



2005 CLUB LOTUS CAMBRIDGESHIRE AREA
NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2005 – we hope you had a good Christmas and New Year.

It would be great to see you at as many club nights and events you can get to, as we have another full calendar for the year, which should, hopefully, have something in it for everyone.

Club Nights 2005

1st Wednesday of the month @ The Crown Inn, Elton, nr Peterborough and start at 8.00/8.30 p.m.

5th January – **NO MEETING**

2nd February – **Confirming details of Newsletter**

2nd March – **“I’ll Show you mine if you show me yours”**. This is an opportunity for members to bring along their Lotus memorabilia (for example Books, Sales Literature, Models, F1 Car Parts (no floor pans allowed – for those of you who attended the Christmas Dinner you will appreciate this exclusion) or anything else which you think your fellow Lotus enthusiasts would find interesting, so please make every effort and dig out all your Lotus “treasures”.

6th April – **Guest Speaker for the evening will be Michael Caine** – who is one of the Directors at the Castle Lotus Dealership based in Stansted Mount Fichet and a TVR works driver. Michael started racing in a VW Scirocco in Road Saloon racing before graduating to Caterhams and was a winner straight away. He won the 1997 750 MC Caterham Championship and the 1998 Caterham K Series Championship. He progressed to TVR Tuscan and kept winning, finishing runner-up in 1999 before taking the title in 2000. He drove for TVR in the British GT Championship in 2001 taking two wins. He gained 169 points in 2002 with his highest place being 2 seconds at Oulton Park, Silverstone & Donington. In amongst working for Castle Lotus and his racing, Michael stills finds the time to own and run a Lotus Cortina. For more detailed information on Michael's racing career check out his website www.michaelcainemotorsport.co.uk

4th May – **Guest Speaker for the evening will be Chris Dinnage** (rescheduled from March due to a broken leg) - who is the Team Manager of Classic Team Lotus and has been worked for Lotus since 1987 when he engineered Ayrton Senna's Camel liveried Lotus-Honda turbo type 99T. He was also Ayrton's number one mechanic during this time. The last time Chris was our Guest Speaker he was the Manager for the Lotus Elise Motorsport Team. For more information about Classic Team Lotus, check out their website at www.classicteamlotus.co.uk

1st June – **“Drive it like you’ve stolen it”** – Your chance to play Grand Tourismo – Lotus Style.

6th July – **BBQ at The Crown Inn** – Hopefully the weather will be kinder this year, so we can sit outside and poor Tony doesn’t get wet or cold.

3rd August – If the weather is nice, a chance to sit outside, have a drink, chat and admire the cars – all parked around the Green.

7th September – **Formula One Quiz**

5th October – **Scalextric Night**

2nd November – **Guest Speaker for the evening will be Guy Munday** from Lotus Stratton Motors, Norfolk. Guy was appointed as Lotus Sales Manager in 1999 and is well known throughout the Lotus community and has been selling Lotus’s for the past 12 years. Guy’s voice will also be known by thousands of Lotus enthusiasts as he was the commentator at the factory’s 50th celebrations. He is also well known as one of the country’s top Lotus selling executives and brings with him a wealth of experience. Guy has taken Stratton Motor Company to the 2nd highest Lotus Cars dealership in 2002.

7th December – **NO MEETING, because the Christmas Dinner is the same week**

Events for 2005

If you would like tickets or more details for any of the local events for 2005, please contact us as soon as possible to ensure ticket/space availability.

March 19th & 20th (Saturday & Sunday) – Annual Lotus Show @ Donington

- (see main Club Lotus News or web site www.clublotus.co.uk for further details)

April 2nd (Saturday) – Visit to and Tour of Classic Team Lotus

- After some negotiations, we have arranged with Clive Chapman's assistance, for our Area to visit the headquarters of Classic Team Lotus on a Saturday morning
- The Tour will commence at 9.30 a.m. and finish about 12.30 p.m.
- Places are limited to 20 people
- The cost per person is £25.00
- Afterwards, lunch at The Bird in Hand pub for anyone who is interested
- **Please let Mel know as soon as possible if you would like to be one of the 20 (this will be limited to people who regularly attend Club Nights/Events)**

May 1st & 2nd – (Sunday & Monday) the 8th Carole Nash Bedfordshire Classic Motor Show @ Shuttleworth, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Beds

- *Our Area will be attending this event on Sunday*
- This event is organized by Greenwoods Exhibitions please go to their web site at www.greenwoodsexhibitions.com for further details of events in 2005.
- Set in front of the Shuttleworth Mansion, part of the 6,000 acre estate inherited in 1932 by Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth. He was a creditable motor rally and racing driver who won the 1935 International Grand Prix at Donington driving an Alfa Romeo. Old Warden Park was opened to the public in 1963 and is famous for its flying and motor collection of veteran and vintage cars which can be visited by separate admission. This event is extremely popular on the early May Bank Holiday. The event is situated in beautiful open parkland, in front of the mansion.
- **Please contact Mel as soon as possible if you would like to come along, even if you have completed the forms and sent them directly back to Greenwoods, so we know numbers.**

May 14th & 15th – (Saturday & Sunday) CSMA Classic Festival of Speed @ Brands Hatch

- *If any other Area would like to join us to make one big Lotus display, please let us know as soon as possible, we will be attending this event on Sunday*
- Tickets are £11.00 per car
- This event is organized by Sean McGreevy at CSMA for more information Tel: 01273 7444723, e-mail: sean.mcgreevy@csma.uk.com
- 10am – 6pm daily. 14 classic car and motorcycle races on both days including F1, Indy and F3000 cars in the EuroBOSS series. In the light of British Grand Prix unlikely to be held the latter race will take on a higher profile. The regular mix of spectacular air show, ground displays and non-stop free family entertainment will provide the backdrop to this very affordable and fun event.
- There is a facility for Corporate Hospitality in The Foulston Centre where various motorsport/showbiz personalities will be present. Subject to confirmation at the moment are Sir Jack Brabham, David Brabham, Carl Fogarty, F1 commentator Louise Goodman and Capital Gold DJ David Jensen.

May 28th (Saturday) – Castle Combe Track Day

- (see main Club Lotus News or web site www.clublotus.co.uk for further details)

June 19th (Sunday) –Supercar Sunday, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon

For further details see - www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk

July 8th – 11th (Friday – Monday) – Lakes Invasion

- (see main Club Lotus News or web site www.clublotus.co.uk for further details)

July 17th (Sunday) – The Charity Classic Car Show and Country Fayre @ Kimbolton Castle

- This event is organised by the Sporting Bears Motor Club www.sportingbears.org please go to their web site to see photos of previous years, which include some of our members and cars. It is held in the grounds of Kimbolton Castle (now a private school) and includes many stalls selling everything from home made fudge to wooden garden furniture. All money raised goes to Cancer Research UK. They raised £16,000 in 2004 just from the one day - **in view of this fantastic amount – we will be asking that every car on our stand donates £5 (this will be collected on the day and presented to the Sporting Bears at the end of the show) – please bear in mind that we are given the entry tickets at no charge - so this is a great chance to do our bit for Charity**
- Kimbolton is a large village with an attractive High Street, but most people visit to see Kimbolton Castle. The site was settled at least as far back as the Roman era, and at the time of the Norman invasion the manor was held by King Harold himself. After the Conquest a castle was built at Kimbolton, under the control of the powerful de Bohun family. The De Bohuns were also responsible for funding the rebuilding of the parish church in the 13th century. Kimbolton is most famous for its associations with Katherine of Aragon. The unhappy former queen died here in Kimbolton Castle 1536 after 4 years of imprisonment. The room where Katherine died is fittingly called “the Queen’s Room”. The castle was greatly remodelled during the 17th century, when it was in the possession of the Dukes of Manchester. A series of the most prominent architects of the day had a hand in remaking Kimbolton into a luxurious residence; Vanbrugh, Hawksmoor, and Robert Adam all had a hand in redesigning Kimbolton.
- **Please contact Mel as soon as possible if you would like to come along.**

August 28th & 29th (Sunday & Monday) – The 15th Carole Nash Classic Motor Show @ Knebworth House, Stevenage, Herts

- *Our Area will be attending this event on Sunday*
- This event is organized by Greenwoods Exhibitions, please go to their web site to greenwoodsexhibitions.com please see their web site to for further details of events in 2005.
- The 500 year old Knebworth House was transformed 150 years ago by the romantic Victorian novelist, Edward Bullwer-Lytton into a spectacular high Gothic fantasy. The House, dominating the 250 acres of parkland creates the ideal backdrop for this renowned event. Visit the large adventure playground and formal gardens at no extra charge, reduced admission to the house. The venue has a long standing history of classic motor events. Knebworth Classic Motor Show has been running for over 10 years; in 2000 it attracted 2,500 classic vehicles, and in 2001 (the event’s 11th year) it attracted over 2,000 vehicles. It is without doubt a favourite for classic enthusiasts from all over the country on the August Bank Holiday weekend.
- **Please contact Mel as soon as possible if you would like to come along, even if you have completed the forms and sent them directly back to Greenwoods, so we know numbers.**

September 4th (Sunday) – Drive to and Picnic in the grounds of Woburn Abbey

- Please go to www.woburnabbey.co.uk for directions etc.
- Entrance per car to the Abbey Grounds and Deer Park only is £2.00
- We will sort out specific details nearer the time – meeting up somewhere first to ensure we are all together.
- **Please contact Mel/John Crow as soon as possible if you would like to come along.**

November 20th (Sunday) – Annual Lotus Parts Fair @ The National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh

- (see main Club Lotus News or web site www.clublotus.co.uk for further details)

December 9th (Friday) – Christmas Dinner @ The Crown Inn

- Please let Mel & Gary know if you would like to come along to the Annual Christmas Dinner being held at The Crown, Inn, Elton, near Peterborough.

Dates to be confirmed

1. Drive to Lyveden, New Bield and Garden (NT) - www.thenationaltrust.org.uk/lyveden followed by tea @ The Normans' in Woodford, Northants
2. Go-Karting @ Caxton, Cambridgeshire
3. Open Day (Sunday) at Gerald Turner's new premises

**FOR THE BEST IN LOTUS MAINTENANCE AND CARE BE SURE
TO VISIT GERALD TURNER**

A Round-up of 2004

Club Nights 2004

January – NO MEETING

February - Organising/Confirming Speakers etc

March -

April – Guest Speaker was Sir John Whitmore, British Saloon Car Champion 1961 and European Touring Car Champion 1965. He became famous for his mastery of the Lotus Cortina. His wheel to wheel duels with the Alfa Romeo GTA made the national press and he also competed in Minis, GT40s, Cobras and Galaxies. Sir John was extremely entertaining and kept the audience (which was more than a full house, with not even standing room left) spellbound for nearly three hours. He reminisced and told us many stories of his past exploits, both motoring and non-motoring.

May – Formula 1 Quiz with 6 Teams of 4 Players:

1. Larry occasionally tries unusual supercars
2. Norfolk 'N' Good
3. 3 Men and a Trailing Lobeilia
4. Mostly Guesswork
5. Me, Him 'N' Her
6. The Blue Arsed Flies

There was a tie-break between Teams 4 & 5 and to be honest we can't remember who won, but we know that everybody had a great evening.

June –

July – BBQ at Crown Inn Elton – The weather was typical BBQ weather – it rained. So Tony very kindly prepared the food outside and we ate in the warm and dry conservatory. We had nearly 30 people come along to this. The food was provided by the Pub and was great as usual.

August – Paul from SMS, was due to come along and give us a demonstration on how to buff up dull and damaged paintwork – but unfortunately once again the weather took a turn for the worse, so it was decided to postpone this until next year.

September -

October – Scalextric Night – We had 20 drivers and after all the rounds and semi final, Adam Sawford was the winner and Derek Wells was the runner-up.

November – Guest Speaker was John Miles, Team Lotus Gold Leaf F1 Driver 1969-1970. Another good turn out of members to see John Miles, who had asked for the evening to be in the form of questions and answers so we ensured that there were plenty of things ready for him to respond to - John provided entertaining answers and stories of his time with Lotus.

December – NO MEETING – as this fell on the same week as the Christmas Dinner

Events Attended in 2004

Sunday 2nd May, The Bedfordshire Classic Car Show @ Shuttleworth

Despite the cold weather, there were half a dozen of us for this, the first show of the year.

Monday 12th April, Visit to Lincoln Aviation Centre, East Kirkby

There were 7 cars for this event. We were parked right along the runway where the Lancaster taxied along. The Aviation Centre is very interesting and well worth a visit.

Thursday 25th March, Open Evening @ Castle Lotus (New Lotus Dealer), Stansted Mountfichet

There were about 20 of us turned up at the Open Evening kindly organised by Castle Lotus' Directors – Ian & Michael. They laid on a great evening for us, including the chance to drive the new 111R Elise. They had also acquired the new Exige, which was in the show room ready to go to Donington that weekend. We didn't leave until 11.00 p.m. as we were talking about most things Lotus. The Factory had sent along their Sales Director and Mark Fullalove who drove in the Auotbytel Lotus Series and won it in 2001. Mark and Ian were taking people out for the test drives in the Elises. Everybody who came along said what a good time they had and how much effort Castle Lotus had gone to – which was very much appreciated by all of us.

Sunday 23rd May, CSMA Festival of Speed, Brands Hatch

We invited the Dorset area to join us for this event – so there were 16 cars in total. We were parked on the south bank overlooking the track, which was a great vantage point. The weather was good and so was the racing, especially the Classic Lotus's.

20th June (Sunday) - Supercar Sunday, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon

(Write-up by Rob Turner).

A couple of Supercar fans amongst us decided this year to take our Esprits to the Supercar Sunday event for the first time. As we got closer to the venue we were re-assured of heading in the right direction by several Lamborghinis just exiting the M40 in front of us. We arrived and were directed to the Lotus display area which was particularly well attended with the many Esprit variants, Elans, Elises, 340R's and others. Weather was mixed but the sunny spells provided the opportunity to look around all the other Exotic car displays outside (Lambo's, Ferraris, Porsches etc. as well as Lotus), whilst the museum was visited during the showers. An amazing opportunity to see some otherwise rarely seen Supercars.

Sunday 11th July, Classic Car Show, Elton Hall

There were 6 cars turned up for this event, unfortunately there was not much else there to keep people occupied for a full day.

Sunday 18th July, Sporting Bears Charity Classic @ Kimbolton Castle

(Write-up by Rob Turner).

This is one of our favourite events of the year - a great setting with our display area this year having pride of place on the edge of the cricket pitch. Coinciding with the 50 years of Team Lotus event at Hethel the number of cars was somewhat less than usual. Nevertheless we still had around 10 cars attending - unusually this time the Excel was the most popular model with 4 on show. The weather kept us busy with several opportunities to dry off the cars in between the rain showers. Plenty of other things happening with the craft fayre and arena events, and also amongst the other car displays - a Lamborghini Countach!

Sunday 18th July, 50 Years of Lotus Motorsport @ Hethel

As you have no doubt already read in other publications the weather was awful most of the day until about 4.00 p.m. when the old Racing Lotus' graced the race track.

We were lucky to arrive at Hethel for about 10.30 and didn't have to wait long to get in and park right on the edge of the track and next to the V8 which had recently been featured in Classic and Sports Car. So it was nice when a passer stopped to look at our Esprit S3 and commented "isn't it nice to see a real shaped Esprit looking so good".

It was amazing to get so close to the old F1 cars, but because of the number of people at the event it was almost impossible to get many good photographs.

We met up with a lot of Lotus acquaintances, including Malcolm Ricketts, who when we came across him had just returned from taking a Type 72 around the track in the pouring rain. He said that was his first time in the front of a Cosworth DFV – it's a hard life!!

When the rain eventually stopped we managed to get a front row view of the F1 cars in action, although a couple of them didn't get beyond the first bend. There were several spins but luckily there was no damage to the cars or drivers, but undoubtedly some dented pride.

It was a real shame about the weather as the next day was lovely, but nonetheless for all true Lotus enthusiasts it was a day not to be missed.

Sunday 8th August, Picnic @Woburn

(Write-up by John Crow)

The Woburn Picnic day proved to be an even greater success than last year, with no fewer than 16 different Lotus's; a record I believe for a local event. The weather for once this year was hot – about 27, I think, so we all sheltered under the trees. As this event is proving to be so popular, I plan to organise it again next year and we may even gain permission from the Duke of Tavistock to line the cars up in front of the house for a photo shoot.

Sunday 29th August, Classic Car @ Knebworth House

There were 11 cars turned up for this event, in spite of the inclement weather (again). It was a good day and there was plenty to see and do, including walking around the lovely grounds of Knebworth House.

Friday 10th December, Christmas Dinner @The Crown Inn, Elton

(Write up by Gordon and Joy Round)

The Christmas dinner is the highlight of the Cambridgeshire Area Club Lotus annual social calendar for many of us. This is especially the case for Joy and me, who are rather poor at getting along to the regular club nights. It is usually a great time to catch up with friends from the area. This year, Melanie and Gary excelled themselves with the festive event.

First of all, there was the usual high standard of catering from the team at the Crown Inn, who look after us so well each year. Secondly, the introduction of rocket balloons, in the style of Club Lotus North West events, was to ensure that the evening was not going to pass quietly!

However, the little touches that our leaders thoughtfully added really made the night special. It has become a custom for some bias to be introduced into the raffle, to arrange for Mr Russell to receive, say, a tractor. This year there were gifts for several people. We were very touched that Mel and Gary remembered a casual conversation at Lakes 25 about our respective tastes in music. So it was a really super surprise to be presented with a Deep Purple compilation CD. This was in addition to a hand crafted Lotus duster, to keep the "little darlings" spotless.

Of course, Peter was not to be left out. Again, our hosts had remembered how taken he had been with those England flags that so tastefully flutter from many lesser car windows. A couple of those were presented to Mr Russell, to add the ultimate touch of class to the Elite. That was not all though, he had a matching hat and face painting kit and a large Cross of St. George flag had been cleverly disguised as a tablecloth and Peter will have no excuse for not being able to advertise his pride in his country, during 2005. The long suffering Mrs Russell received a bottle of her favourite perfume and a fluffy cat to remind her of her husband's remark about her being in need of a "new pussy", following the failure of her catalytic converter. In his acceptance speech, Peter was quick to stress that he was fully satisfied with her existing one!

As mentioned before, the food and drink were terrific and the evening provided the customary fantastic opportunity to catch up with fellow members. It was nice to see Alan Morgan, the new Club chairman, Jane and Anne-Marie from Club HQ and also Gerald and Karen Turner.

Three cheers for the Area Leaders and Happy New Year everybody.

Mel & Gary Parkin
