

Friday 14 October

Yorkshire Dales here we come.

Porsche Centre Wilmslow 10.30am

Trying to tempt Martin Davis into a 991, PCW had kindly offered to provide a loan car for the weekend. This was an early Christmas for Martin especially on discovering it was their new Carrera 4S demonstrator in GT Silver, Carrera Classic wheels, 4-wheel steering, glass sunroof and only 214 miles on the clock.

The 4S was an ideal choice for the routes and expected wet conditions and leading in my almost as suitable 50th Anniversary, Martin, Angela, Nette and myself set off for our lunch stop, ETA 12.00, arrival time 12.35 – must try harder.

The Higher Buck in Waddington was chosen as a convenient meeting point, on the outskirts of the industrial North West yet on the edge of moorland offering the first taste of exciting driving with a tasty menu to fuel us through the afternoon. The Buck which met our criteria well – good parking, nice location, quaint but trendy and good food.

Thirteen people in 8 cars assembled for lunch with Harish and Sat arriving late for a last minute meal ordered en route and served on trays just in case it was going to be a drive through.

The drive to the Stone House Hotel was a mixture of single track moorland and B roads varying from challenging twisty sections to long straights undulating across the Dales. The roads are built on top of the contours rather than cutting through, making manned flight possible on many occasions.

The B6255 passes the Ribbleshead Viaduct, a stunning 140 years old structure stretching across the bleak Yorkshire Moors. This was a great photo opportunity for the 7 Porsches but the pot holed layby made it difficult for a neat line-up.

Nick & Ann West lead a convoy of 3 cars from the south with John & Lyn Stokes and Mike Allen. For Nick's group the final 17 miles on the B6255 proved to be the best driving of the weekend with a completely clear road which made up for the Friday afternoon misery of the M6.

Our group arrived around 4.00pm and by 5.30 we had a full complement of 24 with most staying in the small, cosy bar area before a quick change for our 7.30 five course dinner.

Our base for the weekend was the Stone House Hotel in Hawes, a fabulous old country house tastefully extended with individual styles of rooms, excellent food and a lounge bar which just about contained our group.

By the end of the evening the group had bonded well and although the bar clung on to a few of us most retired early to make the most of what lay ahead.

Saturday 15 October

Assembling at 9.15 after a superb breakfast, a quick radio check and we were on our way for a wet and gloomy start. Bolton Castle quickly appeared through the mist and provided another good photo opportunity in front of this splendid old building and a welcome restroom for some after only 15 mins driving.

The short drive gave the group time to settle down and establish a good standard of driving, the roads were quite slippery and a safe distance between the cars was essential at all times.

The next leg of our tour took us through Wensleydale on the northern side of the River Ure passing through the pretty market towns of Leyburn, Bedale and picturesque villages such as Constable Burton and Little Crakehall. Heading east the weather improved to a warm sunny afternoon which lasted until the end of the day.

A few minutes from Bedale was our morning coffee stop at Thorp Perrow where one of the finest arboretums in the UK has matured over 85 years. Created by Colonel Sir Leonard Ropner the family home is now in the ownership of his grandson Sir Henry Ropner and his wife Lady Natasha – Lord and Lady Ropner.

A polite request for photos of the cars in front of the main house saw six cars neatly arranged with the stately home forming a grand backdrop. Sir Henry came out to introduce himself to our group and invited the remaining 7 cars to complete the line-up across the frontage of the mansion house.

We sadly declined the attractive offer of lunch and a falconry display, leaving Lord Henry with copies of Porsche Post and the promise of returning to explore the estate and fully appreciate the splendour of the grounds at a future date.

Slightly behind schedule, but feeling very special, we headed off on our way to our lunch stop, briefly causing chaos as we refuelled in Thirsk before heading out on the A170 Sutton Bank Road through Sutton-under-Whitstonescliffe and the steep climb up Sutton Bank.

The gradient is 25% and climbs to almost 1000ft up the Hambleton Hills and although caravans are banned from this section of road we were hampered by a slow moving horse box. Even after allowing a half mile gap before the hillclimb the first few cars quickly caught up preventing a fast ascent for all but the tail enders.

Once over the Bank, Bylands Abbey was only 10 minutes away and on the approach to the Abbey Inn the road skirts around the magnificent 12th century ruins. Stone was taken from the Abbey to build most of the nearby houses and the inn where manageress, Libby had been busy baking quiches, pies, scones, cakes and preparing sandwiches to provide a huge buffet lunch in our own private room. Many thanks to Libby and the rest of the staff for looking after us, it was greatly appreciated by all.

Onwards to the next round of tea and cakes our route took us through the pretty market town of Helmsley in the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire. There is an easy route around the town but then you would miss the main square, the beautiful stone buildings and quite a few shop windows for the ladies to admire. Temporary traffic lights in the square made life difficult for our convoy which had now swelled to 14 cars with the addition of David & Jennifer Selwood in their black Carrera 4GTS Targa.

Finally regrouping a few miles further on we headed north across the North York Moors National Park up Fangdale Beck turning left at Chop Gate to take us into the Cleveland Hills. The highest point is over 1300ft and as you drive through the Lord Stones towards Carlton Bank the views extend to the Tees Valley in the North, the Vale of Mowbray to the North West and over to the Yorkshire Dales.

Once we were down the bank we joined the busier A172 which gave you more time to enjoy the scenery before joining the A684 where we were able to enjoy the speed limits without the interruption of other traffic.

There was a good opportunity to window shop as we crawled through North Allerton and in hindsight it would have saved a lot of time by cutting across the northern end of town. It was nice to see the town centre but the traffic split

the group and the loss of radio contact and poor mobile reception resulted in 2 of the cars missing the next stop. This 7 miles stretch of the B6271 provided some exciting driving on the way to Kiplin Hall.

Kiplin Hall is a Jacobean historic house and gardens and as we arrived, the main gates to the parkland were opened to allow us to arrange the cars with the splendour of the manor in the background.

Tea was taken in the drawing room, served in mismatched bone china crockery, and for a while we could step back in time and enjoy the grandeur of this 1620's house.

Stepping back into our high tech machines we headed west alongside the River Swale, passing through Scorton and Richmond and numerous villages as we made our way up the river valley.

Slow traffic put an end to any fun until we turned off onto Cliff Gate Road, where a slow moving horse box was quickly dispatched on the first short straight of the famous Buttertubs Pass. Harish managed to do the same and we had a clear road across the high ridge and a really exciting drive considering the steep drops which beckoned. The 911's came into their own, powering uphill and the awesome brakes scrubbing of the speed into the blind corners of the steep descent. One by one the others picked off the horse box and enjoyed a final few miles of lively driving safe in the knowledge that there was no other traffic to look out for.

The hotel lies at the bottom end of the pass and the spirits were high as we parked the cars and headed for the bar. Harish described the driving as Top Gun stuff and christened us 'Iceman' and 'Maverick'. Being the youngest members of the party the Lal brothers had completely dismissed their earlier thoughts that they were joining a Saga outing.

By now the group was well acquainted with the old friends embracing the newcomers and the bar time merged into dinner and an entertaining night for all.

The after dinner quiz was a fun way to round off the meal with Graham & Hazel Marginson, Peter & Laura Butler, and John Stokes & Adrian Robson winning the prizes kindly donated by Porsche Centre Wilmslow.

A few hardy enthusiasts kept the bar open until the early hours.

Sunday morning was another damp start and we headed off on the opposite side of the valley following the River Ure east on the A684 before heading south on the B6160 to follow the River Wharfe through Wharfedale. This road varies from fast two lane stretches to narrow single tracks climbing up and down the hillsides through forest and moorland. Stunning scenery all the way enhanced by the autumn hues and cascading falls.

The Old Hall Inn at Threshfield provided refreshments for our morning break with freshly baked biscuits had the landlord remembered to serve them!

My unproven change of route took us slightly off course but the scenery was far more spectacular from the opposite direction and back on plan A we continued on past the magnificent Bolton Abbey before joining normal, but still very scenic, roads heading for our final meal together.

Some tasty treats at the Bull in Broughton rounded off the weekend very nicely before heading home with some good memories of our experiences.

We visited some great places and the people we met were friendly and welcoming, their assistance was appreciated by all.

The support by the Porsche Centres, Wilmslow and Tewkesbury was incredible and we are grateful for the trust they have in their customers. As 991 owners we are 'Ambassadors of the Porsche Brand' displaying a complete range of the very special 911's wherever we visit and providing a wonderful spectacle for car enthusiasts who often show their appreciation.

We had a lovely group of people on this trip and it was all very relaxed and enjoyable. It's great to get together with the ones we know and to make new friends and I thank all of you for making this trip a huge success.

Many thanks to the team:

Mike Allan	GT3	Guards Red	
Peter and Laura Butler	Turbo S Cabriolet	Agate Grey	
Martin and Angela Davis	Carrera 4S Gen 2	GT Silver	Porsche Centre Wilmslow
Phil (Iceman) and Nette Graham	911 50th Anniversary	Geyser Grey	
Simon Gwynne	Carrera	Platinum Silver	
Huw and Carol Jones	Carrera 4 GTS	White	
Harish (Maverick) and Sat Lal	Carrera S Cabriolet	Basalt Black	

Graham and Hazel Marginson	BMW i8	Ice White with Electric Blue	
Martin Phillipson and Beatrix Pardo	Carrera S Cabriolet	Guards Red	
Adrian and Julie Robson	Carrera GTS	GT Silver	
David and Jennifer Selwood	Targa GTS	Basalt Black	
John and Lynn Stokes	Carrera S Cabriolet	GT Silver	Porsche Centre Tewkesbury
Greg and Sue Taylor	Targa 4 GTS	Speed Yellow	
Nick and Ann West	Carrera Coupe Gen 2	White	Porsche Centre Tewkesbury

Again many thanks to Porsche Centre Wilmslow and Porsche Centre Tewksbury for the Generation 2 loan cars which were comprehensively appraised in the reports which can be found on the website – 991/Resources