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Hello dear Laverda friends

Translated with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator) (free version)

This newsletter is about the following

1.#

**we will take three months off from the busy summer like last winter and head back towards the Canary Islands off Africa.**

**The Laverda Paradise will therefore be closed from 14.01.2023 until after Easter 17.04.2023.**

**All parts ordered until 15.01.2023 will be sent out in any case.**

**So take your time until the end of the year to think about what you still need to get the parts in time.**

**Read the details here in the PDF.**

2.#

**Times are changing, formerly a Laverda report, now a La Gomera report. But I tell you, both are wonderful.**

**I want to report here about La Gomera and living on the beach in the caves.**

**So much in advance, the three months of travel can be described simply in a nutshell,**

**It was wonderful.**

**I wish everyone that they can do the same, wherever they go, there are many beautiful places.**

To 1.#

**We are closing Laverda Paradise for a full 3 months.**

**From 14.January 2023 is closed and we are only after Easter, from 17 April 2023.**

So we will not be available by phone for 3 months and no spare parts will be sent for 3 months.

no spare parts will be sent for 3 months.

Especially I am going again via Spain - Portugal - to the Canary Islands off Africa.

Herewith I would like to ask again for your understanding.

But be honest, wouldn't you like to do the same !!! ???

At this point I just want to be completely honest again.

Even if I know that this honesty does not meet with a positive response from everyone.

Escaping the Corona shit last winter was the right thing to do.

Especially on the Canary Islands, no one was interested.

And this winter I calculated that with the perverse increase in energy costs that our Laverda paradise and my private home would generate, it's almost cheaper to run away. Because once in the Canary Islands, life costs me next to nothing.

And that's what we all do, each to a place that pleases him.

We will not pay these disgusting prices for gas and electricity, which are not only coming to the German population.

We are not complaining, we are acting! Pleasure and joy instead of annoyance.

## **PARTS SHIPPING**

**From Christmas we will only be closed for a short time from 23.12.2022 to 03.01.2023, as almost everyone does.**

So you have until the beginning of January to think about what you need.

Order all the parts you need in the first week of January, or at the latest in the second week.

2 January week at the latest, and we will send out all these orders.

**All orders that arrive by 15 January 2023 will still be sent. shipped.**

**All orders that arrive after 15 January 2023 will not be shipped until after Easter, 17 April 2023 !**

You can always place an order in the Internet Shop in February, March or early April 2023. but you will receive a message that your order will be shipped only after 17 April 2023. What is clear is that by the time we get back, well over 1000 orders will certainly have accumulated.

The orders will be processed quietly after 17 April 2023, in the order in which they were received, which from experience last winter will be processed in a maximum of 2 weeks.

**The merging of several orders from one and the same customer in this customers during this time will also not be a problem.**

Thanks to all our customers, whether they like it or not.

You only live once.

A life kissed by the sun we wish you all.

## **Re 2.#**

Times are changing, used to ride Laverda and report on it (still do of course) but my new focus has been on the Handpan musical instrument since January 2020.

This time I'm not driving my almost 50-year-old fire engine, but something more modern, a DHL parcel car that I bought especially for this purpose, see picture.



**Fire engine 5,10m length,  
cargo space 3m  
headroom 1,75m**

**DHL mail van  
7m length  
loading space 4,40m  
Headroom 2m**

because three things bothered me about the fire engine.

The car was never meant to live in for months, even though it was totally gail for those three months.

but

I have no headroom in it

no real bed, just a Therm-a-Rest mat every night, inflated 5cm thick when I didn't sleep on the beach.

And no proper kitchen, when I cooked almost every day, sitting on the floor.



### **Cooking on the ground no problem**

There's only one problem with the DHL car: it hasn't been fitted out yet.

Inside, the post office shelves are still inside, so there's no time for any fitting or conversion work.

So it's going to be another very un-luxurious trip, but with standing room,

the first time in over 30 years,

3 months off, mid-January to mid-April 2022,

otherwise, all these years, it's been 2 weeks max, maybe 3 weeks max at a time, to really be away.

My almost 50 years new Mercedes 408 petrol engine in the shape of a fire engine had to get a big service first.

Here is a short FILM of it Maintenance fire engine

<https://youtu.be/0OjGmyr5hpY>

with 6 days delay it finally started on 26.01.2022, which you can cope with if you know that you have 3 months time, everything but stress.



**4 Handpan to play, cook and sleep on the floor, enough for 3 months**

The first stop was near Freiburg in Germany, where I booked a handpan course at short notice.

I have been riding and repairing Laverdas for almost 40 years now.

I think I bought my first Laverda when I was 20, and now I'll soon be 59.

(and by the way, I feel great). And this time off ensures that it stays that way.

I've been playing handpan since January 2020, my very first musical instrument in my life, and it's also very fulfilling.

At school I already failed with a recorder, attempts with guitar as well.

This course was very enlightening, a lot of input that I could process on my journey to become better.

I continued via France, where I spent the night at minus 7°C without heating in the car.



**Warming feet, the cooking cooker is the only heating in the car**

Still in France, a stupid, very stupid mishap happened to me.

It was so stupid that I'm detailing it here.

For this trip I had bought a tablet computer, my very first one.

So far I've managed without a smartphone and all that stuff.

But clearly, to keep in touch with home, I needed Whats App and a few other helpful things like Google Maps as a navigation aid,

weather online

a translation programme and other simple helpful apps.

I had no idea how to use any of this, a 12 year old girl, dear Luna, daughter of a good friend explained it all to me.

There is an app # Park4night # that you can use to find anything from a bakery, or petrol stations, even places to sleep for motorhomes, which was all new to me.

It indicated that there was a forest road nearby with a clearing where, according to the description, 2-3 motorhomes could be parked, so let's go there.

When I turned right from the paved road into the dirt road, I thought I should check the ground first because there was also snow on the right and left, but I thought this app said it was okay here, (in summer for sure but not in deep winter) so I drove into the dirt road.

Immediately I noticed how the front wheels were very spongy to steer and it was clear this was not a good idea.

I drove on, the problem got worse and worse, then came the clearing, which was fortunately so spacious that I could take a turn using the height differences, drive up a small rise in front of me with momentum, quickly let the steering wheel travel in the other direction, let it roll backwards onto another rise at the rear, travel the steering wheel around again and drive forward with a steady foot on the accelerator, towards the road, which was about 500m away.

I succeeded, I didn't get stuck, fully concentrated, not too much, not too little gas, I wanted to drive out of this misery. But then it happened.

I got stuck maybe 100m from the road.

I immediately switched off the engine, it had been dark for a long time. A check with the torch showed that there was nothing more to be done here.

Well, I wanted to sleep here anyway, the vehicle was also in an almost straight position, so first keep calm.

I cooked something in the car, the gas cooker is also my only source of heat.

(fresh air is provided),

I opened a beer, thought about my situation, went to sleep and the next morning in daylight I saw the full extent of the mess I had gotten myself into.

Many, many years ago I did a week-long survival training. How can you survive in the forest with only a pocket knife and a piece of string, with food, sleep, etc. You also learned how to get a stuck car going again.

So I spent at least three hours collecting lots of twigs lying on the ground

and laid a thick track from the rear wheels to the front wheels with the twigs and pushed them into the mud, also another track about 4 m long from the front wheels to get momentum.

When I was done, I started the engine to let it warm up. During this time I set up my tablet camera to film the spectacle.

You can see the film here. First of all: I was lucky, it worked.

<https://youtu.be/fyKG9LeikpE>

I continued towards Spain, more precisely towards Barcelona.

There I met a young couple, Sara and her boyfriend Konstantin, in a small village about 30 minutes away by car. They were on their way home after 6 months of travelling in a T4 VW bus.

We had a good 4 days of fun together and he showed me many little tricks on the handpan. And here who likes handpan music the You Tube channel of Konstantin a great player

<https://www.youtube.com/@konstantinroler4270/videos>

Further over Spain to Portugal, where I visited friends, Handpan friends.

And another handpan teacher, the great Kabeção, who taught me hand techniques for 2 days, for my trip, because I still had a lot to learn and a lot of time to practice on my trip.

I went down the Portuguese coast via the Algarve.



Here is a little video of me practising my handpan skills. As I said, I'm still a complete beginner, but I'm doing quite well and would like to share this with you.

With all music films the sound quality is not the best, but it gives a small impression.

<https://youtu.be/fpWVZGz9Gs>      **At the Cliffs Portugal**

[https://youtu.be/2T\\_QpFE9kRU](https://youtu.be/2T_QpFE9kRU)      **Live from Barcelona**

Further down over the Portuguese border to Spain, where I booked the ferry in Huelva to go to Tenerife.

I experienced the crossing of a good two days on the back deck, where I also slept outside in a corner.

This is much more comfortable for me than in a stuffy cabin, and also here I had a lot of fun making music with other passengers.



**Children screaming on deck become very quiet when you play with them**



**Sleeping place on the ship, that's enough for me**

Playing music with strangers on the ship

<https://youtu.be/HM2HDHTdBEg>

When you arrive in Tenerife, you have to drive about 80 km from one port in the east to the other port in the west to get to La Gomera.

Before that, however, I visited a Laverda customer we have there on Tenerife. I spent a good two days with him and we had a lot of fun.



**Grahame. Our Laverda customer on Tenerife with his 1000 Jota**



**Laverda workshop in sea container like Gail is the**



He regularly rides his three-cylinder Laverda and a small KTM across the island.

Then he reached his destination, La Gomera.

I can't even begin to describe the unbelievable number of impressions and people I met there in the many places I visited.

But I found the people who live there on the beach in caves exciting, many only for a few weeks, some for 2 to 6 months, very few for a whole year.



**Parking on the beach, 15 minutes walk over the mountain to the cave dwellers.**

Many of these people simply took time out from Corona like I did or lost their jobs because of Corona and had a good home here with lots of fun, instead of exasperation back home.

I have asked many dozens of them the same question

why are you here

how long are you here

and how do you finance it

the results were very different but interesting.

Two stories I found very touching

Both had a similar story

22 year old mother with 2 year old child and

45 year old mother with 12 year old child, both from Czech Republic, both single parents, left work because of Corona.

They could no longer survive in their country with the money they receive from some authorities or from the fathers of the children.

Here on the island they can.

No rent, no energy costs, always sunshine and a wonderful life for the children.

2-year-old Nataniel was soon my good friend in the fire engine.



And every morning when I opened the back doors of my fire engine, he would come jumping over and climb in. And we would make tea and muesli for breakfast or potatoes for dinner.



He always found my leather skin super

The 22-year-old mother had 1 hour off in the morning and could meditate and do yoga on the beach. Everyone was helped.

About 100 people lived there at the beach in caves, in tents or simply under the open sky, but also in their campers.



**There are parties too, of course, here at an old dam wall**

I enjoyed the time and every now and then I would transport people over to Valle Gran Rey or fetch water from a spring about 15 km away in the mountains with 20 to 30 canisters of 5-8 litres.



When we returned, the water canisters had to be brought from the car park to the other beach in a 15-minute walk along a narrow path over the mountain to the large communal cave by anyone who had a hand free.

In this huge cave we cooked, baked pizza and played music together. No matter where, everywhere there were interesting encounters with deeply relaxed people.

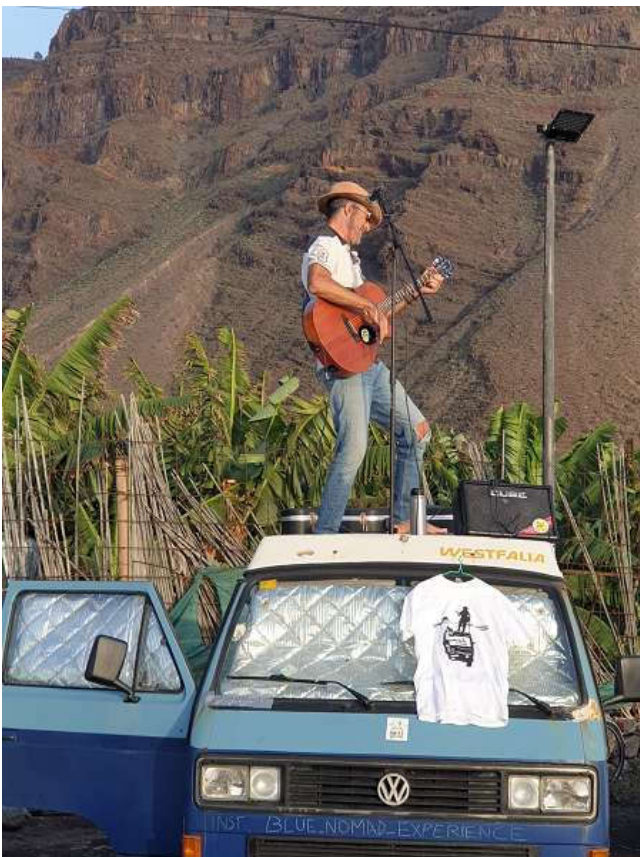
I also visited my good friend Boris, who has been living there for many years. He lives alone on another beach.

**Boris with his dog Alf**



**Boris's cave in the back corner is the bed.**

When I slept in the car no matter where on the island in the morning after breakfast we always made music Handpan, guitar, drum etc. Somebody is always there to make music.



**This is how music is made! So that everyone can hear it on the roof of his bus**

but this one morning something special was added, which also immediately attracted people who just wanted to go to the beach and sit by my fire truck.  
What a beautiful morning with special music

Captured here in this film <https://youtu.be/3iARGAufkWE>

I could write endlessly but I want to come to an end.



**Andy Wagner! Turban protects from the sun, the poncho too, but it also protects from wind, which very often blows strongly.**

The journey home was planned so that I had 2 weeks to do it.  
By ferry back to the Spanish mainland to Huelfa and slowly along the Spanish coast towards home.



**Night camp before Malaga, there is always an even bigger one, a family with 2 children lives permanently in here, they had also invited me for dinner**

After Malaga it happened suddenly a knocking noise from the engine compartment. I stopped immediately and a hearing test under the car made it clear that the gearbox had a problem as soon as the engine started to turn the main gearbox shaft.

It was clear that I couldn't possibly get home the remaining 1800 km like this, so ADAC.

The exciting details would fill many pages, with the many nice people I had to deal with and of course made music together.

I stayed in my car for another 3 days on the company's premises who had towed the vehicle, then all the basic details were settled.



**Fortunately, it happened on the way home. Now, after 49 years, something can break, even though the whole vehicle has not yet clocked up 60,000 km.**

According to the ADAC, there was no garage within a radius of 150 km that could even look at the problem.

The ADAC did a great job and organised transport home for everything.

Because I would never fly by plane, rental cars were not available, so the only way home was by train.

At 9.30 in the morning, I took a taxi the 80 km back to Malaga, then the train via Madrid to Barcelona, the train was doing 300 km/h, it was amazing. In Barcelona I had to spend the night for the connecting train.

I decided to sleep invisibly in a corner on the roof of the station building.

This was much more comfortable than going to a hotel, which the ADAC would have paid for without any problems.

But I am a friend of adventures.



**Well hidden on the station building there is this car park, a great place to sleep. That's all I took with me, the rest stayed behind in the fire engine, which was also in Konstanz just 3 weeks later.**

**1 handpan always has to be there, of course, so there's never a long wait.**

After a good night's sleep, I took the next train to Grenoble, changed trains there to Mulhouse, changed trains to Zurich in Switzerland, where I had to change trains for the last time to Constance.

Shortly before midnight on the second day, I was home 4 days earlier than planned, well preserved and happy.

### **When someone goes on a journey, he can tell a story**

The fire truck has of course long since been repaired and is ready for use, but I will still enjoy the standing height in the DHL Postbus on the new journey.

Even though the Postbus won't have any interior fittings yet, so what?

I've always been different from others in that respect, and I'm not a little satisfied either.

But I'm thinking about how I can fix the beautiful 100cc Laverda from 1956 (see picture below) crosswise on the footboard of the Postbus so that nothing can happen to it. And it can't be stolen.

It would be great to ride it over the mountains of the Canary Islands.

Laverda is simply my life, even if this newsletter is a little different.



I have been living in shared flats (commune) with other people all my life, which is also unusual.

I'm getting older and older, and they're always between 25 and 40 years old. But I tell you, it keeps you young and you are always up to date.

At this point I would like to promote a young artist whom I got to know through my handpan playing at the lake in Constance. She herself plays the piano incredibly beautifully, but has also been practising with the handpan since we met. Like me back then with Laverda, she has also turned her hobby into a profession since about 1 year. If you like piano music take a look at Iren's Instagram channel and subscribe to her that's already a first good support  
Instagram Under: **@pianochloemarie**

Or on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/@PianoChloeMarie>



**Chloe Marie**  
**French, grew up in Spain and Portugal**  
**speaks 6 languages**  
**and plays the piano beautifully**  
**and now lives in Constance**

**Yes dear Laverda friends**  
**that was an unbelievably beautiful time on La Gomera and I want to have that again.**  
**You only live once**

**a life kissed by the sun                      Forza Laverda**

**Andy Wagner and Team**