

BLOG July 2012 : by Jon Clapp

A good turnout of minis this month with a convoy of 7 minis, and a further Peugeot 205, VW beetle and Mini meeting at the final destination of The Grainstore public house in Oakham.

A modest pace was set as the collection of Mini's left Melton, only to be slowed by a rolling roadblock (Combine harvester) entering Langham and lasting all the way until the Oakham bypass.....

Rutland water was tackled in the Anti-clockwise direction this season and took a spirited drive through Manton, onto Edith Weston, Empingham and Whitwell before heading back to Oakham and the Grainstore !

Matt (The van) Slator decided the pace was a little too pedestrian for his taste so took up a short cut and edged into the lead car position for the Empingham to Oakham leg....he just wanted to stretch the legs on his Turbo, that's all !



I can now formally say a club Welcome to Lee Cashmore (although he probably doesn't ANYmore.....now that he owns a mini !), driver of the Decepticon Blue Turbo'd mini of last month. Lee's ultimate plans are to starting stripping bits off it to get it as light as possible for an attack on the ¼ mile ! He's hoping to go to MITP for the "benchmark" run with the car in

it's current guise before the real modifications take place !

Lee's car has some very thought provoking aspects....like why the previous owner decided to put such a nice array of gauges in positions that you can't actually see them when sat behind the wheel..... useful ! There are few changes needed here, especially for a line-of sight for the boost gauge ;-)



The car was an e-bay purchase with good engine credentials....so a good starting point and we look forward to seeing it transform over the coming months !

James G turned up in an interesting mini....or was it a mobile chalkboard ?!?!

It was difficult not to know that James was coming....the exhaust note from the twin cherry bomb system that was on it was VERY loud, to say the least. He was even managing to spit flames from the back on lift off overrun!



WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

I was lucky enough to be invited to the Derbyshire Classic Mini Owners Club inaugural "Peaks Ponder" which took place on Sunday 22nd July.



The route (and convoy of 27 classic minis) started at Tansley in the Peak District (surprise surprise...), before heading on to Matlock Bath, Bakewell, the Ladybower reservoir and onto the Snake Pass..... from there it was through Glossop before heading back towards Buxton, Matlock Bath (again) and Tansley. The run was 85 miles in total and was excellent !

The weather was superb, which only added to the experience, and the Snake Pass was a very rewarding drive. The Peaks Ponder was the first touring event that I have done, and I would certainly recommend it for next year ! static shows are good....but driving in convoy is what they were made for. The reaction through the towns and villages was very entertaining as people stopped to stare, wave and generally admire the cars in a line !

9 or so Club members from Mini's and Oatcakes (Staffordshire) also attended, which made for a good mix of cars. I was (quite literally) the lone wanderer for the day ! Thanks must go to DCmoc for the invite ! We should definitely get this one on our calendar for next year.

My pictures available on my flickr feed :

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/38287160@N06/sets/72157630696924192/>



SOCIAL BIT

30th August : Club Night : Vale of Belvoir : The Gate Hangs Well 7.20pm for depart @ 7.30pm. Melton posse to meet en-route at Wilton Road car park opposite the Kettleby Cross @ 7.50pm

4th September : Minifest 2012 : Uttoxeter Race Course

9th September : Stanford Hall : Club stand booked for up to 12 cars. Jerry is organising the Mini Cooper Register stand again...

Rutland Water Runners



Jerry should be returning to pen the Blog next month, with the hope of a new column !

.....Jerry's Motorsport Mayhem (an insiders guide to grass roots motorsport ☺).

Cheers

Jon