



V8 Mid-Wales Tour 2012

The tour was based at the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells over the long weekend from Friday 31st August to Monday 3rd September. Here Tony Lake expands a little on an enjoyable weekend with interesting routes to drive and places to visit.

The V8 Mid-Wales Tour 2012 had 29 cars entered and no less than seven past organisers of V8 weekend tours were present. Bob and Carolyn had organised the tour back to back with their successful V8 tour in Hampshire last year.

We had a great hotel, swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna, excellent food and a superb male choir to entertain us on Saturday evening. Sunday evening after dinner was a test of ingenuity to find the team of four who could design and make a mechanism to burst a balloon taking the longest time. It was good fun, like Professor. Heinz Wolff's great egg race, only slower and noisier. There seemed to be lots of dominos, pins, a cork, some elastic bands, bits of wood and of course plenty of balloons.

The tour routes were exciting, lots of single track lanes populated with some pretty fearless locals who clearly regarded the area as a one way system. We had plenty of options to choose from – we saw the Elan Valley reservoirs in spate, walked the gorge around Devil's Bridge, visited the seaside twice, rode on two different steam trains, saw Red Kites feeding, visited Harlech and drove the old Austin Motors test route. Our ladies had plenty of opportunity for retail

timewarp. Still lit by candles, oil lamps and naked gas flames, gas mantles were a much later invention. Using an excellent personal stereo system one was guided from room to room with a series of stories about events that had taken place in the period. After a generous sandwich and cake lunch we all returned to the court room where Jim Gibson was persuaded to don the red Judges robes and sit on his chair where we could all see him.

Bob then explained why. As we all know Jim has been a stalwart of the V8 Register for more years than he cares to remember, serving as chairman twice and as treasurer for an age. Following his decision to stand down at the last AGM, the V8 Register Committee felt a more public recognition of Jim's contribution should be made so it was good to see Jim receive some fine wine and then realise he was genuinely stuck for words, a nice moment. Sue, the good woman behind Jim, was presented with a bouquet and she was equally surprised.

We all had a memorable weekend and it only remains to thank Bob and Carolyn most warmly for flawless organisation with great company, old friends revisited and new friendships forged, truly in the spirit of MG, the Marque of Friendship.

therapy too, all rounded off by a cream tea, but the piece de resistance was saved for last.

On Monday we visited the Judges lodgings in Presteigne which is an absolute

