



2007 CLUB LOTUS CAMBRIDGESHIRE AREA NEWSLETTER

We hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year although we are sure now by this seems but a distant memory.

Are you ready to dust off those Lotus's, get them out of the garage, mot'd and serviced ready for the year.

We would like to see a few more of our 2,000 members in 2007 so if you haven't paid us a visit yet please do as there are lots of things going on at both the club nights and the different events planned so we hope there is something for everyone?

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Club Nights 2007

The meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except December & January) @ The Crown Inn, Elton, off Junction 17 of the A1 (A605) nr Peterborough and get going at 8.00/8.30 p.m.

3rd January – **NO MEETING**

7th February – This first meeting of 2007 was cancelled to due severe weather warnings of lots of snow coming our way, so apologies to those of you who braved the weather only to find us no there.

7th March – Nothing specific arranged

4th April – Guest Speakers – **Questions (in advance please) and Answers** with Alistair McQueen

Alastair McQueen



Born in Duns, Scotland, the son of a farmer, Alastair served his motor vehicle apprenticeship with Jock McBain at Chrisside working on cars, commercial vehicles and occasionally, tractors. A frequent visitor to McBair's garage was a certain Jim Clark, another local farmer and somewhat successful racing driver, and he became the inspiration for Alastair's future development.

Lotus beckoned, and in the mid sixties, Alastair made the move to Norfolk and joined Lotus Cars. After a short period working on the assembly line building Elans, he moved into the Road Test department, and spent several years testing all new vehicles as they came off-line.

A move into Lotus Engineering in the early seventies gave the opportunity to become involved with the development of all Lotus and many confidential Client vehicles over the next twenty five years. Alastair's test driving skills developed over this period and the opportunity to train Test Drivers for other Companies arose in the mid-eighties. This began the progression towards the Lotus Driver Training Experience which Alastair co-set up in 1999. Included in this programme was the redesign of the Lotus Test Track at Hethel.

During the 30+ years spent at Lotus, Alastair was always involved with driving and his experience extends to over 50 different Race Tracks and Proving Grounds throughout the World. He has set up and executed Driver Training programmes for Clients in Japan, South Korea, USA, and Europe including all aspects of car control, off-road driving, snow and ice training in Sweden, and vehicle evaluation techniques. This included all types of vehicles up to Large Commercial vehicles, Class 1.

Alastair was the winner of the Autocar magazine 'Sideways Challenge' in 1997 and 1999.

& Richard Parramint who was the first school leaver to join Lotus in late 68, working on the production line, and other areas in the factory. He left Lotus in the early 70's to a life in sales, starting his own Office Equipment Company in 1987, and then onto coaching in presentation and communication skills. 2000 saw him back at Lotus helping out with the driver training events and renewing friendships with Alastair McQueen and going on to organise driver training at Hethel and more recently in the U.S.A He says that he has always been a pain to Team Lotus, just hanging around in case they needed someone to push/clean a car. After organising 50+ American Lotus fanatics to Norfolk in 2002 for a 5 day event Clive Chapman asked him if he would get involved with Team's commercial activities...and as they say the rest is history if you want to know more about Classic Team Lotus and Richard, please go their websites:- www.classicteamlotus.co.uk & www.positivespeech.co.uk.

2nd May – Guest Speakers – **Questions (in advance please) and Answers** with Bob Dance & Richard Parramint. Bob Dance, one of the nicest men you could meet.....cool, calm and collected is how I would describe Bob (says Richard). He joined Lotus in 1960 and worked on the Lotus Cortina project, becoming involved in the race series. He was involved in the Indianapolis project, F1 with all the greats, Clark, Hill, Andretti, Peterson, Senna and many more. He left Team in 76 for a spell with March, STP in America and then to Brabham with Bernie. In 1977 he was invited back by the old man to carry on where he had left off, and stayed until the demise of Team Lotus in 1994. Bob still spends a lot of his time involved with Clive Chapman at CTL, still attempting to keeping the boy's in line.

6th June – Lotus Quiz

4th July – Jim Endruweit – **Questions and Answers**. Jim was in the Fleet Air Arm working on aircraft carriers before joining Lotus. He started at Hornsey in 1958 and specialised in gearboxes working on the Lotus Queerbox. He rose rapidly to Chief Mechanic and was Jim Clark's Chief Mechanic during the 1960's Lotus F1 teams and Indy winning efforts. He moved to Cheshunt and Hethel. He was Racing Manager in 1968 when Graham Hill won the World Championship. He married Celia who was one of the Team secretaries.

1st August – BBQ – hopefully the weather will be kind to us this year

5th September – Cars to be parked on and around the Green looking fantastic and being admired

3rd October – Scalextric

7th November – Nothing specific arranged

5th December – **NO MEETING, because the Christmas Dinner is the same week**

Events for 2007

We welcome all Club Lotus Members at many of our events apart from where numbers are limited and then our regular members will of course, get first choice. So if you aren't a Cambs Area member but would like to join us please just let us know and we'd be pleased to see you. If you would like tickets or more details for any of the local events for 2007, please contact us as soon as possible to ensure ticket/space availability.

March 17th & 18th (Saturday & Sunday) – Annual Lotus Show @ Donington

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

May 6th & 7th – (Sunday & Monday) the 10th Carole Nash Bedfordshire Classic Motor Show @ Shuttleworth, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Beds

Our Area will be attending this event on Sunday 6th May

This event is organised by Greenwoods Exhibitions please go to their web site at www.greenwoodsexhibitions.com for further details of this and other events in 2007.

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.

May 26th (Saturday) – Castle Combe Track Day

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

June 10th (Sunday) – Drive to and Gourmet Lunch at Oakley Hall Park, nr Basingstoke

This event is being organised by John Oakley (from The Lotus Historic Club – membership@historiclotsclub.co.uk) and involves driving to this Country House, parking outside the main doorway in an ornamental garden, having a gourmet lunch in the garden room, chat or walk around the grounds after coffee or maybe do a bit of clay pigeon shooting if you're that way inclined. If you're interested in doing this please let us know as soon as possible as places are getting booked up already – if you'd like more information about Oakley Hall, please go to <http://www.conferences-uk.org.uk/Stoke.asp?venue=Oakley%20Hall>

June 17th (Sunday) – Supercar Sunday, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon

This is the second year we will be attending as an Area and Rob Turner has very kindly agreed to organise this again for us, so if you're interested and want to know more contact Rob rob@cambsclublotus.org.uk and go to www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/eventsclubs/default.html to see what events they are holding in 2007.

July 15th (Sunday) – The Charity Classic Car Show and Country Fayre @ Kimbolton Castle

This event is organised by the Sporting Bears Motor Club (see their website for a great write-up about last year's show where we get a mention as we donated the most amount of money from all the car clubs attending (£180) www.sportingbears.org.uk and 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 2006 from the one day - **in view of this fantastic amount – we will be again 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.

August 26th & 27th (Sunday & Monday) – The 17th Carole Nash Classic Motor Show @ Knebworth House, Stevenage, Herts

Our Area will be attending this event on Sunday 26th August

This event is organised by Greenwood Exhibitions, please go to their web site to www.greenwoodsexhibitions.com for further details of events in 2007.

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.

September 2nd (Sunday) – Picnic @ The Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Beds

This annual event will take place again but at a different location and will be organised by John Crow/and or Mel. This date coincides with a flying day and we are currently trying to negotiate a group entry price rather than the £20 per person. For more information about Shuttleworth please have a look at their website <http://www.shuttleworth.org/events.asp?offset=15>

September 12th (Wednesday) – Visit & Tour of The Lotus Factory (am) (12 people x 2) with lunch at the Bird in Hand Pub in between

Please note that these two organised Area tours at 10.30 and 10.45 are only open to our regular members, but general tours are open to everyone and if you are interested in either arranging your own or just going along, you should contact Annette Howard on (01953 608547) or by email to ahoward@lotuscars.co.uk.

October 6th (Saturday) – Visit & Tour of Classic Team Lotus

Steve Allen & Richard Parramint has very kindly agreed to let us have a return visit to see them. The tour will run from 10.30-12.30 with lunch afterwards at the Bird in Hand pub just up the road from Classic. Numbers are limited for this visit so it is only open our regular members.

November 10th (Saturday) – Lotus Dinner at Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke

We will hopefully have two Area tables again this year at the event so if you would like to come along please let us know as soon as possible (please note that this event is open to everyone but the booked area tables are only for our regular members).

December 7th (Friday) – Christmas Dinner @ The Crown Inn, Elton

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.

Club Nights 2006

4th January – **NO MEETING**

1st February – First meeting of the year

1st March – **Trivial Pursuit**

5th April – **Guest Speaker was Michael Caine** – Michael was very entertaining and talked about both his racing career for Porsche and his love for cars in general. He told us many stories which spanned from his early years in the car trade to date where he is one of the Directors at Castle Lotus in Stansted Mountfichet.

3rd May – **Guest Speakers for the evening were the double act of Steve Allen from Classic Team Lotus** – Steve & Richard regaled us with tales of times past with Classic Team Lotus which for those of use who could only dream about who they had met and what they had done was a great and entertaining evening.

7th June – **Guest Speaker for the evening was due to be Jim Endruweit** – who was Jim Clark's Chief Mechanic during the 1960's Lotus F1 teams and Indy winning efforts, but unfortunately this pre-booked date then clashed with his moving house date, so Jim will be visiting us in 2007 instead.

5th July – There was nothing specific arranged for Club Night.

2nd August – **BBQ @ The Crown Inn, Elton** – unsurprisingly the weather was awful and so poor Marcus prepared the food outside under a huge brolly while we (all 33 of us) ate and drank in the conservatory restaurant.

6th September – There was nothing specific arranged for Club Night.

4th October – **Scalextric Night** – which as usual brought out the kids (both young and old), the Runner-Up was Gary Parkin and the Winner was Howard Farrar who choose a navy blue fleece from the prizes which were kindly donated by Club HQ.

1st November – **Guest Speaker for the evening was Mike Costin** – Mike told us about how he got started working with Colin Chapman and how he then seemed to come and go from Lotus over the years. He was very entertaining and we had a packed house with standing room only.

6th December – **NO MEETING, because the Christmas Dinner was the same week**

Events Attended in 2006

Saturday 22nd April, Visit to The Stratton Motor Company, Long Stratton, Norfolk
(Write-up kindly provided by Paul & Teresa Harris and photo by Mel & Gary)



During the cold winter months in February I decided to trade in my Elise S2 (Type 23) for a new Exige before the weather turned for the summer season. The next decision was to choose a Lotus dealer that would look after my interests, in the preceding year Guy Mundy from Stratton Motor Company had attended a Club Lotus evening and gave a very informative talk. I contacted Guy and told him of my desire to upgrade to an Exige and following a further telephone call and two visits in order to specify my options, including the addition of two white stripes the deed was done.

The next few weeks dragged slowly by as my anticipation grew until I received the call to say my car was ready for collection, when I saw my new Exige at Stratton MC it took my breath away the team at Stratton had done a fantastic job in preparing the car to my specification.

Several happy weeks passed before it was time to drive back to Norfolk on a formal visit to Stratton MC as a member of the Cambridgeshire Area we had all been invited by Guy. The weather was clear and sunny the car shone making the drive even more enjoyable, on arrival the sight of Lotus from across the years gleaming in the sun parked around the forecourt of the dealership made my heart race. Many of our fellow club members had already arrived and having admired the view we made our way inside where Stratton had laid on lunch and refreshments. We quickly filled our plates and cups then wandered around the showroom drooling and dropping crumbs over the selection of new cars, including some Aston Martins and Morgan's that Stratton MC also sell.

Guy then rounded us up and a convoy of Lotus then drove across the town to the Race Division Headquarters of Heritage Race Support, where we embarked on a tour. Firstly to the Heritage Race preparation workshop full of cars in various stages of build getting them ready for a full season of racing, Aston Martins, Lotus and even a Mini we had an opportunity to ask mechanics questions extremely interesting. Then into the next unit where many interesting cars are stored for customers including a film production company who own some Aston Martins from a James Bond film, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and the two Aston Martins used in the Johnny English Film – both the "real" car and the fibre glass one there were also some unique prototypes from several manufactures.

A convoy back to the dealership for a tour of the workshops and bodyshop reinforces the message that Stratton MC have the capability to satisfy any Lotus owners needs for service, repairs and modification, and they are very nice people.

At the end of a very enjoyable and informative afternoon we thank our host's and drove home.

PS. Despite owning a new Exige I shed a tear to see my old Elise for sale in the showroom and if I had the money I would have bought it again.

Sunday 30th April, The Carole Nash Classic Motor Show @ Shuttleworth

(Write-up kindly provided by Chris Wright, photos from Mel & Gary)

The morning dawned bright and sunny. Somehow we always seem to be lucky with the weather for Shuttleworth – and on a Bank Holiday too! The boot of the Excel swallowed up deck chairs, tent, picnic lunch, cricket set and various other paraphernalia and we were off. As we scooted down the A1 we saw increasing numbers of classic cars, many with the top down and returning the girls' waves. After the queues of 2005 (needing a cautious eye on the temperature gauge) we were pleased to drive straight in and park up at our 'regular' spot, Gary marshalling the cars into beautiful symmetry for the judges' benefit.

Pitching the girls' play tent behind the Club Gazebo (many bargains within awaiting the souvenir hunters) we unpacked the cricket set and commenced the first innings while more and more Cambridgeshire Club Lotus cars arrived. Gary and Mel's forward planning had allowed for easy access and manoeuvring space, allowing late arrivals to take up the desired formation. I concentrated on making sure that Fred's leg-side sweep shots didn't hit any of them! As the sun climbed in the sky, stumps were called and we adjourned to explore, while Fred joined the grown-ups in the shade for a well-earned rest.



My favourite (the Ferret Scout armoured car!) seemed to be missing, but Rachael discovered mini quad bikes and I had to give up the search. We visited the display ring to examine the long cavalcade of cars waiting for their turn in the ring and we strolled along the front of the hall to look closely at the beautifully restored veteran cars on display. Shuttleworth is a marvellous setting for such an occasion. Back to base camp for picnic lunch and a rest, before further strolling around the many clusters of classic, rare (and in some cases unique) examples of motoring history. We found model cars, badges and books to satisfy the girls' wish for souvenirs before heading back to the gazebo (to satisfy Dad's wish for model cars and books).

Once again, tea time came around too soon and, with an evening birthday party now becoming a pressing engagement, we struck camp, said our goodbyes and climbed into the Excel for a swift run home, another marvellous Shuttleworth Classic almost at an end. "How many weeks until Kimbolton Dad?" asked Zoë as we pulled away.

Sunday 18th June - Supercar Sunday, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon
(Write-up and photos by Mel & Gary).



Supercar Sunday was held on Father's Day again and as Mel decided this was more a boys' days out – I took her Dad Colin with me for the day. When we arrived at Gaydon we were directed to the Lotus' designated area and were quickly followed by a grand procession of Esprits.

There were many different marques of Supercar as you would expect at such an event these included Ferrari, Lamborghini and Porsche to mention just a few. Just across from us was the Lamborghini display with an example of most of the models from a Jalpa, Countach, Diablos Gallardo and my favourite the Murcielago it was indeed a glorious site to behold. There were also 3 Enzos together which must have been a rarity in itself.

During the day Russ Swift was doing his stuff in the main arena with some owners also having the chance to take their cars into the ring and talk about them, one owner with a Gallardo dropped into the conversation that he had been out and picked up his Enzo the day before!!!!

Colin came away from the day saying he couldn't believe just how friendly our members and classic car enthusiasts and owners are and that he was going to buy himself a British Sportscar. After that we thought we might have 2 Lotus's in the family but about three weeks later he called to say that he had bought himself a 1974 MGBGT called Olive and we are pleased to report that Coin and Olive are having a great time driving around the lanes of Norfolk.

Sunday 16th July, Sporting Bears Charity Classic @ Kimbolton Castle

(Write-up and photos kindly provided by Fred & Janet Dooris).

The Sporting Bears have a great write-up for the event on their website, so please take the time to have a look – we have a mention and a thank you for our £180 donation which we collected from everyone on our stand <http://www.sportingbears.org.uk/>

Once again Kimbolton proved to be a massive hit with car fanatics of all description, as well as the general public, and even the weather behaved. As usual, Mel and Gary had everything under control by the time we arrived, but apparently it had been third time lucky as the organisers kept asking them to move the pitch. They are now expert at erecting the gazebo!

We had a great turnout on the Lotus stand, over 30 cars in all, with representatives of most models, including Elans (new and old), Europas, Eclats, Excels, Esprits, Elises, Exiges and a Lotus Cortina. Centre stage was given to the classics, although all the cars were generating a lot of interest, but a certain 'family affair' brought a smile to everyone's face!



The crowds were huge and the variety of things to see and do was vast, the only thing we noticed missing this year was the cheese stand in the crafts section, good thing considering the heat! The two arenas included dog displays, hunting hounds, steam cars, Punch and Judy and big bands. But the most peculiar sight was the heavy horses display, those little girls on top of the shires looked like the proverbial pea on a drum!

By lunchtime the sun was so intense everyone was searching for some shade, the club gazebo was packed solid with people on their folding chairs eating picnics, they looked like sardines in a tin – wish we'd got a picture but at that time we didn't know we'd been volunteered to do the write up (thanks Rob).

Towards the end of the day one of our group, the fantastic JPS Europa belonging to Ken and Tracy Auld, was selected to compete for car of the show. Sadly, many of us had left before then so we couldn't cheer them on and unfortunately they didn't win, but what an honour to be selected as a finalist from over 700 cars exhibiting on the day.

This year funds were being raised to support Cancer Research, Deaf Blind, Samuel Pepys School and the Burns Camp, and around £16,000 was raised in total, including £180 from Club Lotus – well done everybody.



The date for next year's event is 15th July, see you all there.

Fred and Janet Dooris

Sunday 27th August, Carole Nash Classic Motor Show @ Knebworth House
(Write-up and photos by Mel & Gary).



We attended the usual end of the car show season at Knebworth House. We were unsure who would be coming along as there weren't many names down on the list – this seems to be the one where people wait and see what the weather's like before they head off that morning. However, we knew from past experience that there would probably be about 12 cars on the stand.

We noticed several Lotus's scattered all over the show despite our best efforts at encouraging them to join us on our stand. For some reason there were at least 3 which seemed to change their mind as they came up the hill towards us, which is a shame as at the end of the day we're all flying the same flag. So if you were one of those who saw us but didn't park with us please come and say hello in 2007 as we are always pleased to meet new enthusiasts.

Amongst our very acceptable turnout was Joe Payler's Prototype Elite which had had a very busy 2006 doing nearly every show on the calendar.

Our stand as always creates a lot of interest and we had a great vantage point at the top of the hill so we could see the entire show, the flag flew well as the weather conditions were breezy but nice. We had the usual picnics with us and we all had a great day just chilling out, chatting and looking at what was for sale.

The show is a great climax to the season it always has lots of interesting cars for every sort of enthusiast ranging from very early vintage cars to Ferraris and Lamborghinis and of course the fantastic Lotus's.

Sunday 3rd September, Picnic @ Burghley House, Nr Stamford

(Write-up kindly provided by John Crow – Photos by Mel & Gary)



Our annual Picnic changed venue this year on account of the Woburn staff being so rude to us last year. As I don't give second chances in these matters, I approached Burghley House as I still had contact with a few people.

Sunday 3rd of September was chosen, even though this late in the month can be a little risky weather wise. In the event, apart from a strong wind, the weather held for us and 8 lovely Lotus cars of varying ages attended. We were very lucky, as the previous day saw atrocious weather.

The Burghley staff had been so kind as to cordon off an area especially for us with a backdrop of Burghley House, which offered a wonderful opportunity for some 'clicking of cameras'.

A good day was had by all, and this fine house, the largest and grandest of the first Elizabethan age impressed everyone.

A visit to Burghley is a must for those who haven't yet ventured there. Take a look on the website at www.burghley.co.uk

John Crow

Saturday 16th September – Launch of Europa S at Castle Lotus, Stansted Mountfichet

(Write-up by Ken & Tracy Auld and photos kindly provided by Howard Farrar and John Crow)



This beauty is owned by John & Margie Crow



This beauty is owned by Ken & Tracy Auld



A brief summary on a most enjoyable and enlightening day at the long awaited launch of the new Europa S. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all the Cambridge area members who attended, in passing on a very many thanks to all the management and staff at Castle Lotus for their kind hospitality and endless supply of food & beverages.

I think most members achieved a test drive and the overall comments I heard were all complementary. Busy Saturday traffic (not to mention the odd police car) made it difficult for Hugh our extremely competent test driver to show the true potential of the car.

However, it very soon became apparent that the performance and handling of the Europa S was distinctly Lotus. The big noticeable difference over the original twin cam Europa is the consistent power output at lower revs thanks to the turbocharged two litre engine and the precise gear change on the six speed box.

The original Europa gear change can be a hit and miss affair especially when the longer linkage inherits some wear.

Although the Europa S is branded a tourer it will still appeal to the sports car purist as well the more mature Lotus enthusiast, and with a 150 mph top speed it may prove necessary for Lotus to offer a pair of incontinence pants as an optional extra.

As always many thanks to Mel & Gary for co-ordinating the arrangements with Castle Lotus to make a memorable day possible.

Ken & Tracy Auld

Saturday 4th November, 50 Years of Club Lotus Commemorative Dinner at the Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke
(Write-up and Photos from Mel & Gary)



This great event was organised by John Oakley from The Historic Lotus Club in conjunction with Club Lotus. The evening consisted of a raffle, speakers (Margaret Arnold and Alan Morgan, Club Lotus Chairman) and a very nice 3 course dinner (although Chris on our table had other ideas). There were 12 of us who went and as you'll see from the photos above we had a great time.

Friday 8th December, Christmas Dinner @ The Crown Inn, Elton
(Write-up and Photos by Mel & Gary)



There were 42 of us at the Dinner which was a wonderful celebration of both the Area and 50 Years of Club Lotus. Our guests included Alan & Barbara Morgan, Annie & Sam from Club HQ and Gerald & Karen Turner. The meal was fantastic and the company even better (as you can from the photos above everyone had a great time).

Chris & Philippa McCauley did a great double act with selling the raffle tickets and we raised £122 for club funds and we ensured by hook or crook that everyone attending went home with something, so thanks to those who brought prizes along.

We presented our very own Batman and Batgirl (Gary & Di Tall) with the appropriate reminders of the long haul they have endured in getting their barn conversion well under way to being completed this Summer.

We presented Marcus (the Club Landlord) with a 1/18th scale of an Esprit Turbo, his wife Ros with wine and chocolates and also chocolates for the pub staff, who all look after so well during the year.

We presented Alan & Barbara and Sam, Annie and Jane with wine and chocolates as a small thank you for all the terrific support they give us.

The Restaurant was bedecked with green and yellow "50" balloons, photos of the events we had attended over the year and of course we had the Lotus Flag up (although not on the flagpole). The tables were laden with doodlebug balloons, party poppers, bubbles and party hats.

We had a few new members attend the dinner for the first time and we hope they had a good time. The Dinner was one of the best I think we've had and everyone present commented on how good the food was. I think the last of us trundled home at just gone midnight so a good time was had by one and all.

Amazing Lotus Finds



For Mel's birthday we had a day in the Cotswolds where we visited Stow-on-the-Wold. One of the many interesting shops we went into was an Antique's Shop where on the top floor sitting on a bookcase we discovered a small collection of 4 trophies won by Norman Cuthbert in a Lotus Elan in 1970 at the Thrapston and Brands Hatch circuits.

On this particular visit we only bought the largest of the cups but we went back a couple of weeks later and bought the other 3. These are now a very welcome addition to my Lotus "Collection".

I am trying to find out some history of Norman and his Lotus Elan and am in the process of buying a photo of him having already managed to locate one of the race programmes in which he features, but if anyone has any photos, race programmes or any background information we would be pleased to hear from you as we would like to be able to have a photo of him with his winning Elan standing proudly along side the Trophies. The races we would like to have programmes and photos for took place on the 14th June & 30th August at Thruxton 1970 and the 16th August at Brands Hatch.

We are excited to announce the Launch of the Cambridgeshire Area Website - www.cambsclublotus.org.uk

Our webmistress is Joy Round (joy@cambsclublotus.org.uk), so she is the lady to send things to which you'd like to see on the website. The site contains details of Club Nights, special events, information, newsletters and links to other useful Lotus Sites. There is a password protected Members Area for anything relating to the Club that you want to see on there, but don't want to share with the whole world. If you would like full members access to this, please e-mail Joy or us so we can give you the required username and password to give you access to all the areas - it's your site so please don't be shy about providing input. Please note that this can also be accessed via the main Club Lotus website.

If you'd like to see the 2005, 2006 & 2007 Newsletters in all their glory with the colour photos etc they'll also be on the website.

For further information on anything included in this Newsletter, please contact us:-

Mel & Gary Parkin

melandgary@cambsclublotus.org.uk