

# The Newsletter of Auto-sleeper Owners' Club

September 2025



<https://www.asoc.uk.com>



## Editor's Edit

With the AGM and next year's events already being discussed, I'd encourage members to keep sending in rally write-ups and photographs as soon as possible after events—fresh content makes for better reading.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, and I look forward to seeing even more member stories and photos in future editions.

Editor

### CONTENTS

3. Chairman's Chat
5. Rallies 2025
11. AGM Rally
12. Rally Marshal
13. ASOC Membership Information (Please read)
17. Time to Renew
18. Wiggington Rally Report
19. Turkheim rally.
23. EHU Safety
26. Notice boards (Important)
29. For Sale
30. Club Shop

#### **"Password Update for Members:**

**Starting now, members will receive their website password directly in their Welcome Pack from the Membership Secretary.**

**Current website members access**

**User carter9**

**Password 24pinksheepsleeping**

**Front Cover: Near Deauville, France**

Auto-Sleeper



# NEWS

The Newsletter of Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club

## ***Chairman's Chat***

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer travels and rallying; I understand the Turckheim Rally went well, even though the weather was extremely hot, more so than in the UK, which was hot enough.

I have to say our year is turning into a right annus horribilis. Peter had to undergo another operation at the beginning of July and spent another two weeks in hospital. He was not quite so frail when he came out this time, but we had to start again from about square three. His recovery continues and hopefully we will be able to get to Beadnell in September – everything is crossed!!

I updated everyone about the National Rally in the June Newsletter, but I forgot to tell you that we now have two new Vice Presidents.

It was pointed out after the 2024 AGM that the Club only had one Vice President, John Tidbury. So, the Committee nominated two further candidates, who were both pleased and honoured to accept their nominations, and I therefore have pleasure in announcing that the appointments of Peter Brown and John Osland-Jones – Ozzie – were confirmed at the AGM. Many congratulations to them. Together with John, they have both done an awful lot for the Club over the last few decades and I'm sure will continue to do so.

Having put that little faux pas right.... I would like to remind you all that **we are in dire need of a volunteer to take on the role of Secretary from May 2026**. As we pointed out at the AGM we cannot function without a Secretary. If we want our Club to continue, we need someone to step up to the plate – **NOW**. We did have someone express an interest, but on reflection they felt their health was not robust enough, and we do thank them for their interest. It is vital that this role is fulfilled so please if you have some spare time get in touch with Dennis Downie at [secretary@asoc.uk.com](mailto:secretary@asoc.uk.com) and have a chat about it. More details about this role can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## ***Chairman's Chat (Cont)***

We also need someone to take on the role of National Rally Organiser. As I mentioned in June Liz has two jobs and really that's one job too many. So again, if you have some spare time, please get in touch with me at [chairman@asoc.uk.com](mailto:chairman@asoc.uk.com). I'd hate to think we've had our last National.

On the rally front don't forget to get your applications in to Glyn Tomkins for Shrewsbury in October, and we have a new rally scheduled in November at Chester – so get booking.... And if any of you are planning on going to the NEC in October call in at the Auto Sleeper Stand where you'll find ASOC Committee Members more than happy for a chat and to answer your questions.

I would also like to thank those of our Members who are posting on Facebook; it seems to be generating more interest in our events and the Club in general so please keep it up.

I think that's all for now and I do hope that Peter and I will be able to catch up with as many of you as possible at Shrewsbury.

**Chris Brown**



**September 2025**

**8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September (4 Nights)  
St Cross Symondians Cricket Club Winchester SO23 9RT**

*Rally Marshals* Bob and Angela Warwick  
Assistant Marshal Alec Avery  
Emergency Telephone 07530366237

Site fee £56 rally fee £5.00

Please send your rally slip and a cheque for £61.00 payable to  
Mr R Warwick 14 Furneaux Gardens Fareham Hants PO16 7HD  
Telephone 07530366237 together with your Email Address or a SAE  
for confirmation and directions.

This is a greenfield site with CDP and Water Point. We have use of the club room  
in the evening for tea coffee and games

The site is less than a mile from Winchester centre. There is a bus stop right  
outside the site on the other side of the road, which will take you to Winchester,  
alternatively it is a nice walk along the river to Winchester

Buses to Southampton near side of road. Buses are available from Winchester  
Bus Station to Romsey, Alresford, Alton and various other destinations

*Places of interest* Steam Trains on the Watercress line, Jane Austin's House, Royal  
Green Jackets Museum' Winchester Cathedral, Winchester College, Marwell  
Zoo.

**Please do not arrive before 12 noon** (limit 24 vans)



**NOW FULLY BOOKED**

## September 2025

### Briarfields Touring Caravan Park Cheltenham GL51 0SS Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19th September 2025 ( 5 Nights )

Rally Marshals: Brian & Linda Ellis

Site Fees £135 for 5 nights. (£27 per night) Rally Fee £5 Total £140.

**NO BOOKINGS BEFORE JULY 2025 PLEASE**

Please send your rally slip and a CHEQUE for £140.00 payable to Brian Ellis  
Together with a clearly written e-mail address please or an SAE for confirmation and directions.

To:- Brian Ellis, 52 Golf Links Road, Burnham on Sea, Somerset TA8 2pp

Telephone :- 01278 784524 Mobile :- 07711 375323 e mail:- [brianasoc2360@yahoo.com](mailto:brianasoc2360@yahoo.com)

Bacs payment details on request

*Reference:* Your surname and membership number, on backs of cheques please

**15 pitches only. Please do not arrive before 1-00pm**

This is an adult only site with full facilities, hard standing pitches with electric hook up.

This site is ideally situated for experiencing Regency Cheltenham renowned for its exclusive shopping; with charming boutiques and shopping centres and also the historic city of Gloucester with its wonderful Cathedral where Harry Potter was filmed, dockside, award winning Waterways Museum and its Quays outlet shopping centre.

The site is well positioned as a base to explore the beautiful quaint Cotswold villages of Bourton on the Water, Stow on the Wold and Morton in the Marsh.

There is an excellent bus service which runs frequently (every 15 minutes during the daytime and every 20 minutes throughout the evenings) from outside the park entrance to both Cheltenham and Gloucester.

There is also a daily service to Oxford which allows you approximately 5 hours to explore the city before returning you to Cheltenham.

This rally follows on shortly after the popular St. Cross, Winchester rally.

As there is a gap of 3 nights anyone wishing to go on direct from Winchester rally may find a C L site or there is a site near to Briarfield with hard standings and electric hook up.

Regency Court Park, Cheltenham, GL51 6SL

phone 07706 208509 to check for vacancies or pre book.

## September 2025

19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

### THE MOTORHOME AND CAMPERVAN SHOW SEASONS FINALE AT LINCOLN SHOWGROUND. LN2 2NA

Marshals Glyn & Sue Tomkins  
Emergency Telephone. -07968 130051

Please use the Booking Form from MMM or book on line with Warners  
<https://www.outandaboutlive.co.uk>.

Mark your application with ASOC Club and note the special club Fees.  
Bookings for the Saturday night entertainment must be made and paid to  
Warners on their booking form.

You must book through Warners and only send the Rally Fee to the Rally  
Marshal with an ASOC Booking Form. Applications Closing date is 3<sup>rd</sup> September,  
if you want to Rally with the club you must return before this date.

Please send your Rally Slip and Fee to the Rally Marshal. Couples £5.00, Singles  
£2.50. SAE or a legible email address for confirmation.  
Cheques payable to G Tomkins – The Close, Broomfield, Clayton, Bradford, West  
Yorks, BD14 6PJ.

Email:- [gbtomkins@btinternet.com](mailto:gbtomkins@btinternet.com)

Please collect club rally information from the marshal before parking where  
directed.



**October 2025**

**ACCEO National Rally  
West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury  
1-6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The West Midlands Showground is a 15-minute walk along the river to the historic Town Centre which boasts a Castle and Museum as well as numerous shops and restaurants.

This event is the annual rally for the Association of Camping and Caravanning Exempted Organisations (ACCEO) **and this year is being hosted by ASOC under the guidance of our own Glyn Tomkins.**

Professional entertainment is provided on both Friday and Saturday evenings, there will be social events and opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones on the other nights. This Rally is open to all member Clubs of ACCEO and gives everyone an ideal opportunity to meet members from other Clubs and exchange ideas and views on all sorts of topics concerning our leisure activities.

**BOOKING IS NOW OPEN** and your application forms should be sent to [gbtomkins@btinternet.com](mailto:gbtomkins@btinternet.com) the preferred method of payment is by card on entry to the rally but other options are available. The cost for all 5 nights of the rally is £120.00 (payable on arrival) and includes two nights entertainment.

If you would like to assist Glyn and Sue as part of the on-site team; please contact Glyn direct by email. Such assistance will include pitching the units, assisting with refreshments, selling raffle tickets etc. pretty much as with our own National Rally.

**This is a good site for Motorhomers, conveniently located and it would be nice if ASOC could join the ranks of other Caravan and Motorhome Owners Clubs have been excellent hosts in years gone past. Looking forward to seeing you all there.**

## November 2025

**Thursday 13th- Tuesday 18th November 2025 (5nights)  
Victoria Park, The Esplanade, SOUTHPORT, PR8 1RX.**

Marshals Pamela & Colin Maltby

Site fees: £20 per night including EHU

Rally fee: £5 per couple / £3 per single

Total: £105 per couple / £103 per single

Application forms and cheques payable to:

Pamela & Colin Maltby,

Swn Y Gwynt,

Y Fan,

Llanidloes,

SY18 6NL.

Tel.:07789647220 / 07798702090

Reference: your surname and membership number on the back of cheques please or

Bacs details on request.

Emails: [cfmaltby@outlook.com](mailto:cfmaltby@outlook.com)

This is a public park and green field site with water plus grey and black waste disposal. There is EHU but no toilet and shower block. Dogs are welcome on a lead on site at all times.

Attractions; Victorian coastal town of Southport and its shops, parks and beaches. 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. NB. There is 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. Rally closes at 10.00 am Tuesday.

## November 2025

**Tuesday 18th– Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 (5 Nights)**

**Oakwood Farm Touring Park, Parkgate Road, CHESTER, CH1 6EY**

Rally Marshals: John and Carol Grain

LIMITED TO 20 VANS

Pitch fee:£32.50 per night

Rally fee:£5.00 for couple £2.50 for single

Total: £167.50 for couple or £165.00 for single

Rally slips and cheques payable to:

Mrs Carol Grain

314 Saughall Road, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5HQ

Tel 07999352560

Email: johngrain@aol.com

Reference: your surname and membership number on the back of cheques please or BACS contact us for details.

Enclose SAE or clearly written email address for confirmation and directions.

Hardstanding touring pitches with EHU and water, modern heated shower block and free WiFi across the park. Dog friendly. Food?

The site is three miles from Chester City Centre. There is a bus stop just outside the site which goes every hour into Chester or to the Wirral. There is motorhome parking in Chester at the Little Roodee, which is a ten minute walk into the town centre.

Foxes Tea Rooms next to the site serves breakfasts and lunches from 9am till 2pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Things to do in Chester include visiting the Christmas Market, which opens on 19th November and features traditional stalls, crafts, and food in the town hall square. Chester Cathedral is renowned for its impressive architecture, ongoing exhibitions, and over a thousand years of history. The city's Roman heritage can be explored at the Grosvenor Museum or by walking along the Roman city walls, subject to suitable weather conditions as well as window shopping in the historic black-and-white Rows. Additionally, Chester Castle is home to the Cheshire Military Museum, which presents the stories of Cheshire soldiers from the seventeenth century to the present day.

Chester Zoo is located 4 miles away and will begin its Lantern and Lights festival experience on the 19th of November. Anyone interested in visiting the zoo should indicate this on the application form. A group discount is available if there are at least 15 participants, and there is sufficient parking for motorhomes.

May 2026

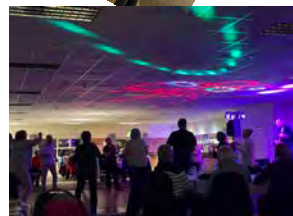
**AGM 2026 – Save the Date!**

**We're pleased to confirm that the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place from:**

**Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2026**

**(4 nights)**

**Please mark your calendars and keep an eye out for further details on the venue, booking information, and the weekend programme.**



## DO YOU WANT TO BOOK A RALLY?

Rallies are available to book, log into the member area.

[MEMBER AREA LOGIN HERE](#)

and click the events tab in the heading



**Auto Sleeper Owners Club  
Needs you!**

**Become a Rally Marshall**

Organise a rally in your local area and share your passion for your home town with other Auto Sleeper Owners. Meet like minded people and make connections with your community.

If you are interested, get in touch with Carol Grain at [rally@asoc.uk.com](mailto:rally@asoc.uk.com)

## **ASOC Membership Renewals**

As we approach another “season” for membership renewals, I thought you might be interested in the activities of one of your committee members – the Membership Secretary. From November through to the end of January each year is a very busy time for this role. I watch and assist Jean with some of the processes involved in renewing our memberships. There are some very interesting and sometimes amusing parts of the process of renewals that are worth sharing.

When our previous Membership Secretary stepped down, I mentioned to Jean that we were looking for a replacement. At the time, she thought it would be little more than managing a database of members details and did not realise the full responsibility and scope of the role. However, having shown an interest and having been advised by Peter Brown, our then Chairman, what the duties would be Jean decided to give it a try, with some encouragement from me.

Thankfully, the handover was near the middle of the membership year in 2019. At this point in this year, only new member applications (as distinct from renewals) needed processing. This allowed a period where it was possible to “ease in” to the job and review all the processes involved.

Since the Club had been formed over 30 years ago, the task of renewing a few dozens of members had evolved into quite an annual marathon of processing cheques, hand-writing and posting almost 2,000 membership cards. updating the membership list (while complying with the new requirements of the GDPR regulations) and working with the Treasurer banking membership fees. It was clear that many of the processes needed a re-think and some degree of automation.

What was immediately changed was the payment options and process. Previously, for a member to renew, a new membership form was required each year, accompanied by a cheque, to be posted to Willersey. The rationale was that to maintain the membership list accurately, the information on the renewal form was compared with the membership list and any changes made. The new form was then filed. The cheque was recorded and banked and the membership card(s) were filled out and posted. It was proposed that this was too much work for both members who want to renew and for the club to administer. It was agreed by committee that BACS payments would be accepted and that a new form each year would no longer be needed. Changes to members information would need to be notified to the membership secretary by members and a notice to this effect is included in ASOC NEWS. This has worked really quite well and more and more members are adopting this method. It really has cut down on the work required to renew.

The next review was the membership card. There was a stock of pre-printed blank membership cards, each requiring membership details to be hand written. These are all now colour printed at the start of the renewals period in early November with year of validity, each members' name, membership number, and date of joining. New for this year is the inclusion of the user name and password for the members' area of the website on the membership card along with a QR code for easy access to the website. The cards are then filed in number order for later posting as renewals arrive. The original stock of pre-printed cards that needed all this information adding manually were scrapped. Members who join during the year have membership cards printed as they are needed.



Here is a batch of 100 renewals and two new memberships ready for posting that were processed in December last. This is an almost continuous process and for this batch, represents approximately 12 hours of work. In outline, it consists of...

This is an almost continuous process and for this batch, represents approximately 12 hours of work. In outline, it consists of...

### **Cheque Payments**

1. Receiving mail with cheques and screening cheques for the correct and complete information.
2. Returning cheques incorrectly presented (ie with the payee written as ASOC)
3. Documenting and recording cheque numbers against membership number
4. Updating membership list with new membership year and any changes notified
5. Taking cheques to bank / post office (normally in batches)

### **BACS payments**

6. Receiving daily bank statements from Treasurer and extracting BACS information.
7. Matching and recording BACS payments with members and updating membership list
8. Keeping a paper record of BACS payments processing

### **Both payment methods**

9. Addressing envelopes, adding compliments slips, preparing new membership cards, cross checking names and numbers on cards and envelopes and affixing 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps.
10. Walking dog to post membership cards (almost daily)

You may see there is less work involved in renewing by BACS, both for the Membership Secretary and the member. For the member, there is no stamp to buy or letter to post. For both methods, however, there are pitfalls that lead to additional effort being required. Most common are the inability for us to identify the payee on a BACS payment or an incorrectly filled out cheque which needs posting back to the member for replacement. These things can increase the work required by a very large factor, so it is worth asking for your indulgence in following to the letter, the instructions offered in the News magazine on how to renew.

It was mentioned earlier that some parts of renewal process can get amusing. Amongst these are the errors that creep in. Examples are BACS payments that use references such as 2024 SUBS instead of the membership number. This genuine error happened with a member who shares their quite common family name with many other members. It was impossible to identify who sent this payment despite much time spent trying. A significant number of members who renew by cheque make the payee out as ASOC. This is not acceptable by the bank as they may have other organisations that use the same initials. They will only accept the full company name: Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. Another common error is not adding the date to the cheque. While it is always enjoyable hearing from members, it is only necessary to write your membership number on the back of your completed cheque. Sometimes we see (metaphorically) "War and Peace" written on the back or a letter included, which is nice to get, but unless there are changes in details, your membership number is all that is needed.

Dennis Downie, Secretary

From Jean:

I hope you find this interesting and useful and if you need any other service, please do get in touch.

# TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

## NOW £25 FOR 2026

Membership of ASOC becomes due for renewal on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, except for those joining after September 2025 as their membership is valid until the end of December 2026.

### Members who do not renew

Late renewals will not benefit from ASOC news, email updates or access to the website, or any other membership benefits or entitlements until you renew.

**Please take this opportunity to advise me of any changes to your details during the year.**

Email me at [membershipsec@asoc.uk.com](mailto:membershipsec@asoc.uk.com). For those members who do not have email my address is below.

### OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF PAYMENT IS BY BACS

For members new to BACS or who do not use internet or on-line banking, BACS payments are simple. You can either make BACS payments online through your internet banking system or go to your bank and ask over the counter to make a BACS payment.

The information the Teller will need is your bank account number and sort code (printed on your cheques) and the Bank name, account number and sort code of our club bank, together with a payment reference.

When submitting your BACS payment please use, as the payment reference, your ASOC **membership number first** followed by your **surname**.

Any other inclusions in the reference box may delay you receiving your new membership card(s). This is how we will identify your payment (eg. **1234 Smith**).

Our bank account details are:

The Auto Sleeper Owners' Club

National Westminster Bank

Sort Code 01-01-78

Account Number 19654375

### PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

You can still pay by cheque if you prefer, and if you do, you must **put your membership number on the back of the cheque**. That is all we need as your name will be printed on the front of the cheque. To speed up the process please do not send your payment to Willersey.

Cheques should be made payable to **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB** and posted to me at:

Jean Downie

ASOC Membership Secretary

88 Portreath Drive

Allestree

Derby DE22 2SD

Do not use any abbreviation of the club name on your cheque. Using ASOC will result in the bank rejecting your payment and delaying your renewal.

Your new membership card(s) will be sent out as soon as possible after your payment has cleared.

Thanks Jean, Membership Secretary

**PLEASE- DO NOT SEND CASH**

## Wigginton rally Report

We would like to thank everyone for attending and making Wigginton rally a success. It was our first time as rally marshalls and you all made it an enjoyable experience.

Thank you for all your help in setting up the pavilion etc..

28 vans attended and we had great weather for the entire duration.

As well as the usual welcome and closing meetings. There were guided walks on two occasions, York walls on Monday and another on Thursday saw us exploring some lesser known parts of York. Thanks to Nick for his knowledge and guidance, I think we all learnt something new.

On Wednesday we had yoga, a fish and chips trailer from millers attended, and bingo in the pavilion followed.

On Thursday afternoon some members had a go at bowls, kindly arranged by the local bowls club.

Everyone departed on Friday morning with many ralliers heading for Beverley rally, the good weather continued for this one too!

So thanks again everyone, it's the friendliness and helpfulness of ralliers that make a rally a success.

Carolyn and Les Lamley

10965



## Turkheim rally.

We went to France for June 2025 touring around on our way to the club rally in Turkheim.

First main stop was in Bayeaux to visit a long time desire to see the Bayeaux Tapestry. It was absolutely gorgeous and well worth visiting. The Tapestry is “visiting” London next year so that the building can be refurbished. I would love to see it again so that is a date for my diary. What skilled people were the Nuns that worked on it.

We visited a few places after that but the main place we went to after Bayeaux was Saumur which is a lovely Chateau town and well worth a visit. This is where the temperature began to rise. 🤯

We then visited Amboise and visited the Chateau where Leonardo de Vinci spent his last years after being exiled from Italy by the Pope. The French King offered him sanctuary in the Chateau there. Replicas of his many varied designs are in display inside the Chateau, in miniature form, but in the gardens they have been made full size and they are amazing. What a genius he was.

### **Leonardo's vision of a Tank propelled by either people or horses**



## Turkheim rally (Cont)

Next stop was the ASOC rally in Turkheim. A lovely town with beautiful architecture. It was extremely hot and as we could not visit the surrounding area with our Yorkie as not allowed on the buses and not on trains unless muzzled our sight seeing was severely impacted. A lot of time was spent chasing shade around our motorhome. The wine tasting went down very well as did the local beer at the site shop. The temperature got up to 38degrees and was very uncomfortable.



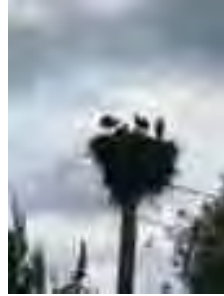
Turkheim.

On the way back to Calais for Le Shuttle we stopped off at Hackenberg Fort and had a tour of the Maginot Line. It's the second time we have visited this area and it was just as interesting as the first time. Nancy was next. What can I say... amazing.

On Le Shuttle and home on a Friday!! Traffic abysmal but got home safe and sound. A really good holiday in France.

Jean & Dennis Downie 10117  
& Holly the Yorkie

## Turckheim Rally Report



We travelled to France on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, spending time visiting Valery-sur-Somme, Bayeaux, Saumur and Amboise plus the odd aire or campsite before arriving in Turckheim on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. We were welcomed by Liz, Sue and Dave our marshals for the ten day rally with a meet and greet in the evening with wine and nibbles.

The campsite was pleasant, facilities clean and just a short walk into the lovely little town of Turckheim, where there was a little Casino supermarket, a bakery, a couple of gift shops, a café serving lovely cakes, and lots of lovely restaurants. In addition, there was an interesting museum about the second World War and the effect on the Turckheim community.

Liz arranged a wine tasting evening which John went to along with many others whilst I stayed with the dogs due to the heat, sadly no air con in a Broadway! The wine tasting was certainly a hit although when the lady told the ralliers that the wine was best kept at 12 degrees in a cellar, it was pointed out that “we are English and we don’t have cellars”. Further on in the evening she said that one of their wines could be kept for 25-30 years, the same gentleman pointed out that “most of us would be dead by then”!

We were able to watch the storks feeding their young from the campsite. Liz arranged a meal for us all in a local restaurant, which was a lovely social event as well as good food, a strawberries and fizz night plus we had wine and nibbles on the last night to say goodbye to old and new friends made on this trip.

## Turckheim Rally Report (Cont)

Some of the members followed the Night Watchman on his round and they said it was an enjoyable experience. It was bit late for us unfortunately as we were in bed by nine due to heat exhaustion! The weather in France was unprecedented this year as all the time we were there the temperature was between 33 and 39 degrees plus humidity levels were high, sadly there wasn't a pool to jump in to cool down. However, on the plus side, the campsite did a roaring trade on selling draught beer until unfortunately it ran out the weekend before we left much to everyone's dismay!

A note to members who have not travelled to France with their dogs before. Dogs are not allowed on buses, which we already knew from many years travelling around France. However, we did know they could travel on the trains and did think of going to Colmar on the train, but it turned out they had to be muzzled, which our dogs have never been, so we were quite restricted in what we could do.

In all, it was a memorable rally with lots of laughs along the way.

John and Carol Grain

**Turckheim, a medieval town in Alsace, France**, boasts a rich history shaped by its strategic location and role in regional conflicts. Originally inhabited in Roman times, it later became a free imperial city and a member of the Décapole, an alliance of ten Alsatian cities. Turckheim's fortifications, including its gates, are still well-preserved. The town is also known for the Battle of Turckheim in 1675, where French forces under Turenne defeated Austrian and Brandenburg armies.

Turckheim is situated in the Alsace in the foothills of the Voges Mountains with architecture reflecting it's German as well as French heritage. There are good bus and rail services providing the opportunity to explore



## **EHU safety**

At an inquest into the death of two people in a caravan fire it was decided that the cause of the fire was the ignition of the supply cable which was coiled up under the van. The circumstances of the fault that created the overheating have not been explained. It has been put to me that the coiling of the cable was the cause of the fire.

### **Context**

This may be so, but if so, it is very likely due to one of several factors:

- A faulty cable or connector,
- a “jury rigged” mains connection
- a “home-made” hook-up cable that was under-sized or damaged

Or a combination of these factors. It is not likely to have been just the coiling of the cable, rather a combination of bad practices or inappropriate loading of an under-rated cable. Coiling of the cable in itself is not likely to be the sole cause.

### **EHU cables**

Electrical hook-up cables supplied with new motorhomes and caravans are covered by regulations of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) who advise government and manufacturers on electrical safety and best practice.

In essence, for caravans and motorhomes, the regulations provide for a system that has a safety switch that can detect a situation and cut off the supply to the motorhome or caravan in the event of a fault leading to excess current being drawn. It is a requirement that the electrical supply for a flexible cable (in this context, your hook-up cable) should be protected by a special switch that will also detect a fault and cut off the supply to prevent danger (electrocution or fire). For us users, this protection is most commonly provided on the bollard near our pitch. On the bollard will be a device with a button marked “TEST”. You should be in the habit of pressing this switch to observe the trip system working when you connect your cable to the bollard. (a similar system will be present in 99% of all domestic homes, near the meter). Note: on some sites, this may not always be accessible to you, but if it is, you should test it. A similar system should be present in your motorhome and should be periodically tested in the same way.

As for your hook-up cable, when it is supplied new with your motorhome, The CABLE should have a specification that will allow it to carry 24 Amps CONTINUOUSLY in free air without overheating. The blue connectors each end are rated at 16 Amps continuous and the Bollard supply on most sites will automatically disconnect if the current drawn from it exceeds 13A (sometimes less) Looking at what that means is that your hook-up cable when uncoiled and laid on the ground is capable of carrying 30% more current than you can draw from a bollard, That is only 54% of the maximum capacity of the hook-up cable. Which, on the face of it was what was blamed for the fire in the example of the inquest given above

### **Normal power usage**

The most used continuous power load on the cable will likely be from the heating if on full 2KW, perhaps in the winter months. Even this will be switching on and off as the van thermostat operates to regulate the temperature. if the heating is on, the kettle is on, the microwave is in use at the same time as the electric ring on the hob, it should be no surprise that if the hair drier or other power-hungry appliance is switched on that the safety circuit breakers will trip to protect you from overloading your supply (the hook-up cable).

### **There are some of caveats to highlight...**

1. The cable and connectors attached to it must be in good order, without loose internal terminal connections or any physical damage. This includes potentially “invisible” damage caused by being run over by a vehicle or damage inflicted by a careless deployment across grass that needs to be Loose terminal connections can cause serious overheating and potential fire even below the current carrying rating of the cable. This is, potentially, the most sinister of faults as it cannot be seen easily. When visually checking your cable, look at the brass connectors in each plug. They should all be the same colour. If one or more look tarnished or discoloured this could be due to overheating and the cable should be either serviced by a qualified electrician or discarded and replaced. If this overheating has taken place at the motorhome end of the cable, the motorhome should be checked by a qualified electrician or dealer also.

## **EHU safety** (Cont)

2. It is bad practice to use a cable tightly wound on a reel without de-rating it using IEE de-rating tables. That is to say you need to know how much current can be safely drawn by a cable wound on a reel. Each case will be different, but only a small fraction of the maximum current can safely be drawn from such a cable. Using a 13 Amp home extension partly tightly wound onto its reel may only be safe below 2 or 3 Amps. For your motorhome, a loosely coiled hook-up cable laid under your van should not present danger provided it is in good order and the safety devices have been tested.
3. The hook-up cable inspection should form part of a habitation check – check with your dealer that this is included in the Hab Check. Not all of us have a Hab check done every year, so this safety check can be long overdue for some. For older motorhomes, the simple way to keep safe may be to buy a new cable, but beware, many hook-up cables were sold with a copper conductor size of 1.5mm<sup>2</sup>. what you need is a cable that uses 2.5mm<sup>2</sup> copper conductors. This is what should be supplied with new motorhomes. The cost of a new cable should be in the region of £25- £35 – much less than the cost of an electrician to inspect an old one and sign it off as safe!
4. When connecting and disconnecting your hook-up cable, it is best practice to roll out the cable to the bollard, connect the motorhome, test the bollard trip switch with its test button, then connect the plug to the bollard. Finally, reset the trip switch you tested. It is absolute best practice then, to test the trip switch in the motorhome. Although much debate has been given to the order of doing things when connecting the motorhome, the regulations covering the design of these systems are designed to protect you in case you have a “senior moment” and do it all backwards.
5. When disconnecting, it is recommended that the first disconnection be at the bollard, if possible after using the test button to disconnect the supply to the cable. This will give an added level of protection, particularly if you are disconnecting in the rain.

Further contributions and citations on this topic will be important and very welcome. Please contact [editor@asoc.uk.com](mailto:editor@asoc.uk.com) for further comments on this article..

Dennis Downie July 2025

# NOTICE BOARD

Company Secretary – Auto-Sleeper Owners’ Club (ASOC)

Join the ASOC Committee for the Forthcoming Financial Year

The Auto-Sleeper Owners’ Club (ASOC) is currently seeking a Club and Company Secretary to join its Committee for the upcoming financial year.

You will all know that ASOC is a Company Limited by Guarantee, regulated under the Companies Act, and this voluntary (unpaid) role is essential to ensuring that the club meets its statutory obligations and continues to operate effectively and in compliance with the law.

The Companies Act requires that we elect a management Committee which must have at least three officers, namely a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary. Without any one of these officers, the club (company) will not be allowed to continue. The present Company Secretary, Dennis Downie will step down Following the next AGM in 2026, when we will need a replacement.

Dennis has given a commitment to providing the incoming Secretary an extensive handover and on-going advice for as long as is required. Additional support can be assured from the Chairman.

Failure to successfully elect a new Secretary to the Committee after the next AGM will result in ASOC, as a Limited Company, being forced to apply for dissolution and so cease to exist.

## **About the Role**

The Company Secretary will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the club complies with all requirements under the Companies Act
- Maintaining and updating statutory registers and records
- Preparing and filing the **Annual Confirmation Statement** and other required documentation with Companies House
- Supporting the Committee with governance, meeting agendas, and minute-taking. Currently this activity is delegated to the Minutes Secretary,
- Providing procedural advice where required

You will work closely with the Chair, Treasurer, and other committee members, contributing to the good governance and continued success of the club.

# NOTICE BOARD

## **Company Secretary – Auto-Sleeper Owners’ Club (ASOC) (Cont)**

### **Who Should Apply?**

We welcome applications from individuals who:

- Understand (or are willing to learn about) governance requirements for a Company Limited by Guarantee
- Have good organisational skills and attention to detail
- Are willing to contribute time as part of a friendly, volunteer-run committee
- Are current ASOC members

### **Why Get Involved?**

- Help support the long-term success and compliance of a national motorhome owners’ club
- Gain governance experience in a not-for-profit, limited company structure
- Be part of a collaborative, welcoming team
- Make a valuable contribution to a community of Auto-Sleeper enthusiasts

### **Interested?**

Please contact the Club Chairman or email [secretary@asoc.uk.com](mailto:secretary@asoc.uk.com) for further details or an informal discussion.

We look forward to hearing from you!

# NOTICE BOARD

## ASOC is Looking for a National Rally Organiser!

### Could It Be You?

The **Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club (ASOC)** is looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic individual to take on the role of **National Rally Organiser** for the club.

This is a **voluntary position** and a fantastic opportunity to play a key part in one of the most anticipated event in the ASOC calendar—the **National Rally**.

### What's Involved?

As National Rally Organiser, you will take the lead, with the support of a sub-committee, in planning, coordinating, and delivering the annual National Rally, which will include:

- Liaising with venues, suppliers, and club members to arrange bookings and activities
- Arranging advertising and promotion of the event
- Producing and arranging for the distribution of the Welcome Packs
- Overseeing the event on site
- Produce a Budget for Committee approval

As with all committee roles you will have the full support of other committee members as and when required. If you interested in taking on this important role please get in touch with Chris Brown at [chairman@asoc.uk.com](mailto:chairman@asoc.uk.com).

## FOR SALE

How we came by them is a long story I won't bore you with, suffice to say that our 2020 model Burford has been back and forth to the dealers and Willersey for various manufacturing issues resulting in leaks, causing water damage to soft furnishings which have been replaced and reupholstered to a slightly different pattern from the original.

As a result, we have a surplus seat base which is 4ft wide and 3ft deep as well as a seat back which is 4ft wide and 14" deep, in the pattern shown below. These are brand new, still in the polythene wrappers, but no longer match our existing upholstery. We wouldn't like to see them go to waste but they are taking up space in our loft and we thought you would be able to help us get rid.

We live in the Manchester area; anyone interested would need to contact us on this email address to arrange collection.

Thanks and regards

Dr & Mrs S Azfar

ASOC Membership No. 10758

[sajazfar@yahoo.com](mailto:sajazfar@yahoo.com)



### SAD LOSS

It is with great regret that I have to announce the death of my wife, Philippa Fisher. Having been diagnosed with MND a in August last year, combined with Scoliosis, she departed this world on Tuesday morning. In her sleep. I am thankful that she no longer suffers the discomfort but miss her terribly.

Should it be that I have already submitted this please ignore it and excuse the repetition, put it down to the effects of the loss.

Peter Fisher

**MEMBERSHIP NUMBER 336**

## Auto-Sleeper Owners Club Regalia Shop

The ASOC shop has a range of club merchandising including sweatshirts, hats and much more. They are available from the Merchandising Officer by post or at the many rallies she attends.

Club merchandising is only available to members of the Club.

Remember to quote your membership number when placing orders.

For van and name badges please clearly write the information you require on the order form.

Payment is by BACs, On receipt of your order we will send the details how to pay and an order number for reference to use.

<https://www.asoc.uk.com/clubshop.html>



## Club Committee Contacts

**President:** Charles Trevelyan

**Chair:** Chris Brown *chairman@asoc.uk.com*

**Vice Chair:** vicechairman@asoc.uk.com

**Secretary:** Dennis Downie *secretary@asoc.uk.com*

**Treasurer:** Dave Thompson *treasurer@asoc.uk.com*

**Rally Coordinator:** Carol Grain *rally@asoc.uk.com*

**Technical:** Alec Avery *technical@asoc.uk.com*

**Club Shop:** Elaine Davis *shop@asoc.uk.com*

**Publications:** John Morris *publications@asoc.uk.com*

**Members Secretary:** Jean Downie *membershipsec@asoc.uk.com*

**Editor:** Phill Lowe *editor@asoc.uk.com*

**Exhibitions:** Liz Irvin *exhibitions@asoc.uk.com*

**Minute Secretary:** Liz Stewart *minutesec@asoc.uk.com*

**National Rally: Vacant** *nationalrally@asoc.uk.com*

**PUBLICATION DETAILS:** The opinions, beliefs, viewpoints or advertisements expressed by contributors to ASOC News do not necessarily reflect those of the Club or Editor. Contributions from members are published in good faith. All care is taken to ensure accuracy but no modification or suggestion has been tested by the Club or the Editor. No warranties are expressed or implied nor indemnities given. You try them at your own risk.

### AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee

*Registered Office:*

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

Dear ASOC Member

Please be reminded that your ASOC Member Number is required in all correspondence with the club. Including your Member Number helps us assist you more efficiently.

Best regards,

Auto-Sleeper



## WEBSITE

We have a wealth of information in the members area of the website.

To access this, you will need to subscribe to the member area in order to receive login details.

Please NOTE:-  
The Website Address is :-

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

# Win the *ULTIMATE Munich Christmas Getaway!*



*For this year's festive season, Auto-Sleepers and Truma Limited have teamed up to send one lucky winner on a magical Christmas adventure in Munich!*

Auto-sleeper are giving away a trip to Munich this Christmas to a lucky winner, they will get to see the Truma factory and visit the beautiful city of Munich and it's Christmas markets.

Immerse yourself in Bavarian holiday cheer and experience the launch of Truma's new CombiNeo 2-in-1 heating & hot water system, designed exclusively with Auto-Sleepers and featured in all 2025 Auto-Sleepers Fiat models.

Prize includes:-

- Return standard-class flights to Munich
- 2 nights' stay in a cosy 3\* hotel (double occupancy)
- Exclusive behind-the-scenes tour at Truma's Global Headquarters in Putzbrunn Authentic Bavarian lunch at Truma headquarters
- Time to explore Munich's Christkindlmarkt & savour local treats

Time to explore Munich's Christkindlmarkt & savour local treats

Ready for your Christmas adventure in Germany? Then head to the link below and enter now - don't miss

your chance to experience the magic of Munich with Truma & Auto-Sleepers.

Win the *ULTIMATE Munich Christmas Getaway!*

For this year's festive season, Auto-Sleepers and Truma

Limited have teamed up to send one lucky winner on a magical Christmas adventure in Munich!

Full terms and conditions can be found on the website and entries close on 20th October 2025

<http://www.auto-sleepers.com/truma-asoc>