

XKCC Newsletter



August 2021



South Wales Tour #1

New members since February:

Andy Miller, North Somerset: Les Lane, Devon: Peter Godwin, Cornwall: Stuart Grant-Allen, Cornwall: Brian Wyles, Devon: Edward Mann, Devon: Alan Coates, Surrey: Geoff May, Cornwall: John Clark, Worcestershire: Geoff Harrison, Hampshire: David Clarke, Derbyshire: Jon Clements, Kent: Dennis Quayle, Cheshire: Derek Scott, Staffordshire: Jonathan Leech, Greater Manchester: Chris Eccles, Lancashire: Mike Whittaker, Surrey: David York, Newcastle upon Tyne, Simon Jewry, Essex: Tony Riddett, West Sussex: Michael Augood, Suffolk: Barry Shellis, Flintshire: David Kennedy, Hampshire: Stephen Lightowler, North Yorkshire: Barry Stewart, Cheshire: Gary Entwistle, Lancashire: Dean Ennis, Lancashire: Paul Measom, Leicestershire: Roy Watts, Kent: Jim Mann, Aberdeenshire: Nicholl Gordon, Anglesey: Alistair Eddie, Aberdeenshire: John Edwards, Hampshire: Christopher Douglas, Conway: Chris Higgs, West Midlands: Ian Gray, Isle of Man.

Newsletter

Apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter out. The last one was in February! If you have any interesting stories / pictures please send them in and I will add them to the next newsletter. Especially stories of problems you have had with your cars that you have resolved. Pictures too.

There is a vacancy for a newsletter editor if you would like to take it on.

Events 2021

The club held two South Wales weekend tours in July at Llanerchindda Farm. Both weekends were so well received that two more weekends have been booked for 2022. The July 15-17th has been fully booked but there are a couple of places available on the July 8-10th weekend. For more details go to <https://cambrianway.com/experiences/classic-car-tours-of-wales/> Please read Lorraine Elliot's review from the first weekend. (See below)

Region Reports

Midlands

The breakfast meet on 17/07 was poorly supported so 3 of us visited Barton Marina which was good and might be considered for a breakfast meet in the future.

The following Saturday 24/07 18 of us visited the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern. We had a large breakfast and after the tour around the factory we had a convoy of 9 cars around the Hills ending up at a village pub for refreshments.

Our next meeting is at Melbicks on the 21/08.



Bob Owens: Midlands xkccmidlands@btinternet.com

North West

The NW region had a private guided tour of Lytham Hall, followed by a run out to the Crooklands Hotel in Crooklands followed by a dinner in the evening. The following day we attended the Leighton show



Lytham Hall and Crooklands Hotel

The next NW event is the Oulton Park Gold Cup meeting. The meeting this year is from August 28-30th. The club will again be attending on Monday 30th. Unfortunately, like other event organisers, MSV has decided that as the meeting is classed as a "classic" event they will not now be offering discounted tickets for post 2000 vehicles. In the past all club vehicles were entitled to free entry. If you are planning to attend this year please email me and we will arrange to all meet up and drive in and hopefully all park together.

Ron Wood: North West xkcc@btinternet.com

North Wales

Living on Anglesey we thought there may be an appetite for a North Wales Region as distances involved to get to other region's events were considerable. With this in mind we held an experimental breakfast meet and drive on the 18th June for "all comers" to gauge the desire. This was very well supported and we mustered 13 XK's to take advantage of some glorious weather for a breakfast, drive and picnic.



Beach Pavilion Cafe

The objective is to have a social event linked with an optional drive to take advantage of the great roads and scenery we are blessed with in North Wales. We chose a Sunday to avoid holiday "Change over Day" which is a Saturday. The Beach Pavilion Cafe in Llanfairfechan has a large car park, does a mean breakfast and is a great jumping off point for drives around North Wales or Anglesey.

Following discussions with Ron we decided to set up a formal North Wales Region of the XKCC and normalise on a monthly meeting on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

The second event was the 18th of July, when we once again had glorious weather for a run to the EVO triangle via the Nant Ffranchan Pass and finish up at Llyn Brenig. We had 12 cars join us for the run and quite a few stayed on for a picnic or snacks at the Lake and Cafe.

David Gosling: North Wales: xkccnwales@btinternet.com

South East

The South East were eagerly awaiting the end of lockdown and met on the third Saturday of May just a couple of days after Boris said we now could do so. Numbers had to be limited to thirty as Covid restrictions were still in place but we still managed to get seventeen cars on the day. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind enough for us to eat outside but we were made most welcome indoors at Billy's on the Road and all enjoyed being able to gather and natter once again. We have since had a full house again at breakfasts in June and July. Restrictions having now been lifted we look forward to having more than thirty gathering again in the coming months.

A number of our group enjoyed the hospitality of the JEC at the summer festival at Bicester in June and in July we had seventeen cars go along to Castle Coombe to enjoy a track day organised by the Bristol Motor Club. A very enjoyable day out, blessed by very warm weather and a number of members made a nice long weekend of it staying in a nearby hotel. Unfortunately, this event clashed with one of the club's weekends in Wales which a couple also attended and as in previous years this proved immensely popular and notwithstanding the variable weather was enjoyed by all as I am sure will be reported elsewhere.



Sadly, too, the poor weather forecast put paid to most attending Jaguars at Arundel Castle but this is one we will put in the diary for next year. On the 14th August Gavin's car will be on display amongst others in the town centre at the Camberley Classic Car show.

Our next breakfast is on 21st August and to share the driving a little as the region spreads from Essex to Hampshire and all counties in between we are meeting in Kent for a change with the opportunity to explore a different part of the country that some may not be so familiar with. September of course brings us the opportunity to all meet up again in Gaydon.

David Hollander: South East xkccse@btinternet.com

Eastern Region

The East Region's first breakfast meeting is to be held on the 14th Aug. 2021 at The Swan Hilborough, Thetford, Norfolk

Michael Simmons: Norfolk: xkcceast@btinternet.com

Cornwall / Devon

I'd like to welcome you all back to the Cornwall & Devon XKCC group, looking forward to catching up with you and getting out and about with the cars again. You're support by emails and especially the WhatsApp group page has been a lifeline for all over the pandemic period with the various topics covered it's been good fun and interesting thank you and the ZOOM meetings were only for a few months but well worth it but no longer required as the group is up and running.

Due to several Jaguar events going on over the coming months throughout the country celebrating 25 years of the XK that we would like to support, my monthly meetings usually ever 3rd Sunday for June, July, August & September have changed to the following

1. 27th June 2021 – We postponed the Scenic drive across Dartmoor & BBQ planned due to extreme bad weather, to avoid disappointment for everyone as this was the first meeting since lock down, I arranged a pub lunch at the Ship Inn Morwellham, it was lovely to see everyone together again enjoyable social gathering, and the food was excellent.
2. 9 – 12th July & the 2nd weekend was the 16 – 19th July XKCC Classic car weekend at Llanerchindda Farm Hotel in Wales. Last year's trips were postponed due to Covid 19, Gary & I attended the first weekend with 10 other couples/members of the group and Mandy & Norm from the C & D group attended the 2nd weekend with 8 other couples/members. The family run hotel was set in this beautiful scenic location about 2 miles from the main road. Marlane thought the road was narrow, I said it was like a motorway compared to the Cornish roads, you're see on the Poldark Tours 'only joking'. In the room, we had 2 days tour guide booklets, map, 2 gifts and a rally plate, all nicely presented on the bed. We went out on the Balcony to have welcome drinks and meet the rest of the group, all very friendly and a good laugh lots of banter going on. Tea/coffee and homemade cakes selection available the ginger cake was lovely. Over the 3 evenings we sat on different tables to socialize with everyone it was a good laugh, the 3-course meal was very well presented, perfectly cooked, excellent you would have thought you were in a 5-star restaurant. Lorraine & Bruce came out with some funny stories and the cheese lady (you know who you are) don't forget I'm still waiting for the cheese party invite ha. The drives were very well organised especially the top gear road up the mountain. At Lampeter the Granny kitchen was excellent 8 of us stopped for a quick lunch and a coffee. Martin the Hotel owner with his sons and Jasper (lovely dog) and the rest of the staff all very nice, friendly I would fully recommend a visit, everything was clean, lovely views and they followed all the Covid government guidelines. The weekend was brilliant fully enjoyable with our XK friends.
3. 27th July - meeting at Lifton Farm Shop/Strawberry fields 10am a quick breakfast for all then a 2-hour scenic drive up to the Devonshire Lavenders & Herbs near Exeter. Les took us on some back roads to Sidmouth very scenic, we went through a flooded road which was a bit scary for Martin the XK is very low. We had 6 XKs in convoy and Ed & Gill and Andrew & Jean met us at the property. Les & Gills showed us around their business, lots of poly tunnels full of assorted plants, herbs, and shrubs very interesting. Les & Gill own garden was beautiful with some rare plants and trees and a large wildlife pond very pretty. We had a lovely buffet on the patio talked about upcoming events for the group and planning for next year.
4. 29th August - XK 25th Celebration Garden party at Morwellham 1pm all welcome to attend the BBQ, Scalextric games, photo booth, raffle and the XKs display on the village green
5. 4th September - 1 day event, Jaguar Breakfast club Celebrating 25 years of the XK in Gaydon hopefully with over 500 XKs on display. A large group of us from Devon & Cornwall attending it's going to be a brilliant event and see the wonderful range of XKs cars on display and a visit to the British Motor Museum
6. 10th – 13th September - Poldark Tour with 25 xk attending (fully booked). This event was postponed from last year so everyone is looking forward to 3 days of Poldark tours filming locations here in Cornwall. More details on the event in the next newsletter I don't want to spoil it for everyone. The Poldark tour guide packs will be given out on the Friday evening

From 17th October we start again meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month generally at Lifton farm shop / Strawberry fields, breakfast meeting 10.30am. Celebrating 4 years since I started the XK group in Cornwall & Devon, after breakfast will be doing the 1st every scenic XK drive with a pub lunch all welcome to attend.

If you would like more information or interested in joining the Cornwall & Devon xk group, please get in touch by email xkcccd@btinternet.com All the best June.

*** If there is not a regional meeting close to you why not consider starting one. There will be other members near you who are just waiting for somewhere to meet up! Contact Ron Wood if you are interested.**

Regions Page : <https://www.xkcc.club/national>

XK 25 /15 Celebration (Saturday 4th September)

The Jaguar Breakfast Club and Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust event for the 25th Anniversary of the XK8 at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon on Saturday 4th September has been very well subscribed. The JDHT don't seem to want to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the XK but we have added that to our celebrations. Peter Simpson is expecting over 500 XKs on the day and we will have approximately 60 club members' cars there in our own display area.

We are also holding a non formal dinner on the Saturday night at a hotel in Stratford upon Avon. We have 39 rooms booked for the Saturday night and 80 for the dinner so far. If you are interested in joining us there please email me asap and I will send further details.

If you are only attending the event you will need to purchase a display ticket or you will be parked in the general public area. Go to the British Museum website for more details. <https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on/jaguars-at-gaydon>

Club Merchandise

I have had a few orders for club merchandise but our supplier prefers bulk orders to reduce embroidery costs. If you would like to purchase any items please go to <https://www.xkcc.club/club-merchandise> and place your orders. You can also have your own items embroidered with the club logo.

I have also been asked if we can get an embroidered club badge that you can sew or iron on to items yourself. Let me know if you would be interested in this as there is a minimum order of 50 from most suppliers.

Events 2022

Jaguar Centenary

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jaguar as the Swallow Sidecar Company in Blackpool. There is to be a big JEC organised event planned for 9 -11th September (TBC) in Blackpool so get the date in your diary now. I will keep you informed as we get more information.

Spain 2022

Andrew Spark is also organising a trip to Northern Spain next year. Details of the trip, although the dates have not been confirmed, are on the Forum and club Facebook page.

If you would like more information contact Andrew at a.j.spark1208@gmail.com

Llanerchindda Farm

The club has booked two more South Wales weekend tours in July 2022 at Llanerchindda Farm. Limited places available.

XKCC Contacts

Club Chairman: Ron Wood xkcc@btinternet.com

Club Secretary: Peter Hodson xkccsec@btinternet.com

Club Treasurer: Grantham Fidler gfid@blueyonder.co.uk

Club Tours: a.j.spark1208@gmail.com

Website / Forum: Peter Braybrooke xkccweb@btinternet.com

Club Forum

We now have 185 members registered. More and more information of planned events, and gossip, is going onto the Forum so sign up and keep up with all the latest information. If you haven't registered yet go to **FORUM**. <https://www.thexkcc.club/>



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XKCC TOUR MID WALES by Lorraine Elliot.

We had a great time at the fabulous XKCC Classic Tour of Mid Wales. It was so good to see old friends again and catch up after the restrictions of lockdown, and we were all determined to enjoy ourselves. We didn't know what to expect when booking. We were supposed to be in the 'quirky room' as we were last to book, however, we had to contact the farm the day we left and were told that one of our group was waiting for an ambulance to take him to hospital and wouldn't be able to join us, so we were given a 'normal room'. Obviously we contacted Ron immediately to see who it was and it was Andrew who apparently needed to go to A&E for tests for severe stomach pains. All through the holiday we were all constantly asking Ron if he had heard anything about Andrew – we were all worried about him – but Ron said there was no reply from Andrew's mobile, and we all feared the worst! I know Ron was very worried too, possibly because he realised he might not be able to get into his dark suit and didn't know where his black tie was. The good news is Andrew recovered sufficiently to be able to join the club tour the weekend after us.

We were the last to arrive at Llanerchindda Farm as I took us the wrong way, of course. The satnav in Merlot is as up to date as possible, but still takes us round roundabouts that don't exist, or over fields. It didn't help that I couldn't read all the Welsh names on signposts as we drove past as they had so many letters in them. Halfway along the bumpy narrow track to the farm, under the viaduct, Bruce said "this can't be right" but then, thankfully, we saw the bright glistening colours of beautiful XKs through the trees and joined them in the car park - Bruce making sure he could safely get into the last space and I dashing into the farm to make sure we hadn't missed "afternoon tea". The farm complex wasn't posh, after all it wasn't a proper hotel, and to be honest first impressions were a bit disconcerting – lots of stone buildings which hopefully had been renovated, but we had a wonderful welcome from Martin (a man who had retired from his hotel business 16 years ago) and his 2 sons who looked after us so well. We queued for our tea and cakes (tiny little squares of various flavours) and we all only had one piece, being polite people. However, when we realised we could re-visit the counter and even have 4 at a time if we wanted things really improved, and Mark, who did most of the baking and cooking, was a superb cook. In fact he explained that most of his recipes were Mary Berry's and they were fabulous.

We had a room in the old stables, and again first impressions weren't too favourable, but it was what it was, clean, adequate and comfortable. The only problems we had were very squeaky doors, beds and floors, and a bathroom fan which took ages to turn off if we inadvertently put the bathroom light on during the night. I would like to reassure our friends in room 11 that there was nothing unsavoury going on – we were in single beds and even a flea would have made them squeak. The walls were very thin so we were whispering to each other in case we woke them up, flatulence was kept to a minimum and only allowed under the duvet, and we even learnt how to hop over the squeaky bits on the floor if we needed the bathroom – which we had to find and use in the dark. I was concerned about having a 'set meal' every day as according to Bruce I am "too picky". I needn't have worried as the food was exceptional and there was plenty of it. Breakfast was also excellent with plenty of cooked food if you wanted it and a good choice of everything else. To me that's a major part of the enjoyment of my holiday.

We had a 'briefing' chaired by Martin every day after breakfast. He was very knowledgeable, helpful and amusing. Our daily tour books were extremely comprehensive and we also had a large OS map of the area with pre-marked routes. Apparently "everything was perfectly straightforward and easy to follow" but I had to laugh when I heard June Maunder say after turning her maps in every direction.. "Which way is North Gary?" However, I did find in the car with the lid down, the OS map was like a big sail and regularly blew out of my hands so it was put into the boot and, as usual, we relied on following more competent people. Thanks to all who were so patient with ensuring we were always in sight behind them. Some of you were amazing at following maps and instructions and I know I am hopeless – in fact all of you already knew about my hopelessness and were very kind to us. We were amazed on Day 1 that we arrived at our first coffee stop, at a Pay and Display car park in Lampeter, at the same time as everyone else although 'some of us' had to have assistance with actually paying at the machine. I couldn't get the damn thing to accept my money and then found that I should have paid by card! We were 'accosted' by a lovely Welsh lady who admired our cars – her father used to have a Jaguar. She wanted to know why we were there and insisted we all "come to my house for a cup of tea – I'll just go and put the kettle on". She wouldn't take no for an answer until we heard the lovely Welsh language being expertly spoken by Kath Parry who explained to her that we were on a tour and were going for lunch. Everyone was so friendly wherever we went. On Day 1 we also had a slight diversion from our route to drive 'the Clarkson Run' through the Black Mountains. Wow. What a great drive that was

with wonderful scenery. At one viewing stop we were joined by lots of black leather clad 'fit' lads on fabulous motorbikes. They admired our cars, we admired their bikes. When we left there was a contest between all vehicles to see which exhaust sounded best. (Jags won!) There were lots of places and attractions that we missed out as it was impossible to fit everything in, especially as we wanted to get back to the farm in time for 'Afternoon Tea'. No way was I missing that!

On the morning of the second day we were all so sorry for Tony Raynes when he became entangled with Jasper, the owner's dog and fell on the concrete steps, which was a dreadful shock for both of them. Sadly Tony and Gill had to leave us to get his knee attended to and they were missed as they had been fun and interesting to talk to. I do hope you are not in pain now Tony. I understand from Lynn at the farm that before this accident Jasper had been suffering from a back problem, but after your coming together something seemed to click and his back is very much better! Our second tour took us through more beautiful scenery to Hergest Croft Gardens where we stayed for lunch and a 'gentle stroll' around the gardens and woods.

When we had left the farm it was misty and Bruce insisted on having the cockpit open so I was wearing 4 layers of clothing on top. When the sun came out I was too hot and uncomfortable but thought in the woods it will be cooler. No, it wasn't. I removed my jacket and jumper but I still had to carry them as well as my handbag. The 'gentle stroll' was more like a route march, up and down steep banks, and to be honest we were both in trouble. We're too old and unfit for that kind of thing!! Ron could see that we were struggling and thankfully he stayed with us and even offered to carry my handbag (why on earth I felt I would need it round the woods I don't know), and that was very helpful. To be honest I think he rather enjoyed it – perhaps he will be getting his own for Christmas? After another scenic drive we arrived at the farm in time for afternoon tea and later had a superb 'Christmas Dinner', without the paper hats and crackers. That was the night England were playing and some of us were very keen to watch it, others couldn't be bothered so stayed away from the tv, taking advantage of the bar.

We were sorry to leave Llanerchindda farm and all of the lovely people who had been so friendly. We had such a good time, wonderful food, scenery, but most of all FUN. It was wonderful that every time we got together laughter was heard. I asked Bruce what he had enjoyed the most and he said "driving my car and the camaraderie" but everything was excellent. I can't begin to imagine how much work Ron puts into arranging things like this, but it must be an enormous amount and we are very grateful for all you do. Amazingly you have taken it upon yourself to arrange another visit next year (we've already booked). We're excited already!

Lorraine Elliot.

Useful Links

Member John Dee's XK8 You Tube Channel. [To The Garage](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2ZywCQe9dtTi2qybQNEdQ)
(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2ZywCQe9dtTi2qybQNEdQ>)



Ron Wood (Club Chairman)

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