

The

**LAIKA**<sup>®</sup>



CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



# NEWSLETTER

[www.laikaclub.com](http://www.laikaclub.com)

## ISSUE No 67

**March 2019**

### Your Laika Club Committee

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Katrina Lancaster</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Paul Lawrence</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Charles Chodkowski</b>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	<b>Jacqui Chodkowski</b>
<b>Rally Co-ordinator:</b>	<b>Richard Moss</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Tim Sheppard</b>
<b>Web Master:</b>	<b>Eric Gould</b>

## **Chair's Chat**

The AGM saw some changes to the Committee. After 16 years Kath has retired from Newsletter Editor and Tim Sheppard is taking over. Many thanks to Kath for all her work in keeping us informed and entertained. Your articles to Tim (preferably in Word) will be appreciated. We hope you enjoy his first edition.

Murray and John Stevens have volunteered to shadow Richard's role as Rally Coordinator and to help with plans for 2020. Your input on suitable venues and ideas are always welcome.

Gill Steven's 2 year term as Chairman has ended and I have now taken over with Paul Lawrence as Vice chair. We all look forward to looking after the Club and supporting its activities in the future.

Another year's fine rallying on the horizon – see further on for the current rally list. The first of the season is at Bath Marina where we hope to see you. We have new electric bikes to try out, together with a dog trailer for Jess. The towpath might be a bit risky for the first outing !

Then on 10 April we're visiting Southdown for warranty check and the Portsmouth – St Malo ferry for 6 weeks wild camping in Spain. Catch up again on the Brittany rally.

Katrina Lancaster

## **Welcome to New Members**

Jim & June Rennie, Broadway, Worcestershire

# **Christmas 2018 Rally and AGM Report**

**29<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Rutland C & C site, Greetham**

Our rally started with a meet and greet hosted by Dee and Eric. Eric and Richard had put up their awnings to give us some protection from the elements. The mulled wine, minced pies, and sausage rolls went down a treat.

The rally also started off with flashing blue lights, not Christmas lights but those courtesy of the ambulance service. Lesley spent the night in hospital returning to bravely continue with the rally. (Editor's note - Lesley is now sorted).

Most of us were out and about on the local buses on Friday.

Saturday, we were able to hold our junk sale (sorry, unwanted essential motor home equipment). Last year it was cancelled due to several inches of snow.

Our AGM was held in the afternoon in the community centre (very well equipped), comfortable, warm, good acoustics and an adjacent kitchen so we could have coffee/tea etc. The centre was a short walk from the site.

The AGM saw some changes. At last I was able to retire after 16 years as Tim Sheppard volunteered to take over the newsletter. No blackmail or broken bones occurred. Murray Chisholm and John Stevens also volunteered to shadow Richard to eventually take over from him as rally coordinator. We now have Katrina Lancaster as Chair with Paul Lawrence as Vice Chair.

We returned to site to await our taxi to take us to the Golf Cub for our Christmas meal. Shaun our taxi driver did 4 trips each way with 7/taxi. What a relief to have a reliable taxi firm. At the previous Christmas rally we had snow and the taxi firm who said they were still coming didn't and didn't tell us but fortunately they didn't tell one of their drivers who together with Ian who had brought their car along and the pub landlord, managed to get us all there and back. A similar occurrence in March 2018 when the taxi failed to return for the last 6 but this time the pub landlady came for us in her car along with all the paraphernalia that comes with having 4 small children.

The golf club was a good venue for our meal, nicely decorated and good service.



Sunday, a good number of us went walking and had a very enjoyable pub lunch. Poor Charles who had knee problems rode his electric bike to the pub, but had the chain break so had to push the bike back afterwards.

Monday we all returned home to finish or start our Christmas preparations.

Thanks to all who came and to the tea and coffee ladies!!

Kath Elliott

## **Newsletter distribution**

At the AGM, there was a discussion about this Newsletter and how it is distributed because the printing, folding, stapling and posting of copies to every member is quite labour intensive and costly.

It was agreed that from this edition (March 2019) the primary distribution mechanism will be by email. It is therefore important that all members let our Membership Secretary know about changes to email addresses.

Those members who do not have an email address (how do you manage in today's world ?) will continue to receive a printed copy, although we would encourage you to consider getting an email address so you can receive the newsletter and other club emails whilst on your travels.

A redacted version with contact details removed will continue to be available to download from the club website.

Tim Sheppard  
Editor

# **It's An Early Spring!**

## **Guinea Pig's Climate Prognostication**

Abington, Cambridgeshire Saturday, February 2nd, 2019

Never mind the snow – It will soon be spring! Abington's famous guinea pig climate prognosticator, Pippin, made his yearly prediction just after 10 o'clock this morning.

According to folklore, if the guinea pig can see the shadow of his tail on the morning of Candlemas day, the 2nd day of February, there will be six more weeks of winter. No tail shadow is a sure sign that spring will arrive early.

Stepping out of his hutch onto a carpet of snow, but insulated from the near freezing temperatures by his thick layer of body fat, Pippin sniffed the cold air. He looked up at the cloudy sky, with just a hint of sun beginning to break through, and then down to the ground before squeaking his prognostication: No tail shadow – it's going to be an early spring !



**Pippin making his Early Spring Prognostication**

Within a few hours, on the other side of the Atlantic, Pippins Early Spring prediction was confirmed by Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil squeaking outside his burrow at Gobbler's Knob, Pa. and by Canadian Groundhog Wiarton Willie from Wiarton in Bruce County, Ontario.

Commenting on Pippin's Early Spring prediction, Craig Fish, policy and communications director of the Granta River Institute on Climate Change at the Abington School of Economics said "Although some Anti-Science Deniers claim that snow disproves Climate Change, it's a simple fact that winter storms don't prove that global warming isn't happening.

With the Met Office predicting Thundersnow and much of the United States in the icy grip of a severe Polar Vortex, when even breathing can be dangerous, these devastating phenomena will become increasingly common as the planet warms. Recent research by 20 influential food scientists, published in the Lancet Medical Journal, confirms that if we don't drastically reduce meat consumption, Climate Change will increasingly cause colder, hotter, dryer and wetter weather, and more frequently than ever before. We should all listen to the Guinea Pig, and become vegetarians like him."

Dr Bob Hahn, of the Abington Space and Weather Studies Institute, agreed: "Climate change doesn't just mean hotter temperatures. It's all around extreme weather. Although much of what we've seen recently has been caused by people hoarding snow because of Brexit, the underlying rapid rise in Global Temperature will soon mean that the guinea-piglets just aren't going to know what snow is."

With thanks to Jim for the contribution

## **Stop Press**

Just as we were putting this edition to bed, Jacqui received the following email from one of the club's founder members, Peter George

Hi, Jacqui,

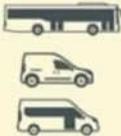
Many thanks for the reminder. It's good to see that this year's programme is as good as ever. Much as I enjoy the newsletter I have reluctantly concluded that I've no prospect of maintaining sensible contact

so have decided to let my membership lapse. I'd like to extend best wishes to all the members for a happy and successful 2019 season - and thanks to Officers and Committee for their sterling work. Best wishes, Peter

PS Are there any other founder members still in touch?

## Spanish Speed Limit changes

Just a reminder that the lower speed limits in Spain came into force on the 29th January, and the Spanish Police share information with the UK.

LÍMITES DE VELOCIDAD EN VÍAS INTERURBANAS		AUTOPISTA/ AUTOVÍA	CONVENCIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turismo</li> <li>• Motocicleta</li> <li>• Autocaravana de MMA &lt;= 3.500 Kg</li> <li>• Pick-up</li> </ul>		120	90
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autobús</li> <li>• Vehículo derivado de turismo</li> <li>• Vehículo mixto adaptable</li> </ul>		100	90
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camión/Tractocamión</li> <li>• Furgón/Furgoneta</li> <li>• Autocaravana de MMA &gt; 3.500 Kg</li> <li>• Vehículo articulado</li> <li>• Automóvil con remolque</li> <li>• Resto de vehículos</li> </ul>		90	80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicicleta</li> <li>• Ciclomotor</li> </ul>		45	45

\*Sólo bicicletas por autovía, salvo prohibición expresa.  
Más información y excepciones en el RD 1514/2018 o artículo 48 RCC.

With thanks to Eric for the reminder

## Chichester Camping and Caravanning Club Site

Property prices in the south mean that motorhome suitable campsites are pretty thin on the ground, especially ones open all year. Those that are open, and here I am thinking Bristol, Brighton, Poole etc., book up early and quickly. Whilst we are happy to plan ahead and book club rallies we do prefer to get up and go when the mood takes us or the forecast is fine.

So it was with no great expectation of success that during the recent half term week I started to scout around for somewhere “nice” to go for the couple of fine days that were promised. We ruled out most of the obvious sites as either being too busy or been there too often. But trawling the two main clubs’ websites threw up a number of options with space even though it was half term week. That was a surprise as it did include the popular London Crystal Palace site but alas not Brighton on the coast.

And it was *seaside* that we really wanted but the CCC site just to the west of Chichester was open (1st Feb to 18th November) and did have space. It is more than 10 years since we used that site. My recollection was of a smallish site with too many trees and only a rather scruffy pub nearby. The website wasn’t encouraging - warning of building works going on next door.

So it was a bit of a gamble to book it but we needn’t have worried, the site was easy to access, the trees had been pollarded and the building work was almost complete. Plus the pub had had a makeover and served some really tempting food. On the subject of food, the farm shop across the road has an interesting range of items too.

The coastliner bus service stopping right outside ran every 20 minutes heading both east and west taking you to Portsmouth or Chichester and onto Poole or Brighton if you wished. The wardens were really friendly and helpful keeping the site and its facilities in tip top order.

**Few words of warning:** It’s dog friendly, but the dog walk is off site nearby, there is a 8m length limit and no dedicated motorhome service point.

345 Main Road, Southbourne, West Sussex, PO10 8JH

Phone number: [01243 373202](tel:01243373202) Latitude: 50.8447 Longitude: -0.903

Open: **01 Feb 2019 - 18 Nov 2019, 07 Feb 2020 - 16 Nov 2020**

Managers: Mark & Patricia Crump Pitches: 55

With thanks to Eric for the contribution

## Patagonian adventure

In 2014, Lorraine and I joined a rally to make a nine week motorhome trip from Uruguay, down through Argentina to Patagonia, then back up through Chile before returning to Montevideo. As you can imagine, this was a once-in-lifetime journey filled with incident, in some of the wildest landscapes in South America.

We didn't take our van, of course, but hired a well-equipped 7 metre Fiat Carado in Uruguay: the tour company was French, and the vehicles were German registered.....go figure! We kept a quite detailed log, and published a blog 2 or 3 times a week: it was quite difficult because of the awful internet access virtually everywhere – and it was quite tiring after long days on the road to write everything up and edit the pics down to a usable size.

We thought you would like to know about one of our “incidents” – it gives you a flavour of the highs and lows of the trip.

We arrived in Paraná, in Entre Rios province, on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. This steep little town is a popular resort, and is beautifully landscaped: the inhabitants don't treat it with the respect it deserves. The standard of building and architecture was better than usual for Argentina, which is generally fairly run down. We were met by the local tourist board people, and they took us on a mini tour in the late afternoon, followed by press and TV interviews. Fame at last!

Unfortunately, on arriving at the parking site (the local boat club), we had opened the hatches as usual to cool and ventilate the vans: it was 28C, and very humid. When we were on our tour, the heavens opened and there was a torrential downpour: in the open, you were soaked through in seconds, literally. As a result, the vans got soaked. Easy enough to clean the wood etc, but the hatch over the bed.....It was a bit damp, that night, to say the least.

Not to worry: the evening entertainment was excellent. The site owner cooked the local speciality, a fish called pacu, which was almost certainly pirhana: nothing else can be as ugly, with its jutting jaw and ferocious teeth. In any event, it was superb. “Folk singers” were billed for after dinner – normally enough to make us head quickly for the exit. In this case, the band, Carlos Velásquez, consisting of Carlos (singer guitarist), another guitarist, a superb piano accordionist, and a drum basher were really contagious, even

though it was all local music and words. There were also two groups of dances, so in total about 14 people on stage – for an audience of 21. It was really great. And yes, we bought the CD!



After a really enjoyable night, we set off alone on Sunday, heading for El Palmar notional park. Entre Rios is a rice growing area: very flat, and very, very wet: the rain hammered down, reducing our speed to 50 kph.

The roads are mainly extremely rutted, pot-holed, narrow, 2-way roads, made even more alarming by the standing water, filling the truck-ruts for hundreds of metres, and concealing potholes and broken road edges. Even going slowly, it was a really hair-raising experience. There was virtually nowhere to stop. Service stations can be over 100 km apart, and the road shoulders are treacherous. As we discovered.

We had been looking for a temporary stop point for about 30 minutes (for the usual reason!), when we spotted what appeared to be a suitable piece of shoulder, with stone chippings. The road behind was clear, so we were able to gradually slow down on the road, coming nearly to a stop, before turning gingerly onto the verge. Which was pure clay, offering no grip at all. As we stopped, the van started to slide sideways down the bank of the adjacent drainage ditch, tilting alarmingly as it did so. We could do nothing, except

exclaim “Oh, dear!”, or something similar. We thought we were going to topple over. It would have been a soft landing, and we would not have been in serious danger, although it didn't appear so at the time!

Having slid 4 feet, the van stopped, tilted at about 30 degrees, with the nearside (right) wheels about 2 feet from the water, which we learned is about 3 feet deep, and 6 feet wide. Grabbing waterproof jackets (it was still hammering down) we scrambled “uphill” out of the van, which was quite unstable. There was no panic, but real concern that the van would slip further, and topple onto it's side, although probably 80% out of the water. Our in-van forward-facing video records this perfectly! Scrambling up the bank showed us that it was deep, very slippery mud, which quickly added two inches to our shoes.

There were some buildings about 250 metres behind us, and the same ahead. As we considered our next move, one of our group vans drew up. This was Michel and Josiane Riche, our only Belgian couple. We couldn't have found a better couple! We took stock, locked the van (carefully!), jumped muddily into Michel's van and shot up the road to the next building, which was a farm. Pulling into the yard up to the neat house, we were immediately met by the farmer, who appeared dressed only in a pair of smart cut-off jeans, bare-chested and barefoot. Despite the language problems, he quickly understood what we wanted, and for the next 10 minutes we rooted round in the machinery barns for chains, bars, etc, Gustavo (the farmer), still in jeans and barefoot, loaded up an enormous tractor, and back down the road we went. We were relieved to see the van still upright, though a little further down the bank.

There was only one towing point on the van: at the front, behind the plastic bumper, and you need to remove a little plastic cover, then screw in a solid, 9-inch long towing-eye. Said towing-eye is stored with the jack, in the back locker. The door to the locker is on the right-hand side: downhill. The jack is under the spare wheel, which is stored on the far left-hand side of the locker. It was clearly too dangerous to open the locker, empty all the ancillary kit (chairs, table, cables, etc) out of it, and then crawl in to retrieve the heavy jack kit.

We decided to try to tow the van from the back, shackling a chain round the suspension behind the left hand rear wheel. Our concern was that this might in fact tip the van over: the tractor, high up on the road, would be pulling

upwards on the van at first.



Although traffic was light, we had to control the flow – the tractor and Michel's van blocked one lane. It took three attempts to extract the van. The first chain around the suspension snapped. We then connected the heavy chain (10mm) direct to the van, and that snapped! Finally, having tied a knot in the chain, the van was heaved slowly out of the mud, up the bank, onto the road, completely undamaged. To our great relief, and blasting of air-horns from the waiting trucks! Mike had been perched in the driving seat with the engine running and the door open for a quick exit, steering the front wheels as needed.

Triumphant convoy of tractor and two very muddy vans back to the farm, congratulations all round, finally getting Gustavo to accept something adequate for his help, hosing of shoes, vans, trousers etc, (Gustavo was completely unmarked, still wandering around barefoot without a shirt in the rain!), celebratory (small) glass of beer, give Gustavo copy of the day's local paper, which happened to feature a photo of THE van, and off we went. Surprisingly calm. At least on the surface.....

And so to El Palmar.....

With thanks to Mike and Lorraine Evans for the contribution

## Rally Update

Welcome all to the new Rally season and I hope to see as many of you as possible attending our programme of events organised by our Members. You are urged to book so that we can accommodate all of those interested.

**The Rally in Brittany, France** has bookings for 10 but numbers are unrestricted. Brian Shaw and myself would however like to still have as much notice as possible please.

I have booked my ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo via The Motorhome and Caravan Club at £505 return including a cabin outbound. The return trip is a Day Sailing.

**Thankyou** to those Stewards organising the Rallies and to you all for **your** interest. Ruth and I look forward to meeting you all at the first well attended Rally at **Bath Marina** capably organised by Kath and Peter.

Richard Moss  
**Rally Coordinator**

## Rallies for 2019

<b>March</b> Tuesday 26th to Sunday 31st (5 nights)	<b>Bath Marina and Caravan Park</b> Brasmill Lane BA1 3JT 01225 424301	<b>Stewards</b> Dee and Eric Gould <b>For Booking contact</b> Kath Elliott	£21/night See further on for details
<b>April</b> Thursday 11th to Monday 15th (4 nights)	Jubilee Park Stixwoud <b>Woodhall Spa</b> Lincolnshire LN10 6QU	<b>Stewards</b> Gill and John Stevens	£17/night See further on for details

## Rallies for 2019 Continued

<p><b>May</b></p> <p>Thursday 16th to Monday 20th (4 nights)</p>	<p>Willowbank Holiday Park Willowbank Coastal Rd Ainsdale, <b>Southport</b></p>	<p><b>Stewards</b></p> <p>Lesley Dewey and John Pilkington</p>	<p>£21.50/night £20 dep re-quired asap</p> <p>See further on for details</p>
<p><b>June</b></p> <p>13th to 17th 18th to 23rd</p>	<p><b>Two centre rally</b></p> <p><b>Brittany, France</b></p>	<p><b>Stewards</b></p> <p>Richard and Ruth Moss Brian Shaw and Anne</p>	<p>See further on for details</p>
<p><b>August</b></p> <p>Thursday 1st to Tuesday 6th (5 nights)</p>	<p>Eden Tree Caravan Park <b>Bradwell</b>, Derbyshire S33 9JT</p>	<p><b>Stewards</b></p> <p>Katrina Lancaster and Tim Sheppard</p>	<p>£21/night £20 dep reqd.</p> <p>See further on for details</p>
<p><b>September</b></p> <p>2nd to 7th</p>	<p><b>Isle of Wight package holiday</b></p>	<p><b>CANCELLED due to lack of interest</b></p>	
<p><b>October</b></p> <p>Thursday 10th to Monday 14th (4 nights)</p>	<p>Riverside Caravan Park Tiddington Road <b>Stratford upon Avon</b> CV37 7AA</p>	<p><b>Stewards</b></p> <p>Kath and Peter Elliott</p>	<p>£14.50/night</p>
<p><b>Nov/Dec</b></p> <p>28th November to 2nd December (4 nights)</p>	<p><b>Fakenham Racecourse</b></p> <p>AGM/Christmas rally</p>	<p><b>Stewards</b></p> <p>Wendy and David Futter</p>	<p>£16/night</p> <p>Details to follow</p>

## **March 26th to 31st (5 nights Tuesday to Sunday)**

### **Bath**

We are now going to Bath Marina campsite instead of Swanage. The deposit required for Swanage was a quarter of our funds which we would lose if we didn't get a full house. Having said this Bath is a very good place to go. The site has all the usual amenities, we have been twice before. It has a pub round the corner for a meal, a park and ride across the road giving easy access to Bath, Bristol and surrounding area. There is a lovely walk along the river into Bath and a cycle track that goes to Bristol. There is so much to do easily that we have chosen to go for 5 nights extending over the weekend for those who may still be working. There is more than enough to do in Bath. NO deposit is required from you but we would like you to show your interest soon as only 10 pitches have been booked. If we fill this number quickly we may be able to get more pitches. This site is extremely popular with rallies.

**Please contact Kath Elliott asap**

## **April 11th - 15 (4 nights Thursday to Monday)**

### **Jubilee Park Woodhall Spa**

Woodhall Spa was conceived as a Spa resort and still largely depends on visitors for its prosperity today. Jubilee Park is set in traditional English gardens and is five minutes' walk from the village centre. The site is entirely self-supporting and run as a charity with no public funding. It has a toilet and shower blocks, water and waste/ chemical disposal areas, washing up and laundry facilities. There is an outdoor heated swimming pool with a reduction of 50% per unit. Other facilities include a putting green, tennis courts, a bowls green and cricket field and a café. If you don't want to move your van bring your bikes as there are places to visit such as Tattershall Castle and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flights Visitors Centre at Coningsby, several nature reserves.

There will also be the chance to join in the world renowned “Laika Hike”

**The cost for a hard-standing pitch is £17 per night including electricity. As there are only 10 of these, please let Gill Stevens have a £10 deposit as soon as possible but before the end of February.**

**May 16th to 20th (4 nights, Thursday to Monday)**

**Willowbank Holiday Park, Southport**

01704 571566

[www.willowbankcp.co.uk](http://www.willowbankcp.co.uk)      [www.sparrowhawk-formby.co.uk](http://www.sparrowhawk-formby.co.uk)

Visited this site in October 2016. Popular so we are having a return visit. 5 miles from centre of Southport, 5 minute walk to bus stop to Southport and Liverpool. Within walking distance of National Trust and Sefton coastline. Walking and cycling facilities.

Sparrowhawk Venue has reasonable meals and bar within reach. Shop nearby.

**Two Centre Rally in Brittany**

**Thursday 13 June until Tuesday 18 June 2019**

**Camping du Poulquer, Bonodet, Bretagne (Finistere) France  
ACSI 1374**

Location: Within easy reach of ports for travelling from UK and would form an ideal base to go your own way further into France

Deposit: Not necessary at this stage but it would help if you would express your interest as there is work in organising. If you are afraid to commit there would be no obligation if you change your mind.

Price: 19 Euros at present and we will firm up nearer the time.

The site: A family owned site close to town near to the beach. Modern facilities, heated outdoor pool with Jacuzzi, indoor pool with sliding roof, sauna

and wellness area. Our Group would be situated in our own area so we could organise ourselves if required without embarrassing anyone else.

Meal: The site warden has offered to organise a venue in reasonably close proximity during our visit. He is used to Rallies and very friendly and English speaking.

Visits: Concarneau is nearby with historical interest and a harbour with ancient fortifications. Cycling is possible and boat trips into Quimper and the nearby Isles. Benodet is a nice town and has a small supermarket.

**Stewards:** Richard & Ruth Moss

**Tuesday 18 June to Sunday 23 June 2019**

**Camping les Jardins de Kergal, Route des Plages, Kargal Uhel, Bretagne - ACSI 1407**

Location: Near Guidel Quiet campsite situated between Guidel and the sea and less than 30 miles from the last site.

Price: 15 Euros in 2018 so not expensive

The Site: There are about 80 large touring pitches with shade available on most. Water is on tap within 50m of all pitches. There are separate Ladies and Gents toilets, shower and wash areas, clean and hot showers, good clothes washers, dryers and washing up. A good path from the rear of site leads to a lovely beach less than 1 km away. Cycle routes in the area, village and large supermarket about 1 km distant. Lovely heated pool, walking routes by sea and River Laita.

**Stewards:** Brian Shaw and Anne

Ferry: Suggest St Malo

Next Step: Send an e mail to Richard saying you are interested please! We have 10 places booked, but all are welcome provided the site still has pitches available .

## **WELL, WELL, WELL, WELL**

**Thursday 1 August – Tuesday 6 August £105**

**Eden Tree Caravan Park, Bradwell, Hope Valley**

The owner of Eden Tree Caravan Park has agreed to a rally but as it is high season and Carnival week needs a deposit of £20/unit to reserve pitch.

I have booked 10 pitches based on deposits received. Later bookings are subject to availability. The rally is based in Bradwell, Derbyshire, which has a Co-Op, chippy, café, 3 pubs and a gastro pub – all within 10 minutes of the campsite. The rally is timed to coincide with Wakes Week and there will be 4well dressings, a Parade and Carnival on Saturday and various local events. There are several caverns, a castle and of course Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall, Bolsover Castle and Haddon Hall. Further afield is Biddulph Grange gardens, Little Moreton Old Hall, Lyme Park, Dunham Massey, Quarry Bank and Tatton Park.

**WALKS:** Walk to Hope or Castleton across the fields and catch the bus back. The Monsal Trail – an 8.5 mile trail on a former railway line which includes 6 tunnels and a famous viaduct with stunning views. Lots of opportunities to do sections of it and incorporate other walks. Bikes (including electric) for hire. Pennine Way starts at Edale (7 miles away). First section crosses fields as it wends its way round the hills and provides an easy experience.

**HISTORY:** Winter Gardens (Sheffield) – large glass building with wide-ranging plants including a New Zealand section. Located at same venue is excellent small museum of Sheffield silver and cutlery, a statue made of cutlery and interesting Sheffield related gifts. Kelham Island Museum (Sheffield) – great industrial machinery and the history of steel. Area has been regenerated and there are micro breweries, pubs etc Abbeydale Hamlet (Sheffield) – former premises of Sheffield silver and steel, water-powered, large lake (water stock), Interesting group of stone buildings. Derwent Dams – site of Dambusters practice. Beautiful 8 mile drive alongside 3 reservoirs. Many walks off road, ideal for bikes.

RETAIL THERAPY: Bus to Bakewell Monday market, a large and varied outdoor stall market plus agricultural auction. Swimming pool and independent shops in town centre. Plenty of cafes and pubs for drinks and eats. Nice walks along the river. Aldi located on A6 west. The spa town of Buxton (Aldi, Morrison. Waitrose). Meadowhall (Sheffield) – famous retail centre built on old steelworks at Tinsley (just by junction 34 of the M1). Excellent range of shops plus cinemas and The Oasis (food outlets). Bus and Tram. Train to Manchester with its museums, shops and Salford Quays Media Centre. TV studio visits.

**Contact Katrina about availability of pitches.**

**October 10th to 14th (4 nights, Thursday to Monday)**

### **Stratford upon Avon**

The site and position to Stratford was appreciated by all who came in October 2017. We are in the rally field. The cost is £14.50 and includes our very own toilet and shower block. Electric hook up operated by cards at £5. It is an easy walk into Stratford or there is a water taxi from the site. There is a good restaurant on site which gives 10% discount to ralliers. There is no limit on numbers so there is no excuse! 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. The village is 0.3 miles away and there is a good, flat footpath alongside the road. There is a regular bus service from Tiddington to Stratford, Warwick and Leamington Spa.

**Please note the sat nav postcode CV37 7AA**

**28th November to 2nd December (4 nights)**

### **Fakenham Racecourse**

Details to follow.



**Whitby steps courtesy of Peter Elliott**

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

The information and opinions in this newsletter are those of the contact name or names given. The Laika Club of Great Britain does not necessarily agree with nor endorse their comments and/or views. It is a totally independent Club, governed by its constitution giving no preference to any Publication, Dealer or other club. This however, does not prevent, with Committee approval, the fostering of mutually beneficial relations.