



Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

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Published by Kim'nRoy

October 2013

Barbara has booked our Christmas Dinner at The Galley Hall on December 7th. Can you let her have your menu choices (see menu on page 3) and the full payment by the next meeting (November 4th). The cost is £20 per head, the same as last year. If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to "JDC area57 (Enfield)" not to Barbara.



Buntingford seems quite a while back now, but as usual it was very busy with lots of cars, motorbikes and live music. Entry forms always say not to arrive before 9am, but when we arrived about ten minutes early, lots of cars were already there and we had to park a long way down the High Street.



Apparently the show at Wanstead was adversely affected by a bad weather forecast, and only eleven cars were in attendance.



The second show in aid of the Little Haven Hospice was very successful with about two hundred cars attending, despite it being mainly advertised as an autojumble.



Melton Mowbray Weekend

For the last twenty six years our September weekends have always had good weather, sometimes exceptionally good. This time for our weekend just outside Melton Mowbray, the forecast wasn't very encouraging, however, when eight of us met at The White Horse at Empingham for a very good lunch, the sun was shining. Eric and Margot had arrived a day earlier, and visited various places of interest in the Leicester area. The hotel, Sysonby Knoll, was on a very busy road, but the majority of bedrooms didn't get road noise. It was very comfortable with lots of sitting areas both inside and out. Everyone agreed that the food was very good, and a choice of twelve desserts made Barbara very happy. As the hotel was only a fifteen minute walk from the town, we went for a stroll after settling in on Friday afternoon. We visited the Olde Pork Pie Shop and the Melton Cheeseboard. The town has a regular cattle market, and this particular weekend there was one for rare breeds. We spent a little while looking at pigs and sheep but were told that Saturday would be busier. Unfortunately we had a wet walk back to the hotel. The next morning we went back to the market, where the noise from chickens of all shapes and sizes was the predominant sound. While at the pub on Friday we had been given a leaflet about Rutland Water day which was a food and music day on the banks of Rutland Water. We had a very enjoyable afternoon in lovely sunshine tasting lots of food and listening to Funk Soul Brother, a very professional eight piece band. Eric was the only one who had heard of them when we told him about them in the evening. On the way back to the hotel we made a short diversion into Oakham but were unable to go into the castle as a wedding was taking place.

Back at the hotel the owner showed us his 1933 Alvis Speed 20 and 1962 Alvis TE21. The beautiful Speed 20 had once belonged to Mrs Shand Kydd, mother of Princess Diana. These were in a double garage and due to the slope of the land he also had another garage underneath for tractors.

Saturday's weather wasn't wonderful and some of us decided to stop at the Nene Valley Railway, which was having a steam gala and was on the way home. Melton Mowbray wasn't an easy town to leave as we

had not realised it was one way. Eventually all but Eric and Margot arrived at the Railway, where lots of engines were in steam. After a coffee, Alan, Barb, Keith and Audrey left to go to a garden centre near Cambridge, leaving Keith, Bobbie, Doug and I looking at the trains. We were shown round the maintenance shed, where a Battle of Britain class engine was being restored. Obviously Doug and Keith understood more of this than Bobbie and I did but we could appreciate the time and dedication that was being put into the job especially as they are all volunteers. We left in pouring rain and stopped for a carvery lunch on the way home. It was a fairly unplanned weekend but worked out well.



XK Weekend, Isle of Wight

The sun was shining brilliantly when, with Alan and Barb we set off for the XK Weekend on the Isle of Wight. The M25 and A3 gods were kind to us and we had no holdups on our way to Portsmouth. Stopping at a service station on the way, Barbara realised that she should have been sent an Email from the hotel with ferry crossing details. Luckily I had the hotel phone number with me, and a quick call to reception gave me a reference number which Barb handed in at the ferry terminal booking office. They arrived at the terminal a bit before us; not my fault the road signs hadn't read my map. We were directed into the next lane to their E type and when their row looked to be boarding first, we said, "see you at the hotel." However, we were told to go and we were the last car on.

We only had a very short drive from Fishbourne terminal to our hotel which had lovely grounds overlooking a lake. There were only eight couples for the weekend, most of whom we knew well, however one couple who had been on previous XK trips, we had never really got to know. In conversation, we found out that they had been hoteliers for about thirty years before they retired. When I asked where their hotel had been, it turned out that they owned Flackley Ash, near Rye where we had stayed for a September weekend back in 1998. Any of you who were on that weekend may remember his white Mark 2 parked outside when we arrived, and the Bucks Fizz that he gave us as fellow Jaguar enthusiasts. Quite a coincidence. Unfortunately, the rest of the weekend was overcast, but we had no rain. We visited a Roman Villa at Brading with some very well preserved mosaic floors. From there, our route took us all round the coast before heading inland to visit Calbourne water mill which mills flour most days of the week. A large collection of motor bikes was there when we arrived so there was some mutual admiration. There was time for lunch before heading off to Carisbrooke Castle, where Charles 1st had been imprisoned before being returned to London and beheaded. Some of us climbed lots of steps up the battlements. We had a demonstration of a treadmill used to lift water from a very deep well. In the past, donkeys worked for several hours at a time but now, one of their team of donkeys only trots round for a minute or so.

On Sunday morning it was only about ten minutes drive to Osborne House. It is a very interesting house and among the rooms on the tour round are the children's nursery and Queen Victoria's bedroom where she died. The view across the gardens and grounds right across the Solent is superb and these days you can see the Spinnaker at Portsmouth. The Fishbourne pub, where we had lunch was literally just around the corner from the terminal. Unfortunately the only ferry crossing available at the hotel's preferential rate was at 2pm so it was a bit rushed.

On the way out of Portsmouth, we got separated from Alan and Barb due to two sets of traffic lights, but they waited for us at a service station along the A3. A very enjoyable weekend, and we are already looking forward to the Spring weekend at the famous Pudding Club hotel in the Cotswolds.

A few people went to the village day at Furneux Pelham which was well supported apparently.

Breakfast Run

Although we had a very good cooked breakfast at Redcoats, lots of things really weren't as they should have been. As a result we are looking for another venue for April and a few options already mentioned will be investigated.

