

MADE IT – AT LAST!



I've been very interested in cars since, well, really as long as I can remember. It must be around 50 years since I first became aware of the London to Brighton veteran car run, but despite always wanting to see it I have somehow never managed it – until now.



One of the reasons for this has been logistical, as I've never lived less than 100+ miles from the start and 200 from the finish and the cars also leave the start from before 7am on a November Sunday. Anyway, this year I contrived to be staying in Sussex at the appropriate time, so the scene was set for one small ambition to be achieved.



With such an early start the cars begin to arrive in Brighton from around 10am, so by the time that I reached Madeira Drive in the late morning there were already quite a few present. Considering that all contestants are now at least 108 years old and that some even date from the 19th century it was a credit to them that by the time I left at around 4.30pm only 30 or so had failed to show up.



These are obviously all rare cars but some are rarer than others, perhaps being the only survivor of a particular make. Cars and crews had come not just from other parts of Europe but even from the Americas, the total entry numbering around 400. Every finisher was interviewed, some having tales to tell of an eventful journey and many wore appropriate attire.





Apart from the strong and sometimes cold wind the day was about as fine as you could expect for the time of year and a good number of spectators witnessed the occasion. Having waited for so long I would certainly attend again and this has to be the best free car show ever, especially as you get to see them in action.

MJB

PS. There was also some Italian interest. The red car at the top of page 1 is a 1904 Fiat 40HP, which had come from Holland for the occasion.

