

Valentine's Run

This year's annual Valentine Event was held in a retirement rest home, it is called Sidmouth. The town is named after a boisterous local and sits beside the water in a hollow between two red sandstone cliffs. A charming place with many independent shops and eateries, was descended upon by thirteen Cornish MX5s. Hitherto; the fastest vehicle in town was a mobility scooter with extra-wide two inch wheels so curbs could be bumped just that little bit faster.



We stayed at the newly refurbished and decorated Kingswood and Devoran Hotel, right on the sea front. Some had rooms with a panoramic seascape, others enjoyed a cracking view of the car park. It should be said, the hotel offered exemplary quality and service.

The first evening was a three course dinner followed by some extra curricular activity. Due to the recent soil erosion, there had been several landslips so the bungee jumping competition was cancelled. Instead we played a more sedate game of charades; this game was made famous by the long running TV series *Give us a Clue* only difference being ours did not have a gay host, apparently.

All went well although Roger's interpretations were somewhat obscure, these are available in video from the club, delivered in a plain brown envelope.

The next day we set off in the glorious morning sunshine, climbing hills, swerving around corners and travelling along lanes designed for a tractor. We had lunch at Otterton Mill where they have a strange

way of making a sandwich; take one loaf of bread, cut it in half, shove something in the middle and put it back together again.





That evening we enjoyed a three course gala dinner. Rhona had come up with a novel way of creating table decorations – a few roses placed into a bucket of weeds. Afterwards we retired to the lounge for an exciting quiz. The questions set, having been rejected by University Challenge, were extremely difficult; although if you were born before the war, you had a great advantage. We were divided into five teams and in the end, one team came first, another came last and the rest were somewhere in the middle. Following on we each had gifts to open, if you were lucky

you got alcohol or chocolates, otherwise you were most likely to receive a cuddly toy.



Seriously though, many, many thanks to Peter and Rhona for organising the event and thanks too, to Mike and Sharon for guiding us through the muddy lanes.





