



## THE BEDS, HERTS & CAMBS LAND ROVER CLUB Heroics Save Club Members Lives

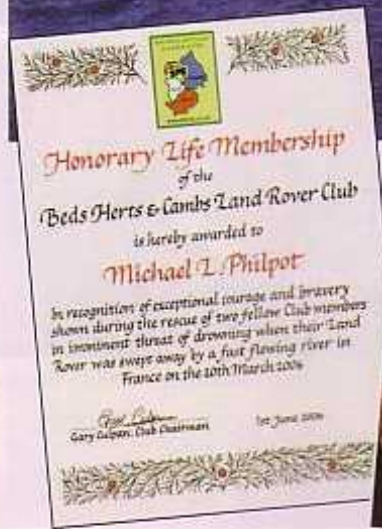
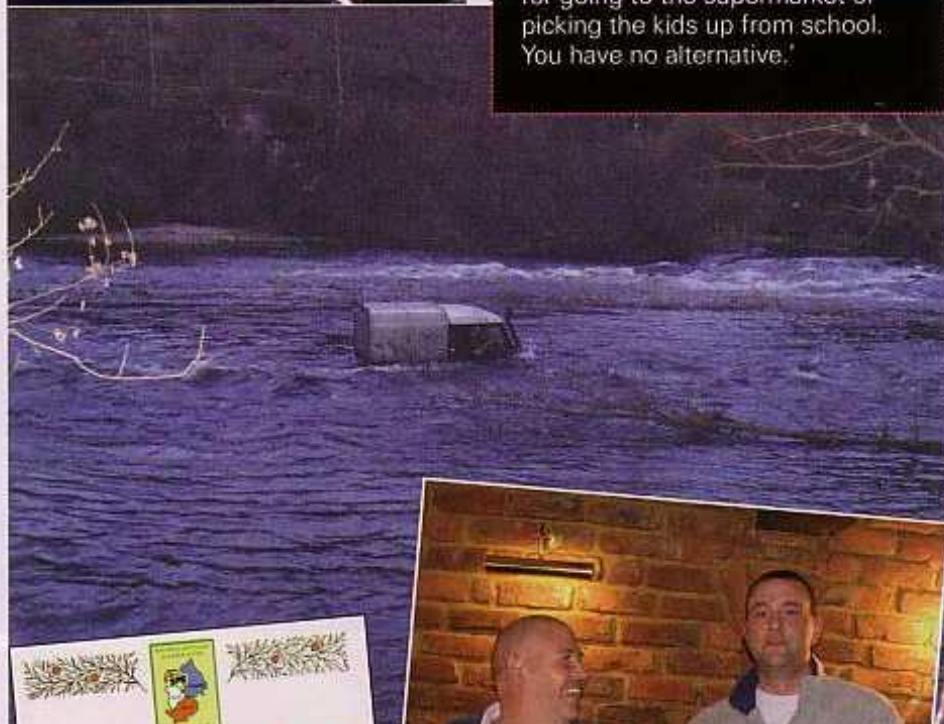
**T**he Beds, Herts & Cambs Land Rover Club's recent trip to France could easily have resulted in tragedy were it not for the bravery of its members.

While crossing a fast flowing river in the Massif Central region of the country, Bryan Moss and Graeme Halls accidentally made a wrong turn – a mistake that nearly cost them their lives. Their Land Rover TD5 90 was suddenly swept downstream, with the river in full flood with freezing melt water from the mountains.

Fortunately, club members Peter Newman and Mike Philpot were on hand. Pete runs a quarry and Mike is a serving US Air Force officer, so both are very well used to thinking on their feet and managing difficult and dangerous situations.

They quickly located the vehicle and tried in vain to throw a line to Bryan and Graeme, but the strong current of the river made it impossible for them to get close enough to their colleagues. Next they tried to attach a winch, but this also failed. After several hours, a strop eventually reached Bryan and Graeme, who were forced to jump into the icy water before being pulled to safety. Not satisfied with simply saving their fellow club members, Peter and Mike succeeded in attaching a winch to the 90 and towing it onto the bank. The whole rescue operation took 5 hours, with the two heroes spending far too long in the cold water.

In recognition of their bravery and leadership, Mike and Peter were made honorary, life-long members of the club. At a special ceremony, held in June, club chairman Gary Culpan awarded the pair with BHCLRC bravery certificates and said: 'The Oxford English Dictionary defines club as *combine together for joint action*.' In rescuing Bryan, Graeme and their vehicle from the river in France, Peter Newman and Michael Philpot did exactly that, they combined together and acted jointly, to help their two fellow members in the true spirit of the club. For these reasons, the club committee has decided that these two gentlemen deserved some official recognition and thanks from the club for their quick thinking, courage and bravery and all this while placing themselves in danger of being swept away in a cold, fast flowing river to complete the rescue. Well done from everyone.'



## ON THE RADIO

**Beds, Herts & Cambs Land Rover Club** member, Hayley Brown, became a spokesperson for the off-roading community when she took part in a live BBC Three Counties Radio debate regarding the banning of 4x4s from outside schools and town centres. Hayley, a former Land Rover lady trialing champion, admitted to using her 90 Defender for the school run, but emphasised her need for the vehicle's practicalities, as she lives in the country. She also pointed out that her vehicle has a smaller wheelbase than a Mini Cooper and that its diesel engine does 32mpg, more than most large family cars.

'I think it's a class thing' she said of the current outcry against 4x4s in cities. 'Of course some yuppies are to blame, but a lot of people use their 4x4s for going off road – if you only own one vehicle then you have to use it for going to the supermarket or picking the kids up from school. You have no alternative.'