



Ripley Classic Car Show Monday 31st May

We arrived at the Ripley Classic Car Showground just before 9.30, just as there was a steady stream of exhibitors starting to drive in. Due to Covid guidelines we were only allowed three vehicles on the Club stand rather than our usual 6/8 vehicles, so we had chosen a Land Rover Discovery, a Suzuki Jimny and V8 Land Rover to represent our Club, setting them in a line and their wheels onto ramps. Other Club members had to park in the grassy field with the paying public and walk in.



We had a good spot – just by the exhibitor's entrance gate so we could have a good look at all the vehicles as they drove in, as well as the public main entrance and we had a good view of the rest of the showground. Amenities were nearby too, so lots of people were wandering past and able to see us clearly.

We unravelled our new flags and banner and set them up and laid out our introductory leaflets, our latest newsletter and our Club keyrings onto a table, before standing back and admiring our handiwork. It was quite overcast and chilly to hang around, so one or two of us manned the stand, while others wandered off to admire the Classic cars, lined up in rows further up the field. It's always good to spot and reminisce all the old cars you once owned and drove, even if it does bore the kids. Campervans, Land Rovers, cars from the 1930's and 40's, Cortinas, Capris, Minis, the list was endless, were all on display, shining as the sun started to poke its head out of the fast disappearing clouds..



Back at base, people were stopping and admiring our three vehicles, chatting about them and we in turn were promoting our Club – our activities, our meetings, that it was family orientated and welcomed any 4 x4 vehicle. The sun finally burned off the lingering cloud and the temperature shot up – coats and jumpers were abandoned to be replaced by short sleeves and suncream. A nearby icecream van was doing a brisk trade.

Our youngest member has his own remote controlled toy Land Rover that he can ride in (under the close supervision of dad) and he was great publicity for us. Everybody stopped to admire or to point him out, while the younger kids wished that they could have a go themselves.

The afternoon wore on – there were plenty of Classic cars, but not many stalls – the usual second-hand spare parts, the covered stalls selling jackets, car mats, cleaning products and other tools and three food outlets, but there were lots of people milling around. One of the marshals came over to chat and explained that they were not expecting so many people to come, pointing to the small line of portaloos and the long, but patient queue alongside them. Evidently, the Covid situation (and the recent cold, wet weather) had caused a “chicken and egg” situation, whereby traders didn’t want to risk having a bad day, but the weather was fantastic and brought out the crowds against all expectation.



The arena in the middle had various cars driving in and being paraded in front of an appreciative crowd, the owners being interviewed about their cars history and how long they had it. We weren’t sure how you got invited into the ring, but as our vehicles were on ramps and surrounded by other vehicles, we stayed put.

Around 3pm, exhibitor’s were starting to leave – the odd sports car, the occasional vintage, but soon it turned into a steady flow of vehicles and with marshals trying to get people out onto a main road, they soon backed up, queuing with their engines idling. We had a second chance of looking at them close up, but their exhausts were blowing over us, so it wasn’t particularly nice. So we took that as a cue to do our own packing up, taking down the flags, trying to stuff a banner and frame into its bag again and generally tidying up.



It had been a successful day. We had spoken to people, handed out our leaflets and made ourselves known. We had a great day exhibiting our cars in glorious early summer weather and enjoyed each other’s company (observing the Covid guidelines, we may add!).

We look forward to the Harrogate Show in late August!

