

BROOKLANDS MUSEUM & CONCORDE EXPERIENCE



On a dull 22nd May, 42 members set off for a day at Brooklands Museum near Weybridge. The rain had started by the time of our arrival but we had come prepared with macs and brollies. First stop coffee to peruse the site map to plan visits to the various buildings housing vintage bicycles, motorcycles, cars, buses and aircraft.

Brooklands—the first racing circuit to be opened (1907)—held the inaugural British Grand Prix in 1926. Early cars we saw on display came in an amazing variety of size, horsepower and design, including Aston Martin, Bugatti, Cooper Climax, Mercedes, and McLaren. These were much larger than the later racing cars driven by Ayton Senna, Stirling Moss and Graham Hill. The range of vintage



motorcycles brought back memories of those ridden by our grandfathers and fathers - Norton, AJS, Francis Barnett.

The London Bus Museum took us through 150 years of transport in the Capital from horse-drawn, the hop-on/hop-off bus to the modern two-door, all saved from ending up in the scrap yard.

There were many types of planes to be seen in the Factory and Flight Shed. More than 18,000 aircraft were built at Brooklands from the early days of flight to the Hawker Hurricane, Sopwith Camel, Vickers Wellington, military aircraft during WW1 and WW11 culminating in the introduction of parts for Concorde. Other displays around the site included workshops, engines, weapons and missiles. Later in the afternoon, we boarded an airport bus to learn about the development of Concorde in collaboration with the French. Our visit ended with a virtual flight on Concorde taking off, reaching Mach 2 and landing safely!

A most enjoyable day despite the weather, thank you Joan.

Chris Hyde

