

ASOC

News

SEPTEMBER 2017 | 348



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important note

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Advertisements for members items for sale or wanted are published free of charge, but small donations to club funds are appreciated. No guarantee can be given that any item will be published in any issue of the magazine. Cheques should be made payable to "Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club" and should be sent to the editor.

items for publication

The editor reserves the right to edit or omit any item for whatever reason. Your items should reach the editor by the tenth of the month. Please remember to add your membership number and name to your item. Any item appearing in any magazine issue may be freely used by other publications, but please acknowledge both the author and source.

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front cover picture: Peter Brown

The old part of Colmar, taken during a day trip from the Turckheim rally.

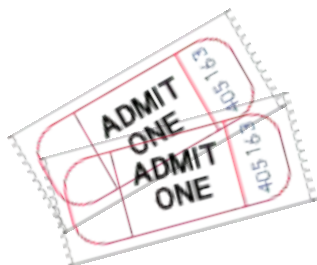
editor's note

Welcome to the September issue of ASOC News. Thank you for the kind comments for the new look, but it still may change over forthcoming issues. It is nice to see more members taking up the electronic version, but many have yet to do so. By taking this version, all the pics are in colour and the emails, websites and links mentioned are clickable to take you direct to them.

We realise some only glance at the information on the inside front cover and may not have noticed a vacancy on the Committee. If any member would like to help run the club, but would like to know more of what's involved, contact the chairman at chairman@asoc.uk.com. There is a possibility that anyone who may be interested could attend the next committee meeting as an observer. The meeting is on Saturday 14 October, at Worksop in Nottinghamshire. A bit like "try before you buy".

We are also looking for someone to join the editor as a deputy editor, someone to step forward to learn how to produce ASOC News and to be able to do so if the editor is unable, but input for any issue would be welcome as part of post. You need not be a committee member, but would require knowledge of the way the committee works. If you would like more information, let the chairman know at chairman@asoc.uk.com.

We would like to have ASOC News, if possible, available to all our members electronically, and would like to trial it as a password protected file which can be downloaded from a website. This means it can be available anywhere to any member, if you can get access to the internet. It also means it may not come to your email in the future. This may help members who don't want attachments coming into their mailbox. We will ask you to subscribe. This will give us permission to provide the password to access the issue. Don't forget you will always receive ASOC News as a printed copy. We do not pass your details to any third party. Any questions? Let me know.



We had quite a response for the five pairs of complementary tickets to the October NEC show, kindly provided by Auto-Sleepers Ltd
congratulations to the winners

7207 Ian and Diane Goodyear
9899 Brian & Stella Andrew
8771 Jeff & Sheena Baker
3145 Peter & Heather Martin
0088 Godfrey & Jeanette Adams



UPDATE

If you decide to use the toll and you get to the pay booths without a person to show your Caravan Club card for a discount. Just press for assistance and you will be asked to show your membership card at the camera slot, you will then get the reduced toll fee, which is the car rate.

New maps

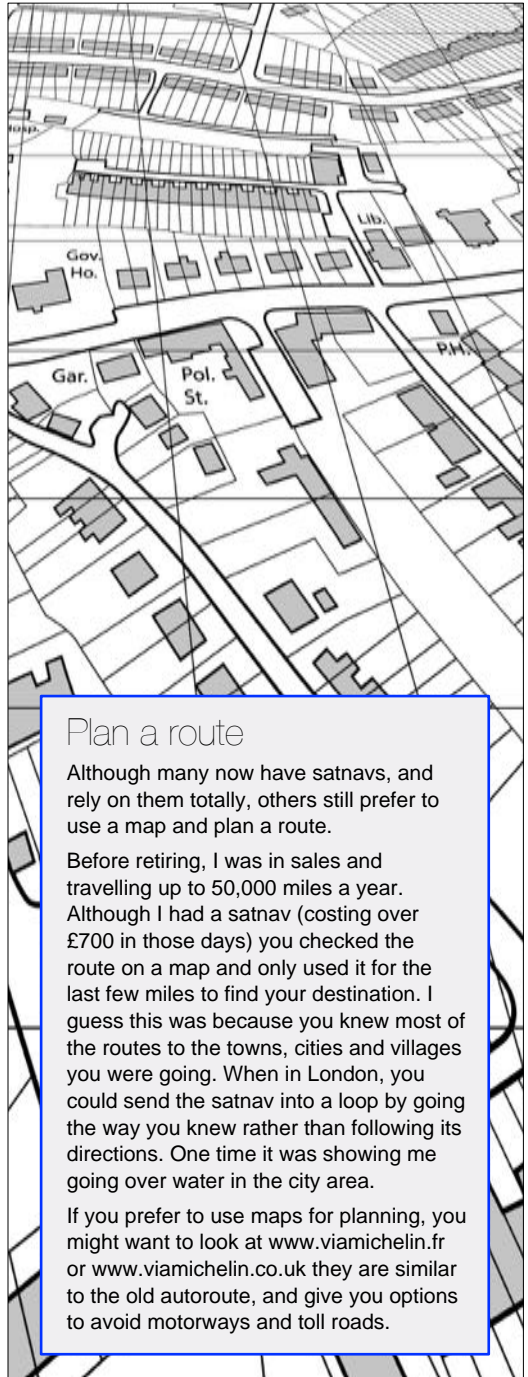
Ordnance Survey has released a comprehensive map of green spaces throughout Great Britain. Go to the OS mapping and select the Greenspace map layer. It shows all the parks, golf courses, etc. in the area you are looking at.

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getoutside/guides/getoutside-more-with-os-greenspaces/>

Are you covered?

Many are taking cycles when they go away, these include e bikes which, of course, are quite expensive. Whilst all care is taken we must remember to take extra precautions when they are attached to the rear of the motorhome. Anything we can do to slow a thief down is important, with extra locks. What if stolen, are they covered by insurance? Does your home insurance cover them? It may if stolen from the house.

Some insurance companies require you to register each bike if you want to be covered away from home, and only then within the UK. If you have e bikes, they may not insure them. Taking them outside the UK may need specialised insurance cover.



Video links

The editor has started an experiment on bringing video clips of members' trips and visits. Here are a couple to start off

<https://vimeo.com/user49804527/skygarden>

<https://vimeo.com/user49804527/scandinavia>



Like buses?

**Then Lincoln Transport
Museum is just up your
street**

useful links

www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/low-emission-zone

www.arrivalguides.com

www.drive-france.com

www.certificat-air.gouv.fr

www.bipa.be

www.motorhomingfrance.co.uk

www.airetoday.co.uk

www.campercontact.com

www.icampingcar.fr

www.searchforsites.co.uk

www.auto-sleeper-ownersforum.com

www.bikeregister.com

www.sanetolling.co.uk

www.eurotunnelgroup.com

www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon

www.viewdrivingrecord.service.gov.uk/driving-record/licence-number

www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax

www.ownvehicle.askmid.com

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getoutside/guides/getoutside-more-with-os-greenspaces/>

www.bikeregister.com

www.viamichelin.fr

www.viamichelin.co.uk

if you know of any links other members would find useful, let the editor know

Rallies on sites with full facilities

I couldn't agree more with the letter from Lesley Denham in this month's edition of the ASOC newsletter regarding more rallies on sites with full facilities.

We have come to Motorhoming only recently since retirement and have only ever stayed on sites with full facilities so we are also disappointed that so many rallies are held in fields with none or very limited facilities. I appreciate that there are those who have rallied for many years, making do with their onboard facilities but in this day and age where there are so many sites with full facilities it seems reasonable to me that this is what a lot of people want. When we have pitched our Motorhome constantly re-filling the water tank because of showering and using the toilet for other than a quick leak in the middle of the night, seems to us to be so unnecessary when there are plenty of good sites available. Our local Caravan and Motorhome club also hold most of their rallies in fields which surprises me even more when you would expect them to support the sites belonging to the club for which they are members. Jim Unett 9316

In response to Lesley Denham in the August Issue asking for more facilities. I also think the same way. I have brought this subject up before but the general feeling I get is, there is not a lot of interest from members in the club, or is the extra you have to pay the main issue, or am I wrong in thinking this, hopefully not. I have been on very rare rallies with the club because of this, but hope this may change. Maybe the committee has more views on this issue, also replies from members would be welcome. G Challinder 7730

In response to the letter from Lesley Denham last month, over fifty percent of the 2017 rallies are being held on sites that have both electric hook ups and washing facilities, of course, the pitch fees are more expensive and the caravan sites tend to be more remote. Just a reminder that all rallies are planned and run by volunteer members so if you want a particular type of rally, why not pluck up courage to run and plan one, the rally coordinator and committee will gladly provide help and guidance. *Peter Brown chairman*

In response to the query in the August Newsletter from Lesley Denham concerning rallies with full facilities. I would like to point out that just under half of the rallies in the list this year are on sites with facilities. As for sites that are "Greenfield" with no facilities many members prefer these rally sites, so we try to please both camps. *Neil Rogers Rally Co-ordinator*

What a great prize

A big thank you to the club and its supporters. It was our good fortune to be drawn out first for the extensive raffle held at the AGM in Newark and chose our prize kindly donated by Motor Plus Motorhomes which was to have a dash cam fitted to the van. Being busy getting the van ready to join the Turckheim rally in June we had to wait until early July to visit Derby where our prize was quickly and efficiently wired into the van. At first I found it distracting seeing my driving duplicated on screen but quickly adjusted, and now find it an invaluable piece of kit, and keep our fingers crossed that we will never need to keep a record at the scene of an accident, but should it happen then we will have proof of our case. Les and Geoff Tutt 7252

Top tip

We have a Fiat Ducato Automatic Fairford. When you are out and about camping on those sunny days, when your sliding door is wide open and those pesky flies keep coming in, I know you can buy a mosquito net for your door but at £175 it's rather expensive. Can you remember when you had those plastic strips hanging on your back door? The answer, buy two of these on eBay at £3.50 each, all the plastic tassels are attached on one strip, just stick velcro on the strip and the other part on the inner part of motorhome above the door, attach the plastic tassels and you have blocked the opening, no more flies. At a total cost of £7.00, a very affordable and effective solution.

James pennington 9682

Those who don't take the electronic version, are missing a really colourful door opening [editor]



Terry sparks the memories

I enjoyed your last ASOC article as we are also `World RV trundlers`

Most of all though you brought back wonderful memories of my early teenage days, as a cricket scorer for my father's Barclays Bank team. My favourite fixture was our annual visit to the Odney Club, on the banks of the Thames at Cookham. During the day, there was time to swim in the river, row a boat and play a game of snooker, and picnicking in your beautiful grounds, and even quaffing a pint of orange squash at the bar, while discussing the match. The sun always seemed to shine in those days in the 1950's. Thanks for the memories.

Richard Birch 7248

Shopping for tyres

The letter from John Moss is a little ambiguous on the subject of replacing valves at the same time as tyres. I've spoken with John and although the valve assemblies weren't replaced, the valve cores were. Many of us, including myself, have come across tyre suppliers who state that replacing metal sleeved valve is unnecessary – this is just to excuse themselves from holding a stock that they will rarely use. There are several ways in which metal sleeved valve assemblies age and it is sensible to replace them at least every five years.

Peter Brown

Peter is quite right, I am about to change my tyres, but no tyre fitters in my area stock the bolt in valves, they are happy for me to supply. I managed to talk to a company called auto4.co.uk, they supply equipment to garages including Kwik Fit. They have a range of bolt in valves and the person was very helpful in sourcing the required ones. The cost of four valves, including delivery, £15.50. The tyre fitter tells me they are correct, but yet to have them fitted.

Editor

Inside Auto-Sleepers models?

Auto-Sleepers are on www.utube.com showing video clips of various models, just search Auto-Sleepers motorhomes when you get there, take your pick of what you want to watch.

You can also subscribe if you wish.

Poetry in motion



Motorhoming through Europe

Senior moments I think they are called
But they always get worse when I am abroad
We had breezed through France and were doing
quite well

Through all the Peages and I can tell
That the gismo works that we stuck on our screen
It just goes beep and you're through like a dream
We hadn't got one for Italy though
So I had to stretch out of my window
If I say so myself I am reasonably spry
But the buttons defeat me too low or too high
Then we got to the worst one of all
It spat out my card but I kept my cool
I didn't understand the Italian voice so
I asked if she spoke English but that was no go
Then I offered up my card again
This was becoming quite a pain
She spoke again in a similar tone
And just as I began to moan
Out shot a ticket quick as a flash
The bar had gone up and AI started to dash
I fell back in my seat and started to read
As the toll was not paid we would have to concede
To pay the fee within 15 days hence
Or we would incur an extra expense
1.70 euros is what had to be paid
We spent 2.00 on wi-fi just to be told
That this was too early less than 1 full day old
Thinking about it later the solution was quite plain
If she had just said "turn card round and enter again"
But AI says she was a recording so I had no hope
We'll continue round Europe I think I can cope.

Barbara Buckett 5829

Thank you to so many wonderful people

Last year was the first time a rally had been held at Stafford Boat Club when we assisted the marshals, and some of you may remember Vic and I stayed in a Travelodge visiting the site each day and evening as we were unable to use our Trooper because of Vic's motor neurone disease.

This year sadly we were unable to assist or attend at all because Vic's illness has progressed too much for him to be able to stay away from home.

However, we kept in close contact with Bob and Angela Warwick as the rally approached and sent an email to everyone at the rally during the welcome speech to say we were thinking of them and hoped they enjoyed the rally and their stay at Stafford Boat Club. We have been members there for 21 years.

After that we lived and breathed every moment of the rally, experiencing mentally Angela's chair game, the frog race, skittles, the bbq, the quiz, the carvery at the pub and all the other activities taking place, as well as thinking of the many friends we were missing.

Then a lovely surprise arrived in the post, a thinking of you card signed by everyone at the rally which took pride of place on the mantelpiece. Thank you all so much.

That was not the end however, but to finish the story we must explain what happened just beforehand. We had decided to have a trip out to our Strikes garden centre in Stokesley where we spotted a beautiful pink hydrangea. The blooms were enormous and we did make a note of the name of it.

Then the next day I took Vic to a day centre at our local hospice and on my return home found the exact same plant in the front garden and a delivery note and card through the letterbox. Believe it or not the hydrangea was from the Strikes garden centre we had visited the day before, and the card, a beautiful butterfly, and the plant, from everyone at the Stafford Boat Club rally. How generous people are in ASOC. Thank you so very very much. The hydrangea is stunning in the garden and an extra thank you to Neil and Pauline Rogers who organised delivery and who we subsequently spoke to on the telephone.

ASOC is a wonderful organisation with so many wonderful people. A family in itself. Happy motorhoming to everyone.

Vic and Lesley Prince 6599

sent from my iPad

I have noticed members sending emails to the editor have "sent from my iPad" within the email. You can delete this if you want and add your own signature by going to settings, mail, signature. I guess this will be the same for iPhone and other similar tablets or phones although I can't confirm this

For sale

Lounge window for a Auto-Sleeper Medallion, surplus to requirements. The window is in excellent condition. Phil Farman philfarman@gmail.com

**PITCH
STOP**

Cheltenham Race Course

This C&MC site is situated within the race course next to one of the spectator stands. It does have grass pitches but most are hardstanding with or without electric.

The Gloucester Warwickshire steam railway race course station is a short walk away. Cheltenham itself is about twenty minutes walk through a Pittville Park, or the park and ride just a few minutes from the site

<https://www.caravanclub.co.uk/club-sites/england/cotswolds/gloucestershire/cheltenham-racecourse-caravan-club-site/>



ASOC regalia

Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club Pens

They are silver with a blue non slip grip. They come with black ink, refills are available at stockists. Each are printed with Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club and website on the barrel. 70p each plus postage of 75p for one or two items.

Pens will be available at rallies where the Regalia Officer attends.

Stuart Wood

07799 591550

stuw@yaho.co.uk

A wonderful way to spend June

Come the beginning of June we made our way across the channel to visit friends at Buyscheurre close to the Belgian border. We decided that on leaving we would travel down through Belgium and stayed at camping Grimbergen, just outside of Brussels, which we visited by bus, and were blown away by the beautiful Grand Square where a wedding was taking place alongside a jazz band in the streets, with ten foot tall dancing puppets.

Thinking how lucky we had been in Brussels, we thought we would head on south to stay just outside of Luxembourg city to see if we could duplicate our experiences. We were not to be disappointed as the regular bus service dropped us right in the city centre to explore the lower old city and sit enjoying a coffee whilst watching a poor soldier march up and down outside the Ducal palace in sweltering heat, wearing full dress uniform. Honour or punishment we asked ourselves? Lastly we overnighted in Epinal, where our campsite host directed us on a short walk to see the castle ruins en route across the park into the town square where we needed to revive ourselves with a long cold glass of beer before facing the steep uphill walk back to camp.

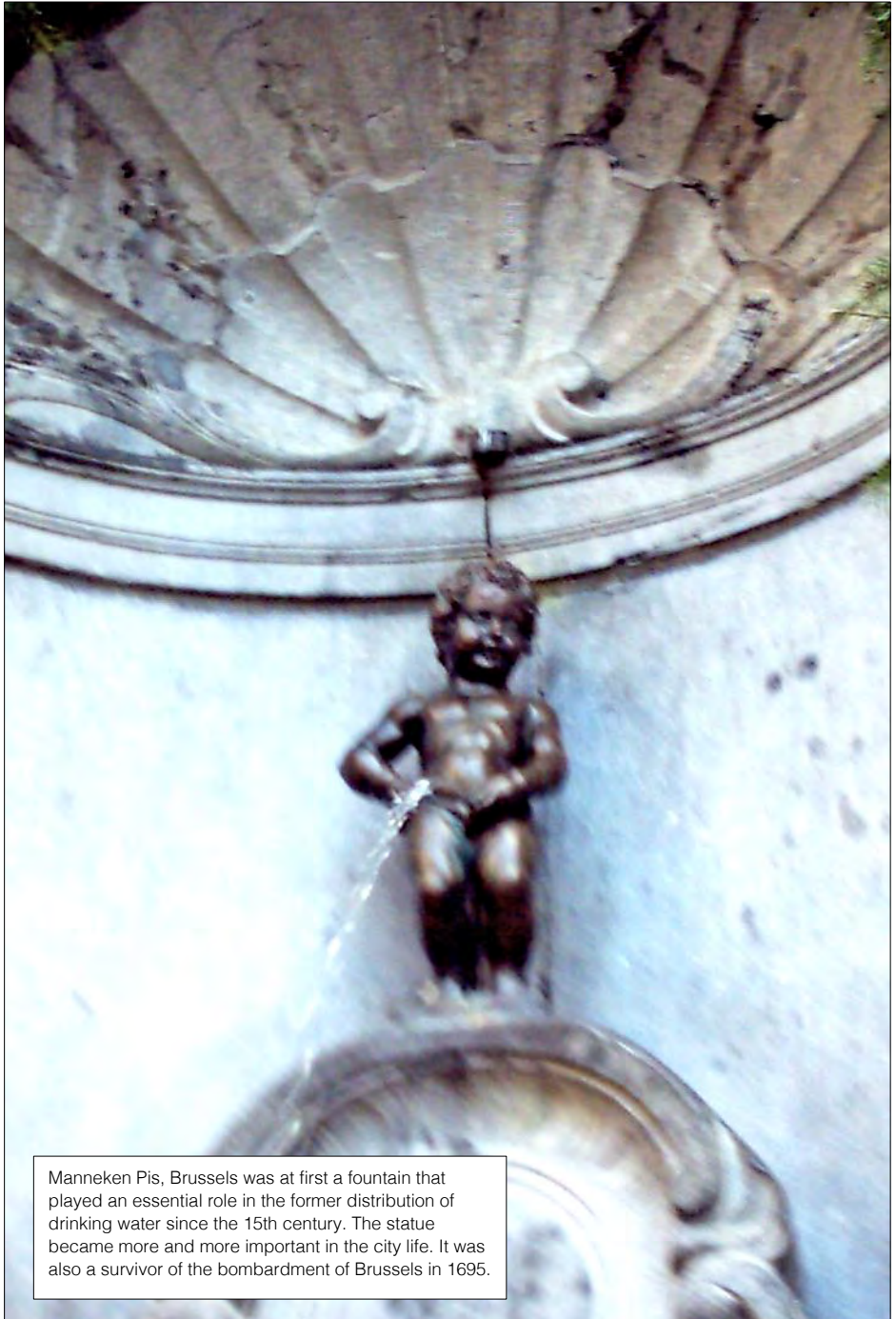
Next stop, our first ever continental rally with ASOC, for which I would like to send belated thanks to the marshals of the Turckheim rally for providing the various opportunities to have so much fun in the sun. Wine tasting was awesome fun and an informative evening. The boules competition was undertaken at your own risk playing under the nests of the stork babies using us as target practice. The coach trip across to the magnificent castle of Haut Koeningsbourg, and the enjoyable evening get togethers, during which Geoff and I always seemed to be in the noisy corner, or was it just us?

During our free days, we took ourselves out via public transport to visit the amazing towns of Colmar and Strasbourg with its fantastic town centre, where we enjoyed a river boat guided tour, and a very worthwhile trip to Mulhouse where we spent hours in the car museum.

At the end of such an enjoyable ten days we headed back and up and over the mountains, with views that were stunning, whilst driving towards our ferry port at Cherbourg a week later. The last week brought us to Chalons-en-Champagne for an overnight stop, ready for a long days drive the next day. This found ourselves at Falaise where we camped under the walls of the castle in which William the Conqueror was reputedly born, and finally spent a couple of days at St Vaast le Houge where we explored the town and busy harbour with its morning stalls selling fresh seafood straight off the boats. It was here that we also caught an amphibious craft across to the island of Tatihou which is well worth a visit. Sadly all too soon we were back on UK soil to enjoy a few days of great British summer weather. How I miss laying out in the sunshine watching the storks.

What a wonderful way to have spent June. Many thanks to all that helped us have so much fun and we are now looking forward to our next outing soon.

Les and Geoff Tutt 7252



Manneken Pis, Brussels was at first a fountain that played an essential role in the former distribution of drinking water since the 15th century. The statue became more and more important in the city life. It was also a survivor of the bombardment of Brussels in 1695.

let's visit Tyntesfield

Tyntesfield, the National Trust house just outside Bristol is well worth a visit.

The gardens and grounds are quite extensive and the vegetable garden with an orangery is lower down, but it does have a cafe to ease the feet.

You must visit the house, you will be given a time slot to tour, this is because it is very popular. You may find they have various exhibitions on depicting the treasures of the family.

Its best to check the opening times as they may vary throughout the year and with closures for filming.





Technical group & website

Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group, Baz Wellard, can be contacted at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7UF or by email technical@asoc.uk.com

Fuel efficiency

Recently Mike Partridge sent me his fuel efficiency figures for his motorhome, for which I am grateful. He also went one step further than usual.

He noted both the computer read-out and also measured his consumption by 'full tank to full tank' (the old fashioned way) over the same journeys. Not surprising (possibly) the computer showed an almost 4% better efficiency compared to the 'full tank to full tank' measurement!

Has anyone else also compared the computer read-out with a 'full tank to full tank'?

Calor's Standard 6Kg* vis-à-vis their Calor Lite™ 6Kg*

Just in case you are not already aware:

Calor is phasing out their Calor Lite™ 6Kg* propane gas cylinders. The reason, given by Calor's Head of Corporate Affairs Paul Blacklock, is: "The bottles failed quality tests more frequently than standard items, particularly in their ability to be de-dented".

To cope with any shortfall, Calor will be investing an extra £1m in their standard 6Kg* cylinders.

The Lite™ 6Kg* gas cylinder weighs 10.5Kg whilst the standard 6Kg* is 15-17Kg; so a 6Kg increase in weight is to be considered in the payload. There is very little difference in the dimensions.

If there is a problem fitting the standard 6Kg* into the gas locker, e.g. managing the extra weight; then Calor's alternative is their 3.9Kg* cylinder, which only weighs 9-10.5Kg. However, there is an increase in the cost. The standard 6Kg* cylinder is (approx) £3.7perKg whilst the 3.9Kg* is (approx) £5perKg. Also, obviously, the time between re-fills shortens. (*LPG capacity)

Overcoming the Mercedes Radio - Timed cut off

Alan Wells has kindly informed me that the Audio10 radio in his 2016 Mercedes Bourton van has now been successfully programmed to overcome the automatic radio timed cut off.

His dealer followed these instructions: "The Audio 10 needs to be put into the option, diagnostic audio mode, and then be re-coded to the switch off time required"

Alan says that his Audio 10 is set for 2 hrs now and works fine.

Automatic Paying on Continental Toll Roads

In my article last month, I asked for any experience regarding automatic paying on toll roads on the continent, particularly whether the 'Tag', can be read on a motorhome with a large luton. The 'Tag' reads your unique reference, and automatically opens the barrier. Al Buckett; Peter Morley-Payne & Kevin Bowler kindly replied to me.

From their experience the 'Tag' can be read when sited behind the rear view mirror in a motorhome with a luton, albeit that one contributor prefers to hand-hold the 'Tag'. Further advice

from the internet is: "In cases of difficulty the 'Tag' can be placed at the bottom of the windscreen - but only if the screen is not an athermic or heated windscreen - critical." To my knowledge no A-S models have such screens.

I have done a little research into the 'Tag' system and four companies are offering their system; there may be others of which I am not aware.

Briefly

Sanef: Application fee €10; free through membership of the 'Caravan & Motorhome Club' – visit camc.com/sanef (May 2017); €5/month of usage (maximum €10/year?); €6 Annual fee; €20 security deposit (refundable on return of the 'Tag'). The 'Tag' is transferable to any other vehicle, and is viable on French péage only.

Tolltickets: Application fee £4.05; Cost £0.22 per day; Service charge 9%. There is also charge of €20 in the event of any loss/theft/damage. It is, again, only usable on French péage. However, I did check if Spain can be included - as it inferred on their website graphics. They replied - "We do not cover Spain as well".

Bip&go: €15 pre-paid subscription; activation €10; shipping to UK €10, total up-front €35!; Plus: France @ €1.70/month and Spain @ €2.50/month.

APPR: APPR seems to be for commercial use only.

Also for info:

TVA: 20% may be applicable on some charges

Limits: Check for any limits on height & weight on the individual companies.

N.B: There is no discount on the actual péage charge.

E&OE

Google the companies for more detailed information.

Two of the Club contributors use the Sanef system and one uses Tolltickets system. All speak very highly of the convenience, lack of hassle and ease of payments.

Website Supplementary Updates

02c/17* Rallies: Rally report & photo gallery of the Turkheim rally

02b/17* Technical: Fuel efficiency update – 2017 Warwick Euro V1

02a/17* Technical: Fuel efficiency - 2016 Symbol Euro V

Baz Wellard

Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster

Adjustable bed feet

One of the black threaded adjustable feet on our Nuevo was over extended and taking all the weight. When I sat on the settee, and with the extra weight, the threaded part of the foot pushed the encapsulated nut, inside the leg, out of, and fracturing, the plastic housing within the leg. Having replaced the part, I then added an extra nut and washer on to the foot before refitting to the leg, re-adjusted the foot and the extra nut and washer took the weight, therefore removing any stress on the encapsulated nut. The additional nut locks the foot and prevents it accidentally rotating. I also added the extra nuts and washers to the remaining feet.

John Geeson 2187 (see idea sheet 243)

Stafford Boat Club Rally

Without doubt a great time was had by all (except Les) so thank you Angela, Bob, Linda and Brian. We hope that Les's leg heals soon. This was our first time at this rally, which was over subscribed and we now know why.

The weather played a part by being fine and sunny, but too hot for me, with just one day of rain, but didn't deter from us taking part in various outside games and activities. There was the walk along the canal and 'gongoozling' at the lock, followed in the evening with Angela's prize chairs. The poor teddy bear didn't know whether he was coming or going, but ended up in a good home with Irene. The rat didn't get splatted, but the frogs certainly raced. By the time you'd got the knack of how to make them jump it was too late, someone had already won the race.

The indoor skittles were fun, with Brian in charge, and made for a great evening. To finish the rally walking along the tow path to the pub for lunch was good and you worked up your appetite for food, and what super food, and let it settle on the way back.

What have I missed out? Oh we played Dingbats and Molcky - don't ask - took the bus into Stafford and enjoyed drinking in the bar. To cap it all, Michael and I made new friends. What could be better? It's what rallying is all about.

Jean & Michael Shaftoe 4546

This rally was Fabulous, and Bob, Angela, Linda and Brian were great Marshals. They organised many fun things for us all to enjoy. The venue is perfect, quiet with lovely views of the canal and boats with the bonus of EHU. Angela's chair game caused a lot of laughs with the teddy bear wanted by everyone. The BBQ and frog game and the bar skittles were keenly contested. The quiz on the last night put all our brains to the test. Everyone except Pat and myself went to the local pub for lunch on Wednesday, we guarded the camp as I had fallen and cut my leg. All in all an excellent rally. The lady at the head of the queue was local and was astonished to see so many people waiting for the bus, as was the bus driver. We made their day.

Les Udale 6849

Rally members waiting to hijack the local bus





Newlands Meadow Malvern Rally

We would like to thank everyone who joined us at Newlands Meadow Malvern in July and the chance to tour the Morgan car factory which 37 people attended. We were blessed with beautiful weather which meant our fish and chip supper went well, many staying until late into the evening. Many thanks to Mo and Mike for their help and bringing "Ern"

Gary and Pat Wanklin 1747

Our anniversary rally tour

We set out to enjoy our 50th wedding anniversary in the company of Auto-Sleeper friends and visitors to three rallies, and it certainly was mission accomplished.

First was Spinney, this was a Mexican event with sombreros, sunglasses and moustaches provided. The club was part of a larger gathering, with entertainment, quizzes and competitions. An Auto-Sleeper team just missed winning the quiz on a tie breaker, but maybe next year?

The second rally was Malvern where the highlight of the rally was a tour of the Morgan car factory. Gary Wanklin enabled us to enjoy this by kindly providing car transport to the factory and arranging for a wheelchair that Mike Valentine pushed for us, truly wonderful support. The tour took two hours, we were able to see at close range the care and attention that is taken to make these cars. Unfortunately a problem with a leaky tap in the Symbol needing a washer resulted in a gathering of men in the van, the required washer could not be purchased but again many thanks to all. We enjoyed fish and chips, sunshine and good company.

Finally Stafford Boat Club, this rally provided lots of interest in the boat yard and the area alongside the canal. We had a very interesting talk about the clubs development of the site. Here we celebrated our anniversary with bubbly and cakes. Many various activities were organised, games, barbecue, walk, midday meal, a real social whirl.

Thank you to our "three tours" rally marshals, their assistants and friends for giving us so many happy memories. If anyone has any photos we would love to see them, please email to noggin28@gmail.com

Irene and Mervyn Kitchin 5698

St Ives rally

Another popular and well supported rally with some 40 vans, and despite the poor weather, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

St. Ives has a great deal to offer with shops, restaurants, Monday and Friday markets, the Holt Island nature reserve, which we found very interesting. Houghton Mill (NT) a pleasant cycle ride away and, of course, the guided bus into Cambridge an experience not to be missed. Bob Smith kindly volunteered to escort a group of would be punters into Cambridge for a trip on the river Cam, but unfortunately he lost a few en route, gladly they were all reunited and had a good time on the punts and safely returned back to camp. Better luck next year Bob. You will be given a whistle and a hi-viz jacket.

The theme for the rally was guys/scarecrows to be sacrificed on the large bonfire in a neighbouring field. We were provided with sacks and sticks and with plenty of hay lying around in the camping field, I think the local charity shops did well.

We had several entrants ranging from Lady GaGa to a Judo black belt. Barbara and I did a joint effort creating Adam and Eve which was a little c(rude) compared to the other entrants. It, or rather they, caused a lot of giggling, and it did keep us busy and amused one very wet afternoon. Monday, again a day of sunshine and showers, our final gathering was held under the cover of our large tent, donned with macs and umbrellas.

Tuesday morning was a complete contrast, the sun shone and we were able to get the tent packed away, say our goodbyes and wind our way home and get ready for the next outing.

Jackie Moss 5639

St Ives rally

Having read last year how wonderful St Ives was, we were determined when the time came to apply as quickly as possible (yes we used a first class stamp!) for this years rally. With our (unusual) good luck we received the OK from Barbara and Al. We had just returned from a first class rally with ASOC in Turckheim, France, so assumed that the hot summer weather would continue.

How wrong we were. Having taken fleeces to Turckheim in 30 degree temperatures we were not going to get it wrong again so took shorts and sleeveless tops. Yes you guessed it, we got it wrong a second time. Because our leisure battery was dodgy, we were very limited to heating and, I am sure, that we were close to suffering from foot rot with the very long wet grass. In spite of the weather we travelled on the guided bus to Cambridge with front seats which gave us good views. We had a punt along the Cam with not a dignified exit from the punt, a trip on the St Ives electric boat in heavy rain. To round off the day, we had a meal in the controversial new Wetherspoons. However, in spite of the rain, we had a really good time and would like to do it again next year.

As we were set to pick up our new Broadway EB early on Tuesday morning in Newark, and as our battery problems were critical, we decided to leave a day early and stay an extra night in Newark. Rather than transfer all our possessions from our Broadway FB at SMC we left a great pile on our pitch waiting for our return in the new van. Yes it was still there when we came back and we spent the afternoon trying to fit it in. A large equipment sale will follow soon.

Thanks to all the rally officers for their help and hard work.

Val and Mike Pippard 8862



St Ives rally

top left: Winners Jackie Moss & Barbara Buckett

bottom left: The Ralliers

top right: The end result of the competition

bottom right: St Ives Quay

centre: Guys in the Competition

photo credit: John Tubb

How lucky

We were lucky enough to secure places on three consecutive rallies during July. To make the most of this, we combined our trip with a two-night stay at a CL just outside Windsor. We were able to see my nephews new-born twins, and the following day as the CL was on a bus route, we decided to visit Windsor for the day and arrived just in time to watch the guards leave the castle and march back to barracks.

The following day we headed a few miles up the road to Great Missenden for the annual steam weekend and the ASOC rally run by Vic and Jan Hicklin, and Bob and Margaret Cleaver. It's a rally we have been to many times. The weather made for a good weekend, together with the fish and chip evening, a few songs with guitar accompaniment, and a comedy act which involved putting away a table, bending a pole and trashing a sign, it could never be repeated but had us in tears of laughter. And, of course, all the steam engines, tractors and old lorries and cars. A good weekend, thank you.

Our trip continued up the A40 to be greeted by Gary and Pat Wanklin and Mike and Mo Valentine at Malvern. The campsite was well maintained, with electrics, and a bus stop close by. Trips into Malvern and Worcester on the bus, plus more fish and chips, made for another successful rally. But the icing on the cake was the organized trip around the Morgan car factory. The owner of the campsite owned a three wheel Morgan, which he brought out to show us. A memorable visit and thank you to the rally marshals.

We stayed an extra night at Malvern so we could drive straight up to the rally at Stafford Boat Club, run by Bob and Angela Warwick and Brian and Linda Ellis. This was a secure field with electric, alongside the Stafford and Worcester canal, a narrow boat marina on another side and a clubhouse in the grounds. A bbq, skittles and a quiz were all part of the entertainment, together with a walk along the canal to a welcome carvery. A trip on the only bus of the day to Stafford involved 40 plus boarding a single deck service bus, no one paid, all the seats were taken and this was the start of a twenty minute run into Stafford. New passengers on route could not believe it, the bus was chocker at the end, and the lovely driver had a story to tell, but no cash to hand in.

Our trip continued with a two-night stay on a CL at Lakeside on Windemere, a lovely quiet site with hookup and service point. A short walk away was the start of the lakes steamer and steam railway. We caught the MV Tern to Bowness, joining the crowds on the lakeside, it was too busy for us.

Our last call was with friends at Muncaster on the route of the Ravenglass to Eskdale railway. We had to pay our dues by doing some gardening, but also got in some lovely walks and picnics, before returning home over the Pennines and back down the A1 to mow the lawns.

Thanks to all the volunteers that organized three superb ASOC rallies.

Chris and Shirley Sturgeon 2897

Lichfield Beacon Park Rally

Michael and I have attended this rally once before and enjoyed it, so our thanks go to Peter, Chris and Liz for running it again. Being on grass without electricity, weather plays a big part and the marshals even organised this for us. On the whole, it was fine and sunny and with nothing planned for each day. One day we went to the National Memorial Arboretum by bus, an easy journey, and once across the busy A38, it was a ten-minute walk to the Arboretum. We've been twice before and would recommend a visit. From the park, it was an easy walk into the town, with plenty of places for 'tea and sticky buns' or, I believe, a few found a wonderful cafe for breakfast. We've been into and round the cathedral so know it's well worth a visit and there are many areas to walk. It was nice to chat with fellow ralliers during the evening, just sitting out in the sunshine. Jean & Michael Shaftoe 4546

Blue Lias Rally

We arrived and got ourselves set up ready for our first arrivals at 1200. First to arrive were Ronnie and Angela, with a steady trickle all afternoon, which saw 15 vans on site with 2 more arriving on the Wednesday, and the final van with Joe and Ivy Moss arriving on the Thursday, who were 1 of our 3 first timers, the others being Les and Jane Cheney and Ann Ridley. All were made welcome and enjoyed their first Rally with ASOC.

On Tuesday evening we gathered for coffee at 1900 and chatted until it got cooler and the midges came out, a few of us continued in the pub until closing time.

Wednesday saw a mixture of sunshine and showers many taking the opportunity to travel to nearby Southam, Leamington Spa and Rugby, making full use of the buses and numerous walks and cycle paths from the Blue Lias. The weather was kind and stayed dry and sunny for coffee and biscuits at 1900.

Thursday was again a mixture of sun and showers, but the hardy ASOC members again visited the local attractions. The evening was filled with all attending for a meal in the Blue Lias function room and most lingered on catching up with old friends and new.

Friday, we did a fish & chip run to Southam and all were surprised at how large the portions were but everyone enjoyed them (I'm sure 1 between 2 would have done most of us). Then some of us adjourned to the pub for several nightcaps.

Saturday was a sunny day and people once again visited the local area before returning to site for 1600 when tea, coffee and biscuits were served, along with Pimms, and we all stayed chatting until the Pimms ran out and the midges appeared, with quite a few retiring to the pub for a meal and a few more drinks.

There was no coffee morning on Sunday as several wished to make an early start for home and places new. A few lingered on and had Sunday lunch before finally departing.

The most important thing with running a successful rally is the weather and the people who attend, and we were blessed with a great mix of people who more than made up for the rather mixed weather, all seemed to enjoy the company and location.

Sandra and Bernie Wisely 0016

Blue Lias Rally

It is great that Bernie and Sandra have organised another rally at Blue Lias after a few years break.

Great place for walking and cycling along the canal towpath as well as other walks if you carry a machete! Many of the ralliers did their own thing by going walking (provided they were armed with the local OS Map).

Other ralliers did go by bus to Rugby, Southam and Leamington Spa. Walking is not something I can manage at present but Pat and I did go for a stroll to the next pub and Bernie kindly dropped us in Southam to catch the bus to Leamington Spa thus avoiding the 500yd walk up to the bus stop. This was a great place to visit with gardens, museums and loads of shops and restaurants. Needless to say we didn't get much further than an excellent lunch and Pat checking out a few clothing shops! Must go there again!

Back at camp we were lucky with the weather as it didn't rain during coffee times, and the quick showers didn't affect any plans. We had some excellent meals at the Blue Lias Pub, as well as fish & chips courtesy of Bernie's delivery service.

Our thanks to Bernie and Sandra for running such an excellent rally and I hope they will do it again, and hopefully when I will be fitter.

David Mayne 2818

from the rally coordinator

Neil C. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks, DL11 7TT
Tel./Fax 01325 374 540 E-Mail ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk

Points to remember

Marshals should let the rally coordinator know when their rallies are fully booked.

Always carry your ASOC membership card when attending rallies.

Inform the marshal if you plan to bring a car, tent or trailer to a rally.

All rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in this supplement.

Running a rally

If you would like to run a rally, contact the rally coordinator for "rules for rally marshals". When a date and venue is chosen you will receive the refreshed Rules for rally marshals and asked to sign a marshal's declaration which should be returned to the rally coordinator. Assistance and advice is available from the rally coordinator or a committee member.

If you would like to assist a rally marshal to see what is involved in running a rally, or interested in the details of possible rally sites we have, contact the rally coordinator.

Important

All potential rally dates and venues must be checked with the rally coordinator, as unless they are approved by the club, there will be no public liability insurance.

September 2017 Rally Supplement



1 – 5 September 2017 (4 nights) Castle Douglas, Galloway, Scotland

Rally Marshals: Moira & Allan Blackstock.

Emergency mobile numbers 07969 312703 or 07891 704186.

Total site Fee £70.00, rally fee £3.00 couples £1.50 singles

Rally slip and cheque payable to A & M Blackstock, 39 Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9UJ.

Tel. No. 01772 749178.

Please enclose a SAE or clearly written email address for confirmation and directions.

Castle Douglas is a small market town situated between the Galloway Hills and the Solway Firth, a good centre for walking, cycling or sightseeing by road and on the bus route between Kirkcubright and Dumfries.

A hall has been booked for the opening and closing evenings.

6 – 21 September 2017 (15 nights, 5 sites) Scottish Rally

Rally Marshals: Moira & Allan Blackstock.

Emergency mobile number 07969 312703 or 07891 704186.

Rally fully booked

7 – 10 September 2017 Warners South West Motorhome Show, Shepton Mallet

Emergency Tel.No. 07775 570182 or 07749 378587

Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin, Margaret & Bob Cleaver.

Please use the booking form enclosed in the July Newsletter if possible. If you use a form from other magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the special Club site fees. Arrive Thursday £43, arrive Friday £40. All bookings for the Saturday evening entertainment must be made & paid with Warners when returning the application form to them by Wednesday 23 August.

If you wish to rally with the Club then return the application form to Warners by this date.

*****Then you must also complete a Club rally slip, (this also applies to internet bookings). Return it with the rally fee of £2.50 couples, £1.75 singles, Rally slips & cheques payable to Mrs. J. Hicklin, 381 Manor Road, Brimington, Chesterfield,

Derbyshire S43 1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236157. If unavailable please ring Margaret on 01442 851080.
Please collect the Club rally information pack from the ASOC marshals before parking where directed.
The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon Monday.

17 - 24 September 2017 (7 nights)

Unity Holiday Resort, Brean Sands, Nr. Burnham on Sea, Somerset, TA8 2RB

Emergency Tel.No. 07711 375323. Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals: Linda & Brian Ellis Jackie & John Moss.

Site Fee: £76.50 includes electric & club passes. Rally Fee: £3.50. Total £80.00. Send rally slips & cheques payable to Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2PP. Tel.No. 01278 784524, ell.ba82@yahoo.co.uk plus a S.A.E. or a clear e-mail address for confirmation.

Unity Holiday resort is a full facility site including swimming pool, bars, clubs & grocery shop. All pitches are on level grass with hook up. It is ideal for walking or cycling as the area is fairly flat with 7 miles of beach plus Brean Downs. Bus stop outside site to Burnham on Sea or Weston Super Mare. Local market & car boot sale. Dogs are welcome on this site.

Directions: M5 to Jct. 22 (Edithmead) Burnham on Sea heading towards Burnham on A38, cross Tesco island, no fuel. At mini island turn right Berrow/Brean. Follow this road for about 4 miles to Brean, site is on right. Look for black/white cow. Rally on Yellow field.

21 - 24 September 2017 Seasons Finale Show, Lincoln Showground. LN2 2NA

Emergency Tel.No. 07922 049714.

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers & Yvonne & Stuart Wood.

Please use the booking form enclosed in the July Newsletter if possible. If you use a form from other magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the special Club site fees:

Arrive Thursday: £46, arrive Friday £43. All bookings for the Saturday evening entertainment must be made with Warners when returning the application form to the organisers, by Wednesday 6 September, if you wish to rally with the Club.

*****Then you must also complete a Club rally slip, (this also applies to internet bookings). Return with a cheque for the rally fee of £3.00 couples, £2.00 singles to: N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel. No. 01325 374540.

Cheques payable to N.C. & P. Rogers. Please collect the Club rally information pack from the A.S.O.C. marshal before being parked.

The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon Monday.

4 October (1200 hrs) to 9 October 2017 (5 nights)

Stafford County Showground Weston Road Stafford ST18 0BD

Marshals Peter Brown and Chris Mawdsley tel 07771 827711.

This rally is part of the ACCEO annual National Rally. Toilets and showers are available as is a large hall in which social activities and/or entertainment is planned for each evening. There will be professional entertainment from singer Letitia George on Friday evening and on Saturday evening a multiple tribute artist, Wayne Swift. The ACCEO AGM is on Saturday afternoon and can be attended by any interested rallier. There are no electric hook-ups. On Friday and Saturday there will be a bus service between the Showground and Stafford provided by the Potteries Omnibus Preservation Society. There is no rally fee. The cost of the rally for Friday and Saturday nights is £30, tickets valid for both nights entertainment are £10 per adult. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday are optional nights at £10 each. As caravans attend this rally we are asked to advise if you wish a permanent tent awning to be erected and also the length of your vehicle, please include this information on your rally slip. ASOC has to present a collated booking form on 25 September so please ensure your rally slip and cheque are received before 21 September; Peter Brown, 5 Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke on Trent, ST10 1WA. If you have any queries, telephone 07771 827711 or e-mail pcb7ty@btinternet.com. Cheques payable to Peter Brown. If you wish confirmation of booking please include an e-mail address or SAE.

3 – 7 November (4 nights) Sedgemoor Carnival, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 1NQ

Emergency only mobile. 07711375323.

Rally Marshalls:Linda & Brian Ellis.

Site Fee : £62.00, Rally Fee: £2.50 Total. £64.50. before 21st October please. Send rally slip & cheque, payable to B.Ellis, together with a Stamped Addressed Envelope or clearly written e-mail address for confirmation to Brian Ellis,52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea,Somerset.TA8 2PP.Tel.No 01278 784524

.E-mail ell.ba82@yahoo.co.uk The site is a full facilities Haven site. We are limited to 46 pitches all are hardstanding level pitches with electric hook up and are accessed by tarmac roads. Disabled or special needs please indicate on slip for convenient siting. Attractions:-Fireworks display Sunday and the Carnival on Monday evening. Burnham town is a 10 minute walk up the prom. from the site with a range of shops and eating places plus supermarkets and a long beach (7 miles).. Tesco has a large car park and is on the way in to Burnham from the M5 Edithmead Island straight across A38 or ASDA if you follow site directions. There is a Lidl within walking distance from the site. There are buses to Highbridge, Bridgwater, Taunton & Weston Super Mare. Monday is not your average town carnival, as many will testify. There are floats decked with thousands of lights, some moving displays, some tapestry and many walking entrants. The whole parade can take about 2 hours, (wrap up warm). If you have never seen this spectacular event visit highbridgeandburnhamcarnival.org.uk (all lower case).

Directions: Sat Nav. Use TA8 1NQ and look for Holiday Village signs. M5 junction 22 Burnham on Sea exit to the large island (Edithmead A 38) and turn left and follow signs for Burnham Holiday Village. (Taunton A 38). Approx. one mile straight over island (A38) and continue past caravan sales, over railway bridge then turn right at the Asda island signposted Burnham Holiday Village. At Mini island by petrol station bear left onto Marine Drive towards Burnham town centre. Holiday Village is in about a quarter of a mile on the left.

NO DOGS ALLOWED SITE RULES.

Rally starts at 10.00a.m. Friday 3 November. No early arrivals please

Friday 16th – Monday 20 November (4 nights) Victoria Park Southport

Emergency Tel.No 07763773877 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshalls: Dave & Wyn Crabbe.

Site Fee: £13:00 per night including Electric hook up, Rally Fee: £3:75 couples. £2:50 singles.

This is a public park and green field site. Dogs welcome on a lead on site at all times.

A fish & chip super may be arranged for the Friday evening (cost TBA). Please indicate on the slip if you wish to partake. Booking slip & cheques payable to D C & W Crabbe 27 Crawford Road, Crawford Village, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire. WN8 9QR. Tel. No. 01744 884437.

Please send SAE for conformation and directions or e-mail address clearly written (BLOCK CAPITALS please).

If you would like to arrive and stay before or stay on after the rally there is a Caravan Club site adjacent to the park.

Please book your extra nights with the CC site directly. This is not part of the rally and incurs an extra charge.

Attractions: Victorian coastal town of Southport and its shops, parks and beaches, also the second longest Pier with tram in the country. Saturday evening switch on of Christmas lights. Liverpool with its wealth of attractions, architecture, waterfront, Albert dock, and Liverpool One shopping centre. Martin Mere Wild Fowl centre. Ormskirk market town, Crosby Beach with the Antony Gormley statues, Red squirrel sanctuary at Formby and a lot more around the district and further afield.

There is a Morrison's supermarket within 5 minutes' walk from the site.

Rally starts at 1200hrs. Please do not arrive before.

Limit of 30 vans

PROVISIONAL RALLY LIST

If you wish to run a rally in 2018, and you want the rally included in the "Provisional Rally List" which is included in the January 2018 Newsletter, then I require dates confirmed by me by the end of November.

RallyDate sent.....
Number of people in your van. Adults.....Children.....Dogs.....
Names (incl. forenames) and address (Please PRINT)
.....
.....Post Code.....
Childrens names(incl. ages).....
Phone No. Membership No
Mobile NoVan Reg
e-mail.....
Model/Length.....Arrival.Day/a.m.p.m. evening

Please complete both sides of this form. P.T.O.



RallyDate sent.....
Number of people in your van. Adults.....Children.....Dogs.....
Names (incl. forenames) and address (Please PRINT)
.....
.....Post Code.....
Childrens names(incl. ages).....
Phone No. Membership No
Mobile NoVan Reg
e-mail.....
Model/Length.....Arrival.Day/a.m.p.m. evening.

Please complete both sides of this form. P.T.O.



Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes No

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If Yes please specify:-

.....

cheque enclosed for £..... for.....nights incl. rally fee.

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

Name.....

Phone Mobile

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.
POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT, if possible.
Enclose a S.A.E if confirmation is required.

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box. Yes No

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Evening meal: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If Yes please specify:-

.....

cheque enclosed for £..... for..... nights incl. rally fee.

In the event of an emergency at the rally whom should we contact?

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