



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

Brackley Carnival 9th June

The Brackley Carnival is an annual event which we got involved in some years ago. It's not a four wheel drive event at all but we do get a donation and the exclusive use of the off road site at Newton Longville as one of the organisers also runs Experience The Country who manage the site. We were told to meet at the recreation ground at 7.30 am for a marshals briefing from Jon and to be issued with our event hi vis. There was a good turnout of club members which makes things a lot easier as we could ensure there were sufficient marshals at the various junctions and therefore means no one would be on their own at a junction/marshal point. The route this year started just up the road at a school in one of the housing estates at the back of Brackley so it looked to be more straightforward. Just before the parade started we got a message over the radio to move into position which means blocking the road with our vehicles. Where I was in a housing estate just off the main road there was no problem with people insisting they had to get through or that they didn't know what was going on (some don't people read notices nowadays). Graham Stevens was just up the road from me manning the junction where the route turned right onto the main road and Keith Lister and his wife were at the next junction back down the road and the start was just out of sight at the school. I then get a message from Jon saying that Chris Smith one of our ex members was taking the mayor and his wife in an open topped Saab car.

The theme for a lot of the groups parading this year was about the environment and the amount of plastic waste floating around in the seas all around the world no doubt due to Sir David Attenborough highlighting the plastic waste problem on one of his recent Blue Planet programs. As the parade past us the marshals could leave there posts and tag along behind with Jon and Roger leading our little convoy two abreast down the road. There is a picture on the facebook page of Jon and Roger leading our convoy with all there lights flashing away (Jon would easily win any contest as his Landie looks like a Christmas tree when all his lights are on).

We then entered the recreation ground and made our way up to the top where we set up a simple stand and Sue with some help kindly did some burgers and hot dogs for us.

A very enjoyable day was had by all and as far as I'm aware there weren't any incidents involving members of the public.

Fathers day green laning

At the last committee meeting my name was mentioned in regard to leading a green laning trip some time in June. I was quite happy to do this. But somewhere in the planning it was decided it would be on the 17th. This fitted in nicely with me as I had already decided to go the Wings and Wheels event at Bicester Airfield on the 10th and the Billing Land Rover Show was on the last weekend of June/first day of July.

It was then pointed out to me by Maddie that the 17th was Fathers day. Oh well never mind hopefully it shouldn't change things too much.

Not knowing where to go at such short notice and wanting to try something different I decided to do the Cotswolds Laning trip as featured in the June issue of LRO. With help from Jonathon I transferred the route from the magazine onto the memory maps and then we copied them from one Toughbook to another. Interestingly the start of this trip was at Alcester which is exactly the same starting point for our last laning trip.

Perhaps because it was Fathers Day the turnout was very poor with only Neil and Val joining myself and Keith. After a lot of fiddling about with the various electronic devices we both settled on using the toughbooks with Keith and myself leading the way.



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The start of the route was the same as the last time we came up here and the first lane was also the same. But what was different was the first ford we came to. This is the one that has the sign saying “impassable to all vehicles” at all times or words to that effect. As there had been no rain at all and judging by the “tide marks” on the banks it was obvious it had gone down quite a lot. I ventured slowly into the water and kept going only to see another group in front of me. After we exited the water Neil commented on how much the water had gone down and it was a good job we didn’t try to cross it the last time we came up here.

The lanes on this trip weren’t particularly taxing for the vehicles or the drivers but what did make our day more entertaining was when we met up with the other group again just as we were having a tea break. It turned out they were from the Midland Rover Owners Club and they were doing the same LRO route as we were but with some slight variation as their start point was different. They had an interesting mix of Landies ranging from the usual 90s and Disco 1s up to D3s, 110s, P38 Range Rover and a 130 Station Wagon.

After we chatted with them for a few minutes we managed to get past them and after doing some more gentle laning we came up behind them. How they managed to get in front of us in such a short distance I’ll never know. We decided to hang back to give ourselves a bit of distance from them.

I say gentle laning as what was becoming obvious on this trip was that none of the lanes were particularly challenging, even LRO mentions this in that some of the roads have effectively been abandoned by the local council so in time end up being green lanes but for the time being are still shown on the map as yellow roads.

Later on in the day we drove a track which went the back of Adam Hensons farm only to find the other lot parked up at the side of the track having a tea break. To me the interesting part of the route was when we drove an old Roman road called Ryknild Street. This was a typical Roman road in that its dead straight and just seemed to go for miles across the countryside. A bit scratchy in places and even a few puddles here and there but at least it felt like we were doing the sort of greenlaning which we were more used to.

The route took us Bourton on the Water which was heaving with tourists. What you may ask are we doing here? As Neil rightly pointed out after all the times he’s driven through B on the W he never realized there is a ford at the bottom end of the high street. Much to the delight of the tourists who gave us a thumbs up and filmed us as we forded the river this was the end of our laning trip. As we had ended up in a no through road we had to go back across the ford and then we parted company and went home.

I think the idea of this route was to cross lots of Fords and see the stunning scenery (LROs words) but personally I would say it was the most tame/gentle bit of laning I’ve ever done but I would be very interested in doing the bottom part of it in the Cotswolds after it’s been snowing. Now that would be fun!



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