



17/03/2023

National 2023 update

Hi Everyone, this is an update for this years national, we are all working hard to bring you a great national.

We have at present only got 10 places for the Spitfire factory remaining, so if you would like to go you better move fast, please contact the booking clerk gplus@sky.com before making payment in case all spaces are taken.

The bookings for the Saturday diner and dance are also going fast (max 150 people and we are already over half booked) so if you want to attend, get your booking in quick.

As an added service we are looking to supply Navy Blue Polo shirts with the national logo (above) on These would need to be pre ordered at a cost of £18.00 per shirt in Small, Medium, Large or XL. Contact the booking clerk on the above email if you would like one (sample photo to follow soon)

We have many international visitors all ready booked in from France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland, so if you think Kent a long hope in your Alpine compared to some its not – we also have a member (without car) coming from USA. So don't delay and book today were going to have a great time.

Bob Prior

The Kent and South East London group are pleased to officially launch the 2023 SAOC National at Aylesford Priory Nr Maidstone Kent. Our dedicated team are working hard to bring you a National that you will remember.

SAOC NATIONAL 27th – 31st July 2023

The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX (use ME20 7BY for SATNAV)

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The venue has a compelling story of the Friars and the Carmelites of Aylesford who were forced from their priory in 1538 only to return 400 years later in 1949, it is told in the artworks and buildings discovered on a short walk through the grounds. Here you will come across one of the finest intact medieval courtyards in England, 17th-century thatched barns and a hostelry for pilgrims dating to the late 1200s.

The Kent National Organising Board have worked hard to give you a packed programme that will keep both mind and body busy as well as having some quality relaxation time during your visit to this year's National.

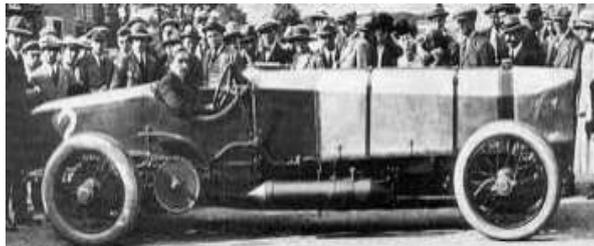
On Friday and Saturday evening there will be a quiz for all to take part in with a bottle of wine as the prize for each winning team. You can undertake a driving test with a twist, we hope to have all the retailers on site with their new parts and a good selection of used parts too (so if you have some bits you need to get rid of bring them along). 'The Hub' will be our social centre where everyone can sit and chat, watch the Sunbeam Alpine Channel and peruse interesting Rootes literature. There will be free tea and coffee available there from 08.30 – 22.00. Beer and wine too at times!

Throughout the weekend there will be an ongoing raffle and tombola with some great prizes to be won.

If your Alpine is currently not on the road (or if you are coming in one and leaving others at home!) please send a photo and details of the registration and owner of the car to robert.prior@blueyounder.co.uk so that we can feature it on the 'Virtual Wall'. We hope to have the largest number of Alpines present ever at this year's National event so let's make sure that none of our Alpines are missed out.

Thursday is set-up day so if you want to get away from day-to-day life and enjoy a long weekend in beautiful Kent in your Alpine you can arrive and register on site at any time from 12 midday.

Friday there will be a drive out in the Alpines (destination to be confirmed), you can undertake a driving test with a twist (this will be available from Friday to Sunday). At 16.30-18.00 there will be an audience with Billy Hollis where he will tell the story of the real Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, the rivalry with Sunbeam and Ian Fleming's local involvement.



At 19.00 there will be a quiz followed by complimentary cheese and wine where the excellent Chicory Tip will be playing live. You probably remember 'Son of my Father' their million selling Number 1 hit from February 1972 but they also play lots of other feel-good party music that is sure to keep everyone entertained.

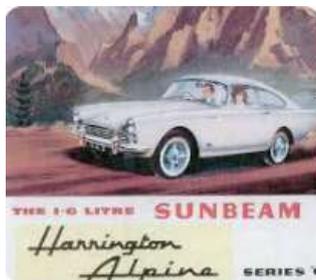


Saturday will be Concours day.

There is the opportunity to take a trip to medieval Rochester on a Harrington bus for some retail therapy for those that are not wishing to take part in the concours.



From 16.30-18.00 there will be an audience with Justin Harrington where he will tell the story of the links between Rootes and Harrington and the development of the Harrington Alpines.



There will be an 'Ask the Expert' session and a 'Hands-on' display of some simple routine maintenance and Alpine related tasks after the Concours.

At 19.00 there will be a quiz followed by the dinner dance held in the barn with live entertainment from the excellent Sam Knight who will be singing various Michael Buble, Frank Sinatra and similar style songs as well as modern numbers from the likes of Robbie Williams and Olly Murs.



Sunday We will have the AGM at 10am in The Hub then there is a trip to Biggin Hill to the Spitfire factory (as seen on TV) where we have negotiated a very good deal to have a guided tour of the factory and its large collection of Spitfires and other interesting planes and artefacts. NOTE: Numbers for this trip are limited and are available on a strictly first-come first-served basis. Here there will be the opportunity to get a group shot with an airworthy Spitfire and (if you have won the lottery) you could even book a flight in a 2-seater Spitfire <https://bigginhillheritagehangar.co.uk/>



As one group head to the Spitfire factory another will head to the Westerham brewery where lunch or a drink can be had followed by a stroll through the vineyard. <https://westerhambrewery.co.uk/>



After Approx. 2 hours the two groups will cross and each visit the other venue.

Monday will be a tidy up and de-camp.

Throughout the weekend there will be ongoing raffles and tombola featuring some great prizes.



About the site

You can go on line and look at the venue @<https://www.thefriars.org.uk>

There is accommodation available on site in clean tidy rooms although with no en-suite, these can be booked directly with the venue by contacting Karen on 01622 717272 and say you are from SAOC to receive the discounted costs.

Facilities on site include.... a breakfast room where breakfast will be available from 8am. (pay as you go), a tea room close to the field with hot food and drinks available until 5pm, small craft workshops to visit and purchase a variety of locally produced products.

The site is locked at 10pm for security and should you need to get in after that time there will be a contact number in your welcome pack to call.

We have permission to bring dogs onto the site but they must remain on the event field or in the woodlands area – not around the monastery as there is a large amount of wildlife that roams the site.

The booking form can be found below, in the Horn or contact

Cliff Johnson at gplus@sky.com for bookings

Or

Bob Prior at robert.prior@blueyonder.co.uk for general enquiries

We have endeavoured to keep the costs of this years event as low as possible, whilst offering a great package. In these times of increased cost of living we understand that times are hard and money is tight.

We would like to have as many Alpines and Rootes vehicles as possible to bolster the club image and keep the spirit of the Alpine alive so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Hope to see lots of you there!

Bob Prior

Lead Kent National Organising Board

Please download, print, complete by hand and post by mail/or complete online, and email return as attachment.

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