



## Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

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### **May 2018**

The summer evening saw about twenty one of us at the May 7th club meeting.



On 15th April, eighteen of us enjoyed breakfast at The Brocket Arms, the largest number to date, I think. Kate and her team coped very well. It was good to have newer members join us for this regular outing.



The mini heatwave back in April saw Doug and I at the XK Weekend near Basingstoke and the EDVVS weekend was at Huntingdon. Reports of both enjoyable weekends follow later.



On Bank Holiday Monday, several people went to the village show at Stondon, very near to Keith W. It raises money for local charities and about forty five cars were in attendance.



Rather short notice but there is a car gathering this Sunday, 13th May, at Villa Gabrini, Green Street, Radlett. It raises money for the Care Home where it takes place in a very large area. Last year there were 300 cars. Plenty of Italian food is available. Entry is £7.50 per person, with all money going to the home. Villa Gabrini car event in Google will give all the information.



It is now getting close to the Enfield Pageant weekend 26th, 27th & 28th May. You should all have received passes from Eric. As usual, please be on site by 9 a.m. and if you need to go walkabout before the cars are arranged, please give your keys to me. Don't forget to bring your own mug and anything else that you would normally bring. Please remember that Barbara's vacuum flowpot does not refill itself, so if there is not much in it, please put the kettle on again. As it gets very busy on Sunday, when there are usually the largest number of cars to arrange, we have agreed that, weather permitting, the tent will be put up on Saturday and stay up till we finish on Monday.



You may have been aware that the Jaguar Driver is late this month. The reasons are partly because editor Steve Fermor suddenly resigned leaving Gaynor Cauter to take over, and also the offices at Luton were severely damaged over the Easter weekend by a water leak in the loft above. This meant that Kathy Beech and her team have been trying to salvage paperwork, throw away carpets and replace keyboards and monitors.



For many years, classic cars have gathered at the Goat at Hertford Heath on the first Sunday of the month. Last Sunday, however, it turned rather nasty. Brian W and Richard F said that it was overrun with American muscle cars which were causing real problems for people wanting to get to their houses and it apparently became very unpleasant.



## **XK Spring Weekend 20th/22nd April**

After waiting weeks for some decent weather, there was a mini heatwave for the XK and EDVVS weekends and even a thunder storm on Saturday evening in the south.

Our journey to Basingstoke on the M25 in hot sunshine and heavy traffic was not at all enjoyable, luckily we were using the E-type, not the XK. When we arrived at the Audleys Wood hotel just outside Basingstoke, we relaxed with a cuppa in lovely surroundings. As usual, most people were regulars but we were joined by two new couples and an American in his superb XK 150 "Jagwar", which he had owned since 1971.

We all enjoyed a good dinner on Friday evening before our two visits organised for Saturday. The first of these was to the Plymouth Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery. It was in a lovely setting by the River Test and had previously been a paper mill where bank note paper was made. As well as a guided tour of the distillery, we went into what was called the dry room. On several tables, numbered glass jars held samples of the various spices etc used in their cocktails. After lifting the lids to smell them, we had to click the ones we liked on cards that we had been given. At the end of the tour we were given a cocktail which the barman mixed from our choices, as the one which would be most to our taste. Sitting outside in the sunshine sipping cocktails in a riverside setting was a very pleasant end to the visit. We left with a few lunch stops indicated on our route and about a dozen of us chose to stop at the very elegant Oakley Hall hotel where we enjoyed some very tasty sandwiches, salads etc.

Our other stop for the day was the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, which we had recommended to Mick Duffy. A lot of you know that Doug used to do a lot of model engineering about forty odd years ago. One of the models he made was a five foot working steam lorry. The original lorry, made by Wallis and Stevens, had been left in a yard near the factory and had been pulled out of a hedge in Wantage by a haulier friend of Doug's dad. Doug decided to make a model of it and spent several Sunday mornings crawling over it and taking measurements. Our next door neighbour at the time was a retired draughtsman and he made a set of drawings from Doug's measurements. Three years later it was finished, and we used to go to shows and school fetes with it. The original lorry is now in the Milestones Museum, a fitting home, as it had been built in Basingstoke and is still in the unrestored condition it was in when Doug measured it. Quite a few people were interested to see photos of the model and the real thing.

As it was only a few miles back to the hotel there was plenty of time to sit and chat before getting ready for dinner. After Chairman, Mick Duffy's few words at the end of the meal, Steve Kirby from California thanked everyone for making him feel so welcome and invited everybody to a "Jagwar" meet in California later in the year. Steve presented co-organiser, Lynne Mackman with a gift which we believe was a badge from the American Jaguar club as appreciation for her help via numerous e-mails.

On Sunday morning it was another short drive to The Vyne Estate, a National Trust property. The lakeside grounds are lovely but as an almost total restoration of the house is not yet finished, it only took about twenty minutes to wander through the only rooms open. Luckily most of us were National Trust members, so the XK Register didn't have to pay for many members to see not much.

There were no long distances on this weekend so it didn't take long to reach our lunch venue, The Hoddington Arms in the village of Upton Grey. Our tables were set out in a barn and we were very impressed with the food and the organised way that, the staff served our pre chosen meals.

Once again, it was time for goodbyes after a sunny and enjoyable weekend. Needless to say we took a different route home, which was much less stressful although longer. The sun seemed to have brought out the sports cars, and we exchanged waves with quite a few drivers including three Sunbeam Alpines, a few miles from home. The weather had been bad before the weekend and as I am typing this a week later on a chilly damp morning, we were certainly lucky.



## **EDVVS Trip to Huntingdon**

### ***Report by Margot Tetsell***

As much as we enjoy the Spring Museum weekends we do realise that as they are early in the year we usually need boots, thick coats, scarves, hats etc. For once Eric and I were ahead of ourselves and ready and packed a week beforehand. A couple of days before we left the weather suddenly changed from a chilly 7 degrees to a soaring 24. A flurry of activity then ensued to finding 'Summer' clothes, so it was back to being a last minute packing job again! Anyway, the glorious weather we had for four days was a wonderful surprise and absolutely made the weekend.

Three E-Types and an XK set off at slightly different times and on slightly different routes. Barbara, Alan and Keith went in convoy and had a pub lunch in a pretty village, we stopped at Boxworth (another pretty village) to have lunch with friends and my lips are sealed about Bobbie and Keith.

Mike Pearce from the EDVVS had done his usual excellent job of selecting the hotel plus suggestions for outings in the local area. (In spite of the fact that he wasn't really supposed to be organising these weekends any longer!) We stayed at the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon which everyone thought was an excellent venue and we could not fault it in any way. The rooms were modern and spacious, the staff very efficient and friendly and the food was probably the best we have had on a weekend away for years. The chef had put together some interesting menus which were unusual but not 'over the top' and very tasty. The hotel had the added bonus of a swimming pool which most of us used, so we all felt that we were on a summer holiday.

One of the suggestions on Mike's itinerary was a visit to St Ives for a boat trip, which sounded ideal for a sunny day so off we went. St Ives is a delightful small town, right on the The Great Ouse river. After a mooch around the market and a coffee we set off up the river in a small boat, with one other couple and a very informed Captain. He pointed out places of interest, including the wildlife (apparently otters had made a comeback here, and even seals make their way up-river) and he had plenty of historical stories about the area and even had old photos for us to pass around. A really lovely trip.

The next day most people visited Anglesey Abbey but as we had been there several times Eric and I thought we would look around Huntingdon, which had a market on, and visit the Cromwell Museum. My history education was non-existent so I had no idea that Oliver Cromwell was born in Huntingdon and it was interesting to see the site where he was actually born. The museum itself was very small but full of Cromwell paintings and information and housed in the building where he and Samuel Pepys went to school. We were very impressed with the history associated with this area, not just for the Cromwell connection, but there was evidence of Saxon and Roman habitation (Ermine Street went right through the centre of Huntingdon).

Mike Pierce said last year that he would not be organising these weekends any more, but he still got involved and made an excellent job of this one – so much so that Alan said could he please not organise another one next year!

