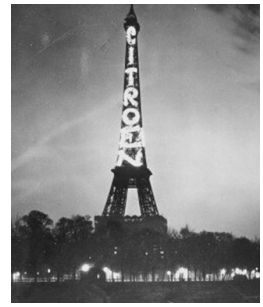


Les Slimes

August 2021

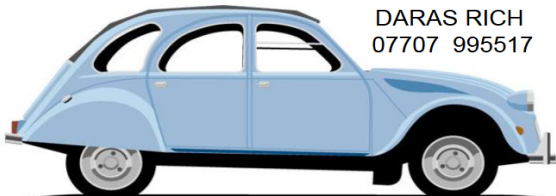
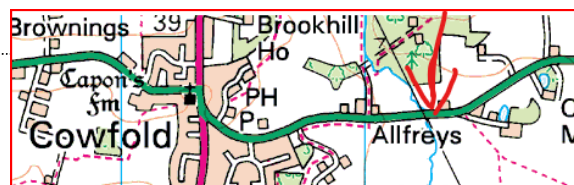


Inside

- World Meeting
The Journey Continues
to Italy
- Pics

HAT CAMP IS
BACK

We will be holding the next South Downs Escargots on Thursday 19 August at our Hat Camp venue, that is 'King Harry's Field', Cowfold, which is almost opposite the Oakendene Industrial Estate on the Bolney road. Arrive from 6.30pm onwards - please bring your own food, chairs etc BBQ ready to cook from 7.30. Toilets will be open so bring drink! **NOTE: CAMPING AVAILABLE TUES TO FRIDAY (seeinside)**



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Please send copy and pics to John Chaplin (biker1@btinternet.com)

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September 10th to 12th - Annual Hat Camp

King Harry's Field, A272, East of Cowfold, West Sussex, almost opposite Oakendene Industrial Estate, RH13 8AZ. £3 per person per night, Children free.

Activities subject to any further Covid controls. As always a RELAXED camp. Saturday scenic drive, evening BYO barbecue, Sunday morning water boiling and gadget competitions + Best Hat! Bring as many hats as you like. As always all activities optional! Just laze around, chat or visit scenic Sussex if you want !



Contact Maurice on 07985 091633 or Sue on 07860 696818 or e-mail maurice-dilley@hotmail.com.

Beat that for a boil up!!!!!!

Les Slimes



August Club Meet

The usual Club meet will be on Thursday 19 Aug...BUT you do have the option of arriving on either Tues or Weds and camping over.

You can also camp on Thursday evening too

If you do camp you must leave the site by lunch time on Friday.

Rachel, who organises the field diary has asked that we clean the showers and loo before we leave.

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World Meetings Smooth Driving all the Way (Almost)! Part Six - Italian Heat

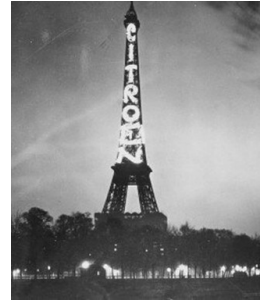
It was 2003 and World Meeting year again. For us this was a meeting different to the ones which had gone before. Pierre, our faithful red special, was going, but carrying only Sue. I was travelling separately in my Citroen C5, carrying a variety of items needed for our 2CVGB display to publicise and sell tickets for the 2005 World Meeting, which we had now decided would be held at Kelso, in Scotland. I left home early and once over the Channel made a rapid journey to meet up with the rest of our committee for an overnight stop on a campsite in the hills of the south-east of France.

We had asked the Italian organisers to allow us to enter the meeting site early to set up our stand, observe how the meeting was being organised and assist if required. This we hoped would give us some good insights into what was required for our own planning for 2005. The venue was definitely a first, set in and around the partially ruined and very atmospheric remains of an old fort in the town of Vinadio, with mountains all around. Being only twenty miles from the French border it was ideally placed to attract members from a number of nearby countries as well as Italy itself. With many of the Italian 2CV'ers living in the north of the country the stage was set for a large attendance and large it proved to be.



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2003 was a heatwave summer and it was hot work setting up our stand area just outside the fort. We had our two shady union flag gazebos for advertising materials and sales and a dummy red UK telephone box. We also kept a space for an old London Routemaster bus which, converted into a 'motor home' was bringing a number of members to the meeting from the UK. Our early arrival meant we were perfectly placed near the fort entrance to catch people as they moved to and fro from the surrounding camping area. We were also able to camp nearby, close to the organisers.

I stayed there for a couple of nights but when Sue and the Escargots arrived moved away to a slightly higher area, where they had found a suitable space for us all. They had a very hot trip to Vinadio and made a number of stops in the mountains with bonnets raised to help engines to cool. All the tracks around the site very quickly became a dust bowl with frequent car movements in the dry heat and the organisers had to bring in water bowsers to douse all the main routes. The camping areas soon became full but fortunately additional camping land a little further away from the main site was acquired as an overflow site.

The fort area was owned by the local council in Vinadio and was effectively a 'public park'. Therefore one of the things which had to be agreed to allow the booking of it for the meeting was that all the local residents could come and go as normal. So particularly near the fort, you would emerge from your tent in the morning to find people strolling around taking their morning constitutional. It was almost like being animals in a zoo! It did also mean that the evening events were crowded and in the tent it was almost impossible to get to the bar at times.

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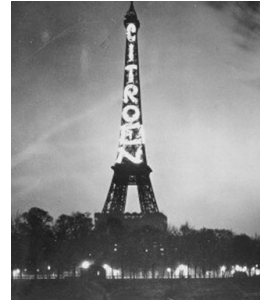
Traditionally at World Meetings there is a museum of old cars as one of the major attractions. Very often this is in a marquee but at Vinadio it was rather quirkily and certainly atmospherically set within the walls of the fort with more vehicles coming into sight each time you moved through an arch. It was, as ever, a stunning display. As in Greece, four years earlier,

there was a wedding of a UK couple to celebrate. Bob and Carol Brotherhood, regular attendees at Club Clouseau and Escargot meetings, got married locally while the meeting was taking place.

As well as the standard evening entertainment from bands and discos there is always one evening which also includes a decision of where the World Meeting will be in four years time and a presentation for the next meeting. Sweden was the clear favourite for 2007 and indeed was awarded the meeting. A lot of work had gone into the presentation for Kelso. We wanted it to be short and punchy and therefore as far as possible avoided announcements which necessarily need to be translated into at least three languages. Everything was loaded onto slides to be projected onto a large screen from a Mehari, driven in to below the front of the stage. There was also a surprise in store!



Les Slimes

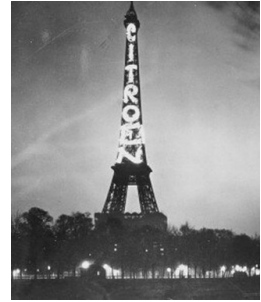


Everything depended on exact timing and we had stressed very firmly to the organisers that we must start exactly on the given hour. We were not hopeful as entertainment and especially big meeting timings are always a little flexible. However, to our relief and astonishment, the DJ stopped the music bang on time and our slide show began. In the near silence but for the hum of talking the 'surprise' could be faintly heard. It was the skirl of bagpipes from the two pipers and a drummer marching from outside the fort to come up to the stage playing "Scotland the Brave". The music got louder and louder as they got closer, echoing around the old walls. It was very moving, brought me out in goose pimples and was a moment I will never forget.

The presentation was very well received and the cost of bringing the pipers from Kelso was money well spent. Advance bookings made in Vinadio were very high and we were kept extremely busy on our stand. The pipers enjoyed themselves, managed to survive the attentions of a number of female members who seemed keen to check whether or not anything was being worn beneath their kilts and gave on at least one morning an impromptu wake-up call with their bagpipes from the walls of the fort.



Les Slimes



We left the site very little during the meeting. I was very busy on our Kelso stand, there was a lot going on in and around the fort and it was too hot to want to drive far. The area is very scenic though and in a splendid mountainous setting.

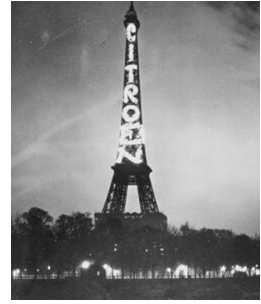
The last day meant a great deal of clearing up. I had to get away first thing on the following morning to drive home in a day and get back to work. There were a lot of display items to be packed away in the C5 to enable this early start and we also emptied our tent as much as possible in the evening and started to pack Pierre. This then gave Sue an easier task when she left later with the group to meander back a lot more gently.

Mine was a relatively easy trip. Apart from a wrong selection of motorway at a junction near Lyons (not the only time I've gone wrong at this point!) the biggest problem was the excessive heat with temperatures around or above 40 degrees Celsius. Was I glad I had air conditioning! I had it on minimum temperature most of the day and then felt very faint when I got out at a service station and stepped straight into the 40 degrees of heat. The trip home for the others was not easy and required frequent stops but from what I heard later I think they enjoyed the journey. It was the year that there were hundreds of deaths from heatstroke in France.

For me and all our committee the next two years were totally dominated by World Meeting planning, administration and preparation. Kelso was on the way and for once it was not so much wanting it to come quickly as wishing there was more time to prepare as the clock seemed to count down ever quicker! But more next time of Floors Castle and the 16th World Meeting of 2CV Friends.

Maurice

Les Slimes



PICTURE PAGE



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