



From the driving seat

We have been lucky with the weather so far this year. We had our tops down for our trip to The Wilberforce Museum in January, the trip around Derbyshire in February, finishing with a bar meal after the afternoons bowling, and latterly our trip to Quarry Bank Mill.

Our thanks to Eileen, our roving reporter for her write-ups.

Quarry Bank Mill, I was going to say it is a little gem, but it's a surprisingly large site, with many interesting exhibits and objects.

I particularly enjoyed the guided tour around the apprentices house, were not conditions and punishments hard in those days? A month without wages for breaking a window, two months for stealing apples, I dread to think what the penalty would be for throwing stones at the houses cat!!

We stumbled across Quarry Bank Mill on route to Manchester Airport, I wonder how many members have passed the sign without giving it further thought, on route to sunnier climes?

If you spot somewhere you think would be worth a visit, please let me know, I will either assist you in planning the day or lead the run. *Burton*

Bowling along in a MX-5



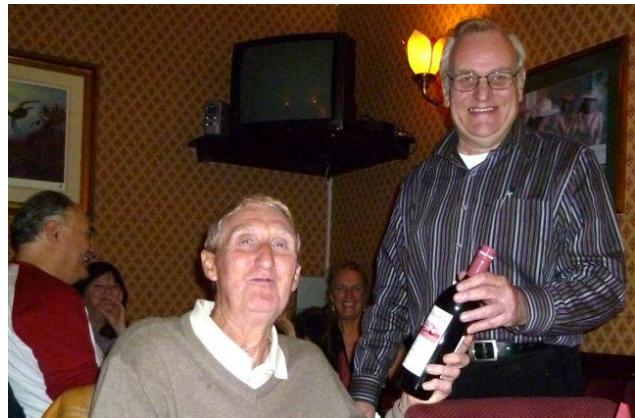
You must be fed up with me saying what a great day we all had. But I can only speak the truth. It was the most perfect day, according to the gang. Eight cars met at Fox House, it was a very cool day, but the sky was blue and the sun shining. Tops down, we set off on our mystery run with Burton and Lesley leading, heading to Flagg for bacon butty. Passing through Chatsworth, Bakewell, Monyash, and Sheldon. We got a few waves and good mornings from people out walking enjoying the lovely weather. Driving in places had to be taken very slowly, frozen roads and black ice made it a bit dodgy in places. Flagg was a welcome stop, bacon butties, toasted tea cakes, hot chocolate, and a great pot of tea, what more could we have asked for.

Fed and watered we headed off to Chesterfield, passing through Middleton, Gratton, Elton, Darley Dale, villages that we hadn't even heard of. Our thanks to Burton and Lesley, the scenery was breathtaking, the lanes just made for MX-5. The next destination, Chesterfield Bowling Alley for another bit of FUN.

We were very lucky to have a brand new MX-5 Venture waiting for us in the car park, brought by club member Richard Newton from GK Mazda.



We all had a good look at this great new model. We all enjoyed the two games Trevor had booked. A bit of cheating with keeping the bumpers UP. (but what the heck) congratulations to Sally (224) and Bob (254)



for being the winners. Sally gave her wine to the lady in second place and that was Patricia (206)

Well done to you all. We may not be allowed to go back to the bowling alley with all the noise we made. The day hadn't finished, Burton and Lesley found a great place for us all to eat, three miles from the alley to the North East Derbyshire Snooker Centre. Everybody enjoyed their meal. A great finish to a 'PERFIC' day. Thanks ones again to Burton & Lesley for the great run, and thanks to Trevor for organising the ten pin bowling. I am so glad it was the perfect day. It was the last run for Tin Top. I hope she gives her new owner as much pleasure as she has given both of us.

Eileen



DOWN AT THE MILL

All meeting at Whirlow Brook Park,



First we did a tour round the three acre garden with our guide, Caroline.



then taking the scenic route through Fox House down into Hathersage, next Winnats Pass, past Speedwell Cavern, the weather was perfect, making it very busy with bikers, and walkers. Once we got nearer to Manchester, we lost the sun in Whaley Bridge, still passing through pretty villages and fields full of sheep. It was a lovely run eventually reaching our destination.

A lot of work had been done to improve the gardens,



fir trees cut down, dry stone walls had been built, and hundreds of plants had been planted.



Quarry Bank Mill in Styal Country Park one of the most important industrial heritage sites in the world.

Next we walked up to the Apprentice House,



(Is that Tin Top doing his John Travolta impersonation?)

to find out how some of the poorer (9 years to 13 years) lived and worked. They had to do a 13 hour shift, not getting a wage, but they did get clothed fed, watered, and even given an education.

Last but not least we entered the mill.



Our guide showed us how the cotton was spun, and how it was woven on looms.



The mill has the largest water wheel in Europe and lots of hands on exhibits. Many workers went deaf with the horrendous noise from the looms.

We had a great day,

It would be a great idea to return when all the trees and flowers are blooming in the gardens.



Once again Burton & Lesley have given eleven cars and their owners a great day out.

Thanks once again.

EILEEN

PEAKS and PENNINES – TAKING THE LONG WAY HOME...