

Reliant Kitten Register



25th Anniversary
◆ Bonus Mewsletter ◆



For this Bonus edition, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Reliant Kitten Register, we thought it appropriate to feature the “President’s Car of the Weekend” at the Llangollen get-together, Steve Casey’s superbly restored Kitten Van. This car really has to be seen to be fully appreciated.

More on this great gathering inside.....



The Register caters for all the under 1 litre Reliant 4-wheeled vehicles plus all of their derivatives: Foxes, Rebels, Tempests, Salamanders, Ciphers, Jimps, Asquiths, Vantiques and all other small 4-wheeled specials including the Liege.....



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The Reliant Kitten Register

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The Register is a member of the FBHVC, which monitors UK & EU legislation and lobbies on our behalf to protect our freedom to use vehicles of all ages on the roads. Readers are invited to show their own support of this worthy cause by becoming members in their own right. Contact the editor for details.

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Web page: <http://www.kitreg.org.uk> or have a look at <http://www.reliantkitten.co.uk>

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Extra Special

25th Anniversary

Mewsletter

I must apologise to those who were present on the weekend in question, but are not featured in this edition. The fact is that I have just returned from my latest adventure south of the border, (late September) and I am needing to catch up on far too many fronts just now; so, I have decided to go with what I have ready, rather than delay longer in the pursuit of perfection. In short, compromise rears its ugly head again!

My thanks to those who provided the pictures for this edition. In particular Steve Casey, whose lovely Kitten van is not only on the front cover of this edition, but also has the story of its recent rebuild featured in some detail in the October edition of the “Classic Van and Pick up” magazine, (my thanks to Malcolm and Bob for making me aware of that) Duncan Bradford, Steve Casey, John Pearce, Malcolm Rush, and I, are responsible for what you are about to see.

Much more could be said, the Standard (as distinct from Coventry Climax) engine in Peter Linfield’s 1939 Morgan for example (I had not realised they made 4 wheelers before the war!)

I hope that you enjoy this Extra Special 25th Anniversary Edition of the Mewsletter.

Given that there is a bit of room before the bottom of the page, I would just like to say a big thank you to Malcolm Rush, without whom the event would never have happened. Malcolm, I know that I speak for many, when I say your efforts are truly greatly appreciated.

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Llangollen must be our lucky venue, the weather was good to us last year, and it didn't let us down this year. As a venue, it seemed popular with its easy access into Llangollen along the tow-path, many members taking advantage of this scenic walk. Fortunately, the event shelter, kindly provided and erected by Duncan Bradford, was not needed, but it did provide a focal point for the presentations.

The two-day event seemed to be popular, with double the numbers attending this year. Several coming even though they didn't have a Reliant, so many thanks for your support.

We had eleven members camping, three of whom towed their Reliants behind their motor-homes. In excess of thirty members and their families were there on the Sunday, with a total of 10 Kittens, 4 Rebels, 3 Foxes, including 2 Tandy Campers, 3 Tempests and a Vantique.

Colin McAndry, who has only owned his Rebel for a short time and was experiencing no end of problems, told me that he was so determined to be there on the Sunday to meet other members, that he would be happy to get there even if it meant returning home on the back of a recovery truck, fortunately this didn't prove to be necessary. With a year of TLC I'm sure the Rebel will fly down next year.

Brian's idea of name tags proved invaluable with so many people there, at least you knew who you were talking to. We were going to photograph members with their cars, as we usually do, so that we could put names to faces. I initially asked Duncan Bradford if he would kindly help me with this task, but in the end he undertook the whole job, so many thanks for that Duncan. Did I hear you volunteer for this job next year? What's that I hear Duncan? "Only if Steve Casey volunteers to organise the photo shoot", as he did this year with remarkable results in such a confined space.

Geoff, the museum owner, said that he might mow a larger area for us next year, although he wants to retain some areas for the wildlife.

It was good to see Brian and Moira again, and to be able to

express our thanks for all the hard work that Brian has put into the Register over the last 25 years. Without this effort, and Moira's support, I wonder how many of our cars would have fallen by the wayside?

Each member received a memento and a goody bag, the shortbread is long gone and very tasty it was, I don't know about the whisky, that hasn't been opened yet. As Arthur Garnett couldn't make it back on Sunday, I posted his memento on to him, on receipt he emailed "I didn't expect it to be so posh and as I already have a model plane with the fuselage made out of a spark plug, this memento goes nicely alongside it".

Our President, John Box, awarded a bottle (not sure what was in it) to the owner of his favourite car of the day, this being Steve Casey's outstanding yellow Kitten Van.

The run on Saturday seemed to be popular, with 16 members including 13 Reliants participating. A couple of members commented that it would have been nice to have stopped at the cafe at the top of the Horseshoe Pass, I did consider this, but I thought it might be a bit too busy on a summer Saturday for us to all park together, thinking that we might like to picnic by our cars. As it turned out, at Rhug everybody preferred to walk across and eat at the cafe/takeaway. Food for thought for next year, maybe we could try the cafe at the top of the pass. Another idea being if we could incorporate a trip on the Llangollen Steam Railway, I know several people expressed a desire to do the trip sometime.

On the way back from Rhug on Saturday, Simon Hodges and Maggie Young went 'off piste' and ended up going down a narrow country lane, pulling over on to what they thought was a verge to let a car pass coming in the opposite direction, they actually ended up nearly on their side in a ditch. Fortunately, Simon and Maggie weren't hurt, oh but more importantly their Kitten didn't suffer too much damage! Seriously though it could have been a lot worse and thankfully neither were injured, but I bet they were very badly shaken by the experience, especially Maggie, as, assuming Simon was driving, it would have been

Maggie's side in the ditch. Luckily a passing 4 x 4 managed to pull them out. Anyone thought about converting a Kitten to four-wheel drive?!!



So now I will start planning for next year. It looks like we will be back at Llangollen again for the two days. Any suggestions would be most welcome, preferably by email to rkrshowpostbox@gmail.com so I have it on record.

It struck me while writing this that the Register is like an extended family, you might not see each other very often but when you do, it seems like you continue where you left off, it's a very nice feeling to have.

Until next time, safe motoring and to quote that well known phrase, 'Don't forget to grease those ball joints'.

Cheers, Malcolm.

Llangollen 2015, 2016 – and beyond?

By Duncan Bradford

There's got to be something special about the Welsh word 'Llangollen'. It roughly translates as :- 'responsible for changing the occasional meet-up of a few RK Register members every few years into apparently an annual event for not so few!

True, Llangollen town itself is small but charming, and a very pleasant walk away, along the leafy canal tow-path, with its wildlife and the horse-drawn barge trips.

True, there is a regular steam-train rattling over the bridge from the depot nearby, which chuffs heavily up the hill over on the other side of the river – only to come hurtling back down later and rattling back across the bridge at much greater speed.

True there is the on-site motor-museum – quite a bijou, though interesting collection, dwarfed by the huge stock of all kinds of autojumble [if you can't find it, just ask].



Duncan Bradford with his trusty Tandy camper.

The camp-site itself is a sheltered riverside meadow, level and tree-lined, marred only by the lack of anything much in the way of facilities apart from one WC and a washbasin.

But it is of course the people and the cars that make the magic. Of the half dozen or so Reliant rallies I go on each year, it is not only one of the friendliest, but getting to be one of the biggest, and certainly the one I have most looked forward to. This year we had about twenty Reliants – or Reliant-based-vehicles, plus those VIP visitors! So, some very interesting conversations and sights to see.

Of special interest were Simon Fitch and his Cipher, see below, which was the first time I'd seen the car in the flesh. And great it was to see the Tempest and Vantique models, along with John Box – their originator – and his wife Jackie. It was striking how many really smart and shiny cars were there, and yet plenty of 'work-in-progress', 'rescue' or 'well-worn-but-still-soldiering-on' representatives. No snobbery here, just a celebration of all the sorts of vehicles that somehow manage to share the same basic underpinnings.



I tried to take a series of photos of 'front ends' with a view to

putting together a slideshow / montage centred on the front wheels, just to show all the variations that came from the same chassis. I kept getting side-tracked though, and of course, once you get home, reality intervenes. There's always next year though...

As a group of us relaxed around an evening camp fire, the intention to come back in 2017 was unanimous, and an even more unanimous decision was made when Brian and Malcolm posed the question to the whole assembly on Sunday afternoon.

Next year the site owner, who always leaves a large swathe of unmown wildflower meadow alongside the camping area, has promised to enlarge the mown area, which we almost filled this year. So it would be great to see even more of you enjoying yourselves at next year's event. [And I intend to spend much less time mining through the shelves of autojumble and get out and about to some of the many local attractions.]

Date to be announced, but... Here's to Llangollen 2017!

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Hi Brian,

August 4th 2016

Really good to see you at Llangollen last weekend, hope you and your good lady enjoyed it and that you had a safe journey home.

I just wanted to say a big thank you for the goodie bag you presented everyone with at Llangollen, that was a really nice touch and is greatly appreciated. Although I'm a relatively new member of the Kitten clan, I feel part of the 'family' and it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves last weekend. Darren has put a number of photos on the Reliant World forum, and Steve Casey and myself have added a few comments - this really has become THE Reliant event of the year as far as I'm concerned.

I've emailed Malcolm and thanked him for organising it all, he's got some ideas for next year so I'm looking forward to 2017 already! I'm going down to Gaydon on Sunday so am hoping to see Malcolm there in his Commer.

Many thanks for everything you do for the RKR, I can only begin to imagine how many hours you must have spent on club 'business' over the years, but your commitment shines through, and the Register continues to go from strength to strength.

With best wishes,

Tony (Wiese) No. 967 from Wakefield



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Hi Brian,

August 2016

It was great to meet up again - you and Malcom did a great job at Llangollen, it was very enjoyable and definitely a must for next year!

It was also good to get the Cipher out for the event - the change from a 3.5 to 3.23 differential has made a fantastic improvement and long journeys are much quicker and quieter - so hopefully it'll get out and about a bit more. All in all though, the weekend was I feel a great success, hopefully even more will turn up next year. Certainly the plethora of shiny kittens has made me seriously start thinking about getting mine resprayed!

Best wishes to you and Moira from everyone here,

Simon (Fitch) No. 939 from Wellesbourne.

Hi Brian, Moira and Malcolm,

August 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

Thank you all so much for organising Sunday`s very special 25th anniversary Kitten get together at Llangollen Motor Museum.

Of course it was great to see such a good turnout but then there were the presentations - Roger and I really appreciate all the time and effort you must have spent on organising all our lovely presents and the trophy.



Many thanks and very best wishes to you all from

Yoland and Roger.

No. 715 from Ruyton XI Towns

All the Rebels present this year were estate cars, (I did not try to see if any were in fact converted vans!) and I was surprised to see that there were a higher percentage of them with towbars than Kittens, perhaps the lower gearing helps in that regard! Where are all the Rebel saloons?



Stuart Vickers



Colin McAndry



Keith Hobson



Mark Wittaker



Unlike the kittens, many of which by some strange chance have double numbers in their registrations, here, as you can see, only 1 Rebel has a triple number, the other three being random. I do not lose any sleep over such things, but I do find it interesting none the less.



And now, some of the Kittens with their custodians.



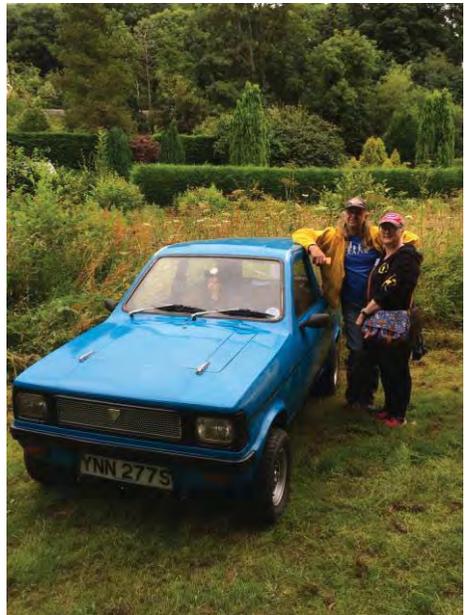
Simon & Maggie Hodges



Darren and Michelle Watson



John Pearce



Dave & Mags Schollar



The Kittens came in a wide variety of colours.

The Rebels less so.





Ben Smith



Geoff Payne

Turning now to the Fox, there were two Tandy campers, three Tempests, and the last of the eleven Vantiques present.





Keith and Glenis, one of their last trips in the Fox before it went across the water (to Northern Ireland).

They still have the Tandy camper, though I can tell you that Keith has become a bit distracted this past year or so by a certain Reliant sports car, but we won't talk about that within these hallowed pages!

It was good to see Clive there too, but, not being in a Reliant, I don't seem to have a picture of him.



Keith & Katrina Mellors



A few of the cars on the Saturday run to Rhug.



I can't tell you how long I have wanted to get a (recent) picture of our President, John Box, with some of the cars that he built, Jackie, I am just delighted that you could both make it. Ed.





Above the inside of Nadia's Tempest, below the van version of the Tempest, the Vantique.





I still don't know which colour I would want, do you?





Simon Fitch with his Ciper, one of just 3 on the road at this time.  
This is chassis number 2, out of 6 built.



Keith and Simon with the Ciper, which had only passed its MOT days earlier, having been off the road over the winter.

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A few of us on arrival at our lunch stop at Rhug farm shop.





Another view of Tony's Kitten van.



Ray & Sharon Best



John & Wendy Parker



Fox Tandy camper and Tempest Vantique.



Advertising doesn't get better than this!



Not only is this a really good example of a well cared for Kitten estate, but it clearly shows how smart a LED rear light conversion can be too.

SUE 400R is Peter and Chew Grainger's car.



Peter Grainger



Steve Casey



Malcolm Rush's trusty steed for 27 years.



Another view of Malcolm's car, and some of the people below.







Here is a good clear picture of the award I was presented with on the Sunday afternoon. Duncan kindly took a number of shots of the presentation, but my expression was quite inappropriate!

It was such a surprise, shock really, as I had thought something like that should have been organised, but not for me, for the man who organised the weekend for us! I was so taken aback, that the look on my face could not be described as appropriate!

Duncan, thanks for trying, and Malcolm, you shouldn't have, but it is very much appreciated, and now has pride of place on my mantle piece.

Another shortcoming, with hindsight, I should have put it on the table at the side for everyone to have a look at at their leisure, but again, the shock, and some concern, it being made of glass, well, you really took my breath away. Memories are made

I know, Malcolm, that you said it was from everyone, but I do wonder how many were actually involved in planning it!?! Thank you, I appreciate the sentiment.



I really can't imagine how much time and consideration went into organising my unique award (on the other side of this page), but I do have some idea of the thought and effort that went into deciding about these, which the driver of every car attending was given one of.

We considered type, there are so many options, then size, there were three options, then the thickness of the base plinth, just two options there if memory serves, the thin one (which I really liked) was going to be too thin to get the engraved plate onto. What to actually say on the plate, compromise everywhere.

I hope however that you will agree that the end product was not a bad compromise at all.

As for the goodie bags, that was a one off for our 25th, so don't be expecting them again next time!