



Welcome!

Happy New Year, and to some extent, a new Hertfordshire 4x4 Response Group! We start this year as a newly registered charitable incorporated organisation, a change that will open many new doors and many more exciting possibilities! With access to new sources of funding and being able to present a more "official" face to partner organisations, this is two of many important aspects the group now have access to!

After the challenges last year the group ventures into 2018 with a new status and well defined roles set into stone along with all the passionate volunteers being lead by a new developed committee meaning a far more promising year ahead. With endless possibilities and positive growth the future could be quite rosy ... well orange anyway!

During the snow at the end of last year, it seems 4x4 Response UK also received some great exposure on social media, and for some groups the local media were giving good publicity also (I know that I personally pointed several people across the nation at their local news group!). With all the national media exposure, all groups will expect a busy January and an explosion of membership applications following Storm Caroline that gifted the UK with the most snow for the last few years!

Much as we can hate bad weather for the problems it can cause, it is our very reason for existence! All those shuttle runs for everyone from Meals on Wheels to assisting neighbouring response groups and neighbouring Police forces were greatly appreciated by all receiving the services. Keeping many people across the county fed, safe and even possibly arrested at times (!) as a result of our time given, skills and willingness to volunteer.

Even at the time of writing this, North London had noticeable snowfall today, and many long range forecasts are predicting some quite harsh weather, despite having been wandering around on Christmas Day in just a t-shirt and trousers!

So folks, check you are still prepared for bad weather to come and ensure those vehicles are kitted up with everything you need when on a deployment to assist those in need but most importantly to keep yourself safe whilst carrying out those activities!

Steve (HT13)
Responder

Herts 4x4's Chilly Caroline Callout

Hertfordshires biggest callout since January 2013

Following the Bishops Stortford Christmas Fayre, the Christmas season had one more glorious surprise in store for the county. December saw the biggest request for 4x4 assistance during the adverse weather presented by Storm Caroline for a number of years. The weather warnings started appearing and little did everyone know that on Sunday 10th December 2017 Hertfordshire would experience its heaviest snowfall since January 2013, bringing the county to a halt in the early hours.

It was at 08:30am the phone calls started being received from several organisations, requesting urgent assistance due to the heavy snowfall that had dusted the county overnight.....

**“ Storm Caroline is named by Met Office
as 80mph winds and snow head towards ”**

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Herts 4x4's Chilly Caroline Callout Continued...



The first call of the day was from the Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS) to provide logistical support to enable the 'Meals on Wheels' service to continue their deliveries to those in need. It was decided that the conditions meant it was too dangerous to send out many of the vehicles used throughout the year as they were not suitable in such conditions. A request was immediately sent to all volunteers and 5 vehicles were dispatched to four of the HILS locations around Hertfordshire.

Very shortly afterwards at around 09:00am the charity were placed on standby by a neighboring 4x4 response group to assist Bedfordshire Police with their operations. This was then followed with an almost immediate request for assistance. Three extra vehicles waiting on standby were sent to assist Beds & Cambs 4x4 Response at Luton Police Station. The aim was to assist Bedfordshire Police with attending incidents in the remote locations; which at the time were deemed inaccessible to those with vehicles not designed for such adverse conditions. Throughout the day various responders out on call were faced with many different calls from responding to minor police incidents (with officers on board) to road traffic collisions and assisting numerous stranded motorists and HGV's.

With operations coming to an end for the day, all roads having been gritted and the weather taking a turn for the better, Hertfordshire 4x4 Response then had sufficient resource for the calls they were about to receive going into the evening period.

Another one of the tasks Hertfordshire 4x4 Response is called upon during the bad weather is to assist in transporting key workers i.e. Doctors and Nurses, into the local hospitals and hospices. By this point, the responders had been working tirelessly to provide assistance to the organisations but there was still a long way to go.



After three more responders were dispatched to assist the transportation of essential hospice and hospital staff into the urgent care centre's, Hertfordshire 4x4 Response now had a total of 12 responders dispatched to various incidents throughout the county. Responders who were available were placed on standby overnight to continue to provide assistance to the local organisations if requested the following morning. Being one of many counties in the country least likely to receive such adverse weather, this means our operations are not as busy as others around the UK, Hertfordshire 4x4 Response however experienced one of the busiest days in its history on the 10th December. Combined with the assistance provided to Beds & Cambs 4x4 Response, the groups were able to deploy a total of 21 vehicles, 24 responders and well over 150 hours of voluntary aid to the residents and organisations of Hertfordshire and covered over 1600miles, a truly selfless act by all.



Following the snowfall, a week or so later, all responders were sent a personal letter from Bedfordshire Police thanking them for the assistance they provided and the Hertfordshire Independent Living Service also sent through a thank you card to the Chairman thanking the team of volunteers for their efforts and (as they put it)

“...really saved our bacon!”



Tom (HT10)

Communications & I.T. Systems

Herts 4x4 Take on the MacAgain 2018 for Macmillian!

In May 2000, a group of enthusiasts saw a gap in the 4x4 events programme and decided to introduce a new event to mark the Millennium. The objective being to provide an interesting 'Challenge' for 4x4 owners/addicts/enthusiasts over a weekend 'somewhere' in the UK, whilst supporting a worthy charity. After two false starts, due to the petrol blockade and the Foot and Mouth outbreak, the inaugural run of the event finally took place in March 2002. "The Macmillan 4x4 UK Challenge" was 'born'. This was an annual navigational endurance challenge event, open to any road legal 4x4 vehicle and consists of a series of on road treasure hunts interspersed with off-road challenges. All the competitors knew was where they were starting from with the route being kept secret until roadbooks were handed out at the start of each stage. In all, the teams could cover up to 1,000 miles during the event. By 2017, this event had grown to 60 teams and over £1,000,000 had been raised for what is now Macmillan Cancer Support. The organisers have decided to re-boot the event and return as the MacAgain. Phil (HT03) and James (HT12) will be leaving Hertfordshire on 2nd March and heading in the starting point in Wales to raise as much money as possible.

If you'd like to donate, please get in contact or head to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rhodes-to-macagain18

Important MOT changes by the DVLA.

The UK government is planning to bring in MOT changes from 20th May 2018. The tweaks to the annual vehicle roadworthiness test have been designed to make life easier for drivers preserving historically interesting 'classic' cars. But critics say they will increase the number of unsafe cars on the country's roads; this may have great impact on many 4x4 users who modify their vehicles, even some that have no modifications at all may also be affected.

From May 2018, cars that are more than 40-years old (first registered in 1978) will no longer need an MOT certificate. This will continue on a rolling basis meaning the following year it will be cars first registered in 1979 and so on.

VOSA may now provide data to testing stations about vehicles, so those running with no catalytic converter may suddenly find themselves caught out! This also applies to any vehicles which may have had EGR removal or blanking or even excessive noise from exhausts or tyres.

<https://automyze.theaa.com/content/news/how-mot-requirements-for-new-cars-could-change-in-2018>



A Message from the Chairman



Well the 10th of December, that was a busy one... I was sat in an area of the country that was due for the most snowfall casually eating breakfast and looking out the window, a mere dusting, no rush to travel the 120miles home then... The phone rang early that morning from Beds and Cambs asking us to go to standby for Beds Police due to roads and villages being inaccessible, if I'm honest I didn't quite believe it, it wasn't really meant to snow in the south.

We then received a request from Herts Independent Living Service (HILS) and deployed vehicles immediately to help them all across Hertfordshire, and at this point I decided it must be time to head for home and see if I could help but withing seconds B&C were back on the phone now needing vehicles so we obliged and deployed the resource that was asked for. Throughout the day more calls came in to HT03 who had taken over control, calls came from the NHS the Fire Service, Hospice's Care Homes, the lot, and we handled all calls that we needed to.

Sure there is a lot to learn from the day, a few procedures that need tightening up and a few more that maybe need producing, but fundamentally this was the first call Herts had been involved in for years, especially of this scale, and do you know what? We came out looking fantastic in the eyes of everyone we helped, and doors have begun to open since, sure behind the scenes we may have thought it was a bit messy and we have things to learn and build from but those we helped didn't see these minor hiccups, so as far as I'm concerned...absolutely fantastic work everyone!!

So here's to 2018 a full busy and exciting year were we can continue to grow and build on the foundations we have set!

Dan (HT08)
Chairman

Who's That??



I have been driving Land Rovers for about 30 years. I'm now on my 3rd Landy, having owned a 1969 Series IIa, a Series III and now my very capable SWB 300 Tdi Defender. I'm married with 2 grown up daughters and I live in Ware and I am a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, working as the Company Secretary of Weston Homes Plc. I'm still a member of the Herts 4x4 Off Road Club (a closed web-based club that only meets online and at events).

I was a member of the Beds Herts & Cambs Land Rover Club for about 12 years and was the Company Secretary for a while and even the Chairman for a very short period and became the Bedfordshire Co-ordinator for the 4x4 Response team for a year or two. I started supporting the Race 4 Life events when John Robinson introduced the events to the club 3 or 4 years ago, and during those events, I met Ross and other members of the Herts 4x4 Response team, and decided it was time for a change of Landy Club and time to put my Landy to good use supporting more charity events and marshalling events, with a little bit of greenlaning. As some of you know, I enjoy leading on the Herts lanes, but most of all, it's great to be part of a lively new club with enthusiastic members and a dynamic leadership with the opportunity to get involved in events that are comparatively new to me and Delilah (my Defender) after all these years!

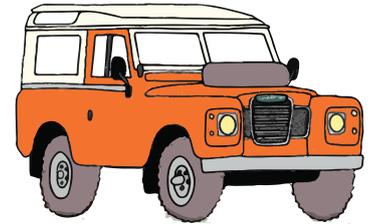
Laurie (HT02)
Responder

Caption Competition

Its competition time! We want you to give us the best caption you can, it can be as wacky or inventive as you wish ... however ... it must be related to 4x4 Response! Its time to dig out those notepads and get those thinking caps on. Below is an image taken of our Chairman...what do you think he is thinking?! Pens at the ready.....**3...2...1...GO!!!**



To enter the competition, go to our facebook page @hertfordshire4x4response and find the Caption Competition post. Comment with your best caption to be in with a chance of having it included in the next Newsletter!



NEXT ISSUE:

TWO WAY RADIOS

VHF or UHF, Professional Mobile Radio and Business Licences, Squelch, CTCSS.

Confused already? It will all be explained a little more in the next installment!

WHO'S THAT??

We'll have another installment of 'Who's That??' from another volunteer.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Find out who won this editions competition and find another photo ready to be captioned!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 27/03/18 Monthly Meeting
- 24/04/18 Monthly Meeting
- 29/05/18 Monthly Meeting
- 03/06/18 Welwyn Race for Life
- 09/06/18 Watford Pretty Muddy
- 10/06/18 Watford Race for Life
- 26/06/18 Monthly Meeting
- 08/07/18 Stevenage Race for Life
- 22/07/18 St Albans Race for Life
- 25/07/18 Classics on the Common
- 31/07/18 Monthly Meeting
- 28/08/18 Monthly Meeting
- 25/09/18 Monthly Meeting
- 30/10/18 AGM *Proposed Date*
- 27/11/18 Monthly Meeting