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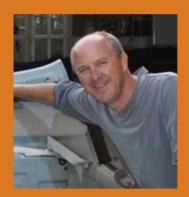


and beige.

ESSAGE FROM

EDITOR: Kevin Fagan

EMAIL: sales@figaroownersclub.com



Yanks get smitten with the Figaro

ver the last few months we've heard of more and more cars heading across the pond.

This is thanks to their rolling 25 year NHTSA exemption for foreign vehicles that are otherwise nonframework that essentially keeps newer cars with a dozen air bags can now freely import a Nissan Figaro! Having read numerous US reports, they really seem smitten with the Figaro. In fact the only negative comment we've come

accross is; 'Be ready to stop for pictures and explain what, exactly, the thing is?' And this statement fits with the story from *Chris & Ruth* **Denning**. They moved and took their Figaro 'Louisafig' to Florida and now tell us they need to allow at least an extra two or three hours a day when they go out in her, just all this is great news for the Figaro as prices can only go one way, and that's up... right?

For those of you who still think your Figaro is a small car and only good for short trips to the shops or work

this edition may enlighten you Firstly there are the adventures of Siang Phoa, who's philosophy is, "life is like a road. The purpose is to enjoy your journey and the company of the people you meet and where you are going. If you reach your goal, that's the end". Tour from *Joanna Firek* and lastly our very own Belgium Rally where no fewer than 28 cars made the trip, most of which were travelling long distances (Sue and I clocked up 1,548 kms with the Club Car Belle). So providing you maintain your Figaro you really must trust it on long journeys and try and be more

Pages 58/59 now include all our Chapter Information so take a look. We urge you to get involved and together let's make next year our best ever for events and get together's.

Our next edition (Christmas) will be out in December so if you would story and some pictures.

Founder of the Nissan Figaro Owners Club.

Club Websites

Published by Figaro Owners Club, 58 Earl Howe Road, Holmer Green, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP15 6QT, ENGLAND.

Figaro Owners Club

future owners including events, www.figaroownersclub.com

Technical Forum

Over 20,000 technical and ownership posts including technical manuals, guides & information A-Z ownership issues etc. www.figaroownersclubforum.com

Buyers Guide

inspecting, test driving and buying the

www.nissanfigarobuyersguide.com

Figaro Trader

100% dedicated website for buying and selling Nissan Figaro Cars, Parts & Accessories. Sell your car from £10 or a

www.figarotrader.co.uk

Figaro Store

Our club shop includes Figaro Owners Club T-Shirts, mugs, stickers and more. Figaro Apparel & Accessories. Choose from a wide variety of our official Nissan Figaro clothing for both Men, Women, Children and even Pets!

www.cafepress.com/thefigarostore











MEMBER PROFILE

A 'Susie Faulks' Figaro handbag that Matt & Lisa bought Sara as a thank you for passing her old car (a Micra) onto them.

Member Sally Skelland teachers her students all about the Figaro!

y name is Sally, I live in Sale, Manchester, and I've had my beautiful Lapis
Grey Figaro for 6 months now. I called "him" Felix - a black and white cat just like Figaro from Pinocchio. My husband bought him for me after years of saving to buy a house and get married last year - we could finally treat ourselves (or at least me!)

I'm looking forward to going to many Figaro events and rallies. I'm hoping for one in Llandudno soon, as my in-laws have a flat there so we would love to take the Fig. I'm just about getting used to the (sometimes seemingly perverse)!! adoration of my Figaro from random strangers. It's like being famous!

As a teacher, I am slowly educating my students about the wonders of the Figaro. A few of my 6th formers are definitely on board!

See the picture of me and my Figaro in the pouring rain on the facing page, and the Figaro handbag that my brother and sister-in-law bought me as a thank you for passing my old car (Micra) onto them.





Happy Times! The Figaro always makes everyone smile. Top left in clockwise order is husband James, Sally, brother Matt and his wife Lisa.



CLUB MEMBER ADVENTURES

Member Siang Phoa shares his life of car rallies around the world in his Volvo 'Amazon' and reveals his new love. A Pale Aqua Nissan Figaro # 12199

must confess that I have been a car nut all my life, my wife Irina definitely is not.

My present on my 16th birthday has been driving lessons in the parental 1966 Volvo 'Amazon'.

At that time, the legal age to take driving lessons in the Netherlands was 18...

Three days later, my father has challenged me to drive the Grimsel, Susten and Furka passes

(in Switzerland) and I have been hooked to driving ever since.

As a student the parental Amazon became legally mine and I still regret selling her in 1981 after nearly half a million Kilometers of faithfully service.

In 1980 Irina and I were married in a locally owned 1962 Amazon in show condition, this is the car of which I am the current second keeper, since 1981.

At first she was our daily driver with an Autobianchi All2 as company, but with a third daughter coming we had to upgrade to a roomier family car and the Amazon had to take second place.

In 1995 I was introduced to both long distance touring trips and to navigational rally driving.

Most of the touring trips I have made with friend Hugo in my Amazon or his Volvo PV 544. Between North Cape in Norway and





the Sahara desert in Morocco we have seen a substantial part of the most interesting driving routes in Europe.

A few years ago Irina and I made a trip around the Baltic sea with the Amazon, we visited Poland, the Baltic Republics, Saint Petersbourg in Russia, went to the arctic circle in Finland and then back south through Sweden.

In navigational rallies the navigator is the most important person in the car. Our eldest daughter is happy to give her father directions

At a certain time we felt that we needed a second station car next to our Volvo 945.

It had to be a classic and eccentric, so we bought a Mini Clubman Estate.

Being a Mini, it was in dire need of some TLC and we have had it restored to show condition and driven that rarity as a daily hack for many

But as we are not into students removals anymore, it was time for a change for the third we are no longer junior citizens and have the liberty to indulge ourselves.

A convertible had to become part of our experience. In the neighbourhood we live in, all the major brands of convertibles are represented, so we just had to opt for something different.

In our taste for interior decoration we are kind of old fashioned and our cars reflect that attitude, but we are well aware of the benefits of modern comfort.

In November 2015 we bought the Figaro # 12199 in Pale Aqua for its cute and retro looks with modern comfort. So far (January 2016) we have not yet used it extensively given the weather, but we are confident that it will be a companion for many pleasure trips.

Fast forward to august: in spite of the wet and cold spring we have used the Figaro twice as much as the Amazon. And just for a laugh, haha, the Figaro also has figured as the mystery guest in the company of pre and

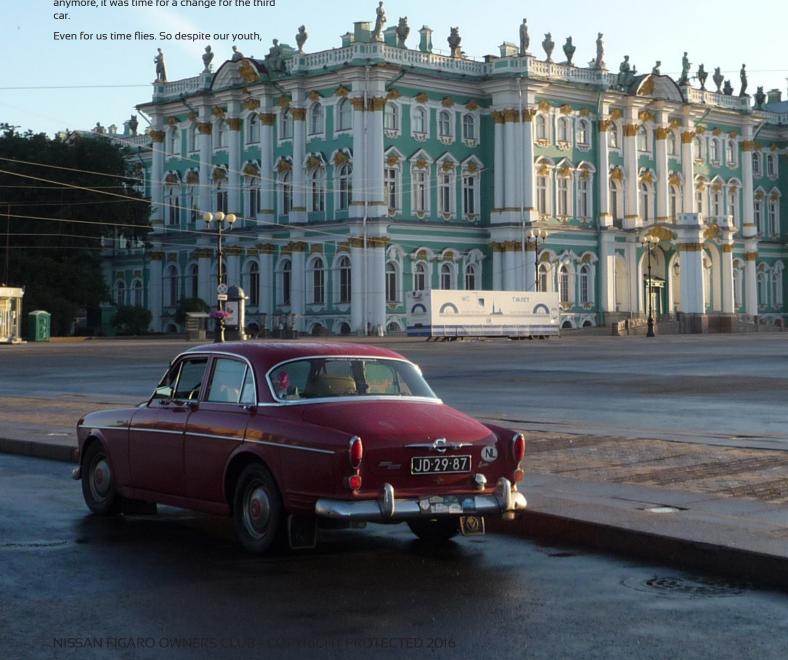
Postwar acknowledged collectors cars in benefit classical car rallies

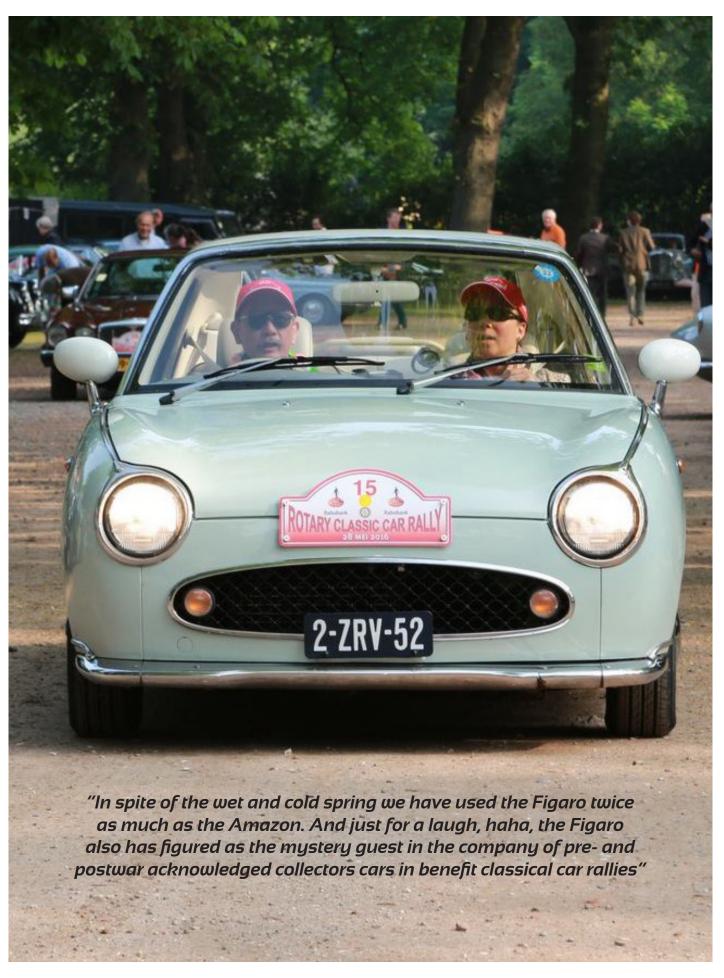
In the summer vacation the luggage compartment of our Volvo 945 always is full of stuff, so the Figaro is no alternative for this kind of transportation.

But I would have liked to make the trip with that little car: from Amsterdam through the Belgian Ardennes, Luxembourg, Alsace, Jura, to Torino over the pass of the Great Saint Bernard. From Torino via the French Alps to our destination near Saint Tropez and back north over the Route Napoleon, Jura and the Alsace. On this trip we have avoided the high ways as much as possible, have chosen to take the secondary roads instead and to take a pass if there was a tunnel as alternative.

In our philosophy, life is like a road. The purpose is to enjoy your journey and the company of the people you meet while and where you are going. If you reach your goal, that's the end. Final!

Siang Phoa







We asked our members to kiss-and-tell about their love for the Figgy

Member Belinda Richardson

s it her big round headlights, curvy lines, oversized chrome switches and dials, or the soft cream leather seats all wrapped up in those dolly mixture paint colours. YES to all.

Whether cruising through the city

or country lanes with the gentle growl from her exhaust, she always gets a positive reaction. When you stop be prepared for the questions: What was it? Who made it? How old is it? And where on earth do I get one? Most people think she is Italian, circa 1950's. I love watching

their expression when I say it is a Nissan Figaro from 1991. 'Get outta here!' as one American gentleman exclaimed when hanging over the door to take some photos whilst I was waiting for the lights to change.

They are not flash or expensive,

there is no snobbery or oneupmanship as they are all the same. A truly egalitarian sports car. Yes they are a bit different and slightly 'Noddy' but in a world of bland car design and at 25 years old she can still turn heads even against the goldest of Lamborghinis.















his is our story of one of the first ever UK outings we took in our fig, Louisafig. Well. We took it down to Port Isaac in Cornwall, which doubles as the village of Port Wenn in the TV series of Doc Martin. As my wife and myself are avid Cluneatic's and both watch whenever it is on. And also that's why we named our fig Louisa, after Miss Glasson the headmistress of the school and also the love interest off the main character Doc Martin.

So I thought for our anniversary I'll take her somewhere special. So after a little searching on the computer, I booked us into the Old School House and Restaurant that is used in the TV series. We arrived there on a Friday night and checked in late to the "biology room", we arrived a bit late because I had a long day at work on Friday so, it was off to bed after a couple of scotches and some ham sandwiches at the bar. Waking up Saturday morning to a sunny day outside, a bit chilly, but the day was ours. Breakfast went down extremely well, I had a full English and my wife had the kippers. Both were superb!!!! Then off to explore the village, beaches and surrounding areas to see different places the TV company used for filming.

There was the Docs Surgery, Mrs Tishell's Chemist shop, Bert Large's Restaurant, it was stunning scenery all round. On our way around the village we got chatting to some locals and I asked if there was any entertainment on that night in the local pub, we were told that "as it was out of season they only had something on at the local village hall", we were definitely up for that. So two tickets were bought "asap". We finished our sight-seeing and quickly took louisafig around for some photo op's before we lost the light and let me tell you that Port Isaac is simply made for the fig as the tiny little lanes between the shops and houses and surrounding countryside are more picturesque and beautiful than they











are on the telly. (Sorry Mr Cinematographer). Well the evening rolled around and we strolled up to the village hall. We didn't know what to expect but were met with hospitality and friendliness by the "door girls" and everyone inside. It was a pasty, pint and a cream tea for pud'n. The entertainment started and the first act came on and to our amazement it was Mr lan Mc'niece himself (Bert Large) doing a talk about the films and other acting work that he'd done through his illustrious career, I was surprised about how much work he'd actually done. The Fisherman's Friends singers were up next. They were extremely good with their atmospheric songs of the sea and sailors tales of love and loss, and they are based in Port Isaac itself. Then it was booze and food time, which was served by the ladies of the WI and were also top notch. The pasty, scones and cream all went down very well. Then the second half of the show started and Mr Mc'niece came on stage again with one of the Fisherman's friends and performed a little farce and afterwards Mr Mc'niece had a Q & A session from the audience. And I must say on the record that it was a night of sublime entertainment, friendly village folk who took us to their hearts and were very accommodating with two "emmets" from out of town.

I cannot enthuse enough of the extra special weekend that it turned out to be especially just on the off chance booking that I made. So if you ever get the chance to get your fig to Cornwall then a trip to Port Isaac is well recommended.

LIVING THE DREAM

We started our US adventure early 2016 when our house near bath was sold. We had planned to move to Florida and semi retire and take Louisafig with us, as I knew she would be just perfect for the climate there. She arrived in mid March, just right for the 25 year rule for motors over here. So she arrived in our container from Britain and was duly unloaded at our house in a wee coastal town called Hudson. And the work to get her legal in the state >











still cannot believe I did it. It seems like a dream when I think about my tour of Europe that I completed in August 2016. It involved clocking up 5,000 kms and visiting 9 countries in 30 days with Daisy, my beloved Nissan Figaro. It was an experience of a life time, intellectually satisfying and spiritually enhancing, shared with the most graceful, sensual, entertaining and attention-drawing petit car. Travelling by Figaro is beyond any doubt one of a kind. It requires a pinch of practical thinking and a solid dose of a relaxed attitude as not everything always goes according to the plan. I wrote this article with the intent to share some tips and recommendations for those who are up for the challenge, refuse to take life seriously once in a while and for those who are planning a long journey by Figaro.

My first and probably the most important piece of advice is to inspect your Figgy from head to toe' in preparation to a road trip or you might end up facing the adventure of the flying eyelid. I was on my way to Wittenberg, Germany, showing my Figgy some spectacular countryside views when all of sudden I saw an unidentified flying object passing my car by only couple of inches. To my major surprise and disappointment it wasn't a UFO but Figgy's left eyelid which unexpectedly took a notion of taking a peak at the German landscape from the air. Just like that, without any warning signs and discussing the slight change of the touring route with me. Immediately, I pulled over and stopped the car. I spotted the escapee right away. It was sitting in the middle of the road, 10 yards away, giving me the infantile smile. The situation changed entirely 2 seconds later when its smile has been wiped out by 2 HGVs and 10 tyres in total. The eyelid was mercilessly run over and turned into a one restless pancake. But what a pancake it was perfectly flat with no default. Surprisingly the tyres didn't leave even one dint or a scratch on the eyelid.

When I think about this quasi adventure now I am not sure whether I should thank Germans for building perfectly smooth roads or congratulate the HGV drivers for keeping bald tyres on. I think I will simply inspect my Figgy with the attention to the tiniest detail before going on my next trip.

My second tip is don't take the original Figaro car mats on a road trip and opt for the ordinary disposable rubber car mats. The weather in Europe is very changeable in the summer time. July often sees heavy rain, hail and dusty conditions at the same time. It's the easiest thing to get car mats stained with mud and dirt. Moreover, bad things happen to good people sometimes (the expression I have in mind is far from being politically correct when I think about stepping into an oil puddle on a ferry and staining the car mats on the very first day of my trip).

My next piece of advice discussed here only briefly revolves around don'ts in France. As the whole manual could be easily written on the subject I am sharing only the most drastic ones I didn't manage avoiding myself. If you feel adventurous and get the strong urge to taste French cuisine you must suppress the need to satisfy your spirit. It is especially true when you are uncertain as to which creature or to be more specific, which part of its body is going to be served on your plate and a waitress throws a hint that English people usually don't enjoy the dish. If you choose to ignore the don't you might end up eating cow's larger bowel stuffed with gummy pieces of skin and portage, all dressed up in a highly unusual aroma – a true challenge to complete. And another no-no while travelling through France. Under no circumstances attempt using the traditional French toilet even in the case of an emergency. Trust me on this one.

Don't ever leave Swiss cheese in the car is another important tip and I can't stress it well enough. Sometimes we get caught in the moments when we experience something truly spectacular that gives us goose bumps and stays with us for the all eternity. Ideally, we want to share these special moments with the ones we love and care for. Since they cannot always be present with us, we usually end up supplying ourselves with a bunch of souvenirs which we perceive as some kind of microreminiscence of an experience. Unfortunately, the ultra-absorbent moment of breath-taking amazement caught up with me in Gruyères – a beautiful, picture-perfect, hill top, medieval village famous for its cheese, which lead to the most irritating consequences. Well, cutting a long story short. I committed the most unimaginable in the Figgy world deed. I stuffed the Gruyère cheese I had bought for my friends and family under the car seats, with a fairly predictable outcome. Yes, the new car fragrance. I couldn't get rid out of the cheesy stink from the car for a week. At one point the odour was so intensive and paralysing that it definitely turned my little car into a theft-free zone for a while. Now, when I look back I wish that in the moment of Swiss exaltation I had gone crazy for the Swiss chocolate or even better – Swiss watches.

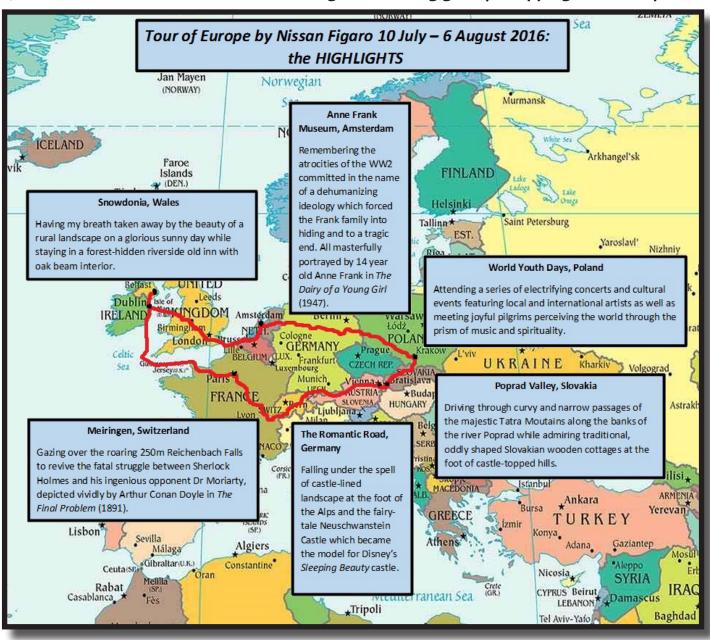


"All of sudden I saw an unidentified flying object passing my car by only couple of inches"



Daisy parked Neuschwanstein Castle, the Romantic Road, Germany.

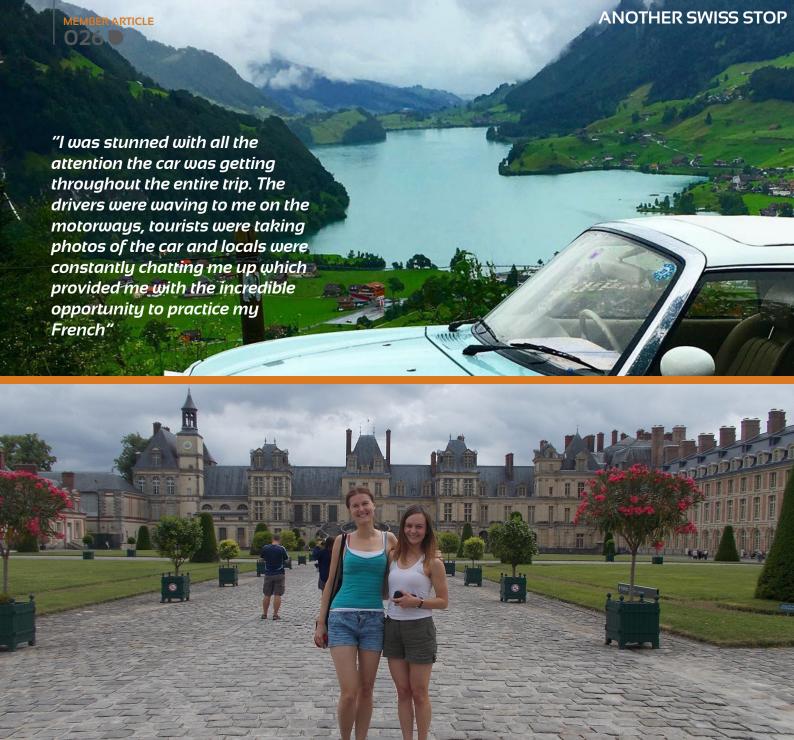
5,000 kms & 9 Countries. Who said the Figaro was only good for nipping to the shops?













Another crucial recommendation verified empirically is: don't listen to a music album you are not familiar with. If your tour of Europe is also about the acoustic music experience and catching up with all the albums you have always wanted to listen to but due to a million reasons you never had a chance to do so, well, forget about it! At least as an idea to kill the boredom of driving on motorways. Figgy is always doing her best to keep all eyes and ears on her so with the speed exceeding 70 miles per hour she attempts to sing along to every quality acoustic album with her diva roaring engine. Ah, well! Some other time gorgeous Eddie Vedder. It wasn't meant to be this time. My advice is to bring your favourite music albums that you know every beat to or get an audio book. If you do so, flying on a motorway for 5 hours at the speed of 90 mph becomes truly an intriguing experience. My choice for the trip was 'The Diary of a Young Girl' audio book. I listened to the cassettes (yes, cassettes I prayed £4 for, so I don't intend upgrading my radio, ever) in preparation to visiting Anne Frank house museum in Amsterdam which turned out to be one of my trip highlights.

Don't neglect your body is another piece of advice I would like to put across. Travelling by a car for a number of hours can be physically demanding. It is

very important to keep yourself well hydrated and stretch at various times throughout your trip to help your body feel less stiff and tight. I was doing the exercises illustrated below (except no 11 for the obvious reason) regularly every 2 hours usually during stop overs at petrol stations. Doing the stretches paid off handsomely and my body managed to keep up with me on my crazy schedule.

Finally the most important 'do' of them all - or more of a commandment. Enjoy the experience! Nissan Figaro is one of the most unique cars ever made. It has an interesting history beginning with the fact that it has been named after Le Nozze di Figaro, the main character of a Mozart opera, and ending with the symbolism behind the colours of the car. Figaro uniqueness also lies in its rarity. Only 20,000 cars were ever manufactured and prospective buyers had to enter a lottery to be able to buy one of these cars. And who could resist Figaro's stylish period design and its chic retro exterior and interior? Definitely not the Europeans I came across. I was stunned with all the attention the car was getting throughout the entire trip. The drivers were weaving to me on the motorways, tourists were taking photos of the car and locals were constantly chatting me up which provided me with the incredible opportunity to practice my French. I was so pleased to tell anyone who was showing any

sign of interest in the car, all about its unique qualities even if it meant conversing in a language I don't speak. It was the ultimate Figaro experience which turned the trip to Europe into one of the best experiences of my life.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the following people for all the support and patience of putting up with my 100 miles per hour mind: my beautiful inside-out husband Mark who dares calling my sweet Daisy 'Dizzy'; my loving family who initially hated the idea of buying a 25 year old 'piece of scrap' and then fell undeniably under the Figaro spell; my faithful friend Anna for being an excellent travel companion despite her inability to distinguish left from right and Barrie Feltham for introducing me to Daisy and the world of Figaro.

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions regarding my trip, the article or any Figgy matter feel free to contact me via the Figaro Owners Club forum. I send all my posts as Joanna.

Joanna Firek



BELGIUMFIGGY RALLY 2017

Glorious sunshine, empty roads, friendly people and stunning Venues make for the best rally ever!



ver the next few pages you can read about the fun 53 Club Members and 28 Figs had during the week of Monday 12th - Friday 16th Sept 2016.

The rally was a varied mix of sightseeing and activities (including Kayaking for the adventurous).

Following the 'welcome dinner' on Monday evening our first day kicked off with the traditional 'group shot' in sunshine as everyone put on the rally T-Shirts for some fashion poses. At 09.30 with roofs down, we lined up and left the hotel in convoy with me leading the way. A short drive through fields of sweet corn and a few stops for pictures we ended up at our first stop *Domaine de Chevetogne Country Park*. A truly stunning location of lakes, trees and wildlife. The venue opened up the coffee shop and we just sat and took in this amazing place. You always wish you had more time to explore but our busy schedule meant we needed to leave around 11.30. We left again in convoy

for our second leg which after 30 minutes ended up at *Durbury* the smallest town in the world. This is a truly magical place with shops, cafés and eating places set in narrow flowered and cobbled streets lined by old stone houses which forms the key attraction of this town. Sue and I hooked up with members Belinda and James for a tasty lunch which was over all too soon. The group then split up as some stayed to explore the Topiary Gardens and others made their way to their Figs to commence our 3rd Stop the amazing spectacle of *Hotton Caves*. A short wait and the group commenced our tour which meant descending down a 35 Metre deep chasm. One benefit was as we went down the stairs it became much cooler and this was a welcome change after being so hot! 45 Minutes later thankfully we didn't need to climb the stairs again but were making our way to top in a lift. Some went straight back to the hotel, but Sue and I wanted to see the *Castle of Lavaux-Sainte-Anne* which although closed was still worth a peak! Wednesday we awoke again to wall-to-wall sunshine and being a 'free day' some members went Kayaking down the river which was just a stones throw from our hotel. Others came with us to *Chimay* to have lunch and visit the Beer & Cheese Abbey which took

us again through some stunning countryside. Thursday was sunny again for our Vintage Dress Day, stylish outfits ranged from the 30's all the way the 60's. Our first stop *Les Jardins d'annevoie* included a walk around some magnificent, seventeenth century water gardens, part of Wallonia's major heritage. We then made our way to *Citadel of Namur* where we managed to park together and explore. In truth the walk down was tough due to the heat so most stopped after a little way for lunch and to take in the vista. Our third stop was *Château de Spontin* followed by the *Castle of Vêves*. As we returned back to the hotel the first sign of rain started, perfect timing the rally was finished! The evening concluded with our traditional 'farewell dinner'. Everyone agreed that this really was one of the best rallies the club had arranged. Prefect weather, friendly people, stunning venues and brilliant roads perfect for our little cars.

Thanks to everyone who attended and looking forward to seeing you next year on our Yorkshire Rally 2017.

Kevin & Sue







54 RALLY READY































JEMBERS



















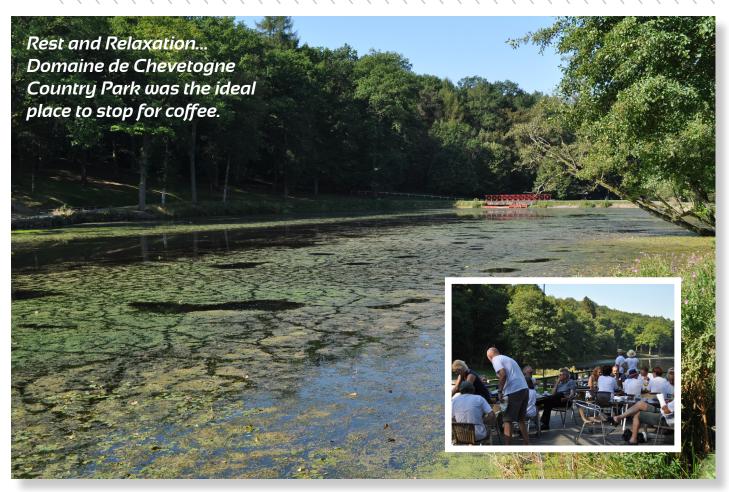




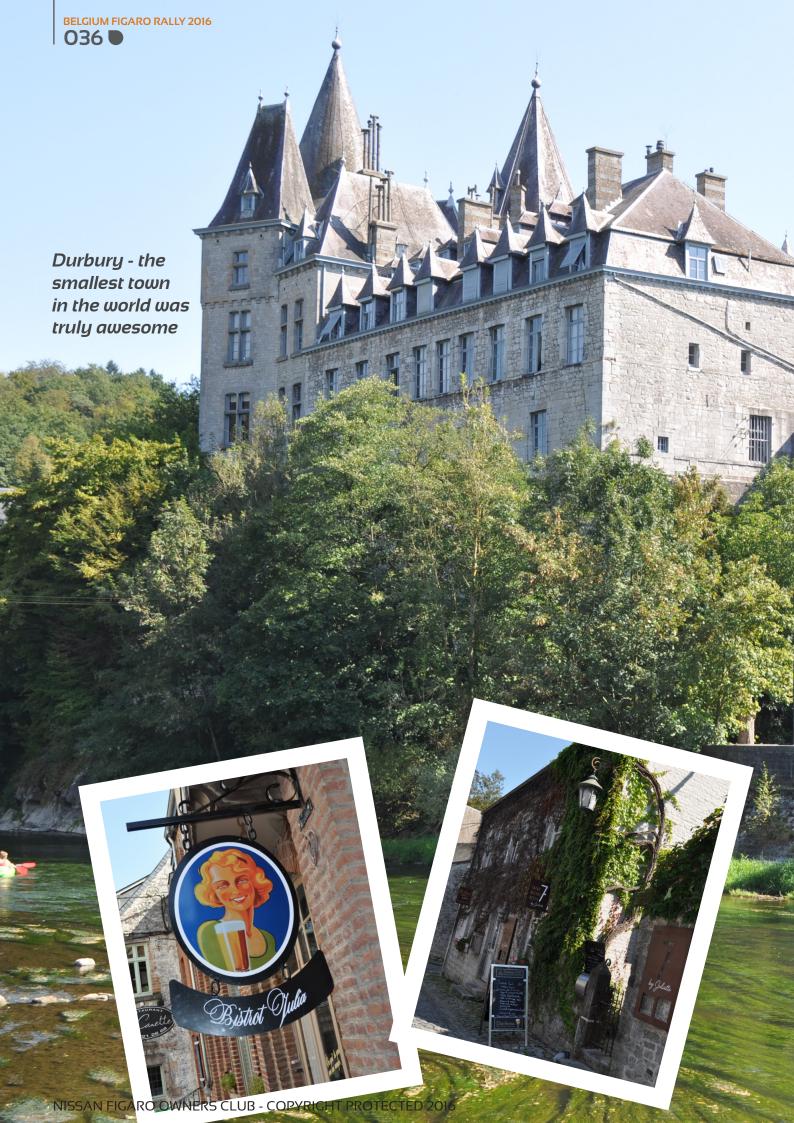


























Another sunny day. This time we park down the front at Dinant. Figs get ready for our trip to Chimay Beer & Cheese Abbey.









No these 4 little ones weren't on the rally but looked so cute...













NISSAN FIGARO OWNERS CLUB - COPYRIGHT PROTECTED 2016





Sally & Kim



Tony & Judy



Michele





& Andre



Stewart & Anne



Peter & Gillian

FAREWELL DINNER The r







Another field of Sweet corn makes for a great back drop

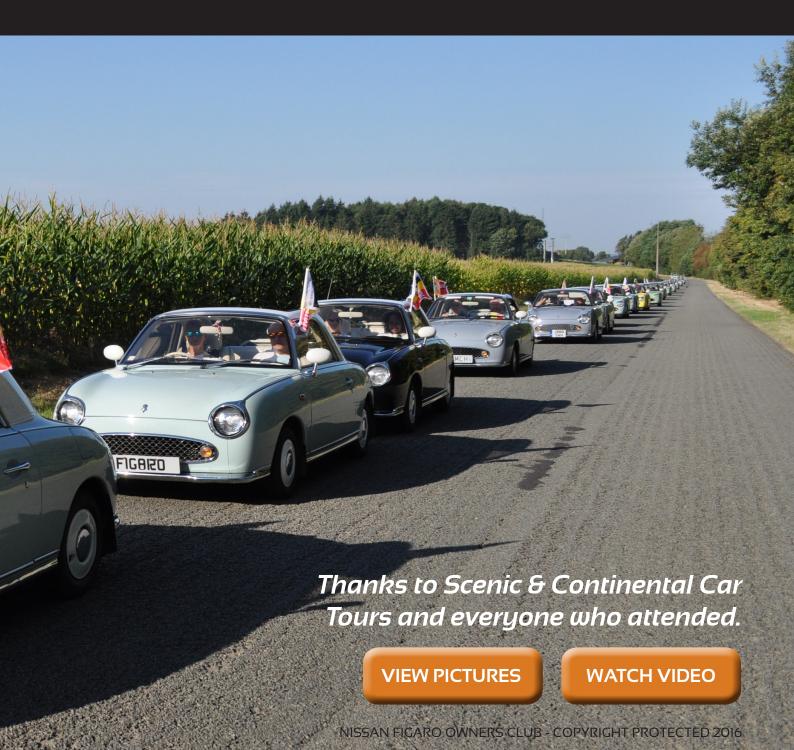


ally is over all too soon...











MEMBERS GALLERY

See your Figaro in print!

Submit your pictures: Click here

















MEMBER WINS

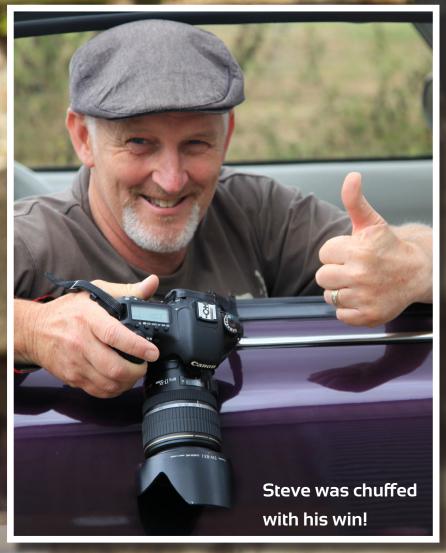
PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2016

And picks up £1,000 Prize Money!

Many congratulations to Stephen Newbold who has won a £1,000 for this picture he took during our Scotland Figaro Rally last year.

The judges at Carbase said "We and our judges love it! A worthy winner"

View all entries





"We suspect that Steve must have given the glass on the wing mirror a good clean to capture this stunning image"



OWNER WORKSHOP

Battery Disconnect Isolator Switch Review

CONTRIBUTOR: SIMON SMITH (FORUM TECHNICAL GURU & GLOBAL MODERATOR)

As many of you have found infrequent use of you Fig normally results in the battery going flat, some solutions are detailed <u>Click here</u>

One of the options is to disconnect the battery, however doing so can wear out the terminals and connectors and can also be fiddly and messy to keep doing.

On my other classic cars I fitted a Battery Disconnect Isolator Switch, however having looked around these were not available anywhere for the smaller JIS terminals used on Figaros and other Japanese cars. I contacted a company that made the standard ones and they went away and manufactured a model to fit the smaller terminals.

These are now available to buy on ebay <u>Click here</u> at £5.99 or cheaper at £6.98 via their site <u>Click here</u>. Also for new Customers via their site save 5%, **Discount Code**: **SAVE5** (All Upper Case)

Having received two of these to test fit on both Figaros. I have been able to test and review them



The construction seems good and sound and is based on the normal size model which is widely used. There is also a review of this model <u>Click here</u> by the Fordson tractor club.

How the switch works: The switch mounts directly to the negative battery posts. To disconnect the switch turn the wheel a 1/4 turn anti clockwise. To re-connect turn the wheel clockwise until the wheel is tight. For added security the wheel can be completely removed. They also sell spare wheels for this switch.

The specifications are 6-24V at 500A which should be more than the cold starting rating (CCA) value of most batteries.

Their fitting instructions are available from <u>Click here</u> their site or <u>Click</u>here.

I have detailed below the steps in pictures how to fit them to the Figaro.

Care should be taken not to allow anything to touch both terminals of the battery.

It is also important to check that it does not touch anything especially the bonnet when closed as could damage the wheel or bonnet and ground the terminal to it, therefore you should measure the gap as if you have a taller battery fitted then you not have room.



Open the bonnet and locate the battery, you can see on mine I have a Cteck charger quick connector.



Disconnect the negative terminal from the battery using a 10mm spanner. You can see I have also removed from the connector the Cteck adapter as this will need to be moved.



I cleaned up the terminals using wire wool to ensure the contact was good.



Fit the negative terminal to the isolator switch, push it on fully and tighten, note the angle and position of it. It is important that it is on fully but not touching the isolated section. Ensure that the adapter is not touching anything metal around it.



Next push the adapter onto the negative battery post and using the 10mm spanner and a cross head screw driver (or another 10mm spanner) tighten the post clamp. You can see I have put the Cteck adapter on this part allowing the battery to be charged even when the car is isolated from the battery.



The fitted adapter without the black isolator screw wheel.



With the isolator wheel refitted but not fully. You can see the gap which means its isolated



With the isolator wheel fully tightened. Ensure this is tight.



So now fitted all you have to do to use it is pop the bonnet and either unscrew or screw up the wheel. Don't loose it, although if you do you can buy spares from them.

NOTE! It's important to note if you do disconnect the battery then obviously alarms, immobilises and central lock will not work. You should also consider whether doing so will impact your insurance.

HELPFUL VIDEO

Kevin has made a short video Click Here

Please note we are providing this info in good faith from available sources. As with anything you should only carry out work with the correct tools and skills. We are not responsible for anything occurring from this information/advice. You are doing so at your own risk!

NEXT EDITION - How to fix Distributor Oil leak (inner seal replacement)

FIGARO MASTERCLASS

How to replace your disc brakes

CONTRIBUTOR: Toby Brooks - The Figaro Shop

EMAIL: info@thefigaroshop.co.uk

ummer is drawing to a close and its time for many people to do work on their Figaros and repair the wear and tear that the car has suffered during the busy summer and all those great road trips!

In the past we have covered the rear brakes but we also wanted to talk about the fronts. Although in some ways they are more simple than the rears to work on its still important to make sure they are maintained correctly. They also carry more of the braking load than the rears.

Its very easy to briefly inspect and let them go as being OK. With some Figs the braking can feel soft and unresponsive. We have met Figaro drivers that except this as normal as the cars are now 25 years old. We find however that with good care and attention they can work pretty well.

Here is our guide and some tips to servicing the front brake pads and discs.

Firstly its a case of removing the wheels and inspecting the brake pads and brake discs. You can see in the photo the front brakes are a completely different design from the rears. When working correctly they are much more efficient too. Similar brake designs are still used on sports cars today.

You can see the surface of the brake discs looks a bit like a record, its scored around the edges too.

You can also see a thick lip where the shiny metal meets the rusty edge. Both of these mean the brake doesn't have the best chance, a smoother completely flat surface is the best for these high friction areas. To check, run your nail over the contours of the discs, whilst feeling for deep grooves and heavy rust.

Once you are happy that you brake discs have too much wear check the pads too.

These are the small stone like looking blocks which sit against the surface of the brake discs, held in the pincer type grip on both the front and rear of the disc. Your aiming for these to have no less than approximately 3mm of wear material left on them. This said I would suggest, that if the discs are scored and lipped its time to change both parts. Changing both together is much better practice for long life repair.



Next is dismantling. Firstly remove the caliper by taking out the 14mm headed bolts that hold the calliper in place. The head of these bolts is a bit tricky to get to as they are at the back of the caliper.

Once you have wriggled the bolts out you should be able to pull back the calliper and leave the disc exposed.



Once the caliper is removed the brake pads and discs can both be removed too. The next step is pretty important. The caliper is designed to self adjust as the pads get low it has two sliding tubes that should slowly move in and out with the brakes and also over time.

These sliders are most likely 25 years old and can often be seized into the caliper with a build up of dirt and brake dust. You also find on many brakes that although the outer pad has plenty of material the inner one is completely gone and at this stage the brakes are only working fractionally as good as they should.

You can see here the sliders removed from the brake caliper we are working on.

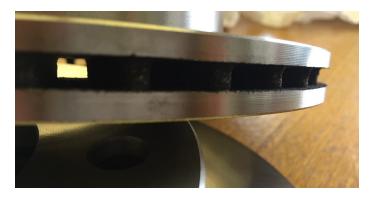
These sliders need to be sanded and cleaned until they are like new, then covered in a high temperature grease and re installed. Also be sure that the rubber sleeves which protect them from dust are in place and working too.





Once everything has been cleaned and the sliders greased its time to start the re assembly. Here are the parts you need. Note the brake discs have vents, they look like a sandwich of discs, not one thick piece. These are not Micra parts! You can also see the thick layer of new friction material on the pads.





You can see the vents in the close up picture. These cool the brakes when they are spinning and give better braking under load.

The final step for reassembly is the reversal of what you have done so far, re insert your cleaned and greased sliders. Fit the pads back into their carrier with plenty of grease on the back. Clean everything else with brake cleaner and be careful that no grease gets onto the friction surfaces.

I can't stress this part enough, brake cleaner is your friend when it comes to the disc and pad friction surfaces.



The brakes will take a few miles to bed in although some pads have a special brake in coating. So drive carefully to start with.

This is only one part of the braking system but it is a major one. If your still finding your brakes are soft after doing these you may want to bleed them and change the fluid, if you need any advice on this or other aspects of your cars braking system give us a call.

Please note that your brakes are the most important safety aspect on your Figaro. Although we are happy to pass on any of our experiences we cannot in any way at all take responsibility for any problems or damage that happen as a result of trying to follow these steps. If your unsure – don't mess with your brakes and get a professional to do them.

Please note we are providing this info in good faith from available sources. As with anything you should only carry out work with the correct tools and skills. We are not responsible for anything occurring from this information/advice. You are doing so at your own risk!

NEXT EDITION - An in-depth look at Bodywork



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on your Insurance **Valuation**

When insuring your Figaro we highly recommend an 'Agreed Price' at commencement of your policy as this will provide a 'no



questions asked payment'. As the Official Nissan Figaro Owners Club we are authorised by insurance companies to provide insurance valuations on the Nissan Figaro. We can now provide on-line valuations for only £15 for our members (normally £25). Order your Certificate today.

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Save 15% on Mud Flaps

You may not know this but the original Figaro mud flaps are no longer available so we have been working with a specialist company to recreate them. Well the great news is they add a final finishing touch to your car.

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SAVE 10% on Car Covers

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Save 22% On Rust Protection

If you drive your Figaro all-yearround we highly recommend you get it treated with Waxoyl or an equivalent product. The original design of the car with its deep cavities is an ideal breeding ground for rust especially in areas along the under door seals. In cold conditions salt is applied on roads which ends up deep inside the cars body. Waxoyl which is a flexible weatherproof skin helps prevent corrosion.

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Save 7.5% on Boot Rack

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Priced at just £29.99 plus delivery, this is the ideal gift (or treat for yourself) or for any lover of the Nissan Figaro. Beautifully presented in a custom presentation box and engraved onto Imm thick stainless steel, these Figaro Owners plaque can come with either a black velour backing for display purposes or 3M tape so it can be stuck anywhere!

CLICK HERE DISCOUNT CODE: FIGDISCI

hardwood slats to put the luggage on, giving a more classic look. Easy to fit and remove, it comes complete with fitting kit. Aftermarket item, made in England, easy to fit and remove. CLICK HERE

DISCOUNT CODE: FIGARO77



Save 7.5% on Service Kit

This Service Kit is provided by Autolink UK and is an ideal solution if you are planning on going on a long trip and contains Oil, Air & Fuel Filters and Spark Plugs.

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Save 15% on Seat Care

One of the main appeals of the

Figaro is the superb leather seats. To keep these in tip-top condition the club works with the Leather Repair Company who produce a range of quality leather care, repair θ restoration products.

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1:43. Beautiful detail miniature with original wheels and sunroof. Manufactured by Kyosho, this car is a perfect copy of the real thing and makes an ideal present or gift for the Figaro lover in your life! Material: Diecast Colour: Emerald Green/white.

CLICK HERE

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These are reproduction Nissan Figaro decal stickers. Original artwork as close to the original as possible (unavailable now). The stickers include very simple instructions for a foolproof application.

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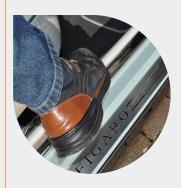
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Keep your personal items secure with this lockable glove box latch.

Any Figaro key will lock this too!

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Save 10% on Figaro Door Sill Tread Plates

These superb high quality tread plates have been produced in partnership with the club by BERMECA. The company, based in Istanbul, manufactures tread plates for a range of car brands. CLICK HERE

Save 10% on Internal Plaques

The internal plaque is ideal for positioning inside on the dashboard top. Make your Figaro stand out from the crowd with these fantastic additions!

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CLUB CHAPTERS

Each Chapter has a 'Coordinator' who's role is to keep in regular contact with members in those chosen UK Regions/Rest of the World Countries*

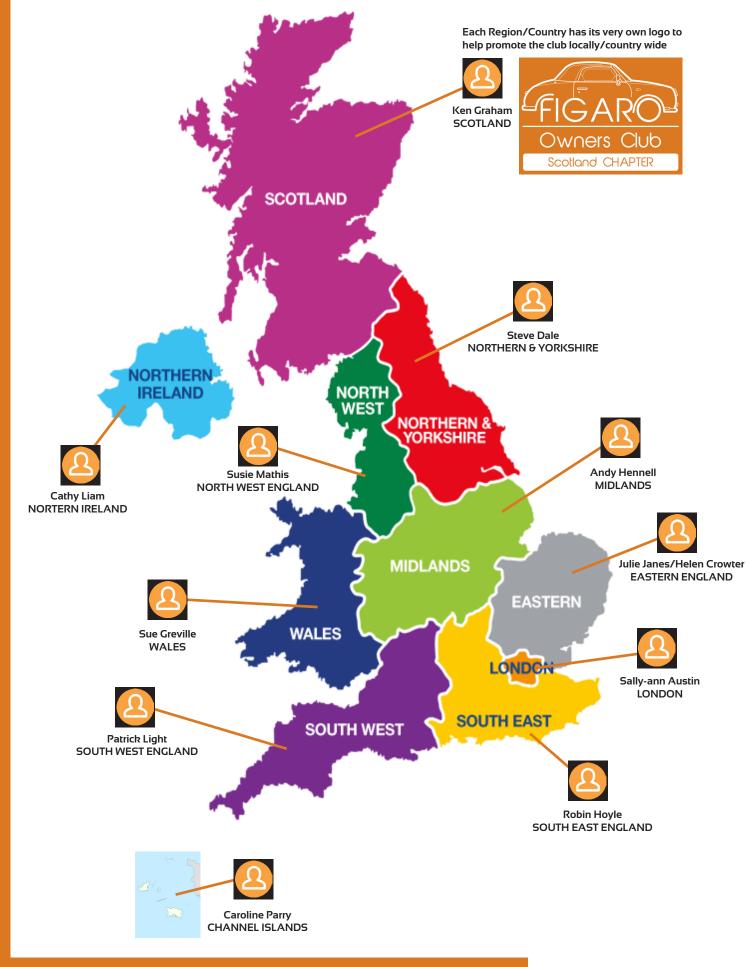
HOW TO CONTACT YOUR CHAPTER COORDINATOR?

Members can make contact via email with any Chapter Member or join the 'CHAPTER CHAT' by logging into our Restricted Technical Forum - UK - Click here | Rest=of-the-World Click here

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR CHAPTER SETTINGS?

Members can JOIN/REMOVE individual Chapters by logging into their account - Click here





UK LOCAL CHAPTERS



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Find what you need from our partners!

GARAGES

Our comprehensive list includes over 60+ garages known to the club and recommended by our members. You can search for services such as importing, restoring, repairing and servicing. Some also have testimonial comments. CLICK HERE

PARTS

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110 Eastcotes, Coventry, West Midlands, CV4 9AS t: 024 7647 4848

e: sales@autojapspares.co.uk

w: www.autojapspares.co.uk/

Bookham Autos

Leatherhead Road, Great Bookham, London KT23 4R t: 01372 456274 / 07927 370701

e: bookhamautos@gmail.com

w: www.figarosales.co.uk

Figaro Club

Gloster Lodge, Stambridge Road, Rochford, Essex, SS4 IES. t: 07753 636131

e: info@figaroclub.com

w: www.figaroclub.com

The Figaro Shop

Rich's Sidings, Lower Bradway, Didcot, OX118AG.

t: 01235 812511

e: info@thefigaroshop.co.uk

w: www.thefigaroshop.co.uk

Wilsons Automobiles & Coachworks Ltd

Nonsuch Business Park, Kiln Lane, Epsom, Surrey, KT171DH. t: 01372 736066

e: <u>itjs@wilsons.co.uk</u> w: Visit Ebay Website

ACCESSORIES

BOOT RACK

Autolink (UK) Ltd

Unit 1, Lycroft Farm, Park Lane, Upper Swanmore, Hampshire, SO32 2QQ.

t: 01489 877770

e: admin@autolinkuk.co.uk

w: www.autolinkuk.co.uk

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w: www.carscovers.co.uk

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e: sales@classicadditions.co.uk w: www.classicadditions.com

CD RADIO UPGRADE

Clarion Service UK

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t: 01285 861861

e: mail@clarion-service.co.uk w: www.clarion-service.co.uk

Sound & Vision Technical Services

284 Leith Walk, Edinburgh. Scotland, EH6 5BX.

e: support@svtservices.co.uk

w: www.svtservices.co.uk

INSURANCE

ClassicLine Insurance Services

138 Castle Street, Hinckley, Leicester, LE10 1DD.

t: 01455 639 000

e: info@classiclineinsurance.co.uk

w: www.classiclineinsurance.co.uk

LEATHER TREATMENT (SEATS)

Leather Repair Company

Unit 16, Argyle Street Factory Estate, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU3 1HD

t: 01482 976803

e: richard@leatherrepaircompany.com

w: www.leatherrepaircompany.com

LUGGAGE

Hillsalive Bespoke Luggage

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e: heather@hillsalive.co.uk w: www.hillsalive.co.uk

MUD FLAPS

Performance Creations

Unit K, Swan Centre, 4 Higher Swan Lane, Bolton, Lancashire BL3 3AQ.

t: 01204 659 594

e: performancecreations@btintemet.com

w: www.performancecreations.co.uk

NUMBER PLATES

Personlised Figaro Plates

Speedy Registrations

Millwood, Lisbellaw , County Fermanagh, BT94 5HQ

t: 02866 387124

e: sales@speedyreg.co.uk

w: www.speedyreg.co.uk

ROOF REPLACEMENT

European Trimming Company

7 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 OPX.

t: 01883 718530

e: info@europeantrimming.co.uk

w: www.europeantrimming.co.uk

WINDSCREENS

National Windscreens

Silica House, Galena Close, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B77 4AS.

t: 01827 338 969

w: www.nationalwindscreens.co.uk

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Additional Club Services



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Priced at just £6 and published by us this Online (PDF) Guide will be emailed to you within minutes and is a comprehensive guide to buying a Nissan Figaro.

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BUY & SELL YOUR FIGARO

Figaro Trader allows private & trade users to advertise Nissan Figaro Cars, Parts & Accessories. The site is heavily promoted on many search engines

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Book your day out or rally **CLICK HERE**

Due to the time of the year we have yet to populate the majority of events, meets and get-togethers for 2017. With our New Chapter initiative we are hoping this section will grow considerably!

Nov 11-13, 2016. NEC Classic Motor Show 2016

Join us at the Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show the UK's Biggest & Best Classic Motor Show II 12 13 November 2016 at The NEC, Birmingham. ENTRY COST: FROM £18

April 8, 2017. London Ace Cafe Meet 2017

Club Members are invited to attend this informal get-together to meet other members, share the love for their Figgy and enjoy the food! If you've never been before its well worth the drive!

ENTRY COST: FREE

June 1-5, 2017. Yorkshire Figaro Rally 2017

Staying at Skipton, 'Gateway to the Yorkshire Dales', this 4-night foray into God's own county will take you on a whistle-stop tour of some of the UK's most magnificent scenery. The routes traverse the Yorkshire Dales National Park as we explore the 'Southern Dales', taking in Wharfedale, Malhamdale, Coverdale, Ribblesdale and Wensleydale.

ENTRY COST: TBA



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All information correct at time of publishing.



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Figgyworld July 2016 - Click Here to View/Download

Content: Content: Our latest club magazine includes the full story of our wonderful 25 Birthday celebrations, Member Stories, Owners Workshop (adjusting your tappets), Figaro Masterclass (detecting leaks), Members Gallery, Events Calendar, Member Discount Codes and Archive Downloads...





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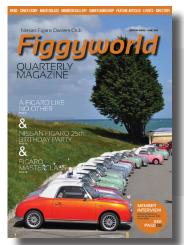
Content: Member Profile: Member Janet Penton sent in this story penned by her 'little happy car' – Poets' Corner: Member Ian Martin shares another figgy poem – Why I Love my Figaro: A new series allows our members to share the love! – Member Offer: Save 10% on these new tread plates – Cover Story and more...



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Content: A Figaro Like No Other ~ The Big Interview ~ Events Calendar ~ Cover Story Interview ~ Owner Workshop on Rocker Shaft Information ~ Nissan Figaro 25th Birthday Party ~ Figaro Masterclass on Painting ~ Nitrogen – Is it all hot air? ~ Member Discounts ~ Suppliers Directory.

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My dream car is Sarah Janes's Car! ~ From Sheffield to Ile-de-Re in Figaro ~ Events Calender ~ Shelley Heighton-Towers ~ Cover Story Interview ~ Owner Workshop – Heater Repair ~ Nissan Figaro 25th Birthday Party ~ Figaro Masterclass on Cambelts ~ Odd-Ometer – What's your mileage ~ Member Discounts ~ Suppliers Directory.





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Content: Happy Birthday Member Story – Dear Santa Xmas Offers – California Dreaming (US Member Story) – Santa Saves the Day (Xmas Poem) – Member Profile – Windscreen Nightmare Member Story – Figgie on a Roll Member Story – Members Gallery – On the Road (NEC Show Report) – Owner Workshop (adjusting your timing) + much more...



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