

HOBBY Motorhome Owners Club

Chats from the Chair - Spring 2022



In this edition:

- Rally programme
- It's showtime
- Welcome to new members
- A member writes

Welcome to your latest Club newsletter

Rallies 2022/23

Come see us at

13th-15th MAY 2022

★
**THE SOUTHERN
MOTORHOME
& CAMPERVAN SHOW**
NEWBURY

- Hereford 3-10 May
- Southern Motorhome Show, Newbury 13-15 May
- Colwyn Bay 7-13 June
- Bourton-on-the-Water, Cotswolds 6-13 July
- Carsington Water, Derbyshire 5-12 September
- Christmas rally tbc
- Winter meet Conil, Andalucia, Spain Jan - Feb 2023

Eagle eyed members will have spotted that we are now planning to meet at the Warners Southern Show in Newbury, following on from the Hereford rally.

Motorhome shows are a great way to socialise, buy almost anything from a bottle opener to a new motorhome and also to enjoy some professional entertainment in the evenings.

In order to secure our own club space we need 10 vans booked, so don't delay. Bookings are direct at: [https://www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows/show/the-southern-](https://www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows/show/the-southern-motorhome-campervan-show)

motorhome-campervan-show

but please let us know on our members forum too.

A warm welcome to new members:

- Robert & Suzanne - Kilmarnock
- Tracey & Roger - Devon
- Robert & Jenny - Shropshire (rejoining)
- Adam & Sue - Cambridge
- Susan & Mark - Norfolk
- Mike & Jayne - Staffordshire
- Duncan & Suzanne - Cumbria
- Tony & Susan - Bolton
- + 3 more applications being processed

Where are your favourite spots?

One of the joys of motor homing for us, is coming across some hidden gem somewhere, and then sharing this with motor homing friends. Two club members, Pam and Tony, told us about a great overnight parking place at Mertola, Southern Portugal, so we tried it out. It's right by a river, and underneath the town walls of a gorgeous little town, complete with a castle, churches, and bars.

Then we heard about the Roman town of Merida in Spain - impressive! Do you have any favourite places that you could recommend to other members? *Nick Anderson - Club Chair*



By the way it's Club fee renewal time. We hope you pay by standing order so it is automatic. If not contact
membership@hobbyowners.org.uk

GOING FULL CIRCLE

One of our members Robert Cooper sent us this tale....

We had realised our dream, spent twelve wonderful years as French residents and now, it was time to return to England. But buying and selling property internationally filled us with dread, so we searched our minds for a smoother transition.

Very soon, a small idea began to grow and the more we thought about it, the more attractive it became. We would sell the house and buy a motorhome, and then look for a new home when back on the other side of the channel. Great idea!

Packing boxes quickly filled the lounge for the removal lorry and we sold all the furniture; we'd done the rustic farmhouse bit and now wanted a new home with a contemporary feel.

Our French village had a motorhome overnight stop-over behind the shops, where owners were always happy to share their experiences with us, and with the aid of the internet we soon made a decision and placed a deposit upon a 2006 Hobby 750 tag axle. Then horror struck us; we couldn't pay the balance until the house sale completed, and then, where would my wife go with two dogs and a cat, while I took a flight back to UK to collect our temporary new home?

It was December 2011 when we lit the wood stove in a dear friend's Gite, and relieved in our good fortune, we soon relaxed within its cosy warmth. Alas, little did we know the depth of la merde our French solicitor was about to drop us into!



GOING FULL CIRCLE

Robert's tale continues

In England, I anxiously waited for confirmation that we had received the funds from the sale, while our notaire repeatedly told my very worried wife that the proceeds from the house sale had been forwarded, yet our bank continued to tell us they hadn't received them.

Thinking that we'd somehow been ripped-off, my wife was on the verge of a nervous breakdown, so I telephoned a friend back in France and asked them to go with my wife, and bang loudly on the solicitor desk for an explanation. It transpired that the solicitor's bank had never received instructions to send us our money!

Back in England I didn't wait too long for the eventual confirmation that our funds had arrived in our account. I left the dealership and soon settled into the drive to the docks in Portsmouth some four hours away. I didn't sleep well on the ferry but after a refreshing shower, I was soon on French roads and glad our Hobby was a left-hand drive. The large breakfast I had eaten almost lasted me until I reached Lot-et-Garonne as dusk was falling.

Next morning we excitedly loaded our meagre possessions, locked up the Gite, and left for England. Three months later, we parked it upon the drive of our new house in Shropshire, connected the hook up, and lived within it for the following fourteen months while we renovated the house. When the renovations were finished and we moved in, it was like we were leaving the mothership. It was initially quite a wrench to sell it, but all renovations run over budget, and we had to pay back the bank-of-dad. Still, we achieved that objective and bought a little caravan instead.

It served a purpose but we yearned after a replacement motorhome, so we part exchanged it for a little Sundance, then we saved and saved until eventually, we went full circle and bought our treasured **Hobby Optima Deluxe**.

It houses everything we need and we love it; my wife especially loves the twin beds; she says I snore! Can you believe that?

(and you can see Robert's new motorhome on the front page of this newsletter)

WHY don't you tell us why you love your Hobby, we'd love to hear from you! Send your article to admin@hobbyowners.org.uk



Robert and Jenny
