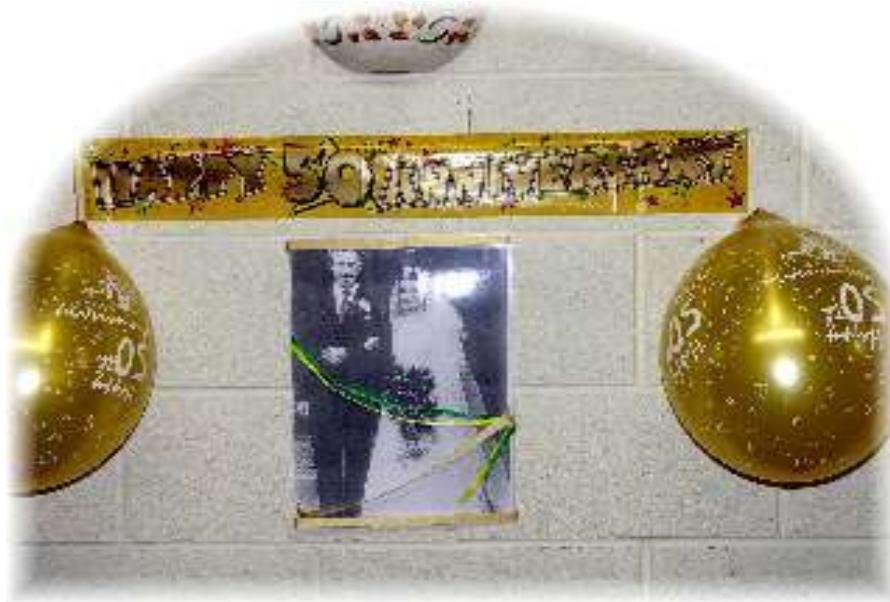


The Autocruisers

Newsletter No.35
April 2006



*Celebrations with Alec and Sylvia:
Hollyfast Rally, March 2006*

Chairman's Rantings

Again I start my rantings with the very sad news that Vera Blundell passed away on 9th March after a very long and courageous struggle against illness. Janet and I only knew Vera for a few years but she was a lovely lady and left a lasting impression with us. A potted history is else where in this newsletter. Our most sincere condolences go to Bill and his family.

The Sherwood Forest rally was very good and some people entered into the spirit by dressing up as merry men (and merry women). As there was a club house/hut on site Pauline, who is very patience, taught an unruly 'mob' the fundamentals of 'square' dancing. A lot of fun was had by all who attended. Sylvia and Alec Blackburn won a DVD in a raffle, but more of this later.

The rally at the Hollyfast Caravan Park near Coventry was a celebration rally to celebrate Sylvia and Alec's Golden wedding. From the remarks and letters received every one enjoyed themselves and Alec was presented, along with a few other items, a 'mucky film' to show on their new DVD player, much to Sylvia's annoyance. When you've seen it Alec, please could the committee borrow it?

We've heard rumblings from a couple of members that they don't like booking in advance and would sooner turn up for a rally. Unfortunately the way the club runs the rallies it's not possible, because as we use hard standings for most of the year we need to book them with the campsites. These soon get filled and for someone to turn up on the spur of the moment, so to speak, they would be turned away. Plus we normally arrange 'activities' for the rally which may need to confirm numbers as seats could be limited (e.g. a meal on the Saturday evening at a venue).

Have you ever had an embarrassing moment, like the following?

I was taking a shower when my 2-year-old son came into the bathroom and wrapped himself in toilet paper. Although he made a mess, he looked adorable, so I ran for my camera and took a few snaps. They came out so well that I had copies made and included one with each of our Christmas cards. Days later, a relative called about the picture, laughing hysterically and suggested I take a closer look. Puzzled, I stared at the photo and discovered that in addition to my son, I had captured my reflection in the mirror - wearing nothing but a camera!

If you have we would like to hear about it.

Have you heard the one about the two engineering students who were walking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want." The first Engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice, the clothes probably wouldn't have fitted you anyway."

Well that's enough from as I suspect you want to read the rest of the newsletter, so we hope to see you all at one of the rallies during the year.

Keep on rallying,



RALLY DATES FOR 2006



12 th – 15 th January	Sherwood Forest Caravan Park Edwinstowe	£12 per night with hook up
9 th – 12 th February	Venture Caravan Park Morecambe LA4 4TQ	£7 per night with hook up
9 th – 12 th March	Hollyfast Caravan Park Coventry	£12.00 per night with hook up
13 th – 17 th April	Kings Lynn Caravan & Camping North Runcton, Kings Lynn	£8 per night 24 hook ups
April 27 th – May 1 st	Cathedral Grange Touring Park Litchfield WS13 8HU	£7.25 per night with hook up
25 th – 29 th May	Park Coppice Caravan Club Site Coniston	CANCELLED
June 22 nd – July 2 nd	Higher Well Farm & Holiday Park Stoke Gabriel TQ9 6RN	£5.25 per night with hook up
July 27 th – July 30 th	The Plough, Amerton Stowe-by-Chartley ST18 0LA	£5 per night no electric hook up
24 th – 29 th August	Town & Country Festival Stoneleigh Park CV8 2LZ	£22.50 for up to 5 nights no electric hook up
31 st Aug – 3 rd Sep	Factory Open Weekend Swinton, Mexborough DON'T FORGET TO BOOK LAKESIDE DIRECT	£12 per person
5 th – 8 th October	The Haven Arms Hedon	£19 per person
3 rd – 6 th November	Riverside Holiday Park Southport New Rd, Southport	£5 per night with hook up
7 th – 10 th December	The Ranch Caravan Park Cliffe Common Selby YO8 6EF	£11 per night with hook up limited number
<p>Club sites will be booked at Southern Motor Cavan Show – Peterborough Show – York Show If you want any other shows booked please contact Sheila Lennie</p>		

In previous years we have gone to Lakeside following the Open Weekend Sunday – Friday. The only charge is for electric. If you want to go please contact Lakeside and book before the weekend as they places get filled up pretty quickly.



Roll of Honour

25 Rallies

John & Anne Purser



Vera Blundell



14 March 1936 – 9 March 2006

Vera a very special lady

Vera was born in Salisbury Plain maternity hospital in 1936, where her father Jim, was a regular soldier in the tank regiment. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Vera, together with her brother John, were taken by their mother Elsie, to live with her parents in Sheffield until the end of the war. It was here that Vera gained her Yorkshire accent and learned about the values that she held dear for the rest of her life.

I first met Vera at a dance. I was alone. I spotted a lady and thought I would ask her to dance; as I approached the table, this particular lady got up and walked away to the ladies room. I continued my walk and Vera was sitting on the next seat with her cousin, Pat who had just been dumped by her boyfriend, so Vera and taken Pat out to cheer her up. Vera danced with me, ballroom dancing, and we danced well together. She loved rock and roll, to Bill Haley and the Comets. Englebert Humperdink was top of the charts at that time with 'Save the Last Dance For Me.' In that short evening I knew that she made me happy and I arranged to see her again. On the night of our second date, I took Vera home. As we sat together I said, 'I have something to tell you, thinking that I should put my cards on the table. She said' Don't tell me you are married with six kids.' I said, 'Yes, how did you know?' She said, 'It's a music hall joke,' and laughed. We said goodnight I asked if I could see her again. She said, 'I don't think you have anything to offer me!' I said, 'Only my love and perseverance.' That was 38 years ago when I was divorced and living with my parents.

One of the first people Vera took me to meet was one she laughingly called her oldest friend, not because she was old, but because their friendship had lasted since their schooldays. She was Margaret Rance, now married to Tony, whose daughters are Debora and Joanna. I must have been passed Ok, as I got to go again, and 40 years later I am still being invited. Vera was Aunty to many, Grandma to quite a few and Great Grandma to five and Godmother to Debora. When I first met Vera she had just landed a job as a chauffeur for the government car service.

When we met I already had a family of young children whom Vera agreed to take on, she always said that she enjoyed a challenge. We bought a little house and had two children together, Kristina and Kevin, whom she loved and adored. When Kristina was eight she wanted to go to a disco, so Vera went with her to find out about it. She immediately became involved with the Shirley Community Association. This was the start of a happy relationship with the Shirley Centre where Vera became treasurer for many years.

In 1971 I became self employed and opened an engineering shop called Shirley Engineering which Kevin now owns and runs successfully. Of course in all this was Vera, always my right arm, coping with the office work. Vera had learned her typing skills at the BSA works at Sparbrook, Small Heath, where she lived with her brother John and her mum and dad. We lived and worked together for the next 25 years, side by side. If we ever needed a bank loan, and we never had any money in those days, it was always Vera who went to sweet talk the bank manager. She never came back empty handed. After a few years we bought a caravan near Stourport as a bolt hole from work.

Vera was very much at home on the stage, a very good actress, who because of her hearing problems could not hear the prompt so she learned the whole script, every ones part! She also made her own stage clothes for whatever part she played. She was also good at knitting. About ten years ago we changed our caravan for a motorhome, first joining Romahome Club then the Autocruisers. This gave us many, many happy weekends, meeting some lovely people who are now very good friends.

We came to Broadway in 1999 to find friend of Vera who had retired there. Strolling around the village we stumbled across an estate agent and saw Lifford Gardens. We fell in love in minutes. Vera was never a person who wanted everything she say but I could see she loved this place, so I said I would do all I could to buy the house. Knowing that with Vera's poor health I would not have her forever, I pulled out all the stops and it worked. We moved in September 2000. We naturally homed in on the village hall and joined the drama group in which we have both had so much pleasure.

Vera always had an opinion on most things and was never shy about standing up and saying what she thought. I was constantly amazed at how fair minded, compassionate and unselfish she always was. Frank Sinatra sand 'I did it my way.' Vera might not have been able to sing but she certainly could 'do it her way. So when I lie awake in the small hours, wondering why I had to lose her, I remember all these things and thank God for the lady at the dance who got up and walked away.

Bill

Rally News

UPON ARRIVAL TO THE RALLY PLEASE PROCEED TO THE RALLY MARSHALL'S VAN DESIGNATED BY A LARGE RALLY MARSHALL SIGN TO ENABLE YOU TO BOOK IN AND BE ADVISED OF PITCH AND WEEKEND ACTIVITIES. ARRIVALS AFTER 2PM ON THURSDAY PLEASE.

Easter April 13th – 17th 2006 THIS IS A CHANGE OF VENUE

Kings Lynn Caravan & Camping
New Road
North Runcton
Kings Lynn PE37 0QR
Telephone: 01533 840004
£8 per night with hook up

May Day Bank Holiday April 27th – May 1st

Cathedral Grange Touring Caravan Park
Grange Lane
Lichfield WS13 8HU
Tel: 01543 521449
£7.25 per night with hook up

June 22nd – July 2nd

Higher Well Farm & Holiday Park
Stoke Gabriel
Totnes
TQ9 6RN
£5.25 per night

This is a holiday rally and you may stay for as many nights as you wish. Please indicate on the booking form the date of arrival and how many nights you will be staying.

July 27th – 30th

The Plough
Amerton
Stowe by Chartley
Nr Stafford
ST18 0LA
Tel: 01889270308
£5 per night no hook up

Rally News

August 26th – 28th

Town & Country Festival
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2LZ

£22.50 per unit.

Site opens Thursday 24th August and closes 12 noon Tuesday 29th August.

Entrance to the Town & Country Festival
Advance 3 Day Ticket Exclusive for Caravan Rallies

Adult - £26

Senior Citizen - £16.50

Advance Day Ticket Option

Adult - £10.50

Senior Citizen £8.50

Tickets and caravan passes are sold on a 'sale or return' basis except for the day tickets, which are not refundable.

Please send your booking form to John Jenkinson as indicated. Send cheque for £22.50 made payable to The Autocruisers. Payment for entrance tickets will be collected by the committee at the Festival. Please indicate the number of tickets required on your booking forms. All day tickets booked and not used **must** be paid for.

31st August – 3rd September 2006

Autocruise Open Weekend

Swinton

Mexborough

£12 per person

Please send booking form to Lance Lennie and not to Autocruise CH Limited. Can we have these as soon as possible please?

Future Rallies

October 5th – 8th Haven Arms Hedon nr Hull
November 2nd – 5th Riverside Holiday Park Southport

December 7th – 10th The Ranch Caravan Park Selby

Booking forms for this rally will be published in the October edition of the newsletter. No bookings will be accepted before then. This rally only has 40 pitches allocated.

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Steve Joyce
Carol Jenkinson
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Sue Granville Madam President

Is French kissing in France just called kissing?

If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?

G.P.S.

For those members using GPS such as Tom Tom and Navman, or use Microsoft Autoroute Express for route planning, who are members of The Caravan Club and/or The Camping and Caravanning Club, if you haven't already found it, there's a very useful web Site from which you can download all the clubs' C.L.'s and C.S.'s:

<http://www.jollyinteresting.co.uk>

This is free and has other useful information.

Also available for download are the locations of most U. K. traffic cameras at:

<http://www.pocketgps.co.uk/>

However, this has now become a subscription site at £2.00 per month or £19.00 per year.

An airline's passenger cabin was being served by an obviously gay flight attendant, who seemed to put everyone into a good mood as he served them food and drinks.

As the plane prepared to descend, he came swishing down the aisle and announced to the passengers, "Captain Marvin has asked me to announce that he'll be landing the big scary plane shortly, lovely people, so if you could just put up your trays that would be super."

On his trip back up the aisle, he noticed that a well-dressed rather exotic looking woman hadn't moved a muscle. "Perhaps you didn't hear me over those big brute engines. I asked you to raise your trazy-poo so the main man can pitty-pat us on the ground." She calmly turned her head and said, "In my country, I am called a Princess. I take orders from no one."

To which the flight attendant replied, without missing a beat, "Well, sweet-cheeks, in my country, I'm called a Queen, so I outrank you." "Tray-up bitch."

Travelling through Belgium?

Free Parking?

Free parking for one or two motorhomes, for up to two nights, is currently available in the Belgian town of Temse. This is just off the A14(E17) Ghent to Antwerp route near the junction with the N16.

The parking is in the car park opposite the restaurant Het Palingshuis, Wilfordkaai 17, 9140 Temse.

The restaurateur, Anne Marie, and her son Coert, speak good English should you wish to dine there, Tele.:+32(0)3 771 03 70

Web address: www.palingshuis.be.

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Sherwood Forest Rally

This rally was on our doorstep really, being only about 45 minutes drive away and this is definitely the closest we have ever camped from home. We arrived Thursday 2.45 approximately, and already the site looked pretty full.

The weather was really beautiful and had been dry locally for a good few days and with the forecast not looking too bad we knew there would not be problem camping on the grass (all hard standing being taken before we even booked) John & Steve being rally marshals as usual had every thing under control. A total of 25 vans attended this venue.



It's a lovely site with quite a large lake and this is made available for tourers to camp alongside on hard standing. As you walked around the site only then did you realise just how big it really is, it's obviously been extended over the years and is very well laid out and well cared for. There's a fishing pond at the bottom as well. With woodland walks and plenty of dog exercise areas the only draw back as I see it, the towns and villages are not within walking distance, but there's plenty of local interesting

places to visit by car or van. Being Robin Hood country the Major Oak being the obvious must. It's all fenced off now and branches held up with chains. They have actually cloned saplings from the Major Oak which the American market take a large amount of.

We had the use of the camp site club room for the weekend and it was put to very good use. Thursday evening we used it just for a get together and to meet everyone for the first time this year. It amazes me how far afield people travel just for a weekend.

Friday being a lovely day it was decided to make the most of the weather and spend time outside for those that wanted to. A fish and chip supper had been arranged for Friday evening by John from the local chippy, every one putting their order in and the supper collected. They all came boxed up and I must say that having fried approximately 50 suppers they were surprising hot and fresh and very nice as well. A chippy well worth supporting.

Sheila had bought the quiz as usual and being quite a long one, half was done Friday and collected (so no cheating allowed) then the other half was finished Saturday. I think quite a few people (like us) didn't want to go back to the vans too early and we finished up have a sing around. There are one or two dark horses among the Autocruise members who have really nice singing voices and it would be nice to encourage a little more from them from time to time.

We had a coffee morning Saturday and it was decided that we would have a dance workshop in the afternoon for anyone with a little bit of energy and also nice exercise, it was country dance or perhaps better known as barn dancing. It was all very easy dancing and lots of fun, every one agreed that we would have a repeat performance soon.

Saturday evening committee being had gone to a lot of onions and burgers everyone. They were much appreciated by



certain members of the Sheila, Steve and Lorraine trouble to cook hot dogs and with cheese and salad for very nice and very filling and all.

The quiz was finished off and also the raffle drawn. It's funny how things all come out together, Janet and Jack won most of the booze so that went to a good home, and John Askew who was attending this rally on his own, as Anne was in Australia visiting their daughter, won about all the toiletries which caused quite a laugh, and guess what? The hand cuffs and whip turned up again and this was won by Carol and John, I think that brought the biggest laugh of the night with really good banter between members.



The prize for the quiz was a DVD player and this was won by Steve & Lorraine with a little help from Lance. They didn't want another as Lorraine told us they already had one under the bed (the mind boggles – could be a good idea for a competition! What do they do under the bed that necessitates a DVD player), anyway I digress, and they decided to sell raffle tickets and everyone bought one for £1. The ticket was drawn and a much excited Sylvia Blackburn won the DVD player. Steve & Lorraine then announced that they were giving the money raised to the club funds.



Barry sang a few songs and finished off with "Here's to you" which by now people are getting to know the chorus, it's a lovely finishing song and I think very appropriate for The Autocruisers.

It's really nice getting to know the people that attend these rallies, not that I'm very good remembering names but faces are becoming familiar now.

Cheers for now.

Pauline Renshaw.

Why not ask Joyce Foster about the lovely kingfisher she saw in a tree one morning. She went and got her camera and when she was asked what she was doing she immediately everyone to be quiet or it would fly away. Unfortunately the photo is not able to be reprinted here. But believe you me it is worth asking her about it. Ed.

Our First Rally by Mike & Niv Batten

We have owned our current van for just under 2 years. We had previously owned a Compass Drifter which was stolen in March 2004 from our home. We went to the Driffield motorhome show later that month by car, to meet up with the Compass and Herald owners club and look for a replacement van. Whilst there we saw a 6 month old Autocruise Starspirit which had the rear lounge layout we wanted, it also had the 2.8HDI upgrade and was fitted with bike rack, awning and full air con, all this at a very good price. Although it was over our budget (*aren't they always? Ed*), it was exactly what we wanted. So a deal was done and we became the proud owners of our dream van.

We eventually joined the Autocruisers club last year and decided to go to our first rally in January to Sherwood Forest campsite.

Our journey up was fairly uneventful, we met with John Askew, who is a good friend of our from the Compass and Herald club, just above Gloucester and continued up to Nottinghamshire. We had a slight hiccup at Clipstone when Autoroute led us up a dead end road. But eventually arrived at the rally site. As members of another owners club we have had some experience of rallying but nothing prepared us for this!

We were made to feel very welcome on arrival by Sheila, Lance & Peter, told about the various delights laid on for the weekend and shown to our pitch.

The campsite was very clean with a stream at the back of our pitch with various wildfowl making use of it including a beautiful Kingfisher. (*I told you to ask Joyce about this. Ed*)

There were some lovely walks from the campsite which pleased Molly, our cocker spaniel and an added bonus was the cabin for our coffee mornings etc.

At Friday's coffee morning we were informed by Peter that a world famous barn dancer would be prepared to give lessons to interested members on Saturday. Well we were at a loose end on Saturday so decided to go and have a laugh at those members having barn dance lessons "BIG MISTAKE" within 30 seconds of arrival we were lined up with the rest of the victims learning how to barn dance. It was an hilarious, exhausting and humiliating experience with the "teacher" showing extreme patience in very trying circumstances.

The rest of the weekend with punchbowl, burgers and hotdogs went very well, we made some new friends, laughed a great deal and discovered that most of the committee are quite made. All in all a lovely first rally for Niv and myself, thank you fellow Autocruisers.



Mike was going to be married to Karen, so his father sat him down for a little fireside chat..... He says, "Mike, let me tell you something. On my wedding night in our honeymoon suite, I took off my trousers and handed them to your mother, and said, 'Here - try these on.' "So, she did and said, 'These

are too big, I can't wear them.' "So I replied, 'Exactly. I wear the trousers in this family and I always will.'" Ever since that night we have never had any problems. "Hmmm," says Mike he thinks that might be a good thing to try.

So, on his honeymoon, Mike takes off his trousers and says to Karen, "Here try these on."

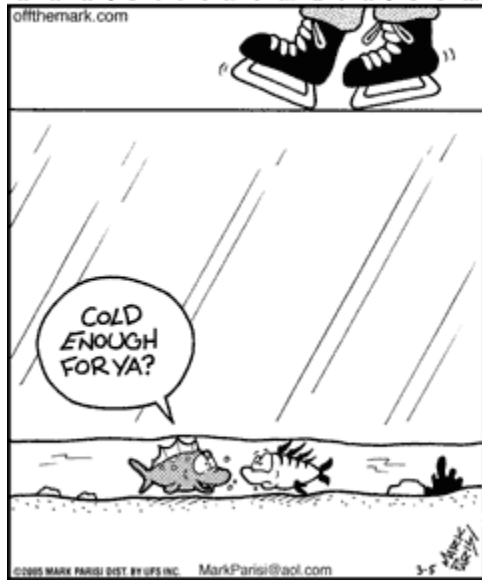
She does and says, "These are too large, they don't fit me."

Mike says, "Exactly. I wear the trousers in this family and I always will, and I don't want you to ever forget that."

Then Karen takes off her trousers and hands them to Mike and says, "Here you try on mine." So he does and says, "I can't get into your trousers." Karen replies

"Exactly. And if you don't change your attitude, you never will!"

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



Driving Abroad

One of our members has asked that you be reminded that junction numbers on Spanish roads that are not consecutive like our roads here represent the distance in kilometers from the major town or city

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CONGRATULATIONS AUTOCRUISE

As we are all aware of the thought and planning that goes into the building of our much loved motorhomes it will come as no surprise to many of us that AUTOCRUISE has been awarded three prestigious accolades in the MMM 2005 awards ceremony held in December at Birmingham's NEC Hilton Metropole Hotel. Taking Gold for, MMM best motorhome of the year (Starburst), Gold for best low profile (Starburst) & the third Gold for best UK Manufacturer (but then we knew that already). On top of the MMM Golds, Autocruise were also very proud, in September last year, to be awarded 'THE BUSINESS GROWTH & SOUTH YORKSHIRE TOURISM INNOVATION' awards.

We 'The Autocruisers Club' send our congratulations to all the workforce who have strived so hard to achieve these commendations and we are proud to be associated with such a great company

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL
The drinks are on Sheila!!!
(mind you I didn't get permission to say that)

HAPPINESS IS

Happiness is that time of the month, yippee! It's rally time.
So that means a really good time.

I have a bath and then a trim to make sure I am looking slim,
And so by then I'm at my best and people come and rub my chest
But after that to please my mum they even come and rub my tum
Then after that I get a kiss and that is when I think Oh Bliss.

Love From
Sasha Purser





Strange but True
Articles supplied by
Peter Lockwood



The Search for Buried treasure

Shrouded in dense fog, the P & O liner *Egypt* nosed her way cautiously down the French coast. It was 20th May 1922, and she was one day out from Tilbury, bound for Bombay.



At seven in the evening, some 30 miles off Ushant, the lookouts straining their eyes into the gloom heard the warning note of a foghorn.

One moment there was only grey, all-enveloping fog, the next the sharp prow of the French cargo steamer *Seine* loomed out of the murk, heading straight for the *Egypt's* vulnerable flank. There was a grinding, shuddering impact. The *Egypt* staggered as her plate's buckled and cold seawater flooded into her hull.

The *Egypt* foundered in only eighteen minutes with the loss of seventy-one members of her crew and fifteen passengers. Like thousands of other ships she perhaps would have long since been forgotten even today, that is had she not been carrying about 10-tons of silver and 5-tons of gold bars as well as a large amount of sovereigns! In 1922 a fortune estimated at £1,054,000 today the equivalent of over £39 million! The wreck now lay at the bottom



Because of the fog the exact location of the *Egypt* was unknown. The sea in the area was so deep that the immense pressure would crush any normal diving suit even so, in England, Germany and Italy experts sought a means to achieve the impossible to salvage the treasure.

An Italian company designed a new type of metal diving armour, which gave the diver some mobility to work, and in the summer of 1929 the quest for the wreck began. The Italians searched all through the summer but without success. Then the weather deteriorated and operations had to be abandoned for the year, but in 1930 they were back again.



Strange but True
Articles supplied by
Peter Lockwood



Day after day, week after week, the hunt continued, but the long-sought wreck was finally found by accident. One of the buoys marking the area already surveyed broke free and drifted away until the securing cable caught in an obstruction. Quickly a diver prepared to descend and investigate. Four hundred and thirty feet down he reached the bottom. There was no mistaking the huge shape that loomed above him. The cable of the drifting buoy had caught in the wreck of a ship - a big ship.

It took time to survey the hull in the murk and blackness of seventy fathoms, but at least there could be no doubt as to the identity of the vessel. Her davits were swung out where the lifeboats had been lowered, just as the *Egypt's* had been; and she had two funnels - just like the *Egypt*.



Now the divers' real task began - controlling the lowering of explosive charge to blast through the ship's sides and decks. When the explosive was in place, the diver working from an observation chamber was hauled to the surface and the charge detonated. Then he went down again, this time to supervise grabs removing the twisted and blasted steel plates.

One by one the decks were cut through, but it was slow, laborious work. No treasure was recovered in 1930, or in 1931. But in 1932 the strong room was reached. Through a hole made in its roof grabs were lowered, and the first of the treasure was triumphantly hauled to the surface.

It was many months before the operation was completed, but when the divers finally surfaced, over one million pounds' worth of the *Egypt's* treasure had been recovered from the bottom of the sea.

By 1935 an estimated 95% of the treasure had been recovered. The operation was a story of ultimate success a story still regarded within the marine recovery business as one of the greatest salvage feats of all time. It is now said still unaccounted for amongst the wreck lie 14,929 sovereigns, 17 gold bars and 30 silver ingots.



Morecambe Rally

BRING ME SUNSHINE – and it did – two glorious days at Morecambe.

We arrived on Thursday in sunshine and a very warm welcome from John Jenkinson and Sheila Lennie. We got set up and relaxed.

On Friday we walked into Morecambe in glorious bright sunshine. We strolled along the promenade where a large regeneration programme is underway. English Heritage is sponsoring the rebuilding a large hotel right on the promenade, the Winter Gardens Theatre has a fund raising project to return the theatre to its former glory and Stone Quay has already been opened. Also in the centre of the promenade are formal gardens and a statue to Eric Morecambe which is surrounded by steps upon which the words of “bring me sunshine” are etched, it really is an unusual monument to a famous person.



There are several statues and sculptures of birds, penguins, etc. spotted in unusual places and the walkway to Morrison's supermarket has poems, like “Who killed Cock Robin” etched into the pavement.

The view across to the Lakes was spectacular and all names of lakes and mountains are displayed on the promenade. Unfortunately the main town did not match the cleanliness and vitality of the promenade. A good clean up and a lick of paint is sorely needed.

On Friday we decided to catch the bus from outside the site into Lancaster. It was a very scenic route – through a housing estate then an industrial estate and then a trip around ASDA's car park before alighting at Lancaster Bus Station!



There were some really amazing buildings and the Town Hall with columns and ornate carvings was very impressive. We shopped at the outdoor market which had several continental stalls selling olives, bread, cheeses, etc as well as the normal market traders.

A social evening was held in the club-house which was well attended. Sheila produced a fiendish quiz which involved strenuous exercise of the brain. Sylvia and Dave Barron won with

17 points – Well done you two New ralliers Anthony and Jeanette were introduced and we wish them many happy rallies in the future.

As it was becoming quite chilly we headed back to the site as at 7.30 we were to enjoy a “hot-pot” meal of savoury mince and chips which was enjoyed by all. The raffle was held and as St Valentine's Day was imminent many suggestions and comments were made as to the best way of using the various candle sets, wine, and chocolates and, of course, the sexy underwear won by Alec. Some members were obviously intending a very romantic evening on the 14th.

The weather had changed to heavy rain and high winds so Peter cancelled the coffee morning to be held on Sunday and wished everyone a safe journey home.

This was our first rally of 2006 and we really enjoyed it. It is so nice to meet up with friends old and new. To find out what has been happening in their lives. To talk about new places to go, recommend sites or just generally relax and have a good time. We are really looking forward to our next rally.

Once again we thank the committee for all the work they do in finding the sites, arranging the catering, etc. and all the other things involved in running a successful rally. They really do “do us proud”.



Rex & Cherry Kerlake



Opening times



Open for browsing



Open for dreaming



Open for fun



Open for the kids



Open for leisure



Open for exploring

Opening time at Marquis is just that - the time when the door to every single motorhome on the forecourt is unlocked - and left unlocked until closing time. So you can browse at your leisure. Of course, if you'd like to speak to one of our knowledgeable motorhome experts, their (sales office) door is always open. But the choice is yours.

Take your time. Be relaxed. Enjoy the experience.

Larger maps are available by calling your local branch, or visit the website below which also features a full vehicle stocksearch from all our branches.

www.marquismotorhomes.co.uk

Why not try before you buy? Call Vivanti Motorhome Holidays and Rental on 0700 007 4473 or visit the website at www.vivanti.co.uk

Marquis Berkshire
Oxford Road Chieveley, Nr. Newbury
Berkshire RG20 8RU
01635 248 888

Marquis Gloucestershire
Mill Avon Holiday Park, Gloucester
Rd Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
GL20 5SW
01684 296 222

Marquis Lancashire
Riversway Leisure Village, Chain Caul
Rd Preston Docklands, Preston
Lancashire PR2 2XR
01772 731 313

Marquis Devon
Lea Mill, Ivybridge Devon PL21 9EE
01752 892 977

Marquis Hampshire
Winchester Road Lower Upham
Nr. Southampton
Hampshire SO32 1HA
01489 860 666

Marquis Surrey
Vermouliens Garden Centre
Horton Road, Stanwell Moor, Staines
Surrey TW19 6AE
01784 463 111

Marquis Dorset
41-45 Old Wareham Rd, Poole,
Dorset BH12 4QN
01202 738 777

Marquis Hertfordshire
Greenlawns Luton Road, Kinsbourne
Green Harpenden, Herts AL5 3NF
01582 460 583

Marquis Sussex
Eastbourne Road, Golden Cross
East Sussex BN27 4AN
01825 873 377

Over 400
new & used
vehicles in
stock

Mon to Fri 9am - 6pm
Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun 10am - 5pm

CAUTION

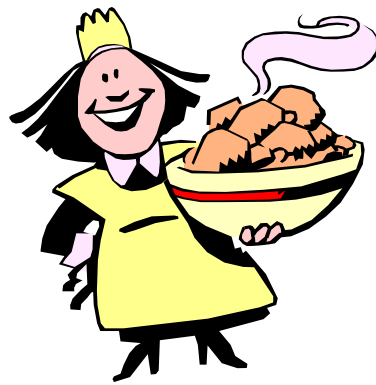
MEN AT WORK



Women work all the time-
Men have to put up signs when they work.

What do you call a handcuffed man?
Trustworthy
Why do female Black Widow spiders kill their males after mating?
To stop the snoring before it starts.

Why is it called Alcoholics Anonymous when the first thing you do is stand up and say "My name is Bob, and I am an Alcoholic!"



RECIPES

The following are the recipes for the salads that were produced for the Hollyfast rally.

Harlequin Salad

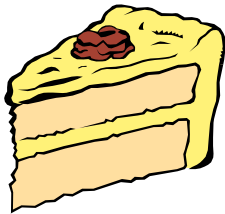
Nuts, Peas, Raisons & Sweetcorn
in Rice

Waldorf Salad

Apple, Celery, Sultans & Walnuts
in Mayonnaise

Prawn Rice Salad

Prawns & Rice in
Thousand Island Dressing



Dot's Yoghurt Cake

Ingredients

One small carton of natural yoghurt (use yoghurt carton for all your measuring)
2 cartons of sugar
3 cartons of self-raising flour
2 cartons of mixed fruit
1 carton of vegetable oil (we use olivio oil)
2 eggs

Construction

Put all ingredients into a bowl and mix well. Put the mixture into a loaf tin and cook for 1½ to 2 hours at 325°F/170°C/gas mark 3.

Note: instead of mixed fruit, you could use cherries, coconut, chocolate chips or ginger or leave out the mixed fruit altogether for a plain cake.

HOLLYFAST CARAVAN PARK

THOSE GOLDEN YEARS



March 9th – 12th, 25 vans gathered in Coventry for our monthly rally, but this one was a little different from our usual rallies, during this weekend we came together with special intent to join in a celebration for a very special couple. I say special because that's what they have become to so many of us & they are friends to all, of course it's Alec & Sylvia Blackburn & they are to celebrate their **GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** on the 24th of March 2006.

Steve & I arrived on Wednesday to a wet cold campsite after a long drive from Plymouth in the pouring rain & were glad to get set up & get the kettle on. Lynn the receptionist came over with her site map to show us where everyone had to park according to van lengths & gave us very strict instructions that no one was to DRIVE ON THE GRASS as it was very wet & they did not want it furrowed by tyre marks. She said as long as she could trust us she would leave Steve & John to park everyone instead of her, personally, having to do so. With her warnings ringing in our ears she left us to our cuppa.

Some of the other committee members arrived about 10am on Thursday & after getting set up with some time to spare before the other members arrived we went to look at the American RV's, as Hollyfast is also the home of Midland Motorhomes. After trying a few of these monsters for comfort your committee has now agreed that to enable us to carry on it's hard work on your behalf the membership fee may have to increase to enable us to purchase one of these beautiful beasts so that in the absence of a suitable venue for our meetings we can join together in the RV, this vehicle would of course be shared amongst the committee for a month at a time & all fuel & running costs will be covered by the club. (Just joking folks) £

Anyway back to the rally. The catering committee had to go off in the afternoon in search of a chippie for Friday's lunch & food for the buffet on Saturday, unfortunately we made the mistake of taking Peter with us who of course added a coffee shop to our search. We managed to find all three & after a while we headed back to the site, arriving just in time for tea. By this time more members had arrived & once we had all had our meals we gathered in the hut (sorry Peter, club house) for a get together with friends & as normal, for Autocruisers, just a FEW drinks, some stayed later than others for a sing song & natter but their names escape me now.

Friday we woke to sunshine but unfortunately it was short lived & soon the sky was overcast once more & it was extremely cold. John came to our van early to inform us that he had been woken even earlier by someone tapping on his door, we have no idea what he & Carol were doing at the time but he was most agitated & walked with a limp all morning, I'm just not saying what it was that was limp. Apparently our usual late comers, Caroline & Steve Joyce had arrived after midnight on Thursday & found themselves locked out & not able to enter until the staff came on the next day. John soon had them parked in their designated area & had called on us to mark them off our list.

After another coffee morning the time was spent milling around until the fish & chips arrived for lunch when everyone gathered again in the club house to enjoy them, the supplier had also very kindly supplied a crate of coke as a thank you for the large order.

Our punch bowl was held as usual that evening, with a soup & bread roll supper to keep out the chill. The room was very cold as the heating system was not working properly & everyone fought for space around two Calor gas fires. However we had soon partaken enough of our favourite tipples to keep the inner glow going, that is with the exception of Margaret Smallwood & myself who only drank TEA!!! Mind you by the look of our rosie glow we were warmer than most. Again after the majority had left some of us remained to enjoy the round Robin entertainment. This saw us sat in a large circle with Sheila starting off with a song whilst she was wearing a sombrero. The idea was that the hat would be passed around & each person wearing it would start the next song of their choice, Sheila's song was one taught her whilst accompanying Lance on board the ships so you can imagine what type of song this was, let's put it this way YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO SING IT TO THE VICAR! We all took our turns at a song but Sheila & Margaret fought over the sombrero so the rest of us managed without. Once the singing round had finished we each had to tell a joke but some of the ladies declined to show themselves up so that was a quick fire round. By now the TEA! was beginning to show its affects & Margaret & Tom left, soon to be followed by the rest of us.



Saturday dawned & this was to be the big day for Alec & Sylvia. Once more we gathered for coffee at 10am. This was followed by a trip to the races, compliments of Jim Keen, money was quickly changing hands & by the time I left Mina Allen was leading the winning stakes by a length.



Sheila, Janet, Margaret & I then went off to Morrison's for the buffet food, leaving Peter behind as we needed to hurry. We soon returned with the car laden down with goodies & at 4pm some of us met in the club house to decorate the room & prepare the food. The room looked lovely. Sheila had been very busy having obtained a photo of Alec & Sylvia in their courting days & a wedding photo she had enlarged & laminated them, decorating them with gold ribbon.

These were hung all around the room with gold balloons & '50'streamers & golden anniversary banners, I really don't know where Sheila gets all her ideas & energy from to do all she does for the club plus hold down a full time job. (of course she couldn't do this without the help of Lance) ha! ha! ha!

There was plenty for everyone to eat & enjoy, all they had to do was get their glad rags on & arrive in time to be sat when the happy couple walked in. 7pm, this was it, the celebration we had all come for. We all sat quietly in the hall & awaited the arrival of the guests of honour, Alec & Sylvia. They had been joined earlier in the day by their daughter Julie & son in law Gary who had come to celebrate with them.



At 7-15pm Alec & Sylvia arrived to the sound of 'Anniversary waltz' playing & the applause of all their friends who had come to celebrate this momentous occasion. They were seated at their table & Peter gave an opening speech welcoming them to celebrate their GOLDEN YEAR with THE AUTOCRUISERS. This done they lead everyone to the buffet & the celebration was underway.

The raffle took place & Sylvia seemed to win more prizes than she had bought tickets. Amongst these prizes were a whip & handcuffs, (much travelled by all accounts) some drinking straws resembling a certain part of a man's anatomy (some ladies were seen to try to wrestle these from her) & an interesting looking teddy bear. Not to be left out Alec took possession of a very nice red fluffy eye patch in the shape of a heart, he wasn't sure were to place the elastic straps though, but Sylvia was heard to say she would show him later.

Like all good things they have to end & all too soon the evening was over. Everyone went out into the bitter cold night to return to their vans. Some members of the committee remained to clean up the room to save coming back to it in the morning. Especially as snow had been forecast for Sunday & people wanted to get on the roads early. With the bonus ball result made known & won by Pauline Renshaw & thanks given to some people another rally was over as we joined for our farewell coffee morning. It had been a good weekend only to be outshone by the next one as we seem to get better & better at it. So until April & Kings Lynn, take care & travel safely.

By the way a word of warning, Sylvia may try to pass all her lovely prizes on at the next raffle, so watch the shape of the parcel she puts on the table, we don't want them after they've been well used Sylvia & I have an idea that whip & handcuffs could show up again.



More motorhome insurance cover for less from Caravan Guard!

In response to customer demand Caravan Guard have made changes to their motorhome insurance policy for the 2006 motorhome season ensuring many new and existing customers will be able to get more cover for less.

Firstly, the company have announced lower insurance rates for owners of derived van and coachbuilt motorhomes as well as savings for owners of motorhomes worth over £35,000.

Secondly, the company have extended their European Insurance and Breakdown package to include cover for up to 8 months of the year. That's an extra two months cover on the continent than previously offered at no extra cost.

The company have also relaxed their requirements for qualification of maximum no claims bonus. Caravan Guard can now give their maximum 65% no claims discount to first time motorhome owners even if they have no discount to transfer from another motor vehicle insurance policy – subject to claims, convictions and driving experience.

Marketing Manager Craig Thompson explains, "We've improved what was already an attractive motorhome insurance package with more cover and lower prices, we invite motorhome owners to give us a call."

Caravan Guard also offer a special club insurance discount for Autocruisers members.

To try out Caravan Guard's new prices and improved cover, why not call 08450 717171 – open 7 days a week.

N.B. For more information please do not hesitate to contact Craig Thompson Telephone: 01422 398 625 Email: ct@caravanguard.co.uk

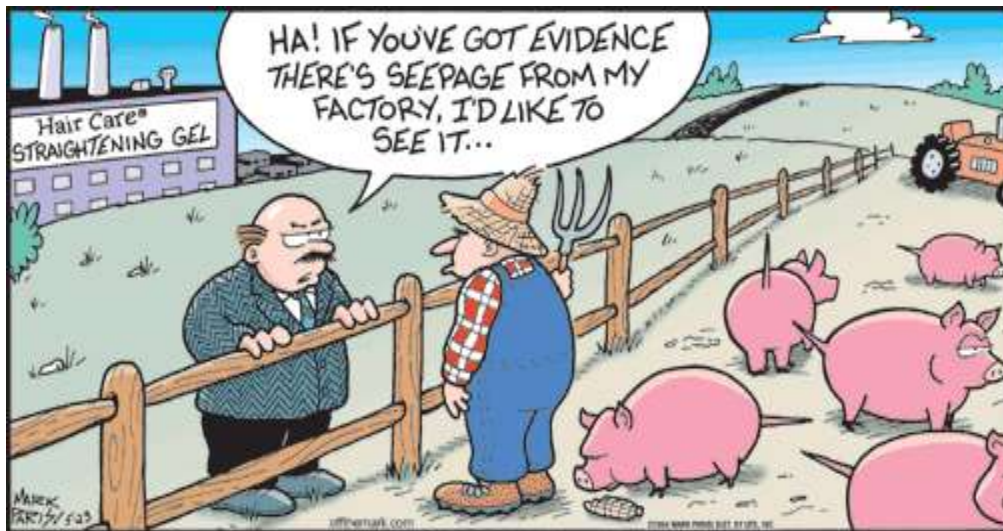
This press release arrived on my computer and I was asked by Craig if I could include this in the newsletter. Funnily enough I was going to write a piece about Caravan Guard as I have just had to renew the insurance on the van.

I was insured with Safeguard and quite happy with their service but as usual at this time of year I started to look around for a better price. I suppose you are all like me in that most insurance companies know your name when you ask for a quote as you are on their database.

I had been insured with Caravan Guard in the past but had moved to another company for a better price. Well I won't be moving again!

I saved over £150! I have full comprehensive cover, breakdown service and European cover so what more could I ask for.

When your policy is up for renewal give Caravan Guard a call and ask for a quote and don't forget to mention that you are an Autocruiser.



Why do little boys whine?
They are practising to be men.

What do you call a female blonde in a BMW?
A divorcée

The Chairman's Expedition

Peter is going to organise a rally with a difference. There are some essential items that you will need to provide on this rally. Firstly you will need waders and a whistle and flare. No radios will be allowed as he will insist on silent running. Morse code however, can be used (Ken Stokes can use semaphore). An anchor is also another essential piece of equipment and an inflatable boat would be very useful. The most essential piece of equipment needed will be a Gold Magnet. No, not a gold coloured magnet, but one that will seek out gold as in bullion, bars or sovereigns.

You will need your passports but it is suggested that you carry them in a waterproof plastic bag. On this rally we will NOT be having a raffle or, dare I say it, a Quiz. The paper would get soggy and you wouldn't be able to read the questions.

Now, I hear you say, where is this rally going to take place?

Well, after having read the Strange but True he has decided to go after the rest of the treasure. Now you see why all the equipment mentioned above will be needed.

If anyone out there has a Master Mariner's ticket please contact a member of the committee with immediate haste, also do we have a Chief Engineer in our midst. Lance will be press ganged into going back to sea so we will have an electrician. Janet will be our Chief Steward and Lorraine and Sheila will be the catering crew. Fish is likely to be served at every meal.

If you are interested in attending this rally please contact a member of the committee and you will be sent on a sea survival course. Only on completion of this course will you be eligible to attend this rally of a lifetime.

All treasure recovered will be shared equally with Peter getting two shares. Well he is organising it after all.



If you spell out numbers (one, two three) you will reach one thousand before you use an 'a'. Discount the **and** as in one hundred and one. Say one oh one instead.

What do people in China call their good plates?

Why is a person who handles your money called a broker?

FOR SALE

Car plus an "A" frame towing bracket. They are compatible and have been used for towing for just 1 year. I have a 1995 Peugeot 106 Graduate **plus** a PRO-Tow "A" Frame for sale, £1,000 the lot. Details of the car are as follows, 2 owners, mileage = 64,750, Taxed until Dec 2006, MOT valid until 30th Nov 2006, colour White. Any more info. required, call Bill Miller either on 02380 255 174 or Mobile 07740 491415.

How Much Power Are You Using?

Appliance	Watts	Amps	Appliance	Watts	Amps
Domestic Kettle	2000	8.3	Microwave	1200	5
Camping Kettle	750	3.1	Carver water heater	660	2.75
Domestic Fan Heater	1000	4.2	Truma heating	500	2.1
Camping fan heater	750	3.1	Fridge	125	0.5
Toaster	1300	5.4	Truma water heater	450	1.8
Iron	1300	5.4	Colour TV	30	0.1
Hair Dryer	600	2.6	Battery charger	100	0.4

THE COST OF DIESEL AND ONE WAY OF REDUCING IT

In Holland there is a scheme offering discounts of around 6 cents a litre. Ben Scammell has decided to try and do something similar in the UK. He needs your help! If you have internet access log on to www.pipelinecard.org and register. Membership now stands at 260,000. The more people the more power – so join today and make our voice heard and let's get those prices down! If you don't have internet access please see a member of the committee

Heart of England Motorhomes

cordially invites you to a
GARDEN PARTY
at Stanford Hall
from
Friday 30th June – Sunday 2nd July, 2006

Tickets £25 (advanced bookings only)

Weekend ticket per motorhome/caravan includes:

Two nights camping for two people

Entrance to marquee for Saturday Night Hog Roast/Bar
and dancing to 'The Big Swing'

(Additional Saturday evening guests will be charged at £10 per person)

Ticket Hotline – Call Susie on 01327 342000

Also present during the weekend

Local Hot Air Balloon Meeting · Vellocette Vintage Motorbike Club Meeting

Norton Motorbike Enthusiast Owners Club

Watling Street (A5) · Weedon · Northamptonshire · Telephone 01327 342000





Just thought this might strike a chord with some of you!

Stevie Wonder is playing his first gig in Tokyo and the place is absolutely packed to the rafters. In a bid to break the ice with new audience he asks if anyone would like him to play a request.

A little old Japanese man jumps out of his sea in the first row and shouts at the top of his voice "Play a Jazz chord! Play a Jazz chord!"

Amazed that this guy knows about the jazz influences in Stevie's varied career, the blind artiste starts to play an E minor scale and then goes into a difficult jazz melody for 10 minutes.

When he finished the whole place goes wild. The little old man jumps up again and shouts, "No, no, play a Jazz cord, play a Jazz chord!"

A bit miffed by this, Stevie, being the professional that he is, dives straight into a jazz improvisation with his band around the B flat minor chord and really rips the place apart.

The crow goes wild with this impromptu show of his technical expertise.

The little old man jumps up again. "No, no, play a Jazz chord, play a Jazz chord.

Well and truly fed up that this little guy doesn't seem to appreciate his playing ability. Stevie says to him from the stage, "OK smart arse. You get up her and do it!"

The little old man climbs up onto the stage, takes hold of the mike

..... and starts to sing

"A jazz chord to say I ruv you"

Nelson Mandela is sitting watching TV when his doorbell goes. He opens the door to find an articulated lorry full of car parts outside his house and a little oriental man on the step with a clipboard. "You sign, you sign" says the little fella and waves the clipboard under Nelsons nose. The former South African president says "I know nothing about any exhausts, I won't sign", and closes the door. A week later the same little oriental man turns up, this time with a bigger wagon loaded with exhausts and brake pads. "You sign, you sign" he says." GO AWAY!!!" says the famous ex-convict, "I didn't order any car parts" and closes the door.



The following week, same thing, this time it's a huge articulated lorry with enough car parts to build a small fleet. Nelson gets really angry, picks the guy up by the lapels, pulls back his fist and shouts "IF YOU COME BACK HERE WITH ANYMORE BLOODY CAR PARTS, MY WIFE WILL HAVE YOU KILLED, I DIDN'T ORDER ANY CAR PARTS!!!" before throwing him to the ground. The little oriental truck driver picks himself up, dusts himself off and says.....

You not Nissan Maindealer?

Motorhome Shows

When	What	Where	Contact
2006			
Feb			
18-26	Boat Caravan and Outdoor Show	NEC, Birmingham	0870 730 0963
Apr			
7-9	The Motorhome & US RV Show	Malvern, Worcestershire	020 8302 6069
21-23	The National Motorhome Show	East of England Showground, Peterborough	01778 391123
28-30	Merlin Motorhome Show	Carmarthen Showground, Carmarthen	01267 232141
May			
12-14	The Southern Motorcaravan Show	Newbury Showground, Berkshire	01778 391123
27-29	Outdoor Life Show	Taunton Racecourse, Somerset	
Jun			
2-4	The Motorhome & US RV Show	Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire	020 8302 6069
Jul			
14-16	Midsummer Music & Leisure Show	Lincoln, Lincolnshire	01778 391123
28-30	The Motorhome & US RV Show	Great Driffield, Yorkshire	020 8302 6069
Aug			
11-13	The Western Motorhome Show	Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire	01778 391123
Sept			
8-10	The Motorhome & US RV Show	Shepton Mallet, Somerset	020 8302 6069
15-17	The Northern Motorcaravan Show	York Racecourse, York	01778 391123
Oct			
17-22	International Caravan & Motorhome Expo	NEC, Birmingham	0870 1288 288
23-27	London Caravan & Outdoor Show	ExCeL, London	0870 730 0963

Only an Aussie could pull this one off!

From the state where drunk driving is considered a sport, comes a true story from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

Recently a routine police patrol parked outside a local neighbourhood tavern. Late in the evening the officer noticed a man leaving the bar so intoxicated that he could barely walk. The man stumbled around the car park for a few minutes, with the officer quietly observing. After what seemed an eternity, and trying his keys on five vehicles, the man managed to find his car - which he fell into.

He was there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started the car, switched the wipers on and off (it was a fine dry night), flicked the indicators on, then off, tooted the horn and then switched on the lights. He moved the vehicle forward a few cm, reversed a little, and then remained stationary for a few more minutes as some more vehicles left. . At last he pulled out of the car park and started to drive slowly down the road.

The police officer, having patiently waited all this time, now started up the patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and carried out a Breathalyser test. To his amazement, the Breathalyser indicated no evidence of the man having consumed alcohol at all! Dumbfounded, the officer said "I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the Police station: this breathalyser equipment must be broken."

"I doubt it mate," said the man, "tonight I'm the designated decoy".

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to "honour thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

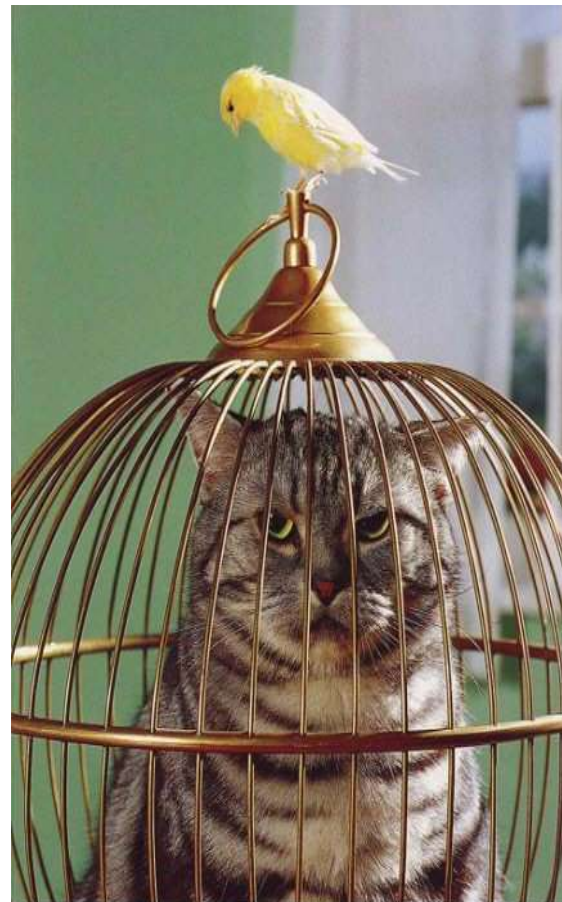
Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mommy?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Mommy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"



Don't Ask



A man and his wife, now in their 60's, were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. On their special day a good fairy came to them and said that because they had been so good that each one of them could have one wish. The wife wished for a trip around the world with her husband. Whoosh! Immediately she had airline/cruise tickets in her hands. The man wished for a female companion 30 years younger...Whoosh...immediately he turned ninety!!! Gotta love that fairy!

A couple is lying in bed. The man says, "I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world." The woman replies, "I'll miss you..."

STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS..STOP PRESS

In case you haven't realised the rally at Coniston has been cancelled. This is due to the fact that the Caravan Club wanted £19 per night for any non club members. They didn't want much less for members.

