

THE CHILTERN CAPERS**Sunday, 4th August 2019**

The Driving Group's summer event will explore the wonderful legacy of our Chilterns upland, located North West of London, and is defined by its long line of iconic rolling hills stretching from north Hertfordshire to Oxfordshire. Almost half of the Chilterns is an officially designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The countryside is renowned for its sweeping chalk grasslands and wild flowers, its magnificent beechwoods, sparkling chalk streams, deeply wooded valleys and quiet lanes perfect for drivers. There is an abundance of wildlife, with red kites wheeling overhead in many areas, thousands of miles of footpaths and several nature reserves to visit.

Join us at our start for a breakfast buffet at a hostelry on the A40, at the junction of the M40 and M25 motorways. The route of approximately 75 miles passes through the wooded Ashridge Estate, over Coombe Hill with its stunning views and along the Grand Union Canal. You will pass numerous small villages, market towns and attractions, from Berkhamsted Castle and Cholesbury Iron Age Fort to some of the villages where episodes of Midsomer Murders were filmed.

The route is hilly, mainly on quiet lanes, with some steep climbs in places, including the famous Aston Hill Climb, the place from which the name of Aston Martin is partly derived, and followed by the Kop Hill Climb – one of the major events in the Motor Sport Calendar. As speeds increased so too did the roll call of famous cars, bikes and their intrepid pilots. The greats of the day like Malcolm Campbell in Blue Bird, Raymond Mays in his Bugatti, Henry Seagrave in his Sunbeam and the wonderfully named Count Zborowski in his 8 cylinder Ballot were regular competitors. And that was that – until a change in the Road Traffic Act allowed Kop Hill Climb to come roaring back 10 years ago.

Our first stop will be to visit Chenies Manor, an enchanting Tudor Manor House and gardens set in the picturesque village of Chenies. If you elect to take a tour of the house there is an additional charge.

For lunch if the weather is fine bring a picnic or choose a pub along the route.

Things to see and do along the route:

- **Chiltern Open Air Museum** - tells the story of the unique history of the Chilterns through buildings, landscapes and culture for the enjoyment, inspiration and learning of present and future communities; Napoleonic era event; entry charge
- **Ashridge Estate and Visitor Centre** - 5,000 acres of woodlands, commons and fine chalk downland run by the National Trust; car park free
- **Coombe Hill** - a local beauty spot with glorious views of the surrounding area and managed by the National Trust; car park free
- **Cholesbury Iron Age Fort** - Cholesbury Fort consists of a large ditch with earthwork ramparts crowned by beech trees; entry free of charge; pub car park
- **Hellfire Caves** - Cave network and former home of the Hellfire club within a separate National Trust property; entry charge

Entry restricted to 30 cars

Entry Fee for car and 2 people: Members £70. Non-members £80. Includes: Road Book; Rally Plate; Breakfast tea/coffee and cream tea **OPTIONAL EXTRA** Tour of Chenies Manor guided tour £9pp (Minimum 15 people)

Additional passengers £30 pp; Motorbikes/Solo entries £35 members/£40 non-members

Start

Toby Carvery Denham, Oxford Road (A40), Uxbridge, Buckinghamshire, UB9 4LJ (4 miles from M25 Junction 16)

Breakfast from 08.00 hours

Finish

Studley Green Garden Centre, Wycombe Road (A40), Studley Green, High Wycombe HP14 3UX (2 miles from M40 Junction 5)

Contact

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