

From the drivers seat...

I did not expect a good turnout for our August Social Meeting as it was bang in the middle of the holiday season!

I was pleasantly surprised when the room was full, with three members standing by the door. I think all present enjoyed the proceedings, with many comments and anecdotes by the members.

Talking to members from other areas recently at the Silverstone Classic, it would appear that the Peaks and Pennines Area is one of the most active areas within the club, the social meetings and Sunday (and Saturday) runs are well attended, members regularly display their cars at shows, winning many prizes, some of the most competitive racing drivers come from this area. TEK nights followed by a Buffet Curry are arranged several times a year.

Our own newsletter is second-to-none, connected with this, our editor Humpty mentioned at the last meeting that he wants to introduce the long standing members to the newer members by way of a short write up along with a photo. Steven & Janette (were) volunteered, see the feature elsewhere in this newsletter. Humpty will be looking for other volunteers at our next meeting, I understand he is using the kings shilling type tactics !! He would also welcome photos taken on our runs or at other meetings.

Looking ahead, the MX5 Owners Clubs 2019 calendar will be compiled shortly, if you have any suitable photos put them into a file, details of where to send them to will be in the next edition of Soft Top Hard Top.

Safe driving
Burton and Lesley



All things steel...

17 cars set off from Dearne Valley Farm bang on time making their way to the first stop of the day, the Wonkey Donkey Sanctuary at Knottingley.

The stop was only for an hour, but if you've not been before it's well worth a visit. They do amazing work rescuing donkeys. We had a catch-up - I managed to splash coffee over Glenn (sorry buddy!).

From there it was on the road to the steel factory. Let's say a few of us took different routes. And hands up I got the SatNav a bit wrong - thanks to Trevor for putting me right. Sorry to the folks following me. I didn't have my usual co-pilot with me.

Not to worry. We eventually arrived at the steel works in good time to board the steam train. Feeling like royalty (ish) we got onto the reserved coach. The British Steel site itself is absolutely huge, it's impossible to imagine what this would have been like in its prime. It is still working and has a huge rail network of its own. It was also interesting seeing the mix of the old and new buildings and technologies. The area in which they make the rail sections is huge - they make these sections in 240m lengths.

Everywhere you look there are slabs of steel stored ready for sending out - we saw some that had just been completed and the heat haze off them was bizarre. They've also got some great fork lift trucks for moving steel around. I think most of us wanted to have a play on them.

Here's a few facts

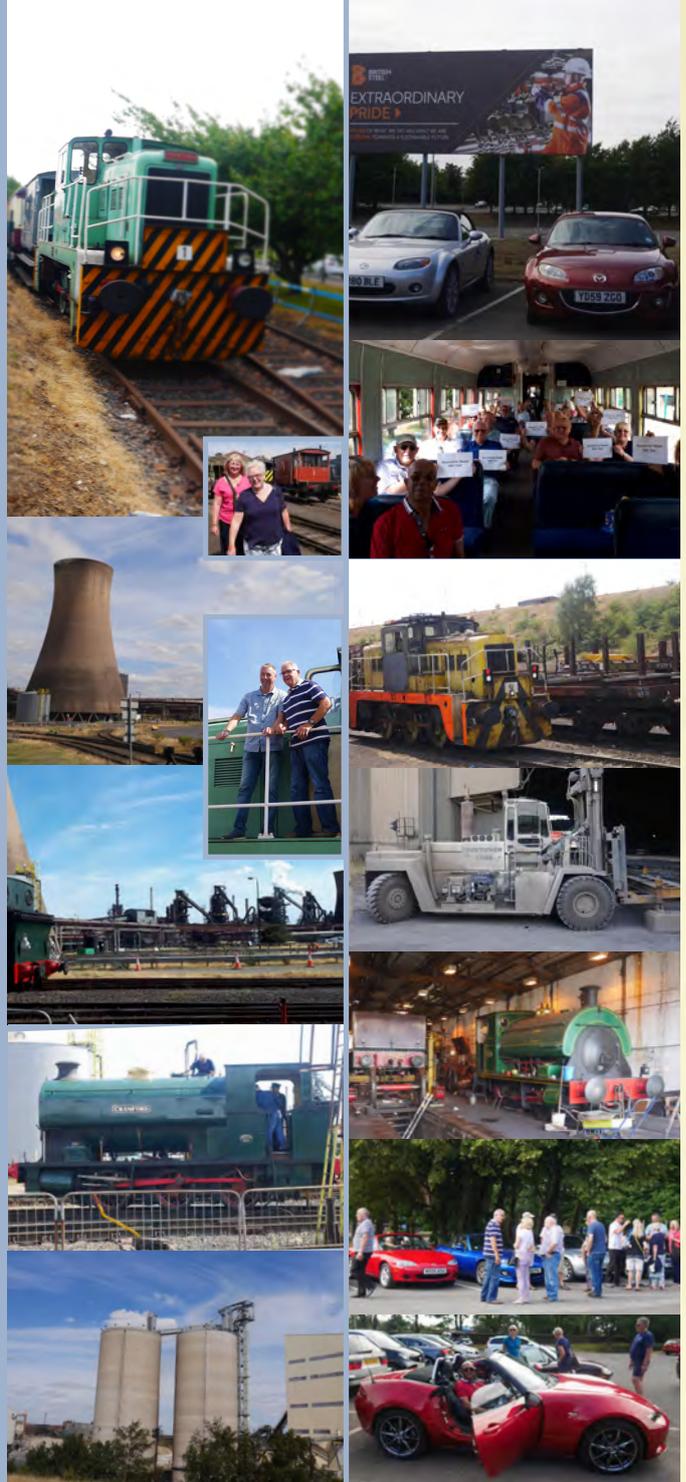
- The steel making area is taller than St Paul's Cathedral apparently
- 3500 people are needed here to keep the plant runs 24/7.
- 3 million tonnes of steel per year are produced from this plant.

That'll come in handy for someone's pub quiz I'm sure.

The trip took around two and half hours including a halfway stop. I have to say this is well worth a visit if you like all things steely. During the halfway stop a few members had a go at driving the engine. Fortunately they weren't taking us back.

At the end of the trip we said our goodbyes and headed for home. Well done Burton & Lesley for finding another interesting venue!

Humpty





Eileen dared me to put a picture of their beloved BMW on the front cover. Obviously I couldn't do that, but I said I would put a picture in somewhere. So here it is in all it's glory...

So what's the difference between an MX5 and a Spider?

Well according to Steve 'white wheels' a spider has eight legs. Paul Roddison did however go into a bit more detail at the recent Tech Night.

Pictures please...

I'm often on the hunt for pics. Don't care how incriminating they are (within reason) or if you want your car on the front page then please send them through. My details are below.

Ta v much. Humpty.



Come and say hello

Come and say hello at the next Peaks and Pennines meet. You might even meet Andy, star of The Full Monty. We meet at the The Rockingham Arms, 8 Main St, Wentworth, Rotherham S62 7TL. Most of them are house trained and don't bite.

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!

Getting to know you, Andy & Marie

Having been married for 31 years on 1st August this year we settled in Hoyland in 2002 after previously living around Yorkshire moving with work. We enjoy live music and holidays. I am Head of Installations for the Moores Furniture Group and Marie is an Administrator for an accountancy company in Barnsley. We have 3 grown up kids Samantha who married Rich last year, James and Jack and all graduated from Sheffield Hallam University.

We've owned MX5's since 2010 and for the first few years as members of the OC we didn't get involved. We sold our first 1990 red Eunos in 2011 as it was beginning to need all the usual work doing then went a year without an MX5 until I spotted one on a certain auction site and decided that's the one, another 1990 red Mk1 but this time uk model.

One wet March Sunday morning we ventured out to a pub on the outskirts of Sheffield to go on our first run with the OC. We had the perception that the OC might be a bunch of "snobs" and we may not fit in. How far from the truth could that be. We were greeted by Burton and Lesley, Nicky and Lawrence, we drove through the Goyt Valley and had a great time.

Since joining the group we've had a really enjoyable time, great drives, great social events and made some friends that we imagine having as part of our lives for ever.

We enjoy the MX5 so much in 2015 we bought a 25th Anniversary Edition as Marie's daily driver. MAZ4193 is number 844 of 1100 in the world. The red Mk1 went in September 2017 through lack of use but I missed having a Mk1 so much I did foster Mike Hall's silver Eunos earlier this year.

Owning the 25AE opened up another world for us too. We joined a group of owners of the 25AE and 21 of us met in the Cotswolds last year for a 2 day driving event and this year 25 of us are meeting in the New forest for 3 days, the cars are all the same colour, Soul Red with a Piano Black roof and create a real spectacle when all driving around together.

The MX5 is a small car with a big personality that attracts attention wherever you go but more important to us it's given us access to so many like minded great people.



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Newsletter

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