



CLUB TORQUE.
August 2020



Hello Everybody.

Here We Are Again.

It's been a couple of months since the last mag so we hope you are all well and have avoided the dreadful virus.

Since the last edition it has been a time of events here at Letley Manor! There has been some bad news and some good news.

First the bad news, our dear Jules was involved in a car crash when a lady (not what we called her at the time!) pulled out of a side road and smashed into Jules car righting it off. Fortunately and most importantly Jules was not badly injured (the quiet was quite nice for a couple of days though!).

We have now managed to find her an almost identical replacement car so she is a happy bunny again now.

The good news is that on 20th July there was the safe delivery of our new grandson. Jaxon Kian Letley is a happy little man, putting on weight and has already got his daddy wrapped around his little finger.

How do they learn that technique so quickly?

Take care, stay safe.

Phil & Jules

Inside this Issue.

Olly Words. Teds Ramblings. Luke's Second Tried & Trusted. Jules Thoughts.

Mikes WWW. John's Blog. Phil is still coming After You!

Chairman Olly.



Dog's on logs!

We are all well and I hope all of our lovely friends are as well,

Well this has been a very sad time for us recently. First we said goodbye to our beautiful dog Holly and then more recently to Bella. They have both been a huge part in our lives doing shows, off roading and our holidays they will be missed by us and Shadow.

Getting onto this crazy situation we are all in, I should be reporting on shows and events but heaven knows when we will start again. I'm up for a meet, some where we could observe social distancing any ideas please email the committee.

Lets hope this horrible situation will come to a conclusion soon.

Stay Safe until we all meet again.

Your chairman Olly.

I'm sure everybody in the club and past members will join us in giving our best wishes to Olly and Jenny for their most recent loss of Bella.

OTTO TWANKER.

Hello all you inmates out there.

I hope you're all coping? Still the Otto household is still in semi lockdown, strange when you go out how you feel vulnerable never thought we would feel like that oh well!

Otto 2 is now out and about gleaming of course I've had to buy more polish! My other pleasure is my Triumph Bonneville America cruiser which I love too, being sneaky I crept out on it during lockdown (shopping of course) and of course Karma got me a bloody puncture! I crept home and of course couldn't get it fixed because of lockdown, when they did open I got it sorted only to get another one on the way home so up the garage again this time to have a new tyre drat that'll teach me.



We are hoping soon to arrange a convoy to the goat sanctuary and hopefully a picnic, there is plenty of room to social distance apparently, so watch the posts on our facebook page from our John Clark who will organise it.

What have ya been doing to ya trucks during lockdown as it is the perfect time for some TLC, why not put a post together and send it to Phil Letley to put it in the mag we would love to read about it.

I bet all of your gardens are looking great and the house decorated to perfection (the boss will always find ya something to do!) I used the excuse I was out of paint only to be reminded that BnQ was now open so that didn't work!

We never know what's round the corner so let's all be careful out there so till we all get together again happy Landying to ya see ya all soon fingers crossed.

Otto Twanker.

Tried & Trusted



Product: Blackfriar Satin Black Paint
Cost: 500ml £7.95 from Decorating Warehouse

Hi all, I hope we are all keeping well and getting back to some normality after what seems an eternity of being in isolation. Whilst it is nice finally getting back to work and into a routine, I must admit that I already miss having all that time off work though and spending endless days working on my Land Rover. As mentioned in my previous article, I have a Series III which over lockdown finally received lots and lots of TLC. I got the engine running again after nearly 2 years, welded on a new chassis outrigger which I started last summer and most importantly utilised the good weather and got lots of painting jobs done. Now however I am back to the daily grind and with a packed work schedule the hope of getting it finished this year is looking highly unlikely, so 'next year it will be done' (a phrase which I have been saying for the past 5 years!).

This month I am focusing on paint, there was one type in particular called Blackfriar's Satin Black which I used recently for painting various parts on my Series III. The results were outstanding, it was easy to apply, hard wearing and gave a great finish. I will admit that it is slightly more expensive than other paints on the market, but with experience of using some of the other brands I strongly feel it is worth paying the extra. One recommendation I would make when using the paint is to mix a little white spirit / thinners in, this makes the paint easier to work with, especially in the warmer weather.



Verdict: More expensive than other options on the market, but well worth it. The 500ml tin I bought has gone a long way considering the amount of jobs it has been used for!

My Land Rover Story - Mike Turpin

Unlike some people, I haven't owned a great many vehicles in my time, only about six, but half of those have been Land Rovers!

It all started about 30 years ago when my wife got me a quarry driving experience for my birthday. I spent the day driving an ex-MOD Series 3 around the site in Bedfordshire, through rivers, big holes, steep climbs, side slopes, etc. – I absolutely loved it! I was hooked and I knew that I had to have a Land Rover....

(It could have been worse, the other thing I drove that day was a Bedford M series truck!)



Quarry Driving Experience



My first Land Rover

The first "excuse" I found to buy my own Land Rover was when I became a Scout Leader - with a 110 SW and a Sankey trailer I could take a group away camping and have room for all the tents and equipment. I never used the 110 off-road except to drive on camp sites, but there was one embarrassing day when I got stuck on a wet field with the trailer. The site warden wasn't impressed with the ruts I left behind!

After a few years, our own children came along and I wanted to spend more time doing things with them, so I came up with another brilliant "excuse" - I could sell the 110 and trailer then use the funds to buy a Series 3 to use as an off-road toy!. I'd also have some surplus funds to "improve" it. There were a few pay & play sites within Series 3 driving distance of where we lived and I would normally take one of the boys with me and spend a Sunday a month playing in the mud. It wasn't unusual to break something and then spend the rest of the month working on the Land Rover in the garage late into the night to get it ready for the next month.

A couple of times I needed to call out the breakdown service to get recovered home. On one such occasion the guy turned up and got out his paperwork, he walked around my Series 3 to inspect it before he started loading. His sheet had a picture of a vehicle with spaces for comments of any existing damage. After a brief tour of my pride and joy, he drew a big circle around the whole picture and wrote "Dents and scratches to most panels"!



The Mud Factory, East Grinstead

One weekend I took the boys to a military vehicle show at Tilbury Fort. When we arrived, we were directed into the arena to park with the tanks and other military vehicles. I tried to explain that my Land Rover had no military history, but I think they were desperate to get more vehicles on display. It turned out to be quite handy because it rained in the afternoon and we were able to sit inside the Landy to watch the show in the dry!



Tilbury Fort

I kept my Series 3 for about 17 years and did loads of stuff in it, but I was always put off travelling too far and decided that I needed something a little more comfy (ok as comfy as Land Rovers get!) After some shenanigans involving a car auction, I bought my current 90 Truck Cab (not in the auction). When I looked at it I couldn't believe my luck, it was an ex MOD vehicle but had been completely rebuilt. It seemed to have all the best parts from Defenders over the years, like TD5 axles, a 300Tdi engine and a galvanised chassis. Not only that, but the seller actually haggled **me** down on the price!!

Driving home from Ashford was an absolute revelation, I was able to cruise easily at 70 without being shaken to pieces and deafened, I even pushed it up to 80 and it felt great. The next morning I got underneath (as you do) to have a good look at it. To my horror the front prop shaft had so much play that I was able to move it up and down about half an inch! – I thought \$*** I've just driven this at 80MPH! I also found quite a few nuts & bolts missing or loose, including an engine mount and the whole bumper.



My 90 as I bought it



My 90 Today

Having fixed all the issues that I found (and am still finding!) I've changed and added quite a few things to make my mark on it and to improve it off-road. I regularly use it for trips to Salisbury Plain and help to run Happy Valley 4x4 off-road site. I also use it on the nature reserves that I volunteer on and collecting logs I also try to do a few shows each year.

I hope you enjoyed my Land Rover story and hopefully I'll be able to catch up with you all soon.

All the best, Mike

Hi Everyone



Hi Everyone

At last things are looking up with the pubs open again and perhaps we can have a meeting soon.

For July and August the committee did everything possible to see if this could happen, but we had to put safety first so look out for our fish and chip run in September.

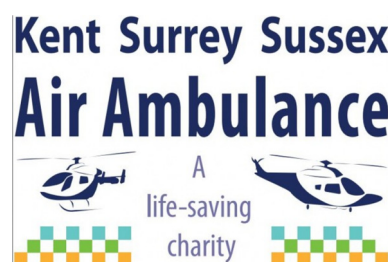
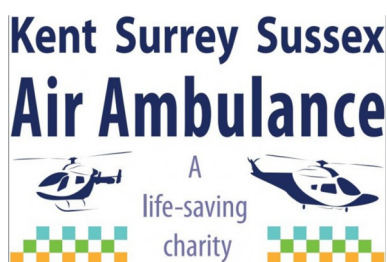
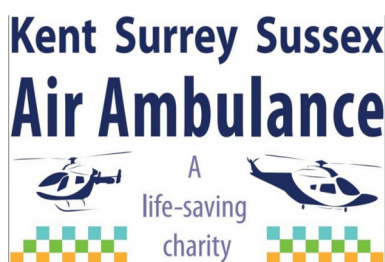
When we will be back!

Don't forget to keep saving your lovely things for the Air Ambulance raffle; they need our support now more than ever.

The Tim cup is going to be awarded to our NHS & Key Workers this year because we couldn't meet and vote, so we have asked Richard last year's winner to look after it for us until next year, we plan to have it engraved this month but please start to think hard as voting will start again soon.

Stay Safe and hope to see you all out there soon.

Cheers **Jules.**



When, Who, Why & What of Landrover Life – I'm Coming After You!

Thank you to those of you who have sent in items for the mag, but please keep sending things to me.

Please email me at phil.letley@sky.com WhatsApp me on 07749771153, stick something on paper and post it while you're on your daily exercise walk or just phone me/Jules and tell us the story and we will do the rest.

Phil V-Chair.

Into the Unknown

(by John Clark)

Hi guys and girls. As I type this article (Thursday 17th June), I'm staring out of the window at the rain, listening to the thunder, and certainly grateful I haven't been called into work today.

Soon after my last blog (in the April edition, written at the start of lockdown in March), I became a temporary key worker ... a van driver for Asda. I seem to be doing anywhere between 45 and 65 hours per week (on my 7.5hour contract ... which is why I was kindly excused from writing for the last mag) and overall enjoying the job. My years of driving a Landy have certainly helped negotiate the 3.5ton van around the narrow and crowded streets of Medway. Turns out they occasionally break down too!

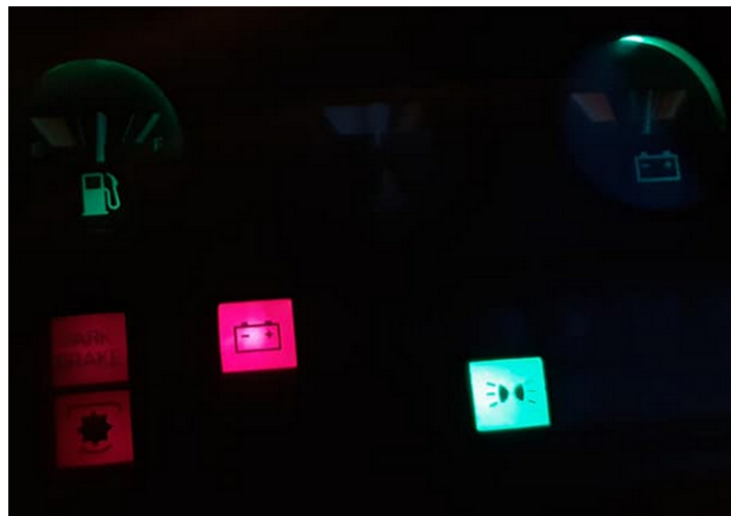
Also since my last blog, Sarah and I have been keeping track of all the special days (each of our birthdays and one anniversary so far) we have missed, as we are currently in lockdown in separate houses. You can imagine how that is! Without dwelling on the negatives (so easy to do during these times), it has allowed me to take as much overtime as possible ... an approach that has led to me becoming a permanent Asda colleague.

This is great news while my main music career is put on hold. All of my summer work cancelled, and panto is a 50/50 chance right now. The government may not want to open a large venue such as Derby Arena, but even at 50% capacity, that's 750 people per performance. And it only seems fair as cruise ships start cruising from August, theme parks open from July and aeroplanes start flying pretty much from June. It's a scary thought that if the theatre industry doesn't receive permission to open soon, it really may be the end of the road for many productions, companies, individuals ... and in worst case scenario, the West End itself! If the 2m ban gets reviewed and lifted, things should hopefully move forward again (before it's too late).
I hope everyone else's job is safe?!

On a more positive note, I have recently been asked to return to my old show, “Les Musicals” for a one-off performance next week (Saturday 27th June). As the public are not allowed within spitting distance (literally), I’ll be driving up to Hull for a couple of days of rehearsing, and a live video streaming of the show from the production company’s warehouse. We are pioneering this new way to start publicly performing again, so this may become more common in the future.

I’m sure we’ve all got hopes and plans for the future after lockdown, especially with our Landies. I know the committee are working hard to think of safe convoy and picnic options to launch when possible ... especially the fundraising run for the Buttercups Goat Sanctuary (which will be following the advice of the experts there as to when it is safe to meet the goats). If you would like to visit their website and make a donation in the meantime to keep them ticking over, it would really mean the world to me and Sarah (who sponsor Natalie). Their site is www.buttercups.org.uk

I know my truck ‘Jenny’ is looking forward to getting back to normal. She’s still demanding a polish (even though the show season is non-existent), and has decided to warn me about a battery issue which I’m sure doesn’t exist. I appreciate the battery light could be a battery (which is new) or alternator issue, but why then show me the other two?!



Anyway, that’s a problem for when I’m allowed to visit my friendly local mechanic (and future father-in-law) Stephen again! She still fires up and holds her charge, so I’m happy. This is largely helped by a solar panel trickle charger for those long periods without taking her out ... highly recommended!

As we continue into the unknown, I hope everyone remains happy, healthy and sane. Things are starting to ease off, and life will return to how it used to be gradually. Let us know what you’ve been up to during these months ... maybe a random Landy drive you went on?

OTTO TWANKER.

Hello all you convicts out there.

Now that we are all getting about more life feels a little more normal, although personally I doubt we will ever feel quite as safe as we always did, I suppose we will just have to adjust to it. When I last paid some cash and cheques into the club bank it was strange to have to wear a mask on entry but they did ask me leave the shotgun outside he he! Most of us have been fettling the trucks so when we do start meeting up again we should all have some stunning vehicles. Myself I decided to complete some long needed work on my garden including new patio doors (ouch!) and re-laying some slabs that had sunken where our old pond was.



I was surprised how much junk I put in the hole to fill it when the pond was removed including three statues, a filter system, an umbrella base and the mother in law! The lads that were digging wondered if they were gonna find treasure but I've spent that on Landy's. The committee have been monitoring the situation and will hopefully soon be able to sort some events for us all, as I personally am missing our convoys and seeing you all. As you all will by now be aware Our Olly and Jenny lost our lovely Holly the naughty collie recently and she will be sadly missed by everyone who cuddled her but she had a magnificent life and many lovely holidays with us, run free in doggy heaven Holly. Well my friends time to get back to the garden those workmen leave so much mess! Stay safe and happy Landying to you all.

Otto Twanker.