

North Kent Lotus Group



Dear Enthusiast

Well, some good news from Hethel, ok it's not a new car but the Evora's getting a bit more like it.



To be launched at Geneva on the 3rd March. The Evora 400 is the fastest production Lotus ever. 400hp. Supercharged 3.5 Litre V6. 4.1 second 0-60 and 186mph. The chicken wire etc has gone and the front and rear ends have been re-worked - looking a lot better than the old one did. The silver/black combo looks good in the picture. New chassis; Lightweight body panels and a completely new interior.



So put it on your wish list. Vaughn sent me an email about the new car - I had seen some details about it beforehand, but his info included these good looking press shots.

Other than that, the news is extremely thin on the ground again. As for NKLG news, don't forget that the March club night is also the AGM - so make a point of being there if you want your views heard. We'd need a bigger turn-out than last year! I not sure of the current situation regarding Howard standing down. So all will be revealed on the 11th, I'm sure.

The February meeting was a pretty good turnout for a winter one. But no Loti in the car-park! Mine is SORN at the moment but we'd just picked up the Evo from Lepsons after having the

wheels completely refurbished, so we thought we'd give it a run after a few month's resting in the garage. Lepsons does a very nice job and the staff are friendly and helpful - I'd recommend them if your wheels are looking a bit the worst for wear.

Vaughn is being very prolific at the moment. He's also provided another in his series "A Lot About Nothing" - he's supplied part two!! Insisting that I only print it if I desperate. So here goes... (I can't wait for part three!)

I'll leave you with Vaughn's article. Don't forget the AGM - see you there on 11th March at the Plough.

John

A lot about nothing – No. 2

In spite of several requests NOT TO WRITE ANY MORE RUBBISH, and in the absence of any more worthy contributions, I cannot resist John Frisby's request for something to fill the next newsletter - sorry.

Members of Club Lotus would have seen in the latest issue of Club Lotus News (January 2015, page 33) a breakdown of the numbers of the various models of "baby" Elans produced. This led me to wonder just how many cars I have owned in the past which may have survived ?

Purely by chance, our son recently came across a Department of Transport web site which appears to use the "DVLA" database to give you some idea how many. We all know that the DVLA information is fraught with discrepancies so anything gleaned from them should always be treated with suspicion.

Searching the web site www.howmanyleft.co.uk allows you to search for specific makes of car and shows the number of cars still taxed or on SORN. Data on some makes of cars go back to 1926 (e.g. Austin) but depending on the make, the information shown does not always seem to be able to separate the various models under the manufacturers name.

ROLLING EVENTS DIARY

March

11 AGM & Club Night The Plough

As I once owned a Mark 1 1958 Frog Eyed sprite, which I know is still registered and hence alive, I looked up that model on the website. The data suggested that there were a total of 37 licenced or SORN in 2013, for sprites manufactured in that year, which is not a bad survival rate for cars 57 years old.

The Paul Robinson book on the Lotus Europa (ISBN 095280861) suggests that a total of just under 9000 Europa's were manufactured of which 1580 were normal twin cams and 3130 Specials (Sprint Twin cams). These figures seem to vary according to which reference book you read and I suspect Lotus were "less than careful" in recording production numbers!

My old Lotus Europa TC (Kermit), was built and registered in 1971, the "how many left" database shows a total of 5(those manufactured in 1971) licensed and 2 SORN (in 2013). But taking all the Europa variants into account e.g. S2, TC, Special etc there were 82 registered or on SORN in 2014.

The web site database also breaks down the Lotus Europa into the engine size, combining both li-

censed and SORN together, 16 - 1499cc (Renault engine?), 13 - 1599cc (Lotus TC) and 2 - 1699cc.

Models detailed in the website also include:-

Elan S2, S3, S4, +2,Sprint, Elan SE Turbo, Cortina Mk1 and Mk2, Eclat, Excel and all the Elise models.

Have a look for your Lotus yourself and you may find something of interest although Elise's are listed in thousands!!

But just remember what has been said about statistics: -

"There are three types of lies – lies, dam lies and statistics"

Benjamin Disraeli

Vaughn



**NKLG AGM
March 11th 8.30
At The Plough**