

The weather forecast said it was going to be a hot day, (some hopes!! It was only April). But they did get it right. The meeting place was Dearne Valley Farm, Hoyland.

24 cars arrived, cars gleaming, people in shorts and sun tops. After a hearty breakfast and a drink, they continued on their way. At 10.20am the convoy of cars passed Trevor and myself at Ravenfield, we joined making it 25 cars.

Wonkey Donkey

How come when you think you have got another half hour longer in bed, you are wide awake waiting for the alarm to go off? That was us.

It was a good run. Managing to keep together, it must have been a great sight, people watching 25 gleaming MX5s going past. We made it on time to The Hayfield Fishing & Shooting Lodge. What a beautiful place. It even made me feel like taking up fishing. Plenty of fishermen dotted around the lake. A lovely cafe, providing drinks and great big chunks of cake with cream.

Back on the road again, instructions went a bit wrong. We found that nine cars at the back had got split up from the front convoy. Now we had a new leader, Marguerite and Roy (newby at leading) they did a brilliant job. In Asken, Peter and Shanie took over putting the postcode in their Sat Nav for The Wonkey Donkey Sanctuary (they were also newby at leading). Well done you two.

Panic over, we were soon at our destination. It was now 20 deg. The Wonkey Donkey visitors centre was just how Burton & Lesley had described it to us. A lovely cafe making home made cakes, chip or sausage butties. The staff were lovely, friendly and very passionate about the care of the donkeys and telling us how the donkeys had suffered at the hands of their owners. Rosie was a sweet new born, and very content with her mum. A DONKEY like most animals only needs LOVE and CARE. They certainly received it here.

Our time had come to an end. It had been a very peaceful afternoon, some of the group said their goodbye. Others carried on to Eggborough Power Station where Burton & Lesley had arranged for all to enjoy an evening meal.

It was an end to another perfect day. I would like to know where do you get all your ideas from? Thank you B&L from us all, another HOT and enjoyable day.

Eileen

MX 5 Fashion guru Marie strikes again. She just can't help herself. Poor Andy.



A well behaved bunch of animals



An evening with Rodders

Paul Roddinson of Roddinson Motorsport recently held a tech evening for P & P members.

The event was arranged to explain in simple terms how the inner parts of the MX5 Mk3 engine functioned, and how different components suffered when insufficient or poor quality oil was in the engine.

Here's what some of the members had to say.

Keep checking the forum for the date of the next Tech Evening.

"...a thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening evening"



"Many thanks to Paul for giving up his time to talk through his strip down of a 'dead' mk3 engine and for sharing his knowledge & insights into why it died, along with what we should all be doing to prevent our own engines suffering a similar fate."



"For anyone who didn't attend - the answer is basically good maintenance - make sure engine oil is changed regularly & use good quality oil"



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June 2017

MX-5 alive

From the drivers seat...

Six months into 2017 and a lot has been achieved, every month we have had at least one run, two over-nighters have been organised, a motorsport event, and a tech night followed by an excellent buffet curry night.

My thanks to everyone who has taken part in these events to make them the success they were. Thanks also go to the members who have sent articles and photos into Soft Top Hard Top and to our newsletter editor Humpty, incidentally it is now two years since he took over editing the newsletter.

Lesley and I have just got back from trialling a run to The Churnet Valley Area. We both really enjoy seeking out new venues to visit and plotting an interesting route to them, there is so much to discover virtually on your doorstep! Watch the Peaks and Pennines web site for further details for this and other runs.

On the way back we called in to see Mark at The Queens Head, the pub we used to meet at. We are pleased to report that he

looked well, unfortunately good health is not with him, and he is waiting to go back into hospital for more operations. He sent his regards and best wishes to the members who used to attend the meetings at the Queens Head. He was pleased to hear that the scampi and mixed grills at the new venue were not as good as his!! I hope that the club will be able to call into see him for a pizza and a pint one night during the summer.

Safe driving

Burton and Lesley

PS. A few days after our 'Hot after Roddison' evening tech meeting a former member visited Paul with a rattling Mk3, the problem was, surprise, surprise, lack of oil!!

He will soon be the proud owner of the engine Paul stripped down now it has been reconditioned, perhaps if he had remained a member of the club he would have heeded my warnings in the last newsletter and his bank balance would not have been reduced!!

Paul has kindly agreed to host another Tuesday night meeting during the summer, when he will talk about what to look for when buying a second hand Mk3 and show how it should be serviced, on a lucky members car.



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A rather good welsh weekend away

We started the weekend by all meeting up at the Hassop Station Cafe for a 9.30 depart. We had an early start from Huddersfield but it was roof down all the way.

Over 25 cars set-off on time (ish) and we headed off to Ashford in the Water, then to Buxton and on to Congleton. A quick blast down the M6 and then on to Bridgemere Garden World for a quick stop. From there we passed through Audlem, Burleydam, Broughall to the outskirts of Whitchurch. Next it was on towards Wrexham and then turning off to Penley, passing through Overton and then just before we got to Ruabon we headed to Llangollen.

Time for a slight detour. The Horeshoe Pass. A great bendy road.

After giving it some up the 'Pass' the customary stop was due to be The Ponderosa cafe at the top. However as this was the first sight of sun for most of the UK, it seemed like every car and bike enthusiast was out and had the same idea we had. So it was in to the car park - and then out again. The general consensus was to head to the hotel in Llangollen and go for beer. So it was back down the 'Pass' to the hotel.

The hotel was a great choice, clean, helpful staff and a big bar. Everyone checked in and then met in the bar (you can see the theme emerging). After a drink (or two) we did our own thing. Making the most of the sunshine a few of us walked into town and unsurprisingly found a pub by the river in the sun. After one or two or was it three drinks we headed back to the hotel.

We all met up later for a great evening meal in the hotel and then we all ended up in the bar. A very social way to get to know everyone who came on the trip. Not sure what time the last bods left the bar!

Sunday morning we were all up for brekkies (one or two people suffering from the night before...no one shall be shamed (yet..). And surprisingly no one slept in despite the clocks going forward.

Day two

10.00 am we were off and Trevor had planned another stunning route. We headed off towards Corwen and then towards Llandrillo, we then picked up what Trevor described as 'the bendy road for seven miles' - it was fab. At the end we turned round in a small car park (to the strange looks of the locals) and went back on it again. Great scenery and great roads and of course all driven within the speed limit (ish).

After that it was onto Bala and then skirting round the edge of Afon Tryweryn Lake and then onto Bleaenau Ffestiniog and then Betwys-y-Coed. The road to Bleaenau was another cracker! Miles of sweeping bends and great opportunities to open the throttle and really enjoy our cars.

We all parked up at Betwys-y-Coed for an hour or so and had a wander. After a team photo shoot some of our colleagues headed for home. For the rest of us it was onto Capel Curig and then another great drive over Mount Snowdon. Amazing views and scenery. The end of the day would be Llandudno and the kite flying!

It took a bit longer than anticipated to get to Llandudno due to the roadworks around the Conwy Tunnel. Add to this other people wanting to get a bit of Vitamin D by the seaside then it was quite busy. Well actually a solid traffic jam. Eventually (and miraculously) we did manage to meet on West Parade.



The sight of a lot of mature adults trying to unpack, assemble and launch kites is quite a sight (as the pictures show). The slight disagreements amongst couples. 'That doesn't go in there' 'That's the wrong way round' and 'well you do it then' could be heard. Eventually and after much tugging of strings and running along the beach-front some of the kites got airborne - for a bit.

Before it got violent Sharon and I had to head off back to Huddersfield - and as it happened straight back into the traffic jam to get out of Llandudno and back to Huddersfield. It took a few hours.

Assuming those of you who stayed over at the hotel for another night got back in one piece. The question is did the kites?

It was a brilliant weekend. Trevor and Trish you did an amazing job and I'm sure I speak for all of us who went. Thanks for organising it.

And hats off to you Wales. You might have a very strange language and words that look like you've made them up out of left over Scrabble tiles - but the views have been stunning and you have some of the best driving roads!

Humpty

PS A big thank you to all of you who sent me pics. from the weekend. Sorry if I haven't used yours in this newsletter. But please keep sending!



A BLOKE'S GUIDE ON HOW TO FLY A KITE

Step 1. Assembly

Take out of packaging. Throw instructions away. Ensure you involve your partner. If nothing else they can do a lot of pointing and you can let them think they know best.



Step 2. Prepare to launch

Make sure to bend your knees. Ask your partner to hold the kite up making sure their handbag doesn't get tangled. If the kite doesn't take off you can blame them for not throwing properly.



Step 3. Run

If you've been let down - then you've only one option. Run!



Monthly meeting

We meet at the The Rockingham Arms, 8 Main St, Wentworth, Rotherham S62 7TL

We'll be alternating the meetings between the first Wednesday and Thursday of every month. Please keep checking the forum for any last minute changes.

We'll start around 8:15 when everybody has finished eating. We'd love to see you there and you'll be made very welcome!