

# Les Slimes

November 2021

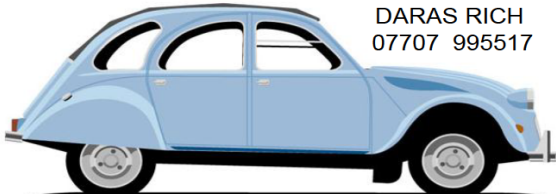


## Inside

- World Meeting  
The Journey Continues to Part 7.2 to Kelso
- Club Meeting at Royal Oak Wineham. 19.30 on  
Thursday 18 November



.....just saying !!!!!!!



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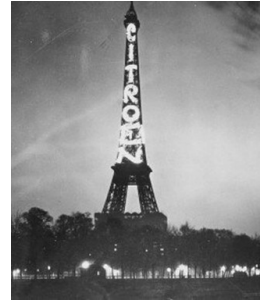
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## **World Meetings Smooth Driving all the Way (Almost)! Part Seven (Continued) - Scotland the Brave, Part Two**

The Kelso Pipe Band got us off to a wonderful start in the Main Marquee on the Tuesday evening and they were followed by the Opening Ceremony. The remainder of the opening evening was fairly low key as everyone pitched their tents, settled in and greeted old friends with the background of DJ Moo's disco. The main action got underway from Wednesday onwards with a wide and varied range of activities.

Every day there was a gathering of different models of cars on the grassy knoll below the Castle, starting with the Charleston on the Wednesday through to the 2CV Dolly on the Saturday and 'Red' Cars on the Sunday! In a similar way there were Register displays every day on the Castle lawns, starting with the Ami and Dyane and ending with Modcons. These were a splendid sight and a great photo opportunity with Floors Castle in the background. In the courtyard within the castle itself was spread our Museum with a number of rare vehicles, including one of the prototypes supplied from France by Citroen.

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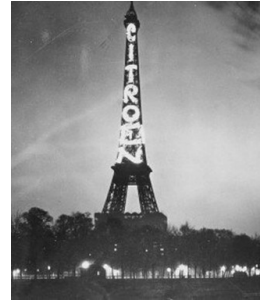


During the meeting John and Gill Blakeley were married at the Registry Office in Kelso with the reception in our smaller marquee at Floors. This was the third wedding I had seen at World Meetings, with Richard and Carol Cooper marrying in Greece in 1999 and Bob and Carol Brotherhood in Italy in 2003. I have not heard of any at World Meetings since Kelso.

The musical entertainment was very varied and included several indie bands, including Kissment and the Peatbog Faeries as well as 2CV favourites, Botulisme from the Netherlands. The children had their own tented area with lots for them to do including face painting, model making and even a Punch and Judy show. Other on-site activities included the Highland Games, a Falconry display, the very popular whisky tasting and a Ceilidh workshop run by Brillig and the Slthy Toves, who later performed on stage.

The castle employees, the Kelso townsfolk and indeed the whole of the local area were very welcoming. On the Wednesday afternoon we filled the Town Square with 2CVs at the time of the Antique and Flea market there and this included a civic welcome from the town's Mayor or Provost, Mary, who had very strongly supported the meeting from almost the beginning of the planning stages. Many of the shops in Kelso had window displays including 2CVs and some also agreed to take the meeting currency, which we had called the 'Kelso'.

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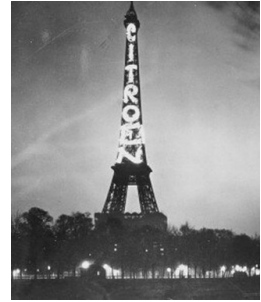


At the same time as our meeting the Border Show was being held nearby and a 30 car convoy went off to this and gave a couple of displays. This was not the only opportunity to join organised activities away from the site and get more of the feel of Scotland. One day there was an organised scenic drive to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne and on another a drive to Glenkinchie Distillery and the Scottish Mining Museum. If you didn't want to drive there was also a coach trip to Edinburgh on the Saturday for sightseeing and shopping, or for those who wanted exercise, a Kelso town walk.

A feature of all World Meetings is the meeting of the 2cv Heads of all the various countries attending. There is often, as at Kelso, an initial meeting to introduce the event and site and ask for any questions or suggestions from the attendees. There is then a later meeting to clear any matters which may have come up, at which the vote is also made to decide the country to be visited four years later, following the live presentations on stage a couple of days earlier. This meeting was held in the castle, in a splendid and ornate reception room, much admired by the participants. The venue chosen was the Czech Republic and this would be revealed on stage later in the day.



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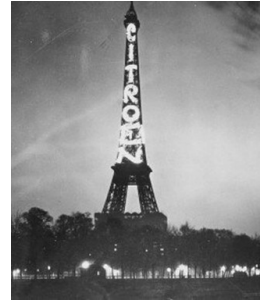


Back in the mid-1990s Daras Rich was preparing his 2cv van, MUF 774F, for trips to Europe and confidently predicted it would be ready for the Dutch World Meeting in 1997. It was conspicuous by its absence at that event but made a magnificent sight on its eventual appearance at Kelso (only eight years late) and was one of many splendid AK vans at the meeting.

Floors is a splendid Borders Castle, of which there are a good number, no surprise considering the amount of fighting there was in this area in earlier centuries and tours of the castle were very popular during the event. For one thing it was somewhere dry to go as we had a fair amount of rain on the Friday and Saturday. Our small 'Top Hat' marquees, which were scattered around the site were well-used for the same reason and here you could catch up with what was happening by reading the 'Kelso News', produced regularly throughout the meeting.

The inclement weather sadly emphasised the distances between the main marquee and the area of catering stands. A large area had been taken for all the infrastructure of the meeting but in hindsight would have been better laid out with both catering and trade stands next to the marquee in separate narrower sections, rather than marquee, trade stands and then catering. Some catering was moved during the event to nearer the marquee to try to alleviate this problem. As well as having their garden centre and café in the castle grounds operating throughout, Floors also set up a stand in the catering area to sell their excellent wares.

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By Sunday the weather was clearing somewhat but there were a lot of very wet campers and we heard a number of tales of local townspeople helping some of our overseas visitors by drying their sleeping bags and clothes. Some of the site 'roads' had also become very muddy but the Duke of Roxburghe very kindly arranged for gravel to be laid in some of the worst areas to enable the traffic to keep moving.

Typically the weather continued to improve and by the close of the meeting, at 12 noon on the Monday, we were almost back to the heatwave conditions of the set-up. This did at least mean that everything could be taken down speedily and the site cleared in three days. By the time we left the parts of the grounds which had looked like a muddy bog were well on their way to recovery. Indeed John Blakeley, who passed by the site a couple of weeks later reported that it was impossible to see any trace of the damage which had been done during the meeting.

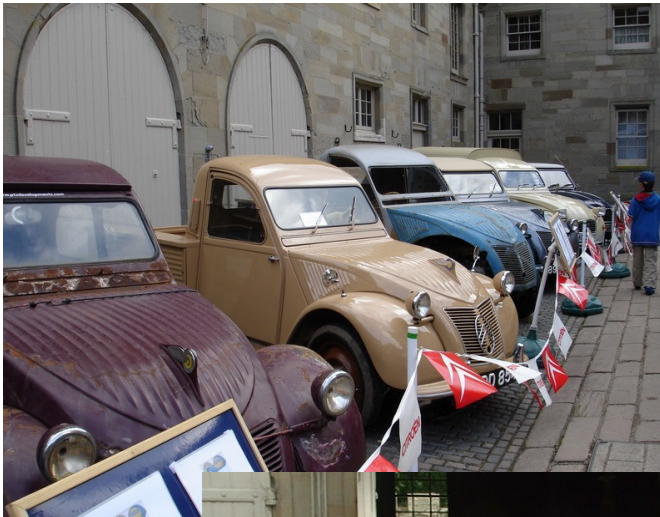
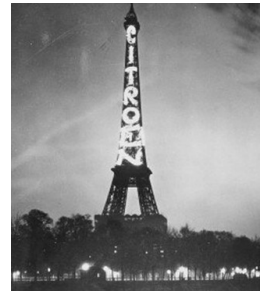
Planning, setting up and organising the meeting over a period of more than three years had involved a lot of hard work and a lot of travelling, especially if like me you lived on the south coast. It was however very rewarding and an unforgettable experience to be involved so closely, as treasurer, with a World Meeting. I also had a fine lasting memento - a picture of me standing alongside the prototype 2CV from Paris, in the Stables Museum at Kelso!

Maurice

*(another great read ,Maurice . Ed)*



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2CV CLUB THURSDAY  
AT ROYAL OAK

21 OCTOBER 2021

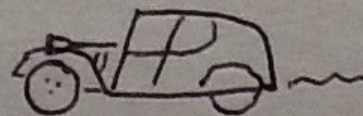
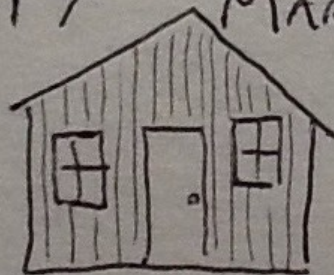
18 NOVEMBER 2021

16 DECEMBER 2021

20 JANUARY 2022

17 FEBRUARY 2022

17 MARCH 2022



7:30 for 8:00 PM