



Newsletter – July 2020



HELLO FELLOW LUNAR OWNERS!

Obviously, no Rally Reports this time since our one and only rally this year in March. Seems like forever that we could all get together.

We've got a provisional list of next year's rallies. Caroline has been working tirelessly arranging venues for 2021 hoping we will be back to some sort of normality by then.

There is also a report from our Chairman regarding this year's AGM and nomination for a new Chairman as Terry is stepping down after his tenure this year. Please think about it and if you or another member you know would like to put their name forward there is a nomination form included in this Newsletter.

Diana and I have ventured out to a couple of certified locations this month and everybody concerned, campers and owners alike have all followed the rules for COVID-19 and we all had a great time. We are going to 2 Tranquil Parks sites in Devon at the end of August which are Adult only, hard standing & fully serviced pitches. So, apart from the dreaded loo emptying there should be no physical contact between caravanners hopefully keeping us all safe and well.

I will report back on our experiences next time. Just a thought....why not tell me about your lockdown caravanning adventures (keep it clean & printable!) and I'll publish them in the next Newsletter! Send them to the email below.

David Cowan ~ Newsletter editor

Email: newsletter@lunarownersclub.net

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that I thought I ought to let you know that Brian Herrington died on the 15th May 2020 after an issue with diabetes and age frailty.

He was past chair of LOC although he had to give up caravanning in 2012. His wife Betty survives him.

Regards

Louise Herrington



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I hope this finds you all safe and well in these difficult times. What a crazy year 2020 has become. I don't think life will ever be the same, as we used to know it, for a long time yet. What will the 'new normal' hold in store for us all?

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, due to Government guidelines and advice etc, we have had to cancel a number of rallies. We did not do this without some serious discussion amongst the Committee. Being charged with managing our Club and its affairs we had a duty to consider the safety of all our members during these unprecedented times. I think you will all agree that there is a difference to holidaying in a caravan on your own and attending a rally, the latter requiring considerable social activity.

I am pleased to say that Caroline Applegate, who has volunteered as our 'new' Rally Secretary, has already made good headway for our 2021 rally programme. A draft of this programme will be included with this Newsletter. Caroline will still be looking for Rally Marshals so please let her know if you are interested.

We are all hoping that 2021 will be a good year and rallies will be getting back to normal, or the 'new normal' whatever that means.

Most of the caravan manufacturers are still mainly inactive. Their chain of suppliers of spare parts is also causing a problem. As at the time of writing, I understand that the October Show at the NEC is also in doubt. There has been no actual news from Lunar Automotive although the grapevine is telling us that they will not be up and running before September.

Campsites have started opening for single visits of caravans etc and some are still against having rallies, just yet. As I have said previously, campsites will be keen to reopen as they have a business to run and need the income. However, we are not a business but a recreation Club and as such the safety and wellbeing of all our members is of prime importance.

This brings me to the AGM in September. Our AGM will be held using the popular Zoom videoconferencing software. Some of you may already be familiar with this FREE software, using it to keep in touch with friends & family for instance. We will be sending you a specific invite by email (or letter if you don't do email) and we will want you to register beforehand so we know who to expect. We're limited to 100 connections (for example 2 or more people in the same household or "social bubble" can participate using one connection) so we can accommodate most of the membership for this unique AGM

At the 2018 AGM I said I would be standing down as Chairman in 2020. This still stands, so nominations - well at least one - will be required for Chairman. As per the Constitution all Committee members will be standing down at the AGM but I am pleased say that all other members of your Committee, except Teresa Hares, are standing again for re-election. A Nomination Form will be attached to this Newsletter. Under the present circumstances, signatures for proposers & seconders will not be required but their names will be.

The next Newsletter will be sent out prior to the AGM and will provide further details concerning the AGM itself. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Terry Hughes ~ Chairman

Email: chairman@lunarownersclub.net

UPDATE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Well as they say, "it's been a funny old year" or perhaps to put it more succinctly "a sad and worrying year".

Before we had the dreadful news that Corona virus had taken hold of the country, we had some very disappointing news regarding the membership renewal numbers. 2019 ended with 239 member units, each unit having an entitlement of two members, however 123 member units chose not to renew their membership leaving us with 116 membership units at the start of this year.

Membership units choosing not to renew their membership were canvased to ascertain why they had chosen not to renew:

- 11 stated that they had bought different makes of caravan, possible due to uncertainty surrounding Lunars change of ownership.
- 7 stated it was through ill health or bereavement
- 3 stated that it was because they no longer wanted to take part in club activities or because of age.
- The remaining 102 did not give a reason.

It was also sad to see that a number of the members who did not renew were ones that regularly attended or marshalled rallies.

However, despite the COVID-19 virus and the subsequent cancellation of many rallies and the lack of our presence at the caravan show, membership has continued to grow with the membership now standing at 145 units.

Nevertheless, we must look to the future and hope that the club's popularity and success is rewarded by membership not falling again this year when annual membership renewals fall due and that we have success increasing membership back to the numbers we have enjoyed in the past.

John Hammond ~ Membership Secretary

Email: membership@lunarownersclub.net

MEMBERS ITEMS FOR SALE

Dorema Daytona size 15 Blue/Grey Awning

- Aluminium Frame Easy Grip
- 10m to 10.25 ground to ground awning
- Very good condition 4 years old but only been used a week a year
- Half price £350

Contact G A Greenwell

Leicestershire area 07949 949262

- Specialised access cover green fits 470 2 berth. No issues FREE TO GOOD HOME
- Dawes Folding Bike 20 inch wheels Shimano 6 speed gears includes bike bag. Total cost new £320 will sell for £70

Contact D Cope 01274 814071 If not in please leave a message

Isabella Ambassador 2501 Awning available for a donation to a charity

Contact Vic Pearce 01405 860623

RALLY NEWS

DALE HEY TOURING PARK, RIBCHESTER ON 22-27 OCTOBER

This planned rally is no longer an "official" LOC rally, more like a **gathering of Lunar friends!** Marshals Dave & Morag Park visited the site a few days ago & having had discussions with the proprietors, they have come to an agreement that the official Rally here should be cancelled.

Due to COVID-19, the owners feel that they do not wish to open the shower/toilet block & communal hall. The site however will remain open to anyone who wishes to come along but you will have to use your own facilities within your van & respect all social distancing rules. The site has one-way systems in position, sanitizer points & have done everything they can to ensure peoples safety. In fact, the AA have inspected the site & have approved their arrangements.

So, we have decided to go ahead with a **gathering of Lunar friends** on the site on the dates of the Rally. This means that any gatherings that occur will be socially distanced, & there will be no socials previously arranged.

Dave & Morag will be there as will Rodger & Caroline Applegate. There can only be a maximum of 15 vans, hard standing, and at £ 12.50 a night including electricity it's a steal !!

If you want to come along, contact Dave Park on 01942 671440, 07599 005631, or email dandmo@hotmail.co.uk. Don't book from the website.

A PLEA FROM OUR RALLY SECRETARY, CAROLINE APPLGATE

As you are probably aware, I took on the role of Rally Secretary from March this year as the planning of the programme for 2021 needed to be started.

The DRAFT Rally Programme for 2021 is attached to this Newsletter. Most locations and possibly dates are negotiable to allow marshals old and new to volunteer.

I have approached the sites and confirmed a few of them but some sites are still closed even for enquiries and others are understandably still not sure about next year. I am happy to approach any site suggested by members especially if they are willing to run a rally. It seems to work well if members willing to run a rally have a site in mind but those on the plan are there if any volunteer would be willing to take one on.

We really need members to come forward as Marshals, as over the last two years, even before the current problems, we had to cancel rallies because there was no one to marshal them. If you are willing to have a go, there is always someone ready to advise or help and it's great to have a variety of ideas. Your rally can be whatever you want it to be....as few or as many vans as you choose , planned events or just a quiet friendly gathering, on an off grid, field or a commercial site – it's up to you!

Lots of us started by acting as Assistant Rally Marshal, helping someone more experienced to run their rally; it's a great way to see how everything happens and how easy it can be!

So why not make 2021 the year to get involved in one of our brilliant rallies?

Caroline Applegate ~ Secretary

Email: secretary@lunarownersclub.net