



SUFFOLK CENTRE

TIPS AND IDEAS



(Researched and written by Chris Sanderson)

Security Aid.

When we purchased our first van back in 2002 and entered what for us was uncharted territory, I took the opportunity of noting down the details of all the equipment installed in the van by, in our case, the Swift Group. These details included the make, model type and serial number covering such items as the cooker, fridge, water heater etc right down to items like the smoke detector. Where the information was readily available, I also included contact/address details for the manufacturers.

The original idea of gathering this information was to have a readily accessible record should a problem or breakage occur and a spare part be needed etc. What I now consider I provided myself with, was a security aid/enhancement, inasmuch that if the van was stolen, a complete record of items in the van would be available that could be used to track and prove rightful ownership. Whilst a thief might think it profitable to grind out chassis numbers and CRiS details on the windows, it would perhaps prove to be too costly both in monetary and time terms to change or modify the equipment in the van, or the details contained within them.



I have repeated the same exercise for our latest van and the information has been used to help sort a couple of problems already. It's a lot easier to get a sheet of paper out of a file than start grovelling around in the van trying to find a model or serial number when the items manufacturer is on the other end of the phone line waiting for the requested info.

I have also written to The Caravan Club suggesting that the idea could be taken a stage further with the caravan manufacturers encouraged to record details of the equipment fitted down to serial number level against the caravan model, chassis and CRiS numbers relating to each new caravan produced, making this information available to the original owners, police and the CRiS organisation as required.