



Classic cars from the 1960s and further back in time were out in force for a drive around the back roads of West Sussex last Sunday

Hospice helped by classic cavalcade



Last Sunday Bignor Park hosted a more unusual event than the weddings that have taken place in recent months. It was the third venue of four locations that made up the 1st Regis 'TAP' – a Classic Car Tour (of Sussex) and Picnic.

Starting at Great Ballard School in Eartham, near Chichester, the tour drove to Saint Hill Manor at East Grinstead for a picnic lunch, and called in on Bignor Park for a Sussex cream tea before completing the day at The Tithe Barn at Ditcham Park Farm on the county boundary with Hampshire, with a hog roast. There were 61 crews taking part, including James and Liz Campbell from Midhurst with their 1927 Alvis – the oldest car on the rally.

The half-mile, sweeping drive at Bignor Park provided an impressive setting for the cars as they arrived and parked in front of the main house. A delicious cream tea was laid out in readiness in the Stables, and the participants then had the opportunity to explore the beautiful grounds and gardens of Bignor Park before heading off to their final destination.

Ned Mersey was delighted with how it went: "We are thrilled to welcome the Regis Tap to Bignor Park. It is spectacular to see so many classic cars here, and the house and park make a fitting backdrop. The event is in aid of a worthwhile cause, and we hope everyone enjoyed their visit and had a chance to walk round the gardens."

This new event was organised by Ali Green of the Bognor Regis Motor Club, and raised a massive £2,375 for St. Wilfred's Hospice, whilst also giving Classic Car owners the chance to tour the West Sussex countryside in late summer and visit interesting venues not all open to the public. Ali commented: "It was great to see such a fabulous selection of motoring nostalgia on the rural back roads of West Sussex and we were thrilled with the response to our first event in this one day format"

More information on hiring Bignor Park Stables and Gardens is available from events promoter, Louise Hartley – louise@bignorpark.co.uk or 07798 807043, www.bignorpark.co.uk

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Ali Green,
Bognor Regis Motor Club