

The

LAIKA[®]



CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2020

Your Laika Club Committee

Chair:	Katrina Lancaster
Vice Chair	Paul Lawrence
Treasurer:	Charles Chodkowski
Membership Secretary:	Jacqui Chodkowski
Rally Co-ordinator:	Murray Chisholm
Newsletter Editor:	Tim Sheppard
Web Master:	Eric Gould

Chair's Chat

What a month it has been!

So many wonderful plans for rallies this season and then ...

Our rally stewards have put a lot of effort into organising a great variety for us to enjoy around the country. Given Government advice and time-scales, our rallies are cancelled through to the end of May. Holding onto hope for May seemed a route to frustration and admin of cancelling/refunding/booking etc.

When all this is over, I am sure there will be many parties to celebrate our refund freedom to wander. I am sure we are all doing those overlooked maintenance jobs, cleaning the motorhome, etc. I have just emptied out our standard food stock on the basis it might be useful at home or may go out of date. It will be a pleasure to restock and get away, let's hope that we can do the June rally organised by Doug and Myfanwy to Swansea.

Keep safe and look forward to hopefully meeting up in June.

Katrina

Welcome to New Members

David & Ronne Dargue

David Manovitch and Lesley Greene

Tom & Cyn Fearon

2019 AGM Rally Report

28th November to 2nd December—Fakenham Racecourse

No snow this year – what a relief – although a little damp. There was a good turnout and the business was dealt with swiftly. You can view the accounts and the unapproved minutes on the website to see what happened.

Fakenham Racecourse provided us with good hardstanding and facilities and a convenient starting point for visits. We were welcomed with mincepies in the Racecourse bar and some of us also ate there. Many of us visited the fabled Thursford Spectacular and were treated to wonderful performances by the singers and dancers. An excellent meal and entertainment was organised by our Rally Stewards in the Racecourse restaurant. Many thanks to the Fitters for an excellent rally.

Katrina Lancaster

To SORN or not to SORN—that is the question !

As the current coronavirus pandemic has confined us all to barracks and we can't use our motorhomes, why not save money and use the DVLA SORN process to save on your road fund licence.

You need the 11 digit document reference number on the vehicle's V5 form (it is on the right hand side about half way down) and your vehicle registration.

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/make-a-sorn> (be careful if you use a search engine to find it as there are websites that will charge you £30 or more for something that is free on www.gov.uk) and enter the details.

We have done it for both our van and second car, it took less than 2 minutes and we got a refund cheque from the government in less than a week.

When the restrictions are lifted eventually, you simply tax your van again using the V5 details - Simple ! as the advert says .

Tim Sheppard

Our last outing for a while

Tim has a holiday cottage which he lets out in Bamburgh. The cleaning agency (50 clients) couldn't get enough loo rolls and cleaning materials so with 3 unbooked days we thought we would do the good deed, have a walk on the beach and do a few odd jobs.

We left home on the Saturday morning and headed for the Yorkshire Dales, doing a pub stopover at the Tan Hill Inn (at 1753ft). If you haven't yet tried pub stops, it is a great way to see different parts of the UK, have a nice meal and as much drink as you want knowing that your bed is just outside.

The Tan Hill Inn was still doing takeaway food so we had chicken pie with mash and lots of veg, followed by one of the best sticky toffee puddings ever, delivered to our van door.

In the morning, we enjoyed a walk in each direction on the Pennine Way which crosses the road at this point – spectacular panoramic views, then we set off for a drive through the Dales, enjoying coffee and cake on the Green at Reeth before heading for Ellingham and a car park just off the main A69 on the Allendale estate. They have gifted an area as community woodland and we really enjoyed a walk across a meadow and up round the woods. Lots of chirpy birds. Although listed as a stopover, no one else joined us but we felt safe and stayed overnight to discover a fairly hard frost in the morning.

Monday saw us needing diesel so we stopped at Morrisons in Morpeth and I ventured into the shop to see what was available – amazing! For weeks I had been searching for dried yeast – got the flour only to discover that my yeast was years out of date – some handwash which I hadn't seen in the shops for weeks and some extra meat for the freezer. I had been running down the back-up freezer in the cellar in order to defrost it so was caught rather short of frozen meat.

The weekend guests had left the house and we set about bringing in our vital supplies and checking out what disasters had happened in the last 3 months - nice oak coffee table with big patch of red crayon.

Hearing the increasingly bad news we decided against staying till Thursday which had been our plan and got home on the night of the new restrictions.

We have emptied our stock of food from the van – it might be useful and one can was already out of date – and then SORNd the van and our second car (Ed. see separate article). Amazingly we received a £50 cheque this morning for the car – less than a week! The van was due to be taxed 1 April so that is now on hold.

Katrina Lancaster

ACCEO

Whilst at the recent NEC Show, we visited the ACCEO stand who invited us to their private lounge for a coffee – very civilised! Learning quite a lot from our chat, I thought I would share with members.

The Laika Club of GB is a member of ACCEO: the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations. They represent Caravan and Camping Clubs who hold a Certificate of Exemption issued by one of three authorities – Natural England which is an executive public body sponsored by DEFRA (The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Activities), or The Welsh Assembly Government (Planning Division), or The Scottish Government (Housing Markets Supply Division).

ACCEO works closely with Government Departments and Authorities on behalf of its Member Clubs.

ACCEO is also able to provide both services and access to facilities not directly available to individual clubs. The category of Personal Membership (£5 pa) has been introduced to provide an additional voice to the membership of Member Clubs and greater flexibility in arranging invitation and joint rallies.

ACCEO Rallies

The Association organises a National and AGM Rally at the beginning of October each year. Rally arrangements are made by a volunteer ‘host’ club in

conjunction with Officers of the Association. Personal Members of the Association as well as members of the Association's Member Clubs are able to meet like-minded caravanners and enjoy the organized entertainment

Additionally, Member Clubs are encouraged to run Invitation Rallies where the Association makes arrangements that permit the attendance of other interested Member Clubs.

Katrina Lancaster

105 year old lady's advice to us all



"For better digestion I drink beer. In case of appetite loss I drink white wine. In case of low blood pressure I drink red wine. In case of high blood pressure I drink scotch. When I have a cold I drink Schnapps."

"When do you drink water?"

"I've never been that sick!"

shared by silversurfers.com

Rallies in 2020

In view of the current coronavirus pandemic and resulting government restrictions, the committee have decided to cancel all rallies until the end of May 2020.

We will keep the situation under review and hope that we can do the June rally organised by Doug and Myfanwy to Swansea.

March 24th to 29th	Cheddar	Stewards Eric and Dee	Cancelled
April 23rd to 27th	Chichester	Stewards Murray and Karen	Cancelled
May 14th to 20th	Woodbridge	Stewards David and Wendy	Cancelled
June 17th to 21st (5 nights)	Swansea - Dunvant Rugby Club	Stewards Doug and Myfanwy	£12 per night
July 6th to 10th (4 nights)	Little Hereford rally	Stewards Charles and Jacqui Chodkowski	£28 per night Deposit £25 per van
October 15th to 19th (4 nights)	Delamere Forest C&C Club, Station Rd, Delamere CW8 2HZ	Stewards Katrina Lancaster and Tim Sheppard	
November 6th to 8th (2 nights)	Camper UK Open Weekend	Not a formal rally More an opportunity to meet up	£30 per van
Deceember 3rd to 7th (4 nights)	Teversal, Notts AGM/Christmas rally	Stewards Katrina Lancaster and Tim Sheppard	

June 17th to 21st (5 nights Wednesday to Sunday)

Swansea - Dunvant Rugby Club

Dunvant Rugby Club is situated to the West of Swansea and is adjacent to a traffic free pedestrian/cycle track. It is just under 3 miles from the Swansea Bay sea front and it is possible to cycle (or walk) the whole of the bay from the marina to Mumbles. In fact one can cycle far and beyond, even visit the Wetland Centre at Penclacwydd near Llanelli.

The site is a rugby club and has limited numbers of basic showers and toilets. It is shared by Bikeability from whom it is possible to hire bikes (bikeabilitywales.org.uk). Electricity is available, but dependent on the numbers requiring it, sharing may be necessary.

The nearest pub is the Hungry Horse which is less than 1/2 mile away and a regular bus service passes near the site. It might pay Anglo Saxons to purchase a day ticket (currently £4.72 or £4.20 via the app) for the buses as it gives unlimited travel for the day in the Swansea area.

Price is £12 per night

We're booking our evening meal for the Sunday night and need to give the pub numbers plus a £1 Deposit so please let us know asap - choose your meal on the night.

Rally Stewards: Doug and Myfanwy Harries

July 6th to 10th (4 nights Monday to Friday)

Westbrook Park, Lych Lane, Little Hereford, Ludlow SY8 4AU

Website westbrookpark.co.uk

We have been able to reserve a great area, all 10+vans together, having all weather, fully serviced pitches with 16amp electric, water, tv hookup and drainage point. All this by the river Teme, with half mile river bank fishing.

Extensive dog walk with exercise area and good local footpaths, also short walk to local country pub. (It's just across the river).

We would like some commitment from those who would like to join us. It will be £28 per night, £1 per night for each dog. (It is height of season). A deposit of £25 per unit is required as per recent email.

Rally Stewards: Jacqui & Charles Chodkowski

October 15th to 19th (4 nights Thursday to Monday)

Delamere Forest C&CC, Station Rd, Delamere, Northwich CW8 2HZ

A forest and city rally on the Camping and Caravanning Club site adjacent to Delamere Forest (972 hectares). It is known for its fabulous walks and bike rides. Delamere railway station is adjacent and is 9½ miles east of Chester on the Mid-Cheshire Line. There is an hourly service each way between Chester and Manchester. Bus stop is 1.25 miles.

Chester has the most complete city walls, the oldest racecourse and the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain, plus a 1000 year old Cathedral with Europe's finest example of medieval carvings, Roman remains, river with promenade and boat trips, city walls

The Rows are continuous half-timbered galleries, reached by steps, which form a second row of shops above those at street level along Watergate Street, Northgate Street, Eastgate Street and Bridge Street. They are unique in the world to Chester, and nobody is quite sure why they were built in this way. Some original 13th century buildings, including the Three Old Arches.

Visits – Liverpool and River Mersey etc, Port Sunlight model village (Lever Bros fame), Manchester, Anderton boat lift and salt museum at Northwich, Beeston Castle, Catalyst Museum, Widnes (history of the chemical industry)

Final evening meal at <http://delamere-fortune-palace-restaurant.co.uk/>

Rally Stewards: Katrina Lancaster & Tim Sheppard

November 6th to 8th (2 nights Friday to Sunday)

Lincoln

We have had an approach from Camper UK who are now Laika Dealers in Lincoln inviting us to their open weekends which are held 3 weekends per year and include a hog roast and live entertainment for Friday and Saturday nights, with free shuttle bus into Lincoln.

They work with other owners clubs and existing customers get a discount.

Their premises are newly built and impressive and it gives an opportunity to meet them and for us to get improved relations with the Laika Company and Products

Attendance is £30 for the 2 days, but free for Camper UK customers.

Rally Stewards: Murray and Karen mchisholm11@hotmail.co.uk

December 3rd to 7th (4 nights Thursday to Monday)

Christmas Rally & AGM - Teversal, Notts

The detailed programme for our Christmas Rally and AGM is still being planned, but we are returning to Teversal Camping and Caravanning Club site for our 2020 Christmas Rally and AGM.

Good opportunities for walking and visiting historic houses.

Full details to follow.

Rally Stewards: Katrina Lancaster & Tim Sheppard



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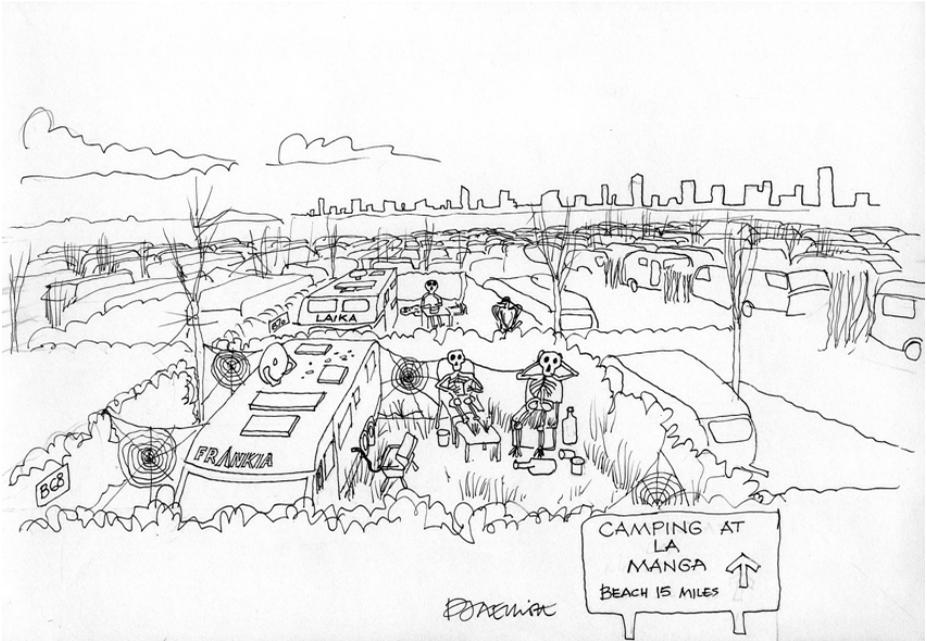
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Fantastic parts and accessories shop



Thanks to Peter Elliott for the above - the story behind it is that apparently the Frankia van took over an hour to park due to the narrow space, trapping Kath and Peter who thought they would never get out, hence the skeletons !

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.