

TOURING LONDON, ENGLAND BY FERRET

Submitted by Mitchell Bell #35685
Fort Worth, Texas

Mitch Bell #35685, Fort Worth, Texas wrote to say that last year his wife bought him a 1959 Daimler Ferret (sn 03 CC 37) as a project to keep him close to home since it fits in the garage.

Through his close associations with British 'Armour guys' who have Ferrets, his friendships with other owners have blossomed worldwide. As a pilot with a major US international airline, he's on the road almost anywhere that a Boeing 777 flies – and one month found him heading over to London where he contacted two of his UK contingent, Kevin Browne and Keith Benfield for a get together.

He thought they would all meet up for a pint and dinner but to his surprise, Kevin showed up at the hotel with his 1953 Ferret Mk 1 (sn 35 BA 22), lovingly nicknamed *Delilah* and painted desert tan from her time in the first Gulf War.

Kevin proceeded to load them on board for a three-hour tour of London. Mitch guesses they now can be found on about five thousand Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages, because with every stop they made, tourists would run out to photograph *Delilah* and crew. Evidently Kevin could make a living as a tour guide, as he knows details about London not found in the average tourist's guide – having heard them over the Ferret's intercom as they wove through downtown London traffic in a four-ton armoured car.

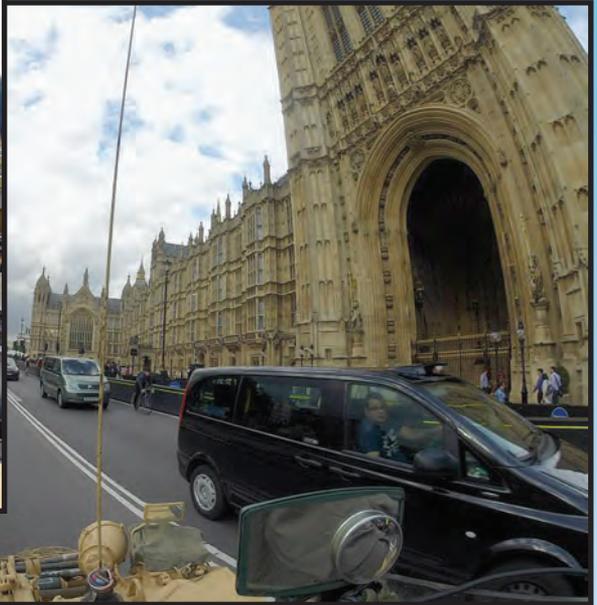
They stopped by the Tower of London to see the handmade ceramic *Field of Poppies*, the amazing tribute to the dead of WWI. Many tourists stopped snapping photos of the poppies, as Kevin made a U-turn to leave. They lined the streets watching, as the police came to see what the commotion was all about.



Keith Benfield (former Ferret driver in the 60's) Mitch Bell, and Kevin Browne, owner of the Mark 1 Delilah.



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Driving along the River Thames and Parliament.

Their tour finished at the famous Ace Café, * where there was a car show on that night. However, even with some incredible machines displayed, the star of the show was *Delilah*. The café security guard, a former soldier, let Kevin park front and center. Mitch felt it must have really irked some of those drivers hovering over their £100k sports cars to see everyone flock to the Ferret. The first question asked was, “Is it road legal?” Followed by, “Is that a real Machine Gun?”

Mitch states it was an incredible day and one of the most memorable visits he has ever had on a layover anywhere in the world.

* Ace Café was the site of a sport that became known as *Cafe Racing* by Rockers on their customized motorcycles known as *Cafe Racers*. For more information on the Ace Café see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ace_Cafe_London

