



Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

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Published by Kim'n'Roy

MAY 2010

A Pageant reminder to start this time; please be on site by no later than 9am and, if you normally bring anything that we need, don't forget it. If you leave the stand before the cars are arranged, please leave your keys with someone. Don't forget to bring a mug for tea/coffee.



We had quite a good turnout at the last meeting despite it being Bank Holiday Monday. Earlier in the day Richard had been to a classic car meeting at Royston and, despite not very good weather, he said about fifty cars were there.

The following Sunday, Douglas went to the show at Aston Clinton and, as a comparatively new owner of a lovely MK 2, he thought it was a very good show, and the rain that was threatened held off.



On the Saturday after the Pageant, 5th June, a reminder that the Letchworth Garden City Classic and Vintage Car Club are holding a picnic at Kents Close, Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston, SG47DP. This is not far from Stevenage and starts around midday. No need to book, so if it happens to be a nice day it might be worth going.

The following weekend, 13th June, is the Luton festival of Transport at Stockwood Park, which always gets a good turnout and dare I say, usually good weather. Several of us have pre-booked, but even if you haven't there is no problem. We will be meeting at the car park of the Gosling Sports Centre at Welwyn Garden City at 9.30am, so that we can get arrive together.



COTSWOLD CAVALCADE - April 16th/18th

Report by Audrey Williams

The weather was on our side as ten of us set off for Cirencester for the annual Whitewebbs weekend away. We met up at The Wild Duck just outside Cirencester and shared our lunch with TV's Richard and Judy who were out in the courtyard,

Stratton House, a Best Western Hotel, was very comfortable with ample parking. On Saturday we spent most of the day at Gloucester Quays, which included a river trip and museum visit. Some of us walked into Gloucester, but found it a little disappointing. The highlight of the day was the evening entertainment, when a magician called Dorian visited all the tables. He was amazingly fast and had us all enthralled. Unfortunately, the usual hat competition was not as impressive. The theme this year was TV programmes but, unbeknown to us, a waitress had already judged them at the beginning of the meal when some people may not have been wearing their hats, and we didn't get to see other table's efforts. We'd made a brave attempt, our hats including Last of the Summer Wine, The Bill, Question Time, My Family, Bananas in Pyjamas, Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps and Crackerjack.

Sunday again was warm and sunny. We visited the Steam Museum at Swindon and a nearby Outlet Centre. We had a traditional Sunday lunch at the nearby National Trust Head Office. It was Tony and Sylvia's last trip as organisers and they were presented with a UK Railtours voucher as a thank you for their hard work over the years. All in all, a wonderful weekend. Brilliant value and friendly people. We've all booked our places for next year.



SUNNY SPALDING SPECTACULAR - May 1st

Report by Audrey Williams

Eight of us set off from Potters Bar station on another Herts Railtour day out. The trip allowed about five hours at Spalding to include the annual Flower Parade. As always the breakfast and service were superb. We arrived at Spalding some two hours later in beautiful sunshine. There were two outdoor markets to visit as well as flower displays in the local church. Unfortunately the parade was delayed about half way through due to an accident and limited access for emergency vehicles. Some of the floats were quite outstanding; all decorated with tulip flowers. There were several floats designed specifically to illustrate activities on offer for local children; karate, drama, dance and musical groups. As we got to the station it started to rain. Wonderful timing! Our pre-ordered drinks were waiting for us, followed by a tasty four course meal. We arrived back at Potters Bar at about 8pm after a great day out in good company



XK WEEKEND April 23rd/25th

Alan and Barb have been our regular travelling companions for the last few XK Spring Weekends, and this year we headed round the M25, which wasn't too bad, and onto the M3 and A 303 to Somerset with a lunch stop at a riverside pub in a pretty thatched village near Andover. We were staying just outside Chard, and I think it was the first time that a hotel entrance was reached via a modern housing estate, but the hotel had originally been a farm and obviously had sold off land. It was a smaller hotel than usual but comfortable and friendly with a high standard of food. usual it was a case of renewing old acquaintances and meeting newcomers. On Saturday Bob Mackman, the organiser of the weekend, gave us a briefing about our planned visits and handed out our tulip routes. These weren't up to the usual standard of accuracy, so Bob and his girlfriend Lynn came in for a lot of good natured ribbing throughout the weekend.

We visited two places on Saturday; the first being Forde Abbey, which had originally been a Cistercian monastery before the dissolution. We were split into two groups for our guided tour which was very interesting. It was a very peaceful place with lovely grounds. After quite a few problems with the tulip route we eventually reached Barrington Court, our second destination, expecting to find that everyone had gone but we weren't the last to arrive. It was a Tudor mansion which had been restored in the 1920s with a lot of wood panelling everywhere. On Sunday, Bob gave us directions for a drive around the Somerset Levels before all meeting in Taunton where we were to have lunch at the Castle Hotel, a very impressive building which is smothered with two hundred year old wisterias. Unfortunately the seasons have been late this year, and the blooms weren't out, as they had been at the same time last year when Doug and I visited Taunton. The hotel staff made us extremely welcome as we lined our cars up and a photographer took masses of photos, which I gather will eventually be on the hotel web site, replacing the Ferrari pictures which were on there the last time I looked. had beautiful weather all weekend until just after leaving Taunton, when it started raining and parts of the journey were extremely wet, however it didn't spoil an enjoyable weekend.



Area 57 seems to be going through a bad time as far as health problems and operations are concerned and unfortunately Barb is the latest, having had a follow up operation to the one a couple of years back on her leg. We all send our best wishes to her and anyone else still not back to their best.



I have booked some of us for our usual September weekend into a hotel near Sittingbourne in Kent - Friday 10th and Saturday 11th. If anyone wants me to ask about vacancies, give me a ring.



The next meeting will again fall on a Bank Holiday, but we will carry on as normal.

