

# The Autocruisers

Newsletter No.17  
July 2001

## Woodhall Spa Rally a report by Ted & Margaret Marsh

It was with some trepidation that my wife and I arrived at Bainland Country Park near Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire for our first Autocruisers rally.

We were met by Bernie King, who made us welcome and showed us to our pitch for the next two nights. It is a lovely site in a wooded area with all those lovely extras that one seldom finds, like a heated indoor pool, a great café-restaurant, golf course etc. etc.

By the time we had hooked up and unpacked my daughter and her husband arrived from RAF Coningsby just six miles down the road. We went to the Club House and had a nice lunch at very reasonable prices. My daughter drove us to Woodhall Spa on her way home and we had a look around the village. During the war a local hotel (Petswood Hotel) was used as the Officers Mess for the members of 617 Dambusters Squadron. If you ask at the reception desk you may look at the original mess bar still as is was in those days. As I served in the RAF for 36 years and was stationed at Marham with 617 squadron for four years I was very pleased to find a lovely Memorial Garden dedicated to the memory of the squadron members who gave their lives in the last war, also listed were their main targets in Germany.

We walked the 2½ miles back to the site and most of the 13 vans had arrived by this time. We were one of three pairs of new members on our first rally, that evening over a few drinks we met the other new members, Geoff and Pat from Stockton, Dave and Betty from Cheltenham. Later the cabaret started, I am pleased it was a free one as all it consisted of was a very merry blonde lady who was celebrating the fact that she had just left her husband at the airport, where he was off to Dubai for a four month holiday. *I knew he didn't go to work but thought I was the only one that knew that.Ed.* I won't mention our secretary's name so as not to embarrass her but she did appear the next day when she had revived.

Saturday was a very wet and dull day and many members made their way to Lincoln. That evening we all met up in the bar and 23 of us sat down to an excellent three-course dinner, there was enough food to feed the 5000! As newcomers we were officially introduced to the rest and we found an extra van had arrived late owned by Graham & Miriam from Kings Lynn who were the proud owners of an Impala, purchased just one week before. A super night was had by all. Well done Bernie you were an excellent host of a great rally.

Sunday morning was very cold and windy but we all assembled under cover for coffee and the 'Grand Draw' with a good sales pitch from Sheila and Ken. The rally closed at about 11.30 and people slowly made their way home or moved on to pastures anew. We were the last to leave at 4.15pm after my daughter and family treated us to lunch over at the Barn.

It was announced by Sheila that this site 'Bainland Country Park will be the venue for the Christmas rally with a shopping coach; sorry I mean bus, (no need for coaching how to shop is there?) to the Lincoln Christmas Market. I urge you all to come and visit this excellent site.

Finally Margaret and I would like to thank Bernie and the other club members who made us and the other new members very welcome.

We had met Joe Beech at Canterbury last year when we owned an Eddis van, he tipped the scales for us when we selected our Valentine seven months ago, thanks Joe.

We hope to see some of you again soon. Happy Rallying!

*Thanks to Ted and Margaret for that report.*

# Anti-smokers: Face the facts

1) The number of adults who smoke: In 1998, the figure was 33% - a rise as it was 31% in 1995, so Mr. G Brown take note.

2) Tobacco revenue: For the tax year 1998, the Treasury estimate was £8.9billion to which you have to add VAT giving a total of £10.45bn. Add to this figure corporation tax for the tobacco companies and the tax and NI of their workers, estimated at £3bn and you get a grand total of £13.45bn.

The NHS budget was £40bn – smoking related problems did not cost 34% of the health budget.

If all the smokers topped next week, the basic rate of tax would have to rise by 6p. This shows that the most addicted smoker is the Government. So unless the anti-smoking lobby are happy to pay the extra tax, don't crib.

It should also be noted that drink-related problems cost the NHS three times more than smoking-related problems

3) Increasing tobacco taxes: Every year that the Government has increased tobacco taxes, revenues have fallen due to smuggling. Their latest idea is to spend £209 million on more customs officers. At the time the 'on the street price' of heroin is now at its lowest level. So do you want your children to smoke or do heroin? The smuggling problem and the move by organised crime into this area, has become so bad that Canada

and Sweden have reduced tobacco taxes!

4) Passive smoking: the World Health Organisation published a ten-year study that there was no link between passive smoking and cancer. They also found that childhood exposure to cigarette smoke reduced the risk of lung cancer by 22%. Of course there was an attempt at not publishing these results and the anti-smoking lobby claimed they were wrong. Politically correct science?

5) Smoking is the biggest health risk: Can your readers guess which country consumes the highest quantity of cigarettes per head of the population? Answer – Japan. And where do men and women live longest? Japan! Try to get a doctor to explain this to you.

It should also be noted that Japanese Americans suffer similar rates of lung cancer and heart disease as the rest of America. What is the only major difference? Diet. Those living in Japan eat very little processed food.

6) The only totally non-smoking pub has gone out of business.

7) And finally: Who enacted the strictest anti-smoking laws? Answer – Adolf Hitler. So I think I side with Winston Churchill, who said, "It's every English man's God-given right to enjoy smoking."

*Thanks to John Eames who sent that in. I think he only did it to annoy Ron.*

## Facts about pigs?

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee. (Hardly seems worth it). A pig's orgasm lasts for 30 minutes. (In my next life I want to be a pig).

How'd they figure this out, and why? Banging you head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour. Still can't get over that pig thing!

Human and dolphins are the only species that sex for pleasure. Is that why Flipper is always smiling? And pigs get 30-minute orgasms? Doesn't seem fair!

Right handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left handed people do. If you're ambidextrous do you split the difference?

The ant can lift 50 times it's own weight, can pull 30 times it's own weight and always falls over on it's right side when intoxicated. From drinking little bottles of... Did taxpayers pay for this research?

Polar bears are left-handed. Who knew... Who cares? How'd they find out, ask them? The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds. What can be so tasty at the bottom of the pond? The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It is like a human jumping the length of a football field. (30 minutes.... can you imagine?? And why pigs?) A cockroach will live nine days without its head, before it starves to death. (Creepy!) You have got to wonder about the sick sadist who found this out.

The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping of the male's head. (Honey, I'm home. What the... well at least pigs get a break there. Some lions mate over 50 times a day. (In my next life I still want to be a pig, quality over quantity.

Butterflies taste with their feet. (Oh geez!!!) that is almost as bad as catfish. An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain. (I know some people like that).

Starfish don't have any brains. (I know some people like that too!) After reading all this all I can say is .....Lucky Pigs!!!!

My son Lance had offered to come with me to Telford rally as Carol couldn't because of pressures of work. He said that he would come to keep me company! Some company – he was asleep in the back of the van after about half an hour and didn't wake up until we were 3 miles away from the site! He said he would come with me if I would agree to put his motorbike in the trailer and so it was loaded up and off we went.

We arrived at Telford and were met by Ken, Jim and Peter who soon man handled the trailer and parked it alongside the van. Lance wasn't very long before he was up and away, needless to say before water and hook-up had been achieved. That's offspring for you. Jim had a very peculiar looking van. It had developed a number of

extensions. Jim and Rosie had put their awning up and then added a tent for good measure. It made a brilliant space for meeting and coffee was to be had every morning at 11 am in the tent. Thursday night and the usual pub meal was eaten. Coffee on Friday morning and which was very successful where a number of the company actually stayed until lunch time. On Friday evening we had the punch bowl and a marvellous faith supper. Everyone was very generous, as usual, and we then followed that by Horse Racing. Jim was very professional with his betting slips and John Kirby was excellent as the jockey. We had all the sound effects from him. At times there was a bit of confusion as the starting line because the tent was about three feet too small in length and we found that Bernie was sitting on the starting line. That old devil will get in anywhere! We devised a system that once the horse had fallen Bernie had to sit with it on his knee or as near as possible. He did a sterling job!

Saturday arrived and a lot of the ralliers went walking abroad to see what there was to see. A special mention must be made here of Ron Winter. John and Doreen Eames accompanied by Linda and Ron and made for

pastures anew. They had walked their feet off on Friday and were game for a laugh so decided to do it again on Saturday. Unfortunately at some point in the afternoon Ron lost the elastic in his knickers! He then did an exceptional impersonation of Compo! We walked around with his hands in his trouser pockets holding up his underpants.

Saturday evening arrived and saw us all in the local hostelry partaking of a meal together. The food was excellent and everyone had a very good time. Of course everyone had been forced to part with their money prior to this for raffle tickets and the bonus ball competition.

Sunday morning arrived and coffee in the tent was the order of the day with the results of the competition that had run all weekend. Peter Hughes and Ron Winter were barred from taking part. Jim and Rosie had found this quiz (probably in the cutlery drawer), and had thought it had been acquired at a REME rally. Unfortunately they hadn't realised that Jackie and Gary Norcott had presented it to us. Remember the controversy over the knots and kilometres Jackie? Jim and Rosie had added a last question in case there was need of a tiebreak. Well of course Ron knew all the questions and answers and filled in his sheet. Peter Hughes, being the gentleman that he is did not enter the competition. Well of course Ron won – well he thought he did. Jim had other ideas. Ron actually won two bottles of Stella Artois, which he can't stand! The real winner won a box of chocolates.

All too soon it was time to help Jim fold the tent away and start to say our goodbyes. All, that is, except for John Eames. He couldn't get his van to start. The immobiliser was immobilised and wouldn't let him start his van. He was extraordinarily calm about the whole business, or at least he seemed to be, although having said that Doreen did leave him to it on a number of occasions so maybe he wasn't that calm after all. He had to call out the emergency service and at 4.15 ended up loading his van onto a low loader to be taken back to Amersham. I have heard of saving diesel but I think that is taking it a bit over the top. Especially folks when he is the Chair of the club! I am hoping to produce photographic evidence of this extraordinary way of saving money. Possibly it is something we, as a club, could look into as a club option.

We made a detour on the way home to go and see Richard and Anna. Lance fixed his computer for him, which, if the truth is known is why he wanted us there, not to discuss the rally that he is holding at Ashbourne. After a meal we made our way home, unhitched the trailer, emptied the van and now look forward to Devizes rally.

## Newsletter Articles

Do you have an newsletter. If so it to me.

As you can see trying the Telford Please don't be anything at all it in a future Do you have a Do you have a Please don't be



article for the please forward

here I am Rally report. shy send in and I will print newsletter. tip or hint? funny story? shy send it in!

## Leyland Rally October 18-21

A coach has been booked for this rally to take us from The Royal Umpire Caravan Park into Blackpool on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. We will have five hours in Blackpool to do as we want and then the coach will pick us up at 7pm for a tour of the Blackpool lights.

## Rally Levy

It has been decided by the committee that the levy of £3 per van be changed. In future the levy will be £1.50 per head. Obviously to most of the membership the levy will stay the same but to the members who bring guests this will of course change. The levy is used to pay for the punch bowl ingredients; the cost and postage of rally plaques to members. It also covers the site fee for the rally host. A rally host pays only for the electric hook up for the rally. The club as a way of saying thank you pays for all site fees. So if you want to run a rally, please contact a member of the committee. You will have all the help you will need running the rally it is not as daunting a task as you may think.

## *Lost & Found an article by Bernie King*



Some years ago a friend of mine spent some weeks in hospital with a spinal injury. The following is how he described things on his return home.

“As you will appreciate with a spinal injury I had to lay flat on my back, inspecting the ceiling. You may not realise what this entails so to give you some idea here is a brief record of one day in hospital.”

- 6am Nurse arrives, opens windows. Produces bowl of lukewarm water, leaves soap – just out of my reach! Make do with wet flannel. Wash all I can reach, which isn't much. Nurse returns to complete my wash. Luckily she doesn't wash everything she can reach because ..... it isn't much!
- 7am Baby's beaker of tea.
- 7.10am Clean teeth – have to spit out into a small bowl on my chest – undershoot – try again – this time shoot right over the top.
- 7.20am Nurse changes saturated pyjama to and top sheet tell her “No I don't usually do this at home.”
- 8am Breakfast. Suck lumpy porridge from a baby's beaker. Give up scrambled egg as a bad job. Go to sleep.
- 10.30am Have beaker of tea and one of my shortbreads. Lose half of it somewhere. Go back to sleep.
- 12.05pm Lunch. Soup in a beaker – too hot! Must have it last. Try to eat cheese 'sarnie' I had ordered as something simple to eat. Find it is made with grated cheese by spilling the contents down the back of my neck. Put towel on chest to catch crumbs. Successful but when finished flit towel carelessly. Second lot of cheese joins first. Still have not found my half

piece of shortbread. Soup now cold. Do crossword. Have wash with soap.

- 3-4pm Visiting – very short hour.
- 5pm Tea/Supper/Dinner. Cottage pie. Manage to eat most of it from plate on chest, must take up fishing after all this training. Whilst eating cottage pie do not notice until too late that my pyjama pocket has filled with gravy – find missing shortbread soaked in gravy.
- 6.10pm Nurse changes pyjama jacket – does not ask if I do this at home. Different nurse.
- 8pm Can see feet for first time since coming in – must have lost weight of tummy region. Quite pleased about that.
- 9.30pm Nurse comes in to straighten bed for the night. She plumps up both pillows – realise I have not lost weight – just gained another pillow!

In spite of the impression given above, I was treated very well in hospital. I have by now forgiven the petite physiotherapist who sent me home with my made to measure corset fitted upside down. Luckily I was left with no scars but it certainly made my eyes water.

## ***Subscription Renewals and AGM Attendance***

Enclosed in this newsletter is a subscription renewal form. Please send this back to me with your cheque made payable to The Autocruisers and dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2001.

If you have not already done so would you please also ensure that you return your booking form for the AGM rally at Hedon together with a deposit of £5 per van. Again would you please also make your cheques payable to The Autocruisers and dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2001.

The reason for the post-dated cheques is that Colin wishes to bank all subscription and AGM rally monies after 31<sup>st</sup> August. This makes auditing of the accounts somewhat easier.

## *Changes to the Constitution*

Do you want a change to our constitution? If so please remember that all motions to be voted on at an AGM must be proposed and seconded by separate Full Members and be received by the Hon. Secretary **no later than 11<sup>th</sup> July 2001**. A copy of all proposals will be posted to each Full Member and the Hon. Secretary must receive proxies from absentee voters **no later than 25<sup>th</sup> August 2001**.

Please remember if you are going to attend the AGM do not use a postal vote. You will be able to vote at the meeting.

## *Nominations for Committee*

Anyone wishing to stand for committee must be proposed and seconded by a separate Full Member and a signed confirmation must be included from the nominee stating that he or she is willing to stand for election. The Hon. Secretary must receive all nominations **no later than 11<sup>th</sup> July 2001**.

## *Motorcaravan Insurance an alternative From Don & Monica Roberts*

In 1999 after purchasing my Chamois I took out a policy with MTC and duly received the policy together with information on Continental travel. It took me a further two months and many phone calls to obtain the correct breakdown package.

When it was time to renew the policy I decided to look elsewhere and went to Safeguard of Leeds. I spoke to the same person each time and the policy is for UK & Continental use with breakdown by the AA and no size limitations.

The price was keener than that offered by MTC with a discount for Thatcham security and for membership to the Motor Caravanners Club. The latter offer very keen prices for ferry tickets.

## *Letter of Apology*

Dear Sheila

I write this note to tell you of my plight  
For at the time of writing I am not a pretty sight.  
My body is black and blue, my face a deathly grey  
And I write this not to say why Paddy's not at the rally today.  
Whilst working on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor some bricks I had to clear  
Just to throw them down from such a height is not a good idea.  
The Foreman wasn't very pleased, he being an awkward sod!  
He said I'd have to carry them down the ladder in my hod.  
Now clearing all these bricks by hand, it was so very slow,  
So I rigged up a pulley, rope and barrel and secured the rope below.  
Now in my haste to do the job I was too blind to see  
That a barrel full of building bricks was going to be heavier than me.  
Now when I untied the rope, the barrel fell like lead  
And clinging tightly to the rope I started up instead!  
I shot off like a rocket, and to my dismay I found  
That halfway up I met the bloody barrel coming down.  
The barrel broke my shoulder as to the ground it sped  
And when I reached the top, I banded the pulley with my head.  
I hung on tightly, numb with shock from this almighty blow  
And the barrel broke and split some bricks, 14 floors below.  
Now the bricks had fallen from the barrel to the floor  
And I outweighed the barrel and started down once more.  
Clinging tightly to the rope, my body racked with pain  
When halfway down I met that bloody barrel again.  
The force of this collision halfway up the office block  
Caused multiple abrasions, and a nasty state of shock.  
So still clinging tightly to the rope, I fell towards the ground  
And landed on the broken bricks that were there, scattered around.  
I lay there moaning on the ground, and thought I'd passed the worse  
When the barrel hit the pulley wheel, the barrel then did burst.  
A shower of bricks rained down on me, I hadn't got a hope  
For as I lay there bleeding on the ground, I let go the bloody rope!  
The barrel was now heavier than the rope and started down once more  
And landed on my chest, as I lay there on the floor.  
It broke three ribs and my left arm, and I can safely say  
That I hope you understand why Paddy's not at the rally today.

*Thank you to Peter Lockwood for forwarding on the letter of apology.*

## Another two from Peter



A business man rings his home in the afternoon and a small boy answers the telephone.

The man says "Hello son, it's your Dad here will you get your Mum to the phone?"

"Can't do that Dad," replies the boy. "Why not?" asks the father.

"Because Mum is upstairs with the milkman."

"Go upstairs and say that your Dad 's car has just parked on the drive and then come and tell me what happens," says the father.

So the boy goes upstairs and into the bedroom and tells his mum that dad's car is on the drive.

A few minutes later the boy picks up the telephone and says, "I've done that dad."

"What happened?" asks the father.

"Well!" said the boy. "The milkman shot out of bed and on trying to get his trousers on tripped over the carpet and went through the window. Mum got up and rushed downstairs to see if the milkman was alright, opened the front door and tripped over the cat and fell headfirst into the pond and I think she is dead!"

"Pond?" says the father, "that is Stratford 2290....?"



A man was playing bowls when he saw a vicar and asked, "Are there any bowls greens in heaven?" The vicar replied that he didn't know but he would find out.

At the end of the game the man saw the vicar again and asked if he had found out.

"Yes" replied the vicar. "I have some good news and some bad news for you."

"What's the good news?" asked the man.

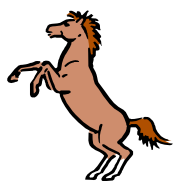
"The good news is yes they do have bowling greens and in heaven and they are very flat and very green, in fact they are wonderful" replied the vicar.

"What's the bad news?" asked the man.

"Well" says the vicar "you are playing in the tournament on Saturday."



## The things people say! From Ron Winter



This is a really lovely horse, I once rode her mother.  
(Ted Walsh – Horse Racing Commentator)

The racecourse is as level as a billiard ball  
(John Francombe)

The lead car is absolutely unique, except for the one behind it which is identical. (Murray Walker)



I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father.  
(Greg Norman)

Sure there have been injuries and deaths in boxing – but none of them serious.  
(Alan Minter)



There goes Juantorena down the back straight, opening his legs and showing his class. (David Coleman at the Montreal Olympics)

Morcelli has four fastest 1500 metre times ever. And all those times are at 1500 metres. (David Coleman)

I would not say that he (David Ginola) is the best winger in the Premiership, but there are none better. (David Coleman)

Well either side could win it, or it could be a draw. (Ron Atkinson)



He dribbles a lot and the opposition don't like it – you can see it all over their faces. (Ron Atkinson)

What will you do when you leave football Jack, will you stay in football?  
(Stuart Hall – Radio 5 Live)

If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again. (Terry Venables)

Strangely, in slow motion replay, the ball seemed to hang in the air for even longer. (David Acfield)

The black players at this club lend the side a lot of skill and flair, but you also need white players in there to balance things up and give the team some brains and common sense. (Crystal Palace chairman Ron Noakes, speaking in 1991).

*I didn't dare find a picture to go with the following quotes.*

Ah, isn't that nice, the wife of the Cambridge president is kissing the cox of the Oxford crew.

(Harry Carpenter – BBC TV Boat Race 1997)

Julian Dicks is everywhere. It's like they've got eleven Dicks on the field.

(Metro Radio)

And later we will have action from the men's cockles pairs....

(Sue Barker)

This is Gregoriava from Bulgaria .... I saw her snatch this morning and it was amazing.

(Pat Glenn – Weightlifting commentator)

He's pulling him off! The Spanish manager is pulling his captain off!

(Soccer commentator George Hamilton on Spain manager Luis Suarez's substitution of Butragueno during their world cup qualifier with Ireland in Seville, 1992)



I've never had knee surgery on any other part of my body.  
(Winston Bennett).

## ***Grandchildren/Children Rally***

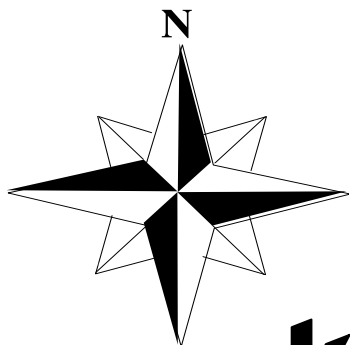


Again the response for this rally has warranted us going ahead with a rally specially catered for children. We are going to have this rally in our 2002 calendar and further details will be available in the new rally diary. We will have this published ready for the AGM.

## ***Buffer Polisher for sale***

The summer is coming or so I have been reliably informed, and now is the time to go out and look to the exterior of your van. Does it shine as it should? I suspect not. We have the answer to your problems but you will have to be quick!

The club purchased a number of electric buffer/polishers and we only have one left - a steal at £25! Anyone interested please contact a member of the committee.



# **Worksop Rally Report** **by David & Joyce Hill**

Worksop.....19/22 April 2001

As 'Southerners' on our first rally with The Autocruisers we were delighted to be invited to write a rally review. *(I like these two they believe they were invited, I usually get accused of coercion Ed)*

We rarely venture north for rallies but having just bought our first Autocruise van, an Impala and had phoned Autocruise for some information, we were so impressed we decided to find out more. We spoke to a Mr Richard Bentley *(Mr! They will soon learn!)* He told us that he was organising a rally the following weekend and we should come along and see for ourselves what an Autocruisers rally was all about.

So out came the 'Alan Rogers Good Camp Guide' and lo and behold there it was. Riverside Caravan Park, Worksop. Where on earth is that? We had seen signs to it from the A1 or M1 but had never been there so that settled it we go!

Six hours and 225 miles later through a hailstorm there it was. The site was easy to find and Ken who thought he knew Joyce from the M.C.C. where she is the National Junior Organiser greeted us at 5pm. We were shown to a pitch and soon had a visit from a sober Richard and others.

We decided to have an earlish night and went to bed sober.

Friday saw us refreshed and at coffee at 10.30 to meet everyone. There were about 15 vans so about 30 of us crowded into Sheila's safari room. What a delightful group! We were introduced and found several other 'first timers'. We willingly paid our ten quid to join and look forward to a long association with a new club. *(Willing or not you know I*

wouldn't have let them leave without paying me some money, but it is nicer when it is handed over willingly).

Into the town the next day, very pleasant and friendly, back for lunch and then an invite for a cream tea, thanks to the providers.

Having spent two hours getting our safari room up we were a bit late for the faith supper but fortunately there was plenty of punch left and the bowl seemed to miraculously refill itself during the evening. (*I bet that is the first time you have been called miraculous Bernie!*). Joyce now knows it was not non-alcoholic as Bernie told her!

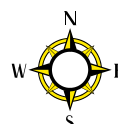
Saturday and back into the town, a good market so back to the cash point – Whatever did we do before they were invented! More tea and coffee both morning and afternoon and by now we were getting to know people better and we all seemed to remember each other's names.

Back to the cricket club's upstairs Saturday night. We scored 11 in the two members had a small problem piece and that was early in the impromptu, rounded off the evening, the high spot has to be Sheila (sans jeans) with her brief rendition of Lily Marlene.



suite for a buffet supper and quiz on quiz but the winners got 15! One or getting their drinks upstairs in one evening. The sing-song, quite

On Sunday, sadly, after coffee we had to leave to make the long trek south. In the words of Arnie, 'We'll be back!'



**Is it me  
or  
Is it a Heki?**

Peter and Janet Lockwood, newly back for foreign climes have had a Heki installed in their van and very pleased they are with it too. Peter remarked that the first meal that Janet cooked after the installation tasted sensational. On enquiring why he informed us that she had always burnt everything previously because it was so dark she couldn't see what she was cooking. Janet pointed out that now she would have to clean the van because she could see grease and dust everywhere. The joys of a Heki. Their Heki kept us entertained all weekend with Peter and company constantly coming up with alternative uses for a Heki. There will be a prize for the most original alternative use for a Heki. The winner will be announced at the AGM so get your thinking caps on and give your entries to any member of the committee.

A free installation of a Heki has been suggested as the prize (I won't mention by whom – I shall keep that titbit of information for a future blackmailing use), but somehow or other I don't think we will get away with that. A bottle of plonk seems more likely.

To all who attended the Lambourne End  
rally - especially Richard

A message from  
Bernie King

On arrival home from this rally the tales of woe concerning the various routes taken to the site kept going through my mind. Suddenly the solution to our problem hit me – what fools we were – the simple solution was as follows:-

After approx 3 circuits of the London Orbital Car Park, (shown on most maps as the M25) from the north, south or west head for central London. After passing through central London exit via Mile End Road and the A11. On reaching the M11 continue northwards and exit at Junction 5. The site in about two miles.

P.S. The journey through central London would probably be much more interesting if it was time to coincide with the evening rush hour.

Other members who did not attend this rally may be wondering what 'This Old Squit' is all about – worry you not we may be holding another rally on this site in the future.

*Signed*

Bernie Eckerslike

WARNING!

Rumour has it that Pay & Display meters are about to be installed on the aforementioned London Orbital Car Park.

***Wrong Name again!***

I informed you that we had a member called Jack Morris. He informs me that his surname is Norris. I could blame his writing but you know that it will either be my eyesight or my bad typing. Sorry Jack. .

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Ron & Linda Jeffrey member no. 154 have sold their van. Joy is very handicapped and they spent one day and one night in the van and found that it was too small and so have had to buy a larger van. They couldn't find a bigger Autocruise with single beds and ended up with a Compass Calypso.

## *Ultraseal Puncture Sealing Process*

I received a letter from a company called Ultraseal and reprint it below.

Dear Mrs Lennie

I am writing to introduce Ultraseal, a tyre sealant which can prevent the inconvenience of punctures and is especially well received by motorhome owners who have the added problem of jacking a heavy vehicle and accessing the spare tyre when a puncture has occurred.

Ultraseal can be installed into any pneumatic tyre with the following benefits:

- Guards against punctures and blow outs
- Eliminates air leaks – maintains correct tyre pressures
- Reduces heat build up resulting in a cooler running tyre – up to 32% cooler
- Avoids inconvenience and possible roadside danger for the motorist
- In the event of a dangerous puncture (e.g. Casing damage) Ultraseal is designed to slowly bleed, controlling the deflation and alerting the driver
- Retards dry rot, casing degradation and corrosion
- Increased retreadability by conditioning the tyre casing
- Installation does not affect the tyre manufacturers' warranty
- Extends tyre life by up to 25%
- **The repair provided by Ultraseal (up to 1/4" in diameter) is GUARANTEED for the legal life of the tyre**

Ultraseal is now available at trade price, offering you the chance to promote it to club members.

Adam Baker  
Regional Manager

If anyone is interested in this please let a member of the committee know. The sealant is purchased in five-gallon drums and there is enough to do about 14 motor caravans.

## ***Notices from around the World Part 1 From Peter Lockwood***

Cocktail lounge, Norway

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

At a Budapest Zoo

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY.

Doctor's office, Rome

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hotel, Acapulco

THE MANAGER HAS PERSONALLY PASSED ALL THE WATER SERVED HERE.

Information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner, Japan

COOLES AND HEATES: IF YOU WANT JUST CONDITION OF WARM AIR IN YOUR ROOM, PLEASE CONTROL YOURSELF.

Car rental brochure, Tokyo

WHEN PASSENGER OF FOOT HEAVE IN SIGHT, TOOTLE THE HORN. TRUMPET MELODIOUSLY AT FIRST, BUT IF HE STILL OBSTACLES YOUR PASSAGE THEN TOOLTE HIM WITH VIGOUR.

Dry cleaners Bangkok

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS

Sign in men's rest room in Japan

TO STOP LEAK TURN COCK TO THE RIGHT.

In a Nairobi restaurant

CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER

On the grounds of a private school

NO TRESPASSING WITHOUT PERMISSION

On an Athi River highway

TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE

On a poster at Kencorm

ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO, WE CAN HELP.

In a City restaurant

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

A sign seen on an automatic restroom hand dryer

DO NOT ACTIVATE WITH WET HANDS

In a Pumwani maternity ward

NO CHILDREN ALLOWED

## *This from Peter Hughes*

The burglar was creeping noiselessly through the darkened home, filling his bag with various valuables. As he reached his hand out to a box of jewellery, he heard a voice say, "Jesus is watching you."

Shaken, the burglar stopped. For a full minute he didn't dare breath.

Finally, he switched on his flashlight and carefully played it around the room, but saw nothing.

Convinced that it must have been his imagination, he turned off the flashlight and continued in his quest for another man's wealth. He was busily unhooking a stereo set when he again heard, "Jesus is watching you."

This time he nearly jumped out of his skin, he was so freaked out. Beads of sweat popped out on his face, and as he switched the light on again, the beam shook violently from his terror. He looked about the room, and noticed a birdcage in the corner. Upon closer inspection, he discovered a parrot in the cage.

"Are you the one that spoke to me just now/" asked the burglar.

"Yes, I am," said the parrot.

"Why did you say 'Jesus is watching you?'" asked the man.

Because I felt that you need to be warned," replied the parrot.

By this time, the man was over his fright and was more irritated by the loud-mouthed parrot that he had tried to scare the living daylights out of him.

"What's your name?" asked the burglar. "Moses," the parrot said.

"Hah," the man said, guffawing. "What kind of people would name their parrot Moses?"

"The same kind of people that would name their Rottweiler, Jesus."



**Rally 2001**

**Woodhall Spa - Christmas**

This rally has been booked for 6-9 December 2001. The site fees will be £8 per night inclusive of hook up and the Christmas dinner on Saturday night will cost £11.50 per head. A coach will be booked to take the ralliers into Lincoln on Saturday for the annual Christmas market.

## Train Spotting Week-End (or what Elsie Did)

Brilliant! An Autocruisers rally in the next county, less than an hours drive away, near a town with its own brewery! We were really looking forward to the weekend at Devizes. A few weeks before, we'd been down to the coast at Christchurch, the trip back should have included a stop for tea in the New Forest, however, due to the 'mouth and foot' scare (still no confirmed cases in Hampshire) the whole place was closed! This got us worried about Devizes. A phone call from Bernie confirmed that the rally was off. As we had booked time off work we would be going away anyway.

Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April dawned so we had a lay-in! We'd already planned to go out that evening to celebrate a family birthday. Lazy day at home.

Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, got up late, a phone call to one of our favourite sites booked us in for the weekend at The Camping and Caravanning Club site near Chichester. After our own version of a scene from "Butterflies" = Cavalier & Primera moved down the road, Marina (it's a classic!) to neighbours space then Elsie the Starfire to outside the house, and finally all the cars into the drive. We set off at lunchtime travelling 'cross country to Petersfield then over the Southdowns to Bosham, a quiet little place where the tide comes half way up the main street. Luckily it was out but the seaweed across the road gave the game away.

We arrived at the site late afternoon, only the hardstandings were in use as the grassy bits were more like a bog than a lawn. Four minutes thirty two seconds later and we'd set up, poured out and sat down.

Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April. Rain. Our plan for today was to catch the bus to Bognor Regis. The bus runs pass this site every half hour, but as we couldn't be bothered to wait in the rain for up to twenty nine minutes we drove. Un hook the hook-up, gas off, roll off the cheeses, stack it all in a neat pile and away. On the Chichester by-pass we passed a *Vista* (or Valentine) with an overcab bed. We flashed and waved like mad things, but no response. Question 1. If superstores are now open 24 hours. Why does the entire population still go shopping on Saturday mornings?

After lunch by the sea we went to Kelsey Bill, the weather had brightened up for a walk along the beach.

Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. Sunny. The people who'd arrived on Friday with a caravan are still setting up! We pack up and headed off home. Along the coast this time calling at Hayling Island for coffee. On our tour of the island we spotted another Autocruise, a *Minuet*, at the Hayling ferry. As we left the island, but its only bridge, we saw another *Starfire*, in a pub car park, more waving (the horn still doesn't work every time), but no response. By this time we were wondering if these Autocruises were *Autocruisers*, and if so would they have been disappointed at the cancellation of the Devizes rally as well? No punch bowl, no raffle, no bonus ball, and we only "spotted" three other vans. Hopefully the countryside will re-open soon and our spotting can start again. Until then we are looking forward to the next rally, in Somerset.

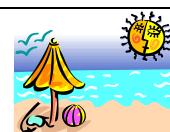
See you all again soon.

Peter, Vanessa & Elsie.



## A cry for help from Barrie & Julie Stockton

Help wanted! The over-cab locker on our 1998 Starfire appears to be a single skin of glass fibre lined with carpet. This can become very cold, noticeable when the locker is opened and cold air spills out, and there are sometimes signs of condensation on items stored in the locker. Does anyone have a solution? We have considered lining with either polystyrene backed card, as used behind radiators to reflect heat or one of the materials advertised for combating under mattress condensation. Whilst wishing to reduce the cold, we don't want to trap condensation in the existing carpet. Suggestions would be welcome.



## Do you have a problem with a really hot van interior?

If that is your problem, read on I have the answer for you. Well Peter and Janet Lockwood do.

### For Sale

Electrolux air conditioning unit  
Model CAL61/.401 220-240 volts  
Only used four times.  
£400 or near offer.

Telephone  
01527 893690



This one from Lance, junior that is.

A 93-year-old man goes to the doctor for a medical. After the medical the doctor exclaims 'You are in perfect health.' The old man replies, "Yes I know I am about to have a child with my 18 year old bride." "That's impossible!" says the doctor and sits the old man down. "Let me tell you a story" he says. He relates the tale of a man out hunting in the forest and about to shoot a bear when he reaches for his gun and realises he has brought his golf club. Trying to frighten the bear away he aims his golf club, a shot rings out and the bear drops dead. The old man interrupts and says "That

is impossible it must have been shot from another gun!" The doctor replies "My point exactly!"



## The Braemar Gathering September 7<sup>th</sup> 2002

A rally has been booked for The Braemar Gathering for 2002. The Games start at 9.30am and usually finish about 5pm.

"While there have been Gatherings of one sort or another at Braemar since the days of King Malcolm Canmore, nine hundred years ago, the Gathering as we know it has been organised by the Braemar Royal Highland Society for only 184 years. But during much of that time large crowds have come each year to acclaim their Monarch as Chieftain of the Braemar Gathering.

Every Gathering is a memorable occasion and that of 2002 will be no exception. International athletes will be among those taking part in the 'heavy' and 'track' events. Pipers and dancers will be of the usual high standard while teams from H.M. Forces will compete in the inter-Services Tug of War Championship and in the Services Medley Relay Race. A Hill Race will again be run up Morrone.

The Gathering, always held on the first Saturday in September, is world famous for its friendship and hospitality which we look forward to sharing with many visitors to our Park beneath the encircling heather-clad hills."

Andy Baxter informs me that Pat, Kirsty and himself will be playing in one of the bands at the Gathering.

We will be staying at a campsite at Ballater, which is where a lot of the pipers will be staying. Andy says that they pipe through the streets of Ballater on Saturday night after the Gathering. The site fees will be £11 per night including hook-up

Anyone wishing to visit Aberdeen may make use of Andy's kind offer of a pitch in his back garden. Well not actually his back garden but on his land.

For anyone interested, *certainly not myself or Bernie*, there is a Whisky Trail which might prove popular.

I have enclosed a booking slip for this rally. The reason for this is to get an idea of how many people would like to attend. Pat suggests that we buy Grandstand tickets if we have never been before. The tickets go on sale in February so we will have to have entrance fees by January 2002. This year the price was £20. If you think you would like to go please send me the form, this does not constitute a firm booking it will just give us an idea of how many people would be likely to attend. Further information will be sent to anyone wishing to book this rally.

The AGM will be held the weekend after from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

## WHAT'S A GEORDIE? By Geordie Broon of Backworth

'What is a Geordie, Pet?' I've heard many people ask  
But to give a definition is not an easy task  
Some think he's a heathen, what grows leeks and lives on beer  
But if you haad yer gobs awhile, I'll give you my idea.

When God forst made the Universe, He thowt his handiwork was grand  
He made a man of every creed to cultivate each land  
He made Eskimos for Iceland, Africans to stand the heat  
But when it came to Geordieland, he said 'I doot aam beat'

So he made a man of iron, with muscles of forged steel  
For hewing coal and building ships, a job that he's done weel

And just to finish off his work, at least so I've been told  
He completed his first Geordie by giving him a heart of gold.

So when you ask 'What's a Geordie?' Just stop and think again  
If it wasn't for Geordie Stivinson we'd've had no railway train  
And aald Joe Swan from Sunderland first made electric light  
And St Geordie slew the dragon, why I'm varny sure that's right

So d'yu wonder that I'm proud to be a Geordie lad  
A forst class team, the world's best beer, surely that canna be bad  
And when my earthly days are done and I leave this world of sin  
I'd like to hear St Peter say 'Howay Geordie, it's yor turn to gerr'em in.

## GEORDIE'S SNAIL

When Geordie Broon of Backworth was redundant at the pit  
New work was hard ti come by so he lukked around a bit  
He tried for several canny jobs he reckoned he cud dee  
Then he started sweeping roads for Seaton Valley UDC

His length waas aalways spick and span, his verges aalways trim  
He aalways left a tidy job, cos ye canna horry him  
One afterneun the foreman on his roonds jumped off his bike  
And noticed Geordie lift a snail and fling it ower the dyke

When Geordie threw that snail the foreman thowt 'what's he at?'  
He sed, 'Geordie lad, what made ye dee a cruel thing like that?'  
'It waas watching what aa did' he sed 'soo aa had ti chuck it away  
It had me fed up ti the teeth, it's followed me all day.

There will be more chronicles from Geordie Broon in future issues of the newsletter.  
We will meet his wife, daughter and son in time.

## INSPIRATION FOR THE UNHAPPY

Once upon a time, there was a little sparrow who hated to fly south for the winter. He dreaded the thought of leave home so much that he decided to delay the journey until the last possible minute. After bidding a fond farewell to all of his sparrow friends, he went back to his nest and stayed for an additional four weeks. Finally, the weather turned so cold that he could delay no longer. As the sparrow took off and started to fly south, it began to rain. In a short time ice began to form on his wings. Almost dead from cold and exhaustion, he fell to earth in a barnyard. As he was breathing what he thought was his last breath, a horse walked out of the barn and covered the little bird with fertilizer. At first the sparrow could think of nothing except this was a terrible way to die. But as the fertiliser started to sink into his feathers, it warmed him and life began to return to his body. Hw also found that he had room to breather. Suddenly, the little was so happy that he began to sing. At that moment, a large cat came into the barnyard and, hearing the chirping, began to dig into the fertiliser to find out where the sound was coming from. The cat uncovered the bird, and ate it.....

This story has three morals:

1. Not everyone who shits on you is your enemy
2. Not everyone who takes shit off you is your friend
3. When you are warm and comfortable, even if you are in shit up to your eyeballs, keep your damned mouth shut.

## *Holiday Rally 2001*



We have had a good response for this rally and it will take place from Wednesday 19 to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Chew Valley. The site fees are £8 inclusive of hook up. Everyone booking this rally will be sent a map.

## ***New Members***

- |     |   |                             |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 163 | - | John & June Smith           | Newhall         |
| 164 | - | Gordon & Christine Gambrell | Bampton         |
| 165 | - | Ron & Joyce Winkworth       | Seaford         |
| 166 | - | Len & Joyce Foster          | Reapham         |
| 167 | - | Bob & Mary Peters           | Liverpool       |
| 168 | - | David & Joyce Hill          | Bedhampton      |
| 169 | - | Gordon Frape                | Bristol         |
| 170 | - | Tom Brown                   | Rotherham       |
| 171 | - | Joan Rooke                  | Kettering       |
| 172 | - | Eric & Susan Hornby         | Lytham St Annes |
| 173 | - | Mike & Lynne Thomson        | Camberley       |

### **FOR SALE**

#### **Autocruise Chamois ED**

1996 P Reg Taxed M.O.T. 25,000 miles FSH  
2 owners

Top Box – Safari Room – Tow Bar – Bike  
Rack- Scooter Rack – Nudge Bar – Water  
Filter - Sprung Lux Mattress in overcab bed –  
Van Bitz Remote Cat.1 alarm - 4 brand new  
Michelin tyres.

£24,950 ovno

Gary & Theresa Hunter  
07779 720960/09737 78936



# President's Piece



Well I have to say, if you are retired and never tried it, do it!!

It takes some planning, organising your bills, someone to check the mail, all the things you think you will need, clothes, cash and so on.

The day dawned and we drove to Dover. It was misty and raining all the way, which made the van dirtier than before I washed and polished it.

We popped into Belgium to see a friend, stayed overnight and headed south the next day.

Drove across France to Biarritz only stopping at free motorhome camping places. Then across Spain via Madrid, Granada and Malaga, again stopping on service stations so it was free. The journey took five days and was a great adventure. We drove through freezing fog, snow, rain, high winds and eventually through the clouds climbing one of the Sierra's. We lost a hub cap and collected a chipped windscreen.

Day six had us driving on the N340 Costa del Sol, in brilliant sunshine and a blue sea coastline on our left. We glanced at a couple of campsites and then found Las Jarales, pulled in intending to stay two weeks and stayed two months!

Each emplacement had it's own tap, electricity and an outlet for black and grey water and the site fee was £150 per month.

The weather was wonderful, we had five days rain in ninety-four. We were made very welcome by the other campers, and soon invited to a birthday party, a St Valentine's meal and a wedding reception.

Outside the campsite was all you could want in the way of shops. A wonderful supermarket, ironmongers, bars, restaurants even a telephone shop where you could send your e-mails. Across the road was the beach. We were midway between Marbella and Fuengirola.

We so fell n love with the site and all its amenities that we have now bought a nine metre Hobby caravan that has been sited for us and we are having a permanent

extension built with double-glazing and a patio door. Having said that, we are keeping our van and still taking it to Spain.

So how did we spend our days? Well we went for walks in the hills or along the beach, cycle rides, bus rides, sunbathing and many visits to the campsite bar!

We eventually left Los Jarales and headed west for the sherry region, passing Gibraltar on the way. We stayed on the coast at El Pureto del Santa Maria. During the next few days we staggered from sherry tasting to tasting sherries. When we found the best and bought some we were then informed that they supplied Harrods!

We departed heading eastwards across Spain. We used narrow mountainous roads with golden eagles circling above. Passed through a beautiful area known at the 'White Villages' and eventually stopped after a few days at Granada.

It was Easter time and thus a big religious festival known at Semana Santa. Every evening there were processions and bands in the streets. A very touching atmosphere.

We pushed on to Valdepenas, the largest wine growing area in Spain. Guess why we stopped there?

Heading north we skirted Madrid and headed for Zaragoza after a couple of days rest we went over the Pyrenees into France. We camped one night in the Pyrenees with snow covered mountains all around us.

Heading north through France we stopped just north of Bordeaux on the banks of the Gironde at Blaye. Then to Saumur, along the Loire until we came to Nogent-sur-Seine, (some of you have been there before), then to Brussels, Antwerp and Rotterdam to visit friends in Holland.

The worst part of the journey was leaving Dover and driving home in the dark, the rain and the wind!

If you fancy the trip, want to join us next year, (we are going for six months), or just want advice we can help. The best decision I made was to have new tyres fitted, the worst was not carrying a spare seal for the toilet.

I could go on and on but suffice it to say Chris and I loved every minute of the adventure and every second of living in Spain and can not wait to return.

Mike Bedwell.

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.