

VW **Owners** LT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2016 VOL 2
CAMPERS NOT CRAMPERS

UNTIL YOU OWN ONE YOU CAN NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND...



- **IT'S AN OWNERS CLUB**
- **IT'S A SEARCHABLE FORUM**
- **IT'S AN ANNUAL SHOW, AND....**
- **IT'S AN ONLINE 'FLIPPING BOOK' MAGAZINE TOO!**
- **IN FACT...**
- **IT'S EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR**
- **...ALL IN ONE PLACE!**

AND IT'S RUN BY CLASSIC LT OWNERS FOR CLASSIC LT OWNERS!

volt

CAMPERS NOT GRAMPERS

VOLT

CINDERELLA STORY

**BY RAISING THE PROFILE
OF THESE CLASSIC VEHICLES,
THEY WILL BECOME
MORE DESIRABLE
TO A MUCH
WIDER AUDIENCE
WHICH WILL IN TURN
INCREASE THEIR VALUE
AND MAKE CURRENT OWNERS
VERY HAPPY!**

Since our invitation to the ball last summer (OK so it was just the VW Camper & Bus Show at Eastnor Castle last September but bear with me!) our dirty, utilitarian, Cinderella vans have finally started to get the chance to dance with all the other fancy marques of the classic VW range! But (as the outsiders) while we always crave for a little more of the spotlight for our lovely old wagons, there's still plenty going on to keep us happy in our own expanding world and lots to group news celebrate. But let's start by reminding us of a few LT facts.

Firstly it's worth mentioning that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the end of production of the series 1 LT. Wipe the tear from your eye and revel in the fact that our vans, their square side walls, and typical over-wheel driving position have been cherished ever since the first LT rolled off the line in '76; They were classic enough that the original 2l 4 pot petrol engine ended up in the Porsche 924; Did you know that when ordering a new van you could specify a different rear axle depending on your requirements, meaning that some vans have a higher top speed while others pull better?

Speaking of our expanding world – the VOLT group is now over 1,800 members! Exciting times. Welcome to all newcomers :)

Spring is always such a great time for sharing and it seems that everyone has been out tinkering and is unveiling new projects. Take a look at Ady's almost finished self build; Simon's continued detailed conversion; Peter's newly finished ska van. We've already seen an article in the April Camper & Bus Magazine of a unique LT coachbuilt - the Woodlander, and how about this for a headline start to the year – at the entrance to Volksworld at the start of the month Aaron's slammed white tin top garnered lots of admiration.

So what else is ahead this year to help show and grow the love? Do let us know if you have a project, a show, an article or a photo shoot coming up that we can feature. Don't forget that we have added some events that members have said they will be in attendance at the top of the VOLT page, and we're also planning southern, western & eastern VOLT meets, the former of which looks like being the penultimate weekend of August (the one before the bank holiday) near Farnham. Watch the VOLT page for confirmation on this. The September Sizzle is Christine's western meet and will be happening in September as last year (more to come on this too).





YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL

Whether you keep your van on the road all year or have it locked away somewhere safe and hidden for half of it, it is now, that most wonderful time of the year when all of our various quirky sized and shaped vehicles get a dust down and a polish up, and the planning starts for getting back out on the road. Although we sit in our own weird and wonderful corner, the LT owner is never shy to meet another LT owner and so we look forward to the various events on our horizon.

A quick glance at the Events Page shows us what's on offer, and whether you are a dye-in-the-wool veteran of the VW show scene or an uber geek with an infatuation for ze farzerland there's definitely something planned for us all.

First up is a trip over to one of the original LT meets in northern Germany. The LT Freunde (literally LT Friend) group have been meeting for 20 years so it makes the possibility of a UK convoy over there all that more appealing. That's in May. Then we have various other regular VW events such as Camper Jam and BusFest, but there's also niche weekends like Whitenoise & the NSVA Nationals that we have a leaning towards as they tend to be less commercialised and more friendly affairs.

Then of course we have our own meets. Far from cliquey, these fun weekends have a proper family atmosphere with kids and animals running around and seasoned veterans of the scene sharing their many years of wisdom, and only requiring the odd tot of sloe gin to keep them going! Come along to either the Tewkesbury September Sizzle in the west, the southern VOLTAGE meet near Farnham in August, and keep your ears peeled for dates for the annual Norwich easterly gathering, and a possible new northern event for this year.

So get out your dusters, your rustoleum and your boot polish, get the old wagen comfy for the silly season ahead and join in the fun. See you soon.

Tim, Chris & Rupert



VW *CAMPERS NOT CRAMPERS*
owners
LT



The van when she first arrived



Raising the roof



Up, up & away!



PEOPLE AND THEIR MACHINES... SIMON EVANS SELF BUILD STORY

Some of you may have met Simon handing out some very fancy VW LT mugs at the Flordon Gathering last spring. He'd arrived without van, but for good reason - he needed inspiration for his build. Have a read of his story so far and look forward to seeing the mean machine in the flesh. Over to you Simon...

This all started as my partner hates flying and get home sick when on holiday abroad, cutting short our trips many times. This van was the happy solution - with working so much we can nip away when we get a few free days with out the stress that comes with a holiday.

I set out for a bargain and after trips all over the UK I found a silver and blue LT in Oxted, Surrey. Not knowing much about the vehicle apart from the standard maintenance along with a big lump of common sense this seemed to fit the bill - with wind out awning, full kitchen and sleeps 4. The previous owner had the engine fully rebuilt but that's as far as he got. Despite having being sat on his drive for 8 years when we rigged up a new battery after 10 minutes of tinkering she fired up. A £500 asking price dropped to 400. With borrowed trade plates in place Suffolk bound I was. It soon became apparent that there was an issue. The carb float gasket was shot letting in air. Not knowing this at the time and being short f money I refused to get a tow truck, so proceeded to kangaroo this massive LWB beast down the hard shoulder for 2 hours, until the police finally pull me up and costed me a £150 tow. With the car fixed off for MOT... with a fail on rust. This is what led me to where I am now. Cutting back the rust that had been well covered with filler over the years and 4 layer of paint, one being exterior masonry - that stuff sticks to anything. We had opened up a can of worms!

Not one to be beaten or proven wrong - 5 years on - the bottom 18" is now new steel which gave me the opportunity to add some mods. I do blame Rupert Davison for this after seeing his LT at a show a few years before. I'm not one for doing things by half - big dog, big house projects, big camper! The LT is great compared to bays or splittys with the headroom space to move and my big dog.

The process was long and frustrating. I swear this van didn't want a second life, every job was never straightforward and this will be backed up by Emerson Large at Emo Engineering who has been restoring VW's for over 20 years. The man's knowledge is invaluable as is his attention to detail.

There was no budget - I tried to look at it as a college course and learn on the job even though it was like night school working on it every day off and night at Emo's unit for around 3 years. I would hate to think the amount of cash that has gone in to it, but it's got to be around the 8 to 10k mark by the time it's done and on the road. And that's not counting my time. Welding and engineering £4k paint, £2k glass, £700 plus fitting and re fitting due to a forgetful errors. There have been many delays in getting here. Work commitments (my shop burning down!) needing to refurb my bathroom and being taken for a ride and ripped of by the first mechanic. He took £800 as well as my van and spent a week welding it creating more work for me and then vanished! It cost me another £150 tow to get the van to Emo's yard! I have renovated 4 houses before this and fancied something different, but never again! My girlfriend is amazing for putting up with the whole thing for so many years and the help from friends and the members at volts has been priceless.

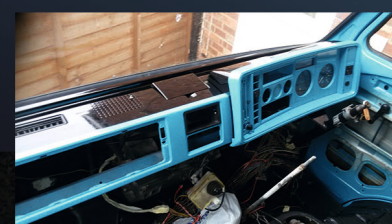
Some very fancy custom door handles



Stripping down for spraying



Nothing like seeing the first new layer go back on



Blue is the colour



Put some clothes on girl!



Simon (centre) with a couple of mugs

Beautiful backside



Those flush side windows are to die for



Sizing up running bars



CAMPERS NOT CRAMPERS

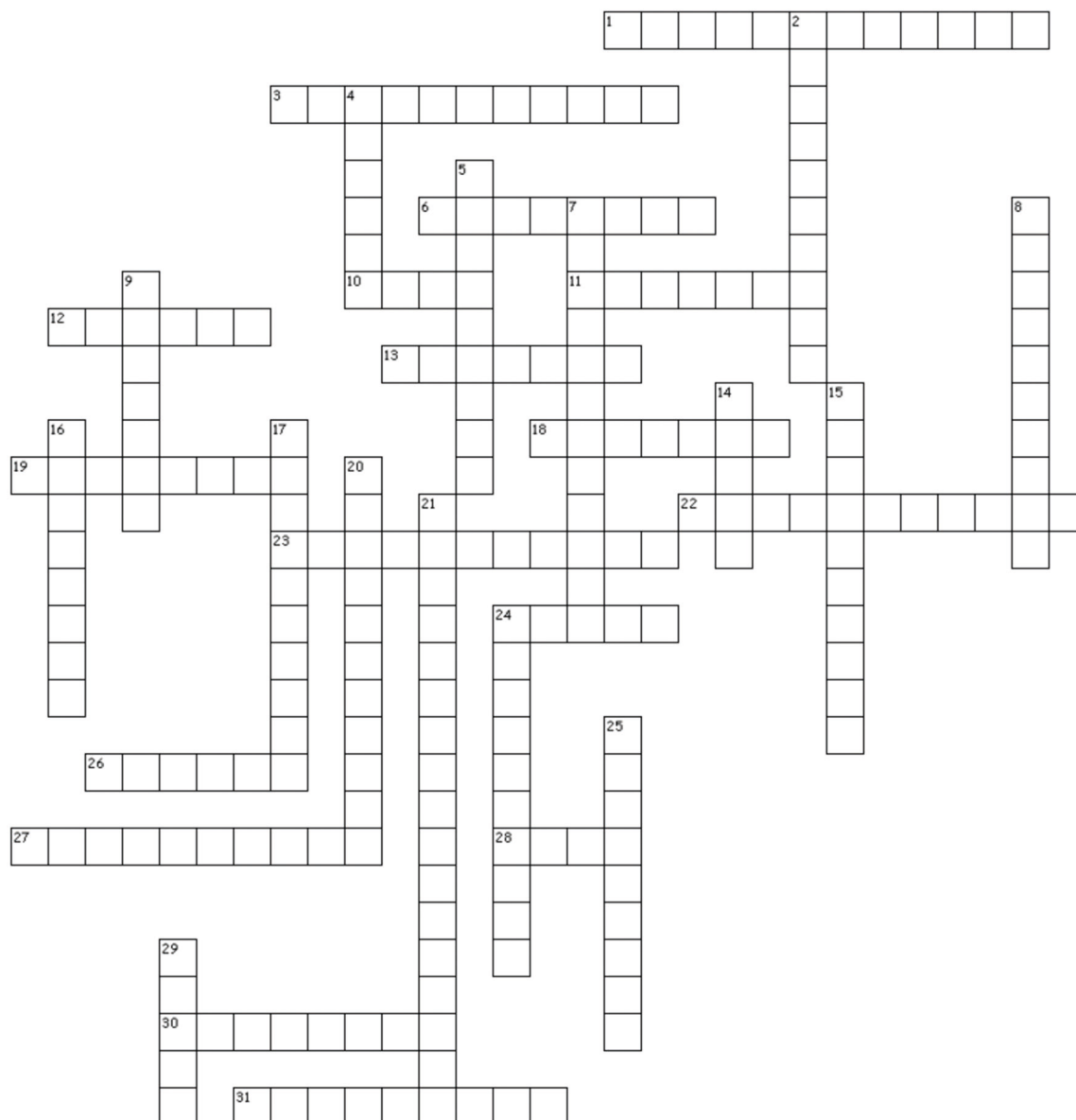
VOLTS

CAMPERS NOT GRAMPERS

VWLT

VW LT CROSSWORD!

***New for April - first correctly completed puzzle receives a free T shirt!!



Across

1. A 4x4 necessity
3. 1988 Dakar Rallye LT driver
6. Not a tintop in Germany
10. Corrosion, tinworm, crispy bits
11. Westfalias' flagship camper
12. Round but at the corners
13. Steyr-Puch horse
18. Selecting 4 or 5 and reverse
19. Birthplace of all
22. Intake air chiller
23. Wobbly bit of the Prop shaft
24. D24T went here too
26. Sleeping capacity
27. Catching dem rays Moriarty
28. The other part of VAG
30. Let the sun shine in
31. Special Dutch commercial converter

Down

2. Hightop material
4. A way of attaching a trailer
5. THE place to be, sometimes wink emoticon
7. Pinion and Crown gears home
8. Front stoppers mostly
9. Original diesel engine supplier
14. Milton Keynes converter, not old.
15. Lockable lever for access
16. A proper Brick
17. Helpful chaps in 'Heaven'
20. DV_1G_ACL
21. Sunday name for LT
24. eBay spelling of the manufacturer
25. You have either 4 or 6 as standard
29. Electrical and injection pump maker



CAMPERS NOT CRAMPERS

V&H

Are Westfalia Floridas becoming as common as muck?! Whatever you think it's a rare treat to get 4 together in a row. This is exactly what happened on Goring seafront one chilly March morning. Cheers to Matt, Martin, Simon, Tim & families

FLORIDA CORNER



CAMPERS NOT CRAMPERS



THANKS FOR READING!

COMING SOON...

VOLT T-SHIRTS!

Various colours and sizes



Order your stickers from the pinned post on the VOLT Facebook page now!

For desktop wallpaper and screen savers visit vwlt.co.uk/media

Events:

LT Freunde annual German meet up, Yachthafen Dreiländereck, Germany, 14th May

- join us for a convoy from the UK!

NSVA Nationals, Akeley, Buckinghamshire, June 25th

Camper Jam, Weston Park, Shropshire, July 1st

- ensure you book with VOLT club camping

Don't forget to visit the swapmeet to buy and sell your LT goodies