

NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
Founded 1973

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

www.nhaeg.org.uk

APRIL 2009

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

Mo's Mutterings



This is the place to keep your Ruby rust free!

It was so good to return from New Zealand in time for the March clubnight and lovely to meet and chat with old friends again. In fact, Don and I were chatting so much that our dinner was cold by the time we were finished!

The Ruby above was seen on the roof of a car dealer on Waiheke Island. The island itself was beautiful, forty minutes ferry ride off the coast from Auckland and we made some fantastic new friends there.

We also managed to meet up with a few Austin folks at the local vintage car club in Rotorua. We joined their clubnight and they invited Don to give a little talk about his Lucas wiper repairs, which he did.

Jane and family send their regards to all who know them. They will probably be returning to the UK at the end of the summer. Son-in-law Dan was hoping they would make it to the Picnic in the Paddock but they maybe a little too late for that, unless it is postponed by the weather as in some previous years!

Maureen

Don's Doodlings

Yes, we are back! Although it was wonderful being away in NZ for three months, it is really great to be back with you all!

Whilst away we hired a small car which we nicknamed The Rocket. By having our own car it gave Maureen and I the opportunity to leave the family in Rotorua for a few days and travel down to the Southward Museum near Wellington once again.

When Maureen was driving, giving me the opportunity to admire the views, I suddenly saw one or two old cars and a lorry parked on the other side of a small railway line. Immediately, I gave my driver instructions to turn left, left again and stop! We parked by the old vehicles which were against some very high hoarding and to one side there was an old garage, with a sliding glass door. I said to Maureen, I will just pop in and see if they have any old car parts or badges etc. When inside I was greeted by a lady and I told her I was from the UK. I asked if they had any vintage Austin car parts about? "Yis", she said. "Which year are you looking for?" Slightly taken aback by her answer, I said 1926/27 'ish. She said you had better go and have a look in the barns, we have six barns in total and 34 acres of old cars, lorries and tractors out the back!

The lady, called Maggie, showed me to some wooden steps leading up to the first barn and told me to look around for as long as I liked as she was off to lunch and wouldn't be back for an hour or so! At the top of the stairs I opened the door to the first barn and WOW! I have never seen so many old spare parts in one place. They were all in racks, dynamos on one rack, magnetos on another, carbs on another etc. Not just thrown in but all laid out carefully.

Moving into the next barn was just the same but with radiators, radiator surrounds etc. it just went on and on. I thought it may be a good idea to tell Maureen I would be some time but she had already anticipated this and was sitting in the sunshine reading her book, which she kept permanently in the car for this purpose!

I had spent one and a half hours going through the barns and part of the 34 acres when Maggie, who turned out to be the owner, arrived back from lunch.

"Have you found anything you like?" she said. "Yes," I replied, "but unfortunately, I don't have a full size shipping container with me!"

I couldn't leave without buying something, could I? I did a very good deal for a Chummy radiator badge and a silver- faced dashboard switch which was in very good condition.

The good news is that I filmed the barns etc and perhaps can show this at a clubnight later in the year.

Don

Secretary's Scribblings

Well it's back to normality now that Maureen's returned so my contribution this month, apart from another quiz, which appears elsewhere, is essentially confined to *Scribblings*; a miscellany of 'this and that', but chiefly a few reminders regarding 'deadline dates' etc.

SAV 'Grand Raffle'

Everyone will have received some books of these by now with a request to try to sell as many as possible in order to boost the fund.

In fact, as I write this piece, following on from an article by Robert Hardman appearing in the *'Daily Mail'* on 18th March, about impoverished D-Day veterans wishing to attend celebrations in June in Normandy and deploring the stance of the Government with regard to their plight, perhaps a little of our thunder has been stolen by the paper now instigating a campaign to raise sufficient funds to be able to send ***all*** those veterans, plus carers where necessary.

This, however, can only be excellent news, especially for the old boys concerned and should in no way limit or detract from the efforts we've initiated on our own volition. Indeed, it should spur us on to still do our very best since whatever we can raise will certainly not be lacking a cause. There are heroes from today's conflicts who are equally deserving and, once we've satisfied our original goal of providing support for those from WW2 there certainly is much we can do to help current deserving cases. More, below, on this possibility.

Raffle ticket sales are progressing well, indeed some members have already asked for and been sent further books of tickets. The letter of thanks, since circulated to all members, received from Billy Ness, following our advance donation to him, appears to have touched the hearts of many who see it as positive confirmation that we have found a real-life, genuine focus for our efforts. Please keep up the efforts to dispose of as many tickets as possible but, in any event, please **return all counterfoils, money (ideally in the form of a cheque made payable to 'NHAEG') and any unsold tickets to Jean Edwards, (Treasurer), by Saturday 18th April at the very latest.**

The address to send these to is:

55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. Berkshire. RG45 6EF (tel: 01344 775012)

The draw itself, for the 'Grand Raffle' will be held during the April Club Night ('Spring Airing') and will take place in the bar of 'The New Inn', Heckfield, our usual meeting place.

Once more, very many thanks for all the efforts being made. They will be much appreciated by those likely to benefit from them.

'Spring Airing' (continued.....)

Running concurrently with the '*Spring Airing*' it's also planned to stage a *Plant Sale*, proceeds from which will also be used to support our adopted cause. If you have any unwanted plants which are surplus to your requirements please bring these along and offer them for sale. Please contact either Karen (Witton) on 01252 333465 or Jean (Edwards) on 01344 775012 for any further information you may require on this subject.

'Help for Heroes'

As was mentioned in March's Newsletter the question of what options exist for the disbursement of any funds which *might* be left over, once our original goals have been met, will possibly arise in due course.

As was also stated the Committee, initially, had thoughts with regard to Headley Court, near Epsom which does such excellent work associated with the care and rehabilitation of severely wounded military personnel from today's trouble spots. However, on further investigation it became apparent that work done by a small but effective and efficiently run organisation called '*Help for Heroes*' meets this and other equally important criteria. This, therefore, remains a distinct option towards which we may turn when (or perhaps, if) we find ourselves with excess funds to dispose of.

Rather than me 'rabbit on' about the organisation and its crucial work and for those having access to the Internet who may wish to learn more about '*H4H*' as it's known – i.e. what it is, what it does, how it does it, etc - I strongly recommend they go to www.helpforheroes.org.uk. The site gives a wealth of information and answers just about every question one would want to ask. Although the organisation has not been in operation for very long it has already achieved a staggering amount of success in providing help for often very severely injured personnel, and their dependants/relatives, etc., both at Headley Court itself and Selly Oak Hospital. Birmingham which has a large military wing.

'Invitation from Lord Montegu of Beaulieu!'

A communication has been received from the office of the above gentleman with regard to the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Montagu Motor Museum which eventually became known as the National Motor Museum.

In essence it amounts to the following:

We, as a club, are invited to send and display one representative car (1959 or earlier – which includes just about all of us, I guess) to the 50th ('Golden') Anniversary event on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May this year.

As well as what will no doubt be an impressive static display of vehicles there will also be a Cavalcade of vehicles from the National Motor Museum itself featuring several of those which were in the original Montagu Motor Museum.

The invitation extends **free** entry to the representative club car, plus driver and one passenger and requires pre-booking using an Entry Form, also forwarded and in my possession, by 3rd April.

Since there are likely to be a few who might be interested in entering, members are invited to forward names to me as soon as possible and a draw will need to be made to select the chosen one. It goes without saying, of course, in view of our club's primary focus, that the vehicle should be an Austin, of some kind.

Please contact me soonest regarding this (01344 775012 or trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com)

Note that any additional members who would like to join in the celebration, in their cars, are offered a special ticket price of £10.00 per adult and £5.00 per child, but these should be pre-booked by 27th April either by telephone on 01590 612888 or online at www.beaulieu.co.uk/tickets presumably quoting our club's name.

Quizzes - March - and April

Just a reminder that entries for the March Quiz are still being accepted but please get them in to me by Saturday 18th April. A small number has been received already but there must be many more out there who spend, or have spent, time in front of the 'haunted fish-tank' or who listen to the radio whilst doing other chores?

Get thinking caps on – the answers are not so difficult as they might initially appear! April's Puzzler appears elsewhere in this edition.

P.S. In both instances please include at least £1.00 Entry 'fee' (SAV).

Event Date and Details

Peter (Barlow) has submitted details of a local event in which members also might be interested.

Cross Lanes Apple Farm, Mapledurham

An attempt is being made, on Sunday 3rd May to get together a display of Classic Cars at the above venue which, it appears, is also Apple Blossom Open Day.

Entered vehicles (and occupants of course) are invited to arrive between 11:00 and 11:30 am and are asked to park up in the allocated display area. Entry is FREE OF CHARGE and everyone entering will be offered a bacon roll and cup of tea/coffee/soft drink, also free of charge. Can't be bad!

There is a specific request that entered vehicles do not leave the display area before 4:30pm since the general public will be present.

If anyone is interested (Jean and I probably will be) would you also please, either, contact the organiser, John Pitt, on 0118 972 3530, (or via email at foxpitt1@aol.com), or, alternatively, let me know, so I can do likewise. Please do this as soon as possible however

Maybe this will an opportunity to show off our recently-acquired, smart banner!

Can anyone help?

Finally, may I submit a short 'Wanted' plea under this section?

I'm trying to pick up a couple of the small brass screws which plug the two oil gallery access holes on the right hand side of an A7 crankcase. I sheared one off a while ago and effected a temporary repair to prevent oil seepage out through the remainder of the plug left in the crankcase but now want to do a better job (which won't be that easy since access to and removal of the broken bit of plug remaining in the crankcase is restricted.) However, if anyone has one, or ideally, a couple of these which are surplus to requirements I'd be most happy to relieve them of these – for a price of course! Many thanks!

Well that's me done for this time. Much better weather now. Have to really get moving on checking out 'PO' and Clarissa' ready for the 'season'. Amazing what effect a bit of sun can have on willpower!

Trevor

Colin's Column

With the better weather it has been nice to get out in Arabella although so far it has only been short journeys such as picking up the grandchildren from school.

At the March club night we had a talk on 'Wind Turbines' by Peter Brinnicombe (Head of Marketing & Communications, Partnerships in Renewable Energy). There are wide variations of opinions on wind turbines but it was interesting to find out more about them. Many thanks to John (Hancock) for arranging the evening. Thanks also to Jean (Edwards) who organised 'Name the Bear' to raise money towards our 'Sponsor a Veteran' campaign. The winner was Denise (Adams) well done Denise.

Please note that the April club night is not on the second Monday of the month as normal as this is a Bank Holiday, it will instead be on the following Monday, the 20th. As always in April we will be holding our 'Spring Airing' when we hope everyone will come in their proper cars. All members coming in an appropriate vehicle will be eligible for a free draw, the prize being a £25 M&S voucher.

There will also be a Plant Sale, which the ladies are organising, with all proceeds going to 'Sponsor a Veteran'. I imagine there will be details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The main event of the evening however will be the Grand Draw in aid of 'Sponsor a Veteran', which will take place at 9.00pm hopefully in the main bar. Come along and

give your support to those members who have organised this event and who knows, you may win one of the many prizes.

The first event of the year is Karen's Jewellery Party in aid of our SAV campaign. I hope many of the ladies will give Karen their support.

Our first driving event is also being organised by Karen with help, I am sure, from Dave. It is on Sunday April 26th which is 'Drive it Day' and is a visit to Clandon House (Guildford) starting at Dave & Karen's house in Farnham. This is also in aid of our SAV campaign so please give Karen and Dave your support; it looks like being a good day. Full details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

A couple of months ago Andy and Do (Ranson) suggested to me that we should have a club badge, similar to the logo we have on garments, for our cars. The idea was that it should be the size of a tax disc and would therefore be easy to attach to a window using a tax disc holder. It was discussed at the next committee meeting and George (Ewart) offered to produce the design, which he duly did, coming up with an excellent badge that was approved by all the committee.

I have now had them printed and will hand them out at the next club meeting. It has been agreed that each member and associate member should receive up to 2 badges each. As well as putting them on your Austin you can also put one on your modern if you wish. If you are not likely to be coming to the club in the next few months but would like your badges, please send me a stamped addressed envelope and I will post them to you. Should anyone want more badges they will be available at 50p each.

Many thanks to Andy and Do for coming up with this idea, which is a good way of advertising the club and also thanks to George for producing the design.

That's it for this month, I hope to see you all at the 'Spring Airing' on the 20th and on the 'Drive it Day' run on the 26th

Safe and Happy Motoring.

Colin

'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT'

Featuring The Mozart Festival Orchestra

**Royal Albert Hall Sunday 20th December 2009
(coach departs 2:15pm)**

This coach trip is now booked; 20 seats reserved, 14 already taken.

So, if anyone else would like to join us let me know soonest. As per details appearing in the February Newsletter, the cost, which includes coach and admission, is £47.00 per person. We have decided to take lunch at an excellent Chinese restaurant, in Yateley, very near to where the coach departs. There is plenty of car parking space available and we should be back in Yateley at approximately 8:00pm.

N.B. Payments are not due until October!

Jean (Edwards) (01344 775012)

QUERIES OF THE MONTH

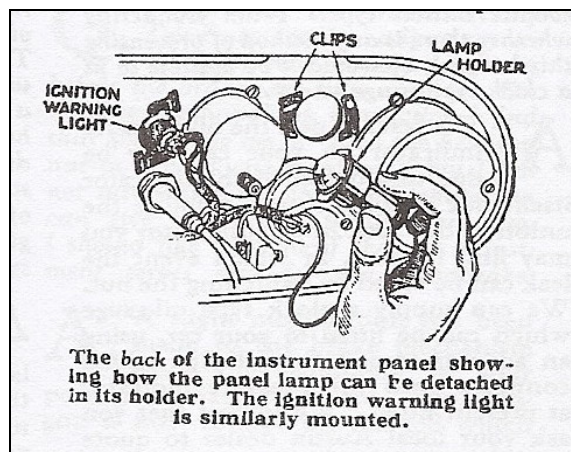
Some more “Queries of the Month”, these originally appeared in “The Austin Magazine & Advocate” during the 1930s and 1940s. This month’s selection consists of two simple maintenance tasks. Instrument Lights – Austin Sixteen and Rear Axle Lubrication – Austin Ten.

No 490 appeared in April 1933 and No 826 appeared in September 1937.

No 490 – Instrument Lights – Austin Sixteen

Q. *If the instrument panel lights fail on my 1933 Austin Sixteen how can I renew them? They appear to be incorporated inside the panel. Also how can the ignition warning light be replaced should this burn out?*

A. If you feel behind the instrument panel you will find that the holder in which each panel light is mounted can be turned clockwise (as seen from the driving seat).

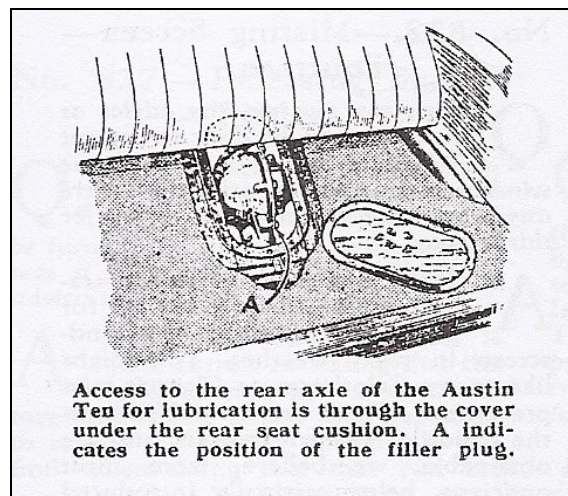


It is then withdrawable. The lamp is easily released from the holder and a new one fitted, the holder being finally replaced. The ignition warning light is similarly carried in a removal holder, but when the holder is dismantled the bulb screws out, instead of being held in a bayonet socket.

No 826 – Rear Axle Lubrication – Austin Ten

Q. *I want to replenish the oil in the back axle of my Cambridge Ten, but before attempting this attention should like to have your suggestions as to the best procedure to adopt. Is it necessary to work from below the car?*

A. As the filler and level plug for the rear axle is immediately under the leather cover below the rear seat, the axle lubricant can be quite readily replenished from inside the car. You will see that the leather cover is held by a metal rim secured by five screws to the floor of the body and in respect of the rear screws you will find it necessary to compress the rear squab cushion in order to engage the screwdriver squarely with them.



You should note that it is important to maintain the correct level of oil in the rear axle, and the filler plug on the near-side of the axle casing also serves to determine the level. Thus, after replenishing, if any oil flows out of this orifice, it will be the excess not required in the axle, and should be allowed to drain clear before the plug is replaced. You will have to use the special adapter on the gun, and the new oil should be the same brand as that already in the axle.

The "Queries of the Month" are reproduced with the kind permission of the Austin Ten Drivers Club (ATDC)

Another old advertisement, this time from April 1957, as usual I have tried to trace the company, "Teale's of Ipswich" but there does not seem to be any trace of them anymore. Mind you they did offer a refund if you were not happy with the product so perhaps they were also difficult to find in 1957! Sounds like a good product, I wonder how big the bucket should be!

★ CAR VALETING MADE EASY —

A BUCKET OF WATER PLUS
A 6^D. PACKET OF **SHIM**
EQUALS

**THE FINEST, QUICKEST,
WASH'N GLEAM
THAT YOU HAVE EVER SEEN**

SHIM removes the hard work from washing your car and keeps it in sparkling condition at all times. Gently but surely SHIM removes grit, road haze, mud, bird droppings and all other damaging deposits. SHIM is smooth and non-abrasive. **SO EASY TO USE. Kills grease, dirt and grime safely —INSTANTLY !!**

**★ GLEAMS
★ CLEANS
★ QUICKLY!**

**KILLS GREASE,
DIRT & GRIME—INSTANTLY !!**

**SHIM
SHAMPOO FOR CARS**

Guarantee.—Try SHIM SHAMPOO FOR CARS yourself. If you cannot agree that it is the finest Car Shampoo you have ever used return the unused packets and we will refund your money without question!

TEALE'S OF IPSWICH

3
"WASH'N GLEAMS"
for ONLY
1/6
SHIM IS
SOLD IN
CLIPS OF 3
PACKETS.



Andy Ranson

PARTY AT KARENS ON 2nd APRIL

Calling all **ladies** – please do come on 2nd April to my house for the **party** to support the old boys. It is at Moorhill, Highlands Road, Farnham, Surrey from 7.30pm.

Caireen's Jewellery Box – classic and contemporary handcrafted jewellery.
Wonderful quality and value.

Phoenix Trading. Fabulous range of classic greeting cards. Wide choice of beautiful stationery and gifts

Virgin Vie – Extensive range of wonderful cosmetics, skin and body care products.
New homeware items to transform your home.

I shall provide refreshments and all commission earned from any sales will go into the Veteran fund. So please do come along and have some fun.

Let me know on 07774 429073 – thanks to all those who have already.

DRIVE IT DAY – 26th April 2009

What a glorious weekend we have had weather wise – just what we need for 26th April when we all have to get our old ladies out – and our cars – and show them off!

This year I have the honour of organising the trip as I wanted to use this event to support our cause whilst having fun. Therefore I have arranged with Clandon Park – a National Trust place near Guildford – that we shall visit there on this day. It will be a real treat. Not only is there a Regimental Museum there – which is free for us to look around – not only shall we be having lunch in the private dining facilities called the Regimental Room where we shall be surrounded by memorabilia, not only should we be able to park outside the great house BUT there is also a Morgan Car club visiting that day so there will be plenty to see and do and like minded people to discuss great crankshaft stories with!

For those not familiar with Clandon Park, it is a grand Palladian Mansion built in the 1720s. It has a grand marble hall and houses a superb collection of ceramics as well as 17th and 18th century furniture and tapestries. The garden has a beautiful sunken Dutch garden and a Maori meeting house. This was brought to England by the 4th Earl of Onslow.

The format of the day will be to meet at the Witton's house by 10.30am for coffee, tea and biscuits etc. We shall leave at 11.30 from there to travel to Clandon Park. Lunch will be served at 12.30. After lunch everyone can spend time in the house, the Regimental Museum, the gardens etc and leave whenever you would like to. A route will be provided from our house to Clandon. Our address is:

Moorhill, Highlands Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0LX

We are a private road so we are letting our neighbours know that there will be a car collection in the road that day – it is a no through road so there are very few cars so we can effectively use the road to safely park our girls whilst we have refreshments. I expect there will be a lot of interest shown by our neighbours, some of which have their own old cars.

I have organised a Sunday lunch menu - it will be on a per head basis depending on whether you want 1 or 2 courses – I have agreed tea and coffee to be included in the price. In addition children can eat for effectively half price – so probably about £5 per head. We shall provide tea and coffee at the (Witton's) pit stop and will also do a raffle. The price will be whatever you choose for lunch per person plus £5 per car, this £5 will include a raffle ticket and all proceeds go to the funds for the veterans. Dave and I shall provide the coffee and tea and biscuits so we can maximise our veteran funds!

I shall send out a menu very shortly – what I shall need is confirmation of numbers, your selections for lunch and a deposit. This way I can confirm the booking with the restaurant. I already have some names of those wishing to attend but please do let me know if you would be able to come. Just send me an email to karen.witton@kpmg.co.uk

Finally don't forget to bedeck the girls in flags – we can show off our patriotic nature And final point – for those of you who do not know where the Dave Witton museum is situated, I shall provide directions at club night on 20th – or if you are unable to be at club night then I can email to you.

Look forward to seeing you all in those red and white outfits on 26th!

PLANT SALE - CLUB NIGHT 20th APRIL

Don't forget to bring along as many plants as possible on 20th – we shall have the annual plant swap but this time in support of the veterans. The more plants the more money.

We shall have a table set up. Just put the plants on there and if you can put an approx. price on then great – otherwise it is whatever people would like to give. Remember all the money goes straight to the veteran fund.

I shall get there early to set up. I know that Ann will be bringing tomato plants – Colin would be aghast if they all had to stay at home!! I shall definitely need some of those!

Look forward to seeing lots of greenery!

Karen Witton

SPONSOR A VETERAN – UPDATE ON EVENTS

We really are going great guns and as you all know we have had a flying start to our campaign with a fabulous Bring and Buy and all the marmalade sales. In addition we seem to be doing really well with the raffle ticket sales – please do keep up the good work.

Isn't it amazing that the Daily Mail has picked up on this and now there is a pledge from the Government to assist the veterans – but what does that mean? Last time they helped – at the 60th – the Government provided an amount per veteran. The problem with that is that if a veteran needs care and has a long way to travel then the costs soon mount up. We know that Billy Ness needs £510 to make the trip and that does not include the carers who make it all possible as Billy is in a wheelchair. The carers in this instance pay their own way – but if they could not then it would be difficult. So even with the Government now being shamed into doing something there will probably still be the need in certain cases.

So what else is planned? I have organised the party at my house on 2nd April – it is jewellery, cards and Virgin Vie and organised by George and Ruth's daughter Caireen. All ladies are invited to join in the fun and all commission earned will go towards our veteran fund. I shall provide nibbles and wine, tea etc. Please do come along and join in the fun. I have invited other friends as well and hopefully we can enjoy a girlie evening whilst raising a few pounds. Do let me know if you can make it – email me at karen.witton@kpmg.co.uk or call me on 07774 429073. The fun starts at 7.30pm at Moorhill, Highlands Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0LX.

Also don't forget the Plant Sale at the next meeting. Basically bring along as many plants as you can and then whoever wants them can pay whatever for them – all proceeds to the veteran funds.

Finally do see details of the Drive It Day – it is going to be very special as I have agreed with Clandon Park that we can have our lunch in the Regimental Room. We can eat our lunch surrounded by Victoria Medals and such like – should make it especially interesting. I shall need deposits and choices up front so watch out for the separate email from me with all that information on it. The 26th April should be a special day.

We shall be organising another Bring and Buy on a Sunday afternoon at the New Inn – there does seem to be difficulty in securing a date which does not clash with other events. We are looking at May now – which should be fine and will let you know as soon as a date has been agreed.

That's all for now – look forward to seeing you on 20th at club night and then 26th at Drive It Day and hope to see all ladies at my house on 2nd!

Karen Witton

Billy Ness' story - Part 2.

His continuing personal account of events around D-Day and beyond. Part 1 appeared in the March Newsletter.

....."They rushed us back. At Calais there was a long line of trucks waiting.

That winter was terrible, so as we were jumping into the trucks we were counting down. One of the lads pointed out a truck with no tarpaulin on. 'Have you seen that, Geordie?'

"I said, 'Aye', and, sure enough, it turned out to be ours. The lads were standing on the back stamping their feet, we were frozen but we bashed on down till we got to Namur before digging in.

By the time we reached the Ardennes the old second-in-command of the Battalion had taken over.

He later became General Sir Kenneth T (Thomas) Darling, CBE, and KCB, ADC (Commander in Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, but he was Katie (KT) Darling to us and he was a smasher, he knew his stuff". He used to often say he was like a money lender, 'no advance without security'. We moved further forward, it was just like putting a cork in the bottle, is how they described it. Although Jerry had shot his bolt one of our Battalions, the 13th Battalion, came across one of their very best tanks units which was still trying to get through, and I think the 13th Battalion lost 50 or 60 blokes in the village of Bure.

When that was sorted out they moved us away from there, but instead of sending us back home they took us to the River Maas. The river was fairly dangerous and we were getting a bit of shelling and sniping and we were sending fighting patrols across.

All of a sudden things changed again and the Americans took over from us and we knew we were going to come home. But, you know, a man on a galloping horse could see what was happening. We came home, got seven days leave, then went back again and then it was parachuting over the Rhine.

The Rhine was totally different to Normandy, it was daylight, you saw where you were going, you were jumping out of a Dakota and you could see where everything was.

But for the gliders it was a bit of a shambles, a lot of the gliders took fire as they were hit from the ground as they were coming in.

I saw one Dakota crash, one man got out, the rest went down and there was this big ball of flames.

Our second in command was shouting *'Get off the bloody DZ, get off'* but I don't think we got a counter-attack because the Second army was already over the Rhine when we dropped just in front of them. We got through and we stayed there about 36 hours, and all of a sudden they brought up the Guards Armoured Brigade and after that we were either on top of tanks or in trucks following on."

BILLY'S battalion attacked a village called Erle which, after the war became a textbook standard on how to attack a fixed position.

"We started off, we were going to the village of Erle, but we didn't go into it, we went round to the rear. Major Stephens had the compass, the second in command was counting paces, and we were moving behind.

So we were going and he was saying, *'Left, left'*, I was Section Commander because our Lieutenant had been killed and Sergeant Kitchener had moved up, so I was in the front, V-shaped, we were moving forward.

We got to the village and a postman coming up the road saw us. We wore our red berets, otherwise our own lads used to take a pot at us. And I still remember he got off his bike, he had a look at us and all of a sudden he shouted, I think there must have been 40 blokes fired at him, and I don't think one of the buggers hit him.

We got fired on. I got down and I looked and asked if anyone could see anything. Every instinct in my body told me to stay where I was hiding behind two bales of grass, then all of a sudden I shouted, *'Howay lads, let's go'*. We rushed up, went forward and then we went through the village like a dose of salts.

Afterwards we were all sitting around waiting for the tanks to come, when this cyclist rode up and he stopped his bike, he looked at us, and all of a sudden one of the lads said *'Hey, that's a Jerry'*. He was captured of course, but we'd just let him walk in.

After that we bashed on. There was Sergeant Kitchener and the second-in command behind a tank, they were belting on to see what was in front, the battalion was resting.

We found this big square and something knocked the tank out, Lieutenant Reid was killed, his orderly was badly wounded. We all staggered into the side and then we discovered we were in the middle of a German barracks.

We stayed away. K T (Katie) Darling brought his tanks up and battered the area and when we got up it was all clear and we bashed on that night.

I think it was just before Osnabruck, we were going into this village and we beat it up then we got back on the tank and came away.

I felt something, anyway adrenaline must have been going, then all of a sudden somebody said '*Look at your leg*'. When I stood the blood was pouring out. "All you can see now is a wee little hole, but it smashed a little bone, that's jellified, and it's still in by the way, the big one, it's a bullet or a ball-bearing because they were even firing blunderbuses and all sorts, it was a standing joke when we got back, we were fighting the German Home Guard and they beat us."

It took about three days before Bill got back to the main body and then he was hospitalised at Bruges. Doctors told him, '*We're going to leave it in and take it out as soon as the war was over.*

"I thought well that's queer why don't they do it now, the war's over. We were sent to a convalescing camp, we were sitting and one day a great big lorry came up and someone shouted all airborne troops were going back home.

When we got home I thought hey this is great. Then I remember being told to go to the gym, I went across, it was full of jungle greens.

"I can honestly say that was one time my heart sank. They said, '*Right you're getting leave*', I think we got 14 days, came back, and it was out to India.

While we were in Bombay they dropped the atom bomb, so they hurried it up and we went on a thing called Operation Zipper. We landed in Malaya when the war had finished but the peace hadn't been signed. Honestly Normandy was bad, but that was the biggest cock-up I've ever seen. By this time I was a Sergeant.

I remember looking from the ship and the beach being a long way off. Some lads were just walking along and after about 30 yards, down they went.

The officers were shouting something's wrong here. It turned out we were on a sand bar.

Eventually we made the beach, but we were in utter chaos.

We stayed there for a day before they sent us to Singapore. When we went down there I saw some of the ladies who had been kept prisoner, they were like skeletons.

Then strangely enough they sent me to India, to a Small Arms School, which I passed by the way, because they thought I was going to stay in the Army - but I didn't.

But while I was away the Brigade was sent to Indonesia. While they were in Indonesia, they hadn't enough men so the Brigadier had a Battalion of Japanese under his command.

I came back to the Battalion who had come back from Indonesia, and we were in Changi Jail. Some of us were in the condemned block.

I met two of my cousins out there from the Second Battalion DLI. Then they told us we were going to Palestine.

It was there I got my eye split open, there was a crowd we were trying to keep them calm and a little Jewish chap hit me with a brick. I saw it coming and I chased after him.

Somebody said it was comical, he's running, the crowd opens up to let him through, the blood was pouring down my face, and when I came back the company commander said, 'You were lucky there, mind Nussy', he said, 'You could have gotten a knife in you in that crowd.'

Sometime after this episode in Palestine many of the Battalion returned home and were demobbed of no further need of their services following a return to a sort of normality of peacetime.

The end of Billy's present account.

2009 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

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CLUB NIGHTS,
EVENTS AND RUNS - DIARY UPDATE!

<u>April</u> <u>2nd</u>	Jewellery Party at Moorhill, 4 Highlands Road Farnham (Karen Witton)	
<u>20th</u> (NOT 13 th)	Spring Airing to include Free Draw , Grand Raffle Draw, Regular Club Raffle and Plant Sale (for SAV).	
<u>26th</u>	Drive It Day (SAV Donation event). (Clandon House and lunch).	
<u>May</u> <u>3rd</u>	Cross Lanes Apple Farm Car Rally/Display at Mapledurham (Contact: John Pitt 01189723530)	
<u>11th</u>	Feely Bags competition (indoor) plus Video presentation on Don's visit(s) to NZ scrapyard!	
<u>16/17th</u>	Beaulieu Autojumble	
<u>17th</u>	REME Museum Run/Visit and BBQ (SAV Donation event).	
<u>June</u> <u>8th</u>	Half-gallon Run (Start from 1900 onwards).	Richard Scott
<u>27th</u>	BEN Run	
<u>July</u> <u>12th</u>	Midsummer Meander	Tony Westhall
<u>13th</u>	Concourse d'Elegance	
<u>26th</u>	Picnic in the Paddock	Colin/Don/ Trevor
<u>August</u> <u>11th</u>	Walking Rally	Dave/Karen Witton
<u>16th</u>	August Amble	Colin

<u>31st</u>	Littlewick Show, Maidenhead	
<u>Sept</u> <u>12/13th</u>	Beaulieu Autojumble	
<u>14th</u>	SAV Review/Normandy	Karen Witton
<u>20th</u>	Peter's Potter	Peter Barlow
<u>Oct.</u> <u>12th</u>	Poss. Talk by Vince Leek	
<u>18th</u>	B2B Run (BEN to Brooklands)	Eamonn Galligan
<u>Nov.</u> <u>9th</u>	Auction Night	Don/Colin and Trevor
<u>21st</u>	Nightjar Navigational Scatter Rally	
<u>Dec.</u> <u>14th</u>	Festive Fun Evening	

FOR SALE

Jenny and Peter have two items of clothing ordered from the catalogue for the Austin Seven Club.

*There is a fleece jacket in royal blue, large size catalogue price £21.60 and also
A royal blue polo shirt, extra large size
Catalogue price £11.00.*

*Jenny and Peter will discount them say, 20 percent.
These items have never been worn.*

*Anyone interested please ring 01252 629816 or
Email: Gillespiebrown@btinternet.com*

April 2009 Quiz - "Who R You?"

Fairly easy this month I think - all answers begin with the letter 'R'.

- 1) *World's largest country*
- 2) *Measles by another name*
- 3) *Golf Club based in St.Andrews*
- 4) *A red-faced and bloody operetta*
- 5) *Daniel Defoe's hero.*
- 6) *A posh school for girls*
- 7) *This country's capital is Kigali*
- 8) *TV superstar puppet created by David Claridge*
- 9) *The correct title of the Quakers*
- 10) *An Australian parrot*
- 11) *A lozenge-shaped object*
- 12) *Mars*
- 13) *A Spanish wine*
- 14) *The currency of Pakistan*
- 15) *A famous road in Hamburg, literally meaning a "rope walk"*
- 16) *Famous Russian pianist and composer, 1873 - 1943*
- 17) *Quarter of an acre*
- 18) *American name for a child too young to walk*
- 19) *Element number 88 in the Periodic Table*
- 20) *32nd President of the USA*

Send in your entries by May 9th, enclosing at least £1.00, to:
Trevor Edwards, 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. Berks. RG45 6EF

Prize for the winner(s,) as usual.