

Poetry Corner

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.



Est.1985

ROMA

THE JOURNAL OF
THE ROMA CLUB ©

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REVIEW

MOTORCARAVANNING AT ITS BEST IN ROMAHOME UNITS. www.romaclub.org.uk

www.romaclub.org



Naming our Campervan

Having bought our Citroen Berlingo campervan on impulse we named her *Dotty* as in crazy! Unfortunately that name didn't stick, so she was back to being called 'campervan' again. Finally we have decided to name her *Winnie*. She is well used, summer and winter. She certainly is a winner!! Heading off to explore Cornwall shortly.

Derek & Aly Buckle

WATCH YOUR HEIGHT !

Thanks to Kath for these infill items



'El Presidente'

Hello everyone.

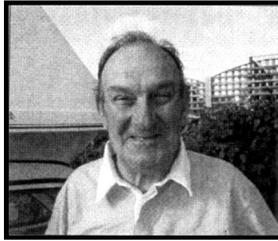
It was nice to see in the last Review, that members were having a good time at the National AGM Rally in June.

Unfortunately, my health problems mean that Val and

I are no longer Romahomers, but we both enjoy following your adventures in the magazine.

Get out and enjoy your Romahome. We enjoyed our time getting out and about.

Fill the Review with your adventures. Let's read about where you have been.



Bill (and Val)

Membership Matters.

A warm welcome to



Douglas and Margaret Hancock
 Stephenie Fincham
 Jane Wakefield
 Penny Wright
 Ian March and Rebecca Edwards
 Julie Riley
 Christine Oxley
 Nicholas Phillips
 Keith and Helen Wilkie
 Norman and Milla Hills
 Denis O'Neil and Linda West
 Daniel Middlehurst
 Peter and Susan Whitehead
 Ricardo Da Costa
 Andrew and Tracey Gee
 Gillian Catling and Michael Ball
 Anthony Hildreth

Milton Keynes
 Shoreham-by-Sea
 Somerset
 Norfolk
 Llanelli
 Essex
 Pontefract
 Farnborough
 County Durham
 Brighton
 Solihull
 Hove
 Southampton
 London
 Staffordshire
 Hanworth
 Kent

Welcome Back

Angela Hodgson

Akroydon



Round and about.....

Immigration

I am sorry to announce that I have been guilty of swelling the immigration figures of asylum seekers to Britain.

During our recent tour along the Loire in France, I believe that this subject must have stowed away in the van and unfortunately suffered a chilly death trapped within the refrigerator.

Identified as a benign female green bush cricket nonetheless indicates how easily bugs and infections can be picked up on our travels. The van wheels and undercarriage had been washed down on our return, a precaution in case of passing through a bird flu zone.

Over many years of EU touring, I cannot remember any occasion of beasts stowing away inside the vehicle.

Could it be that it was encouraged to take up residence in the van due to the inside temperature being 47.1°C during our time in France!

Frederica O'Hare.



Our regular contributor Freddy, and lady wife Jenny enjoying themselves in the E.U. >

Thanks for all your advice and tips, Freddy.

AH.



Your FREE Sales and wants....

FOR SALE Romahome 20 2010 23,000miles £21,500

Low-mileage Romahome ideal for couples or solo travellers.

4-belts, excellent condition inside, scratch to roof, very economical, digital radio

Key Features & Layout

- Two-berth layout – rear lounge converts easily into two singles or a spacious double. Factory fitted belts.

- Compact kitchen – 2-ring gas hob, grill, sink, and fridge with freezer compartment. Ample storage – over cab.

Tel 07981 273801 Angela Hodgson. West Yorkshire



From Your Editor.....

I had the usual editorial worries about filling this edition of your favourite magazine (or comic, as one committee member called it !) but in the end, it filled up nicely.

Our master chef (and Chairman) gave us another of his masterpiece concoctions for you to enjoy, slaving over a hot Romahome stove, when you could be your holiday break, like our Romahomers on page six. You could be struggling to fix the water tank problems, following Freddie's instructions.

Otherwise, enjoy your Romahome, anyway you like. We don't manage to run club rallies, as in the days of yore, but members are getting together to enjoy 'Meets.'

If you are planning time away, the idea is, to contact other Romahomers to join you at a Caravan site somewhere nice.

Our problem, at the moment, is how to notify members of these 'Meets'.

Your committee are working on this, and the main idea they come up with, is using social media.

The club's 'Official Facebook' page is likely to be the best choice, but not many of you have joined it. Quick, before winter settles in. Join the 'Official Romahome Owners Facebook' site. Then we can all get together, and meet fellow enthusiasts.

With this edition, you should have received flyers to sign up new members.

We used to leave them on the windscreens of Romahomes we found on our travels, but it appears we are no longer allowed to pop them under windscreens ! However, should to meet another owner of these great little vehicles, chat them up about the joys of membership, and hand them a flyer.

Thanks,

Allan

Inside your Review

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COPY DEADLINE

We very much welcome your contributions.

Get them to me as soon as possible, but the very final collation date is the 10th DEC. for the WINTER REVIEW.

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MORE MEMBERS REQUIRED !!

If the unofficial Facebook pages are to be believed, there are more Romahomes on the road, than ever left Island Plastics, or the Romahome factories,

From a letter published in the Camping and Caravanning Club magazine, it would appear that many, many owners seem to be unaware of our special club. What a shame !

So, if you happen across a fellow Romahome owner who is unaware of us, please hand them one of the Flyers you will have received with this copy of the Review.

Keep them in your van. Please don't pop them under windscreen wipers.
I'm told this is now illegal. AH

Your Romaclub committee.

Club contact Tel. No. 07863 414017.

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WEBSITE :-	www.romaclub.org	or just Google Romaclub.

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

***Romacooking.* Smokey Spinach Shakshuka**

Everybody loves a BBQ. There is something about the smoky flavour given off by the charcoal that appeals to our palates. Of course it doesn't stop there. We have been smoking foods for centuries. From smoked bacon and smoked salmon, through smoked haddock and kippers, smoked sausage, smoked cheese all the way to baba ganoush, as a species we have embraced the smokey flavours which delight us.

Here is a simple recipe, suitable for breakfast or lunch that makes use of smoked paprika, which gives it a delicious smoky peppery taste. All you need is a large frying pan and one burner.

Sheldon.

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 spring onions, chopped
- 4 tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- 2 tsp smoked paprika
- 200g baby spinach leaves
- 4 free range eggs
- 1 tsp red chilli flakes.

To serve: toasted sourdough bread.
Greek yoghurt



1. Heat the frying pan over a medium heat, add the oil and fry the garlic and spring onions.
2. Add the tomatoes, season with salt and pepper and cook for about 5 minutes, until the tomatoes have softened.
3. Add the cumin seeds and smoked paprika and mix thoroughly.
4. Add the spinach a handful at a time, allowing it to wilt. A lid will quicken up this process.
5. When all the spinach has been added and thoroughly mixed in cook for a few minutes to evaporate some of the moisture.
6. Make 4 cavities in the mixture and crack an egg into each cavity. Cook until the whites of the eggs are cooked but the yolks still runny. A lid will speed up this process. Sprinkle with the chilli flakes.
7. Spoon an egg and some of the smoky spinach mixture onto a plate and serve with toasted sourdough bread and a spoonful of Greek yoghurt. **Enjoy!**

Round and about.....

Bidford Gliding and Flying Club Weekend Meet

Introduction

The Bidford Gliding and Flying Club recently held a memorable long weekend meet, all made possible thanks to the dedicated efforts of Chris Godfrey, our club treasurer, who took the lead in organizing the event.

Arrival and Friday Evening

Most group members made their way to the venue on Friday, navigating through heavy showers and some delays on the roads. Once everyone arrived and settled in, the group gathered in the clubhouse bar, setting a friendly and welcoming tone for the weekend ahead.

Saturday Activities

Saturday greeted us with much drier weather, which encouraged a number of the more adventurous members to take to the skies in the gliders. The day continued with a delicious barbecue in the evening, followed by outstanding entertainment provided by Lin Farrington, which was enjoyed by all.

Sunday Farewells

On Sunday, wind and rain returned, impacting our planned activities. Many members opted to gather in the clubhouse for a lovely breakfast. As the morning progressed, some members said their goodbyes and departed for home. Those who remained concluded the weekend by meeting once more in the clubhouse bar, sharing stories and reflecting on the enjoyable time spent together.

Sue Sheriff.



View from the Chair. Autumn 2025.

Did you all manage to achieve lots of roaming this summer? It was certainly the weather for it!

Here at Mahn mansions we did several trips, it is amazing how many breweries now have campsites attached to them.

If any of you are partial to watching daytime quiz shows on the TV, then you will have noticed that most of the winners, when asked what they will spend the money on, say they are looking forward to buying a campervan and exploring the wonderful British countryside.

Remember Romahomers, you were there first!

We have all been doing just that for years! 40 years to be precise! Yes, that milestone is coming up next year.

The club is very different to how it was back then. For one thing Romahomes are not made anymore, and the numbers of vehicles on the road are becoming less each year, they don't last forever!

Therefore the number of members we have is fewer than before.

Allan, your deputy chair and editor of the fantastic magazine, is always ribbing me about not liking to look back to how the club was way back then.

He is not entirely correct though.

I have very fond memories of my first Romaclub rally, and it was nothing like the rallies and meets that we have now.

Times they are a changing, however, and we will have to embrace the 'new order' or be left behind!

When my first Romahome was built in 1999, we could only access the internet through dial up connection, sitting patiently while it connected, and allowing no one to use the phone whilst we were 'online'. Smart phones were something that appeared on 'Tomorrow's World' and were so futuristic that they would never become part of our everyday life.

Now we all have instant access to so much information. Rallies and meets are organised at short notice, and advertised on social media.

Do you use this method to find out about what's going on? Or do you use the website? Let us know and we can try to make things easier for everyone to be 'in the know'.

Happy Romahoming

Sheldon, Tony and Sherlock.



Third time lucky! We had planned to visit Ireland in April 2024. Unfortunately that didn't happen as Derek was very poorly and needed heart surgery.

Rescheduled for September.
That didn't happen either due to stormy weather.

Finally in June this year we set off in our CitBlingo.
Night ferry from Holyhead to Dublin.

No chance for a kip. Over tired child screaming for most of the journey.

Many places of interest to visit. For us the highlights were Rathlin Island.
Lovely to watch the puffins and seals.

Unfortunately high wind prevented us from walking across the rope bridge .

Giant's Causeway with it's beauty and extraordinary geological features



Romatip time.

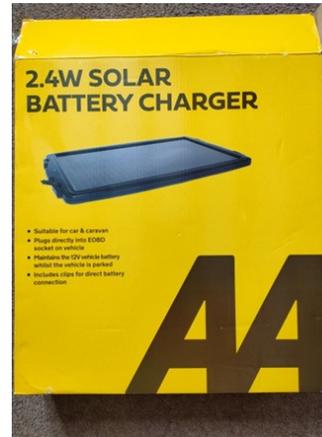
Not roaming and using your van much during the winter months?

Then it's a good idea to invest in a solar battery charger.

Very easy to install and very reasonably priced!

This one from the AA was sourced from Amazon for £30. We had no idea that Millie even had an EOBD socket, but we found it!

Jac & Gudge



smile

The biggest lie I tell myself is... " I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it".

At my age "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.



Romatip time.

French Tip.

We are just back from France and want to bring to members attention if they intend to use French PEAG Motorways, that “similar to the dart crossing”, PEAG payment booths are being removed, [certainly on the A13 the A14 and the A4 motorways] covering the north of France. Indication that a TOLL station is approaching is a notice board stating “**AUTOROUTE EN FLUX LIBRE**”.

The Libre in this case refers to free flowing traffic and not that it is free of payment.

On passing through the PEAG plaza there will be further signs stating that you have 72 hours to pay the toll.

This however, we found can be done on our mobile phone in English online to SANEF.COM by keying in our vehicle registration number and providing bank card details. Alternatively it is claimed the payment can be made via tabac shops

Freddy O'Hare

Payer l'autoroute en flux libre

Autoroute Paris-Normandie (A13 - A14) & Péage de Boulay (A4)

Voir la carte >

Paiement en ligne

Vous disposez d'un délai de 72h pour régler vos passages sur nos autoroutes à péage en flux libre

[En savoir plus](#)

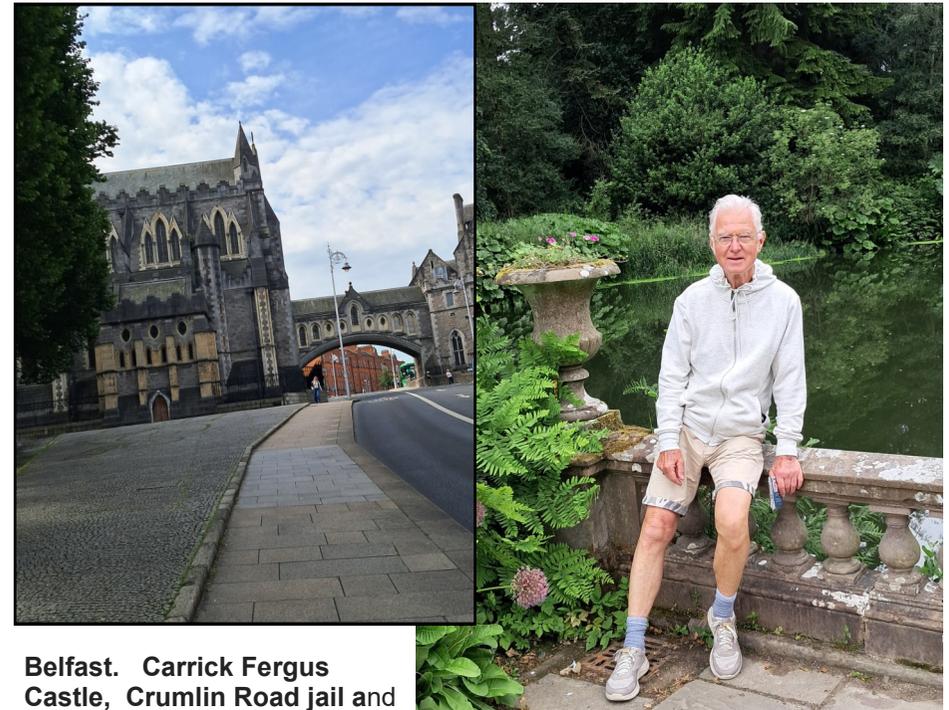
Dear Members.

To. Sheldon, Tony and Sherlock, plus all the committee members and Romahomers !

Thank you for organising a great weekend and all the friendliness shown to a newbie.

Hope to see you all again soon.

Val. X in Susan.



Belfast. Carrick Fergus Castle, Crumlin Road jail and lots of information and exhibitions of the Titanic.

We seemed to have missed the English heat wave.

Rain and high winds entire 12 days.

Arrived home exhausted with happy memories.

Derek & Aly Buckle

>>>>>

Winnie was christened today. She likes her chosen name!



Round and about.....

Harpenden Common Rally.

About 800 Classic vehicles covering the entire Harpenden Common and only one Romahome my HyLo seen right at the back. Run by the Rotary each year raising money for several charities this year including Hertfordshire Scouts hence the scout gazebo and van. Best regards

Freddy



Romatip time.

Burping the baby upgrade.

In the Roma Review 'Issue 139 Dec. 2021 there was an article called "Burping the baby". This was related to the repeated issue I have with my freshwater pump that repeatedly fails to self prime and will not deliver water if left idle over a few days.

The original remedy was to force prime the pump employing a drinks bottle and a short length of plastic tube to join it to the water tank outlet.

Clearing out my home brewing kit I came across a siphon device comprising bellows and one way flap valves.

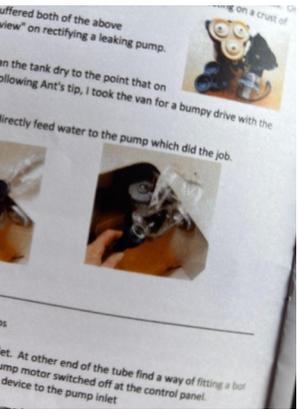
By utilising the same short length of plastic piping and a bit of PVC electrical tape will join the siphon unit outlet to the water tank exit. Operating the bellows sucks in the water and then expresses it via the one way valves to prime the pump into action and water to flow. The advantage over the previous method is that as the pump begins to function the siphon can be left in place until there is a good flow to the faucet being provided by water pump.

Steps

1. Fill water tank to above the supply outlet.
2. Reach in with the siphon unit to jam the tubing into water tank outlet ensuring that the inlet to the siphon is below the water level.
3. Open the faucet that should start the water pump running
4. Squeeze the siphon bellows and on release the bellows will fill with water. Squeeze the bellows once more and the water in the bellows will be expressed towards the pump. A further squeeze will increase the pressure at the pump.

Tip.

I found, rather than trying a high force, maintaining a moderate pressure was sufficient to get the most recalcitrant pump operating.



Freddy O'Hare