

# News from the island.



Hi Guys,



Pictures of the latest R30 in build.  
The one after this will probably feature the original bed set up with a twist.

*Adam Coombes*  
**Northstar Conversions.**  
**Cowes.**

**smile**

I'd noticed that my 60-year-old father seemed to be losing his hearing, so I mentioned it to my mother.

*"Things haven't changed that much," she said. "Only difference is, before, he didn't listen. Now, he can't."*



Est.1985

# ROMA

THE JOURNAL OF  
THE ROMA CLUB ©

Issue 146 Autumn.  
October 2023.

# REVIEW

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

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

## Late Summer National Rally

Dan's Meadow, Suffolk 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> September

**Contact Mobile.**

07863 414017

*For contact prior to and during the rally.*

Bealings Rd,

Martlesham, Woodbridge

IP12 4RW



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO COME ! SEE PAGE 3.**

This year we will be returning to Dan's Meadow , Woodbridge, Suffolk for our late summer national rally. Woodbridge is a small town on the river Deben in Suffolk with a multitude of historical sites to visit and plenty of pubs, cafes, restaurants and small independent shops to keep you fed and watered and to lighten your wallet with that essential purchase! The town is a walkable distance from the site and there is also a regular bus service which is close by.



**What's New ?**  
**What News ?**

Dear Members..



**New R15 ?**

Photos from visit to Northstar July 2023. **Their New Romahome ....R15..?**  
The pop top roof has a board floor , which makes double bed ....  
Has top load compress fridge/box...

Thought you might be interested for Review ...

Regards ...

*Lin Farrington*

*Interesting, but is it a Romahome as we knew them ?*

*A long way from the 1980's demountables.*

*Thanks Lin. AH*

Vehicle make	CITROEN
Date of first registration	March 2019
Year of manufacture	2019
Cylinder capacity	1200 cc
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	131 g/km
Fuel type	PETROL
Euro status	Not available
Real Driving Emissions (RDE)	Not available
Export marker	No
Vehicle status	Untaxed
Vehicle colour	GREY
Vehicle type approval	M1
Wheelplan	2 AXLE RIGID BODY



# Romacooking.

## LARB THAI SALAD.

Although summer may be almost over there could still be some warm adventures yet to have. We may still be looking to eat salad in those fading days as we head into autumn.

Here is a recipe for a Thai Larb Salad that only requires one cooking pot and a bowl to mix things in. It is a very much simplified recipe, but toasting and grinding rice flour in the back of my van is something that even I am not inclined to do! Served at room temperature there is no need to utilise your fridge.

### Ingredients:

- 100 gms shallots.
- 450 gms minced pork.
- 1 teaspoon dried chilli flakes.
- 1 lime.
- 20 mls Thai Fish Sauce.
- 1 cup fresh coriander (roughly chopped)
- 1 cup fresh mint (roughly chopped)
- 1 red onion.
- 1 red finger chilli.

### Method.

In a saucepan fry the shallots (chopped), the minced pork and the dry chilli flakes. Leave to one side to cool.

In a bowl extract the juice from the lime and add the fish sauce. Add the sliced red onion, herbs and chopped chilli.

When the pork mixture has cooled to room temperature mix all the ingredients together.

Serve on a bed of little gem lettuce and accompany with microwave coconut rice.

N.B. The minced pork can be replaced with minced Quorn and the fish sauce can be replaced with soy sauce for those of a vegetarian disposition!



# Smile

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice because the flow that has passed will never pass again. **Enjoy every moment of life.**

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs.

Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods. I got lost and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt bad and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place.

I didn't know what else to do so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around.

I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "*Amazing Grace*", the workers began to weep.

They wept, I wept and we all wept together.

When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car.

Though my head was hung low my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "*I have never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years.*"

Apparently, I'm still lost ... it's a man thing.

**When you have stopped laughing, be sure to forward this on to others who would enjoy a good story.**

# Smile

Everybody should be doing their very best for our planet earth, so I've just unplugged a row of electric cars *Kath*

Somebody has stolen my bed.

I won't rest until I find it. *Tony Blackburn Sounds of the 60s.*

## From Your Editor.....

# Rallies.

Your committee were quite disappointed with the low number of members booking for the 'Late Summer National Rally.'

Is it too far East ? Is it too late in the season ?

**However, it's not too late.**

**If you find you wish to come, ring the number on the front cover, and we will fit you in. Sorry but no EHU's are now available.'**

But, how things change. On page 13 we reproduce a page from the *Roma Club Review* from August 1987. There are at least five rallies organised by club members, for club members.

In those days, the club had area contacts. You will see (if you use your magnifying glass to read it ) that the reports are headed by the areas – Bucks, West Midlands. London, etc. etc.

We now have members organising 'meets' but no rallies are being arranged by you, the club members.

**What changed ?** Was it Covid 19 ? Was it a worry of 'getting things wrong ?'

If you know of a camp site near you that would welcome a visit by, say, half a dozen Romahomes, please contact our rally officer who will be more than willing to offer any help needed to organise a rally.

**That's my moan over for this review.**

Now, about our 'Late Summer National Rally'.

We hoped for a good turnout, but even with limited numbers we are going to have a good time.

We are told that we can expect a heat wave.

Members will be bringing food for a shared supper on the Saturday.

Then we have Jive lessons. Bring your flat shoes and some enthusiasm.

Sunday evening we have the BBQ and the quiz to look forward to.

**PLEASE OFFER A SPARE DISPOSABLE BBQ TO SHELDON IF YOU CAN.**

I hope to see you there.

*Allan.*

## Inside your Review

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### COPY DEADLINE

**We very much welcome your contributions. Very final collation date is the 10th DEC. for the WINTER REVIEW.**

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editor@romaclub.org.uk**

**What's New ?  
What News ?**

**London ULEZ. Just seen on a Facebook page.**

A camper van satnav took the driver through London. He paid the Congestion charge because he knew about it but when he got home he found he had been fined £500 because he didn't pay the ULEZ charge . Ignorance was no defence and he had to pay it.  
I'm amazed at the number of cities and towns with clean air zones. They will die off with no visitors.

**Katy**

Just a little warning to anyone thinking of going to or through London in their motorhome or any large vehicle using diesel.  
We accidentally got taken by our satnav through London on the way to the Lake District a few weeks ago . I paid the congestion charge as I know about that but did not know about ULEZ . We got back home two weeks later to find a penalty notice for £500 , we appealed it and lost . I completely understand about pollution and would have happily paid the ULEZ if I had known. Yes there are lots of signs but I thought it was the same as the congestion charge . As it turns out it would still have cost £100 anyway but £500 that's a bit steep . Needless to say we've learnt our lesson. So please beware others heading to the city

**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**
- Ruth Holt
  - Pauline Paterson
  - Kate/Maria Dell'Orb
  - Diane Hawes
  - Steve and Lisa Byrne
  - Alan and Lisa Grant
  - Debbie Spellar
  - Martin Masked
  - Michael and Patricia Nevin
  - June and Megan Chadwick

**What's New ?  
What News ?**

08:29 78%  
tfl.gov.uk/mode:  
MAYOR OF LONDON  
Menu  
**Vehicle results**  
**Citroen Romahome.**  
**08 registration.**  
**Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**  
**This vehicle meets the ULEZ emissions standards**  
You do not need to pay a daily ULEZ charge to drive in the zone, and are helping to improve air quality across London.  
However, if you see the Congestion Charge displayed below, you will need to pay that daily charge to drive in central London.

**Your FREE Sales and wants....**

**Romahome Awning looking for a home.** Awning was designed specifically for high top Romahome, i.e. C15. Hardly used. Offers invited. Collect from Birmingham.  
**Harry & Barbara, 0121 353 2442, +44 7713709166**

**WANTED."** :- Wanted for our C15 Romahome, a 'preloved' or unused, folding 'up & away' metal rear step. Also same, Pair of rear Stabilisers.  
Many thanks, yours **Harry & Barbara. As above.**

## POETRY CORNER

The universe gave me Covid on my  
70th

All celebrations cancelled

I was in bed, crying

Daughter phoned

I'm in bed crying I cried

That's all right Mum

It's your birthday

*You can cry if you want to, cry if you  
want to, cry if you want to*

Stopped crying, started laughing

And haven't stopped laughing since

And I'm 71 now!!

*Helen Davison*

There was a young lady named Perkins,  
Who just simply lived on gherkins.

In spite of advice,

She ate so much spice,

That she ruined her internal working's.

There was a young lady of Kent,

Whose nose was most awfully bent.

She followed her nose,

One day, I suppose,

And no one knows which way she  
went.

An ambitious young fellow named

Matt,

Tried to parachute using his hat.

Folks below looked so small,

As he started to fall,

Then got bigger and bigger and

SPLAT!

### Ray Hancock.

Just to let you know that Raymond Hancock who was a lifetime Romahome fan from Kingswinford, W Midlands passed away at the age of 95 on the 24th.

He had a much loved Jowett Javelin Romahome which served him well over the years.

We'd appreciate it if you could circulate this info just in case any of your members knew him.

Funeral details and a memory page are available here:

<https://raymondgeoffreyhancock.muchloved.com/>

Many thanks,

*Kirsty* (Granddaughter-in-law)

*We knew Ray and his wife Elaine from the early days of the Romaclub, and I believe Ray was chairman at one time. They had a demountable on an Daihatsu pick up, and Ray was busy converting it to diesel at one time. He loved his Jowett cars, and later, mounted the 'pod' onto a Jowett. It worked too. AH.*

# Chair Chat

## View from the chair September 2023

Summer is nearly over but not quite! I hope you managed to get out and about in your vans and visited all those places that you always meant to. Certainly it seems from social media that some of you travelled far and wide. Well done to those that went to the Isle of Wight and touched base with all the Romahome technicians at Northstar Conversions. Let's hope your visit will convince of the need to keep more Romahomes rolling off the production lines.

I hope you remembered to book your place at the autumn rally, it should be a great weekend.

At the next AGM near Chester in May of next year most of the committee seats are up for renewal. Have you thought about joining the happy admin team.

Tamara, our membership secretary, will be hanging up her spreadsheets to concentrate on her many other commitments. Come and join us and give it a go!

A gentle reminder that membership subscriptions are due in December. Have you set up a direct debit? Or if you normally pay by cheque then perhaps a bank transfer would be quicker and easier for you. Remember that all fully paid up members by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 will be entered into the Grand Draw to win a years Vehicle Excise Duty. You don't need to pay anything over and above your normal membership subscription.

Here is a photograph of last years winner dancing to 'Dire Straits' hit song 'Money for Nothing' which of course is exactly what he got. .

>>>>>>>> . . . . .

**Money for Nothing!**

Hope to see some of you in September at the Autumn rally

*Sheldon*





We are looking forward to seeing you at our  
**LATE SUMMER NATIONAL RALLY'**  
 at Dan's Meadow on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September.

The programme is below.

**FRIDAY morning.**

You arrive – You should receive the first welcome as a volunteer shows you your pitch.

Then, grabbing your mugs, head to the barn/hall to sign in. Brenda and Allan will be giving you another warm welcome, and will fill your mug with tea or coffee, and with luck, a biscuit. ( Not in the mug ! )  
 It would be nice if you stayed for a while to socialise with other Romahomers. **WELL BEHAVED DOGS ARE WELCOME IN THE HALL.**

**FRIDAY afternoon and evening.**

The hall will be the place to be during the day and evening. We hope to have some board games and a jigsaw or two. Why not bring something along to share. Not food, but conversation or...

**The kettle and teapot will be there for your use most of the rally.**

**SATURDAY morning.**

We were hoping to have a photo competition but we didn't tell you the classes. (Whoops) You will need to wait until next year—Sorry.

**Free time.** – Mix or rest.

Why not visit Woodbridge. The **TIDE MILL** is well worth a visit.  
 The tide comes in – they trap it at full flood, then use its return to turn the water wheel, and grind corn. (Well, they used to, that is!)

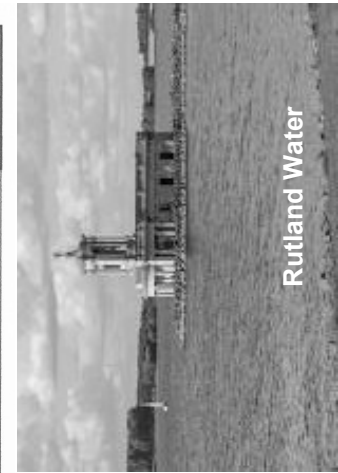
**SATURDAY afternoon.**

Why not have a go ( or have another go ) at crafts with Brenda.  
 Members seemed to enjoy this activity at the previous events.  
 With luck, we can hold another **DOG SHOW**.  
 Meanwhile, find some money for raffle tickets—Then find Kath Gifford.

Later in the afternoon, **please bring food to share with your new found, and old, friends.** This will give us time to open packets and sort things out.  
 Setting up buffet tables etc. **We can always use more volunteers.**

**SATURDAY evening >>>**

	from	mileage	to	via	camp sites	camp	fuel
8	Roma AGM Home	50673	Comberton 10.30am			£10.00	
9	Roma AGM Comberton	50707 (134)	Lunch, tea & entertainment provided by Romahome			£10.00	
10	Roma AGM Comberton		Church, games and evening entertainment			£10.00	
11	Roma AGM depart 10am	51007	New Brighton				£44.54
12	New Brighton Rock Ferry shops with S&M, tea with R,Y,H&C, Football in eve.		Scotland	via Penrith	Mrs Templeton Mauchline 01290.557252	£7.00	£26.16
13	lunch with Vic and Rose at Penrith						
14	ferry 9.15 for 9.45 Ardrossan to		Brodick Arran		Seal Shore Arran	£13.00	
15	Day on Arran	51405	Arran		Seal Shore Arran	£13.00	
16	ferry turn up & go Lochranza to		Claonaig		Muasdale Tarbet 01583.421207	£14.50	£25.72
16	drove from ferry to Campbeltown via Carradale and then to Muasdale						
17	Southeast and bird Sanctuary Kintyre						
18	drive north	51538	Oban (meal break)		Muasdale Tarbet 01583.421207	£14.50	
19	ferry 09.15 for 09.30 Mallaig	51709	Armadaie		wild camp just outside Mallaig		£17.26
19	brilliant sunny day - explored most of the isle of Skye				wild camp north of island		
20	explored rest of island	51880			Torvaig Skye	£11.00	
21	via Inverness - drove east coast of Loch Ness, Fort William and Glen Coe.				wild north west end of Loch Lomond		£35.10
22	Tablet - Bailloch	52137			farmyard at Drymen	£10.00	£17.90
23	Drymen - Otterburn via Falkirk Wheel	52341			wild camp at Otterburn Battle site		£15.00
25	Durham (hot) and on to Egglecliffe to see Uncle Norman, Jill and John				wild camp just west of Pickering		£25.21
26	breakfast in Scarborough then Filey, Bridlington camp at Brandesburton	52662			Foss Hill caravan site	£20.00	
27	Met Joy & Katy in Hull for lunch	52767			wild on A46 Copwell	£16.50	£38.23
28	day on Rutlandwater	52904			Comberton		£12.67
29	Duxford - home	2231				£149.50	£257.79
			TOTALS				



Rutland Water



Eilean Donan Castle.



Oban McCaig's Tower



### **Rallies for Annual General Meetings & beyond**

Living in the South East with our backs to the sea we have to cross the Thames for most rallies. We made a habit of extending the Romaclub Rallies by going further afield afterwards.

For example we have been to Scotland, Ireland (both North and south) , Wales and the Isle of Man where caravans were first permitted that year. They were having a trial run with the Civil Service Caravan Club which tried to take our pitch on the Council Site at Douglas. It was suggested that we could park on the concrete covering the fuel tanks ! No way.

I recently stumbled across a spread sheet of our trip to Scotland in 2009. It makes very good reading. We left Highfield at Comberton in May and travelled up the west of England first to my three families in New Brighton and then to Keith's relatives in Penrith.



From Ardrossan we commenced our trip in Scotland on the Ferry to Arran and Kintyre. Caledonian McBride ferries were very good . It was no trouble changing routes and times. The ferry to Kintyre was just 'turn up and go'. From Oban we used the ferry at Mallaig to Skye and returned via the bridge. We visited Eilean Donan castle and explored Loch Lomond and Loch Ness. The Falkirk Wheel is a must if you are in the area.

### **NB No mosquitoes May.**

We came back via the East Coast to my relatives in Eggescliffe and Hull. Rutland Water was next on our wish list.

How times have changed. All in all we travelled 2231 miles, spent only £149.50 on camp sites as we wild camped in several places, and fuel was £257.79

Will we do it again? Maybe. Here's hoping.

*Kath & Keith*, Sandwich, Kent

### **SATURDAY evening. 6.30 pm.**

This is our social evening. Having brought your '**Bring and Share**' food earlier, it's time to grab something to eat.

Then, at 7.30 pm it's time for the evening's entertainment.

**JIVE LESSONS and DANCING.** Flat shoes are recommended.

In the meantime Kath will continue to sell raffle tickets. You will have donated food and drink gifts which, as at the previous rally, will have been sorted into gift hampers. The raffle will take place during the evening.

Best of luck, but we can't all win, can we ? By 10.30 pm we have to say goodnight. Can you tiptoe to your Romahomes.

### **SUNDAY morning.10.00 a.m.**

Kath will running her usual '**SONGS OF PRAISE**' All are welcome.

Then it's the '**TABLE TOP SALE**' Do you have items to sell ?

Camping items, craft , odds and ends.

### **SUNDAY afternoon.**

It's **BARBEQUE TIME.** Our Chairman, Sheldon, will be using all of his cooking skills to provide tasty grub for us all.

He would welcome a volunteer to assist him in his efforts. Someone to mop his brow too.

### **DO YOU HAVE A SPARE DISPOSABLE BBQ ?**

One or two (or more) would be welcome. Hiring one has proved too expensive.

There will be vegetarian items if requested.

### **Don't forget to bring your plates and your drinks.**

### **SUNDAY evening.7.30p.m.**

How about sharing your talents with **HOME GROWN ENTERTAINMENTS.**

Do you play any instrument ? Do you do poems ? Anything ? Volunteers needed.

It's **THE QUIZ.** Our Chairman will be hosting this usual bundle of fun.

### **MONDAY morning.**

We hope you have enjoyed your time with your friends.

The site has to be vacated by 11.00 am. Have a safe journey.

Fed-up with my rear door catching the roof of our 'Drive-away awning' I decided to have a go myself. Pencil, rule and notepad and a few measures taken we soon had a rough design (very rough)!

We sent off to AE MARKET for free samples of Ripstop nylon in 3 colours which arrived by return post. The AGM came and various appointments, as they do before order was sent in June.

Last weekend in June the awning was erected again and re-measured and an order for one yard / metre of black and two of Ivory at a cost of £14 was requested.

All came by post two days later. Another measuring session and the replacement link was cut-out allowing a 1 cm edge to fold and be sewn, Janet took over the finer part of machining as I have a heavy right foot on the controls.

July 6th was 'A' day and the awning re-erected for its operation, last measuring done, the offending link panel was gingerly removed using the second best scissors, the new section pinned in place ready to sew.

Over the next two mornings, copious amounts of seam sealer, different coloured cotton and several shuttle changes saw the whole thing come together.

I had added a short shock corded pole across the top in its own sleeve to prevent the new roof sagging which worked quite well.

Saturday 8th July was launch day as Friday had been too windy and I didn't fancy doing a Mary Poppins in front of the neighbours.

The launch was good and all breathed a sigh of relief - only a few minor adjustments and a little more seam sealer to complete the project then a coating of water proofer over the whole.

Ready now for the next adventure.

Hope your projects all go successfully,

*Frank & Janet Price*

**From Times Past..Roma Club Review No.5 August 1987.**

## RALLY ROUND-UP

Rally reports are always welcome. Only one report can be used on each rally, so perhaps it is as well to decide who is going to contribute to Roma Review, at the rally itself.

Please send in as soon as possible after the event, with a photograph which may be included, space permitting. It makes life easier for the Editor if the following points are observed:

1. Remember to include DATE of rally as well as place. Some of the rally reports received this time made no reference to date, but date reference does make for more interesting reading in a quarterly publication.
2. Remember to state exact full address/location of site so that other members may seek it out if they like the sound of it.
3. Include full name, address and telephone number of writer so that Editor may contact to check details if necessary.
4. Any photographs included MUST state on the back, name and address of sender and full details. Please send stamped addressed envelope if picture is to be returned, with a request note.

NEXT ISSUE OF ROMA CLUB REVIEW WILL BE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER. COPY DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1st.  
SEND TO EDITOR, ROMA CLUB REVIEW, STAR PUBLICITY, 878 ALDRIDGE ROAD, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM B44 8NT.

### Bucks Rally

#### ST. NEOT'S CARAVAN & CAMPING SITE

On quite a bright morning, Fred and I arrived at the St. Neot's camping and caravan site to join Hazel's Angels, Bucks, at their weekend rally.

The site is very pleasant, on the riverside and a short walk from the town centre.

The rally finally totalled nine Romahomes and one Romini (which brought along a new camper in the form of an adorable eight weeks old puppy, Dougal, who was thoroughly spoiled by the entire gathering).

During the afternoon the weather changed and by the time all had arrived, it was pouring with rain and blowing a gale.

The next morning Hugh handed each unit a fun quiz sheet of twenty questions. Some of the answers he received were quite hilarious but quite untrue! There was a lucky dip prize for the winners.

By now about half a dozen stalwart men were endeavouring to erect two awnings face to face and provide cover for the space in between. Well---It blew, it thundered, it lightened, it poured with rain, but after

### Bucks Rally

#### BILLING AQUADROME

The last weekend in April, twenty or so outfits from the Bucks Group braved the dreaded Billing Aquadrome and were rewarded with a cheap and cheerful gathering in peaceful, quiet surroundings and glorious weather. One lad and lass from Yorkshire had not known there could be such sun, so soon, in England!

An impromptu demonstration of "demounting" almost came unstuck, but succeeded despite numerous helpers! Never have so many, striven for so long, to separate so little!

### Report: Dot Bywater

many impromptu shower baths, using a groundsheet, a sun canopy, various loo tent poles, yards of guy ropes and string, plus two Romahomes we finally had a shelter Heath Robinson would definitely have approved of.

At 7.30 p.m. all twenty of us assembled, complete with woolies and wellies, to have a party to celebrate the sixth wedding anniversary of Ros and Hugh Lodge. Ros provided a splendid spread of "nosh" and the wine flowed generously. Hazel had baked and decorated a beautiful cake, and I can safely say a good time was had by all in spite of the atrocious weather.

The area contact for West Midlands Ray Hancock, wife Elaine and dog "Sheba" also joined the rally, and Fred and I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Bucks area members for making their visitors so very welcome.

### Bucks Rally

#### BILLING AQUADROME

### Report: Jose and Gordon Clough

Some people had seen each other only the week before at Sandford but there was still coffee to drink, Roma D.I.Y. to admire and the constitution to discuss.

Games, a raffle of cake and sherry, a friendly atmosphere will help us to remember a pleasant, smooth run weekend.

### London and West Midlands Rally

#### TEMPLARS COURT COUNTRY CLUB, SANDFORD-ON-THAMES

The glorious sunshine on Thursday and Good Friday of the Easter weekend attracted 55 units to the rally with 3 extra day-time supporters.

As members arrived they received a local bus timetable, map of Oxford and details of the Thameside walk which helped them to plan their own outings during this free and easy weekend.

At an evening get together on Good Friday further information was given about the area. Details and samples of printed tee-shirts, sweat shirts, banners and many other items sporting the Roma Club motif were advertised. These can be supplied by one of our new members, trade name "Mr Chukkas". (See page 2).

Joyce Maskell gave some useful information about her efforts to get height barriers removed at car parking areas. Ray Hancock spoke about the proposed route for members wishing to join in a continental holiday together. Monti Knee, who is co-ordinating members' plans with Ray, arrived on Saturday full of his usual energetic, enthusiastic charm.

The only other organised event for the weekend was a barbecue at lunchtime on Easter Sunday. In spite of wind and overcast weather, this was well attended. Members struggling to keep on their decorated bonnets and hats caused much laughter. In the "Fill the Match-

### West Midlands Rally

#### SMALL BATCH, LITTLE STRETTON

We spent a very pleasant weekend at Little Stretton, in June, at a rally organised by West Midlands Regional Contact, Ray Hancock.

The site was approached through a ford. It was a basic, busy and picturesque valley, with mountains and hills on all sides, and a babbling stream, with dog roses and wild mint growing in profusion.

On the Saturday we donned our walking boots and took the footpath that runs through the site. It took us up hills, down valleys and through streams showing us the flora and fauna of the district, birds, insects and the most beautiful views.

This was the first West Midlands meet, but well worth waiting for. Thank you Ray and Elaine Hancock.

### Manchester & Yorkshire Rally

#### TOP FARM, WAKEFIELD

Our weekend at Top Farm, Wakefield, in April was very enjoyable. The weather was superb and fifteen members attended.

Although we had never met before, by the time we went home I felt we had known each other for years.

Mr. Derek Mason joined us with his Romahome covered with the stickers of companies which are sponsoring him on his walk from John O'Groats to Lands End, to raise money for the Asthma Research Council and St. Gemma's Hospice for the terminally ill. We had a little

### Report: Jean Colquhoun

box" competition one enterprising member managed to squeeze 69 items into her matchbox!

It was a pleasure to have with us Hazel Pudney (Bucks Regional Contact) who with Derrick and her helpers provided a mid-morning coffee session on Easter Sunday; Joan McAllam (West Country Contact) and Donald from Combe Martin and Bernard Coleman (Wales Regional Contact) with Poppet from Lampeter. The young Metcalfe family from Caterham were attending their first rally ever and I have heard they had a wonderful time. We certainly all enjoyed having the happy children around. Members also came from as far apart as Padstow (Cornwall) and Gateshead (Cleveland).

Our grateful thanks must go to John Williams (the manager), his wife and staff for all their cheerful help and kindness during the weekend. The amenities at this most beautiful camp site on the banks of the River Thames have greatly improved with the attractive club house a welcome meeting place at all times. I hope that club members will make full use of this site whenever they visit the Oxford area.

### West Midlands Rally

#### SMALL BATCH, LITTLE STRETTON

### Report: Mollie and Ray Whiteway

Even the weather was kind. We rambled on for about six miles.

On our return, we visited the village - just before the only shop closed!

Sunday took us into Church Stretton for the papers, plus window shopping and an unexpected treat in the shape of an antique sales room.

This was the first West Midlands meet, but well worth waiting for. Thank you Ray and Elaine Hancock.

### Report: Dot Bywater

collection for him and another group who were having a Barn Dance at Top Farm also gave generously to help Derek's effort.

We are having another rally on Sept. 18th and 19th at the Holme Valley Camping and Caravan Park, near Holmfirth, the area where "The Last of the Summer Wine" was filmed.

Members from other areas are welcome to join us.





<<< We were there at the right time for the beautiful sunflowers just beginning to appear. There are fields full of them which is a wonderful sight.



Every day our breakfast. Croissants, >>> French Bread and Coffee. Always outside in the sunshine, except for one day when we had a horrendous storm.



^ Beautiful flowers everywhere which is my passion.

Last day we visited Guéméné-Penfao which very near St Malo. Very popular town for local people at weekends. Very many eating places and of course the beach.



Cosy Van 2t is safely stored aboard ship as we say Aurevoir la France and Bon Jour Angleterre.



## Romacooking.

We've tried ready cooked rice and today we tried **'Ready to Wok'** noodles.



Heat a small amount of oil in a frying pan. Add some chicken or beef and fry for 3-4 minutes. Add some vegetables and fry for further 2-3 minutes.

Add seasoning or sauce sachet.

Add the noodles and 1 tbsp water and stir fry for 1-2 minutes.

Ready made naan bread as optional extra.

Job done.

Not up to our chairman's standard but quite adequate for a quick camp meal.

*Kath and Keith*





Getting ready to greet France at Ouistreham  
...little do they know who is coming!!.....  
A very proud owner of a Romahome!



Our first visit is to the new British Normandy Memorial at Ver-Sur-Mer.  
Very moving experience. 22 Thousand died on the beaches 1939-44



All the names of the men who died are listed on the columns. My dad was involved in the D-Day landings and happily his name is not listed



<<< On to happier thoughts. I celebrated my birthday while we were away and Freddy took me to the Chateau De Villandry. It was amazingly beautiful with very extensive gardens and water features. It was a very hot and sunny day. A very happy birthday.



We spent time in the Loire area visiting many places of interest and restaurants. We enjoyed lots of Wonderful Food. (too much according to the scales.)