

# Woolbridge Motor Club



Woolbridge  
Chairman  
Sarah Forsyth  
hangs out with  
Dave  
Richards



## Dave Richards makes Woolbridge Wiscombe visit

The second day of the Woolbridge Wiscombe weekend saw a visit from motor sport supremo David Richards who, thanks to Dave Pearce, stopped off for an hour or so to witness the British Hillclimb Championship prior to rejoining his family for lunch.

Richards is of course currently the 'top man' at Motorsport UK the national governing body of motor sport in this country but his achievements in the motoring world are many and diverse having been recognised in the international arena when, as co-driver to Ari Vatanen, he became a world rally champion. He then founded the Prodrive company in 1984 building it's success with numerous motor sport programmes including the Subaru World Rally Team and the Aston Martin GT racing team prior to expanding into advanced engineering and hydraulic technology which in the case of the latter has assisted Sir Ben Ainslie's assault on sailing's America's Cup. Formula One beckoned and two roles as a team principle (Benetton and BAR).

The seventy-two year old had a passion for Aston Martins, with a sizeable personal collection, but then took his passion a large step further when, in 2007, he led a consortium buy-out of the prestige car manufacturer from Ford. The company has subsequently been sold to a syndicate with Canadian Lawrence Stroll at the helm. In addition to MSUK and Prodrive Richards and his wife Karen have two hotels in Cornwall where he has run into a spot of trouble with the locals who are not terribly keen on his helicopter coming and going. I will leave you to guess how Mr Richards travelled to his The Pig at Coombe lunch stop in the Otter Valley prior to being chauffeured to Wiscombe!