BOOKING FORM

Roma Club National AGM Rally. Friday 30th May—Monday 2nd June 2025. Lickhill Manor Park, Stourport on Severn, Worcester DY13 8RL.

Membership Number:				
First person. Full Name (s):				
Second Person. Full Name				
Address:				
Post CodeTelephone number:				
Email:				
Pitch with EHU.	£30.00 p/night .	No. of nights@ £30.00.£		
No EHU	£24.00 p/night.	No. of nights@ £24.00 £		

Total Remittance: £.....

We would prefer BACs payment. 30.97.21 a/c 00393737

But please post this form to the address below, or email it to :-

treasurer.romaclub@gmail.com

Cheques are payable to: Romaclub and send to our treasurer, , together with this form, please.

Mrs Anne Grayston,

31 Clifton Street, May Bank, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs, ST5 0JL

Special Needs. :- Please state. (e.g. Not near dogs, near a friend, near toilets)

Final Date for booking—5th April 2025.



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

www.romaclub.org

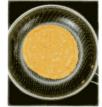
Advance notice. National AGM Romaclub Rally.



Romacooking.

Ooh La La, Ma Crepe Suzette!

We recently watched a repeat of a splendid television show 'An Audience With Kenneth Williams' in which he sung a song called Ma Crepe Suzette. Do search for it on the internet, it is worth finding. What a talent he was, and what a fine dish to create in the back of a Romahome, whether you use the 'cheat' option' or go for 'prepare it from scratch'. All you need is a frying pan. First we



need to make pancakes! You can use your tried and trusted pancake recipe or, and I promised a 'cheats option' you can used ready made pancakes! Whichever you choose put them to one side and proceed with the sauce. Peel a medium desert orange and de-pith the peel. Slice into thin strips. In your frying pan poach the orange peel in

syrup until tender. Add the juice of the orange and simmer until reduced to syrup consistency. Now fold the pancakes into quarters and place in the orange syrup. Now the fun part. Add a large measure (50mls) of Grand Marnier. To flambe or not to flambe ?,

That is the question. In restaurants, of course they flambe the alcohol off at your table, but please, you are in the back of a campervan! Health and safety dictate you leave the alcohol in, it will help with the washing up later. When warmed through serve your pancakes with lashings of whipped cream. Again you can visit



'cheats corner' and use a can of squirty cream! Enjoy.



Citreon, Mirage, Caravelle, Hors d'Oevre, Brut et Chanel, Chaise Longue, Sacha Distelle, Pince nez, Bidet, Commisionaire, Mon Repos, Brigitte Bardot, Te Sans Frontieres. A Gaulloise Cigarette, Brie et Camanbert Fromage, R.S.V.P. Ma Crepe Suzette!

Romatip time.

Window Safety.

After colliding with an open side

window in my van I decided to put safety ribbon that hangs down when the

window is in the fully open position.

Simply a ribbon, tied to the bottom window locks that hangs down in front of the 'vertically challenged' owner!

Works very well. Janet & Frank Price

2314.

Frank tells us that the picture is not up to his usual standard as he had to take it in the new Google standard ! AH.



You have to keep your eyes open to either see these strange vehicles, or spend a bit of time looking at Google !

Thanks to Kath for the latest oddities. AH.





WANTED SINGERS/ENTERTAINERS

As you will have gathered, plans are taking shape for the 2025 AGM Rally. This year we are moving away from the trend of booking 'west-end singers' for you. After all, the feedback from members is that 'they are too loud' and ' they don't sing the right songs'.

So for this rally we are going back in time to the days of 'Home Grown Entertainment'

If you feel that you have something to offer then get the hairbrush out and start practicing in the bathroom mirror.

In the past we have had musicians, singers, poetry readings and stand up comedy. If there is a special requirement that you need to make your entertainment memorable then please let us know!

Then I had to make a run for it.

I bought a dog from my local blacksmith. When I got it home it made a bolt for the door.

I was walking the dogs the other day when all of a sudden they vanished into thin air.

Not sure where they went, but I've got some leads.

From Your Editor.....

Where did that str come f

that strange man come from ?

The one that spread himself across page 15 of your last Review ?

I contacted our new printer, but he didn't know how it got onto that page, He apologised and, even offered to reprint the magazine.

The apology was enough, but I hope that outline man didn't spoil Linda's item on her trip to Yorkshire. It does say something for our readership, that I only heard one complaint. Thanks.

Thanks to our contributors for sharing their adventures with their fellow members, and the tips and skills that are also shared.

You will be aware that members of our committee have come to the end of their `*term of office'* and are stepping down, leaving us in dire need of a treasurer and secretary. Our thanks to Jac, Anne and Kath for their service over the years. If you wish the club to continue, and you feel you

In years gone by, your Winter Review would arrive on your doorstep in December.

can help, please get in touch.

With the old Post Office, your cards would also arrive before Christmas, and would have cost a lot less to post..

But things change. The new Post Office system means that many of your cards will arrive in January, and, as we now send your membership card with this Review, that will also have arrived in January.

So, I have to change my Christmas message.

I hope you had a Pery Merry Christmas, And I wish you a Happy New Dear.

Inside your Review

- P.2. Romacooking.
- P 3. From your editor. P.4. IMPORTANT
- MESSAGE !
- P.5. View from the Chair. P.6. Lives and Loves.
- Evicted !. P.8. .Lives and Loves.
- First Trip.
- P.10. Spring Break and A Warm Welcome.
- P.11. Summer Break.
- P.12. Membership Matters
- P.13. Lives and Loves.
- Oh Dear ! P.14. Lives and Loves.
- .14. Lives and Loves. South of Thames..
- P.15. Techtopics.
- P.18. Wanted.
- P.19. Romatips.
- P.20. Booking Form.

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 MARCH. for the SPRING REVIEW. Editor, Roma Review, 23, Fairmile, AYLESBURY, Bucks.HP21 7JS. Tel. 01296 428580 editor@romaclub.org.uk



Membership Matters. IMPORTANT NOTICE. PLEASE READ.

At the AGM in May we will be losing two of our committee members. Anne Graystone is to relinquish her role of treasurer after five years service. Jac Norton will be standing down as Secretary after four years of service. We are also saying goodbye from the committee to Emma Griffiths (Labels Officer) and Kath Gifford (Despatch Officer). Many thanks to them all for stepping up when the club was in danger of closing in 2020. They have done splendid and much appreciated work over this time.

The roles of Labels Officer and Despatch Officer are thankfully being taken over by Anne Graystone which will give the new committee a sense of continuity. We do , however need volunteers to fill the vacant Secretary and Treasurer seats. The club cannot function without.



Please, all members consider volunteering. If we do not have a full committee either before or by the AGM in May, then the club will close Official Notification. The 39th Annual General Meeting of the Romaclub will be held at 11.00 am, Sunday 1st June 2025. at

Lickhill Manor Park. Stourport on Severn. Worcester DY13 8RL

If you are unable to attend, the meeting will be live streamed. https://youtube.com/live/5kwtiSnzns4?feature=share



Where your lamp set up employs two LED strips remember that the LED strips are connected in parallel, positive side of the strip wired to the positive side of the second strip.

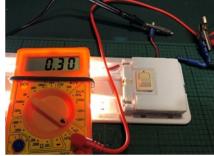
If all is good with the circuit reassemble the Lamp. On my version the plastic bars were re-fitted and super glued to lock down the wiring and the black wire anchor clip.

Finally, all that is left to do is reassemble the lamp with its diffuser before returning it to the van, reconnecting the The State of the S

bullets and screwing the lamp back to the ceiling once more.

The lamp fitting converted to LED strips had a measured load of **0.3 Amps**, produces a stated double the lumens of light, but draws only 20% of the **1.33 Amps** load of the former 16 Watt fluorescent lamp fitting.

Freddy O'Hare.



plastic label to use again.

Stripping the "Labcraft "and "Lumo" versions is a bit fiddly. The assembly is held in place by the pole connections of the lamp switch soldered to the circuit board. To release, the assembly the circuit board must be prised up simultaneously applying the soldering iron to the switch pole ends.



Preparation of the LED strips

On the LED strip there are marked places where the strip can be cut . Take great care to cut on the line and square to the length as the copper termination pads are very small. I cut the LED strip into 250mm lengths. [Same length of the

old tubes1

Tin the terminal pads at each end of the LED strip before sticking them to the lamp chassis

Tip. As the LED strip from the reel tends to curve, tape it down flat to be tinned. Do not tape as photo shows to a cutting mat. [It melts] use a heavy piece of cardboard.

I used a 15W soldering iron. The pads tin readily using just a touch of flux. Clean any flux residue with IPA/meths.

Fitting the LED's to the lamp chassis

The adhesive on the back of the strip has a very strong bond and care is needed in positioning the strips as it is tricky to lift off without damage once stuck down.

Wiring the lamp

The LED strips are to be connected in parallel and are polarity sensitive. The positive side of the strip is marked with a '+'.



Using the same bullet connectors previously retained, solder the positive '+' red lead to a "lamp switch" pole. Continue the circuit from the second swich pole to the '+'

tab on the LED strip. The black bullet connector lead returns directly from the negative '-' tab on the LED strip.



TIP. To form a physical anchor. I have used a

retained 'tube terminal clip' in the line so that the black wire will not pull on the fragile LED strip. Feed the bullet connector leads back through the plastic label and clip it back onto the lamp chassis View from the Ghair, 2025

Yes! You read it correctly. 2025! That is a quarter of the century gone.

Does anyone remember when we turned the corner in 2000 and we were all in fear of the end of humanity with the millennium bug.

We got through it and life went on.

No doubt 2025 will bring us new challenges. It is a volatile and scary planet at the moment. But the tenacity of our human species is second to none. Whatever life throws at us in the coming year, we will get through it.

Be brave, face the challenges head on, and enjoy every moment. We are only here once.

I hope you all have a great year, and look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming events,

Sheldon, Tony and Sherlock.



LIVES & LOVES...

Evicted from our pitch

There I was, happily ensconced in the land of nod, when I heard voices. There is nothing unusual in that, the little voices often talk to me, but this seemed different.

Then it slowly dawned on me that it was Maureen talking, and that there was a bright light outside the side door of the R30. Why was Maureen talking to a bright light at nearly midnight?

We were staying on the Tewkesbury Abbey CMC site and had been there for three days; this was to be our last night before moving on. We like this site, having been there on previous occasions; it is close to the historic town centre and abbey church, it is very well kept and the facilities are first class. The only down side is that Tewkesbury is prone to flooding following heavy rain in the Welsh hills and the surrounding higher ground.

To return to the night in question, the bright light was being wielded by one of the wardens who was telling us that we needed to move as our pitch was about to be inundated. Organised activity therefore ensued to make the R30 back into a vehicle, as opposed to being a bedroom. The hook-up lead by this time was submerged across what resembled a paddy field before rising to the high-level bollard socket. Fortunately, the water was only ankle deep.

Within a short time, we were on the move with the site wardens directing us to a place on higher ground. They were clearly well drilled for this situation, there was no panic or obvious confusion.

So, we settled back down to sleep.

By next morning, when we were due to leave anyway, the pitch we had vacated was completely underwater. The wardens were now touring the site telling everybody that they needed to vacate the site by mid-day as there was a full-scale flood alert in force.



Techtopics.

Mantel to Crystal

Before getting our Romahome, the family would rent an ancient caravan and I remember reading to the gentle hiss of the gloaming light coming from the wall gas mantle lamps. Well, with the passage of years my eyes aint so good. Demanding ever more illumination late last year, we were caught out after a few nights with a rapidly failing leisure battery.

Resolved to remedy the situation, my latest project has been to convert our powerhungry fluorescent tube with the latest LED strip illumination.

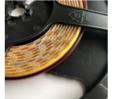
Sourcing the LED's

Google revealed several suppliers of 12v LED lighting providing a wide range of forms and styles of illumination, such as, light output, colour temperature and importantly the amperage load.

I decided on the C.O.B. strip [*Chip on Board*] a continuous line of element that will provide a bar of light in "Warm White" with a light output of 720 lumens /meter length.

Replacing the twin fluorescent tubes with two 250mm lengths of LED strip will provide 360 lumens of light or [25W equivalent in old money].

This nearly doubles the light output of the original light fitting for only 20% of the former



Removing Lamp fittings from the ceiling

Best practice is to unscrew the fuse at the master panel. *Failure to do this may result in blowing the 10Af [quick blow] glass fuse, as I did!* Removing the screws at each end of the lamp allows the fitting to dangle by its wires. Gently tugging the wires from the hole in the ceiling reveals the blue bullet connectors from the roof cavity.

end of the strip.

Return the lamp holding screws to the ceiling for later or mark the location of the screw holes if you have a carpeted ceiling.

[Note that the red wire positive supply connector is a socket, and the black negative connector is a pinion]

Return the lamp holding screws to the ceiling for later or mark the location of the screw holes if you have a carpeted ceiling.



The next part of the job can be done in the light and comfort of indoors.

Remove the lamp diffuser cover and remove the fluorescent tubes for sale or safe disposal [nasty chemicals within].

The circuit board assembly found under the plastic label is not needed for the LEDs to work and can be disposed to recycling **BUT RETAIN the bullet connectors and red and black wire**

LIVES & LOVES......

South of the Thames summer diary 2024

Those of us South of the Thames rarely use the Dartford Crossings, Tunnel or Bridge, as it's not an easy experience. Fraught with traffic queues and accidents and don't forget to pay the Dart Charge.

So a few of us, 5 members and 3 Romahomes, have been meeting up in the South East.

On 1st July we met up at Apple Acres, Southborough, between Tonbridge and Royal Tunbridge Wells. A lovely site with really good facilities but best of all you only pay for the electricity you have used. We put £3 on the meter and there were still a few pence left after 3 nights. The bus goes in both directions from Hangman's Hill at the top of the farm driveway. In less that an hour we had collected the daily papers and fresh pastries in Tonbridge and back for mid morning coffee. One evening we had a Chinese Takeaway delivered to camp.

In Royal Tunbridge Wells we visited the Pantiles and had a meal in the Opera House, now a Wetherspoon's.

On 10th July we stayed in the plum orchard at Hatcher's Farm, Preston, near Canterbury. No ehu but very good facilitles. We had lunch in Copper's Bistro at the Preston Nursery. There is a pub opposite the camp, a village shop and local butcher, too. Plenty of windfall plums ! We stayed 3 nights.

The 12th of August saw us at Bramley Park near Eastbourne for a couple of nights. A massive site with good facilites but no EHU. Choose your own spot. We had a lovely tour of the area as one of us was raised nearby.

For August bank holiday weekend we went to our usual site at Bridge Farm, Appledore, on the Romney Marsh. No EHU but good toilet facilities and cassette emptying. There is a flower festival in the Church each year and lovely refreshments, too. The fresh fish on the beach near Dungeness was another stop. They cook fresh fish, too, with lovely fried new potatoes. Miss Mollett's High Class Tea Room in the main street is very good, too. Excellent cheese scones and muffins!

On the camp site there are two pet sheep who stroll around most of the day. Very entertaining.

After the Romaclub Autumn Rally we went back to Apple Acres on **30**th **Sept** for another jolly time. As it was getting cooler we put £5 on the electricity meter and used a small oil filled heater both morning and evening for three days. It was just about warm enough to eat outside so we had a Chinese Takeaway delivered again.

That's our summer diary for meets.

Next year we may find some other good sites SOUTH OF THE THAMES !

Kath and Keith, Sandwich, Kent. We left shortly after 9 o'clock, thankful that the R30 can transform from a comfy camper to a road going vehicle so quickly.





. Did I envy the poor caravanners with their gargantuan awnings full of home comforts that now had to be dismantled and packed away in a hurry– what do you think?

It's a good Barry Brazier



7



Oh Dear !

Hi everyone,

I had a bit of a problem. I'm from Peebles in the Scottish borders. I went down to Blackpool to buy a Romahome. That part went OK. It wasn't what I expected.

On the add it says it was clean and ready to enjoy. That couldn't be further from the truth. It's very dirty. I don't think it does ever seen any kind of polish or even a car wash. Any way, we decided on a price, and I set off back to Scotland. It's was running fine no problem there. I was needing a rest and a coffee. I stopped at a service station Still all well. I got my refreshments, made my way back to the van. It was dead wouldn't start.

Now the fun part starts. This was about 9/10ish at night.

I phoned the breakdown people I got thorough my insurance. The person on the other end of the phone put me through to a breakdown company, who would have nothing to do with me.

They told me to get back to my insurance company because they never had any information on my claim.

I got back to the insurance people. They said they only answer phones at that time of night. I'd have to wait till 8am the next morning. By this time I was just a little bit annoyed – no, a big bit annoyed. What they suggested was to phone up the AA, and I could claim back the cost. So I did. The AA man was brilliant, and I was on my way. He told me I should buy a new battery.

All being well, I'm heading up the M6. On the way I must have not been paying attention and ended up off the M6 at Lockerbie, the town were the Pan Am plane crashed in the 80s.

I was following my satnav to get back on the M6.

I know this is a long drawn-out story, but I'm not finished yet.

Driving along a dark country road. I came upon a few sharp bends. There was a massive truck behind me, all lit up like Blackpool illuminations. I'm watching him and it was too late to handle the situation.

I skidded over the road and went half way down a ditch.

I'm sure if it wasn't for the bramble bushes things would have been a lot worse. Anyway, I was pretty shaky and disoriented. I couldn't get out for the bramble.. What a dilemma. The lorry driver came over to see if I was okay. I was fine.

LIVES & LOVES.....



My first camp in my, new to me, Romahome at Mount Folley Farm, Bigbury on Sea was very good. This camp was organised by another group of campers. Sadly mine was the only Romahome.

The site is good but has a slight slope. I had my first experience with levelling, also with the gas, the steadies and the 'Zig'. Everyone was very friendly and helpful to the 'nube'.

We all had a good extended weekend which included a walk to Bigbury beach, with Burgh Island in view. The cafe was very busy and the cheesy chips and coffee very welcome. The walk back uphill to our vans took a while with several stops on the way to admire the view, of course! There is also a longer walk from the site to the mouth of the River Avon.

The camp website states the facilities are basic but our group thought them ok. Toilets, showers, dish washing, and waste disposal. There are electric hook-up pitches and several none electric hook-up pitches in the fields above the cliffs.



Dogs are allowed on site with certain restrictions. It is a very quiet site, so no outdoor radios, speakers or loud music at all. The cost I thought was reasonable at £10 per night plus £6 per night hook-up. Perhaps somewhere for a get together next year.



Sue Foxhall Cornwall



From the Treasurer

I propose to stand down as Treasurer at the 2025 AGM. I have been doing this job since around May 2020 so I feel it is time for me to leave.

We therefore, need someone who is willing to take over.

The workload isn't great. I spend a short while at the beginning of every month entering items off the bank statement into the Excel spreadsheet (we have actual receipts and payments books if you prefer).

Then at the beginning of the year I prepare the accounts and final balance sheet. I then type out my Treasurer's Report for the AGM booklet. Other than that, there is just paying out any invoices I receive, by bank transfer from our account.

The committee has a zoom meeting once a month where I give a short report on the state of our finances.

Ihave enjoyed my time as Treasurer and hope that someone will come forward to take my place.

Anne Graystone

Your Romaclub committee. Club contact Tel. No. 07863 414017.				
PRESIDENT.	Bill Steers.			
CHAIRMAN	Sheldon Mahn.	chairman.romaclub@gmail.com		
		Tel. 07771364801		
VICE CHAIRMAN and EDITOR-	Allan Horne -	editor.romaclub@gmail.com		
		Tel 01296 428580		
SECRETARY	Jacqui Norton	secretary.romaclub@gmail.com		
		Tel. 07958639692		
TREASURER	Anne Graystone	treasurer.romaclub@gmail.com		
M/SHIP SECRETARY	Susan Sheriff.	membership.romaclub@gmail.com		
DESPATCH OFFICERS	Kath Gifford and	Keith Neat.		
despatch.romaclub@gmail.com Tel. 07790299394				
RALLY OFFICER	Vacant.	rally.romaclub@gmail.com		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER	Tamara Goudin	g. tamara.romaclub@gmail.com		
WEBSITE :- www.romaclub.org or just Google Romaclub.				
The password for the members only section is on your membership card.				

.He said I should phone the police and they were there in minutes. They helped me out of the van and did all the legal stuff - breathalyser and all that. Everything was fine, but there was no way I was going to get the van out.

I said " here we go again." I phoned the AA they said "that's fine, BUT.".

There's always a but. Because I'm not covered with them for recovery. They will have to charge me. The charge was £400. I told them my situation with my insurance company. They told me to claim it all back. I'm getting really cold, tired, so they said they would send a recovery vehicle to me.

This was 1.30 am. The police said that I could go back to the station with them to get warmed up and get a cup of tea.

That tea tasted like the best cup I've ever had. There's more.

I got a call from the recovery people, only to be told that there won't be a vehicle there until 8,30am. I was gutted.

The officers had to go on patrol and couldn't leave me in the station. I went back to my freezing Romahome.

And they were true to their word. The recovery motor arrived. It took him 10 minutes to get the van up out and onto his motor. I was knackered, frozen, and very hungry. The driver of the rescue vehicle made a stop so I could freshen up and have some coffee.

All ended well. I've now got to retrieve the cost of the recovery from my insurance company.

Thanks for reading this if you got this far.

First time Romahome owner._Martin Hall.

Jenny O'Hare was good enough to send

I've been a member for a few weeks. Thank you.

Kath downloaded this from Facebook. I thought you might be interested, but I'm not sure if Martin is just a Facebook member or a real Romahome Club member. AH.



Results from Brenda's craft group.



Kite flying on the Sunday.



FANCY A SPRING BREAK?

Then here are a couple that might take your fancy,

14th, 15th, 16th February Lyn and Sue are hosting a meet at Wagtail Country Park.

See their website at www.wagtailcountrypark.co.uk

Or ring them on 07814 481088 to book. Remember to mention Romahome in the comments and they will try to put us all together. Let's hope the Johnny Wagtail Bar is hosting another Mr. and Mrs. Quiz for Valentines!

Or if you fancy a visit to the North Norfolk Coast then Searles Leisure Resort, Hunstanton are holding a March Super Saver event from 3rd to 24th March. All midweek fully serviced hardstanding pitches at £12 per night. Minimum 2 night stay. See their website www.searles.co.uk for details and booking or call them on 01485 534211. And the bonus is that your £12 per night gives you access to all the facilities on the complex so remember to pack your swimming cozzie!

Membership

A warm welcome to

$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	
🖞 David Herman	Clitheroe 🛱
 Philip Russon & Amanda Holmes Anthony & Kate Philbin Marly Couchman William & Patricia Grimston Jacqueline Levett 	Conwyn
Marly Couchman	Devon
William & Patricia Grimston	Leeds
	Harrogate T
Helen Lunn	Poole
 Helen Lunn Alistair Fyfe Val Guest Michelle Harper Valerie Stone 	Basingstoke
Val Guest	Wolverhampton
Michelle Harper	Swansea
Valerie Stone	Suffolk
Michael & Linda Richardson	Fakenham W
Jirena Krasinska-Lobban	Angus o
Michael & Linda Richardson Irena Krasinska-Lobban Richard Stevens	Lincoln Conwyn Devon Leeds Harrogate Poole Basingstoke Wolverhampton Swansea Suffolk Fakenham Angus Bordon
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	

## FANCY AN EARLY SUMMER BREAK ?

We have to been to the Lickhill Manor Park site many times over the years, and have been made very welcome.

We will have the usual events to fill your time-the `bring and share' supper. Our Chairman and his No. 1 assistant will be tending the barbecue. We have a quiz, and an new(ish) item—Bingo.

Crafting, home made entertainment, 'Songs of Praise' on the Sunday morning, a table top sale, where you can get rid of those items now surplus to requirements, etc. etc.

Not only that, but we spare a little time for the club AGM.

The pleasant stroll along the river (or is it a canal) takes about twenty minutes, and Stourport canal basin is really worth a visit.

So, come along and join fellow Romahomers for a fun filled weekend.

The booking form is on the back page of this Review.



It will be