

On Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> ten Vintage and Classic cars set off from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire in the early morning for the long drive to Lymington in Hampshire to catch the Isle of Wight ferry. Some travelled alone and others in small groups, but we all made it by around 1pm and were settled into our base at Warners Norton Grange resort at Yarmouth by mid-afternoon.

Our party consisted of an Austin 7 RL saloon, 2 Austin 6 models, an A55 Cambridge, an MG TF, 3 Vauxhalls from the 1940s (sorry if we've got that wrong!) and 2 moderns.



On Tuesday we set off for the Bus Museum in Newport, the main town on the island. This was to be our first experience of the chaotic traffic caused by the local 'pop concert' which was to affect our planned routes on subsequent days.

The museum visit was very interesting, after which the party split for refreshments, shopping and drives to other parts of the island.

Wednesday dawned, yet another sunny day, and we all chugged across the island to Havenstreet and the Isle of Wight Steam Railway. Initially we tested out the refreshments on sale, and then took a ride on the train and back for ... more refreshment! Such a nostalgic trip, as we are all old enough to have many memories of journeys by steam train in our 'youth'. There were school parties there, experiencing an 'evacuee' day, dressed for wartime etc. How strange it must have seemed to them.

Later that day we drove on to Godshill to look around the pretty village and sample the local ice cream, and



then home via the back lanes.

Thursday was our only really wet day, but we were determined to ignore the rain and wind and off we all went to Alum Bay and the Needles. No one braved a boat trip or a chair-lift ride, but a few of us struggled down the slippery steps to view the sands of the Alum cliffs. Otherwise ... well let's have a cup of coffee!! Most cars continued for a coastal drive and ended up in the café at Blackgang Chine.

Friday arrived and we made a group decision not to attempt the journey to Osborne House (shame!) due to the traffic problems and chose instead to visit Calbourne Mill.

What a great idea – the weather was beautiful, location delightful with many tame ducks, peacocks etc. and, you've guessed, the café was excellent! We were invited to take our cars onto the grass by the waterside and add to the exhibits in exchange for free entrance. What charming people.



On Saturday, we were all booked onto the 'open topped' bus for a day's tour of the island. What fun! Those of us who braved the open rear of the top deck were blown inside out and resorted to many layers including waterproofs, hoods, caps etc., but enjoyed the very best views. One of our party lost his cap, but miraculously this was found the following day and presented to the owner at the end of the holiday!

Our bus took us through Newport, over the hills to Sandown, Shanklin and through parts of Ventnor to Godshill. Then back through Ventnor, past Blackgang Chine, along the coast road to Freshwater and Alum Bay before returning to Warners by 4pm.



On Sunday we had been invited to join the IOW Austins club members for their regular morning meeting at Godshill, followed by a short run to a coffee or lunch stop. The kind car enthusiast owners of a local manor house opened their gardens for us to join them for home made scones, cakes etc. and the inevitable coffee and tea. Many thanks to them.



Later we made our own afternoon entertainment, before dashing back to do 'the packing' for the following morning. Four of us visited Mottistone Manor gardens (NT) which were looking beautiful in the afternoon sun, where we bumped into a friend from Norfolk who happened to be holidaying in the area! A small world isn't it?

Unfortunately Monday had rushed around again, and we had to set off home. Due again to possible traffic problems we were recommended to try for an early ferry instead of waiting until late afternoon, and had great success. We were accompanied by many modern cars smothered in mud from the festival site and happy campers wearing bin bags to protect the ship from their mud! I wonder if they had to hose down the ferries later that day?

All that is left now, is to thank Lorna and Alan Martin for organising such a successful week (have you made a rod for your own backs?). We had a great time in delightful company at an excellent location, and the weather wasn't bad either.

What more could one ask?

Hazel Norfolk