

HOBBY Motorhome Owners Club

Chats from the Chair - Winter 2023

**Welcome to your
latest Club
newsletter**

In this edition:

- AGM and new Membership Secretary
- Round up of this year's rallies
- New Members
- Hobby Hounds
- A Portugese Tour
- Rally Calendar
- Teeny Tiny Smalls

HOBBY CLUB AGM

We held our AGM in Hereford this year in June and we said a huge thank you to outgoing membership secretary Christine Runagall - who had done a sterling job welcoming new members for many years and is now taking a well earned break. We welcome our new membership secretary Robert Cooper. Robert can be contacted by email: membership@hobbyowners.org.uk.

The rest of the Committee remain unchanged: Nick Anderson Chair, Ruth Anderson, General Secretary, Nigel Molineux Treasurer, Peter Runagall, Rally Co-ordinator.



Robert Cooper



Spellbound members at our AGM

THIS YEAR'S FUN

It has been another enjoyable year for those members who have attended our various meets and rallies. We began with a week by the seaside, at Sutton on Sea in Lincolnshire, during May. June saw us returning to Hereford, where we held our AGM, and had fun in this lovely city. The rally field is right by the River Wye and only a few minutes walk to the city centre. Most of us then moved on to Aberystwyth, where the good weather saw us all out and about in this delightful seaside town. Later in June, and into July, many of us crossed the water to a meeting held in Portadown, in Northern Ireland, which was a good base for exploring Belfast, and the rest of this gorgeous country. Whilst over there we also went our own ways, exploring more of this welcoming island. A few of us then met in August at Farmer Phil's Festival, where we enjoyed a wide range of music, from rock to reggae and even the Worzels. In September fifteen motorhomes congregated on a canal-side marina in Cheshire. A pre-Christmas meet in Rowsley next month filled as soon as it was announced. And the calendar is not yet complete, as a few of us will be making our annual migration south to spend some of the winter in Spain. Along the way we have met a number of new friends, enjoyed some great meals, and generally had fun. All of these events only happen because of the kindness and generosity of those members who organise them, and my personal thanks go to all of those who have made this such a memorable year. Next year's rally calendar is starting to fill up with a variety of destinations, so why not join us at some of them?

from Nick Anderson

Chair Hobby Motorhome Owners Club.



**For the rally
programme for
2024 so far ... see
page 4.**



Above: Macclesfield Canal, Left fun in Aberystwyth, Above left and right Farmer Phil's festival

A warm WELCOME to new members

Since our last newsletter we have been pleased to welcome a bumper 30 new members from 18 lovely Hobby vans:

- Ronald & Carole - Lincolnshire
- Simon & Yudha - UK
- Andrew & Caron - Cleveland
- Andrew & Carole - North Lincolnshire
- Charles & Cheryl - Shropshire
- Ranald & Kirsty - Stirlingshire
- James - Lancashire
- Amanda - North Yorkshire
- Michael
- Andrew - Hampshire
- Stephen
- Timothy & Kathleen - West Midlands
- Andrew - Flintshire
- David & Sheryl - Gwent
- Christopher & Susan - Bedfordshire
- David & Kate - Suffolk
- Karl & Alethea - Lancashire
- Reinhard & Kathryn - Norfolk

TEENY TINY SMALLS!

Nicholas Pearce, a member from Hereford wanted everyone to see his latest motorhome gadget - requested by his wife Yvonne and bought on-line. It's the teeniest tiniest portable washing machine. We reckon your 'smalls' would need to be teeny tiny to fit in that!



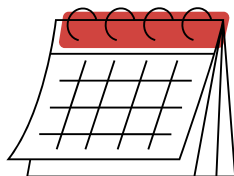
Hobby Hound Molly
is on our page 6

Note from Hobby Club Sec:

All member info is from Membermojo our membership app. You can access this info by visiting <https://membermojo.co.uk> Click 'Sign in' in the top right hand corner and when prompted fill in the email address you used to join the club. You will then be sent an email - just click on the link to open our membership details. Any problems email me at admin@hobbyowners.org.uk
Ruth



HOBBY CLUB RALLY CALENDAR 2024



Winter Jan/Feb Conil, Andalucia, Spain

**Spring Mar 29th - April 1st Chester Food and Drink Festival
details to be confirmed**

June 6th -13th Wem, Shropshire

July 3rd - 10th Car Colston, Notts

July AGM 6th Car Colston, Notts

**Aug 9th - 11th Farmer Phils Festival, Shrewsbury
Free camping from Mon 5th**

Sept 11th - 18th Crickhowell, Brecon Beacons

How to contact your club:

We have our own website www.hobbyowners.org.uk which has a private members' area. From the Home page, type in your Username. If you haven't signed in before, this is the email address you used when you joined the club (long standing members can still also use their existing Username). If you don't know your password, click on Lost Password? and you will receive an email to reset it. **This is where you sign up to rallies.** You will see a topic for each rally. Just leave a message if you are interested in joining that rally or have any questions about it. Nearer the time further details will be added.



We have our own private Facebook group: **Independent Association of Hobbyists** just visit the site and click on 'join' to be added.



We also have our own Whatsapp group: Hobby Club Ralliers. Email admin@hobbyowners.org.uk with your preferred mobile number if you wish to join this group. We usually set up a separate Whatsapp group for each rally a couple of weeks before its start.

Portugal Tour 2023 - Hobby Club members Les, Lynne, Vince and Julie describe their Portugal Tour 2023

We set sail on the 17th February from Portsmouth. Arriving in Santander on the 19th.

We decided on a nice easy start, so headed to Camping Deva, just outside Gijon in northern Spain. Gijon is well worth a visit, with harbour and nice restaurants. We had two nights on this well-equipped site before heading off to Chaves in Portugal to commence our drive down to the south on the N2 (National Road 2).

Having collected our "passport" at the tourist information office, we planned the first stage of our drive from Chaves to Villa Pouca.

We took each day as it came, some locations warranted a two, or even possibly a three-night stay. As well as driving a stunning road which winds up through the highest mountains with unbelievable views, we found some wonderful restaurants on route. The sites were fairly basic compared to the UK but adequate, they all had toilet blocks with shower facilities etc.

From Villa Pouca, we ventured on to Pencova, stopping off at Pinhao on the way. We visited Writers Place restaurant, highly recommend.

continued over page...



Portugal Tour 2023 - continued ...

We then moved on to Coimbra, where we stayed for three nights. Had a lovely mooch around the town and found a couple of excellent restaurants, not least Solar do Bacalhau with its stunning fish menu. From Coimbra we went to Montargil with a leisurely lunch in Serta on the way.

Then on to Evora for two nights.

Restaurante Mr Pickwick is not to be missed.

From Evora we completed our 700 kilometre trip down the N2, it was stunning and a real must do if you get the chance.

We then travelled to Alvor on the south coast and decided on another three-night stop. Would recommend at least one visit to Alvor Wine restaurant, very good. Again, a nice place to stroll around. Obviously more pricey than most of Portugal.

Having completed our main aim of cruising down the N2, the rest of our time was spent mooching back up the west coast.

Our next stop was Porto Covo which is a lovely stop over location. So pleased with Lisbon that we decided on another three night stop.

Lots to do and see and great food again.

Then on to Quiaios. Small coastal village but nice restaurants again.

Two nights then spent in Porto, which has loads to do.

We next spent three nights in Santiago De Compostela. Wow!



Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela

Finally, Having stayed there on our way down, we decided to return to Deva for three nights in order to spend more time exploring Gijon.

We had such a wonderful trip full of beautiful scenery, outstanding history, wonderful restaurants and fantastic hospitality of the Portuguese people we met. In all we did around 2,000 kilometres, maybe we went slightly early for the hot weather but we did have pleasant enough days to enjoy. Back to Santander on 19th March for the ferry back home to Portsmouth.



And finally our latest Hobby Hound.....

Name - Molly

Age - 6 1/2

Likes - Chasing balls

Dislikes - Squirrels, 'cos I can't climb trees!!!

Best at - Chasing balls and sleeping

**Fav Place - St Wulstans Nature Reserve
(squirrels and ball chasing!!)**

Owners - Nigel and Denise Molineux

**If you have a much loved
Hobby Hound who goes with
you on your travels, send us a
pic and their vital stats for our
next newsletter! Email
admin@hobbyowners.org.uk**