



Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

Web Site: www.jdcarea57.co.uk

E-mail: info@jdcarea57.co.uk

Published by Kim'n'Roy

May 2019

Would anyone who has volunteered to be a Marshall at the Pageant, please remember the Marshall's meeting at the Museum on May 19th at 10.30 a.m.



The Club meeting on Bank Holiday Monday saw a really good turnout of twenty people.



It seems a long while ago now but a dozen of us enjoyed another Breakfast at the Bocket Arms on 7th April.



The report of the XK Weekend follows but we were pleased that Brian W's XK behaved perfectly and with an extension into Wales before the weekend and a visit to Derbyshire afterwards, he and Mandy had a good trip.



On the same weekend the Museum weekenders were at a huge hotel at Windsor; 500 rooms and a six minute walk to the restaurant. A trip on the Thames in a canal boat went through two locks and under a very low bridge where the roof lowered; quite a strange experience, I gather. They also visited Dorney, a very old house that has been used for filming quite often.



Various events are coming up at the beginning of the season. A few of us are going to the Villa Scalabrini at Shenley this Sunday, which Eric and Beryl enjoyed last year.

The following Sunday is the Herts Auto show at Stanborough Lakes, Welwyn Garden City



The big event of the season is the Enfield Pageant of Motoring on May 25th/27th. As arranging the cars is never easy, please be on site by 9am and, if you have to leave our area before they are arranged, leave the keys with me. Don't forget to bring your chairs and mugs. Please be prepared to help setting up the banner etc if needed.



The 2nd June is XK/XJ Day at Gaydon, Warwickshire. There could be some Mk 2s there as well, celebrating their 60 years.



Beryl has told us about a meeting in Belgravia on June 23rd with the 96 Club that she belongs to. She also recently had the opportunity to go to Azerbaijan where there was a classic E-type race at the Formula 1 weekend.



A few weeks ago, Arnie and Steph went to the Goodwood Members meeting and didn't freeze like they did last year!



Further into the season, I have been told about a Concours /Classic Car Show on 22nd September at The Warren Estate near Maldon.



I hope to have the wrist band /passes for Kimbolton this month, hopefully before the Pageant.



XK Spring Weekend

The XK Spring Weekend this year was based at the Rookery Hall Hotel, just outside Nantwich in Cheshire. Although it was going to be a long journey, Doug really wanted to use the XK however, when we saw Saturday's forecast for that area on Friday morning, Doug moved his tools etc. into the E-type. As usual, we met up with Alan and Barbara at Peterborough Services. We stopped about an hour later at a very good country pub for some lunch. We had an uneventful journey, mainly using an AA Route but as that would have meant going through the centre of Stoke on Trent, we worked out an alternative route which was slightly longer but much more pleasant. When we arrived there were plenty of familiar faces at the hotel but, quite unusually, there were six new couples this year including Brian and Mandy Weedon with his fairly recently purchased XK150. Friday evening was a relaxing time after a good dinner.

The weather the next morning, made the decision to use the E-type the right choice, as it started raining during the night and carried on all day. After Brian Ekin's briefing about routes and timings, we all set off with wind screen wipers going well. Throughout the weekend Barb did a good job of following the routes, getting us to the right places at the right time. Our first visit was to Jodrell Bank where the radio telescope completed in 1957 is still the third biggest in the world measuring 250 ft in diameter. We gathered in the Visitor Centre, where there was plenty to see including a large orrery which shows all the planets in relation to the sun. We braved the rain to go to another building where we were given an illustrated, unscripted talk for about an hour by a post graduate from Manchester University. He told us the history of Jodrell Bank from it's beginnings in Manchester and lots of scientific things such as quasars and black holes which I didn't always understand. In it's early days it was struggling financially but after it became the first telescope to spot Sputnik in 1957, it never looked back. Due to the weather, we didn't wander around the grounds but followed our route to our second place to visit. We arrived at Gawsorth Hall a little early but we were met by one of the third generation of the Richards family who own this beautiful lakeside Tudor building. After parking our cars in front of the house, he directed us to the tearoom, where his brother was waiting to make tea and coffee for everyone. The first brother gave us a history of the house and it's various occupants until it was time to go into the house where we were greeted by their mother who pointed out a beautiful Waterford Crystal chandelier that her mother in law had saved by wheeling it home in a wheelbarrow. The house was filled with lots of antique furniture, with massive oak beams and, just off the chapel, were four stained glass panels made by William Morris. Again due to the weather, we couldn't go round the grounds, where an Open Air Theatre holds productions and Classic Car Shows are held there, reflecting the motoring interests of the family through the generations. We all agreed it was one of the nicest houses we have visited, and certainly the first one where the family has made tea for us. We then had another wet journey back to the hotel in time to get ready for a very good dinner.

On Sunday morning we left Cheshire to visit Biddulph Grange, a National Trust property in Staffordshire. Masses of tulips were in bloom but the best known feature is the Chinese Garden where a red and gold teahouse overlooks a lake crossed by a red and gold bridge. It wasn't easy to find and some of the steps were not easy but it was very picturesque. Our Sunday lunch was less than a quarter of a mile down the road. A bit of a delay with confusion over numbers but once that was sorted out, some very large portions were served. Time then for goodbyes as people headed home but, rather than start a nearly two hundred mile journey in the middle of the afternoon, the four of us and another couple had booked an extra night at the hotel.

The following morning we paid a short visit to Nantwich which has some very fine black and white buildings. On the way home we stopped at the Dorothy Clive Gardens which Doug and I had been to twice before. It is a lovely garden with trees, azaleas, rhododendrons and a laburnum arch. A snack in the garden was interrupted by a female barbershop quartet. Alan has done quite a lot of that in the past and was not very impressed and we would have preferred to listen to the blackbirds. Our journeys home didn't quite go as planned. On Friday morning we had left the A6 to cross the M1 at J24 to join the A50. No problem, a complicated junction but easy enough to follow. On the way home neither of us found the road marked A6 Loughborough that we needed. Never mind we all found our way home eventually, and the cars behaved perfectly the whole weekend. As usual it had been a well organised and enjoyable weekend.



Trip To "Techno Classica", Essen

Report by Alan Collins

Barb, Keith and myself headed off to the Premier Inn on the evening of Monday 8th April, so that we weren't late for our pick up on the following morning. We had a nice meal and an even nicer breakfast. For the first time, our coach was early and we headed off to Dover to pick up the remaining people and onto the ferry. A longish trip from Calais to our hotel in The Hague, our evening meal wasn't great but the breakfast was much better.

Day Two.

We visited the Louwman museum with a fantastic display of unique vehicles. We spent around 3 hours there and then continued our journey to Gelsenkirchen, Essen, in Germany. En-route to our hotel we were invited to visit the new Jaguar/Land Rover Classic showroom in Essen. This is where customers bring their cars for very extensive, and expensive restoration. You can also pick up a highly priced XK, E-type, XJS or even an XJ220.

Day Three.

Fortunately our hotel in Gelsenkirchen is only about twenty minutes away from the exhibition centre in Essen. Once through the door the 36 of us went our separate ways. As normal we were greeted with an abundance of very shiny beautiful, incredible cars. Obviously, being in Germany, there were many, many Merc's and Porche's but, surprisingly, also lots of XK's, E-type's and very many XJS's. Almost all of the vehicles on display were for sale, therefore you could buy a Ferrari, Rolls, Bentley, in fact almost any motor vehicle that took your fancy, providing you had enough money.

Day Four.

Again back to the exhibition centre this time for just half the day, as we were again invited to visit Classic Remise in Düsseldorf. Once again, there were many, many cars on display for sale and others in storage. The building was once a terminus for locomotives with a massive turntable, but has now been remodeled to house some incredible vehicles.

Day Five.

An early start from our hotel in Gelsenkirchen back to Dover, and of course South Mimms where we left our car. Although there is a lot of travelling involved, we were expertly chauffeured every mile by a very careful driver from Sheering coaches. This was our fourth visit to "Techno Classica" and we will be going back again next year if it is arranged.

Below are some pictures of a tiny selection of the more unique vehicles that we saw. (I know there are no pictures of Jaguars, but we have all seen them before!)

