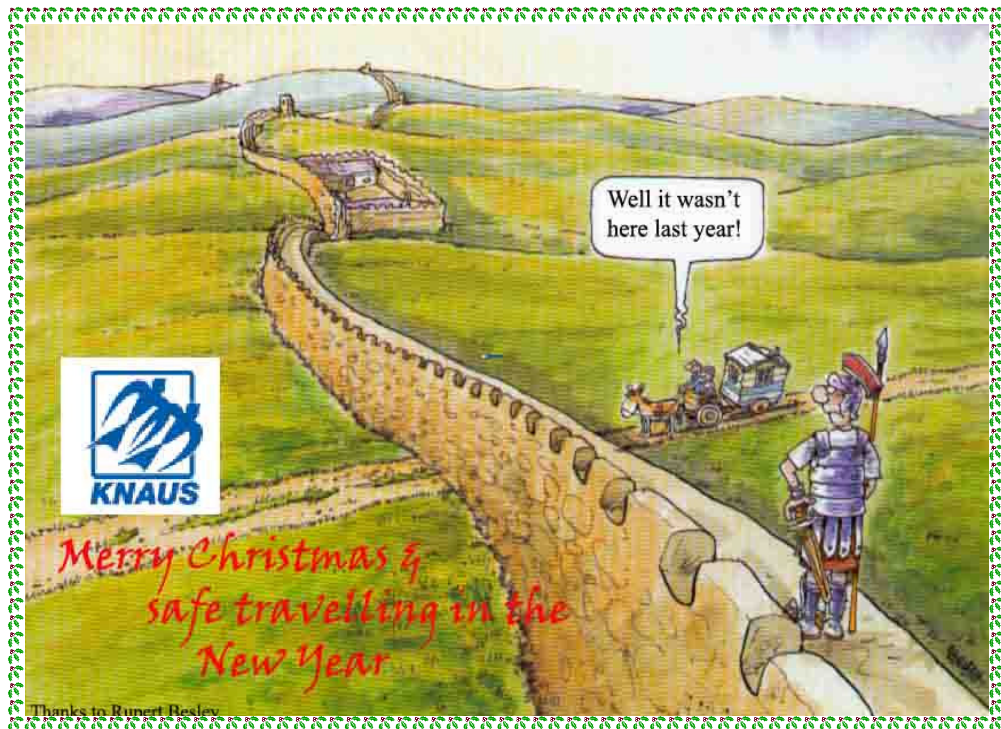




KNAUS KONTAKT

Christmas 2005



ANOTHER YEAR HAS PASSED WHICH DOES NOT SEEM POSSIBLE!

Dear Members - (both old & new),
The Club membership remains at about 40 – 50, which may be small by some standards, but if one considers the market share of Knaus in this country, as opposed to other makes, then we feel that is a respectable figure. Each year we will lose members, for a variety of reasons, but *we have recently acquired several new members and take this opportunity to welcome them to the group.*

Over the years many firm friendships have been made between club members & a decision was taken at the last AGM that should members change their make of van, but still wish to remain members of the club this would be allowed as it would be sad to lose contact with old friends. Another query raised was whether caravan owners were also to be eligible for membership of the Knaus

Owners Club. Since Knaus are producing caravans specifically for the UK market the question was bound to arise - and just this week we have had an email enquiry! Luckily that decision was also made some time ago and therefore you *may* see caravans at the next meet too since we are all Knaus Owners.

Happily we have received several postcards from members during the year - it is always good to hear what you are all up to - do keep sending them in 2006. We are promised a couple of 'pieces' from members too, one on the Scottish Isles and the other on Croatia and we look forward to these.

Steve Brock our webmaster has posted an account of his trip to France on the website which contains some really good pictures - thanks Steve for that and all the work on the

site. He, like us, would appreciate 'Items of Interest' to post up that would help to keep members up to date. If you have not logged on to the 'Discussion Group' give it a try and you may find you may be able to help someone with one of the queries which come up from time to time.

From the response we get it would appear that members are not looking for regular meets. Possibly due to the fact that we are so widely spread over the UK & Ireland and many are away on overseas trips. The fact is that there is a point of contact with members which allows for the exchange of information, the notification of problems & a sharing of ideas. During the year a number of members have been helped in this way.

Happy journeying in 2006.

Mike Dixon - Editor

A news sheet for the Knaus Owners Club in the UK

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Dates of proposed or possible meetings

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**21-23 April 2006
Peterborough Show & the AGM**

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**Jamboree Leisure
Weekend-
Detling, Kent
(Anybody care to co-ordinate this ?)
19 - 21 May 2006**

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Has anyone ideas for other meets during the year—if so we would dearly love to hear from you?

York is another but Tony may be @ Dusseldorf & will not be able to organize it.

Editor's Note:
If you have difficulty in contacting me in the next few weeks please send an email to :- mvdixon@btinternet.com as I can always pick this up wherever I am.

The Knaus with the Mouse! (Part 2) - The Tointons

What we had planned - Two consecutive bookings with GB Privilege to visit the 2006 Dusseldorf Motorhome Show 28th and 29th August and then catch up with a second group at Dahn, halfway down Germany, to continue to Tuscany for three organised weeks and then 'mosey' back to Scotland in our own time.

What we had NOT planned -

1 -To chip the windscreen on the Kent motorway and having it elongate to a 3' crack overnight. Our van is a Traveliner 640. Being given the all-clear by Autoscreens we decided to proceed to Dusseldorf and hope that the fabled German after sales service was all it was cracked up to be.

2 -To arrive at Dusseldorf and while being marshalled in, to be loudly harangued by an elderly German man for the crime of being, as far as we could gather, "Englischers". And there we were, sitting slack-jawed in astonishment, in our German van! (We debated whether to recount this incident on the "don't mention the war" principle but, well..... it happened). However we met up with Mike and Jill, who had arrived before us, and a couple of glasses of Shiraz took the nasty taste away.

3 -To graciously accept, not only complimentary Knaus coffee but complimentary Knaus lunch too, while the windscreen replacement was being arranged for the day after next, in the bottom right-hand corner of Germany - 453 miles diagonally from Dusseldorf. We arrived at the mini-CL at 17.30 in front of a very modern small workshop, in very hot weather and deduced from the note on the door that work would start at 7.30 the next morning. It did.....and was completed by midday. However, the weather was so hot that the silicone round the windscreen was failing to cure. We were invited to stay another night. They couldn't have been kinder which made what happened later all the more galling and embarrassing. We had planned to pay by VISA and had transferred the necessary amount, but they didn't take credit cards (we've found this in Germany before). However they were happy to send the bill to our insurers, who we rang, they OK'd it & so we went on our merry way.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Tuscany trip. The ferry, sites, meals out and guided bus trips were organised which relieved us of the hassle of finding somewhere to park in the intricate Tuscan towns. The Italian sites are excellent with wonderful pools and restaurants. (GB are doing a trip to Rome, Naples and Pompeii next September which we have booked for. We plan to cross the Adriatic to Dubrovnik and come up thru' Croatia so would appreciate any info' on that). We picked up a super-intelligent Italian mouse which eluded our trap and got away with evermore tempting morsels for four nights. It got beyond a joke when he chewed a 4" long gash in the upholstery. We went into town and were offered a tube of very sticky stuff which we laid on a paper plate encircling a piece of chocolate. (Guess who stood in the one we put on the floor- in his stocking'd feet?) Anyway, we GOT 'IM and I draw a discreet veil over what happened next 'cos I can't even bear to think about it. (It involved a big hammer!)

We stayed another week on the Girossole site, south of Florence, after the others had left and then wended our way north via Switzerland, the Black Forest, the Ardennes (visiting Bastogne the "Band of Brothers" town), Bruges, the Somme estuary and points north to Le Touquet and then the WW1 battlefields. We finally arrived home at the end of October to find a demand for settlement for the windscreen from Brillants, the German windscreen people, and a letter from the insurance company asking WHO had authorised the payment? WORDS FAIL!

Six things we learned this trip;

- Knaus after-sales service is exemplary.
- No, they don't all speak English- a comprehensive phrase book would have helped.
- Plan how you'll get your hands on €2,782, when out of the country, PDQ .
- Carry a mousetrap. (The Italian for mousetrap is trappola per i topi).
- The Spanish is ratatas – (yes it happened there as well)!
- The best place to get background on the Somme battlefields is the excellent museum at Peronne.
- Windscreen replacement; Brillant Fahrzeugverglasung, Vocking 10, 94154 Neukirchen vor Wald. Tel.08504- 918777 Fax. 08504-918776 (No e-mail.)



Happy Motoring — Vic & Margaret Tointon

PETERBOROUGH SHOW 2006

Tony & Olive have kindly agreed to steward the Knaus Owners Club site at the show-ground.

Tony will be circulating information but also an application form will appear in MMM & with Warner's Publications on line. You must complete an application form & return it to Warner's before the deadline set in order to be on our site. Failure to do this will mean parking in the general public area. (The request for a membership number should just show 'N/A'). As a club member you should be entitled to a £2 reduction.

Please also inform Tony that you are attending.

DENMARK 2005

Mike & Jill went on to Denmark after the Dusseldorf Show and can only offer the highest praise for a trip to this rarely visited country. The Danes are so pro-British, most speak English, most exhibition are signed & hand out leaflets etc. are in English too. The roads are good, well signed & the speed limits are observed & not a speed camera in sight! Wild camping is banned but the camping site system is second to none & of high standard - if you follow the 'Margarita Route' it takes you to all the major attractions.

ELECTRICAL PROBLEM

Member Malcolm Cox found his Travel Liner 640's battery was being drained within 7-10 days whilst standing at home and, when on site without an electric hook-up, the 12v system tripped out within 30 minutes.

An electronics engineer found that the 40 amp fuse which supplied the on board batter charger had fused. This he believes was caused by starting the engine when the mains hook-up is attached. This creates a surge when the alternator starts charging which is enough to blow the fuse. Just wondered if anyone else has had a similar problem?