

West London Area
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Hi folks

Well, that wasn't much of a summer was it? And yet, somehow, most of our events turned out to be dry if not sunny.

Of course, anyone who made it to the National Rally at Belvoir Castle will appreciate just how wet it has been, as the rally field was more like a wetland marsh. I caught up with a few area members during the day, but if I missed you then I hope you had a good day, despite the conditions, and didn't spend all the family silver on the traders' stands!

Just noticed that this is my 50th edition of the area newsletter – how on earth did that happen so quickly?

You've all been very quiet about suggestions for the Christmas Meal, so I'll take it that nobody is particularly interested this year and we'll have a regular pub meet instead.

Time soon to start planning for 2009, so if there's an event you'd like to suggest or somewhere you think we should visit, just let me know.

In the meantime, we still have some more events to come this year, so check out the details on the following pages. Maybe I'll see you at one or more of them.

Robert (aka Bob)

Past Events

03 August – Goodwood Breakfast Club

This month's theme was 'Thoroughbred Sunday – the quintessential pre-1980 sports car' - Attracting: All pre-1980 classic sporting cars and motorcycles'.



24 August – Wings & Wheels at Dunsfold Airfield



Half air show, half car show – what a great combination! My favourites were the Red Arrows (again!), the acrobatic glider (again!!) and the Typhoon Eurofighter.



On the ground, the racing McLaren Mercedes SLR looked awesome. Thanks to Maria for organising this event once again.



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06 & 07 September – National Rally @ Belvoir Castle

No doubt there will be plenty of pictures from the rally in the accompanying STHT magazine, but here are a few I took at the campsite, hog roast dinner dance and the rally itself.



14 September – End of the Summer Drive

A small but perfectly formed convoy took part in this countryside tour of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, passing some beautiful little villages along the way.



After a hearty pub Sunday roast lunch, we stopped off at Wimpole Hall, where we had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon strolling round the gardens, before continuing on our route back to London.



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Future Events

19 October – Autumn Drive

We will meet at Reading Services which is between Junctions 11 and 12 on the M4.

Meet from 10:00 for a 10:30 departure.

This will be a full day's country drive, with a pub lunch stop along the way. As usual, route instructions will be provided on the day and we'll be using our area walkie-talkies to help keep the convoy in touch.

Please let me know if you're coming along so that I can make arrangements for lunch.

02 November – Goodwood Breakfast Club

After a two month gap, the GBC returns for the last time in 2008; this month's theme is 'Sushi Sunday – a celebration of Japanese motoring culture' - Attracting: Any classic and performance Japanese vehicle, from S800 to S2000; 240Z to new Skyline GT-R.

More details can be found on the Goodwood website:

<http://www.goodwood.co.uk/breakfastclub/>

We will meet at Ockham Common Visitors Centre, Boldermere Car Park, Old Lane, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1ND. This is on the A3 just south of Junction 10 of the M25 (you have to approach it from the slip road off the roundabout of the A3/M25 junction).

Meet from 07:00 and depart prompt at 07:15.

The reason for the early start is that we're on theme this month and want to get into the main display area.

Be warned, the café and toilets at Ockham will not be open this early.

From here we'll be driving down to Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit to get our spot and then to look at the cars.

For latest updates check out the club forum and website.

09 November – Ma5da Racing @ Brands Hatch

If anyone is interested in going along to watch this, then let me know and I'll make more formal arrangements. I believe that there is interest from other local areas, so we may all meet up at the circuit.

For latest updates, give me a call, catch me at monthly meetings, or check out the National club website or forum.

Other events in the pipeline!

Yes, it's a rather blank space isn't it?

Fear not, now is the time to start planning for 2009, so if anyone has an event or activity they would like to suggest or, even better, to organise, then please let me know and we'll get it into the calendar.

Don't forget, you're welcome to join in with any other area and regional events as well as the National ones.

West London Area - Additional Information

Website

<http://wl.mx5oc.co.uk/>

WLA e-group

Keep up with all the latest WLA news using the WLA e-mail group (see the WL website contacts page).

Also, look out for events and updates on the National website and **Forum** (<http://www.mx5ocforum.co.uk>)

Look out for our own West London section on the Owners Club Forum. Don't be shy – say 'hello'.

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Monthly Pub Meetings

We meet at Café Dysart on the first Monday of the month. The Dysart is located on the A307 Petersham Road, between Richmond and Ham. It's a restaurant/bar and offers good, but pricey food and has a large car park.

People arrive any time from 7.30pm. Come along and have a chat and a bite to eat. You can always give me a call for a chat a few days before you turn up and I'll look out for you on the night. Sometimes we get to sit outside!



We get anywhere between 6 and 20 people turning up, so the chances are you'll find someone with a similar mindset to talk to, whether you're interested in tuning and modifying your car, keeping it clean, need advice on servicing or just want to chat about other stuff!

The next monthly meetings are scheduled for:

- 6 October
- 3 November
- 1 December

Following the refurbishment of The Dysart late last year, it looks as though either the prices have gone up on the menu, or else it's just that they have removed any main meals under a tenner! I appreciate that this can make for an expensive night out, so we're therefore reviewing our venue for the monthly pub meeting, to see if we can find somewhere else suitable nearby.

Suggested venues are more than welcome and if we get a few we could spend a Sunday checking them all out (steering clear of the alcohol) and having a drive too! You've all been very quiet on this so far, so that's why we haven't organised a drive....