

NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Founded 1973

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

www.nhaeg.org.uk

APRIL 2008

Club nights at The New Inn, Heckfield, 8pm, 2nd Monday in every month

Mo's Mutterings

Whilst it has been wonderful to visit New Zealand again and see one half of our family, it is good to return home, sleep in one's own bed and meet up with friends back in the UK.



Of course Don did manage to find another Chummy!

I cannot believe the pile of post always waiting for us on our return, it takes a week to go through and half of it is rubbish!

I have taken so many photographs, once again, but will sift out the ones relating to cars, interesting museums and even a pumping station which I was conned, sorry, taken to see during the trip. Perhaps Don and I can show them to you at a club night during the year.

I think we missed some quite good motoring weather here in February but we will be getting Queenie back on the road this month. I think our Chummy is to have a new hood as this didn't get done before we went away.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible either at club nights or on the several runs and holidays coming up in the next few months.

Please note the following:-

The e-mail address for Jenny and Peter Gillespie-Brown is gillespiebrown@btinternet.com and

For Nick and Pat Buchanan their new e-mail address is a7@dadang.co.uk

Chris Broom and Brian Mayers have moved to "Greenfields", Green Lane, Stratfield Saye, RG7 2EB. Their landline is now 01189333457 and 07801 005629 (Chris).

Maureen

Here is a note to you all from Ruth Ewart, who has been poorly over the past few weeks.

"Dear friends,

Thank you all for your numerous cards, telephone calls and visits which have supported me over the last month. It all started on St. Valentine's Day when I was advised that a lump on my thyroid gland was suspect. The operation on the following Monday did prove it to be a cancer. A week later, another operation completed the procedure and I am now in the process of having my medication 'processed' – no doubt you will hear me rattling a little during future club meetings.

The future looks good, but I am tired at present as a residual reaction to the anaesthetic has left me a bit deaf and a little dizzy.

Again, thank you all for your good wishes and the lovely flower arrangement which is now in full bloom. I do look forward to meeting you all again in the near future.

Love Ruth''

QUERIES OF THE MONTH

Two more from the "Austin Magazine & Advocate", this time it is a couple of squeakers! Were these cars really that quiet when new (well newish) so individual squeaks or rattles could actually be heard, or maybe the owners just cherished them as much as we do today!

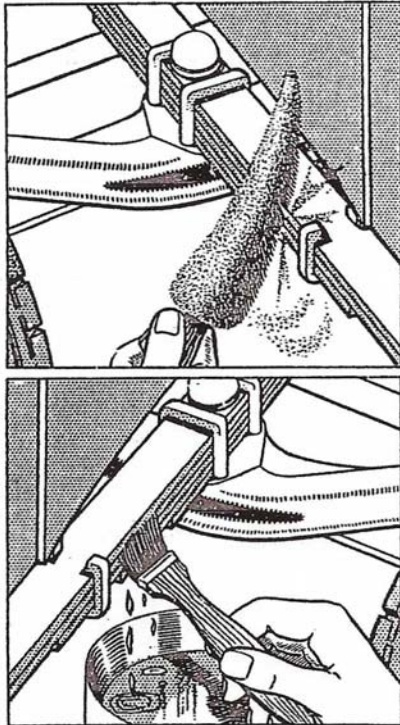
No 1151 appeared in December 1943 and No 870 appeared in May 1938.

No. 1151.-Squeak

Big Seven

Q. *I have recently noticed a squeaking, which arises in dry weather and ceases in wet, from my Big Seven. It seems very general and. I have not been able to track it down to any particular source. It occurs when the car is rocked, as well as when it is running, although it seems more pronounced with the smaller running vibrations. Can you advise me as to whether the springs or the body are the most likely sources of this noise?*

A. Usually it is the springs, being dry and requiring lubrication, which give rise to squeaking of the type you are experiencing, and you should try cleaning them, first brushing the mud off, and then painting the edges of the leaves with engine oil, preferably while the car is jacked up from the chassis, to relieve the springs of load.. If this does not effect a remedy the body may be at fault, but failing more information we hesitate to advise



For spring lubrication, clean the springs with a stiff brush and then paint them with engine oil.

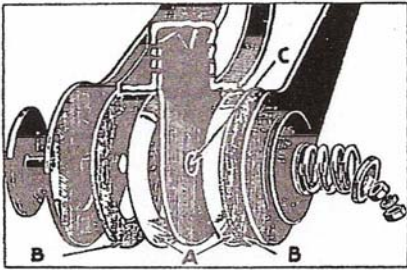
you as to the remedy in such circumstances, as dismantling the trimming or removing the upholstery is usually necessary to gain access to any body member concerned. We fully expect, though, that attention to the springs, as recommended above, will overcome this trouble on your car.

No. 870.-Shock Absorbers

Ruby Seven

I am running a 1937 Austin Seven saloon and have been very satisfied with it, but recently a squeak has emanated from the rear. I have sprayed the springs with penetrating oil and engine oil in turn and satisfied myself that the body bolts are tight, but the squeak still persists. Can you suggest the cause of this ?

A You should first make certain that the petrol tank, spare wheel cover, or the wheel itself are quite secure. If these are in order, your best plan is to inspect the shock absorbers, as these may be causing the squeak of which you complain. Rocking the car should help in detecting whether or not this is so. If the results of this test are positive it may be necessary to planish the wood friction discs on some fine grain emery cloth. To do this you will have to dismantle the shock absorbers by unscrewing the two nuts on each, removing the spring and two cup washers, and withdrawing the centre bolt from its wooden bush; the discs will then be free. Place the emery cloth on a smooth flat surface and rub the discs across it to remove any dirt or roughness from their surfaces. Before reassembling each shock absorber, a little grease may be smeared on the centre bolt and washers. Care should be taken when reassembling to keep the discs in a central position



Showing the components of the Austin Seven rear shock absorber. A Indicates the brass discs. B the friction discs, and C the wood bush.

while the centre bolt is being replaced. This may necessitate tapping the bolt home if the wooden bush is a little tight, and it is important to ensure that the bolt is central or the wood bush may be damaged.

It should be remembered when replacing the friction discs, that the brass discs must be placed in position before the wooden ones.

Colin's Column

I was not able to attend the last meeting as Ann and I were on our way to St Lucia to celebrate our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. We had a wonderful time with plenty of sunshine and temperatures in the 80's. The hotel was great as was the food and drink. We did various things while we were there including a trip on a catamaran along the west coast, visiting the inside of a volcano which was spewing out boiling water and steam. On the day of our anniversary we took a wonderful trip in an aerial tram through the Rain Forest. St Lucia is a lovely place and the people are very friendly with everyone wanting to make sure you enjoy your holiday. On our return we had a lovely surprise when Trevor arrived on our doorstep with a wonderful bouquet of red roses and a card from the NHAEG, for which Ann and I would like to thank you all very much.

20 members of the NHAEG attended the **Jazz Night** at the New Inn on Thursday the 6th March and quite a few have booked for the next one on Thursday the 3rd April. Tim the Landlord has said he intends to run a Jazz Night on the 1st Thursday of every month so, in future, we will take the names at club night of those who wish to attend the following month and give the number to Tim. If you are not able to come to the club at any time but would like to go to the Jazz Night the following month please contact me before the club night and I will add your names to the list, otherwise you will need to phone the New Inn and book yourself.

If you wish to go to the next one in April and did not give your name to Trevor at the March meeting then you will need to phone the New Inn now and ask to be added to the NHAEG group. The number is 0118 932 6374

Unfortunately, due to the cold and forecast of heavy snow it was decided that Peter's Potter organised by Peter Barlow for Easter Sunday should be postponed to a later date when hopefully the weather will be better. Peter phoned everyone who had indicated they were going; hopefully he missed no one out. However myself, Ann, Don, Maureen, Dave and Hazel went in modern cars to the Cricketers at Kingsley, which was where the run was to finish. We met Peter there who had braved the elements and gone in his Ruby and we all enjoyed an excellent lunch. Many thanks to Peter for organising the run, sorry it did not take place but the new date will be in the newsletter when it has been decided.

At the **April Club Night** we will be having our annual '**Spring Airing**' when we encourage everyone to get their 'pride and joys' out from their winter slumbers and bring them to the meeting. As usual we will have a free draw for everyone coming in an historic vehicle i.e. one first taxed before 1st January 1973. The prize will be a £25 Marks & Spencer Voucher. Hopefully the weather will be better than of late and we will have a car park full of real cars.

By the time you read this I will have booked lunches for '**Drive it Day**'. Those of you who gave your names to Trevor at the March club night or have since emailed or phoned me should meet at 'Henry Street Garden Centre', Swallowfield Road, Arborfield, RG2 9JY. The Garden Centre opens at 10.00 am where coffee, tea, or for those with a healthy appetite, breakfast will be available. Please park at the far end of the car park. It is quite a large Garden Centre so if you wish to have a look round, leave yourselves plenty of time. We will be leaving at about 11.30 am for a gentle meander of 40 miles through country lanes and picturesque villages to arrive at the 'New Inn' in plenty of time for a 2.00pm lunch.

Remember, as it is so close to St Georges Day, you can show your patriotism and also how proud you are to be driving a car made in England, by flying the flag, as in previous years.

If you need further details or directions to the start please give me a ring on 0118 978 2087.

There are quite a few forthcoming events listed at the end of this newsletter, please put the dates in your diaries and wait for further details.

That's it for now.

Safe and Happy Motoring.

Colin.

Events Diary Update!

April 7 th 20 th	Spring Airing Drive It Day	Colin
May 12 th 17/18 th	Austins and other things in NZ Beaulieu Autojumble	Don
June 9 th	Half Gallon Run Tony and Pat	Westhall
21 st /22 nd	Isle of Wight Austin Weekend	Nigel Offer
28/29 th	Brooklands Motoring Festival (“Double 12”)	Colin
28 th	BEN Run Ascot – Windsor Great Park to BEN Retirement Home Fete, Sunningdale	
29 th	Mid-Summer Meander Mystery Run	Tony Westhall
July 14 th 21-25 th	Concourse Cotswold Run	Don
August 11 th	TBA	
September 5-8 th	Warners – Norton Grange	Trevor
12-14 th	Beaulieu Autojumble	
15 th	Talk on Testing Equipment	George
October 13 th	TBA	
November 10 th	Auction	Don
15 th	Nightjar Rally	Colin/ Trevor
December 1 st 8 th	Club Dinner Festive Fun	

Secretary's Scribblings

Charlie Couling

Word has recently been received, from Charlie's daughter, Marilyn, that he has now been moved from the Royal Berks Hospital in Reading, to the BUPA Hospital, Beacher Hall, Bath Road and is in Room 31. Furthermore she indicated that should anyone wish to visit him, preferably late mornings, when he is evidently at his best, he would doubtless be pleased to see a friendly face.

Charlie, as most members probably will be aware, has been in our club for a very long time and, until last year at least, still managed to make it to our annual Christmas bash.

If anyone is in the vicinity of Beacher Hall and has a few minutes or so to spare please drop by and have a chat with him. It would surely be appreciated.

Back home - finally!

It seems an eternity now since the floods of last July but, I am happy to report, Jean and I are now back in our own home - just - though it would be stretching the truth to claim we are fully settled in. It's amazing how long it takes to get everything put back in its former, familiar place - pictures, ornaments, etc. Two casualties of the event have been 'PO' and 'Clarissa', both of whom have been sorely neglected over the past six or seven months and which are currently still languishing in a friend's garage patiently awaiting some long-overdue TLC. Indeed, one could be forgiven for imagining that I have ignored them completely and have been spending all my time, since last July, constructing an Ark, in preparation for a possible recurrence, rather than fettling the poor creatures. Indeed, it is for this simple reason that we did not put down our names for 'Peter's Potter' on Easter Sunday though, from all reports, this was virtually postponed due to the atrocious weather of late. There surely will be some time though, later in the year, when it can be re-run under more pleasant conditions.

Anyhow I have promised myself some dedicated time to sort out any problems arising since their involuntary hibernation and hope to have one, at least, though, ideally, both of them thoroughly roadworthy by our next Club Night, the 'Spring Airing', the day after which Jean and I are off to the Azores for a spot of island-hopping. This unfortunately will preclude our being able to participate in the 'Drive It Day' run being organised by Colin on the 20th April. Shortly after our return, however, we shall be joining Dave and Karen's excursion to the D-Day Celebrations in France so it's now out with the French primer in preparation for this! Once ordered a *Steack Americain* (I thought!) in a restaurant in Lille and was served a *Steack Tartare*! Ugh - not to be recommended, especially since the latter, reputedly, is quite often prepared using horse meat!

That's really all I have time to jot down this month. I/we hope to be a little more sorted by the time next month's Newsletter is due and I will try to get back to my normal level of offering by then. Till then, hoping for a significant improvement in the weather in the near future, I wish you all safe and trouble-free motoring.

Trevor

Don's Doodlings

Yes, we are back! Although we had a fabulous time away, stopping in Los Angeles for a few days and then in New Zealand with our family and touring around the North Island in our campervan, it is good to be back with old friends.

On our return, it was a relief that technology had really worked as thankfully, Colin and Ann were there to take us home. Arriving home was well timed on Saturday as on the following Monday it was club night. I was possibly a little jet-lagged but I still had an enjoyable evening.

As Colin and Ann had by then deserted dear old Blighty and flown off to the Bahamas to celebrate their Ruby Wedding anniversary, Trevor and Jean took the helm. Unfortunately, for various reasons the number of members that evening were very low. Some folks were away on holiday, some working away and of course the weather was not at all good. It was a terrible night with high winds and trees down across many roads.

I know Trevor was pleased to see Maureen back so that he could hand over the newsletter which he had produced the previous month. Under the circumstances, I think Trevor did a great job what with moving house and all the extra hassles that go with moving back into a house after flooding.

On Sunday, with the weather forecast so bad, we decided, with Colin and Ann, that we would go on Peter's run to Kingsley in the modern. When we arrived at the pub we met up with the Solent Austin Seven Club who are a friendly group and we all had a lovely Sunday lunch.

Peter had to cancel the planned route due to the bad weather. This was very disappointing but Peter asked for the route cards to be kept safe and we hope to do this run in the better weather later in the year.

Finally, I must say that I think the NHAEG is definitely "going to the dogs"!

Last year we had a great response to an evening at the Reading Greyhound Stadium. We are arranging a return visit for Wednesday 21st May. If anyone would like to join us, please call on 01189733568 or email maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible but definitely before Thursday 10th April. We are sorry we cannot add to the booking after the 10th April so if you are interested don't just look at it – book it now!

The first race is at 7.35pm so we would need to be at the Stadium by 7pm. An evening meal will be included in the entry fee.

Don



FOR SALE

**1932 Austin Box
Saloon R.N.**

This car has been dry-stored for the last forty years and is ready for a complete body off restoration.

Logbook and registration are all in order and the registration number goes with the car.

Engine is running and has had a short run on the road. If you are interested please contact Tony Smith on 01189 883553 or 01189 882826.

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This is to alert all FBHVC subscriber clubs and their officers to a new posting on our website <http://www.fbhvc.co.uk/news/index.htm>. This gives outline details of a special insurance deal to make it possible to get younger drivers on comprehensive cover for the Drive It Day at just £10.50 – do please include this information in any publication being sent to your members before mid April. We are sorry that this relates only to cars and light commercial vehicles, but the deal was on the basis that the owner would be present in the vehicle to advise on any unfamiliar controls – something that was deemed impractical on a motor-cycle.

I can only apologise for the late notification – we started work on this idea in November last year but clearance didn't arrive until 5 March. If your club is planning any event or activity for DID – do please send a brief e-mail to our webmaster web.admin@fbhvc.co.uk so he can make sure it is listed on our website.

The above was sent by e-mail from Jim Whyman, Secretary Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs Ltd.

**Kernshill, Shute Street, Stogumber, Taunton, Somerset. TA4 3TU. Tel: 01984 656995
Fax: 01984 656762 [e-mail: admin@fbhvc.co.uk](mailto:admin@fbhvc.co.uk).**

NHAEG EMBROIDERED CLOTHING

Roy Roberts would like to place an order for items required for the Summer Season, very soon, in order to secure delivery during May.

Prices are the same as before and are as follows:-

Caps (type B15) in 4 colours (dark royal blue, bottle green, Burgundy and navy	£ 6.32p
Champion Tee shirts in 13 colours	£ 6.32p
Penthouse Polo shirts in 16 colours	£11.00p
Classic Polo shirts in 13 colours	£ 8.14p
Premium Sweatshirts in 7 colours	£12.84p
Body-Warmer (type TRA 786) – water repellent finish In 3 colours	£18.13p
Fleece Body-Warmer (R37A) in 6 colours	£14.54p
The Mistral reversible jacket (weatherproof one side/ Fleece the other) in 9 colours	£21.60p
Or with embroidery on both sides	£25.12p
Roy has added one more item, essential for European travellers – Hi-Vis Vests (UC 801) in yellow or orange complete With NHAEG logo	£6.08p

See www.brilliantembroidery.co.uk for more information.

**CHEQUES MUST BE MADE OUT TO NHAEG AND
ATTACHED TO ORDERS ASAP** and sent to Roy Roberts at:

197 Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey. GU15 2QD. Or

Given to Roy at next club night. **(No cash can be accepted).**

Closing date – April Club Night

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..... and I found this wonderfully exciting Beam engine especially for you, Colin!!!
(Don't I look enthralled!)