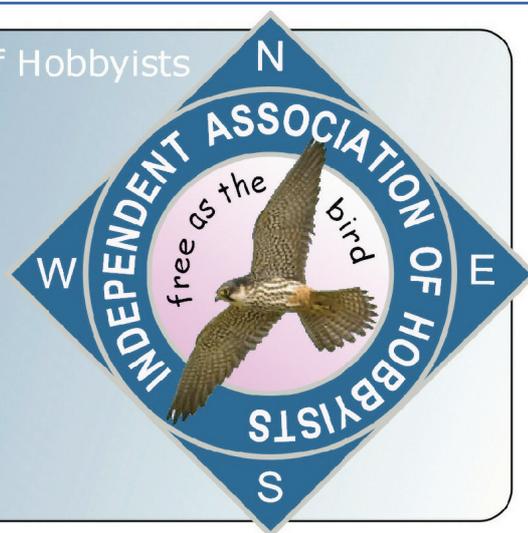


IAH - Independent Association of Hobbyists

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

The UK's only club for Hobby Motorhome Enthusiasts



## NEWSLETTER JULY 2012

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place at the Blue Bell Public House near Witton, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The Meeting was poorly supported with only 10 people attending comprising basically a selection of Committee Members and partners plus one other couple. The Minutes of the Meeting can be found on the downloads page of the Club Website. A quick summary of key facts follows:

The Chairman, Secretary, Rally Co-ordinator and Association Photographer stood down from their posts.

The Club Accounts were presented, accepted and agreed.

All Elected Officials present reported on their respective areas.

An election of officials took place. The Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Accounts Examiner, Disciplinary Officer, Website Officer, Newsletter Editor and Technical Officer all agreed to stand for a further year and were elected unanimously and unopposed.

The role of Chairman and General Secretary were vacant and in the absence of any other volunteers Tony Charity offered his services! Note he has I believe fulfilled most if not all roles within the Club in the past and would willingly handover either post to interested parties. Training and guidance provided. Please contact Tony if you can offer your services.

The Rally Co-ordinator post was discontinued - see later article in this Newsletter on Rallies.



Outgoing Chairman

Geoff Oman



New Chairman

Tony Charity

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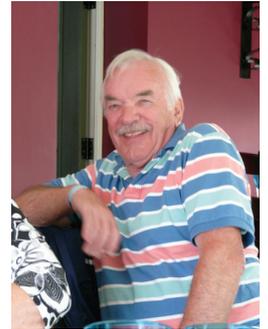
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# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Annual General Meeting - continued

The Post of Association Photographer is vacant and would suit someone with an interest in photography. This role does not mean that you are required to attend every rally and take all the photographs as members often send them. However a camera is provided if you feel so inclined. It does require some work in maintaining both hardcopy and electronic files - nothing arduous and I am sure Ed Watson the outgoing photographer would provide guidance. Contact Tony Charity should you wish to volunteer your services.



Stepping down after  
10 Years on the job  
Ed Watson

For full details please download AGM Minutes and Notes on Accounts from the Website.  
<http://www.hobbyowners.org.uk/page7.html>

## Club Rallies/Events

Do you have a favorite part of the UK that you would like to share? Volunteers are sought to organise Rallies/Events for the benefit of Club Members. There are no specific rules or guidelines to follow. Find a venue in your area or in an area that you like visiting or an area you plan to visit for the first time and invite others to join you. Establish the basic details and place on the website - see website for previous examples. Some basic common sense guidance - there is no longer a Rally Co-ordinator therefore make sure your event does not clash with an event already listed. If in the planning stage put it on the Calendar as provisional to reserve a slot. Consider the cost, not everybody is a Rothschild. If using a recognised campsite most other aspects should be covered automatically. If using private land consider fresh water supply, elsan disposal, refuse disposal, available space and van density, safe entry and egress from the site etc. The event can contain as few or as many activities as you like eg walks, coffee get togethers or whatever. Like some help or guidance or perhaps just a chat about how it works? Talk to the General Secretary or a Committee Member.

## Ambleside Rally courtesy of Vera Watson



Photo Eddy Bryan

We started our week in Ambleside on the 21st of May with beautiful warm sunshine, all the awnings were out and all Hobby members who seem to shun rallies which are slightly "north" missed a real treat. Nine vans were with us for the 7 days and two for fewer nights. As a long time member of the club and regular rally attender, I am at a loss to know how to encourage members to attend and make the stay more fun. Really you don't need to journey for miles across the channel for sunshine and good food!!

Only two hardy members tackled the climb up Loughrigg one day and Wansfell the next. Their red rosy faces on return made us wish we were all as fit.

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## **Ambleside Rally** - continued

Tony and Pam made Ambleside their first stop after spending 18 months touring Europe (See article below for details of their adventures). Dave Lawson helped return their van to full working order after the rigours of foreign travel. Much sun cream (first aid) was needed for "Up on the Roof" where the combination of solar panel and water in the wrong place made for poor charging.

A good day out was had at Kendal's Country Fest with local foods and lots of farm animals, The ice-cream sellers definitely were having a busier day than the hot-dog and roast pork stands.

We all gathered in the club house for a Chinese take-a-way one evening and after the meal, and much liquid refreshment, even John Anderton was struggling with his words while entertaining us very well as usual with his guitar. Some people became very loud and raucous (mentioning no names!), I did hear someone was having a heart attack from laughing, can't be bad. I know it was filmed, I do hope the editing cleaned up the act!! I have booked for next year, from 24<sup>th</sup> June, get yourselves there. Editors note - see <http://www.hobbyowners.org.uk/page86.html> for the video (courtesy of Eddy Bryan) of Vera and Christine singing ditties followed by Vera's rendition of Falling in Love Again ably supported by John on guitar.

## **Overbeck Farm Rally** - courtesy of Tony Charity



A site resident

After previously being spoiled with the weather at Ambleside we had the opposite at Overbeck Farm, near Stockton On Tees. Although we had plenty of rain we avoided the high winds experienced in the South and the powers that be did give us windows of opportunity to explore the surrounding countryside without getting too wet.

Geoff Oman's Brother kindly provided a field at his home for our Rally, which gave us a great view of the countryside in a very quiet location and the opportunity to gaze out of our motorhomes and see the younger generation

exercising their horses over the jumps.

Only five motorhomes presented themselves at this rally, but this did give us the opportunity to all socialise in the one van, when we chose to put the world to right.

I did notice on this Rally as did Christine Lawson, that the toilets always became full and required emptying when it was pouring down. I believe we have photographic evidence somewhere of Dave Lawson emptying his own toilet. This provided hours of good banter as it was as rare as seeing a Golden Eagle land near bye or a naked female running across the field.

**A sight as  
rare as  
Rocking  
Horse Dung  
Dave Lawson  
with toilet  
cassette!**



## **Overbeck Farm Rally - continued**

Having never visited this area of the North East JC and I spent a day at Hartlepool. As normal we split up, JC doing the rounds of the shops and myself going to the Jackson Docks. Half the museum there is free, the other half which contains the Classic Napoleon Frigate HMS Trincomalee, has an entry fee of £8 and on certain times of the day a cannon is fired. Yes you've guessed, I went in the free part and came upon a restored Wingfield Castle, a ferry which operated across the river Humber and was stopped when the bridge was opened. I used to cross the Humber on that ferry when I was in Lincolnshire and making my way to Hull to visit my future wife. It is now a café/eating place but restored to its former glory. I did spend some money on it and reminisced while drinking my cuppa.

While at Hartlepool we visited the Headland which has the old town wall overlooking the Victoria Docks. This area was shelled in 1944 by the German Navy killing 117 people and a museum is in place on the headland. The area was very clean but a relic of the past.

Geoff and Margaret Oman were busy with funerals, Ed and Vera originated from this area so slipped away to reminisce, but I don't think Ed was able to put his romantic thoughts into action. Some visited a local car boot but were a little late, while on another day Trevor Barden and I visited the Transporter Bridge, connecting Middlesbrough to Port Clarence. This has a Gondola suspended from the structure to transport both people and cars across the river Tees. There is a FREE small museum there and a FREE car park which is within walking distance to the city centre.



The Transporter Bridge

During our visit to Middlesbrough it soon became clear it is all geared up to the University and the old days of steel and shipping are long gone.

On the Saturday we had the AGM at a local pub where we all gathered in the Conservatory listening to piped music and watching other people eat. At first we thought it would be a disaster, but the owners and Staff were very accommodating, shutting down the music and the other eaters just shut up!!!! The food was very good and the AGM report can be read elsewhere. It was here, sadly, that we lost the expertise of our Association Photographer Ed Watson (Mr Flash) who didn't get his nick name from the photography. However this is another story to be passed on by future generations.

Thanks Ed for the wonderful portfolio of memories that we can share with all. All we need now is a younger model, but hey ho we aren't proud, anyone volunteering to step up to the block?

I'm afraid rain stopped a lot of play, but it is hoped we can run another rally here next year where more people will have the opportunity to visit as it is well worth doing so.

Thanks to all who played a part in it and the hospitality of Geoff Oman's family.

## **Fitting A Solar Panel** courtesy of Technical Officer

Perhaps you are one of the lucky people that already have solar panels fitted to your motorhome in which case this may not be of interest but on the other hand it could be useful for future reference if you change your vehicle. I have carried a generator around for many years but have only used it a couple of times because it is basically a bit antisocial because of the noise it makes (not a lot, quite a quiet model, but loud enough to annoy me and potentially nearby neighbours although I have parked next to others who are oblivious to their neighbours and run generators irrespective). Solar seemed a good idea but I did not like the cost which most motorhome orientated suppliers quoted prices in excess of £500 plus fitting! Much too rich so a bit of research required! The first question to answer is how big a panel do you require? There are numerous magazines and websites that tackle this topic (*Try <http://www.eurocosm.com/Application/Products/solar-powered/Solar-power-panel-calculation-GB.asp>*). The basic equation is how much power will you typically take out of your leisure battery in a day and what size solar panel do you need to put it back in? The other consideration is what is your budget. Having done the sums I decided on a 100 to 120 watt panel and a budget of £200 to £250. Do some research on panels available, (*Monocrystalline and polycrystalline, physical size, weight, output, rigid, flexible etc*) Also consider where and how you will mount said panel(s) and where the cables will run. Avoid shadowing on the panel from aials etc if at all possible as it will reduce output. I detest making holes in the roof as they are potential source of water ingress and decided to mount the panel between two rack bars with brackets and nuts and bolts. The alternative was to stick it to the roof using a suitable adhesive and plastic mountings to raise it off the roof. I digress to say I have just heard of a Club Member who had his panel professionally fitted and it was adhered all the way round directly onto the roof. The roof seal was good but the panel passed water ending up with a swimming pool under the panel that corroded all the electrical terminations! Panels usually require air circulation to both sides. I eventually purchased a new kit from Ebay comprising 100watt panel, Regulator, Cable entry block, 5M Cable, Mounting Brackets and stainless fixings. The seller was a Taiwan Business with UK stocks enabling delivery in a couple of days. Fitting was relatively easy. I repositioned the roof rack bars drilled the solar panel aluminium frame and bolted on the brackets. Next the panel was positioned on the rails holes drilled and panel bolted to the bars. Running the cables across the roof and through the roof to the top of the wardrobe was the next job. Cable was run via the roof rack and fixed using cable ties - it could have been adhered to the roof using suitable fixings. Next ensuring you avoid all cables etc if any are run through the roof at the desired location drill a small hole from the inside out then drill to the correct size from the outside in. I needed two 10mm holes. Mark the cables so that you know which is positive and which is negative then pass the cables through the Cable entry block and through the roof. Clean the area where the block will be stuck down (use a cleaner recommended by adhesive being used). Seal cables where they pass through roof and seal cable entry block to roof. Position and mount regulator, typically in a wardrobe or cupboard) run cables clipping as necessary and attach to correct regulator terminals. My Hobby has solar panel wiring in the wardrobe but I decided to run new cables to the battery. I measured up cable needed to run directly from the regulator to the battery and purchased 25amp cable via Ebay. I ran the cable included a fuse in the positive cable connected it all up and checked to see if it was charging. All OK - job done. Total cost around £230. Whilst it is early days I think this is a good investment.

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Hobby Germany Website

If you use the English version Hobby Factory German Website you will only get a partial picture of the total content. What follows is one article (not on the english section) downloaded in German translated into English with Google translate and finally edited a little to make some if not total sense.

### **Hobby Customer Meeting 2012 - Biggeesee (Editors Note - appears to be an Annual Owners Meeting with social events, please verify with Hobby before traveling. Translation leaves a bit to be desired)**

This year's meeting for Hobby customers ventures into the attractive holiday destination: North Rhine -Westphalia and the Sauerland, also called "Süderland". The wooded hills to the east and south of the Ruhr area is a popular year-round destination - for recreation as well as for active holiday makers. The technical highlight of the program is a visit to the specialist Dometic a specialist accessories supplier. In addition the region is a treat with culinary delights such as Potthast, Sauerland Potthucke, Siegerländer Rievekooche and Siegerländer. The day trip to the ancient cathedral city of Cologne on the Rhine, is another highlight of the Hobby-customer encounter.

Date: Sun 7.10. to Sat 13/10/2012 Price: 260 € / per person based on 2 people per unit.

Sunday, 10/07/2012 - Meet at Biggeesee in Sauerland arrive before 17:00 hours Get to know you dinner in typical restaurant for the region.

Monday, 8/10/2012 - Bus tour of the Sauerland and Siegerland with Olpe and Freudenberg. On a pleasant and interesting bus ride, we explore the beautiful holiday region, the charming half-timbered town of Freudenberg learn on the German-Dutch holiday road "Orange Route" to know, as Olpe, City of Linden in 1000. Here we see the ancient city wall with storm angels and witches tower (from 1587 to 1697 took place in Olpe witch trials), water wheel, and St. Martin Church. A little time remains for the individual still linger in Olpe. On our way we will eat lunch together.

Tuesday, 9/10/2012 - Sightseeing in Cologne. With eight bridges over the Rhine from the east you can win her for himself Cologne. The Hohenzollern Bridge, while the prime view of Cologne's absolutely 157 m high landmark, which began in 1248 as the grandest construction project of the medieval cathedral. But even top-class museums attract millions of visitors to Cologne. Likewise, ancient Roman sites attract the Rhine metropolis. As a media city Cologne is the seat of German wave, WDR, RTL and VOX. (TV/Radio stations)

Wednesday, 10/10/2012 - Rest Day. Today, you can cycle, hike or just enjoy a sauna or solarium on our beautiful campsite.

Thursday, 11/10/2012 - technology day with Dometic in Siegen. This year, Hobby invites us to Dometic for a tour of the plant, followed by a snack. The products of Dometic GmbH in the field of refrigeration and air conditioning take a long time for mobile comfort while traveling with a caravan or motorhome. After the factory tour is going to win. We see the beautiful old town with its slate-roofed half-timbered houses, Upper and Lower Castle and the "crown" at the Nikolai Church. It is the symbol of the city.

Friday, 10/12/2012 - Cruise on the Biggeesee. On Biggee reside and take no navigation? This is simply unthinkable. Thus we learn Westphalia's largest water storage and most popular recreation area convenient to know from the water. You might want to enjoy the afternoon featured the bicycle path encircling the lake in more detail. And in the evening we will be treated again with delicious regional specialties.

Saturday, 13/10/2012 - End of customer meeting - travel home day.

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Enlarging A Gas Locker and Door courtesy of Tony Charity

In my Hobby motorhome I have only ever been able to fit a 13 and 6 KG gas cylinder and even then, every time I took the 13Kg in or out I had to remove the door seal, which over time started to wear.



I purchased a new door while on my travels from O 'Leary's, near Beverly and decided that I wasn't going to pay ridiculous prices and to fit it myself. I should have known better because once you start a job it always escalates.



Removing the door wasn't a problem as it was held on by screws through the metal outer frame into the alloy of the van side, they were covered by the strip of white rubber acting as décor.

Next came the intrepid moment I had been dreading, marking the size of the new door onto the body, encompassing the old cut out and the existing screw holes. My advice to anyone doing this is check, check and check again. I moved it three times until I was satisfied. I then bit the bullet and believed in myself and cut the hole into the van side, phew! It fit almost exactly. I used a jig saw to cut through the metal outer skin/foam filler and inner hardboard.



I then had to fit wooden batons around the hole, inserting them where I cut the polystyrene out so that I could attach the new door frame and door.



When I lifted the floor to make and fit a bigger area I found rot around the floor vent, leading around the wheel arch and running for about 12 inches and 3 inches wide under the rear bed bulkhead. I believe it was from an earlier leak quite a long time ago and the water had become trapped and rotted the wood. Not to be beaten, I refused to pay

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## Enlarging A Gas Locker Door continued

the thousands of pounds the professionals would charge and set about solving the problem. I scraped out all the rotten wood and inserted new sealed wood and used a fibre glass compound to inject the small areas which I couldn't reach at this given time. This caused any soft wood to harden. I plan to lower the bed at the end of summer so I will probably check the areas then and replace if necessary. Made a floor, rear panel and top for the gas storage area and assembled it after putting self-adhesive covering on the panels. I can now store two 13Kg gas cylinders in there along with my tool box.



I have re-sprayed it using hand held sprays which I have had for the past eight years, needless to say the original colour has changed somewhat.



I have found a local place in Malvern that can replace my motifs but I have still to complete that. I am now confident of tackling most of the jobs on the motorhome rather than pay outlandish prices. Hope these photographs help and if anyone needs advice feel free to call.

## Hobby UK Website

The Hobby UK Website has undergone a revamp and has a new look. Check out <http://www.hobbycaravansuk.co.uk/motorhomes/>. The Website contains an electronic 65 page Motorhome Brochure detailing current models. They all look very nice but for my liking too many items that should come as standard are on the extras list or are model specific.

Current Hobby Motorhome Dealership details can be found at <http://www.hobbycaravansuk.co.uk/contact/>

Whilst not mentioned on the main Website some dealers are currently discounting Euro 4 Tag Axle Hobby's for around £60k should you be feeling flush with funds!

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

## The Travels of Snuggly Wuggly - Courtesy of Tony and Pam

Intrepid travelers and Club Members Tony and Pam have recently returned from their 18 month tour of Europe. Full details can be found on their Blog at <http://snugglywuggly.wordpress.com/>. However to arouse your interest I have plagerised part of their Blog - it makes interesting reading and illustrates all that all it takes is the gumption to get up and go.

Throughout our 18 month European Adventure we've explored 24 stunning and scenic countries, taken 14 ferry trips, driven through some extreme driving conditions and through some dodgy moments, our Hobby 750 only missed a beat once. We've really enjoyed creating our Snuggly Wuggly blog, capturing our fantastic & sometimes dodgy moments!!

Out of 565 days motorhoming we have stayed on campsites for 185 nights, great saving.

We have experienced some extreme & unbelievable weather, going from blazing 42 degree melt down to a freezing -12.

The most expensive site we stayed on was in Venice 22 Euros stayed 1 night & the cheapest & the best was in Aheloy, Bulgaria 4.50 Euros where we stayed for 35 days!

We've sampled some gorgeous local food, scrumptious picnics, devoured bottles of exquisite wines & regional beers. We've bought wines for 2 Euros a bottle & for as little as 90 cents, fab!

The cheapest diesel we've had was 72 cents in the Ukraine a litre to 1.78 Euros.

The best value meal we had which included the beer & wine was 3.62 Euros for the 2 of us bargain or what!

We've foraged for everything from Walnuts to Mussels & everything in between!

Our Welsh flag on Snuggly Wuggly has opened sooooo many doors, we've made new friends & it has introduced us to lots of interesting, quirky, generous, genuine, thoughtful & funny characters along our way. What has touched us the most was people with hardly anything that want to give you everything, that really captured our hearts.

We've swam in many dazzling Seas, Lakes & Rivers, climbed up a few Mountains, scabbled down a few extreme Caves, wandered through Fields & magnificent Forests, Peninsulas & Headlands, explored 16 islands, visited spectacular Mosques, incredible Cathedrals & thousands of Churches! & we've even seen a Desert!

The memories & experience of our adventure will stay with us forever and it may even have changed the people that we were going to be into the people that we now will be, which we couldn't have believed possible some 18 months ago.



# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

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

Christine Lawson has organised two Rallies in the East of the UK on consecutive weeks and only some 80 miles apart thereby minimising travel costs. Give them a try it should be fun!

## **Strumpshaw Steam Museum, Norfolk**

When 29 Aug – 5 Sep 2012

Where Strumpshaw Steam Museum, Strumpshaw, Norwich, NR13 4HR ([map](#))

Description The first week kicks off on Wednesday 29th August 2012 at Strumpshaw Steam Museum close to Norwich NR13 4HR. <http://www.strumpshawsteammuseum.co.uk> Fees for their rally field have been negotiated at a price of £7.00 per unit night. It is possible that a limited number of hook ups could be made available on the rally field at an extra cost of £2.00 per unit night. If however, everyone attending would prefer to be on hook up then there is the facility on the main site to accommodate all with a 16 amp hook up. The charge in this area would then be £12.00 per unit night including hook up. Please let me know beforehand which area you would prefer.

For those contemplating doing this Rally checkout <http://strumpshaw.org/> or [http://www.broadland.gov.uk/leisure\\_and\\_tourism/1191.asp](http://www.broadland.gov.uk/leisure_and_tourism/1191.asp) for more information on the area.

## **The Lawns, Holbeach, Lincolnshire**

When 5 – 12 Sep 2012

Where The Lawns, Lowgate Grange, Lowgate, Fleet, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE12 8LN ([map](#))

Description The Lawns is a tranquil and well maintained 20 acre site with exceptionally friendly and obliging owners Nigel, Tracy and their son Connor Pickett. Situated near Holbeach, just off the A17 and very easy to get to, beside Lowgate Grange where the owners live. There are 5 Rally fields in total which could easily accommodate 150 plus units. The site has been principally designed with large level lawns bordered by trees and shrubs scattered with wild meadow flowers which not only encourage wild life, but section areas of the site making it a suitable venue to accommodate with privacy more than one Rally group at a time. Lincolnshire is an agricultural area, a flat county known as 'The land of the big skies' where sunsets have to be experienced to be believed. For those who enjoy relaxing by water there is a carp lake, with ducks and dragonflies. The family have hens whose antics are most amusing at feeding time. The Lawns lend themselves ideally to a relaxing game of Boules/Petanque or Croquet or for the more energetic - Badminton. The site is a short stroll to a couple of local tea rooms, farm shop, pub restaurant, garden centers and many other things. More adventurous campers may wish to explore the local area on cycle with the Wash within easy reach with its many aspects of wild life and bird population. Local amenities are varied and diverse, with Long Sutton being where Dick Turpin, the renowned Highwayman, was arrested for horse rustling. Checkout <http://thisisholbeach.co.uk/default.asp> or <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holbeach> for more information.

# Hobby Motorhome Owners Club

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

**The Western Motorhome Show 3 Counties Showground Malvern**  
17th to 19th August 2012

**Caravan Salon Dusseldorf**  
25th August to 2nd September 2012

**UK Motorhome & Caravan Autumn Fair 2012 Newark Showground, Newark**  
1st & 2nd September 2012

**The Motorhome Show Royal Bath & West Showground**  
7th to 9th September 2012

**The New Forest Caravan and Motorhome Show at The New Forest Showground.**  
21st, 22nd and 23rd September 2012.

**The Motorhome Show Season Finale Lincolnshire Showground**  
21st to 23rd September 2012

**The Caravan and Motorhome Show at Westpoint, Exeter.**  
6th & 7th October 2012

**Motorhome & Caravan Show NEC Birmingham**  
16th to 21st October 2012

## For Your Amusement

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some alleged actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom) **"Do not turn upside down."** (well...duh, a bit late!)

On Sainsbury's peanuts -- **"Warning: contains nuts."** (*talk about a news flash*)

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine -- **"Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication."** (*We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5 year-olds with head-colds off those bulldozers.*)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding -- **"Product will be hot after heating."** (*...and you thought????...*)

On a Pifco hairdryer -- **Do not use while sleeping.** (*That's the only time I have to work on my hair.*)

On a bag of Doritos -- **You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.** (*the shoplifter special?*)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron -- **"Do not iron clothes on body."** (*but wouldn't this save me time?*)

On Nytol Sleep Aid -- **"Warning: May cause drowsiness."** (*..I'm taking this because????.....*)

**\*\*\*Blessed are the cracked for it is they who let in the light\*\*\***