

VISIT TO THE PRIVATE MOTOR MUSEUM OF ROBERT AND TANYA LEWIS

West Sussex members were recently invited to view the collection of cars and motoring memorabilia amassed over the past 8 or so years by Robert Lewis and his wife Tanya. The collection is housed in 3 large buildings on Robert's land in the depths of the Surrey



countryside and was accessed by a long drive with no hint of what awaited at the top. Robert initially acted as car park marshal before inviting everyone to move around his collection as they pleased and to ask as many questions as possible. His knowledge of the cars and ability to answer questions was amazing and it was obvious he was a true enthusiast who just loved sharing his hobby.

On a bitterly cold March day we entered into the main part of the museum that consisted of 2 buildings to be initially greeted by a Darlek and close by Robert's wife Tanya serving refreshments. This first building housed cars mainly from the thirties to the seventies and included a 1955 Mercedes Gullwing, 4 1930's Lagondas, Lamborghinis and Ferraris and even the 1992 F1 Williams-Renault driven by Nigel Mansell to the title that year. The perimeter of the building was arranged to show off the huge



collection of ancient petrol pumps motoring miscellanea all long gone from the garage trade of today.



The second building, accessed by a short walk through from the first contained cars from a slightly earlier age and even more petrol pumps and memorabilia. A green Alvis, which Robert still races, was prominent in the centre of this building together with a 30's commercial and an AA

Patrol BSA motorcycle combination. What is even more amazing is that all of the vehicles are taxed and ready for the road immediately and all are driven on a regular basis before being cleaned, polished and returned to the museum. Many of the cars



were one owner vehicles and came with detailed and documented histories whilst others have been restored by Robert and his team who undertake everything from painting and upholstery to casting of parts using his own foundry.

The third museum building was on the opposite side of the courtyard and housed Robert's Jaguar collection and even more petrol pumps. The vehicles were all once again immaculate and ranged from the early Standard Swallow that was the forerunner of the Jaguar marque, through a pair of superb SS models to a 1968 E type roadster.



We all had a thoroughly good day and gladly made a contribution to Robert's chosen charity "Help for Heros"

Many thanks to Robert and Tanya and to Chris for organising the visit.

