OUT & ABOUT

Great events for you and your classics



THE

MAIN

ONE MORE CHANCE!

If you're looking at all the pictures from Paris and wished you were there, don't be disappointed book a ticket to the next one. There's a similar run albeit one that takes a different route, in July. You don't have to start in the dark on that one, either!

CHARLIE CALDERWOOD EVENTS EDITOR Chateau Impney's coffee meet



All the latest unmissable events to add to your diary for 2020



Interclassics' Maastricht show

EVENT REPORT LA TRAVERSÉE DE PARIS. 12 JANUARY

PARIS MAGNIFIQUE

Paris was awoken by Gallic rarities, raucous muscle cars and frenzied British roadsters in this, the 20th annual winter run across the city

drove through Paris on 12 January, celebrating the role that historic vehicles have in France in the 21st century. This 20th edition of the Traversée de Paris made sure to travel through

all 20 arrondissements of the French

capital, passing Paris's major sights

along the way. Entrants stopped at some of the larger open spaces along the route, which formed a chain of mic mini car shows across the city. Classics parked up for 20 minutes then drove off, with another classic taking their place straight away.

The gatherings drew tourists from nearby landmarks in their droves,

ensuring that the run achieved its main purpose - to engage the public with France's rich automotive history. The run began in the dark at

Château de Vincennes, but the slowly dawning light revealed classics of all shapes, sizes and types. The French rarities were most

striking, with a Peugeot 104 ZS2,

Simca Aronde and Renault 18 Turbo joining more familair Gallic cars, such as the Citroën 2CV and Renault 4.

A total of 65 marques took part, with US muscle cars and British sports cars the next largest groups after the French contingent.

Charlie Calderwood



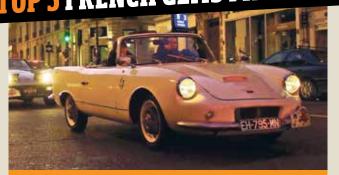








FRENCH GEMS FROM THE TRAVERSÉE



DB (DEUTSCH-BONNET) LE MANS

Making use of Panhard's lively 60bhp 848cc air-cooled twin, DB built the Le Mans with the hope of getting a piece of the US sports car market, offering similar performance to entry-level Porsches and MGs, despite



PEUGEOT 204

Peugeot was clearly impressed by Sir Alec Issigonis' front-wheel drive cars, and made its own transmission-in-sump drivetrain for its first front-wheel-drive car, the 204. It was France's best-seller in the late 1960s, very much a Gallic answer to the Austin/Morris 1100, but the cars are now rare in France and virtually unseen anywhere else.



RENAULT 18 TURBO

mid-size 18 saloon are now almost non-existent here in the UK, with fewer than ten remaining. They're not exactly a common sight in France either, and are basically a Renault Fuego Turbo in a saloon body, borrowing that car's suspension and much of its interior.



RENAULT COLORALE

A cross between a truck and an estate intended to satisfy both France's rural population and those in its colonial empire, the Colorale was a flop for Renault, but was arguably an SUV before such things ever existed, with four-wheel-drive and seven seats optional. This is a five-door 'Prairie', but three doors and pick-up variants were also available.



FACEL VEGA FACEL 6

Facel Vega was most famous for creating staggering-looking cars powered by powerful and simple American V8s, but while the smaller Facel 6 couldn't accommodate a V8, it was still a 'hybrid'. Using a BMC C-series engine from an Austin-Healey, the Facel 6 was widely praised, but just 32 were made before the company finally went bust.



1979 PEUGEOT 104 ZS2 I could easily have picked ten

cars that I would have happily taken back home through the Channel Tunnel with me, but delightful because of how

with a 92bhp version of the 1.3 XY engine, this car was truly special. I'm also in love with its black with red stripe, a relief from the browns, beiges and golds of most of its contemporaries It's the proto-GTI that everyone forgets about and is exactly the sort of car I wanted to see in Paris.

enough as it is, but as one of

the limited run ZS2s, which was the sportiest 104 we ever got

Wednesday 22 January 2020 CLASSIC CAR WEEKLY | 13