

# North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

I know, I know, the newsletter's late - I've been playing catch-up ever since our quick week in Spain, so apologies.

There's been a few events since the last letter and one I didn't mention last time was the classic car show at Faversham. Thanks go to Ian & Heather for arranging what turned out to be a nice event - helped by lovely weather and the inclusion of a boot fair (always worth an wander around) Just three cars Ian & Heather, Magnus & Julie and Sue and I.

On the way down to Faversham we were passed by a flying Ford which tucked in front to give us a wave - it was Tim and Lorraine, not sure where they were off to but they soon flew off again.

On the spur of the moment we decided to add the Bexhill show to the events list. We were going to give it a miss this year but a quick decision was made at the Barbeque. So a line up of seven cars and a grand day at the seaside was followed by a curry and a pint for £6.95 - at what is becoming a regular stopping point - the White Hart at Catsfield.



And on to the midweek run. Well, the usual culprits turned up - plus Terry, who had a couple of spare holiday days. Howard (a regular mid-weeker) couldn't make it - his Italian piazza was about to be started that morning and he wanted to be there to oversee things. Now, if he'd have stuck in the Lotus vein, he'd have only needed to paint his bungalow pink and plant a few lupins in

the garden to recreate a typical Norfolk cottage, but he's now going all Mediterranean. So, John & Joan, Chris, Roger (Chrissie couldn't make it) Terry and Sue and I ventured off toward the Mill Pedal Car and Toy Museum on the A28 opposite Northiam Station. They've got a pleasant tea room so that doubled as our traditional morning coffee stop.

The museum is not a huge place but has a huge display of interesting pedal cars plus lots of models and toys. Cars from the most old and basic to a most ridiculously priced modern Mercedes (with pedals) and of course, a Lotus. Worth a visit if you're passing that way.



From there we headed off to have our traditional pub lunch at The Cock at Ringmer with Lawrence joining us for a good old chin-wag.



Incidentally, the journey to the pub collected a tail-ender on two wheels (one of the ones

with a blue flashing light) - too far back for leader Terry to see, but when he pulled into a lay-by the PC stopped to have a little chat - probably to compliment him on his impeccable driving - well it must have been, 'cos he wasn't taken away for questioning!

Finally, the Goodwood trackday on the 3rd September was a cracker with perfect trackday weather and no incidents. John Magnus and Duncan were enjoying the M100 and Duncan also had his Caterham (I think for it's first trackday). Chris was also on track along with me. Barry, Simon and Lawrence came along for a little spectating and in Simon's case some passenger rides.

I missed the club night but my spies reported 18 people and five cars, three of which were M100's! One new member, Henry Davies from Putney with a red S3 Esprit. It's a bit of a trek from Putney so he won't be coming to many club nights but he's put his name down for the Christmas meal (more of which later). So welcome to Henry.

Pauline had a lack of power problem in her M100 which turned out to be a problem with the catalytic converter. A local company, S & S Services in West Wickham (020 8777 0573), found and fixed the fault and they've kindly offered a 10% discount for NKLG members. Have a look at our website for full details (in the recommended section). And John H has sent a request from a friend with a Plus 2 with two constantly deflating tyres. Strangely it's BOTH offside ones. The car has "Lotus" alloys and even Moorland Jones are stumped. Anybody got any ideas?

So for up and coming events Jon and Michelle are adding a rerun of last year's Autumn run and meal at Chapel Down winery near Tenterden. If you haven't been there they do some very nice

food in lovely surroundings at a reasonable price, 3 courses for £19.95. The run and coffee stop is optional but if you want to do that you'll need to be at The Moat at Wrotham for a 10am getaway. J&M will need to know numbers for the restaurant so please see the events list for the contact details.

And while we're on the subject of food, we've been pondering over the venue for this year's Christmas meal. We felt a bit cramped at the White Rock last year so turned our attentions to the Woodman at Ide Hill (our old venue) but the management there didn't exactly inspire us

with confidence to provide a successful evening - so somewhere along the way "Da Luca" at Hildenborough was suggested. You may remember that Mark once arranged a meal there when it was "Bartellos" - there's been an ownership and name change since then. John, Joan and Pauline gave it a visit and reported back that the owners were more than welcoming and enthusiastic about us being there. It's a perfect venue so "Da Luca" it is. Full details and menu will be in next months letter. And the date for your diary is Friday 2nd December.

We may even entice Mark and Caroline up from Folkesone??!!

Not much Lotus news this month only I must say I like the look of the new Exige rally car with it's Stratos-looking lighting rig - very nice.

The next meeting is on October 12th where you should be able to catch up with Jon and Michelle for further details of the Autumn run and book a place. So I'll see you then.

John