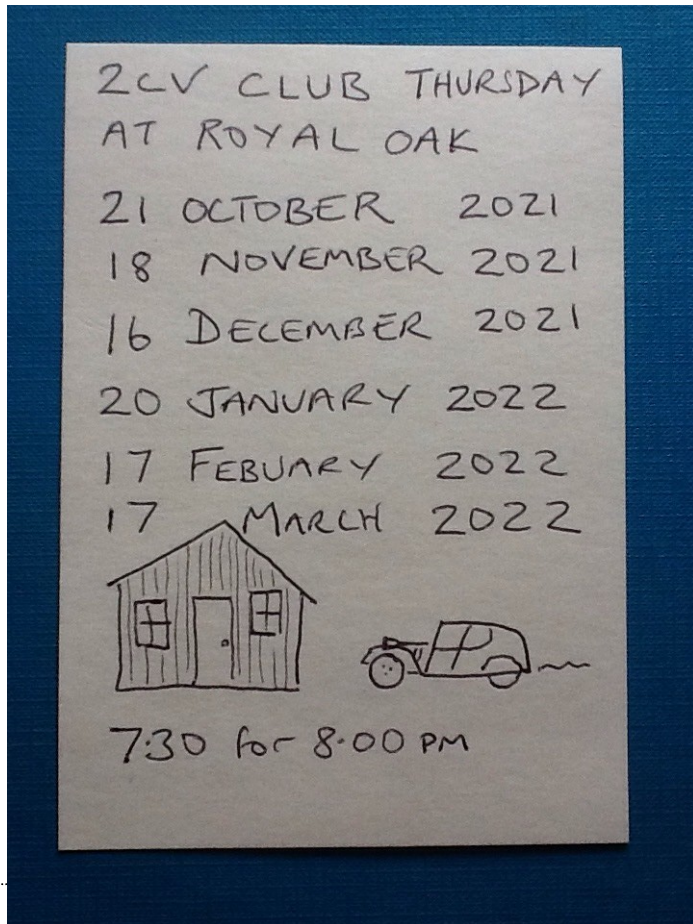


# Les Slimes

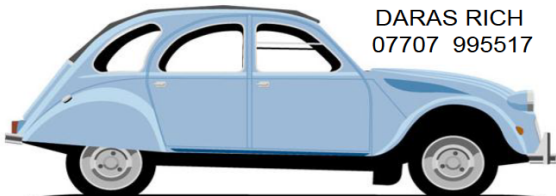
October 2021



## Inside

- World Meeting  
The Journey Continues  
to Part 7 to Kelso
- Hat Camp

We are back at the Royal Oak, Wineham and have the Tin Hut for our exclusive us. There is also a gazebo if you prefer more fresh air



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Member group of 2cvGB Articles and 2cv news always welcome.  
Please send copy and pics to John Chaplin ([biker1@btinternet.com](mailto:biker1@btinternet.com))

# Les Slimes



## World Meetings Smooth Driving all the Way (Almost)! Part Seven - Scotland the Brave, Part One

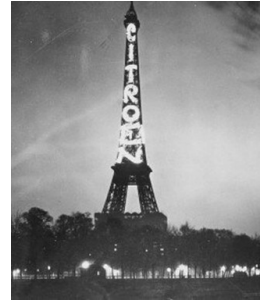
It was 2005 and twenty years on from the first 2CVGB World Meeting in Cheltenham it was time for Kelso 2005. A huge amount of work had gone into the preparation for this meeting at Floors Castle. The worry was that it would all come together in time. For the second World Meeting in a row I would not be travelling in Pierre. Carrying a lot of things for the meeting north in a specially acquired Acadiane, the 'Green machine', I left nearly two weeks early to start to get everything ready on site.

For the committee and many helpers it was ten days or more of hard toil in heatwave conditions to convert the empty fields below the castle into a World Meeting venue. This was the culmination of almost four years of planning. The heatwave meant that we adopted continental working hours, starting early in the morning, taking a lunch-time siesta and working into the evening, when we all got together for a communal meal and a little refreshment. It was very rewarding to see the empty site gradually starting to look like a meeting venue.



I had taken a bicycle up with me for speeding transit around the large site and it came in very handy in cutting down the amount of legwork needed. Sue eventually arrived with Pierre as final preparations were starting to be completed and we prayed that the exceptional weather would continue. We were amused to hear on the radio reports of large numbers of 2CVs travelling north through England as the influx began. Kelso had been warned but was not completely ready when it all began to kick off.

# Les Slimes



Inevitably 2CVers started to arrive early, well before the appointed hour of 12 noon on the opening day. This had been anticipated and we put our planned queueing system into place inside the castle grounds. Despite this there was still massive congestion in the town of Kelso as the hordes of cars arrived. We expanded our queues as far as possible and luckily just held out in time for the opening hour to come. To our astonishment just about on the hour of twelve several RAF aircraft made a low-flying pass over the site, giving us a fantastic display to get things going.

The next few hours were fairly manic at the gate as we checked everybody in and a number of Escargots were prominent in assisting, Louisa being pictured in one of our entry cabins. The rush gradually died down and the site started to fill. Initially the weather remained good but sadly late on the Friday everything changed and we suffered heavy rain off and on through to Sunday morning. Seasoned campers managed without too many problems but many struggled and we heard a number of tales of 2VCers being helped out by generous Kelso residents taking and drying their sodden possessions.



# Les Slimes

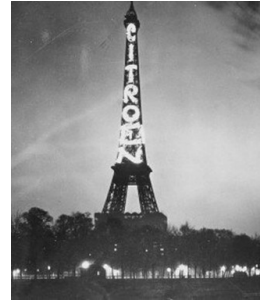


Throughout all the years of planning and the duration of the meeting the residents of Kelso and the staff at the castle were extremely helpful. I recall our constant requests to the staff being met by the inevitable response, "Nae bother"! When during the meeting parts of the site became boggy the owner of the castle, the Duke of Roxburgh, arranged for tarpaulins and chippings to be laid in the worst places to keep things moving. The support we had from the town Mayor, Mary, was fantastic from the start and she encouraged the initially reluctant traders in the town to get on board. In the end they were very enthusiastic and sported a number of splendid 2CV displays in their shop windows.

It was great to see a World Meeting from the other side, the organisation side, rather than purely the participation side. The organising committee had benefitted from an insight in Italy, two years earlier when we had arrived early to give a little assistance and set up our display for Kelso but this was the real thing! It had been beneficial though and with this in mind we invited the Swedish committee to come early to give them the same experience in advance of the 2007 meeting in Sweden.

We had hoped for some financial assistance from Citroen as large scale car events sometimes attract this but sadly on this occasion no funds were available. We did however have support from Citroen dealers, D S Dalglish, in nearby Coldstream. They provided three cars for the committee to use during the set-up and meeting for on-site and off-site travel. They also had a large sales and advice centre at the meeting and provided workshop facilities at their garage. I believe they sold several cars during the event!

# Les Slimes



We had a lot of events planned for the meeting and regardless of the weather all proceeded as planned. The large 'Festival' tent that we hired and which was one which had been used at Glastonbury proved well worth having though for daytime events its dark interior, not made any lighter by the poor weather, was not ideal. The main "Grille and Muff" bar was in this tent and takings suffered a little in the day from this. We did however have a separate real ale bar, "The Tap Room" in a smaller, adjacent, light marquee and this did better daytime trade and was a good place for a quiet chat in the evenings.

As is customary at World Meetings we had our own meeting currency, called the Kelso, which was needed to buy drinks at the bar and food from the catering outlets. We also persuaded the Castle to take them for their guided tours and in their farm shop and a number of shops in Kelso also agreed to accept them as did many of the traders on site. There were four plastic coins, denominated in 1,2,5 and 10 Kelso, exchanged at a rate of £1 sterling =3 Kelso, giving them a value of around 33 pence or 50 euro cents.



We had planned a very full programme of events from Tuesday evening through to late on the Sunday, when the meeting closed, although the site didn't close until noon on the Monday. More about that will follow in the next instalment!

Maurice

# Les Slimes



## HAT CAMP 2021

Elaine reports form the scene .....

Jon C. won the water boiling competition with all- time record of 28 seconds. Bob won the men's hat. Carole won the women's hat. Frankie brought glamour to the judging.

The sun shone;  
the convoy to  
Heaven Farm was excellently arranged by  
Bob; a good time was had by all!

**All the Hats**



**Bob wins  
the hat  
comp**



**Carol wins  
the hat  
comp**



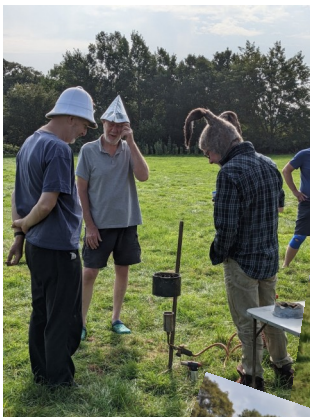
**Frankie Judges  
the Hat Comp**



# Les Slimes



**Gadgets on Show**



**Water Boiling Competition**



**Maurice and Sue Hand out Prizes**



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# Les Slimes



...and finally the line up for Bobs Saturday scenic  
convoy to lunch at Heaven Farm.



Thanks to Elaine and John for the pics

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