

Ipswich Felixstowe Historic Vehicle Run

On Sunday May 7th three vehicles from the East Anglia section took part in the 51st Ipswich Transport Museum, Ipswich to Felixstowe Historic Vehicle Run. Peter Barratt entered his SD Speed 20. I was fortunate enough to accompany him as passenger. Malcolm and Val Kindell came in their TA21 DHC and Trevor and Sue Hale in their TC21/100 Grey Lady saloon. The Run takes place every year on the first Sunday in May to help raise funds for the Museum and is not restricted to just classic cars. It includes categories for Buses and Coaches; Commercial Vehicles; Military Vehicles; Motor Cycles and Scooters; Leisure Vehicles and Special Entries for things such as Sinclair C5s and Penny Farthing bicycles!



The Speed 20 is admired by enthusiastic onlookers

The day started with vehicles assembling in the morning at Christchurch Park in the centre of Ipswich in good time for the 11.00am departure to Felixstowe. The weather was cloudy and overcast but at least it was dry. Some prior planning enabled all three Alvis cars to arrive in the park at about 9.00am which meant being close together in the lines of vehicles on parade, a vast number indeed. Arriving early allowed time for the obligatory bacon bap and coffee, time to look at the other vehicles and perhaps even have a chat with their owners.

Vehicles started to leave the park at 11.00am to take the designated route through Ipswich. We were able to manoeuvre so that the three Alvis cars were one behind the other. As is the case every year, many people had turned out along the route to see the vehicles as they journeyed out

through Ipswich. It was lovely to see all the people smiling and waving at the vehicles as we drove by, especially the children who did so most enthusiastically. Once out of Ipswich the route took us along the back roads to the Trimley villages thus avoiding the busy A14. Entering the Trimleys the scene was repeated with hoards of people lining the route, all cheering and waving at the vehicles, a bit like King Charles and Queen Camilla! The route then took us through Walton and into Felixstowe. Stewards directed us onto the promenade whereby we had a lovely view over the bay. A pleasant slow drive ensued, guided by the stewards, until our parking up place was reached. As it turned out, we parked up in time to see a large container ship in the shipping channel and a tug waiting to assist it into Felixstowe docks. By this time the weather had turned for the better and we had blue sky, high temperature and sunshine for the rest of the afternoon. As in previous years there were thousands of people on the promenade and in the designated areas to see the cars and all the other vehicles. Picnic lunches on the beach were enjoyed by



Val Kindell and Pete Barratt pose between the Grey Lady and TA21 DHC.

all the members. A very pleasant afternoon was spent talking with people who enquired about the cars and with ourselves taking the opportunity to stretch our legs and go and see the other vehicles.

All in all a lovely day out was had by the members. It was a marvellous experience seeing all the historic vehicles and having the hoards of people waving and cheering on the drive down from Ipswich. Hopefully we might see some more Alvis cars taking part next year.

Michael Melhuish