

Letters page

Škoda oldtimers in the South West England - June 2010

A group of Škoda vintage car owners travelled to south-west England for ten days to visit the area of Cornwall, with its historical sights and beautiful landscapes. The participants came from Germany, Switzerland and Czech Republic.

The oldest car was a Škoda Laurin & Klement 1925, an open tourer. Its owner Mr. P.Sudeck has selected it from his collection of 10 SKODA cars and prepared this "old boy" very intensively. The other participating cars were a two-door limousine of 421 type from 1934, a roadster Popular 1937, a postwar Tudor cabriolet 1101 and 3 Felicia cabriolets.

The group started in Bristol – visited the Museum and Art Gallery and, after a sightseeing tour, admired the 2000 years old Roman Bath, splendid Bath Abbey, the bishop palace and gardens in Wells, Exeter city, Trobridge, Exmouth to arrive in Truro. From Truro they started to explore the region, to Falmouth and its castle by ship as well.

In Trelissick the group was hosted by Sir William Coppel and the director of the local National Trust where it was allowed to park the cars in front of the private residence of Sir William.

The journey then continued to Falmouth and St. Ives. The next highlight was the visit to St. Michael's Mount where the group was permitted to show their Škodas at a beach in front of the castle. This exceptional permission was given by the office of Mr. James St. Aubyn, the castle owner.

The Škodas also climbed the steep roads at the coast of the Atlantic ocean near Boscastle with its natural port and also on the way to the steep, 200 inhabitants village of Clovelly. It were not so much the engines of these historic cars but rather their brakes which got really challenged by these 15 to 25 % steep roads. The tour continued to Barnstaple, Minehead and the Luttrell family castle of Dunster to arrive back in Bristol.

Altogether, almost 1000 km were completed without any accidents or technical problems! All participants always much valued the friendly welcome and discussions with spectators and locals wherever the opportunity arose. Also, the tolerance of all public traffic participants was always appreciated. Once we found the following kind message under our wipers " **...lovely to see such beautiful cars. Thanks for coming and enjoy your trip. Best wishes...**"

Under the leadership of its club Chairman Mr. Rudi Maas (www.skoda-oldtimerclub.de) our Škoda group already decided to organize another similar visit to England in the not too distant future.

Text and photos by Dr. Georg W. Pollak, sc.



Above - Cars outside the hotel in Bristol
Below - Cars outside Sir William Coppeland's House



Below
Cars presented on the beach in front of St. Michael' Mount



More on: www.skoda-oldtimerclub.de (photogallery)

I would like to thank Dr. Pollak for his email letter and the photographs. It sounds to me that they had a brilliant time. Heather and I would love to have joined them for some of the time but we were away on the Škoda Tour while they were in England. Such a lot going on in early June this year. I am sure they would be welcomed on a future trip to the UK, and if I hear of anything I will publish this in the magazine and send to Oz for the website. There is also the new club's facebook page but I'm not sure how this works!! ED