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# ROMA

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# REVIEW

MOTORCARAVANNING AT ITS BEST IN ROMAHOME UNITS.[www.romaclub.org.uk](http://www.romaclub.org.uk)

## [www.romaclub.org](http://www.romaclub.org)



Then back to Tobermory for the little ferry to our next campsite. Ardnamurchan campsite is set on the side of a hill with pitches cut into the slopes below the site buildings. Once again, we had a view of the sea and were not overlooked.



Ardnamurchan lighthouse, being the most westerly point on the British mainland is a 'must visit' place for serious touring cyclists. Not having achieved this during my touring days I was determined to rectify this omission now. A mere seven miles from the campsite should have been a doddle. Have I mentioned 'hills' before? If not, then I will do so now! Unfortunately, after about five miles of climbing, Maureen's bike suffered a mechanical failure. There was no choice but to turn back and descend to the campsite for repair. So my ambition is still unfulfilled ☹.

Come day 18 it was time to start heading back home. A break in the journey at the Camping and Caravan Club site on the shore of Loch Lomond (Milarochy Bay) was planned which was just a well since the ferry across Loch Linnhe at Corran was out of commission, necessitating a major detour through Fort William. We stayed at the CCC site for two nights, again on a waterfront pitch and then continued south to the CMC site at York (Rowntree Park).

The mandatory walk round the walls and a cycle ride out to the National Trust house at Beningborough Hall ended our trip before joining the A1 and the scenic delights of the M25. Overall, it was a memorable three-week expedition, proving once again the many benefits of having such a well-designed small motorhome.

Romahomes rule OK.

*Barry and Maureen Brazier*



**Above.**  
Socialising. We had some great chats and exchanges of ideas.



**Left.**  
Grabbing food at Sheldon's Barbecue.



## LIVES & LOVES....



### Apple Acres

Just back from Apple Acres. Fantastic site. Excellent facilities and ehu was 'pay for what you use'. Wed to Sat we only used £3 for the fridge, kettle and lights.



And ...all the apples you could eat and take home.



*Kath*

### Lakes.

Fantastic site with good facilities and a cafe. Bus stops just outside on the main road.

Sandwich Lakes Waterside Café serves hot and cold food and drinks. Immaculate toilet/shower block.

I guess the camping charges will increase with the rise in the cost of electricity *Kath*



Sandwich Lakes.



### News from the island.

New Black Romahome R30 starting its build with a white one in the background being finished off



One of our ambitions in visiting Mull was to go to the island of Iona. We drove to Fionaphort, the ferry terminal to the island. A word here about the roads on Mull. Most are narrow single track with passing places, and some are very twisty, and some with sheer drops at the edges. You cannot be in a hurry (unless you are a local). The 38 miles to Fionaphort took nearly two and a half hours, albeit with some stops for coffee and photos. The direct return still took an hour and a quarter!

The little foot ferry took us to Iona where we wandered up to the abbey, looking at various other historic sites including the remains of a nunnery, the early parish church with a history back to 700 AD and an even earlier grave site. Iona truly is a landmark in ecclesiastical history.

The next day Duart castle was visited, the ancestral home of the Macleans. Well worth a visit. A drive round the coast road to see yet more dramatic scenery (and sheer drops from the narrow road) followed by a cycle ride through a woodland track (*Faery Deflatus* paying another visit) ended our stay at the east end of Mull.



We then moved down the single-track A road to Tobermory campsite, situated in the hills above the town. Tobermory is one of those picturesque, iconic places which are much photographed for their one amazing aspect. In this case, its colourful waterfront main street. Other than that, there is not much else to attract the tourist. Having said that, there is a fascinating small town museum which is well worth a visit and a co-op shop which seems to be the main grocery outlet for the whole island. There is also a large (free) car park and a filling station.

From the campsite we drove to Calgary beach, the only (?) sandy beach on Mull. The small parking area was rammed but we did manage to squeeze into a space. By contrast, the beach itself was almost empty, I have no idea where everybody was. The little kiosk was doing a good trade in ice cream and snacks.



The next day, day 14 of the tour, saw us driving back towards the centre of Mull to a small parking area from where we cycled up a forest trail to Loch Frisa. This comprised steady uphill slopes followed by swoops downhill, all on hardpack surface, so not too taxing.

## Round and about.....

## FERRY TO MULL AND BEYOND

Our first stop on this tour did not involve a ferry – or – maybe it did. The Kendal Caravan and Motorhome Club (CMC) site is a little different from their usual appearance, being set in woodland on the site of an abandoned gunpowder works. The pitches are scattered around in small clearings giving a delightful ambience. The ground was carpeted with wild garlic giving the appearance of snowdrifts.



We cycled into Kendal, getting drowned in rain on the way, arriving in time for lunch, then made a brief exploration of the town centre before riding back, in the dry ☺.

The next day the bikes took us (uphill all the way) to Sizergh Castle. Halfway through our tour of the opulent rooms, *ferry happened*. A text message came on my phone casually informing us that our ferry booking to Mull had been cancelled ☹. Contacting CalMac, the ferry company, was a waste of a phone call – no help whatsoever.

The following day we drove to our next campsite at North Ledaig, a few miles north of Oban. On the way there we called in to CalMac's ferry terminal to ascertain how we were supposed to travel to Mull. We were advised to just turn up and hope! More of this later. Our pitch at North Ledaig (a CMC affiliated site) was delightful, being unoverlooked with a view out to sea. We were very fortunate in this respect since the site is enormous and was fully occupied.

We ventured into Oban, the cycles taking us strenuously over the moors the back way to town. The trip was punctuated by the appearance of *Faery Deflatus* attacking a back tyre. After wandering around town, we raided the supermarket for supplies then, with heavily loaded panniers, we returned to the campsite by a different, but still hilly, route.

So, as advised by the CalMac employee, we arrived at the Oban ferry terminal at 8.00 am. Although we now had no booking, the magic words '*the girl in the office told us to come now*' persuaded the lad on the check-in kiosk to let us in. The ferry duly arrived and loaded the pre-booked vehicles, followed by the two cars ahead of us in the 'stand by' queue. Then the call '*room for one more car*', elicited the response '*The next one is a small motorhome*'. Back came the reply '*No there is not room for a motorhome*'

Our helpful man up top responded '*No, it's no bigger than a car*'. After much to-ing and fro-ing between the ship and shore staff we were eventually waved on to find there was plenty of room for a Romahome, even an R30. After an uneventful crossing we arrived at Craignure on Mull. We had booked into a private site, very close to the terminal and again we were spoilt with our allocated pitch. Right on the waterfront overlooking the Sound of Mull and the mountains beyond.

## From Your Editor.....

# Into the new year !

Will your Romahomes be 'up on bricks' during the winter, or are they your normal form of transport?

As well as our much loved Honda Romahome dismountable, ( *Mojo*) Brenda and I have two genuine 1960's Dormobiles which only see the road in the summer.

If we had, for example, a Romahome R25, we would be using it daily, but *Mojo* sits on the drive awaiting Spring.

Don't forget to keep the batteries fully charged. They cope best with the British winter in a fully charged state. ( so do I !)

The winter Review is always a bit later than normal, to allow for the inclusion of your membership cards. We have pictures of the last National Rally in Suffolk. As usual, a good time was had by all. Looking at these might get you thinking about our next event. Details are on page 7.

Our secretary, Jac Norton gives you a brain teaser to test your drink's knowledge on page 4. Barry and Maureen share their holiday trip. Freddy O'Hare shares another of his repairs, and we have news from the Isle of Wight.

Our Chairman, Sheldon, encourages you to do some Romacooking. Surely, one or two of you have some cooking suggestions. We can't all be cooking baked beans on toast, can we ?

I hope you have had a most enjoyable Christmas, and here's to a Safe, Enjoyable and ( we hope) a prosperous 2024.

*Allan*

## Inside your Review

- P.2. Lives and Loves and News from the Island.
- P.3. From your Editor.
- P.4. The Booze Quiz. Committee list.
- P.5. Chair Chat.
- P.6. Dear Members.
- P.7. Techtotops. Access denied !
- P.9. Romacooking.
- P.10. Late Summer Rally.
- P.13. News from the Island.
- P.14. What's New ?
- P.15. Membership Matters.
- P.16. Poetry Corner.
- P.17. Membership Matters. Sales and Wants.
- P.18. Round and about. Ferry to Mull.

### **COPY DEADLINE**

We very much welcome your contributions. Very final collation date is the 10th FEB.. for the **SPRING REVIEW.** Editor, Roma Review, 23, Fairmile, AYLESBURY, Bucks.HP21 7JS. Tel. 01296 428580 editor@romaclub.org.uk



## Booze Quiz for the Festive Season.

Name the drinks. from Jac & Gudge



1. Brendan Jodie and swimmer Mark
2. Put at ease in Alabama
3. A very rude gesture from a top-ranking clergyman
4. Would this have been the Sex Pistols favourite Tipple?
5. How Mrs Tanner maintains her lawn
6. St Paul's designer daughter
7. This bird will quench your thirst after a hot curry
8. A game bird of some renown
9. Beach in California = Malibu
10. Rumpole worked in an old one of these

answers on page 17.

### Your Romaclub committee. Club contact Tel. No. 07863 414017.

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The password for the members only section is on your membership card.

## Membership Matters.



### A warm welcome to

Patsy	Simpson
Jo & Tom	Milward
Margaret	Pullen
Linda & Nick	Cawley
Chris & Karen	Hemshaw
Ann & Richard	Tweedle & Lenvens
Zoe	Grant
Gail & John	Cooper & Heald
Wendy	Coxell
John	Dries
Hilary & Harry	Gould
Caroline	Ashworth
Bruce & Carolyn	Booty
Sandra	Jane
Eileen/Mark	Burgess

## Smile

. I've started a business building yachts in my attic. Sails are going through the roof.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

Booze Quiz for the Festive Season from Jac & Gudge

1. = Fosters  
2. = Southern Comfort  
3. = Bishops Finger  
4. = Punk IPA  
5. = Eisie Mo  
6. = Stella  
7. = Kingfisher  
8. = Famous Grouse  
9. = Malibu  
10. = Baileys

## Your FREE Sales and wants....

### FOR SALE.

**Romahome R25 2011**

**Good condition. Full service history with all receipts**

**Low mileage**

**£ 26,000 or near offer.**

**Contact Gerry Brewis, Newcastle area.,**

**Tel. 0191 2362852**

## POETRY CORNER

## FOR THE WANT ...

For the want of a little rubber seal, the hydraulic fluid was lost ...

For the want of all the hydraulic fluid, the clutch was lost ...

For the want of a useable clutch, the gears were lost ...

For the want of engaging gear, a journey was lost ...

For the want of the journey, a holiday was lost ...

And all for the want of a ten-penny washer.

*(With apologies to the children's rhyme 'for the want of a nail the shoe was lost')*



The failure of the seal inside the hydraulic cylinder resulted in a trip to the workshop for new hydraulic components. Both Slave and master cylinders were replaced in the hope that we should be spared a repeat performance for the foreseeable future.

We are thankful that this happened at the start of the journey outside our home, rather than on a motorway or in the middle of the A12 roadworks. Although we lost one week's camping in Norfolk, we were able to get away a little later to Suffolk, just in time for the torrential rain and floods. ☹️

*Maureen and Barry Brazier.*

# Chair Chat

'View from the Chair, January 2024'

## Another year over and a new one just begun!

I hope you all had a good festive season. Did Santa bring you everything you wished for? Or were you naughty children? But to be fair Santa can be a wee bit judgemental at times.

Time now to make plans for the coming year.

It's going to be a good one!

Welcome to all you new members, great to have you on board.

Let us know if there is something you think the club can do to enhance the Roma experience in 2024.

Did you all remember to renew your membership if it was applicable?

All those with fully paid up membership on February 1st will be entered into the Grand Draw to win a year's vehicle excise duty.

The draw will take place at the

**AGM at Elm Cottage Camping, Winsford, Cheshire.**

Booking details are available elsewhere in this review.

Also at the AGM there will be several seats at the committee table that are up for renewal, are you interested in bringing some fresh ideas to the committee? It doesn't take up too much of your time; all you need is a Zoom link and a commitment to the club!

Give us your suggestions for rallies and meets. Is there a site near you that you feel you would like to share with other members and suggest a meet up?

Campervan ownership is very much on the increase so sites are already being booked for next year, best to plan early to avoid disappointment! Personally I have been caught out by this, so my advice would be if you are planning an Easter trip get the balls rolling now!

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2024. Let's make it a year to remember.

*Sheldon.*



Dear Members. 

Thank you . . .

.....to the committee for a lovely weekend.  
We were so lucky with the weather. It only rained at night.  
The raffle raised £79 and the winners were Keith, Tamara, Gerry and Frank.  
Thank you for your contributions.  
Thank you ,too, to the volunteers (you know who you are ).  
The chefs, tea/coffee makers, messengers who ran round the field with upgrades, setting up tables etc.

**Can you help at the AGM rally in May 2024?**

*Kath*- Despatch

We would like to thank you for an enjoyable week-end in Suffolk.  
Thank you to all those who worked hard to make it such a success.

*Carl and Ginny.*

Dan's Meadow, our Table-Top sale for our local Hospice was a surprise.  
I made £49 and Janet added another £12 from the sale of a few items we held back making a total of £61.00.

Here is the receipt from the Hospice for the total - many thanks to the Romaclub Members who supported our sale.

*Frank &  
Janet  
Price*

**Mary Ann Evans Hospice**  
 Eliot Way, Nuneaton, CV10 7QL Web: maryannevans.org.uk  
 Tel: 024 7686 5440 Registered Charity No. 1014800

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of: Receipt No. 1301

*Sixty One* Pounds *zero* Pence  
 £ 61-00 Cash Cheque Debit/Credit Card Other

In respect of: From (name & address)  
*Donation* *Mr & Mrs Price*

*ROMA CLUB*  
*TABLE TOP SALE* Postcode *CV10 0EG*

Name *Frank & Janet Price* Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Date *29/9/23*

Data Protection Act 1988. It is a requirement of the Data Protection Act 1988 that we inform you that your details are kept on our hospice database. We do not pass your details on to any other organisations. Printing: www.ncr-books.co.uk

# Membership Matters.

Canine Partners

**At our last camp** we donated the raffle and the service money to Canine Partners and I thought some members who might not have come across this charity before, would like to know a little more about them.

The charity trains dogs from small puppies over two years to do the most amazing things to support both physical and mentally challenged people.

They stay with a volunteer while they are training and live in a normal family environment. When the pups are around 14 to 16 months, they move into advanced training at one of their centres.

Then comes the matching of the dogs to their new owners. They are trained to help with everyday tasks such as opening and closing doors, unloading the washing machine, picking up dropped items, pressing buttons and switches and fetching help in an emergency. They can even help people to get undressed and remove a card from an ATM!

If you want to know more look up [caninepartners.org.uk](http://caninepartners.org.uk). and view Utubes and articles. You will be amazed what they can do to support their owners and how the people they assist are given their live back as they become more independent and return to the community instead of being trapped at home or even in residential care.

*Tamara*

**Bring and share supper.**

Well, it has become tradition at our National rallies, to have a `Bring and Share' evening meal.

This time, at Dan's Meadow, it was well received, with a tasty selection of food – enough pork pies to feed an army, and a great selection of treats to thrill every palate. Our Chairman even cooked his `Romacooking Larb Thai Salad' to share with fellow members.

**BUT... Someone supplied a quiche which was BEYOND IT'S USE BY DATE.**

The next National Rally is the AGM event in Chester. If you forget to bring an item of food, it doesn't matter. There is normally enough to go round. Please don't bring anything outdated or...We don't wish to have any food poisoning problems with this enjoyable, caring, sharing, tasteful, event.

Thanks.

**What's New ?**

**What News ?**

**A date for  
your diary.**



**17th—20th May, 2024.**

Following the success of our National Rallies, we have planned to hold the 2024 National AGM Summer Rally at

**ELM COTTAGE TOURING PARK, Chester Lane,  
Near Winsford Cheshire, CW7 2QJ**

The booking form will be in the Spring Roma Review.

The site wish us to advise numbers of Romahomes attending is good time, so

**we would ask you to return the forms as soon as possible**

*( within days of the postman delivering the Review. )*

Chester has a lot to offer. The city walls provide a great walking experience, and the city is a vibrant place to spend a day.

Why not make a holiday of it, and visit North Wales for a few days too.



# Techtopics.

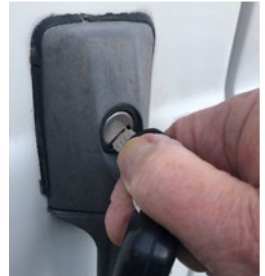
## Access denied!



It's late, dark, cold, and spitting rain, all you want is to get back into your cosy home, you quickly insert your key into the door lock, but it won't turn, you try again but it just won't unlock. Has dad carried out his threat! latched the door and gone to bed? Don't be silly That's another story from long ago.

So, you waggle, and wiggle the key back and forth until it does eventually relent to set the wards, the key rotates unlocking the door.

It's time for a new lock cylinder fitted to the back door. Please note that a dowsing with WD40, squirting oil, or pumping EP grease into the key slot will not work but leave you with an oily stain on your key pocket.



There are two methods of replacement. One, is to take the van to your local garage and pay them for an hour's work, plus vat, and the cost of the parts.

Alternatively, as I discovered, the job is straight forward and costs less than a tenner!

A new lock cylinder can be fitted in just minutes from outside the van. There is no need to strip door handles or the interior door furniture, the faulty lock cylinder can be extracted with the aid of a Zadi **RED** key.



The **red** key retracts the 6 wards in the lock cylinder as well as the brass peg that retains the cylinder within the door lock housing.

**CAUTION.** The following guide is for a Romahome habitation door fitted with a "ZADI, 9000 Series lock".

*i.e. [An "RHR" door with the hinges on the left that opens outwards towards you]. Be aware that "online" illustrations and instructions may be for a door opening the other way.*



### Method

1. With your existing **black** key unlock the door. The Lock is fitted with a spring that is designed to return the cylinder back to its six o'clock neutral position. Prevent this action by finger pressure to the face of the lock cylinder. Remove the **black** key.
2. With the lock cylinder key slot vertical, held at its three o'clock location, insert the **red** key to its fullest extent. It can be a tight fit. Wiggle and waggle to loosen the old lock cylinder and with light tugs the cylinder will release from its housing.



4. Transfer the **red** key from the faulty cylinder to its replacement, not forgetting to fit the rubber gaiter, insert the cylinder into the door lock housing, with the key slot at the neutral six o'clock orientation.
5. Remove the **red** key and insert the new **black** key to the partly inserted lock cylinder. Apply light pressure to the key whilst rotating anticlockwise and the lock cylinder will sink down into its housing. Your new habitation door lock will now lock and unlock as normal.
6. Don't forget to update/make a note of the new key number with your vehicle documentation.



**Access enabled.**



Should you wish to replace your ZADI 9000 series lock this **red** key can be made available by request made to the club secretary who will send your contact details to me to arrange a loan of the key. *Freddy O'Hare.*

*Our thanks to Freddy for all his helpful items on maintaining Romahomes. AH*

**Romatips. A Storage suggestion**

From Ruth Gestarth on Facebook. New storage 'thingsies' from Amazon, Someone on Facebook suggested they look flimsy.



**News from the island.**

Adam can indeed be very proud of "Plume Blanche", the Romahome R30, Number 2, collected by Michele and her friend Maureen this month. A genuine labour of love to



re-launch this popular model. The ultimate SWB motorhome, based on a Citroen Relay, just shy of 5m in length. It is packed full of clever features including a fully functional kitchen with microwave, hob and sink combo (with hot water), large fridge freezer, a shower / toilet cubicle, a heater, solar panel and bags and bags of storage .....and the most ingenious murphy bed....



Even the puppy agrees! A huge well done to all involved, including SEW Trim in Southampton for the superb upholstery work. Romahome Number 3 is currently in build.... and looking for an owner.. *Adam....*



Then it was Barbeque time, with Chairman Sheldon, ably assisted by Frank, serving the usual mixture of red hot meat and a vegan alternative. Most tasty and good company.



**Sheldon and Frank feeding the troops.**



**Food !**

More relaxing. Then a few of us (Three teams) took part in Sheldon's quiz. A written question sheet, naming towns around the country, a music round with themes from TV shows, and some tricky questions. Three teams, two of which were joint winners.

It was Monday. And suddenly, awnings are being taken down, Romahomes are starting up, and lots of fond farewells are being made.

Another successful event. Thanks to the team for setting this up, to the members for sharing chat, food etc., and to the committee for organising another successful event. **Roll on May, and the National AGM Rally in Chester.**

Special mention should be made of Frank Price, who helped members with awnings, repairs, advice, and assisted Sheldon with the Barbecue. Thanks Frank.



**Canine Partners is a UK charity transforming the lives of people living with disabilities by training assistance dogs.**

**Left. Must not forget the jigsaw.**

# Romacooking. NC500 Cullen Skink

How many of you have dared to travel the North Coast 500? It looks like a lot of fun but also a bit daunting. Hopefully one day for us, but I think it will have to be during the summer months when there is plenty of daylight and possibly some agreeable weather. If like me you have not yet braved it, here is a recipe for a traditional Scottish soup that will warm your heart during these winter months whilst you plan! Quick and simple, only one pot required!

## **Ingredients:**

- 25g butter
- 1 medium brown onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 400g medium potatoes (about 2), peeled and cut into 1cm cubes
- 250g smoked haddock (skinless and boneless) cut into 1cm chunks
- 250mls whole milk
- ½ small bunch curly parsley finely chopped

## **Method:**

1. Gently simmer potatoes in water until cooked but still firm. Set to one side.
2. Wipe out potato pan and melt butter and fry the onions until translucent but not brown.
3. Add milk and haddock and bring to boil, simmer for 5 minutes. Add potatoes and simmer for a further 5 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.
4. Serve into bowls and garnish with chopped parsley.
5. Serve with crusty sour dough rolls and a wee dram of single malt for that extra warm feeling!

*Sheldon*





## Late Summer National Rally.

### Dan's Meadow, Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Perhaps it was a touch late in the season, or perhaps a touch too far East for members (it was suggested that any further East members might qualify for the Burma Star WW2 medal !)

But we had a reasonable turnout with almost every type of Romahome on the site (including an Island Plastics Romini caravan, now mounted on a vintage Land Rover.)

Friday saw Romahomes making their entrance and club members being made welcome with tea and biscuits or coffee and biscuits. It was a nice sunny day, so a great deal of socialising took place on the seats outside the clubhouse/hall building.



**Socialising in the sunshine.**

Unlike the last National Rally at Stratford upon Avon, we were blessed with sunshine. (During the day, that is.) In the hall, members were busy on a Wasgij jigsaw, but by the end of the event, only the edges had been done. But at least they tried.

Saturday morning, and the social chat continued in the sunshine.

More coffee, more tea, more Romahomes arriving.

The afternoon found a keen few trying their hand at needlecraft with Brenda. Brenda's fundraising efforts for Epilepsy Research UK welcomed donations. Christine was supervising a Boules match, whilst others rested in the sunshine, gearing up for the evening.

The evening had us sharing food for the now, traditional 'Bring and Share' food extravaganza.

We were entertained by 'Jive Lessons and Dancing' which was enjoyable, although only a few brave souls took part in the dancing. The



**Jive Lessons and Dancing.**

music was good though. The raffle was held, with four hampers to be won. Thanks to all those who contributed prize items to fill the hampers. The money raised, £ 79.00 was sent to this year's charity, Canine Partners. And so to bed.

With close neighbours, the site owners asked us to be quiet and pop to bed at 10.30pm.

Then suddenly, it was Sunday, and a few members gathered for Kath's 'Songs of Praise'. The 'tabletop sale' was not oversubscribed, but crafts were sold and a few other items changed ownership. Frank Price' items making £49.00, and with a grateful donation of £12.00 he was able to send £61 to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice. The money raised from the sale of Brenda's craft items, £80, went to her favourite charity, Epilepsy Research UK.



**A selection of Romahomes of every type. Plenty of space to stretch out.**



**Brenda's craft lessons.**



**Crafts for sale for Epilepsy Research UK.**