



**Paul Campbell**      [svw.safety.fast@gmail.com](mailto:svw.safety.fast@gmail.com)    [www.svwregister.co.uk](http://www.svwregister.co.uk)

I was asked to join the line-up of 95 cars to celebrate the life of HM The Queen (cars from 1926 to 2021) at The Hampton Court Concours of Elegance on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. They were looking specifically for a 1937 VA Tourer, so I made contact in March to say that I have one from 1938 but could contact owners of 1937 models. It went quiet until late June when I received an email saying “David Lillywhite, Editor of Magneto and Curator of the 95th Anniversary Display, would be delighted to see you enter your fabulous 1938 MG VA Tourer”. I would represent 1938 and they would find another car for 1937. It was hard to refuse, despite the £150 entry fee, but this would give me two entry tickets, entry to the Members’ Enclosure and inclusion in a book to be presented to Her Majesty, of which I would receive a copy.

We booked into a local hotel the previous night to avoid getting up at silly-o’clock and arrived in good time for afternoon tea. Up at 6am on the day of the event, we had an easy drive to Hampton Court. We chatted to the ‘1937’ couple in their Alvis Speed 25 and ‘1936’ couple in an SS 100. Some cars were missing; ‘1939’ never turned up and 1948 seemed to be double-booked! We started our engines at 10.30 and drove in year order on a long route that took us into the palace grounds and parked up along the outside wall of the palace. I think we were there more of a backdrop to the main event. We didn’t figure on the event map, nor did we see Prince Michael, who was meant to review the cars. The members’ enclosure was just another bar and there was no food anywhere except in the VIP enclosure, reserved for owners and drivers of the concours cars. Never mind, we had a light lunch in the palace café and a good look around the palace itself, together with the truly exceptional concours cars. We were meant to stay until 5.30 when we would all leave in a parade, but some drifted off from 3.30 and at 5.30 there was no parade. It will be interesting to see how our cars are presented in the book as we only saw one photographer on our drive in. It was a very enjoyable couple of days, but I doubt we would do it again.

