

# NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

## *Monthly Newsletter and Events Update*

[www.nhaeq.org.uk](http://www.nhaeq.org.uk)

APRIL 2007

**Club nights at The New Inn, Heckfield, 8pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in every month**

### Mo's Mutterings

Here we are again then, back in Old Blighty! Lovely to go away, especially for seven weeks, but also good to be back with friends and neighbours.

New Zealand was beautiful, we toured the South Island for three weeks in a motorhome, which was great. It was very comfortable and brilliant to be able to stop for coffee and lunch wherever there was yet another wonderful view!

The other four weeks in New Zealand were spent with daughter Jane and family in Rotorua and they send their love to all at the club who know them.

On our way south to Wellington we called in to see Peter Fry, the President and Librarian of the VAR in New Zealand, and Libby, who made us so very welcome with a super lunch in their garden. Nearly every house in NZ has a wonderful view of either mountains or the sea, including Peter and Libby's. After lunch, Peter took Don and I to the Southwood Museum and showed us around. He is very involved with the museum and knows every vehicle and also knew the late owner.

We were also invited by Denis (Editor of the VAR NZ magazine) and Helen Le Cren to join them and other members at an Austin 12/4 gathering in Fairlie for a lovely meal. We spent a very enjoyable evening with them at the Gladstone Hotel but unfortunately, could not spend more time with them over the weekend as we still had many miles to travel before catching the ferry back to the North Island.

When back in the North Island, Don had promised to deliver a repaired wiper to some other folks in Napier and with Jane and the two grandchildren (son-in-law Dan was decorating) we spent two nights in Hastings. Funnily enough, in the park next door to where we were staying, there just happened to be an "all british" classic and vintage car show, which Don just had to go to, so Jane and I dropped him off and took Ellie and Jamie to the coast for a paddle! I can't remember the name of the bay we found but the thirty minute journey took us through some lovely vineyards (wineries as they were called) but unfortunately we couldn't partake in any tasting as we had the children with us! Perhaps another time. Don and I did actually visit the Montana Winery in the South Island earlier in our holiday where we sampled various wines, some of which can be purchased here in Waitrose and I

believe Oddbins. Don of course, had been chatting to the folks at the show and left quite a few of his wiper repair business cards with most of them!

Well, I could go on for hours about our holiday and bore you all to tears. We did two and a half thousand miles (not kilometres) around the South Island in the motor home in three weeks and still didn't see everywhere. You can see we were still involved in Austins even though we were on the other side of the world!

Look forward to seeing some of you at the next club night. *Maureen*

### COLIN'S COLUMN

My gearbox is now back on the car with a relined clutch and so far seems to be ok although at the time of writing I have only covered 17 miles, hopefully with better weather promised I might do a few more miles before 'Drive it Day'. The problem I have been having was that oil was getting on the clutch and causing it to slip quite badly. The oil appeared to be coming from the front bearing so I took the gearbox to J.R. Transmissions and left it with them to fit a new bearing. They got back to me a week later to say there was nothing wrong with the bearing but whoever had fitted it (not me) had used Hylomar and it had blocked the drain holes that allow any oil getting past the bearing to drain back into the gearbox. They cleaned out the holes and fitted a new thrower, which Tony (Westhall) had kindly located for me, so hopefully I shall have no more problems with a slipping clutch. They seem to be a very good company to deal with so I have put them in the 'Parts and Services Directory' update for this month which you should receive with this newsletter.

### March Club Night

The March club night was, for me and I think for most of the 33 members present, one of the most interesting evenings we have had. Michael Passmore, who was the Archivist for the AA until his retirement in 2000, gave a very good talk with the aid of slides, many taken at the beginning of the last century, on the history of the AA.

In 1905 a small group of motoring enthusiasts got together to consider ways to combat police persecution and to counter other anti-car activities. They formed what soon became known as the Automobile Association and appointed Stenson Cook as Secretary. A fleet of cycle scouts was set up to patrol main roads and warn members of any police traps ahead. Eventually one of them was arrested for obstructing the police in their duty, but Stenson Cook came up with a solution. The scouts who had previously saluted members as a matter of courtesy would no longer salute if there was a speed trap ahead; they therefore could not be prosecuted for doing nothing.

As more cars took to the road the era of the speed trap came to an end and the AA concentrated on providing other services to members. They equipped their scouts with motor bikes and sidecars to help members when they broke down, telephone boxes to call for help, erected the first petrol stations, the first one being at Aldermaston, erected signs to enable members to know where they were, produced maps and over the years offered many other services. They also had an Aviation Section, which was

formed in 1928 when private flying was becoming very popular, providing flying maps and maps of landing grounds in the UK.

After the talk Michael sold some of his books on the history of the AA, which he signed and also answered questions that some of the members had. If you were unable to come to the meeting but would like to know more about the history of the AA then I can recommend his book 'The AA' which is published by Shire Publications and costs just £4.50.

I am sure everyone would want me to thank Trevor for suggesting and arranging for Michael to give us this talk.

### **April Club Night**

The April club night is when we hope that weather-permitting members will come in their proper cars, some of course have continued to come in theirs during the winter. As usual in April for those who do so there will be a free draw, with the winner receiving a £25 Marks & Spencer voucher. Lets hope the weather will be kind to us.

### **Drive it Day**

The start of the run on 'Drive it Day' will be from 'The New Inn' Heckfield where we have our club meetings and finish at 'The Crown Inn' in Pishill just north of Henley. Coffee will be available at the start so I suggest that we get there at about 10.30am ready for an 11.30am start. It is anticipated we will arrive at 'The Crown Inn' at about 1.30pm for a 2.00pm lunch. If there is anybody who wants to come and has not yet given me their name and choice of meal (menu in last months Newsletter) ***then please do so now*** as I have to let the 'The Crown Inn' know, as stated in last months Newsletter, by 30<sup>th</sup> March, as it is quite a small dining area. The next club night will be much too late to let me know.

Safe and Happy Motoring,

*Colin*

## *Secretary's Scribblings*

### Fairly Short and Sweet

Having handed over the quill to our Editor-in-Chief, following her extended sojourn in the Antipodes, I don't have a great deal to talk about this time around but what there is **is** quite important:

## Cricket St. Thomas:

Re the CST 'bash' in May (less than a couple of months away now!) I **must** ask for responses to four questions in order to finalize certain arrangements for the trip.

The plan will be for those going on the trip and who wish to do so to rendezvous fairly early at a spot on the outskirts of Basingstoke, (namely, Sainsbury's Car Park in the Hatch Warren Retail Park; details of precise location on the A30 to be provided later), before commencing the journey proper down to the West Country at approximately 9:00am.

I need to know, however, who **will** want to meet up there or, alternatively, may wish to make their own way down, in their own time, to a planned, mid-morning coffee stop in Stockbridge, on the A30. The intention is to have a half-hour coffee/tea and biscuits break there from around 10:30 – 11:00 am.

All of those involved please get back to me **soonest** to confirm whether you will:

**A:** be planning on meeting up in Basingstoke for a 'convoy' style journey from there to Stockbridge (and beyond, of course) and also....

**B:** will wish to take advantage of the coffee stop arrangements at Stockbridge.

Similarly, a lunch stop will be scheduled in Shaftesbury, approximately 40 miles farther on from Stockbridge, for around 1:00pm, and I need to know also...

**C:** those who will plan to take lunch with the Group.

Please let me know, therefore, if you want to meet up for lunch (venue: 'The Half Moon Inn', immediately on entering Shaftesbury). Again, I need to let the establishment know, in advance, how many to expect. I hope to have a menu available prior to our trip so that intending diners can make their menu choices ahead of time but, in any event, I need to know numbers so please confirm your intention(s).

From there it is approximately another 35 miles or so to Cricket St. Thomas which we hope to reach some time between 3:30 and 4:00pm, barring any unforeseen hold-ups or unscheduled stops, of course!

Finally, a run to Beaminster followed by a walk in the beautiful surrounding area, with lunch to be taken in the licensed café at Mapperton Gardens, will be arranged, probably for the Saturday. The circular walk will be about 4 miles. Therefore....

**D:** Those who will wish to take part in the walk please give your name(s) to me so lunch numbers can be determined and the café informed.

I repeat – all final details will be forthcoming in due course but, for the moment, I do need a response from all involved to the above three questions.

E-mail ([trevor\\_c.edwards@btinternet.com](mailto:trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com)) or telephone (01344 775012) will suffice but please do it soon!

Many thanks in advance for your anticipated and prompt cooperation.

## Logo'd Garments Order No 2:

Having distributed garments ordered in early December those who received them seemed well satisfied with both the way the logo design turned out and also the quality of the items themselves. Others were also impressed and showed sufficient interest to the extent that another order has since been placed.

Though it is evident that the small company with whom we are dealing is not at the forefront of efficiency in terms of meeting estimated delivery times, they are a pleasant enough outfit to deal with and their prices are certainly right! Therefore, I would urge anyone wishing to order any of the items detailed in previous Newsletters and publicised elsewhere, to do so promptly in order to minimize any delay in receiving such items.

If anyone would like a reminder of what's available and details of prices, etc., please get back to me and I shall be happy to provide same.

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## Loseley House and Park Run and Walk - 8<sup>th</sup> July:

As previously announced, Jean (Edwards) is planning this trip to Loseley House and Park, near Guildford, combining the visit with a walk in the very pleasant surroundings, followed by lunch.

In order to provide numbers for catering she needs to know numbers and will start taking the names of those interested at the April Club Night (16<sup>th</sup> – Spring Airing), or you can telephone her on 01344 775012.

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## Tesco Petrol Experience!

Don't know if anyone else was affected by the recent contaminated petrol being dispensed from some Tesco Petrol Stations but Jean's *Corsa* fell victim to the stuff – twice! Well, once in actuality but it's taking two attempts to correct the situation.

Having filled up immediately prior to our trip to Madeira in February the car wasn't used for a while but, shortly after our return, the dreaded Exhaust Emission Light came on ominously and pointed to a fuel problem. This was confirmed, following a visit to the Vauxhall dealer. That was the bad news, the worse news was that there was a four-week lead-time for a replacement oxygen sensor! They cleaned up the existing sensor, replaced the spark plugs and cautiously expressed the opinion that the problem *might* be fixed though also stating that, should the light come on again, the only solution would be to replace the O2 sensor.

Needless to report, all was well for about ten days and then the inevitable happened! On came the light, again.

This time the lead-time is seemingly less, though still not immediate. Having been advised not to use the vehicle until the sensor *has* been replaced (potential damage to the catalytic convertor, if advice is ignored, etc!) Jean is temporarily 'without her horse', although Tesco have agreed to pay for a rental car for as long as it is necessary.

Tesco has come in for some stick over the issue but I have to report that the manner in which they are treating claims appears exemplary. They were extremely prompt in settling the initial claim for the non-effective 'fix' and have promised to treat a second claim similarly. One cannot expect more, though I think our local Petrol Station may be getting rather more business than previously until the 'coast is definitely clear' once again!

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### Finally, food for thought.....

The subject of 'Retirement in Rotation', (for want of better terminology), for committee members, has occasionally been raised and is something upon which the views and opinions of members are being actively sought at this particular time.

Briefly the concept is that, each year, one NHAEG Committee Officer and one Committee Member would tender their resignation leaving two places open for new committee members to be elected. The main intention, for the introduction of. and inevitable change in our Constitution that would result from, such a process, would be to ensure that the club is kept alive and vibrant through the regular injection of 'new blood', having original ideas and thoughts, thus avoiding the risk of stagnation and possibly repetitive type of events, activities etc.

For such a process to be seriously considered, however, there are two key, obvious requirements:

- (a) that a reasonable majority of NHAEG members think this would be a good idea and would be supportive of it and
- (b) that a proportion of those same NHAEG members would be prepared to put forward their names for election to the committee, at the time of the AGM.

What are your views on this? Please so give it some early consideration and be prepared to express your view, possibly in a simple questionnaire to be distributed shortly.

Meanwhile,

Hopefully see you at the 'Spring Airing'!

*Trevor*

## Don's Doodlings

As most of you probably know, Maureen and I have been away in New Zealand for seven weeks! It was a fantastic holiday and made even better by staying with our daughter Jane and family in Rotorua. I won't bore you with a detailed account of New Zealand as I know some of you have been there at least once if not two or three times. Nevertheless, for those of you who have not yet been, if you do visit in the future, you will not be disappointed.

Before we went away we said, on our return, we would spend some time on refurbishing our Chummy. After thirty years, including five continental runs and many miles in the UK, it is now showing great signs of wear and tear. The refit includes new seats, carpet, hood and sidescreens. Today, Maureen and I have been to Stockbridge and purchased one and a half hides of leather. All we need now is someone who knows what he is doing to cover the seats. Also, the engine requires a decoke and a sump cleanout. The aim is to have Chummy completed and up and running by the time we go on the D-Day Run to France in June.

Reading in the newsletter of events lined up for us, we are certainly going to be busy during the coming year. Yes, I am sorry to have to tell all who are going to Cricket St. Thomas .... ***SO ARE WE !!!***

Don

### **2006 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:**

Chairman:	Colin Greig	01189782087 ( <a href="mailto:colin@greigc.freemove.co.uk">colin@greigc.freemove.co.uk</a> )
Secretary:	Trevor Edwards	01344775012 ( <a href="mailto:trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com">trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com</a> )
Treasurer:	Jean Edwards	01344775012 ( <a href="mailto:trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com">trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com</a> )
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	Roy Roberts:	0127627043 ( <a href="mailto:royrobertsr@tiscali.co.uk">royrobertsr@tiscali.co.uk</a> )
	George Ewart	01344778286 ( <a href="mailto:george.ewartx@btinternet.com">george.ewartx@btinternet.com</a> )
	John Hancock	01189885387 ( <a href="mailto:route66_2003@hotmail.com">route66_2003@hotmail.com</a> )

### **Events Diary Update!**

<b>April 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ATDC Austins in Action Day</b>	
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup> (NB not 9<sup>th</sup>!!)</b>	<b>Spring Airing</b> Free draw for those turning up in a ‘real’ car £25.00 M & S voucher to winner	
<b>April 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Drive It Day.</b> <b>Run to The Crown Inn, Pishill</b>	<b>Colin Greig</b>
<b>May 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Motormart Autojumble – Beaulieu</b>	
<b>May 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>‘Don &amp; Maureen’s DVD Show of Southwood Motor Museum NZ</b>	
<b>May 18-21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Cricket St. Thomas</b>	<b>Trevor Edwards</b>
<b>June 3<sup>rd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>D-Day Celebrations. Normandy</b>	<b>Dave Witton</b>
<b>June 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Half-Gallon Run</b>	<b>Chris Broom and Brian Mayers</b>
<b>June 15<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Brooklands Museum Centenary Celebrations (Contact Colin for details. Cost £35.00 per ticket/per day)</b>	
<b>June 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Paul Finn Rally (BEN Run Ascot/Lynwood Fete via Windsor Great Park)</b>	
<b>July 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Loseley House Nr. Guildford</b> Coffee followed by walk then lunch and visit To gardens and house (optional)	<b>Jean Edwards</b>
<b>July 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Annual Concours d’Elegance</b>	
<b>July 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Aero &amp; Autojumble - Brooklands</b>	
<b>July 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Picnic in the Paddock – Finchampstead</b>	
<b>August 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Club Night</b>	
<b>August 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trip to Water Gardens, Longstock Near Stockbridge</b>	<b>George and Ruth Ewart</b>
<b>August 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reading &amp; Wokingham Show Loddon Court Farm, Beech Hill, Swallowfield</b>	
<b>August 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Littlewick Show, Holyport, Nr. Maidenhead</b>	
<b>Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>International Autojumble – Beaulieu</b>	



<b>September 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Club Night</b>	
<b>October 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Club Night</b>	
<b>October 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>B2B Run (BEN Lynwood to Brooklands)</b> <b>To be confirmed</b>	
<b>November 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Auction Night</b>	<b>Don B.</b>
<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Dinner @ The Falcon</b>	
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fun and Games Evening</b>	

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### **ISLE OF WIGHT AUSTINS**

A GROUP WITHIN THE AUSTIN SEVEN OWNERS CLUB (LONDON)

#### **‘AUSTIN MIDSUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA’ – SATURDAY, 23rd / SUNDAY, 24th JUNE 2007**

*This year we will follow last year’s very successful format, where the emphasis will be on the use of your vehicle. This will enable you to see more of the Island whilst you are over here. In no way do we want to be too prescriptive and you can, if you so wish, join up with us at any one of the scheduled ‘attraction’ stops. During the weekend, it is suggested that you dress to reflect the period of your vehicle,*

#### **Programme of events**

**Friday, 22nd June.** An informal get together at the Chequers Inn, Rookley, from 7.00 p.m. This is situated 4 miles south of Newport (going south, fork right off the A3020 at Rookley and, after just under a mile, you will find the Chequers on the left.). If required, you can get a meal here (suggest at 7.30 p.m.) or just come along, when convenient, for a 'Noggin and Natter' with us.

**Saturday, 23rd June.** Meet in the main Car Park at Godshill at 10.00 a.m., when entrants will be given a ‘goody bag’ in which you will find more details about the Weekend, including venues, route maps etc. Vehicles will depart from Godshill at 10.30 a.m. for a picturesque, non-competitive, run towards the West Wight. There will be an en-route coffee stop before we proceed to Fort Victoria, nr Yarmouth, for lunch. There are a number of attractions here including a Model Railway, Marine Aquarium, Underwater Archaeology Centre and the Island Planetarium. There are also on-site cafes, the Café Verdi and the Boathouse, and a picnic area. After lunch entrants will have free time to explore the Island.

In the evening it is hoped that all entrants will meet up at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne, for a social evening with a 50s and 60s theme. Food will be provided and there will be live period music that you might like to strut to! This will start at 7.30 p.m. and finish at 11.00 p.m - the inclusive cost of the evening will be **£12** per person.

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> June.** Meet in the main Car Park at Godshill at 10.00 a.m., ready to leave for a run at 10.30 a.m. This will take us, via Newport, to Thetis Wharf in Cowes. At 11.15 a.m. we will embark on a boat, with a licensed bar, for a 1½ hour cruise of the River Medina and Cowes Harbour. The cost of the cruise will be **£7** per person. Afterwards we will cross the River Medina to East Cowes, via the

Floating Bridge, and then make our way to Sandown Airport for lunch. This can be taken in the Aviator Restaurant or you can bring along your own picnic. During the course of the afternoon, awards will be presented to the owners of the car (a) that has travelled the furthest to attend the Weekend and (b) voted 'the most desirable'.

**N.B. If you book in advance, by June 6<sup>th</sup>, for both the Social Evening and Cruise, the inclusive cost will be £16.50 per person. A saving of £2.50!!!**

The cheapest way of crossing the Solent is to take advantage of the special offers advertised by the Ferry companies (some including accommodation), on their websites. It is suggested that you keep a close eye on [www.wightlink.co.uk](http://www.wightlink.co.uk) (or Tel. 0870 582 7744) and [www.redfunnel.co.uk](http://www.redfunnel.co.uk) (or Tel. 0870 444 8898) for further information on their offers. N.B. If you have any Tesco Clubcard Vouchers then every £10 in vouchers will give you £40 off your Wightlink fare. For more information go to [www.tesco.com/clubcard\\_deals](http://www.tesco.com/clubcard_deals). Some Guest Houses offer deals that include the ferry crossing.

**If you would like to come and enjoy the weekend with us, then please complete the Entry Form below and return it to,**

**Nigel Offer, 10, Paddock Drive, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5TL, before June 6th.**

Additional forms can be downloaded from the 'Rally News' section on our website, [www.brmmbrrmm.com/iowaustins](http://www.brmmbrrmm.com/iowaustins).

N.B. No Entry Fee is required. If you have any queries, then please telephone 01983 872609 or e-mail [nigel.offer@virgin.net](mailto:nigel.offer@virgin.net).

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**IOWA – 2007 ‘AUSTIN MIDSUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA’ – ENTRY FORM**

Name.....Address.....  
.....

Telephone Number.....E-mail  
address.....

Year -.....Model -.....Reg. No. -.....

Club – .....

A – Number requiring a meal at the Chequers Inn on Friday evening will be.....

B - Will you be attending the Social evening on the Saturday evening? YES/NO

C – Will you be taking the boat cruise on Sunday morning? YES/NO

D - Do you require details of local Campsites, B&B, Guest House accommodation, etc.?  
YES/NO\*

**\*IF YES TO ‘D’ ABOVE, THEN PLEASE SEND A STAMP ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR ENTRY FORM.**

**I enclose a cheque (made payable to Isle of Wight Austins) to cover the cost of the Social Evening ( ), Boat Cruise ( ), both the Social evening and Cruise ( ). Please tick as appropriate.**

***I understand that in submitting this entry, my passengers and I attend the ‘Austin Midsummer Extravaganza’ at our own risk and agree to present the vehicle in a roadworthy condition in compliance with all road traffic legislation.***

Signed

Date

## Parts and Services Update

April 2007

### Gearbox Repairs and Rebuilds

**J. R. Transmissions** **Address:** 35a Queens Road, Farnborough, Hampshire

GU 14 6JP

**Phone:** 01252 548337

**Brothers Paul and John Ruffle run J. R. Transmissions. They have a great knowledge of all types of gearboxes, manual and automatic, and are more than happy to repair or rebuild classic and vintage ones. They very quickly found out why mine was leaking oil on to the clutch and put it right.**

*This is the only recommendation I have for this month. Many members tell me they have companies to recommend but do not send me the details. If you have had any dealings with a company or individual recently or in the past that gave a good service don't keep it to your self let us all know by putting it in the Directory.*

*Colin*