NORTH HAMPSHIRE AUSTIN ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Founded 1974

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

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<u>www.nhaeg.org.uk</u>

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

Mo's Mutterings

The sun has been shining recently and spring has certainly sprung! In our house the priorities are now, sort out the garden and get the Austins on the road. You can guess which is my job!

Look forward to seeing you and your lovely "proper" cars in the near future.



Look at "our Dolly", all back together again and tucked up in the warm! A little more work to be carried out to get her on the road, methinks!

Maureen

COLINS COMMENTS

With all the rain we have had over the past few months there have not been many opportunities to drive Arabella. However, I did go with Ben to Brooklands Museum to watch the VSCC Driving Tests on the 2nd February, as did a few other NHAEG members. The sun shone all day, which made for a very pleasant drive there and back and with all the action at the museum it was, as always, a very good day.

I also went with Don to the March Classic Car Breakfast meeting at White Lion Antiques on the A30, the London side of Hartley Wintney. The weather was perfect and with over 200 cars present there was plenty to look at although there were not a great number of pre-war cars present. There were a lot of interesting and exotic post-war cars to see. Also there, from the club, were Malcolm and Sandra. Well worth a visit if you have a spare Sunday morning. The meetings are held twice a month, visit www.whitelionantiques.co.uk for future dates and pictures of previous meetings.

Apart from the above I have managed a few short local runs, including the February lunch meeting at The New Inn. Hopefully with the improving weather I will be getting Arabella out a bit more.

February Club Night

It is some time since we last used the "feelie bags" so it made a nice change to have them again. It was an enjoyable evening, so many thanks to John and Joan who filled the bags and organised the evening.

March Club Night

We had quiz for our March club night, which had been put together by Julie and Mick. It had obviously taken a bit of time to arrange so many thanks to Julie and Mick for an enjoyable and interesting evening.

Forthcoming Events

There are a number of events coming up over the next two months including '<u>Drive It Day</u>' on the <u>27th April</u>. Trevor and Jean have very kindly offered to arrange the day and will be organising a run to Basildon Park. Trevor did send out details to all members via email and I believe a number of you have indicated an interest in going. Trevor will obviously be sending details to all those who have given their names. Let's hope the weather has improved by then.

On <u>May 11th</u> it is the <u>Austin Ten Drivers Club AGM</u> at Gaydon, I intend going with Trevor and hopefully a few other NHAEG members, who belong to the ATDC will also attend to support the committee who give a lot of their time to ensure that we can all continue to enjoy our hobby. Details are in the ATDC magazine or you can speak to me, Trevor or Tony W. who is on the ATDC committee.

On <u>May 16th-18th</u> it is <u>Lady McAlpines Vintage Birthday Party</u> at her home, Fawley Hill, near Henley. Sir William and Lady McAlpine organised an event there last year, with all proceeds going to charity, which was fantastic, so Sir William is inviting everyone this year to come and celebrate Lady McAlpines 70th Birthday. Full details can be found at <u>www.fawleyhill.co.uk</u> where you can register, as

you cannot just turn up on the day. I have already registered; as I believe other members of the NHAEG also have.

Ann and I will be going to Fawley Hill on Saturday 17th as on the <u>Sunday 18th May</u> there is the <u>Merrist Wood Summer Show</u> which is always a good day out. As well as the cars there is a lot going on of interest to all ages and members of both sexes. This show is always worth a visit and full details and entry forms can be found at <u>www.merristwood.ac.uk/NewsEvents/Events/ClassicCarShow.aspx</u> I know a few members have already entered.

April Club Night

April club night is our normal 'Spring Airing' when members who have not used their historic vehicles during the winter are encouraged to bring them out of hibernation. As usual there will be a free draw for all those coming in a pre 1974 vehicle with a prize of a £25 gift voucher.

The big event of the evening however is a talk with slides and film by Richard Scott about his experiences on the **2013 Peking to Paris Rally**. This should be a very interesting evening, so please don't be late.

May Club Night

I did put a plea in the last newsletter for someone to come up with an idea for this month's meeting. I am afraid that no one has come up with an idea or offered to organise the evening so, unless someone comes up with something, it will just be a Noggin n' Natter.

40th Anniversary of NHAEG

As you are all by now aware this year is the 40th anniversary of the NHAEG and we will be having a big celebration in June. In the meantime I have been going through some old newsletters and in our June edition I might mention a few things that may be of interest from the early days. In the meantime you will find in this edition a reproduction of the first newsletter, which was produced in 1975 a year after the club was formed. We have come a long way since then.

Safe and happy Motoring.

Colin.

Ann and Colin both have new mobile numbers as follows:-

Ann Greig 07443648231

Colin Greig 07443648261

NORTH HANTS STOUP







NEWS SHEET NO.1

OCTOBER, 1975.

This the first copy of our very own Newsheet is another mile stone in the considerable progress of our group over the past year.

Little over a year ago when it was decided to form the North Hants Austin Enthusiasts Group, we were no more than 3 or 4 lonely bods sat in the bar each month, and on at least one occasion the presence of the barmaid doubled the attendance at the meeting.

A great pub crawl was organised one evening in an effort to find a more attractive pub (and barmaid?) and thereby hopefully increase the attendance. The result as you all are no doubt aware, is a superb pub, with a very obliging Landlord and a monthly attendance of around 30 enthusiasts. Bringing with them one of the finest selections of Austins one could hope to find at a meeting.

We have no politics, no subscription and I hope no worries. We are here solely to enjoy each others company, and to share the pleasure of using and maintaining our Austins. We do however recommend you belong to either the Austin Seven Owners Club, Vintage Austin Register or the Austin Ten Drivers Club as applicable, in order to get the maximum of pleasure out of your vehicles.

The Group meetings are organised by a sort of Committee comprising of myself, Ian Clayton, Simon College and Derek Farrow. We attempt to organise whatever we feel will appeal to you, and should anyone care to help out or object please feel free to do so. Any money required to cover expenses for monthly meetings etc. is raised by simply passing a beer mug round, though so far we have found little need for more than a pound or two. We have during the past summer held some very successful rallies and driving tests and hope to repeat this next year.

Well for those who have joined us over the year, that should fill you in on who we are and what we are trying to achieve, maybe we should be slightly more official and in the new year hold an A.G.M. to elect a committee for next year? your views on this would be appreciated. The object of this News sheet is to keep regular attenders completely up to date with local news, which because of press dates I find difficult to do through the Newsletters of the various clubs. If you ever have any items for inclusion in the Sales and Wants column, then give me a ring on the Monday preceeding our meeting i.e. the 1st Monday and I will do my best to include them (Tel: Basingstoke 781330).

Simon College and myself recently excavated (literally) a 1933 A.7 saloon from the back garden of a rather remote cottage. Unfortunately it fell apart in our hands, but if anyone requires any bits we did manage to salvage a few parts so give me a ring and perhaps we can oblige.

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Also just down the road from the White Hart is a 1937/8 Austin 10 Cambridge which requires restoration and the owners are prepared to accept a reasonable offer. The car is stored under cover but has been got at by the local children and looks a bit worse than it really is.

Future Meetings

November 10th

An interesting Talk (we hope) not yet confirmed

December 8th

f film show by John Simmons-Hodge on car trials Also presentation of the Group Trophy to the member gaining the most points in our events

this year.

December 19th

Austin Seven Owners Club annual knees up, tickets available soon. Our Group are the current holders of the Trophy competed for at this event.

Gordon Puzey.

P.S. 1935 RUBY FOR SALE, ALMOST COMPLETE \$30 SEE GORDON PUZEY

Don's Doodlings

At long last we are getting one or two days of fine weather and are able to take out the old girl. Next week I shall be taking out the Austin! Ha! Ha! (Ouch!)

I know Colin has mentioned elsewhere about the Sunday meeting at The White Lion, Hartford Bridge and I would confirm this is well worth a visit.

On Wednesday I went to Reading College with John and Joan Hancock. They had been invited by their son's partner, Claire, who works at the college. Claire had asked John if he and other club members could take along their vintage cars for the engineering students to see how they had been made in the 1920s to 1950s. I met Joan and John at their house at 11 am and we made our way to the college in Reading. John was in his box saloon, Joan in her A35 and I went in Chummy. We were not sure what to expect but were pleasantly surprised. The students were more than interested in the mechanics and asked many questions. It was good fun explaining different parts to the students as looks of disbelief came over their faces!

I really enjoyed the time there and hope we can do this again next year. Before leaving the college we had a guided tour of the engineering workshops by one of the lecturers. Even the principal of the college said she had looked out of her window, seen the cars and just had to come down and have a good look. I am sure the students enjoyed themselves and thanked Claire for arranging the time at the college.

You can see from the photograph Maureen has put on the front page, that my Austin top hat (Dolly) is now back in once piece. All went well with the lifting device and help from my two friends.

Plans for the Taunton Experience will be progressing now the weather is improving and Maureen and I will be carrying another recce.

Don





More photographs of Don's top hat chassis before being reunited with her body.





Students at Reading College looking at the Austins.

Secretary's Scribblings

Quiz News

As announced at the March Club Night, the last Newsletter Quiz, 'Be A Sport', compiled and offered by Julie (Els), was won by wait for it! Malcolm and Sandra (Ryley), who were again successful in finding correct answers to all the clues. Congratulations to them!

This time around the quiz is based on famous people, both living and historic. Please make sure your entries are submitted in time to reach me (not Julie, in this instance) by Friday 9th May. Send in your entries, together with £1.00 towards prizes, to 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne RG45 6EF.

NHAEG 40th Anniversary Celebratory Lunch - 2014

A total of 48, including our honoured guest, R.J. (Bob) Wyatt, are now 'signed up' for this event, planned for Sunday June 22nd, details of which were announced in the February Newsletter.

Further information will be forwarded in due course to all those who already have submitted their names. If there is anyone else who would like to be included there is still time to do so but please don't delay too much longer now.

Drive It Day - 27th April

A number of options were considered for this year's traditional run and eventually, Basildon Park, in Upper Basildon, was selected since it is an attractive venue, within reasonable driving distance and accessible via relatively quiet roads, (apart from a short stretch along the A4), from the chosen rendezvous and starting point – Wellington Farm Shop and Café. This is located in Welsh Lane, very close to the roundabout at the point where the B3349, (the road on which the 'New Inn' is situated), meets/crosses the A33, north of Heckfield, so should prove fairly convenient for most of the (so far) 20 individuals, in 10 vehicles, who have expressed an interest in doing the run this year.

The NT house at Basildon Park was used for the 2013 Christmas Day screening of Downton Abbey where it 'doubled' as the Crawley family's London residence, Grantham House. An exhibition covering the filming, with some of the costumes worn by the stars, is on display from 1st March.

Yet again, if you would like to join the group please let me know, by the April Club Night (14th) so some idea of numbers can be given to the café staff and also, of course, to those at Basildon House.

Budget 2014 - Classic car road tax exemption now rolling

at

40 years.

Well-hidden amongst all the other 'gems' which George Osbourne announced on the 19th March, was some good news for classic car owners. From April 2014, the classic car exemption from VED will begin rolling from 40 years, with cars built before January 1974 becoming eligible for a zero-rated tax disc. Then, from January 2015, the formerly *fixed* cut-off will become a *rolling* one.

Thus, from 1st April 2014 the exemption cut-off date will be changed to 1st January 1974 and from 1st April 2015, to 1st January 1975.

Whilst this change may not affect, or perhaps be of minimal interest to many NHAEG members, it does redress and correct an anomalous issue which has been the topic of much general discussion over recent years. The Treasury estimates that the rolling benefit will affect around 10,000 classic car owners per year, who are currently paying VED, but who will be newly exempt from 2015.

'Tail-(Gate)' Piece.

Some time in early February Jean was unfortunate enough to have a mishap, in her much-loved Corsa, with a stationary commercial vehicle in a car park in Hawley. Without dwelling on the details suffice it to report that, although no evidence of damage was present on the sturdy truck, that to the Corsa was, on cursory inspection, quite considerable, with the tailgate being considerably damaged and rear screen shattered. Needless to state, as is generally usual in such instances, the insurance company was contacted promptly and appropriate measures taken to arrange for an assessment of repair costs to be carried out.

However, on closer examination, it became apparent that the damage, though visibly extensive, was confined exclusively to the tailgate, which prompted some second thought that perhaps a less time-consuming and more economical alternative approach might be possible. 'Googling' around I came across a website, www.breakerlink.com, which takes a requirement for a specific part and then circularises it amongst a large number of car breakers throughout the country. Within a very short time a number of responses were received, direct from breakers spread over a large area, i.e. County Durham, Hull, North London, all indicating that suitable replacement tailgates were available for either collection or shipment. I also managed to find another, slightly nearer, potential source of such a part, a company named Silverlake, near Southampton, which, surprisingly in this era of 'Elf and Safety', still allows individuals to access their property and remove parts themselves, something which one might have considered was a practice long since banned!

Since help was obviously going to be required for this exercise Colin agreed to accompany me and we duly set off for the *Silverlake* premises. On arrival we

were both truly amazed at the set up there. Not the expected bunch of shady-looking characters furtively staffing the place; instead a very business-like set-up with lots of computer screens and people working in tidy clean-looking offices and, most impressive of all, vehicles for dismantling all stacked up neatly and safely on blocks in areas clearly marked out by make or country of manufacture, e.g. Ford, Vauxhall, Germany, France, etc. That was all good news - the not-so-good news was the fact that, contrary to their website listing, which subsequently proved to be in error, only one Corsa was available and this the wrong colour.

So, having drawn a blank there, Plan B, the following day, was trip up to the Edmonton area of London to take a look at another specimen. Apart from some little difficulty in actually finding the place, due to a lack of signage, we were obviously expected and a Corsa tailgate, in Space Green, was wheeled out on a trolley for inspection. This was found to be in excellent, unmarked condition, so was obviously just what was wanted but the best was yet to come; the cost had originally been quoted as £60.00, plus VAT; in the event the charge made was £50.00 and no VAT! Delighted with the purchase we returned home, where Colin and I fitted the replacement tailgate in a little under 2 hours, the only slightly fiddly bit being re-routing the electrics through the webs of the metalwork.

All in all, a very satisfactory, cost-effective outcome to what, initially, had been a significant incident, with all the potential hallmarks of resulting in a written-off vehicle.

After we had completed the job, Colin observed that the sticker 'Rollin' on Steelies', on the replacement, would certainly give Jean some added street-cred now!



<u>Before</u> and <u>After!</u>

Signs are that the really wet weather is behind us now (is that tempting providence?) and we can begin to get out and about in our 'real cars'. Don't forget to bring yours along

to the April Club Night ('Spring Airing') when an added attraction, (to the normal free draw for a £25.00 M & S voucher), will be a talk presented by Club member Richard Scott, on the Peking to Paris Rally he and and friend Richard White 'endured' in 2013.

Trevor

2014 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Secretary: Trevor Edwards 01344775012

 $trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com$

Treasurer: Jean Edwards 01344775012

trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com

Chairman: Colin Greig 01252879173

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Deniseadams24@gmail.com

Simon Jocelyn 07810555926

sjocelyn@redjelly.com

QUERIES OF THE MONTH

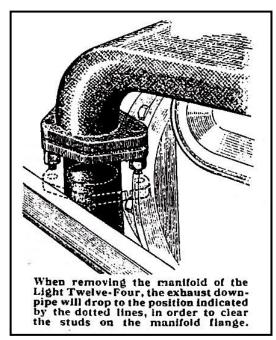
Some more "Queries of the Month", these originally appeared in "The Austin Magazine & Advocate" during the 1930s and 1940s. This month's selection consists of No 761 Exhaust Manifold – Austin Light Twelve-Four and No 1005 Battery Charge – Austin Ten.

No 761 appeared in September 1936 and No 1005 in September 1940.

No 761 – Exhaust Manifold – Austin Light Twelve-Four

Q. Is there any easy way of detaching the exhaust pipe from the exhaust manifold? The three studs remain firmly fixed in the manifold after the brass nuts are removed, and I have therefore found it necessary to strain the exhaust pipe away manifold until the studs are clear before I can remove the manifold for decarbonising, etc. To avoid this straining is one expected to remove the exhaust pipe from its mounting underneath the car?

A. The method you outline for detaching the exhaust pipe from the exhaust manifold when it is wished to remove the latter from the car is quite correct. Actually, the exhaust pipe should have sufficient spring to enable it to clear the manifold studs when the nuts have been removed.

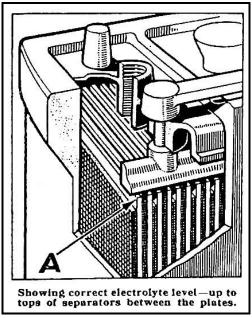


If you wish, additional freedom can be given to the pipe by detaching the clip holding the silencer to the frame, but as this involves getting underneath the car and releasing a nut on the top of the silencer, we think that you will find it inexpedient to adopt this further measure. No harm is done by springing the exhaust pipe sufficiently to clear the manifold and, in fact, this is the method we usually recommend for removing the manifold from the engine.

No 1005 – Battery Charge – Austin Ten

Q. I have recently been rather puzzled by the lowness of the charge of the battery in my Ten which at the moment will not give the starter sufficient energy to turn the engine over when cold. As in the summer there is little call on the battery, and it has received plenty of charge, I shall appreciate your advice as to the cause and condition. My car is now about eight months old.

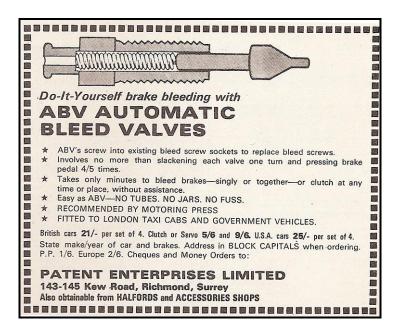
A. The fact of your car being comparatively new rules out, unless some unusual defect has developed, any inherent battery trouble. This leaves two likely causes of the low state of charge. The first, and not so likely as the second, is a short somewhere in the electrical system, allowing current to leak through the circuit even when the car is idle with no switches on.



The second possibility – and we suspect this being the most likely as you do not mention any attention having been given to the battery – is that the electrolyte in each cell requires topping-up. You should appreciate that if the level of the electrolyte is low, to leave the plates exposed, the efficiency and the output of the battery, which depends on the plate area immersed in the electrolyte, will be considerably reduced. You should remove the vent plugs and check the electrolyte level, which should be just to the top of the wood separators between the plates, not up to the top of the plates themselves. It is quite possible that you have run for some time without topping up during the warm summer weather this attention is overdue. Top up with distilled water only and avoid spilling it on the top of the cells. If this is not found to be the cause of the poor state of charge, you should have the car examined at an Austin Service Station, where they have suitable instruments for detecting electrical defects. It may, in this event even be found that there is a short in the battery, due to some abnormal discharge.

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

Some more old advertisements, from the 1960s and the 1930s.



Single handed brake bleeding from the 1960s. These bleed valves seem to be too good to be true, the principle is so simple, I wonder why we don't see them today, I know that modern car braking systems are more reliable but these bleed valves would be useful on classics with hydraulics.





An advertisement from 1930, a cigarette lighter to fit to your car. For an extra 3d you can purchase one for your motor bike, however, I doubt if many motorcyclists would need to light and smoke a cigarette whilst riding at speed!

Another 1930 advertisement, the G.M.S. spark plug looks interesting; I hope you can read the small and faded text. There are lots of claims of superiority over the standard type spark plug, once again, if they were so good why are not available today. Anyone ever seen one or used them?

Andy Ranson

'<u>Famous People'</u>
Answers are all famous people, living or deceased, but none are fictitious. Please forward entries to Trevor Edwards, at: 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. RG45 6EF, by Friday 9th April 2014 enclosing £1.00 towards the cost of prize(s).

1. One relatively large German beer glass	8	
2. Gave access to home computing	5	
3. A doctor who had a medical Bond with mould	7	
4. Leamington taught rapid transport man	7	
5 . This poet valued groups of letters	10	
6. American president arrests male offspring	5	
7. Produced front half of luxury car with 21	5	
8. Prime example of cottage roofing in 80s	8	
9. Half and full wrestling holds	6	
10. Sounds like a comic church official	7	
11. Fermented pear juice winner of Wimbledon	5	
12. Karl and some funny brothers Left an impression	4	
13. Was he all screwed up?	10	
14. Wartime sweetheart	4, 4	
15. Sounds like a reason for a broken limb	9	
16. Scottish church on IoM	4, 7	
17. Enigmatic English composer	5	
18. Were Porgy and Bess children of this George?	8	
19. The nation entrusted some houses to her	4	
20. Phantom writer sounds like a spider	6	
21. Back half of 7	5	
22. An arty-crafty Bill		6
23. Agitate a pointed weapon	11	
24. Greek author of The Simpsons?	5	
25. TV inventor sounds undressed	5	
Name(s)		

NHAEG Club Nights and Events Diary

Club Nights

Arranged by or details from

April 14th Spring Airing + Peking to Paris Rally. Trevor

Talk with slides and film by Richard Scott about his experiences in the 2013 event.

May12th TBA TBA

June 9th Half Gallon Run Colin/Ann

July 14th Noggin n' Natter John /Andrew

Aug 11th Coveted Car Evening Colin/Trevor

September 8th TBA TBA

Lunch meetings 4th Monday in the Month (Colin for details)

April 28th The New Inn

May 27th The New Inn (Please note this is a Tuesday, Monday is a Bank Holiday)

June 23rd The New Inn

July 28th The New Inn

August26th The New Inn (Please note this is a Tuesday, Monday is a Bank Holiday

Events Events in **BOLD** are NHAEG events

April 13th Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques <u>www.whitelionantiques.co.uk</u>

April 27th Drive it Day (Run to Basildon Park) Trevor/Jean

May 11th Austin Ten Drivers Club AGM <u>www.austintendriversclub.com</u>

May 11th Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques <u>www.whitelionantiques.co.uk</u>

May16th-18th Lady McAlpines Vintage Birthday Party <u>www.fawleyhill.co.uk</u>

Fawley Hill, Henley or Colin for details

May 18th Merrist Wood Summer Show Download entry forms at

www.merristwood.ac.uk/NewsEvents/Events/ClassicCarShow.aspx

May 25th Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques <u>www.whitelionantiques.co.uk</u>

31st May Days Gone By (Rural Life Centre Tilford) <u>www.rural-life.org.uk</u> Entry forms

and 1st June Mandy Denning 0118 9734247

June 8th Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques <u>www.whitelionantiques.co.uk</u>

June 22nd Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques www.whitelionantiques.co.uk

June 14th-15th Brooklands Double Twelve <u>www.brooklandsmuseum.com</u>

June 14 th	Hartley Wintney Festival	Entry forms David Preston 01252 850082
June 22nd	40 th Anniversary Run and Lunch	Trevor/Jean/Colin
July 10 th -15 th	Club Holiday in Taunton	Don/Maureen
July 13 th	Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques	www.whitelionantiques.co.uk
July 27 th	Club Picnic	Don/Trevor/Colin
Aug 10 th	BBQ at John and Joan's	John/Joan
Aug 10 th August 24th	BBQ at John and Joan's Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques	John/Joan www.whitelionantiques.co.uk
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August 24th	Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques	www.whitelionantiques.co.uk

Please let me have details of any events that our members might be interested in.

Inter-Register Events

Date	Organising Club	Event	Location
April 19 th	Alvis	Scatter Rally + Tour	West Sussex
June TBA	Riley	Scatter Rally	Worcestershire
July 13 th	Humber	Navigation Rally	Dorset
July 27 th	STD	Driving Tests + Tour	Hungerford
Aug 30 th	Riley	Rally	Thames Valley
Sept 21 ^{s t}	Crossley	Treasure Hunt	North Yorks
TBA	Riley	Scatter Rally	Scotland
Sept 27 th	Alvis	Scatter Rally	Dartmoor
Oct 12 th	MGCC	Autumn "Naviscat"	Surry/Sussex
Nov 15 th	ATDC/NHAEG	"Nightjar" Scatter/Orienteering	Surry/Hants/Berks

If you would like to enter or know more about any Inter-Register Event please contact me, or Trevor, alternatively visit www.inter-register.org.uk. We are intending to enter, Trevor driving and me navigating, the Alvis event on April 19th, the Humber event on July 13th and the Riley event on Aug 30th and will of course be organising the Nightjar. Tony and Pat usually enter a number of these events and Andy and Do intend doing the Humber event in Dorset. These events are good fun; why not join us on one or more of these events.

Colin