



Dear Enthusiast

So the annual midweek run set off as is traditional from the Moat at Wrotham. Rather down in numbers this year as only five of us turned up - Jon, Michelle, Jasmine, Sue and I which equated to three cars; Esprit, Elan and Elise. Jon in his Esprit, Michelle in her Elan yours truly in Elise. So what we lacked in quantity was made up for in quality!! First stop - the Roadhouse Cafe at Lenham. Well what can I say? A trip back in time doesn't begin to describe it. The prices are straight out of the 70's, five hot drinks, a big lump of cake and a large bacon and egg butty for around 7 quid, it doesn't come much cheaper. But for that you have slop out your own teabag and the coffee is Cash and Carry's finest. Plastic tablecloths etc etc but this place has motoring history. Rallying pictures adorn the walls. It's a petrolheads destination of choice. Take a look at the website - lenhamcafe.com

I said that it's a petrolhead's retreat and to prove it, on return to the car-park (I use the term very loosely) - Jon spotted a very rare insect resting on the Elan. Yes, it was Chapmantina Buginus more commonly known as the Lotus Bug.



After our very satisfying coffee stop, experiencing how things might have been if Starbucks hadn't intervened, Jon took over the lead and as usual, found us some very nice quick and relatively empty Kentish roads. Michelle certainly doesn't hang around, so it was two yellow perils with my Elise scampering behind heading to our lunchtime destination the Cock Inn at Luddesdown.

Now, The Cock is a sleepy little pub in the middle of nowhere which Sue and I frequent from time to time but what greeted us was a surprise; a six-wheeled Citroen and Model S Tesla! So with three nice Lotus added, it made an interesting car-park collection.



Jon snapping the rare insect

This year's MWR was close to home so unfortunately Lawrence didn't make it as it was a little too far for him. He checked the route with me the night before and expressed his doubts. It was Lawrence's suggestion many year's ago that triggered the annual run.

Chatting to Matt last club night, he asked me how the MG was going and whilst I could still only sing it's praises, I've yet to see another one on the road (stop press - I've now seen another one!!). Ah, he said, you need to take a look at howmanyleft.co.uk, which I did. Now Matt is one of those interesting technical guys that loves facts and figures and this site is a gem. You can spend many a happy hour seeing how a particular model number's of annual registrations have slowly declined over the years, be it exported or scrapped (or how a new model is selling, for that matter). It's interesting that my 135R has gone from the original production of around 125 to 107 registered in the UK to this year's figure of 63. Exported, written off or taken off the road for race use only. Which raises the question, is a race car SORN if it was once road registered? So if you've got a couple of hours to waste take a look at the website you'll be able to find out how many cherished chariot's from your past are left on the road.

I was sorry that I didn't get to chat with John Haige's son on the club night - he very kindly bought John's "Triumph" Elite along. We tried to take some snaps of it but the light wasn't too good so there's images but it was a nice gesture to bring it along.

John
Spooky - that photo has started Diana asking what I have been up to!

It cannot be me, even though it looks like me (from a distance?) I don't even play golf although I have owned three (VW's)
Can you send me the image file so we can have closer look.
Regards
Vaughn



John
As the event was held in the Henry Cooper room, I should have twigged it sooner.

Vaughn

Sent from my iPad

With a speed and efficiency that left me breathless, Howard has supplied this year's Christmas menu and it is only September!! So it's over the page. Further info and ordering details will be in next month's letter.

Also over the page, Terry has been enjoying the delights of Italy. It sounded like a great trip. Trudi has also requested for nominees for Simon's Cup. Please see over.

Late again this month - the October meeting is just next week on the 8th. So I'll see you then

And leave you with a thought "Think before you watch F1!"

John

ROLLING EVENTS DIARY

OCTOBER

8 Club Night

The Plough

NOVEMBER

12 Club Night

The Plough

Hi John, Recently, whilst on the Italian leg of our holidays I was staying near Maranello, so as one must, I had to go to Ferrari! As it was August the factory was closed, so that tour has to wait for another visit, along with Masarati, Lamborghini and Pagani who are also within 50 km of this part of the world. It really is Supercar country.

I went to the museum and found some rare and wonderful Ferrari road cars, including the new "La Ferrari", many race cars and some unusual prototypes.

Hear are some pictures I took, enjoy!



Planning for a Disastrous Day Out

Diana and I have frequently attended the Bexhill 100 classic car show on August Bank holiday Monday's and have always enjoyed it. John Potts suggested that I should become the point of contact should any other NKLG members be interested in a day out in the sunshine.

Six NKLG members showed interest and I approached the organisers who seemed keen to accept us and allocated a generous space on the club parking area - just in front of the Aston Martin owners group (quite right too). As the day approached the weather forecast looked less than promising and naturally raised concerns about this year's event being cancelled due to heavy rain.

I had taken the precaution by getting the telephone numbers of the NKLG individuals involved and after numerous phone calls the night before, Howard and Jenny Tunbridge (Elise S2 -111s) offered to go down early in the morning to see if the site was open and the show was still to be held.

Luckily Howard and Jenny had relations near Bexhill and should the show be cancelled at the last minute had somewhere else to visit. In the meantime the rain continued to fall in ever increasing volumes and I decided to leave my hardtop on – as it turned out that was a good move.

The Bexhill show ground is in fact a football pitch and the thought of it being turned into a ploughed field together with getting stuck in mud was uppermost in my mind. Howard phoned me from Bexhill just before 9am to tell me that some other clubs and their cars (not many) had arrived and it seemed the "Bulldog Spirit" prevailed. Diana and I decided to make the effort and drove down in pouring rain/ low mist but with not much traffic about (I wonder why) and arrived to find TWO Lotus cars parked on the NKLG area. Howards Elise and Tony Jennings yellow Elan S2 130/5, so now we were three.

By now the organisers had decided not to charge pedestrians an entry fee! The rain continued to increase in intensity and some classic cars started to go home, possibly worrying about leaking soft tops and accelerating rust!!

By 1 pm everyone was giving up and looking for a nice warm café prior to starting their trips home. By now we were all wet through and decided it was a natural disaster and this year's event best forgotten. It was a shame as some three or four hundred cars had been entered but only about 80 or so arrived.

So you can see any amount of planning is a waste of time when the weather is against you.

Vaughn

Bartellas Christmas Party Menu 2014

**Includes a 175ml glass of house wine, soft drink
or small draught beer & quality cracker**

Creamed parsnip & chestnut soup with sweet potato crisps (v)
Smoked salmon & cream cheese brulée with grilled pumpernickel
Smoked beetroot with a walnut, chicken & blue cheese salad
Wild game course terrine with a kumquat & five spiced chutney

Roast turkey with peach & chestnut stuffing, honey glazed parsnips & all the trimmings
Fillet of sea bass with braised fennel & dill potato cake, pearl onions & tarragon sauce
Smoked pork chop with a parsnip gratin, apple & cinnamon rosti & a sweet cider jus
Puff pastry basket filled with a wild mushroom ragout & slow roasted vine tomatoes (v)

Traditional figgy pudding, mince pie, brandy butter & rum sauce
Double chocolate Drambuie mousse with dipping shortbread biscuits
Clementine brulée with a blood orange sorbet

Cheese & biscuits
Coffee, tea & petits fours

£26.50 for 2 Courses £30.00 for 3 Courses