



# Issue #33 – Winter 2009

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# **CLUB ORGANISERS**

There have been a few changes here recently so this is the up-to-date information on club organisers.

#### Treasurer

Pat Yule – Foxytanith email: foxytanith@yahoo.co.uk

#### Membership & Newsletter

Helen & Trevor Gunn – Steelcruisers email: steelcruisers@aol.com Tel: 020 8335 3430

#### Web Site & Forum

Peter Davies – Bladerunner email: webmaster@ukcruisers.net Tel: 01453 843233

#### **Charity Co-ordinator**

Michelle & Kev White - Rebelracers email: whitek383@aol.com Tel: 02476 316935

#### Advertising

Mark Shepherd - Shep email: m.jshepherd@btopenworld.com Tel: 01256 781980

#### **Club Merchandise**

Sara Turner – Safra Cat Frank Turner – Hurricane Blue Email: turnersnails@aol.com Tel: 01284 723895

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All of the organisers and reps are happy to receive your phone calls, but please keep your calls within socially acceptable hours, I.e. between 9.30 am and 9.30 pm. Bear in mind that most people have daytime jobs.

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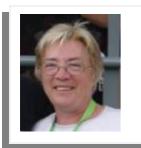
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Front cover features a Christmas card designed <u>exclusively</u> for UK Cruisers by Gert Wessell B7PT



I can't believe it's newsletter time again! Christmas is just around the corner and if you are like me I don't know whether I'm coming or going. I was thinking about Christmas and PT Goodies. Now that our dearly loved PT cruisers are no longer being made for the UK market, if money were no object and they suddenly announced PT's were being produced again for us how many of us would rush out and

order a brand new one for Christmas – I would and I would want a white one because I wanted a white one 10 years ago. It would be interesting to know the answer to this question.

I've not long got home from our Xmas do. As usual plain good fun, excellent company and great food. I want to thank Keith and Yvette and all their helpers for the time and effort they put into this annual production. It has become a much loved and looked forward to event by those of us who attend. I do hope Keith that we managed to raise a decent amount of cash for the charity so dear to your heart.

Anyway, May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2010.



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www.peelsmotorkraft.co.uk & www.pteazer.com

If you require us to supply the parts only & use a local Bodyshop, this is not a problem. Alternatively if you travel to Bristol we are happy to give a free courtesy car, or a lift to the local train station, or to a local Travel lodge. It is also possible with some panels to have them pre-painted & we'll fit them while you wait, Speak to Matt to see how we can help!

We have worked on many of the UK Cruiser members cars, so if you wish to ask an opinion on us & our quality of work, just ask around in the club. We always give good prices to 'UK Cruiser' members www.ukcruisers.net

> Contact for any questions - Matt Peel Tel. Bristol - 0117 9351 661 Or Email via Web-site

#### **RSPCA – SEAL UPDATE**

After a very successful second visit to RSPCA wildlife hospital at East Winch earlier in the year, many of you took up the chance to have a seal named. Andy (Simmo\_simmons) has been regularly updating the website and posting pictures of seals that have been rescued and named so far. Below are just a few of the pictures for you to see what has been happening. Don't forget you can still have a seal named by donating £10 to the RSPCA at East Winch all you have to do is contact Andy on 07709 488898 or send him a PM.

<section-header></section-header>	Is doing well, had problems with lung worm but responded well to treatment and is now in intermediates.	MAIDEN	Is doing well, she had pox but has got over it and is on her way to intermediates.
<b>MIFF</b>	Is doing really well after a poor start. Had the pox and lung worm as well as repertory problems and was at one stage given only a few hours to live, she pulled through and is looking good to go to intermediates.	CYRIL	Is doing well just moved up to intermediates and is chomping whole fish well. Won't be long till he goes outside.
ADOLF	Is doing really well, he has managed to annexes intermediates and is thinking of invading the outside pools!!!	STOCKY	Sadly after a good start Stocky died. He came in with a swollen muzzle which he got over but during a feed he had a fit and died suddenly. The postmortem revealed health issues with stomach and gut.

Just as a note for those who haven't been to East Winch, intermediates is where the seals go to start fattening them up ready to go outside to the big pool.



#### **SNIPPETS**

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR – I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter this year. All my nagging paid off eventually  $\textcircled$ . I would also like to thank everyone who has taken the time to host and attend an event as well. It is because of you our members that we have such a wonderful club. As you know next year we are celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and we want to make it a year long celebration, well why not. So all that's left to say as we go in to hibernation for a few months is BRING IT ON.



A CHRISTMAS DITTY - ... on the twelve days of Christmas my true love sent to me...

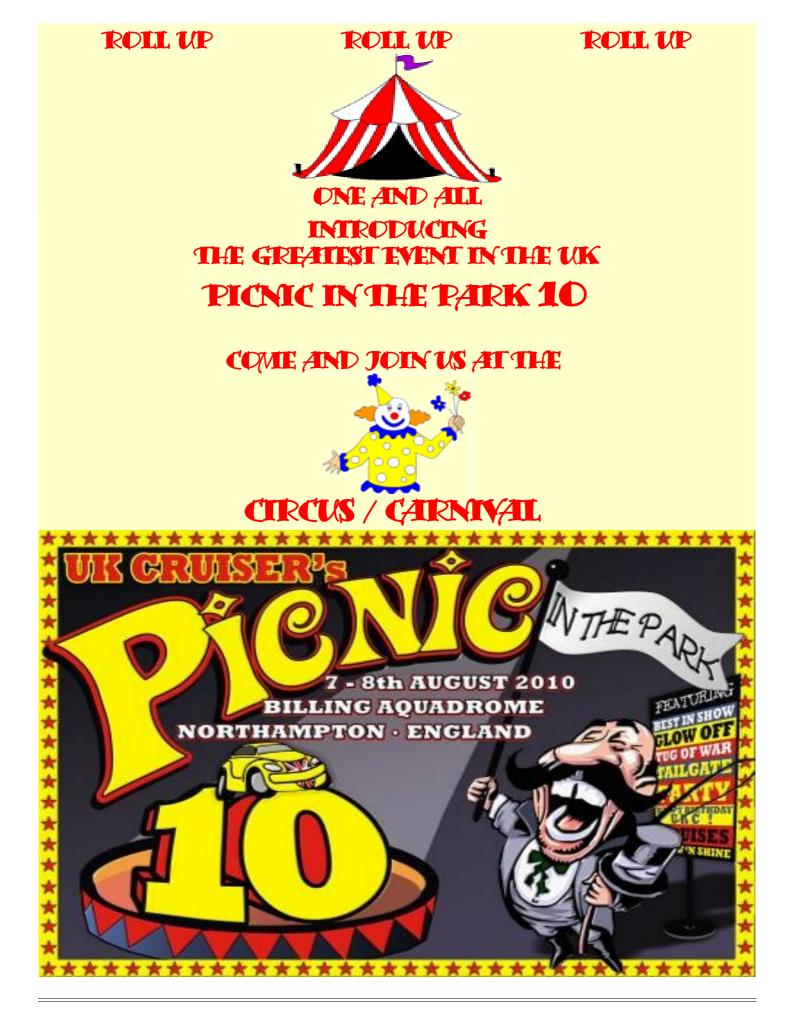
12 poly bushes 11 chrome trimmings 10 horns a-beeping 9 mechanics moaning 8 tins of polish 7 brake drums drumming 6 grease-a-spraying 5 piston rings 4 ally wheels 3 window wipers 2 driving gloves & a shiny new Chrysler PT

**HELP !!!** - Our store cupboard of member profiles is completely bare. If you can help rectify this problem please let us know. We would need to have the profile/s by the end of Febuary 2010 ready to include in the next newsletter. We have hundreds of members so there must be someone out there who wants their 15 minutes of fame O so don't be shy, have a go and email your text and photo to steelcruisers, contact details can be found under the list of Organisers.

**PLEA** – Don't forget to send in pictures of your PT's for our photo gallery on the club forum. The photo needs to be landscape and a minimum size of 600 pixels x 400 pixels or 2400 x 1600 when saved on your computer. Please also supply your name as well as your forum name. If you don't want your number plate shown please say and it can be removed if necessary before being placed on the gallery. Please email your photo to **gallery@ukcruisers.net** 

**WANT ONE OF THESE** – Then come along to our 10<sup>th</sup> Picnic in the Park.. For those of you receiving your newsletter by post the colour for the plaque is gold on black.





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# **CLUB MERCHANDISE**

Club merchandise, at the moment, is only available via reps at club meets. The reps hold different stock including mugs, coasters, car flags, stickers, teddies, t-shirts / sweatshirts (obtained to order). If you can't make it to a club meet and would like any of these items please contact your local rep who will liaise with you about sending it via the post.

ADVERTISING RATES
FULL PAGE ADS:
£15 per issue or £54 per annum
HALF PAGE ADS:
£7.50 per issue or £27 per annum
SMALLER ADS:
£5 per issue of £18 per annum
Annual advertising fees are payable in March with fees for individual ads to be paid at the time of submission.

#### **Devilduck**

I'm not sure how we'd managed it but somehow we had accumulated a bit of money from the sale of our cars. I had bought a cheaper one, Gary would get a cheap run about and the rest of the money was to go on new carpets for our house. That would have been the sensible thing, only thing is, we've never really done the sensible thing when we've had a bit of money. Like the time we'd borrowed money to have our double glazing done and then saw a Kawasaki 1500cc trike which we couldn't resist buying instead. I can tell you we had more fun riding around on that than looking out onto the street through our double glazed windows. Now we no longer have the trike but we do have double glazed windows. So why should this time be any different.

It may have been if we hadn't just come back from a hot rod and custom car weekend. We knew that there was no way we could afford to buy and run one of these cars but we didn't want to 'lose' out so looked at other options. We'd always liked hot rods/custom cars, Gary had grown up in Northolt, West London where there had been an American airbase which provided the local area with a plethora of US custom cars.

He' even managed to own a few prior to having the financial commitments a home and children endear you too. Straight away we thought of a car which we had liked since its appearance on the UK market some nine years previous. We had test driven it at the time but as usual just didn't have the available money to get one. We also need a car which would be suitable and economical enough for Gary's daily commute. A Chrysler PT Cruiser it had to be.

So that's how we found ourselves searching a well known auction site and the Autotrader. We were only going to have a quick look just to see what, if anything was available. The search criteria was that it had to be diesel, it had to be bright red (a real turn up for Gary as being a biker everything previously had to be in black) and it had to be reasonably local. A total of three

cars were returned. The cheapest was in Ireland but not so once you added the cost of the ferry and fuel. One was in North Yorkshire – very nice looking but not exactly local and the third was in Frimley, North Hampshire and not too far a journey for us from Hayling Island. It looked beautiful and was just what we were looking for.

OK, we'll just go and have a look we agreed, half excited and half dreading the fact that we'd want it. So there I was on the return journey from Frimley working out how quickly I could get the remainder of the money together (minus the deposit I'd just left) and when we could get back to pick it up. It was all it said in the ad and much more.

Who needed new carpets anyway, a decision I was pleased I'd made as we returned home to find the dog had been sick over ours.

When we returned to collect our new purchase she looked even better than when we had seen her previously. Having wanted one for so long we couldn't believe we were about to get a PT Cruiser, but there she was, inferno red paint, shining gloriously in the evening sun. And she was ours, all ours.



So, on went the sunglasses, in went the ZZ Top, down went the windows, out went the elbows and off went the car with Gary and our youngest daughter posing and no doubt looking at themselves in all the shop windows as they cruised on by. They followed me home and every time I looked in the mirror I am certain their grins had got wider. There then followed a period of cruising up and down the sea front in the early Summer sun before Gary thought that there must be a club for like minded lovers of PT's. Thanks to google we found the UK Cruisers website and enrolled as members, but we needed a forum user name.

Where did 'Devilduck' come from then? Well, when we were at the aforementioned Hot Rod/Custom Car show, the kids had bought us a car air freshener in the shape of a red duck with devil horns, which was now hanging from the rear view mirror. So the name Devilduck was born and The Devilduck would be how she would come to be known.

Since then we have managed to acquire quite a few of these 'devil duckies', including a belt buckle, earrings and even a glow in the dark devil duck.

The club has proved to be a fantastic club to be a member of. A couple of weeks after getting The Devilduck we went to Picnic in the Park 09 and enjoyed it more than we could have ever imagined. Everybody was so friendly towards us and girls particularly enjoyed the Grease theme. The whole event was so well planned and executed and we noted that all the organisers and helpers worked tirelessly to ensure everyone had a good time.

The 'paint a cruiser' in the children's corners provided much fun for the girls and also Gary who can now be seen on You Tube studiously painting his. But then our youngest is always telling him that he is just a kid in a big body.

Our thanks also go to Shep our local rep who organised tickets to the Hampshire Pageant of Motoring on August Bank Holiday. We all met up on a grey drizzly morning and cruised in a convoy (dead cool or what) to the event whereby shortly after our arrival the sun came out and fab day was had. Again everyone was really friendly and it was great to meet members and put names to faces.

We can't wait to attend more events, the next being the Ace Café in November and also PITP 10. But until then if you see an inferno red CRD with blackened windows and Lynyrd Skynyrd, Rockabilly or ZZ Top blaring out of the windows, chances are it'll be The Devilduck, so give us a wave.



All the best to you all **Gary & Andrea aka Devilduck.** 

# \*\*\*\*

#### Ray Hare

After trawling through the various PT websites I came across a woody kit for my PT, WOW that looks fantastic, I have always loved 50s American cars.

After a few months thinking about it I decided to bite the bullet and bought one through Ebay.

I know it is not to everyone's taste but that's what I like about the PT you can create your own individual style and stand out from the bland tin boxes on our roads.

My car is a 2001 PT in Aquamarine, it does not have, or ever has had, any badges on the tailgate, every car I have seen has either limited or something, Very strange.

The PT Woody kit consists of pre-formed woodgrain vinyl type material pieces, pre-cut plastic woodgrain raised edge pieces, a reel of Pinstripe tape and 2 widths of masking tape.

I must admit when I first read the assembly manual that came with the kit it seemed a little daunting.

I was waiting for a few nice warm days in the Summer to get on and fit it, (fat chance in this country). I even took a week off work to get it done and the weather was cool and overcast, still I was determined to fit it and at the end of my weeks holiday I set about preparing the car by first heating up and removing the badges on both front doors, washing the car down and drying it, and then using a tar/degreasing fluid, degreased all the areas where the vinyl would be fitted.

The next stage according to the manual was to fit the templates, these are pre-cut pieces that fit on various areas of the car where there is not a distinctive body line, this is to aid where the trim finishes.

To be honest I found them not necessary because firstly when fitted as instructed the trim would still not reach the edge of the templates, and secondly the fitting of the woodgrain pieces are determined to a great extent on cut-outs for the door handles etc.

I did start to fit the templates but after a while I found them more of a hindrance than a help.

I then lightly sprayed the car where the first piece was to be fitted with window cleaner, also spraying the back face of the woodgrain vinyl and gently slid it into the approximate place on the car, in this instance the rear of the drivers front wing where the door opens, using the window cleaner enables the vinyl to slide around on the car to find the correct place before drying out.

To enable me to ensure that the first piece was in the correct place I offered up the surround trim and lined this up using the belt-line mould on the car (1/4 inch below it) as a template. Once I was happy I then started on the drivers door woodgrain vinyl, here is where the fun starts.

The placing of the vinyl is determined by the pre cut-out for the door handle, which is fine, just apply the window cleaner as before, place the vinyl on the door fitting over the door handle and slid away to your hearts content lining it up so the top edge is level with the first piece. The problem I found was as this is an American kit this would be the passenger door and as such would not have a keyhole fitted, (UK cars have a keyhole on both sides, probably to stop having to make different doors for the foreign market.

Anyway, the only thing to do was to carefully trim round the keyhole, this was easier said than done, and did not come out as good as I would have liked. I will fit a chrome ring around the keyhole to tidy it up. (If I had noticed it earlier I would have removed the door trim and lock ).

You have to ensure that the vinyl overhangs the door sides so it can be wrapped round the door edges, I found that in some cases the vinyl could have been 5mm longer as the fold-overs are not equal.

Carry on fitting the pieces around the car as explained, and keep going back over the previous fitted vinyl and squeegie out as much of the air bubbles as possible, (not easy as it will slide about a bit). I then left it overnight to dry out.

Next morning I could see that there were still air bubbles on various panels, I then used a small needle, popped them and rubbed them flat, even next day you can still lift the vinyl and re-lay it if you want.

The main problem areas with the vinyl fitting is around corners. It is impossible not to get the odd crease, even warming it up, you can if you are really careful slice the vinyl and re-lay it.

I feel sure if it had been a hot day these problems would not have been half as bad.

The next stage is to fit the raised edging trim.

Each piece is coded and referenced in the instructions, you just peel off the backing tape and press it in position, ensuring that no more than 1/4 of the edging is on the vinyl. 3/4 is stuck to the car. Trim the vinyl if necessary, this was very easy and very rewarding as you can see the woody taking shape with every piece you fit.

For the pieces of edging that form round the back wing they give you a special glue which seems to work fine.



All that was required now was to fit the pinstriping to the vinyl, this is to simulate planking on the car. Again, with patience it went on OK.

To sum up, was I glad I fitted it YES. Did I learn anything from doing it YES. Would I do it again YES.

Lessons Learnt : Pick a warm/hot day, either cut out the keyhole in the vinyl (not easy) or remove the lock from the door.

Take a look at the photos and see what you think.

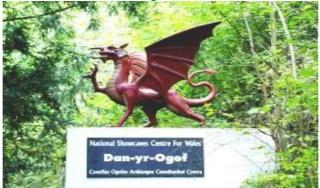
If anyone fancies having one or a similar trim kit fitted and don't fancy doing it themselves I'm sure we could come to some arrangement.

HAPPY CRUISIN









Once upon a time a friendly King & Queen in a foreign land called upon all and sundry to join them for a weekend of discovery and entertainment. And so it came to pass that in September of the year 2009, following the harvest of crops and mangelwurzels, there formed a gathering of more than a score of chariots of assorted colours, as shiny as the crown jewels, containing peasants of assorted ages from near and far flung places.

The Royal Couple, together with their most trusted aides 'Sir Wibble of Wales' and 'Lady Wennie of Woo', greeted their guests at the traveller's rest known locally as 'Ye Olde Cardiffe Weste Motorway Services' and proudly presented each one of them with a 'Welcome Packe' containing a multitude of gifts and priceless artefacts to be treasured, admired and, yay verily, eaten!

Their Highnesses then escorted the travellers a short distance to the first point of call namely 'St Fagans National History Museum'.

On most days St Fagans is a bustling market town of more than ten thousand inhabitants but for this special occasion the King had ordered that all the residents be exiled to the far isle of Anglesey so that his entourage may wander at their leisure throughout. Everyone was free to explore the Castle (the King & Queen's country residence), the beautiful gardens and grounds and to have a good olde nosey within and without the multitude of habitats (cottages, houses,

sheds etc) that make up this hamlet. There were dwellings of all shapes and sizes and buildings that served various purposes, all of which were left exactly as they were when the residents were removed by all the King's men (and their Some peasants horses!). were spared banishment to work in assorted shoppes in order that the Royal Party could partake of such local delicacies of Welsh Cakes, Welsh bread and Ye Olde Mars bars. It is true that there fell a sprinkling of rain but this was merely temporary and, overall, the weather was very fair and fine and distinctly more friendly than the climate experienced by visitors in the previous year at the Big Pit!

As the King & Queen wandered the land in the pleasant company of 'Lord & Lady Bladerunner of Gloucester' they were pleased to meet up with members of their throng wearing smiles on their faces, holding newly thrown clay pots in their hands, carrying freshly baked bread in their bags and generally looking content and fulfilled.



Indeed they came upon a small gathering at 'Ye Olde Tea & Coffee Stall' and chatted awhile and found that everyone seemed pleased to be able to understand how poor people lived and how fair and just the King was to his people. In fact his Royal Highness was so pleased that he decided to cancel the public hanging of Dai Llewellyn Jones Davis, the local sheep tickler, who had been found guilty of 'looking at the Royal PT Cruiser in a strange manner'!

All too soon it was time to go and so the party returned to their carriages, formed in convoy and drove a distance of some twenty leagues to the manor known as 'Pentrebach House' in the borough of Merthyr Tydfil in order to rest awhile and prepare for the evening's banquet.

It was truly a sight to behold as all these bejewelled chariots paraded along the highway known as 'Emmfour' causing many local inhabitants to look in awe and amazement in their direction. On arrival at the appointed hostelry it seemed that most guests were pleased with their accommodation and equally reassured with the security measures put in place to protect their wagons for the duration of the stay.

A short rest and then it was time to let their hair down (those that had any) at the adjoining Pentrebach Inn. Indeed the banquet prepared by the kitchen staff was well received with much praise and applause by all. The fatted calves, chickens, pigs and vegetables that had been specially selected and summarily executed were devoured with much gusto and the Royal wine cellar and mead barrels took a fair olde hammering in the process too!

As the evening progressed all the chatter became witty banter and there was much falling about through laughter and alcohol! Whilst all this merriment was taking place the King & Queen quietly returned to their castle in order to attend urgent matters such as letting the Royal canines out to go to the loo!

And so it came to pass that Sunday morning dawned and the guests assembled in the courtyard in preparation for the second event on their itinerary. Sadly, some had not been rested fully on account of a handful of lairy peasants who had been making loud and disturbing noises in the depths of night.

The King, on hearing this, was less than pleased and promptly ensured that the offenders were identified, vilified and summarily executed quite slowly while everyone watched!

That being done, and when the applause had subsided, the convoy formed and everyone ventured into the heart of 'Dragon country' and shortly arrived at 'Dan-Yr-Ogof Showcaves'.

A place of wonders within the Welsh mountains, guarded by dragons and prehistoric monsters and visited only by the brave and the fool hardy!



Having been cleared of all dragons and dead knights and dragon poo, by all the King's men (and horses again!), the Royal party ventured into the murky, damp depths of the caverns.

It is true that there were still a multitude of prehistoric animals wandering the land but they were mostly vegetarian and so were harmless.

As for the meat eating species the King had removed their teeth with his bare hands the previous weekend in preparation of this visit so it was safe to explore the whole area at leisure and in complete safety!

Inside the caves there were sights that had most people standing in awe and amazement. Rock formations, coloured minerals and waterfalls were studied, admired and photographed and it was clear that both young & olde members of the party were truly enjoying this visit. For all those reading this it is difficult to recount in words what this place was like as you had to be there but, safe to say, everybody will remember it for a very long time. It was agreed by all that this truly was worth the twenty groats admission fee and, once again, a peasant was spared a public hanging!



And then, alas, it came to pass that, no sooner had they greeted them, the King & Queen were saying farewell to their foreign friends and fellow country men. There was much hugging and kissing and tears and tissues (and that was just the menfolk!) as people set off on their long journeys back to their dwelling places. As a parting gesture (and an unselfish act of compassion) the King gave a significant part of

his packed luncheon to 'Sir Shep of the Emirates' little boy Samuel, who was weak with hunger and looked like he wouldn't make the journey back! The smile on that little lad's face as he received a Royal scotch egg and Mr Kipling Country Slice will remain in the memory for a very long time indeed and it more than made up for the fact that, on the previous eve, he missed out on a huge mixed grill at the banquet. (A message for Little Sam here: there never was a mixed grill at the banquet! It was a case of pulling ye olde legge instigated by the dastardly 'Lord & Lady Rebel of Racers' and their cohorts. The King of Wales was forcibly obliged to go along with this skulduggery in the interests of international relations and would never have done it otherwise! Honest!)

Overall it was a great weekend which most seemed to enjoy and our thanks go to all who travelled from near and far for their second Wales Cruise and also those who attended for the very first time. It is hoped that you enjoyed it enough to return next year for more of the same.

'Dragons Den: 2010' has already been scheduled for next September and plans are being prepared for that event. Keep an eye on the 'What's On' forum and in future issues of this Newsletter for details.

Kevin & Suzie - Cymru Cruisers (aka the King & Queen of Wales!)

#### Grafham Water Cruise, Cambridge 27<sup>th</sup> September

After 18 or so months since the last Cambs Meet, I thought it was about time for another... but where to go?? Previously we had done a cruise over to Grafham Water at the Perry village end and as this had been a few years since we had ventured out that way...then the venue was chosen!

The day of the cruise arrived, the sun was shining and it was warm. What more could we want?! We made it over to The Highwayman pub in Eaton Socon just outside St Neots to meet the others, spotting a few PTs going in the wrong direction along the way! They didn't know what

they were missing!!

The curse of the goldfish memory had struck again and I had forgotten the camera... I had to head back home. On my way home I passed one of the members who had taken a wrong turn and they followed me to near my house and waited (can't remember who it was, see what I mean about the memory?!).

We both had a pre-cruise cruise over to the pub to join the others. There were 12 of us including a non-member that would just be coming along for the cruise. After much chin-wagging and introductions to new members it was time to cruise. We left the car park and headed onto the A1 northbound to join the slow moving traffic that *is* the A1 at St Neots at the moment at weekends due to road works! We finally left the road works behind which gave the chance for the cars behind us to pass and gaze at the procession of cars.

Twenty minutes later we arrived at the car park in Perry to astonishment of people on the footpath as car after car made their way past them. The car park at Perry is excellent for a cruise because of the amount of space... it is a huge car park which enables the cars to be parked in a line together easily. This was when we got the biggest reaction as we all lined up.



After more chin-wagging and admiration for each others cars, we headed over to the Harbour View café to have a drink and some food. Last time we were there we actually closed down the café due

Wissant, France - 7th-18th October 2009

Thanks to the French fishermen yet again Calais was in turmoil. The police turned the M20 into a car park and closed it off which created problems for all of us except Rebelcruzer as he came down very early.

Due to the lateness of arriving for some due to the traffic we decided not to go to the Chinese Buffet in Dover as we were told there was one ten minutes away in Faversham. Food was good and as much as you could eat too.

Back to bed and an early start meeting up with Steelcruisers and Stocky who were already there

to the shear number of us eating at the same time! Fortunately the management is now a lot more organised and we all got served easily.

After the food people either gathered back around the cars to chat or decided to wander down to the reservoir to enjoy the glorious weather. Unfortunately there was a blue green algae warning on so skinny dipping was out and even Hollie (the dog) couldn't go in! Oh well maybe next time...?!



After people had taken in the sights of the reservoir we wandered back over to the cars and said our farewells as people started to make their way home.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who attended, especially Chromieboy who travelled up from Southampton to join us! There will be another meet after the New Year at Buddies in Rushden (A45)... keep your eyes peeled! Tinca

as we were getting out of bed. An early start for them in case of road closures due to operation stack.

Anyway, 8am and we were off on the ferry arriving in Dunkerque about 11.15 French time. We assembled together before setting off for Cite Europe but due to amount of Trucks on the road we set off slowly between them. All of a sudden an Electric blue Chrysler PT jacket walked around the truck waving at me. It was Geert from the Dutch PT club. The truck moved forward allowing us all to see 6 PT cruisers and Blackcruiser and the gang waving us into the Seaman's club to park up to say hello.

A very unexpected surprise indeed as it would seem this surprise had been planned since PITP.



After many hugs and kisses we were off, not 8 but 14 cruisers were now heading for Calais. We then met up with Chris and Chris Drakeford who decided to come last minute and came across via the Tunnel and Gert and Trini who had driven over fro Germany. We now had cruisers from four countries, Holland, Belgium Germany and of course us Brits.

The weather wasn't kind to us so no kite flying took place but after we left Cite Europe we headed for Cap Griz-nez.



This is a needle type monument on the coast not far from Calais which still has the WW2 bunkers in place all along the coastline. If you looked back away from the monument inland you could see all the missile and bomb holes peppered along the hillside.

We headed off to Wissant but due to the weather we realised we were not going to fly the kites.

Back to the Hotel for a rest stop (Bonus as Arsenal v Birmingham was live on TV.) and to get ready for Dinner. Dinner for 21 was always going to be difficult and I thought I had it sorted but now we had our friends from the Netherlands with us we now numbered 37. A short walk up the road was a Buffalo Grill restaurant so headed there and as luck would have it they had a function room which they put us all in and did us proud. I could not have organized anything better if I had tried.

Sunday was a quiet day, the French still believe Sunday is a day of rest and for families so much is closed but after breakfast and goodbyes to Gert and Trini we headed to "Cheers" wine and beer store. Have to say not as good or as big as it looked on the web so I ventured out to look around and found a store which sold more than Booze.

I returned to pick up our fellow cruisers and take them to this one. Once we were done here our Dutch friends said goodbye and headed for home.



We then decided to leave Calais and go for a look around the town of Dunkerque before heading for the port and our Boat home.

I would just like to say a big thank you to all those who came. Also to Gert for all the swing tags he did last week for us and to ALL from the Dutch PT cruiser club who gave us the BIGGEST surprise of the weekend. Hope everyone enjoyed it.

SHEP

at the same for the same



#### \* 2005 SANTA GOES POTTY \* \* 2006 SANTA GOES BONKERS \* \* 2007 SANTA GOES INSANE \* \* 2008 SANTA DOES PANTO \*

Earlier this year, Keith & Yvette, (Khrome Kruiser) stepped down as Kent Area Reps for a well deserved break. But, typical of them, they were still beavering away behind the scenes putting together the main UKC traditional 'Santa Does' Christmas bash in aid of the charity Leuka.

In the past this meet would mark the end of the cruising season, but, as the club has grown and its members just love any excuse to get together, a couple of local area Xmas Lunches have also been arranged for those unable to travel to Northampton.

Mid-day at the Overstone saw the first Cruisers arrive and after the usual catch-up chatting and a spot of lunch they began unloading a collection of assorted boxes and black sacks into the restaurant where the helpers set to work in a scurried atmosphere of organised pandemonium, transforming and decorating the restaurant area in a festive look. The restaurant is reserved for UKC only.

During the afternoon, more Cruisers arrived, they booked-in and selected their choice of evening meals and table places. Frank (Safra Cat) and Brian (Fefzy) both competing for sales were very persuasive with the raffle tickets for all those hoping to be drawn for a prize from the fine raffle display. Fefzy even had the bare-face-cheek to sell an extra strip to Frank's wife Sarah.

Late afternoon and starting to get dark signalled it was time for the light-hearted, have-a-go 'Xmas Glow-Off' competition where folk decorate their PT's in a Christmas theme, to be judged by Overstone Hotel staff. Andy & Jess (Cruiser King)

were making an early start and were finished by the time most others got started. Luckily the weather stayed dry so those taking part could display their decorating handy work. This year the themes were really ingenious, varied and wonderfully lit with assorted coloured lights. Woody (John & Madge) had so many lights it looked like 'Oxford Street' all on its own. Meanwhile Lindsay and Paul (Blanche) were busy serving mince pies adding to the festive atmosphere.

By now other members (and bewildered non member public) were now circling the cars inspecting and enjoying the lights and exhibits that made for nice photos for those with suitable cameras. RikPT who takes great photos had his kit including a tri-pod and seemed happy with his results so should look good when on the club website. 5.30pm and Overstone staff are pressganged into the judging role. They surveyed the display and fretted over which was their favourite before choosing a winner.



After the glow-off there was a break of around an hour until the restaurant started to fill. The Cruiser folk took their seats at their tables chattering, laughing, exchanging party hats and raking through the many bugles, poppers, hats, crackers and rattles on their tables including, the old favourite bazooka balloons. The Restaurant staff (also in good spirits) began to serve dinner and as usual the Cruisers enjoyed each other's company in a noisy excited atmosphere. It wasn't long before the bazooka balloons were in full flight weaving under, over and through the tables. Traditionally some tables got together launching bazooka balloon attacks on other tables. Everyone agreed the whole meal was excellent, with a choice of; starters, main meals, deserts, cheese n biscuits, coffee and mince pies.

With the meal now over it was 'Raffle' time. The raffle drum was spun hard and the first ticket drawn, it was PT Trev's table that took the early lead of repeat winners drawing cries of 'shakeem-up', 'boos' and other barracking. Trev (PT trev) chose a nice light oak Coffee Table and continued to rub it in how well his table was doing, declaring it the 'Lucky Table'. Sadly his moment of success did not last long as 'Knave', 'Jess' and others stole his crown and glory for repeat wins. Other lucky ticket winners came forward one by one until all the prizes were gone. After a short break with music from Mrs Knave's sound set-up, the entertainment started with the clubs own Pam Ayers, (poet). Theresa (Mrs PT Trev) appeared dressed in hair curlers and nightgown to read all the Cruisers a bed time story which went like this:-

Once upon a time, a few years ago. A car club was formed, where people could go. They'd show off their cars that shined and gleamed. That were sometimes decorated in different themes.

Then someone said I have an idea. What about a Xmas Party each year. And so from then it has always been. That a show has been done for all to be seen.

So as you all know there is always a theme. For the entertainment that's about to be seen. And so tonight in the show for you. There is Scrooge, some Ghosts and a Turkey too.

Now Scrooge was a tight and unhappy man. Who saves lots of money where ever he can. He went off to bed to sleep one night. And had a dream that gave him a fright.

In his dream 3 ghosts he did see. The Past, the Present and what was to be. They showed him the things he had done wrong. And how it would be from now on.

So Scrooge is now a much better man. And gives to the people whenever he can. He took to them all what they wanted the most. A big fat turkey for them to roast.

So now that Scrooge and the ghosts have gone. There is one more person to come on He's dressed in red and visits once a year. With his elf and reindeer's he spreads good cheer.

Of course we all know who that person can be It is of course Santa Claus as you will soon see So there's one thing to say before we all go. Come on in Santa, it's the end of the Show.

During this reading the 'UKC Crazy Gang' appeared in character. Scrooge (Adrian-Tinca), Xmas Past (Sam-Shep), Xmas Present (Mark-Shep), Xmas Yet To Come (Tilly-SaFraCat), Elf (Frank-Pacific Highway), and a marvellous Rudolph the Reindeer (PT Trev) who didn't disappoint with his usual larking about. 'Oh no he didn't, Oh yes he did'. Followed by the arrival of Father Christmas who gave gifts to all the members that had been good Cruisers, while Fefzy videoed, so check out a memory jogger of the night on You-Tube.



The finale was with everyone singing 'Wish you a Merry Christmas' and 'Rudolph the Red Nose

Reindeer'. Afterwards, Trev assured the audience that next year rehearsal times will be doubled to 2 minutes.

Winners that night were declared as; Glow-Off – 1<sup>st</sup> Mad Frank, with runners up Stocky and Woody (Madge n John), 'Drunk of the Year' was the MC, John (Woody).

With one last concerted effort helpers soon had the restaurant area stripped of lights, banners, decorations, balloons and retired to the bar to squeeze the last out of the evening before taking pity on the staff by letting them shut up and go home. Our thanks to the friendly, obliging Overstone staff who worked so hard making everything just fine.

Next morning the Cruisers drifted in for breakfast much quieter and calmer. Just time to wish each other well and a Happy Christmas and look forward to what will surely be another full and eventful 2010 Cruising year. The all important 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the PT Cruiser and the Club which promises to be a wonderful PITP10 for everyone.

It is all too easy to forget that it is volunteers and good sports who give up their time to run this club with events like 'Santa Does' from which UKC charities benefit by cash raised. So three cheers to Mr & Mrs Khrome Kruiser for what they do. This year we all had gifts of Jewellery, Personal Radio, Handmade Chocolate PT and Shortbread Biscuits, Christmas Bauble, Clock Radio, Musical Teddy, Key Ring, Pen, Cleaner Wipes.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT YEAR

Words by STOCKY THE TEN DAYS OF XMAS

#### **ROMSEY SHOW 31ST AUGUST 2009**

Otherwise known as the Hampshire Pageant of Motoring this was the second time as a club we had been here although a few locals had been a few more times and commented on how good it was.

Bank holiday Monday and an early start, especially for those from afar. Many of us had been to shows the day before (i.e lpswich or Dunsfold) so thanks to those as we all know its not easy to loose two days of a bank holiday to crusin'. It started for me at meet point 1 which was Sainsbury's car park in Basingstoke. Mainly for the locals but Rikpt was there first and travelled down from London. We then had a 15 minute drive to meet point 2 Winchester services where we were due to drive in and drive out with those having come down the M3. Due to DaveH being so close we waited for him to catch us up before moving on to the last meet point at Rownhams services on M27 and the short drive to the showground from there. After a well earned coffee due to the early start, I handed out the entry tickets and we were off. PT Trev being a local boy led the cruise to the showground where we found our pitch and set up for the day.

Steelcruisers brought their gazzebo so we helped put that up and the club flags and settled in with another coffee while we waited and watched the other cars coming in.

Late morning the sun arrived, the coats came off and we ventured off into the fields to take in the show. Some nice cars ranging from modern to classic, hotrods and custom cars of many types. There was also some nice stands in the show but the most talked about was the Wrap stand. No nothing to do with food or singing but a way of covering your car in a design without the need for paint. Very clever and another option for the car customizer. Towards the end of the day we started to pack up and make plans for the journey home. Some that had left early rang to say the M27 was pretty stacked with cars so to avoid if we could. We planned our alternative route then lost each other on way out due to traffic. By the time we left luckily the traffic was much lighter and we all got back safe and sound. A great day all round made better due to the good weather and good company.

SHEP

# NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

A very warm welcome to you all and thank you for choosing to join our club.

Richard Bowman	Suffolk	Peter Rose	Manchester
Raymond Hare	Hampshire	Robert Stephenson	S. Yorkshire
Iain Armitage	Middlesex	Geoffrey Storer	Nuneaton
Sean Goodall	Hampshire	Jane Tomkinson	Staffordshire
Peter Harris	W. Sussex	Alex Pardoe	Staffordshire
Wesley & Carol Carrington	Wales	Justine Shovlin	Kent
Jim & Bev Carpenter	Suffolk	Valerie Jarman	Leicestershire
Victor Parkinson	Lancashire	Paul Nash	London
Michael Watt	Tyne & Wear	Neil Hazell	Wales
Anthony Coley	Kent	Phil Lines	London
Steve Young	Hampshire	Paul Pipkin	Surrey
Neil Parken	Taunton	Keith Bridle	Hampshire
Alan Oakley	Birmingham	George Mackie	Scotland
Joseph Bago	Elsecar	Adrian Swain	Southampton
Martin Slade	Wales	Alan Jones	Wales
Paul Stevens	E. Sussex	Alan Bourne	Southampton
Selina Bennett	W. Yorkshire		

**UK CRUISERS FUTURE EVENTS 2009** 

# **MONTHLY MEETS**

#### **SE Monthly Meet**

Takes place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:30 pm onwards at The Wharf, Cotton Lake, Galleon Boulevard, Dartford, DA2 6QE Tel: 01322 229932 *Contact:* Tom (Rockin' Rebel) 07958 643042

### **Midlands Monthly Meet**

Winter Months: November to April. 1st Sunday in the month at 10.00 am for a couple of rounds of bowling at the Lakeside (ten pin bowling alley), Bermuda Park, St Davids Way, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 7SD. Contact: Shell and Kev (REBELRACERS) 02476 316935 after 6 pm

# 

# DECEMBER

# 13th December - Sunday - Midlands Christmas Lunch

Booked into Hopwood House, Hopwood Alvechurch for 1pm. There is a full pub menu including meals 2 for £10. They will also be offering a 3 course Christmas dinner for £14.99 as well as a range of vegetarian options.

*Meet at:* M42 J2 services at Hopwood at around 12. This is very close to the pub so I was thinking to get a cruise in we could leave for a cruise up the M42 to J3 then come off and drive along A roads back towards Beckets Farm, along Drakes Cross, through Maypole towards Kings Norton then West Heath to Hopwood. *Contact:* Denise (daisy) 07854 206201

# **FEBRUARY**

### 6th February - Saturday - Buddies Diner Meet - Rushden

Kick off at 6pm - join us for some good food and chat! Diner is on A45 eastbound - postcode NN10 6AP *Meet at:* tba - keep an eye on the forums or contact me. *Contact:* Adrian (Tinca) 07976 503002

# MAY

# 1st and 2nd May - Saturday and Sunday - Cruise the South West

Provisional date for the 2010 South West Cruise. We plan to have an event in Devon, overnight in Taunton and move up to Somerset for the second day - might even get on the sands if the weather is good! More details to follow. *Contact:* Pete and Gill (bladerunner) 01453 843233 or 07831 176276

# JUNE

# **5th and 6th June - Saturday and Sunday - Cruise the Netherlands 7**

CTN7 is going to take place in the South of The Netherlands near the Belgium border in the Province Noord-Brabant. It's going to be a special event because of the 10th anniversary of the PT Cruiser!

There are already 20 UKC PT's thinking of going, with cars coming from all over Europe. Full details are on the forum...

*Contact for non-internet members:* Helen and Trevor (Steelcruisers) 020 8335 3430

# 12th and 13th June - Saturday and Sunday - PT 10th Anniversary Event - Champagne, France

I've been informed that a 10th Anniversary event is being planned by one of the French PT Clubs in the Champagne region. We have no more details at present, so keep an eye on the forum and your next newsletter.

# 20th June - Sunday - Northern Hot Rod Club Show - Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire

A warm welcome from a friendly club, and a great show, and will have our club stand inside the main show ring. More details to follow. *Contact:* Brian (FEFSY) 07841 874649

# JULY

# 18th July - Sunday - Block Fen Animal Home Open Day - March, Cambs

We have again been invited as a club to display our cars at the RSPCA Block Fen open day. This is the home where we take our cats, dogs and other domestic animals for treatment and rehoming. Block Fen is just outside of March in Cambs and this has always been a good day out.

Contact: Andy (simmo\_simmons) 01760 722417

# 18th July - Sunday - Uxbridge Auto Show - West London

Pre-registration is required for this event and entrance fee paid in advance. The fee is for charity.

Meet at: Halfords car park, Harefield Road, Uxbridge UB8 1JS at 8.00am. There is a McDonalds round the corner if you need some breakfast. Leave at 8:45am to showground entrance on Park Road, Uxbridge.

Contact: David (FAB Cruiser) 01895 834161 or 07710 021932

# AUGUST

# **UK CRUISERS PRESENT PITP10**

**7th and 8th August - Saturday and Sunday - Picnic in the Park 10** This is the biggest and best event for PT Cruisers in Europe and with the 10th Anniversary of the PT and the club, it will be better than ever! DON'T MISS IT! Billing Aquadrome, Crow Lane, Great Billing, Northampton NN3 9DA Tel: 01604 408181 www.aquadrome.co.uk *Contact:* Any Organiser or Rep

# SEPTEMBER

### 4th and 5th September - Saturday and Sunday - 'Dragon's Den : 2010' Wales Cruise

Still in the planning stage, but already proving very popular. There will be an overnight stop in Merthyr and cruises to and from the attractions. *Contact:* Kevin & Suzie (Cymru Cruisers) 01633 271262

# 12th September - Sunday - 'Wheel meet again' Motor Show - Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire

A great day out, lots going on, stalls, beer tent, car dealerships and more, very well organised. Over 500 cars of all ages and types - we have a reserved a club pitch for 20+ cars. *Contact:* John (Silver Dollar)

### **PUBLICISING MEETS / UK CRUISER REPS**

If you have an event that you would like UK Cruisers to publicise, contact Helen & Trevor on 020 8335 3430 or email steelcruisers@aol.com or contact your local representative as listed on the contents page. If you know of an event taking place that you think PT Owners would be interested in (eg your local dealer is having an Open Day), please let us know.



#### REPS

Although our list of reps has changed it doesn't mean its complete. If you have a little time on your hands and would like to be more involved in UK Cruisers, please let us know. We are always on the lookout for regional reps, people who are willing to act as a contact point for local PT owners to be able to get in touch with to see what is going on in their area. Please see the Reps Charter for details of the responsibilities of your Reps.

### **AREA REPS**

Kent Dave Lewis – Budweiser Blues 2 Email: busfx@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 020 8309 0255

Hertfordshire & Buckinghamshire David Webber – FAB Cruiser Email: webber.david@gmail.com Tel: 01895 834161 / Mob: 07710 021932

#### Hertfordshire & Buckinghamshire

Derrick Brown - Pepsi666 Email: plumberderrick99@hotmail.com Tel: 07818 014061

Essex

Adrian – Rushphoto Email: rushphoto@ntlworld.com Tel: 01206 513693 / Mob: 07954 344044

Wales Kevin & Suzie Pretlove – Cymru Cruisers Email: k.pretlove@btinternet.com Tel: 01633 271262 / Mob: 07921 215682

Wales

John Harris - Wibble Email: <u>cruiser.harris@googlemail.com</u> Tel: 01656 865539 / Mob: 07956 398912

North West Mark Adams – EdsDodgeV8 Email: edsdodgev8@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07920 510640 (mobile home)

East Anglia Andrew Simmons Email: simmo\_simmons@lineone.net Tel: 01760 722417 / Mob: 07825 158551

Scotland Garry Reid – Javaman Email: garry.reid2@virgin.net Tel: 01324 552732

# **CLUB REPS**

Surrey & Sussex Helen & Trevor Gunn – Steelcruisers Email: steelcruisers@aol.com Tel: 020 8335 3430

North West Michelle White - Rebelracers Email: whitek383@aol.com Tel: 02476 316935 Mob: 07715 071404

Hampshire & Berkshire Mark Shepherd – Shep Email: m.jshepherd@btopenworld.com Tel: 01256 781980 Mob: 07768 005056

South West Peter Davies - Bladerunner Email: peterjdavies@talktalk.net Tel: 01453 843233

East Anglia Sara Turner – Safra Cat Frank Turner – Hurricane Blue Email: <u>turnersnails@aol.com</u> Tel: 01284 723895

East Midlands Adrian Walker – Tinca Email: adrian\_walker@ntlworld.com Mob: 07976 503002

North East Brian & Jo Wright – Fefzy Email: fefzy@live.co.uk Tel: 07841 874649

European Gert Wessel Email: b7.pt.cruizer.club@gmx.de





### **CONTACTS PAGE**

We are always aware that those of you without internet access do not have the same opportunity to make contact with other club members that our PC users do. We therefore have decided to print a contacts page in every newsletter. If you wish to have your name, area and phone number shown on this page, then please let us know by phone, post, or email to <u>steelcruisers@aol.com</u>.

Name	Forum Nickname	Location	Contact No.
Pat Yule	Foxytanith	Birmingham	0121 777 5646
Chris Shiers	KentKruzer	Maidstone, Kent	(07801) 045973 eve/wknd
Trevor & Helen Gunn	Steelcruiser	Worcester Park, Surrey	020 8335 3430
Duncan Bowden	Red Rooster	Carlisle	07763 583712
Steve Gerwat	Steve	Croydon, Surrey	07767 200099
Lindsay Cole	Blanche	Walthamstow	07798 762825
Graeme Manning	Mustang	Rotherham	01709 324133
Adrian & Tracey Walker	Tinca	St. Neots, Cambs	07818 013209
Stuart & Linda Davies	Sammydoggy	Wellingborough	07780 840223
Steve Grayston	Stevie G	Tilbury, Essex	01375 846964
Steve Downes	SteveD	Horsham, West Sussex	01403 733358
Mark & Jacqui Shepherd	Shep	Basingstoke, Hants	07768 005056
Martin Boughen	Odo	Somerset	07976 123188
Gary Wade	Red Bull	Essex	01992 522795
Andy Simmons	Simmo_simmons	Norfolk	01760 722417
Andy Grainger	Stumpy	Felixstowe	01394 283367
Wayne & Kay Stoneham	Blondie	Hextable, Kent	01322 663470
Keith Whalley & Tony Everitt	The Phoenix Risers	Grays, Essex	01375 391107
Clive Hambling	Cowboy Clive	Norfolk	07875 854922
Barrie Stacey	Barry	Staffordshire	07850270130
Rich Kavanagh	The Northern Londoners	Lanc	07968 121640

# 

#### **CLUB DISCOUNTS**

This list is correct at time of going to print.

Company	Discount	Location	Website / Comments	Telephone
PT Cruisertuning	12%	Hannover	www.cruisertuning.de	05 11 63 62 52
North Hants Tyre	10%	North Hants	www.northhantstyre.co.uk	01252 613261
OK Diners	15%	Anywhere	Discount with membership card only	
American Autobarn	10%	Peterborough	www.americanautobarn.co.uk	01733 533132

PT Tuning	10%	Netherlands	www.pttuning.nl	00 31 651110822
Race and Street	10%	USA	www.raceandstreet.com Order online	Enter discount code STORE06
Lookers (previously) HR Owen Chrysler	10%	Hatfield	Stock ordered parts only	Andy Ford 01707 252222
John Weir Chrysler	15%	Perth, Scotland	Stock ordered parts only (exc special offers)	Chris Crawford 01738 477 700
Power Bulbs	10%	Online (UK)	www.powerbulbs.co.uk	John 0845 1232855
PT Company	10%	Dorset	www.ptcompany.co.uk	01202 639243
US Automotive	10-15%	Northants	www.usauto.co.uk/cruiser.htm 10% off accessories 15% off parts	01234 273155
PT Cruzin	10%	Wales	www.ptcruzin.co.uk (exc body kits and alloy wheels / tyre packages) enter UKC111 in coupon code when ordering online	08708 550950
Peel's Motorkraft	Ask	Bristol	www.peelsmotorkraft.co.uk Please ask about discount rates	Matt Peel 0117 9351661
Whitehouse Crayford	10%	Dartford, Kent	Unit D Acorn Induestrial Park, Crayford Road DA1 4AL	01322 621050
Whitehouse	15% 12%	Maidstone, Kent On accessories fitted by them. On service work and mechanical repairs.		01622 686864
Listers	20% 30% 40% 50%	Labour discount rates on servicing Upto 3 years old. Upto 4 years old. Upto 5 years old. Over 5 years old.	<ul> <li>Brandon Road, Binley, Coventry CV3 2AN</li> <li>All PT Cruiser models all ages 15% discount on most parts (larger parts 10%) - No discount on VOR parts ordered.</li> <li>Two Packages for oil services:- Package 1 - PT petrol models 2.01 &amp; 2.41 £49.95 fully inclusive of oil, filter and sump plug, labour &amp; VAT.</li> <li>Package 2 - Diesel 2.21 £59.95 fully inclusive as above.</li> <li>Discounts and deals will need production of</li> </ul>	02476 456700 Dave Lea = Service Andrew = Parts
			UKC membership cards. They will post parts to any UK address.	

# **CHECK OUT THE NEW DISCOUNTS**

Opie Oils	10%		Wide range of oils and consumables including oil and filter packs available. You will need to register by logging on to www.opieoils.co.uk – then follow the links to Club Discount Scheme, then Car Clubs. You will need to have either your UK Cruiser membership number or forum name ready to complete the registration process.	
Nelsons American Diner	10%	A339 Newbury Road, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks RG20 4TA	Off anything on the menu on production of your UKC Membership Card.	Simon & Shelly Francis 01635 298193 enquiries@nelson sdiner.co.uk
1 <sup>st</sup> Direct Windscreens	10%	Units 1-2 Templar Court, Knights Park Road, Basingstoke, RG21 6AB	Discount on all windscreens, towbars, alarms and window tinting on proof of UKC Membership Card.	-
James & Jenkins Garages Ltd	10%	Station Road, Llandaff North, Cardiff CF14 2FB www.jamesandjenk ins.co.uk	Discount on servicing and parts on production your your UKC Membership Card	Mark James Managing Director 02920 304020



