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The Newsletter of
**Auto-sleeper
Owners' Club**



2025

Issue No. 423 | December 2025



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Editors Edit

By the time you're reading this newsletter, Christmas will be just around the corner!

On behalf of all the Committee members, we'd like to wish you a **very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**

So far, **16 rallies have been booked for 2026**, and once the dates are confirmed, we'll be able to share more details.

Full information for each rally will be sent out via email, ensuring that everyone receives it at the same time.

National & AGM

37th National Rally & AGM Will be held
At the Newark Showground, Nottingham
On 30th April to 4th May 2026

Membership Renewals – Important Notice

A reminder to all members that renewals are now due.
Please note that our Membership Secretary has recently undergone major surgery, so there may be a slight delay in issuing new membership cards.
We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Committee Vacancies

We urgently need volunteers for the following positions:

Web Manager

Minutes Secretary

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Chris Brown at:

 chairman@asoc.uk.com

Cover Pics [The road to Kincochewe](#) and [The Rhine at Cologne](#)
[Christopher Macgowan](#)

Chairman's Chat

I'm happy to report that Peter and I did get to spend 3 weeks at Beadnell Bay in Northumbria during which time Peter's recovery progressed in leaps and bounds. At the start we walked into Seahouses (about 2.5 miles) in stages and got the bus back and by the end of the stay we walked the round trip with ease. We then moved on to Shrewsbury for the ACCEO Rally where everyone said how well Peter looked. So once again, thank you all for your support and good wishes.

Talking of Shrewsbury, what a good turnout from ASOC with 20+ motorhomes on site. Glyn and Sue did an excellent job in organising and running this event with support from a cracking team so a huge THANK YOU to all of them on behalf of the Club – you did us proud. Glyn did report a few glitches, caused in part by the fact that the Showground operates a JIT strategy for *everything*..... It really isn't good for the stress levels!! but everyone coped admirably.

AND we collected a further £900+ for our 2025 Charity Alzheimer UK from the raffle – thanks to Liz Irvin; selling badges and keyrings – thanks to Carol Grain; selling the Forget Me Knot flowers – thanks to Sue Tomkins and various competitions – thanks to Glyn and Sue Tomkins

Charity

For those who weren't at the ASOC National Rally this year the Club asked for nominations for the 2026 charity whilst everyone was on site (a form was included in the welcome pack). 31 members made nominations and the ones with most votes were:

MND	5
Macmillan	5
Cancer Research	4
Air Ambulance	4

However, of the others a further 4 were for various cancer charities; with the remainder covering other charities in 1s and 2s. Based on this the Committee felt that since cancer charities were the most popular (8) and that Cancer Research covers all forms of cancer, that is the charity we would support in 2026. We will repeat the exercise next year.

Chairman's Chat (Cont)

Rallies

Following explorations by Carol Grain, David Thompson and myself a proposed new rally administration system was put to and approved by the Committee. After which this was discussed with current, proposed and assistant Rally Marshals and it was agreed that the new system would be implemented from January 2026. Full details can be found elsewhere in the magazine. The main thing members need to remember is that ALL RALLY APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE RALLY SECRETARY. Contact details are on the new Application Forms as are our bank details for BACS payments, and cheques should be made payable to Auto Sleeper Owners Club.

Vacancies

I am very pleased to report that Elizabeth Stewart, our current Minutes Secretary has volunteered to take over from Dennis Downie as Secretary next May. David Thompson, our Treasurer has volunteered to take over the National Rally Organiser role as well as retaining his position as Treasurer. So, all of this means that we now have vacancies on the committee for a **Web Manager and a Minutes Secretary** – and I would be grateful to hear from anyone who is interested in taking on either of these positions.

Finally, I would like to make everyone aware that our Membership Secretary, Jean Downie has recently undergone major surgery, and this means your new membership cards will not be sent to you as promptly as usual. I know we all wish her well and understand that, although she has support, she must not overdue things.

All that remains now is for me, on behalf of your Committee, to wish you all **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2026**

Thinking of Renewing Your Auto-Sleeper Owners Club Membership?

As a valued member of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club, we want to thank you for being a part of our thriving community of motorhome enthusiasts. Your membership has provided you with exclusive access to club events, technical advice, member discounts, and the camaraderie of fellow Auto-Sleeper owners. Now, it's time to renew your membership and continue enjoying these fantastic benefits!

Why Renew Your Membership?

- **Exclusive Events & Rallies** – Join fellow members at organized gatherings across the country, sharing experiences and making new friendships.
- **Technical Advice & Support** – Gain insights and solutions from experienced members and experts to keep your Auto-Sleeper in top condition.
- **Member Discounts** – Enjoy special offers and discounts from our trusted partners and suppliers.
- **Club Newsletters** – Stay informed with the latest club news, travel tips, and member stories.
- **A Welcoming Community** – Be part of a friendly and supportive network of Auto-Sleeper owners who share your passion for motorhome adventures.

How to Renew Renewing your membership is simple and only takes a few moments. You can renew send your renewal form by post. If you need assistance, our membership team is happy to help.

Don't miss out on another year of exciting events, invaluable support, and great company! Renew your membership today and continue making the most of your Auto-Sleeper experience.

Thank you for being part of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. We look forward to sharing another year of adventures with you!

Renew Now and Keep the Journey Going!

£25

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

NOW £25 FOR 2026

£25

Membership of ASOC becomes due for renewal on the 31st 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. 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

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW £25 FOR 2026 (Cont)

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

7 - December 2025

ASOC Members-Only Facebook Page Now Live!

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

We're pleased to announce that ASOC now has its very own members-only Facebook page.

This dedicated space is exclusively for club members to:

- *Share updates*
- *Ask questions*
- *Exchange tips*
- *Stay connected with the ASOC community*

Facebook Group Name: Auto-Sleeper Owners Club

Membership Requirement:

Your ASOC membership number will be required to register.

Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2578562662499103>



Rally Events 2026

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Marshals for their hard work in the past year hosting rallies for us all to enjoy. In addition, I would like to thank the marshals for all the support they have given me since taking over from Martin last year.

However, following many requests to pay directly to the Auto-Sleepers Owners Club we have decided to change things slightly this coming year.

Firstly, my job description is changing to Rally Secretary and secondly, all application forms and payments for rallies will now be coming via me instead of going directly to the marshals. This is the only thing that is changing, as all the application forms will be given directly to the marshal running each rally once I have checked everyone is a member and recorded who is going to what rally and what has been paid.

Our preferred method of payment is by BACs and all details are on the new application forms. The reason for this is due to the postal service being very erratic these days and we cannot guarantee we will receive your applications in time. If you want to send your application form via email and a cheque by post that is acceptable, but I cannot guarantee your place on a rally until the cheque arrives. If you have an aversion to paying on the internet, as I know so many people do then I suggest you could ask a trusted family member to do it for you, but they must put as a reference, your membership number and the rally reference initials.

Please check on the website to ensure the rally is not full before you apply. If a rally is full, you can still get in touch, and we can put you on a reserve list in case anyone cancels last minute.

PLEASE NOTE: Depending on the site, the full amount for the rally is usually paid 2 – 4 weeks prior to a rally so we cannot guarantee a refund unless someone else is happy to take your place at short notice.

This year we have a few new venues for rallies which I hope you will enjoy. The first four rallies advertised here are now open for booking and the marshals will confirm your place on the rally in the New Year.

Up to date Details of ALL rallies on www.asoc.uk.com/events

MARCH 2026

Rally reference: WFP

16th – 20th March (4 nights) Whitemead Forest Park
Parkend, **Near Lydney**, Gloucestershire GL15 4LA

Rally Marshals: John and Jackie Moss (07508 200336)
johnmoss879@gmail.com

Assistant marshals: Jan and Paul Nash.

Bookings now open

LIMITED TO 30 VANS.

Site fee: £84 for four nights plus rally fee: £6.00. Total price: £90

Payment details are on the application form:

Reference: membership no + WFP

We are on the meadows which has hardstanding and hookups. The site itself has full facilities plus an on-site restaurant and leisure centre which includes a swimming pool, jacuzzi and gym. There is also a small shop providing all the essentials.

This is a very popular rally in the heart of the Forest of Dean. You can explore the forests industrial heritage and there are enough walking and cycle paths to satisfy the most ardent enthusiasts.

NO ARRIVALS BEFORE 2PM.

APRIL 2026

Rally reference: SDCCP

20th – 24th April (4 nights) Sourton Down Caravan and Camping Park
Sourton Down, **OKEHAMPTON** Devon EX20 4HT

Rally Marshals: Andrea and Andrew Saines (07717 664156)
motorcamper2@gmail.com

Bookings now open

LIMITED TO 15 VANS

Site fee: £108 for four nights including electric **PLUS**

Rally fee: £5.00 for couples £2.50 for singles

Totally fee: £113.00 for couples and 110.50 for singles

Payment details on the application form:

Reference: membership no + SDCCP

This is a lovely site with toilets, shower block, washing up area and laundry. There is access to the Granite Way cycle route/walking path from Okehampton to Lydford Gorge (National Trust) on a disused railway line, that can also take you to the Meldon Viaduct and access to Dartmoor. For those who are not as energetic Lydford Gorge is a 6.5 miles drive away.

There is a bus stop close by with busses going to Okehampton in one direction and Tavistock in the other.

The Pump and pedal pub & cycle shop serving pizza, pasties, breakfast baps and cakes is next door to the site.

This site is dog friendly and has dog showers.

NO ARRIVALS BEFORE 2pm.

APRIL 2026

Rally reference: LMCP

26th – 30th April (4 nights) Lickhill Manor Caravan Park

Lower Lickhill Road, STOURPORT-on-SEVERN, Worcestershire DY13 8RL

Rally Marshals: Brian and Linda Ellis

Telephone :- 01278 784524 Mobile (07711 375323)

e mail:- brianasoc2360@yahoo.com

Bookings now open and closes 18th April 2026

LIMITED TO 15 VANS

Site fee: 4 nights @ £92.00 including electric **PLUS** rally fee: £2.50

Total fee: £94.50

Payment details on the application form: Reference: membership no + LMCP

Directions:- From Stourport on Severn High Street (one way) at the top of the High street at the fork in the road, turn left at the Swan Pub and **immediate left** at M & Co. onto Lickhill Road. Continue on this road to the caravan site, about a mile.

Lickhill Manor Caravan Park occupies 65 acres circling the 17th century manor house alongside the River Severn and is a short riverside stroll to the Georgian canal town of Stourport-on-Severn.

Local attractions

There are canal and river boat trips, amusements, heritage wanders and more at Stourport Riverside and Stourport Canal Basins.

Busses to Bewdley, Kidderminster and Bromsgrove.

Interesting museums in the vicinity are the award-winning Black Country Living Museum at Dudley, with its collections (and tram rides), and the Bewdley Museum, with resident craftspeople and loads of local artefacts.

At Kidderminster there is the Severn Valley Railway also Hartlebury Castle and Worcester Cathedral within easy driving distance.

This rally could be a convenient stop over for some on route to Newark for the AGM or as an interesting rally for any not going on to the National.

NO ARRIVALS BEFORE 1pm.

12 - December 2025

MAY 2026

Rally reference: NR

30th – 4th May (4 nights) National Rally and AGM Newark Showground with EHU.

Bookings are now open.

The Auto-Sleepers Owners' Club (ASOC) is hosting its National Rally and Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 30th April to 4th May, 2026, at Newark Showground in Nottingham. This event is a wonderful opportunity for Auto-Sleeper motorhome enthusiasts to come together, share experiences, and enjoy a variety of activities.

There is EHU, plus meals are available to book each evening and the rally will feature social gatherings and live entertainment. Additionally, the AGM will provide insights into the club's activities and future plans.

There will be exhibitions in the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavillion

The ASOC shop will be there

Meals available to book each evening

Entertainment on Friday and Saturday evening and lots, lots more.

Booking forms are also available online and contain all the information you need.

Payment details on the application form:

Reference: membership no + NR

For further information please look at the full advertisement in this edition of the magazine.

Full details of the rallies below will hopefully be in the digital magazine due to go live at the beginning of January.

MAY 2026

11th – 16th (5 nights) Tyndale Rugby Football Club
Station Road CORBRIDGE
Northumberland NE45 5AY

JUNE 2026

1st – 5th (4 nights) HEREFORD Rowing Club
37 Greyfriars Avenue, Hereford, HR4 0BE

14th – 19th (5 nights) ABERYSTWYTH Rugby Club
Plascrug Avenue,
Aberystwyth SY23 1HL

21st – 26th (5 nights) WIGGINTON Grasshopper FC 82
Mill Lane, Wigginton
York YO32 2PY

26th – 1st July (5 nights) BEVERLEY
Manor Farm, Woodmansey
Beverley HU17 0SA

JULY 2026

11th – 16th (5 nights) STAFFORD Boat Club Ltd.
Maplewood, Wildwood
Stafford
ST17 4SG

16th – 20th (5 nights) Leon's Field, ST IVES
St Ives, Huntingdon,
Cambridge
PE27 5ER

30th- 2nd August. Gloucestershire Vintage &
Country Extravaganza
South Cerney Airfield,
Cirencester

AUGUST 2026

10th – 14th (4 nights) North Ribblesdale Rugby Club
Grove Park,
Lower Greenfoot,
SETTLE
BD24 9RB

21st – 23rd (2 nights) The Western Motorhome and
Campervan Show
Three Counties Showground
WR13 6NW
MALVERN

SEPTEMBER 2026

- | | |
|--|---|
| 7 th -11 th (4 nights) | St Cross Symondian's Cricket Club
WINCHESTER
SO23 9RT |
| 25 th – 27 th (2 nights) | The Motorhome & Campervan
show seasonal finale
Lincolnshire Showground
LN2 2NA |
| 30 th – 5 th October | ACCEO Rally
Weston on Trent
Derbyshire |

OCTOBER 2026

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 8 th – 11 th (4 nights) | Chatsworth Golden Gate |
|---|------------------------|

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS CLUB

37th National Rally & AGM

📍 **Venue:** Newark Showground, Nottingham



Dates: Thursday 30th April – Monday 4th May 2026

Friday Highlights

- **S & G (formerly RoadPro)** will be on-site to discuss **off-grid energy solutions**.
- **Representatives from the Auto-Sleeper Group** will give a **presentation on Friday afternoon** in the **Cedric Ford Pavilion**.
- **Dometic** will be available to **service your fridge** at a **discounted price of £55**.



Please Note:

Fridge servicing **must be booked via the application form** (bottom of page 2).



With music ranging from standards right up to the present day, Keith Slater is a first class, self-contained Guitar / Vocalist who specialises in providing quality music

If you want a Party band that has a set that combines great party music from the classics of the '70s to the anthems of today's charts, who guarantee to get your party jumping. Absolute Party are ready for the challenge.

Having the experience of many wedding receptions & parties we pride ourselves on our flexibility and ability to provide your full music experience from start to finish. Our only goal is to make your night unforgettable.





The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club

www.asoc.uk.com

Dedicated to the encouragement or promotion of recreational or instructional activities via camping and caravanning

NOTICE

THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Will be held on Saturday 2nd May 2026 at 10.30 am,

during the National Rally, in the Cedric Ford Pavilion of the Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society Showground, Winthorpe, Coddington, Newark, NG24 2NY

Please be informed, non-attending members have a right to appoint a proxy for voting purposes.

Proxy appointment forms, Nomination forms for election to the Management Committee and for appointment of the Honorary Examiner are included with this Notice or are available from the Secretary, who requires that nomination forms for Committee elections and any resolutions for consideration at the meeting be received by him, on or before **Monday 9th February 2026**

In the case of Proxy appointment forms they should be duly signed and received, by the Secretary **NO LATER THAN Monday 27th April 2026**

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

Dennis Downie,
Secretary
88 Portreath Drive
Allestree
Derby
DE22 2SD

Rally at Redcar and Settle Report

The site at Redcar is very good being a flat grassed site with ample room for many vans. There is a clubhouse to use with bar, showers and toilets. Liz was there to welcome everybody with her band of helpers. The walk into Redcar using the prom is brilliant with the crystal clear waters close by. There is a good bus service at the top of the road only a short walk from the site. Liz had managed to have the folk festival at the nearby Saltburn by the sea in full swing during our stay. Music could be heard while you drifted by various venues and they had every Morris group in the country performing. Saltburn is the original olde world sea side resort the lower part assessed by many steps but there is also a Victorian lift to take you both ways. We found a local café which served the largest toasty at a very good price before having the customary stroll down the pier. Back at Redcar on day two there was a very large market which needed to be investigated for a bargain.

Moving on to Settle was quite easy with traffic disappearing the closer you got to the site. on arrival Glyn had his stall set out and ready to welcome every one. He must do a lot of puzzles as the car park was meticulously organised to use every square inch of space.



But this was all fine and worked out extremely well. The town was celebrating a novel use of plant pots which gave a very colourful and imaginative use some were very artistic . The town itself had a good variety of shops and Jeannette came back with a very nice top. Although there was no clubhouse a local pub was offering guest beers and most ralliers soon found there way there. The naked man café served very good food along with other venues in fact behind the local church hall they also supplied a local folk group for entertainment. Bus services were good to

other destinations and no one seemed short of filling there day with many taking the train to Carlisle to take in the magnificent views

geof dye no7296

Shrewsbury Rally

This rally held in early October was hosted by ASOC on behalf of ACCEO and was a great success in spite of Storm Army.....

A beautiful sunset reflected in this Kingham signalled *Farewell* to Amy!!



Shrewsbury is a lovely town and the Showground is just a short walk away. Over 20 ASOC vans joined the other Clubs represented and interestingly the split between motorhomes and caravans was just about 50:50. Glyn and Sue Tomkins ran the rally on the Club's behalf, with the help of a cracking team supporting them and a big

THANK YOU to all of them for a job well done.

Tony O Dee provided Friday night's entertainment and Natalie Knight took over on Saturday; both acts getting people on the dance floor enjoying a wide range of music.



There were a couple of quizzes, stand up bingo, a raffle and the sale of the Forget me Knot flowers which, thanks to Sue Tomkins adorned each table. The proceeds of which all went to our 2025 charity the Alzheimer's Society, raising a further £900+, so thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Chris Brown

Travel Abroad Insurance Advice

INSURANCE ACCIDENT CLAIM FORM

Following an incident, we had in France during our trip this year, where we had a clash of mirrors with a French van, I realized that we did not have a claim form with us to collect all the relevant information, should we need to submit a claim. Our insurer, which we had through the Caravan and Motorhome Club, does not automatically issue one, even though they knew we were traveling in the European Union. I have since spoken to them and was informed that they only issue a form when a claim is made.

In my opinion, this is the wrong way around, as a claim form would be needed at the time of the incident to ensure that all the details are collected. After searching the internet, I found a form on the Aviva Insurance web site, which states “Agreed statement of facts on a motor accident”. I believe that it is important to use a standard form to ensure you have captured all the relevant details of the other party, and the incident, including images, no matter who is at fault.

Since finding the attached form, I have also found a site, “CARTRAVELDOCS.COM”, which you can download and print off this form in most languages for free, or even a cup of coffee. I will certainly be carrying a form printed in the languages of the countries I will be visiting on my next European trip, if only for peace of mind.

So, if your insurance does not supply you with a claim form next time you renew your insurance, you can always have one handy in your documents. Although I hope you will all carry a copy of this form, or one from your insurer, I hope you have an incident trip.

Motor accident Report

MOTOR ACCIDENT REPORT

To be completed by the Insured and sent immediately to his Insurers

(Use a separate sheet of paper where necessary)

Insured	1 Occupation (if more than one state all) _____				
Insured Vehicle	2 Make/Model/Type	C.C.	If commercial vehicle state carrying capacity and g.p.w.	Date of first registration as new	Registration mark
	Please give/confirm instructions on my/our behalf (where appropriate) for the repairs				
	3 Are you the Owner?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If no, state Owner's name and address _____	
	4 Exact purpose for which vehicle was being used at time of accident	_____			
	5 Is the vehicle still in use?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If no, state where it is at present _____ Tel. No. _____	
6 Name and address of Finance Company (if any)	_____				
Driver or Person in charge of Vehicle	7 Date of Birth	Occupation (if more than one, state all)	Date driving test passed	Was he driving with your permission?	Was he your employee?
				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	8 Give details of any impairment of sight or hearing and of any other disability _____				
(If the Insured complete this section as appropriate)	9 Full details of all driving convictions including pending prosecutions				
	Date	Offence	Penalty		
	_____	_____	_____		
Injured Persons	10 Name(s), Address(es) and approximate Age(s)		Injuries Sustained	If Vehicle Occupants state in which vehicle	Were seat belts being worn?
	_____		_____	_____	_____
	_____		_____	_____	_____
Damage to Property & Vehicles <small>(other than vehicles 'A' & 'B' overleaf)</small>	11 Owner(s) Name(s) and Address(es)		Details of Vehicle or Property	Nature of Damage	Insurer's Name and Address (if known)
	_____		_____	_____	_____
	_____		_____	_____	_____
Police Action	12 Was the accident reported to Police		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, give station and P.C.'s name and number _____				
	13 Was warning of prosecution given?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes against whom? _____					
Accident Details	14 Weather Conditions _____				
	15 Speed of vehicles	A <input type="text"/>	B <input type="text"/>		
	16 What warnings were given by driver or other party? _____				
	17 Were street lights illuminated?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	18 What lights were displayed on your vehicle/the other vehicle(s)? _____				
19 If your vehicle is commercial state weight of load carried at time of accident _____					
20 State how accident happened, indicating width of roads, speed limits, etc. _____ _____ _____					
Declaration	I/We declare the foregoing particulars are true in every respect				
	Insured's Signature _____			Date _____	

TRAILERS FOR USE IN EUROPE

When the UK left Europe, trailers used in Europe no longer had an exemption from being registered with the DVLA. The DVLA set up a website in Nov 2019, in order for owners/users to register all commercially used trailers in order for them to be used to transport goods within the common market, but this was limited to trailers used for commercial purposes only.

When the Brexit withdrawal agreement was enacted in Feb 2020, the UN Vienna Convention for Road Traffic 1968 became a legal document for road traffic in Europe, which included trailers of all types. When reading it, there is no special distinction of non-commercial trailers or caravans, so things stayed as they were. However, following Germany prosecuting some caravan owners who had not registered them with the DVLA, there was a change in the legislation to ensure that all trailers over 750kgs gross weight & caravans should be registered with the DVLA before going to Europe.

The GOVUK web site should have been updated to reflect this, but unfortunately this was not the case. By the time that you read this, it should have been updated to reflect that any owner of a trailer over 750kgs gross weight should now register before using it in Europe. This is any trailer which is towed behind a car or motorhome which may be carrying your motorbike, car scooter, mobility scooter, or personal items must now be registered via the GOV UK web site. The only exception to this, is you intend to go to Ireland, Malta, Cyprus or Spain.

In conclusion, any trailer or caravan which has a gross weight of over 750kgs, must be registered at a cost of £28. This I believe is a once only cost. You will be required to enter the trailer/caravan unique 17 digit chassis no when registering it, so have this ready beforehand. This is totally separate from the "CHRIS" registration.

We like to thank ACCEO & North Staffordshire Centre of the CAMC for bringing this to the clubs attention.

Technical



**Alzheimer's
Society**

Together we are help & hope
for everyone living with dementia

ECO327A



Mr D Thompson
Auto-Sleeper Motorhome Owners Club
314 Saughall Road
CHESTER
CH1 5HQ

Alzheimer's Society
Suite 2, 1st Floor East Wing,
Plumer House, Tailyour Road,
Plymouth PL6 5FS

alzheimers.org.uk

20 October 2025

Dear Mr Thompson

We can achieve so much more when we come together. Thank you so much to everyone at Auto-Sleeper Motorhome Owners Club for raising a fantastic £909.01 from The West Midland Showground. We will ensure that we make every penny count to drive our crucial work.

There are an estimated 900,000 people living with dementia in the UK, and this number will only rise in the coming years. By 2040, there are likely to be nearly 1.6 million people living with dementia in the UK. The total cost of health and social care, including unpaid care by friends and family, for people living with dementia in the UK is currently £34.7 billion per year, and this is projected to rise to £94.1 billion per year in 2040. As things stand, two-thirds of these costs are paid by people living with dementia and their families.

We'll make sure that your donation is put to good use, whether it's spent on campaigning governments to make dementia the priority it should be or delivering vital services across the UK. You're making a huge difference.

Just one of the vital services we provide is Talking Point, our online safe space, where a trouble shared can become a trouble halved. People accessing Talking Point can learn from each other's experiences, share their frustrations and their knowledge of local services. Talking Point lets people living with dementia share and learn from each other in a safe online space. Just £50 means 312 people can access this site any time, day or night.

Once again, thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Sandeep Shikotra
Supporter Care Manager

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GUIDE TO PREPARING YOUR AUTO-SLEEPER FOR WINTER

HINTS AND TIPS SERIES

NUMBER ONE

Contributions are from members and are published in good faith, that they will be interesting and useful. All care is taken to ensure accuracy but no modification or suggestion has been tested by the Club.

No warranties are expressed or implied nor indemnities given. You try them at your own risk.



The information provided in this document is, to the best of the Club's knowledge, comprehensive and accurate. However, no responsibility can be accepted for any loss or damage incurred during the implementation of the described modifications

The internal insulation of Auto-Sleepers vehicles has improved over the years, so thankfully the only facility requiring winterisation is the water system. You should have no concern for freezing of the system other than the water heater and water pump, since the water tanks are manufactured in a material that can cope with the expansion caused by freezing. If your vehicle is being left unused for several days in freezing conditions, it would be prudent to drain the system fully. Surface freezing of the water in both fresh and the waste water tank will not cause any damage to the tank. The operation of the fresh water system may be affected by ice because the fresh water is drawn off the lower part of the water tank, underneath any layer of ice that may have formed.

It is important that during prolonged freezing conditions, and at times when your Auto-Sleeper is left unused, the water system is drained including the water pump. To drain the system completely open all tank taps, dump valve/drain tap and all internal taps. When water has finished flowing turn the water pump on to rid any residue water from the pump, pipes, pump filter and taps then switch pump off and leave all taps open. Please note that the submerged Whale water pumps should only be operated for 5- 10 seconds when there is a risk of running dry. Later Auto-Sleeper models are fitted with either the Truma Combi, Truma Ultrastore or Carver Cascade/Rapide water heaters and instructions for draining and isolating these units are as follows:

Truma Combi Heater

The Combi heater supplied to Auto-Sleepers has a built-in frost protection function called the “Truma Frost Control”. If there is a risk of frost (ambient temperature approximately 3°C) the Frost Control opens automatically and drains the boiler. The boiler can be refilled when the temperature rises above 7°C. Nevertheless when the appliance is not in operation, it is essential to drain off the water content if there is a risk of frost. Truma do not allow claims under the warranty for damage caused by frost. Switch off the power to the pump assembly (main switch or pump switch), open the hot water taps in kitchen and bathroom. In order to check the volume of water that is flowing out, place an appropriate container (capacity 10 litres) beneath the safety/drain valve. Open the safety/drain valve. The boiler will now be drained directly to the outside via the safety/drain valve. Check whether all of the water in the boiler (10 litres) has been drained into the container.

Truma Ultrastore

On Auto Sleepers models that are not fitted with an isolation tap, the complete water system should be drained. There is a dump valve that allows the Ultrastore to be drained of water and this is found in different positions on different models. The instruction manual clearly identifies the location of this dump valve and should be used and left open when your Auto Sleeper is left for prolonged periods in freezing conditions. If you continue to use your Auto Sleeper in such conditions, it is

suggested that the retro-fitting of an isolation tap in the water circuit would be a wise move so that the water heater can be isolated while retaining the cold water facility. The Motorhome Service Centre (01386 853511) at Willersey will be happy to supply a tap and/or fit this should you require.

Carver Cascade/Cascade 2/Rapide Water Heater

This water heater must be isolated in prolonged freezing conditions, since if the stainless steel cylinder is allowed to freeze it will stretch the securing bolt, blow the seals and cause leaking into the interior of the vehicle. Replacement securing bolts are no longer available. During the time the Carver Rapide water heater was fitted, an isolation tool was supplied with each vehicle. When the heater is drained the isolation tool should be found in an externally accessed chamber on the outside of the water heater, concealed behind the large screw in the lower left-hand corner. Inserting the tool, thick end first, will lock the non-return valve preventing the filling of the water cylinder - the thinner section allowing the claws of the drain plug to fit around the tool and to allow it to be re-fitted. The upper drain screw, immediately above the aforementioned upper screw, should be left open for a good length of time to allow any residual water to drain out. If you do not have this isolation tool these are available from the Motor Home Service Centre. The earlier model of the Carver water heater, the Cascade, does not have the screw on the top left-hand area of the gas module cover; however the isolation tool may still be used.

Valliant Water Heater

For the older vans fitted with Valliant water heater, you should ring the Motorhome Service Centre who will advise upon the course of action to be taken. It is possible that on the Vaillant water heater the lower diaphragm module can become warped through freezing, preventing the water heater working correctly. There is an easy and simple way of rectifying this - please seek advice from the Motorhome Service Centre. Due to recent changes in legislation the Motorhome Service Centre are unable to carry out repairs on any open flue gas appliances, but rectification advice will be given.

Questions are often asked with regards to the winterisation of the Thetford cassette toilet. Since these are positioned well in-board on the van and are well insulated, under normal working use in winter conditions, no winterisation is required. If necessary you may wish to put into the flushing tank a small amount of Glycol or similar anti-freeze to allow the toilet to function in extreme conditions. Further advice is available from your Thetford, see <https://www.thetford-europe.com/gb/>

These are the only precautions that need to be taken in respect of the conversion side of your Auto-Sleeper. If your vehicle is being stored in the winter for prolonged periods it is always wise to remove any detachable cushions/scatter cushions and keep these in your home. The fixed ventilation in each Auto-Sleeper will allow the vehicle to breathe over the winter months, although it would be sensible, perhaps

fortnightly or three weekly, to thoroughly air your Auto-Sleeper perhaps using the heater to warm the interior of the vehicle to evaporate any residual moisture.

On the automotive side, advice should be taken from your local base vehicle dealer with regards to any specific instructions or indeed from the automotive section of the Motorhome Service Centre, but of course, it is always wise to ensure that prior to the winter your coolant is checked for anti-freeze content and to make sure that the specific gravity is of the correct reading. This can of course be checked and rectified by the Motorhome Service Centre on the number shown above. Another sensible precaution would be to periodically charge the base vehicle and conversion batteries to maintain them in good condition.

If using your Auto Sleeper in particularly harsh conditions, the Motorhome Service Centre always advises the use of Propane instead of Butane for the gas supply since this has superior low temperature performance. If you have any fears in respect of

Additional tips from members

Keep all taps open in the central position

Remove the shower head as it has been found to crack in freezing conditions where water may be trapped and dangle the hose to its lowest point

Put on the covers for the fridge vents

Leave the fridge door open

Put on wheel covers if you have them

Leave the hand brake off if this is possible and safe to do so



Auto-Sleeper Group Rebrands as AS Group Limited & Announces Senior Management Restructure

The Auto-Sleeper Group, a leading name in the leisure vehicle industry, today announced a major rebrand to AS Group Limited alongside a strategic restructure of its senior management team. These changes mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the business, reinforcing its commitment to innovation, operational excellence and customer service.

The rebrand to AS Group (ASG) reflects the company's modern vision while celebrating its proud heritage of award-winning craftsmanship, quality and retailing. The refreshed identity underscores ASG's ambition to build on its strong foundations and expand its leadership in the leisure vehicle market.

To support this transformation, ASG has implemented a new leadership structure. Each appointee brings years of experience and proven success in their field:

- Geoff Scott, Chief Executive Officer & Mike Crouch, Group Managing Director will continue in their roles where they will provide strategic oversight and draw on their extensive industry expertise.
- Alan Buckwell, formerly Retail Assistant Managing Director, has been promoted to Assistant Group Managing Director, taking responsibility for leading ASG's vision, strategy and overall performance.
- Gavin Driver has been appointed Group Sales Director, where he will focus on driving customer growth, strengthening relationships and expanding market presence.
- Emma Franklin has been named Group Executive Director, with a remit to shape marketing & business strategy, nurture company culture and engage with key stakeholders.
- Daniel Wilkinson takes on the role of Group Service Director, enhancing ASG's aftersales operations and ensuring the highest standards of customer care.
- Jay Bartholomew has been appointed Manufacturing Managing Director, responsible for delivering manufacturing excellence and spearheading product innovation.
- Lee Morley has been appointed into the role of Group Operations Director, where he will oversee efficiency, quality and continuous improvement across the business.

Geoff Scott, CEO of ASG, commented: "Rebranding to AS Group and introducing this refreshed leadership team represents a significant milestone in our journey. These changes align with our future ambitions and will ensure we remain at the forefront of the leisure vehicle industry. This new structure positions us to deliver enhanced value and service to our customers, strengthen partnerships and create greater opportunities for our employees."

ASG remains dedicated to designing and building high-quality motorhomes and campervans, combining decades of craftsmanship with forward-looking innovation to inspire adventure for the next generation of camping enthusiasts. Through its Marquis Leisure retail network and trusted independent dealer partners, ASG provides customers in the UK and worldwide with expert guidance, comprehensive aftersales support and a wide range of award-winning vehicles, making ownership simple and enjoyable.

About AS Group Limited

Formerly known as The Auto-Sleeper Group, AS Group (ASG) brings together manufacturing excellence and retail expertise to deliver motorhomes and campervans to customers in the UK and beyond.

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Suppliers & Dealers – Member Incentives

The members discount page (**within members area**) lists **Suppliers and Dealers** who have kindly offered **exclusive incentives and discounts** to members of the **Auto-Sleeper Owners’ Club**.

Members must **present their current membership card** and **advise the dealer in advance** before any work or purchase is agreed. Failure to do so may invalidate the offer. It’s also helpful to mention that you **saw the offer on the Club website/Newsletter**.

If you’ve successfully negotiated any discounts or incentives with other companies, please share the details so all members can benefit.

👉 **Email us at:** technical@asoc.uk.com

Suppliers or Dealers who would like to offer incentives or be featured on this page are also invited to contact us at the same email address.

The following companies have generously agreed to provide discounted or specialist services to ASOC members.

Details of individual discounts in [Members Area](#)



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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

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