

Classic cars take to the road in a trip down nostalgia lane

BIGNOR Park was the impressive setting for the arrival of an array of impressive cars at the weekend when the first Regis 'TAP' event, a classic car tour of Sussex and picnic, took place.

It was the latest in a series of events held at Bignor Park this summer, including several weddings in the newly refurbished Stables building.

Starting at Great Ballard School in Earham, 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 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 cream tea was laid out in readiness in the Stables, and the participants then had the opportunity to explore the grounds and gardens

of Bignor Park before heading off to their final destination.

Lord Mersey was delighted to host the new event: "We were thrilled to welcome the Regis Tap to Bignor Park. It was spectacular to see so many classic cars here, and the house and park make a fitting backdrop. The event is in aid of a very worthwhile cause, and we hope the drivers and passengers enjoyed their visit and had a chance to walk round the gardens and enjoy tea in our newly renovated stables"

This new event was organised by Ali Green of the Bognor Regis Motor Club, and raised a massive £2,375 (which is likely to rise further) for St Wilfred's Hospice, while 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.

Ms Green said: "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."

