

A great view of Snake Pass [C Macgowan 9868]

ASOC NEWS

JANUARY 2018 | 352



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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.

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

editor's note

Well, we are now into a new year. In this issue we have information regarding the AGM at the National Rally to be held at Newark in May.

Last month saw the electronic copy being available to download from the website.

One question came up about remembering the password each month everytime you want to access the file. The plan is to have the same password for all issues starting with February News. You may wish to rename the file adding the password before the PDF.

For those who subscribe to electronic News but have not renewed their membership by 5 January will have access denied, and will need to subscribe again after renewing membership.

You may be wondering why we have gone the download route rather than direct to your email. This is because many more members are taking up the electronic version and it is easier to upload one file rather than send multiple emails with a file attached.

The advantage of subscribing means you will have access to the colour version and only need to access if you wish.

Remember, you will always have the hard copy version posted to you.

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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

Nomination forms for election to the Management Committee/Honorary Examiner and Proxy appointment forms are included with this Notice or are available from the Secretary, who requests that nomination forms and any resolutions for consideration at the meeting should be received by him, on or before Monday 5 February 2018

In the case of Proxy appointment forms they should be received by him on or before 10.30am Thursday 3 May 2018

Members are informed that they have a right to appoint a proxy

Members are reminded that admission to the Annual General Meeting is subject to proof of membership, and that current membership cards should be carried at all Club events

John Osland-Jones, Secretary

Flat 7, Oak Tree Court, 15 Pembroke Way, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9EX



AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales

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Orchard Works, Nr. Broadway, Worcestershire. WR12 7QF



The aire is new and at the following link can be seen under construction
<https://goo.gl/maps/dV62RqWh28C2>

It has a nice outlook over the town ramparts and is adjacent to a marina on the Canal de la Marne du Rhin. It is very well located for an overnight stay when crossing northern France.



L Letters

Happy Cooking

Having recently purchased a Double Skillet, many club members may wonder where they can purchase one since the existing ladies that used to sell them have ceased trading. We were at The Malvern Show in late September and came across these people selling Double Skillets. Having bought one, Pat has used it several times and rates it very good. The email address for the company is www.thedoubleskilletpancompany.com
Gary and Pat Wanklin 1747

Witchcraft

I have always believed sat-nav to be a form of witchcraft progressively robbing the nation of it's sense of direction.

By the time I left school in 1965 geography lessons had equipped me with a general sense of what towns and cities to expect around all points of the compass. During my working life I managed to visit over 200 branches of Waitrose without electronic assistance. However, two recent events have changed my mind.

The first one was exiting Donington raceway heading for the M42 back to Chapel Lane C&MC site. The signs disappeared after the 1st two junctions and I found myself on the wrong side of the M1 in lashing rain using language that would make a sailor blush. The second time involved a wrong turn looking for the Hurn Lane C&MC with a similar response.

Sadly, I no longer have a navigator and the C&MC handbook directions require such close scrutiny which would be dangerous on the move.

So, 'Sally' sat-nav on my phone (named after R2's Sally Traffic) has reluctantly been pressed into service and all those stressful final miles have vanished particularly finding M&W Autos in a remote corner of the Fens. I have confessed my conversion to my children whose response is best left unprinted. Terry Hammond 7578

New Year wishes

We would like to wish every member a Happy, Healthy New Year and Safe Travelling wherever your wheels take you.

Mo & Mike Valentine 2776

How we enjoyed the Southport Rally

Marshals Wyn and David instructions were perfect, after a wet drive up north, we were welcomed and told when settled come along for a cuppa. We also got our instructions on how to get back in the park after dark when the gates are locked.

We were one of the last to arrive so we were at the end of the 'avenue' of vans, but soon



Southport pier



discovered we had the best view of all the dog walkers making the best of Victoria Park.

Friday was windy but we dressed for the weather and set off into the town, many of the shops were open and found a fascinating shop selling all sorts of antiques and collectibles, but we headed for the railway station to go to Crosby, a nice ride through sand dunes and then huge houses. A short walk took us to the beach, and what a beautiful beach, shame it wasn't summer. We looked at a few of the Anthony Gormley figures, some are out too far, but as they were all the same, we took a few photos then walked along the beach to a cafe at the indoor pool. We warmed up with hot coffee and a sandwich, and then walked back to the station for a look round the shops before returning to the van to get warm. We really appreciated having electric.

Saturday, we set off by train again, and went to Liverpool. We made a visit to a museum all about Liverpool including the overhead railway, and, of course, the Beatles and other famous people. The city looked very festive, and the shops inviting, but decided to go back to the



The evening was the switch on of the Christmas lights, unfortunately I wasn't feeling too well so we didn't venture out again. Maybe next time. We did go for coffee at the marshal's van, and met people we knew from a previous rally and chatted to others, but a shame it was so dark and cold, maybe a Sunday morning coffee meeting would be better.

On Monday it didn't take us long to pack up and set off south and a good journey. Thank you Wyn and David, hope to see you next time.

Mollie & Dennis 9163

Sad news

Mervyn passed away peacefully in my arms at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre on Friday November 24th. Mervyn's cancer started in 2003 but that didn't prevent us travelling to rallies both at home and abroad. Outwardly Mervyn always looked a picture of health and kept any difficulties to himself. I have many many happy memories of our travels and the friendship and support of ASOC members, particularly this year. I hope to continue rallying and meet up with you in the future.

Mervyn and I received wonderful support from a little known cancer charity called Maggies. We made a video with them in September to promote their service, you can view it at maggiescentres.org/our-centres/maggies-merseyside, we are currently on the front page
Irene Kitchin 5698

Wild camping

The great joy of the traveller is to be able to stop when and where one likes and, if due care is taken, to be able to sleep in one's bed with a



station. Stopped at a restaurant for dinner. It was dark and the park was closed, and had a great time trying to unlock the gate, but eventually managed it much to my relief.

Sunday was sunny, so we set off for the pier and beach. What an amazing pier and very busy with walkers. We found a lovely café for lunch, and then wandered back through the gardens.

high degree of "peace of mind". As a retired Security Consultant, I have spent practically the whole of my career, steering my clients towards this end, despite the efforts of an aggressively persistent criminal fraternity, who would wish to disrupt their orderly lives in some way or other. Despite one's best efforts to make one's motor home or caravan secure, it is important to realize that anything one man makes, another can break, given sufficient TIME, NOISE and TECHNICAL FACILITY.

With these parameters in mind, our personal choice has always been to use an established site, whether in the U.K. or in our extensive travels through 25 European countries, plus many other parts of the World. Naturally one is expected to pay a fee for one's space, but part of what you purchase is the peace of mind of knowing that you are grouped with like-minded people, who will usually look out for each other and, on many occasions, there will be some degree of security in force - which you might not even be aware of, operated by the management (who know 'the score' for the area).

Never forget, the Open Road is open to all, except those who are actually serving time for previous misdemeanours.

Richard Birch 7248.

SNIPPET



Thinking of taking your electric bike to Northern Ireland?

In Northern Ireland electric bikes are considered to be mopeds and require all users to have a licence, insurance and it needs to be registered at the DVLA and display a number plate. You will also need to wear a crash helmet

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/electric-bikes-electrically-assisted-pedal-cycles>

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

Riviera Mobil 240 driveway awning

Little used

£45

A Roberts 7479

Northants (near M1 junction 16)

07802 734754

thank you for the donation

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

WINTER BREATHABLE COVER

EXPLORER 6 metres long in grey

as new

£65.00

Southampton area

Call Jim 01489 576520 or email

nuthazel@talktalk.net

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

07799 591550

stuwod@yahoo.co.uk

From the Membership Secretary

I would like to thank all those members that have renewed their membership early.

To those who have not yet renewed I would like to remind you that your renewal is now due, and this issue of the News magazine is the last one you will receive until your renewal subscription is paid.

So, don't delay, renew now to continue to receive the magazine and to be able to attend rallies and, to receive discounts as listed on the website.

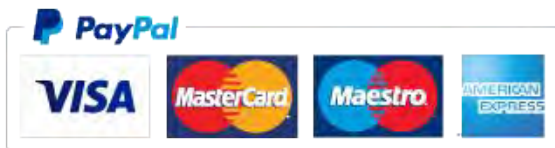
Please fill in the whole of the form in BLOCK CAPITALS, including email address, this will be changed to lowercase during the processing of the form. Please do not staple or tape cheques to the form.

Please inform me of any changes to your details on your form on a separate piece of paper indicating what they are.

Please check your form before sending.

David Crabbe 5213 Membership secretary

Electronic purchase of ASOC membership



The ASOC committee are sensitive to the fact that many existing members would like to be able to renew and pay subscriptions electronically and that many interested in joining the club are used to being able to complete transactions 'online'.

The members of the committee have no experience of dealing with this type of technology and wonder if we have a member who has? We are looking for someone who could guide the committee through an assessment of the feasibility of ASOC being able to accept payments electronically as part of an application process (purchase) and then if we decide to proceed, help with the implementation.

If you think you can help, e-mail chairman@asoc.uk.com

Peter Brown *Chairman*

NATIONAL RALLY AND AGM 2018

To all members who will be attending the 2018 National Rally at the Newark showground

Stuart Wood 2620
stuwd@yahoo.co.uk
01484 604133

Early last year I asked for artists to think about displaying their artwork in the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion. I am now asking for any member who has decided to display their artwork to get in touch with me before the end of March 2018.

This is not a competition but a way of showing others what you can produce and to give others pleasure in seeing what you have done.

There will not be any craft or hobby tables this year

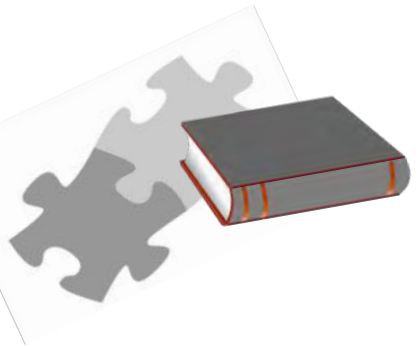
BOOKS

JIGSAWS

MOTORHOME ITEMS

There will be the usual three tables of books, jigsaws and motorhome goods.

So anyone who has any surplus books, jigsaws, and motorhome related goods, please bring them along to the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion where they can be sold and the money raised will be donated to this year's charity. Thank you.



ASOC
regalia

All the ASOC regalia will be available at the National Rally

This will give you the chance to adorn yourself and your van with everything ASOC

We have two afternoon trips for you.

Lincoln; we are providing coach travel only.

Nottingham; you have the option of visiting two main attractions, or just use the coach to wander around at your leisure.

Because the weekend being a bank holiday we will need to book the caves or Justice museum, as they are limited on numbers, we will request payment as part of the booking process.

To get the best out of both visits, if you intend to walk down Steep Hill in Lincoln and/or visit either attractions in Nottingham you will need sensible footwear as medieval builders didn't provide smooth surfaces or lifts.

Saturday 5 May 2018 Lincoln. If you have never visited Lincoln before you are in for a treat. The Cathedral has just been voted the best in the country beating Salisbury, Canterbury and Westminster. It is situated on the top of Steep Hill voted Britain's Best Street 2012. The climb up this street is somewhat challenging so we have arranged for the coach to drop off and pick up at the top of the hill for those of you wishing to base your visit around this location. Also located near the Cathedral is Lincoln Castle built by William the Conqueror 1068 and is home to one of the remaining 4 copies of the Magna Carta. If you would just like to walk the medieval streets that surround these amazing attractions there is plenty of art galleries, boutiques and tea and public houses to rest your weary feet. Tickets for either or

Both trips will leave and return to Newark Showground at the following times.

Saturday to Lincoln will leave at 13.30 and return 17.00.

Sunday to Nottingham will leave at 14.00 (after lunch) and return 18.00.

both of these busy attractions can be purchased direct on line before your visit or on the day but please be warned this is a bank holiday and if your heart is set on one or the other you may walk away disappointed. If you wish to wander around Lincoln at your leisure we have arranged for the coach to pick up at the bottom of Steep Hill so you can leisurely walk down the hill to the new part of the town where you will find all the high street shops, marina and boat trips.

Sunday 6 May 2018 Nottingham. The city is built on sandstone and over the centuries has provided shelter and plenty of opportunities to escape the authorities using its many tunnels and caves some of which are now open to the public. The tour of the caves is 45 minutes and allows time to explore this busy city. The National Justice Museum, located in old Shire Hall, a building used until recently for its courtrooms and past County gaol, have opened the dungeons and prison cells so you can experience what it felt like to be imprisoned or hanged in these unforgiving places. The tour will last for 2 hours or you could just use the coach and take time out to walk around this busy city or take a drink in the Trip to Jerusalem, known as the oldest inn in England 1189, still using sandstone cellars to store its mead, sorry beer, to a drinkable standard.



rally information January 2018

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

please read the important rally information on the inside front cover



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.

5th - 9th March 2018 (4nights) Whitmead Forest Park Rally, Parkend, Nr. Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 4LA

Rally Marshals - John and Jackie Moss, Noel and Glenn Clarke.

Site fees - £48.00,(4 nights), which includes entry to all leisure facilities. Rally fee - £4.00

We shall be sited on the terraced area (known as the Meadow) which has been totally refurbished with gravel pitches and electric hook-ups.

Please send rally slips and cheque for £52.00 payable to J.Moss, 34 .Cocksparrow Street, Warwick CV34 4ED. Telephone no. 01926 497309,

Mobile (on site only) 0758089303. Please send a SAE or a CLEAR e-mail address for confirmation.

Excellent for walking and cycling.

Good food at local pubs and on site restaurant.

DIRECTIONS: Drive into Lydney town centre from Gloucester, turn right at the Swan pub before the level crossing (sign post Parkend).Then follow the road to Parkend station and turn left at the Fountain pub. At the top of the road turn left, site on the left in about 100 yards.

DO NOT arrive before 2.00pm (14.00hours). Site rules.

16th – 18th March 2018 (2 nights) Great Central Railway, Quorn & Woodhouse Station, Quorn, Leics LE12 8AG

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell and Liz Irvin.

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

Site fee: £26.00 per unit for two nights plus £2.00 per person rally fee.

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 an sae.

This is a "green field site" on hard standing in part of the car park at Quorn & Woodhouse station. There are no electric hook-ups available.

Subject to confirmation there will be a diesel operating day on the Friday and steam trains running for the rest of the weekend.

We are hoping to arrange a meal in the Butler-Henderson café on Friday evening.Their food is very good and reasonably priced – please indicate on your rally slip if you would be interested and further information will then follow when available.

Please do not arrive before 12 noon on Friday.

Limit: 22 vans.

If you wish to run a rally in 2018 please contact me A.S.A.P.

Provisional Rally List 2018

March

5th - 9th Whitemead Forest Park, Lydney, Gloucs.
16th -18th Quorn Railway Rally, Quorn, Leicestershire.

April

19th – 22nd National Motorhome Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough

May

3rd – 7th **National Rally & A.G.M. Nottinghamshire Showground, Newark.**
10th – 17th Widdecombe C.P., Paington, Devon. **NEW**
13th – 18th Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorks.
17th – 24th Hendra Holiday Park, Newquay, Cornwall.
24th – 29th Gulval Cricket Club, near. Penzance, Cornwall.

June

5th – 15th Lake Garda, Italy. **NEW**
11th – 18th East Fleet Farm, Weymouth. **NEW**
11th – 26th Irish Rally. 3 sites.
20th – 30th Grand Bornand, France.

July

6th – 8th Prestwood Steam Fair. Great Missenden, Bucks.
6th – 8th Spinney Motorhomes near Knutsford, Cheshire.
7th – 12th Stafford Boat Club ,Stafford, Staffs.
12th – 16th Beacon Park, Lichfield, Staffs.
19th – 24th Leon's Field, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

August

9th – 14th Eskdale School, Whitby, N.Yorks.
16th – 19th Great Western Show, Malvern, Worcs.
20th – 24th St. Cross Symondians Cricket Club, Winchester, Hants.

September

2nd – 7th South Lychett Manor C.P. Devon. **NEW**
6th – 9th Warners South West Motorhome Show, Shepton Mallet. **(Marshals required)**
10th – 14th North of England Open Air Museum, Beamish, Co. Durham.
10th – 16th Unity Resort, Brea, Somerset. **(Not yet confirmed)**
20th – 23rd Season Finale Show, Lincoln.

October

3rd – 8th A.C.C.E.O. National Rally, Western on Trent, Derby
25th – 29th Bridge Villa Camping, Wallingford on Thames, Oxon.
29th – 3rd Nov Wells Holiday Park, Wells, Somerset.

November

3rd – 6th Sedgemoor Carnival, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. **(Not yet confirmed)**
15th – 19th Victoria Park, Southport. **(To be confirmed)**

N C R December, 2017



"Finale" of a Cinderella sketch at Chinon, France 2009. Photo: Andy Cavell



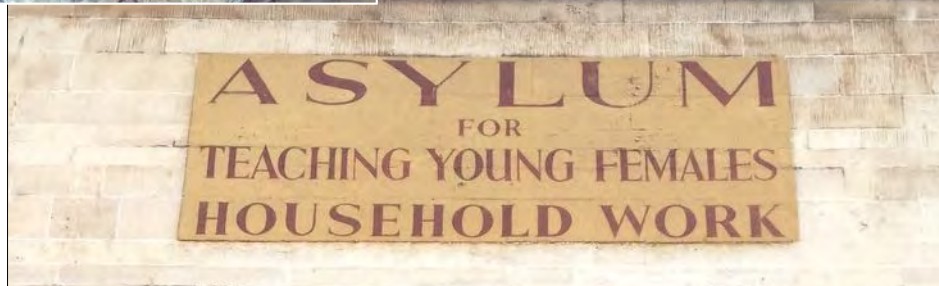
Are you looking up?

Ghost signs from the past

When we are visiting towns and cities, how often do we look up and notice the old painted signs on buildings.

Here is a couple just to start off.

If you notice any, send the photo to News.





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

Dashcams & Satnavs

An interesting article in the Camping & Caravanning Magazine highlighted a possible problem with a windscreen fitted accessory, such as a Dashcam or Satnav.

An owner had an MOT failure because a similar device was fitted to his car's windscreen. The reason quoted was that "anything attached to a windscreen is a fail!"

Perhaps it's worthwhile checking before your next MOT if you may have a similar problem.

'Hints&Tips'

During the first week of the New Year I issue a copy of the simple 'hints&tips' that have been collated from the Club's newsletter since 2004. These go as groupings to those members who are on my E-list.

If you do not receive a copy in the first week of the New Year, it means you are not on my E-listing. Should you wish to have a copy please contact me direct by e-mail.

As there are 36 pages I can only issue as an attachment (PDF - 285 Kb), sorry.

Diesel taxes on new vehicles

I had a recent query from a member asking how the road tax on diesels may affect him from April next year. I replied in general as follows:-

From 1st April 2018, for first year only, the Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) rate for new diesel cars will go up by one band. Cost will depend on the CO2 emissions.

However, any new diesel car* that is certificated as meeting the most recent Euro VI emissions standard will be exempt the extra tax. As all A-S new *motorhome models are now Euro VI compliant there should not be a problem.

Website Updates

The latest update, dated 1st January 2018, to the Club website is:

01/18 2018 Rally list & Spreadsheet

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

On a Personal Note: Dorothy and I would like to wish all our friends in the Club a Happy and Healthy 2018, and that you have safe and interesting travelling.

Baz Wellard Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster

OUR GREAT TOUR PART TWO

Richard & Ivy Birch

21 May Greece

A drive to Brindisi to check in for the ferry to Igoumenitsa. It was delayed for three hours, so it was back into town to find a supermarket. We also found a little bar with a huge collection of spirits and six slot machines. Back at the port, we were caught in colossal traffic chaos, as the ship disembarked dozens of H.G.V's. into the path of waiting H.G.V's and us, with no system, it was very dangerous. On board there was only one bar/restaurant/lounge, and full of shouting lorry drivers of many nationalities. Went to our compulsory ensuite cabin with tinnitus.

22 May. We had to get up and vacate our cabin by 00.30, but boat did not dock until 2am, we parked up by dockside and were asleep by three. We chatted to a German couple in car park, who were going down to their boat in the South, and mentioned that I had served in Herford, North Germany in 1961/2 in BAOR during my National Service, then an LKW driver comes over and says "you lived in Herford, I'm a Herforder!" He spoke beautiful English and was driving a double waggon with his wife. He was very enthusiastic about travelling to Morocco in Jan/Feb using the Spanish enclave, saying it was very cheap and safe. Caught the ferry to Corfu, very efficient, with an escalator to a large luxurious lounge. The lovely campsite was almost empty when we arrived, but filled up quite rapidly. We had a magnificent swim in the sea fifty metres away. It was our first BBQ tonight, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

23 May. Took the bus into town for a wander. The old town was like an Arabic Souk, where I bought a new coin pouch. We were enticed into a roadside restaurant by a very persuasive multi-linguist, where we enjoyed an excellent meal and good wine. We soaked up the beautiful views and stroked Gerald Durrell's bronze nose. Joined a very excitable bus queue for the journey back. The following day was a lazy day in the campsite swimming in the sea and the beautiful pool.

25 May. Just managed to catch the midday ferry back to Igoumenitsa and took the road South along the coast, between thousands of bushes of multi-coloured Oleander and bright yellow Broom. We arrived at the new campsite to find the power was only four amps. We met up with friends, Simon and Anne of the Continental Butterflies Group. Next day we drove to Preveza, where we wandered round a rather tired old town. Here we bought two large Bream type fish and found a huge port, with loads of life, and were invited to a jazz night, which was too late for us. Had a BBQ with the fish, with sweetcorn and chips, quite delicious.

27 May. A long trip south, enjoying good weather and amazing coastal scenery, with many wild flowers and beautiful butterflies. We arrived at Apollon Delphi at five in the afternoon and pitched next to Simon and Anne, with a breath-taking view. The next morning saw us at the ruins, and queued with a noisy crowd for half an hour to obtain half-price tickets. The site was very impressive, stretching high up on the mountainside.

29 May. Travelling down a good road to Kifissia through very attractive scenery. We booked in at the campsite and enjoyed a lazy afternoon. The following day we took the bus and train into Pireas, an interesting city with a huge port and ships and boats of various sizes. We looked over a huge swimming pool with many people training. It appears to be a wealthy town.

31 May. A fine day was spent in Athena, visiting the great sights of the Akropolis, the Parthenon and Hadrian's massive arch, in a temperature of 30C. We managed to get away from the tourists in a beautiful park, before enjoying a nice lunch. Climbing up many steps to the old town, where we observed a parade with youth groups, army and police. Everyone was happy except one old lady who was shouting incessantly. Spotted and photographed two fine Swallowtails, whilst drinking iced fruit tea. The next day was a lazy day. Spent the afternoon by the pool, with superb swimming water.

2 June. Took the motorway with 33 Euros of tolls (charged as category three, but should have been two). Stopped in a small town for lunch and was `ripped off` at the petrol station, by being served up with "V" diesel. Enjoyed a lovely sea swim. Another lazy day by the sea and while snorkelling I spotted a very peculiar black `swimming tube`. In the campsite we had a neighbour who looked like "Choochy Bear" surrounded by a fantastic garden and workshop, flying the Greek flag and sitting on a two metre high stool, working at night!

4 June. The next site was luxuriously appointed, by a beautiful bay and lovely for swimming. Later we went to the local restaurant and enjoyed excellent octopus, veal chunks and sweets. The next day we had a bit of a problem with biting flies, so out came the spray. Just lazed around the beach and chatted to an interesting couple from Tenby in the evening. On another day, an interesting breakfast outside in the sun, almost choked on my cereal. After I had recovered, we watched an eight-inch bright green lizard for about 15 minutes before it walked towards me and almost climbed slowly over my shoe. Went out late morning to Agria for gelt and found an excellent Lidl, where we bought still more wine and a complete shop for forty-four Euros. Coffee was enjoyed on a superb promenade, accompanied by Caribbean music. We had a fabulous mountain drive with very little traffic, stopping to fill our water bottles from a village spring. We observed many Meadow Browns nectaring at this very peaceful stop. Returning to the site to enjoy a lovely swim.

7 June. On the road to Thessaloniki, we turned into a service station, where the attendant dropped our oil cap down into the engine, with much apologies. Luckily, we found a V.W. service centre close by who rescued it for us. I found that I had booked the wrong site (ours was 700kms south!) but found a site by the sea with good facilities, but a bit of a permanent slum. Next day, a drive to a large desolate modern station covered with graffiti, but caught an efficient train to Thessaloniki. Walked around for a few hours and did not find it very interesting, although we did have a fine lunch and spotted two owls in a hole, high up in a derelict wall. Sat in the sun by the sea. We have seen many sad remnants of failed `dreams` all over Greece.

9 June. Started the day with a good swim and then drove towards the massive sandstone mountains of Meteora. Found another grand campsite with wonderful views of these amazing mountains, where we met English, Canadian, Polish and Dutch couples for good conversation and finished the day with tasty Greek food. Next day, we were advised to catch the bus at 09:00 to take us up the mountain to the monasteries but had to wait in a large crowd until 10:00! There are five monasteries and a convent built on the tops of these vertical sandstone columns, many metres high and they are approached by hundreds of steps (full of tourists). They also have cable-lifts for goods, hanging beside the road. Ivy walked up to one of them, but I decided to sit and `people watch` instead. We decided to take the long path down, which took two hours, during which time we enjoyed the wild flowers and a variety of lovely butterflies. At the village we found a little taverna with a large bar and a sweet old lady who served us fine lemonade. My feet took three hours before the `pins and needles` stopped!

11 June. Drove over a dramatic mountain road, followed by a many-tunnelled motorway to Ioannina, where we camped by another beautiful lake, which was as calm as a millpond. As we watched, a large black cloud rolled over the mountain and turned the surface into a maelstrom, with violent lightening and metre-high waves, which threatened to flood the camping ground. As the evening progressed, it blew itself out and created a magnificent sunset over the opposite mountains. The next morning there was a strong wind and bright sunshine so it was `washing day`. We went for a walk along the lake and came to a massive sports complex, some of which appeared a bit derelict, while other parts were in use. We caught a bus into Ioannina, had a mighty lunch and spent the afternoon wandering round the ancient citadel, built by the Ottomans.

13 June Albania

The lake was tranquil once more, as we drove off into the Greek mountains and the Albanian border (where we failed to get a green card insurance cover!) The road in the mountains continued to be very torturous and we saw a good variety of unusual butterflies, while appreciating the blue/

green crystal-clear Adriatic Sea. On arrival in Sarande we stopped for an ice cream and a drink, before tackling more majestic mountains until we came to a little bay where we swam, had a fish supper and found a cheap campsite. Next day, it was onto the dramatic mountainous coastal road, until we overshot an autostrada at Kavache. The roads in the towns were pretty bad and the drivers were quite mad, disobeying all the street signs! We finally arrived at Paemer Kamping down a long, rough track and obtained a superb sea shore pitch, but useless for swimming, the water being very shallow for at least 500 metres and warm and muddy just like gespachio soup. Out in the sea was a weird man-made island, joined to the mainland by a clatty pontoon footbridge. The owner told us that he had been building this mini resort for the past ten years. I concluded it was a complete white elephant. We had another lazy day, and finished all the books we had with us. Enjoyed a fine fish lunch and Ivy had a delicious Albanian vegetarian meal, washed down with a bottle of excellent wine, while looking out from under cover at the rain sweeping over a stunning view.

16 June Montenegro

To get into Montenegro, we had to queue for forty minutes to obtain the insurance Green Card. We camped at Safari, a lovely site with a good swimming beach. Discussed world politics with two Canadians in a very old German registered Hymer, we could have talked for hours.

17 June. Another dramatic coastal mountain drive to Buda, where we found a beach resort to camp amongst crowds of local holidaymakers. The water was crystal clear and the water-sport facilities were quite incredible, with all the very latest 'gadgets' and even jet boats! Did a big shop in a well-appointed supermarket. The next day we were struck by a gale during the night, but all items survived.

18 June Croatia

We drove easily through the Croatian border and turned off to a little coastal town with a huge floating dock and busy port. Found a quiet café, selling very good coffee. Stopped at a fine viewpoint overlooking Dubrovnik. Stopped to view Franz Tudgmana Bridge surrounded by 'selfie Chinese'. On the next day, we took the bus into Dubrovnik and joined the usual huge crowd of "sardines" parading down the main street. Embarked on a glass-bottomed boat, but there was not much to see, although the trip was very enjoyable. Walked around for several hours before I was able to find an opticians to get my broken prescription sunglasses repaired for just £10. Back in the town we found an Indian restaurant, where we had a large meal, served by an Indian, who turned out to hail from Rumania. After a long hot walk back to the opticians, we decided to catch the bus back again into town, but after an hour and a half, we gave up and shared a luxurious Mercedes taxi, with an interesting old French couple. Back at the site, we took a long walk down to a little beach and back up again!

20 June. Decided to drive to Orini for coffee by another beautiful beach. We met a local (married to a Croat) who talked through the window just as we were about to back out. He said we must go to Ston on our way North and then started off on European politics and Brexit etc. Turned off the main road to Mali Ston and admired the ancient town wall which extended up the hill to the upper town. There was a little stall right beside the car park, offering "Seafood Tasters" and for £9 we had four fresh oysters washed down with two Fantas. The other side of an arch through the wall, we found three fine restaurants, where we tucked into the finest platter of 'fruits de mare' with six generous varieties, potatoes, creamy kale and chips, a variety of super-fresh rolls and a large bottle of spring water and all for £41. We talked with a young Korean couple who had come by coach all the way from Praha. On arrival at the Tisno campsite, we were blessed with another wonderful orange sunset with many silhouettes of boats on tranquil water. Another lazy day, this was a big site with many boats and motorbikes. Large crowds on the beach, but had good swimming and saw several pretty butterflies.

22 June. Long drive North to Krk Island and an interminable trundle to the only campsite, which was full. Somewhat fedup, we returned over the bridge and turned back South to the Kitchek site, where we managed to be squeezed on to a small, non-electric pitch, by the very kind and

interesting warden. Spent the day swimming and sunbathing on a very beautiful beach, where I persuaded Ivy to snorkel. Next day we had another early morning snorkel, among the rocks, observing various interesting fish. Chatted to Carmen, a Slovenian lady, who recommended that we visit Ljubljana, which we did, it was a most interesting old town, where we had the local noodles for lunch.

24 June Slovenia

We arrived at very busy Bled at five in the afternoon, just as a large Triathlon was finishing in the big square. On pitching up, we immediately made friends with a Dutch couple and a little Czech family who invited us to their table for Czech beer. Early next morning we walked by the lakeside and breakfasted on sweetmeats, the little four-year old Czech girl drew a lovely picture for Ivy. Later on, their battery went flat and we helped to get them started with help from the Dutchman, who we had met previously at Preveza. By late morning we were in the middle of a massive thunderstorm as forecast, which nearly split our awning. When the rain stopped, we had cream wedges (a local delicacy) with ice cream, washed down with excellent coffee. Caught the tourist train around the lake and got a little wet in the third thunderstorm of the day. Met up with two more very interesting Dutch couples, along with a New Zealander on a six-month tour of Europe.

26 June. Stopped at a fine beer house high up above Bled Lake for coffee, before driving through a seven kilometre tunnel (with sub-standard headlights) to Ossiacher See, where our magnificent site was right on the lakeside. We had an afternoon swim and later we were visited by a swan, who seemed to want to stay, and we all appreciated a magnificent sunset.

27 June Austria

We were surrounded by many French students, while having a large breakfast in the warm sunshine. Having torn ourselves away from the site, we made the long drive to Klosterneuburg, mostly on minor roads. Had a Vienna Schnitzel in the camp restaurant and observed chaos as the handsome young waiter and chef appeared to 'lose the plot', with customers complaining in several languages. We were really lucky to get our meal on time. Next day, we were off to Vienna. Walked for five hours in the beautiful city with so many statues, magnificent buildings and vistas. Nordsee fish for lunch, and Japanese hot food for dinner. Had coffee in T.J. Friday's and discovered a strong room door in the basement of this ex-bank. On the way back we got off the bus too early with a Portuguese couple and had to wait half an hour for the next one. We were on a very friendly site talking to Germans from Herford, Czechs, Anglo-Chinese couple in an Auto-Sleeper and a Scottish/Yorkshire couple in a second one.

29 June Czech Republic

Good breakfast before a 300-kilometre drive to Oase campsite in Praha. Just over the Czech border we drove into a huge "Disney type" project, offering casinos, strip joints, dragons, a large Gandalf and an Ilushin-62 Russian aircraft, (V.C.10 copy) now converted into a restaurant, complete with full technical details, where wealthy Austrians come for uncontrolled fun. We renewed our acquaintance with the warden at the site. Next day we were on the bus and train to Praha and enjoyed a river cruise on the Danube. Had a fantastic hock of pork lunch under a parasol in heavy rain by the river. After the rain we wandered around Old Praha and met up with two young German evangelists in the park, who wanted to discuss God and offered us tickets for a 3,000 person meeting, which we declined. Talked to an 83 year-old composer and impresario while waiting for the bus, who told us he had performed at the Edinburgh Festival.

1 July Bavaria

Arrived at Mount Kaolino campsite, which was part of a large sports centre, with big swimming pool, attached to a huge white spoil mountain complete with lifts to the top for dry skiing and helter-skelter. Next day we had to endure several long roadworks on the Wurzburg autobahn, before following the wrong set of instructions to the wrong campsite, booked in among a large collection of ancient vans at a cheap rate per night. Observed a massive hatching of Mayflies at the restaurant. Watched two colossal barges trundle past on the river Main.

3 July Netherlands

Took the wrong turning on the long autobahn trip to Valkenburg, C&MC do not provide instructions, so we ignored the chosen site and went to another with good facilities. Walked into town to find a big supermarket and had to stagger back to camp with very heavy booty, until Ivy got a sack truck from the camp lady.

4 July. Lazy morning. Drove into Valkenburg and succeeded in backing into a sign-post, left it leaning over, right outside the police station. Valkenburg is an interesting town with many restaurants. Drove towards Munchen Gladbach. Stopped in a silent wood to observe the many butterflies. Met Ronnie and Liz at teatime. We all enjoyed an excellent meal in their local Turkish restaurant, they were both in good form and we talked until late.

5 July France and UK

We crossed the border to Mons, for coffee in the busy main square. Got screwed up in Dunkirk once again and arrived at the ferry three hours early. When we arrived in Dover, we were diverted in the dark, surrounded by numerous L.K.W's. and finally reached our little site in Tenterden at eleven in the evening. Next day we parked in my usual spot in Tenterden and took a walk through town. Bought a large pie from my favourite stall and called on Carrol for coffee and scones. Had a great curry lunch at Graham and Barbara's with Bill and Hill. What a fine afternoon. Next day, fed the giant fish in the campsite pond. Ivy visited Biddenden Vineyard and bought up half their stock, despite all her old buddies being at the Kent Show for the day. Meanwhile, I walked up the road, only to find the roof off our old house. Drove south again to call on Terry and Shirley Wiggs, and were treated to Elderflower Cordial in their Bedouin tent. Later, driving to Mary and David's we got lost in Hemel Hempstead, as we had left our GB map at home. Stayed over with them. What a great day of reunions.

8 July. Back on the drive after an uneventful drive home, having travelled 7,083 miles.



REPRESENTATION BY PROXY 2018

This is the ninth year of the introduction of Proxy Voting and I, therefore hope that this article will explain to old and new members the way proxy voting works for the A.S.O.C. Some who are reading this will see that I have cribbed parts from the previous years.

When the Club became a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2002, it followed the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and 1989. These Acts did not allow for proxy representation in a company with no share capital.

When the Companies Act 2006 was passed to consolidate the above Acts, cut down on red tape and simplify the running of companies, it introduced proxy voting.

Section 324 of the Act, Right to appoint a proxy, states “a member of a Company is entitled to appoint another person as his proxy to exercise all or any of his rights to attend and speak at a meeting of the Company”. This section overrules anything stated in the articles of Association. So at the AGM in 2010, we changed our Articles of Association to comply with the Act.

What this means for the Club, is that if a member wishes to appoint a proxy, they have to fill out a proxy form and get their proxy to sign the form, and then send it to the Club Secretary before the due date.

As this is a legal requirement you are hereby notified that you have a right to appoint a proxy to participate in the 2018 General Meeting, on your behalf, using the Proxy Form enclosed, which must be received at the address given on the proxy form before 10.30am, Thursday 3 May 2018.

May I make three things clear, the person who is nominated as the proxy does not have to be a member of the Club. I know that this may seem strange, but that's the way the Act is written.

Secondly that you cannot just put down Chairman, Secretary etc on the form, they will be considered invalid. Thirdly it, must be remembered that no proxy can act for more than two members. That is why they must sign the form.

As you can see this change, though important, will not alter the running of the Club. It only means the AGM the voting procedure will take a little longer while we count the votes.

John Osland-Jones, Secretary

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB PROXY FORM

I, Membership Number

Hereby appoint

As my proxy at the General Meeting of The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club to be held on **Saturday 5 May 2018** and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signature of Member Date

I confirm that I am acting as Proxy for no more than two members.

Signature of Proxy Date

This form is to be returned to the address below to arrive before **10.30am, Thursday 3 May 2018**
Any forms returned after this time will be deemed invalid.

John Osland-Jones, Secretary,
Flat 7, Oak Tree Court, 15 Pembroke Way, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9EX



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NOTES ON PROXY FORM 2018

1. Appointing a proxy will not preclude you from personally attending and voting at the meeting (in substitution for your proxy) if you subsequently decide to do so. However if you wish to revoke your proxy at any time, you must inform the Club Secretary in writing before the meeting starts.
2. A person can only accept appointment as a proxy on behalf of a maximum of two members.
3. To appoint a proxy using this form, the form must be received by the Club Secretary on any day between Monday to Friday inclusive, and no later than 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting at which it is to be used.
4. The proxy must be signed by the relevant member and by the proxy being appointed.
5. Any alteration to the proxy form must be initialled by the member.

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The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club
NOMINATION FORM

Annual General Meeting Saturday 5 May 2018

We the undersigned nominate for election to: Management Committee / Honorary Examiner of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club

DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

Name

Membership number

Name of Proposer

Membership number

Signature of Proposer

Date

Name of Seconder

Membership number

Signature of Seconder

Date

I agree to accept nomination for election to: Management Committee / Honorary Examiner.

DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

I understand that by signing this acceptance I am also confirming my compliance with the statement overleaf.

Signed

Date

Please return this form to the Club Secretary:

Mr. J.A. Osland-Jones

Flat 7, Oak Tree Court, 15 Pembroke Way, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9EX



I understand that if I am elected to be a member of the Management Committee I will as such be appointed a Director of a Company Limited by Guarantee, a post that is regulated by the Companies Act and monitored by Companies House.

I also understand that I may from time to time be required to agree to be the subject of a credit or similar check by the Club's Banks, insurance providers, suppliers, etc.

I confirm that I have never been convicted of or charged (but not yet tried) with a criminal offence other than (road traffic) motor offences nor have I received an official caution for a criminal offence within the last three years other than a (road traffic) motoring offence.

I also confirm that I have never been declared bankrupt and/or have been subject to any winding up order, insolvent liquidation or administration or have made any composition or arrangement with creditors.

I have never been a director or partner of a company which has gone into insolvency, liquidation, receivership or administration.

I have never been prosecuted for failure to comply with any Health and Safety or Welfare or Environmental Protection legislation. In respect of any business which I, my partners or directors have been involved with, no insurer has ever declined, cancelled or refused any proposal of insurance. Nor have they cancelled or declined to renew any insurance or imposed terms or conditions.

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:

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<p>MOTORHOME DETAILS</p> <p>registration: length:</p> <p>model:</p>	<p>ARRIVAL DETAILS</p> <p>day:</p> <p>time: am / pm/ evening</p>
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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.

