



## NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

### **A Few Words From The New Chairman - Geoff Oman**

Hello fellow members, I thought it wise to introduce myself because newer members will know little if anything about me. Before I do though I would like to pay tribute to our two preceding Chairmen, Dave Jackson who I know was very much a Hobby Club supporter along with his wife Ann. He and Ann will be a big miss at Rallies. I would also like to thank Steve Phillips who took over as acting Chairman until the recent AGM.

My wife Margaret and I joined the IAH in 2001 and have enjoyed every rally that we have attended. We would have wished to have attended more than we have, but work commitments in the past haven't always allowed this.

We came into owning a Motor home because one weekend we were asked to take our youngest Daughter to help on a stand at the York Motorhome Show in 1999, we spent the day there and looking around came upon the Hobby 750 in the style that we now have. It didn't take long before we had agreed to buy one. As with most things with Hobby it took a while to get it and it eventually arrived in November 2000. Our first outing with the Motor home was to a Show at Peterborough where we first met Tony and Jan Charity. Tony and JC were kind enough (as they are) to pay us a visit at our Van where we discussed many things and they also gave us a lot of much needed advice about where to go for essentials to kit out Motor home. For their kindness, when they returned to their van they found that it had been broken into. Tony (in a light hearted way) occasionally reminds me of this.

Our first Hobby rally was at Upton upon Severn in 2001 from which we still have very fond memories. The rest as they say 'is history'.

I hope that during my time as Chairman we can meet up and enjoy each others company.

#### Contents:

*A Few Words From The New Chairman*

*AGM Report*

*Weymouth Rally*

*Cheddar Rally*

*Ambleside Rally*

*Teeside Rally*

*Forth Coming Rallies*

*Forth Coming Shows*

*The News Letter*

*For your amusement*

To Contact the Editor

Claire Barden:

Telephone: 01295 812139

or EMail:

[editor@hobbyowners.org.uk](mailto:editor@hobbyowners.org.uk)

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on the Saturday of the Ambleside Rally with all those on site attending. The Meeting



Start of the AGM

was ably chaired by Steve Phillips the Acting Chairman. After opening remarks by the Chairman and apologies for absence from the General Secretary each Committee member gave feedback for their respective functions. A new committee was duly elected and is as follows:

Chairman	Geoff Oman
Membership Secretary	Christine Lawson
General Secretary	Tony Charity
Treasurer	Dave Lawson
Accounts Scrutiny	Jan Charity
Rally Co-ordinator	Angela Wood
Photographic Officer	Edwin Watson
Website Officer	Ken Cookson
Technical Officer	Trevor Barden
Newsletter Editor	Claire Barden
Disciplinary Officer	Vera Watson

Key Points from the AGM for your information:

**Joining Fee** – to be retained and kept at the current level of £25.

**Membership Fee** - £12 on joining and renewal unless paid by Standing Order when a £2 reduction is

applicable.

**Membership** - there are currently 53 members with 4 members being lost in the last 12 months. The Club is advertising in MMM and this is generating some interest.

**Club Funds** were considered healthy and it was proposed to reduce the current level to one commensurate with the Clubs annual income and expenditure needs. One method discussed of achieving a reduction was subsidising Rallies and therefore benefiting those who actually made use of the club and its events.

**Club Marquee** – it was reported that the club marquee was passed it's best with some damage evident from wear and tear. Repair or replacement was discussed but not adopted as transport of the marquee was onerous because of its size and weight. The load ideally required to be split over several Units which was not always practical or a trailer was required which would then need towing plus storage and maintenance. Hence no further action was planned.

**Website** – ways and means of improving the website and making it easier to use were discussed. Some minor changes were agreed mainly related to restricting access to content to members only. Non-members would see examples of News Letter and Event



I.A.H. 11th AGM Rally held at Ambleside 16th - 22nd June 2010

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

photographs and not be able to access all photographs as at present. Any feedback on the Website should be passed to Ken Cookson who would welcome comment.

**Future Rally** - It was suggested that the Club might attend the Dusseldorf Show in August 2011 and possibly follow this with a visit to the Hobby factory. Await developments.

**Rally Co-ord** - Members were asked to remember to liaise with Angela Wood the Rally Co-ordinator when contemplating new events.

**Photography** - Members were asked to inform Edwin Watson (Association Photographer) if they objected to their photographs being taken at Club events.

**Post the AGM** - Attendees enjoyed an excellent buffet funded by the Club and provided courtesy of Christine, Dave, Vera and helpers.



A sample of the buffet



## Weymouth Rally - East Fleet Farm

Six Units, five old hands and one new member, gathered in Weymouth for a fine but chilly week organised by Len and Toni Browning. The East Fleet Farm Site was very clean and spacious and provided ample space with a dedicated field for the Hobby fraternity. If energetic or foolish enough you could have had a new pitch every day! The amenity block was nearly new and very modern with large cubicles containing shower, washbasin and toilet. With no Marquee or Clubhouse social gatherings were outside in the sunshine, weather permitting, or inside someone's motor home

making for quite a cosy occasion. A bar was also available in the evenings. Walking proved a popular pastime, particularly with those who had brought active dogs (Misha and Skip), and with the coastal path running alongside the site nothing could have been easier. People passed the days visiting relatives, relaxing or hitting the plastic shopping in various locations including Weymouth, Poole, Bournemouth and Dorchester. Some men could be seen tinkering either with their motor homes or the cars they were towing. Tony Charity kindly did a Fish and Chip run one evening to yet another award winning fish & chip shop. Whilst these were very nice nearly every town has an award winning shop – it makes you wonder who makes the award and why! Weymouth and the the Isle of Portland both proved popular visiting spots with preparations for the 2012 Olympic sailing events much in evidence at both locations. The week was rounded off on the last evening with a pleasant meal in the Turks Head. Discussion at the end of this evening became somewhat polarised around the pros and cons of A Frames and their legality with some deliberate provocation by (I tow a trailer) and A Frame owners taking the bait. They ought to know better!



Weymouth Harbour

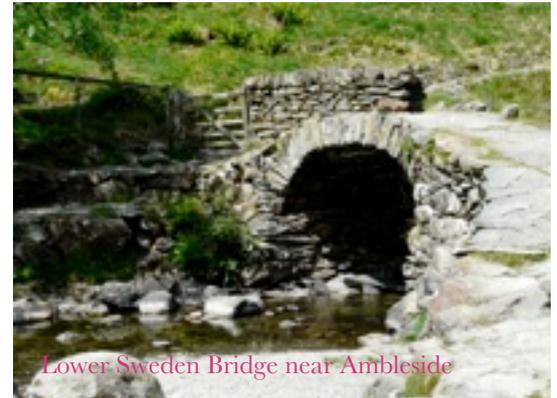
## Cheddar Rally

No news from this event but the pictures on the club website suggest everybody enjoyed themselves.

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Ambleside Rally

Not a new venue but one that has been used before but those who missed it missed a real treat with a stunning location and absolutely brilliant weather all organised by Vera and Edwin. The site was within easy walking distance of Ambleside with it's shops, pubs and restaurants and excellent selection of outdoor clothing/equipment shops. Indeed it was so close one nameless person was seen to visit the shops on 4 separate occasions in one day they were: that bored, that forgetful or that disorganised I know not which!! 12 Units gathered in all with Tony (Mr Lucky) and Pam from Aberystwyth who are new members and new to motor homing joining the fray and picking the brains of those around when not regaling others with their tales. Edwin and Vera's grandchildren visited and Tony Charity and JC were accompanied by their daughter Nicola and grandchildren and this gave everybody an opportunity to revert to second childhood playing games etc. Indeed it gave a granddad an excuse to buy a new canoe – need to keep the kids happy! The vessel was successfully launched and traversed Lake Windemere all without accident, most amazing – I did anticipate someone getting a soaking. Others spent the days walking, tackling Louhrigg and Wansfell to name but two. In one instance this did appear to strain marital relations with the comment heard “he just doesn't know when to stop”. On the Sunday a group took themselves off to Hutton in the Forest for the equestrian and historic vehicles show with a good time had by all.



Lower Sweden Bridge near Ambleside



The Entertainers

A few unfortunate souls encountered technical problems with their vehicles but these were in the main solved by Dave Lawson (Mr Fixit) whose motor home is really just a giant “might come in handy box” loaded with all sorts of spares and tools. John and Barbara Anderton were undertaking their maiden voyage in their new motor home. I think this was stretching the term motor home both by the vehicles length 29 feet and its interior a combination of mobile palace and Blackpool illuminations. John also provided an excellent evenings entertainment with his guitar and singing, ably assisted on occasion by Ken. Throughout the week the RAF gave regular low level high speed fly pasts for which ear defenders were recommended. Most evenings were passed in the

Clubhouse as the Discipline Officer “Miss Whiplash” failed to keep the midges in order as they sought to feast on any flesh available. Those who come from south of Watford did on occasion require an interpreter as the northern yokels lapsed into Geordie speak that was totally unintelligible to those not from that locale.

Quote of the Rally Mr Forgetful (where is my wallet?) “I like the ladies chasing me” unfortunately it was Amber the dog.

The latest must have motorhome accessory – a solar powered butterfly! What colour is yours?



At William Wordsworths grave Grassington

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Teeside - Doe Park Rally June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 - by Christine Lawson

### Wednesday

It was difficult to uproot ourselves from Ambleside Rugby ground, as the weather had been so hot we'd become used to lounging around and relaxing. Nevertheless as Wednesday began we in turn rolled of the Rugby pitch and headed for Teesdale in County Durham, praying that the fine weather held. The journey takes approximately ninety-minutes along a beautiful scenic route. We arrived early afternoon and indeed the sun kept shining, although by this time there was a strong refreshing breeze blowing, so after erecting windbreaks, the relaxing began once again. Ah this is the life.

### Thursday

The nearest town of Barnard Castle, just ten minutes drive away, was a popular port of call to replenish stocks of food and wine etc. We'd missed market day, traditionally Wednesday, which was a pity, but there is a good variety of shops including a fairly large Morrisons and a huge independently owned DIY / gardening store. Dave and Ed were keen to source another flat hosepipe, one of which was bought the last time we were at Doe Park from a wonderful 'Aladdin's Cave' in the nearby village of Middleton in Teesdale. Dave, Ed, Vera and I drove over to this hardware shop but alas, no more flat hosepipes were to be

had. We couldn't get out of the shop without spending and came away with all sorts of 'come in handy' bits and pieces, including a self inflating whoopee cushion, which was the subject of much amusement for the three bairns on the rally, namely



Northern Weather Forecasting Device

Kaylee, Ryan and Dave. There is also a very good local butchers shop in Middleton, so it was agreed that we should purchase a piece of beef for Sunday lunch which I have always called a point end of rump. The butcher commented that it was a long time since he had heard it referred to as 'point end' but nevertheless obliged. Incidentally, it is also known as the 'butchers joint'. An extra piece of fat was requested to cover the joint during cooking, which would render down to provide the dripping for the Yorkshire pudding tins and roast potatoes.

### Friday

Doe Park is fantastically placed for walkers and whilst we were in 'Barney' the previous day, I picked up a handful of walk routes from the

TIC. Eric & Pat, John & Barbara and Ken & Lucy were the first to venture forth, with a packed lunch, and on their return commented on how lovely the local countryside was.

As a native I was delighted to take Angela, Vera and Ed for a guided walk around Durham City, which is about a fifty-minute drive from Doe Park. Dave dropped the four of us off and took the opportunity to look over a current job whilst in Durham. We started out on the ancient Prebends Bridge over the River Wear and through the historic Bailey into Palace Green leading to the wonderful Cathedral. As it was

lunchtime by now we headed for the Court Inn, where Dave joined us and we each chose a toasted pannini with a selection of fillings plus half a lager, very nice. We then wandered across Elvet Bridge, through Saddler Street into the main shopping area. Disappointingly, the market place was busy with workmen who were removing the statue of Lord Londonderry and his horse, which was to be renovated, before relocation to another site. After a cuppa in Millennium Square we returned to Doe Park via the high road across the moors above Stanhope and Wolsingham, a stark wilderness of sheep and heather plus many white farmsteads. Those painted white designate that they belong to Lord Barnard of the Raby

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Teeside - Doe Park Rally June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 - by Christine Lawson (continued)

Estate, where he resides in Raby Castle.

### Saturday

During the day the seasoned walkers went forth into the sunshine. JC and Tony had bought their grandchildren a volleyball set up. They were all practicing on the rally field behind us. Much too energetic for a hot day. It then clouded over and a much welcome downpour arrived which lasted for about half an hour. I had booked our party into the Fox and Hounds in Cotherstone for 7.30 pm and we all looked forward to our

day enjoying the sunshine, apart from preparing the vegetables and walking the dog. We ate at 5.30 pm along with Ed and Vera to help us out. Once again a very tasty meal.

### Monday

Today saw Ed & Vera, John & Barbara, Eric & Pat plus JC & Tony leave because of other commitments at home.

Dave and I planned another trip to Durham City along with Ken and Lucy who had also expressed an interest in visiting the Cathedral. I chose a different walking route this time, starting downhill in South Street, which has magnificent views across the river to the Cathedral and Castle, then along the riverbanks. This riverside walk finishes up some very steep steps back to street level on Elvet Bridge, along past Durham Prison the Crown Courts and once again to the Court Inn. The panninis are very good!

Leaving the Court Inn we crossed Kingsgate footbridge and uphill through Bow Lane to Palace Green and the Cathedral. Lucy was impressed with work done by Fenwick Lawson, a sculptor who has provided the city with a number of sculptures depicting various religious scenes. We returned to the car via Prebends Bridge again by now quite weary, as the sun was very high and hot. We returned to Doe Park using the same scenic

route over the moors but took a slight detour to the butchers in



Middleton in Teesdale. Here we purchased steaks, plus their homemade lamb kebabs and chicken kebabs for that evening's barbecue. Dave of course bought black pudding, sausages and bacon chops for the following mornings breakfast. Back at Doe Park we rushed desperately to get the kettle on.

### Tuesday

The weather had changed to dull and cool but after a brief downpour the hot sun returned. Ken, Lucy, Skip and I headed for Middleton in Teesdale yet again but this time on foot, along the old railway line walkway, which is just beyond the sites' rally field. It is about five and a half miles, obviously fairly level, with an abundance of wild flowers and greenery to observe. Dave, rather than join us on the walk 'reluctantly' drove to 'Barney' to top up the necessary provisions (beers). He agreed to meet we three and the dog in Middleton in Teesdale two hours later to give us a much welcome lift back. Skip would have



Members doing what they do best!

evening gathering. The meal was enjoyed by all and provided some entertainment for the regulars who thought they were going out for a quiet romantic meal. Not a chance as our party was in high spirits.

### Sunday

Roast beef and Yorkshire puddings were on the menu at our van so the 'point end' went in the oven at 11.00 am. We lounged about most of the

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

been happy to carry on. Back at Doe Park we had another barbecue, although the midges were by now prevalent. We did manage to have some 'crack' with another couple that had just arrived in a Hobby Van but they were to leave the following day as we did. They were to continue on to Keswick in Cumbria, close to where we had travelled from the previous Wednesday at Ambleside. We had all enjoyed a quiet relaxing weeks rally, chatting to everyone over tea or wine, in between walking and shopping. Above all else the weather was, for a change, extremely kind to us. What more can anyone ask.



## **Forthcoming Rallies** (to keep abreast of events please check the Club Website):

**August** 18th to 25th - Burrs Country Park - Bury, Lancashire - Organiser John Anderton Book direct either via Caravan Club Website or telephone site direct on 0161 761 0489.

**September** 19th to 26th - Greenway Farm - Drybrook Gloucestershire - Contact Organiser Pat Miller (01594 860261) Limited space first come first served.

**October** - nothing yet

**November** - nothing yet

**December** 1st to 8th - (proposal only as yet) Northwood Hall near Chester - Contact Organiser Christine Lawson (01845567164 or 07845961115) £10 per unit per night with electric hookup. Maybe a limit of 10 vans, first come first served.

## **Forthcoming Shows** (to keep abreast of events and ensure accuracy please check the Internet):

**Aug** 13-15 **The Western Motorhome Show** The Three Counties Showground Malvern WR13 6NW

**Sept** 4-5 **UK Motorhome & Caravan Autumn Fair** Newark Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2NY

**Sept** 10-12 **[The Motorhome Show](#)** Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN

**Sept** 10-13 **MOTORHOME/CARAVAN SHOW** (in aid of Ruby Crowther, see [www.rubywillowwishes.co.uk](http://www.rubywillowwishes.co.uk)) Worcester Racecourse, WR1 3EJ

**Sept** 24-26 **[Holiday Home and Lodge Show plus Motorhome Big Sale](#)** The New Forest Showground SO42 7QH

**Sept** 24-26 **The Motorhome Show Season Finale** Lincolnshire Showground Lincoln LN2 2NA

**Oct** 2-3 **Holiday Home and Lodge Show plus Motorhome Big Sale** Exeter Racecourse EX6 7XS

**Oct** 12-17 **International Caravan and Motorhome** NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## The Newsletter

Dear all, I have just taken over as newsletter Editor after being volunteered by my husband at the AGM - my is divorce pending but duty compels me to carry on editing! Historically, I am advised, contributions to the Newsletter are hard to come by which makes its compilation extremely difficult. Your help is sought or there is the likelihood there will be no Newsletter and that would be a shame. Organised a Rally, been somewhere interesting, have a site to recommend or have something useful to share with other members, have something to sell - let me have the details . Your input would be most welcome. It does not need to be long or written as elegant prose I am happy to take rough hardcopy or verbal dialogue and refine it for your approval! You can make submissions by snail mail, telephone, or email all input mediums accepted and at anytime. I will amass material and use at an appropriate opportunity. Many thanks to all who have taken time to contribute in any way to this edition, your help was greatly appreciated. As we did not make the Chainbridge Rally news would be good from those who did. Hopefully, the next edition will be October.

Claire



HE WASN'T DRIVING A HOBBY.

I got stopped for speeding yesterday. I thought I could talk my way out of it until the Officer looked at my dog in the back seat.

