

The **LAIKA**[®]



CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



NEWSLETTER

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Your Laika Club Committee

Chair:	Paul Lawrence
Vice Chair	
Treasurer:	Charles Chodkowski
Membership Secretary:	Jacqui Chodkowski
Rally Co-ordinator:	Murray Chisholm
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Chair's Chat

The nights are drawing in, the season has turned chilly, and the year will soon draw to a close. We still have our final rally of the year at the beginning of December together with the AGM.

Some of you I know will have put your motorhome away for the winter but I know others are still venturing out and about. What a change from this time last year when everything was so uncertain and little did we know that our plans for the festive period would have to be cancelled.

The club hoped that things would improve and we planned for a near normal rally programme in the hope that things would turn out OK. Indeed they did, and we have had some well attended rallies this year. I hope that you were able to take advantage of one or more of these, and if you didn't maybe it is time to plan for 2022 and book one the rallies that have been planned – it would be great to see you.

Although the outlook has once again turned a little more uncertain we have planned a rally programme for 2022 with more certainty than last year and I hope that there is something there for you. If you have any suggestions for rallies please let us know, they are organised for you the membership and if our programme doesn't appeal to you let us know what you would like to see.

I look forward to catching up with some of you at the December rally but if you are not able to be there may I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the approaching festive period.

Take care and stay safe.

Paul Lawrence

Welcome to New Members

Paul Alexander

Tony & Debra Benham

Timothy & Christine Binns

Nick Wright & Praphin Chockphim

Linda Banks & Kevin Corringham

Sandra & Steve Monkman

Luke & Katy Raven

ILKLEY RALLY REPORT 20 – 25 JUNE 2021

A total of 18 units attended this rally held at the rugby club on the banks of the river Wharfe. Despite a weather forecast of showers for most days, these fell mainly during the night and we were blessed with cooler days for cycling, hiking etc. and warmer days allowing relaxation in the sun.

Ilkley is a lovely old town with excellent shops and other facilities, magnificent surrounding countryside, and many other interesting places within easy reach by public transport. This meant that on most days there were several activities on offer, sometimes at the same time, and there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Sunday saw the majority arrive and it was a pleasure to welcome everyone at the meet and greet. With the sun shining this event lasted rather longer than usual at over 3 hours and certainly helped to top up the glass recycling bin! The conviviality and collegiality set the tone for the following four days.

On Monday, we welcomed Joan Moorhouse to her first rally in a vintage Laika. The morning saw a gentle stroll along the river bank to the Riverside Inn. However, this was via an interesting cantilever bridge which developed a slightly concerning sway under the tread of many Laika members. Having ne-



gotiated the bridge, the next obstacle presented was the stepping stones crossing the river at one of its widest points. Fortunately, crossing was optional as we were on the “right” bank, but some of the ladies, led by the intrepid Jacqui, couldn’t resist venturing out to mid-stream. Sadly, they all returned safely thus depriving this report of a spectacular photo. It was a pleasure to arrive without further incident and enjoy a pleasant lunch in the open air.

A free afternoon allowed those so inclined to investigate Ilkley’s many up-market charity shops and many shopping bags wound their way “home”.

Tuesday was a particularly busy day with departures on foot to Ilkley moor and the Cow and Calf rocks followed by lunch at the similarly named inn, by bicycle, and on foot again to Ilkley centre, this time via the local auction house.



A number of bids were left for the following day’s auction and, in due course, Jim and Sheila became the proud owners of a clock, pictures etc. whilst Mark and Chris received a sewing machine and earrings (they won’t suit you, Mark). Unfortunately, the rally hosts’ bids were not successful! In the evening some campers visited Ilkley’s lovely small cinema (“Dream Horse” – highly recommended) whilst a larger number gathered in the pavilion to watch England beat the Czech Republic.

Wednesday saw most people take the bus through some lovely countryside to Skipton where market day again filled a few shopping bags. Skipton is known as the gateway to the Dales and has an excellent range of attractions. In the evening 31 of us enjoyed an excellent, and reasonably priced, meal at Bistrot Pierre with good service from Salvatore and his staff.

There was still time to gather round the fire pit and enjoy toasted marshmallows!



Unfortunately, Thursday was our final day but gave ralliers the opportunity to pick a favourite activity. These included a walk on Ilkley moor for an early breakfast, a cycle ride to Bolton Abbey and a tour of charity shops. In the evening we all gathered for a final group meal, enjoying either an Indian take-away or own prepared meal. With rain threatening we then adjourned to the pavilion for a final highlight – a musical evening! This included some raucous renderings of popular ditties, led by Jim Ledgerwood on his ukulele, a nearly tuneful version of “Let me be your sweetheart” by the Laika male voice choir under the baton of Jim Morgan, and a very tuneful rendering, in Welsh, of

course, of “Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau” (“Land of my fathers” for any non-Welsh speakers) by Doug and Myfanwy.

The first day-time showers on Friday morning marked our departure after a lovely week and the organisers would like to express their thanks to everyone for their contributions and participation.

Peter & Jane Wood.

Ludlow Rally July 5th to 9th 2021

Monday afternoon saw 18 vans getting together at Westbrook Caravan Park, Little Hereford for the clubs Ludlow Rally. Alwyn the site owner was very obliging, making sure we were all sited and bringing extra waste hoses for our grey water – he later turned up with a ping pong table for us!



5pm we all gathered for our “meet and greet”, where for a change Pyms was served up, also wine and soft drinks. We were all surprised by the appearance of old members Trish and Graham Tonks, who on hearing of the rally, booked a B&B in the village. Graham has recovered well from his many operations and Trish was even talking about a new van!!!

There was heavy rain Monday night but Tuesday morning saw the sun shining for Jacqui's 6 mile walk and Andrew Spark's



mountainous cycle ride.....all made it back safely to the campsite.

In the afternoon Kath Elliott's 'Olympic Games' started with teams chosen out of the hat.....

ending with two teams on equal points having a knockout 'hoopla'. Which saw, Richards team of Sheila, Pat, Jacqui, Paul and Vanessa, hailed the victors. Presentations of 'gold' medals, Mars bars and posy of wild flowers were given by Graham and Trish..



After such a hard day, the arrival of the mobile pizza van was enjoyed by nearly all. Hot pizzas made to order for our evening meal, eating together, under the two shelters erected by Charles and Ian Allard.

Wednesday morning, saw nearly all on the coach taking us to Ludlow (the pandemic not only closing the local pub but also the bus service). Ludlow is a pleasant old market town with its castle, individual shops, markets and many pubs. Some Members visited the castle others did the river walk, shopping etc.

After a short break back at the campsite it was time for the 'Bring and Buy sale. Some Members did really well with bargains that they had!! The knock out Boules competition that started at the beginning of the week, progressed to quarter finals to be completed the following day.

The big football game was playing, so a TV was set up outside Jim & Denise's van so that all could see England and Denmark World cup final. A nail biting dozen or so cheered England to victory!



Thursday, 8 or so members started off on a 5 mile walk, while another group set off on a cycle ride to Tenbury Wells. Andrew – who had been poorly during the night was waiting for an ambulance, unable to join us, was still waiting when everyone returned, so Ian Allard was kind enough to take him to Hereford hospital.(Andrew has since made a full recovery).

The Boules competition was completed seeing a thrilling three set final with Liz and Peter Machon being the victors against ourselves (Jacqui & Charles)

We had been fortunate in finding a pub which did take away meals and for 30+ were prepared to deliver. So 6.30pm saw us all gathering, table and chairs in a circle.....food was delivered promptly, and we all tucked into a surprisingly hot, tasty meal. Collecting all the empty cartons told its own story, people were pleased (or just so hungry) with the meals they had. The evening quiz was won by Paul, Ruth, Eric and Dee.

Friday morning saw us all packing up, after a super 5days fun and pretty good weather, to say our GOODBYES until next time. Not to long to wait before, meeting up in Devon, then Harrogate and of course the Christmas rally/AGM at Teversal.

Jacqui & Charles Chodkowski

Are you in the UK ? UK stickers and number plates

Don't forget that the Government has finally realised that using GB as our national plate excluded Northern Ireland.

From 28 September 2021, you need a UK sticker instead of a GB sticker.

If your number plate includes the UK identifier with the Union flag (also known as the Union Jack), you do not need a UK sticker.

However, you will need to display a UK sticker clearly on the rear of your vehicle if your number plate has any of the following:

- a GB identifier with the Union flag
- a Euro symbol
- a national flag of England, Scotland or Wales
- numbers and letters only – no flag or identifier

If you're in Spain, Cyprus or Malta, you must display a UK sticker no matter what is on your number plate.

You do not need a UK sticker or number plate to drive in Ireland.

See [Driving in the EU - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) for full details.

Our new Irish dog

Having paid £230 for the new Animal Health Check following the UK's departure from the EU, we departed Holyhead for Dublin and a month's tour of the Wild Atlantic Coast. Our secondary objective was to visit a vet and get an EU pet passport for Jess.

Arriving at Dublin at midnight we went through the rigmarole of having the 13 pages checked and the Animal Health Officer said 'You ought to get an EU passport'. Unlike France where the Government has told their vets to insist on a French address, Ireland is happy to issue EU Pet Passports with a UK address .

We found a vet who very quickly took 50 Euros from us and duly issued the passport! We had to get a fresh rabies vaccination for Jess, administered by an EU vet as UK vets aren't qualified to do this any more.



The only restriction is that future repeat rabies vaccinations must be carried out in the EU, but can be timed to coincide with a trip to Ireland or the rest of Europe.

Jess can now travel to the EU whenever she wants !

Katrina Lancaster

Harrogate Rally, October 2021

The site at the Showground was an ideal venue for a rally. The site is small but very well maintained with a lovely, friendly and helpful warden.

Adjacent to the site is a farm shop and at the end of the road Sainsburys near the bus stop into Harrogate. The pub was also a short walk away where we had our rally meal. All 3 criteria were met, bus, shop and pub!

We could walk into Harrogate easily for those that felt the need for exercise. Malcolm organised a bike ride for those that had bikes!!

Harrogate is an interesting place and some of us went on the free Harrogate walking tour led by Harry, a young man with lots of personality.

It was a 10 minute bus ride into Harrogate bus station from where we could connect to places such as Knaresborough another interesting place with a

good market. Our bus passes came in handy. Peter lost his but it has been replaced free of charge!

The weather was generally kind to us but on the one windy and rainy day 10 of us went to see the new James Bond film. I enjoyed it but I think the jury is still out with some.

Thanks to all who attended and helped make it an enjoyable time.

Kath Elliott

2022 Rally Programme Overview

May 16th to 20th (4 nights)	Hayling Island	Stewards Lesley & Ian Dewey	
June 24th to 29th (5 nights)	Cleethorpes, Armed Forces show	Stewards Liz & Pete	
July 17th to 22nd (5 nights)	Ilkley Rugby Club	Stewards Peter and Jane Wood	
August 11th to 16th (5 nights)	Shrewsbury flower show	Stewards Charles and Jacqui Chodkowski	

More details to follow on the above.

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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