

# Les Slimes

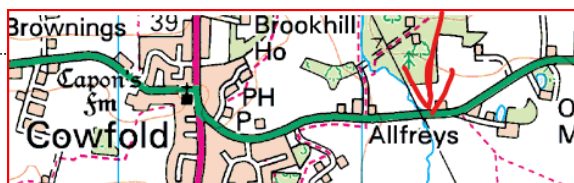
July 2021

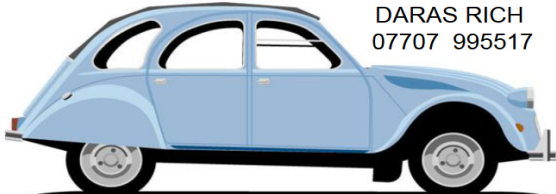


## Inside

- World Meeting  
The Journey Continues  
to Austria
- Pics from our Last meet

We will be holding the next South Downs Escargots (Bastille Day +1) meeting on Thursday 15 July at our Hat Camp venue, that is 'King Harry's Field', Cowfold, which is almost opposite the Oakendene Industrial Estate on the Bolney road. Arrive from 6.30pm onwards - please bring your own food, chairs etc BBQ ready to cook from 7.30. Toilets will be open so bring drink !






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Member group of 2cvGB Articles and 2cv news always welcome.  
Please send copy and pics to John Chaplin ([biker1@btinternet.com](mailto:biker1@btinternet.com))

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## World Meets Part Five – Austrian Adventure

Two years passed very quickly and it was time to get ready for our trip to Austria for the first World Meeting of the twenty-first century. Pierre was packed, ready and eager to attend his fifth world meeting. The venue was near Seeboden on the Millstatter See, about 30 miles from the border with Italy and Slovenia and in scenic and mountainous terrain. This time, during our usual pre-meeting planning, we had decided on a new departure routine, leaving home in the afternoon, driving to Dover for the ferry to Calais and staying overnight there. An early start the following morning would then make possible a full day of driving on from Calais to enable us to get well into our journey.



We had a member new to world meetings with us on this trip, Sue Lawrence in her modified convertible Dyane, pictured at our overnight Calais hotel, making last minute checks on the car. After Calais we split into two groups. The main group were to go to follow a route right across Germany and into the Czech Republic to visit Prague before heading south to Austria. We joined Simon, Carol, Dan and Frankie in Simon's red Mehari, complete with matching trailer, for a more direct and leisurely route through Germany and Austria. Our plan was to spend a night in Germany, followed by a couple of nights in the Austrian Tyrol, where we would not be too far from the meeting. It was agreed that we would all meet up again at a given hour around lunchtime at a small town close to the meeting site in the south of Austria..

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Our journey went well and after a very pleasant night on a German camp-site we headed for the Tyrol and the heart of Austrian alpine ski activity. We camped at Westendorf, at the southern limit of the Wilder Kaiser ski area, on a site right under the mountain and near the start of the summit gondola. We had been skiing at Alpbach, about 15 miles away, a number of times and on the following day we went there for a visit. We arrived and parked by the main gondola below the centre of Alpbach. Our luck held and we were just in time to catch a ride before they closed for lunch. This was unexpected to us as in winter the service runs all day without interruption.

It was strange to be up the mountain in summer and it was very odd to hear the cow bells. On exiting the top gondola station I nearly fell over the fence, needed to keep out the cows, a fence which is of course not there in winter, when the animals are down the mountain, snug in their barns. After finding the gate we were able to walk up to near the peak of the Wiedersbergerhorn for the stunning views. For Sue and it was so different to see everything in summer green and not in winter white. Descending again below the top station we had lunch and a drink at the Hornboden, for us a regular winter morning coffee or lunch stop.

I remember Simon ordering Kaiserschmarrn to eat, thinking it was savoury. It is in fact a fluffy pancake with rum-soaked raisins, cut into bite-sized pieces with apple sauce and preserves and therefore rather sweet! Though a bit of a surprise, I think he enjoyed it. We had an outside table in the sun and watched the world go by in the crisp and clean mountain air. After our return ride on the gondola we then drove up to the hill to the very pretty Alpbach village with all its traditional buildings and splendid old church and had a wander round before heading back to Westendorf.

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Our neighbour on the campsite there was a hang gliding enthusiast. We saw him heading off in the mornings with his very bulky back-pack to the nearby gondola, ready for his aerial descent. We had found a very pleasant spot with space to put up our new club "umbrella type" gazebo. This was trialled in the evening and was needed when the rain came. Unfortunately it was only partly effective. Most of the rain was kept out but a fine mist managed to sneak through which was actually quite refreshing in a way, as long as it was warm! In the morning we were on the move again and heading for our rendezvous with the others. For communication we had our CB radios and hoped at some stage the other group would be close enough for us to get in contact with them. Incredibly as we were approaching the designated meeting town we listened carefully and suddenly heard their loud chatter. To our astonishment we saw them go over a slip road bridge just before we passed under it and so we were able to follow them and find a parking spot together to swap stories.

We heard that the others had enjoyed their Czech trip very much but that sadly Kit had been the victim of a pickpocket in Prague. Some things are the same no matter which city in the world you are in. However, now reunited, it was onwards together to the Meeting. When we arrived, checking in was quick and easy and after a little driving around the site we found a very suitable spot to camp on higher ground, large enough for us all and reasonably close to facilities. To access it we had to climb a narrow track up a hill with poor visibility of oncoming traffic but with Teutonic efficiency the organisers had installed a set of temporary traffic lights.



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I remember little of the meeting, perhaps because I did very little! I know most of our group, including Sue (without Pierre), had a day out somewhere locally but I didn't join them. The picture shows them stopping at a view point and I believe at some stage swimming was involved. The story goes that Daras, who was without swimming trunks, fashioned some out of gaffer tape but I have seen no pictorial evidence of this. We had mixed weather in Austria with warm sun and thunder and lightning, accompanied by some very heavy rain at times, an inevitable consequence again of being in the mountains. I do know that it was a very relaxing and enjoyable meeting and that 2CVGB was awarded the right to run the 2005 event.



The actual site for the 2005 gathering was still to be decided at this time but eventually after a lot of travel up and down the country and consideration of venues, Floors Castle at Kelso was chosen. As treasurer of the meeting committee I remember it well, especially the long trips up to Scotland, but I know that for the next four years a lot of hard work was put in by a lot of 2CVGB members. Some had been involved before, in 1985 when the meeting was held at Cheltenham Racecourse but many were new to the organisation of a meeting of this size. However, more about Kelso will come later!

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Sadly this was another World Meeting when we had to travel home immediately after the event and could not enjoy any post-meeting excursions. Thus we left early on the close-down day and headed up the motorways for Calais. One thing about the trip home will always stick in my memory. As we headed well north through Germany we passed an old-style Fiat 500 with Italian registration plates plodding gamely along in the inside lane.

Squashed tight inside the car we could see two men of Pavorotti-like proportions. They looked as though they barely had space to breathe and surmised that they had probably been like that since leaving Italy. We hoped that they did not have too much further to go!

Our trip was a smooth one and as usual Pierre ate up the miles without a murmur, no doubt dreaming of trips to come in the future. In terms of World Meetings Italy was next in 2003 and this would be in the north of the country, at Vinadio. For that you will have to wait for the next instalment.

Maurice



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## BBQ June Meet



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