

60th Anniversary of first Mini Cooper Monte Carlo Rally Win celebrated with unique garden with children from local school

In 1964 a Mini Cooper won the Monte Carlo Rally for the first time catapulting the car and its driver into 1960's iconic legends. The car was designed just over 1 mile away from the Hampton Court Garden Festival in the Hollyfield Road, Surbiton at John Cooper's garage.

The Garden is a celebration of the impact of the Mini Cooper Monte Carlo Rally win on 1960's culture. Designed in the South-West London suburbs the Mini Cooper won the Monte Carlo Rally three times (1964, 1965 and 1967) as well as starring in the classic film The Italian Job.

The garden features three 'giant' versions of Mini Cooper model toys, one still in its box and planted out with flowers to match The Italian Job cars colours –. For the photocall three children from St John's School in Kingston who have been involved in the Mini Moments project will be at the garden.

The garden has been created by local not for profit organisation The Community Brain and this event is part of a year-long celebration of the Mini Cooper story of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. In May 60 classic minis drove through the centre of Kingston.



Robin Hutchinson MBE: Director and founder of The Community Brain:

“John Cooper's brilliant legacy and the Mini Cooper's fantastic triumph are amazing stories – they're hidden gems from suburbia that we're thrilled to showcase in this garden. But our celebration isn't just a nostalgia trip; it's a fantastic launchpad for a community conversation about the future and an opportunity to imagine the incredible innovations and achievements we will proudly celebrate 20, 40, or 60 years from now.”



NOTES TO EDITOR

The Community Brain:

Based in Kingston upon Thames, The Community Brain is a not-for-profit organisation that champions a future focused on local, mutual, equitable, and sustainable values. Renowned for their imaginative and inclusive events, they have a proven track record of energising communities and sparking conversations on important issues.

Their portfolio of past activities demonstrates their creativity and playfulness in engaging the public. In 2022, The Community Brain turned London Waterloo Station into a dance floor with its first-ever silent disco, celebrating the legacy of a former Tolworth pub where David Bowie first debuted as Ziggy Stardust. Recently, their flair for the unconventional continued with an exhibition of the world's largest collection of preserved animal faeces, which was showcased in a Kingston upon Thames gallery. This inventive approach to conservation education engaged people of all ages in a way that was educational and memorable.

**To arrange interviews or for more information, please contact Robin Hutchinson:
robin@thecommunitybrain.org or call 07974 403299.**