



NEWS-SHEET

DECEMBER 2022

Thanks to the 27 folk who came to the Christmas meal at the Bradfield Manger. The food was excellent, but it appeared that there were perhaps too many people eating on the premises, in total, as we sat down at 1.00pm but the desserts were not served until 3.00pm. Hopefully this didn't affect the Christmas spirit but there were two Christmas puddings left over – but not for long! Norman and Sally had to forego their puddings but table 4 managed to help. No names, no pack drill but you know who you are!

When we first formed in 2003, so 20 years ago in 2023, we met at the Bradfield Manger with its large car park and which was then run by Janice. We enjoyed several years there and a few more with John when Janice retired. For various reasons including the need for a change, the Bury Mini Club will now hold its Club meetings on the last Thursday of each month, starting on 23rd February 2023, beginning at 8.00pm. at the Crown and Castle at Risby. The car park is not that large, but sufficient for our small cars so it will be good to see a few over there in 2023. All will be reminded again in the future newsletters but please check out the location and please support the new venue.

I am trying to arrange a trip to the Transport Museum in Ipswich, but nobody replies to my emails. I have also had requests already from the organisers of the Rickinghall show, the Culford show and the Glemham show (September 3rd!!) asking for an idea of the number of Club cars likely to attend. I intend to put 10 Minis for these, judging from the replies to the questions I asked you all to reply to (thanks to those that did) and attendance will be on a first come first served basis and they need the entrance fees up front. More on all this in the new year but this is just to warn you of the requirements, and I will need maximum cooperation please. I will put as many shows as I can on the website, including a date for the Val Butcher Suffolk Run. I will repeat my requests to let me know if there are any shows you think worth attending in 2023.

As already mentioned, the Club will be celebrating its 20th full year of existence in 2023. Below is a bit of history which I hope will not bore you, but you are members of a Club with history so here goes: An advert was put in the Bury Free Press in August 2002 for Mini owners to contact Sam or Alex Baker to see if there was enough interest to form a club. A few of us got together in the same month at the Six Bells at Horringer and there was enough interest to have follow up meetings at the Moreton Hall pub in September, a get together and run in November and a meeting at the Metcalf Arms in December. It was at that last meeting that it was decided to start a Club, and various matters were discussed including a Club name. There were many ideas including "Mid Anglia Diehard Mini Enthusiasts' Network" (MADMEN)! Fortunately, "Bury Mini Club" got most votes! A follow up meeting, also in December 2002, confirmed the Club name, the fees, £12 for individual and £15 for family membership (note, we have only increased the fees by £3 in 20 years!) and proposed venues, including the Manger and yes, the Risby Crown & Castle. The final committee meeting before setting up the Club was held on 23rd December 2002 at the Manger with the Club officially launched by a run in January 2003 and agreeing on the Manger as the Club meeting place. There were only 16 members at the outset, but by 2005 the list of present and past members totalled 96 (not all were still members in 2005). Of these, only Richard (membership number 005), Dan Warnack (041), Steve Gent (055) and Danny Sore (080) are still members in 2022, although others (Richard Hedges 069, Kelly Logsden 082, Daryl and Lisa Bridges 083 and 084, plus Les Chenery 087 still receive newsletters). Our latest member, Damian Nunn, is number 273 and we had 65 members in 2002, so you can see that there has been a lot of membership activity over the years and we look forward to a special 2023 with lots of Club members.

Sam and Alex moved away from the area and other stalwarts like Ken Goodright, Dave Black, Dave and Claire Keyes to mention but a few, left the Club for various reasons, but I have all the notes Sam meticulously made at the time from those early meetings and basically, we have Sam and Alex to thank for the Club, wherever they are now! THANKS.

Finally, here is wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. See you in 2023.

BURY FREE PRESS, Friday, August 9, 2002

Mini appeal for owners

MINI owners in and around Bury St Edmunds are being encouraged to come together to form a Mini owners' club.

Recruitment consultant Alex Baker, 35, noticed a few examples of the make when he moved to Bury two years ago and now he claims they are a common sight.

Alex said: "There are Mini owner clubs in Cambridge, Haverhill, Stowmarket and Ipswich, but Bury St Edmunds has been left out.

"I want to appeal to any owners of old or classic Minis to get in touch and see if we can form a club based on Mini ownership and community spirit. It is a way of meeting like-minded people."

Anyone interested should call Alex or his wife Sam on 01284