

Chill on the Hill

Words: Arron Groombridge

Not wanting to sound too much like a cliché, but the second edition of Chill on the Hill on Saturday June 14 really did live up to its name – a chilled and thoroughly relaxed day of driving and socialising.



The atmosphere was serene; the paddock murmured with idle chat and easy laughter. Ice creams and pints in hand, many toured the paddock - as ever at any Shelsley event an impromptu car show in its own right. 76 cars entered for the day, with a clutch of classics and a healthy number of modern machines squeezing, gingerly, into the historic paddock spaces.

And despite a dodgy forecast, by some miracle of meteorology, the black clouds all around, barring a brief shower at lunch, generously chose to deposit their contents in the parched fields beyond this stretch of the Teme Valley.

The day ran smoothly from start to finish, with no major incidents to speak of – unless you count the emotional one suffered by the driver of a particularly pretty Fiat Coupé whose clutch gave up the ghost. It expired elegantly, in the way that only Italian cars can.

This allowed each driver the opportunity to enjoy up to six runs throughout the day. With no competitive pressure, it was all about the fun – ascending the hill, not attacking it and the clock,



simply enjoying the unique experience that Shelsley Walsh provides with just their road car and a helmet.

The amount of MAC helmets dolled out on the day really did highlight that many of those who took to the hill weren't motorsport regulars. Chill on the Hill opens this oldest of motorsport venues to a whole new wave of enthusiasts and, if that wasn't enough, paid for passenger rides had the bonus that each one contributed £10 each to Prostate Cancer UK.

Many participants – and quite a few spectators too – were already asking when the next opportunity would be to take part in a day like this: they will be delighted to know that we will be Chilling on the Hill again on September 20th.