

## New Forest Tour 2017



We set off on Thursday at 7:30 from a cloudy Lutterworth, Michael and Gillian had sorted the route, we went down the Fosse to Stow, where we stopped for breakfast at Hufkins Bakery. Then with the tops down we set off for Marlborough for a Coffee stop and the ladies did a bit of shopping. After a stop for a picnic on route we reached our destination the Crown Hotel in Lyndhurst about 2:30pm.

On Thursday evening after dinner we were joined by some members of the Southampton and New Forest MG Club, we had a great evening swapping stories and forging links for the future.



Friday saw Ray and Sylvia join us early for a trip via the chain ferry at Poole harbour and Studland to Swanage, where we boarded the steam train to Corfe Castle. Angela and I were minding our own business sat outside a pub in the sunshine when Graham and Nicky shot past us at a rate of knots, it turns out they had got the return train times mixed up and were an hour early!

After a run back through the New Forest in the sunshine and a wash and brush up at the hotel, we had our first group meal in the hotels restaurant. The three fish ratatouille was excellent.

Saturday saw a trip through the forest to Beaulieu Motor Museum, Abbey and village. I am sure that most of the men could have spent far longer than we did in the motor museum but the gardens were splendid and everyone went on the monorail and vintage bus. We all went out to an Italian restaurant that Ray and Sylvia had arranged, what a great place, the food was excellent, the ambience engaging and the company superb. I am sure we all ate far too much!



Sunday saw a trip to Bucklers Hard and Exbury Gardens with another trip on a Steam train the miniature one at Exbury. Bucklers Hard on the Beaulieu river is steeped in history and well worth a visit, it is where some of Nelsons fleet were built. The museum is very interesting and some of the cottages are set up as they were in the day. Some of us went on

a river trip and had a spot of lunch at the pub. Robin had been having trouble with his battery so he shot off to Southampton to get another.

Exbury Gardens are massive and we would have needed far more than an afternoon to do them Justice. We had our last group meal at the hotel and after one last walk to the Maserati/Ferrari garage and a night cap in the pub retired for the night.

Most of us returned on the Monday but Graham and Nicky, Derek and Val stayed on for another couple of days visiting Sammy Millar's motorcycle museum, Keyhaven and Hurst Castle as well as the Beach.

We were seven cars, Graham and Nicky, Michael and Gilliam, Robin and Mary, Ray and Sylvia. Derek and Val, Paul and Jean, Angela and I. The hotel was very nice, secure car parking for the MG's, ideally located in the village of Lyndhurst with all its attractions and in the middle of the New Forest. I am sure we will use it again.

We had a great time thanks to all who took part for making it so enjoyable.



Cheers Kevan and Angela.