

1st British and European Car Day

11 February 2018

by Rob Jones.

The 32nd British Car Day – Trentham Feb 11 2018 or the 1st British and European Car Day



The Butler Heath and Jones Leyland P76's.

I can now write up a report on this year's event, introducing a major new element to the show, European vehicles. And they came in all shapes and sizes and makes and we did better with our three P's this time around too.

As a member and past executive of the BCC and BCD committees, I was keenly interested in the promulgation of these changes and took Paul Heath along with me to the Special General Meeting set up to keep the BCC going and rejuvenate it with a whole raft of new ideas and people. Don't get me wrong the previous group had offered years and years of sterling service resulting in wonderfully rich support of Wellington Free Ambulance, but for most of them, their time was up, or more importantly, they needed less stress and more time for themselves and so the reigns changed hands. And did not fall to me as I'd already passed them over many years earlier.

I'm compelled to congratulate Lyn and Keith Shackleton, Bernie Quin, Stan Edmonds, Lorraine Leamy and the late Dick Graham, even if many of you don't know these good



Patrick Widdup's 1931 MG M which I'm sure has appeared in Penzed before and certainly has at BCD.

folk, they have been unsurpassed supporters of the Club and the main event, BCD for over 10 years. One cannot begrudge their retirement, especially as I think it safe to say they are all older than me! Now you can come along and look around.

Well, the day started under a cloud, many clouds actually with the threat being held at bay until just after lunch when it got wet! But this did not deter many hundreds of drivers (rumour is that it did deter a number of BMW drivers!) who turned up in all the usual array of British marques, along with the new restorations, barn finds and many

old favourites. There are always “new” cars there for MC Roy McGuinness to pounce on and have their proud owners reveal all to the crowd about their cars. And old faithfuls that make a return like Patrick Widdup’s 1931 MG.

While we expected to see good numbers of Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz, BMW and maybe to a lesser extent Peugeot, Citroen, Ferrari, Renault and all the others it was pleasing to see two Hansa’s and Richard Davies in his Simca Chambord, factory Ford V8 powered sedan. I cannot be sure of the engine size, sorry. But Hansa cars are a rarity anywhere surely? We didn’t quite get around all the exhibits so may have missed many other odd Euros like Lada or Skoda.



Standard vanguard Phase 1. I have never voted for a winning car yet! As a kids we used to be ferried around the beach in a van version of one of these with Uncle Alan, column change driven by a man with only one arm!

My immediate People’s Choice award went to a beautiful black Phase 1 Vanguard which didn’t win of course. I was thrilled to see a 1982 Renault Alpine in the flesh, Dennis Thompson from Carterton (now Eketahuna) in his lovely little Anglia and a Morris 8 next to one of those Lotus 7 type cars



Chalk and cheese, the wonderful little Morris 8, such a fun drive, and the Lotus, chassis #54 down from Levin with the Horowhenua VCC. A different kind of fun indeed!

which turned out to be a genuine Lotus, chassis #54 from 1954 down from the Horowhenua VCC. The Hansa, Chambord, Mk1V Jaguars, the 3 P76’s of the Butler, Jones and Heath variety, of course, Hugh and all his Wolseley mates to our left just like last year, Mini Gem race car, the range of VW’s from rat beetles and the almost compulsory orange and white Kombi to the comfy Passat of Dave and Sandra Bray keeping them warm and dry, comforts not offered by their 356 or XK120 replicas. By the

way, Happy 60th wedding anniversary guys. This should indicate their need for warmth and dryness! Sorry. So many cars of all sorts but not even the amassed Sunbeams could keep the weather in check.

This looks to be a positive move forward for the event and we will be back. BMW Bruce!



1982 Renault Alpine. I have a range of these in my model collection because they are just so beautiful.



Richard Davies has appeared in our BCD reports before on his BSA but has also been a long time champion of Simca cars including this Chambord V8.



The Anglia is referred to in the story.



Mini Gem.



Admiring the P76 6!



Wolseley - with member Hugh Mackenzie's 6/110 under the banner.



There is always a selection of Austin Healey's to look over.



Speaking of class, Jaguar Mk V's. Just gorgeous.



Quite a range of Peugeots - I think the 404 ute comes from Masterton.



The defeated Sunbeams endure the rain.



A 1952 Austin A125, can't you tell. Pure class.



Not one to be deterred by the rain, member Linda Graham adds some panache to the VW display!



English Ford has an increasing presence at this event. A nice Mk3 Zephyr supports the cause.



An interesting group of less well known European cars. Hansa, Borgward and Simca. One of the benefits of the change to the BCD is to bring such rarities out on show.



A lineup of more recent Mercedes Benz cars.



Volkswagens in the rain. Our first European group.



Lots of red cars in this shot, Ferrari, Austin Healey, MG and Sunbeam way over the back.



Despite us not taking our own P76 pictures there's always someone else who does. Thank you Mr Moore.