

The

LAIKA

CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



NEWSLETTER

www.laikaclub.com

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Chairman:	Gill Stevens
Vice Chairman:	Katrina Lancaster
Treasurer:	Charles Chodkowski
Membership Secretary:	Jacqui Chodkowski
Rally Co-ordinator:	Richard Moss
Newsletter:	Katherine Elliott
Web Master	Eric Gould

Chair's Chat

Another year is nearly over and the end of my first year as Chair. Christmas will be upon us and the dark nights set in, however we can look forward to the Christmas rally and AGM.

Regretfully we have missed the summer in our van but hope to see more of you all next year.

To those of you searching for sunnier climates I am not at all jealous! We hope to be following you in the New Year. This is our first experience of winter camping abroad, so all advice and names of good campsites will be gratefully received.

From the reports the rallies this year have been very successful and our thanks go to those who have organised them.

Next years rally programme is taking shape. Unfortunately the Holland rally has been cancelled from lack of support. Thanks to the four who registered their interest. Richard and Kath have offered to stay in their roles but would appreciate assistance when required. Denise Ledgerwood has offered her help to Kath for the newsletter. Both have been doing their respective jobs for many years and occasionally get a bit weary! It would still be very much appreciated for volunteers to come forward to run or assist in running rallies. These are an integral part of our club where we meet old friends and make new ones. For those of you out there who haven't yet been on a rally do try to find the time and have a go. We are a very friendly, fun loving bunch of enthusiastic motorhomers.

Jacqui has circulated, to all members who have supplied an email address, an email asking for agenda items for the AGM but judging from the response so far you all must be happy with the way things are.

Mark and Chris have organised a full programme for Barnstones. Hopefully there will be a good turnout and we look forward to seeing you there. If not have a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Quantock rally report, September 2017

This was a small but beautifully formed rally, ie, we only had 6 units and no rally stewards so we made it up as we went along.

The site was adequate but the pool was closed due to leaves! The owner was friendly and very helpful and we were able to have our meet and greet in the games room on site. Handy, as it saved putting the awning up and getting wet.

This area had seen buckets of rain over the last few days and the rally area was grass although we managed to get 3 units on hard standing, one half on grass and hardstanding and the unlucky two units who arrived last were on grass. This caused a problem for one. I mention no names but see photo!

The site was just off the main busy road between Taunton and Minehead, unfortunately there was no footpath. However we did manage a short walk to Crowcombe during which we saw the 'Flying Scotsman' which was in the area for the week and very popular. At Crowcombe we had a pub lunch and at the same time Peter organised a booking for the customary rally meal for the following night.



Guys from the site recovering the vehicle.
Any idea as to what Teresa is thinking?

To get to the pub we caught the last bus at 7pm to Minehead for a couple of miles and then walked on a footpath to the pub, we returned to site by taxi. Well worth it as the meal was excellent.

We all used our bus passes from the stop outside the site to travel to Taunton and Minehead and anywhere in between.

All but one unit travelled onto Devon after the rally. Thanks to all those who were determined to attend and for helping out. We all mucked in for the meet and greet, Geoff collected the rally fees, helped organise the walk with Peter and I've been left to write the rally report!!

Kath Elliott

Stratford Rally Report, October

Thirteen units attended. It was a great rally field with our own toilet and shower block. The site was ideally situated about one mile from the centre of Stratford and a 10 minute walk from the motorhome to the village pub and store.

We arrived a day early as we had not been here before and needed to see what was what! The site wardens were very helpful and friendly although we failed the site rules when pitching. It was 11 'paces' between vans and my paces fell short of the 11 'metres'. Anyway thanks to Jim and Denise who moved backwards and Jill and Steve who shuffled sideways! We all had to point towards the road as we were in a flood plain! Fortunately the river behaved itself and the site provided a very pleasant ride by water taxi into Stratford. The boat only held 6 but they had 3 boats and ran from 10am to 5pm. If there was a long queue on our return then it was no hardship to walk the 25 minutes back to site especially when we found the short cut.



Eleven units arrived on Thursday for lunch onwards and we had our club meet and greet at 5pm. The 2 x 3l boxes of wine disappeared in no time at all.

As rally stewards you are fairly busy on day one so we decided to go to the site restaurant, it also helps not to have anything out for dinner! The site own a very impressive restaurant and conference centre constructed out of wood and on stilts. We threw the idea of a meal to everyone in case they wanted to join us and low and behold everyone did. Thanks to Jill who ran round taking pre-orders while I ran round getting the pre-orders for the official club meal on Saturday night which needed to be with the pub that night. Both meals were excellent. The advantage of all going for a meal on the first night of the rally at this time on year is that we can all sit and chat and stay warm!



Photo taken from Andrew Spark's new toy! A drone!

Most members explored Stratford and thought the area very interesting with plenty to do, we had a boat trip, 2 members went to see a play, 6 of us had very informative tours of the theatre, backstage and up in the Gods. Peter and I had both been to the theatre as schoolkids, the plays we saw unfortunately did not leave a lasting impression but I can remember eating my sarnies by the river and Peter can vividly remember throwing up on the coach. I didn't know him then! It's a shame it has taken us so long to return.

On Saturday we did a walk. The report of which is from Andrew and follows this. We did try very hard to find a pub on route that would take dogs. Unfortunately the only one suitably placed was 'posh' and didn't allow dogs but they would take us. I will say no more at this point.

On Sunday we greeted 2 new members, Sue and Joe Naylor, welcome to them. They had had various problems but made it for one night.

We had an impromptu early evening get together, it was supposed to have been a coffee morning but with one thing and another it ended up as a pre dinner gin and tonic session.

The rally finished on Monday and I think we all enjoyed this place and will be back. We enjoyed the place and company so much we stayed another night with Jill and John. Thanks to all who came and made it such fun.

Laika Walk, Stratford
Saturday 14th October 2017

Kath asked me whilst I was in a weakened state of mind (OK inebriated) to write the report on the Elliott's ramble and as a completely unbiased participant. the following is a true ish (well as true as I can remember) account.

On an unseasonably warm October Saturday morning those that had survived the previously heavy nights imbibing, gathered at 11.00 am for the traditional Elliott meander through country and village scenery. This walk was one copied from a tourist brochure and not one of his usual special treks. Walking boots and anoraks (clothing and not people) donned , we gathered with Peter for the promised "short walk" which everyone knew would not be.

The initial one mile into Stratford on Avon was past beautiful millionaires houses with matching cars and the walk was made more difficult from everyone tripping over their jaws.

Eventually after crossing one of the many pedestrian and road bridges into Stratford our first stop was the obligatory "comfort stop". Refreshed (if that is the right word) everyone proceeded along the route passing the Stratford Butterfly Farm which Annette & I had visited the day before. My attempts to pass on our newly gained knowledge and experiences with boring facts were politely ignored (as usual). Undaunted, we continued through numerous housing estates surrounding Stratford peering into back gardens and garages along the way. What fun we had. Eventually at a junction on the path outside Stratford Race course with a car boot sale taking place (men could be seen dragging the ladies away) Peter chose the route which was duly followed through more estates. After what seemed miles but in fact was only a few hundred yards, he manfully realised his error and retraced his steps. Being seasoned Laika walkers this was all taken in our stride (please notice the pun, good or what). Shortly after returning to the true path we came upon our luncheon stop "The Bell" near Ann Hathaway's cottage **Or was it ?**

Apparently, there are two of "The Bells" in the area and we were at the wrong one — and the right one. Peter had intended to come to this one near Ann Hathaway's cottage but Kath had booked at the other. As we had all bought our drink, sat down and found out the food was cheaper we all decided to stay put. Sorted.

Watered and fed, we once again set off in a happy state of mind. Following our leader's directions we further explored housing estates until we reached the canal. This was followed through scenic industrial estates into the centre of Stratford where most intended to catch the ferry back to the campsite but as there was a large queue of people many decided to walk back past millionaires row. Unfortunately this did have the effect of highlighting the limited space in a Motorhomes. Ah well.

The Laika ramble highlighted what a friendly bunch we have and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the outing and company.

Thank you Peter and Kath. (a.k.a "Two Bells" Elliott)

Andrew "sore feet" Spark

PS I did phone and apologies to the other pub! The irony of it was that the pub where we had lunch allowed dogs! Ah well you try your best.

Kath

TOO FUNNY NOT TO PASS ON!!

How Do Court Reporters Keep Straight Faces?

These are from a book called Disorder in the Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honour, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?

France & Spain trip 2017

September and October saw us travelling through France into Spain with the intention of visiting as many new places as possible. We were away for 57 nights and of those, 46 nights were at new locations. Five of these we would like to share with members; we don't want to send you all to sleep with too much information.

- 1. Lizant Aire (F) N 46deg 05.165mins E 0deg 16.697mins.**
Just off the N10, halfway between Poitiers and Angouleme. This Aire is on the edge of a pretty rural village and adjacent to a park and picnic area. A small local shop, bakery and restaurant are just a short walk from the Aire. There are well signed walks in this very peaceful area (a haven for dog owners), level parking, electricity, water and dump all for 2 Euro per night.
- 2. Santa Coloma de Cervello Aire (S) N 41deg 21.924mins E 2deg 1.54mins**
Any-one going anywhere near Barcelona should include this in their itinerary. The Aire is at Colonia Guell a village built by the Guell family to house workers at the textile factories. Leading architects of the early 20th century were commissioned to design the modern housing and important buildings. Like the school, Theatre, Doctors house etc. Visit the tourist office and for a few Euros you can get a guided walk map and commentary hand set which takes you round the 17 most important sites finishing at the Antoni Gaudi designed church – stunning! (Aire FREE)
- 3. El Poble Nou del Delta Aire (S) N 40 deg 39.538mins E 0deg 40.505mins**
This Aire is in the Park Natural del de l'Ebre, a huge rice growing wet-land, criss-crossed with flat walking /cycling paths. Superb for bird watching, there are an abundance of hides over looking lakes, an excellent Tourist Office, and restaurant nearby. (Aire FREE).
- 4. L'Alqueria de la Comtassa (S) N 38deg 56.327mins W 0deg 9.166mins**
Camper park KM Zero, this is a commercial Aire, recommended by a German couple we met in Peniscola. Run by a very obliging Spanish gentleman – nothing was too much trouble, spotless toilets and showers. Although set in an Industrial area, it was peaceful with only some unusual church chimes. Very close to cycle track that took you through Orange Groves to Gandi or Olivera. The town called Piles, was a short cycle ride, where the beach was

deserted and stretched for miles. Lidl and a store called Family Cash (brilliant shop), walking distant from Aire, which cost only 8 Euro per night.

5. Banos de Fortuna (S) N 38deg 12min 12.24sec W 1deg 6min 26sec

ACSC Camp site, just on the edge of a Spanish Spa town that had plush hotels with their own Spa facilities. We paid 22 Euro per night (ACSC 15Euro), had a private Wet-room on our pitch, and unlimited use of Spa. The swimming pool was 36 degrees C, BLISS, a place to really relax for a few days.

All these sites have easy access and would accommodate large motor homes.

Jacqui and Charles



Santa Coloma de Cervello



Banos de Fortuna

2018 Rallies

Thursday 22nd to Monday 26th March (4 nights)

Lincoln Farm Park Oxfordshire
High Street
Standlake, Nr Whitney, Oxon
01865 300239
www.lincolnfarmpark.co.uk

We visited this site in March 2007 and March 2011 and April 2013. It is a very popular venue so we are going again! It ticks all the boxes for this time of year.

About the site for those who have not been. This site is 12 miles west of Oxford in the village of Standlake which has a pub. Hardstandings, hook up, 9 acre landscaped park with 15 lakes, indoor leisure centre including 2 heated swimming pools, saunas and jacuzzi. It is situated one mile from the Thames, plenty of walking including the 'Windrush Way'. Bus stop to town outside the site. Pub does a good meal. Directions to site can be found on their website.

The price is £20/night which includes all extras ie dogs, awnings, spare people and electricity. Please register your interest with me, **Kath Elliott**,

Just been in contact with the site and provisionally booked 15 pitches. They will want to know how many by end of January, preferably earlier. In the past we have had 20 units attend so get your names down on my list now even if you feel that you cannot be absolutely certain due to hospital appointments and elderly relatives and all the other things that come with 'old age'. At this stage if it looks like we will fill 15 pitches I can always plead for some more!

2018 Rallies

<p>March Thursday 22nd to Monday 26th (4 nights)</p>	<p>Lincoln Farm Park Standlake Whitney Oxon</p>	<p>Rally Stewards</p>	<p>Details further on BOOK NOW</p>
<p>April Thursday 19th to Monday 23rd (4 nights)</p>	<p>Greenhills Holiday Park Bakewell Derbyshire</p>	<p>Rally Stewards</p>	<p>Details further on £10 deposit required</p>
<p>May</p>	<p>Possibilities being looked at! See further on</p>		
<p>June Monday 11th to Friday 15th (4 nights)</p>	<p>Poston Mill Peterchurch Herefordshire</p>	<p>Rally Stewards</p>	<p>See further on for details</p>
<p>July Monday 9th to Friday 13th (4 nights)</p>	<p>Ilkley Rugby club West Yorkshire</p>	<p>Rally Stewards</p>	<p>Details further on</p>
<p>August</p>	<p>Possibilities being looked at for August and September 1 maybe early August rally at Bridgnorth</p>		
<p>September</p>	<p>2 Late August, Dahlia festival, Holland, followed by Dusseldorf Motorhome show beginning of Sept plus somewhere else!</p>		
<p>October Thursday 11th to Monday 15th (4 nights)</p>	<p>Aldeburgh Suffolk</p>	<p>Rally Stewards</p>	<p>Details to follow in the next newsletter.</p>

Thursday 19th to Monday 23rd April 2018 (4 nights)

Greenhills Holiday Park
Crowhill Lane
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1PX

We have been here twice before and had an excellent attendance . It is situated about one mile from the market town of Bakewell with interesting shops and it's pudding! It is an easy walk into Bakewell on a pavement and there are plenty of lovely countryside walks. Ashford in the water is close by and in the past we have had our club meal there. The site itself has hard standings, 16 amp electric, two shower blocks, fully stocked shop and a bar. Maximum length for a motorhome is 8M. The cost is £25/night. To book or register your interest contact Richard. He will need a £10 deposit to secure your pitch.

Stewards: Richard and Ruth Moss

May

One or two have expressed an interest in Scotland, midges 'an all. This is completely wide open for possible dates but it will not be English school hols (child minding duties). If we have sufficient interest we will look at possible sites etc. PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY THE END OF JANUARY 2018.

Contact Kath and Peter Elliott,

New rally venue for June 2018 - Poston Mill, Herefordshire

To tell the truth it is not really new as the club went there about 8 years ago. So why have we not gone back? Well I do not know, it is set in open countryside with a good bus service running between Brecon and Hereford via Hay on Wye. Furthermore there is a bar and restaurant on site, the bar is dog friendly as is the rest of the site. Pitches are hardstanding and there is hook up available.

Full details of the site can be found at <http://www.postonmill.co.uk>

Preliminary details:

Four nights, arrive Monday 11th June and depart Friday 15th June. Prices for 2018 are yet to be set but expect to pay around £85 - £90 for the stay.

Contact Eric Gould for further details and expressions of interest.

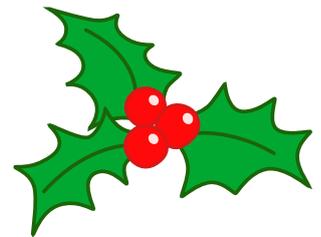
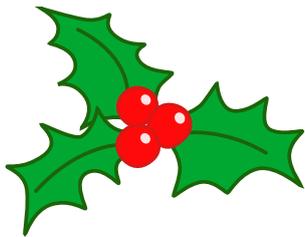
ILKLEY RALLY MONDAY 9TH TO FRIDAY 13TH JULY 2017

Based at Ilkley RFC (ilkleyrfc.co.uk), Stacks Field, Denton Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 0BZ. A level grass field on the banks of the River Wharfe with the attractive town centre just 5 minutes walk away and views to the world famous Ilkley Moor (remember your 'at!).

There is limited hook-up available but with splitting and a willingness to swap pitches if necessary it should not be a problem. Chemical disposal, water point and toilets/showers in the modern clubhouse (see website). Cost £11 per night and we have exclusive use with no limit on numbers. Dogs welcome on leads and walks adjacent

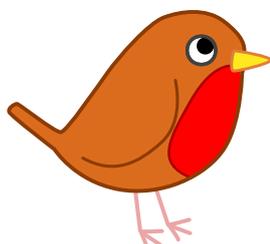
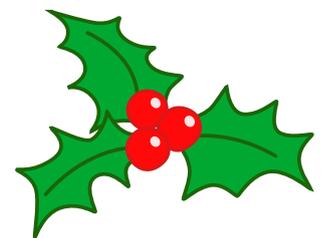
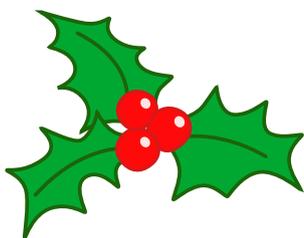
Ilkley has excellent facilities including a theatre, cinema and Michelin star restaurant (we shall not be using it for the rally meal but if interested look up The Box Tree, £65 per head!). Ilkley lido (indoor and outdoor pools) is just 3 minutes walk. The town centre has two supermarkets and many good shops (including a Bettys Tea Shop). There are also excellent transport links by bus and/or rail to Leeds (shopping, Royal Armouries, Henry Moore sculpture gallery), Bradford (National Media Museum) and Skipton (gateway to the Dales).

Stewards: Peter & Jane Wood



A Tweet!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
From The Committee



First Job for the New Year!

Subs renewal

See Form

Contents

Please, please let the rally stewards know as soon as possible if you have to cancel and make sure when you book that they have got correct email addresses and mobile phone numbers in case they have to contact you.

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