

## National Rally at Catton Hall, Derbyshire.

Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MMOC.

The weekend of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.



The weather forecast was not going to be in our favour for the weekend of the National Rally. Despite that knowledge we still set off with the tent and the kitchen sink packed in the back of our Traveller. Apart from a snarl up on the A5 near Hinckley we arrived at the site on the Friday afternoon and managed to set up camp before the heavens opened up. Luckily it was only a very short blast and it didn't stop us from exploring the rally ground and finding the Branch Avenue. Terry concluded that 'our pitch' would be large enough for the display of our enormous cake that Mike Ingham so lovingly made for our club. 'No problem' was the answer and with that we carried on settling down in our camping life.

For the Friday evening we had the pleasure of live entertainment in the form of a chap who was very good at singing Frank Sinatra songs and others. The marquee was barely filled with people but nevertheless, Issy, myself and our lovely friend Enid (from previous MOT's in France) had the dancefloor all to ourselves and we re-created the choreography of 'Singing in the rain' with our massive umbrella's.



Most people arrived on the Saturday morning and soon the rally site was buzzing with MMOC branches setting up their stands. Mike and Doreen brought the much wanted cake and all the members present helped to sort out the fantastic display; with candles on top, pink and purple icing and the logo of 'The spirit of 1976' emblazoned over it and a car bursting out of the cake.....

It certainly looked very impressive! The weather turned out very good although a breeze threatened to blow everything over so now and then.



We had a raffle going, with Elaine's lovely homemade cake as a prize. Cupcakes were handed out with every ticket sold. Mike and Doreen were dressed up for most of the day and together they did very well selling the raffle tickets.





Terry and I saved our outfits for the evening entertainment when Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons (No.....not the real ones) filled the marquee with their music. The group was simply fantastic! Lots of people enjoyed themselves on the dancefloor and the atmosphere was great. Terry and I joined our friends we met at the French MOT this year.





Sunday turned out to be a lovely warm day and in the morning we managed to pack away our tent after breakfast. All of us were there on the Rally site from the previous day and Cathy joined us too. There was plenty to see and do around the site, with bands playing and games being held in the main arena. Sunday is normally the day when the branch displays are being judged so this time also someone from Footman James was indeed checking out Branch Avenue. Of course we were at our best behaviour and Mike and I joined in with the flag parade dressed in our fancy dress. The cutting of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake took place by the organisers of The National and thank you-s were handed out to various organisations for making the weekend a success. Just as we decided to pack up for the weekend, the winner was announced over the microphone: The Northants Branch had won First Prize!! Mike and I ran over to the arena to pick up the winner's plaque and it was great to see Mike beaming with pride. He so deserved the prize as a lot of hard work went into making the

display. Fantastic!! So the weekend turned out brilliantly with everybody having a good time.



Thank you to everyone who attended the weekend and helped out with setting up and dismantling the Branch display!!

Maggie Blissett