

August
2009

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4x4 MAGAZINE

Off-roading • Adventure • Events



GRAND ADVENTURE

Superb greenlaning
in the glorious
Yorkshire Dales

MILITARY MIGHT

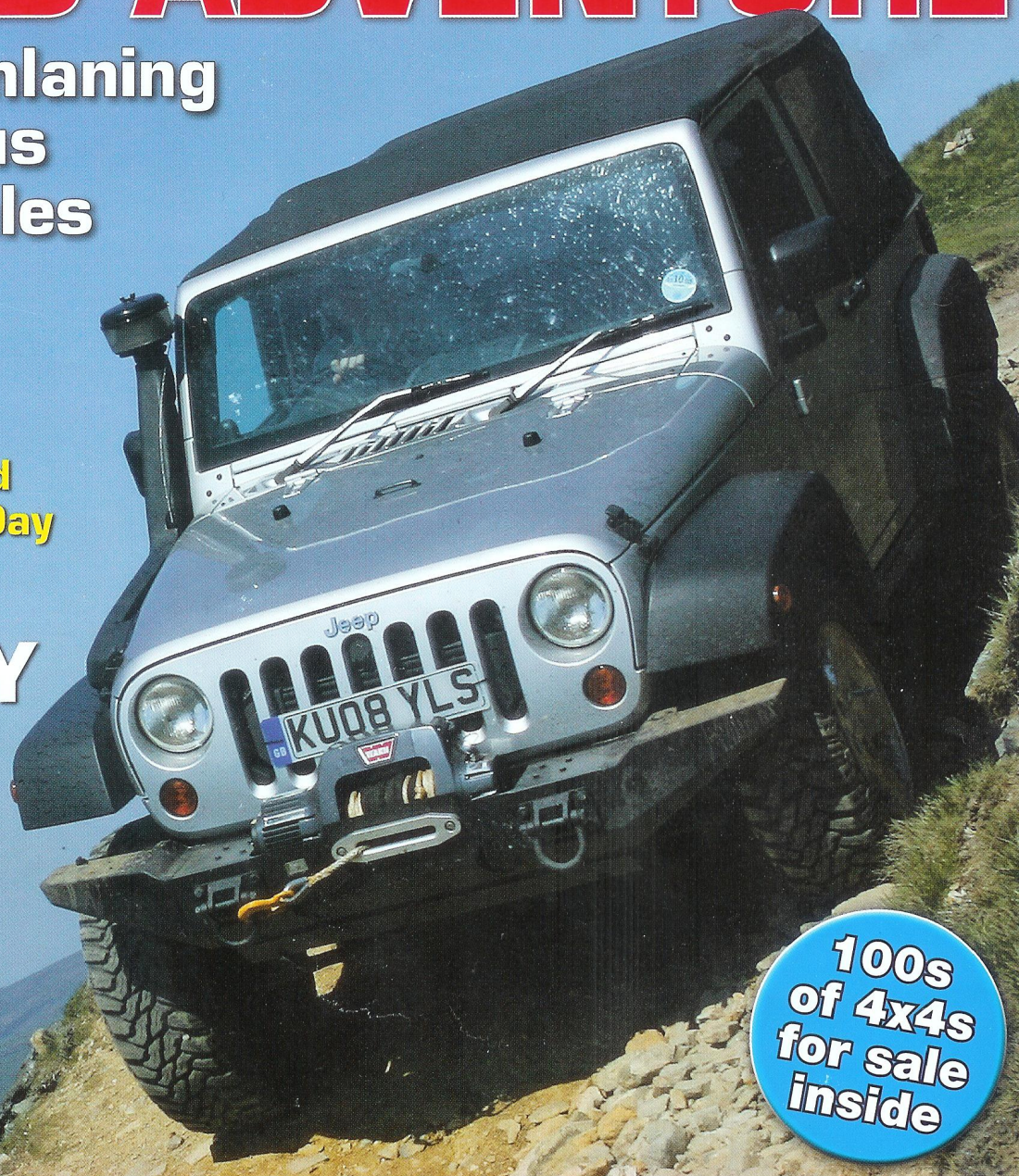
Jeeps galore descend
on Normandy for D-Day
65th Anniversary

RECOVERY GEAR

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rescuing your 4x4

TECH ADVICE

Grease is the word!



100s
of 4x4s
for sale
inside

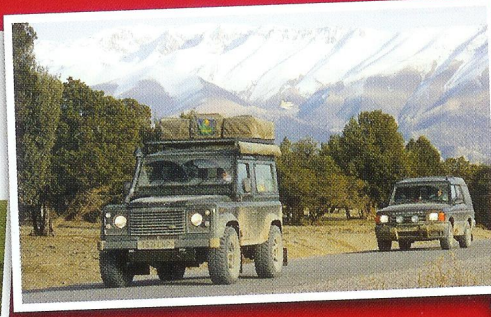
EVENT ACTION

BRITISH CCC OFF TO A FLYING START



MOROCCAN ADVENTURE

THE AMAZING TOUR CONTINUES



MAGNIFICENT CLASSIC 'MOG

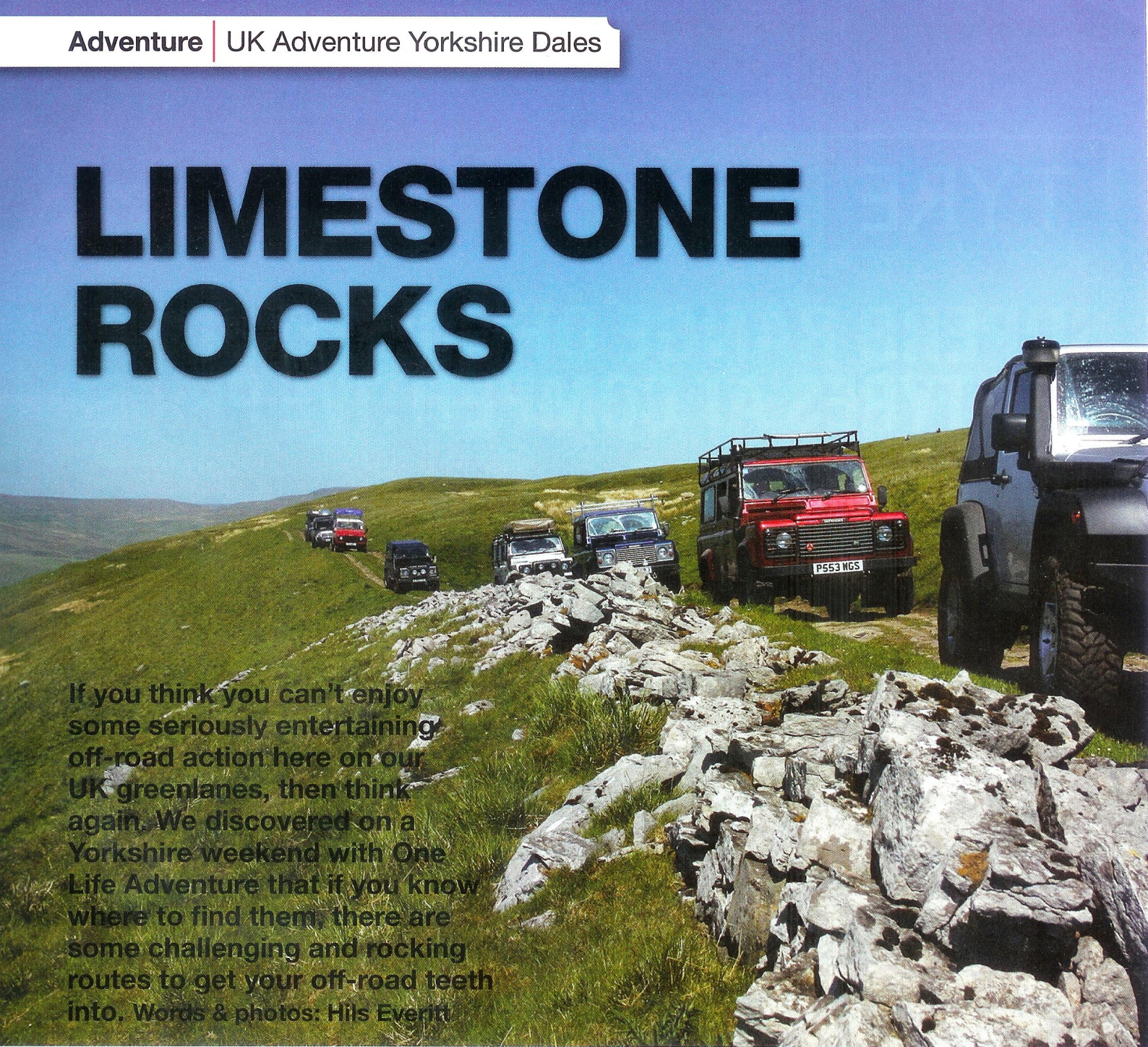
UNIMOG SHOWS ITS OFF-ROAD PROWESS



August 2009 • £4.20



LIMESTONE ROCKS



If you think you can't enjoy some seriously entertaining off-road action here on our UK greenlanes, then think again. We discovered on a Yorkshire weekend with One Life Adventure that if you know where to find them, there are some challenging and rocking routes to get your off-road teeth into. Words & photos: Hils Everitt

As our long-term Jeep Wrangler bumped and grinded effortlessly up the tricky, steep rock climb, performing in front of an enthusiastic crowd, we could all be forgiven for imagining we were tackling some tough routes in The Alps on a superb international off-roading adventure.

We were not, in fact, but exploring some challenging lanes here in dear old England. The beautiful weather conditions and some of the track combined with the stunning scenery of the Yorkshire Dales National Park at times resembled the splendour of the European mountains.

It just goes to show that if you know what you are doing and where to go then you can have a seriously fun and challenging adventure right here in the UK – that is with the help of a highly-respected and well-travelled overland adventure company. We were driving our long-term modified Jeep Wrangler as part of One Life Adventure's Yorkshire Explorer weekend in late May, and as first-time participants were

amazed at what was still on offer here in the UK, despite the catastrophic NERC bill and the Yorkshire Dales National Park being one of the authorities that is intent on closing down as many byways and unclassified country roads as possible.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park isn't at the forefront of serious off-roaders' minds for an adventure. But if you tag along with One Life Adventure a whole new world of greenlaning is opened up to you.

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Run by Paul Blackburn and his partner Anne Parker, One Life Adventure has been guiding people on adventure weekends in the UK and abroad – namely Iceland, Morocco the High Atlas and Pyrenees – since 2004 and guide their clients in a well-travelled and battle-scarred Toyota Land Cruiser Amazon VX Limited.

We joined the adventure as a second support vehicle. With our winch and knarly MT rubberwear and two-inch lift the Wrangler

Sport was the ideal accompaniment to Paul and Anne's Amazon VX Limited. We were joined by several Land Rover Defender 90s, including a rare 50th anniversary model, a couple of Defender 110s, a Freelander – which had some underbody protection fitted, as recommended for all the One Life trips – and an N-reg Nissan Patrol that had clearly seen many adventures. Plenty of the vehicles had snorkels fitted and various mods to indicate a commitment to serious off-roading.

Paul and Anne's success and expertise in this area is well illustrated by the amount of repeat business they attract. Many of the vehicles had been on trips with them before, and also on amazing adventures abroad. But they were also some real first-timers. Robin and Chris Brammar were taking out their pristine Discovery 3 for the first time in earnest, and by the end of the weekend couldn't wait to get off the beaten track again.

A One Life Adventure weekend starts on Friday night when everyone convenes at a campsite. We arrived on a glorious late spring



evening at the site in Garsdale. Many of the tents were already up and various Defenders had their roof tents erected and the smells of barbeques filled the still air. It was a beautiful evening as we sat around the fire, drinking beer and wine and getting to know each other.

Next morning Paul delivered a briefing on where we would go and general driving etiquette, and at half past nine we were off. As with any such trip there are a certain amount of road miles to cover and with this trip the split was about 60-40 per cent in favour of road miles.

GREEN AND PLEASANT

Our first lane was Lady Anne's Highway. This starts with an easy ascent and then a gentle amble across some well-maintained grassy lanes that looked hardly ever used. No problem for many of the vehicles at all. We followed the Highway for the morning. There was one section through a very narrow gate lined by dry stone walls so Paul jumped out of the Land Cruiser to help the Discovery 3

Defender 90 gets air on Fremington Edge





Nissan Patrol leads the convoy up a rocky climb to the tricky step

gently ease through. The views at the apex of the hill were stunning and the hot weather enticed everyone to jump out of their cars at every opportunity to savour the view.

The trickiest section of the weekend came that morning which included a dusty steep climb through some awkward ruts and steps. The road tyres were slipping a bit, but those with ATs and MTs were coping fine. We all watched the Freelander's progress with much interest – being the least capable of our convoy it coped fine with the climb, but the tricky bit was yet to come. Paul warned us that the route got rockier and steeper and included a nasty rock step which would test the mettle of a few drivers! Unfortunately, although our Jeep crawled up with no problem – with the help of the diff lock – and others had to attempt the step a couple of times, the Freelander didn't make it to the step. The lack of low 'box was evident and David Clayton was struggling with a slipping clutch. Sadly, the Freelander had to turn back, escorted to the tarmac highway by the mighty VX. Meanwhile, we got the other vehicles over the step and pushed onto lunch to wait for the Amazon to return to the fold.

WALK ON

Lunch provided a superb vista at Dod's Fell in the sunshine at a crossroads with The Pennine Way. We saw a few walkers during the weekend, and those we did were friendly on the whole, apart from a very unpleasant woman who wished that someone would



Starting the entertaining descent on Fremington Edge. Are you sure this is Yorkshire?!



Rock step proved a challenge. A few 90s had to take two stabs at it!

crash and that would stop them driving perfectly legitimate routes... that was met with a dignified silence and we pressed on.

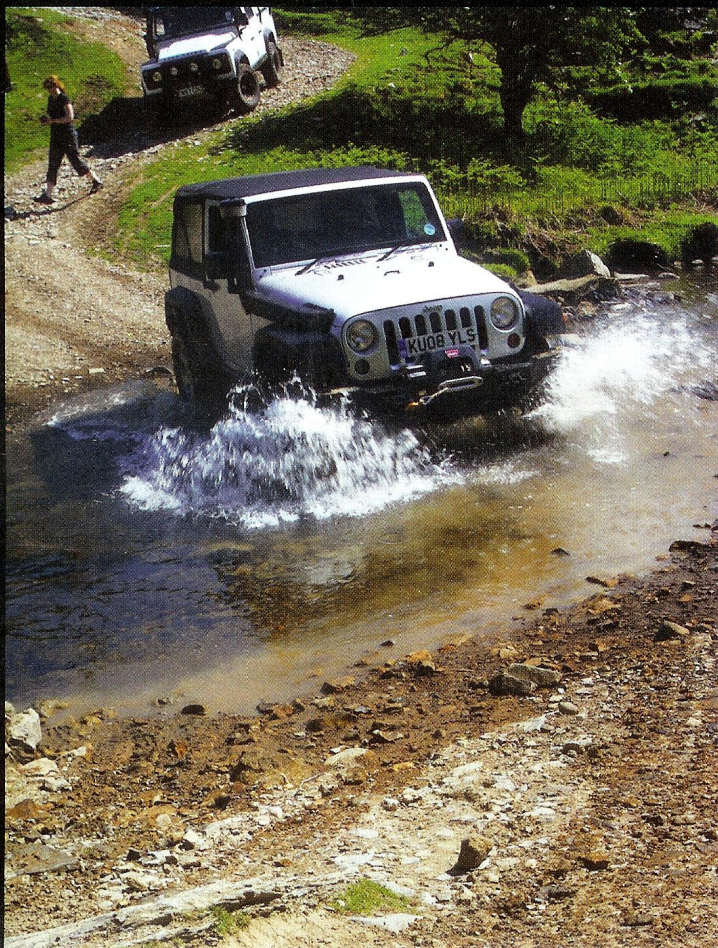
The route to the Saturday night campsite took in the famous Cam High Road, across Summer Lodge Moor and up Fremington Edge – all great routes, providing yet more marvellous views and enjoyable driving.

Our base for the night was Nun Cote Nook Farm – a family-run farm and campsite near Merrick. Again it was a beautiful evening and the air was filled with mouth-watering smells before the beers were cracked open and we gathered around the camp fire for a chat and a laugh, while Dave and Jeanette Newsham let off a Chinese sky lantern – a homage to a fantastic day.

As the weather had been so good, Paul thought that everybody would be heading to where we planned to end up near Pickering, much farther east. So after a detour and quite a lot of road driving we left the tarmac to cross the lovely Skelton Moor, negotiate the picturesque Holgate Ford – which Ashley Carr and his daughter Hannah negotiated with some welly in their 50th anniversary V8 90 – and retraced our steps on the tricky Fremington Edge, but this time we descended it – definitely one for low range first/second gear, depending on your vehicle.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

As we sauntered across Preston Moor Paul even took time to relate some local knowledge about the flora and fauna, informing us of the grouse chicks who were



There's nothing like a camp fire and a few beers for swapping adventure stories



being protected by their mothers at this time of year. They were a few pheasants quietly ambling across the road, so we had to take care. Lunch was another top spot at Nossil Scars with cracking views after driving through some old ruined mines.

Our superb weekend ended with an entertaining drive to Scar House Reservoir which is somewhere everyone should visit, especially on a beautiful day. To get there we had a long dusty ascent, then an entertaining descent with a few awkward steps, but all made it in one piece. Then it was another steep climb and a lovely drive along a ridge to get to Dead Man's Hill to finish at Horse House.

Everyone had a top weekend; some with old friends and others making new ones. It's a great way to get the whole family involved and at £130 per car well worth the cash. These adventures get booked up very quickly, so if you're interested in either the UK or international trips get in early. You'll meet a great bunch of people and couldn't be in better hands with Paul and Anne as your guides. We definitely felt we had a great adventure and it was hard to believe we'd spent two days taking in some good quality off-roading in England. ■



Glorious sunset at Marrick



Further information: Paul Blackburn and his partner Ann Parker have been running weekend UK adventure and international overland trips to Iceland, Morocco, The Pyrenees, Romania, Libya and Tunisia since 2005, after setting the company up in 2004 and going on extensive recce and testing. It was the first UK company to run an expedition to Mauritania in 2006 and Algeria in 2007, and is still the only operator running regular trips to Iceland and Algeria.

One Life Adventure runs four UK adventures each year – two in Yorkshire and two in Wales. Contact Paul and Anne on **0161 265 5799/07776 140626** or email **info@onelifeadventures.co.uk**. More details available on **www.onelifeadventure.co.uk**