

# *Scarletti's*

## *Guide to removing the Rear Bumper Cover*



SC 430 (2002)

## Introduction

There doesn't seem to be a comprehensive guide to removing the Rear Bumper Cover on an SC 430, although there are little bits of info that can be found in official Lexus documentation, excerpts of which I've used in this guide

Note: Lexus Copyright... I have taken Lexus illustrations and modified them, so this is a derivative piece of work... I'm sure Lexus won't mind. Don't distribute this PDF Guide because I may very well change it, so just link back to it and that way you'll ensure you get any changes!

## Tools Required

Nothing special you'll be glad to hear:

- 10mm socket
- 2 x Medium/Large sized flat blade screwdriver
- 1 x Medium sized Phillips (Crosshead) screwdriver
- The 10mm box socket from the Lexus toolkit (or equivalent), photo on page 4 of this.

## Optional Items

- Large blanket (handy to rest bumper upon when off... saves scratches/dirt)
- Long Nose Pliers (handy for Steps 5 & 7)
- Trolley Jack
- 2 Axel Stands
- Tyre Iron/Spanner
- Mechanics Trolley/Car Creeper (I used some cushions from the Garden Chairs)

## Precautions

Be careful not to scratch your paintwork. A blanket is useful in this and if you wish you can wrap tape around your screwdriver heads (I didn't).

If you want to raise the car to give yourself more room to work (I did) then best practice is to use a Trolley Jack and 2 Axel Stands (to raise the rear of the car)

## Time to complete

Having done this a few times, I can now take off (or put on) the Rear Bumper Cover in 10-15 minutes. Note this time does not include stripping out the boot/trunk facias/trims which can double the time needed. Allow double again if this is your first time doing this procedure.

## Preliminaries

You will need to remove most of the internal covers/facias/trims from the boot/trunk. I won't cover that in detail but will show an illustration that shows which bits needs to come out. I believe this has been well documented on the forums, but in any case is pretty simple.

## Sequence

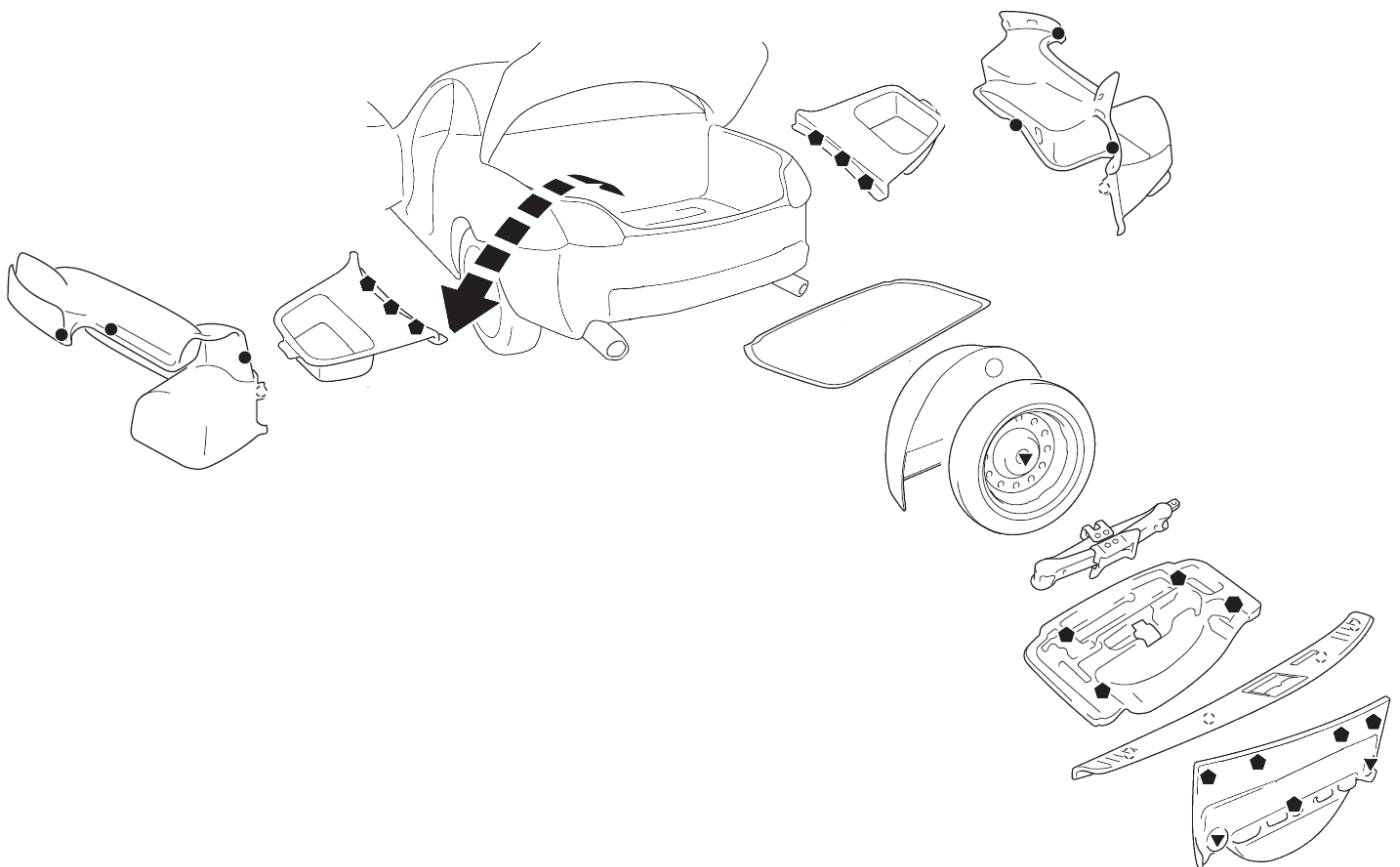
### Optional pre-steps

- i. Jack up rear of vehicle using Trolley Jack
- ii. Correctly place 2x Axle Stands (I used the standard rear jacking points AKA Sill)
- iii. Remove the Rear Tyres

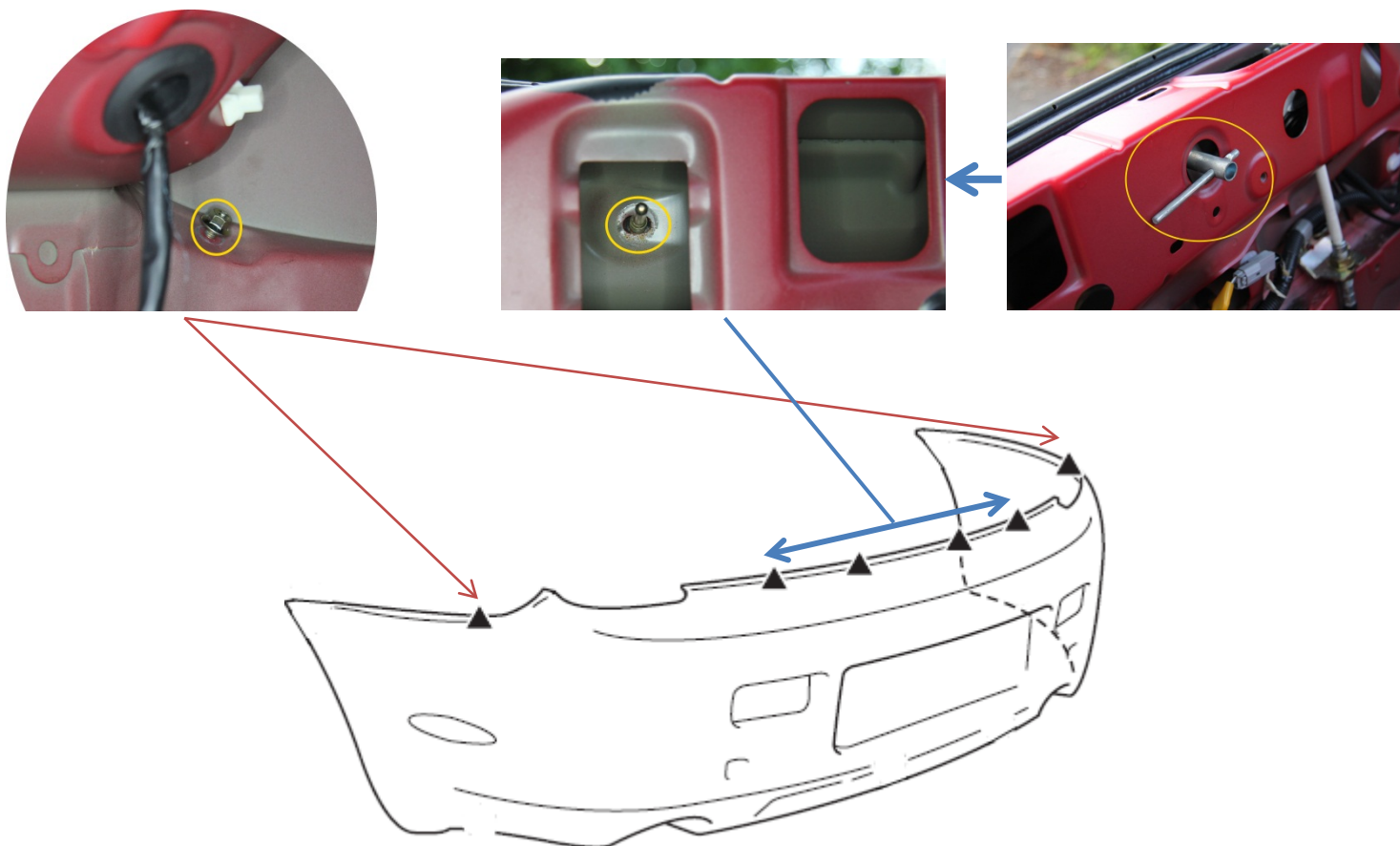
This will give you more space to work in (in the Wheel area and under the Bumper Cover). However you can get away with not doing these steps

### 1. Remove the boot/trunk facias/trims/covers as follows:

- a. Remove Tool Kit cover
- b. Remove Spare Wheel Cover & Spare Wheel (if present)
- c. Remove Scissor Jack.
- d. Remove Tool Tray (4 black plastic “nuts” in each corner)
- e. Remove bottom right & bottom left “cubby” trays (3 “pop” clips each)
- f. Remove Aluminium trim from boot/trunk lip (just pull up)
- g. Remove rear fascia (covers the boot/trunk release (7 clips/fasteners)
- h. Remove left & right side trims (3 “pop” clips each... a bit of wrestling/bending needed here as they wrap around the folding roof mechanisms somewhat)



**2. Undo the 6 brass nuts from inside the boot/trunk as follows:**



**Note:**

1. The two brass nuts on the far left & right are “vertical”. Use a normal 10mm socket for these.
2. The 4 center brass nuts are horizontal. Use the supplied Lexus 10mm box socket for these (it only just does it, see top right photo for an example of this), or an equivalent tool if you have it.

**3. Remove “Liner Cover Trim” (my name for it).**



This is what the metal “Wheel Arch Liner Cover” looks like when removed  
(and laid on a no longer clean picnic blanket!)

#### 4. Undo and peel back “Liner” from each Wheel Arch area.

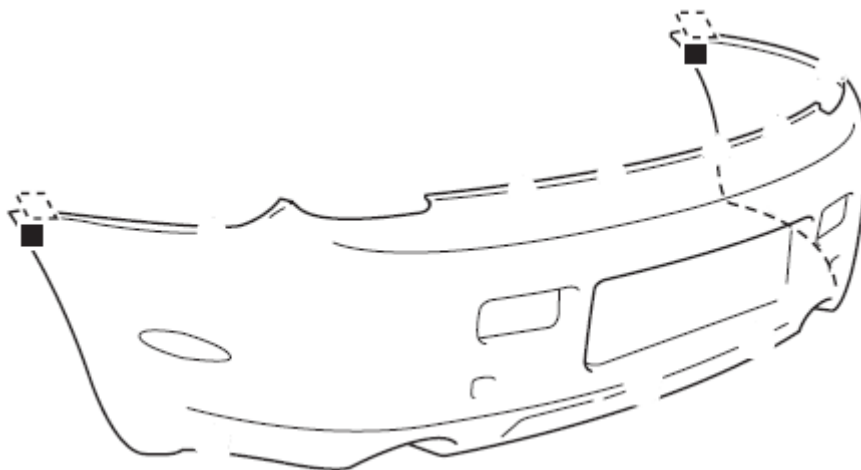


- A. The bottom fastener is a 10mm vertical bolt
- B. The middle (shown removed) and the top (off the top of the picture) are Phillips (cross-head) screws.

Once these three are removed, you should be able to peel back the semi-rigid black plastic liner as shown below:



**5. Remove two expanding white clips (one each side):**



**Notes:**

- 1. Hold back Liner and undo & remove the 10mm bolt headed screw (I've left it connected in the photo's so you can clearly see how it works)**
- 2. Once bolt is removed, use a flat-blade screwdriver or pliers to gently remove the plastic clip itself... do this by wiggling it downwards (I used a screwdriver AND grips/pliers to do this).**

## 6. Disconnect/Remove rear lights (2x Licence Plate, 2 x Rear Fogs, 2x Reversing):

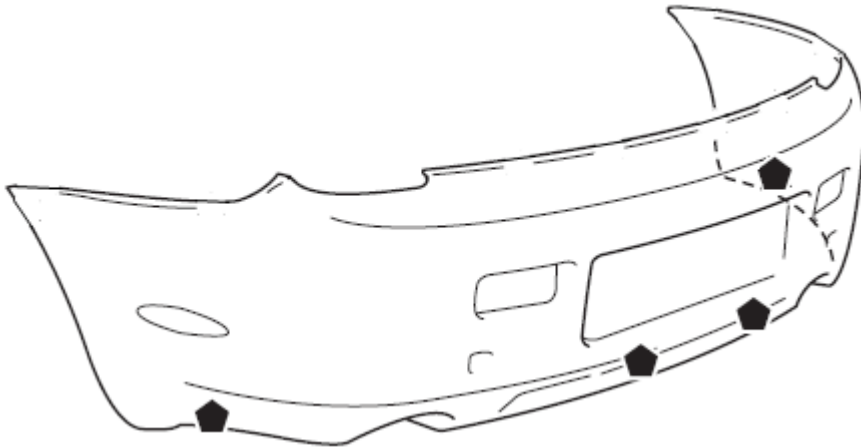


### Notes:

- A. Licence Plate lights are secured by plastic spring clips... nothing to undo or remove.... Use two flat-blade screwdrivers to compress plastic spring clips inwards and gently pull down.
- B. Rear Fog lights are secured by two Phillips (cross-head) screws.... One short, one long.
- C. Reversing lights are secured onto a metal bracket, which in turn is secured by two 10mm bolts... access these from underneath
- D. Once you have reached the stage shown in the photo above, just disconnect each cable/bulb holder from the light housing.
- E. Now tuck these cables back through their holes... when you pull the Bumper Cover off you don't want it to foul on these cables!



7. Remove the four plastic black “expanding clips” (again, my name for it) from underneath. These are tricky as there is a “knack” to doing it!



**Notes:**

1. The “knack” is to insert two flat bladed screwdrivers in from opposite sides (there are four narrow openings to allow you to do this).
2. Pry downwards from both sides till the “core” comes out of the clip. The clip is an “expanding” clip (when the “bolt” is in), so therefore as the “core bolt” is out the whole clip contracts in size.
3. Now turn the whole clip 90 degrees (doesn’t matter which way. Clip will easily pull downwards and come free.

## 8. Loosen Rear Bumper Cover sides



1. Just pull outwards steadily



2. It won't be long before the first retaining clip lets go of the panel with a "pop".



3. Keep going... 2<sup>nd</sup> "pop"



4. Keep going... 3<sup>rd</sup> "pop"... that's all of them.

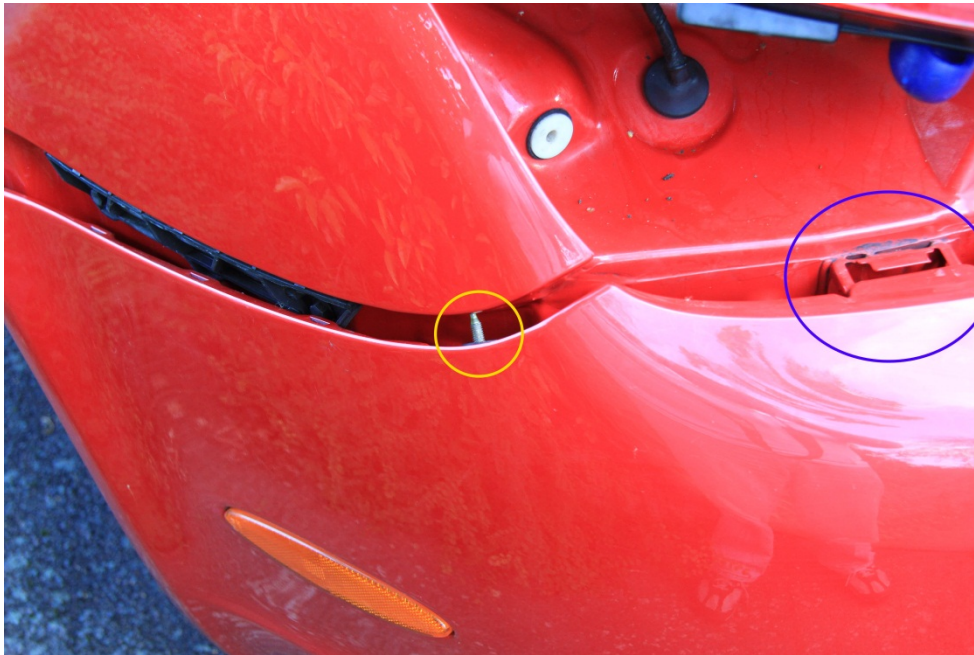
**DO NOTHING MORE THAN LOOSEN EACH SIDE**

**AT THE MOMENT!**

9. More pictures of the side for info



## 10. Tilt Rear Bumper Cover



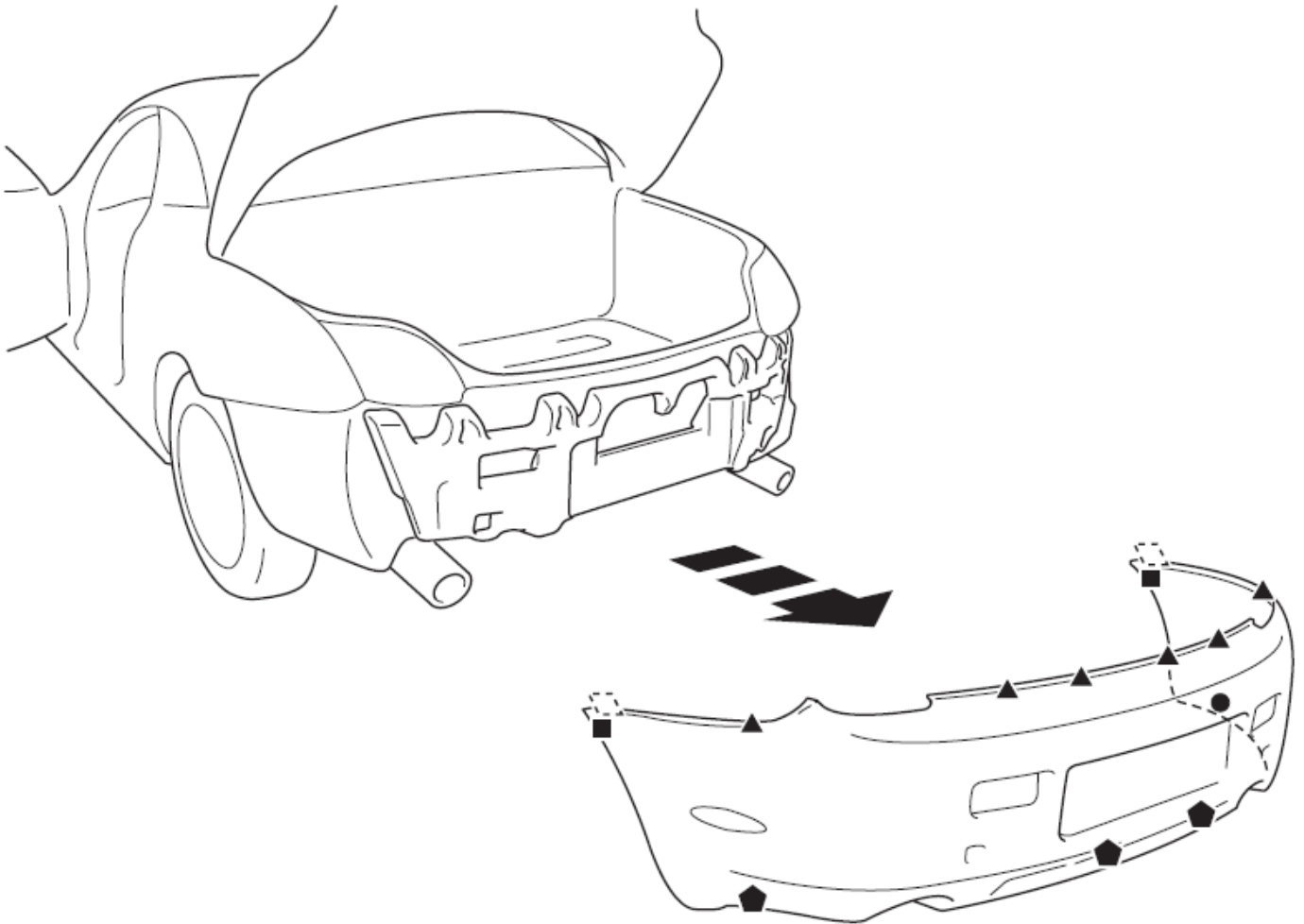
### Note:

- A. To disengage the two vertical bolts from **Step 2**, you need to tilt down the Cover... little more than is shown in the photo above... you can see it is almost clear now
- B. I have shown, circled in Blue, that part of the Rear Bumper Cover has a **flange** that rests on top an "open clip"... important note for putting it back one... take a moment to check out what this looks like and how it works.



- C. Here is the other side... more tilting down needed to bring this vertical bolt more clear
- D. A bit of "wiggling" the Bumper Cover backwards will assist getting these bolts clear of their holes.

## 11. Finally, remove the Rear Bumper Cover



### Notes:

- A. Keep the tilted angle you had to ensure the two vertical bolts are clear of their holes (some “wiggling” may be necessary)
- B. Use the holes left by the Licence Plate (or Rear Fog lights) to pull the Bumper Cover away from the car directly backwards (again, maintain the angle... again, “wiggle & jiggle” just a tiny amount to work it loose).
- C. You can rest the Bumper Cover on top of the white Polystyrene impact absorber (which covers the steel bumper itself... not shown) using the 4 Horizontal brass bolts if you wish to take things slowly.
- D. Now place the Bumper Cover somewhere safe (such as on a blanket or something to prevent damage).
- E. **Have a cold beer (or hot cup of Tea/Coffee), you deserve it 😊**

## Re-Installing the Rear Bumper Cover

The instructions work well in reverse, with the following observations...

- A. Present up the Rear Bumper Cover up... you can rest the Cover using the 4 horizontal brass bolts on top of the white Polystyrene Impact Absorber (which covers the actual steel bumper).
- B. You will need to maintain the angle on the sides for a little while.
- C. Fish out all the cables (2x Licence Plate, 2x Rear Fogs) through their respective holes
- D. As mentioned in Step 10, ensure the Rear Bumper Cover “flange” is resting on the bodywork clip on the bodywork
- E. Take care to ensure the two vertical brass bolts are married up with their holes.
- F. Now bring the side up so they are parallel to the floor (IE eliminate the angle you were maintaining).
- G. Check that the gap between Cover and Body is uniform and even and the Cover is all the way in
- H. The sides push in quite easily... just take it slow to ensure you have everything lined up.
- I. Now replace and tighten all the fasteners/clips/bolts etc.
- J. Reconnect the lights with their cables, and secure the lights as appropriate (screws for Rear Fogs, push the Licence Plate holders up, re-bolt the Reversing Light metal plates to the Bumper Cover)
- K. **Have two cold beers (or treat yourself to a Chocolate Hob-Nob to go with your Tea/Coffee), you deserve it even more! Raise your beverage and toast my good health whilst you do it 😊**