

CLASSIC CAR WEEKLY

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37TH NATIONAL MICROCAR RALLY

ATWELL-WILSON MUSEUM, CALNE, WILTSHIRE

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This year's NMCR was a very special one, as it attempted to establish a world record for the number of microcars cars gathered together in one place. The last big attendance was way back in 1986 when the event mustered 185 cars, which was recognised by Guinness World Records. Unfortunately after a valiant effort, the number of cars attending this year's rally fell just short of 185.

The rally was a four-day happening with road runs to other collections and historic

places of interest, with autojumble stalls, concours competitions and music at night. There was plenty to see and lots of rare cars on display. Hosting this year's NMCR was the Bug Club, which mustered a fabulous line-up of 22 cars. The Berkeley Enthusiasts' Club mustered no less than 10 cars, including Chairman Geoff Toyer's rare Foursome model. It's one of an estimated 19 produced, and currently the sole example on the road of around seven survivors.

Instigator and 'father' of the NMCR, Tony Marshall, was in attendance and told CCW; "What a brilliant turnout of cars today. Way back in 1975 at the start of the microcar rallies, we were all young and foolish, rather than just foolish! Years ago many of the cars were simply brush painted and held together with sticky tape and stuff like that. But they have all survived and we owe a great debt of gratitude to all those enthusiasts to have preserved them." PAUL BUSSEY



John Meadows, grandson of engine builder Henry Meadows, with his Frisky Sport. John has been researching Friskys for over 30 years and reckons around 75 have survived, but unknown ones do pop up from time to time. A few months ago a rare export model surfaced in the USA



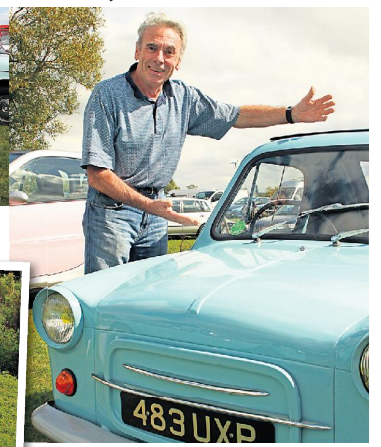
A general view of the diminutive delights on display at the National Microcar Rally



It's not often you get to see this number of FMRs all gathered together in one place



Best Metal C award went to Roger Westcott's rare 1964 Fiat Neckar Weinsberg, built from Fiat 500 running gear



Doyen of microcar enthusiasts, Tony Marshall, poses with Lawrence House's Vespa 400



Ron Biggin with his wacky wedge of fun, a 1970 Bond Bug 700ES. Ron lives in Cumbria so his car leads a hard life!



The Messerschmitt KR200 remains one of the most collectable of all microcars



Andy Carter in his diminutive Brutsch Mopetta, designed by Egon Brutsch, with a GRP body and built in Germany



Isettas originally built by ISO in Italy (setta meaning little ISO) were in abundance at the rally



Prototype Peel P50 and fifth production Peel P50 - driven by Jeremy Clarkson on Top Gear - owned by Andy Carter



This stunning FMR TG500 Tiger in original factory colours of Rose and black with a red interior belongs to Malcolm and Sheila Thomas. The car was dismantled in around 1966 and the basketcase restoration project was acquired by Malcolm in 1982