

From Times Past... Roma Review October '95

Our retired chairman, Norman Hughes came across a 'Jiffy' at a show in Northern Ireland. - See page 10.

We had a couple in our club, way back.

Here is an item from our late, keen club member, Beryl Whitehead.

Beryl was very good at finding Rally sites, unfortunately, a skill that appears to be lost to us.

What was the tunnel Beryl mentioned? There isn't one to the Isle of Wight is there?

Just a Jiffy *part of our series* **As you were...**

The story of an early Romahome by Beryl Whitehead.

The History of the Jiffy

which started me

Romahoming.

Early in 1985 Phil, my husband, discovered that Island Plastics were making a small caravan using the Honda as the base.

We were running a large Ford bread van which we had converted into a caravan and were looking to downsize but the cost of the first Romahome was out of our reach.



About this time we found a Jiffy truck which had been designed by Indespension as a Loughborough College project and was being used as a gardening truck. Phil thought that this would take a caravan shell which Island Plastics were prepared to sell, at a price we could afford.

I think he had been reading one of the caravan magazines and he came across an article by a Derek Egleton describing the way he had done what Phil was proposing to do, so naturally he got in contact with Derek.

The result of which, the Jiffy truck was bought, the chassis was lengthened and we trundled through the tunnel, paying the rate of a lorry! Over to the Island where they strapped the shell onto the flat bed truck and we set off home again!

Cheaper through the tunnel this time – we were classed as a car!



Est.1985

ROMA

THE JOURNAL OF
THE ROMA CLUB ©

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REVIEW

MOTORCARAVANNING AT ITS BEST IN ROMAHOME UNITS.

www.romaclub.org

Need the members' page? Your password is on your membership card.

Autumn National Rally. Lickhill Manor.



Picture by Robert Lajoie.
More members' pictures inside.

Lickhill Autumn National Rally was such a success, that we needed extra pages in your Review for your pictures.

Where will the National AGM Rally be held in 2023 ?

< This gives you a clue. It's Stratford upon Avon Racecourse.
Make a note in your diary now. May 5th—7th 2023.

More details and booking form in the Winter Review.

 **LIVES & LOVES.....**

Maureen's `new` Romahome.

Just a line to say thank you for your help. You will be glad to know it produced results. I have actually bought a van thanks to the advert in the Review. It is not as nice as mine but has other qualities, it needs some work done on the engine, but the price was right, the gas also needs attention, these are being done next week, the gas locker is much smaller than mine, so I am not sure what they can do. It is a couple of years older than my other one.

You will probably know more about this van than me. It is an Arctic Fox and has the possibility of putting in two forward facing seats, it also has a shower and a solar panel, so has qualities that mine didn't have.

A further email...

My replacement Romahome is older than my 'late' Romahome and not as nice. She needs some attention.

Already had the clutch, timing belt and steering done, I knew the first two needed doing when I bought it.



Unfortunately, I did not look at the gas locker and my bottles don't fit in it. It will only take the small blue gas bottles. However, I have got around the problem. Not ideal but it will suffice until I decide whether to do something more. I hope the photographs are okay and I hope to see you all at the Lickhill Rally.

Maureen & Swift

Of course, by the time you read this, the Lickhill rally will be over, but I hope you have all met Maureen and Swift. The Camping Gaz cylinders fit earlier models, but are more expensive than Calor Gas. My refill cost £56.00 ! PHEW. AH.

Sur la route

One of our greatest delights of touring abroad is sweeping down the grand Péage autoroutes in France. The open road, the lack of traffic and good meals at service aires on route, but above all its the smooth roads hushing the racket and rattle of blind and screen to a whisper.



In the event that you are unable to spend all of your travelling on the ultra-smooth pave of the Péage I can't claim to eliminate but can suggest a way to ameliorate the racket and rattle to a level that will allow conversation and navigator direction at a less intense volume.



Simply, as the picture illustrates is to park the blind halfway up the window and with the screen brought down to latch, both are held under spring tension. It does mean that what limited view there was through the side windows is further diminished forcing a greater reliance on your rear view and wing mirrors.

Freddy O'Hare.

Many male members will have had the bedtime experience of having checked that the doors are locked, the gas tap switched off, kissed the wife goodnight and you're about half into your sleeping bag when it's noted that the windows are closed or open too far.

Without exposing nether regions to the night chill air by your drooping sleeping bag this requires the recalcitrant sticking and jamming blind to be coaxed to roll up without it bellowing and jumping out of the guide track. Managing to get the blind to the specified height it then refuses to latch at both sides developing a drunken tilt. Finally, the bug screen needs to be lowered and latched with the blind in the dark, at arm's length over your partner without letting the screen crash back into its housing waking your now sweetly slumbering companion.

The coil spring, over the years that winds the blind up begins to lose its virility [like us all] and has to be coaxed to fully coil the less flexible shade back into its housing.

I baulked at removing the many screws to remove the internal window frame to get at the blind workings.

My remedy is to apply lubricant to the spring mechanism and clean the tracks with a lube dampened tissue.

With a bright torch to light up the edge of the rolled blind [reaching in from outside the van] guide the lube nozzle to the gap on the outward side of the blind guide channel to the spring and bearing beyond the edge of the blind roller.

The merest dot is sufficient to stop the blinds misbehaviour. I have used "WD40 Silicone" in the belief that it will lift off any damp and the silicone will provide the lubrication without staining.

[If you overdo the squirt stand by with a kitchen towel to mop up any fluid running down the inside wall before it gets to the backrest cushions].



From Your Editor.....

Thanks, but sorry too.

Quite a few of you took the trouble to send in pictures, but unfortunately, I couldn't print them all in your Review. Most of them were pictures of row upon row of Romahomes, with only a few showing club members enjoying themselves. Let's be honest – most of us know what a Romahome looks like. However, some will appear in the Winter Review.

The craft tent was busy, and lots of picture were taken, so we have two pages of busy fingers sewing little dogs, All shapes and sizes – well, no -mostly the same size, and similar shape, but different colours.

I have tried to capture the mood of folks in the marquee, chatting and joking.

Thanks to our contributors, and to our entertainers, and to the committee for the organisation. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the next event please contact us.

This is another bonus edition following the Autumn National Rally at Lickhill Manor, but we have plenty of other items that we hope will take your interest.

As usual, I look forward to your items on trips, tips, and recipes. What have you been up to ?

Oh, and don't forget to mark your new diary with the date of our

**National AGM Rally at
Stratford on Avon, 5th—7th May 2023.**

Allan.



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COPY DEADLINE

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

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'El Presidente'

Hello everybody,

Sorry to have missed your second big event this year, but unfortunately, health matters catch up with you, and Worcestershire is a long way from Cowes, not to mention getting off this island.

I understand that just like last time, you had a good time, and some of you even learnt how to sew. The home made entertainment missed my usual comedy spot, but I have suggested writing a few of my jokes down, to be published in the Review.

Good news. Val and I have sold our R25.

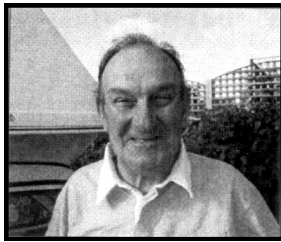
Our ex-chairman, Norman Hughes, rushed across the Irish Sea to take possession as soon as he saw it was for sale.

He tells us he is rejoining the club too.

That's all for now folks.

Enjoy your Romahoming, despite the cost of fuel and the cold nights !

Bill.



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

Membership Matters

A warm welcome to

Roy and Jeanette Hocking, who live in Buckinghamshire.

Graham and Tracey Smith, from Caernafon.

Gaven Richardson, based in Cardiff.

Brian and Liz Jones, Hampshire.



Sorry to have to relinquish my position as rally officer so soon. As you can see in ads for sale that we are selling our camper van. David and I have enjoyed meeting fellow members over the years especially at Ripon for the National. I have enjoyed working with the committee and we both wish them all the best and may the club continue to thrive.

Susan and David Johnson

Your FREE Sales and wants....

Romahome Dimension For Sale

2004. 2 Berth. End Kitchen, Shower and toilet. 4 Burner cooker and oven. Fridge Manual 2L. 4 Belted seats.

L 4750 m x W2-4m x H 2-8m

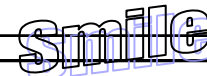
Very clean, in good running order, MOT up to May 2023,

Regularly serviced and maintained, 95,000 miles, many extras

Ready to drive away. £18,000

David Johnson 01132799051

Mobile 447733026670



Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person.

The truth is, once you get old you stop being polite and start being honest.

Romatips. Hypnos. More advice from Freddy O'Hare.

When we purchased our Roma in 2003 it came with a metal framed Formica topped table that weighed a ton and once assembled commanded the middle of the van denying access or movement within. It didn't even get to camp and found an alternative function for storing house plants when away camping.

A secondary aggravation is the bed extension. Whatever you do and whenever you want to do it this bit or hardware must be manhandled out of the way. Like the table we tried to do without it but found the short bed too cramping for a good night's sleep.

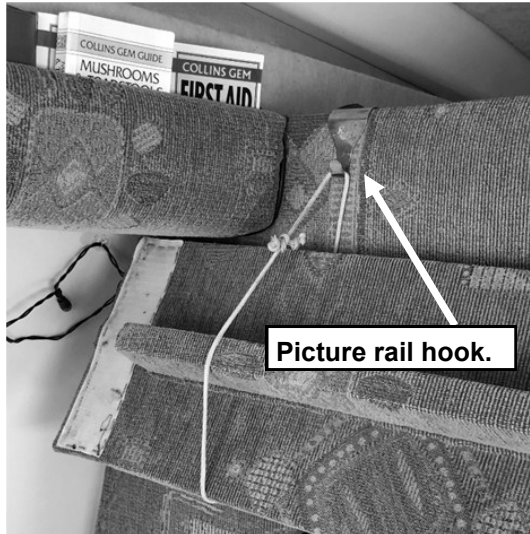
Many alternative ideas were thought about but not pursued because of lack of ability or sloth. It was when I was raking through the garage that I came across these "picture rail hooks" and the idea of a work around materialised.

[Remember when rooms had ceilings above door height and there was a picture or dado rail running round the perimeter]
This was exactly what was required to get the bed extension out of the way and stored without it then compromising access to another area within the van.

This remedy is most useful when getting the van ready for camping as it gives unhindered access to the under-bed lockers and again on returning home when clearing the van.

Caution:

I would not recommend travelling in this set up as apart from the weight high up, the possibility of damage is great if it became unhitched on route. The picture hooks are ideal as they spread the pressure load over the luton rail. I now intend to make a couple of tape slings to hold the extension with a ring to couple with the hook.



Chair Chat

View From The Chair

Summer is drawing to a close, and what a scorcher it was!

I hope you all managed to get out and about to enjoy it.

Well done to everyone who were able to stay cool overnight in our beautifully insulated vans.

'A fan in the van' was the motto for our summer.

Have just returned from a successful Autumn rally in Stourport on Severn.

Many thanks to all who attended and threw themselves into the festivities. Rallies are the bread and butter of our club so if you know of a campsite in your area that seems suitable for one then please think about hosting.

The committee are always there to help if the prospect seems too daunting. Susan our rally officer has sadly given up on Romahoming and will now concentrate on caravan touring so there is a vacant seat on the committee for a rally officer.

So why not get in touch and join us. All you need is a bit of free time, a 'zoom' enabled computer for committee meetings and of course oodles of enthusiasm.

We have lots of new ideas for the coming year which will be announced in the winter edition of 'The Review'.

Please keep sending in your articles, pictures, recipes, jokes, tips, Allan cannot produce the magazine without your content!

If we don't meet up over the winter, then looking forward to seeing you all at the

National AGM rally in Stratford On Avon on 5th May 2023.

Sheldon Mahn,
Chairman.

Dear Members..



Freddy's Romahome Ramblings.

Having spent a recent fortnight in "Cosy" dodging the thunderstorms in western France we have returned to find some fine camping weather at Cromer, North Norfolk. This is just a note to acknowledge another fine issue of the Review with lots of pictures and I see that others are stimulated to pitch in with their own stories of how they dealt with their Vehicles issues.

I do not like French trees! They tend to pop up in your van's blind spot too regularly and one of them manage to give us a quiff one wet morning. No more than a witness of bark on the bumper, but it could have been a lot nastier. It brought to mind though that it would be a valued addition to the Roma clubs' benefits to hold a register of various expert workshops where vehicles could be taken for spares and correction – Glassfibre – Windows – Suspension booster springs – Towing bracketry - Habitation Etc.

Like you, we have been trying various suppliers of ready meals like Wiltshire Farms, although for camping they have the limitation of requiring a freezer compartment, an item of limited capacity in the Romahome range. We regularly carry a couple of "Look What We Have Found" pouch meals as an emergency and also have used on occasion "Parsley Box" finding the sauces appetising but the portion volume of the principal element insufficient sometimes almost non-existent!

Having to supplement the meal with vegetables pasta or rice somewhat undermines the concept of "Ready Meal". I also remember some years ago trying ready meals that came in sort of large sardine tins that you heated up in a pan of boiling water. I do not remember how they tasted but I do recall the shenanigans peeling open the burning hot tins in the confines of our then newish van without spilling the contents or letting the tins spout their contents.

Shirley Baker's Brownies poem brought back my own memories of my time in the cubs 114th Edinburgh. The occasion was a Cub party likely to celebrate the end of war in Europe and whilst the pack were playing games or having stories read to us from the Jungle book, we became aware of something going on in the kitchen adjacent to the hall with Akela and Balloo's visits and noises from behind the closed shutters. Enquiries were met with "That's our secret" or "It's a surprise!"

Excitement grew as the meeting progressed and speculation was wide as to what it could be, the winning rumour being that ice cream was being prepared (A product that like bananas in 1945, had only existed as fading paper mashie model.) Eventually the shutters rattled up and there arrayed were desert bowls laid out each with its teaspoon ready for action. Cross legged on the floor on our best behaviour the bowls were distributed. The first gulp revealed the truth.

The surprise so longingly looked forward to was a large tablespoon full of mashed potato, bare of any fats, milk, or seasoning its dryness is my lasting memory of the occasion.

Freddy O'Hare.

I don't like Belgium Solar Panel masts. When reversing, they fill the offside blind spot, and smash the Romahome tail lights. The light then drops down the hole you made.AH

POETRY CORNER

The Moors and Dales of Derbyshire

The moors and dales of Derbyshire
Are something to be seen
With purple plains of heather
Or rolling hills of green.

A valley leads down to a brook
Which tumbles on its way
Past trees of pine and beech
And cottages of grey.

The gentler inclines suit me well
Although a steeper climb
Will take me to a lofty view
Of fields and farms sublime

And though the rising chimney
smoke
Reminds me there is home
The moors and dales of
Derbyshire
Are therefore me to roam.

Shirley Baker

Musings, or things to think about.

RURAL LIFE

Those of us with septic tanks
Give to you our heartfelt thanks
For putting nothing in the pot
That isn't guaranteed to rot.
Wipes are bad, matchsticks too,
Cigarette butts are taboo.
Pins and strings and other things,
Which country plumbing will reject.
So – Urbanites – be circumspect.
Our septic tank can do a lot
But there are some things it can not.
Our Septic Tanks to you.

Kath and Keith. Sandwich.

Virtually Impossible Quiz.

by Jac and Gudge on page 21.

Answers below.

64 = Only Fools and Horses Episodes	14 = Arsenal FA Cup Wins	10 = I Will Always Love You by Whitney Houston at UK Number 1	170 = M D S O	6 = G a L
14 = A F A C W	10 = I Will Always Love You by Whitney Houston at UK Number 1	170 = Maximum Darts Score Out	6 Geese a Laying	64 = O F and H E

All our yesterdays.

Ode on the road - anon

Each year we check the agenda, pack our vans and off we trek. One driver, a navigator and a picnic hamper. A journey never to forget. "I told you to turn left at the island!" The now impatient navigator sighs. So we took yet another wrong turning, "I can't drive and look at the signs!"

Three hours later and thirty miles gone, we rest in a parking lay-by. Put on the kettle and get out the tea and relax while the world goes by.

The lunch all done, it's back to the road, and on to destination camp A. But due to the detour we're stuck in a jam, in a lane behind a tractor carrying hay. It is now five hours later, And we are still nowhere near.

It's then we find that the navigator has gone to sleep in the rear.

The driver follows the road signs, but in the dark it's just no good.

And to top it all, it starts raining, and the road is closed "Due to Flood".

A glimmer of light in the distance, Are we really going to arrive ?

But then a splutter and dimmer.....

The petrol tank is on the empty side.

The silence is more than nerve shattering,

It's all perfectly clear. We're blaming each other for everything.

It's the same every year!!!

We get to the campsite entrance, park up and get through the gate.

Only to find to our horror, That we arrived a week too late.

We always look forward to our trekking,

It's fun and just what it should be.

Without my Romahome, my navigator and travelling, Holidays wouldn't be the same to me.

You can keep your sunnier climates, You can keep your hotel and catering pub.

I'll settle for a touring vacation

With my friends from the Roma Club.

FROM Roma Review Feb 1991

Our Autumn National Rally – Lickhill Manor Park.

It would appear that we had another successful event, judging by some of the comments from members.

Perhaps we slipped up on some things – the main one being not asking anyone to send me a report on the event.

Not to worry, I will try to sum it up.

Learning from members' suggestions from the Ripon rally, we had a team waiting to welcome Romahomers as they arrived, and guide them to their pitch.

Emma and Brenda awaited them in the marquee with a choice of tea or coffee, and a biscuit, supplied by members. (They had to supply their own cups or mugs though.) Then they were free to set up their various styles of awnings, tidy their Romahomes and roam around the site, getting ideas and tips from fellow members.

With some long journeys completed, an early night's sleep seemed to be in order.

Saturday found us having the Romaclub's traditional coffee morning in the marquee. The marquee proved to be 'cozy', unlike the vast ones we hired, when they were paid for by Romahome Ltd, and dealers. The large 'beer garden' tables made it even cosier. Lickhill Manor's stewards were more than helpful to us throughout the weekend, and more tables were set up adjacent to the coffee extravaganza. The table top sale saw a new, unused Porta Pottie sell for an unbelievable £10.00 !!

In the afternoon, the riverside walk to the inland port of Stourport on Severn proved popular.

The evening saw us gathering with our drinks and nibbles for the 'Home Grown Entertainment'.

Aly and Derek did a little playlet on the subject of veganism,.

Derek did a monologue / duet about Adam and Eve, We had Limericks, Peter on his Melodeon and Gerry on his various wind instruments.

Having run out of entertainers. Sheldon and Emma started the Karaoke.

Sunday morning found many members at Kath's 'Songs of Praise' gathering. Members seemed pleased to have this item back on the programme, together with the traditional coffee morning.

More walks to Stourport, with Sunday Roasts being on some schedules.

The marquee found a table top cornucopia of food being shared by us all, and this tasty delight was followed by an enjoyable quiz, produced and presented by Peter, ably assisted by his lady wife, Anne.

over >>>>

.Lots and lots of raffle prizes were distributed with all the usual groans about `near misses'. Then, a bit more music to see us to our mobile homes and a night's rest, ready for the journeys home.

Lots of farewells, a bit of clearing up, and that was it, until the next one.

Thanks to the committee members for the organising, and special thanks to Lickhill Manor stewards, Andy and Jennie who were at our beck and call all weekend, so pleasant, and they couldn't do enough for us.

Allan.

What's New ?
What News ?

Just to let you all know that I am sending a cheque for £358.35 to the British Red Cross for their Ukraine appeal. This is made up as follows:-

£199.00	from the raffle.
£ 65.35	Songs of Praise collection
£ 15.00	donation.
£ 57.00	donation.
£ 22.00	donation

Total. £358.35

At the AGM rally we raised £228 so this makes £586 which has been sent to the British Red Cross for their Ukraine appeal.

Anne Greystone. Treasurer.

Thanks to those members who made donations for many personal reasons. Sorry we can't publish your names, but you know who you are, and why. AH.

This was on the Romahome users page.

"ROMA HOMES and the CLEAN AIR zone CHARGES

Because we are classed as motor homes in our log books we are EXEMPT from clean air zone charges . HOWEVER, unlike passenger cars we have to apply . The exemption then lasts till the end of that three year period. Here is the number to ring for the DVLA clean air information for the NATIONAL exemption

.0300 0298888 it's just a matter of filling in the form , then later take photograph of the log book and send by email or download it . "

Special thanks to Brenda for her Masterclass teaching us how to make our little felt dogs.
Jenny O'HARE

mention the glow stick bracelets Jac brought along for fun as when she snapped one of them for the 'glow' the pink aluminous contents splattered on her face and in her eye. Eye wash anyone? We then walked to The Brook Inn pub once the weather had cooled down. Decent size garden and dogs welcome. Beer good according to the 3 men. Wine a bit unusual – either red or white and a small glass would be a large measure in other pubs! Saturday was still hot – so Jac and Gudge took a stroll to the River Stour and managed a small boat trip.

Passing a willow grove, which after 30 years of growth, is cut and sent to India and Pakistan for cricket bats. We also learnt that depending on the side of the river – Essex or Suffolk the pronunciation of the river differs.....very much like where we live on the River Nene! The four of us and Sherlock ate in the Kings Head at Great Cornard – waiting over an hour for a stone-baked pizza but worth the wait.

We then returned to the campsite for cheese and biscuits and Tony and Sheldon showed us how to play crib. We are not quite up to speed as there is so much to learn.....but we look forward to another match in Stourport-on-Severn.

Extremely hot weekend which did mean we altered our initial plans. But a lovely few days, with wonderful company. Thank you. Photo is keeping up the tradition of selfies with Roma Club trays.....where have you been? Don't forget to share stories and photos of your roaming.

Jac & Gudge.

Virtually Impossible Quiz by Jac & Gudge.

Recently Gudge and I had a go at a virtually impossible quiz for a charity. There were 50 questions in total. We have been given permission to share some of the questions with you.....and of course the answers, which are elsewhere in the Review. What do the capital letters stand for?

No cheating and good luck!

64 = O F and H E	
14 = A F A C W	
10 = I W A L Y by W H at UK N 1	
170 = M D S O	
6 = G a L	

Round and about.....

Roaming with our Romaclub friends.

During April we booked the Willowmere Camping and Caravan Park, Little Cornard near Sudbury to meet up with Sheldon and Tony for 2 nights. Little did we know then, that the weekend in August was going to have an amber heat warning – both parties had already experienced in July a red warning.

The heat was unbearable....in fact insert your own description and swearword here if you wish! It took longer than normal to set up as it was essential to keep trying to cool off. A bi-plane flew over the site and performed a few loop-the-loops – was it cooler up there in the sky as we had no energy to perform anything that afternoon?



Sheldon & Tony came prepared with an electric fan for Sherlock and he found the few areas of shade that existed on the site. Unfortunately, our plan of visiting the Thomas Gainsborough museum and other areas of Sudbury town were cancelled because of the heatwave so we all hope to return in the future.

The campsite had very good amenities and was clean. 35 pitches – 27 with EHU. There were a number of picnic tables which we were able to move into our pitches and make a lovely communal eating area. Sheldon cooked a delicious Thai green curry on the Friday night (Editor – Allan - take note of his culinary skills!) At this point we won't

Round and about.....

Trial run at Hatchers Farm, Preston. www.hatchersfarm.co.uk

It was so long since we were able to use the van that when I got the 'all clear' from the hospital we set off for 2 nights to check everything in the van.

Well apart from some minor hiccoughs (eg no pegs for the loo tent so we used 4 screwdrivers from the cutlery box - don't ask) we found we had no gas. We can only guess we had had a slow gas leak. I phoned 10 dealers but no Calor gas 3.9 LPG available in East Kent. The farmer kindly uncoupled his blow torch and lent us his cylinder for 2 days.

I searched Marketplace on Facebook and a lady in Sittingbourne said we could collect one from Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, or she would bring one home to Sittingbourne at 4pm providing the delivery van turned up with their order. Lo and behold she texted that afternoon to say she had got the 3.9 cylinder. So off we went to Sittingbourne. Traffic was horrendous as it was the first day of the Kent County Show and the school end of day. Anyhow this lovely lady works for a haulage company and she said it was no problem. SORTED!

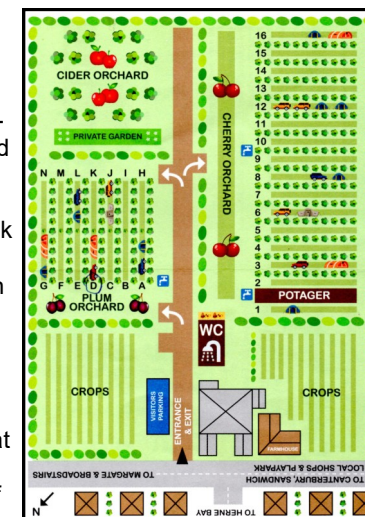
All the pitches at Hatchers Farm are in the orchards. We were in the plum orchard and it was plum season.

The excellent facilities are in the converted pig sheds - loos, showers and wash up sinks. Freezers, fridges and phone charging points. There are no facilities to empty loos as the farm is on a septic tank and you have to take your rubbish home with you. Therefore tents and small vans only.



The upside is that the site is opposite the Half Moon and Seven Stars pub and the excellent Preston Garden Centre is next door with the wonderful Copper's Bistro – food to die for. A few yards down the street is the village store and the local butcher.

Kath and Keith



Dear Members..



Just a Jiffy*...

Seen at the Steam Rally in Ballymena on Saturday last.
I've never seen this one before.

.....*Norman Hughes,*
Retired Chairman..



* The Jiffy was (is) a kit car using a BMC A series engine from the original Mini or 1100 cars.
We had two in the club many years ago, and it featured in a previous Review. AH. >>>>

All our yesterdays.

Way back then, member Ray Hancock, was a Jowett enthusiast. Not content with converting a Daihatsu Romahome to diesel, he mounted a Romahome on his spare Jowett Javelin.

Just a Jiffy ? No, Just a Jowett !!!



LIVES & LOVES.....



Having published Tamara's letter to the C & C Club magazine, I had this published in the Caravan & Motorhome Club magazine in February 2022. AH.



SIMPLY DE-LIGHTFUL

Tina and Steve Ingamells asked (Letters, December) if there are any other demountables in the Club. Yes, we have one of the demountable Romahomes that were very popular in the 1980s and '90s.

Talented industrial designer Barry Stimson designed a glass fibre living pod to fit on the very popular, tiny Japanese pick-ups. The design was bought by Island Plastics on the Isle of Wight. A club

was formed for these little vehicles (romacub.org) and the basic design was modified to become a small coach built on the Citroën C15. Many of us still use the original Romahome but very few dismount them.

The great advantage of the design is that you can update the pick-up base. We are on our third Honda, having updated to the latest model, imported from Japan.

Allan Horne, Buckinghamshire

You might notice I got a plug in for the club and our website ! AH

Our Tamara (Membership Secretary.) gets published in the Camping and Caravanning Magazine.



Gone but not forgotten ▲

WOW! I opened my latest Club magazine and there was my favourite tent - the Itisa. We bought ours, our very first tent, in 1962 - the year we got married. It's easy to put up with an A-pole and very roomy.

First came the dog, and then the children. There was still enough room for the carry cot and baby on one side, plus the toddler on the other side and the dog at the bottom.

When the children grew we needed more room, so out came the sewing machine and, using the fly sheet as a paper pattern,

I made a larger fly sheet with an extension at the front. We used this for cooking and our outdoor kit. Later we turned the tent sideways and added a small tent for the children and linked the two with another homemade fly sheet. That meant we had the Itisa for ourselves and the dog but were still close enough to the children. We continued using the Itisa when the children went their own way - I loved it.

The only problem as we got older was the fact we couldn't stand up in it. Back then, our Folk Group meets always had a Gala Dinner. I had to get dressed in my evening dress lying on my back, later appearing from the tent like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis. In our early 50s we gave the tent to a Club Youth Section and bought a much loftier tent we could stand up and eat in.

I'll always remember our wonderful Itisa, though, and I often tell people what a brilliant little tent it was.

Tamara Goulding, Reepham, Norfolk

Copyright. Items published in such magazines are copyright, but as Tamara wrote the letter, the original copyright belongs to her. Thanks, Tamara, for letting us publish this. Glad you have moved on to Romahoming. AH.

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*

Holidays at Sandwich Lakes
All bookings
30 touring pitches with 16 amp EHU, new toilet and shower block with disabled wetroom.
Caravans & trailer tents £16 per night
Large motorhomes £18 per night
Pitch fees include EHU and showers!
We also have a CL site for Caravan & Motorhome Club members
www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

Indian Summer Byriani *Romacooking.*

What better way to enjoy Romahoming in the autumn months, when we hopefully have an Indian Summer, than to enjoy the tastes of the East. Here is a recipe for a simple one pot Byriani.

Prep time 15 mins. Cooking time 20 mins. Serves 2-4.

Ingredients:

- 2 chicken breasts (cut into ½ inch cubes) 1 medium brown onion (finely chopped)
- ½ cup toasted cashew nuts. ½ cup sultanas
- 2 x 250gms packets of ready cooked basmati rice
- 1 medium sized ginger root (finely chopped) 2 cloves garlic (finely chopped)
- 1 tsp cumin seeds. 1 tsp chilli flakes. 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 1 tsp garam masala. 1 tsp cloves (crushed) 1 tsp cardomon pods (crushed)

N.B. dry spices can be prepared at home and stored in an air tight food container

For the Raita:

- 1 pot natural yoghurt
- ½ cucumber (thinly sliced)

For the garnish:

- 1 bunch fresh coriander
- 1 lime (quartered)

Method:

In your pot heat a few tablespoons of oil.

Fry the spices until they pop.

Add onion, ginger and garlic and gently fry till the onions are soft.

Add chicken breasts and cook for five minutes, maybe add some water to stop it burning.

Add cashew nuts and sultanas and cook for a further five minutes.

Add the pre-cooked rice and continue cooking until piping hot.

Serve with the Raita, some poppadoms, mango chutney and of course a nice cold Indian Pale Ale

Enjoy!.

Sheldon.



Autumn National Rally. Lickhill Manor Park. Brenda's craft lessons.



<<< The results of the 'SEW IN' Quite a pack of puppies.

Sorry I couldn't get all of your pictures in the Review. AH.

Techtopics.

Kath and Keith had this handy tip on saving fuel.



Seriously though, they had problems getting to Lickhill Manor, with the Romahome refusing to start, due to it's computer failing. They made it (just) but the van did not wish to face that journey to back to Kent ,so it again refused to start.

Hence the fuel saving 'piggy back'. They had two drivers, both very pleasant.

Kath and Keith are working on getting a new gizmo that works. She sent us this item to fill this page.



Autumn National Rally. Lickhill Manor Park. Evening Entertainment.



Autumn National Rally. Lickhill Manor Park. Brenda's craft lessons.



Our Autumn National Rally. Lickhill Manor Park



Unusual meeting. Three Romahome R40s.

