



## **Dellows Climb New Heights!**

### *Dellow Motors 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1947-2007*

The Midlands Automobile Club (MAC) recently hosted the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dellow Motors at the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb on June 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and in doing so attracted largest single gathering of Dellow trials cars for over 20 years!

Incorporated in 1946 by Ron Lowe and Ken Delingpole, the early Dellows first arrived in 1947 with just a handful of Austin 7 chassis based prototypes with a further 250 cars in all eventually being built from the full production Mk 1 until the very last Mk6. It's a remarkable testament to their inherent build quality & design (and no doubt enduring popularity) that almost 90% of these cars still exist today.

Not only that but they are still also competing very effectively in a number of classic trials events such as the recent MCC Lands End trial.

A notable feature of these wonderful little cars was their unique use of ex-WD UP3 rocket tubes to form the chassis – a novel example of recycling WW2 surplus being ceramic lined 3.1/8 inch diameter high strength Chromium Molybdenum.

Many of these surviving cars are now dispersed worldwide as North America did become a modest export market but nonetheless over 26 cars spanning the entire model range turned up on the day accounting for some 10% of all known survivors.

Sunday morning featured a brief scenic run to the site of the original factory in Alvechurch before re-joining the other cars at the event and Tony Marsh, a notable Dellow competitor in the 1950's and a former British Hill Climb champion, even completed a run or two up Shelsley in a Dellow with Angela Wall (Ron Lowe's daughter) and Malcolm Delingpole son of Ken of course.

Two cars stood out especially at the meeting. KOP 263, though long thought to be lost, is the very car once owned by Doc Hardman (reputedly

the maddest driver Ron Lowe ever encountered) who drove it to victory in the Daily Express MCC 1250 mile Rally in 1952 – true to form he even drove it up the steps of the Grand Hotel Brighton in evening dress to accept his cup! Sitting alongside him was his navigator & wife Molly who passed away only this year at the age of 100 showing it's not just Dellow's that are long lasting!

The event also featured the first outing of Lewis Tracey's car, CAB 282, an early Austin 7 chassis based prototype and the third Dellow ever built, which reunited this historic and much documented car with a former owner Mike Lawrence who had not seen the car since the mid 1960's. Another landmark for CAB 282 was when owner Peter Seabrook-Harris fired it up for the first time in over 40 years.



**The film crew from Kingfisher TV were on hand all day filming the event**

**Former owner Mike Lawrence looks on for the first time in 40 years with amazement at the resurrection of his old trials car!**

Says Mark Hayward, chairman of the Dellow Register

*"Having first founded the Dellow Register in 1969 with John Temple, I never imagined that 37 years later we would have traced 215 cars out of the total production of 250 and actually see 10% of them at one venue."*

Says David Haley, Editor of the Dellow Register Newsletter

*"We owe huge thanks to John & Mark for first having set up the Dellow Register at a time when these cars were often dismissed as mere backyard specials and also more recently to everyone who helped make this landmark event happen."*

*In particular the MAC crew plus Jeremy Nightingale and his wife Melody with help from David Bache and John Spencer who cut a tremendous dash in his magnificent Morgan Aero on the scenic run."*

The whole Dellow event was captured on camera by Kingfisher TV working on behalf of Central Television for future broadcast and may be available for sale eventually through The Dellow Register.

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<http://www.dellowregister.co.uk>

For further information and alternative pictures which can be emailed please contact

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