

BLOG July 2010 : Written by Jerry Filor

The story so far, just in case I forget !

1st July 2010 – Ace Cafe

Myself, Jon and Clive as co-driver and emergency mechanic, attended the Mod and Mini evening at the Ace Cafe, off the North Circular Road in London. Setting off at 2pm, we arrived at a little under 5pm (4.45 to be precise – Jon), and ordered food.....which consisted of a rather splendid “Truckers fry up”, completely calorie free obviously....When we arrived, we were the third and fourth Minis there



and so had prime parking positions in front of the cafe frontage,

we then waited as the rest of London and south west’s minis arrived. As always there were also a selection of motorbikes (from more modern machinery to period cafe racers) to look at, with the obligatory Scooter boys turning up later on to make it truly “mod” and mini night.

Minis of all engine types and modifications were present, from bog standard A series through to full on bike engined exotica.

Stand outs for me were the fit and finish of a blue mini featured in pictures for both Miniworld and Minimagazine from the 2010 London to Brighton Run.



Finished a few days before the run, Dougie

McColm owns the resplendent blue machine which sports a Vauxhall XE engine producing 220 bhp. It really is a work of art, and the pictures (either below taken by Jon, or in the magazines) don’t really do it justice. Interesting features include the custom Carbon Fibre bonnet (that has the rocker cover jutting out of



it....), dashboard and gear selector housing as well as the lightweight Carbon Fibre seats with the thinnest bits of padding possible

to keep weight down.....these looked lovely but on a long journey I am sure a standard Mayfair seat might look more inviting....It would however been nice to give it a try !

During the evening an R1 bike engined mini roared into the car park, clicked into reverse to park silently on its electric motor. It set me wondering if anyone had ever been knocked over by a silently reversing mini ?!?!?

Another car of particular note, that seems to have cropped up in every magazine I have opened since...was a Riley Elf (or possible Hornet) that was decked up as a NY Taxi. Jon mentioned that




he saw it 2 years ago at Beulieu, but we both agreed, the photos in the magazines flatter this car,

as up close it is starting to show the all too familiar “rust in the usual places” that can be found on a mini and it’s derivatives....

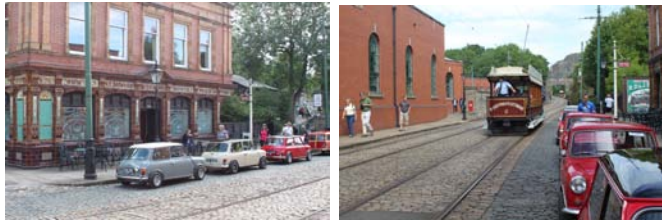
Finally leaving the Ace at roughly 8ish the North Circular and M1 were less busy than our downward journey and we managed to shave 30 minutes off the homeward leg, even with a pit stop for fuel ! If you get the chance to go to Ace it is worthwhile, more so in the summer months where evening light is a bonus !

25th July 2010 - Crich Tramway Museum Mini Day

 Simon Snow and family, Katie and Rich, Jon and Mark, myself and Robin and his girls with trailer (later on) made the short hop to rural Derbyshire for what is probably one of the more relaxed mini gatherings on the calendar. I think I can speak for us all by saying that we had a good day at the museum (which was free courtesy of 6 free tickets + passengers.....and a club stand).





Nice weather, warm but not roasting and lots of minis to look at was the order of the day !




Trams rides (which are also free once in the grounds of the Museum) are always a laugh and Ice creams were essential eating, given that it was still summer ! We missed out on the first of a couple of street parades, but it was nice to watch other people enjoying themselves on the cobbled streets of the museum.

29th July 2010 : Club Night – Griffin Inn, Swithland.

 disappointing 3 classic minis (only the hardcore.....) on the road for this club night. Neil's van is currently off the road, missing all 3 of it's tickets....MOT, Tax and Insurance.....Gary despondently now has none of his 3 mini's available and tuned up in a German people carrier ?! Chris is hoping to have the Matchbox special back in one piece very soon (at least in time to give it a good shakedown for IMM.....it's not long now – about 9 months actually....) and both James G and H have their cars in pieces in and around the midlands waiting for re-building.

 James H had pictures of his prepared engine, ready for reinstallation into his body shell which has been re-panelled by some of the members of The Mini Forum. Apparently it has been moved around the midlands between premises for welding and now the final stages of spraying preparation and it's new top coats. Fingers crossed it is received soon to allow reassembly to start !

 James G is in a similar position with his kit of parts.....but is still assembling the ancillaries, upgrading the brakes (to 6 pot callipers) and suspension. This is proving costly and delaying his project completion of a V-tec'ed Clubman.

As both James' are still after bits and pieces they said that they will probably be going to Mini in The Park on 15th August at Santa Pod.

Other news...Gary has purchased a very nice set of Cream Leather Seats from Jon. These were "approved" by Charlotte for her impending mini creation and should sit nicely in the Pink surrounding also planned.

WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

Someone at work has a wood rim steering wheel from an old mini, probably a mounthey – not a Speedwell or Springalex (that was for Jon....)

SOCIAL BIT :

15th August : Mini in the Park, Santa Pod raceway.

25th August : Club Night – Foxton Locks, meet at the Midland 7.20pm for 7.30pm departure.

Crich Gallery



Ace café Gallery



More photos available on Jon's Flickr page :

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/38287160@N06/>