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Welcome to the SVW 4-page spread. The SVW Event ended just in time for me to report on this much-anticipated occasion below. I've also had something of a result in that my VA Tourer has been selected to be in a line-up of 95 cars to represent the 95 years of the life of Her Majesty The Queen; I shall represent 1938. This takes place at Hampton Court on 3rd September and will result in a book to be presented to Her Majesty. I should be able to include a report on this in the October edition. I'm still working on the story of VA Tourer MG 5552, which I mentioned in the July edition. This is a complex piece of work and I want to make sure all aspects of this amazing story are captured as fully as possible. Watch out for the full story in Safety Fast! All of a sudden, the year seems to have been compressed into four months and there's never a dull moment.



SVW Event at Battle



Inside Battle Abbey grounds. Photo: Paul Campbell

The long-awaited 'annual' SVW Event took place from July 27th to 29th – it was well worth waiting for! It would have taken place at the same time last year, but we all know why that was impossible. The weather didn't look too promising and it did change the plans for some, but we managed to gather 14 SVWs together; a good turn-out considering we had none of our Continental friends on this

occasion. This included two SA Saloons, one SA Tourer, one WA Tickford, two VA Saloons, two VA Tickfords and no less than six VA Tourers. It's always good to meet up with old friends, especially after so long; it's also a great pleasure to welcome new owners and those who have never been to these events. In the 'newbie' camp we were pleased to welcome Brian Deacon and Karen Hall (VA Saloon), Stuart and Liz Cleaver (VA Tickford under restoration), Gary and Debra Peacock (SA Tourer), Ian and Liz Burton (VA Saloon 0251) and David Oakenfold (VA Tourer), who, being local, assisted in organising some visits. Tom Westley came in his superb MGA.



Battle Abbey photoshoot (inset John Dutton in charge). Photos: Paul Campbell

Piotr and Debbie from *AllMetalPolishing* came along too and it was great to meet them both in person. Peter Ratcliffe and Alison were in his rather nice Talbot-Lago Baby. The icing on the cake was having with us Rosemary Washbourne (a regular on the SVW scene) and Ann Gibson (many will fondly remember the late Jeff Gibson and their lovely WA Saloon).

The event was centred around The Powdermills Hotel, privately owned and backing on to the battlefield. We didn't have time to explore the grounds, lovely pool area, etc. as there was much to do and prepare for. I steered clear of the peacocks as we have an uneasy past relationship! Chatting with friends, new and old, led on to a nice buffet meal in the orangery on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday was a busy day, starting with a time-slot breakfast, devoured just in time to start our engines and head to Battle Abbey where we were allowed to park in the grounds outside the school (now a co-educational establishment) where we had a perfect photoshoot. The guide was very entertaining in his explanation of the Abbot's Great Hall and the library. We then had time to walk part of the battlefield with audio devices. Back at the cars, we headed off together for a six-mile drive to The Bull's Head at Boreham Street. As I didn't have a navigator, I was joined in my VA Tourer by Stuart Cleaver, who was excellent company and we never made a wrong turn. The weather was changeable but we enjoyed a buffet lunch relaxing in the pub garden.

The next leg of the day took us to Filching Manor a solar hall house built in 1450. The owner told us all about it, but what was to come in the grounds was something else. Several outbuildings in the extensive grounds contained a wealth of vehicles, automobilia and famous record-breaking craft.

Amongst the superb collection, the star was Sir Malcolm Campbell's Bluebird K3 Hydroplane in which he gained the world water speed record on Lake Maggiore in 1937 at 129.5 mph (later increased to 130.93 mph). Designed by F.W Cooper with Reid Railton as mechanical engineer, it was powered by a Rolls Royce R-Type engine, the precursor to the Merlin. They acquired the original engine, but used a Merlin engine for the rebuild, eventually returning it to Lake Maggiore for an emotional run, but with no intention of attempting the speeds of 1937! The run back to the hotel for some took them to Beachy Head and Eastbourne seafront; others took a more direct route to have time to change before the AGM.



Part of Filching Manor collection. Photo: Paul Campbell



Christopher Rowe at the wheel of his WA Tickford. Photo: Paul Campbell

The Wednesday gala evening meal was an excellent affair. The key note speaker was MGCC President John Day, who joined us for dinner and an overnight stay with his wife Janet. I'm sure I heard him say that SVWs are the most beautiful of all MGs (or words to that effect!). He is probably right when he said that such gatherings to enjoy our wonderful cars won't go on forever, so enjoy them while we can! Formal presentations were made (see Chairman's Jottings) and we sang The White Cliffs of Dover led, fortunately, by Alison Jackson. As is tradition, we all handed in the slips to say which SVW car we would most like to go home in,



Gathering at Filching Manor. Photo: Paul Campbell



Brian Deacon and Karen Hall with VA Saloon.
Photo: Paul Campbell

Thursday, after breakfast, saw the presentation of The Ratcliffe Cup by Peter Ratcliffe and John Day; this went to Gary and Debra Peacock in their superb ex-Peter Pimm SA Tourer. Being local, they were not there to receive it, so this was done later in the day. The first leg of the day's drive was 18 miles to Jentree Classic Cars, a restoration business, where we enjoyed coffee and biscuits whilst

looked around their facilities and cars being worked on. The next leg took us another 12 miles to Herstmonceaux Observatory where we had sandwiches and cream tea. Our animated guide was a professional astronomer from whom we gleaned quite a lot about the history of their telescopes and what the future holds.

As we were on our route home, Sharman and I left at this point. Others went on to Rolvenden Railway Workshops or Hole Gardens before returning to the hotel or heading home. All in all another great event, not dampened at all by the occasional shower. My hood stayed up for the entire event; unusual for me, but the weather never seemed stable enough to take it down, although there were lots of sunny spells too. A larger report on this event will appear in next year's SVW Review.



SVWs through a veil of peacock feathers. Photo: Piotr Jakiela



The Boldry family SA Saloon (inset Jim with his other wheels). Photo: Paul Campbell

Register Chairman's Jottings



Peter Ratcliffe and John Day announce the winner of The Ratcliffe Cup. Photo: Paul Campbell



Gary and Debra Peacock receive The Ratcliffe Cup with their supreme SA Tourer. Photo: John Dutton

Having just returned from our Register event may I say what a real pleasure it was to attend one after such a long time of enduring restrictions on our activities. John Dutton and Gary Perry did a splendid job in planning and organising the activities and routes and, on your behalf, I thank them both. Any of you who have organised an event in the past will know it can be quite stressful; add in the covid restrictions and a one-year postponement and you can well appreciate the workload entailed.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions, our European colleagues could not join us this year, we did all miss them. Hopefully we will all meet up with them again in Lincolnshire for next year's event. We did have a number of new members attending and they all appeared to be enjoying the event and we look forward to also seeing them again next year. I know Paul Campbell is including a write up of the event so I will not duplicate the detail but look out for – Historic Battle site, World record speedboat, 1450 house, an Observatory, Car restoration workshops, Beachy Head, Seafront drive, and a Steam railway. An amazing selection of visits in two days.

As usual we held our AGM prior to our annual dinner. We had the great pleasure of the President of the MGCC, John Day, and his wife Janet joining us at the dinner. John has emailed to say how much they both enjoyed the event and how nice it was to participate in an MG event again.

The Frances Adam award was presented to Gary and Perm Perry. The Ratcliffe Cup was won by the SA Tourer of Gary and Debra Peacock. The David Washbourne award was won by David Gregory.

At the AGM, the majority of the existing committee were re-elected. David Smyth volunteered to take on the Librarian duties, however we have a vacancy for the SVW Review advertising duties (please contact me if you are willing to assist).

Enjoy your SVW Motoring again.
Jim