

# North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

Apologies department first. I think of either Cheshunt or Norfolk and forget about the Hornsey factory, so last month's Jewsons pics from John were from Hornsey (my mistake, not Johns!), but you probably spotted it - so sorry for that!! I'll make up for it by making sure I get the mystery picture right, so here it is....



And talking about Hethel, Howard forwarded me some exciting news about a new BBC drama based around the Lotus factory, all the info is on Pistonheads - I'm not exactly sure when it's due to be broadcast but I think it's around the 1st April next year, so don't miss it.

A good turn-out again on club night and a warm welcome back to Duncan Hayton - back again after a long absence (he was a member back in 2002). He now lives in Purley and was telling us of the garage fire that damaged his yellow Eclat - which is now completely restored. He had it with him but it was a bit cold and dark to have a good look. Summer evenings will soon be with us - will this lovely April weather last?!!

Pauline did a quick straw-poll re the PTR F1 simulator centre which I mentioned last month and reported that some said they'd be interested depending on the date and time and that it'd be a good idea to have it during the winter months when there isn't so much going on with NKLK. So we'll keep it on the back-burner.

Neil sent some web info re the ongoing Lotus factory saga. The latest is that the government has turned down their request for an investment loan - as Neil says "Maybe if you can find the money to put your name on a F1 French car why do you need Government cash!"

But they have secured £270m from a syndicate of Malaysian and Chinese banks to fund an expansion campaign after missing out on the investment from the UK government. They wouldn't comment on where the new investment would be focused, or whether the company would remain committed to Norfolk, but Proton said that it would enable it to carry out its plan to release five new models in as many years. The Esprit was expected to be rolled out in March 2013. So the saga rolls on. Hope it all comes to fruition. The latest we hear is that Team Lotus (that's the F1 "Team Lotus") have purchased Caterham Cars. Perhaps that BBC drama thing wasn't an April Fools after all.

Things are starting to hot up re coming events. We have the annual Club Lotus trackday at Goodwood - which is always a good day even if you're not participating (plenty of free rides!) and this year there's a couple of extra things happening; a group of French Bugatti owners will be turning up to do some parade laps during the lunch-break and also some vintage aeroplanes will be arriving - but quoting Terry, "hope they don't land on the circuit"! -I'll second that!

Chris is looking after the Crystal Palace Sprint club display over the bank holiday 29th-30th May - which was most enjoyable last year and follow-

ing Le Mans, Ian and Heather are organising our display at the Bodiam Senlac Classic Car Show - that's on 19th June. Incidentally, Roger has forwarded a list of interesting looking car shows for the coming months which is over the page for your perusal

Finally, the following picture was snapped at a recent Steering Group meeting.....



Maybe along with John H's mystery photo we should have a caption competition!!

Next club night at the White Rock is on 11th May. See you there.

John