



# Y.M.M. MIRROR

*reflections of the year so far*

Hi-

Welcome to the revamped newsletter. We have changed the title to reflect the fact that by the time you get it most of it is history rather than news. So here goes. First up was:-

## **Riviera Run 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May**

**I LOVE NEWQUAY** Well, that's what it said on the signs on the way in! This year's Riviera Run was a quiet start to the show season. With many people feeling the pinch, Trelvelge prices were just a bit too much for some.

On a personal note, I felt the site let themselves down a bit, trying to cash-in on the 50<sup>th</sup> T-shirt business. The Cornish Mini Club, who are the organisers of the event, donate huge amounts to charity from their T-shirt sales.

Arriving on the Friday evening, the traditional 'get hammered party' was in full swing, with Messrs Harwood and Fellows being the ring leaders. I made the fatal mistake of 'popping over' to say hi, when a can of lager appeared through the window in true Harry Potter style. I miraculously escaped unscathed to retire for at least some food before hitting the vino.

Saturday was the main arrival plan for most other 'runners', however the weather throughout was dry but overcast, the camping field reflecting the lower turnout this year, many started preparations for the show next day.

Through the day, the true devastation of the previous night unfolded, with tales of 'confusion', man love, and other such debauched acts which I cannot discuss here. Well, not this time anyway. Needless to say, some did not make lunch, let alone breakfast...

Sunday, and the traditional, 'noisy exhaust competition' started at 0630, and with Stan in tow, I joined the queue for the show and shine.

Due to the parking arrangements last year, a show car got badly damaged by a push chair.....don't get me wrong, I like to see all and everybody at shows, but surely some common sense should prevail, and organisers ask for these mobile paint testers not to be driven round the cars.....well, due to this, this year they went the opposite way, and you got your own field to park in! Nice idea, but it left at least the same number of cars on the car park outside waiting to get in! Queuing to get in, we were treated to two sets of entertainment - one, Jan F making excellent bacon sarnies, (thanks Jan), and two, someone left their non-mini car in the car park overnight, delaying the start of the entry to the car park for the show, which caused the usual mayhem up the hill; we were treated to the sight of a tractor dragging the said offending vehicle on three trolleys and a rear wheel!

The show itself was great, with some fantastic cars on offer. My personal favourite was the clubman 'Longman' race car replica, which I saw on the way down screaming past me on the dual carriageway. Not only did it look the part, it had all the toys to go with it.

On the show side, Stan picked up first in class, Longman replica won, with a nice van conversion from Hong Kong picking up 'spirit' of the show.

Sunday evening saw the fancy dress kick off big style in the club, however, due to the 'busy-ness' of the previous two nights, the YMM hippies were more 'chilled, man'.

Monday was leaving day for the majority of 'runners'. Clearing of the 'beer can curtain competition' entry took longer than usual.

All in all, the Riviera Run for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a muted event, with individual feats of drinking making the difference, but saying that, it is the memories you take away that matter.....if you can remember!

Gary M

## **Bristol Mini Day 31<sup>st</sup> May**

The sun had its hat on and so did our minis at Bristol Mini Day! We began our adventure at the Illminster services and treated the customers and staff to a wonderful display of bodywork-both on the minis and us! The fancy dress code was to dress as the era of our mini and we had quite the collection of celebs from Ace Ventura and Lara Croft to none other than the King himself.....Elvis! The Sunday drivers looked very impressed with us and gazed upon us with envy!! A particular mention has to go the Roger who dressed as a rather hip hop 70's rocker complete with long blonde wig and guitar shaped glasses! My mummy always said that the quiet ones where the worst!!

We arrived in convoy and very soon the club stand was a hive of activity. Birthday cards, banners, face masks and hats were donned.....by the minis that is, and the tombola and name the teddy was set up ready to help raise money for the Somerset Air Ambulance. Soon it was time for the club competition and Club Mini Mania was set and ready to go! First was the treasure hunt and our strategy of separating to cover more ground proved to be fruitful and we gained good points for this event! Next was the cake eating competition and Ashley bravely volunteered! At this point Lesley sacrificed the birthday cake, which she had brought for us to enjoy with a cup of tea, to the competition ensuring that the only member to get a slice was Ashley who very kindly reported that it was lovely and that we would have enjoyed it!! Ashley proved to be the King of cake eating, proving he was no quitter by devouring 7 slices of cake in 3 minutes with time to spare for swallowing!! The sugar rush caused him to get a dose of the shakes but as he was dressed as Elvis he dealt with them like a true professional! Well done Ashley!

We were riding high on the points and continued to collect more with Lesley thrusting her hand in the gloopy bucket to ruffle for numbered balls and Mr Mapletoft displaying his slow and steady hand on the buzzer competition. Viana flew down the course on a moon hopper leaving the less experience and somewhat heavier competition in her dust! Next came the skipping and Craig stepped up for this, managing a whopping 98 skips in 1 minute.....not bad for a 6ft 4in rugby player. It was reported that his mummy was proud of her little soldier and if he was a tad short of breath at the end it mattered not as points meant prizes!! Finally I stepped up for musical chairs and was taken out by a jezebel with pointy knees and elbows! However, I'm not bitter about it!!

When the results were called we found that our team work had resulted in a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> place, winning an amazing £100 for our charity! Combined with the fruits of Andy's labour at the stand selling tickets for the tombola and name the teddy we raised a fantastic total of £270!! All told it was a fantastic day, with great weather and huge amounts of fun! Many thanks to all who participated and worked hard to make the stand look so wonderful.

Jan F

## Our First ever Page 3 Mini Model



### Delilah, 19 from Stoke - on - Trent

Just look at the headlights on that! With that curvaceous body she is a real head turner.

For those of you with a more sensible approach she has:-

1380 Swiftune Race Rally Engine

Webber Carb

5 speed gear box

Monaco Body Kit

Lamborghini Purple with Rainbow Metal Flake Paint

Gives out over 90 BHP at the wheel

Jan, the lucky owner says

*'I've had her for over 3 years and she is my daily runner as well as my absolute delight. If I won the lottery I'd buy her a garage!'*

## Mini Cooper Day Beaulieu 14<sup>th</sup> June

Paul Putnam led a convoy of ten cars on our now usual route to Beaulieu via Zig Zag hill. It is great fun both going up and coming down! I drove our Paul Smith for a change instead of Bridget driving her Cooper Sports. It sure is easier negotiating those tricky bends with narrower wheels.

We joined Greg and Jan, Colin and Mandy and Brenda and Gary who set off earlier to set up the stand. In all we had 14 cars on display. In between was a colourful display of giant birthday cards celebrating the mini's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. They had been cleverly and artistically created by Gary, soon to be known as Mapletuft, and Andrew and Lesley. Andrew also did lots of gold 50 speed limit type signs. The cars wore party hats created by Jan Fellowes' clever school children. The cars had balloons and banners too. Bridget had collected and laminated lots of mini themed birthday cards which adorned the gazebo.

Colin and Mandy chipped in with a giant birthday cake, which the sun baked for them. It melted the candles too. It was scorching. In the last seven years I have only known it wet once.



*Colourful display at Beaulieu*

We all had a good old mooch around the trade stands and the hundreds of cars in attendance before settling down to enjoy some birthday cake supplied by Greg and Jan. It had a photo of YMM cars on a run to Cheddar. It was lovely. Not at all cheesy!

You may recall that we won the much coveted Best Club Stand award at Beaulieu in 2005 and 2007. So those of you who believe in sequences would have had a bet on us winning it in 2009. You would have won because WE DID. That's three times in five years. Brilliant!

Special thanks go to all those who put such a great effort in decorating the stand and to those who organised and manned a tombola and 'Guess the name of the Teddy' (Mr Bridger) raising money for The Children's Hospice.

So once again we left happy and our pleasurable day was enhanced on the trip home gazing at grazing New Forest ponies and lumbering cows who had better things to do than moo-ve over for a Mini.

## Wincanton Classic Vehicle Show 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June

The Wincanton show which had been washed out two years ago moved to Henstridge and was better for it with a splendid turnout of vehicles including tractors, lorries, buses and motorcycles.

It was a two day affair. It was good to see Mark Chard on the stand with his resurrected Mini. The one which a petrol tanker wrecked on a garage forecourt minutes after it had just passed its M.O.T. after its first rebuild. Some of us camped out overnight enjoying the bands playing live music. One of us had so much to drink that they couldn't finish off their can of lager before retiring. You would never guess in a million years who it was and frankly I'm not telling you!

The sky clouded over on the Sunday but it was still warm and the stand was refreshed with some different cars. We even had a new car and member. Shaun's mum in a gleaming and very pretty and original Electric Blue Italian Job. You don't see many of them.

They had a dog show and a bird display. No not Shaun and his mum. The show. Shame it was not the sort of bird display that I would have preferred! There was a display of Majorettes though. Give 'em a few years!

We all then had a bit of fun parading our minis in the parade ring. But try as I may, I still couldn't see a brown girl in the ring. Tra La la la lee.

Then it was time for the awards. I cannot type a drum rollllllllll. See it looks stupid. So you will just have to imagine one.

### **BEST CLUB STAND AWARD - Yeovil Mini Mania.**

The prize? A gleaming cup? - No. A shiny plaque? - No. A mouse mat? - YES!

I shouldn't be ungrateful. It was a great show and free to enter.

As reported in the Blackmore Vale Magazine the prizes didn't end there with Gary Mapletuft! winning the Best Car in the Show award with his van. His mouse mat hasn't materialised yet! Hard luck! Tufty.



*Gary Mapletuft disguised as Larry Grayson at Henstridge.....Oooh Shut that door!*

## Milborne Port Primary School Fete 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Mandy, Jan Fellows, Stuart, Gary and Hannah and daughter and friend, Jan and Greg and me went along to the School Fete to help raise some money for the school.

We had a guess the number of balloons in a mini competition and a sale of Goody bags.

Jan Ridout organised water filled balloon throwing which the youngsters enjoyed.

It was an American Fancy Dress theme and most of our girls dressed as cowgirls.

Hannah went as a squaw and a very fine one too. Gary wore a poncho and looked just like Clint Eastwood, toting his water pistols, which he enjoyed firing at the kids. I don't know who was the biggest kid. I went as Hopalong Cassidy as I had gout and could barely walk!

The cars wore party hats again and we raised £80 for the School.

Jan's magenta moaning minnie was drooled over by youngsters and adults alike with one parent insisting on buying it!

## Haynes Great Mini Meet 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009

We seem to becoming more involved in helping run this show.

Ian Ottley planned a lovely ride through our beautiful countryside ending up at Ham Hill. His reward for his efforts - torrential rain which put many off, including me.

And if that wasn't enough his gleaming red freshly painted magazine cover mini packed up. Undeterred he limped home and returned in his gleaming red BMW MINI. Do they breakdown?

Thank goodness the next day only brought us showers.

A convoy of nine joined seven overnighters.

We had a good display of cars. The most of any club by far. Jools showing his Jet Black on the stand for the first time. It was gleaming but had a totally rusty bonnet. He stripped it to bare metal and deliberately left it in the rain to achieve the look which he wanted. He spent hours putting rust in his mini whilst I spent a fortune getting the rust out of mine!

As the day wore on Rob and Lisa arrived and it was good to see Hugo and his stunning girlfriend, Verity. Hugo entertained us with his magic exhaust pipe. Made some fabulous noises!

We took it in turns to go marshalling on the track. Andrew's EUK with its patchwork quilt body may look YUK to some, but it sounds good and flies around the track.

It won a prize too for the second best 'shed' in the show. The best shed had left early! So he won by default. It was their lucky day. Andrew and Lesley's delightful woody won yet another prize -The Spirit of the Show award. And Lesley won most of the Raffle prizes. But she usually does!

Andrew had the idea for all the minis at the show to join in a cavalcade around the track. Spookily 59 joined in the fun! Three managed to break down going at a snail's pace. One, Paul's newly purloined pick up managed to break down standing still. He had just acquired it and brought it back all the way from Liverpool with his brother, Shaun the Modifier. It managed the motorway but was clearly having none of this going round in circles lark. It is great having Shaun, his brother Paul and parents around who all the space of a very short time have added some lovely cars to the club.



*Cavalcade at Haynes*

Talking of lovely cars and Haynes -Andrew and Lesley had the honour of displaying their Woody and Bridget and me, our Paul Smith in Haynes slick '50 years of Mini' exhibition which lasts until Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

It is a good display. Check it out if you can. And of course we have left our YMM stickers in the cars for some good and free advertising!





*The two cars representing the club at Haynes Summer Mini Exhibition*

On the way home a few of us finished the day off by dining at Mudford Inn. I like a nice faggot but then driving a Camp Freddie I would wouldn't I? Trouble was Colin nobbled the last two but being a good bloke he let me swap two exotic sausages for one faggot!

## **Classics at the Castle 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

We had thirteen good looking cars on display at this show- billed as *the leading classic and sports car show in the South of England featuring over 1000 cars all in the beautiful lakeside setting of Sir Walter Raleigh's 16th century Castle.*

I couldn't have put it better myself.

We laid the cars out in a sort of arrow formation. Got them all lined up OK when the bloke next door obliterated my Mk 1 with a giant RENAULT flag and pole. He was in his rights, but having experienced the damage a flag can do to a car I wasn't having my car so close. And it ruined the look of the display. So we spent ages juggling the cars around again. Thanks to Stu, Gary, Jan and Jim for their input and help in achieving the end result.

We started with two gazebos but we had to take them down. Stuart's was wrecked by the wind. There were gazebos flying around like kites and tumbling back to earth like scenes from those pioneers of aviation films.

Before all this we had buffed up our cars. Gary and Stu and I had laid out our memorabilia in our minis. We like to see a bit of nostalgia. So does the public. I let them sit in my car and sniff that unique smell which comes with old cars!

Mandy set up the awards and information table and I displayed a birthday cake which I had customised with some tiny mini cars and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary graphics. With Jim's input and Jan's Union Jack Cushion we improved the look of the display and I finished it off with an Anniversary grille banner. I was pleased that it looked good as my 'Happy Birthday' banner lasted all of thirty seconds before being shredded by the wind!

Tracy was born on Moon Landing Day but we celebrated her birthday a day early with Pink Champagne and cake.

A combination of Jim's technique and the wind gave Rob and Lisa a pink shower. At least it wasn't a golden one!

The show is massive. There is almost too much to see and some staggeringly beautiful and expensive cars on display.

But having said that, there is always a lot of interest in the dear old minis.

The Show organizers do not award prizes to individual cars but they do award Club Stand Awards. As it says in their rules- *Motor Club Stands will be judged and prizes awarded. Clubs are therefore encouraged to create attractive displays of members' cars, rather than simply use their plots as Club Car parks - all too often seen at many classic car shows. The aim is to help raise the standards at Classics at the Castle to everyone's overall enjoyment.*

You always hope to win a prize so you prick up your ears when an announcement comes over the tannoy.

This is how it went:-

*In third place Ferrari* They had an amazing stand with Italian flag and Ferrari bunting enclosing an immaculate display of gleaming red Ferraris.

I remarked if they were third then we had NO chance.

*In second place Yeovil (getting excited) Car Club (Doh!)*

*In first place Yeovil Mini Mania*

We all whooped with joy and hugged each other in disbelief.

Winning first in such a prestigious show was astonishing.

Anyway my fellow members decided that I should drive my Mk 1 and go and pick up the prize and have a photo shoot.

My pretty little mini was dwarfed in between a big white Ferrari and a Sunbeam Talbot but he had a big smile on his face knowing that we had come first.

The Judges said that we had a charming display with lots of information and memorabilia. I cannot remember everything as I was still in a daze.

Oh I nearly forgot to tell you. The Prize a whopping £250 to boost the club coffers.

A special thanks to the following:-

Brenda and her Silver Sparkler

Gary and his pristine Clubman Estate

Greg in Kelly's Red Cooper

Jan and her Tahiti Blue Cooper Works

Rob and his maroon racer

Stu's oldest car in the club and memorabilia

Gary and his immaculate van and memorabilia

Shaun (Mr Modifier) and his good looking customised Red Cooper

Colin and Mandy's sweet original Red Cooper

Jim and Tracy's rare Antelope (Biscuit) coloured Mini 1000

Rick and his good looking bumper-less Green racer with all over yellow stripes

Roger and his daughter's Orange Mini

And Bridget and my pretty little Smoke Grey Mk 1

Thanks to all of you for making it happen.

## Club night 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Another good turnout despite the weather. We had guests of honour in the shape of the Bests of Somerset Classic Minis and three Hungarian Mini fans and their minis on route to the IMM.

And where is the photo I hear you ask. Sorry too wet and gloomy.

We did have a vote though to finalise the revamped Flyer.

We would like to welcome the following new members :-

Kirstie Hellings

Shaun Bown

Paul Bown

Angela Bown

Ashley Mapletoft

Hannah Mapletoft

Neil Laird

Alan & Linda Harwood

Nikki & Jenny Forward

Wayne Hyams

Miles Lawson

Paul Huish

Mark

Nick

Sharon & Paul

It was good to see Andrew Spiller back again having fully recovered from his heart and knee surgery.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Greg and Jan for all their hard work over the last eight years running the club.

We are now emailing you with details of meetings and events and news, so if you haven't already done so please give Jan Fellows your email address. You could just email her at [nip-ma-heid@hotmail.com](mailto:nip-ma-heid@hotmail.com) and she will be pleased to add you the list.

### Coming soon

Larry Piper's Classic Car Show Sparkford 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009

50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Run 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009

North Devon Grand Tour 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009

Jurassic Mouth to Mouth Run 20<sup>th</sup> September 2009

MiniWorld Action Day Castle Combe 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Sunday Lunch and Cream Tea Run. Yummy! To be arranged

Southwest Mini Show Bath & West Showground 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Christmas Party 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009

It was such a success last year at the Airfield Tavern that we are going back.

Finally, we value your membership and hope that you enjoy your time with us. We are always striving to improve the club and would welcome your suggestions. If you have any photos or would like to contribute an article for the future then please let us know.

So that's it till the next time when there will be a full report on YMM at the IMM.

Cheers

Bas