

August 2023

Our meeting on the 7th August was the end of an era as, due to ULEZ, we felt that there was no option but to look for an alternative meeting place. Keith and Bobbie investigated a few places, including one that Alan had previously mentioned. Doug and I did some more investigating and, along with Chris, went to visit The Builders Arms in Potters Bar and The Robin Hood, Botany Bay. where we were all very impressed with the room which we could use. After discussion amongst members, we have now booked it for the next three club meetings. They wouldn't book further ahead than that. We have confirmed that it is just outside the ULEZ border. The full address is The Robin Hood Public House, 240 The Ridgeway, Enfield, EN2 8AP, and we will be in the Maid Marian room which is just to the right of the bar. If we use the car park to the right of the building, our cars can be seen from the room. They close at 10.30 on Mondays so our booking from 8 till 10pm is OK. Our thanks go to Keith and Bobbie for looking after us at the museum for all these years.



The Kimbolton Fayre was very enjoyable as usual, even though only Brian and ourselves went this year. We were parked next to Area 44 and two JES groups but apart from a couple of E-types, they were mainly "modern" Jaguars. As far as we could tell, Brian's 150 was the only XK there. As always we enjoyed the Galaxy Big Band and the dancers. There did not seem to be as many stalls as there used to be but still hundreds of cars. After many years of being parked on the main field, it was nice to be in an area under the trees. Later in the afternoon a lady approached us saying that the gentleman with her was deaf and blind and asked Doug if he could feel the E type. It was fascinating to see that she was describing what he could feel by signing on to his hand. The weather was dry and windy until near the end when the heavens opened, just when we had gone to see Doug's cousin driving her Morris Minor around the arena. Unfortunately the wind was too strong this year for a plane from the Battle of Britain Flight to come across, doubly disappointing as both the Hurricane and Spitfire had been due to appear.



Apparently nobody from the Area 57 went to National Day this year, although it sounds as though people have been getting out and about to various places. Thanks to Chris for his write up about his Yorkshire trip. It would be nice to have more contributions about the places and events that are visited.



It has been many years since any of us have taken our cars to Classics on the Common at Harpenden, but Keith and Alan usually go along to have a look at the cars. Apparently the road outside is becoming even more of a race track despite threats to close the show.



Alan was recently involved in making a film in support of the Air Ambulance, where he got the chance to meet the family of a patient who he had been called out to when on First Responder duty. The gentleman had recovered.



Various events are coming up in the next few weeks, starting with the show on Saffron Walden Common on Sunday 13th. On the following Sunday, 20th, quite a few of us are booked in at Tewin, but don't forget that there is also a show at Elm Court, Potters Bar on the same date, which is in aid of the Air Ambulance. The Capel Manor Show, on the 3rd September, will no doubt see plenty of our cars attending.



On 10th September, Judith from the Museum has organised a display of cars at Hatfield House from 9am. The House will not be open, but the park and gardens will be open at 10.30. There is a very good cafe/restaurant in the Courtyard. Although this doesn't have to be booked, I will check at the next meeting, so that I can give Judith a rough idea of numbers.



Several of us enjoyed the Breakfast Run to The Woodman at Nuthampsted back in April. I will get in contact with them before the next meeting to see what price they can do.



Yorkshire Elegance Classic Car Three Day Event

Report by Chris Engeham

Mary and I love Yorkshire and decided on a three night trip taking in The Yorkshire Elegance. A super classic car event held over three days at Bowcliffe Hall, a beautiful manor house and gardens near Wetherby, and home to the Fastlane Club, the event organisers. A dry drive up in the XK8 for the first hour or so and then heavy rain for the rest, luckily we booked for day 2 which turned out lovely. For those that like a multi marque classic car show, this was one of the best.

There were plenty of Jaguars on display, including an XJ220 which was runner up in the modern classics class. (Full concours results below). The 1922 Bentley was car of the show, but my favourite was the Bentley in the photos below, lots of Bentleys there. The Ferrari 250 SWB was right hand drive. Apparently, Italy did once drive on the left which could account for some cars still to be ordered in right hand drive which some Italians preferred. I got this information from one of the classic car press boys waiting to interview the owner. He actually thought I was the owner, was it my smart linen jacket and cool appearance, he soon cottoned on.

After changing out of our posh togs we drove across Yorkshire to Thornton Le Dale. A lovely village and home as you all know to Mathewsons Classic Auctions. Unfortunately, due to some health and safety checks going on, we couldn't get to check out the cars for auction the following Saturday, but we had a lovely cream tea sitting outside in this busy little village. Half an hour later, when driving back to our hotel in Boroughbridge, the heavens opened again. Wipers on full.

The last day we spent driving around the Yorkshire Dales. First stop Masham, home to Theakstons Brewery and a lovely place to stop off. Lunch in Hawes at the Wensleydale Creamery and then off to Askridge for another cream tea.

The drive up and back were fine except there are major road works on the A1M near Leeds, 3 lanes down to 1 on both side, a good half hour to get through, but luckily the modern Jaguar coped well.

The Concours results:

The Pre-War Vintage to 1940 class was won by the 1938 Hotchkiss GS which had just returned from doing the Mille Miglia. The runner-up was a 1934 Triumph Gloria Saloon.

The Post-War Classic class which covered cars from 1941 to 1970 was won by the Ferrari 250 SWB, with the two runners-up being the 1967 Porsche 911S and a 1961 Bristol.

The "Modern Classic" class for cars between 1971 and 1998 was won by the stunning De Tomaso Mangusta which was admired by many. The runners-up were the Jaguar XJ220 and the 1972 Porsche 911S.

The overall Best In Show went to the simply fantastic 1922 Bentley 3.0l (the Gypsy).

