

North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

Early this month, for a change.

Sue and I are off for a quick week in the sun next week, so with plenty to write about before club night, I only had to include anything that cropped up on the night.

So, two events since last month. The mid-week run and the Goodwood track day. The run, although a bit low on numbers, went down well and whilst we didn't make the ultimate destination, we did have a very nice lunch and was joined by Lawrence. He's due to have a "knee job" and in fact he's probably had it by the time you get this letter, so we all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Anyway, back to the run. Unfortunately midweek-run stalwarts, Roger and Chris couldn't make it, so John & Joan, Howard, Tony and his wife (sincere apologies, my sieve-like brain didn't retain your name!!) and Sue and me headed west to the Perryhill Orchard Tea Room in Hartfield for a cuppa (worth a visit if you're passing that way - postcode TN7 4JJ) and then on to Hangleton Manor for lunch, (in Hangleton between Shoreham and Hove) - another nice venue with good food and worth a visit. The traditional destination visit was supposed to have been Shoreham Fort, but it was never reached due to some plumbing problems that Howard had! Never Mind, it would have been pretty low-key, as visits go, and anyway, the heavens opened as we reached the pub, so we would have had to run for cover anyway.

So, a good day out with some good roads though the Ashdown Forest and down on to Shoreham without too much traffic.

Just previous to the run, with the Goodwood day on my mind, I was

aware that I needed to get my suspension checked out. Richard P had taken his Exige down to Plans at Dunsfold and was more than happy with the result. I'd also used them a few years ago and felt likewise, but didn't fancy the slog of a journey down there and hanging around for most of the day waiting for the work to be done. So I did some searching around locally and hit upon IA Motorsport in Borstal - just down the road from me in Rochester. I had a chat on the phone and he seemed pretty clued-up. So I booked the car in and wasn't disappointed.

Finding the place isn't easy though and the final bit requires guidance via mobile phone!

Located in the periphery of Borstal Jail, IA Motorsport is run from an old Napoleonic fort (from the days when we used to pick fights with the French!) - After driving in and with large heavy gates shutting me in, I was wondering what I'd let myself in for. But my thoughts were unfounded as Ian (the boss of IA Motorsport) was a really friendly guy. He's only young, probably mid to late twenties but he knew his stuff and was telling me that he'd spent seven years working for Maserati and now gets plenty of work setting up motorsport and trackday cars and also a lot of work from Foskers. He doesn't get involved with anything mundane - servicing or the like but what he does have is computerised suspension diagnostic equipment and could do everything that Plans does. Needless to say that the car feels perfect now (it turned out that the rear toe was way out after some joints I'd had replaced earlier in the year). I'd thoroughly recommend IA Motorsport (07746 888200).

So, Goodwood wasn't the disaster that the May session was (for me anyway - the car felt awful then).

I was a bit rusty on the first couple of runs out so took it steady. The rest of the day panned out really well. John U, Chris & Duncan also had a great day and for once we didn't have any rain. From the earlier email from Chris Parker saying that the day was under subscribed and I arrived early, thinking I'd be near the front of the queue...well, I've never seen so many cars that early in the morning - they'd managed to fill all the places in the last couple of days!!

I'm hoping that you get this in time - but don't forget that Howard is having his gathering this coming Wednesday evening from 6pm with special guest Ken Costello. There's plenty of parking space behind the village hall in Crockenhill. Shame I can't make it but if anybody wants to do a short write-up about it, please send it on.

As for other events, at the time of writing, Jon & Michelle needed to make some investigations regarding Chapel Down. There's been some management problems and it's been closed for a while. We should know what's going on by the next club night but also keep an eye on the website for the latest info.

Not a NKLK event, but we've had a message via the website re the Kent Classic Car Show at Aylesford Priory (Maidstone ME20 7BX) on 23rd September. With over 300 cars, it could be worth a visit.

As for the club night, a rather low-key affair but not a bad turn-out with a lovely brace of Esprits lined up in the car park. Howard made an announcement regarding funds and the general consensus was that the annual subs should be increased to £8 per year.

The newsletter now costs between £6 - £6.50 per mailing per year to produce (postage, paper, envelope, label and laser toner) and the website has ongoing registration and hosting costs, so eight quid is not excessive - but saying that I've always been of the opinion that we should avoid

accruing excessive funds. Howard has assured everybody that any "overs" will be put to good use. It's been £5 for the past 18 years so an increase is needed to keep everything ticking along.

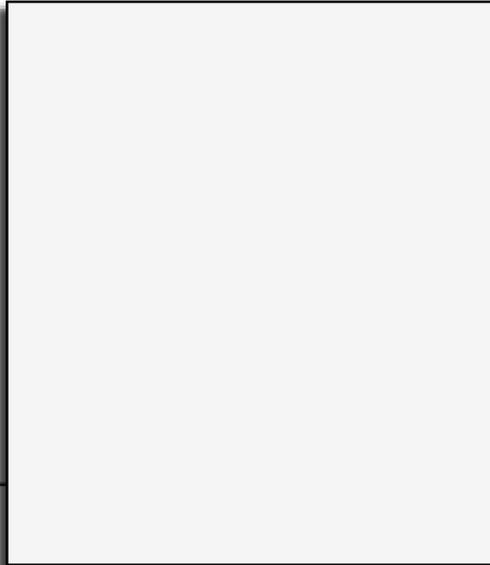
Other snippets at the meet included Howard T's comments re a ride in an Evora that was circulating at the Goodwood trackday - it was flying and Howard was pretty impressed and so was I. It's the first one I've seen one on a track-day.

Finally, it's nice to report that Alain, one of our new members (from Belgium), has forwarded details to Terry for the website. And what a lovely couple of photos he's sent - a very nice (and rare) 1974 S1 Elite in Regency Red in pristine condition

by the looks of it. So many thanks for that Alain.

Next club night is on 10th October - but don't expect the newsletter as quick next time. See you then.

John



Planning Group Update

From
Group Co-ordinator Howard Emes
Treasurer & Membership John Underhay
Events Ian and Heather Baines

The aims of the North Kent Lotus Group are:-

- Open to all enthusiasts who have a love for Lotus cars
- To provide a monthly meeting place for the purpose of social activities
- Producing a monthly newsletter
- Provide a dedicated website
- Create a club events calendar

Following the review of the Membership fee it has become necessary to increase the subscription amount from £5 to £8 effective from the 1st January 2013. The membership subscription is to cover the cost of a monthly newsletter, the website and any ongoing membership needs.

- A member is a person who has paid the annual subscription fee to cover the NKLK expenses.
- A member will automatically have the right to vote at yearly meetings held in March.
- Friends of NKLK who do not wish to be a full member will be welcomed to enjoy and support all activities.

The Co-ordinator can call for a special meeting should it be necessary. We would like you to know that changes to the above can be made whenever the need arises giving club members the opportunity to assist and support the NKLK.

You can be assured that the commitment to succeed and go forward is the aim of the NKLK - Howard E. John U. Ian B. Heather B.

Bexhill Classic Car Show - 2012

Although NKLK decided not to participate in the above show this year and as the sun was out, Diana and I decided to drive down in the Elise to have a look.

Upon arrival at the show ground I wondered if they would accept an "unofficial entry" and surprise surprise they did and the cost of entry to the show was cheaper than pedestrians at just three pounds for the car and occupants.

Only four other Lotuses were on display, two baby Elan's, a plus 2 and a Mk 1 Cortina T/C but due to the parking arrangements (first come first served) we were not assembled together. However the general public showed lots of interest in my Elise (well it was the only one there) and the owner of one baby Elan sat in my Elise and generally seemed interested in it (more reliable?).

Another individual, driving a Trials Dellow (see below), grumbled about his Elise S1 which was stuck in his garage with blown head gasket - yet again!



A good range of real classic cars were in attendance e.g Jaguar (all types), Aston Martin DB2's., MG A's, and B's and TF's, Triumph TR's (2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7's plus saloon cars of all ages. The one exhibit that caught my eye was a Nobel with a monster rear wing and an A.B.S.O stuck on its windscreen (for excessive noise).

For those interested in motorbikes there was a good selection of Italian racing bikes, plus several Vincent's, Nortons, Aerial's (Square four), BSA's (Bantam two stroke) etc. and the usual "trade" stalls were all operating.

As I said before the sun was shining, Bexhill was very pleasant and I would recommend NKLK consider attending next year.

Regards
Vaughn