



FIAT 500

Affiliated to: FIAT 500 • CLUB ITALIA



enthusiasts
club GB

EVENTS 2008

MAY

Sat 3rd

Auto Italia Italian Car Day. From 9.30 am

Brooklands Motor & Aviation Museum. Brooklands, KT13 0GN

Entrance for all Italian car, use the 'Members Entrance' (or just follow all the other Italian cars!!!)

It's that time of the year again to get our little cars out and show them off at Brooklands (rust, bended metal, Band Aid plasters etc. on your 500 is, of course, allowed as we're not proud). The whole point of this new club is to get your little rooster out and join other 500's enjoying the day out. You don't have to have a 500 in tip top condition.

So make a date in your diary for Brooklands, bring a packed lunch as the museum food can be a tad expensive and join the **FIAT 500 ENTHUSIASTS CLUB** in our designated area (you will be directed by a marshal as you enter). If you want to join a convoy to the event in the morning, ring Vanessa for details 07843 067333.

JUNE

Sun 1st

Woking Hospice Classic Car Show & Fayre

B282 Old Woking Road, Woking, Surrey

A fun day out at a classic car show and old fashion village fayre, all in aid of the local hospice. Steven Abbot will be arranging a stand for us. For more details see the enclosed entry form or contact:

Steven on: steven_abbott@ntworld.com or Tel: 01483-175656

Sun 8th

Frimley to Farnham Festival of Transport

Procession starts at Frimley Park Hospital

Starting at 1.30pm (meet up before 12.30pm) this fun procession goes from Frimley Hospital to Farnham. Burgers/hot dog & drinks are usually available before the start. If you want to join a convoy to the start contact Vanessa. A great chance to show off your car and wave to all the spectators' en-route, all in aid of charity. We will also possibly arrange a meal/early supper after the event. Please complete the enclosed entry form as soon as possible and return it to Vanessa.

JULY

4th, 5th, 6th

25th International Meeting of the FIAT 500

Fiat 500 – Club Italia, Garlenda, Italy

Also the celebration of the 50 years of the 500 Sport and 40 years of the Fiat 500 L. For more details contact: Jan or Jimmy. On: italcorsa@googlemail.com or Tel: 01252 613335.

Sun 6th **Breakfast Club Meet**
 Goodwood Motor racing Circuit

AUGUST

Sun 3rd **Classic Microcar Rally**
 Amberley Working Museum

16th-17th **Northchapel Steam Rally**

OCTOBER

Sat 11th **Thatcham Classic Car Show**

For more details/entry forms etc:

Contact: Vanessa, Tel: 01344 772970 v@gathercolevg.freemove.co.uk

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Ken Coombes has told us about the following shows he is attending in the Kent area, he will welcome any other members to join him. His contact details are:

Tel 01634 373030 or 07808 380155(mobile)

MAY

Sat 3rd. **Herne Bay Show. Organisers Tel: 01227 742765**

Sun 4th. **Swale Club Show (Isle of Sheppey). Organisers 01795 667218**

Sun 18th **Faversham. Organisers: 01793 542016**

JUNE

7th/8th **Wrotham Transport. Organisers: 01732 884018**

Sun 22nd **Ravenswood School (Bromley) Organisers: 01689 856050**

JULY

Sun 6th **Boughton Monchelsea Organisers: 01922 643385**

Sun 13th **Darling Buds Show (Pluckley Village) and farm where the TV programme was made. Organisers: 01622 751000**

Sun 20th **Groombridge Show. Organisers: 01892 861444**

AUGUST

9th/10th **Leeds Castle Organisers; 01622 758682**

Thanks Ken for letting us have these details, if any other members know of any events, please send them in.

from the **EDITORIAL** desk (by Jan):

Welcome to the new club.

Setting this up has been great fun, talking to people about what they want from a club and trying to match it with what we can offer was a bit of a nightmare, but hopefully we have taken 'on board' everyone's comments and we – with our limited resources - are offering a friendly, fun club.

We are very lucky to have Vanessa as our events organiser, she is so enthusiastic that, to be honest, some time she wears me out. She is working hard at arranging a balanced schedule of events, something for everyone. In the summer the emphasis will be on getting the cars out, attending shows, taking part in runs and generally having fun. In the winter she will arrange regular 'Pub meets' & 'Technical meets', so that we can still meet up with our new found friends even if our little 'treasures' are snug and cosy in their garages.

As you will see Ken Coombes, a member from Kent area, has supplied us with a list of events that he will be attending in his area, he will be only too pleased if anyone wishes to join him, so if you fancy a day out, and perhaps a drive in convoy give him a ring.

In the next few issues I hope to print an introduction to the Club organisers, so that you can recognise us at events, and learn a little about us. Alisdair, our Chairman, is a classic car enthusiast and a pilot, so I feel sure his profile will be interesting. And as for Jimmy and me, well we can 'bore for England' on Fiat 500's.

Like all club editors, I am of course looking for articles to print, so if you have a story about your car, where you found it, who owned it before you, or anything, please send it to me.

Jan (Editor).



**Deadline for next magazine: 10th each month.
Front and rear cover: Photo-shoot at Buriton
(Photos kindly taken by Amanda Bollini)**

View from the events **VENUE** (by Ness):

Sunday 15th March – Pub lunch at The Anchor, Ripley

I think I didn't do too badly, having had just 3 hours sleep the night before. 40th birthdays simply must be celebrated in my book - and my sister in law's was no exception! It was a good bash and now I had to face the 'morning after'. I got up, looked in the mirror (wrong thing to do) and proceeded to start the day the only way I know how – a big bowlful of Coco Pops – Yum!

Grey clouds and rain confronted me as I opened the curtains so I instantly knew that my beloved 'Noddy' (a red, 1967, quite original model 'F' 500) was not going to come out to play today. I don't like getting Noddy wet you see. Instead, 'Widget' (my Mini – don't shoot me, I happen to love my Mini as much as Noddy!) was going to have to take Noddy's place for this event. (That's what this new club is all about. There is no gun held to your head if you don't want to bring your prized classic out to an event for any reason. Coming along in your everyday car won't mean you will be up against a firing squad! We UNDERSTAND!!!).

The Anchor is a lovely pub situated right alongside the River Wey (part of the Guildford & Godalming river navigation system with canal routes and paths dating back to the 17th century. Horse, man and barges used this same river path for transporting commodities and wares for nearly 4 centuries). The River Wey is steeped in history and commands beautiful surrounding countryside. The Anchor Pub and the surrounding woodland and river route is no exception and there is a lock immediately outside the pub. The River Wey is a 19 mile stretch of river navigation path and houses 22 river locks along the way – all manual locks for the boat owners so fun to watch for onlookers, but hard work for the boat owners!

The 500 'mob' (Vincenzo & Diane Morrone (grandson Aron), John & Mary Jenkins, Graham & Liesje Sinclair, Jimmy & Jan Di Carlo, Al Shepherd and myself) got there just in time. The pub soon filled up (big time!) and the smell of food being cooked was gorgeous. Food was delicious too, of good value and arrived in reasonable time after ordering - all essential ingredients when there are hungry mouths to feed.

Those at the table (I know more contacted me to say they were coming along but I can understand that the grotty weather outside may have kept some at home) introduced themselves and exchanged fun and interesting conversations about a variety of prized

classic car possessions – not just 500s. It was lovely for me to meet new faces and I hope I will get to see some more of you in the future. You can't miss me – I'm usually wearing something 'noticeable' (straw hat, teeshirt with a picture of Noddy on it and carrying a handbag in the shape of a watering can, have been known to be my dress attire for a 500 event).

It was a lovely 'first club' meet up and no doubt I will organise another one at The Anchor very soon. It's in a good position for those travelling in on the A3 or M25 and from further a field. Hopefully the weather will get better as the year progresses and you'll be able to go off for walks along the canal with your friends and family or maybe visit the RHS Wisley Gardens – a mere 2 miles from the pub. Plenty of room to park your 500s too and when the pub gets really busy during the year, you can park alongside the pub too.

So, it's ta taa from 'Event'ful Ness for now but feel free to contact me or email if you have anything you need to touch base with me about.

Butfinally, before I sign off I would like to wish a very speedy and healthy recovery to Mike Fowler, an avid 500 owner, who suffered a stroke back in November. I hear from his wife, Bev, that Mike continues to improve and is just starting to walk again. A long way to go yet, but great news he is getting better.

v@gathercolevg.freemove.co.uk or 07843 067333.

TECHNICAL TIP (Sent in by Vanessa)

CLASSIC CAR INSURANCE

Please, Please insure your car with a Classic Car policy, not only, in some cases is it cheaper than a normal policy, but should anything happen to your little *treasure*, you, will at least get enough back to buy another one. Also remember to obtain a valuation certificate when you insure your car, Some people don't know about this, others often assume it is included with their policy and don't bother to check, and see that it isn't.

from the *cosy CHAIR* (by Alisdair)

Dear Members,

Firstly I would like to welcome you all to the new club and the first edition of The Club's magazine which you will find full of useful info and news on up and coming Fiat 500 related events. This also gives me a chance to thank Jan Di Carlo – our editor and club secretary – for all her hard work in producing our first edition.

For future magazines you are all invited to contribute articles, photos etc and anything of interest to fellow members.

We are very lucky to have as our events organiser the one and only Vanessa (Ness) owner of Noddy, who is kindly organising all our future events, all of which will be good fun and a chance to get to know like minded enthusiasts of these fantastic fun little cars.

With the formation of this club we hope to appeal to a wider circle of classic car enthusiasts who own Fiats 500s and all cars originally designed by Dante Giacosa (see article on Dante Giacosa elsewhere in this edition).

For all those interested in maintaining your Fiat yourself we are lucky to have on board Jimmi Di Carlo (ItalCorsa) to offer technical help and advice to keep our little cars roadworthy. I know Vanessa will be organising one or two technical days throughout the year with Jimmi giving us all a chance to find out a bit more information on how our little car's work and how to fix them.....

Like all of you, I am looking forward to some summer sunshine and a chance to get out there with my Fiat and I look forward to seeing you all at our future events.

Alisdair. (Chairman)

FAMOUS 500's

It has always been of interest to me how many celebrities and people in the public eye have had an experience of Fiat 500 ownership.

I have noticed that these little cars pop up with surprising regularity in the pages of the most popular celebrity magazines and seem to appeal to Rock stars, Models, television presenters and those who spend their time running our country even though they may own the latest Ferrari or Aston Martin supercars, they all seem to have a common interest and affection for the little Fiat 500 making it a true car of the people.

I know on a recent survey by the television programme Top Gear the Fiat 500 was voted the world's sexiest car... *personally for me the jury is still out on that!*... but there is definitely a common factor that makes the 500 so popular amongst the rich and famous.

In my time I have been lucky enough to drive some very special classic and performance cars, but I can honestly say the 500 always seems to gather the most interest whilst filling with petrol or just pottering around. It definitely gets first prize on creating smiles per mile amongst young and old.

I noticed a while ago that a little white 500L, registration number: DUE 662K was advertised in the auction web site eBay, apparently once the property of the Rt Hon David Cameron MP, who knows maybe our next prime minister? Anyway I thought it might be interesting to drop Mr Cameron a line just to find out a little more and I am pleased to say my new chum David took the time to reply. This is what he had to say.....

Alisdair.

Rt Hon DAVID CAMERON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Alisdair Shepherd
4 Preston Hall Mews
The Street
East Preston
W. Sussex BN16 1HY.

March 31st, 2008
DC/SD

D. Alisdair

Thank you for your letter of March 21st from which I was most interested to hear of the formation of the Fiat 500 Enthusiasts Club GB and of your first Club Magazine.

I am sure you will understand that I cannot, at the moment, write you an article about my experiences of owning a Fiat 500 because of the enormous demands on my time, but suffice it to say I have some very fond memories!

I loved it: I gave it to my wife as a birthday present, all wrapped up in the Street outside our house but I didn't have the time for the upkeep!

David

David Cameron

PHOTOSHOOT

Having started the club, it was decided that we needed to make as much noise as possible to let Fiat 500 owners know that we existed. So what better way than to have lots of photos taken and send them round to the media.

We are very lucky to have as a member Amanda Bollini who is a professional photographer, never one for holding back in asking for favours, I asked Amanda if she could help out and if so was she free on the day I had chosen.

Next problem was the venue, I wanted somewhere that would be a good background, but not to intrusive, again I knew just the right person to ask. Another member and Fiat 500 fanatic Timothy Holland-Bosworth lives in a beautiful manor house near the south downs and was only too willing for us to use his 'front garden' for the photo shoot.

I rang around, asking members if they had got their cars out of winter storage and if they would like to risk taking them out in what could have been a potentially wet day. Vanessa contacted the local pub – The Five Bells – and booked a table for lunch, so we were all set to go.

We couldn't have been luckier with the day, every weekend in the previous month it had poured down with rain, and on the run up to the Sunday I was glued to the television every time the weather came on. (What good that did I didn't know as I couldn't change what was going to happen, but I felt if I wished hard enough we might get lucky)



We woke to a fine bright morning, but would it still be nice 20 miles away. Jimmy had got both our cars out, so we had a mini convoy run down to Buriton. The first to arrive I stationed myself in Elizabeth's kitchen ready to make tea and coffee for whoever turned up. Elizabeth is a wonderful person who welcomes even complete strangers into her home, the kettle is always on and her famous chocolate brownies ready for that special *chocolate fix*. Besides

entertaining us that morning, she was busy making cheese biscuits, whilst we were gossiping, Jimmy was busy getting Timothy's 500's out of their garage and lining the cars up. Another visitor came into the kitchen and announced that there was a powder blue 500 driving round and round the village and "Was it anything to do with us?" We later learnt that it was John Jenkins, his Sat Nav had got him to the village, but couldn't pinpoint the Manor House.

Jimmy went to the gate to find him, and shortly afterwards Vanessa arrived in Noddy, and Alisdair in his Yellow Peril. Last to arrive was Amanda in her Pink Panther closely followed (almost attached to her rear bumper) by a red Fiat 500 with Italian number plates.

Peering out of the kitchen window, I asked Vanessa "Where did that car come from?" In fact we all recognised the car, we had all seen it either parked in Castle Street in Farnham or in Petersfield, but no one knew the owner. I was busy watching that the cheese biscuits didn't burn, so sent Vanessa out to introduce herself. It turned out that Luciano, the owner was connected with the Five Bells pub and when Vanessa had booked a table she had mentioned that she was from The Fiat 500 enthusiasts Club, so naturally he had brought his car to work and had spent the morning watching Fiat 500's drive past the pub. Together with his friends he decided to follow Amanda to see what was going on.

Deciding not to chance our luck with the weather too much, we quickly lined the cars up and Amanda started photographing them. I wanted to see if it was possible to reproduce our logo with actual cars. Although the models and colours were strictly not correct, Timothy's white Abarth replica, John's blue 500F and Vanessa's Noddy & Luciano's red 500R parked up formed a good photo.

Meanwhile we were attracting a lot of attention from some of the locals, one lady visiting the church sent her husband home for their camera, and others came round to chat and tell the usual stories of how a relative owned one in the past.



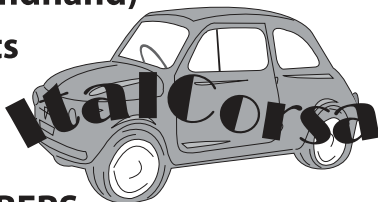
Amanda parked her pink 500 between 2 dark blue ones which made a wonderful colour contrast and we even managed to get her beautiful twin daughters to pose on the bonnet.

Soon it was lunch time and we all adjourned to the Five Bells for an excellent repast and chance to discuss, debate and digest how the morning had gone.

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DANTE GIACOSA

Many Fiat 500 owners don't know the history of their cars or the history of the man who designed them. I thought that I would write a series of articles giving some of the history.

The main designer was a man called **DANTE GIACOSA**. He was born in Rome in 1905, from a Piedmontese (northwest Italy) family. Dante became a motor engineer and graduate at the University of Turin in the year 1927.

In the year 1928 he started his career of motor car design with a car manufacturing company called SPA. Shortly after joining this company, it was bought by FIAT and Dante was promoted to Design Project Manager for special military vehicles.

In the year 1933 Dante had the responsibility to design a new car, this was to be the **FIAT 500** (Topolino). The idea was for Fiat to produce a "*people's car*" similar to the concept of the German's Beetle. The production started in 1936 with the Topolino 'A' series, 4 cylinder water cooled side valve engine of 569cc. Over the years there were also a 'B' & 'C' series, these had overhead valve engines of the same cc, until the production runs finally finished in 1954.

In charge of the Special Department at Fiats for motor vehicles, after the Topolino Dante started to design a new model called the Fiat 700, this car was to be a very economical and popular car, but it never got to the production line due to the Second World War.

In 1946 Dante Giacosa was promoted to Director General for the Design and construction of the most popular Italian motor cars of the period: including models such as: The Topolino, Cisitalia (formula one car), 1100 Mille Miglia, 1400, 1900, Nuova 1100, 600, Nuova 500, V8 Sport, 1300, 1500, 1800, 2300, 124, 128 & 127.

His popularity was world wide and he has been nominated "The Icon of Motor Designer of all time".

Dante Giacosa died at the age of 91 in 1996. He is buried in the family tomb in the village graveyard in Nieve a small village in the Lange region of Italy. Such is his popularity that the local authorities organise a memorial event every 5 years in his name. Jan and I have attended the last 2 events where we have been joined by Fiat 500 enthusiasts from all over Europe who want to pay homage to the great man. The next memorial event will be in 2011 and as our club is associated with the **Fiat 500 – Club Italia** we will get all the details in time to arrange a visit.

James Di Carlo

CHAIRMAN'S STUFF

Hello Everybody.

Well another 'thank you' to our organiser Ness for arranging our meeting at the Anchor in Pyrford, Surrey. Despite the unpleasant weather it was nice to see everyone who made it.

I decided to brave it and venture up in my latest addition to the fleet, a slightly modified 500. I was a little concerned that I might end up on the back of an AA transporter as the engine compartment is open to the elements Abarth style giving the ignition system plenty of opportunity to get a good soaking from the rain, however my little car, nicknamed 'The Yellow Peril', by you know who?? performed exceptionally well and didn't miss a beat providing me with a hassle free ride from the coast and I have to say with the 250% increase in power it didn't take very long to cover the distance of 50 miles. I thoroughly enjoyed passing the astonished hoards in their modern euro boxes and it's nice to see, like all 500's it puts a smile on everyone's face.

On arriving it was nice to meet everybody and have a chance to show off the 500's modifications that Jimmi originally designed.

The venue was a very nice pub on the river Wey just opposite the marina at Pyrford. The food was very good and being a bit of a beer monster it was nice to see Hoping Hare on draught. Well let's hope that we are going to have a great spring and summer this year giving us all plenty of opportunities to enjoy our 500's. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Alisdair. (Chairman)

ORGANISING TEAM

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PLEASE HELP !!!!!

**WE NEED HELP WITH RUNNING THE CLUB, IT WON'T TAKE
UP MUCH OF YOUR TIME,**

WANTED:

- ❖ **CLUB SECRETARY**
- ❖ **TREASURER**
- ❖ **GENERAL ORGANISERS**
(OR SHOULD I SAY, GENERAL DOGSBODIES!!)

For more details please contact any of the above organisers

