

BLOG 27th August 2009 : Written by Jerry Filor

5th July – Gaydon : Our little convoy of 4 Minis



+ Neil and Family in a Ford Focus, set off in Glorious weather for this lovely venue. The Gaydon Motor Heritage Centre is an

excellent museum of all things motoring and this year has a special 50 years of Mini Display. Other specialties on offer are 3 of the



Works Mini Monte Carlo Winners (EJB 33 being the most famous, driven by Paddy Hopkirk – who I've met !). The museum houses

all manner of BMC, Austin and Rover one-offs, such as 6 or so Mini derivatives that never made it to production.



Gary took part in the Heritage Run, which started out from Longbridge and took a leisurely route to Gaydon where it took centre stage at the show.

7 / 8 / 9th August – IMM 2009 Cofton Park, Longbridge (Birmingham). The day started well (for some of us) with a good run to Leicester Forest East services where Jon and I met Simon and eventually Katie. Already Katie had had problems with her bonnet release on the motorway, but this was fixed at the services with a liberal spray of good old WD40 ! The

convoy (now consisting 4 cars) then resumed for the next rendezvous in Coventry and the meeting point for Jon's Dad. Then it was off to Longbridge !



Unfortunately we made the usual mistake of having the 2 cars with SatNav now at the front, so when traffic lights separated us I was

stuffed ! Not panicking too much and using my trusty map book (which I had given to Katie) I then dutifully followed her as she navigated back up the motorway to the eventual venue at Cofton Park.

When we arrived, we joined a queue, then another, then decided to go up to the top entrance at the highest point of the park where a Mini vista unfolded with Minis and flags as far as the eye could see, as well as our club members busily setting up camp !

Thousands of Minis, no 2 the same...the current Minimagazine cover car (Riley Elf) next to "the Beast", a V8 engined Van with the biggest rear wheels I have ever seen on a Mini Van...



WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

Just across the field, at the French BMC Auto camp was the specially made "Shorting Break" saloon with rear opening doors, again a recent magazine cover star...it was quite amazing how close you could get to these cars....



Great fun was had driving up and down the hill, flag waving or just looking at the different mini derivatives and colour combinations.

The Club Gazebo was great as a sunshade and a chill out area after the walk back up the hill after a heavy morning scouring the stalls or inspecting other owners masterpieces.



Then there were the special exhibits down in the main square, the Magazine staff cars you read about every month, the Chrome David



Bowie inspired saloon that Katie and I saw at the NEC a number of years ago along with the original Stripy Paul Smith Mini. Katie thought there

were more (a cobweb design and clock inspiration !?!) but I'd forgotten. Of my own favorites was the Wild Goose camper, with only an 850cc engine to lug it about I am sure it would not be an exhilarating ride !

Mini Magazine hosted the Mini Hall of fame which housed some of the most significant completion minis and also 621 AOK and the last Cooper Sport 500 off the line.

The weather was glorious after an indifferent summer. Mini owners had come from Scandinavia, Northern, Eastern and Western Europe not to mention Russia, Australia and the USA...With prices in £ Sterling, Euro and Yen, you certainly knew you were at an International Event !

On the Sunday morning Longbrige Gate Q car park was filled with Minis preparing for a Crewes Missiles led convoy into the Centre of Birmingham. Our 5 cars were near the front and lined up at our destination outside the REP theatre. We found a nice chill out area overlooking the canal (Brindley Place) where 5 sections meet and had lunch, then walked down into Birmingham Bull Ring via a myriad of shops.



16th August – Mini in the Park, Santa Pad Raceway : Quite a few club members went to the Sunday only Mini in the Park. This show, like the Mini Showdown at Avon Park Raceway earlier in the year, has lots of trade stands, a static show and also the attraction of drag Racing throughout the day ! It is obviously not going to follow the IMM next year so hopefully we can order a club stand. We have to think about this one early as they only do it for clubs with money up front. That is, if it is organized by the same people next year.....

27th August – Club Meeting – Foxton Locks : A good turn out of 10 Minis (soon becoming the magic number), plus Chris riding shotgun, James G (currently in between minis) and Clive joining us later on arrival. Paul and Callum through the backroads of Barkby, Keyham and across the A47 and onto Foxton using a “Tulip” style rally note book....(very professional). On arrival we were ushered into “The Boat House” where we had our own bar and could spread ourselves out.

The problem is, when we spread our it becomes a bit difficult to hear all of the conversations going on. Here is a selection I hope ! :

Glynn, well known minder of his son Ryan’s Mini, has had the roof re-sprayed black at a cost of £130. I must say I prefer **Red** with **Black** as opposed to the traditional white roof combo...

There was much discussion about the Syston Carnival, which takes place on the 5th September. Jeanette volunteered to co-ordinate balloons and stuff to decorate our minis emphasizing the 50th Anniversary this year.

Carl had a smokey experience on the way to Mini in the Park. It wasn’t serious, fortunately, as he made it there and back home again !

And now to.....the Social Bit

Firstly, **Congratulations**, to Simon and Jeanette, who tied the knot on August 22nd 2009. A day I am sure they wont forget....

I apologise for not welcoming Malcolm Merrifield who found us via the website and initially met up with us at Gaydon and also came to the Griffin Inn at Swithland with his Nightfire Red Cooper Sportspack. An unusual colour for a cooper, you certainly don’t see many also sporting a full length Webasto sunroof, which he managed to leave open to drive home from Foxton Locks !

The most popular show if the year, Stanford Hall, near Lutterworth takes place on Sunday 13th September. A club stand has been booked with space for 15 cars, so there should be enough room for cars and Gazebo and lest hope we get a bumper crop ! IN the past meeting has been at the Midland for 8.00am with prompt departure for 8.30am. Entry to the show is £11 per car.

Next Club Meeting September 24th – Run to Cropston reservoir (pub TBC). Meet at the Midland for 7.20pm for 7.30 departure....