

The

LAIKA

CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



NEWSLETTER

www.laikaclub.com

ISSUE NO 60

June 2017

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

laikaclub@yahoo.com

Chairs Chat

The months are flying by and by the time you read this we will be well into summer although with the weather we are having it is hard to believe.

We have been unable to be at the rallies so far as John has been going through the health service procedure to sort out his shoulder. At last things are moving, which is the good news, but it means we are unable to go to Germany so Germany and the Tour De France will be without one of its most avid supporters.

Our thanks to the stewards of these rallies and we hope to see some of you in September. At present Somerset only has two visitors so if anyone wants to join Alma, Keith, John and me please let us know by the end of July when we will be giving the site our final numbers, if not it will be very cosy!

Do keep in touch by visiting the website for up to date information about rallies as well as other useful information. Thanks to Eric for all his work updating the site and to those who send information/articles for inclusion.

Not all members may have the internet and we still rely on the personal touch (and jokes) of our editor. Thanks go to Kath for producing a comprehensive round up of information/events, past, present and future

There are several ideas for next year but if you have visited a site that you think we could use please send the details to Richard. His email is on the front of the newsletter.

Happy motorhoming

Gill

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Joe and Sue Naylor, Aylesbury, Bucks

Lesley Johnson, Castleford

Stephen and Jayne Phillips, Wisbech, Cambridge

After a tearful plea in the newsletter we had 15 units attend our first rally of the year. Welcome to Karen and Murray Chisholm and Jennie and Gary Carter as it was their first rally, we hope they will be back.

Most arrived Thursday and we had our meet and greet in the sites game room which was cosy but meant that we had to speak to one another! We also played a silly game which broke the ice!

The site is very well kept and run by excellent, helpful staff. A recommended site if you are in the area. The facilities are top class and with a bus stop just outside the campsite gates enables trips to Poole, Bournemouth, Swanage etc. Most members took advantage of the public transport and even the train from Corfe Castle to Swanage.

A few of us walked into Poole to stretch our legs and after lunch made our way back by bus.

We had an enjoyable meal at St Peter's Finger in Lytchett Minster a short walk from the site. Vouchers given out from the site gave each couple a free bottle of wine, the temptation was to dine out every night! We were joined for the meal by Ali and Andy Morrison, members who live nearby.

On Sunday we resurrected our coffee morning (we used to have these regularly on the day of departure but as members can leave early we gave up). It enabled us to give Linda and Geoff their small prize for winning the quiz. Now Sunday was also a special day as we were visited by Sophie, Charlotte and Emilia, our triplet granddaughters who will be 3 on 1st July. They brought their parents and travelled the short distance from Poole where they live. Coincidence, no, if you run a rally you can choose where it is!! They met quite a few members but in all honesty were probably more interested in making good use of the newly constructed play area on site. It passed the test!

Monday was departure day. Thanks to all who came and made it an enjoyable rally and we hope to see you all again at future rallies.

Kath and Peter

March rally report Lytchett Manor camp site, Lytchett Minster



Meet and Greet

Well, Tuesday the 18th turned out to be a lovely warm sunny day for the 11 units that arrived at Millers Field. A beautiful afternoon for our meet and greet, we sat around in the warm sun and enjoyed the gathering.

Wednesday, although meant to be a 'free day' a walk was requested. A group walked to Elterwater for a pub lunch at the Britannia Inn and then back to Skelwith Bridge and a bus back to Ambleside.

Thursday after a dull start turned out to be a nice day for the main walk to Rydal water and onto Grassmere and lunch at Tweedies bar then a return to Ambleside. Some chose to walk back along the old 'coffin trail' back to Ambleside. Many years ago (1600's) there was no church at Grassmere and to bury the dead the coffin had to be carried to the church at Ambleside. This took two days. the route taken had a large flat stone at long intervals, to rest the coffin on during the journey.



Friday was a free day where most people took buses to various parts of the Lake District. and in the evening we had our group dinner at the Priest Hole Bistro. This proved to be an excellent venue for a really good meal.

Saturday was another free day but half the vans decided to depart. For the others there was a choice of a Jazz Night in the jazz bar at Zefferellis, We, Steve and Jill along with John Pilkington, Philip and Linda Bell, enjoyed a wonderfully entertaining evening which was a superb way to round off the rally.

Jill and Steve

Report for the rally on the Gower in the next newsletter (are you listening Doug!). It was a rally with a difference - we had a poetry competition. Two examples of our artistic talents or not are below.

The Laika Club rallied on Gower
The mood in the camp became sour
Pete's walk was a hike
We all needed a bike
And kath was late back by anhour!

The Laika Club rallied on Gower
The low bridge near the site turned some sour
Eric told Dee
This isn't for me
We'll go home via Cardiff my flower

A Simple Quiz - The Laika Apprentice

Quizzes are always popular at rallies so I thought I would start with one here for you all.

Q1. How long has Kath edited the Laika Newsletter?

Answer, more than 15 years!

Q2. How long has Richard acted as rally co-ordinator ?

Answer, over 5 years

Q3. Can you see where I am going with this?

Answer, yes of course you can. They not unreasonably feel they are about due for some parole if not complete freedom just yet. So we need to supplement our team with effect from the next AGM in December and we are looking for a couple of Laika apprentices who once trained will take over for a spell.

Now I know the next thought you will have "I cannot do that because"

- I wouldn't know how
- I might make a hash of things
- I do not have the time
- I can't spell, organise , use a computer etc

Sorry but they are all just excuses, so be honest you do not want to be bothered or you feel unsure! If we all felt that way then the club would fold pretty quickly.

I am not bothering with the do not want to be bothered but unsure? I am confident that anyone in the club could do either of the jobs. After all you have successfully navigated you way through life and gathered a great deal of experience on the way. Furthermore you have worked out that motorhoming is a wonderful pastime that brings you into contact with some fantastic like minded people.

Put your concerns to one side and take the first step by contacting Kath or Richard for a quiet chat. Find out what each job entails, consider giving it a try. After all the worst that can happen is you fail and no one should criticise you for that. But that will never happen because the team (oh alright call us a committee if you wish) are going to be there with you.

To be clear the eventual aim is to get progression in the Rally Coordinator and Newsletter Editor roles which have been carried out by Richard and Kath for many years. Neither of these individuals is refusing to continue in the short term, but it would be advantageous to the Club to get some help so that we can ensure the future of our activities. It would also mean that Richard and Kath could get some assistance meanwhile.

The Committee only meets about once a year (usually at a Rally) and at the AGM and contact each other as required by e mail or phone.

Anyone interested, or thinks they know someone who might be, in either of these roles please speak or drop a line to Richard or Kath whose details are on the front of this Newsletter.

Don't worry no one will be fired!

2017

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| September Monday 11th Leaving on Friday 15th (4 nights) | Orchard Caravan Park Quantock Somerset | Rally Stewards | £11/unit See further on for Details. Deposit required |
| October Thursday 12th Leaving on Monday 16th (4 nights) | Riverside Caravan Park Stratford upon Avon | Rally Stewards | £12.50/unit See further on for details. |
| December Thursday 7th Leaving on Monday 11th (4 nights) | AGM and Christmas Rally Barnstones C and C site Great Bourton Near Banbury | Rally Stewards | £11/unit See further on for details |

Rally Programme 2018

We have to plan ahead so that we can reserve spaces on some of the better sites, and at a recent Committee meeting we came up with ideas for next year's programme.

Another way members can help is to **volunteer to run a Rally**, and my duty as rally Coordinator is to help you.

You can choose a place from the list below or come up with your own ideas.

Sometimes Club members combine resources and plan a Rally with a friend and if my help is not required, I am happy to let you do it your own way!

The ideas we have are not yet concrete and exclusive but are a rough framework around which we will build.

So read the list and let your creative talents run wild!

Rally Ideas

- 1 Hay on Wye
- 2 Derbyshire
- 3 Cornwall
- 4 Dan's meadow Suffolk
- 5 Holland
- 6 Pershore Plum Festival Worcester
- 7 Balloon Festival Bristol
- 8 Lincoln Farm Park, Whitney, Oxon
- 9 Bridgnorth

Some Committee members have agreed to investigate various ideas and we will elaborate in future Newsletters and Web Pages as we get a bit further.

Please help!

Richard Moss

September, Taunton, Monday 11th until Friday 15th (4 nights)

Quantock Orchard Caravan Park
Crowcombe
Taunton
Somerset TA4 4AW
01984 618618
www.quantock-orchard.co.uk

This has been recommended by a member of the Club and is set in beautiful surroundings with lots to do, including West Somerset Railway a short walk away (party bookings) The site has Free wi fi, park shop with off license, central facility block, swimming pool, gym, bike hire, services, dogs welcome, some hardstandings but firm ground, bus stop outside site.

Go online and look up the site and surrounding area and the village of Crowcombe. We have not been before, it should be well worth the visit. **Book now.**

The cost is £11 per night and a deposit of £10 is needed. Send to Gill Stevens,,Numbers of firm booking by end of July 2017.

Gill Stevens ,

October, Stratford upon Avon, Thursday 12th to Monday 16th (4 nights)

Riverside Caravan Park
Tiddington Road
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire CV37 7AA (for sat nav)
01789 292312
www.stratfordcaravans.co.uk



Please book

This site has now been booked and as we are a rally are on the rally field! The price is £12.50/night. I have booked 15 places with electric hook ups, these are operated by cards which cost £5 and should last 4 nights but there are top up cards for £1.00. The rally field has 2 water points, waste water disposal and chemical toilet disposal. You can use the site facilities ie toilets and showers but it will cost each unit £2.50/night extra. The toilet block is 5 minutes walk away so if you require the toilet urgently you will have to sprint! You can tell the site when you arrive whether you will be using the facilities after you have assessed the situation, or you can use your luxury facilities in your motorhome. If you take all that is offered the cost for 4 nights will be £65, bargain!

The adjacent village of Tiddington has a convenience store, post office, pub, Indian and Chinese restaurants both with take away service and a tapas bar/Deli. According to google the village is 0.3 miles away and I have checked with the site that there is a good, flat footpath alongside the road. There is a regular bus service from Tiddington to Stratford, Warwick and Leamington Spa. There is a river taxi to Stratford, a restaurant on site giving 10% discount to ralliers. More information can be found on the sites web page.

I have inserted my tearful icon above to get you all phoning/emailing to book (it worked for the March rally). We haven't been to this area before, somewhere new to explore, should be good so sign up now. I would like an indication of your interest as early as possible PLEASE.

Please note the sat nav postcode CV37 7AA

Kath and Peter Elliott

PS Just looked in the info pack - only 2 dogs/unit

Christmas and AGM rally

Thursday 7th to Monday 11th December (4 nights)

Barnstones Touring Camping and Caravanning site
Great Bourton
Near Banbury
Oxon
01295750289

We first visited this site in 2009 and then again in 2011 for our Christmas and AGM rally. The site is fairly compact and open all year round. It is a couple of miles north of Banbury. We will be in the rally field which has very wide roads which is where we park up when wet. We have use of the toilets and showers and electricity.

The village of Great Bourton is immediately outside the site and it is a short walk to the pub and the village hall where we will hold our AGM. The Oxford canal is only a short distance away and you can walk along the towpath into Banbury.

Christmas Rally and AGM

Stewards: Mark and Chris Snowden

£10 deposits to Richard Moss ASAP (details address list)

Pitches: £12/night including electric

As usual, there will be a prize for the 'best dressed' Christmas van

The annual Car Boot Sale for unwanted motorhome/caravan
spares and accessories.

And a quiz

Provisional programme

Thursday 7th Dec

- Arrival
- 6 to 7pm Drinks and nibbles where orders for Fridays fish and chips will be taken.

Friday 8th Dec

- AM Walk/cycle?
- 4 PM AGM in the Village Hall
- 7.30 PM fish and Chip supper

Saturday 9th Dec

- AM Walk/Cycle?
- Free afternoon
- 7.30PM Christmas Buffet at the Bell Inn

Sunday 10th Dec

- AM Car Boot Sale
- Free afternoon and evening

Monday 11th Dec

- Depart