

Spring Run 2019

Twenty-two Ys, one TD and an Austin A35 turned up for this year's Spring Weekend. Two Ys failed to make it, so considering several regulars had prior commitments and regrettably couldn't make it, it was a pretty good turnout. The cars certainly made a very impressive sight and were admired by many wherever they were lined up.

The weekend started with the AGM held at Cricklade House Hotel in Wiltshire. Holding our annual meeting on the afternoon before the Spring Run has proved a great success, as it has increased the number attending dramatically, twenty this year. The Chairman's and Registrar's reports can be found on our website.



The Awards Dinner was held in the evening and was enjoyed by 44 folk. The meal was excellent only outstripped by the entertainment as Peter Sharp gave us a rendition of his latest poem "Bed and Beakfast and Evening Meal". For those who missed it I have included a copy below for you to enjoy. Once again, well done Peter!

The Car of the Year shield was presented to Jerry and Jo Birkbeck's YT in recognition of their epic journey to Portugal, where they attended the "The MG European Event of the Year". The Jack Murray Shield presented to "The person or persons doing the most to help Y owners" was awarded to Mike and Sue Silk for the sterling work they have done in running and developing the Register Shop. I am sure we have all benefited from their efforts and would agree it is a most appropriate award at the conclusion of their tenure with the shop. Many thanks to Mike and Sue.



I arrived back at the Hotel in the morning, having picked up my navigator Malcolm and been joined by Derrick and Reg in Derrick's TD. Some owners were already giving their cars a final polish ready for the coming Pride of Ownership award. A change to the usual schedule was that the self judging and presentations took place before we set off for Sudeley

Castle. It wasn't long before the cars were surrounded by owners comparing notes and admiring car features. Allan Chick's YB was belting out its usual 1940s and 50s music which helped to set the wonderful atmosphere that was being enjoyed by all.

Once again Roy Clapham's superb car was judged to be best



YA on show. The YB award went to Allan Chick, his paintwork must have dazzled the judges, causing them to miss his tatty front bumper! Mike Silk won the YT, very worthy, even though it was the only one on show. The Alan Chick Piston Broke Award was awarded to the Gibbs car "For running out of electricity!"

The first cars were waved of by Jo Birkbeck at about 11 and soon we were all on the road following Chris's challenging



route. My navigator Malcolm was stretched at times, giving off regular expletives, but always seemed to make the correct choice and we managed to arrive without having to retrace our tracks. At times we were strangely followed by cars that had set off before us, so I suspect others may have made some detours. Our big criticism was that the route never passed an inn, but we

carried on into Winchcombe and enjoyed our liquid lunch at the Plasterers Arms. By the time we got back to the Castle all the cars had arrived and they were being duly admired by castle visitors. The castle, described as "The hidden gem of the Cotswolds", made a really interesting finale to the weekend with its Tudor history and magnificent gardens; most owners used their discounted tickets and enjoyed the tour.



Many thanks once again to Chris and Annette for organising this event. It was much appreciated by all. If you are reading this and have never attended a Y Spring Run before, please make a note in your diary for next year, you would be very welcome.

Peter V

Peter Sharp's Poem

Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal

I found a book at a charity shop
In a box labeled, 'All 10p'
A holiday guide to Shanklin
From 1953

The mayor of the town wrote the forward
Inviting us all to delight
In its long, long hours of sunshine
And entertainment at night

He hoped that we'd all enjoy ourselves
Travel there from far and wide
And he asked us please to mention
This brochure when we replied

There were pictures of coves and wooded walks
And beaches with 'Southern aspects'
Couples strolling carefree on the sands
Summer frocks and open necks

There were pages of adverts for posh hotels
'The Grand welcomes one and all'
And small ads for much cheaper digs
'Beach shoes must be left in the hall'

The Harcourt family welcomed us
To Bed and Breakfast or full board

Coach-trips and a recreation room
Comfort and good food assured

Oh, how I wish we could write to them now
And book a fortnight in June
Receive a reply accepting us
And hoping to see us soon

I'd love us to stroll on the esplanade
As the sun set over the sea
We'd sit in a shelter holding hands
And think what the future might be

And watch the kids dabbling in paddling pools
Get a clotted cream tea on a tray
Have a go on a pedalo
Or a boat trip round the bay

We used to take shoes and socks off
Leave our things wrapped up in the shade
Now we take them off to put in a tray
That goes off to be x-rayed

Strollers and bathers and crazy golfers
Have gone from the illustrations
To rest homes and their homes and care homes
But most to their final salvations