

No 191 - May 2024

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 5 May

SUNDAY BRUNCH MEET-UP

Informal gathering at Baytree Garden Centre, Weston from 10am

Wednesday 8 May

SEECCC CLUBNIGHT RUN

LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES

Spalding to The Bertie Arms, Uffington, PE9 4SZ 6 for 6.30 pm start

Charles & Celine Cornish are running this event, our first evening drive out of 2024. Start at The Vista, Spalding, PE11 2RA (gather from 6pm). Pre-order with Charles (charlescornish67@gmail.com or 07946 361942) – choice of fish & chips, sausage & mash, burger or veggie burger, all at £15. Desserts available on the night.

Saturday 11 May

CLUB STAND: SPALDING FLOWER PARADE

Pre-booked cars only. Graham Faulkner is the Club contact for this event. Email him at: graham55cloughroad@gmail.com

Sunday 2 June

HOLBEACH MOTOR MANIA – see Snippets on page 6 or our Facebook page

Sunday 9 June

SEECCC ANNUAL CHARITY CLASSIC CAR RUN

Our Club's principal run of the year being run in aid of Phab. Entries close 10 May. Contact [Alan Aistrup](mailto:Alan.Aistrup).



Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 June

HOLBEACH TOWN & COUNTRY FAYRE

Hurdletree Bank, Holbeach, PE12 8QH. More cars welcome: contact Steve Saunders at ssaunders12@btinternet.com. Full details on page 6.

Sunday 23 June

JUNE BRUNCH MEET – Steve Le Sage's event at East Heckington: see page 8



SEECCC Newsletter is edited by Adrian Cunnington — acunnington@seeccc.co.uk ☎ 01406 364795

Visit our website at www.seeccc.co.uk or find us on Facebook at **Spalding & East Elloe Classic Car Club**

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Chair Mann's CHATTER

Joy Mann Chair jmann@seeccc.co.uk ☎ 01775 723856

Hello Everyone!

The better weather is on its way so SEECCC is on a mission to get you out and about in your trusty steeds. We have loads planned, it's not all about dining out, we like to take to the roads too! If you've not already got your name on the list for our biggest event, the Annual Run on Sunday, June 9th, seize the moment and sign up before May 10th.

You may recall my predicament in last month's news, well I'm pleased to report the age of chivalry is still going strong. I received the following the morning after April's newsletter went out... *"Just to let you know that I am available for top shelf foraging on Thursday afternoons at Morrisons! We'll do a deal: I'll get the stuff from the top shelves, and you can work the lower levels for us!"* ...

It's one of the best offers I've had in quite some time! He also offered to try my dishwasher tango. There's enthusiasm for you! Then on Drive-it-Day two of our lovely members went off foraging for a Janet and John book! Thanks Mr and Mrs B!

Talking of chivalry, it must be so difficult for the male species in particular to guess what's ok and what isn't. I've never fully subscribed to the Women's Lib stuff, I love having a door opened for me, although when I first went out with Nigel and he opened the car door I thought I must be driving!!

On the subject of driving, we look forward to seeing you out and about this month, there's so much to enjoy on the SEECCC calendar. Nigel and I will be hosting the brekkie/brunch gathering on Sunday, May 5th at Baytree in Weston. (We will return to the newly re-opened Waterside in Baston on June 9th for the start of the annual run. Yes! You really do need to do the annual run!)

Before then we'll take to the roads with Charles and Celine Cornish and their evening run on Wednesday, May 8th. Book food now with Charles if you wish to join us for supper. Nigel and I are organising another evening meet-up, possibly the 21st or 22nd May but details will not be finalised until next week, sorry. I'll keep you posted!

SEECCC will also have a line-up on Spalding Flower Parade Day, Saturday, May 11th so do please come and find us at The Castle Complex in Spalding. If last year is anything to go by, please bring blankets, hot soup and a getaway car! Fingers crossed for sunnier times.

A very big thank you goes to Steve Saunders and Liz Bollons who kindly organised our April gatherings – brunch at Westwood Lakes on the 7th and a super-duper itinerary and scenic route for Drive it Day on the 21st. Check out our [Facebook](#) page for Drive It Day photos.

For Patrick "Lancelot" Limming, sincere thanks for organising a very successful and thoroughly enjoyable visit to Lotus, a good day had by all, especially the boy in blue who pulled Nigel over!! See next month's newsletter...

Now, have I mentioned the annual run? We look forward to catching up with you soon!

Joy

LOTUS FACTORY TOUR: 17 APRIL

It all started with an email from our esteemed chairperson's lesser half: as I was 'Mr Lotus' could I look into organising a tour of the Lotus factory. How could I refuse? I knew it was no longer a cheap do, but I was a bit taken aback by the £95.00 they were asking for; I've known times when you could have bought the whole factory for that!



Anyway, I decided a bit of haggling was in order, so I contacted the very helpful Nick Duckworth, and reminded him of much money I had spent with Lotus over the years, and how I remembered days when we could look around for free. So, probably just to get rid of me, he agreed to reduce the price to £75, so worth the 'phone call.

We had to find a minimum of 8 members with £75 they didn't care about but, far from being a problem, it wasn't long before it became apparent that we would need to book two 'sessions'. We

eventually finished up with 19 of us, 10 in the morning and 9 in the afternoon.

As everyone also wanted lunch at the Bird in Hand pub, I had to organise two sittings, so the two groups passed like ships in the night, as the morning group ate after their tour and the afternoon group ate before.

Once at the factory, just down the road, we were met by Scott, our guide for the day. We got off to a good start with him, as he was obviously a 'proper Lotus guy', and as the tour progressed it was obvious he really knew his stuff.



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We started off with a safety briefing, in the very posh new reception area, and then headed off to the new £100M assembly area. I would love to be able to include some photos of this amazing facility, but photography was a definite no no.

To say things have changed a little since my last visit would be a massive understatement: the place has morphed from a glorified cottage industry, into a



proper, modern car factory, with part-assembled cars whizzing about on robotised trolleys, as they went from one assembly stage to another, all of which is now computer-controlled, with all the workstations having a synchronised 'move-up' time.

It is also clear that quality standards are now world-class, with numerous measurements being taken throughout the build process, to ensure consistency; I don't know what Colin would have made of it all! They also now operate a 'just-in-time' system for delivery of components to the production line, as opposed to the 'maybe sometime' system I remember!

From the assembly area, we moved into the 'old' part of the factory, which is now used for sub-assembly work, like mounting the body panels (which are bought-in nowadays) onto trolleys, ready for the new £19M automated paint shop, which was unfortunately off limits. They also build up the subframes here, with the engine and gearbox, wiring, radiators and associated pipework, and all the other thousands of components that go into a modern Lotus: I think the wiring harness alone weighed about half as much as my Elise! They do still trim their own seats, which was nice to see, but compared with the 'old days' there is definitely more 'out-sourcing'.

After a somewhat extended tour it was back to the reception, where we were able to try out the Emira (below) for size, and it fitted me perfectly...damn it!



There were many interesting facts imparted during our tour, but my 'colander brain' let most pass straight through, but those I do remember, are that 85% of the cars go for export.

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The V6 Toyota engine model only had about four orders for the ‘flappy paddle’ gearbox last year, and none so far this year, which just shows you the type of driver a Lotus tends to attract. It was also interesting that sales of the 4-cylinder AMG



engined car are being hampered because there is no manual option, so favouring V6 sales. I did enquire if there was any chance of a manual 4-cylinder becoming available and although non-committal, Scott did admit they may have to... It would certainly be my choice, should I win the lottery, which is unlikely, as apparently they insist on you buying a ticket!

So, a very interesting day, which I hope everyone thought was worth parting with their hard-earned cash for. I did suggest to Scott that they probably made more money out of the tours than making cars (bearing in mind Lotus lost £594M last year) but I didn't get a response!



Must go, I've got to see what the going rate is for a kidney nowadays...

**Patrick
Limming**

SNIPPETS

- **Holbeach's Motor Mania** event is on Sunday 2nd June 2024 from 10am-3 pm at The Lawns & Lakes Caravan & Camping site, Lowgate, Fleet, Spalding. PE12 8LN. Information from Steve Saunders ssaunders12@btinternet.com. Steve is also your contact for the Holbeach Town & Country Fayre...



- Club member Neil Beeson has sent us the following link to a petition being circulated to get the **historic vehicle age threshold** reduced. You can access details at <https://petition.parliament.uk/signatures/141667124/verify?token=NJ1WCx0NJ5xBx5wWCkM>
- **Music & Motors** is taking place at The Old Garage, Magdalen, King's Lynn, PE34 3BT on 10th August 2024 from 3pm for Classic Cars and their drivers for whom admission is free. General event entry at £5 from 4pm. theoldgaragemagdalen@gmail.com Cash only event in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance.

CLUB CALENDAR 2024

supporting

| Date | Day | Event | Organiser | Venue |
|------------|---------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 May | Sun | Sunday Morning Meet | SEECCC | Baytree Garden Centre |
| 8 May | Wed | Club Night Run | C & C Cornish | Spalding > Uffington |
| 11 May | Sat | Spalding Flower Parade | SEECCC | Spalding |
| 2 Jun | Sun | Holbeach Motor Mania Show | S Saunders & Liz | Lawns & Lakes, Fleet |
| 9 Jun | Sun | SEECCC Charity Classic Car Run | A & J Aistrup | Boston > Grimsthorpe |
| 15/16 Jun | Sat/Sun | Holbeach Town & Country Fayre | S Saunders & Liz | Fen Road, Holbeach |
| 23 Jun /am | Sun | Abbey Parks Brunch Meet | S Le Sage | East Heckington |
| 23 Jun /pm | Sun | Phob 40th Anniversary Celebration | J & N Mann | Surfleet |
| 30 Jun | Sun | Boston Car & Bike Show | G Faulkner | Grimsthorpe Castle |
| 7 Jul | Sun | 46 th Annual Classic Car Rally | King's Lynn & DMC | Stowbridge>Hunstanton |
| 17 Jul | Wed | Club Night Run | A & C Cunnington | TBC |
| 28 Jul | Sun | New Lodge Farm Brunch Meet | J & N Mann | Bulwick, Stamford |
| 4 Aug | Sun | 'Afternoon Tea' | C & K Langwade | Pinchbeck |
| 11 Aug | Sun | Boston Classic Car Show | G Faulkner | Hubbert's Bridge |
| 21 Aug | Wed | Club Night Run | J & P Pollard | TBC |
| 1 Sep | Sun | Boston Fens Treasure Hunt | S Le Sage | TBC |
| 7 Sep | Sat | Sleaford Show | SCCCMS | Boston Rd., Sleaford |
| 18 Sep | Wed | Club Night Run | S Le Sage | TBC |
| 6 Oct | Sun | Sunday Brunch Meet | SEECCC | Waterside Garden Ctr |
| 27 Oct* | Fri | ' Spooky Tales ' | Team Jenny & Jean | Stamford |
| 3 Nov | Sun | Sunday Brunch Meet | A & C Cunnington | TBC |
| 12 Nov* | Tue | Club Night Visit | TBC | TBC |
| 8 Dec | Sun | Christmas Lunch | J & N Mann | TBC |

* Provisional date. TBC: further details to come. Dates may be cancelled without notice.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Derek & Christine Shaw from Woodhall Spa

Alan & Mel Ritchie from Bicker

JUNE BRUNCH MEET: advance notice, save the date!

Mountains Farm Shop, Abbey Parks, A17 East Heckington, PE20 3QF
on Sunday 23rd June, arrival 10am.

Please forward your food choices to Steve Le Sage before 15th June
steve@lesage1.plus.com

Breakfast Menu

Bacon sandwich - served on buttered brown or white bread £5.95 (G)

Sausage sandwich - served on buttered brown or white bread £6.95 (G,S,SO)

Eggs Royale - toasted English muffin topped with smoked salmon, soft poached eggs and hollandaise sauce £9.50 (G,D,E,F)

Eggs Benedict - toasted English muffin topped with Parma ham, soft poached eggs and hollandaise sauce £9.50 (G,D,E)

Eggs Florentine - toasted English muffin topped with buttered spinach, soft poached eggs and hollandaise sauce (V) £9.25 (G,D,E)

Eggs on toast - choose from scrambled, fried or poached eggs on buttered white or brown toast (V) £5.50 (E,G,D)

Toast, butter and jam (V) £2.95 (G,D)

Full English - Famous Boston sausage, roasted tomato, mushroom, bacon, baked beans served with a choice of fried, poached or scrambled eggs accompanied by white or brown toast £11.95

Add-ons: Sausage £1, Bacon 75p, Hash Browns (x2) £1.50, Egg 75p,
Fried bread 50p, Black Pudding £1 (G,D,E,S,SO)

Veggie Full English - Veggie sausage, tomato, mushroom, baked beans served with a choice of fried, poached or scrambled eggs accompanied by white or brown toast (V) £11.95 (G,D,E)

ALLERGENS: (G) GLUTEN, (D) DAIRY, (E) EGGS, (F) FISH, (S) SULPHITES, (SO) SOYA

Hot Drinks

Freshly Ground Coffee £2.95

Cafetiere Coffee £3.50

Large Cafetiere £6.50

Cappuccino £3.75

Latte £3.75

Flavoured Latte £3.95

Flat White £3.75

Mocha £3.95

Espresso £2.25

Tea £2.75

Large Teapot £5.50

(All of the above available in decaf)

Earl Grey & Herbal Tea £2.75

Hot Chocolate £3.50

Hot Chocolate, Cream & M/mallows £4.25

Cold Drinks

Bottled Coke £2.50

Bottled Coke Zero £2.50

Bottled Still Water £1.95

Bottled Sparkling Water £1.95

Folkingtons Orange Juice £3.00

Folkingtons Apple Juice £3.00

Fentimans Ginger Beer £2.75

Fentimans Dandelion & Burdock £2.95

Belvoir Elderflower Presse £2.95

Belvoir Raspberry Lemonade £2.95

Belvoir Lemonade £2.95

San Pellegrino Lemon £2.50

San Pellegrino Orange £2.50

Freshly Squeezed Orange £3.25

Ribena Carton £1.50