

Grumpy Old Men's Club update

The 21st June found a group of six "Grumpies" heading in glorious sunshine to Weybridge and the Brooklands Museum.

Brooklands is unique: it was the world's first purpose-built motor circuit. The museum displays a wide range of Brooklands-related motoring and aviation exhibits ranging from giant racing cars such as the 24-litre Napier- Railton to a unique collection of Vickers/BAC- built aircraft including the Second World War Wellington Bomber, the Harrier "Jump Jet" and of course, Concorde. Also, on site is the London Bus Museum housing the largest privately-owned collection of London buses in the world.

This is a truly impressive museum. In the motoring section it was good to see people working on the cars, polishing engines and body work then driving them outside to sit in the sun so as to show them off to their best advantage.

The museum relies on volunteers who are all very knowledgeable and passionate about their particular area of the museum... we learned a lot about the cars, buses and aircraft we saw during our visit.



Steve Skippen admiring this beauty



The Napier Railton...all 24 litres of it!!



Enthusiasts at work



There were many extremes of speed but perhaps none more evident than two examples of public transport – Concorde vs. the No.667 Trolley Bus!



The Loch Ness Wellington

The Wellington wreckage emerging from Loch Ness

On New Year's Eve 1940, during a routine navigational training exercise, Wellington N2980 hit a blizzard and an engine cut out. The pilot ordered his trainee crew to bail out, but tragically Sergeant Fensome's parachute failed to open. The pilot and co-pilot stayed with the aircraft and landed it on Loch Ness.

The aircraft was re-discovered in the Loch in the 1970s, by Americans looking for "Nessie". Scottish academic Robin Holmes organised the recovery of the aircraft in 1985. The damaged aircraft was transported to Brooklands, where the Museum was being established. Restoration took 100,000 hours of labour by 250 volunteers.



The "Loch Ness" Wellington



The Harrier "Jump Jet"

This is a museum that will delight all ages and certainly merits a return visit in the future.