

## President's report 2016

### Introduction

Quite a few new members attended events this year, especially at AO which was nice to see. And quite a few new Syncros were seen.

Due to generous members and some good organisers and teamwork we raised over £1500 across SP and CJ for charity.

Sam & Lorcan's baby is our latest member

Good to see Paul Jebiga from Ireland again after a couple of years absence & of course Dave Krankewagen

It was also lovely to finally meet Molly, Meg & Jes' lovely little girl.

### Mendips 2016

17 vehicles

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=151882&start=0&hilit=mendips>



This early event in the calendar was the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last time at the for a while and so were looking for suggestions for a new May event.

It's been arranged by Patrick Richard and Mark in the past and this year Patrick took control and found us a new campsite just 3 fields away from his new house (we had found the usual one on top by Priddy a bit cold and windy for this early in the year, although the nearby Queen Vic pub had usually saved us!)

This was sheltered, tidy and convenient, very nice but a bit costly for the families.

The weekend consisted of the usual fixed driving site up at the farm (pretty exposed too although afternoon sunburn has been noted one year), given care and respect, it's a good work out for Syncros but can be challenging, even dangerous in places.

Patrick also found us a good local pub for a meal out on Sat evening – table skittles followed with a few more pints of course.

Also notable was the first outing for Richard's new camping trailer with wood fired oven and storage for just about anything and everything.

We took in some different lanes, one particular rocky climb a real cracker Possibly last time down at the Mendips for a while.

Great that Debs and Dai made it all the way down and sorted their wee d/shaft problem before meeting them coming down the other way).

A frisbee session ensued as people made their way home Monday.

## Syncropendence 2016

28 vehicles



<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=153366>

Visitors included Stephan and Rob from Europe (who both toured around beforehand) and Sam and Lorcan from Ireland (LWB T5 Syncro).

Max noticed that MacMillan's Summer Lights fundraising initiative coincided with our event this year so we decided to see what we could do. A really fun raffle ensued Sat night that just went on and on and on ☺ Thanks for the craziest and most generous gifts from so many members and to CamperVanCulture for their generous donations too. ... leading to a desire to double our money at CJ... see later!

Driving featured fairly comprehensive induction for about 5 or so, working up to some pretty steep climbs and descents some getting a bit intimidating for newcomers but all I'm happy to say, were tackled confidently and successfully.

Others roamed far and wide, with Roger and others doing some ridiculous demo descents in the far woods and others some serious mud plugging in the 'mudhole'

A river meadow German trial and grand 'alignementes pour photographie' (became a game of headless chickens very quickly ☺) completed most of the Sunday morning action.

All followed by 5 days around N. Wales for the few, including Lorcan and a very pregnant Sam who now have a lovely baby son. Also Rob Dutchdude and Jenny Tyger Clive HarryMann.. There were few highlights this year apart from rain (we took a coastal train from Shell Isle via Barmouth to Abergavenny and back,) but with the middling weather we did end up BritStop-ing it in a great pub carpark near lake Bala...Food fantastic, just ask for the tipoff ☺





## CamperJam 2016

Again, the weekend after Syncropendence. Not a massive attendance by us this year but nevertheless it was boosted by a wider mix of friends and their acquaintances that joined us for the camping experience and the Sat night bring-a-dish feast. So lovely to meet, mix, dine and dance (for some) with them all including drop-ins. Particularly good to see Dave and son Niall from Dublin again... as it's never a low cost option to come over from the Island of Ireland.

After SP's auction for the Macmillan charity we thought we could boost this collection a bit rather than doing the 'Quarry Experience' for our own Synchronauts kitty.

We upped the price to £2 per person and then aimed for 3 sessions using 4 or 5 drivers round the quarry– Thanks to Simon for organising this with much help from Dave and David marshalling and managing the money (Daniel, Sharon, Jenny, Gilly and other helpers).

Vans became very dirty and sticky in there so thanks to David, Simon, Sean, James and Geoff for sticking at it for several sessions and having to spend the next week cleaning their trucks...

**Grand total £1538** including that raised at Syncropendence ( a few hundred I believe). Counting it in total bemusement the day after, it was quite incredible what the lads and lasses had done. I also don't think we had one dissatisfied customer (though a few screamers I'm told ☺) and quite a few took 2 trips and donated a spare £ or two.

Lovely Weston Park and its trees and grand house there to enjoy as usual and amazing fun-fair rides (if vomit is your thing), but I think the Main Marquee fancy dress action wasn't as good a dance experience as previously. Nevertheless a great atmosphere and lots to do...

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=151517&start=30>

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=153519>

## **Kent Laning 2016**

This was the first Synchronauts event in Kent where camping, laning and a social get together replaced the traditional August Devon event (that ran for 10 years or so).

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=153882&start=30>

Neil, Jes and Nick organised the event really well, Jes finding us an absolute cracker of a lovely (uncluttered) campsite overlooking the sea near Deal.

They'd also been out a good few times recceing lanes and found so many we were unable to finish them all in a day and half. And there were some real challenges mainly of the narrow and overhanging variety! Many if not most were of the fluffy if not scratchy persuasion.

Ben & Sam and Paul's hightops excelled at getting through all the lanes (with a little help from our friends).

Fantastic hot weather made the whole weekend really superb and of course the Sat night was optional pub meal.

## **Adventure Overland Show 2016**

A good turn out of vans, with quite a few new people.

<http://forum.club8090.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=155574&start=0>

Italian food theme – thanks to Fiona for taking on organisation of food

Some new posters this year of interesting travels abroad – Morocco, Iceland etc