



COTSWOLD VALE TR **NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017**

Happy New Year to all our readers!

Welcome to another new year - and another twelve months of fun and frivolity in the lives of our Cotswold Vale members via the pages of the group newsletter.

Our activities at the latter end of last year received scant recognition, and we start 2017 by filling in more detail from those events in December 2016

December 10th = Poldark's (Martin Pemberton) 60th Birthday

An eclectic mix of "Cotswold Valers" descended on St Ives (the Cornwall one)



in early December to celebrate the 60th birthday of long time member Martin Pemberton, possibly the most infamous of our many Pirates due to his extracurricular activities in the TV series Poldark.

Most arrived on the Friday by road, but some travelled by train,



quickly seeking out the Pilchard (a pub), which sported a fine selection of real ales. Rumours that some made the migration South-West purely for this purpose are greatly exaggerated. The route to the ale-house had been clearly charted by the good offices of Mr and Mrs Durrant and it was apparent that this was not their first visit - Yo Ho Ho!

The Saturday dawned (just) as a soggy effort with very poor visibility due to fog (not hangovers). Queuing to board the bus which Martin had commissioned was a damp experience. However it was well worth it as we were conducted around (we are told) locations used in the aforementioned TV series. We accepted the bus driver's word on this as these locations were not visible to the human eye. However things improved, eight of us bump-starting the coach in reverse (avast behind!), whose battery had failed, was an experience not to be forgotten. Thanks, Martin, for making this such a memorable episode. Things improved still further as we were deposited at the Tinnars' Arms, on the high ground to the south of St. Ives.

Returning to St. Ives, an excellent fancy dress party had been organized for us, a local pub having been commandeered exclusively. Sadly your writer appeared to be the only person present with A1 hearing having arrived decked as a Pilot, all other having misheard Martin's instruction and turning up as Pirates. However, not wishing to stand out from the herd, a swift change into some handy Pirate gear was effected.



One of our members had become unrecognizable, and we're still not sure who it was, by the very sudden growth of an improbable amount of facial hair.



And was our erstwhile club treasurer on the Danish, Polish, Spanish or Varnish?



The evening was marred when a demented Parrott belonging to the Durrant family attacked your chronicler's Norwegian Blue. Only doubloons handed to the landlord saved us from a certain ejection.



Mr Smith didn't help by demanding 'hand over yer pieces of eight or yer'll get a ping-pong ball right between the eyes!



The Sunday, by contrast, dawned bright and clear and various Piratical walks were undertaken, most (surprisingly) ending up in Alehouses.



Monday brought a return to sanity, and the Midlands, for most of us.



Dave and Linda Gillespie

An Alternative View:-

Prologue: Last year, if you watched the Poldark saga on TV which was filmed around the old mining areas and coastline of Cornwall, you may have noticed a member of the cast who looked familiar. This person had been spotted by the casting crew and engaged as an extra to appear in a non-speaking part as he hadn't got an Equity card. This may be rectified in the coming series.....



December 2016.....

Around 45 TR Register members, including a significant number from Cotswold Vale descended on St Ives for a weekend celebration of Martin's 60th birthday....



Friday:

St Ives often has a beautiful display at sunrise.....



Birthday cakes – manufactured by Durrant Towers Bakery and Patisserie....



.....were decorated with images requested by Laura and relevant to Martin's background.

Friday evening:

The sun went down.....



.....and we gathered at the Pilchard Press, a fairly new ale bar in what appears to be a cave off the Wharf, down an alleyway where wheelie bins are stored...



You can just make out the roof line of Laura and Martin's flat; they have recently added a second bedroom, and Martin intends to install a fireman's pole to enable emergency access to the Pilchard Press!!

Richard had already checked that the ales were acceptable, and made a new friend...



Andy Preston was waiting for us in the alley looking as though he had been there all afternoon...or even overnight!



Early arrivals got a seat....



Late arrivals didn't.....



Ale house crawl planning meeting.....and Merv chatting Meg up in the hope of another birthday cake..



Result.....



Anonymous TR Register member attempting to bribe Director for inside information...



Tailpiece



Saturday daytime:

Martin had planned and organised a day's coach outing to take in the beautiful scenery along the north coast road, calling in at places of interest including a Heritage Centre and open mine, and concluding at the Tinnars Arms in Zennor for lunch. Splendid, but it RAINED HEAVILY ALL DAY, so most of the scenery was obscured, so really disappointing for Martin as he had put in so much time and effort to make an enjoyable day for us.





The coach was rapidly converted to 45 capacity...



Meg tried, but nobody felt like "Singing in the Rain"!!

A group of mentally unstable people were dropped off at Pendeen Watch to walk the coastal path to the next stop at the Mine Heritage Centre, where tea and cakes were available and Martin took the remaining retarded stalwarts for a tour round a mine.....



The coastal walk party returned, looking as though they had swum most of the way, and we boarded the coach to set off on the next leg to the pub, but it WOULND'T START!! Sounded like battery or dodgy starter motor, as you could hear it bouncing off the flywheel. So, off we got and push started it. (Think TR!!) Nick Smith said that the ladies should stay on the coach as weight was needed over the axle....Think he's out of intensive care now!!!



So it was off to the Tinnars Arms for a drop of lunch before returning to St Ives to get ready for the big fancy dress party in the Queens Head, where Martin and Laura had arranged for us to have the whole pub for the evening.





Penny for the guy.....?????

**Saturday Evening – the Queen’s Head:
Captain Poldark Pemberton and Demelza – NOT!!**



Hello girls...



Nick nearly suffocated, so had to have a quick trim...



The associate pirates were busy with the business of the day



DAVE: "Will he go away if I ignore him?!!"



Insert your own caption here.....



David's parrot started making advances...



So I gave mine a drink..... and it went back to give Dave's a slap.



Note David's headgear – he's a bit Mutt and Jeff so couldn't decide whether he should come dressed as a Pirate or Pilot.....!!!

I can't remember the order of events from now on, but in no particular picture order there was a buffet, including a very good curry, three piece group and a vocal group which got Martin involved – Oh, and Meg and me got free drinks for the dance floor entertainment!



That isn't Merv on rhythm guitar!!

Martin was hauled into the vocal group to provide the action part for a song which involved him being separated from various body parts (He is of course an actor!)



An eye...



a hand and a leg.....



His private parts – imagination needed!! Reference Chuck Berry and his Ding-a-Ling???



Although I don't know why he decided to stuff it up his nose....!!!



The cakes were cut....



...as was everyone else in the room!!



Inhibitions lost - the dancing continued....





Take that looks off your face – (not ooooooops upside your head?)

The Last Waltz



So we all headed off to bed.
Thanks for a great day Martin and Laura.

Wait a minute – How did all these people find out about the party?!!





!!!HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARTIN!!!

Sunday:

No rain, so a few mad people went on Martin's organised walk to Lelant to shake off the hangover...we stayed in bed.....!!!!

Richard Durrant

Epilogue:

Many thanks to all of you who made a big effort to be there and help me to celebrate in style!

Martin "Poldark" Pemberton

December 13th. Birmingham Group quiz night.

With little or no recovery time, a disappointingly small (compared to previous years) number of CVTR-ers made their way to Halesowen's Somers Club on Tuesday 13th to support Birmingham Group's annual quiz night. This was organized, with very considerable personal effort, by Dave Gibson. A pleasant evening, aided by the presence of 14 real ale hand pumps, was had by all, the only obvious improvement to the evening that could have been effected was if Dave had penned questions to which we actually knew the answers.



As ever, the quiz was won by a visiting team of semi-pros (sour grapes) from a guest car club, but your depleted representatives acquitted themselves honourably by finishing third of five teams. Thanks must be given to the Missuses Durrant and Gillespie, without whose contribution the blokes would have been hard put to have finished even as high as last position!

Dave and Linda Gillespie

BIRMINGHAM GROUP ANNUAL QUIZ - December 2016

Around forty attended, including only six from Cotswold Vale, which was disappointing, as Birmingham are working hard to keep their Group going.



CAT: "Off you go to the bar Richard, and don't forget to take your mobile phone....!"



Outside support not even contemplated of course, and we did pretty well coming third out of six tables. Most of the others had more than six quizzers, and were of course mainly professionals!

We didn't come up to our usual standard haul of raffle prizes either.....

But Dave won a bottle of Prosecco and got so excited that he ate his tie. However he didn't open it to share round...!!



Whilst I won this....
....which Linda appropriated as a Christmas present for her son. Lucky chap!!!

Another good evening put on by Birmingham Group – we should give them more support.

Richard Durrant

January 9th CVTR Event Planning Meeting

Please see future events section below

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed

You would not believe the lengths I had to go to in order to find Jenny in the post Christmas Sales.....



Dave Lees

COMPETITIONS NEWS

Hi Ian,

I know you assisted last year with this matter (half sectioned side screens). I did try that chap you sent me but he did not respond.

So I am sharing my handy work, now fitted, with those interested.

The new lower half weather screen helps drive air away from the cockpit space. One feels more enclosed and this enhances the lone driving experience.

Planning this year's events, etc – (I have entered the Bromyard Festival.)



Regards

Tony Cotgrave

TECHNICAL SECTION

CVTR purchased a trailer a couple years ago to transport our gazebo and other gear, but the cover which came with it left a lot to be desired and has split and let in water. Andy Canning has very kindly stored and transported it for us to various venues, however we cannot expect him to sort out and dry the contents.

Therefore following a discussion at the recent diary planning meeting on the 9th January, I suggested that he bring it to my house and we would get it fixed and hopefully water tight for the future. So with the help of Bob “Heath” Heppel (who arrived armed to the teeth with tools and parts) and Ian “Robinson” Brown (who arrived with various surplus components), you can see the results of our efforts. Hopefully this will solve the issue for sometime into the future.



Waterproof hinged solid top and detachable tailgate added

Andrew Racey

Ed Comment – Huge thanks to Sue Racey who kept the freezing workforce supplied with hot drinks and biscuits (It was minus 2 degrees C inside Andrew’s garage when we did most of this work with the door open. “Luckily” when we had finished, Andrew found a heater whilst we were admiring our handy work – doh!!!!!!)

CVTR Monthly Meeting January 2017

Apologies from Gareth Davies , Mike Parry, Richard and Meg Durrant, Brian Wiggins and Phil Barnett. We had 20 members at the meeting.

In Gareth's absence Andrew ran the meeting with help from Keith and Ian. There was nothing to report from the previous 4 weeks other than the output from the planning meeting on 9th where a few of the members got together to discuss possible activities during the coming months.

A draft events diary was issued to members for discussion prior to the meeting. It was agreed by those members in attendance that we would transfer our Fleece Xmas lunch to a different event/ lunch on July 16th and possibly roll it into a Concours event where we will also be inviting other Midlands groups. The Annual dinner will now take place at Dumbleton Hall on December 10th 2017.

This change around will hopefully mean that we get a better response to attend both events. Other key diary events were discussed and a new Diary of Events list will be issued separately from this new letter.

We also confirmed that the enquiry from Didcot regarding the Bring and Buy at Malvern 2017 was referred back to them as CVTR would be happy for another group/body to take over running this attraction. Andy Canning also confirmed that he declined the offer to run the site PA system over the IWE weekend.

FUTURE EVENTS

Below you will find a calendar with dates and information currently available for 2017 regarding local and National TR events, naturally this will grow and develop as more information becomes available. Updates will be included in our monthly newsletter.

We are fortunate, also, that some members are willing to organise other events and venues outside from the traditional car shows, a brief list and description of which is given below. All CVTR members on the newsletter circulation list (currently around 150 people), and other interested parties have been invited to vote for anything that they would be willing to support, making the efforts of those organising such activities and venues more worthwhile.

These activities will be organised by the nominees if sufficient interest is expressed by members, including family and friends, the list is not exclusive and should any other CVTR member have any other suggestions and are willing to organise the event, please contact Gareth Davies:-

P Blake --Clay shooting day
A Racey -- Coventry motor museum
B Heppel -- Quad bike event
I Brown -- Large model aircraft display (Cosford or Much Marcle subject to dates)
M Hill -- Statfold Barn, Private railway open 3/4 times a year -- Tamworth
R Durrant -- Inter group go karting event
R Durrant/ K Brown-- Crich tramway museum
K Brown -- Redditch Needle museum
I Brown -- Staverton jet museum
I Brown/R Durrant -- Shuttleworth Collection

Please make your preferences known to Ian Brown (ianbrown11252@goolemail.com) before the February meeting on the 22nd.

Please also note that the likely date for the Statfold Barn Railway is likely to be 10th June as it is only open three times per annum to the public, numbers may be limited as bookings are already in place.

OUTLINE CALENDAR 2017

Month

January

9th, Planning meeting at The Fleece
25th, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
28th, Annual dinner at Dumbleton Hall

March

5th, TR Group leaders meeting
12th, Sunday lunch. Kings Court Hotel –Alcester,
contact andrewracey1947@gmail.com or phone
01386765523 for details
22nd, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
31/1/2nd, April-- Practical classics restoration show - NEC.

May

14th, Sunday lunch TBA
24th, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
27th, La Vie En Bleu -Prescott.
27/28th, Ragley Hall transport show. W/E .

February

12th, Sunday lunch deferred due to proximity of awards
dinner
19th, MG and Triumph Spares day at Stoneleigh
22nd, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
24/25/26th, Race retro - Stoneleigh

April

9th, Sunday lunch at The Green Dragon. Linda and David
Gillespie.
17th, Coleford Festival of Transport.
23rd, National Drive it Day. Ending up at John and Yvonne
Walkers for afternoon tea
26th, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
28/29th, Donnington Historic Festival.
28/29th, Welsh weekend
30/1st, Stratford motoring festival.

June

10th, Statfold Barn Railway Visit, see above.
11th, Sunday lunch. TBA
18th, Standard Triumph Marque day .Santa Pod.
Northampton

?? Defford Air show ?

24/25th, Flywheel Festival - Bicester Heritage Centre.
28th, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
? Asparafest
? Hampton Ferry car show

July

7/9th, IWE Malvern.
15/16th, Shelsey " Classic Nostalgia"
16th, Sunday lunch (NB week later than normal because of IWE) Possible event at The Fleece, to be discussed at CVTR meeting.
26th, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
28/30th, Silverstone Classic.

September

2/3rd, Lakes tour.
9th? Peopleton show.
8/9/10th, Goodwood Revival
10th, Sunday lunch. Chequers at Crowle , Gareth Davies
27th, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
29th, Curry night - Pershore - Richard Durrant
30/1st, October. American w/e Prescott

November

4th, TR AGM Location TBA.
10/12th, NEC classic car show.
12th, Sunday lunch Thia Emerald Evesham Tim Walker
22nd, CVTR meeting and AGM. at The Fleece

August

13th, Sunday lunch at The Coal House , Apperley - Andrew Racey.
17th, Colin Boother Memorial run. Phil Blake/ Alan Wilding
23rd, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.
28th, Plum Festival- Pershore

October

8th, Sunday lunch – Brian Wiggins
15th Autumn Leaves Run – Brian Wiggins
22nd, Stoneleigh Autumn show.
25th, CVTR meeting at The Fleece.

December

December 10th CVTR Annual dinner and awards night at Dumbleton Hall - Bob Heppel.
December 12th Birmingham Groups annual Quiz night.

SUPPLEMENT BRRRRRRRRRRR.....



Giles Cartoon from 1955

The Fleece car park at the January CVTR meeting



“Selfie” submitted by well known CVTR couple

Andrew Racey, Ian Brown and Richard Durrant