

ASOC

NEWS

DECEMBER 2017 | 351



seasons greetings to all
our members

Your committee

President:

Charles Trevelyan

Chairman:

Peter Brown 07771 827711
chairman@asoc.uk.com

Vice-Chairman:

Keith Ross 07794 243935
ross17@john-lewis.com

Secretary:

John Osland-Jones 01217 448065
oslandjones@aol.com

Treasurer:

John Geeson 01491 641776
john.geeson@outlook.com

Rally Coordinator:

Neil Rogers 01325 374540
ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk

Webmaster & Chair, Tech Group:

Baz Wellard 01329 231259
webmaster@asoc.uk.com
technical@asoc.uk.com

Regalia Officer:

Stuart Wood 07799 591550
stuwd@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter Editor:

John Morris 07545 078905
editor@asoc.uk.com

Membership Secretary:

David Crabbe 01744 884437
membershipsec@asoc.uk.com

Chair, National Rally Sub Committee:

Keith Ross 07794 243935
nationalrally@asoc.uk.com

Minutes Secretary:

Gill Hopkins 01244 675180

Charities & Exhibitions Officer:

Mike Valentine 02392 482818
mikemo.valentine@talktalk.net

Member:

vacant

Our website:

www.asoc.uk.com

News is the magazine of the
AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered Office:
Orchard Works, Willersey,
Worcestershire WR12 7QF
Registered No: 4616969



Important note

Contributions from members are published in good faith and 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.

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.

Rally information

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 the rally supplement.

Running a rally

If you would like to run a rally, contact the rally coordinator for "Guide for Rally Marshals". When a date and venue is chosen you will receive the "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, who will check that the club will be able to comply with regulatory and insurance requirements.

Items for publication

The editor reserves the right to edit or omit any item for whatever reason. The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the contributors to ASOC News do not necessarily reflect those of the editor. 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.

Send your items by post to

17 Newbridge Gardens
Bath BA1 3LT

or email

asocnews@asoc.uk.com

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Can I ask all members to double check the address when sending us emails, we are asoc.uk.com and not asoc.co.uk, which is the Avenger Sunbeam Owners Club, also known as ASOC. I understand their editor sometimes receives emails destined for us.

editor's note

Welcome to December News.

Can I remind members renewing subscriptions later than 10 January means you will not receive any more issues of News.

Please add your email address to the renewal form if you have not already done so, this means we can send you club information if necessary.

By supplying your email you agree ASOC may send club information to you. After the first notification, you will be able to unsubscribe and will not receive any further information, this will include the password for receiving ASOC News electronically.

The club does not supply your email to any third parties.

We have had some great articles from members and with more to come, but we still need you to keep sending them.

A new rally application form with only one side to fill is on the back page. It is also available to download http://www.asoc.uk.com/rally_list.htm if you need further copies.

Don't forget, if you take the electronic version, all the links should take you direct.

Finally, may I wish all members a super Christmas and New Year.

Download this issue at www.asoc.uk.com/news.htm it is password protected.

Many members have already subscribed.

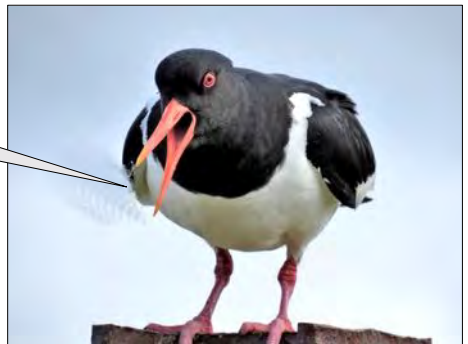
Let me know if you want access. Using the subscribe button means you will miss out this month.

[editor]

Does my breast look big in
these white dungarees?

congratulations to the caption winner

Celia Waugh 4496



The caption competition was judged by WINGS
(*women in Newbridge Gardens Society*)



Have you renewed your ASOC membership?

The renewal form in November News was for members who need to complete and return by 31 December 2017 in order to continue membership for 2018.

Members who joined after 1 September 2017 will not have received a renewal form as the subscription covers membership until 31 December 2018.

PITCH
STOP

Le Médiéval Camping at Turckheim in the Alsace



Link to Google Maps <https://goo.gl/maps/EJA1Pqsb1vR2>

GPS co-ordinates in the three different formats -all the same point 48°05'07.3"N
7°16'21.6"E 48.085354, 7.272651 N 48.0853541 E 7.27265149

Campsite reception +33(0)3 89 27 02 00 5, quai de la Fecht (or quai de la gare) -68230
Turckheim -France

<http://en.camping-turckheim.fr/>

Set in the foothills of the Voges mountains about 5 km from Colmar, Turckheim is surrounded by a medieval wall, which has three doors, or portes, one of which begins the Route des Vins. Full of character and charm it is also home to les cigognes (storks to you and me) which nest nearby and wander around the campsite.

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

In 2017 the site was included in the ACSI off season discount scheme and during the relevant periods charged only €15 per night – excellent value.



Festivals

Camper vans are great at music festivals. We recently attended the WOMAD (World of Music and Dance) festival near Malmesbury in Wiltshire for a third time in our Auto-Sleeper Windrush van conversion and enjoyed it as much as ever, despite the weather.



The benefit is you can stay for several days, soaking up the atmosphere and relaxing without having to contend with the traffic queues in and out each day. Despite being parked in the middle of a field surrounded by an eclectic mix of vans, motorhomes and caravans, and a few accompanying tents, you can be self-sufficient. We were without electric hook up but can manage with our leisure battery and LPG supply, plentiful supply of water and best of all, our own toilet!

The weather forecast however was not good. We had gone prepared with wellies and plenty of wet weather clothing. Just as well - we arrived on Friday in rain and it carried on all day.

With the mass of vehicles and people arriving the roads and paths soon started getting very muddy, but we could sit inside warm and dry with a drink watching campers struggling with all their camping paraphernalia.

It was soon time to venture out; we met up with our cousin, and braving the rain watched several great bands during the afternoon. Many of the acts come from sunnier climes, South Africa, Congo, Columbia and the desert regions of Africa, so it feels rather incongruous to be standing watching under an umbrella. But the joy and enthusiasm are not defeated. Having got thoroughly soaked we all retired to the Windrush for tea and cake. Roger rigged up a drying room in the washroom, switching the hot air heating up high and closing the door. Within an hour our coats and socks were dry and we were ready to brave the weather for the evening session.

Whilst our bed and belongings were of course protected from the rain, the same could not be said for my cousin's tent, sleeping bag and all.

The Windrush came to the rescue again; being a four-berther it provided a bed for the night to my cousin together with further drying facilities. The Windrush comes with bunks as well as the put-you-up double bed. Although the bunks are really designed with children in mind Roger spent the night in one quite comfortably.

Fortunately, Saturday arrived sunny and breezy and during the course of the day everything dried up. However rain was forecast again for Sunday and, as predicted, started again with a vengeance at 7am. Having decided we had had enough, we went to leave, but had to be towed off by helpful stewards. We rescued our cousin with her newly sodden tent, with four driving seats in the Windrush, were able to deliver her to a nearby friend's house to dry out.

Being in a van made all the difference between a total wash-out and a great weekend.

Roger Watts 8549

Funtime at the ACCEO National Rally

The ACCEO Rally was held at Stafford Showground, run this year by the Touring Caravan Club. ACCEO organises the legal side of rallying and our very own Gill Hopkins and Peter Brown representing us as officers on the Committee.

Every year they have an annual bash organised by one of the member clubs to celebrate the AGM and this year sixty two units turned up, with caravans, vintage outfits and

motorhomes from about twenty affiliated clubs. This included eleven ASOC members to enjoy the fun, and they did.



Staffordshire Show ground is quite a substantial venue with lots going on, good walks, miniature railways, big barns and a really posh suite and ballroom, a local pub with Sunday roast for £4.50. We had the use of a large dance hall, with stages and coloured lights and, best of all, you could take your own drinks and food. Soft drinks and biscuits were provided by the organisers, the TCC. The TCC caters mainly for caravaners but there are an increasing number of motorhomers. They offer a different type of rally to ASOC. Their nationwide association of branches are more dedicated to weekend church hall rallies, with lots of themes and bingo, a very jolly bunch. You can camp right over Christmas and New Year with them. They laid on quizzes every night with different formats, such as a Connect 5 quiz, plus prize draw with expensive prizes. The entertainment on Friday and Saturday was the usual singer and backing tapes. We had our doubts at the start but the artists soon had the whole room dancing. The entire A-S contingent was on the floor. Not only the usual rockers, but ones I have never seen dance before. A 1950's double decker bus was laid on

to take us to the delightful town of Stafford with lots of good shops.

Next year the ACCEO National Rally and AGM will be held in the Ukrainian Youth Centre, Weston on Trent in Derbyshire. Well worth the money. And what about the AGM itself? Well, as it happened, it clashed with a parrot show in the main building, guess where we went.

Thanks to Peter and Chris for organising this rally on behalf of ASOC, for sorting out our leaking gas bottle, and our fellow members for their excellent company.

Janet and Peter Murphy 6527

Sad news

Just a quick line to let you know that my wife Margaret passed away during the early hours of Saturday 28th October. Members may remember her from the rallies we managed to attend and also from the Isle of Wight rallies that I ran with my friend Mac. I still make use of the Ravenna but only on the island with the Caravan and Motorhome Club for which I have the dubious honour of being the rally secretary. I know we are no longer members but I thought that people would remember me pushing her around in her wheelchair Good wishes to you all. Ken Bolton

Memories

Ben and I were at the Inaugural rally held on a greenfield site at Cirencester Water Park with around 200 plus units. It was all very informal, but very friendly. At the meeting we were introduced to Charles and Anthony Trevalyan and John and Barbara Cox, I think these were the four who set up a Committee. The first rally was at Honeybourne. John and Daphne Normandale offered to marshal this rally, again on a greenfield site. I don't think they had had much experience of rallying but they did organise a welcome coffee evening and coffee on the Sunday to say goodbye. Alan Buckley and his first wife we knew from the Motor Caravan Club approached John and Daphne asking if we could organise a ploughman's supper on Saturday evening, they agreed, and as always there plenty of volunteers who helped and it enjoyed by everyone.

Back in the eighties there very few full facility sites and Caravan Club sites did not welcome motorhomes, how things have changed.

An early rally run by John and Barbara was at Don Amotts Caravan Centre, we enjoyed good weather and walking around the site made more friends. The highlight of this rally was the trip to the theatre to see an Old Time Musical show, the transport was a very old charabanc but it made a very good evening.

John and Barbara organised the first rally to Ireland. I understand the first site at Clonmel had only three or four electric points but Barbara insisted that we all should have electric. This was arranged by installing an extra point and taking several leads from it. The most we saw of Dennis Oxley was his rear end protruding from the junction box. We were only lucky enough to join that site when we met up with Jean and Ian Sellers who said that the people next to them had left, the lady didn't like the spiders in the loo. On that rally were a couple with dogs and they refused to carry gas, they had a two-bar electric fire and a microwave and every day they blew the electric. Someone must have said something to them, they left saying they would meet at the next site Bantry Bay. The same thing happened there and were turned off the site by the site manager.

We were active members for twenty-four years and have wonderful memories of rallies on both CL and full facility sites. One of the benefits of CL sites is they are usually in beautiful countryside, members are parked together and Marshals can organise the entertainment.

Nora Venables 0104

Wild camping

We hear a lot about motorhomers never using campsites, but prefer to just find a spot to wild camp. Do any of our members actually do this? How do you find a safe spot especially in towns and cities? Or is it only done whilst you are outside the UK? ASOC News would like to hear from you. [editor]

Burnham rally

We have just had a lovely few days at the rally at Burnham-on-Sea. We watched the magnificent carnival on the final night before moving onto Baltic Wharf at Bristol for a few days.

Chris and Shirley Sturgeon 2897

Sedgemoor Carnival Rally

New management at the Haven Holiday Park and the lateness of the Welsh schools half-term caused a little chaos at the beginning of the Rally this year, when the Marshals arrived on site to find some of our allocated pitches still occupied. However, with their usual efficiency they soon had things sorted and we were all able to partake of a hot drink on our arrival. The bonus was that many facilities at the Holiday Park were still open, including the swimming pool and restaurant.

Our Marshals did their usual good job, arranging for the rain and hail to fall in the evening on Saturday disrupting Bridgwater Carnival a little. However, by Sunday evening the rain had passed over and we were all able to enjoy the fireworks on Burnham Esplanade. Monday evening was very pleasant with little wind and very little rain, making watching Burnham Carnival very enjoyable, with Brian's local knowledge suggesting an excellent viewing position.

We had many new ralliers attending and they all seemed to enjoy the activities that Brian and Linda had arranged for the weekend. A visit to Highbridge Caravans with free tea, coffee and biscuits and a discount on purchases; a Christmas Carvery at a local pub; a massive raffle; Brian's infamous 'Dingbats' quiz; and last but far from least, the Carnival itself.

Many thanks to Brian & Linda Ellis and John & Jackie Moss for arranging such an interesting and fun-packed rally. Their hard work is much appreciated as this rally takes all the stress out of visiting the Sedgemoor Carnival.

Mike & Sandra Basham 8483





ASOC regalia



STAY WARM, LOOK COOL

Now that the colder weather is upon us, why not treat yourselves to the new woolly hat embroidered with the Auto-Sleeper logo

£6.50 plus £3 postage

Stuart Wood

26 Burton Acres Way

Highburton, Huddersfield, HD8 0RF

stuwd@yahoo.co.uk

Sedgemoor carnival rally pictures [Sandra Basham]



With regret, we have to leave this friendly club

It is with great sadness that we have to leave this lovely friendly club, unfortunately age has caught up with us. My walking is worsening and I can no longer get in and out of the Legend, so after much heart wrenching, we sold our Auto-Sleeper and so must resign from the club.

It all started in 1989. I had just resigned from a very busy job at the hospital, Tom being younger than me still worked. We had two cars, and mentioned about selling one and buying a motor caravan. In our ignorance we called at the local VW agent as we thought they were the only suppliers. After seeing them at the London Motor Show. They advised us to go to Brownhills at Newark.

The large selection of vans and the colossal prices surprised us. We were looking for something that would meet our budget after selling the car. Tom spotted a Renault diesel Auto-Sleeper lift up top, but was too expensive, but Tom was set on it. The only way was to get a bank loan, these were hard to get in those days, but with the loan agreed, we went back to Brownhills to buy our first Auto-Sleeper, and called it Rachel. Being rookies, we started buying the MMM Magazine to give us guidance and read a small advert for the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club, for a new club which we joined (this was one of the best things we did). Their first AGM was held at Cirencester and this was the only AGM we did not attend.

The next AGM was at Billing Aquadrome in Northampton, in very cold weather in marquee with big blowers trying to warm it up. Here we met Arthur and Margaret Fairburn who became firm friends. We travelled all over the country and ventured to the Continent with the Fairburns.

We found our van very small and decided to buy a trailer, but this did not meet all our needs so we decided to look for an Auto-Sleeper with more room. Someone in the club had bought a van from Reynolds in Bradford and had found them nice to deal with. At this dealer, we found a very dirty three year old Talisman, but not ready for sale as it needed a thorough clean. We offered to do it ourselves if we could get a fair deal to swap for our van. This is how we acquired Rachel 2, and after a lot of TLC we got it to our liking.

We attended the 1997 AGM and afterwards had three lovely weeks on the continent with our friends. More lovely rallies followed, including the Three Counties Showground at Malvern, the 1998 Club & Company rally. Some 650 vans attended. Arriving home late after the rally, rather tired, we just emptied the fridge and decided to do the rest in the morning, but during the night our lovely motorhome was stolen with all our clothes, cameras, in fact everything in it. We were devastated.

We could not find anything to replace our van, and the insurance company was offering a ridiculous settlement. This was fully reported at the time and printed in the Newsletter as a warning to others "our van had a very good alarm fitted but the thief knew how to break them". The police didn't find the thief but caught the receiver, he received an £800 fine and community service. He also had five other stolen vehicles, all stolen to order. After many phone calls and letters the Insurance finally came up with a reasonable offer to settle.

Then, we had a stroke of luck, reading in the MMM Magazine, we found a seven-year old 2.5 Turbo Talisman just like the one we had lost. This belonged to two New Zealanders who had bought this van to "Do Europe" and had been living in it for six months, it was filthy with poor tyres. After much haggling we bought it. The good news was that it fully equipped and as they were going home had to leave just as it was. More cleaning to get everything to our liking, we had to call it Rachel 3. We kept it for eleven years, spent winter in Spain and went on many rallies.

Our good friends, Doris & Harry Bowker had bought a Legend, and asked Tom to go with them to pick it up, and Tom said how he would like one. I never thought he would ever part with Rachel 3. Two years later, Harry became terminally ill and Doris rang to say they were selling the Legend. Tom said he would like to buy the van. So told Doris, if we can sell ours we will buy your Legend.

SNIPPETS

Warwick castle

This is a good day out with plenty to see; from birds of prey and the state rooms. It is very expensive so you really need to find the two for one vouchers on some chocolate bars and from the Caravan & Motorhome Club. The voucher does not apply to the dungeon tour. If you are staying at the Warwick racecourse campsite, it's only a short walk to the castle and the town.

French rally

Please let those going to your rally 20 to 30 June 2018 at Grand Bornand, France. Albert (albear) la ferme de Lormay restaurant in Grand Bornand is a must. We went there several years ago while on a few skiing holidays some years ago. We used to drive 20 miles over the mountain in winter at night, just to eat in this very special place, some meat cooked on the open fire and curing done in the chimney above. Wonderful place not cheap. See menu.

<http://lafermedelormay.com/>
Annie and Colin Jenner

HOOKUP SOCKET

Right-angle socket, it also has a 2-pin socket on the rear, this gives an extra power point to the outside should you need it. Probably unfused, so any appliance used would need to be fused. Available from many suppliers.



www.towsure.com/kampa-2-pin-mains-coupler

Everybody thought we were mad, I decided to put an advert on Ebay for our van to test the water, and to my surprise a man replied and said he would buy it if we brought the price down a little, this we did. He agreed to buy it and how much deposit would I like, this was a surprise and settled for a cheque for £500. Next morning by first class post the cheque arrived, we rushed down to the bank to see if it would clear, which it did, and we arranged for him to collect it in a few days. He arrived with his wife and sister to pick it up leaving us with the balance in cash. We then purchased Doris and Harry's Legend. I passed the cash over to them plus a big cheque to purchase the van.

By now my walking and balance was getting very poor so we bought a mobility scooter, only to find it tied us to the campsite which meant taking the van if we wanted to go anywhere. We were at Peterborough show with the club and met a company who were buying nearly new small cars and converting them to tow with a very advanced electronic A frame. Tom was very impressed and we ended up buying one, a Toyota Aygo. Tom said he could fit a towbar on the Legend so we could tow it. My thought was "You are too old to be towing cars", his reply, " I have done a course on towing tanks in the army, so you don't forget." We eventually got it fitted and found it a great help to be able to see places on the rallies.


We enjoyed quite a few years with the Legend with the car on the back and everything worked beautifully until earlier this year. We had booked and paid to come to the AGM. I had not been too well and walking had become more difficult. We went to meet friends in the car, they had an Auto-Sleeper and invited us into the van to have tea. I found I could not get up the step into the van. This led me to try getting into our own van and finding this was not possible.

Reluctantly, we had to cancel coming to the AGM. I was very worried so went to the doctors which led to hospital visits, many tests and CT scans and eventually diagnosed with cancer.

We decided to sell the Legend and a neighbour's friend bought it. We shall miss our lovely Auto-Sleeper and all the very good friends we have made in the club. We are sorry we did not make it to the AGM to say goodbye to everyone personally, but it all happened so quickly, what a great pleasure it was to meet such a crowd of lovely people.

Shall we survive without it? We do not know, having been members since 1989 and seen many places. We wish you all happy and safe travelling, it has all been a lovely experience to say the least. The very best to you all at the club and may it continue to prosper and wish good health.

Dorothy and Tom Huntingdon 408



James Bertlin wishes all members a Merry Christmas and Happy roaming in 2018. Sorry no cards, giving a donation instead to The Rosemere Cancer Foundation.

To all members especially those who remember me, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and lots of happy motorhome rallies in 2018 Nora 0104

We would like to wish all our friends a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Hoping to see you all at a rally soon. Best wishes Chris and Shirley Sturgeon 2897

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friends at ASOC. We look forward to meeting up with you in 2018. Rita & John Tubb

To all ASOC members - we wish you a happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2018. A donation to our local hospice is given in lieu of card and postage. Allan & Moira Blackstock 4067

Travelling with Pablo

Back to France - part two

Carol & Robin Tannahill

Site 3: Place - Illiers-Combray, near Chartres

Site name: Le Bois Fleuri. ACSI Number 1930

A nice little site, situated beside a quiet country road, and near the historic city of Chartres. (Yes, you guessed it, we like visiting historical sites!) This site has a small restaurant, and is next door to a large municipal swimming pool (again with free entry to campers), and is within a reasonable walk to the village of Illiers-Combray. To quote the official site at <http://www.proust-ink.com/illiers/> "Combray is the fictional town created by Proust in "In Search of Lost Time" where the first scenes of the novel take place. This little town is to some degree an invention of Proust's but also contains traces of his childhood stays in Illiers, where his father was born. In 1971, to mark the centennial of Proust's birth, the little town of Illiers, in a brilliant marketing move, officially changed its name to Illiers-Combray. This may be a unique example of a real town taking its name from a work of fiction. The main locales of the little town I include are the Maison Tante Léonie, Le Pré Catelan, Le Loir River, and the Church of St. Jacques".

Cathedrale Notre-Dame, Chartres



Places to visit

The campsite staff were very helpful in arranging a trip by train from Illiers-Combray to Chartres where we spent the day marvelling at the gothic Cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres and exploring the old town. The town itself was "jumping" but the cathedral is so huge that, even when busy, you can lose yourself in the beauty and marvel at the intricacy of the work created all those years ago, no matter what your religion (or lack of it). There has been an amazing amount of restoration work in the cathedral, with many parts "as new". A bonus for us was that there was a wedding taking place, so the main "King's Door" was opened for the bride's entrance, this door being normally closed. We spent a good few hours in Chartres, and it was well worth the detour to this region on our way back north from Burgundy.

Site 4: Place - Les Andelys, on the river Seine, north west of Paris.

Site name: Flower Camping de l'Île des Trois Rois. ACSI Number 1342

A busy site within an easy day's drive of Calais. Close enough to visit Paris and within an easy drive of Monet's Garden. Another site with a great pool and within 15 minute walking distance along the picturesque Seine to the pretty old town of Les Andelys. Overlooked from above by the ruins of Château Gaillard. A visit to the Château is well worth the short, but steep, climb from near the campsite.



Les Andelys

Places to visit

The main reason for stopping here was to visit Monet's Garden in Giverny, about 30 minutes from Les Andelys. This is where Monet lived and the inspiration of his famous waterlily paintings. A beautiful spot, but, be aware, even in the low season when we visited, it was absolutely MOBBED. If visiting, get there as early as you can AND get tickets beforehand to avoid the lengthy queues. We got ours as soon as the Tourist Office opened in the nearby town of Vernon, and even getting there early didn't avoid the crowds of tourists, plus every pre-school child in France seemed to be there along with harassed teachers - "Ne touchez pas!" was the watchword of the day.





Monet's Water Garden

Site 5: Calais

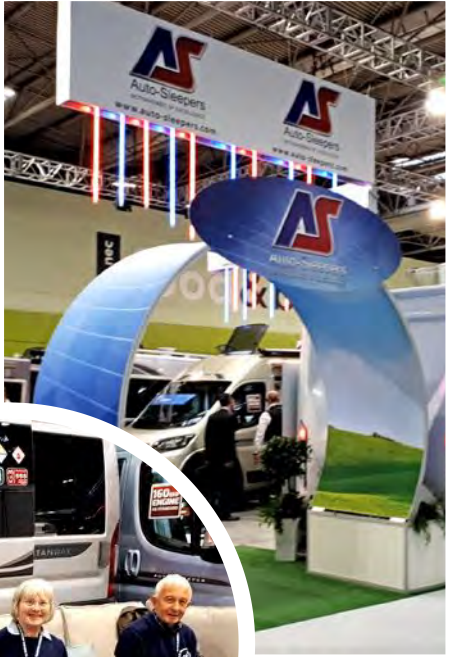
Site name: Camping Les Epinettes. www.lesepinettes.fr/en/

This isn't an ACSI site but is a "good one to know" as it is only about 10 minutes from the Eurotunnel Terminal in Calais. We've used it on both our trips to France, and our friends many more times than that.

So there you are, back to Blighty on the 22nd June on an early shuttle. Gaining the extra hour on returning to the UK and, with both of us able to drive "Pablo", we just went for it and drove non-stop from Folkestone to our home near Edinburgh. Usual nightmare traffic around Manchester on the M6 - why don't they do something about that before this HS2 thing? We got home with a day to spare before Carol went back to work, which gave us a day to get Pablo emptied and cleaned ready for our next adventure. We really felt that, on this trip, we achieved the objectives we set, and made the most of our time in France (as well as a good few "bronzie" hours round various pools!)

As for Pablo. Well, we covered over 2,200 miles, and he didn't miss a beat. Bit of a drama when a wiper blade became detached from the actual wiper stock during a thunderstorm on the M25. (And no hard shoulder, of course). An interesting few minutes until we could pull off and fix it.

My advice, get yourself an ACSI card and head for France next year! A lovely and varied country, with much less traffic density than in the UK, except perhaps round the major towns. The people are friendly and welcoming, pets are welcome in most restaurants and, hopefully, the weather will be better than back in the UK, especially in Scotland.



members of the committee on the Auto-Sleepers stand at the NEC

FOR SALE

Protec motorhome cover
used one winter only,
now have a larger van, would fit low
profile, similar to Nuevo with end kitchen
buyer could try first, cost over £400
would accept **£95**

07779 517669

Tony Burnham (West Sussex)

thank you for the donation

FOR SALE

Outdoor RevolutionTechlite
Pro XL awning
used once, slides into awning runner rail
2.8 metre height
3 metre length
2.4 metre depth

£75

07779 517669

Tony Burnham (West Sussex)

thank you for the donation

ASOC regalia

The club has a large selection of regalia
including caps, sweat shirts and lots more.
For the complete list and prices, contact

Stuart Wood
stuwd@yahoo.co.uk

National Rally



3 - 7 May 2018

Preparing your van for winter
See the technical page for
details

FOR SALE

Satellite system complete with tripod
£20

Pair of (single) Duvalay mattresses with
covers **£45**

Calor outdoor BBQ gas hob & stand
with connection for outside van **£25**

Slimline small greywater waste
container **£5**

Many other items are for sale, please
ring for details

Health issue forces sale

All genuine offers considered

tonyfrancis44@tiscali.co.uk

North Wiltshire

07923 478460

01249 713631

FOR SALE

Silver Screen

Para-Gon (fold down screen)

Fits Peugeot Boxer 2013/2014 model

very little used

unfortunately will not fit our new van

£75 plus delivery

Tel: 01892 864121

Roy Huxley 8678

FOR SALE

2011 AUTOSLEEPER BROADWAY EK

22,000 miles, many extras

Lack of time forces sale

£38,000 ONO.

Shropshire area

Call Mike 07721 610775 or email

julie@elcock-entertainments.co.uk

thank you for the donation

FOR SALE

Riviera Mobil 240 driveaway awning

Little used

£45

A Roberts 7479

Northants (near M1 junction 16)

07802 734754

thank you for the donation



The club & temporary campsites

Peter Brown, *Chairman*

We are fortunate in ASOC that we are one of only a few hundred organisations in the country that are permitted to legally set up temporary campsites without having to obtain a caravan site licence or apply for planning permission.

This allows us to camp on land that is either unused or seasonally used for another purpose, eg. school playgrounds, sports fields, parks, etc. We can find land that is near a town centre, an attraction, or an event and rent it from the landowner to use as a campsite for a few days, usually at a much cheaper cost than would be paid for a commercial camp site and 'right on the spot'.

This right, that is very precious to the Club, is granted by way of an Exemption Certificate issued to ASOC by Natural England on behalf of the government. ASOC has to apply to renew our Exemption Certificate every five years and, at that time, has to demonstrate that we still have an acceptable constitution and code of conduct for our members. When first applying, we had to demonstrate that we were an organisation that was competent to operate a temporary campsite and on renewal, any complaints that had been made about the way ASOC did this would be considered.

The Exemption Certificate that ASOC holds allows us to set up as many campsites at a time as we wish without the need to apply to or notify anyone, we must however limit use of any of those campsites to ASOC club members for a maximum of 5 consecutive periods of 24hrs and throughout that time must always have a supervisor on site. I think you will agree that those are not onerous conditions when compared to the rights granted.

ASOC is also eligible to apply for another type of Exemption Certificate that would allow us to set up a temporary campsite for up to 28 days. The conditions of using this certificate are more onerous in that ASOC would be required to enter into a formal tenancy agreement with the landowner and would have to notify the local planning authority of the intent and not using the land if the planners objected. Over the years ASOC has decided not to follow this path.

ASOC, however, does have the opportunity to set up temporary campsites for up to 28 days. We are a member of the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO). ACCEO hold a 28 day certificate and make it available for member clubs to use, ACCEO being the organisation that takes the interest in land. ASOC have used this facility in the past.

It is a requirement that any temporary campsite set up within the boundaries of a National Park needs specific permission from that National Park. ACCEO is the organisation that makes these applications on behalf of its member clubs.

Several of our club members seek out land to use as a temporary campsite for ASOC and then take the time to operate it on behalf of the club. We should be very grateful to them for doing this... Is it something you think you could do?

National Rally

3 - 7 May 2018

No increase in pitch costs, electricity included

I know it seems a long time until May 2018 and you're probably thinking more about Christmas, but thought I would bring you up to date with the organisation of next year's National Rally.

The good news, we have agreed with Newark that all pitches will be with electric and the costs for the pitches will be the same as last year.

The trips are in the final stages of planning and once all the timings etc. have been confirmed we will let you know more, so keep your eye out in future magazines.

Entertainment is booked for both the Friday and Saturday night and thanks to those members who have passed on possible acts. This will be the third year Jan and I have run the National and we still find this one of the most difficult jobs. To try and find an act which will hopefully be enjoyed by the majority of the audience is really hard when you know everyone has different tastes, including us.

May I ask those who are intending to attend the 2018 National Rally to think about sparing a couple of hours helping the sub-committee either selling raffle tickets or helping with marshalling duties. If you can, please complete and return the volunteers form which will be sent out with the main application form. Your time is much appreciated by both the sub-committee and others attending the rally

One final thing – will you please note that the application forms will be sent out with the February magazine as they were last year.

Keith Ross, Chairman of the National Rally Sub-committee



APPLICATION FORMS
will be available with
FEBRUARY
ASOC News

OUR GREAT TOUR

PART
ONE

Richard & Ivy Birch



We wandered Europe in 2017

30 April UK

The start of our trip began badly when Otto failed to start on the drive, but Green Flag got us going. Our fifty-first anniversary was celebrated at Halfords waiting for a new battery to be fitted. We had my “birthday pies” at Weatherby services and it was a good trip down to the Folkestone Warren campsite. We finally enjoyed a meal looking out over the Channel. We enjoyed a fine early breakfast on the DFDS ferry to Dunkirk

1 May Belgium

An excellent trouble free drive to Rochfort, and managed to finish the remains of my “birthday pie” on the way. On arrival we had a pleasant walk up the hill to a cool bar in the town. We left the site the following morning, but to get out of the site we had to tailgate the barrier as there was no one in the office, unfortunately we managed to get lost in Zaarbrucken among the steel works.

2 May France

We finally made the Strasbourg site, which was typically French, laid-back and rather overgrown, but the raspberry tartlets were quite delicious. Next was a short wander around Strasbourg, enjoying the feeling of a friendly welcome.

2 May Switzerland

We had an incident-free drive to Le Landeron. We arrived early enough to take a train into the beautiful old town of Neuchatel, home since 1825 of Suchard chocolate. We sat with our chocolate drinks, admiring the superb view of the Alps, which was only marred by a major thunderstorm on the other side of the lake, complete with a double rainbow. We also made a visit to a wonderful deli for shopping and capped the day off by catching the wrong train home (I was thinking in German not French.)

4 May Italy

Made a bad navigational error, which cost us an extra twenty-four kilometres. Travelled on the motorway to the Simplon Pass and experienced long tunnels and snow on the mountains and road to the top of the pass, followed by heavy rain. Arrived at the Lake Maggiore site and appreciated the magnificent view. The following morning we woke to a gorgeous day and enjoyed English smoked mackerel for breakfast. A lazy morning and made friends with German and Belgian campers, who gave us two excellent campsites to visit. Partook of ice cream and cool white wine by the lake, and were surprised to see our first-ever BLUE Father Christmas. (In May?)

6 May. It was a grey day for our short drive to the Mediterranean, which developed into a heavy rain storm. At Arenzano, we were squashed into the campsite between the auto strada and the railway line, only to find that the first electric point was useless, so had to squeeze between two mobile homes to find a serviceable point. We then discovered our water heater, (which had just been serviced), was squirting out water every time we turned on the pump. We have still not celebrated our fifty-first yet. Next day we walked into Arenzano along an interesting sea side, up into the old town, where we found a charming restaurant and celebrated at last, with a superb platter of Assiette Fruits de Mare, followed by a prawn and salmon pasta, veal chops, Tiramitsu or Profiteroles, all washed down by a cold carafe of excellent local white wine and espresso coffee, all for a princely sum of thirty-five Euros each.

8 May. A 250 kilometre drive to Skarlino via La Spetzia, where we were given the classic “car parking treatment” by a friendly Bangladeshi. We passed three “bone domes” with plastic flowers attached in the space of two kilometres. There were many tunnels in this area, some very badly lit, which exposed our very weak headlights.

9 May. A very hot morning drive to Follonica, where we walked along the promenade and had a very nice lunch, before realizing we had lost “Otto” in this large town. The campsite was amazing with every facility, but was almost empty until June. A storm had developed over the hills, but once it had passed, Ivy persuaded me to stagger two kilometres up a very steep road to the wonderful Tuscan town of Scarlino, where we enjoyed magnificent views, before diving into an intimate little wine bar offering a superb range of local wines.

10 May. 240 kilometre drive to Ostia, stopping off at a deserted beach with brown mica sand and hundreds of little black beetles. The thirty-hectare site was called “Village Fabulous” and was set in huge pine trees. There was a fifty-metre swimming pool and once again the site was only about quarter full. We caught the last train into Rome, as the drivers were on strike for the day until five o’clock, the street traffic was appalling. We spent three very interesting hours in the Coliseum and



environs and then took a "hop-on-hop-off" bus around the city, during which time it started to rain and were surprised to get protection from an automatic roof. We walked to the Trevi Fountains, where the world and his wife were waiting to greet us. We fell in with a group of four Australians who didn't have any money to throw into the fountain, so I gave them each ten cents, which I had been trying to spend for some time. When I introduced them to Ivy, one of the men mentioned that he had two relatives named Ivy, which was interesting as my mother's name was Ivy. Later, I made the mistake of asking for a large beer in a little bar, as it was pretty stifling, and was served with a 2-litre jug, which was beyond my natural capacity. The old proprietor had a twinkle in his eye when I finally staggered over to pay the bill. The train was packed and the bus, which should have taken twenty minutes, took seventy-five, to get back to the site.

12 May. 220 kilometres to Pompeii, where the campsite was beside the entrance to the ruins and was 'jumping' as we arrived. It was very cramped and busy site, but everything calmed down after six o'clock. The following day we got into the ruins early, and were amazed how huge and interesting it all was. By ten o'clock it was filling up rapidly with visitors, by twelve noon we had departed for a shopping expedition to the local Carrefour, with the rest of afternoon snoozing in the sunshine.

14 May. Took the train to Sorrento, where we joined a day long boat trip around the island of Capri. The sea was flat and the weather was fine, and amazed at the magnificent limestone cliffs and caves, surrounded by crystal-clear blue and green water, into which we plunged to cool off. We socialized with Chris and Guy from New Jersey during the journey. The place was packed with tourists like us, so we took the funicular railway to the upper town, where we had lunch.

15 May. A visit to Naples by train. We decided to tour on foot and found this to be a vibrant city, which, unfortunately was overflowing with rubbish, the refuse department appeared to be on strike. We wandered around the hundreds of alleyways and shops selling every type of product one can imagine, and came across a lot of Africans and many Neapolitans selling all manner of their belongings on the kerbside. As an ex West African export salesman, I spent some time talking to a young Gambian refugee in one of the town squares and he told me of the horrors he had experienced travelling across the Sahara Desert to Libya and onward in an overcrowded little boat across the Mediterranean. (Few of us really have any idea what these people experience.)

16 May. We left mid morning, through many 'ribboned towns' with crazy drivers. A stop at Cilento Oasi dam, and found a recreational complex with crowds of happy schoolchildren. Came across a deserted campsite with a friendly owner and we parked by the beach. The sea was as calm as a millpond but huge thunder clouds developed with the sun still shining, developing a perfect double rainbow. We drove into a small town with a good promenade and found a little shop, where the man sold us his excellent home made wine. A beautiful windy road over the mountains with wild flowers and butterflies, we found our next site down a long lane and camped under many pine trees in sight of the sea. Next day was a hot lazy day sunbathing and drinking wine with cold cuts. The sea temperature was 20C, calm and clear. We had a good dip followed by a swim in an oval swimming pool.

19 May. 285 kilometres N.E. via the amazing town of Matara, which was destroyed by an earthquake in the 70's and abandoned by everybody except the Troglodites, who continued living in their caves. It has been rebuilt above a great bowl of old houses and was full of happy tourists in many restaurants. Passed by Brindisi to an ocean side campsite and consumed another excellent bottle of red in the bar. Next day, a lazy morning in bright sunshine and swam in a fabulous pool, where I banged my head on an island in the middle, complete with statue. It was typical Italian design with fabulous bikinis everywhere. We found a small resort with a fine restaurant, where we consumed mussels and grilled fish. Unfortunately, the site's electricity was only 3 amps.

Details of campsites are available from the author if required [editor]

chuck wagon cake

At the recent Great Malvern Country and Weston rally I was encouraged to share with you a family favourite cake which keeps well for a week, if you don't eat it. Ideal for camping with or without custard or cream. It has a gooey and sticky to the teathy base (more commonly known as a soggy bottom) with a crusty top. Best served from the baking tray which I line with baking parchment, so I can lift it out and wrap it in foil for easy packing. The recipe blends well to variations in flavour according to personal tastes as long as the volume of ingredients remain as is.

Aptly named in our house as chuck wagon cake, a recipe bought back from Denver twenty-five years ago. I do hope you enjoy.

First stage

Preheat your oven to 350°F, 180°C or gas mark 4

2½ cups of all purpose flour

I use SR, but a mixture of whole meal plus BP is a healthy option. I've also used gluten free SR but this definitely needs xanthan gum to support it.

1½ cups sugar (*I prefer dark brown but any colour suits*)

½ cup of cocoa powder

2 teaspoons of baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

Thoroughly mix all the above in an ungreased 13 x 9 x 2 inch lined metal baking pan (*for camping; I line a square silicone tray*)

Second stage

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup cooking oil

2 tablespoons of vinegar

1 tablespoon vanilla essence (optional)

2 cups of cold coffee or water

(I prefer the mocca flavour which gels very well with the cinnamon).

Form three wells in the flour mixture. Pour oil into one well; vinegar and essence in the second and cold coffee in the third. Blend all the ingredients with a large fork.

Do Not Beat.

Final stage

¼ cup of demerra sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon

(This can be substituted with lots of crushed walnuts or in addition to).

Sprinkle on top of mixture and bake for 35-40 minutes.

When cooked allow to cool in the tin - hence the soggy bottom.

I usually get 12 large portions out of my tin.

Val Thomson 8685

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

Winter is coming

Winter is now approaching fast and it's time to prepare motorhomes for the drop in temperature, bad weather and lesser use.

For anyone approaching this winter's preparation for the first time with a motorhome, or maybe just a reminder, the following Ideas Sheets might be of interest:-

- Continued use during winter: Ideas Sheet No. 85
- Winter storage: Ideas Sheet No. 219
- Post winter preparations: Ideas Sheet No. 226

The advice is generally simple and not onerous. However, by not preparing for winter it can prove to be expensive and inconvenient when the spring season comes around.

E-mail me at technical@asoc.uk.com

Automatic Payment on Spanish & Portuguese Motorways

Sanef have just announced that their automatic Péage payment method is now also available in Spain & Portugal, by using 'VIA-T tag.

The charges (plus any local VAT) are the same as the French: Liber-t tag:-

- Annual fees: 6€
- Per month (or part) 5€ Maximum per year 10€
- Refundable security deposit 20€
- Application fee: 10€ (I have asked if it would be free through Camping & Motorhome, as before with the French Liber-t tag, - no reply yet)

Website Updates

The most recent updates to the Club website are:-

- 04c/17* Technical – Mercedes Montana Vito fuel economy
- 04c/17* Rally list & spreadsheet – Provisional Rally list Pr5/18
- 04c/17* Rally list & spreadsheet – Provisional Rally list Pr4/18
- 04b/17* Rally list & spreadsheet – Provisional Rally list Pr3/18
- 04a/17* Rally list & spreadsheet – Provisional Rally list Pr2/18
- 04/17 Rally list & spreadsheet – Provisional Rally list Pr1/18
- 04/17 Technical - Ideas Sheet No. 247 Mercedes Audio 10 radio
- 03/17 Admin - Migration of the Club Website to an Upgraded Server

* indicates supplementary updates, which are not fully promulgated.

Occasional visits to the Update Page are recommended to keep up to date with supplementary updates. <http://www.asoc.uk.com/updates.htm>

Baz Wellard
Chairman, Technical Group & Webmaster

The Club & Company Rally was a jointly organised annual function which, after two earlier locations, were all held at the Malvern Showground, Worcestershire, from 1993 to 2002



The 10th anniversary of the Club in 1999 attracting the maximum number of 650 Auto-Sleeper motorhomes

NOTICE

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB
will be held on
SATURDAY, 5 MAY 2018 at 10.30am
at the National Rally, in the Cedric Ford Pavilion
Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural
Society Showground
Newark, Nottinghamshire

rally supplement December 2017

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



If you wish to run a rally in 2018 please contact me as soon as possible
please read the important rally information on the inside front cover

A very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all members

5th June – 15th June 2018 (10 nights) Camping Cappuccini, Peschiera del Garda, Italy.

Emergency Tel. No. 07771 827711.

Rally Marshals: Chris Mawdsley, Peter Brown, Angie & Andy Cavell.

Rally Fee: £25.00 this is not refundable if offered a place.

Rally slips and cheques to Chris Mawdsley, 5 Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke on Trent, ST10 1WA.

Enquiries to pcb7ty@btinternet.com or 07771 827711.

Please print a legible e-mail address on your application that can be used for communication about the rally.

Site and Fees: The site has large grass pitches, extensive swimming pools, a high-level lake view restaurant, fronts onto the pedestrian promenade on the south shore and is an 800m 10min walk from the town centre and lake steamer pier. For the ten nights, the fee will be €14.00 for the pitch plus €8.00 per person, per night (= €30 per night for a couple). Dogs are charged at €4.50 per night and there is a city tax that this year was €1.00 per person per night for the first 5 nights.

Limit: 25 vans.

20th to 30th June 2018 (10 nights) Camping L'Escale, Le Grand Bornand France.

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell, Chris Mawdsley & Peter Brown.

Emergency Tel. No. 07880 532057 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally fee: £25.00 not refundable if offered a place.

Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, RG18 ORY. Tel.No.01635 201976.

Please provide your email address (clearly written!) if you have one. If not please enclose two sae's.

Site Fees: The site fee will be 19 euros per night for a motorhome and up to two people, one dog and including 6amps electricity. 10 amps can be available for an extra charge and should be arranged with the site on arrival. Tax will also be payable at the appropriate rate - currently 0.55 euros per person per night.

Attractions: Situated in the French Alps, Le Grand Bornand is a small town with all the shops and restaurants necessary to support life! It is located at the bottom of a small river valley and surrounded by mountains on all sides. Annecy and Mont Blanc are not far away and we expect the cable cars will be operating from the village to take you to the top of the nearby mountain. Camping L'Escale is a privately owned site with good facilities including a swimming pool and its own restaurant and takeaway. It is just a short walk from the town.

Limit: 25 vans.

IRISH RALLY 2018 Monday 11th June to Tuesday 26th June (15 nights).

Marshalls: Phil and Shelagh West. Assistant Marshalls: Dave and Jean Hollingsworth.

Emergency Telephone Mobile: Phil West - 07506061694.

This Rally consists of 3 x 5 nights on 3 different sites in the Republic of Ireland. (Preference will be given to applicants applying for the whole 3-site rally).

Rally Fee £25.00 (non-returnable if offered a place on the rally.) Full directions and further information will be supplied to all successful applicants for all 3 sites.

Please send cheque for Rally Fee with a clearly written e-mail address or stamped, addressed envelope for confirmation of a place on the Rally to:

Mrs S. West, 66 Northampton Road, Broughton, Kettering, Northants. NN14 1NS. Telephone: 01536 791438.

Site 1 – (11th – 16th June). Camac Valley Tourist Caravan & Camping Park, Corkagh Park, Green Isle Link Road, Naas Road, Kingswood, Dublin, D22 DR60.

135 Euros (27 per night inc. electric) – Showers Token 2 Euros.

Attractions – Dublin City. Corkagh Park – large park with footpaths, fishing lakes, rose gardens and tree plantations. Irish National Stud and Japanese Garden.

Site 2 – (16th -21st June). Hidden Valley Holiday Park, Lower Main Street, Glasnarget North, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. A67 XY56.

130 Euros (26 per night inc. electric – price to be confirmed (showers ? Euros).

Attractions – Located next to the Wicklow Mountains, Clara Vale National Park, Glendalough, Wicklow Gap to name a few.

Site 3 – (21st – 26th June). Casey's Caravan & Camping Park, Tallacoole, Clonea, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. X35 EP82.

95 Euros (19 Euros per night inc. electric) – Showers Token 1 Euro.

All campsite monies to be paid to the campsite on arrival.

CARDS NOT ACCEPTED – CASH ONLY.

Attractions – Mahon Falls / Comeragh Drive, Dungarvan Castle, Jameson Distillery, Copper Coast Drive. In addition, the new Waterford Greenway 45km walking / cycling route along the disused railway line from Dungarvan to Waterford.

Dogs welcome at all sites.

Limit 25 vans.

ALL SITES – PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 2PM.

If you would like to assist a Rally Marshal to see what is involved in running a rally please contact me



Date sent: Rally name:

First name: Surname:

Address:

.....

Town/City: Postcode:

Phone: Mobile: Membership No:

Email:

Additional number of named persons in your van adults: children (incl age: dogs:

.....

.....

.....

MOTORHOME DETAILS
registration: length:
model:

ARRIVAL DETAILS
day:
time: am / pm/ evening

Is this your first ASOC rally? Yes / No

If available, please indicate which you would like

Electricity: Yes / No Evening meal: Yes / No

Have you any special needs? Yes / No

If Yes please specify:

cheque enclosed for £..... for..... nights including rally fee
Full payment must accompany the application and cheques made payable to the rally marshal

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS
Name:
Phone: Mobile:
We require the details of the person to contact in the event of an emergency

Rally application form to reach the marshal 14 days before the event if possible.
Enclose a S.A.E if confirmation is required.

