



**Sporting Bears Motor Club**

**Driving for Charity**



# **POLAR NEWS**

No. 90 June 2015

## **FROM YOUR EDITOR**

A warm welcome to new members Mark Hunter and William Noble, who came with their cars to Dream Rides, and Rob Jenner, Darran Upfield, Peter Ellis and Henry Lawrie, who we hope to meet soon. Congratulations to Tony and Iris Woods who recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Unfortunately Iris has since been admitted to hospital suffering from a chest infection and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

## **BRIAN SHORT**



It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Brian Short. He succumbed very quickly to oesophageal cancer, which was probably a blessing in disguise as it had spread and was inoperable. He will be hugely missed for his quiet kindness, enthusiasm, sense of humour and attendance at so many Bears events I've lost count. He was also superb as 'garage master' for the Dream Rides at the NEC and Thirlestane Castle.

## **NORTHERN GAMBOL TOO**

Paul 'Grizzly Bear' Bonsall bravely organised another Northern Gambol at the Fat Lamb. Twenty-two cars



signed up for a great weekend of driving and eating, with some fund-raising for Jigsaw thrown in.

Friday was for getting there and Tony and Iris along with Brian and myself had a leisurely drive down in the sunshine - after some last minute panics about the two MGBs! My V8 had just received one of those hugely expensive but exceptionally cooling aluminium



radiators and she showed her appreciation by dumping 3/4 of a pint of Penrite Classic 20W-50 onto the lock-up floor. Quick examination revealed it was the front oil seal and she was booked into the garage 'toot sweet' - Brian having no time spare as he was finishing off the fibre-glass bumper conversion on Tony's GT. Those indicators of course threw a wobbly the morning we were leaving but

super hero Brian got them sorted! Leaving a bit late, we had lunch in Moffat and cream tea at Cranstons in Penrith before arriving at the Fat Lamb, where a lovely buffet supper rounded off the day's eating regime. Meanwhile the weather had closed in and some souls were up super early cleaning their cars! The rest of us had a huge breakfast and got moving by 9.30 and by then the weather had decided to be mostly sunny, if cool - not that that's a worry if you're in a V8 which always has heat to spare.

The day's drive was quite a long one, but through wonderfully scenic bits of Cumbria and Northumberland, up hill and down dale to the coffee stop at Lanercost



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Priory. More scenic and hilly bits on the way to lunch at Leaplish Waterside Park at Kielder - the V8 radiator proving its worth and Tony's indicators continuing to work!

Still sunny and the afternoon run involved a cream tea at Langley Castle Hotel. We passed on that and headed for the Fat Lamb and an early bath - I'd to get togged up as Louise from Thelma and Louise and had a ferociously red wig to cut a fringe into!

A delicious dinner and a fantastic turn out of fancy dresses - the theme being 'The Car's the Star'. We had 3 Genevieves, 2 Driving Miss Daisies, 2 Dick Dastardly and Penelope Pitstops, the Doc from Back to the Future, Caractacus Potts and Truly Scrumptious from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Starsky and Hutch, Parker and Lady Penelope



and the Bandit from Smoky and the Bandit, not forgetting Thelma and Louise - quite a sight!!

The Doc's outfit was the most outstanding and should have won a prize in my humble opinion. It was



good to see Bob Smith on the Saturday night and he joined Paul in his Jaguar on the Sunday for the day's activity.

After all the grub, there was a huge array of goodies to be auctioned off and the bidding was fierce. I did wonder how all the stuff was going to fit into the cars - after all TVRs or Jaguar E-types are not renowned for their load carrying capacity! Anyway, the auction raised £1,106 - which means the whole amount raised over the weekend was £2,119. A good result for Jigsaw and Paul will get the hand-over sorted soon.



Another cool but sunny day saw us heading off for a 'less driving but more attractions' day - the scenic route to the Lakeland Motor Museum was fine for slim MGBs but more challenging for a rather wide Ferrari 360 Modena. Ten out of ten to the driver for getting it there without mishap - although it must have been close at times! After a tour of the museum and lunch, there was a run on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite steam train, a boat trip up Lake Windermere to Bowness (cool but calm) and the Classic Bus back to our cars at the Museum; Wonderful!

Some headed for home at that point and some headed back to the Fat Lamb for another night of excellent food and great company. A fantastic weekend and many thanks to Paul 'Grizzly' Bonsall for organising it so superbly.

*Helen Kirkness*



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## THIRLESTANE DREAM RIDES

Once again hopes were high for a fine weekend as this had been forecast all the previous week. Fifteen willing volunteers assembled at the Lauderdale Hotel for the now traditional pre-setting up lunch on the Saturday, ably organised as usual by Kate Cherry. We then made our way to the Castle to set up for our 10<sup>th</sup> appearance at the Borders Vintage Automobile Club's Motoring Extravaganza. The first of the day's tasks, setting up the large marquee, provided something of a challenge owing to the gusty wind, but, thanks to good teamwork and direction it was eventually up and secured. Discretion suggested that the other lighter gazebos could wait until the morning and we concentrated on setting up the garage area, judged to the centimetre by Andrew with his new "wheelie thingy", to Mike Webber's plan.

Sunday was again a little gusty so the very lightest gazebo was left out. The wind dropped throughout the day and we had some fine sunshine, which brought out the crowds. We had only one driver dropout. This was Dave Henderson's DeLorean, which apparently had suffered a breakdown on Friday but there had

been a slight mix-up in communications so this information came by a circuitous route. This was particularly unfortunate since the main theme of the show was "Back to the Future", featuring a replica time travelling DeLorean, complete with Doc and Marty. We heard later that this was also to feature some nine members of the DeLorean club, but only 3 of them made it on time!



The long distance medal for drivers goes once again to Keith and Ann Borkett, who we were very pleased to see, and we were also delighted to meet Steve Chant and his wife Jane, who had accompanied Keith and Ann. Steve provided timely help to the garage team and Jane helped out in the charity/driver refreshment role. Polars Claire and Sid were there helping with the fund raising.

First-time cars in the garage were William Noble's superb and rare Alfa Romeo 8C, Steve Ormerod's Healey 3000, Mark McKail's Tojero Cobra, Brian Hunter's very fast Nissan GT-R, Niel Jorgensen's

Aston Martin Vanquish S, Mark Hunter's Ultima Can-Am, Graham Clarke's Mercedes SLK 55 AMG, Graham Craig's lovely Daimler SP250 "Dart" and Sarah Forbes' charming and very well kept Karmann Beetle Cabriolet. Welcome to all of them and hope to see you again.

Many of our Thirlestane regular drivers were there on the day including James, Graham (Chappell), Phil (Ellis), Keith, Phil (Roberts), Bob, Andrew, Hamish, Ron, Fozzy, Mike (Webber), Chris (Pollin), Trevor, Jonathan, Stuart and Tom. John Ducker was excused this year as he had to attend his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Congratulations John.



We did consider reinstating the £10 lucky dip as per last year but, since the start of the rides had been put back to 11:30 by arrangement with the organisers, booking at normal rates had already started by the time we'd decided, so it was quietly shelved.



Brian Short's role as Garage Boss was taken over by Andrew while Mike Davies took on the Drivers' Briefing. During the day Brian Kirkness did sterling service in the garage guiding expensive cars safely in and out. The later start to Dream Rides once again led to us bringing forward our main ring appearance. Seven cars paraded in front of the public whilst Andrew

**See You Soon!**

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**5 July** Classics at Corbridge car show. Contact Bob Selby email cobra.gpt290s@blueyonder.co.uk

**18 July** Classics in the City, Edinburgh. Contact Andrew Carrie 07798646844 or email Andrew@acarrie.net

**25/26 July** Shiny Day, Leyburn. Car detailing plus Leyburn '40s Weekend see www.leyburn1940sweekend.org

Contact Jim Harris email - Jimmini@btinternet.com

**10 August** Children's Dream Rides at Teesside Autodrome. Contact Tony Beverley 07968823172 email - tonybev52@gmail.com.

**16 August** 21<sup>st</sup> Raby Castle ClassicCar Show. Contact Tony Beverley 07968823172 email - tonybev52@gmail.com.

**23 August** Sunday Lunch and Meeting at The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland Contact Pat 01358723845

**6 September** Bo'ness Hill Climb. Contact Andrew Carrie 07798646844 or email Andrew@acarrie.net

**13-15 November** NEC Dream Rides. Contact Andrew Lake email treasurer@sportingbears.co.uk

**6 December** Sunday Lunch and Meeting at The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland. Contact Pat 01358723845

gave a brilliant commentary promoting the Dream Rides. Despite the later than normal start time we managed to send out 100 rides or thereabouts with James McChlery's Lamborghini Countach the clear leader with 9. The next closest was Brian Hunter's Nissan



GTR on 7.

The Dream Rides raised at least £3,025, a slightly inexact figure since, in the words of one of the booking team (Pat and Helen), "we were slightly frazzled at the end". In any event, the final total was an excellent £3,268.78, the Rides total being topped up by public donations, selling badges, the raffle and selling some baking, teas and coffees, courtesy of Anne Cubitt, Steve Ormerod, Lorna Hunter, and Chris Cooney who put in a brief appearance to drop off several wee bags of tablet made by his wife.



All donations will go to the Scottish Association for Children with Heart Disorders (SACHD) ably represented by three generations of the McLean family who spent the day with us. They have been staunch supporters of this event and the Bears ever since they came for the first time to represent SACHD in 2009. Roddy McLean, now a strapping young man of 16



and a previous recipient of SACHD assistance, gave a fine thank-you address to the drivers prior to the Rides starting, which was very much appreciated. He also accompanied Fiona down to the ring to speak on behalf of SACHD once she had done her usual Dream Rides' promotion. As always, the family took lots of rides and donated a great deal to the day. I think the wonderful picture, of the junior son Alexander in the Ultima Can-Am, represents the essence of what Dream Rides is all about.



We had a number of Polars visit the stand including Tony Woods, and Karen and Bill Niven, who were attending with the Edinburgh MG Club, Keith and Ann Davison, Philip and Sally Anderson and Stuart Brown.

A very big thanks to all the drivers and all the Polars, who worked so hard on the day to make it a success, and enjoyable for everyone. Pat and I definitely couldn't have done it without you.

*Dick Nortcliffe*

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**Have a nice day!**