



The weekend of Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17 saw the first of two Classic Car Boot Sale events of the year take place at Lewis Cubitt Square, part of London's regenerated area of King's Cross.

The event is billed as a celebration of all things vintage, collectable and crafted, and it doesn't disappoint. Over the weekend visitors saw 200 different vehicles and around 170 traders. Vehicles being used for stand work included a number of Volkswagen Campers, Citroën Vans, huge American classics (with equally large boots) and plenty of British sports cars. Back for another year was the event's trademark Routemaster bus bar, the top deck of which hosted a deejay playing a variety of music from the 'Fifties, 'Sixties and 'Seventies. The event also featured a cars for sale area, consisting of around 15 cars.

A lot of this event can be seen free of charge – a display of Minis from Small Car Big City, a Bedford vintage mobile cinema and several taxis and buses were all free

to access – while entry to the traders was £5. It was though a fiver that is really well spent; a morning and most of the afternoon quickly disappeared once we'd finished looking round the stands and chatting to some colourful characters about their gorgeous classics.

Show organiser Wayne Hemmingway was keen to impress on CCB that "the whole point is to give people an event where you don't feel like you're being ripped off".

The weather was wet on Saturday but the event still saw visitor figures of 15,000 across the event. A conservative estimate of 25,000 people passing through was offered by Wayne for what was a far sunnier Sunday.

The next Classic Car Boot Sale will be held in Glasgow this summer (Saturday, August 6 to Sunday August 7) while the next Sale at King's Cross will be later in the year, across the first weekend of October. Further info can be found online by visiting: www.classiccarbootsale.co.uk



London transport, old and new, formed part of the Classic Car Boot Sale. This 1959 Beardmore Paramount MkVII Taxi was joined by a modern iteration of the London black cab.



Hand-picked traders sold everything from vintage vinyl to homeware, jewellery and collectables. As one trader put it: "Just cool stuff in general!"



Jez Cole from Camberwell in London was keen to show off the powerplant inside his 1964 Vauxhall PB Cresta. Gone is the original 2651cc overhead-valve six-pot and in its place it now has a 353 cubic-inch Chevrolet small block V8, with an Edelbrock Performer manifold and Holley 650 carburettor. Performance is rated at 375bhp and it's quicker from 0-60mph than a Ford Sierra Cosworth.



Wayne Hemmingway

FIVE MINUTES WITH THE SHOW ORGANISER

Wayne Hemmingway, the man behind the Classic Car Boot Sale, speaks with CCB about this unique event.

Chris Hope: "Thanks for your time Wayne, would you mind explaining how this event came about?"

Wayne Hemmingway: "The event started out on London's South Bank but moved to King's Cross a year ago as they're doing

development work there at the moment. This has turned out to be quite a nice move really.

"We're designers and the main thing that we do in regeneration and cultural projects and this is a bit of fun for us and for all the team, but it's turned into more than that now, so now we've seen some of the team go over to work full-time on events because we're doing one in Liverpool this year, one in Morecambe and one in Glasgow."

CH: "Am I right in thinking that every trader here is a classic car owner?"

WH: "A lot of the people with classic cars do have things to sell but there are also a lot of people with classics who don't, so we pair them with a designer and its that relationship – often an older person

who owns a classic with a young start-up – that seems to work really well. The people love it; they ask to be with the same car owner each time or the car owner asks to be with the same young designer.

"What we've done here is give lots of young people the opportunity to get in front of thousands of people and sell things."

CH: "How do you feel the Classic Car Boot Sale differs from other events?"

WH: "Obviously it's very different from most classic car events because it's younger; the people here, they like their classic cars but they want more than that, they want the deejays, the street food, the fashion.

"This is not your usual classic car audience and that's what the hobby needs – a fresh audience."

CH: "What can we expect from your series of events in the future? Do you have any plans to expand what's currently here?"

WH: "What we'd like to do here is completely populate every single space, because this is only the start of King's Cross and I think this is one of the better regeneration schemes in Europe. This is only the start of it; there's going to be more parks, more squares, and we'd like to turn this into something with 500 cars here, maybe even 1000 cars – why can't this be as big an event as Goodwood? There's no reason for it not to be."



MARTY & THE MOSQUITOS

Marty of the Losers' Motorcycle Club, based on the Old Kent Road, Peckham, South London, was on hand to talk CCB through the Club's unusual section of bicycles on display at the Classic Car Boot Sale: "These are something different; they're a lot of fun, they're bikes from the 'Fifties made as a cheap form of transport for people who couldn't afford a motorbike or a car but wanted a bit more than a bicycle."

"People would send off mail order for an engine, it'd come through the post at around £20 and then you'd spend a little bit of time with a hacksaw and a couple of spanners fitting it on the back wheel of your bicycle. You pedal along, pull the lever in, which jams the engine on to the back wheel, and kick start the engine into life and you're away!"

They form the Mosquito Squadron section of the Club (a name based on the noise they make) and are capable of 25mph – "a lot of fun and excitement for not a lot of speed," as Marty puts it.



"We're gonna get half a dozen of these running and we're going to do little displays at events and rallies this year, all to raise money for charity," Marty added.



While speaking with CCB, Wayne Hemmings commented: "The great thing about doing this in the centre of London is you just get this amazing mix of all nationalities. London feels like a party." Almost on cue, walkabout act Dat Brass showed up and got visitors jiving.



No table on which to display your wares? No problem; the bonnet will do!



Cars such as this Lotus Elan Sprint lined the road leading from King's Cross station to the Classic Car Boot Sale, tempting day-trippers to come and see more classics in the capital.



Owen Thompson has been exhibiting at the Classic Car Boot Sale for the past three years and each year his 1965 Mercedes-Benz 220 coupé in Cyprus Green is a massive hit with visitors. Owen's stall was selling classic designer clothes from the likes of Paul Smith.



The subject of a meticulous restoration, CCB readers will be no strangers to Ben Moorehouse's Bedford SB, with a Plaxton cab and a Coventry Steel Caravans body. Throughout the weekend visitors to the event were able to enjoy period archive films free of charge.

Small Car Big City, a London-based classic Mini hire company, has featured before in CCB. A selection of its cars (unsurprisingly in blue, white and red, evoking national pride and paying homage to the film *The Italian Job*) was on show at Lewis Cubitt Square. Plenty of passers-by couldn't resist a look and a photo from behind the wheel.



CAFÉ RACER ONE

One of the more unusual cars on display was this pre-production car known as the CR1. Speaking with the man responsible for its styling, Simon Long, he explained: "The inspiration for the Climax CR1 came from the legendary Cooper Climax F1 of the 'Fifties. My own brief was to design a British sports car; small, compact, affordable, but which kept some lines of the old British classics, bringing them up to date."

A deal has just been confirmed that will see Subaru supply the engine and gearbox for this mid-engined, rear-wheel drive, Ariel Atom rival, which comes in at a featherweight 605kg.

"It's not a track day car for the road, it's the other way around – it's something to show off, but it has the performance with it," concludes Simon. He's hoping the CR1 will be ready for sale towards the end of 2016.



Described as an 'ongoing restoration', this Series 1 Hillman Minx was one of several affordable cars for sale.



The appeal of this Morris Marina Sun-Tor – which has been the subject of a conversion by Torcars of Torrington, Devon – for its owner Erica Clarke was that it perfectly met her requirements for a car that could be used as a caravan. She's been all over the UK in it, from Glastonbury, to Dorset and Peterborough (the latter for the BMC/BL Rally & Spares Day) but is now looking for an enthusiast to buy it and give it the attention it deserves. Contact Erica on: 07748 745459.

