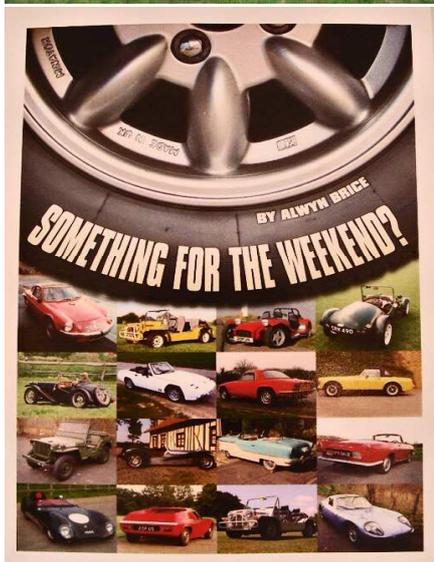


# North Kent Lotus Group



Dear Enthusiast

Now, you probably noticed the new numbering at the the top of the page as of last month. Well, by my calculations it's about right. The first edition was produced back in March 1994 by Alwyn (remember him?) and a couple of year's back Howard and I did a reconciliation and found that a few earlier editions were missing. We're pretty sure that these were never produced (in the early days the newsletter was intended to be occasional). But anyway, it's in keeping with early Lotus factory production tradition - how many of the early editions were really produced will remain a mystery.

Strange how these things happen, but no sooner than I mention Alwyn, Andy forwards an email from him that he'd sent regarding the publication of this first book, "Something for the Weekend" by Alwyn Brice. Perhaps we should invite him for a book signing!

Three events under our belt in the last month; the Bexhill show; the Mid-Week run and Andrew and Debbie's picnic. The weather held for all three and Bexhill was the busiest yet. John U organised a nice symmetrical display - two M100's, two Elise's, two baby Elans with Richard's Exige taking centre stage.

Roy Bryant dropped in on the stand and if you remember, he had Mark's Essex Esprit, which he sold last year (now back up for sale again! - see Pistonheads) and now is the proud owner of a Beauford "kit car" (see picture) So if you're thinking of getting married or know somebody who is, he'll do a nice chauffeured delivery of the blushing bride. It's a bit of an extreme change from the Esprit but he said it's proving quite lucrative and has plenty of bookings.

He bought the car in a sorry state last October, did a restoration during the coldest winter in years, put it on the road in March and had his first booking in April - not a a bad feat! Have a look at [www.bryantsbeaufordcarriage.co.uk](http://www.bryantsbeaufordcarriage.co.uk) or give Roy (or Caroline) a ring on 01622 739262.

Next up the midweek run. A small turn out this year but it's been a busy time with lots of events to attend. Just John and Joan, Chris, Roger, John H and Sue and me with Lawrence joining us for lunch. After a shaky start at a dodgy coffee stop the rest of the day panned out pretty well with a very interesting visit to a micro-brewery (Tonbridge Brewery - beer as seen in the White Rock) and a very nice meal at the Laughing Fish at Isfield near Uckfield - worth a visit if you're down that way - it's where the "Lavender Line" steam railway terminates (hence the railway backdrop in the picture).

And on to the Saturday of the same week. Andrew and Debbie's picnic. What a splendid turnout of cars and big thanks must go to Andrew and Debbie for being such great hosts. Their front lawn was a picture of GT40's and Loti and the back garden was a picture of happy picnickers. A very pleasant afternoon.

An interesting item spotted at the picnic to interest M100 owners, a full roll-bar modification. It looked pretty good but wasn't cheap at well over £1000





We've had a little concern of late re the club night at the White Rock. The pool matches have been taking over the bar area and can be somewhat boisterous. John U had a chat with Frank the landlord and he's assured us that things will get back to normal some time very soon. He appreciates our custom and wouldn't want to lose us. So watch this space (or the bar!). John also conducted a straw poll on the night to gauge opinion on the Christmas meal being held at the pub - and the general feeling was to give it a try. And you know, Christmas will soon be upon us!

Now, two other events coming up are Harper's Hunt on Sunday 26th, which, if you're not participating, will finish up at the White Rock in the late afternoon for prize giving. Otherwise please get in touch with John H if you want to be a Harper's Hunter.

The second, is another go at the Vino Run for this year. Jon and Michelle have arranged an Autumn stab at this as many people couldn't make the Summer one. Sunday October 10th is the date and we will meet at the Moat at Wrotham Heath at nine thirty for a ten a.m. Start. The day includes a morning coffee stop, a very nice lunch and then on to a wine tour and tasting session.

Please see the events list for contact details for both of these events.

The Vino Run can double up as our "Autumn Run" for this year and in J & M's capable hands it should be a very good day.

A bit of an epic letter again this month as there has been a lot going on. Julie has supplied an entertaining low down of how the Club Lotus "Welsh Weekend" went - and very smart they look in their best bib and tucker. And Simon has supplied an update on the Elite. This month's photo's are supplied by Roger who is kind of emerging as the official club photographer - although Howard E often slips me a few pictures. If anybody has taken any throughout the year, please pass them on, as it's always good to post them on the website.

Next month's meeting is on 13th October we won't be there as were off to a concert with Ian & Heather so please keep me posted with any info or articles.

John

## ELITE UPDATE

I asked Simon for an update after his Classic Le Mans inferno. Now that the car is safely back home and the insurers have done their pencil sucking calculations, work can now commence. So here goes;

The engine and gearbox are out of the Elite and after about 40 hours work all the parts that were covered with the fire extinguisher powder are now clean. It is horrid stuff but good at putting out fires. The fibreglass damage is not too bad - it is almost only the area between the windscreen and the bonnet opening. It seems it does not need replacing but reinforcing underneath and then the top surface re-gelling etc so it can be repainted.

Next weekend I hope to take the car by trailer to Bill (Slessor). He is a plastics/fibreglass expert and has a small business unit near Maidstone. The fire damage is not massive but needs expert work.

We next have to decide if it is just a repair and a respray of the repaired area or if this as a good time to have all the body tidied and resprayed. Depends on the cost of course. The insurers are not being mean but not generous either.

It will need a total rewire (looms are available at only about £175) and probably new carbs. The instruments and switches will need refurbishing or replacing.

Once all done it will be a far better car. My loose target it is have it running again by next April but much will depend on what we decide to do about the body.

Simon

# Lotus Weekend July 2010

Friday started off with the usual Underhay late start - Magnus not John, hence a very welcome phone call from Joan warning us of an accident on the M25 which meant we could get off well before and take a diverted route up to the M40. On route to Wales we stopped at the Oxford Gun Club to indulge Magnus' new found hobby of Clay Pigeon Shooting!!

After a lovely lunch in a nearby village we set off for the M6, only piece of advice I can give is never travel on a Friday afternoon! The weather was very wet and the M6 stationary. Finally, we reached our destination in time for a check in, sort out and brush up for drinks at 7.30pm.

Hotel was very nice and spread out, on arrival we were presented with our Lotus handbook for the weekend, giving meeting times and detailed maps and directions for the two trips.

Met up with every one in the bar for drinks before the evening meal, nice and casual. Our hand books had a seating plan, you could choose where you sat on the table but your table name was allocated. Met Elaine who had organised the event for the last 20 years I could see why it was so successful.

There were about 50 of us, everyone very friendly once we got to

know them and worked out who was in our group. We were not the only new attendees but that did not matter.

**Saturday**, breakfast in the conservatory, very nice and relaxing.

Met up with everyone in car park at 10.15 ready to set off at 10.30 for Chester Zoo.

The Car Park was awash with Lotus cars, from Elan Sprints, Excels, Beautiful Eclats, Esprit's, M100s Elise's and Surprise Surprise Kermit the Europa, how brilliant!!!!

What a fantastic Convoy, Lotus Cars across the generations, we all piled out around the back of the hotel complex and onto the minor road, a beautiful journey through the country side bringing most villages to a stand still as we went through. Arrived at Chester Zoo to a side carpark - just our luck it started to rain (only a shower thankfully).

Once in the Zoo we split into groups myself, Magnus, John and Joan went off and had a great day wandering around and the weather held as well, very tired legs went back to the car park not many cars left as people went back to the hotel to use the facilities, swimming pool and jacuzzi. Nice run back to the hotel and a well earned bottle of Vino!!!

Time to get dressed and hope that the outfits we brought would fit, everyone looked great in their evening dress and DJ's, the food was very nice although there was a lot of it.

A great live band performed for a good couple of hours getting everyone up to dance including Joan and John who danced probably more than Magnus and I due to my dodgy leg!!!



At the end of the evening most people went to the hotel bar whilst others stayed in the conservatory and chatted. I had a little malfunction in the way of contact lenses dropping out meaning I could not see, so a quick dash to the bedroom to find glasses and change into trousers to continue the session downstairs!

**Sunday** - Miracle no hang over!!

Breakfast was a bit hopeless due to a wedding the night before so we had a big room, lots of people but not enough food - sure you can spot the problem!!

Once breakfast sorted out we met in the car park to leave at 11am for Chirk Castle a National Trust property, again we all went off in Convoy but this time out of the front of the hotel, not such a good idea as the road is very busy and we needed to turn right, but in true James Bond style a (Lotus Esprit) had been out for a bit of fun and was re-approaching the hotel so slowed down put on right hand indicator and stopped the traffic

letting out at least 10 cars lots of tooting and shouting from the camper van behind - what a shame (Tee Hee)!!



Once again great directions and when we arrived at the Castle we parked right outside the Castle - a beautiful back drop. We went off into the castle and looked round had lunch and met up with a couple from the group, could not leave until 3pm as this was the arrangement with the castle.

Magnus, John and Joan went for a lovely walk around the gardens but my dodgy leg prevented this for me, I waited by the car and managed to lose the keys three times providing great entertainment to those around me due to my chattering to myself whilst unpacking and repacking the boot, only to find them on the ledge of the boot and not in it!!!

In the afternoon it was free time, so Magnus and I went back to the hotel for a swim and relax in the hot tub, Joan and John left Chirk and went to Plas Newydd, a house owned by Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby. They arrived near to closing but were able to have a look around the house which had a very interesting history, especially the prominent people who visited there.

They then went to the Pontcysyllite Aqueduct,

built by Thomas Telford in 1795 to bridge the River Dee near Trevor. The height of the canal is 127 feet above the river and cost £45,000 to build!

The pool was great and the hot tub relaxing it was lovely to sit in and chat to some of the other Lotus people whom we had not had a chance to speak to before. The changing rooms were really nice but all looked the same hence could not find my locker and when I did went to the bathroom and could not find my clothes, well you know me I could get lost in a circle. With all the chatting and getting lost I forgot Magnus was waiting, went outside to find him fall-

ing asleep in a very comfy armchair. OOPS!! Sunday evening was a BBQ so very relaxed a lot of people had gone home during the day so fewer people, nice evening sitting with different people.

Monday for Magnus and I it was breakfast tidy up and leave for the journey back to Kent via Oxford Gun Club for Magnus to have a bit more fun!!!

John and Joan were going away for a few days and then onto Prescott so did not have to leave so early, John had had a few enquires regarding his cover for the M100. Which I believe meant they spent a bit longer at the hotel than an-

anticipated before heading off on their Journey.

### Conclusion

It was great weekend even though the weather was not brilliant, it was nice to meet a new group of people. The Saturday night was excellent, everyone looking smart I'm sure those of you averse to Dinner Jackets would have been able to endure them for a couple of hours as the rest of the weekend was well worth it.

Elaine organised the whole thing extremely well, and must put a lot of effort into ensuring the routes for the outings are well planned and accessible to all types of cars.

There were probably about 25 cars. Unfortunately a couple of Lotus's did not make it, one breaking down at Shrewsbury. The owners had to continue in a Skoda, needless to say they parked away from the Lotus group in the car park can't think why!! Another Europa on leaving Liverpool found the weather was terrible and as the car has tendency to misbehave in wet weather so he went home and picked up his normal car!

All in all Magnus and I would definitely do it again, would be great if a few more from North Kent came along too!

Julie

