



# NEWS

361 OCTOBER 2018



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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 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.

## Supplier discounts

The list is available on the website

We have many companies who offer members a discount on the goods and services they supply.

To claim your discount, you must present your ASOC membership card at the time of order or arrival.

You will not qualify for the discount by presenting your membership card after work has commenced.

## 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. 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.

Your items should reach the editor by the tenth of the month.

Send by post or email to

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## 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 information.

### 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.

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# editor's note

Welcome to October News.

We now have many members subscribing, or if you prefer the term "opting in" to the member area of the website. Just to let everyone know we have the same username and password for all members, and this is only supplied after you have subscribed. By having a group login, the username and password details can easily be changed for whatever reason.

You may have noticed the website is changing all the time and one major change is coming; we will be moving technical out of the member area to its own technical login, although the login details for both will be the same. This is because our technical chairman will be expanding the technical side of the website and this will make it easier if members only want the technical side.

It seems that no one wants the job of editor or deputy editor, so it looks as though you will have me as editor just a bit longer.

---

## From the Membership Secretary

I hope you have all had a good summer and made the most of the fine weather.

Now that Autumn is upon us we are fast approaching the time of year for renewal of our membership.

The 2019 renewal form will be in the next issue, November, of the magazine.

You may renew your membership as soon as you get the form or later but no later than 10th of January. Please note that the February issue of the magazine will be your last one sent until you renew.

You are probably aware that there is an additional method of paying your renewal for 2019. This is by bank transfer (BACS). This is for 2019 only and is a trial. Please make sure you use the reference on the form. You must also fill in the 2019 Renewal form, no other form will be accepted. Send it by post to me. You can also still pay by cheque, Building Society cheque, or Postal Order. Tick the appropriate tick box on the form for your preferred method of paying.

Please remember to let me know if any of your membership details have changed, as per club rules, i.e. change of van, address, phone numbers, email, etc. Do not leave it until you fill in the renewal form as this slows up the process of renewals.

Please remember to quote your membership number in all correspondence.

David Crabbe, Membership Secretary



## WANT TO RUN A RALLY?

or would like to assist a  
rally marshal to see  
what is involved

Why not contact the rally coordinator for further information



I've just returned after eight weeks away in our Nuevo and have been catching up on the mail awaiting me and have a couple of comments to make on content in the July and August issues of the ASOC News.

1. In the July report of the Q&A session at the National Rally Q18 queried the need to turn off the LPG tank when using the Channel Tunnel. We have used this crossing many times over the last few years and only once have we been asked to turn off the LPG at the tank itself. Normally, the staff only want to check that it is turned off within the van itself, which is very much easier. This year (June) was the only time we were asked to turn off at the tank but, when we said that it had previously always been acceptable to turn off inside, the guy said "ok". On the way back we were merely asked if we had turned the gas off: no physical check was made.

As for the ferries, our experience is that there seems to be less concern as to whether the gas should be turned off.

On a cautionary note, we normally have the fridge set to automatic and it flips back to battery when we start off again. However, this last time, when we had an interim stop in England, the fridge had switched from automatic to battery and it wasn't until we moved off for our final destination that we noticed the problem. So in future we'll check it after turning off the gas for the Channel crossing.

2. In the August issue Dennis Downie's comments about locking the keys inside struck a chord. We have done that with the main key but, fortunately (because I'm paranoid about such things), we had a spare in my pocket. I'm so paranoid that I won't even shut the habitation door to sit outside until I've confirmed I have the spare.

Rod Poxon 8052

### **A fond farewell**

We have sold our Auto-Sleeper. May we wish all our many friends a fond farewell and a sincere thanks for their help and friendship over the years.

Ken and Carolyn Hughes

### **We have to say goodbye**

Bernard and Julia have sold their motorhome. They have been members for the past 12 years and have enjoyed many rallies and made many friends and wish to be remembered to them all. Bernard and Julia Morey 4668

### **Want to meet up?**

My name is John and I have recently bought a Peugeot Auto-Sleeper Talisman GX, registered 1999. having recently owned a Holdsworth Tempo. I have joined the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club, and wondered if there are any members around the area of Chelmsford who might like to chin wag or meet up as I am keen to get to meet like minded members

John W Smith10274  
01245 467754  
john\_w\_smith@talktalk.net



## snippet

At the harbourside car park at Poole Quays you will find eight parking spaces for motorhomes, cars are not allowed to park in them.

#### FOR SALE

Auto-Sleepers Clubman GL  
Volkswagen T4, diesel 2.4 1998 (R)  
58,000 miles  
full service history, 16 stamps in service book with receipts and all old MOT's and kept under cover when not in use, excellent condition throughout

**£16,995**

contact Ken 01803 770945  
kenneth\_woodman@yahoo.co.uk

thank you for the donation

#### FOR SALE

##### FIAMMA BIKE RACK

Removed from 2002 Nuevo No fixing brackets as these remain on the van, The brackets are available from [www.fiamma.com](http://www.fiamma.com) search for model 0209308 If you already have a rack it might be useful for spares

Asking about **£35**

Happy to deliver or meet up within 30 miles of the Bristol area  
phone 07545 078905 or  
editor@asoc.uk.com



#### FOR SALE

Auto-Sleeper Executive 2003  
Peugeot boxer 2.8 HDI  
MOT June 2019 Milage 39,300  
Solar panel 100Watt 2 new leisure batteries plus new engine battery  
Air ride suspension, tow bar, cycle rack and much more, you will not be disappointed.

**£19,300**

contact Neil on 07773403570  
Mansfield area

#### WANTED

Seeking replacements for original A-S China plates (small) Staffordshire Calypso, as supplied with Y reg Symbol. Also crystal wine glasses. To replace breakages on current tour of Scotland.

Graeme Sleeman 07956 523246  
Zebede4500@gmail.com

#### FOR SALE

Auto-Sleeper Clubman 2001  
VW 2.5 TurboDiesel Automatic.  
Approx. 48,000 miles.  
Good condition. Age (88) forces disposal

**£16,000 ONO**

Details 01785 814402

#### FOR SALE

2006 Ford Transit Pollensa, 2.4 135hbp  
78,500 miles,

very good condition throughout  
MOT 24/07/19, usual A-S refinements, Flamma awning & bike rack, TV aerial, rear ladder, four new tyres, just completed 6 week trouble free tour of France.

**£21,000 ONO**

Tel Rob 07941 361365  
Email: [robannestaite@hotmail.com](mailto:robannestaite@hotmail.com)

thank you for the donation

#### WANTED

Auto-Sleeper manual for Peugeot Boxer L70 DBM..MWB.TD diesel 2446cc  
Talisman GX 1999.  
chassis no VF3232G4215672865  
engine no FZIR0273192

01245 467754

john\_w\_smith@talktalk.net



## A Tale of Two Rallies

Chris Mawdsley

On 29th May Peter and I left home to drive to Blackhorse Farm to meet up with Angie and Andy Cavell in preparation for our tunnel crossing to Calais. We were all looking forward to a few weeks on the Continent, a couple of rallies, and hoping for good weather.

After an early crossing we drove to an Aire in Namur in Belgium. First night there Peter assembled a meal, Angie opened the wine – and then it all went ‘pear shaped’. As you will be aware from an article in last month’s magazine Angie slipped off the kerb, putting her foot into the gully and sprained her ankle, or so we thought.

The Aire at Namur is quite close to a canal lock and you can walk along the canal into the town, with good views of the old citadel. The town itself is quite pleasant – plenty of shops and restaurants, and the square has some amusing statues.

We continued our journey to Zell am Mosel, where we’d arranged to meet up with Liz Irvin and visit Peter’s favourite vintner for our customary wine tasting. During which time Angie’s foot is going through a variety of sizes and colours and necessitates taxis, but it’s not going to cramp her style!

Next stop is Camping Capuccini, via another Aire at Biberwier and the Reschen Pass (our friends went via the Brenner Pass but we wanted to avoid Austrian motorways and the need for a GoBox). All goes well until we are about 3 miles from the campsite, driving along a dual carriageway towards Peschiera when it starts to rain. Then it starts to pour, then it’s coming so fast cars are pulling onto the hard shoulder and under bridges and finally traffic stops completely because nobody can see anything. Then the hailstones start – you can imagine the noise. Well this kept up for about 20 minutes, during which time the road is now a river and there are three solid lanes of traffic – two on the road plus the hard shoulder. Finally,

everything stops, traffic starts moving and by the time we get to the camp site, there's barely a trace of the storm.

Tuesday the 5th saw everyone arriving for the start of the Lake Garda Rally, during which we ran a boules competition – refereed for the most part by Andy (he's the only one of us who knows the rules), which was won by Maurice and Linda Wilson. We had a group meal in the on-site restaurant – which is excellent, and a cheese and wine evening, for which we managed to find some interesting Italian cheeses. We also discovered that there is now a Gondola plying its trade on the moat around the city.

Most of the ralliers took the opportunity to explore the various towns around the Lake by boat, and a small group of us took the boat to Sirmione, which is famous of its 13th century fort, in the town itself, and the ruins of a huge roman villa at the end of the peninsula (not to mention a gold Rolls Royce!!). There is now a tourist train which runs between the main town and the villa, which we took advantage of, as well as taking a boat trip out onto the Lake and back through the moat around the fort. Alan Wilson and Linda Amos arranged to go to Sirmione, on the Tuesday, having been advised the site is closed on Mondays, and guess what – the site was closed! – I'm still apologising for that one...

Ten days soon pass when you're enjoying yourself and as rally marshals the four of us would like to thank the ralliers for their kind 'thank you' gift of various wines and Limoncellos - we discovered Angie is quite partial to Limoncello!!

Gondola in Pecharia



We stayed over until the 16th then headed for Le Grand Bornand for the start of the next rally via a site at Sarre in the beautiful Valle d'Aosta, then for Peter and I, (along with several others) over the Petit St Bernard Pass to Bourg St Maurice. Now there's an experience!! As you might imagine, the road through the pass is steep, not particularly wide and very twisty, which in itself is not a problem, but add a variety of sports cars, motor bikes and cyclists into the mix and you end up with an awful lot of testosterone on the road. Added to which there are no barriers on the French side of the pass, which made me grateful I was not driving, so I couldn't see over the sheer drops. However, Jeanette Strange joined us at Bourg St Maurice and said how much she enjoyed the journey through the pass and would definitely do it again. I have to say as would I, but in a car...



We arrived at Le Grand Bornand the day before the rally started and although Angie's foot had reduced in size and more or less resumed its normal colour, it was still painful. So, since Le Grand Bornand is primarily a ski resort it makes sense for her to have it checked out locally. And as you will be aware it transpired her foot was broken, had to be booted and rested, which ultimately meant they took the decision to head for home after welcoming the ralliers.

Rob and Elizabeth Corcoran did an excellent rally report on Le Grand Bornand, but on a personal level Peter and I took the opportunity to explore more of the area, which is easily accessible using the free bus service. This does not go as far as Annecy – another beautiful medieval town, which several of our ralliers visited, but you can explore the valley. So, having gone up the mountain to Chinaillon and along the Vallee de Bouchet, on another day we went to La Clusaz which is the largest ski resort in the area.

A group of us also walked over the hill (small mountain...) to St Jean de Sixt which had a 'twinning' festival on, as described in Rob's article.

Of course we also went up the mountain via cable car and ski lift to have a look at Mont Blanc a couple of times. But on this occasion we were not able to have our customary Tartiflette lunch at the restaurant half way, because it had had a fire and would be closed until December. Quel dommage!! I did contemplate having a go at paragliding (you can book a tandem flight) but observed they were having trouble with take off due to lack of wind – maybe next time eh?

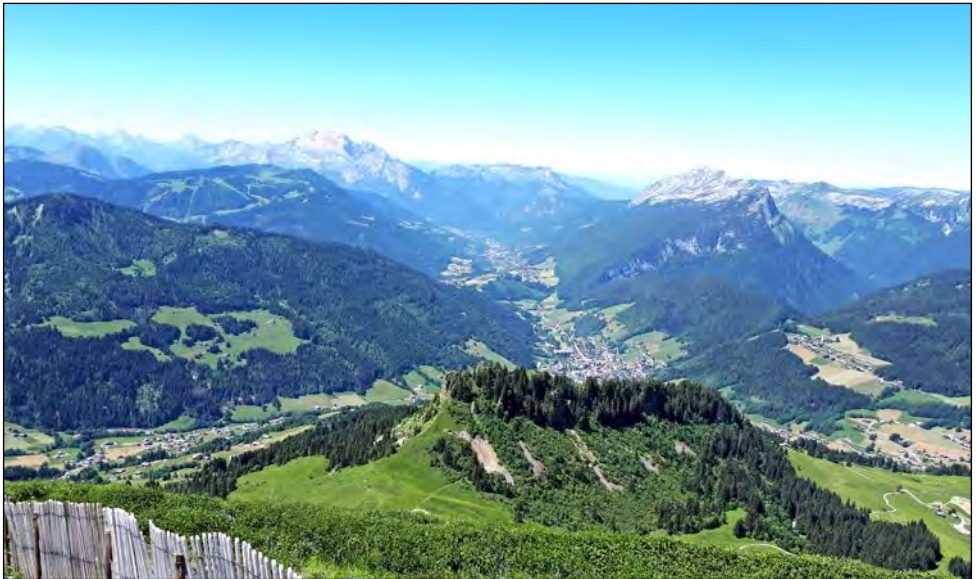
We left Le Grand Bornand on 1st July and headed back to the UK via Aires at La Tour de Meix, Chaumont, Laon and Watten, arriving back in the UK just in time to pick up the cats and head to Lichfield, where we were running another rally.

It's been a busy old summer, but the weather has been incredible hasn't it. I know not everyone enjoys the sun but a lot of us have made the very most of it, and anyway, it'll probably be another ten years before we get another summer with wall to wall sunshine.



All set for the Boules Final

View of LGB from the top of Mont Lachat de Chatillon



## WINCHESTER RALLY

With 33 vans on site we once again had a very successful rally, with the weather being kind to us. Most nights we sat out on the pavilion veranda, only having to go inside on the last night as the weather was a little windy and the veranda was already booked prior to our rally.

On Monday afternoon when most of the ralliers had arrived we all walked along the river into Winchester and came back by bus as the stop is right outside and a bus every fifteen minutes. On other days the ralliers went out to various places, some to Winchester to find the answers to the quiz which this year was pictures of clocks in and around Winchester, others went to Southampton, Alresford and National Trust places near by. On the rally we had a book sale for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight air ambulance. On one evening we had a very interesting talk and slideshow by a person from the air ambulance.



Many thanks to all on the rally who donated and helped us raise £120 from the book sale £59 from donations and £7 from merchandise which all went to the air ambulance.

We had a good rally with many good friends, and we have booked for next year 19th to 23rd August 2019 make a note in your diary now.

Many thanks also to Jean & John Gutsell who make our task of running the rally very easy.

Rita & John Tubb

### **The Winchester Rally**

We went to the Winchester Rally the first time we had been  
And it was well worth going thanks to John Rita John and Jean  
They all worked so hard to make our stay fun  
With walks and games and a quiz they had done  
The quiz was photographs of clocks taken around the town  
We must have made a very strange sight looking up as we went round  
The evenings were a gathering for tea or coffee and games  
Different things to do every evening to keep us entertained  
A man from the Air Ambulance came to tell us what they do  
No longer the Swoop and Scoop of old but now a well qualified crew  
They can save a life at the road side with equipment they have now got  
Even open heart surgery has been carried out on the spot  
The hospital goes to the scene instead of in the past  
When the helicopter took the patient to hospital and fast.  
Meeting up with friends old and new as always was our plan  
We hope to do many more rallies in our now much healthier van.

Barbara Buckett 5829

### **BEWARE OF ROTTEN EGGS**

As we were on a journey to Sussex for a spell  
Al, turned to me to ask if I could smell a smell  
Yes I had noticed a smell of eggs gone rotten  
Perhaps it was the drains as the plug I had forgotten  
to put in place before we left, that could be the reason  
We hadn't been in the motor home very much this season  
Could it be the convertor that was causing the smell instead  
We left the heckie open when it was time for bed  
The Monoxide alarm went off at twelve and then again at four  
But there was no gas on that night of that we were both sure  
The next day the smell was worse so Al. looked round the van again  
And at last found the cause of the problem as he yelled out in pain  
The leisure battery under the driver's seat had boiled and was now red hot  
No sooner was the mystery solved than the RAC man was got  
The solar panel control had broken the engineer then said  
The 12 volt was now 20 volts that were going in instead  
It was noxious and combustible fumes that it was giving out  
So if you get a sulphurous smell and are in any doubt  
Check the leisure and the vehicle battery are feeling nice and cool  
For sulphurous fumes are not good for the health as a general rule.

Barbara Buckett 5829

A recent Facebook posting reported the following:

"Latest update from Auto-Sleepers ref the removal of the rear wheels on the 2018 Corinium. They are making arrangements for a modification to be fitted to replace the current fixed rear wheel covers. This will allow us to change the wheels as normal, if we ever need to. Great news!"

I have contacted Auto-Sleepers today for clarification and they have responded by confirming that while uprating of the Corinium from 15" to 16" wheels, they became aware of an issue getting the 16" wheels off. As a result, all vehicles with 16" wheels are fitted with removable "Spats". However, they discovered a couple where the spats had been permanently fixed by mistake. Auto-Sleepers assume this has been posted by a customer who has just been advised of this.

## DVSA Recalls

<https://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/apps/recalls/default.asp>

At a recent ASOC meeting with Auto-Sleepers, the issue of recalls was discussed. There is a system in place for generating, controlling and recording recalls as the need is identified.

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA, formerly VOSA) have a page (link above) that allows you to search for recalls to vehicles. By selecting the manufacturer as Auto-Sleepers in the drop-down menu, you can search by model name for recalls as far back as 1992. However, the model selection list does not seem to be complete.

Auto-Sleepers have a full system that informs dealers electronically when recalls are generated. The recall details, remedial actions and relevant build numbers of the vehicles affected are automatically transmitted to all the Approved Dealers. If your motorhome arrives at an Approved Dealer for service, habitation checks, or repair work, the Dealer System will inform him of any outstanding recalls required for your Motorhome. The key to this is your build number which is recorded in your vehicle glovebox

However, this will not catch all outstanding recalls on all motorhomes. Many older motorhomes may not be always be dealer serviced / checked once outside warranty.

For safety related recall issues, Auto-Sleepers write to owners, and if necessary, where a change in registered keeper has occurred, to the new keeper. The owner is asked to visit an Approved Dealer. At such a visit, the Approved Dealer will plan for the remedial work to be carried out and update the recall system to record that the recall has been completed. The Company will write a second time if no response by way of a visit to an Approved Dealer is made. For non-safety related issues, the Approved Dealers will check your vehicle against the recall database at the next visit for service, Habitation Check or repair work. It was noted by Auto-Sleepers that the response rate for recalls over the years has been alarmingly low.

In addition to the above, your Owners' Club Technical Group will be informed by Auto-Sleepers of safety related recalls, which will appear in the Tech news section of the website, on the Recalls page on the Website and in the magazine.

I will be updating the Recalls page on the website in due course.

Dennis Downie

# a motorhomers must have?

## COMPACT LIGHTWEIGHT FOLDING TROLLEY



## STILL ON THE ROAD part 3

Andy Brown 8600

Greece

Our ferry departure from Brindisi was delayed which meant that we arrived at the port in Igoumenitsa at about 11.30pm. We had found a campsite nearby and had telephoned earlier in the week to explain that we would be arriving at about 9.30pm and the campsite reception had said that was okay. We found the site just 15 minutes away and pulled in to the entrance intending to settle down overnight and book in in the morning. We had hardly pulled up when the owner appeared on his bike and lead us through to show us a selection of pitches and then stayed to help us hook up to the electrics before telling us to have a good night and see him in the morning to do the admin. When we woke in the morning we realised why it was called Drepanos Beach. In front of the van lay the beach and a beautiful sunlit blue sea like a mirror. We had intended staying just overnight but stopped for 6 days enjoying the beach, cycling round the local area on quiet roads and into the town of Igoumenitsa on a cycle path along the edge of the shore. An excellent introduction to Greece.

After six days the call for culture dragged us away to the Meteora where we visited some of the magnificent Orthodox monasteries perched on rock pillars originally only accessible by being hauled up in a net on the end of a long rope. They were sumptuously decorated by 14th and 15th century art, many of the churches rivalling the Sistine Chapel with decoration. The campsite was well laid out with clean facilities and a swimming pool which we found a great relief as the weather was now very warm (35C). We had good chats with our French neighbours who were on a similar long trip in a converted van but who were shocked that they couldn't find internet cafes. I had to explain that with the expansion of smartphones and the abandonment of roaming charges, these were now almost a thing of the past. (They didn't have mobile phones, laptops, Satnav which amazed me as most motorhomes seem to be usually packed with technological wizardry). They did tell us of a little road near the site that took us to a secluded valley with three monastery retreats built into the rock cliffs; a reminder of how quiet and detached the Meteora monasteries would have been before they opened to visitors.

From here we moved on to Delphi and another ACSI site situated just a 15 minute walk from the town. The archaeological remains were just the other side of the town adding another five minutes walk. We discovered that our policy of only carrying the minimum in cash and cards let us down as without ID



we could not get the 50% reduction on the entry available for EU citizens over 65. We didn't make that mistake again.

The sanctuary at Delphi is in a beautiful setting with stunning views and golden cliffs as a backdrop. Its a great reminder of where much of our European culture comes from. More than 2500 years ago civilized humans were developing art and philosophy which still envelops us today. In fact there was a link with our time in Rome as Michelangelo included the Delphic Sybil as of the prophets in the Sistine Chapel. When we first came here 37 years ago I did a lap of the Stadium situated at the highest point of the sanctuary. Nowadays the public is not allowed to set foot in it in order to preserve it as best as possible. There are guardians posted round the site who are active in making sure that visitors keep to the permitted areas. On the way back to the site we stopped and had lunch on a restaurant terrace shaded by trees with a clear view down the valley to the sea some 20 miles away.

A pleasant run across to the East coast brought us to the island of Evia where we stayed at Eretria. Another good campsite on a beach with ample space under plenty of shelter. The reception were very helpful in finding a dentist for Sheila's toothache, the dentist gave us an appointment on the same evening and went through the possibilities which lead to a prescription for antibiotics. He didn't charge us for the consultation and the course of antibiotics cost €5.60. We rode into the town on several occasions for coffee, ice cream and supplies. A day trip in the van took us to the East of the island to Kymi on a scenic route over the mountains where we found some secluded beaches and coves for swimming. Our time here saw the temperatures rise to 37C only falling to 25C at night and cooling solutions were sought. No-one had 12 volt fans so we compromised with desk fans which ran from a USB socket; as the van has multiple USB outlets these were ideal and we could manage to sleep more comfortably.

After another 6 days, culture called again and we set off for Epidaurus on the Peloponnese. We took the ferry from the island (€10.00) and used the motorway to bypass Athens. We got a little side-tracked when we followed a sign to "Panorama" only to discover that this was the name of a small village with no views at all. We stopped at the Corinth Canal and then for



lunch and a swim at a little beach by the side of the road. The site at Epidaurus was beautiful with a spacious pitch just 10 metres from the beach. I think that this was the best site of the entire trip and we had plenty of excellent ones. There was an easy bike ride into the town with good shops and cafes. The butcher even managed to understand our need for a leg of lamb by saying "Baaa" and smacking my thigh. One feature was a section of the ancient town, near the small amphitheatre, which is now under the sea and we spent quite a few days visiting this and snorkelling in the clear waters. We also went to visit the sanctuary of Asklepios with the ruins of the town and its impressive amphitheatre still used for theatrical productions during its summer festival.

From here to Lefkada for a couple of days on the way back to the ferry at Igoumenitsa which was delayed six hours. So following a pleasant afternoon on the beach, we had a night sleeping on the dockside. The end of the ferry journey lead to a rapid return journey except for a stay over at one of our favourite ski stations to find a cool place to sleep for the first time in weeks. Oddly we came across three Autosleepers in the first two days of our return trip; the first since we left Florence at the end of April. We chatted to two of them at the ferry port at Igoumenitsa and saw another (a friendly wave) on the Autostrada just north of Parma – the same one, again, just in front of us at the entrance to the Frejus Tunnel.

A great journey, great campsites, great weather! What else could you want?

# WHITBY RALLY 2018





travelling with  
**Wanda**

Lois & Alan Parker



4300 miles return journey from our home in Leicestershire

17 small ferries + 4 big ones

30 campsites, 43 nights

2017 Autosleeper Warwick XL with Comfortmatic Gearbox

Fuel Average 35mpg

Average campsite cost £25.44 (converted)

When we told friends at the beginning of 2018 that we were planning a big trip in our campervan, they were a little surprised to hear that we were hoping to get to Norway's Arctic Circle, taking six weeks to get there and back.

We had been to Denmark before, and in 2017 we explored parts of Denmark, Sweden and Norway, but only as far as Bergen. Norway is such a beautiful country, and especially to keen photographers like us, we were eager to see more of it, and so the journey was planned over the winter.

We set off in June with our Auto-Sleeper Warwick XL, known as Wanda, loaded up with enough food to last us for several weeks, as Norway is quite an expensive country for tourists.

Our crossing from Harwich to the Hook of Holland overnight was straightforward, as was our journey through Holland and Germany into Denmark. We decided to miss the traffic and roadworks around Hamburg and use the small Ferry to cross the River Elbe at Wischhafen – it still took us two and a half hours queuing for a 20 min crossing but was much more pleasant!

After three days driving we arrived at Frederickshavn, at the tip of Jutland, Denmark, for our journey across to Gothenburg in Sweden. After a very pleasant night pitched under the trees near to a beach, we set off towards Oslo, which we had explored on our 2017 trip. We had two very pleasant days pitched beside the river at Drammen Camping, recharging our batteries, and celebrating Father's Day!

From Oslo we motored up to Lillehammer, stopping there only briefly, before going up through the Oppval region towards Trondheim. The views through the windscreen were mind-blowing; lush valleys, rivers, waterfalls, rocks, and high plateaux on the snow line. We were constantly stopping to hop about on the rocks and take photographs!

We found a beautiful campsite near to Trondheim, at a ferry port, called Flakk. We were able to use the local buses to get into the city easily, unfortunately, in the rain, but we found Nidaros Cathedral very interesting, and the old wooden houses very colourful. And the sun came out again later!

After a couple of days, we were on the E6 road again to Steinkjer, where there was a festival about to happen in the university town, and then up towards Mo I Rana. Up to now the weather had been a bit wet and windy at times, but the day we reached the Arctic Circle was sunny and warm with a full blue sky. The Norwegians have built a Centre on the Arctic Circle Line, at 66 degrees 33 minutes North, with a small Museum, café and shop. Apart from that the area appears very barren, and windswept, with snowdrifts in places, and stone cairns left by visitors. From the top of the hills you can see for miles, but it is a hard, cold beauty.

Of course, at this stage we had to let all our family and friends know that we had made it – so lots of photos were taken and messages sent - it was quite exciting!

From there we continued to Bodo, which was to be our northernmost point. Unfortunately, the campsite we arrived at was closed because it had gone bankrupt! So on to Saltstraumen just a little further south from Bodo. Here there is an interesting maelstrom in the fjord where it passes underneath the road bridge.

We now started down the tourist route named the Kystriksveien, 650 kms, which we had discovered

during our planning over the winter. This would lead us back down across the islands and through the fjords to Steinkjer, a much prettier way and with lots of interesting places to see. A guide book helps you to miss nothing.

Gildeskal Church was one of our first finds. It is a traditional medieval stone church, dating from the 1100's, with splendid and distinct furnishings from just over 300 hundred years ago. It is only open for about 8 weeks every summer and is a real gem.

We now started to use the little ferries on our journey, going on several every day. The local people use them like a bus service! Usually the journey on them was short but the boats were well equipped with comfortable seating and refreshments.

Just below Kilboghamm we found the ruins and museum of the Grønsvik Coastal Fort built by Prisoners of War, for the Germans, in WW2. The old buildings were well spread out over a rocky promontory, with the huge gun emplacements in prime positions.

We continued in the rain through the islands and Leirfjord, and over the huge Helgeland Bridge and causeway to Forvika. Here we found an old trading post from 1792, where they now roast coffee beans to their own special flavours. Of course, we had to have coffee and cake while we were there!

Namsos was our next stop, and we found this to be a very quiet town, with hardly a soul about on a Saturday morning. But there is a very good Museum, Namdalsmuseet, and we spent a very enjoyable few hours with our own enthusiastic Guide. Most of the houses and farms in the museum had been brought there in the 1930's, often by floating them down the rivers and fjords! There was also the only Hospital Museum in Norway, which we found very interesting, if a little gruesome!

The next few days saw us on lots more ferries, with beautiful landscapes, forestry and water, and amazing tunnels, including several with roundabouts in them! The weather had improved, and we were enjoying warm sunshine most of the time. It was noticeable that the hours of daylight were much longer, especially near to the Arctic Circle – aptly named Land of the Midnight Sun. As it was cloudy when we were at our furthest point north, we didn't experience the actual sun at midnight, but it was still broad daylight – plenty light enough to take photographs.

We came through Trondheim and Molde and around the coastal road to Bergen, to stay at Bratland Camping, just outside the city. Again, we used the trams and buses to explore, going to several museums including the Bergenshus Fortress, which had lots of information about the wartime Resistance fighters. The buildings along the Bryggen are fascinating, most of them now being shops or restaurants. And the views from Mount Floyen, which are achieved by going on the funicular railway, are incredible!

From Bergen we travelled down through the cherry and apple orchards, which went on for miles and miles, following the roads east across to Odda, past the massive Latefoss Waterfall, which we remembered from last year. Again, we were travelling through areas with large amounts of snow lying about either side of the road. We continued east to a beautiful campsite at Nisser, on the edge of





Norway's third largest lake, where we relaxed and enjoyed a bit of people watching! By now we were experiencing the heat wave which had come across from Europe. Lystang Camping about 100 km further on was very peaceful, but also very hot!

It was now time to head for our ferry back to Denmark from Langesund – takes about 4.5 hours. A good sail later, and a few more campsites, saw us crossing the Elbe again in Germany, and heading for Apeldoorn in Holland for a few days. From there we had about a 2-hour journey, calling at Delft, one of our favourite Dutch towns, before travelling to the Hook for our ferry back to England.

This must be one of our most enjoyable and exciting holidays, with the most fantastic scenery, and lovely people. Our campervan did very well, and most things went to plan. The important thing being that we achieved what we set out to do.

## RALLY INFORMATION

Neil C. Rogers, Rally Coordinator  
5 Emerson Court, Carmel Road North, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 8JB  
Telephone 01325 954508 Email ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk

please read the important rally information on the inside front cover  
please inform the marshal if you wish to take a car, trailer or tent to a rally



## OCTOBER 2018 RALLY INFORMATION

### **A.C.C.E.O. National Rally, Wednesday 3rd October (1200 hrs) to Monday 8th October (5 nights) Ukrain Youth Centre, Weston on Trent, Derbyshire, DE72 2BU.**

Marshals Peter Brown and Chris Mawdsley tel 07771 827711.

This rally is part of the ACCEO annual National Rally. Toilets are available as there is a large hall in which social activities and/or entertainment is planned for each evening. There will be professional entertainment from the Duo, Tandem on Friday evening and on Saturday evening a multiple tribute artist, Wayne Swift. The ACCEO AGM is on Saturday afternoon and can be attended by any interested rallier. There are no electric hook-ups. There is a bus stop about ½ mile away with a service to Derby.

There is no rally fee. The cost of the rally for Friday and Saturday nights is £30, tickets valid for both nights entertainment are available at £10 per adult. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday are optional nights at £10 each. Please indicate on the application form which nights you want to stay and if you want the entertainment.

As caravans attend this rally we are asked to advise if you wish a permanent tent awning to be erected and also the length of your vehicle, please include this information on your rally slip. ASOC has to present a collated booking form so can I please have your rally slip and cheque before 27th August; Peter Brown, 5 Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke on Trent, ST10 1WA. If you have any queries or wish to book during September when we are away from home, telephone 07771 827711 or e-mail pcb7ty@btinternet.com. Cheques payable to Peter Brown. If you wish confirmation of booking please include an e-mail address or SAE.

### **Thursday October 25th - Monday 29th (4 nights) Rally tented sites 1200 noon Monday. Bridge Villa Camping, Wallingford Oxfordshire.**

Rally Marshalls. John and Jan Geeson,  
Tel. No. 01491 641776 mobile 07785 932348.

email john.geeson@outlook.com) assisted by Phil and Shelagh West.

Site fees £74.00 rally fee £5.00. Please forward cheque for £79.00 payable to J Geeson, 20 Bradley Rd Nuffield Henley on Thames RG9 5SG. Enclose SAE for confirmation and directions or clear email address please.

Possible meal Friday evening, indicate on app. form if interested. Hall available Saturday and Sunday evening.

Wallingford town centre is just a short walk across the bridge with a regular bus service to Henley, Oxford, Reading and Didcot. Picturesque walks along the Thames and Castle Gardens. Market day Friday.

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a short lead at all times. Dog walking adjacent to the site.

**Limit 20 vans.**

**RALLY FULLY BOOKED**

## 29th October – 2nd November (4 nights) Wells Touring Park, Haybridge, Wells, Somerset. BA5 1AJ

Emergency Tel.No. 07711271568.

**RALLY FULLY BOOKED**

Rally Marshals- Liz Irvin, Chris Mawdsley and Peter Brown.

Site fees: £64.00 plus rally fee £5.00. No admission before 12.00.

Send rally slip and fees payable to Liz Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, East Yorkshire. HU10 7NP. Enquiries 07711 271568 or lizirvin@outlook.com Confirmation by email, SAE if no email.

The site is a Premier Parks site for adults only and includes showers and electricity. We have negotiated a discounted fee for the rally.

The site is within walking distance of Wells with a cathedral and a moated Bishop's Palace. Wookey Hole is nearby. Group Guided Tours can be arranged to the Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace, please indicate on the slip if interested.

The bus stops at the site entrance to take you to Cheddar Gorge or Weston-Super-Mare, or to Wells with connections to Bath, Bristol, Glastonbury or Street.

**Limit of 25 vans**

## 2nd - 6th November Sedgemoor Carnival, Burnham on Sea, Somerset

Emergency only mobile. 07711 375323.

Rally Marshals:Linda & Brian Ellis.

**Site Fee:** £65.00, Rally Fee: £4.00 Total. £69.00. before 20th. October please. Send rally slip & cheque, payable to B.Ellis, together with a Stamped Addressed Envelope or clearly written e-mail address for confirmation to Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2PP. Tel. No 01278 784524

E-mail ell.ba82@yahoo.co.uk The site is a full facilities Haven site. We are limited to 46 pitches all are hardstanding level pitches with electric hook up and are accessed by tarmac roads. Disabled or special needs please indicate on slip for convenient siting.

There is an indoor swimming pool which may still be open.

**Attractions:-** Fireworks display Sunday and the Carnival on Monday evening. Burnham town is a 10 minute walk up the prom. from the site with a range of shops and eating places plus Lloyds Bank, supermarkets, B & M and Lidl and a long beach (7 miles) There are buses to Highbridge, Bridgwater, Taunton & Weston Super Mare.

Monday is not your average town carnival, as many will testify. There are floats decked with thousands of lights, some moving displays, some tapestry and many walking entrants. The whole parade can take about 2 hours. (wrap up warm). If you have never seen this spectacular event visit [highbridgeandburnhamcarnival.org.uk](http://highbridgeandburnhamcarnival.org.uk) (all lower case).

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

**NO DOGS ALLOWED SITE RULES.**

**\*\*\*\*Rally starts at 12.00 noon. Friday 2nd November. No early arrivals please.**

## **Fri. 16th – Tue. 20th November (4 nights) Victoria Park Southport**

Emergency Tel.No 07763773877 Marshal's mobile.

**RALLY FULLY BOOKED**

Rally Marshals: Dave & Wyn Crabbe.

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

This is a public park and green field site.

Dogs welcome on a lead on site at all times.

A fish & chip super has been arranged for the Friday evening. Chips @ £1:65, Fish (cod) @ £3:70. Please indicate on the form your order and send payment with the rally form.

Booking form & cheques payable to D C & W Crabbe 27 Crawford Road, Crawford Village, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire. WN8 9QR. Tel. No. 01744 884437.

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

If you would like to arrive and stay before or stay on after the rally there is a Caravan Club site adjacent to the park. Please book your extra nights with the CC site directly. This is not part of the rally and incurs an extra charge.

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

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

Rally starts at 1200hrs. N.B. There is now a barrier across the entrance which requires a code to enter. Please do not arrive before 1200hrs as parking on the road will cause problems.

**Limit of 30 vans**

## **WHY NOT RUN A RALLY**

If you wish to run a rally in 2019 please contact me by the end of November if you wish for your rally to go in the "2019 Provisional Rally List"

When a date & venue is chosen you will receive the Rules for Rally Marshals and asked to sign a a Marshal's Declaration which should be returned to me.

Assistance and advice is available, if required, from Committee members. Please contact me if required.

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

I have details of possible rally sites, if interested please contact me.

It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as unless they are approved by the Club, there will be no Public Liability Insurance.

Neil C. Rogers  
5 Emerson Court, 96 Carmel Road North,  
Darlington, Co.Durham. DL3 8JB  
Tel./Fax.No. 01325 954508  
E-Mail ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk

# Fancy being here in 2019? Le Grand Bornand, France we would like to know...

We have always said that Le Grand Bornand in 2018 would be our last foreign rally, but after the disappointment of the "FOOT", and the Chairman's article in the July newsletter, we decided to have another go.

So far as we can establish nobody else is organising anything next year so we planned a trip this September to look at a couple of sites in the Loire Valley which we have used before but which now have new owners. Unfortunately, that trip had to be cancelled at short notice so we now only have one option for 2019 and that is to return to Le Grand Bornand next June.

However, we are concerned that after last year there will not be enough support to make it viable so we are asking for "expressions of interest" to see if it is worth going ahead. Please email [arc8307@gmail.com](mailto:arc8307@gmail.com) if you might wish to attend and if there are enough potential ralliers we will go ahead.

Andy & Angie Cavell 3752



# AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB      RALLY APPLICATION FORM

Date sent:		Rally name:	
First name:		Surname:	
Address:			
Address:			
Town/City:		Postcode:	
Phone No:	Mobile:	Membership No:	
Email:			
Additional number of named persons in your van			
Adults:		Children (incl age):	Dogs:
Name:		Name:	
Name:		Name:	
<b>MOTORHOME DETAILS</b>			
Registration:			
Length:			
Model:			
<b>ARRIVAL DETAILS</b>			
Day:	am <input type="checkbox"/>	pm <input type="checkbox"/>	Evening <input type="checkbox"/>
Cheque enclosed for £      for      nights including rally fee			
Full payment must accompany the application and cheques made payable to the rally marshal			
<b>OTHER DETAILS</b>		Yes	No
Is this your first ASOC rally:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electricity:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evening meal:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any special needs: If yes specify below		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS</b>			
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