



South Downs TR Group

Bubbly all the way!

On the club night in May we tried something new, a visit to an award-winning vineyard called Ridgeway situated near Ditchling Beacon in the heart of Sussex. We were joined by members of the Kent group, who went to great lengths to arrive at the Five Bells at Chailey in time for 7pm, before we set off to meet the others at the vineyard for a tour at 7.30. After a hasty amendment to our group parking we quickly embarked in viewing some of the 16-acre land that the vineyard covers, growing varieties of grapes that allow them to make sparkling wines. The 1,500 tins dotted throughout the fields we later learnt were to burn paraffin during frosty spells to raise the temperature to prevent damage to the valuable vines.

As the light faded we were taken inside to the winery where grapes are crushed, fermentation and wine bottling occurs. Immediately you could smell the alcohol. Once the wine has passed through various stages here they are allowed to mature in the cellar below and I think most of us had not really absorbed that making good wine could take at least 4 years before you were able to sell any stock.

At the moment they had over 100,000 bottles of wine in their cellar increasing to quarter of a million by the end of this year. We learnt that they had real problems keeping up with demand especially as English sparkling wine has such a good reputation these days.

Lastly we moved onto the wine tasting. Probably the best part of the evening. We tasted four very different types of wine and everyone had their favorites and I think I remember seeing a few bottles purchased and packed into bags before the journey home. As the evening was still early when we finished some headed back to Five Bells as the men desperately needed a pint or two.

March madness or was it the Mastermind?

The month of March saw our annual mastermind competition now in its second year. Teams were drawn from a hat and faced a range of questions on both TR related matters as well as general knowledge. In the end Gregg May, Ralph Haffenden and Dave (from Kent Group) came through as overall winners. The rest of us had to find consolation in the raffle afterwards as a way of reducing our disappointment.



Thanks from Kent Group re: Boughton Classic Car and Transport Show

On behalf of the Committee, TR-Register, Kent Group, may I take this opportunity to thank the South Downs Group Members who helped make this, our first event of 2004, the success it was. Being awarded the Best Club Trophy can only highlight the TR-marque and endorse to the public what a strong following these cars have. With twenty-three cars on-site, ranging from an early TR2 to a genuine TR8 DHC [courtesy of Ian Freeman\Saxon Group] we had an example to suit all tastes and pockets!

A.Poynter \ Deputy GL \ Kent

Magnificent Motors

Our very first static show of the year and also a first for the town of Eastbourne occurred on the May day bank holiday weekend. We chose Sunday as the day that we would have our greatest presence and it turned out to be the best day for weather in the end too, all be it a bit on the chilly side. In all we had 9 cars situated on the top of the wish tower hill, overlooking the beach towards the pier, with many other classic cars on the other side down on the western lawns. It took a while for the cars to filter through as they came from the Sovereign end of the seafront near the marina to the show at the other end nearly 4 miles away as a cavalcade. Next year this might change. Once arrived SDG members were greeted with the first outing of our very own gazebo, which was for a time not used, but by the afternoon a gathering of our members had occurred. Some of us even had the pleasure of a ride in the infamous Eastbourne dotto train. Fireworks rounded off the evening and I think the show was a success overall.





South Downs

Events 2004

Tuesday June 8th Club Night Cannonball Run

Our annual pilgrimage along the local highways and byways led by the irrepressible Paul Cannon. Meet at Five Bells, Chailey in order to set off at 8pm sharp and for those of you who can't make this we will also be returning to this pub at the end of the run. Raffle to follow.

Sunday July 11th Summer Saunter

A great success last year, with a mystery tour finishing up at the Filching Manor Motor Museum, this years event is to take a similar format. A mystery tour with an unknown destination is the order of the day once again. Those without a sense of adventure need not apply! The start will be at the Five Bells, Chailey, with coffee available to those who want it. The tour will take a lunch stop at an interesting pub, and carry on to a final attraction.

Tuesday July 13th Club Night Best presented TR round One

More details to follow

Weekend - July 17th and 18th

Friday Ad Bentley Wildfowl Motor Show

This is now definitely going ahead. See Gregg for details and entry form.

Weekend - July 23rd and 25th July TR Register International Weekend

Why not come and join your fellow SDG members at the annual TR Register event? Situated under the Malvern Hills there is plenty to do for everyone including auto jumble, treasure hunts, runs, and even some shopping trips for the ladies. There are plenty of bed and breakfast hotels nearby for those of you who aren't keen on camping, but those of you who are intending to 'rough it' for a few nights why not make your way to the SDG campsite in the quiet zone? We will be waiting for you. **Look out for further details in the TR Action.**

Sunday 1st Aug MG Weekender

The South East Division of the MG Car Club has once again invited the SDG to attend its annual event held at Plumpton Race Course. Once again we hope that we can give good support to our neighboring club.

Sunday August 8th Battle Abbey

A good day out and a chance for SDG to put on a great display of TRs. We hope to achieve one of every TR here, so get 'em out and give 'em an airing! Held in the grounds of Battle Abbey, the scene of the 1066 Battle of Hastings, there is always a large selection of cars as well as stalls and games, not to mention the historical interest such a venue offers.

Tuesday August 10th - Club Night Summer BBQ

At the Five Bells Chailey possibly in association with a Jazz evening and other neighboring groups will be invited. Further details to follow.

Weekend - August 28th and 29th

Shoreham Airshow

A great event full of cars and aircraft. Held at Shoreham Airport near Brighton, this event includes large car club displays (of which the SDG stand will be one), trade stands and fantastic aircraft displays, both static and in the air. So whether your interest lies with cars, vintage aircraft or fast jets, there is just about something for everybody. Let's make sure SDG put on a great display.

Saturday September 11th

Brighton Speed trials

SDG has provided marshalling manpower for many years. The Brighton & Hove Motor Club Speed Trials is a major national sprint which puts all sorts of machinery against the clock on a quarter mile, standing start drag along Madeira Drive, on Brighton seafront. The mundane to the exotic, its all there. Turn up just to watch or join in with the paddock-marshalling melee, it's a brilliant event for motor sport enthusiasts. Hey, even enter the TR and make SDG proud!

September 14th Club Night Best presented TR round Two

Further details to follow

September 18th - 20th

Continental Car Tours Compiegne Tour, France in conjunction with SDG.

Organised by SDG in association with Continental Car Tours, a registered tour operator, this is set to become an annual event. Take the TR to Compiegne, northern France for a weekend of French food, French wine, French scenery and French roads! Staying in a traditional French hotel, there will be organised tours, chateau visits and an evening dinner all included in the price of £139.00 per person. Also included are the ferry crossings. (Price based on two sharing a car). Contact us for further details and a booking form. Don't miss out on this fantastic event!

Tuesday October 12th – Club Night

To be announced

Sunday November 1st

London to Brighton veteran Car Run breakfast BBQ

The great London to Brighton veteran car run passes through Staplefield (between Handcross and Haywards Heath), the location for the SDG breakfast BBQ. Come and join us from 9:00am to watch, and err... encourage the drivers of these brilliant old machines on their quest to get to Brighton in one piece!

Tuesday November 9th – Club Night

SDG 2004 Annual General Meeting

The Five Bells, Chailey. Agenda to follow. Name the Car competition to follow afterwards.

Tuesday December 14th – Club Night

SDG Christmas Dinner

At our regular venue, The Five Bells, Chailey. Menu available during November

NB: Details of events may change for reasons beyond our control

Arthur Massey's Race Calendar for the Revington TR/TR Register Sprint and Hillclimb Championship

Date	Venue
18 th April	Gurston
25 April	Wiscombe
16 th May	Shelsley Walsh
13 th June	Curborough
June TBC	Porlock
18 th July	Gurston
7 th Aug	Goodwood
11 th Sept	Wiscombe
25 th Sept	Longleat

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Have you got a story to share perhaps a restoration project or an event you have attended or even if you want to sell a few items. Then we love to hear from you.

Please send articles to me: Jane Worsfold
10 Quantock Close, Eastbourne, E.Sussex, BN23 8EU
or 01323 461972 (before 8pm)
Cworsfold@tesco.net

Publication dates for the newsletter
9th May, 9th July, 9th Sept, 9th Nov, 9th Jan 05