

The

LAIKA

CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



NEWSLETTER

www.laikaclub.com

ISSUE NO 63

March 2018

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

Chairs Chat

15 vans rolled in to the Christmas rally and AGM at Great Broughton to be greeted by Mark and Chris and the fun and the weather began. We were forced down to the local pub for the meet and greet and had a warm welcome from the locals.

The AGM was held in the village hall followed by a fish supper. I don't know whether it was the thought of food but it passed very quickly and the Committee were re-elected "en bloc". The main topics of discussion were Laika's venture into the facebook world and the proposed rally to Holland to be stewarded by Katrina and Tim. After a show of hands to determine interest it was decided to go ahead with this. Thank you all for your attendance.

We caught a bus into the town (the only one of the week) and spent a pleasant few hours around the town and the rest I will leave for Mark and Chris to report on. They really had to think on their feet with the changing weather and our thanks go to them. Only Mark could have made a rally so eventful.

I am writing this early as we are off to find some warmer weather and I will hopefully be in Kath's good books. This is our first experience of finding warmer climates in the winter and planning for a long stay is very different. We have given ourselves a week to wander from the tunnel to Barcelona where John's son lives and after that, as the saying goes, the world (or rather Spain) is our oyster. We will report back in the next newsletter.

Thanks to Richard and some willing volunteers we have a diverse range of rallies this year the first one of which is at Lincoln Farm Park. This is an ideal site for this time of year, with lots to do and I look forward to seeing you all there or at some stage throughout the year. Hopefully by then we will have shaken off the winter weather and will be looking forward to a warm spring and summer.

A belated Happy New Year
Gill

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Christmas / AGM Rally 2017
Barnstones Caravan Site, Great Bourton, Banbury.
Thursday 7th – Monday 11th December.

Day One

Fifteen Motorhomes trickled into the Oxfordshire site over a 48 hour period to be welcomed with driving rain, blustery winds, snow, bright sunshine and /or freezing temperatures, depending on the hour of arrival.

Although the Campsite owner was extremely helpful and accommodating, he couldn't assist us with a suitable provision for our 'Meet and Greet', given the sub-zero temperature, so we reluctantly trudged to the local pub, 200 yards down the road. Unsurprisingly, the 2 hour allotted time for the 'Get-together' overshot by 2 or 3 pints!

Day Two

On Friday, in the absence of Sherpa Elliott, (whose arrival was delayed 24 hours), David Futter organised a walk to blow away the cobwebs and led a merry band of 2 and 4 legged friends along quiet country lanes and into Banbury High Street where interests between Wetherspoons, Greggs, Marks and Spencers, Charity shops and a variety of lamp posts were equally divided.

The AGM was held in the local Village Hall in the afternoon. The event ran smoothly with all officials re-elected. The success of the meeting was celebrated with wine, nibbles and mince pies intended for the meet and greet the day before. These aperitifs were followed by a Fish and Chip Supper and a raffle. Yet again, Laika club members showed their generosity by not only donating a selection of prizes and wrapping them up but then buying tickets to win the prizes they brought in the first place! – raising £90 for Club Funds in the process. Well done everybody.

Many members helped clean up the Village Hall before departure – some by clearing tables and chairs and some by washing, wiping and cleaning.

Day Three

Saturday was a 'free day' which largely turned out to be a clear, sunny, crisp day. In hindsight, an ideal day for the outdoor exchange and sale of valuable, rarely used, unwanted motorhome accessories to put it politely. Unfortunately, this event was scheduled for Day Four and then Day Five but never took place because of the bad weather.

A disappointed Eric was forced to return home at the end of the Rally without being able to offload any of the 3 tons of unwanted accessories he had brought with him!

Some members took up the offer of a second walk, some eagerly waved their bus passes at the only bus of the week to Banbury as it drew up near the Campsite entrance and others kept on home soil and shared tales of motohoming experiences past and present.

Day Four

Plans for the final full day before departure included the Boot Sale and the Club Meal. Both presented a challenge as a good 6 inches of snow greeted us all as we awoke and continued through the day intermittently.

The Boot Sale was postponed and arrangements for the evening meal were confirmed with a local taxi firm and the restaurant in the next village.

Times of departures and returns were **reconfirmed** with the taxi company because of uncertain road conditions and members eagerly waited for their designated taxi...and waited...and waited until a desperate phone call to the firm established that all taxis were earlier cancelled for the day because of dangerous road conditions. They just hadn't told us. Fortunately, they hadn't told all their drivers either and one turned up as planned and began the slow shuttle run to transport 28 hungry Laika Club members a mile and a half down the road.

With the aid of Ian Dewey who had a car in tow and the pub landlord who helped with his 4X4, everyone arrived at the venue in good time. The festive Christmas meal proved to be a great success. Eric and Dee Gould won the 'best Christmas Motorhome' prize, Paul and Ruth Lawrence won the Quiz that had been running throughout the Rally and everyone was safely brought back to base thanks to Carriageway and Deweys Taxis.

Day Five

The final day of the Rally saw members departing to every point of the compass, most of those with long distances to travel making an early start and taking advantage of the clear but cold weather.

Stewards: Mark and Chris Snowden



Roger Lord

Most members will probably know by now that sadly Roger died at the end of August 2017 after a battle with cancer.

Pam and Roger were members of the club for many years and even ran one very memorable Christmas rally where we were once again snowed in. They were a great couple to have around at rallies, on walks and all the other things we get up to.

I have been in touch with Pam, who is making the best of life even though she would have liked him around for another 20 years! We spent some time fondly reminiscing at the fun times we had.

Kath Elliott

Mathematics Is Brilliant !!

This is a strictly a mathematical viewpoint... and it goes like this:

What Makes 100%?

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been to those meetings where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about achieving 103%?

What makes up 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

If: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$$

And

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$$

But,

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$$

And,

B-U-L-L-S-H-I-T

$$2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20 = 103\%$$

AND, look how far ass kissing will take you.

A-S-S-K-I-S-S-I-N-G

$$1+19+19+11+9+19+19+9+14+7 = 118\%$$

So, one can conclude with mathematical certainty, that while Hardwork and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there. It's the Bullshit and Ass Kissing that will put you over the top. Now you know why Politicians are where they are!

Supplied by Eric Gould

Report from the Rally Coordinator

Derbyshire Rally 19 to 23rd April

We have sufficient interest in the first Rally at Standlake but I have to say I am disappointed at the interest in my Rally at Bakewell.

It will take place anyway and I am sure the small number attending will enjoy it, but I would be really pleased if some of you will decide to **come and join us!**

Last time I enjoyed it, the site is well placed close to Bakewell itself, the Spring will be showing itself and the facilities are first class.

So, put a spring in your step!

May Rally

We had sufficient interest for this rally to go ahead and we will be touring the North West coast of Scotland. Midge lotion purchased.

June Rally

You will see that Eric and Dee have had to change from Poston Mill due to circumstances but I am pleased to report that they have come up with a new venue which has only been organised with much deliberation, and I think better for it.

So, again support them and come and enjoy yourselves as there is lots to see and will make their efforts worthwhile.

July at Ilkley Moor Bah tat

In July you shouldn't need you hat anyway as the weather should be great.

This is the first Rally by Peter and Jane, so please support them.

August in Bridgnorth

We have been fortunate that this was planned for next year but Jacqui and Charles have been able to take advantage of a cancellation by others.

It is not usual for us to have an August Rally, and it will be interesting to see your response.

Dusseldorf in August/September

Katrina is our Vice Chairman who will hopefully succeed as Chairman next AGM. Katrina and Tim have organised a visit to the International Motor Home Show followed by a Holland Rally and I commend your support to them in this venture which is a high point of our calendar.

Aldeburgh in October

New details of this Rally are in the Newsletter and thanks to David and Wendy taking time to organise it, as I know they are busy.

AGM in December

Still to be organised, but watch the Website for details.

Generally

I hope that you all have an enjoyable Summer season and look forward to seeing you at our planned events.

If anyone has any comments, ideas for rallies, or improvements please let me know and I can include them in our plans for the future.

Many thanks to you all

Richard Moss

2018 Rallies

April Thursday 19th to Monday 23rd (4 nights)	Greenhills Holiday Park Bakewell Derbyshire	Rally Stewards Ruth and Richard Moss	Details further on £10 deposit required
May		North West coast of Scotland	Fully Booked
June Monday 11th to Friday 15th (4 nights)	Hereford Rowing Club 37 Greyfriars Ave Hereford HR4 0BE	Rally Stewards Dee and Eric Gould	See further on for details
July Monday 9th to Friday 13th (4 nights)	Ilkley Rugby club West Yorkshire	Rally Stewards Peter and Jane Wood	Details further on
August Thursday 9th to Monday 13th	Bridgenorth Riverside Caravan Park Bridgenorth Shropshire WV15 6BY	Rally Stewards Jacqui and Charles Chodkowski	Details further on £10 deposit required
August/Sept Monday 27th Aug to Thurs 6th Sept	World's Largest Tour!	Rally Stewards Katrina Lancaster and Tim Sheppard	SEE PAGE 10
October Thursday 11th to Monday 15th (4 nights)	Aldeburgh Suffolk	Rally Stewards Wendy and David Futter	SEE PAGE 11

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

Monday 11th to Friday 15th June (4 nights)

Hereford Rowing Club
37 Greyfriars Ave,
Hereford
HR4 0BE.

Hereford Rowing Club is ideally situated as a campsite, being only a very short walk from the centre of historic Hereford and all the amenities you would expect from supermarkets to restaurants yet is still in a very rural setting. Hereford is the hub of a very good bus service making day trips to places suc as Hay-on-Wye and Leominster simple.

The green field camping ground is located on the banks of the river Wye and has showers, toilets, wifi, and a bar in the clubhouse. There is no hook up and this is reflected in the low site fees of about £7 per unit per night. Please register your interest with us.

Stewards: Eric and Dee Gould,



Monday 9th to Friday 13th July 2018 (4 nights)

Ilkley RFC
Stacks Field
Denton Road
Ilkley
LS29 0BZ
ilkleyrfc.co.uk

A level grass field or hardstanding 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 and Jane Wood

Thursday 9th until Monday 13th August 2018 (4 nights)

Riverside Caravan Park,
Kidderminster Road,
Bridgnorth ,
Shropshire.
WV15 6BY

Super rally field on the banks of the River Severn and just a short walk into Bridgnorth. Good public transport to Ludlow, Iron Bridge, Telford and Much Wenlock and steam train to Kidderminster on the famous Severn Valley Railway. Bridgnorth with it's High and Low Town (linked by a vernicular railway) is a very pleasant market town with a good antiques centre, independent shops, many interesting pubs and restaurants.

Camping is on a well drained rally field close to the River Severn, there are no electric hook-ups (it's August so that shouldn't be a problem for anyone) and the cost is only £6.50 per night!

Please send a deposit of £10 to

Stewards: Jacqui and Charles Chodkowski

**PROPOSED RALLY TO THE NETHERLANDS
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018**

World's largest tour! Organised by Katrina and Tim

Highlights:

The Zundert Corso – a parade of double decker sized floats each decorated with about half a million dahlias. The world's largest Corso (2 September)
Dusseldorf Caravan Salon (at Messeplatz Dusseldorf)– the world's largest motorhome and caravan trade fair (27 August – 5 September). Camping is provided in lines with a roadway between which, in evenings is used for BBQs and socialising. There are marquees providing German food and beer and an excellent breakfast tent.

- Amsterdam** (ACSI 117) nights of 27,28, 29 August €64.80 total
27 August Camping Het Amsterdam Bos www.campingamsterdamsebos.nl
Visit Anne Frank house, flower museum, Van Gogh museum and boat. Bus stop outside campsite.
- 30 August Travel to our meeting point (3hrs drive approx.) to form a convoy to get adjacent sites (about 15km from exhibition). Parking area off A3/E35 between junctions 15 and 16. 45481 Mülheim an der Ruhr. SatNav coordinates: 51.366153, 6.827066
- Dusseldorf** **Messe for Caravan Salon** nights of 30 and 31 August €15 per pitch per night (no EHU). Entry ticket €10 per day.
www.caravan-salon.com
Enjoy the food tents and atmosphere on the showground
- 31 August Enjoy the show (or visit the city)
1 September Another day at the show, or city
Depart for Breda (2hrs driving)
- Breda** (ACSI 429) nights of 1 and 2 September €17 per night
Liesbos www.camping-liesbos.nl
- 2 September visit the Flower Parade at Zundert. Entry €9 per person
www.corsozundert.nl
- 3 September Depart for Delft (1hr driving) stopping for a look round the town of Breda en route
- Delft** (ACSI 144) nights of 3, 4, 5 September €19 per night
Valkantiepark Delftse Hout www.delftsehout.co.uk
Visit Delft, Rotterdam, The Hague and Scheveningen

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REQUIRED AND A DEPOSIT OF £50 BY 1ST JUNE

Thursday 11th to Monday 15th October (4 nights)

Church Farm Holiday Park

Church Farm Road

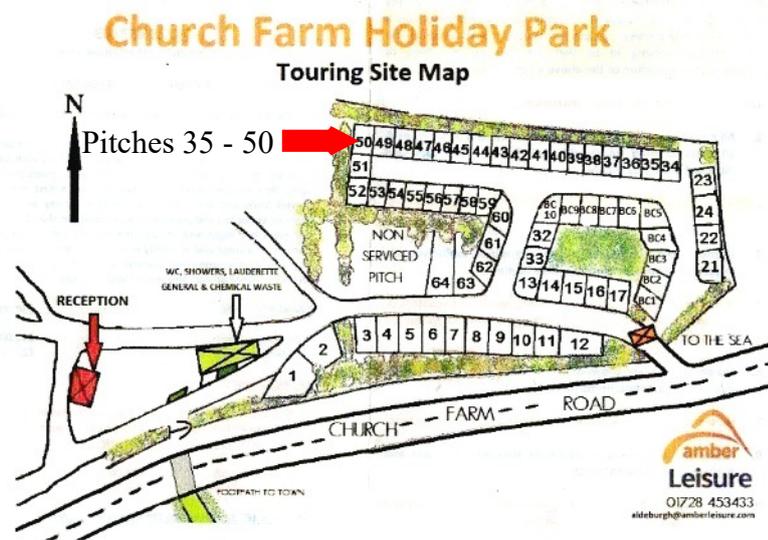
Aldeburgh

Suffolk

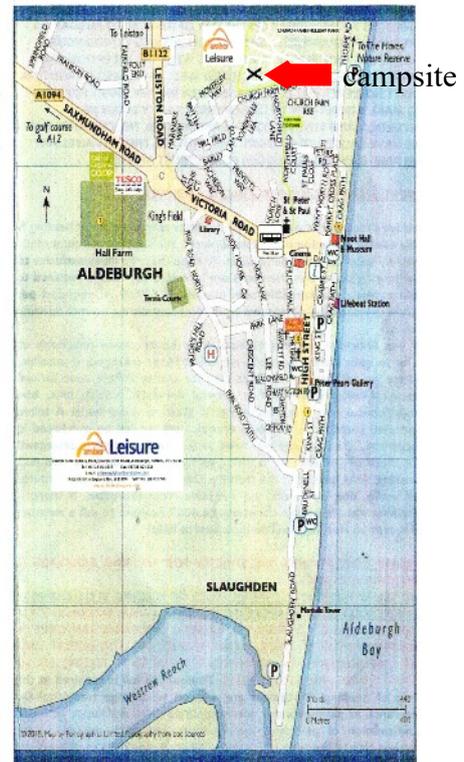
IP15 5DW

01728 453433

churchfarmparkaldeburgh.co.uk



You will need your magnifying glasses to read this!!



Aldeburgh is a pretty coastal town on the river Alde and enjoys breathtaking views seawards and following the river Alde inland towards Oxford. Its name comes from 'Alde Burgh' meaning 'old fort' and was once an important Tudor port and its shipbuilders responsible for Francis Drake's 'Golden Hind'. Some historic buildings have survived the centuries such as The Moot Hall, the Norman Church and a Martello Tower. It is also the home of Benjamin Britten and the controversial monument 'The Scallop' celebrating his life which sits on the beach to the north of the town. There are restaurants, fish and chips, supermarket and Aldeburgh Market on the High Steet.

You may be wondering why I am supplying more than normal amounts of info and that is because I am trying to whet your appetites for this rally. The reason - you have to commit early, book individually and pay the full amount up front. Site rules not ours! But we do think it is worth it.

To book - contact the site by phone or book on line. You can choose your pitch number so book any one between 35 to 50 (see map above). The cost is £80 for 4 nights and it is not refundable, a gamble but life is a gamble and hopefully we will be around in October.

PTO

Please notify David and Wendy Futter when you have booked so they can keep a record.



Martello Tower



The Scallop

This site books up very quickly so suggest you book in the next couple of months.

Thanks

Another Thankyou

Our first rally of the year is nearly upon us (hopefully the snow will have gone). Thanks to all who have registered. 13 units from a small club is a good turnout. See you there.

Kath

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.

Thank you

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