

Cotswold Classic Mini Tour

Words and photos: Stephen Davy-Osborne



The Cotswold Classic Mini Tour returned for its fifth outing, taking Mini owners on a tour of the backroads of the Cotswolds.

Reinventing the Tour, for its fifth outing on 26 July, the Mini Fixers planned a brand new route through the countryside for Mini owners from across the region. What had to be one of the wettest July weekends on record deterred a few of the 73 that bought tickets in advance from attending but spirits were certainly not dampened among those who braved the puddles – especially within the ranks of the Moke crews who had turned out.


Beginning at the Fairford Leisure Centre the route took the Minis on an impressive drive through Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, crossing deep fords and

passing through chocolate-box villages that bring tourists in from far and wide.

As ever, sat navs were relegated to the door bins as the route had been meticulously described, over five pages of step-by-step directions, and interesting facts about sights along the way helped everyone stay on route. In total, the Fixers carried out eight dry-runs of the route to make sure that no-one missed a 'triangularabout', or the chance to visit the village that doubles as Downton on TV. The rather soggy Minis ended their tour through the Cotswolds at the Trout Inn in Lechlade on Thames.

Fixer Gary Haynes said: "Every year we

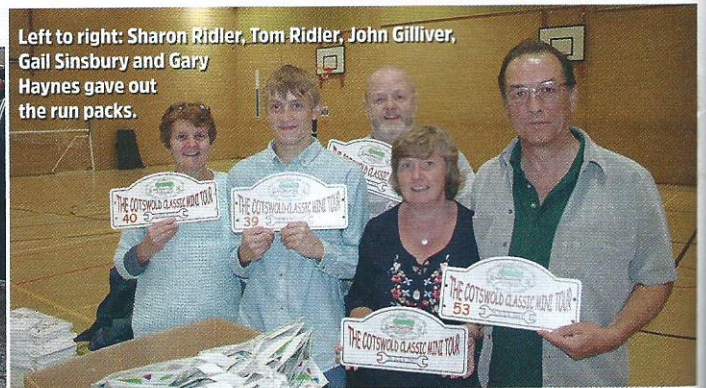
try to find the narrowest, tightest, most unclassified roads and most obscure villages off the beaten track that we can. That's the logic behind the route. So many people have said to us that they didn't realise just how beautiful the Cotswolds are until they had done this run."

A special prize of Mini-themed goodies was presented to Adam Bloomfield and Cat Winnett, along with dog Baxter, who braved the weather and not only camped the night before the run, but also the Friday evening. The event will return in 2016, with another new route, on Sunday, 31 July. 

Find out more at: www.minifixers.co.uk



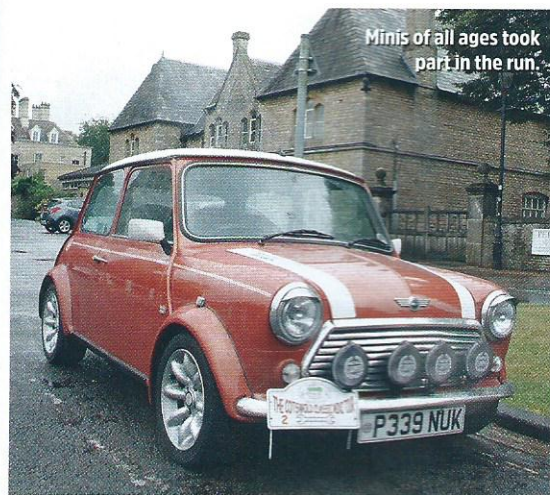
Braving a rather damp start at the Fairford Leisure Centre.



Left to right: Sharon Ridler, Tom Ridler, John Gilliver, Gail Sinsbury and Gary Haynes gave out the run packs.



Lined up and raring to go as the drivers familiarised themselves with the route.



Minis of all ages took part in the run.



Passing through picturesque Cotswold villages, which still looked pretty despite the rain.



Braving some rather monster puddles.

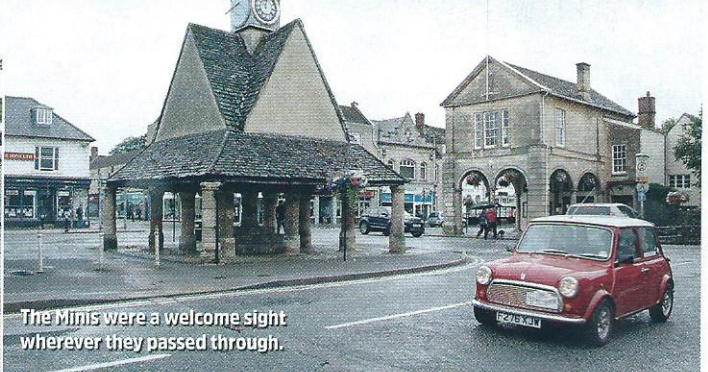


Enjoying the mid-run rest after following the directions meticulously.

"Spirits were certainly not dampened among those who braved the puddles..."



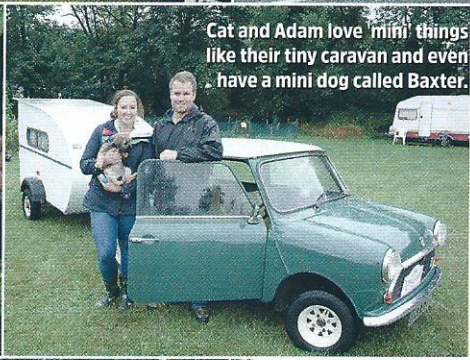
Thames Valley Mini Club members. Left to right: Malcolm, Rachel, Jeannie, Mandy, Rob, Michael, Hannah and Chris.



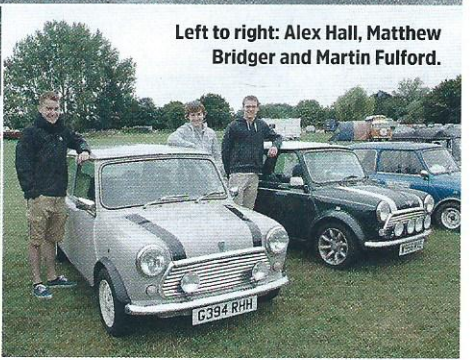
The Minis were a welcome sight wherever they passed through.



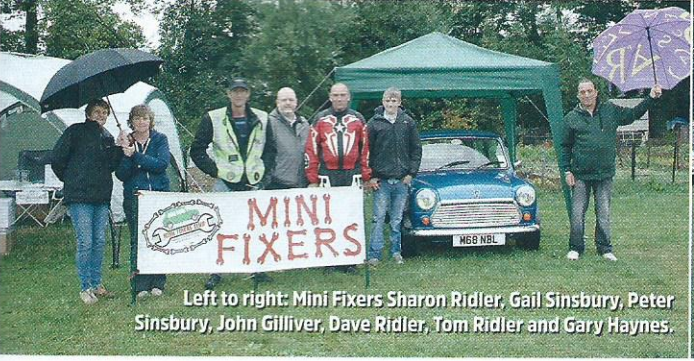
The 'mini-related' prize for Cat-Winnett and Adam Bloomfield (right) from Birmingham for braving the weather.



Cat and Adam love mini things like their tiny caravan and even have a mini dog called Baxter.



Left to right: Alex Hall, Matthew Bridger and Martin Fulford.



Left to right: Mini Fixers Sharon Ridler, Gail Sinsbury, Peter Sinsbury, John Gilliver, Dave Ridler, Tom Ridler and Gary Haynes.



The Cotswold Classic Mini Tour will return for its sixth outing over the last weekend in July next year, with a new route.