

# \*\*\*\*\* HOBBY TIMES \*\*\*\*\*



Newsletter No. 33

## Letter from the Editor:

Autumn is coming - in fact, is it my imagination or is it coming early this year? Eric and I have just returned from our travels in Europe (more about that later) and I have been trying to get my mind in gear to produce this latest edition of the Hobby Times. My memory of earlier rallies this year is a bit hazy so it is lucky that I keep a diary and it is also lucky that some of you have been very kind and let me have some 'titbits' to write about such as this reminder from Dot Bridgehouse as to -

## HOW IT ALL STARTED!

*Dear All,*

### ***The Very First Rally - IAH***

*It was at the Peterborough Show in May 2000, the rain as usual was pouring down, Derek and I had just settled down for the evening, when suddenly our van door was pushed open and this chap came in - no announcement - "Right" he said "Hobby meeting at my place June/July 2000, send you details". That was that, and off he went - Rex Wade. We received the invite and the instructions how to get to this God-forsaken hidden, beautiful, homestead in Wales. 'You will be met in a lay-by'. The date arrived and we set off. On the way we lost turbo power, needless to say whizzing past the designated lay-by. However, we limped back to it, only to find Denis and Audrey Kearns with Max (their dog) in their 750 waiting for an escort to the place. Derek had the bonnet up of the van repairing the turbo when he was distracted by this heavy breathing, helmeted, leather clad motorcyclist, and before Derek could say anything the motorcyclist said "I am Tony Charity, and I am leading you instead of Joan and Rex to their place". The two motor homes followed Tony through this high, thick, dry bracken seemingly for ages, then down a very steep hill to the valley where the Wades lived their idyllic country life. We had a wonderful AGM meeting with fantastic hosts and top class catering for two great days, getting ready to leave on the Monday morning. However, on Sunday the heavens opened and those who were left were trapped, as the streams were swollen and raging, and there was no way through. We had to stay another night, well-cared for of course by our hosts. Then very slowly the water started to subside but, because our 650 had a double floor we had to wait until the last, then it had to be driven through the floods, on two strategically placed telegraph poles because of the exhaust being below the water level it had to be kept moving. However, none of us had any problems because Rex drove each and every one of the motorhomes through - 'What a Guy! I sat in the motorhome, watching the bonnet nose dive into the water, Derek did the sensible thing and stayed on high ground and videoed it all.*



Flood (Sorry - it's a bit wonky!)



Hobby crossing the flood



Derek videoing the crossing

*Other rallies followed, the second being Unity Bream, then Peterborough Show again in 2001 where Jan and Tony were subjected to theft, but that's their story.....*

*Well, I have sadly handed over the keys of my Hobby after 20 years of motor homing - I really do not know how I managed alone, I would never have been able to do it without the encouragement and help given to me when I have been out and about - even the hook up lead alone took me to my knees, not mentioning the preparation beforehand, and the unpacking on return. Now, having both mechanic and habitation departments to think about, with the help of everyone concerned, you made it possible, for as hard as it was, it did get me out. After I so very sadly lost Derek from a "Medical Blunder" especially after he was doing so well with the treatment for Prostate Cancer, I am sure I was on a "Death Wish, not really thinking what I was doing. I can assure you it was not done with out a battle or scars, but I made it! Now I have come to the reality that, sadly, the Hobby has gone, but I still have my precious memories. So, I would like to say 'Thank you' to all concerned for all your help. I still want to stay on as an associate member so that I can keep in touch with you and your adventures. 'Well done Denis!' for having the strength and ability to go it alone at the Upton Rally of which we have lots of happy memories. Take care and thanks again one and all. Dot*



I am sure everyone would like to take their 'hats off' to you Dot, for being such a brave lady and such a good sport - we will miss seeing you at the rallies and hope you will be able to visit us when we are in your vicinity - you will be missed!

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## Report on Rallies 2009

Toni Browning arranged two successful rallies at Salisbury and Weymouth (3-17 June 2009). It is always difficult to make a decision on campsites when all you have to go on is the blurb you read in the campsite directories or the enhanced advertising online. The Alderbury Caravan Park near Salisbury was small, shaded by trees from the busy roads either side which meant it was quite noisy - cannot tell that from pictures! It also had a rather cosmopolitan clientele - Belgians in tents, Australians in a double-decker bus, and hippies having camp-fires most of the night (we were invited to join them but declined as we thought we were too old to start smoking 'pot'). We also had four Czechoslovakians dressed in army gear arriving in a jeep. Having said that they were all very friendly and there was no trouble. The good side was that the bus stop was just down the road which meant that Salisbury and surrounding towns were easily accessible. The sun shone as one by one we all arrived and joined the ever-widening circle, drinking tea (to begin with anyway) and exchanging the idiosyncrasies of Sat-Navs. It was good to see everyone again after so long - the last time was at Broadway before Christmas 2008 - a bit like the gathering of the clans. The drink and conversation flowed and before we knew it darkness fell and people gradually disappeared into their vans to cook their evening meals.

The week was spent visiting a variety of places either by car or bus. We explored Salisbury and the magnificent cathedral, learning the significance of the medieval frieze carved around the inside of the Chapter House, gazed upon an original copy of the Magna Carta, wandered in the Cloister gardens where some kind of installation surrounded us with whispering voices as though the past was emanating from the gravestones - weird!

Several of us headed for the New Forest with its pretty villages and forest ponies, a visit to Lymington for the 'best cup of coffee in town', then on to Boscombe and Bournemouth for a walk on the pier. Another day was spent at Winchester with its ancient cathedral dating back 1,000 years, then on to the Great Hall on the site of the original Winchester Castle. Inside the hall was a huge open space housing the enormous Round Table hanging on the far wall, 18 feet in diameter and divided into 24 sections depicting the names of the Knights of the Round Table headed by King Arthur. So he was real!

Another day was spent at Bucklers Hard on the Beaulieu Estate to see the Maritime Museum, a place where ship-building has gone on for centuries, from the time of Nelson to the present day. The entrance fee also included a half-hour river cruise with a running commentary on the history of the area and the importance of this secluded backwater during the last war when it became under the jurisdiction of the SOA, with its warships and submarines and the training of spies.

The week reached a successful conclusion with a superb meal at the Green Dragon.

Seven vans continued on to the next campsite at South Buckland Farm, but were dismayed to find that the field was already occupied. We were offered a rather hilly, bumpy field without any electrics after Angela, who had been the first to arrive, became subjected to a tirade from the farmer's wife but, as Toni pointed out, most of the vans required electricity so we would have to move on to a more suitable site. John Anderton, Ken Cookson, and Toni went off by car to find alternative accommodation while the rest of us sat tight and brewed up! It wasn't long before they returned having found a fantastic site at Fleet Farm where we had a lovely field to ourselves, vastly superior in terms of space and amenities - the best showers I have ever come across! We were soon happily installed, sipping a glass of wine and gazing over the inland lake bordered by the Chesil Bank and beyond it out to the open sea. We enjoyed good weather all week, relaxing in the sunshine, going for cliff walks, trips to Weymouth with its golden sands and attractive old harbour. Some of us visited Portland Bill and the lighthouse, with panoramic views of the 25 mile long Chesil Beach. We did the day trip to Guernsey on the Condor Ferry which started out on calm waters but soon became rather 'choppy' when John and Barbara both turned a pale shade of green! Being a Sunday we found everywhere closed and very quiet - no cafes, no shops, no nothing - only the local bus service was operating. Luckily, on Sundays this service was free as they were celebrating 100 years of transportation on the island. We toured the entire island as the bus wended its way through all the coastal villages - with its beautiful rocky coastline and white sandy beaches - we couldn't have seen more if we had gone on an organized tour.



View of the Chesil Beach, Portland



Pat, Eric and John (Barbara taking photo) Guernsey  
2009 6 14

The weather was so good most of us just relaxed and enjoyed the sunshine, while others went off sight-seeing - Ken and Lucy visited Thomas Hardy's birthplace, David and Christine set off to Lulworth Cove on the motorbike, John and Barbara had a trip to the supermarket and B&Q to buy a grill plan for their barbecue. It was Toni and Len's 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, but Len had forgotten! Toni spent the entire day singing 'wedding' type songs "I'm getting married in the morning" etc. and dropping heavy hints, but still the 'penny didn't drop'. In the end, when all the wanderers had returned, and we were all sitting around together, Barbara asks Len what date is his wedding anniversary. "The 15<sup>th</sup> June" says Len, so then she asks him what date it is today, he looks at his watch. "Blimey - it's today!" Poor Len is mortified and we all laugh and tell him he has to serenade Toni tonight to make up for it. The men get busy and make a cosy area surrounded by wind breaks so that we can set up tables and chairs for our outdoor meal all together. It was a very jolly evening with much laughter and banter. As the sun sets, John and Len bring out their guitars and entertain us with ballads and folk songs until it is quite dark and the damp night air sends us all scurrying inside. A lovely evening - how lucky we are to have two such talented musicians within our midst.



Enjoying an al fresco meal



Ken in his pink marigolds! (followed by Lucy to make sure he does it properly!)

The rally ended with yet another superb meal at the Turk's Head in Chickerell. As most members will agree, they all have their own stories to tell - all of them different - so it is difficult to give an overall picture of a combined experience.

I was glad to receive an account from Vera Watson on the rallies as it is always a revelation to hear other people's point of view and experiences:

*'It was our first trip to Salisbury, taking 6.5 hours from Ambleside. The weather was good and we had an uneventful journey. Alderbury Caravan Park was a long narrow site with several static vans in various shapes and sizes. We had a total of 10 vans so I don't suppose they had ever been so full! We were within walking distance of a shop and a bus route, which was fine for us oldies with bus passes - one of the few benefits of being grey! We had a good day seeing the market and the Cathedral which was shrouded in scaffolding for cleaning and repairs. (I still think Durham takes some beating).*

*We had an average Sunday lunch in the pub over the road, the floor was covered in silver fish trails but it didn't affect the dinner. We returned to have our 'jollies' by John's van as the sun was shining and the copper cable fires were out. John thought the double-decker bus was growing cannabis on the upper deck as the curtains up there never moved, but the windows were open. Monday we visited Stonehenge, outside the wire fence of course it is free. Christine and I wondered why folks inside the fence were all on their mobile 'phones until Ed said "they are listening to the commentary" - we 'thickos' don't get out much!*

*As the site was not exactly 'the best', I have written to the Camping & Caravan Club, and they say it is licensed from the local authority and they list it in the Big Site book only as a service to members.*

*Eagerly awaiting Weymouth as we all pulled into the next rally field we found Angela who had arrived earlier by car, was getting an earful from the owner who reckoned the booking had not been confirmed - doom! (This was later proved not to be so). John and Toni went on 'safari' to find another site overlooking the Chesil Beach, which was one of the best sites we have stayed on. Fleet Farm has wonderful facilities with space for everyone and his dog. Our first ride into Weymouth proved to be horrendously busy as we didn't know that the Queen had called to see us! Portland Bill was just along the coast with fabulous views (photo supplied by Ed). We had some good food on site and some good music from our resident sea dogs! (John didn't look much like one on his return from Guernsey!). This had been an enjoyable stay.*

*We had a long journey home with an hour's hold-up due to a motor home leaving the carriageway and pensioners being air-lifted by helicopter from the opposite carriage way - good old air ambulance. We were feeling a bit of a wobble at 45 mph on any incline, on taking the van to a local garage, a rear tyre was found to have the steel core showing on one side at odd intervals, so we await the next journey with a new tyre to see if this was the cause.'*

Happy motoring! Vera Watson

Angela & Vera at Weymouth



Little Black Number!



Returning to our campsite one afternoon, I asked Ed, Vera, Dave and Christine if they had enjoyed their visit to a market they said they were going to "Oh, Yes" they answered, Vera is dressing for dinner tonight. She has bought a black dress. Tongue in cheek, I asked if she had black shoes to go with it. "No", she said. "I have a black pair which you can wear" I said, "and if they don't fit you can always wear a pair of white socks with them" (very naughty of me). Some time later, unable to curb my curiosity, I asked to see her latest purchase. Vera emerged from her van holding a crumpled bundle, which she shook out revealing a full length lacy black dress. I had a split second to mask my horror. It was ghastly, old-fashioned, and unlike anything I had seen her in before. She stood there proudly flaunting her new dress with an inscrutable expression on her face, awaiting my approval. "It cost me £4.00" she said. I said "I see that it is fully lined. Are you going anywhere special in it?" "Oh yes" she said, "I'm doing a theatrical sketch with a friend of mine - Hinge and Bracket". I thought to myself, Ambleside is the answer to Britain's Got Talent! Only then did her face break into a grin. I had been well and truly set up!

Angela Wood

Angela's husband, Ray, has also sent me something you might find amusing - particularly if you are a motor-cyclist: Ray received an instruction sheet that came with a new battery that he recently purchased from Gordon Lucas Motorcycles in Ross-on-Wye.

*'Maintenance: Please check the water-level at least one time every month if the water-level lower than the midline be found, please pour the distilled water until the upper limit of water-level labeled on the battery. Pouring acid liquid is prohibited. Keep the battery clean at all times, please paint oil to prevent corroding close to the battery terminal. Please check again that the exhaust pipe is right without any extrusion and fold.'*

*'Recharging: The vehicle with dim lighting and un-loud in voice of loudspeaker or it isn't used for one month, recharging of battery is needed. The procedure should be put through until the specific weight of battery liquid is 1.280. If it doesn't have measure of specific weight, please charge until the battery gives off steam you see.'*

*'The battery is with poison if the acid liquid is included in it, and it may cause serious burn.*

- *Keep in not touch with skin, eye and clothes, please wash by clear fresh water.*
- *Method of detoxify:*

*Outside: to wash by clear fresh water*

*Inside: take a plenty of clear fresh water of cattle breast, well-distributed egg or vegetable oil.*

*Please send to hospital at once. Do not allow children to play it.'*

Now you have been warned!!!

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### Chainbridge Rally (15-22 July 2009) and AGM

This year's AGM was held at The Alice Springs Golf Club on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July and only 24 people turned up, much fewer than last year, which was a shame as the venue was excellent and the carvery lunch very good value for money.

Tony Charity, General Secretary, took the Chair in the absence of David Jackson. Steve Phillips was voted in as Acting Chairman later in the proceedings. There was a good deal of discussion as to how to increase the membership of the club and various reasons for the poor response were put forward. There was also discussion on whether there should be more rallies or less, and their duration. One of the main reasons for joining the club would appear to be to gain assistance for technical problems which arise from time to time on the Hobby motor homes and, as there is little back-up from the agents, people rely on the expertise of the current members for help. Our Technical Officer, Eric Miller, does his best to answer queries, with the help of David Lawson and his electrical 'know-how'. Eric made a point of seeking out the Hobby agents at the Caravan & Motorhome Show in Dusseldorf, Germany, and was able to discuss some of our problems.

Tony Browning, Rally Co-ordinator, was pleased with the turn out of vans for the Salisbury and Weymouth rallies - in spite of the 'hiccups' - and thanks were expressed to her for the hard work and dedication she has put in over the years to organize the summer rallies, as well as the popular yearly rally at Chainbridge. Angela Wood has now taken over this task of co-ordinating the rallies in future.

Ken Cookson, our Website Officer, has designed a new website for the Hobby Club which should be more secure and user-friendly. He asked members to try it out and report back to him. Please read the following notes:-

#### Web Site Notes

By now I hope all members are aware of our new web site, [www.hobbyowners.org.uk](http://www.hobbyowners.org.uk)

There have been some teething problems, particularly to do with logging in to the Members Forum, but these have now been resolved, so log in and have a look around.

If you have not yet logged in because you have not received a password or have had problems with your password for the new site, please tell me, Ken Cookson, by emailing me at: [ken.cookson@ntlworld.com](mailto:ken.cookson@ntlworld.com) and I will do my best to sort it out. The new site has many more opportunities to post information or queries of a general or technical nature, as well as downloading the latest membership list or newsletter. As I receive details of events I will put those in the Calendar and by clicking on the event you will be able to see the details.

If you have not yet set up a Standing Order with your bank to pay the annual membership fee, in line with the motion passed at the last AGM, then there is a form in the Downloads section of the Members Zone.

Please contact me if there are any issues which you wish to raise or suggestions for additions or improvements to the site. (Or use the Members Forum to start a discussion thread.)

Ken Cookson

Ed Watson, Club Photographer, has now put hundreds of photographs on the new website so that members can be reminded of past events. He also asked that if anyone has any objection to their photo appearing on the website, they should let him know so that it can be removed.

**The new committee is as follows:**

Acting Chairman:	Steve Phillips	Membership Secretary:	Christine Lawson
General Secretary:	Tony Charity	Treasurer:	David Lawson
Auditor:	Jan Charity	Rally Co-ordinator:	Angela Wood
Newsletter Editor:	Pat Miller	Photographer:	Ed Watson
Technical Officer:	Eric Miller	Disciplinary Officer:	Vera Watson
Website Officer:	Ken Cookson		

After the meeting and lunch, members returned to the rally field to erect the 'party' tent where an exhibition of arts and crafts produced by Hobby Club members, was on view and gave an insight of each others talents! It provided an interesting couple of hours to browse and look and talk to each other.



The rally came to a conclusion with a jolly meal at a local hostelry - where Christine did her party trick with a wine bottle - and Len celebrated his birthday!

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**Upton-upon-Severn Rally & Water Festival - 26<sup>th</sup> August-2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 - Hemmingfield Cattery & Caravan Site**

Report sent in by Denis Kearns:-

*'It was 07.00 on an ordinary day in Upton. The sun had just risen and the birds were singing. At 07.15 however, a whole new situation had developed. The Government secret agency known to the public as MI5 (or was it MFI?) had notified the authorities in West Mercia of an imminent threat to life and public order in the area by possibly the Taliban, or the Girl Guides. The army quickly called on all troops available to defend the area plus giving a hasty recall to units in Afghanistan. The West Mercia Police were put on immediate red alert which meant that Tony Charity was required to start work at 08.55 rather than 09.00 and finish at 16.05 rather than 16.00 - a high price indeed.'*

*An unconfirmed rumour spread that the Upton Cattery was to be occupied once again by a crack unit of the IRA. This, however, was amended when it was discovered that the terrorist unit concerned was not the IRA but a crack unit of the IAH! It was decided in the interest of population stability and bearing in mind a previous visit, to allow the emergency to continue, although the role of the armed military was diminished. The first signs of trouble at the Cattery was the arrival of a Police Rapid Response Unit which arrived with blue lights sounding and sirens flashing (spot the deliberate mistake?). The delay in affording entrance to the site was later ascribed to the absence of the door guards Kaylee and Ryan who were having*

*their breakfast at the time. However, the police rapid response unit driven by Constable Charity (West Mercia's answer to Maigret) was given entry and drove with all haste to JC's camper where its relief cargo of tea bags and hobnobs was gratefully accepted.*

*The war dogs were put on alert, the instructions to Tony and Len's dog, Misha, was to either bite an intruder or wag her tail as appropriate. Angela and Ray's dog, Amber, was instructed to await further orders from the parrot, Mr. Woo, whilst Skip, Christine and Dave's dog made a valiant sortie into the pond to deal with an unexploded Frisbee. All units were on standby. Reinforcements came in the form of Dawn and Jim who took up defensive positions in the wooden bunker at the bottom of the site. Dawn stated her readiness to defend our English way of life to the last if necessary by use of her handbag. Jim made the same declaration.*

*The first sign of trouble came when it was noticed that the keeper of the photographic records, Ed, was seen to be in great disarray and trying desperately to elude what later transpired to be a water hose with a dysfunctional coupling. An immediate modification was made to the defence system and a standing patrol of two hens was mounted. These selfless birds patrolled throughout all daylight hours investigating the whole of the ground zero area.*

*The main event was of course the 'erection' whereby a tent was erected for use as a 'gathering area' for all personnel. The erection was master minded by most of the male persons with the exception of Den who stated that he would not be able to join in any erection on account of age!*

*However, acts of sabotage were discovered when one of the guardian hens obtained entrance to JC's camper and with malice aforethought lay down upon JC's knitting. As it could not read the knitting pattern (it wore glasses), it mistook K2Ptog for an obscure terrorist message and tangled up the knitting gloriously. Another incident occurred in the HQ tent when one of the hen patrol jumped up and purloined a perfectly delicious piece of carrot cake - and ate it in full view of everyone! This, according to Den merited instant decapitation, roasting and serving with a Paxo based stuffing and gravy.*

*As the day wore on, it became obvious from the sounds of battle emanating from just up the road that the invaders main thrust was at the waterside. The explosions were heard throughout the Cattery. As the IAH had obviously won the day, the defence was able to stand down and so with Len singing the old Welsh battle hymn of 'Never push your Granny whilst she's shaving' (to the tune of Beethoven's sixth symphony in B flat) the field emptied, the police stood down, MI5 went back to selling self-assembly kitchen cabinets, Tony Charity went back to normal hours and we all went home.*

#### *Den*

##### **Police Warning:**

This actually happened a few weeks ago on the M3 FLEET SERVICES!!! It was early evening, and a young girl stopped to get petrol. She filled her tank and walked into the store to pay for her petrol. The cashier told her 'Don't pay for your petrol yet.... walk around the store for a while, and act as if you're picking up some other things to buy... A man just got into the back of your car. I've called the police, and they're on their way'. When the police arrived, they found the man in the back seat of the girl's car and asked him what he was doing. He replied, he was joining a gang, and the initiation to join is to kidnap a woman and bring her back to the gang to be raped by every member of the gang. If the woman was still alive by the time they finished with her then they let her go...

According to the police that night, there is a new gang forming here, originating from London. The scary part of this is, because the guy didn't have a weapon on him, the police could only charge him with trespassing.... He's back on the street and free to try again.

Something similar to this happened at the Tesco garage on the Cardiff Road in Newport recently, but luckily the cashier saw the man get into her car.

Please be aware of what's going on around you, and warn your family and friends  
Please be careful when leaving your vehicle, and make sure it is ALWAYS LOCKED to prevent this from happening to you.

#### **Handy Hints**

Freshen up your waste disposal unit quickly by sprinkling it with baking soda and drops of washing-up liquid. Scrub with a brush, getting around the inside. Turn on the water and the unit and flush out.

When you are window cleaning, wipe one side horizontally and then the other vertically so you know which side the smears are on.

## Technical Officer's Report:

### Eric's Snippets

During our European trip this year we stopped off at the Dusseldorf Caravan & Motorhome Show. It is very impressive with 17 exhibition halls, nothing quite like it in the UK. It is nice to see what may be available in one or two year's time here.

My main objective was to visit the Hobby stand to find out what their plans are for the UK market as we seem to have a misleading array of companies selling Hobbies, and no obvious UK agent for Hobby motor homes since the demise of Brownhills Ltd, and then Lowdham Leisureworld not becoming the main agents as expected. Ambergate Caravan Centre, being the main agent for caravans, can provide assistance for spares which are common to both caravans and motor homes.

Hobby Motorhomes and Caravans are not as popular here as they are throughout mainland Europe. On most campsites you will find numerous Hobby vans of all descriptions and ages. The fact that Hobby vans are not so popular here is probably due to not having an effective agreement with a U.K. agent.

Hobby Wohnwagenwerk had Hall No. 9 virtually to themselves, sharing with their sister company, Fendt-Caravan GmbH, which is known mostly for caravans but now exhibiting some motorhomes very similar to Hobby designs. When visiting the Hobby Enquiry Centre I was directed, to my surprise, to two English gentlemen who, I am told, are representing Hobby UK Ltd. We discussed my concerns regarding the situation here, with regard to obtaining spares and getting advice concerning problems we have with our vans and feeling rather let down at not having a main agent to go to. These two gentlemen were both based at Ambergate Caravan Centre:-

Richard Thompson, Managing Director  
Hobby Caravans (U.K.) Ltd  
Hobby Motor Homes (UK) Ltd  
Ambergate Caravan Centre  
Mobile: 07785516642  
Tel: (01773) 853900 Fax: 01773 857060  
Email: [sales@hobbycaravansuk.co.uk](mailto:sales@hobbycaravansuk.co.uk)  
Ripley Road Ambergate Derbyshire DE56 2EP

Peter Hercberg, Hobby Motorhome Co-ordinator  
Hobby Motor Homes (UK) Ltd  
Mobile: 07971 137823 or 07780 668816  
Tel. (01773) 853900 Fax: 01773 857060  
Email: [admin1@hobbycaravansuk.co.uk](mailto:admin1@hobbycaravansuk.co.uk)

I was assured that the situation will now improve, although there will not be a main agent as such, as they will act for Hobby and deal with customer enquiries direct. They are appointing a few agents around the country to display, service, and sell motor homes.

When I mentioned that, because of the past situation, less and less Hobbys are being sold, our club membership is dropping all the time, they assured me that more and more Hobby Motor homes are being imported into the UK and sales are increasing all the time - that's nice to hear.

I was told that they will be pleased to co-operate with our club and keep us updated on their progress. I will be contacting them shortly and keeping you informed.

Eric Miller

Dusseldorf 2009



## RECIPES:



Here is a recipe for my home-made Pumpkin Soup - you can alter it to suit your own taste - and it freezes well!

### Pumpkin Soup:

1 Pumpkin (about 3 lb in weight) peeled, de-seeded, chopped into chunks

2 Onions, Salt & Pepper, Garlic (if liked), Chilli powder (or anything spicy), Butter, 2-3 pints Stock

Method: Heat butter in large saucepan, soften chopped onions, add garlic, seasoning and chopped pumpkin

Add stock and cook slowly for 2 hours or until pumpkin is soft. Taste and add more herbs or spices if necessary.

Mash liquid or put through a blender. Serve hot with a swirl of cream and a sprinkling of parsley, and some nice crusty bread. Ideal for a Halloween party or on any cold winter's day - plenty of pumpkins around now!

Also a recipe donated by Lucy Cookson:-

### Teriyaki Chicken

This is a great recipe for the barbecue and can also be done in the oven. It's a good, reliable way with chicken which goes with anything and I've been using it for about thirty years now and nobody has left any on their plate!

6 Chicken Thighs (boned and skinned)

Marinade:

1½ tablespoons Honey

1½ tablespoons Mild olive/Sunflower/Groundnut Oil

4 tablespoons Soy Sauce (dark)

¼ Pint Red Wine

1 inch cube of Ginger (finely chopped) or 1 teaspoon Ginger Powder

2 cloves Garlic (finely chopped)

1 teaspoon Chilli Sauce

These ingredients are approximate. Add more liquid if you feel there is not enough.

Preparation:

Mix ingredients together.

Make 2 or 3 slashes into each thigh.

Cover chicken with marinade & leave overnight or for as long as possible.

Barbeque the chicken, basting with the marinade.

Or, if it's raining:

Drain chicken pieces from marinade.

Pan fry 2 or 3 minutes to brown each side (be careful here as they brown quickly and can burn)

Put into ovenproof dish with marinade and cook in medium oven for about 10 minutes until cooked through.

## **Future Rallies:**

### **2009**

Broadway: 26-30 November 2009 (Christmas Fayre, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November)

Members who wish to attend this rally should book direct to the Broadway Caravan Club site, Station Road, Broadway, Worcs. WR12 7DH. Telephone No. 01386 858786, as places are limited.

### **2010**

Ambleside 2010: The rally field has been provisionally booked for 16-23 June 2010, a deposit of £10 will secure a place.  
Contact: Vera Watson, Tel. 01539 432177.

There will be a follow-on rally at Doe Park, Cotherstone, in the Teesdale Valley.

Contact: Christine Lawson. Tel. 07845 961115

Log on to the website for further information. This is an excellent new website for the Hobby Club which covers all aspects of the Club's activities.

The next newsletter will be in the New Year so we send you our best wishes in the run up to Christmas - hope you have a good one - and look forward to seeing at the future rallies.

Pat Miller (Newsletter Editor)

P.S. Don't forget to send me your news!!

## **Obituary**

### **David Jackson, Chairman of the Hobby Club**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of David on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at the age of 71 years. David passed away at Coalville Nursing Home, having been in hospital for the past six months fighting his battle with the recurrence of his cancer. David was an enthusiastic member of the Hobby Club, always willing to help others with their electrical or mechanical problems.

He and Ann attended most of the rallies, where he would invariably be found with his feet sticking out from under someone's van. He took on the Membership Secretary position in June 2004, and then became Chairman in July 2007. Our thoughts are with his wife, Ann, at this sad time.

Stephen Phillips  
Acting Chairman

Any enquiries regarding membership should be addressed to:-

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