

BLOG June 2013 : by Jerry Filor

After gathering at the gate hangs well we were joined by a gentleman from Thumby with a wallet full of pictures of a Mk II cooper that has been under a tarpaulin in his front garden for a number of years....He has owned the car since 1972 and it has been off the road for a great number of years now and he was after advice about restoration. The photos looked....interesting to say the least ! tin worm had obviously been at work and there was a lot of rot evident in the pictures, but hey....Never say never ! Jon suggested he get in touch with a guy called Paul Preston in Market Harborough who he was in touch with, more on that next month...

4 minis and a Ford Fiesta (blue oval Mini) set off for Markfield, passing previous haunts in the Bradgate Park Area using a number of the twisty backroads. We crossed over Swithland reservoir on eventually ending up at a pub in Markfield and immediately quadrupling their clientele !

Matt B admitted to having a clutch problem, that is, he was unable to change gear as the slave cylinder was leaking. I realised this was why I was able to keep up with him, and not my demon driving..... He also said that with Clive's help his Micra Engine conversion project is now back on ! the front subframe has been mocked up and is near completion, when it will be prepared for a dry fit of the engine.

Matt S, with the BMW K1100 head conversion is hoping to have his clubman estate project in paint this year, so he can then start constructing the mechanical bits over the winter. The plan is to have it ready for IMM 2014 (August) in Kent.

Clive is hoping to get his Rover K series 16v project finished very soon. He is currently carless, so it will be pushed into service as his daily driver and no doubt be receiving "ongoing"

development. The original plan was to have it ready for MiTP.....last year ! he's only 1 year out and getting very close to that deadline. Who knows, maybe we will see it in Rutland for next months meet.....

For the more senior (in age) members of the club, a barn find Radford Mini Cooper from 1965, with a connection to the Beatles manager Brain Epstein, went under the hammer recently at Coys. It was expected to reach between £ 15 – 20,000. The Auction was being held on the 29th June, so I'll be interested to see what it went for !

Jon spent the weekend of 21 – 22nd June at the Brands Hatch Mini Festival watching the racing.



In total there was 17 individual races catering for Mini's only.....Full grids and close racing

made it a worthwhile trip. Celebrity Chef James Martin and AC / DC Front Man Brian Johnson made appearance in the pre-66 Anglo – French Cup rounds, which saw a field of 32 pre-66 Mini Coopers and Cooper S from the UK, France, Holland and Germany



take to the track.....a truly epic site ! It was said that the pre-66 cars (on cross-ply tires) were only lapping an average of 5mph less than the full on 140 BHP Mini Miglias...who run slick tires !

More photos can be seen in the gallery pages of the website.

WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS



Good weather brought the crowds out at Ashby Folville on June 11th. My daughter and I met up with a few Mini Club members, both old and new and she was also reacquainted with her old red mini Shaun, which has gone from its former (patchy) red, to hand sprayed dark blue to its latest incarnation of hand painted light blue in wilkinsons gloss paint ! "nice".....

Of the other exotica to grace the cricket pitch was a Z-cars conversion mini with a Volvo 2lt turbocharged T4 engine in the back, as well as the usual mix of rat look hot rods, bikes and scooters. James "Chalkie" mini was in attendance with some interesting graphics being drawn on during the evening.

Some of the people involved with the organisation of the regular event are hinting that some residents were not too happy with the gathering and were working to get it stopped...so watch this space !

Via our facebook page, we had an invite to attend the Derbyshire Classic Mini Owners club Peaks Ponder on Sunday 22nd June. This was postponed and has been rescheduled for August 25th (over the bank holiday). This will be the second year that the club has run the event, following the success of last year (which Jon attended). This year a different route set round the peaks of Derbyshire is being planned and also the introduction of £5 per car, which is good value for money for a day touring the peak district ! Check out the facebook page or google DCMOC peaks ponder for more details.

SOCIAL BIT

Thursday July 25th : Club Night : Rutland Water : Meeting at the GHW, depart @ 7.30pm. Melton posse to meet en-route at Wilton Road car park opposite the burnt out Kettleby Cross @ 19.50pm. Depart @ 8pm

27th / 28th July : Shelsey Walsh Hill Climb : Mini Cooper register / DEWS series

11th August : Mini in the Park : Sunday admission £15 on the day or Saturday evening pre-show party and camping + £10

15th September : Stanford Hall Mini Show

28th – 29th September : Sywell Props and Pistons.



JERRY'S MOTORSPORT MAYHEM

The results from the 4th June Autosolo had me finishing 14th in Class A, out of 19 starters and 20th overall, out of 32 starters from the 3 classes taking part. I thought it was a pretty reasonable start for me, who had never done anything like this before ! I was however sure that there was more to come as I hone my car craft....The next event is on July 2nd, so with navigator in tow (Jon) once again we'll see what happens this time ! more to report next month.....