

What Lies Ahead for a Classic

by Neel Jaiswal



DentaltownUK meets Porsche at Hedingham castle

I was extremely honoured to have met and been a guest of Dr Antony Hatter at the annual meeting of Porsche enthusiasts at Castle Hedingham in Essex.

Tony is an extremely humble chap, with a twinkle of passion in his eye for design and engineering. He designed the 993 and Carrera GT, amongst other things, and is the head of Porsche sports car design.

I did love my Boxster in 2005 when it was a special thing to have a Porsche but over the years I've slightly fallen out of love with Porsche. I find their dealers don't have to try hard, as the cars sell themselves, which is I suppose is a testament to the engineering.

The saturation of the brand with sedans and SUVs is also conflicting, you could almost say Porsche is a maker of family cars with a side interest in sports cars; such are the sales of their four-door vehicles.

However, it was a pleasure to see that the Porsche magic and veneration is still there with enthusiasts wilfully admiring the classic cars on show that day.

Our conversation was mostly musings as he couldn't tell me much about the future of Porsche, for obvious confidentiality reasons. We did wonder what would happen in 20 years; who will be buying classic cars and

what will they revere?

The future, rightly or wrongly, is deemed electric; would this mean converting these classic cars to electric power / will there be availability of fossil fuels? Also, their lack of autonomous driving means they may be difficult to insure.

Perhaps for my generation, the iconic form of the 911 is in the 993 series of the 911. A zenith of design, form and function.

The faired-in headlights and the rounded hips made it stocky, purposeful yet less bloated as our modern cars have become with the pressures of aero and safety.

When I learned that Tony had designed the 993, I had to shake his hand and an unspoken gratitude was purveyed.

It's a pleasure to have personally enjoyed the brand, met the man and all-in-all have a lovely day.

What would I like to own within the realms of reality? I would say the next Cayman gt4, a 993 turbo S and the gt3 RS 4.0. ■



