

Milton Keynes Classic Car Tour 2017

with Neel Jaiswal

Every year I look forward to entering the Milton Keynes classic rally.

The event supports the 'Little Lives Appeal' and this year more than £12,000 was raised for the neonatal unit at Milton Keynes University Hospital. In fact, last year's event was named Milton Keynes University Hospital Fundraiser of the Year.

The tour was founded in 2007 and it's an enjoyable, nonpretentious occasion with an interesting mix of cars from pre-war to modern classics. It starts off early morning at the Poplars Garden centre, where some people start the day on a full English breakfast while the 215 cars gather and then are waved off at timed intervals. It takes a huge amount of organising and logistical planning.

The tour takes scenic routes across Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire and the highly detailed itinerary requires an able navigator (preferably one who doesn't get carsick reading the map)! The route primarily is from the Millbrook Proving ground where manufacturers do a lot of testing—so no camera phones for spy shots are allowed! Here you experience a taster lap of the famed Alpine pass where 007 dramatically barrel rolled his DBS 7 times with the aid of a gas cannon to avoid the lovely Vesper Lynd.

Leaving Millbrook it was fortunately a beautiful, sunny day, and brunch was at the charming Quainton Railway museum, continuing the appeal of last year at the lovely Rushton Hall and then onward on to the Porsche experience-Silverstone for a short lap and luncheon.

Following lunch a number of special awards were made, including Spirit of the Event which went to a 1935 Austin Seven Ruby, and Car of the Event was a 1961 Lotus Elite.

Millbrook/Aston Martin and the Porsche-Silverstone experience are both available for tutelage days if of interest. Aston Martin, Ferrari and McLaren also host high-end European tours, which is also on my to-do list!

For me, it is a joy driving a lovely car through scenic countryside with the company of friends and visiting the architectural gems that we easily overlook here in our own country.

As a group of enthusiasts, we visited Wales last year and this year we are hosting two weekend drives in Yorkshire. Should any friends and colleagues wish to join us, please let me know.

To donate to the Little Lives Appeal, please follow this link: mkgeneral.nhs.uk/about/donate_to_the_little_lives_appeal.asp. ■



If you're interested in attending the next Milton Keynes Classic Car Tour, check out the Facebook page here: facebook.com/MK-Classic-Car-Tours-215137278498561/