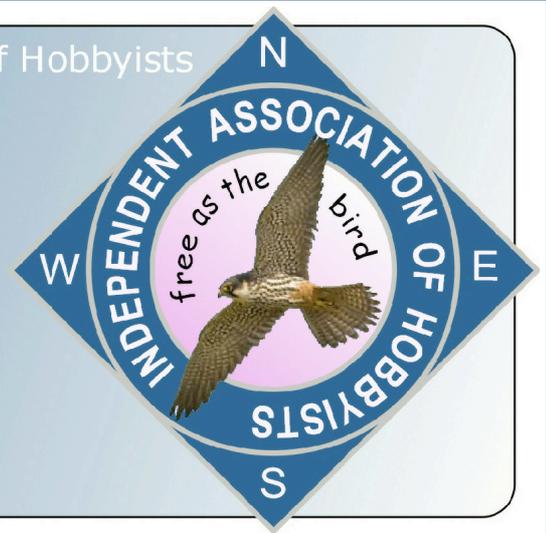


IAH - Independent Association of Hobbyists

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

The UK's only club for Hobby Motorhome Enthusiasts



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

What were you doing in 1961?

We all know what Ed (Association Photographer) and Vera (Disciplinary Officer) were doing, as they celebrated their Golden Wedding at the AGM Rally. All those in need of matrimonial counseling should talk to one or both of this partnership to find out the secret of happily married life. Could it be the whip of Miss Whiplash putting the spring in their step or Ed escaping on his own in the motorhome! Whatever the secret long may it last for the happy couple. Congratulations on reaching this milestone!!

Congratulations



On Your Golden Wedding Anniversary

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HOBBY

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Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

The Travels of Snuggly Wuggly Courtesy of Pam and Tony Flanders. Tony has gone up market and Tony and Pam now have their very own Blog that can be found at www.snugglywuggly.wordpress.com. What follows are extracts from the blog. There are many more details and photographs online.

May 2011 We've reluctantly left Crete after having such a fabulous time where the hospitality & generosity was quite overwhelming. Heading towards Rhodes for about a week, can't wait.

June 2011 Made it to Rhodes just! Went to collect our tickets to board the ferry to Marmaris, the only ferry running had been cancelled?! We had to get a small boat from Rhodes with an overnight stay at Kos, then a ferry to Bodrum. Dodgy ferries not made for our size!

We arrived in Turkey at Bodrum where we travelled onto Icmeler where we met a friend from Aberystwyth, with some more goodies from back home! Next stop Kas where we stayed at the harbour very beautiful with a wonderful mellow atmosphere. Onto Konya where we had 6 free nights at a municipal campsite, this is Turkey's equivalent of the 'Bible Belt' & the home town to the 'Whirling Dervishes'. Ihlara Valley next where we had 2 days walking the stunning picturesque gorge with rock cut churches & monastery.



Tony blending in!

Then to Avanos where we had 6 nights at a great campsite with a swimming pool, washing machine etc. We visited nearby Goreme with its magical towering fairy chimneys & majestic honeycomb cliffs to the backdrop of the Rose & Honey Valleys. We headed due East where we had a few days at Kahta, with a full days excursion to the Nemrut National Park. Arrived at Batman on a recommendation what a dump!!(We're very close to Syria & Iraq!) Change of plan decided to go up eastern Turkey which borders Iran, Armenia & Georgia. Came across some magnificent waterfalls at Muradiye, where we cooled down - very hot.

Then onto Dogubayazit with a breathtakingly beautiful fortress-palace-mosque. We stayed at Murat Camping for 2 nights with dinner & drinks for £30 what a bargain! This is where people stay to climb Turkey's highest mountain 'Mount Ararat' 5,137 m where the supposed resting place of Noah's Ark.

The following morning we were watching the climbers warming up for their trek of the day, which inspired us to go for a little walk! After several long hard hours walking, we saw the other climbers coming down the opposite side of the mountain, we made it to the top just! Later on one of the climbers informed us that they use this particular mountain which is 2,600 m high for altitude adjustment the day before they head up to the summit of Mount Ararat. We think we did rather well as we were heading out for a little walk, with Tony in his pyjama shorts & very little provisions!! Next stop Georgia.

We crossed the border at Posof into Georgia with no problems at all. Onto the town of Akhaltsikhe into very scenic national park area, had a great free camp. Made our way into the city of Batumi which is situated in a deep bay along the south-eastern shore of the Black Sea. The city is under going major renovations which will only enhance the already magnificent architecture. We were having some difficulties parking, when we came across a very friendly traffic warden who navigated us into a great spot in a casino car park for free with great wifi!! Had a fabulous day sight seeing etc. The following day we moved to the west of the city along the boulevard for a further 2 free nights. On the last afternoon we got chatting to a local family, their little daughter fell off the wall,

The Travels of Snuggly Wuggly

Tony gave her a lollipop, the next thing the couple are inviting us out as their guests for an authentic Georgian night out. What a generous, friendly & lovely couple they were. We sampled loads of fantastic food & a lot of drink! Tony was in his element with all the Vodka flowing!! Then it was onto a concert in the park, Georgia's equivalent of the X Factor, which was good fun. With fuzzy heads the following morning we headed back to the border at Sarpi again with no problems. We hugged the Black Sea coast line all the way to Istanbul, which we're really looking forward to. Onto Bulgaria next to see our family.

Managed to find a family run campsite in Aheloy 'Camping K.Aheloy ska Bitka' which works out at £5.50 per night with electric & WiFi & the owner will run you into the local towns. There's a small sandy beach just a stroll away with a bar. All the family came around for a BBQ with loads of scrummy meat from the local butcher 'Porky'!

Got a water taxi to Nesebar which is famous for its numerous, albeit ruined, medieval churches. Ventured into the old town which we all found disappointing. A little later we decided to go for lunch at one of the sea view restaurants big mistake! Big tank at the front of the restaurant with large prawns in, we all fancied a plate full cooked in garlic butter, they arrived with no meat inside, work that one out?! Very disappointing, made a quick exit back to Sveti Vlas.

Experienced a traditional Bulgarian Folk night with children's entertainment, singers, dancers, food, drink & finished off with a man walking over hot coals, mega hot!

Met all the family at Sveti Vlas which was fantastic with loads of sun, sea & frolics. It was great seeing them all after being away for 8 months on the road. We're staying with them at their luxury apartment, having the downstairs space, which we can't get used to all the space!

We arrived in the city of Burgas which is the second largest city on the Black Sea coast. It is situated in the

western most part of The Bay of Burgas, on a peninsula surrounded by three lagoons. We found a £2 car park right in the centre with overnight parking. Lovely architecture & a stunning park which runs parallel to the sandy beach. That evening we went to the cinema to see Tree of Life with Brad Pitt & Sean Penn in it, the manager said he had to have 5 people to view it, so we strolled to the bar opposite & he said he would shout us if 3 more people arrived, we finished our premium lagers for £1 a pint, the manager shouted that we could watch the film, 2 other people in the cinema, watched the film for 20 minutes - our Bulgarian cinema experience!



The Spice Market



The Blue Mosque

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION OF HOBBYISTS 12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at The Rugby Club, Ambleside, on Saturday, 18th June 2011.

Well if you weren't there you have missed yet another club AGM which is always an enjoyable event. What follows is a summary of the event but please refer to the Minutes when published for a true record of what transpired. On this occasion the AGM was attended by 22 Club Members with apologies registered by 13 others. A warm welcome was extended to two new members Chris and Jenny, and two 'old' members Derek and Maxine who, although long-standing members of the Hobby Club, had not previously attended any rallies or the AGM for many years through various commitments.

The Chairman started the meeting off with a welcome to all followed by thanks to the Committee members for their support in particular not forgetting those providing the refreshments for after the AGM. (The way to a man's heart!) Specific thanks went to Tony Charity who as a founder member had fulfilled many and varied roles within the club over the years but was to relinquish the General Secretary's post at this meeting.



The Minutes of the 11th AGM of 2010 which are available on the club website were agreed.

The Officer's that make up the Committee each made a report and the main points were as follows:

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that more income had been received over the past year due to an increase in membership, totalling £3,504.68. The accounts for the past year had been distributed and these were accepted and agreed.

Newsletter Editor's Report: A written report was submitted as the editor was idling on the Algarve. Since taking over as Editor a standard style/format had been adopted. Thanks were expressed to all those who had submitted articles in particular Terry Lambrose and Tony Flanders without whom the content would have been scarce. The importance of keeping the articles coming was stressed. The cost of producing hard copy Newsletters and distributing them by post was raised as an issue as costs had risen significantly. See changes to the Constitution that follows.

Technical Officer's Report: A written report was also submitted. (Also idling on the Algarve). Relatively few Technical Queries had arisen over the year and many had been answered by other Members to whom grateful thanks were expressed.

Membership Secretary's Report: The Secretary reported that membership had increased during 2010 to 69 members. Ten members have since resigned and at present there are 45 paid up members and 14 unpaid despite numerous reminders in different formats. The Chair made the suggestion that there should be a time limit for payment, after which, membership would automatically cease. See Changes to the Constitution below.

Website Officer's Report: Website access was working well with no reported access problems. However he was disappointed in the lack of activity on the Forum, which gave the impression that people were either not accessing the website or did not want to participate in the interaction of information that the Forum provided. He recommended that people should use this facility as there was a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the club that could be shared. He also raised a concern that there should be someone willing to take on the role of Assistant to the Website Officer who would be able to take over the running of the website if he was unable to do so at any time.

General Secretary's Report: The Secretary informed the meeting the insurances had been paid (£240 per annum) and the club was up-to-date with 'Natural England' for the organisation of rallies with exemption certificates. He updated the

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION OF HOBBYISTS 12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at The Rugby Club, Ambleside, on Saturday, 18th June 2011. Continued.

meeting reference the Club owned party/meeting tent and proposed a new tent be purchased. This was unanimously agreed by all present.

Disciplinary Officer's Report: Miss Whiplash was disappointed to report that with the exception of her husband Ed no disciplinary measures had been necessary. (Editorial License exercised!)

Association Photographer's Report: The photographer queried whether it was still necessary to proceed with making hard copies of the photographs for the club albums as there was a more comprehensive selection of photographs on the website for all to see. Discussion followed as to whether the albums, which had to be compiled, stored, and brought to events, should continue. In order to arrive at a conclusion, a vote was taken and it was AGREED to keep the albums as they were a source of great interest and provided a talking point at social events.

Changes to the Constitution:

- 1) The Newsletter: All postal hardcopies to cease. It was agreed that in future it would be accessed and downloaded from the website. The alternative would be to supply a CD to cover one year's supply of the four newsletters, which would be cheaper than sending out hard copies in the post.
- 2) Membership Fees: The continual late payment of some annual fees had been highlighted. It was agreed that if fees were not paid within 30 days then membership of the club would automatically expire together with access to the website.

Election of the Committee: Please see website for mugshots/smiling faces of those duly elected!

Chairman:	Geoff Oman to continue.
General Secretary:	Angela Wood newly elected to this post
Membership Secretary:	Christine Lawson to continue.
Treasurer:	David Lawson to continue.
Accounts Examiner:	Jan Charity to continue.
Rally Co-ordinator:	Angela Wood to continue
Disciplinary Officer:	Vera Watson to continue
Association Photographer:	Ed Watson to continue.
Website Officer	Ken Cookson to continue
Newsletter Officer	Clare Barden to continue.
Technical Officer:	Trevor Barden to continue

Food glorious food courtesy of Dave and Christine plus helpers



Any Other Business:

Rallies: The incentive of two free nights would continue to apply for those attending a full week of a rally i.e. the AGM rally at Ambleside and the following one at Binsoe.

Fire Regulations: John Anderton was concerned that in the event of a fire, whether regulations were in place such as the provision of fire buckets, and whether fire extinguishers should be available at each rally site. It was pointed out that fire buckets were no longer compulsory and that each motorhome should have their own fire extinguisher. Tony Charity had a copy of all the Fire Regulations if anyone wanted to view them.

Thanks: Terry Lambrose expressed his thanks to everyone who had made him and his wife, Kay, so welcome on their return from Australia, and at the rallies they were able to attend whilst in the UK.

Closure: The Chairman thanked everyone again for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 1 pm. A sumptuous feast followed, together with games and entertainment for the rest of the day. Eat, drink and be merry!

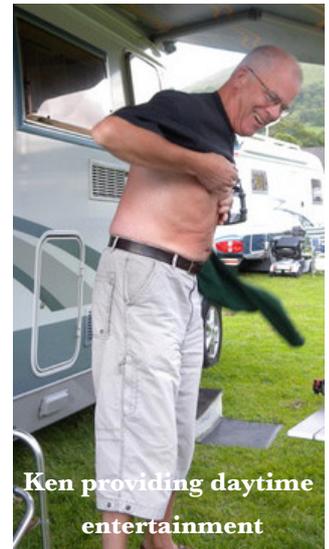
AMBLESIDE RALLY 2011 Courtesy of Vera Watson

There were eleven vans at the Ambleside Rugby Club this year. As there had been a double booking problem the Good Companions Club shared very well at either ends of the field. Their Rally was organised, with timed coffee mornings etc so we Hobbyist's took charge of the small President's Room which suited very well as it kept everyone together - no stragglers!



AMBLESIDE & AGM 15-21 June 2011

The weather was mixed, some rain and some shine but our AGM went well with few changes of Officers mainly Angela took over from Tony as Secretary. Christine and Dave supplied an excellent buffet meal which lasted all of two days. We had a chinese take away and some members had a good meal at Lamplighters in Windermere. It was Ed and I's Golden Wedding during the Rally so we were blessed with gifts, cards and flowers etc which we much appreciated. It was lovely to share the occasion, believe it or not, there are only about 5 people left alive who shared our wedding day with my 93 year old mother being one!! John Anderton entertained us very well with his wide repertoire of melodies, Ken Cookson added physical and musical extras after some amount of alcohol and a very good time was had by all.



Ken providing daytime entertainment

BINSOE RALLY 2011 Courtesy of Christine Lawson

After another successful AGM at Ambleside we packed up and got ready for another weeks camping in North Yorkshire, approximately 1.5 hours east. Some of us had already stayed at this site and knew of the lovely views and of course the 3 legged Collie. Little did we know that this Rally would become the "Best Pork Pie Challenge". On arriving the weather was fine and breezy with broken cloud allowing the sun to shine. After our evening meal we were all invited to Jan & Tony's van for a natter and night cap. As we normally have a meal together I had in mind the local pub The Bull, so I set off together with Pat and Angela down the track to The Bull in village of West Tanfield. The track was quite



Charming donkey and a couple of posers according to the text.

Binsoe Rally Continued

overgrown but we persevered and reached the road leading to West Tanfield but another half hour on we were still walking the road, no footpaths and we seemed to be getting nowhere.

Angela's wellies were becoming uncomfortable but we kept calm and carried on until the pub was in sight. (Ed comment - sounds like code for we were lost!) Just opposite the pub we saw two charming donkeys and posed there for a photo. A booking was made for Friday evening as Pat and Eric had to leave the Rally Sunday morning.

Thursday - Ripon Market beckoned, and the lure our favorite pie shop, Appleton's, didn't go without a visit. Ed and Vera agreed that they were lovely and Vera asked if we could make a return visit later in the week so that she could take a supply home for a forthcoming social event with the Rotary Club. Pat and Eric headed off in the car to see the countryside as they didn't know the area at all, but as the day progressed it became quite dull and damp so they weren't able to do as much walking as they had hoped but said they were very impressed with the area.

Back to Binsoe and we welcomed new members Peter and Ann Burn who along with their friend Steve in his motorhome found us for the weekend. They bought their first Hobby recently and after a few of the usual snags are very happy with it.

Friday - I had mentioned to the ladies in the party that a local business, Calvert's, had a fabulous linen and curtain warehouse in North Allerton and we agreed to explore there. Another local business Sam Turners have an aladdins cave for the boys full of agricultural, diy and gardening goodies so they agreed to go there instead of being bored rigid with curtain material and teal towels. Later we met the boys who had retired to Sam Turners coffee shop and had a cuppa with them then off to the high street where there is a full selection of all the well known shops plus a few individual traders to make things more interesting. The large market here is held on Saturdays and Wednesdays. By now it was almost 2pm and tummies were rumbling - so as Dave and I just happened to know of a good fish and chip shop it was voted to have a late lunch/early tea at the White House restaurant. Large fresh haddock, salad, bread and butter, strong hot tea what more could you wish for after a hard morning shopping. Back on site the new events shelter was unpacked and erected by the lads, and proved to be a very handy and convenient piece of Hobby Club kit.

Saturday - Bearing in mind we had an evening meal to look forward to we today headed for Darlington, another good shopping town. Tony and JC were looking for more garden accessories. The pork pie shop, famous in Darlington, is Taylors,



Some of the ladies that shop - quite a lot!!



Hobby Club Treasurer out with his begging plate collecting more funds?

Binsoe Rally Continued

so Ed and Dave sampled theirs so that the study could be developed further, we bumped into Peter and Ann a couple of times (its not a very big town) and he too had sampled one of Taylor's very best. As the meal was arranged for this evening we didn't have much else, in anticipation. We drove down to The Bull at 7pm and chose from their blackboard menu. The food arrived and seemed to be enjoyed but personally I was disappointed as Dave and I had eaten here on many occasions and always been impressed, but sadly, it had now new management and really was not up to my expectations.

However the company and the crack was great so a good night was had by all.

Sunday - Dare I say it- more shopping - well it wouldn't be right to be in the area and not go to Lightwater Shopping Outlet! By now the sun was blisteringly hot but we ladies braved the elements and browsed in the cool airy shops - mainly ladies clothing - but they do have a lovely garden shop and very good bistro. Our food that day was to be a bar-b-que, which on our return we found, our good menfolk had unpacked the barbies and had them fired up and ready for a selection of meaty goodies. We ate together under the new events shelter and weren't too bothered by the midges, spent the evening there and watched the sunset at about 10pm. It was lovely.



A glorious sunset at Binsoe

Monday - Back to the pork pie challenge. Ray had been chatting to Mr Beadle - our host, and strangely enough the conversation turned to pork pies. Tha' best goes t' Pately for best 'uns, he told Ray. Well we had to give them a test, so Ray and Angela, Ed and Vera, Dave and I, Tony and JC drove to Pateley Bridge, a very pretty Dales town about 45mins away from Binsoe. There are two shops selling pork pies, we found, so which one was Mr Beadle talking about? Only one way to find out - test them both. Dave and I tried a breakfast pork pie which had sausage, bacon and tomato as a filling - even I was pleased with that choice. Further down the bank was the other shop who boasted their pies were award winners. Vera tried one and again was very pleased with hers so she bought her Rotary Club Supper from here as next day she was going home.



Ed's turn in the middle?

Tuesday - Angela, JC and I drove down to Beadale today, even though I often come here, I thought I would like to show it off to our visitors. Only a small place but a nice high street, various shops and cafes and a lovely old church which chimed away the hour. We bought a few provisions and returned to Binsoe to enjoy a restful afternoon, enjoying the last of the days sunshine and making sure we were all packed up and ready to leave the next morning. In conclusion the pork pie challenge, in my opinion, was won by Appleton's of Ripon. But the breakfast pies in Pateley were lovely around lunch time.

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

The Writings of a Man Down Under - Terry Lambrose June 2010

By way of introduction Terry and Kay Lambrose are IAH Members who live in Australia and tend to come to Europe for six months at a time. He has written three articles to be published in successive Newsletters - here is the third.

Hi All,

Well I know it has taken some time since we left Townsville to write and some of you might be wondering where we are, others might not really care. Well whatever! Today is the day I have decided to write. Mind you I have written once already this trip to a friend of mine with the same birthday (approx) but that letter, which is an annual affair, could not be sent to those of you with more delicate dispositions.

So I shall start.

What has gripped me to write now at this time? – you might well ask. The reason is simple: The environment. There that is that. Now you know. But what you don't know is that we are camped up in the most delightful situation.

We are parked up on the front lawn between a large house and a lake. For those of you with a geographic bent we are on the edge of the small village of Lachaussee (which boasts one church, no school, no shops). It is west of Metz and just north of a larger lake (Lac de Madine). Perhaps those of you with Google earth might be able to find it.

You can imagine an old stately double storied French house with the lawn going down to the lake. The house has an uninterrupted view of the lake and on the periphery of one's view to the left the lake is tree lined and to the other side the view stretches far to the deep blue hills in the background. The lake is teeming with bird life. Swans with their signets and ducks with their ducklings are prominent in the foreground. An eagle hovers overhead looking for breakfast. The various trees dotted strategically in the garden already have their summer leaves and a variety of bird life whistle and chirp their way amongst the branches. It rained overnight and freshened the day as only showers can - the clouds have gone revealing the spring sunshine which just mildly warms your back as the gentle zephyr off the surface of the lake caresses your face. The cup of tea between both hands warms your insides as you gaze on the wonders of nature and you just know it is great being alive. Much better than the alternative of being dead. Mind you the church tells us that it will be much better "up there" – but for me I will savour a bit more of the delights of this world before I move on.

But move on we must and today is the day when we must move on to pick up Kerri – another story.

But before we go indulge me with a small post script to our current location.

It is owned by a society that looks after the disabled of the district. The people live in the surrounding villages and every day small buses pick them up from their homes and bring them to this place. To give an example one young man was in a coma for six months after a motor bike accident – he is now well enough to drive a car but still needs care.

I don't understand French but the manager Monsieur Kennel (I thought he said Cornel - but he pointed out he was not so lucky) spoke a little English and between the two of us and some of Kaye's basic French and a lot of pointing we worked out that they have a farm (which we later saw). They process 12,000 chickens, 10,000 ducks, 14,000 rabbits and 40 tons of fish a year.

We have observed that some of the disabled work on the farm and in the kitchen (which feeds the 40 customers/clients three meals a day) – the menu like most places in France is full of exotic dishes. The people are treated very well in a warm friendly atmosphere. We walked along the country drive on the edge of the lake to look at the free range chickens and when we got to the end we saw some of the people arriving for the day. A man met them like old friends shaking their hand and with a genuine smile. We eventually met the man, Allan, and in broken English/French he told us that it would

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

The Writings of a Man Down Under - Continued

take about 4 hours to walk around the lake and that some environmental groups came to study the place from time to time.

When we were promenading around the village last evening, a young lady who could speak some English, told us that every year from mid October to mid November many people came to the village to witness the harvesting of the fish (Perch, Carp, Eel and other fish). They drain the lake to a very low level and then the men go out with nets and drag the bottom. As Monsieur Kernel said 40 tons of fish are harvested so it must be a great event.

We are leaving with some regrets. But in the knowledge that something good is going on that we don't fully understand but we do know that the place has wonderful vibes. A place of peace and tranquillity but at the same time a place where people are treated with dignity and given a chance to participate at their own pace to their own level of ability. So we move on.

Of course this is not the only place we have stayed since we arrived in the Northern Hemisphere. To fill in a little of the background:

- Our trip was initially delayed by ten days because of the ash from the Volcanic eruption in Iceland
- We picked up our van as usual from Chris and Linda who had made sure the MOT and Service were done
- We had the van detailed on the outside as we do every year before heading off to Continental Europe.
- We caught up with friends like Kerry & Nick, Martin & Margaret, Michael & Margaret, Josh of Josh & Rosie and the two boys, Bob & Ann, Martin, Dianna and our home from home in the UK Chris and John.
- This year we actually got to attend a Hobby rally and caught up with people we had not seen for a long time and met some new Hobby people. For the uninitiated our van is a Hobby 750 2001 model and there is a Hobby club in the UK. About 50 vans (around 100 people) make up the club. They visit all sorts of places and this year we visited the area around Cheddar (as in cheese) and Wookey Hole

The country around Cheddar and to the north (and a bit to the left) the Forest of Dean (where Bob & Ann live) is attractive with delights to great the eye at every turn. Have you ever noticed that the eye constantly likes to see something new while the ear loves to hear what we already know. There has to be something deep and meaningful in that.

One night we walked to the local pub – The Silent Lady – silent because she had her head chopped off, it proved to be most enjoyable as we were the only ones not locals so you can imagine the fun we had listening to the local gossip of this isolated forest community. Earlier Bob had introduced me to Cider and the local Cider at the Silent Lady did the trick for both Kaye and me. We swaggered back to the caravan park about a half a mile away in total darkness. Fortunately we woke up in our own van the next morning so we couldn't have had that much to drink.

Since entering France we have had just the best of times staying at Passion Club Farms and driving FiFi sightseeing to places like Brugge in Belgium. Brugge is a most beautiful city with lots of chocolate, beautiful old buildings, canals and horse drawn carriages.

We happened to be staying just outside Dunkirk on the very weekend when a flotilla of 50 boats that were part of the rescue 70 years ago were in port celebrating that remarkable event of the World War II evacuation. We met up with the captain of one of the boats and had a great time on board with 'THE LADS'.

On another occasion we met another Australian couple from Adelaide who are doing exactly what we are doing 6 months at home and six months in Europe in a camping car. We swapped stories and tips on how to do things.

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

The Writings of a Man Down Under - Continued

At one farm in France where we were staying they had a kind of festival. I guess to promote their farm and the products. They had a disco one night and some local girls (ladies) did about six dances that they had put together. The next day was a pig on the spit with jacket potatoes. A great weekend. I mention this because this is where we met Linda and Pierre with their three children.

They have most generously let us stay in the garden of their holiday house near Strasbourg which is where we are now and I am finishing this letter. Our stay here is the subject of an entirely different experience. Until we write again.

Ambleside Fairfield Horseshoe Walk. Courtesy of Tony Charity

From the safety of the Rally Field at Ambleside I've often admired the peaks and hills surrounding us. On previous visits I have managed to walk most of them, Wansfell to the East being the highest to date.

It was my intention to walk the Fairfield Horseshoe to the North, but the weather hadn't been kind and at 3450ft I didn't want to go up there and not be able to see anything. It would have been reckless if the mist was down due to the rocky terrain and drop offs. So with a heavy heart, I took a sedate ten mile walk with my daughter

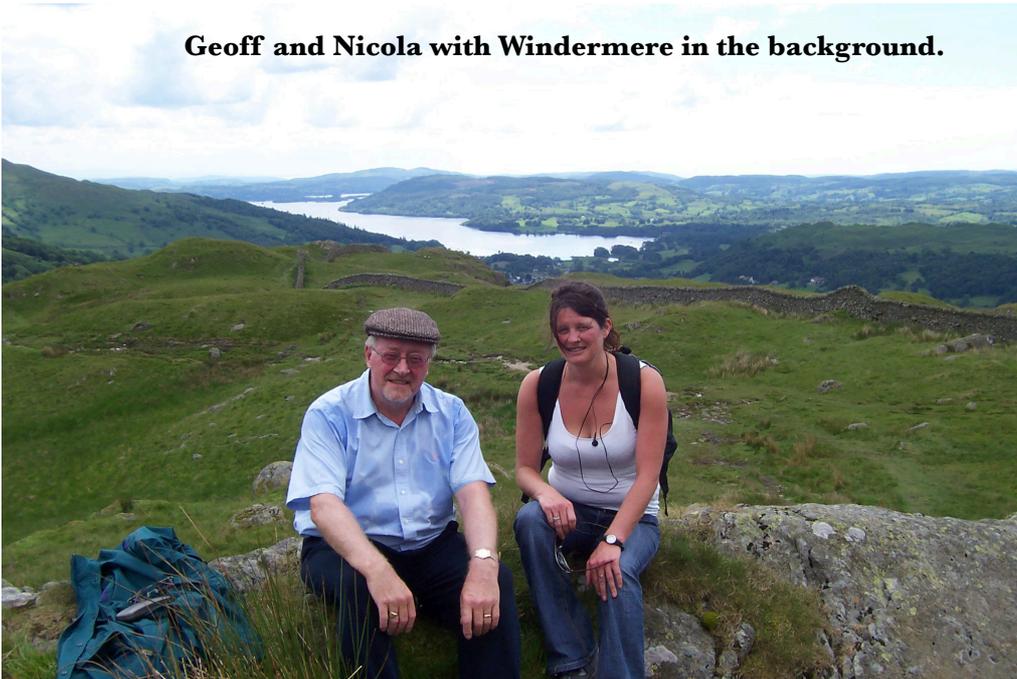
Nicola along the West side of Lake Windermere, and returned by the ferry. For my troubles my left foot was covered in blisters.

The following day was a beautiful crystal clear sky so I 'ambled' down to Ambleside to visit Boots the chemist and stocked up with the special gel plasters. Blisters or no blisters I couldn't miss this opportunity.

At about 11.00hrs Geoff Oman, Nicola and I set off to

walk the last range of hills in view. I'd done my homework and read Wainwright's Walks which suggested that we start at the Eastern end, Sweden Bridge, which would avoid the very steep climb at the other end. For the first few miles as we made the ascent we seemed to be climbing over rocks which left me wondering what the descent would be like. At this point Geoff seemed to be struggling for breath and I wondered if he would make it, as there are no short cuts back after Higher Sweden Bridge. Nicola was disappearing ahead and kept having to wait while I stayed in-between. (You've heard of the story, the Hare & the Tortoise?) Geoff kept at his own pace

Geoff and Nicola with Windermere in the background.



Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

Ambleside Fairfield Horseshoe Walk, Continued.



**Like father
like daughter
it runs in the
family resting
on a hillside.**



while Nicola continued burning up the miles (and her water). I was just happy that I couldn't feel my left foot anymore.

Before we had reached half way we had to stop and take in the view, which was breath-taking. I could never produce the right words to give it justice.

The summit of Fairfield is fairly flat with many cairns and paths; there are uninterrupted views of the fell tops in all directions. It was here that we replenished our bodies with food and savoured the views and pondered why anyone should struggle to build these fine walls in such a place.

The view coming down was equally impressive. I could see almost the whole of Windermere, Coniston Water and could look down on Grasmere. Although the walk down for the last mile was very steep, it was a path and not on rocks, coming out at Rydal. By this time all three of us were exhausted, but Geoff was leading the way. His steady pace had paid off. It started to rain as we approached Ambleside, but I guess we were passed caring. It had been decided to stop and have one beer at a pub in town which was our final mistake, because the body

required one almighty kickstart to get us the final few hundred metres home.

Looking down from the top of Fairfield.



I thought the walk would have taken about 6 hours but it took 8 hours 15 minutes. The following morning when Vera saw me she said "that walk is over 8 hours you know" and I replied W!#**%! Vera. Well worth the challenge as the views are second to none but get the weather right.

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

Camper UK North Hykeham - (Hobby, Geist, Burstner, LMC and Bessacar Dealers) Open Weekend 5th to 7th of August

More by accident than design 10 Club members attended this event held at Camper UK 15 acre site at Swinethorpe near North Hykeham at a cost of £25 per unit for the weekend. The rally field was firm, flat and level with water and elsan point but no electric although this was not a problem. On arrival on Friday you were given a welcome pack with information about the weekend and a rubbish bag and left to park where you liked. A marquee had been erected to house the evening entertainments and bar. Minibuses were laid on for Friday and Saturday providing trips into Lincoln some 8 miles away. Friday evening entertainment 17:30hrs to 18:30hrs was Bingo - not to everyones taste but enjoyed by many with club members John and Barbara Anderton collecting prizes for House and Line £20 and £10 respectively. At 19:00hrs it was free fun Casino Night with Black Jack and Roulette using Camper UK money - a real novelty! Prizes were awarded to those that won the most with first prize being £3000 off a new motorhome, second a free service and third an oil and filter change.

Saturday allegedly heralded free bacon butties in the morning, we missed out there but did sample the complimentary tea/coffee that was available all day long albeit we were cajoled into buying raffle tickets. Various daytime activities were provided including a golf competition and fete type games. Fishing was also available at the site lake. A large selection of new and secondhand motorhomes for sale was on display and all were open for viewing. An accessory shop display/sale was also provided. A chargeable bar was available from 1900hrs till late and measures were generous! Saturday night entertainment started with the inclusive barbeque followed by a raffle then a disco and live vocalist. The barbeque was disappointing as service was slow, a problem acknowledged by the organisers who offered profound apologies. The raffle brought luck to yours truly who won a 2.5.x 5m awning ground sheet and Christine Lawson who managed two prizes. The vocalist Jamie Sykes performed a wide range of songs that got people dancing. Sunday you could disperse at your leisure or pay £5 for an extra night to recover from the excesses of Saturday night. A very enjoyable event with the next scheduled for early November 2011. Check Camper UK Website if you plan to attend.

Story told by a member who will remain anonymous for the sake of his reputation!!!

I was on holiday in Tenerife and I fancied a cup of tea. I filled the kettle with water, lit the gas and put the kettle on for the water to boil. I came back later to a wet floor and misshaped kettle. It was a plastic electric kettle, but I hadn't noticed!!!

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

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

October 1st to 6th Waverley Park Holiday Centre, Cowes, Isle of Wight. Organiser Pat Miller.

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

The Western Motorhome Show 19/08/2011 - 21/08/2011 Three Counties Showground Malvern
Worcestershire WR13 6NW

UK Motorhome & Caravan Autumn Fair 03/09/2011 - 04/09/2011 Newark Showground
Newark Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY

The BIG end-of-season show - Shepton 09/09/2011 - 11/09/2011 Royal Bath & West
Showground Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 6QN

The Motorhome Show Season Finale 23/09/2011 - 25/09/2011 Lincolnshire Showground
Lincoln Lincolnshire LN2 2NA

Malvern Caravan Show 30/09/11 - 02/10/11 Three Counties Showground Malvern Worcestershire
WR13 6NW

NCC Motorhome and Caravan Show 11/10/2011 - 16/10/2011 National Exhibition Centre
Birmingham West Midlands B40 1NT

HOBBY

Website UK <http://www.hobbycaravansuk.co.uk/>

Motor Home Dealer List hobbycaravansuk.co.uk/uploads/Motor_Home_Dealer_List_2011_5.doc

HOBBY GERMANY MOTORHOMES NEW FOR 2012 INFO - GOOGLE TRANSLATION!!!! Leaves a bit to be desired?

The alcove and integrated part of the series Siesta surprise with six new floor plans. The other series shine with many new features.

New layout Whether for couples or young families with children - the new series of floor plans can accommodate every need siesta. Particularly convenient is it more recently in Van Exclusive (model KL 60) to: A newly developed folding bed can be due to electrical control easy fold up and down. And the kids bunk bed offers space-saving sleeping space for young campers.

New washrooms In some models from the 2012 season there's clearly more room for showering. The new flexible sink module can be easily pushed to one side - has already won a lot of extra space.

Improved seating comfort All motorhomes are equipped from the 2012 season with an ergonomically shaped back cushions. Because they are at Hobby customers more popular than the beds suitable backrest. The series Sphinx and Tuscany Exclusive offer height-adjustable armrests, thanks to more comfort on the back benches. Tall riders will appreciate the speed console for driver and front passenger seats in all Ford models: In order to position the seats give lower and thus a much better view ahead.

Lots of Extras Also in the field of special equipment in 2012 left to be desired. Among the highlights is the mobile power charging, the battery is charging the board in no time. More exclusive additional options are a heater for the cab and a crash sensor for safe operation of the gas heater while driving.

Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

For Your Amusement

The Club's own talented singer entertainer John Anderton recommended A Northern Bye Bye Blues. I think we should all look forward to a rendition by John at a rally in the near future.

A NORTHERN BYE-BYE BLUES by Steve Morris

Yer a borin' bugger Brenda
I've said it now so there
I've bin Wantin Gerrit of mi chest for nigh on 15 year
Ever since our Weddin' night
When ya went to bed at nine
Wi' a mug of "Soddin' Horlicks"
An' gardeners question time

Yer a borin' bugger Brenda
I've never liked yer kit
Them! big thick itchy tights yer wear
Ant mufflers "that ya knit."
Ida loved a spot of passion, if only once a year
Wi' a chance to dive off t' wardrobe
An' swing from t' chandelier.

Yer a borin' bugger Brenda it seems unkind
But I'm glad I've found the gumption
To say wot's on mi mind.
I've craved exotic travel per'aps Egypt or Assam
But all we got were "Campin' at Prestatyn wi' yer mam."

Yer a borin' bugger Brenda
I'm determined to break free
So I've drawn out 'alf o't savings
That wi' 'ad in't TSB.
I saw an ad in't paper sayin'
Don't live yer life in t' closet
In Thailand ya can be yersel'
So I've sent off mi deposit.

Yer a borin bugger Brenda an' I'm tryin' not to gloat
But I guess by now you've realized
"Just why I've left this note"
I'm goin' t' swim wi' dolphins
Make love beneath the stars,
You get yersel' that bike ya like
Wi' drop downandlebars.

Yer a borin bugger Brenda
But I'll miss thi in a way.
Sat'day nights in front o' box
Wi us supper on a tray.
An' that brings to mind one final thing
Be a shame to overlook,
Yer a borin' bugger Brenda
So I've slung mi bloody ook

John entertaining the masses at the AGM

