or implied nor indemnities given. You try them out at your own risk.

## From the Editor



This is the quietest time of year for the club, although members of the committee are busy doing their duties planning for the coming year. Next month will see the start of the Rally season and preparations are in hand for the forthcoming National rally.

Provided with this newsletter are application forms for joining this rally with options for meals, trips and volunteering for various duties to help run this rally. It can be very satisfying to take part so I hope you will give this some consideration. See also the advert inside.

Also inside is a cut out page to apply for any regalia items that the club produces. If you don't want to cut the page out, you can also download a copy from the ASOC website (noted on the front cover of the newsletter). You can also get an updated provisional rally list from there too, but note Neil Rogers item in the newsletter (page 5).

**Deadline for the March newsletter will be by 10th February** and I look forward to receiving all your interesting articles via email **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com** or via the postal service, please allow plenty of time for delivery! I do reply to emails but not necessarily immediately as it is web based and requires me to log on periodically.

As always let's hope that 2017 is a cracking year for holidaying in our motorhomes.

*David Mayne*

Items for the newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. You may post them to 27 Mentmore Rd Leighton Buzzard Beds LU7 2NY or email to **daveatasoc@virginmedia.com**.

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

Please acknowledge both author and source.

## Chairman's Chat

### ASOC Membership Renewal Process

We are nearly at the end of the 2017 renewal process. During the process, one member has asked if in future he can pay his subscription using internet banking and another asked if it is necessary to complete a form every year. It would therefore be reasonable to presume that the circa 800 members who have made no comment are happy with the process as it is.

Nevertheless, it is very time consuming and expensive to process the renewal forms, check and update the records, post new membership cards and bank the cheques.

For your personal protection whilst a member of ASOC, the club is a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). If this were not the case, then any person or organisation who felt they had a claim against the club could choose any individual member to make the claim against and there would be no limit to what they could claim. Members of a CLG are protected and the maximum liability of any member is £1.

As a CLG, ASOC is required to keep accurate data about its members and the company's Articles of Association limit membership to those owning Auto-sleeper motorhomes. It is a requirement of members to advise the club of any change of information relevant to club membership when such change occurs. Very few do this, most changes, and each year there are many, are noted by comparing the information on the renewal form with that in the existing record and making amendments to the records as appropriate.

It would certainly be technically possible for ASOC to accept electronically completed renewal forms, accept electronic funds transfer and e-mail annual certificates of membership to confirm the renewal had been properly completed. We currently do not have either the expertise or resources to set up such a system for renewals and as the majority seem content with the status quo it does not seem worth investigating possibilities.

If you do have any thoughts on this subject, you could e-mail me at [chairman@asoc.uk.com](mailto:chairman@asoc.uk.com).

*Peter*

### **Applying for Rallies.**

**A reminder to all members that rallies are normally advertised, with full information, two months before the rally dates; applications can then be made to the appropriate marshals, along with any site/rally fees payments required.**

**The "Provisional Rally List for 2017 " that was issued with the January Newsletter is what it says, a "Provisional Rally List", so rallies may be added or removed during the year.**

**It is a guide for members to use to assist in planning their rallying year.**

**Acceptance on any rally will depend upon making the application when full information appears in the Newsletter, subject to spaces being available.**

***Neil Rogers (ASOC Rally Co-ordinator) 0313.***

## **Rally News**

### **WHITEMEAD RALLY March, 2017.**

We would like to apologise to those members who were unable to secure a place on this year's rally.

We had a record number of application forms by the end of December, which far exceeded the number we can take.

*John and Jackie Moss (5639)*

## Rally News

### Scottish Rally 6th - 21st September 2017

Marshals Moira & Allan Blackstock

Cost approximately £280 plus rally fee

The sites visited will be Crossburn Caravan Park, Peebles - The Wheel Caravan Park, Falkirk - Lomond Woods Holiday Park, Balloch - Camping & Caravan Club Site, Glencoe and Faskally Caravan Park, Pitlochry.

Further details will be included in a future rally supplement.

*Moira Blackstock (4067)*

## Holidays to Europe 2016

### Netherlands 2016

Because we knew little about the country and were uncertain about various things i.e. paying for sites, shopping etc., we thought that this might help others considering going there.

We were looking for somewhere different that we could go to for our shortish late summer holiday in late August / early September in our Nuevo ES ("Van") with our bikes and realised that we had not seen much of the country other than briefly travelling across it to get somewhere else. It would be a change from the more familiar European countries of recent times. So it was decided, Netherlands it would be.

We were pleased with our decision and had an enjoyable, interesting, cultural holiday which took us through the channel tunnel, North Belgium and into south west Netherlands via toll tunnels under the Scheldt to avoid Antwerp. Our travels took us north past Rotterdam to the Kinderdijk 'windmills' then near Gouda and to Delft before Haarlem and Amsterdam. From there it was to Edam then across IJsselmeer to go south via Hoge Veluwe national park and onwards to Arnhem and Valkenburg. Then it was to Calais via Belgian autoroutes.

Our searches before leaving to find out about paying for things gave us some clues that it was likely to be less easy than, for example, France but were not very clear. We have usually taken a relatively small amount of Euros and used a good rate credit card to pay fuel, supermarket, camp sites and some meals out, with the backup of debit/cash card in case of need for cash from an ATM.

It seemed that this method might not work as well so, luckily, took a lot more Euros cash as well as a 2nd brand of credit card.

We now understand that the Dutch generally use cash or their own Dutch bank account linked cash /pin cards for most things and this was the case at most camp sites and all Dutch supermarkets. Our Visa debit/cash cards were no use unless we were at a popular/tourist location and at fuel stations So cash was the principle method. There was one time our MasterCard credit card was accepted.

When we wanted to get a Netherlands museum pass at the 1<sup>st</sup> museum we visited at Bergen op Zoom they tried all of our debit and credit cards with no success so we dug deep into our wallets for over €50 each, which left enough for ice creams. We found the pass was very good for free or discounted museums and some galleries everywhere.

We used ACSI to find campsites whilst there but had done some research before going to find our 1st night stop after the afternoon tunnel crossing and to find out about sites with acceptable public transport links into Amsterdam. It's wise to arrive at sites by late afternoon as some receptions close early evening and some also for lunch

It seems common for camp sites to put motor homes on special hard standings all together with sometimes a narrow grass area between or in a row on a general hard area with no 'pitch' markings. However this caused us no problems. Showers often need tokens but gave good time.

Everyone was very helpful and friendly and almost all spoke English which made life a lot easier.

Being a small country with a high population the Netherlands was quite busy and the motorways especially, they are only 2 lanes but were good to use, as were the general roads. We think this was helped by the cycle tracks everywhere which were well used. In towns there seemed to be a convention for cyclists (including sometimes scooters) to travel on the same side of the road and direction as the adjacent road users. Sometimes there were 2 way cycle tracks. Pedestrians have to be very careful to not stray onto the adjacent cycle path and risk injury or investive!

Our understanding is that all cyclists have priority over vehicles and in some places the red cycle track will cross the road at a junction in which case vehicles must give way.

It was fascinating to see the great number of parked cycles everywhere especially Amsterdam and the full 3 storey bike park by the station. Most bikes are parked with 2 types of security which is advised generally, usually a cable/chain and a useful looking very common clamp type which snap locks the wheel rim with key unlock, this is not generally on sale in UK. Electric assisted bikes are common with the battery neatly fitted under the luggage rack and non obvious motors. We were amused by the many different types of carriers and trailers and front 'boxes' designed for children, dogs, postmen, disabled people or deliveries.

Van parking was mostly ok but we had to use a hotel car park and therefore have a drink (and ask permission) to find parking at Kinderdijk to walk to the windmills. Delft city car park was awkward to find and we couldn't pay as the pay machine wouldn't take cash or our credit card, luckily the warden was helpful and 'booked us in' free.

We could say more about our sites, interesting places, favourites etc but there is a lot above so we'll leave it there. If any member would like more detail we shall be pleased to help.

*Mike and Carole O'Neill 2940*

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## **SOMME 2016**

As 2016 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of the Somme, Jan and I decided to make a stop at Albert on our way south. It being close to the area we wished to visit.

### **La Boiselle**

It was on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 at 0730 several mines were exploded on the German front lines initiating the start of the battle. It was here at La Boiselle that one of the biggest mines was blown. The Lochnagar crater, 91 metres in diameter and 21 metres deep, is the only crater accessible to the public. It is preserved in perpetuity as a lasting memorial. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July each year memorial services are held at the crater.

### **Thiepval**

Was in a significant position during the war and was fortified by the Germans. The battle to retake Thiepval began on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 at 0720, 100,000 inexperienced soldiers went over the top but were quickly hit by machine gun fire. At the end of the day 60,000 British soldiers became casualties, 12372 were killed. The first day of the battle of the Somme had been a failure, a disaster for the British Army and is known as "The worst day in British Military history".

## **The Thiepval Memorial**

The Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. It is the largest Commonwealth war memorial in the world and bears over 72,000 names of men of the UK and South Africa who died on the Somme and have no known grave. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 and for 141 days (the length of the battle) commemorative services were held each day at noon. On the day we visited an accordion band from Mourne NI and consisting mainly of teenagers, played during the commemoration. One piece was written especially for the Somme celebrations to be played initially at the Menin Gate but fortunately the band stopped at Thiepval and played it for the first time here. Not a dry eye was to be seen. An extremely moving piece, from here the band marched to the Ulster Tower. ( see and listen to the music on U Tube, titled, 'Men of Mourne' by the Brunswick Accordion Band.

## **The Ulster Tower**

The memorial stands on the ground where the men of Ulster fought and died. The 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster regiment suffered over 5,000 casualties on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 and one in four were killed, injured or taken prisoner. There is a small museum in the tower and a café serving light snacks. The chocolate muffins are particularly good.

## **Beaumont-Hamel**

The Newfoundland Memorial, managed by the Canadian Government, displays a very moving and visual image through the well preserved network of trenches covering approx. 30 hectares. The Memorial to the 29<sup>th</sup> Division stands at the entrance of the park and represents a Caribou, the emblem of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Three bronze plaques commemorate 820 from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve and the Mercantile Marine who gave their lives during the Great War and whose bodies have never been found. One single tree survived the devastation in the area and is the skeleton of the "Danger Tree", named as it was situated at a particularly exposed area. The only tree that survived out in the heart of No Man's Land.

This concluded our short visit to the Somme but will hopefully visit again to visit more of the memorial sites.

The campsite at Albert is a ten minute walk from the centre of town and situated in parkland with good walks and lakes.

*John & Jan Geeson 2187*

**THE NATIONAL RALLY**  
**27<sup>th</sup> April to 01<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

**Come and join us at your clubs National Rally at Newark Showground.**

**The 2017 National rally is open for booking and the application forms are attached to this newsletter**

**To obtain the best deal for all members we have agreed with Newark Showground that all pitches will be with electric hook-up. The application form shows the charge for a 3 night stay or a 4 night stay. Should you require a shorter stay please contact me on the telephone number shown on the application form**

**Meals and trips are optional**

**As last year you will find there are three forms (yellow) for you to complete and return**

- 1 The Main Rally Application Form**
- 2 The Menu choice**
- 3 The Application Form for Trips**

**Please send one cheque for the rally booking and your menu choices and separate cheques for each of the trips.**

**Please note: The cheques for the trips will not be passed to the bank until we are sure the trips are to go ahead and not cancelled for reasons beyond our control. If trips are cancelled we shall return the cheques at the rally.**

**Should you wish to volunteer for selling raffle tickets or marshalling duties please complete the Volunteers form and return it along with your application form**

**The proposed Programme is as follows overleaf:**

## **The Cedric Ford Pavillion**

### **Thursday**

Evening Meal followed by a get together to meet or make friends.

### **Friday**

Question & Answer Session with staff from Auto Sleepers -  
Line Dancing  
Evening Meal followed by live entertainment provided by  
Brenda Collins

### **Saturday**

AGM followed by Open Forum  
Afternoon Trip to Southwell  
Evening Dinner followed by The Raffle Draw and Dancing to  
Phil Carr Music  
Dress is as formal or informal as you wish.

### **Sunday**

Sunday Service - Presentation of cheque to the charity  
organizer  
Followed by Tea and Coffee - Carvery Lunch  
Afternoon Trip to Lincoln transport museum  
Quiz night

## **Stuart Goodwin Pavillion**

### **Friday & Saturday**

Crafts - - Bring & Buy Jigsaws – Cake competition- Bring &  
Buy motorhome spares or equipment, Books and Regalia  
Stalls - Technical Advice - Photo and Cake Competitions.  
Tea & Coffee will be available.

## **Van cleaning.**

As I had been unable to clean the outside due to my knee operation etc. I was able to get this done, excluding the roof, by asking the local Tesco hand car cleaners.

They did a good job in half an hour for £15.00, a bargain I thought. They did say they could do the roof if I asked next time but I wonder about the risk to the amount of vents etc.. We hope this is of interest.

*Mike & Carole O'Neill*

Ed: Good to know. At my local Tesco, they wash the dot com delivery vans so should be ok with motorhomes. Warn them to keep the pressure low when they are near any fittings that are sealed with mastic though.

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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)

### **France Vis-à-vis Tyre Regulations:**

As I understand, from the internet & conversations, it is a legal requirement in France that tyres on the same axle must be of the same make and tyre pattern.

If the above is correct, and you unfortunately have a non-repairable puncture or the breakdown mechanic refuses to fit a non compatible spare, you could have the expense of 2 new tyres!

It may be in your interest to check that all your 5 tyres are the same and if not consult your travel insurance for their advice.

You may also wish to check that your spare wheel carrier is not seized up.

### **Hints&Tips:**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January I issued the latest list of consolidated 'hints&tips', as published in the Club newsletter since 2004, to those members who are on my E-list.

If you were not on that list and would like a copy, please send me your e-address and membership number. As there are 33 pages the list is only available as an attached 'PDF' download, sorry.

### **Website updates:-**

Club Website 'Updates Page' always has up-to-date information, please visit regularly: - <http://www.asoc.uk.com/updates.htm>

Yours aye

*Baz Wellard*

*Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster*

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## **A Warm Welcome to New Members**

Membership Numbers from 9697 to 9710

Malcolm & Sandra Harris	Redditch	Symbol
Simon Green & Michelle Murfin	Matlock	Broadway
Stephen & Jane Moss	Derby	Stanway
Tony & Jane Birtles	Broughton Astley	Corinium
Andrew & Suzie Lorimer	Southport	Executive
Pete & Rita Hardstaff	Sleaford	Gloucester
Graham & Elizabeth Austin	Kings Lynn	Burford
Graham & Judy Sowter	Blackburn	Kemerton
Gary Harte & Sarah Brittle	Birmingham	Kingham
Don & Jan Morgan	Selkirk	Winchcombe
Tom & June Pycock	Pontefract	Northants
Paul & Sue Taylor	St Ives	Burford
John & Jill Payne	Grimsby	Broadway
Clive & Linda Bailey	Purley	Stanway

**Membership Secretary:** Contact Peter Brown Details on Page 2



Thanks for your  
Donations .

### **Fiamma Ultrabox 360**

Previously fitted to carrybike  
rack on a VW T5 tailgate, good  
condition, 2keys – £200

**Fiamma Side** skirt for VW  
T5/6, unopened - £35

**Maypole allover cover**  
(MP6584) to suit VW T4/5/6,  
boxed, unused - £40

**Haynes Workshop Manual,**  
VW Transporter Jul 2003-14  
(T5) - £5.

Derby Area – Buyer collects.  
Phone Mike **01332 771082**



### **LIGHT BLUE SHIRTS** with "little man" motif

Polo shirt £14.00

T-shirt £8.00

Sweatshirt £15.50

S. M. L. XL & XXL

Postage £3.00 per item

Cheques should be made payable to  
"Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" and sent with  
your order to:

Stuart Wood (Regalia Officer)  
26 Burton Acres Way  
Highburton,  
Huddersfield,  
HD8 0RF



### **BASEBALL CAP**

cream with ASOC logo  
£10.50 including  
postage



Cheques should be made payable to  
"Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" and sent  
with  
your order to:

Stuart Wood (Regalia Officer)  
26 Burton Acres Way  
Highburton,  
Huddersfield,  
HD8 0RF

See page 15/16 for Regalia Form or [www.asoc.uk.com](http://www.asoc.uk.com)



# *The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club*

## Regalia Price List / Order Form 2017

[www.asoc.uk.com](http://www.asoc.uk.com)

This list cancels and supersedes all previous lists and prices and is correct at the time of printing (Jan 2017) and is subject to change at any time. A selection of Regalia will be available at rallies when the Regalia Officer is in attendance. Please write CLEARLY on the order form.

item	price	postage	qty	cost
Polo shirt in dark blue with asoc badge	£13.00	£3.00		
Tee shirt in dark blue with asoc badge	£8.00	£3.00		
Sweatshirt in dark blue with asoc badge	£14.00	£3.00		
Polo shirt in light blue with asoc badge	£13.00	£3.00		
Tee shirt in light blue with asoc badge	£8.00	£3.00		
Sweat shirt in light blue with asoc badge	£15.50	£3.00		
Polo shirt with little man motif	£14.00	£3.00		
Tee shirt with little man motif	£8.00	£3.00		
Sweat shirt with little man motif	£15.50	£3.00		
little man sticker 4" choice of colour	£3.25	£0.55		
A.S.O.C. Lanyard	£2.50	£1.10		
A.S.O.C. Grill badge with fixings	£13.70	£1.10		
A.S.O.C. Lapel badge	£4.50	£1.10		
A.S.O.C. Name badge (to order)				
Van names priced per letter (see note 2)	£0.60	£0.55		
A.S.O.C. Screen badge	£0.50	£0.55		
A.S.O.C. Pennant	£5.00	£0.75		
Wooly hat with badge	£6.50	£3.00		
Newsletter binders	£4.50	£3.00		
Baseball cap in blue with asoc badge	£7.50	£3.00		
Baseball cap in cream with asoc badge	£7.50	£3.00		
A.S.O.C. Pitch reservation board	£3.60	£1.50		
<b>TOTAL ORDER VALUE</b>				

NOTES:-

- 1/ IF MULTIPLE ORDER RING FOR POSTAGE
- 2/ RANGE OF COLOURS, FONT AND SIZES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.
- 3/ GARMENTS AVAILABLE IN S. & M & L & XL
- 4/ STATE FIRST NAME OR FIRST AND SURNAME FOR BADGES.



## Van Name Order Form

Name required:.....

Style required:.....

Colour required:.....

..... Quantity.....  
max/min size (if applicable) price per letter 60p at 2 inches high

Each of the fonts illustrated can be used to produce the van names you require. The standard size is two inches high, but prices for other sizes or special designs and requirements can be quoted on request.

*Brush Script*

Times Roman

**Aachen Bold**

**Helvetica Bold**

---

### Engraved Name Badge

State either first name only or first name & surname

Name to go on badge:.....

Name to go on badge:.....

---

### BLUE AND COLOURED GARMENTS

Please state colour, size, and asoc badge or little man motif

---

### Your details here, please print clearly

Name:.....

Address:.....

Town:..... Postcode:.....

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ membership No \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques made payable :-Auto-Sleeper Owners Club and sent with order to:-  
STUART WOOD (REGALIA OFFICER)  
26 BURTON ACRES WAY, Highburton  
HUDDERSFIELD HD80RF

