

Les Slimes

March 2021



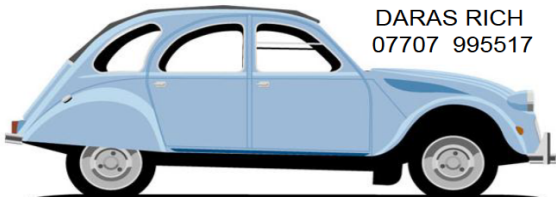
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World Meetings - Smooth Driving all the Way (ALMOST!)

Part Two - On The Road Again

A travel story featuring Sue, Maurice and of course Pierre



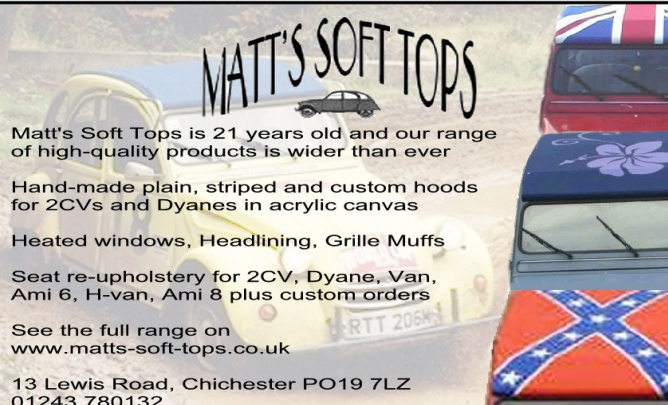
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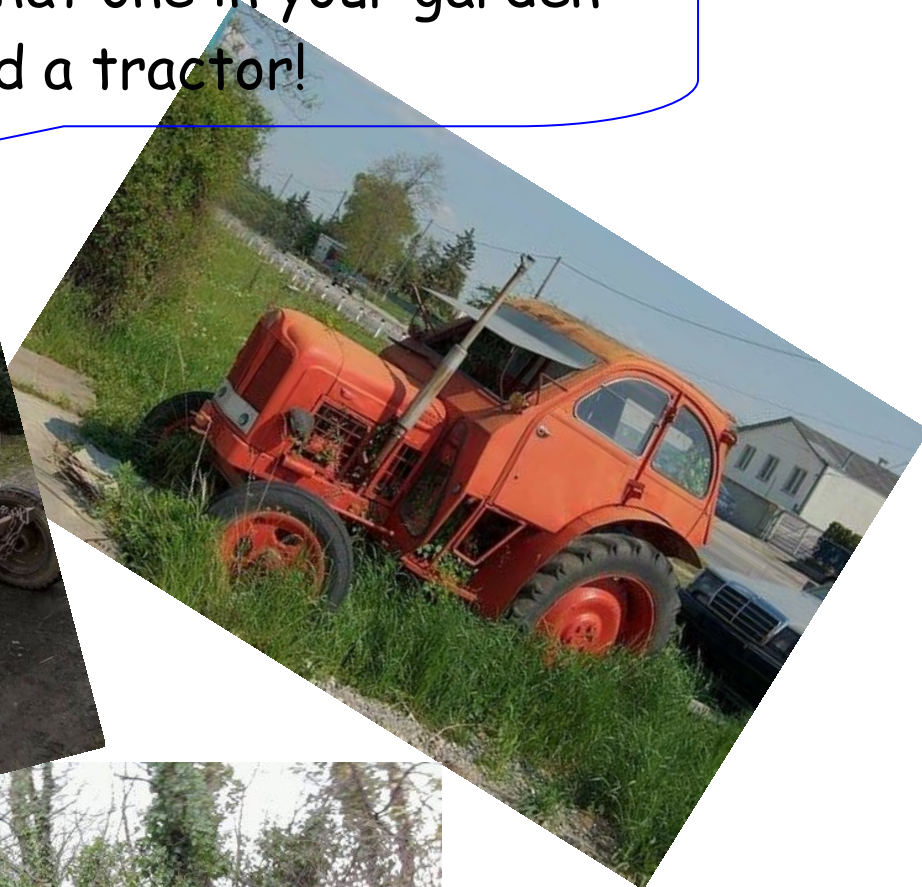
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Newsletter of South Downs Escargots (www.southdownsescargots.co.uk/)
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Thanks John for these 're-cycling' ideas...now that one in your garden you just need a tractor!

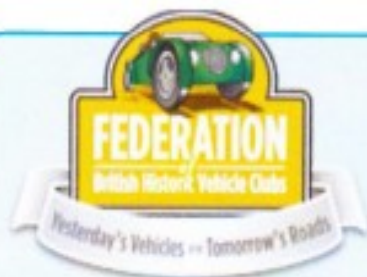


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Dull but a Little Bit Important !



BLACK AND SILVER NUMBER PLATES

Statement from the FBHVC Published: 10/12/2020

Information directly from DVLA concerning black and silver number plates effective from 1st January 2021.

This note is to tell you about important changes being introduced on 1st January 2021 that affect the ability of vehicles registered in the historic tax class to display the old style pre-1973 black and silver number plates. Following the change in definition of a historic vehicle for vehicle tax exemption purposes in 2015, an issue was identified in the regulatory requirements for the valid display of a black and silver number plate. This resulted in an unintended consequence where any vehicle over 40 years old and registered in the historic tax class would be permitted to display an old style black and silver number plate. This was despite the law previously requiring all vehicles first registered after 1st January 1973 to only display the yellow and white number plates with black characters.

As this was never the intention, we have sought to rectify this through a legal correction which will shortly be implemented. The change seeks to prevent any vehicle constructed after 1st January 1980 from the ability to display the black and silver number plate despite being recorded in the DVLA's historic tax class. Those vehicles with a construction date prior to 1 January 1980 will continue to be able to legally display black and silver number plates to avoid any undue costs of replacement.

Your members may also wish to note that from 1st January it will no longer be permissible to fix a new number plate displaying a Euro symbol. Number plates already fixed to vehicles are unaffected. We will also be introducing a new British Standard for number plates produced from 1st September 2021 which will mean all current style number plates that are first fixed to a vehicle from that date must meet the technical requirements contained in that standard.

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World Meetings Smooth Driving all the Way (Almost)!

Part Two - On the Road Again

It was July 1995 and after six long years we were on the road again, World Meeting bound, on our way to part of the still troubled Former Yugoslavia. The destination was Maribor in Slovenia, which was one of the least affected new countries. Our red special Pierre was eager to attend his second World Meeting. Little did he know that this would be the first of twelve consecutive visits to World Meetings.

For entering Slovenia we were warned that the border officials would insist on checking that you had a valid insurance 'green card' for your vehicle.

If you were unable to produce one they would charge you a considerable amount in their local 'Tolar' currency for insurance cover in their country.

Needless to say they had their own currency exchange facilities on hand. I had obtained a 'green card' prior to departure but on checking my documents when packing to leave I found to my horror that the registration number on it in error was of my old car, Françoise, and not that of Pierre.



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Both were insured with the same company. As it was too late for the issue of a new document and we were still in the era of typewriters I quickly typed in under the registration number for Francoise, the number for Pierre, YYJ 2253Y. Sorted!

Our South Downs Escargots numbers were somewhat depleted for this trip with only three cars, including that of honorary Escargot John Blakeley, making the journey. When planning the outward journey we noted that the Austrian 2CV club were organising a pre-world meeting camp in the south of the country in easy reach of

to stay
fore our ar-
was no
which made
tive and
for finding
sketchy,



Maribor and decided there on the night be-
rival in Slovenia. There
charge for the camp,
it even more attrac-
though the directions
it were a little

being turn left in

Sierning, we found Sierning on our map and thought, with some trepidation, that it should be possible to find!

The journey went well and south of Linz we reached Sierning. It was a very small place and luckily had only one major left turn. We turned along it and fairly soon reached the Austrian club camp. Near the entrance was a large tented bar and we were greeted with a voucher each and told that these were for the first drink at the bar, which was free!

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The tents were erected in double-quick time, delayed only by the arrival of Bob Brotherhood. For once the greeting of Bob was of necessity brief as hot and sweaty as we were the appeal of a cold beer was very strong. The beer was very welcome and to the limited extent to which I remember much about the evening, it was very pleasant.

With only about 150 miles to go the next day we made a fairly leisurely start and arrived on



on

site at Maribor fairly late in the afternoon. Early on we were behind Bob but at a junction where he turned left, our route took us right and we didn't see him again. The meeting site was part of an airfield and we found a good spot in one corner, near the fenced off runway and next to a maize crop. This was fairly tall and became used as an impromptu toilet. Great care was required as the meeting went on as to where you put your feet.

Rather than a marquee the aircraft hangar was the venue for daytime events and also the evening entertainment and it was there that the presentation of what was planned for the Dutch World Meeting in 1997 was made. Presentations were also invited for the 1999 meeting and 2CVGB had decided to put in a bid for this.

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It was decided to present in English, French and German. Two Escargots members were roped in to translate and present: I did the French version and Russell the German version. I did get some assistance from one of the French members we knew on constructing the words more in a French idiom and did get a good response to our promises that there would be ample loos and showers! Our efforts though were in vain and the 1999 meeting was awarded to Greece. 2CVGB would try again of course in the future and successfully but more of that much later.

The intriguing 'dual direction' 2CV made an appearance and displayed its talents in front of the Hangar. It was certainly the first time I remember seeing one and it must be quite unnerving to have one driving in front of you!

The meeting was fairly close to Maribor and the walk into town took you down a long street of houses. If you were not careful it was a far from a sober walk as many of the residents were at their garden gates selling their extremely fiery home-made 'hooch'. I guess it was a good way for them to make a few tolar

free of any tax or duty and talking of tolar I got into the habit of using my nickname for them of towbars. It does at least mean that I never forget the name of that currency!

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We did eventually bump into Bob Brotherhood at the meeting to find that he had broken down on the way in his 'Barryvan' as he called it. Sadly he didn't make it there under his own steam but had to utilise rescue services to get there. Bob has always covered a huge number of miles in Europe and it is perhaps no surprise that from time to time he encounters a few problems.

All too soon it was time leave Maribor and that for us sadly meant a fairly rapid return home to get back for work! This is a common problem unfortunately but as Sue always says "you have to go home to be able to go away again on another holiday".

Never fear, the saga will be continued - The Netherlands next and only two years to wait.....

Maurice



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THE CITROEN 2CV	YES	NO
WIND UP WINDOWS		X
RETRACTABLE HEADLIGHTS		X
REV. COUNTER		X
CIGAR LIGHTER		X
HEADLAMP WASHERS		X
ON BOARD COMPUTER		X
ECONOMETER		X
FEMALE VOICE READOUT		X
TURBO CHARGE		X
FAN BELT		X
REMOTE CONTROL DOOR MIRRORS		X
ELECTRIC AERIAL		X
CRUISE CONTROL		X
ELECTRIC SUNROOF		X
RADIATOR		X

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**Camp Dates depending on if you have
the right roadmap !!!!!**

Hat Camp @ Harry's Field

Friday 10 September to Sunday 12 September

Pompey Puddleducks

Friday 24 to Sunday 26 September.

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