

Filching Manor pop-up event 29th July 2020

Following the loss of South East Section Day to the Pandemic, it was felt that we should put something in the calendar before our cars felt unloved and the weeds grew through the floor.

We therefore organized an impromptu mid-week outing and picnic to Filching Manor Motor Museum and the home of Sir Malcolm Campbell's Bluebird K3. This was the first time that our host and owner Karl Foulkes-Halbard had opened the facility this year. We were even given a discount on the entry price as this was a try-out event.



The weather being hot and sunny, we had twenty two SE members turn up at 10.30 with parking arranged and marshalled in front of the Double Solar Wealdon Manor House. The club members were the only people there for the day and seemed determined to enjoy themselves.

We were given a tour of the museum, workshops and the Bluebird building with Karl personally guiding us through the exhibits and history of the place with two members of Karl's restoration team on hand providing answers to very searching questions from the attending members. The manor, as we see it today, dates from 1450. Social distancing was maintained within the museum buildings but unfortunately a tour of the actual Manor House was not open to us on this occasion. The official tour was from 11.00 hours after which we had full access to the gardens for our socially distanced picnic for the rest of the day.



It was the first drive out for David Stone-Lee in his newly built 12/70 Special, followed by his wife Polly in a 'modern', just in case... This beautifully built, racing style, 2 seater attracted a lot of interest and comment. It was also clear that we saw a number of members who we haven't seen, before at previous SE section events, including a very new member Steve Best, who only joined the AOC last week. He had a complete but disassembled Speed 25 engine in the boot of his modern. Of the 11 Alvis cars that attended, 7 were pre-war including a vintage 12/50 ducksback.



Author: Owen Swinerd

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