

BLOG April 2012 : Guest Writer Jon Clapp

Very low attendance this month, with a total of 2 minis and 1 Nissan Qashqai making the short run from Melton to the final destination of Cottesmore. There is obviously a lot of "project action" going on, so there should be a lot to chat about in forthcoming meets !

A quick blast from Melton, through Whissendine (past the Windmill), Ashwell (keeping clear of the prison) and on to the pub at Cottesmore !

Clive gave us the lowdown on progress on Cyril, his K series project....which is slow going but definitely starting to take shape. Current technical challenges are mounting the radiator in a suitable position and getting a work clutch ! Other than that, he has started it and driven, without the aid of brakes, a few meters in it to move it off the drive.....the Miglia exhaust sounds awesome by all accounts.

Clive attended the recent Mighty Mini racing at Donington, which saw the local circuit host Mighty Mini's, Super Mighty Mini's, Miglias and Sevens all on the one card ! This doesn't happen very often (because apparently the 2 different race series' organisers "don't get on", which is a shame because I'm sure attendance would be much improved). One of the support races was equally entertaining....Smart cars ! Not the roadster or 4 door versions, but the 2 door city wagons !

Other highlights of the day included some celebrity spotting in the pits...courtesy of Kelvin Fletcher A.K.A Andy Sugden from ITV's Emmerdale (just in case you didn't know who he was....CLIVE !). Apparently Kelvin is becoming quite the established racer in his debut season, taking pole position in his first

race at Oulton Park and also the fastest lap. Donginton saw him finish rounding out the top 10. Clives friend, Ade Tuckley finished 2nd !

A warm welcome and hello goes to Matt Baylis on his second club visit.....Matt bought his Red Mini at Bingley Hall in January. It's a standard 998 with stripped interior sporting Cobra bucket seats and stealthy Black 10" minilights. There are plans for more modifications as and when the budget allows !

Neil said he hasn't moved the van in almost 2 years....and is tempted to get it back on the road later this year ! even if it is to sell it.....

One of the reason it hasn't moved is its secondary use as a storage device....tucked up in the garage and then FILLED with stuff ! Lets hope we see it again soon....

Chris hasn't quite got the Matchbox special back on the road for summer yet....he's got a few bits to iron out and sorting the electronic dizzy once more....Hopefully it'll be out for the next meet.

It was the first Ashby Folville (2nd Tuesday of the Month) this month...with a varied (but largely modern) range of cars on offer. Clive went and said the highlight was probably a Peugeot 205, sporting an EVO engine pushing 600 bhp ! There doesn't seem to be the mix of proper classics anymore....just the modified scene and the latest sports bikes....although it is another excuse to go to the pub and have a beer ;-)

SOCIAL BIT

31st May : Club Night : Foxton Locks : Club run starting from The Gate Hangs Well 7.20pm for depart @ 7.30pm. Volunteers for routing.....

28th June : Club Night : Mystery Club run : The Gate Hangs Well 7.20pm for depart @ 7.30pm. A magical mystery tour of the county.....

3rd July : Gaydon Mini Festival : Advanced Entry fee is £8 per car for mini drivers (so cram in as many people as you can). On the day it rises to

29th July : Crich Mini Day, a lovely setting and one that a number of members have attended over the last few years. Applications for free entry for car, driver and up to 1 passenger to Jerry (registration of car and named driver to jfilor@talktalk.net). This year BMW minis will NOT be admitted to the "show area" as a change to the event format, so it will be classics only ! www.tramway.co.uk.

A.O.B

Suggestion to either change the club night, to a Wednesday for example ? or add a weekend meeting mid month (Sunday afternoon ?) in the summer....to try and boost attendance !