

# The Autocruisers

Newsletter No.16  
April 2001

*Having spent Thursday with Tom & Margaret Smallwood, (I only wanted to see their new bungalow), the four of us arrived at Highfield Farm for the Comberton rally on Friday at around lunchtime.*

*Ken the rally host came to greet us and offered us the choice of a waterlogged grassy pitch or a hard stand behind a hedge on a car park. Being true Autocruisers and game for a laugh we chose the water logged grassy pitch. Well you know the saying - if you can't take a joke you shouldn't have signed up.*

*Lance, complete with wellies was soon hard at work turning on the gas, hooking up, putting out the awning and once the*

Affleck patented wellie boot holders, (four wooden sticks pushed into the ground), were in place we were all set for the weekend. What a weekend it was! Rain, rain and even more rain in true Autocruiser fashion.

Friday night we were having a faith supper with our Punch Bowl in 'The Barn'. Ken had warned me about it. I imagined a something other than what it was. Nevertheless it was warm and once the mobile heaters were switched on it was quite warm. We were unable to have it on the Saturday night as the owner's of the park were holding a firework party for their regular customers throughout the year but not being downhearted we set to and got tables and chairs set up and food set out on a table alongside the punch bowl and it turned into the usual Autocruiser Punch Bowl night. Colin & Sue surprised us by making an unexpected appearance. They were on their way south to attend a show and decided to pop in. Colin purchased two bonus ball numbers and after a quick hello to everybody they made their goodbyes. Guess who won the £20 bonus ball, yes you guessed right, Colin!

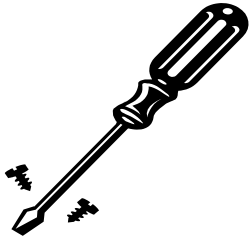
Saturday dawned and the skies looked clear. The lucky ones who went out in the morning were fine but then it started to rain again. We had arranged for a fish and chip supper for Saturday night but due to the weather we had to have them in our vans. Ken ran around delivering fish and chips to each and every van and a sterling job he did too. They were piping hot on delivery! Well done Ken!

Sunday morning and we were off to the barn again for coffee and the drawing of the raffle then there was just time for a final chat to new members and to old friends before we said our final good byes and set off home.

A few hours later Lance and I wished we had stayed in the barn for a lot longer but that is another story, read on and all will be revealed. Be careful Autocruisers for it matters not what you do or where you do it be warned someone is sure to see you and report the matter to the Newsletter for publication!

Sadly John & Sheila Affleck did not grace us with their presence as Sheila had unfortunately slipped and broken her arm and was unable to attend. Mike Bedwell was also unable to come as he had had a problem with his heart. He went on the sick and was due to retire in December so that was the end of his working life. Enjoy your well-earned retirement Mike!

A little message to Sheila - be careful in your garden in future walking on wet wooden planks pushing a wheelbarrow in the rain it is not a good idea.



*Happened Next:  
The Joys of a Motorcaravan Rallying  
or Home from Comberton - Just!*

Following a most enjoyable Rally at Comberton, very effectively organised by Audrey and Ken in the most adverse conditions of weather and other people's parties, we pulled forward onto the site road and paused to wash off the Grip Mats and wellies. The sky was a sharp autumn blue with bright sunshine and a fresh breeze after a weekend of rain, but the forecast was not good.

Thinking to break our journey, as usual, but also to avoid the forecast storms, we only intended to drive to Newark and Brownhills.

Leaving the A1 a familiar brown-skirted Autocruise was visible through the hedge on Brownhills car park. They must have passed while we had stopped for a late lunch a few miles back. Arriving on the car park, a figure was visible on the roof: Lance wielding screwdriver and Sikaflex (not super glue this time!) to fit a newly acquired roof-light over the loo! (they said it had blown off on the A1.) Inside Sheila was wielding a very sharp carving knife (to open the Sikaflex we must add).

We left them to finish in peace realising they still had a long way to go. After a time browsing around Brownhills shop and motorhomes (nothing to match an Autocruise) we settled down on their over-night park for a quiet evening's TV before sleep. The winds developed more and more and we were rocked to sleep by the first wave of gales; the second wave shook us from our beds, still confused by the hour change, early on Monday morning when we decided to wait for the wind to die down.

Following late coffee and teacakes in Brownhills' café we set off again in sunshine, but with ominous clouds to the South West.

The A1 seemed to be lined with flooded fields most of the way to Clumber Park where we turned off onto the A57 to the M1 and the road over the hills to Huddersfield with late lunch at Flockton. Whilst there, the skies darkened and the rain came, rushing down the gutters as we drove down into Huddersfield, under the M62 at Elland and across the edge of Halifax. Approaching Hebden Bridge

the river alongside the road was a torrent and even the canal had burst its banks in places. Out towards Todmorden the road was closed.

'How do we get to Burnley?' 'You'll have to go over the top and along the Causeway,' said the policeman. 'Is that road alright?' asked Julie. 'Well, they had some snow this morning, but it should be OK,' the policeman replied with a smile. This was a twisty, narrow, hilly road between stone walls, travelled often in a Mini, but in the Starfire? Hard acceleration took us up the 1 in 6 from the traffic lights. This soon led us into the snow; he hadn't mentioned that they had had to use snowploughs to keep the road open!

Down through a village, over a bridge with water flowing across it, and up 1 in 4 to a hairpin bend! By now the snow was in the middle of the road as well as at the sides. Then the sleet began, almost horizontal in the wind. However, the road across the Causeway was clearer, because of the wind, and soon we were dropping down to Burnley and home. As we pulled into the drive, at 4.30 p.m. the last traces of snow were visible on the lawn. 'We'll unload tomorrow,' was the mutual thought. To think this is only Autumn!. Perhaps Sheila and Mike knew what they were doing - hope you are both feeling much better by the time you read this. Roll on winter motor caravanning in January and February. We hope everyone else's journey was less eventful.

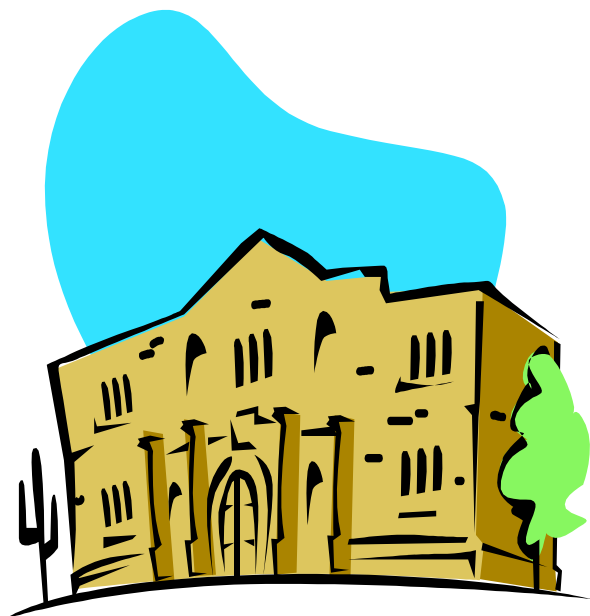
Soon we are off to sunny Spain, by plane, so won't be at the next Rally, but we hope you all had a Merry Christmas.

**A belated Happy New Year to all the Autocruisers and Enjoyable Rallying in 2001.**

Julie and Barrie

Editors note:

*I do apologise for not including this in the last newsletter but to be honest I forgot I had it. I can only blame the van gear box breaking down on me 20 miles north of Dover, at the beginning of November, on our way to France, and having to come back home and get the car instead. Have you ever tried putting beer, fags, wine and whisky in the boot of a sports car. I can tell you it doesn't work and it is most frustrating. The only person pleased was Lance, because his credit card didn't get much use. We were in and out of supermarkets looking for Sapour, (a cleaning product for carpets), for Peter and Gayna Hughes and for once Lance was very willing to go into **any** supermarket knowing quite well that I couldn't buy anything due to the lack of space. He took great delight in reminding me of this fact. Then to top it all I had to miss the Christmas rally, more about that rally later in this newsletter from John Affleck. So I beg your forgiveness for my slovenly editorialship (I hope that is a word, mind you the spellchecker doesn't like it). I thought I had better tell you that before Ron does!*



# A Christmas Rally In Darkest Essex

A report by  
John & Sheila Affleck

## ↑ The Mission ↑

This years Christmas Rally was appropriately held at Woodland Camp, Lambourne End in Essex, and more specifically in a building, which I aptly named the Mission Hut.

For our purposes the venue proved ideal and will certainly be worth revisiting in the summer.

With few exceptions, most people including myself found it quite difficult to find, especially in the dark, however a special mention must be made of Richard Bentley who gallantly must have driven past at least four times even when being guided in by mobile phone. Unfortunately he was not aided by John Affleck who having been volunteered to stand at the entrance in total darkness with a torch, nearly succeeded in persuading a BT van to join our gathering whilst Richard with pedal to the metal disappeared yet again heading towards Norfolk, or was it London.

Friday saw a crowd of us (actually six), invade the local village tea shop and the two pubs, all of which are well worth a visit, and once it got dark an enlarged expedition once again set off for the local with Big John (Eames) and Little John (Affleck) in the lead and Bernie with his scooter and flashing red light bringing up the rear. At some point Big John fell into a hole whilst making yet another call to

Richard and Little John not noticing, just thought that the road at that point seemed to be rather softer than usual, and carried on regardless.

Mention must be made again of friend Richard who having finally arrived at said pub complete with Xmas Boxer Shorts (this was not verified) proceeded to be beaten by a Chocolate Challenge Pudding which the waitress later told us was normally shared - (probably by a family of five).

Having staggered back to the Mission Hut, the evening punch bowl proved to be a particularly excellent brew, especially as it was served in an exquisite cut glass plastic salad bowl.

Saturday morning the sun shone, and a little party went off to London to try out the London Eye. Unfortunately whilst the wheel spun round, we didn't, however this was more than compensated for by a boat trip down the Thames to the Dome, with a commentary given by a typical South London lad who used the term etc. etc. whenever he ran out of things to say.

Big John wishes it to be known that his visit to the Dome was made under protest, but had to concede that the aerial show was well worth seeing and Doreen (Eames) made a special point of cleaning her shoes with air freshener just for the occasion.

The journey home was aided by a taxi driver called Abdul who nearly succeeded in permanently grounding his trusty (or was it rusty) Ford Escort on a sleeping policeman at the entrance to the site. A gentle backwards and forwards rocking motion aided by the presence of a foot of water either side of the hump soon cured the problem.

The evening buffet was a great success, and a special thanks must go to all those that provided the feast.

A special mention must be made of Bernie's little quiz, which is being repeated here, in order to ensure that it is not used again. "Using the same seven letters in the same order complete the following" A ----- PHYSICIAN WAS ----- TO OPERATE BECAUSE HE HAD ----- . The missing word is NOTABLE. For the benefit of someone who shall remain nameless but answers to the name of --- (clue three letters beginning with P and ending with T), there is no U in notable. And another special mention must also be made of Doreen, who got so excited at listening to the "Dam Busters" and other suitable Christmas music, that she suggested that the speakers should be pointed in a different direction. It's a pity that she was pointing at a fan heater at the time.

In a few words it was a very memorable gathering and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those people that persevered and found the site. In daylight it's actually very easy. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

John & Sheila Affleck

*Thank you to John & Sheila for that report. I am really sorry that I missed it.*

Today dear Lord I'm 80  
And there's much I haven't done  
So I hope dear Lord, you let me  
Live until I'm 81  
But then if I haven't finished all I want to do  
Would you let me stay awhile until I'm 82?  
So many places I want to go  
So very much to see  
Do you think that you could manage to make it 83?  
The world is changing very fast  
There is so much in store  
I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84  
And if by then I'm still alive  
I'd like to stay till 85.  
More planes will be up in the air  
So I really would like to stick  
And see what happens when I am 86  
I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask  
(And it must be nice in Heaven)  
But I would like to stay until I'm 87  
I know by then I won't be fast  
And sometimes I will be late  
But I would be so pleased to be around at 88  
I will have seen so many things

And had a wonderful time  
So I'm sure I'll be willing to leave at 89.....  
**MAYBE!**

Thanks to Bernie for the above

### *A New Navigational System?*

Reading about all the trouble and strife caused by these highly expensive, so called, navigation aids perhaps it would be a lot cheaper to revert to the one we 'Golden Oldies' always used!

This aid was called 'Worthwhile Information For Experts.' This gadget was placed in the front passenger seat adjacent to the driver. 'Worthwhile Information For Experts' (W.I.F.E) is usually invaluable in telling you to turn just after the road junction you have just passed. Constantly telling you that you are going too fast, and sits admiring the scenery instead of the road signs.

A friend of mine asked the question of his W.I.F.E. 'How much further have we to go now? After consulting the map W.I.F.E. informed him 'Not far now dear only about an inch.'

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### **Thought for the day**

**Growing old isn't so bad - Consider the alternative!**

*Thanks again to Bernie for the above.*

*Seton Sands Rally  
June 14-17*

**This rally has been cancelled and the Riverside Caravan Park rally that was to be held on 2-5 August has now been moved to June 14-17. There will be no rally 2-5 August.**

## *Presidents Piece*

By the time you read this Chris & I will have departed the U.K and heading down to Spain for three months. Never the less we wish you all a healthy & prosperous New Year.

This is our first spring adventure and we have been planning it for some time. We sought advice from others, Peter Lockwood in particular, read many articles in MMM, and bought maps and sites books. I've done many jobs on the van, we've renewed the curtains and carpet, replaced the tyres, and bought lots of apparently necessary gadgets. Oh yes! We've also had a safari room fitted.

We're going Dover to Calais, stopping over night, popping into Belgium to see an old friend, (*and buy some tobacco at Adinkerke, no doubt. Ed.*), then across France, passing Biarritz, across Spain via Madrid and Barcelona and finding a campsite on the coast. Sounds a piece of cake doesn't it? Time will tell and we will tell you all at Detling. Happy Camping till then.

Love

Chris & Mike

## *Motorhome Ticket Club*

You may remember that several years ago I recommended this club to you, particularly with respect to their insurance and support breakdown services.

Well, I have just renewed my insurance and I think you should be aware of their current policy.

One month before renewal you will receive a letter from Kerry Fewings, Controller, Renewal Sales informing you that 'GROUPRAMA' stipulate that vehicles of a certain value must have a Thatcham 2 approved security system fitted.

A phone call reveals that a 'Certain Value' is £20K, a Thatcham 2 is a desponder which is connected to the ignition and prevents the van being hot wired. My hidden fuel cut off switch is not good enough! Now the alleged reason for this is because of the large number of motorhomes stolen!! Yes we all know how susceptible we are to be broken into, but how many vans do you know have been stolen?

Unfortunately because I was on holiday for two weeks before renewal of my insurance I was short of time and employed Auto Elite, out of MMM, who were very efficient, attended my house and fitted the necessary security device at a cost of £160.

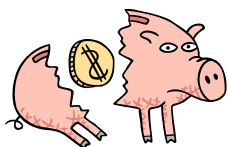
The Certificate of fitting was forwarded to Motorhome Ticket Club who only increased my premium by £50!

So, if your enquiries trace a competitive alternative insurance company with continental breakdown, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

The policemen in me suspects that someone, somewhere is on a nice little earner at our expense.

Mike Bedwell  
President

## *Rally Fees*



**To ease the job of the rally host it has been decided by the committee that in future all rally fees are to be paid in cash.**

This will mean that deposits are no longer required with the booking form. Please note that a booking form **must** be sent to the rally host one month before the rally.

The committee also propose to have a 'Default Charge' levied on anyone arriving at a rally without informing the rally host prior to arrival by booking form or telephone call. This charge will be £2.

## Show sites for Autocruisers

The club has sites booked for Peterborough, Three Counties and York shows. Would anyone wishing to attend these shows on the club site please book direct with the show organisers. Phone numbers will be found in the MMM in the Shows for Motorcaravanners section. Please note that these are not official rallies and no plaques will be available.

*Are you*



*out there?*

The committee request that anyone holding a current First Aid Certificate make himself or herself known to them. We haven't had cause to use the First Aid Box but it would be useful to know if anyone knew what to do in an emergency.

## Christmas Rally 2001



The Christmas rally has been booked at Woodland Waters Caravan Park, Ancaster. You should be now have all received a sticker to put into your Rally Diary. If you haven't please contact me.

The site fees will be £5 plus £2 for electric hook up. The Christmas dinner will be approximately £13.50 per head.

## More Rally News



Bernie King will be book a school for the five days prior to the AGM this year. This school is in Boston Spa near Wetherby and is close to Harrogate and York. Would anyone wishing to book for this site please contact Bernie King. Further details will follow in the next newsletter.



It is requested that anyone attending a rally on Friday for the punch bowl bring something for the faith supper. For those of you out there who don't know what a faith supper is here is the explanation. Everyone brings a plate of something to eat to put on the communal table – we have faith that you will!



The club are proposing to hold our Christmas rally in 2002 at Weald of Kent Golf Club. A booking has been for 28<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2002.

Further details will be published as and when they become available. This is called advance warning! Put a note in your diaries now to be transferred to next years when you get them. We can't be accused of giving you short notice on this one!

Does anyone out there know of a good site we can use in the north of England? Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire. This would be used for the Christmas rally in 2003. See how good your committee is – now that would be advance warning! Anyone with any suggestions please contact a member of the committee.

*Restricted information.....Not fully  
circulated  
From Bernie King*

You may remember we had an article from the European Union commissioners in the October 1999 newsletter regarding EuroEnglish (Euro for short). I have today received another official directive and I reprint below for your attention.

## **DRAFT EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE**

An announcement has been made that the official language of the EU will be English. However it has been conceded that the English spelling has some room for improvement.

### **Changes Year 1**

The 'S' will replace the soft 'C' Certainly this will help sivil servants. The hard 'C' dropped in favour of the 'K'. This should klear up konfusion and keyboards can have less letters.

### **Year 2**

Publik enthusiasm will grow in the second year when 'F' will replase the 'ph'. Words like 'fotograf' will be 20% shorter.

### **Year 3**

Publik akseptanse of the new spelling can be expected to reach a stage where more komplikated changes are possible, and the removal of double letters, a deterrent to akurate speling wil be enkoraged. This wil remove the horrible mes of the silent 'e's' al wil agre they dould be droped.

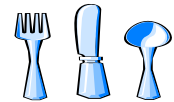
## Year 4

By now people will be reseptiv to the replasing 'th' with 'z' 'w' with 'v'. Ze fifz year ze unesesery 'O' kan de dropd from vords containing 'ou' and similar changes vod of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of letters. After zis fifz yer ve vil hav a reli sensibi riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubis or difikultis and evrivun vi find it ezi to undertsant echozer.

### ZE DREM VIL FINALI KUM TRU !!

Future Newsletter will NOT follow this Directive – yet (except by error only).

# Are you thinking of buying a new Motorcaravan?



It is a big decision to make and one that you may need advice on. If this is the case please do not hesitate to ask any of the membership for their views on this matter. You will no doubt get a lot of advice and help in deciding which model to choose. Ask anyone that is **except** Jim & Rosemary Keen!

Jim & Rosemary decided to change their Valentine for a newer model. A lot of trips were made in and out of the old Valentine removing all personal articles that we were assured were stored safely away until they could be put into the new van. This was organisation at it's best! Remember Jim served with the Royal Engineers and so had organisational skills taught to him in the Army. And this dear friends is a tale or organisation!

Jim & Rosemary arrived at Moreton-in-Marsh Caravan Club site for our rally on Friday night. Everyone except for Audrey had retired to the pub for the evening. Rosemary decided that it was time for a snack on arrival and proceeded to make some sandwiches. Bread and butter and fillings were found and then she reached for the cutlery drawer. Horror upon horror! It was empty! Sitting there in their new van all their personal belongings around them they were gobsmacked! Where were the knives and forks? This is where the organisational skills of Jim came into question. A quick trip to Audrey and they finally have some borrowed cutlery.

Next morning arrived and up they got like good motorcaravanners ready for breakfast. They decided that toast would be in order and Rosemary decided to

open a tin of tomatoes and reached for the cutlery drawer for the tin opener – you are before me aren't you? Yes you're right – no tin opener. Well naked toast would have to suffice. He assured everyone as we fell about with laughter that they had been safely stored in one of the boxes that had been filled on emptying Junior. But where were they now?

Along comes lunchtime and we see Jim approaching Audrey's van with a tin of peas in hand. Audrey very kindly opened the tin and passed it to Jim along with the lid but he said she could keep it as he had no use for it!

Saturday night saw us in the pub for a meal. John Eames taking pity on Jim & Rosemary went around at the end of the evening and gathered knives, forks and spoons (four of each) and presented them to Jim. He said he didn't need them as he already had Audrey's! No there is ungrateful for you! John had thoughtfully purloined them with Jim in mind. So if you need organising – don't ask Jim but if you find you have forgotten an item of equipment - have a quiet word with John.

Just to add icing to this story. Jim told us that he had discovered that his water had frozen in his loo. Maybe he should have held onto Junior!



Attention everyone with e-mail facilities!!

There is a new virus – called California.

It will arrive on e-mail entitled California.

IBM and AOL have announced that it is very powerful, more so than Melissa.

There is no remedy. It will eat all your information on the hard drive and also destroys Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Do not open anything with this title and please pass this message on to all your contacts and anyone who uses your e-mail facility.

Not many people seem to know about this yet so propagate it as fast as possible.

Also, if you receive an e-mail entitled 'Win a Holiday' do not open it. This is part of the virus. It will erase everything on your hard drive.

*Motorcaravan Security*  
*A tip from new member*  
*Barry Skillington*

Here is a simple, cheap security tip for members. Buy the stick on type letters/numbers for your registration number and stick them on the top of your Motorcaravan. These should cost you less than £3.

The only people to see this would generally be police helicopters or policemen on motorway bridges and if your Motorcaravan was stolen and the number changed – hey presto!

*Thank you Barry for contributing to this newsletter. Come on you longer term members (I was going to say old but thought better of it – I don't want to get lynched) but send in your tips*

## *Join Our Club*

Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not amongst the dead  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And mixed up in the head.

I've got used to my arthritis  
To my dentures I'm resigned  
I can cope with my bifocals  
But, ye gods, I miss my mind!

Sometimes I can't remember  
When I'm standing by the stair  
If I should be going up for something  
Or have just come back from there.

And before the fridge so often  
My mind is full of doubt  
Now, did I put some food away  
Or come to take it out?

If it's not my turn to write, dear  
I hope you won't get sore;  
I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember I do you love you  
And wish that you lived near.  
And now it's time to mail this  
And say goodbye, dear.

At last I stand beside the mail box  
And my face, it sure is red.  
Instead of posting this to you  
I've opened it instead!

*Thanks to Grace Hall for this little  
ditty.*

*Here is something from Doug Taylor*

*A middle aged man, about 5 foot 8 inches tall, walks into a Wal-mart and asks where the pharmacy counter is. He is directed to it. When he reaches it, he asks to see the pharmacist. He comes out and the man, looking furtively, asks quietly, 'Do you sell Viagra here?'*

*The pharmacist answers firmly, 'Yes sir. We certainly do.'*

*The man then says, 'Do you think I could get it over the counter?'*

*The pharmacist looks at him for a moment and then says, 'Perhaps if you took 5 or 6 pills at once, you might.'*

Thanks to Doug for the above.

Another from Grace Hall

A prospective client is visited by representatives from four different insurance companies.

1<sup>st</sup> Rep: Our Company offers to cover from birth to death.

2<sup>nd</sup> Rep: Our Company offers from the womb to the tomb.

3<sup>rd</sup> Rep: Our Company offers from sperm to worm.

4<sup>th</sup> Rep: Our Company offers from erection to resurrection.



*Head*

*A Recommended Shower*

*from Mike Bedwell*

Many of you probably still have the original shower head, with the button to push and stop the flow of water. Like me, you have probably now found that it gets very hard to push, and has become a complete pain.

There is a magazine called 'Modern Originals,' it is a catalogue of new ideas from around the world. They advertise a super shower head for for £19.50 plus £3.95 postage and packing. If you ring 0870 600 6001 they will send you a magazine and you can order the shower head. Chris and I bought one and we are very pleased with it.

I have attached a copy of the advert which hopefully Sheila can include with this article. *No sooner said than done Mike.*

What have you bought that you can recommend?

Mike Bedwell  
President

## *We've lost them!*

We have lost some members – anyone finding them point them back in the right direction.

Bill & Carol Jones membership No.85. Bill is working out of the country and they decided to sell the van until he returns to work in the U.K.

John & Janet Colvill membership No.112. Unfortunately John tells me and I quote 'Every time we used the motor van I suffered from travel sickness. Having never suffered with travel sickness before, except in extreme weather conditions at sea, I am feeling rather cross and frustrated, to say the least.'

Last but not least are Michael & Glenys Fox membership No.84. His e-mail reads:

It is with great regret that we have to inform you that we have broken the Autocruisers Code by being unfaithful. Glenys and I have thoroughly enjoyed our first year's motor caravanning in our Vista, also the 2 club rallies that we attended but we decided to upgrade to a bigger van.

He also asks that I express his appreciation, via the Newsletter, to the members for making them welcome, especially to Bernie and Julie and Barrie Stockton. But don't worry folks I am reliably informed that they will turn up to see us at a rally this year before their membership runs out. You will be made most welcome Glenys and Michael; after all you did not commit the cardinal sin of buying a SWIFT (spit).

*G H Awnings of Bolton  
A moral story  
By Mike Bedwell*

One of the extras we have purchased for Spain is a safari room. Having discussed the pro's and cons with many of you, G.H. was well recommended for

its quality although I was constantly warned it was the most expensive on the market. Unless you are Pat & John Brady as they apparently got theirs for £1300. We received advice about extra roof bars, zips at the front and studs in the site of the vans. Plus of course, everyone buys at a show.

So Chris and I went to Shepton Mallet show where G.H. had a display and offered a show deal of free fitting and free skirt. The printed handout indicated this would have put a cost of £375 on top of the £2,148 for the safari room. So we ordered one. I do wonder if anyone ever purchases a safari room other than at a show? I sometimes suspect the supermarket con of wanting to sell their frozen chickens for £2.50 but advertise at £3.00 with a red 50p sticker put on in the factory!

As Chris and I had to take a day off work, without pay, plus London to Bolton is a thankful of diesel, I phoned G.H. Awnings to attempt a discount for us, and the club in general, but to no avail. Free overnight parking was offered provided I could finish work in London at 4.30pm get home at 6.15pm and to Bolton by 7pm. *John Eames could have done, you ever followed him? Not for long you haven't!* . An overnight stay at the M6 service station is £5.00. I also pointed out the advice I received in Paragraph 2 (roof bars etc), but was bluntly told they would do it their way! *Isn't that a song title? Ed.* Yes, we did get the studs! And we hope the creases will fall out in Spain.

The moral of this story is, if you are considering a G.H. Awning, attend our rally at Leyland in October, as it is close to Bolton and you will save travelling costs.

## *Children/Grandchildren Rally*

It has been suggested that the club run a rally with children and grandchildren in mind.

I have included a slip in this newsletter and would be grateful if anyone interested in attending a rally held somewhere like Drayton Manor for example, would return it to me as soon as possible to give us an idea of whether or not to include such a rally in our Rally Diary.

If the response is favourable I will inform you in the next newsletter so those of us with children too old to be included can either see if our offspring will produce or make other arrangements to obtain grandchildren if you so desire.



### **ANGEL O' DEAR.**

What's happened to the summer,  
It's such a blooming shame,  
It's never stopped raining ,  
Since that angel came.

It's not global warming,  
let's dispel those fears,  
That waater faaling doon on us,  
Is little angel tears.

Cos they're all up there blubbin'  
Cos their image is doon the pan.  
Folks were dying to visit heaven,  
Now neebody wants to gan.

When a bairn now draws an angel,  
Ye knaa what you get  
Not a nice heavenly body,  
But a rusty jumbo jet.

Lookin' like its been landed ,  
By a pilot from ower the toon ,  
Who didn't knaa the proper way,  
And just reversed it doon.

If it only had a lick of paint,  
It'd be a better sight.  
So I'm putting me faith in the spuggies,  
Painting the whole thing white.

Some blokes like the rust ,  
It doesn't get them doon,

But then some Geordie drinkers  
Are partial to the broon.  
I can see it clearly from wor hoose,  
Which isn't very nice.  
What wi the neighbas clapped oot car,  
It's knocked thousands off the price.

Some reckon it's an angler,  
Showing the one that got away,  
I,think its like a flasher,  
Whose raincoats gone astray.

Folk talk about it's mystic powers,  
Just give it's feet a rub,  
One local wife did just that,  
And now she's in the club.

The local lottery winners,  
Give the angel it's due,  
A greet big hand came oot the sky,  
And said "Hinny it could be you"  
And it was.

A lottery grant paid for it,  
So ah shouldn't moan and shout.  
It maybe an ugly rusty thing,  
But still--it cost us nowt.

Personally I can't abide it,  
But hinnies lets be fair,  
Love it ,or hate it,  
WE ALL KNAA THE ANGEL'S THERE

|

Some of our membership thought the Angel of the North was beautiful, the poem on the previous page tells you what we up in the North East think of it and here are just a few of things said about The Angel of the North

‘I think it is probably the emptiest, most inflated, most vulgar of Antony Gormley’s works. Gateshead is a self-inflicted wound. Bomb it, then you will change it. It is an awful place.’

‘I think the greatest thing for the ‘Angel’ is that Brian Sewell has classed it as rubbish.’

‘The statue is a monumental clanger.’

‘Gormley’s figure is said to represent an angel, but it more closely represents an old clothes peg and a foot rule.’

‘Maybe the Angel of the North will embrace travellers with those wings and tell them, wherever they live, they are better off there.’

Just a few of the comments from people who live up here so if you southerners want this ‘beautiful angel’ come and get it you’re welcome to it.



The New Millennium Bridge

Now this we are proud of!!

# Moreton in Marsh rally report by Alan & Dot Warne

January in Moreton in Marsh was our first rally with The Autocruisers. To Dot and I a rally had always been racing through forest or over closed roads in a rally car as quickly as possible, this rally was really something different!

We arrived a day later than planned to be greeted by Ken, the host for the event, who gave us information about the weekend.

As it was our first time so to speak please bear with us if we can't put names to faces of all the friendly crowd we met and talked to over the weekend. The site was ideal with good level pitches and located near to the village. On Saturday morning with Dave and Beryl Dalziel we took a trip to Stow on the Wold and Bourton on Water taking a chance our dogs would stay friends and not destroy the van when we left for an hour. Dave and Beryl wanted to visit a small village they had stayed in 30 odd years ago. As with most of the Cotswolds nothing much had changed only the size of the pub and the price of the beer!

Saturday night saw a stampede from the site to the White Hart Hotel, where Ken had arranged for us all the eat. It turned out to be a good choice with good food. No hangovers were reported when we gathered for coffee next morning. The raffle draw was held and I must say the quality and quantity of the prizes was excellent. I am sure the Autocruisers have someone looking down on them for the weather although frosty, stayed good the whole weekend. Thank you all for making us so welcome. We look forward to meeting you all again and thanks to Ken for all his hard work.

p.s. If any of you are planning a visit to Ireland this year give Dot or myself a ring on 0118 9723978 we have been going there since 1976 so hope we can answer any queries you may have.

*Alan & Dot Warne.*

### **New Wing Mirrors – A Little Problem!**

Advice from Ron Winter

If you are tempted to buy and fit the new 2-piece wing mirrors for either the Peugeot or fiat base vehicles you will have a problem.

I recently acquired a pair and removed the originals and fitted the new ones. I did this whilst the van was parked alongside my house with the silver screen in place, thinking that I would make the final fine adjustment when I next took the van out.

New Year's Eve arrived and we decided that we could not let the 'start of the third millennium' pass without some sort of celebration. We had been invited to a party and as we could not decide who was going to stay sober I thought that if we took the van we could just crawl out of the party and straight to bed. Good idea eh? I thought so until I got in the van and discovered that I could not see a thing out of the new mirrors! I managed to twist the mirrors in their housings far enough so that by leaning against the window I could see enough to make it safe to drive the short distance that I was going.

In conclusion, I must say that these mirrors are very good and completely eliminate all blind spots.



## MANAGEMENT'S GOLDEN LENTIL &



## UNEXPLODED VEGETABLE SOUP

*(Puts Feathers on your Chest, Missus!)*

Soak 4oz red lentils in water overnight.

Chop into small cubes

- 2 medium sized carrots
- 2 medium sized onions
- 2 medium sized leeks
- 1 large parsnip

Place 2 tablespoons of corn oil in a saucepan, and the chopped vegetables, stir and fry for 5 minutes.

Make up stock from 1 pint of boiling water and 2 chicken stock cubes, add stock to veg and bring to the boil.

Add the (drained) lentils and a large tin of peeled tomatoes and add seasoning as follows:

- 1 clove of garlic
- 2 heaped tablespoons of salt
- Black pepper
- 1 teaspoon of Knorr Aromat

Stir thoroughly and when boiling again, transfer to a pre-warmed crock pot. Top up crock-pot to 1 inch of the top with boiling water, stir again and cook for a minimum of three hours.

Puree thoroughly before serving.

Note: For Split Pea soup, proceed as above but substitute Split Peas for Lentils and omit the tinned tomatoes.

## JUNIOR ARRIVES WITH NEW BABY (MINUS EQUIPMENT)

(Jim & Rosie's version of events)

The long awaited letter arrived in time for Christmas. 'Your Valentine is read, when you wish to collect?' Having just completed the Christmas shopping, it was the news we needed!

Great news we will collect it the Marsh rally, and start the

weekend before Moreton-in-season in style.

So we left Shrewsbury on Bagshot, collected our arrived back home just as

Saturday morning for second baby, and darkness set in.

Up Sunday with the larks, ready for Moreton rally next all day screw this, fix that, boxes empty etc. 6pm all the rally next weekend. We can work, (yes some of us still packed. What a long week, are on the road at 6.30pm for rally of the new season, in

we must get the van weekend. Busy, busy pack this, all storage done, great, ready for leave immediately after work), everything is Friday arrives and we Moreton. Our first our new van.

We arrived at Moreton the rally venue at journey. Damn, 8.00pm, not to arrives and sites Autocruise rallies

Obviously all in the pub!! So feeling save ourselves for the Saturday night session.



Caravan Club site, 8.45pm, after a good the site is closed at worry, a friendly warden us. As usual on these at 8.45pm the site is deserted. tired, we thought we would

'Would you like me to get something to eat,' she says. (What a good idea, as she pulls open the cutlery drawer. 'Oh!!' she says, 'Oh!!' 'What? He says and we both stare at the empty cutlery drawer.

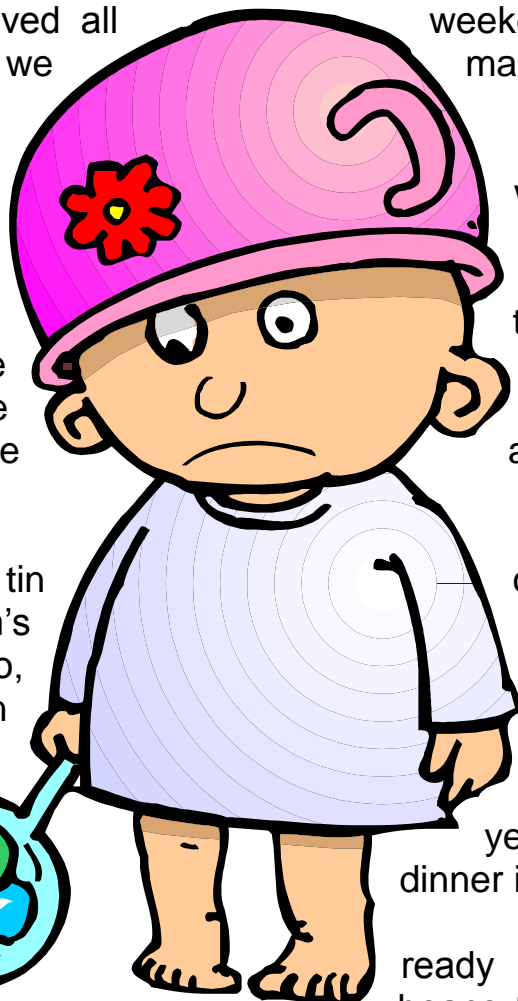
'Who packed the vehicle then?' she says, now at this stage I think quickly (like Ron), Women's responsibility, he says, 'I made sure the diesel and gas was O.K.' There was another silence as we both stared at the empty cutlery drawer in disbelief. A weekend rally in front of us and no cutlery whatsoever. No Autocruisers either, (all at the pub). I decide to do a reccy of the site, there must be someone at home, no one to be found, but wait is that a light showing behind the blind? Yes, I can hear the telly also, knock, knock, knock - the door opens, it's Audrey, yippee! A friend in need is a friend indeed!

After I had picked her up off the floor with laughter, she very kindly offered to loan us the equipment needed for that weekend. With embarrassing modesty, I accepted 2 knives, 2 forks, and 2 spoons. It's O.K. I say we can manage now, thanks.

And so that's how we survived all items of cutlery, and we really.

weekend with just six managed O.K., yes

Mind you, Sunday breakfast a fry up I say, Good idea, some baked beans on eh says!, reaching up for the cutlery drawer at the same time like this that your Autocruise useful. Ken & Audrey are early risers!



was a problem, fancy can we also put plate, no problem, tin, and opening the time, now, it's times friends come in about, Thank God for

"How much for the loan of a tin Ken, quick as a flash, Ken's opener. What a friend! "No, we wont need it again

opener?" I say to there with a tin it's O.K. Ken, but thanks."

Breakfast over, into dinner time, still have Sunday

coffee time then ran yes, of course we can dinner in the van.

"Dinner's nearly "How did you open the tin of peas," she says. "Ken," I shout, (well it is the last meal of the rally).

ready dear," she says. beans 'cos I can't open the

So we did it on just 2 knives, 2 forks and 2 spoons (and the loan of a tin opener).

We proved that you can last the weekend, why, when the cutlery drawer is full do we all carry so much equipment.

Of course, all weekend, we were ribbed by our friends for forgetting the cutlery, the annoying thing was that we couldn't remember where we had put the cutlery. "You must have left it in the old van," she says. "No I didn't," says I (knowing she is usually right).

After a really good rally (good company, an excellent meal in the pub on Saturday night, and an excellent site, a wonderful start to the rally season), we departed back to Shrewsbury, determined to load the cutlery drawer as soon as we arrived home.

Problem was, we spent 2 hours searching and still couldn't find it!! "I tell you, you've left it in the other van" she says (she is always right). Two days pass (and I think she is right, we will have to re-kit the drawer). We are watching the telly, she jumps up and shouts out "Of course, that's where the cutlery is."

"**You** put it in the spare bedroom when the visitors arrived unexpectedly the other day." So, all sorted now, new van fully kitted out, February rally just around the corner, weather looks O.K. at the moment, plenty of gas, fuel and water, what else can go wrong? More importantly what will our friends have to talk about at the next rally.

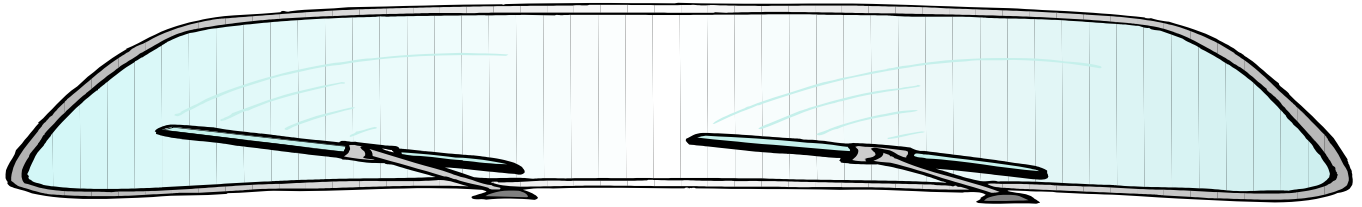
## Christmas Rally 2001



### *Again!*

On page 11 of this newsletter you were advised that the Christmas Rally 2001 would take place at Woodland Waters Caravan Park. This venue has now been changed owing to the fact that Woodland Waters has no hard standings. We will now be rallying at Bainland Country Park, Woodhall Spa. The rally held in February took place there and the map is in the Rally Diary.

A coach will be provided on Saturday to take people into Lincoln where there is a Christmas Market. In the evening there will be a three course Christmas meal served in the restaurant at a cost of £10 per head. A word of advice. Don't eat before the meal! The meal we had on Saturday night of the February rally was absolutely enormous. There was even enough for John Eames!!



The club has purchased **The Autocruisers** windscreen stickers. These will be on sale at Sunday coffee mornings. The price is £1 per sticker.

## *New Members*

147 - Barry Skillington Sheffield

Barry didn't tell me that he had a wife when he sent in his form. He has found out since that he does indeed have one and she would like her name added to the membership list. I don't blame you her name is Jean.

151 -	Marina Smethurst	Bettws Ifan
152 -	Michael McKenzie	Malvern
153 -	Robert & Sheila Goodwin	Reading
154 -	Ron & Joy Jeffrey	Sleaford
155 -	Geoff & Pat Small	Stockton
156 -	Duncan & Rosalyn Pickering	East Grinstead
157 -	Roland & Marian Ford	Royton
158 -	Alan & Christine Horton	Wales, nr Sheffield
159 -	Brian & Barbara Fletcher	Cheltenham
160 -	Mike & Jackie Finn	Redditch
161 -	Dot Spencer & Doreen Bradley	Bexhill on Sea
162 -	Graham & Miriam Aldous	Kings Lynn

Would anyone changing their van, address or telephone number please let me know so that I can update the files. Thank you.



## Beverley AGM Rally Report



I am reliably informed that this report will arrive sometime before the next AGM for publication in the newsletter. Colin volunteered to write this report only he didn't tell Sue that he had volunteered for her. We await this report with bated breath!

I would like to take this opportunity to say

Thank you to all the contributors.

Please keep your articles coming in.

That's it folks until the next one.