





# Wessex Hillrunners

# Off - Road Enthusiasts Magazine

# **Newsletter**

Winter 2007/2008



Safe Fun off-road and on for all the Family, the south's Premier all make family fun All wheel drive club!











Welcome to the newsletter of the Wessex Hillrunners off road enthusiasts!!!!! We are here to make sure that you are kept up to date with all the latest events that are going on within the Club and report on the previous events of the Wessex Hillrunners as well as other useful or interesting stuff, it is your newsletter as well so if you have articles or other information you would like included please contact us by phone or email.

You can see later that we have included the Calendar for 2008, there are some good events planned for the year, some are still in the planning stage so please keep an eye on the website, for flyers or the pub meet for updates to the calendar.

Remember it is your club and as we are still planning next year if you have any ideas for events or know of any new sites we can use please feel free to contact Jim Tyler-Mount to let him know.

# If you like what we do tell others!

## The Committee

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Child Protection Officer	Richard Fletcher	07880 884329	motorthread@hotmail.co.uk



Don't forget the newsletter needs you! Send your articles and pictures to Jim for inclusion in the next newsletter!

#### London 2 Brighton 2007.

The 2007 London 2 Brighton run was destined to be more fun. Last year we trundled Tigger up on our own and enjoyed a quieter approach to the event. This year we joined up with a few others and headed up to Crystal Palace. Nick was going to lead the way using his Sat Nav system. All ready to go and lined up to leave the Morrisons car park, Nick takes a Left turn to drive **round** the car park – apparently its what his Sat Nav told him to do! We suggested common sense could also play a part but..... we know different!



After this hic –up we can agree his navigating the rest of the way to London went pretty smoothly, up the A3 and quite a wind through parts of London to reach the campsite and start point, earning him the new title of Red Baron – well his car anyway. With an 8 car convoy it did take some time to reach the end, stopping to pick up the group at almost every traffic light – but hey that's the joy of convoy driving (isn't it!)





We arrived in time to set up tents before we lost the daylight. A small cauldron provided the heat, beers provided the sustenance and Matt provided us all with a great pot of curry. In good 4x4 camping fashion we talked and drank to the early hours – entertainment provided by the children as they washed the pans and plates (snigger).



Morning hailed early with loud speakers sending Fleetwood Mac into our tents long before our bodies had fully rested or detox'd from the night before. A long walk to the toilets helped waken the soul, while the cookers fired up to sizzle heaps of bacon and mushrooms with some random eggs thrown in for good luck.

At this point I have to pause and consider the pleasures of camping with friends – convoy driving, shared curry, fires, alcohol and the morning bacon butty – aaahhh 4x4 ing.

Ready to go and Nick still keen to lead – we did ask if he could follow the few hundred Landrovers out of the park this time! We laughed, he didn't! Getting out of London could be considered the hard part but signs and Sat Nav took Nick swiftly to the outskirts of the city – at this point 7 cars sat behind him indicating for him to take the right hand lane and follow the A 23 not the M23, but Nick stuck rigid to his Sat Nav and the 7 cars plus a few other 'followers' turned onto the M23 – although this would get us to Brighton it wasn't using the traditional route (common sense I guess) – Mutiny required and Tigger bounced to the front - so one exit later, a bit of a meander round local towns and we picked up the A23 again. Faith remained in Nick so he took the front position again, well, for about two roundabouts where he managed to go miraculously wrong again! Tigger and the rest of the group waited up the road for him and once again set him off in front (we like to support the learners) – hats off to him he managed to go all the way to Brighton without any more errors, well that is until he completely missed the men stood opposite the roundabout in bright orange and yellow high viz vests and turned LEFT along the sea front (ping, common sense went again) – needless to say the rest of the group turned into the promenade and Nick made his merry way – who knows where too... Sat Nav land we think.



We all had a great time and Nick was truly ribbed for his Sat Nav experience. Lunch arrived (thanks to Anthea and Mandy) and we noshed quietly under the arches after a pleasant wander among many interesting and varied Landrovers.

# Off Road at Bordon September, even though it had not rained for a few weeks some people seem to be drawn to water!!!





# **Green Lane News**

By Patrick Manuel Home: 02392 369660 Email: patrick@manuel.org.uk Mobile: 07866 297543

### **Green Lane Maintenance Days**

Autumn National Green Lane Day (NGLD) - What dreadful weather but what a brilliant turnout!

Sunday 28 October dawned an hour later than some might have expected, the clocks having gone back earlier in the day (02:00 apparently). The weather was miserable; cold, grey and overcast – and raining to boot. Somewhere in the back of my mind was the thought that if no one turned up then I could call the whole thing off and head home to a nice warm cup of coffee. But it was not to be; as I arrived at the usual meeting spot at Morrison's I was greeted by several other Hillrunners and a chap from the Series III club who were apparently unaware of the fact that it was pouring with rain. Worse was to come when we arrived at the lane and there were barely any parking spaces left due to the many other 4x4s that were waiting for us. It was obvious that despite the rain we were in for a full day of clearance work. I am not sure how many cars there were but we had over 30 people sign in for the day drawn from several clubs and organisations. Needless to say, the Hillrunners were there in force.

The lane we tackled was a BOAT known formally as 'Colemore & Priors Dean 18' which is a few miles northwest of Petersfield, it is about 2/5 mile long and was quite overgrown. I had not expected to clear all of it in one session and was already planning the completion of the task on the next NGLD in February – and that was before I knew about the rain. However everyone threw themselves at the task with such enthusiasm that by early afternoon we had run out of lane to clear. Nice neat habitat piles lined the lane and the large mound of spoil from the badgers set had been flattened and a channel cut down the centre to improve drainage. Job done. Excellent!

Many thanks to everyone who supported this event.

The next Green Lane Maintenance Day will be the Spring NGLD that is being held on Sunday 24 February 2008. More details will be provided nearer the time.

Maintenance days are great fun (even, apparently, if it is pouring with rain!) and we encourage support from all members. Children and dogs are always welcome. The work usually entails cutting back vegetation but we have also put up sign posts, cleared fly tipping spoil and filled in potholes with rock and hard core (back breaking work!).

### **Sensitive Lanes**

The lanes listed here are ones that you can still legally drive (i.e. they do not have a Traffic Regulation Order on them preventing use) but that we have been requested to exercise restraint on. The restraint comes in two forms; the first are lanes that we can still drive but need to exercise special care on (eg keeping speed well down and watching out for other users). The second are lanes that we should not drive at the moment, usually because they are in a poor state of repair.

#### Please be extra careful on the following lanes:

Authority: Hampshire County Parish: Clanfield

Name: Clanfield 702 (known locally as Periwinkle Lane)

Map Refs: SU 687181to SU 692165

Issue: There have been complaint from the Parish Council that use of motor vehicles is providing a danger to other classes of user. Please drive extra carefully on this lane.

Authority: Hampshire County Parish: Hawkley

Name: Standfast Lane – Hawkley 24/26

Map Refs: SU 750299 to SU 759311

Issue: Please do not drive this lane in the Winter months (ie November to March). This lane is fine in dry weather but ruts very easily in the wet – especially the area by the top of the field. Please do not drive the lane after heavy rain. Also be careful to stick to the lane where it crosses the field. The Parish Council has applied for this lane to be TRO'd and if we are to keep it open then we must use it responsibly.

#### First prosecution for driving on a Restricted Byway

Hampshire has seen its first prosecution for the use of a Restricted Byway (RB) by a motor vehicle. I don't know the exact circumstances but the person prosecuted was the tail-end-Charlie in a convoy of 5 vehicles, someone took his number and passed it on to the Police. The Press Release from the Council is show included below.

It has been illegal to drive Restricted Byways (formerly known as Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs)) since May 2006. Most lanes signposted as 'Right of Way' in Hampshire are Restricted Byways. HCC are going to be putting up notices that make it clear that these are not legally drivable but it will be some time before all the affected lanes are covered.

Please make sure that when you go laning that you only drive lanes where you have a legal right to do so. If you are not sure what these are, or have a query about a specific lane, then please give me a call.

## **Press Release by Hampshire County Council**

A Guildford man has had to learn the hard way about where he cannot use his vehicle in the countryside.

In May this year a man was caught driving a four wheel drive car on a restricted byway in the Candovers, near Basingstoke and was prosecuted. He was found guilty and received an £80 fine, plus £50 in fees.

A restricted byway is a new classification of public path and this is believed to be one of the very first occasions in the UK someone has been prosecuted for using such a route unlawfully.

Hampshire County Council looks after over 7,000 public rights of way, which amounts to 2,840 miles of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. With such a vast area to maintain we need your help in making sure people are not using them illegally. The only legitimate public use of Restricted Byways is on foot, cycle, horseback or by horse drawn vehicle. It is only on byways open to all traffic where motor vehicles are permitted and these vehicles must be road legal.

Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage, Councillor Margaret Snaith said: "This just shows that illegal motorised use of public rights of way is a serious offence and offenders can find themselves with a criminal record and out of pocket as a consequence.

"I would like to urge members of the public to report anyone they see breaking the law to the police. With your help we can stop illegal use of motor vehicles in the countryside, making it a safer place for all to enjoy."

Gerald Ellis, who owns the land the vehicle was driven on, said: "As a landowner I am pleased to see the public enjoying the countryside in a responsible manner. The route over my farm is enjoyed by walkers, horse riders and cyclists. These ancient routes were not designed to be used by motor vehicles which destroy the surface of the path, making it difficult for everybody else to use.

"Most vehicles that I have seen on my land are often driven at speed with no regard to other users. If anyone spots a vehicle being used illegally they should report it to the Police as it can lead to a conviction, as this case shows."



If you would like more information on any of the above or have any doubt over whether you should drive a lane or not please contact me.

# Club Discounts...



Gill of Dial-a-Dog-Wash Waterlooville, covering Portsmouth, Denmead, Emsworth, Havant, Cosham, Paulsgrove etc will offer a competitive price to club members on confirmation of membership of the Wessex Hillrunners, please mention when enquiring that you are a Wessex Member!

Call Gill on 02392 717803 or 07725 489384

Auto Tyre Centre, 7 Dock Road, Gosport, PO12 1SL (Near the Asda Store) Will price match other local companies as well as give some of the best deals on Tyres both Road and Off Road, call Joe Joesbury on 02392 520343.



And another great offer from the Wessex Hillrunners, Clhaires Salon offers a discount to all club members including kids and mens hair, give Claire a call on 02392 594131.

# **Dave Hutcheon Plumbing**

All Aspects of plumbing undertaken and guaranteed, 24 Hour Call Out.

3 Barn Green Close, Denmead, PO7 6EJ

Telephone: Mobile: 07891 040 838

Email: <u>dave@dhutcheonplumbing.co.uk</u> or website <u>www.dhutcheonplumbing.co.uk</u>
Dave will give discounts to all club members on production of a valid membership card.



Off Road at Bordon.

# 

While we enjoy the trials and challenges of site days or difficult lanes we also love to take to different places, spectacular views and the odd challenge as well. As such I thought I would share a little bit about a recent weekend we went on – food for thought for the travellers among you.

With this in mind we found it hard to decline an invite to drive The Gap in Wales last month, an interesting unclassified route open to traffic in March and October each year (some hint of a pending closure and gave us enough justification to take to the motorways and cancel all other commitments –as you do).

The Gap offers spectacular views and tricky areas to overcome. Nothing too challenging unless the driver forgets to put the diff lock on (no name and shame this time)!













Or takes to a bath of water...... first Steve tried





.....and failed, so John tried

.... and also failed!



But boy didn't he really get stuck in!

Others moved on to Tommy's farm on the Sunday (a really challenging and interesting site in mid – north Wales). However, for some of us who had a new job to start, or a wounded 110, it was a comfortable and leisurely drive back on the Sunday.

All this and a weekend of camping! A big thanks to Welsh John and Lee for coming along and showing us the Quarry and making sure we had a great time. Thanks also to Carl for pulling the weekend together.

Sandy

#### **REWARD**

## Tigger finds friend and then looses them....

1 large jar of Honey (donated by Pooh) to anyone who can help find Tigger's new friend.

As you can see Tigger found a friend. Someone he can share stories of repaints, patterns and mad owners with. Unfortunately despite sneaking off for this picture with his new friend he didn't manage to get any contact details written sown before being whisked off home.



If you have nay information that may lead to the reunion of Tigger and his friend please contact the Wessex Hillrunners club, home of Tigger.

#### The Wessex Hillrunners annual awards 2007

We have some unique triumphs and even more unique people in our club, to this end we have decided to make a few awards at the end of each year, these have been nominated by the membership of the club, all awards are given out at the Christmas pub meet with the exception of a couple, interestingly the most lost was one of them, possibly still trying to find the new location for the pub meet!! Here are the awards...

#### Most Helpful Club Member: Steve Cowling

Steve was awarded this for always being willing to help out the club, its members and even the most stupid of schemes such as the raft race!

#### Most Lost Member Award: Joe Joesbury

Joe was awarded this as he got horribly lost on Halloween 2006, even though his navigator was right all along, and not being able to find one of the biggest Army Training grounds in the south, Bovington Camp.

#### **Dumb Ass Award: Jim Tyler-Mount**

Jim was awarded this for suggesting and carrying through the idea of using a Suzuki SJ as a suitable entrant in a raft race, the team came last, but in his defence they did finish and still claims never to have been towed home from an event and was not going to start with a raft!

#### **Towed Home Award: Malcolm Avis**

Malcolm is regular hanging off the back of another member's car either to or from an event, considering he is a mechanic by trade it has been suggested that this is a deliberate ploy to avoid the cost of petrol for a Range Rover V8 by getting a tow home from events after mysterious failures to start!

#### **Tightest Pocket Award: Sam Valman**

Sam was nominated for this award by his partner Sarah, he will spend hours trawling on the internet moving from website to website to save a few pennies on parts, she alleges he has saved almost £12-00 by over four days permanently online.

#### Most Travelled Member Award: Peter Goodrun

Peter lives in Scotland and is a regular at our events, this award is even more deserved as before the Discovery he now has the trips used to be done in a series 3 Land Rover, shame the prize was not a gift voucher for a chiropractor!

#### The Most Japanese Award: Patrick Manuel

This final Award was a special award created this year by a request from Members, this award is for taking lots of pictures of others misfortune, breakdowns and other stressful situations, especially when you have just sheared off a brake pipe trying to undo the hub nut, Patrick was nominated by Sam Valman for continuing to take pictures as more and more things went wrong with the front hub on his Discovery at Bovington,



## 2008 Calendar for 'The Wessex Hillrunners'

**February** 

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Sunday 17th Off Road Day at Slab Common, Bordon, All Welcome! Trials section as well! Charity

Fund Raising Day for the Macmillan Challenge Teams, £20-00 Per Vehicle and 1 driver,

additional drivers £5-00.

Sunday 24th National Green Lane Clearance day, site to be confirmed, more details from Patrick

Manuel.

March

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Sunday 23rd Off Road Driving day, Site to be confirmed, £20-00 Per Vehicle and 1 driver, additional

drivers £5-00.

April

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Off Road Driving day, Site to be confirmed, £20-00 Per Vehicle and 1 driver, additional

drivers £5-00.

May

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, Camping and greenlaning, we need to select an area but either North

Hampshire or Salisbury Plain.

June

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Green Lane driving day, North Hampshire/Surrey, YOU MUST PRE BOOK!!!

July

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Charity Raft Race, The Ship Inn, Hayling Island, Teams needed for a brilliant fun event,

Contact Jim for details.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Off Road Driving day, Broxhead Common, Bordon, £20-00 Per Vehicle and 1 driver,

additional drivers £5-00.

August

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, Berkshire 4X4 Show, near reading, club stand and show, will be a good

weekend, remember Beaulieu?

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Gosporteers Show event, Stokes Bay, Gosport, come and display your vehicle and

possibly win a prize, a nice relaxing social day out, £6-00 per vehicle entry, contact Jim

Tyler-Mount for details.

September

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Off Road Driving day, site to be confirmed, tentative MOD at Bordon though! £20-00 Per

Vehicle and 1 driver, additional drivers £5-00.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Marie Curie Ladies Driving Challenge, we need volunteers, pleas contact Jim Tyler-

Mount for more details, this is one of the best days out you can do!

October

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> London to Brighton Land Rover Run, all welcome in a Landy! Contact Sandy Jerrim for

more details.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> National Green Lane Clearance day, site to be confirmed, more details from Patrick

Manuel.

November

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Halloween Green Laning in the Dark, some little scary bits and a fun time guaranteed!

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, come along and review the year and vote for the committee, at

The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Off Road Driving day at Hogmoor, Bordon, £20-00 Per Vehicle and 1 driver, additional

drivers £5-00.

December

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Pub Meet at The Hampshire Rose, London Road, Widley, 7-30PM. The annual awards

ceremony for contributions to the club as well!

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fun Day, Navigation challenge to find Father Christmas! More details from

Sandy Jerrim, Booking will be essential!

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve Green Laning, a yearly event, see the lanes after dark and watch the

fireworks over Portsmouth at the end!

For more information on all the events please contact Jim, the diary is ongoing and may change with events added all the time, flyers will be sent out to remind you of all events!

Other Events to look out for

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, Grand Canyon near Worthing £30.00,4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, Slindon near Fontwell £30.00



# **Club Site Rules When Off Roading**

- 10 mph speed limit on site, 5mph in car park
- <u>No</u> **alcohol or drugs** (unless prescribed by a doctor or cleared by Committee) to be consumed when on site (spectators/drivers).
- Follow instructions from Marshals and Officials they are there to help keep you and everybody else safe.
- All loose items to be fastened down (a high-lift jack, toolbox or even your flask of tea flying around can be lethal).
- Check that you have adequate recovery points and ropes, plus that your vehicle battery and fuel tank are securely fastened.
- Keep a safe distance from other vehicles at all times.
- When ascending or descending steep hills check that your way is clear and allow plenty of room for vehicles already on slopes, always follow any direction signs on site, i.e. one-way routes.
- Give way to vehicles on steep slopes you can stop, they can't.
- Obey all signs posted by the club, "no entries" and "one way" for example.
- **Be aware** of spectators (especially young children they don't realise the danger) **YOU** are responsible for your family.
- If you see a taped-off area please do not enter with a vehicle it may be for spectators, or the owner of the site does not want it driven on.
- Keep animals under control (all dogs must be on a lead).
- Have fun, be safe and if you see anything that gives you cause for concern speak to a Committee Member or Marshal who will deal with it.
- No Bikes, Motor Bikes or Trikes etc unless permission granted prior to event by the committee.
- All vehicles must be roadworthy, marshals or committee member's decision is final, and this includes brakes, handbrakes and tyres! All trailered vehicles will be inspected before taking part.
- Seatbelts Must be worn at all times by all vehicle occupants, no exceptions for age related vehicles.
- You are responsible for your Passengers, make sure they are safe, sitting on proper seats and seatbelts etc, if in doubt ask them to get out whilst you tackle that tricky manoeuvre.
- Everyone who enters the site must sign in at the gate.
- All drivers must produce a **Membership Card** (temporary cards available at a cost of £1).
- Any child under 4 years old must be restrained in an EU approved car seat.
- All passengers under 16 years old must have a consent form signed by their parent or guardian (these are available on the gate and on the Website).
- All drivers must hold a Full Driving Licence. We can permit drivers without a driving licence, minimum age 17 years old, if accompanied by a Committee approved competent 4x4 driver with a Full Drivers Licence. They must also request permission at least 24hrs prior to the event from Tim Taylor/Sandra Jerrim.
- All drivers in any one vehicle must make themselves known on entry to the site. We may ask you for a small fee to cover insurance cost per driver.
- REMEMBER what we do can be dangerous and fatal, BE SAFE.
- The Committee members have the final word, you will be asked to leave any event if we feel the rules of the club are being broken or you are acting in an unsafe manner, this includes green lane events as well as club site days.

## Marie Curie Ladies Driving Challenge 2007

Once again the Wessex Hillrunners provided the 4X4 section for the Charity Day at Bovington, the event is pretty simple in idea, but requires the volunteer input of many people and companies, the basic idea is that the ladies have to raise a minimum of £100 sponsorship, for this they come along and drive a range of vehicles, from a Articulated Lorry to a micro-car and we provide the muddy bit!

We still prove to be one of the most popular sections on the day, with a steady queue of ladies all day, this year we were able to field 12 vehicles, although we were down to 8 pretty rapidly as the enthusiastic driving style of some, water and sand wasn't appreciated by some cars!

In all over forty thousand pounds was raised for Marie Curie Cancer Relief, all our members who volunteered for the day felt they had really given something back on hearing the comments in our visitors book that all the ladies signed on leaving and only two of our members needed recovery home, which considering it is constant off roading over quite serious terrain for six hours is not to bad.

The committee of the club would like to say thank you to all the volunteers this year and hope to see you next year!



Waiting for the off!



Watery bit, perfect bow wave



More waves, Drew this time as passenger



Joe giving instruction before the off



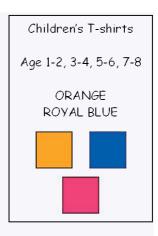
Patrick at the start, in the Passenger seat!

John's Disco before the muddy bits!

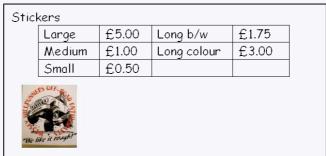
# Wessex Hillrunners - Club Shop











Plus various other items which can be seen at the Pub Meets or on location, such as Wessex Hill Runners Mugs and other new items to be added to the shop stock soon, including recovery gear.

If you wish to order any items, please contact -

Martin Nash Tel: 07825 994009

Email: martin@nash85.fsnet.co.uk

Or see him at the Pub Meets and most events with the Jeep.







Remember to visit the website for updated information on all events and information on previous events!

www.wessex-hillrunners.co.uk