

CHARNWOOD CAPER IS MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER CLAIMS LOCAL CLASSIC CAR CLUB SPOKESMAN

Now in its 15th year, North Leicester MG Club's 2018 Charnwood Caper Run, on 13th May, was the best attended "Caper" ever, with over ninety cars pre-registered to take part, and several more signing up on the day. Similar turnouts have been recorded over the past three years, and with many entrants taking part for at least a second time, it seems that the run has become established in the classic car run calendar.

THREE

Once again, the run started at The Great Central Heritage Railway's Quorn and Woodhouse Station, from where the "tulip" route book guided participants on an 85-mile journey through three counties, largely on minor roads. After crossing north-east Leicestershire out towards the Vale of Belvoir, the classic cars crossed into Lincolnshire for half-way refreshments at Belton Garden Centre, just outside Grantham. From there, the second leg headed north-west into Nottinghamshire towards the finish at Rufford Abbey Country Park, near Tollerton.

ELEVEN

Nine different marques were in the cavalcade, with cars from every decade since the 1940s involved. The main contingent consisted of seventy-nine classics bearing the MG octagon, and examples of eleven of the company's models were in attendance. MGBs

were the most prolific, with around forty examples taking part.

Despite warnings of rain in the period leading up to the event, the weather on the day was unexpectedly dry, warm and sunny; sufficiently so, in fact, to allow the many convertible sports cars present to undertake the whole of the trip with their hoods down.

TWO

Although nearly half of the entrants were from Leicestershire, cars and their crews travelled from Durham in the north to Kent in the south to participate, with over a dozen other counties in between also represented. The longest journey to participate was undertaken by a couple from Kent who drove 191 miles in an MGB Roadster, and their dedication was rewarded with a prize from the organisers. They had travelled up from the Folkestone area with two other MGBs on a motoring holiday which included the "Caper".

A spokesman for club told our reporter, "An in depth statistical analysis of the entry list shows that the 2018 "Caper" was our most successful since, like, forever, in terms of wheels on the ground, which is about four times the number of cars which took part. This will enable us to make a big donation to this year's nominated charity, which is The Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance."



Top Left: Morris Minor leaves Quorn Station.

Top Right: Early finishers grabbed prime spots in front of the abbey.

Centre Left: MGB crew from Kent collect their award for travelling furthest to take part.

Centre Right: The three MGBs from Kent.

Bottom: Club members tackle the water jump near to Rufford.