

Press Release

One 18 Year Old Taxi

Only Done 410,000 miles

3 Old Men

Drive to Monte Carlo in 3 Days

Can it be done????

On the 29th May we have entered a charity car rally.

The aim is to drive a vehicle valued at up to £500 the 1200 miles to Monte Carlo completing various tests on the way in only 3 days.

What could possibly go wrong!!

We want to raise awareness for

SHEPPARD HOUSE in Newent

Providing Day Care for all in Newent and the surrounding areas including transport, bathing, lunches and most importantly

Company and Care

The Monte Carlo or Bust Rally runs through 6 countries for 1200 miles and the finale is a drive around the famous Grand Prix Circuit.

Rob Deeley, Lee Bruton and Peter Shaw have a 2001 ex London Taxi with 410,000 miles which we rescued from North Yorkshire for £320 and have spent hours sorting out oil leaks, brakes, water leaks, electrical problems etc etc. It is now road legal again and currently undergoing road testing before the big trip.

We are NOT trying to raise finance in the conventional way. We as a team think that life has been very good for us and this is a small way of us raising awareness for the great work done by the team at Sheppard House, however any donations or offers of help for Sheppard House would be gratefully welcomed.

We are having an unveiling of our Taxi "THE BLACK PIG" and the team "The Gloucester Old Spots" on May 14th at Sheppard House, off Onslow Road , Newent at 12 Noon

A great photo opportunity

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The Story Continues

The start line up was in a amphitheatre , there were 75 cars and crews lined up. All cars were modified and included a Royal Limousine with a look alike royal family, Noddy and Big ears in a Ford Street KA ,The Dukes of Hazard and of course Boss Hogg.

Having started at Namur in Belgium we travelled through Belgium via Luxemburg through beautiful countryside to the German town of Freiburg. The main issues of the day were push starting a car which had an alternator problem and a rear brake problem with our taxi.

The town of Freiburg is on the fringes of The Black Forest and is a busy bustling place. The evening check in location was very hard to find and turned out to be a very busy and noisy bar. After a long day we retired to a quieter bar and restaurant.

Day 2

Leaving Freiburg we travelled south through the Black Forrest into Switzerland we made it to what in many ways was our highlight of the trip.

The Gottardo Pass

The summit is 2106 metres and is via an incredible road with countless switchback bends. Due to its steepness we achieved speeds of a glorious 20mph and had to stop a couple of times to cool down and take photographs. At the summit we celebrated with Bratwurst and of course a snowball opportunity!!

The journey continued south to the beautiful Italian Lakes, stunning scenery. We diverted off to visit the Verzasca Dam. This was the setting for the James Bond movie Goldeneye, James Bond jumped off the top of this 220metre dam. Now you can bungee jump off it for 200 euros!

The evening was spent in Menaggio on Lake Como, due to an administration “cock up” our hotel was on the other side of the lake so we enjoyed a ferry trip across the lake to Veraggio which was beautiful, our hotel was called “The Orange House” it lived up to its name because everything including the toilet seat was orange.

Day 3

Having enjoyed a great breakfast at “The Orange House” using orange plates of course, we continued through the Italian Lakes by way of Milan, Pavia, Genoa, and San Remo to arrive in-----

MONTE CARLO

We made it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We drove around the grand Prix circuit and the famous Casino Square amongst Ferraris, Rolls Royce’s, Lamborghinis etc etc. Amazing that the crowds were more interested in the old taxi than all the other fabulous cars.

We enjoyed the final ceremony in Nice at an Irish Bar, great conversations with the other competitors.

After a couple of days resting Rob and Lee flew home.

I decided to attempt a drive around Italy on my own.

On the first day I made it to Pisa and enjoyed the famous city and its sights.

The second day on my own I got to Sorrento via Florence, Sienna, Rome, Vesuvius, Pompeii, and Naples

Day 3 was on the Amalfi coast to Salerno then over more mountains to Piezzo which is on the “toe” of Italy .

Disaster struck here with a massive water leak from the water pump, a great garage worked on the job but could not find the replacement part anywhere in Europe, the only chance was to glue it back together. No guarantees of it surviving the journey.

I drove very slowly because of a huge vibration due to a failed prop shaft bearing, my average speed was 40 – 45mph and was watching the temperature gauge carefully.

After overnight stops in Florence and Monte Blanc and a night tunnel crossing I was VERY happy to be home. I had driven 1550 miles from the toe of Italy over mountain passes in 2 very full days and 1 night.

Amazingly the taxi did not use any water!!

Now the conversations have started. Where to next?? Morroco, Istanbul and Chernobyl. Are amongst those being discussed.

The Adventure Continues

