
Cholmondeley Pageant of Power 2010 - Review

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Of the many historic car events to be launched in recent years (encouraged, no doubt, by the twice-yearly happenings in West Sussex), the Pageant of Power - now in its third year - is surely among the best. And the most successful: more than 50,000 visitors flocked to Cholmondeley on 17-18 July to enjoy the spectacles on track, in the air and on water.

Among the highlights of the 2010 event were the aerobatic exploits of the **Breitling Wingwalkers**, a **Spitfire** flypast and a fabulous display of **Bentleys**, including the **2003 Le Mans-winning Speed 8**.

But it's the automotive action that lies at the heart of **Cholmondeley's** attractions. According to the organisers, in this respect it was the world-famous **Donington Collection** that "stole the show, with the **Auto Union** and **Vanwalls** stunning the crowds with speeds belying their vintage". Then there was the **Brutus** from the **Sinsheim Museum** in Germany, powered by a 47-litre (yes, forty-seven litres) **BMW** aero engine from a WWI fighter aircraft... and much more besides. "I calculated that we must have had over half a billion pounds' worth of machinery here this year," said **Event Director James Hall**, "including the **Hermes 135 Eurocopter**."



On the competitive front, **Niki Faulkner** set a new course record in the **Lamborghini Gallardo LP 570-4 Superleggera**, which beat strong opposition (including **Grand Prix**, **Le Mans** and **Touring cars** and even a 2010 world superbike) by completing the twisting 1.3-mile circuit in 62.68 seconds – two seconds quicker than the previous best time.



Meanwhile, the **Firework Concert** on Saturday night “provided all the pomp and circumstance of the **Last Night of the Proms**”, with a **Lynx** helicopter flypast to Wagner’s *Ride of the Valkyries* and firing of the **Royal Artillery** field guns to accompany the *1812 Overture*.

And via a link from **Afghanistan**, the concert-goers were poignantly addressed by **Lt Colonel Andrew Hadfield**, Commanding Officer of **1st Battalion Mercian Regiment**.

We’re told that plans are already being put together for next year’s **Pageant of Power**.

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Photos: Lawrence Clift Photography / Cholmondeley Pageant of Power

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